SOCIAL - POLITICAL FACTORS AFFECTING STREET CHILDREN IN KENYA AFTER THE 2007/2008 POST ELECTION VIOLENCE: A CASE OF STREET CHILDREN IN ELDORRETTOWN

BY

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2013
DECLARATION

DECLARATION BY STUDENT

I declare that this Research Project Paper is my original work and has not been submitted for any other degree of this or any other University.

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This Research Project Paper has been submitted for examination with my approval as the University Supervisor.

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Date:____________________

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
DEDICATION

I dedicate this research work to our Almighty God, who has walked with me since I started this work and enabled me come this far.

To my husband Julius OgotiKengara and our children Elvis Maigo, Anne Kwamboka and Adrian Kengara whose love, support, encouragement and understanding made this project paper possible for their inspiration and support.

Special dedication to my dear parents Stanley Onwonga and the late Hellen Moraa who sacrificed and invested so much in my education and my siblings for their encouragement and support.
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<tr>
<td>AACs</td>
<td>Area Advisory Councils</td>
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<td>ACRWC</td>
<td>African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children</td>
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<td>AMREF</td>
<td>African Medical and Research Foundation</td>
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<td>ANPPCAN</td>
<td>African Network for Protection &amp; Prevention of Child Abuse &amp; Neglect</td>
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<td>CBOs</td>
<td>Community-Based Organizations</td>
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<td>CIPEV</td>
<td>Commission of Inquiry into the Post Election Violence</td>
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<td>CPC</td>
<td>Child Protection Centre</td>
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<td>CPWG</td>
<td>Children Protection Working Group</td>
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<td>CRC</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
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<td>CSOs</td>
<td>Civil Society Organisations</td>
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<td>DCOs</td>
<td>District Children Officers</td>
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<td>DCS</td>
<td>Department of Children Services</td>
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<td>ECCO</td>
<td>Eldoret Street Children Centre</td>
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<td>FGDs</td>
<td>Focused Group Discussion</td>
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<td>FPE</td>
<td>Free Primary Education</td>
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<td>GTZ</td>
<td>German Technical Cooperation</td>
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<td>IRIN</td>
<td>Integrated Regional Information Network</td>
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<td>KNCHR</td>
<td>Kenya National Commission on Human Rights</td>
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<td>MGCSD</td>
<td>Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development</td>
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<td>MOHA&amp;NH</td>
<td>Ministry of Home Affairs and National Heritage</td>
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<td>NARC</td>
<td>National Alliance Rainbow Coalition</td>
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<td>National Council for Children Services</td>
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<td>Non Governmental Organisations</td>
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<td>National Youth Services</td>
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<td>OSCAR</td>
<td>The Orphaned and Separated Assessments - Health Project</td>
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<td>PAR</td>
<td>Participatory Action Research</td>
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<td>PEV</td>
<td>Post Election Violence</td>
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<td>Sexual and Gender Based Violence</td>
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<td>SNV</td>
<td>StichtingNederlandseUrijwilligers</td>
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<tr>
<td>STDs</td>
<td>Sexually Transmitted Diseases</td>
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<td>SFRTF</td>
<td>Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund</td>
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<td>Acronym</td>
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<td>UNCRC</td>
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<td>VCOs</td>
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ABSTRACT

The study sought to establish the socio-political factors affecting street children in Eldoret town after the 2007/2008 Post Election Violence (PEV) in Kenya. The study was guided by the following three specific objectives. First to establish the social and political factors that affect street children in Kenya; second to identify challenges facing the promotion of children rights with regard to the legal provisions and thirdly to establish interventions adopted to alleviate the problem of street children in Eldoret by the government and NGOs.

Chapter two comprised of the literature review which covered social and political factors affecting street children, challenges associated with children rights, street child focused interventions which include government and non-government interventions. The theoretical framework and conceptual framework are also given in this section.

Chapter three presents the research methodology and the research design was descriptive survey which targeted street children, social workers from NGOs and officers and from department of Children and Eldoret municipality. Data was collected using questionnaires for street children, Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with three groups of street children and one FGD with social workers and key informant interviews were conducted with children officers and municipal officers.

Study findings show that street children in Eldoret face myriad social challenges which included poor access to health facilities where they were discriminated against and were also required to buy medication prescribed to them by health providers. Security was also a major problem where they were constantly at risk of facing violence from themselves, security agents, business community and the public. The study further established that there was poor coordination and duplication of services provided by the government and non-government organisations which often had a poor impact on the street children situation.

The study suggests that government and other stakeholders should conduct community awareness creation and sensitization on the challenges facing street children at the community level; need for a sector-wide training approach for service providers involved in dealing with street children at all levels be developed, by the government in collaboration with stakeholders to provide holistic services to street children; government agencies mandated with street children services should be well staffed to enable them deliver quality services to street children and an establishment of information desks at police stations to identify, track and follow up with street children whom are picked up from the town streets and protection of street children from politically influenced conflicts which often leads to their vulnerability as victims and perpetrators of ensuing violence.

The study suggests need for further research to identify the number of Charitable Children Institutions (CCIs) in Eldoret Town and the services provided to street children and the impact they have had; what assistance street children from Eldoret Town would benefit from and further research on health cases and challenges that street children experience in Eldoret Town.
CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The aim of this research project is to establish the social-political factors affecting street children after the 2007/2008 post-election violence. Chapter one outlines the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives, and research questions, scope of the study and justification of the study. Street children in Kenya are a social phenomenon that has existed since the colonial era. However, as Ansell (2005); Ennew and Swart-Kruger (2003) note international attention of children and youth working and living on the streets started to rise in the wake of the "International year of the child" in 1979. Since then not only have aid programmes and projects been established but the issue has also been the focus of intense academic interest.

The Consortium for Street Children (2011), the leading international member-based network dedicated to advocating, promoting and campaigning for the rights of street children has identified the problem in that different research work on street children has been carried out in isolation and this has led to a situation whereby development practices have had no significant impact in fighting the problem. The organisation recognizes that academic and development studies are conducted and used in isolation from each other which means that academic advances rarely inform development practice and vice versa.

The exact number of street children worldwide has often been projected differently by various bodies and national governments pointing to the notion of uncoordinated efforts towards the phenomenon or otherwise to the varied definitions of street children that exist. 1989, UNICEF estimated 100 million children were growing up on urban streets around the world (Campos et al., 1994). There are different figures given on the number of street children in Kenya, for instance the Kenya Government Position Paper of August 2001 presented in a forum in Mbagathi, estimated that there are between 250,000 – 300,000 children living on the streets country wide but Awori (2007) report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Geneva estimates them at more than 300,000 whilst The People...
According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the primary function of States is to provide protection to children, especially for the most vulnerable. However, governments of countries where the problem is most acute have been unable to give it the attention it deserves, and have thus contributed to its persistence. Despite proliferation of soft legislation aimed at the protection of human rights for street children. It is important to recognise that these instruments are used as political documents and that their implementation depends on the willingness of government to adhere to them.

In the current state of affairs the exact number of street children is impossible to quantify but the figure almost certainly runs into tens of millions across the world. It is likely that the numbers are increasing as the global population grows and as urbanization continues apace (UNICEF, 2005). It is difficult to get an accurate appraisal of street children from sources that have a stake in describing the children in a certain way. The press, as well as the international and national organizations that exist to provide for the children, exaggerate their numbers and the degree of the children’s emotional problems and delinquency(Aptekar, 2007).

According to Boakye-Boaten (2006) the social and political accountability of most African societies on street children is non-existent, and to a large extent not challenged either by internal or external elements. The plight of these children is thus left in their own hands or on some few effective Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) who are limited by their functions and resources to deal effectively with the situation.

The Post Election Violence (PEV) experienced in Kenya in 2007/2008 has been identified as contributing to significant increases in numbers of street children in major urban centres. In Thika, AfCiC-Kenya (2008), an organisation which had successfully reduced the number of street children in the town witnessed a surge of young boys and girls returning to the streets in search of food, collecting scrap metal and getting involved in commercial sex work. In Eldoret, UNICEF (2011) reports 800-1000 street children now on Eldoret streets and admissions in the Children’s Remand Home based in Eldoret
Studies have indicated that there might be a link between violence and the onset of street children. Veale (1992) in a comparative study of street children in mid-19th-century Ireland and the current Sudanese street children notes that civil unrest was the reason for the origins of street children in both countries. Civil unrest dating from the Mau Mau struggle for independence has been connected to the origins of Kenyan street children (Nowrojee, 1990). There are also many street children in South Africa, where their high numbers have been related to the country's violent political problems (Swart, 1988).

The Commission of Inquiry into the Post Election Violence (CIPEV) says that, between 1992 and 1996, the number of street children increased by 300% in just four years. Many of the children, who are now adults, are the product of displacement by ethnic past violence and are particularly exposed to crime and violence both as victims and perpetrators. The UNICEF/Save the Children Rift Valley Street Children Profiling Project Report (2011) found out that the main identified push factors included hunger (59%), abuse at home (23%), post-election violence (21%), and high cost of education (21%). In order to survive in such hostile environments street children are an easy target for recruitment into violent gangs especially the male child.

Barcelo et al., (2011) note instances of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), prostitution/survival sex and child abuse being reported to be on the rise in Eldoret, According to the Child Protection Working Group (CPWG), child protection concerns in areas of return and in urban areas include prostitution and a noticeable rise of street children. During and after the PEV street children became more vulnerable to other injustices such as sexual violence and also to child abuse, abduction and trafficking. For instance, Migori registered a high incidence of child abuse and abduction with some children being trafficked internally and others across the border to Tanzania (KNCHR, 2008).

According to The European Men Profeminist Network there are many facets of violence on the streets but the increasing violence towards street children has only recently been documented. Although there are more statistics and reports on the issue, the extent of the
problem cannot be underestimated as street children continue sleeping on the pavement or steal for survival, they are constantly exposed to the risks of violence and exploitation. For instance, during the PEV in 2007/2008 law enforcement agencies focused their attention on the youth while protecting the principal perpetrators of violence. Majority of those attacked comprised of street children as they were more visible and present in the streets (CIPEV, 2008).

In Bulgaria, Guatemala, India, and Kenya, Human Rights Watch report that police violence against street children is pervasive, and that impunity is the norm. The failure of law enforcement agencies to promptly and effectively investigate and prosecute cases of abuse against street children allows the violence to continue. In most cases policies directed at street children are more explicitly concerned with public security (UNICEF, 2010).

Although issues of human rights have long been recognised and provisions made for the enjoyment of the same through international human rights instruments, including the 1948 UN Charter, which was for a long time assumed that it protected children and adults equally, did not adequately protect children. It was only recently that it was realised that children are more vulnerable than adults and as such require special protection. This led to the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1989, by the United Nations.

However, studies note the hostility of the general public towards Kenyan street children (Ruto, 1999; Shorter and Onyancha, 1999; Aptekar, 1994; Dallape 1987). A publication by the Africa Chapter of the Human Rights Watch (1997) describes the abuse and detention of street children in Kenya. The report observes routine violation of international law by law enforcing agencies in the country as they round up street children, keep them for days and weeks in police lockups under deplorable physical conditions.

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) (2007) believes that juvenile justice in Kenya is still one of the main problems the government needs to address, as ill-treatment in prison is in violation of child and youth rights; with police making arbitrary arrests of children for various reasons such as loitering, carrying illegal weapons, refusing to give in to sexual demands, or being rude to police officers. Once in police custody, the
Harassment of these children continues and sometimes worsens. Abuse ranges from being insulted, beaten, kicked, and detained, to sexual abuse and rape.

Street children thus continue to face discrimination and are not involved in community participation as they are viewed as working against the social and political order of the day. Therefore there is a need to investigate and examine the social and political factors that continue to deny street children the enjoyment of the four basic rights as envisioned in the UNCRC; right to development, right to survival, right to participation and right to protection.

The violence that street children witness or experience may often contribute to building resilience among them. Mob justice is very common where children are accused of crimes and then innocently imprisoned in juvenile prisons or in some cases beaten to death. The continuous cycle of violence they encounter makes them stronger; it engenders more violence, so that violence becomes a part of their passage from childhood to adulthood. Although some of the push factors of street children have been to escape violence at home this evil follows them to the street in a greater magnitude under the guise of public protection.

As (Chesney-Lind, 1997) notes street children not only experience violence and abuse in the streets, they are also victims in institutions presumed to be safe from the vulgaries of the street. For instance, girls are much more likely to be the victims of sexual abuse than boys; they are at higher risks of being raped / defiled and sexually assaulted by police, staff in detention facilities and other street children, or in case of prostitution their clients.

There have been and still are tremendous efforts in the protection and support to street children in Kenya from rehabilitation and integration efforts undertaken by the government and NGOs. The establishment of government agencies and bodies such as the Department of Children Services (DCS) and the National Council for Children Servicethen under the Ministry of Gender Children and Social development (MOGC&SD now under the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Services have instituted various programmes around the country to monitor the environment in which street children are treated in charitable Children Institutions (CCIs).
The problem of street children has been an existing and growing phenomenon in Kenya and is expected to grow given the rapid rate of urbanisation and its resultant impacts on the society today. Street children continue to face social and political challenges in their struggle to participate in the wider community. In emergency contexts such as the 2007/2008 PEV in Kenya the security and well being of children is undermined as they become targets of security agencies as perpetrators of violence due to their visibility in the streets. Moreover, the already tense relationship within the society exacerbate as they are viewed as the major suspects of looting and vandalism.

Despite government and NGO interventions towards alleviation of the problem of street children, there is a lack of a comprehensive approach that yields any significant impact in addressing specific challenges of street children. For instance, Free Primary Education provided street children access to public primary school. However, they are often sent away due to their low levels of cleanliness and inability to become full time students.
Indiscipline in primary schools has also been linked to street children who could be as a result of the deviant behaviour and violence they encounter in the streets.

There is also lack of tailor-made services such as counselling/psychosocial support services and medical services to address issues affecting street children affected by the Post Election Violence (PEV). Incidences of Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV), prostitution/survival sex and child abuse have also been reported to be on the increase after the post election violence. Reports indicate that HIV/AIDS services as not being available and health facilities neglect street children in urban areas due to increases in population of those seeking help from the already overstretched facilities. Due to different cultural, social and moral values of street children around the world; the challenges, solutions and ways to approach them also vary. Thus, while the challenge is clear, the solutions are not. There is therefore need to identify challenges of particular groups of street children and design programmes to alleviate their situations (UNICEF, 2011).

Due to their exposure to violence both at home and on the street; street children grow into adults who engage in criminal activities thus threatening security of the public. In a report by Ringa and Machuhi (2008) one security guard was killed and another was fighting for his life at Coast General Hospital in Mombasa after a vicious attack by street children. Living outside the protection of responsible adults, street children become easy and silent targets for abuse by police and society at large, they lack protection and social services such as health and education they easily acquire anti social behavior which is an impediment to the development of the nation.

The challenges that street children continue to face after ramifications of the 2008 PEV clearly indicate a social problem that justifies this study. Thus the situation necessitates an in-depth understanding and investigation to understand the challenges facing street children and recommend effective measures through which their plight can be addressed. It is upon this background that this study sought to establish the social-political factors affecting street children after the 2007/2008 post-election violence in Eldoret town, Uasin Gishu County, Kenya.
The overall objective of this study was to investigate the socio-political factors affecting street children in Kenya with a specific focus on Eldoret town in UasinGishu County. The choice of the municipality was based on the reports that there has been a sharp rise in the number of street children in recent past after the Post Election Violence of 2007/2008.

1.3.1 Specific Objectives of the Study

The study sought to achieve the following objectives, to:-

1. Establish the social and political factors that affect street children in Eldoret.
2. Identify challenges facing the promotion of children rights with regard to the legal provisions in Eldoret.
3. Establish interventions adopted to alleviate the problem of street children by the government and NGOs in Eldoret.

1.4 Research Questions

1. What are the social and political factors affecting street children in Eldoret?
2. What are the challenges of promoting the rights of street children as stipulated in the Children's legal provisions in Eldoret?
3. What are the interventions needed by the government and NGOs to reduce street children in Eldoret town?

1.5 Justification of the Study

Kenya faces frequent and chronic emergencies which further erode already fragile livelihoods in the most vulnerable areas. For instance it is not uncommon for Kenya to suffer from frequent droughts and floods at the same time in different parts of the country. Another major challenge is population displacement for instance after the 2008 Post Election Violence (PEV) which continually leads to increases in street families and children in particular. Although a number of NGOs are involved in working with street children in Eldoret, there has been no significant impact on the numbers and plight of street children in the municipality
In Kenya there is documented evidence on the leading causes of the problem of street children, no research has been conducted on the challenges that street children face during and after chronic emergency situations, such as the 2007-2008 PEV. There is also need to identify approaches to be adopted to respond to their plight. The present study seeks to fill the information gap between humanitarian service providers, decision makers and the people they are trying to help, in this case, street children in Eldoret.

1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The study was undertaken in Eldoret town in the UasinGishu County which saw a rise in the number of street children after the PEV of 2007-2008. Eldoret town is a strategic urban transit centre and with different social and cultural communities from the Rift Valley and other parts of Kenya. The officer in charge of children services in Eldoret West estimated that Eldoret had an estimated 1,000 street children, but the number is on the rise after the PEV (Ndanyi, 2011).

Eldoret town is also a significant case study as it is a destination for communities facing chronic and emergency situations such as the 2010 drought in major parts of the northern and eastern regions of Kenya, which have contributed to the influx of displaced people and street children in particular. The 2008 Post-election violence affected Eldoret region in both urban and rural locations, with many fleeing from the rural areas to Eldoret town in search of safety.

The study has adopted the definition of the child contained in Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) i.e. every human being below the age of 18. These will be the target of our investigation. The study has limited itself to institutions that offer programmes and services specifically to street children. These are Charitable Children Institutions (CCIs), as defined by the Department of Children Services, which have been established by NGOs, other Civil Society Organizations as well as the Government of Kenya District Children’s Office in an effort to manage programmes for the care, protection, rehabilitation or control of children in Eldoret town.

The researcher experienced some challenges during the data collection exercise which included the conduction of the FGDs and interviews. Some street children were not
who were drunk ō from sniffing gum/glue and occasionally dosed off from the discussion. There was also disruption from some of the children during the discussions which took the intervention of the moderator and the children officer to ensure the discussions go on. The street children also used ō that was not known to the researcher during the discussions; after the discussions the researcher asked for the interpretation of sheng used during the discussions. On the other hand some children wanted to be paid money before they were interviewed. I overcame this challenge by repeatedly and patiently explaining to them that the study was actually for academic purposes and not monetary gain.
CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the literature related to the central focus of the study has been reviewed. A major focus in the review are the social factors affecting street children such as political factors affecting street children, challenges associated with Child Rights, selected legal provisions for the protection of the rights of street children in Kenya and interventions targeting the street child. Street children interventions are discussed under the topics of government and non-government interventions. The chapter also discusses the phenomena of street children in view of the Structural Functionalism and Conflict Theories. The conceptualisation of the problem under study is illustrated in Figure 1.

2.2 Social factors affecting Street Children in Kenya

Street children are often seen to be among the homeless, the vagrants, the children in informal street trades and the chronically unemployed children on the street. Hence, some scholars view street children as part of the socially excluded population (Bhalla & Lapeyre, 1999). Moreover, children who live and work on street are socially excluded because they lack the opportunity of access to basic services including health, education, and housing. Pehlivanli (2008) conceptualises the concept of social exclusion into two dimensions; material exclusion which exclusively refers to the insufficiency to acquire the basic needs such as housing and clothing and the economic which refers to restricted access to healthcare, education, social security and safety.

Dallape (1987) captures the reality of the world’s street children, by pointing out that street children live alone; are undernourished since birth; are denied affection, education and help; live without love; survive by expedience, by theft and by violence; coalesce into gangs and re-invent a family, a structure they have never known. They are children who are used unscrupulously by others, mistreated, imprisoned, and even eliminated; children whom the world tries to forget or ignore; children who see grown-ups as their enemies; children nobody comforts. Tomorrow, these street children will be men and women without appropriate value systems.
According to the Urban Management Programme (2000) the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) as well as the Habitat Agenda provides the mandate for local authorities to promote the rights of children. The rights can broadly be categorized either as active or passive rights. Active rights relate to the provision of goods and services such as housing, schools and health care facilities. The latter include the right not to be imprisoned without trial, and freedom from discrimination based on sex, race, or religion. Studies (Karpat, 1976; Atauz, 1990) indicate changes in demographic patterns have negative impacts or put a strain on existing facilities (schools, health centres) to provide services to growing populations. Movement of street families into Eldoret town has led to a situation where the migrants into the town, mainly street children, have limited access to public health facilities and public schools.

Studies e.g. WHO, (2002) Sorsa, (2002) and Kapoka, (2000) reveal that street children suffer discrimination while trying to gain admission to the public hospitals. These children have relatively little access to health care and there are no programmes in place specifically for them in public health facilities. Various initiatives for non-formal and informal schools have been identified to provide basic and vocational education to these children. According to SNV/Kenya and GTZ (2002) street children continue being under the risk of malnutrition, and being infected by various diseases due to unhealthy living conditions.

Studies done in Zimbabwe (Bourdillon, 1994; Dube, 1997) found street children being at risk of HIV-infection given their sexual behaviour. However, there is limited information on the HIV-infection rates amongst street children in Zimbabwe. Emerging data from research and from organisations working with street children does indicate, however, that they are at higher risk of HIV infection. During several Focused Group Discussion (FGDs) meetings for street girls with newborn babies, in Eldoret town Lalani (2009) found that street children remain at a high risk of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV, due to having multiple sexual partners and low rates of condom use. Girls put themselves in danger through prostitution, however confronted with such brutal reality most of them talked of sniffing glue or smoking to ease the pain. Health was not a concern for the girls thus condoms were only occasionally used.
Ayaya and Esamai (2001) show Eldoret street children as having a high incidence of childhood diseases. Factors determining occurrence of disease among street children are similar as in normal children; however, respiratory and skin diseases were the leading causes of morbidity among street children. In their study Ayaya and Esami (2001), drug abuse was also reported as being rampant among the street children. However, these children have limited access to health care; there are no programmes in place specifically for them in public health facilities. SNV Kenya and GTZ (2002) recommend for advocacy and lobbying among policy makers and implementers to ensure that the provisions of the Children Act 2001 are translated into action and child friendly educational and other institutions (e.g. health services) are promoted and necessary changes made in the curricula and pedagogy.

Studies by Bourdillon (1992) Muchini, (2000) show that majority of street children have little or no education at all. Some of the street children, who are dropouts, would like to go back to school in order to secure a better future. However, the longer they stay on the streets, the worse their prognosis for educational rehabilitation. Provision of education is a common service afforded to street children. Various initiatives for non-formal and informal schools are some of the options identified as options to provide basic and vocational education to these children (Forum for Actors in Street Children Work, 2001). However, Ayieko (2007) notes that informal schools often lack the necessary infrastructure, qualified teachers, teaching and learning equipments, and have no certification of those taught, thus they are at risk of offering poor quality of education. Skills training which is offered in most of these institutions is meant to assist the children to become independent and self-reliant. However, the options remain minimal and often with poor quality training facilities. Thus the plight of street children in receiving quality education and training is greatly reduced.

By 2005, The Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund (SFRTF) comprising of key ministries, the private sector, and development partners, moved street children and families from Nairobi city streets with the aim of rehabilitating them and re-integrating them back to the society. The aim was also to enable school-age children and youth to benefit from Free Primary Education (FPE). Although monetary factors are a barrier to street children's access to education other factors have also influenced their inability to access education opportunities. According to Evans (2002) children/orphans may also be
HIV/AIDS associated stigma in society after the loss of parents access to public primary schools, gender was also another factor identified as girls bear greatest costs of adult ill-health, and the need to fulfil roles as caregivers and nurtures. Thus, for strategies to have the intended effect they should be specifically tailored to meet identified needs as SNV Kenya and GTZ (2002) point out. However, for children who have already been on the streets for a number of years, imposing rigid, inflexible school schedules and discipline would be counter-productive. In such environments they they would not remain in school for very long.

Lack of any form of education among street children has led them to be excluded from participation in the numerous socio-economic activities that characterize the urban areas (Njoroge, in Progress). As a result street children suffer economic discrimination in various forms while the working street children are paid very poorly for their services. Further, they are not well informed on how to properly manage their time or how to access good markets for the products that they make such as carvings and necklaces.

2.3 Political factors affecting Street Children in Kenya

Government or nation policy documents are important tools to address constraints and challenges facing particular groups in the country. These country policy documents provide direction for efforts to address country specific issues and provide a platform for stakeholder participation in developing interventions to remedy identified issues. After acceding to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), a member stateisrequired to submit reportson progress towards set targets after every five years on the status of children, with recommendationsbeing submitted by the committee after observations made from the country reports.

Perez (2007) notes two limitations emanating from the mechanisms of member states; one is that the reporting system is weak and in most cases, states do not commit themselves to implement the rights recognised in the CRC or that the recommendations made by the Committee. Secondly, street children are given very little attention in these reports as there is no specific headline for street children. Normally they appear under the headings of separation from parents, juvenile justice, economic exploitation, but more frequently under the headline of "other types of exploitation" provided by article 36 of the CRC. The
Their exclusion from government reports one can only conclude that they are in the risk of not being given due consideration in government policies and programmes.

Political manipulation interference has been identified as an issue that predominantly affects the youth in Africa. Injustices in society create discontent among school going youth and politicians take advantage of this anger to influence students to take up political causes in their home areas. This was especially true during the political violence of 2007/2008 where many students were propagators of violence. Unsubstantiated reports say that local politicians instigated the spate of violence by inciting the youth.

Rizzini (1996) concludes that one of the reasons that make us think that street children are being ignored is that the problem of marginalised children in the streets have to this day not been tackled by through serious and politically viable proposals to improve income distribution, education and health. Therefore, street children continuously live in inhumane conditions, suffering from hunger, harassment, diseases and physical abuse, without education or health care.

The relationship between street children and security agencies and the public has always remained synonymous with suspicion and violence. United Nations Development (UNDP) (1992) report that street children are denied rights such as personal security, political representation and their disadvantages conflict with the principles of equality of opportunity and the rule of law. They are also deprived of social respect and of a mere measure of power to control the course of their lives, they are subjected to abuse, they experience dangerous conditions on the street, and are perceived as a threat to society (Ataöv&Haider, 2006; De Venanzi, 2003).

CRADLE, Undugu Society of Kenya & The Consortium for Children Services (2004) note that there is lack of a comprehensive and concise interpretation of the term street children and that lack of clarity in its usage have made it difficult to obtain exact estimates of how many children fall into this category in Kenya. Different methodologies and definitions among government and NGO sources have produced exaggerated, underestimated or often wildly conflicting statistics. The implication here is that street children
Ayuku (2004) notes the influx of street children in Eldoret due to the 2007 post-election crisis including violence and displacement of persons. As a fact, the book notes the political involvement as a public health and welfare matter since the 1991-1993 ethnic clashes, when the Kikuyu, Luhya and Luo ethnic groups were affected most. Now, like previously noted in the book, street children meet and live at ‘congregation sites’ also known as ‘Barracks’. They live as ‘undocumented’ refugees at varied ‘camps’. Many would still argue that what brings street children to the streets include poverty, clashes, single parenthood, rural urban migration alcohol and divorce, as the book also notes.

2.4 Challenges associated with Children’s Rights

There has been a proliferation of soft laws aimed at strengthening the protection of human rights for street children. However, it is important to recognise that these documents are political documents and are not legally binding, because their implementation depends on the political will from governments.

Despite the ratification of international conventions and treaties on the rights of children, governments have failed in their implementation by citing lack of sufficient economic resources. For instance there is concern over inadequate resources (financial and human) allocated for the effective functioning of the Department of Children Services (CRADLE, Undugu Society of Kenya & The Consortium for Children Services, 2004). The result is that the human rights of street children are denied given the many children who are being abused by their parents or guardians. Secondly, street children are not being protected from economic and sexual exploitation while on the street.

2.5 Selected Legal Provisions for Street Children in Kenya

Children are often victims of various forms of abuse and mistreatment. In this context, the obligation of State Parties to ensure physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of a child victim of any form of neglect, exploitation, abuse, torture or any other form of cruelty, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; or armed conflicts to children.

The law makes special provision for the protection of children in need of care and protection under the Act, which includes placing the child in a place of safety or making orders enforceable to the parents. It may also include making a child aware of the court and their rights in terms of juvenile justice. In Nairobi SNV Kenya and GTZ (2002) discovered that only half of the children they interviewed had some knowledge about various organisations that offer services to street children, and none were aware of any organization working on the issues of juvenile justice. One of the most vulnerable groups in this category is the children who are frequently arrested by police and brought before courts where they are mainly charged with status or petty offences.

According to the Children's Act 2001, the government provides the legal and policy framework to guide the operations of organizations and children institutions. Its role is to provide a suitable and enabling legal environment for child support activities of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). The Act puts in place an administrative structure to deal with children matters. This was achieved through the establishment of the National Council for Children Services (NCCS) in September 2002. Under the NCCS, the government plays the lead role of a facilitator in bringing together different programmes addressing issues of vulnerable children in society through the key partners in the children sector. The Act 2001 provides for the role of the Director of Children Services and the responsibilities of children officers clearly. Further, the Act prescribes essential duties of local authorities with regard to child protection issues. The Children's Act 2001 also establishes statutory structures to facilitate the administration and safeguarding of the rights of children. One of its specific mandates is to ensure that Kenya fulfils its international, regional and national obligations relating to children and facilitate the formulation of appropriate reports under, such obligations.
The Children’s Act 2001 also highlights the vulnerability of children as young minds who need care and safeguarding. Part II, Section 6 of the Act states, ‘a child shall have a right to live with and to be cared for by his parents.’

The Constitution of Kenya 2010 Article 52(1) provides for ‘certain rights to ensure greater certainty as to the application of those rights and fundamental freedoms to certain groups of persons.’ Article 53(1)(d) of the Constitution states that ‘Every Child has the right to be protected from abuse, neglect, harmful cultural practices, all forms of violence, inhuman treatment and punishment, and hazardous or exploitative labour.’ Further, Article 53(1) (f) states that ‘Every child has the right not to be detained, except as a measure of last resort, and when detained, to be held for the shortest appropriate period of time and separate from adults an in conditions that take account of the child’s sex and age.’ Article 53(2) states that ‘A child’s best interests are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child.’

2.6 Street Child focused Interventions

Interventions targeting street children have been well documented in relevant literature in Africa and around the world. There is need therefore for a study to evaluate the initiatives that discuss the impact of such initiatives in addressing challenges facing street children. According to Njoroge (in Progress) several approaches have been adopted in addressing the plight of the street children all over the world, including; charity, integration, rehabilitation and community based. Charity approach aims at giving gifts to the children, thus temporarily alleviating their basic needs. However, charity approach does not help the children to become self reliant, but instead makes the children more dependent upon the giver/well wishers. Thus poverty remains rampant despite charitable support. This study will discuss these interventions from the perspective of both the government and non-governmental interventions with the aim of establishing the responsiveness of current approaches in their quest to address the issues of street children.

2.6.1 Government Interventions

In 1991, by Presidential decree, the Government of Kenya established the District Children’s Advisory Committees (AACs), in each district, to enhance involvement of the community, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), private sector (business community),
line ministries, Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) in the administration of matters relating to children. By then, only the Department of children’s services under the Ministry of Home Affairs and National Heritage (MOHA&NH) was running public supportive and preventive programmes for the benefit of actual and potential street children. Although most of the country's local authorities (municipalities and county councils) were approved under the Children and Young Persons CAP 141 which was to manage both types of programmes, however, none mounted a supportive programme, the CAP 141 Act was repealed in the 2001.

These interventions were, primarily, based on the rehabilitation and training of street children and were based on the delinquent nature of 6-18 year olds of whom street children were a majority. The programme was organised into two types of institutions namely, Approved Schools now known as Rehabilitation Schools and Juvenile Remand Homes now known as Children’s Remand Homes, under the Children’s Act 2001. Approved Schools on the other hand were custodial schools for the rehabilitation and training of delinquent juveniles and youngsters. The Department of Children Services had (nine) 9 such schools in the country, with a capacity of 3,000 children (Ministry of Home Affairs and National Heritage, 1990). Kudrati et al., (2002) discourage these forms of interventions while acknowledging that in order to address the issue of street children effectively, both such long and short-term interventions are necessary. In addition, there should be a focus on preventive (rather than rehabilitative) solutions. For instance, ongoing provision of food, clothes, medicines, and shelter may even help to perpetuate the problem by making street life bearable and intensifying a child’s dependence on programs (Volpi, 2002).

Despite their good intentions however, research has suggested that the Committees established are failing to function in a satisfactory manner due to lack of good leadership by the District Commissioners, lack of funds to hold scheduled or necessary meetings, repetitive agendas and lack of clarity of purpose. Other main flaws in these committees were seen to be their quasi-legal status and the absence of a decentralized child care operational budgets at District level (CSC, 2004).

In 1998, the Department of Children Services established the Volunteer Children Officers system. The concept was piloted 2004 in seven (7) Districts. The volunteers Children
Officer (VCOs) complement the work of children officers by providing supervisory services to children in need of care and protection and those in conflict with the law at the location/village level. The VCOs work under close supervision of the District Children Officers (DCOs). The VCO system however, has significantly been hampered by lack of funding, inadequate and systematic training to enhance their capacities in service delivery to children.

Under the National Alliance Rainbow Coalition (NARC) government (2003), The Office of the Vice President and Ministry of Home Affairs had the mandate to coordinate all children services as stipulated in the Children’s Act of 2001. The Government also set up the National Council for Children Services to oversee proper planning, financing, coordination and supervision of child welfare activities. Representatives are drawn from relevant government ministries, civil societies, private sector and religious organisations. At the district level these structures are called Area Advisory Councils (AACs). In 2008 the Government reorganized its ministries and the Department of Children Services was moved from Office of the Vice President and Ministry of Home Affairs to Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development (MoGC&SD) now under Ministry of Labour Social Security and Services. The Ministry through the Department of Children Services empowers the vulnerable groups and children in need of care and protection such as street children, orphans, marginalized children, internally displaced children among others.

The NARC Government through the Ministry of Local Government embarked on a rehabilitation program for street children in collaboration with the National Youth Services (NYS) to offer trainings, in an effort to provide them with rehabilitation services, non formal education, vocational skills, reintegration back to formal education and family reintegration. Reception centres were also set up in four (4) provinces including Central, Coast, Riftvalley and Nairobi.

In the reception centres street children are received, assessed, categorized and given appropriate support and assistance or referred to relevant agencies. In 2003, 6000 ex street children were rehabilitated and enrolled in different primary schools countrywide while 800 other street children acquired vocational skills in various national youth service units countrywide (Awori, 2007).
Under the Kibaki presidency, the Government made great strides in the provisions of support services to street children. Various bodies were created and mandated to work with street children in Kenya. In 2003, The Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund (SFRTF) was established under the Ministry of Local Government now under Ministry of Devolution and Planning through a Gazette Notice No. 1558 of 11th March 2003. The mandate of SFRTF is to coordinate rehabilitation activities for street families in Kenya in partnership with other service providers, educate the public, mobilize resources, manage a fund to support rehabilitation and reintegration activities, and encourage decentralization of activities to County governments to benefit those surviving on streets of Kenya towns and cities among other functions.

The Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund (STRF) rehabilitates and returns street children to their families and supports their re-integration into the community. The Trust has moved from emergency response and immediate basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, health and psychosocial support to long-term programs including support for their education, vocational skills and small scale business for self-reliant.

The National Youth Service Act, Chapter 208 provides for the establishment of a National Youth Service (NYS). The functions of the NYS and related matters include training of young citizens to serve the nation and employment of its members in tasks of national importance. Eligibility to the service starts at the age of 16.

Muigai (2003) acknowledges that service opportunities are usually advertised in the daily newspapers where college and university students often apply, but since April 2003, approximately 800 street children from Nairobi and Mombasa had been actively recruited into the NYS to become "useful citizens, like other Kenyans." A joint study, Street Children and Juvenile Justice in Kenya (2004) by CRADLE, Undugu Society of Kenya and Consortium for Street Children (CSC) however, notes that there have been newspaper reports claiming that the first batch of street children graduates from the NYC have simply returned to the streets "more ruthless and hardened." If the recruitment was in any way forced, this constitutes a gross violation of the rights of these children.

The National Rainbow Coalition Government also initiated The Street Children Capacity Building Project which aims at enhancing the capacity of organizations that are
addressing the plight of both actual and potential street children in Kenya. The project has national out-reach, and working in partnership with voluntary organizations and governmental institutions in key urban centres in different districts, including Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru, Kitale, Kisumu, Eldoret, Lodwar, Maralal and Marsabit.

Based on the programs' objectives the project developed training modules which address three thematic areas namely: management of street children organizations, Participatory Action Research (PAR), and Paralegal and child Rights. The project has reached a total of eighty-two organizations with various capacity-building activities. The project is based on a community and neighbourhood based model to protect children against violence which signifies a paradigm shift from the rehabilitative programmes that characterised early governmental interventions.

2.6.2 Non – Governmental Interventions

Non governmental organisations have been identified as the most active around the globe and in Kenya to alleviate the plight of street children. According to the Consortium for Street Children (CSC) it has been difficult to run effective intervention programmes for street children since street children are manifestations of profound social and economic situations that do not respond to quick and easy solutions. Failure has characterised many programmes that have not considered the children's rights, personal needs and freedom of choice in the provision of services and those that have addressed the symptoms rather than the causal factors.

Part of the problem in designing effective interventions is the lack of adequate and reliable information. Current projections of the population of children living and working on the streets of Nairobi and other urban and rural areas are at best "guesstimates". There has hardly been any initiative geared towards collecting and consolidating data on these children. The recent survey, Dagoretti Street Children Programme (2001) Baseline Survey conducted by AMREF is an exception.

SNV/Kenya and the GTZ (2002) note the little data available tends not to be disaggregated, tending to categorise all poor urban children as "street children" and by clustering all poor urban children under the generic descriptor of "street children" distorts
Consequently, the programme designer is unable to make any distinctions with regard to the peculiar characteristics and specific needs of the various groups of children thus running the danger of developing inappropriate interventions. This situation, also, prevents the design and implementation of appropriate prevention programmes.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and some International Non-governmental organisations (INGOs) have attempted in their different ways to provide support for street children worldwide. Individual countries have themselves made attempts to tackle the problem locally. The Daily Nation, 15th January 2000, notes that the government has since 1994 participated in workshops to address the plight of street children known as the Forum. The paper further states that the forum was the initiative of the African Network for the Protection and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN). It also aimed at identifying the solutions that would help eradicate the problem of street children.

Although NGOs have been involved in programmes to address the plight of street children; Onyango et al., (1991) note management of most NGO programmes have enjoyed very limited internal public and government financial support, making them wholly dependent on external public financial support (donations) to finance their operations. This kind of financing is not dependable and complicates planning and implementation.

For instance, UNICEF currently provides financial and technical support to the national NGO Eldoret Street Children Centre (ECCO) to respond to the increasing number of street children in Eldoret town over the last few months as a result of the drought in Northern Kenya. The UNICEF supported program started in August 2011 with the identification and enrolment of street children resulting in 562 children being reached to date with a variety of interventions including psychosocial support, counselling, medical support, recreational activities and reintegration of children with their families (UNICEF, 2011).
Cummings (2008) identifies Sierra Leone as one of the countries and other parts of Africa, where interventions stress both rehabilitation and prevention with a focus on Community-Based Organizations (CBOs); empowered with resources to provide money not directly to the child, but rather support for schooling, training for employment, and recreational activities such as sports, art, and music. The child is largely understood as an active agent, one who must be motivated to participate willingly in his own rehabilitation. Attempts, for example, to forcibly relocate street children into "homes" have not worked. Instead, street children overall flee from such institutions, where disciplinary regimes and required labour are emphasized.

The report of the conference on the rehabilitation of street children by StichtingNederlandseUrijwilligers/ Kenya Street Children Programme (SNV-SCP, 2001) reveals that in Nairobi alone, there are more than 250 organisations focusing on both actual and potential street children. Dependant on voluntarism and charity (SNV-SCP, 2001), many of these organisations provide similar services, focusing on feeding, vocational training, medical care, shelter, counselling and evangelism (Suda, 1995). The report also identifies major types of interventions according to the children sampled as the provision of food and education as the most common activities of these centres. Other activities that the children expressed awareness of included the distribution of clothes, medical assistance, provision of shelter and to a very small degree, counselling.

SNV/Kenya and GTZ (2002) report that children’s perceptions on interventions indicated that education tops the list of benefits that the children said they derived from their involvement in these organisations, followed by food and clothes. Few had benefited from medical assistance or recreational services. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have also undertaken several activities to address violence against children. The categories of such organizations are diverse and include non-governmental organizations, research institutions, FBOs, academic institutions, health institutions and professional associations. They have formulated different activities and initiatives to deal with violence against children. For example those providing rescue, placement and rehabilitation include; Undugu Society of Kenya, Rescue Dada, Goal Kenya, SOS villages, WRAP, Ukweli, Pandpierry Street Children’s Program, Sons of Abraham, Solwodi and AIC Girls Kajiado, SDA Kajiado Primary School and in particular deal with providing temporary Shelter, Vocational Skills and Rehabilitation Programs for child
Both donors and civil society organizations have shown considerable interest in child rights, child protection issues and children in conflict with the law. From these experiences it would appear that there is adequate funding available to make significant change. However, interventions continue to be somewhat small and ‘one-off’ with little emphasis on large-scale coordinated approaches. This may explain why, SNV Kenya and GTZ (2002) discovered that only half of the children they interviewed had some knowledge about various organisations that offer services to street children, and none were aware of any organization working on the issue of juvenile justice.

The Northern Rift Valley Protection Working Group found that at least one third of the children on the streets of Eldoret are coming from Turkana. With 800-1000 street children now on Eldoret streets and admissions in the Children’s Remand Home based in Eldoret increasing significantly over the past three months, UNICEF has decided to prioritize child protection activities there. Initially, the Child Protection Centre (CPC) in Eldoret is provided with supplies, social workers and counsellors, and support for logistics. UNICEF also seeks to expand its support to the local NGO, ECCO Street Children, so that they can scale-up services to street children and other vulnerable children. The District Children’s Office is also to be supported to play its coordination role. (UNICEF, 2011)

By November 2011, The ECCO street children outreach project in Eldoret had reached 166 street children (116 boys and 50 girls), most of whom were engaged in sports and recreational activities. Ten children received counselling, eight children received medical support, 116 children received psychosocial and material support, and 32 children received life skills training. NGO programs alone are not enough to significantly reduce the number of children in the street, nor are they expected to do so. To accomplish this Volpi (2002) suggests that it would be far more effective for NGOs to network and cooperate among themselves and with local governments if they hope to increase the long-term impact and sustainability of interventions in this area. Schmidt (2003) indicates that policies that attempt to support street children must build on the experiences of the street children themselves and their voices must be listened to and taken into
The aim of the programs is to soften punitive attitudes towards street children and to empower the neglected. However, without involving the street children, there is little likelihood to find lasting solutions.

Volpi (2002) acknowledges that a mixture of the different approaches that also helps identify the different roles that the stakeholders can play to have more significant intervention programs to street children. Undugu Society of Kenya is an example of community mobilization efforts through their program established to address the needs of young street workers in Nairobi. Initially, it focused on child rehabilitation, and gradually turned its attention to the communities where children originated, recognizing that it needed to address not only the symptoms but also the root of the problem. The Undugu Society carries out a variety of urban community development projects as well as providing direct services to street and working children.

2.7 Theoretical Framework

The study adopted the conflict theory and structural functionalism theory to explain and discuss the problem of street children.

2.7.1 Conflict Theory

According to Ritzer (2000) the conflict perspective considers how society is held together by power and coercion for the benefit of those in power. In this view, social problems emerge from the continuing conflict between groups in the society based on social class, gender, ethnicity/race and in the conflict, the powerful groups usually win. As a result, this perspective offers no easy solutions to social problems. There could be a total overhaul of the system, but that is unlikely to happen. We could reform parts of the structure, but those in power would retain their control. The biggest social problem from this perspective is the system itself and the inequality it creates.

It has been well documented that street children more often than not are bound to come into conflict with the security forces and the law. Pinheiro (2006) notes that it is important to remember, first, that street children usually come from the poorest sectors of society and often from indigenous minority or low-class groups, and second, once on the streets, many children engage in risky, often illegal, behaviour in order to survive including begging, loitering, theft and prostitution.
In applying the conflict theory to the street children problem and the negligence of those in power in addressing this issue is evident in the lack of will to develop long term structures to assist street children challenges. For instance, in colonial Kenya; street families in the urban areas were forcefully relocated from urban areas to outskirts of the city which led to the development of informal settlements. This has translated to the designing of short term interventions which are rather ignorant of the underlying causes of the street children phenomena.

Nowrojee (1990) espouses the conflict perspective by noting that civil unrest dating from the Mau Mau struggle for independence has been connected to the origins of Kenyan street children. Emergence of violence in Kenya can be traced back to the era of multi-party politics in 1992. Ethnic tensions have led to conflicts that have contributed to destruction of property, livelihoods and to loss of life. Post election violence has been more pronounced in the Rift Valley province of Kenya during the 1992 Molo clashes and the 2008 Post Election Violence of 2008. During the 2007/2008 PEV families in the Rift Valley region were displaced from their homes exposing them to hunger, vagaries of weather and health risks. Despite calls to resettle them, there has been poor coordination and implementation of these efforts by the government with majority of families still living in makeshift camps. The government had set the December 31st, 2009 for the profiling exercise of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) but since then the exercise hasn’t been completed resulting to tensions among IDPs who are settled in camps in Nakuru (Mureithi, 2011).

Conflict theory and the street children phenomena can also be discussed from the point of view of the local business community’s worries about the safety of urban streets which stands paramount. Dahrendorf (1959) explains that conflict of interest is inherent in any relationship because those in powerful positions will always seek to maintain their dominance. Contemporary conflict theorists have argued that conflict emerges from other social bases, such as values, resources, and interests. Mills (1959; 2000) argued the existence of a power elite, a small group of political, business, and military leaders who control our society. As such those with resources (businessmen) in urban areas are more interested in the relocation of street children from their business pavements and streets in colonial Kenya (Droz, 2006). Conflict theorists also argue that the powerful sections of society also benefit by maintaining the status quo. For instance there has been an increase
in the number of NGOs operating street children interventions; however this increase has had little or no significant decrease in the number of street children in urban areas. As such there has been growing financial and political leverage of NGOs interfering in local affairs in the name of street children’s rights is looked upon with suspicion.

### 2.7.2 Structural Functionalism Theory

Structural functionalism is a sociological perspective that originally attempted to explain social institutions as collective means to meet individual biological needs (originally just functionalism). Later it came to focus on the ways social institutions meet social needs (structural-functionalism). The structural-functionalist theory sees society as a complex system whose parts work together to promote solidarity and stability; it states that our social lives are guided by social structure, which are relatively stable patterns of social behaviour (Macionis, 1997). There are two major classifications of sociological perspectives as either macro-theory or micro-theory. Micro-theory deals with the issue of social life among individuals and small groups while macro-theory includes struggle between economic classes in a society and the interrelations among major institutions in the society, such as government, religion and the family. These perspectives were applied in the study.

A social institution is an interrelated system of social roles and social norms, organized around the satisfaction of an important social need or social function. Each institution performs two types of social function. These are: (a) primary functions, which are also called manifest, explicit, or direct functions; and (b) secondary functions, which are also called indirect, hidden, or latent functions. Through these functions, social institutions fulfil important needs in the society. The primary (functional) role of the family to society is to reproduce or recreate itself through the family. Children are born in the family to join the society. Parents play the roles of nurturing, caring for, teaching and training children; children are expected to play the roles of good and teachable trainees. However, institutions also have dysfunctional roles and the family is no exception. The breaking up of families has resulted into the disintegration of the unit in contemporary society. Children are neglected, abused or exploited in their families and this has been linked to the rise in the number of street children.
For instance, Edgerton (1989) hypothesized that during independence the Kikuyu family was changed more than were the families of other tribes. This is because many Kikuyu men were incarcerated as a result of fighting against colonialism. This led to an increase in kikuyu street children as their families disintegrated due to the inability of their mothers to provide for the family. The 2007/2008 PEV also led to the emergence or increase of street children in areas where there was a large number of displaced persons such as the Rift Valley. Families were separated at the height of violence or were left with no source of livelihoods which in turn made children move into Eldoret town streets in search of better opportunities perceived to be available in urban areas.

In modern society street children have cited family issues as the reason for their movement into the streets. For instance, in countries as diverse as Bangladesh and the UK, children, service providers and researchers point to family violence as a key factor pushing children onto the streets. Recent research in Bangladesh found; moves to the street are closely associated with violence to, and abuse of, children within the household and local community (Conticini & Hulme, 2006). In the UK, family conflicts and problems at home were found to be the most common factors leading to an under 16-year-olds decision to run away and/or live on the streets (Downing-Orr, 1999; Rees & Lee, 2005; Smeaton, 2005). Nthiga (1999) notes that Kenya had one of the highest percentages of abused children in the world, with over 40% of children admitting to suffering one form of abuse or another. In order to address the street children challenges there is a need to address the underlying structural factors which are at the family level. Gradually moving from the institution of the family then intervention can focus on the other major social institutions; economic, polity and law, religious and educational institutions.

2.8 Summary of the Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework (Figure 1) represents the independent and dependent variables of the study. The social factors affecting street children in Eldoret town include poor access to shelter, education, access to healthcare services and their limited participation in socio-economic activities to achieve their full development. Political factors include poor political representation, abuse and neglect by the judicial system and mistreatment, abuse by security agents which further puts their welfare and protection of their rights at risk. Further street children are limited in achieving or enjoying their rights as children
since there is lack of representation caused by lack of political will to enforce the protection of their rights. Further, intervention services provided by various stakeholders to street children may enhance the challenges that they face as they foster an environment of helplessness rather than that of empowerment which can assist street children in becoming more self-reliant and thus enjoy their freedom in the larger society as other members.
Independent Variables

Social factors affecting street children
- Poor access to public schools
- Poor access to health facilities
- Poor participation in socio-economic activities

Political factors affecting street children
- Lack of political representation
- Abuse and neglect by the judicial system
- Mistreatment, abuse by security agents

Challenges facing implementation of children rights
- Lack of political will in implementation of children rights
- Poor or lack of awareness and knowledge on children rights
- Inadequate resources and efforts to enforcing children rights

Street children intervention programmes
- Government efforts
- NGO efforts
- Community efforts
- Nature of street children interventions

Dependent Variable

Street Children Challenges
- Male street children challenges
- Female street children challenges

Source: Author (2012)
CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the key methodological issues of this study. These include; the research design to the data analysis and interpretation that the researcher used in order to achieve the research objectives. Every section in this chapter highlights and justifies the use of different research methods employed.

3.2 Research Design

The study adopted the descriptive survey design. This design provides quantitative or numeric description of trends, attitudes, or opinions of a population by studying a sample of that population (Creswell 2003). The range of methods within the qualitative and quantitative methodologies provides a more complete and comprehensive picture. For instance, qualitative research design involves collecting a large amount of data on a rather small, purposive sample. The study employed both quantitative and qualitative approaches and methods of data collection through triangulation. According to Bryman (2008) triangulation entails using more than one method or data in the study of social phenomena, resulting in greater confidence in findings. The researcher employed data triangulation where information was sought from different populations of the study iestreet children, street children service providers and street children workers. The study adopted method triangulation where the use of different research tools (questionnaires, interviews, focus group discussions and observation) complemented each other thus strengthening the findings of the study.

3.3 Research Site

Eldoret is the largest town and administrative centre for UasinGishuCounty and north Rift Valley region. According to the Commission of Revenue Allocation Kenya County Fact Sheets Eldoret has a population of 289,380. Eldoret lies at latitude 0, 5167 (0310.001°N) and longitude 35, 2833 (3516°59.880°E) and at an altitude of 2,103 M. At Government level,Eldoret Municipal Council's Department of Social Services, then under the Ministry of Local Government (MLOG), now Ministry of Devolution and Planning and the District Children's Office, then under Ministry of Gender Children and Social Development
Eldoret town has a broad industrial base and hence provides employment opportunities and for livelihoods for most residents. 21.8% of the labour force is in formal employment with the remaining 78.2% in the agricultural sector, both large scale and small scale farms. Health facilities especially the public ones are over utilised due to socio-economic difficulties. Many people cannot afford private hospital charges hence over reliance on public facilities. The 3 most prevalent diseases are malaria, respiratory infections and water borne diseases. The age distribution is 0-14 years 41.5 %, 15-64 years 55.7%, and above 65 years 2.9%. A young population signifies a high level of dependence, especially in catering for such needs as education and health.

The study identified Eldoret town because it bore the greatest brunt of the 2007/2008 Post-Election Violence (PEV). Post-election violence affected Eldoret in both urban and rural locations with many people fleeing from the rural area to Eldoret town in search of safety. As of May 2010, the number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) stood at 18,570 displaced in 25 transit sites in the Rift Valley (Eldoret area) and 34,000 in self-help groups (Ministry of State for Special Programmes, 2010). Although the phenomenon of street children in Eldoret has been present since 1989; following the ethnic clashes of 1991-1993 the numbers of street children further increased. In the wake of the most recent PEV (2008) many more children made their way to Eldoret Town (Lalani, 2009). The Ex-street Children Community Organisation (ECCO) conducted a census in 2008 and reported figures of 2,500 children on the streets of Eldoret town.

### 3.4 Target Population of the Study

The target population of the study comprised of; street children in Eldoret town, non-governmental organizations in Eldoret town providing services to street children and government officials providing services to street children which is the District Children Officer Eldoret West, Children Officers in Eldoret West district and Local Government officials (Social workers) in Eldoret Municipality.
Sample Size and Sampling Procedures

The study targeted street children in three of the Barracks in Eldoret town. A barrack is defined as a congregation site where one is likely to find street children in Eldoret Town (Ayuku, 2004). Based on the information from the District Children Officer Eldoret West, in every barrack there are about 45 children and out of whom 15 children were randomly selected (see Table 3.1).

The sample size for organisations working with Eldoret street children were 5, namely; Ex street Children Organization (ECCO), Tumaini Dropping Centre, Berur Organisation, Child Welfare Society of Kenya and Save the Children UK. The study sampled programme coordinators and social workers in each organization corresponding to a total number of 15 staff from non-governmental organizations. The researcher targeted 6 members of government agencies working with street children who included the District Children's Officer of Eldoret West Officers in the Department of Children Services in Eldoret West and Department of social services, Eldoret Municipality.
Table 3.1 List of Barracks and Location in Eldoret Town

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S / No</th>
<th>Barracks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Langata (Closed Down)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Aziz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>JuaKali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Koffi Annan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Dogodli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>California A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>California B Dumpsite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Trocadero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Soweto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Embakasi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Mwanza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Kamukunji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Eastleigh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Sosian Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Huruma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Damside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Black Majizi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Jumahiji</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.1 shows the barracks and the location in Eldoret Town. There are 21 barracks which are located in different areas in Eldoret town.

Table 3.2 Sample of the Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories of Respondents</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non Governmental Organisations</td>
<td>NGOs - Program Coordinators</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NGOs - Social Workers</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Agencies</td>
<td>District Children Officer - Eldoret West</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Children officers and Eldoret Municipal Staff</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Children</td>
<td>Three Barracks</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>66</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.2 indicates the population samples drawn from the NGOs, Government agencies and the street children themselves.

The sampling methods of the study were based on the nature, aims, and objectives of the study and the key actors in the subject of our study. Accordingly, various sampling
deal with each target group, which included: The street children in Eldoret were purposively selected for purposes of generating additional in-depth information about street children in Eldoret town. Purposive sampling is a form of non-probability sampling in which decisions concerning the individuals to be included in the sample are taken by the researcher, based upon a variety of criteria which may include specialist knowledge of the research issue, or capacity and willingness to participate in the research. Some types of research design necessitate researchers taking a decision about the individual participants who would be most likely to contribute appropriate data, both in terms of relevance and depth. In order to deal with research bias associated with purposive sampling the researcher used data collection tools which are valid and reliable. The researcher also purposively selected the Department of Children Services Officers and from the Department of Social Services then under Ministry of Local Government, Eldoret Municipality.

Eldoret Town has several locations where one can find street children which are known as “Barracks”. There are 21 “Barracks” in Eldoret town, which the children give names (such as “California” and “Kofi Annan”) to reflect certain events that have occurred within their confined spaces (Lalani, 2009) as indicated in Table 3.1. The researcher used the simple random sampling procedure to identify the barracks to be included in the sample for the study. In order to undertake a simple random procedure the researcher required an exhaustive list of the units of observation, which for this study, were the barracks where each had an equal chance of selection. The researcher noted down the individual barracks on separate pieces of paper and randomly selected three of the piece of papers as the sample for the study. Further the researcher, in order to select the children to participate in the questionnaires administration, adopted the snowball sampling technique to identify the street children through their trusted officers and leaders with whom they have a good rapport in Eldoret Town.

3.6 Methods of Data Collection

Relevant data for this study was collected through primary and secondary data. Primary data refers to data collected for a specific research problem at hand, using procedures that fit the research problem best. Secondary data on the other hand refers to data that has been collected before and is available to the researcher.
3.6.1 Quantitative and Qualitative Methods

The study used both qualitative and quantitative methods, where quantitative methods placed more emphasis on quantification compared to qualitative methods which placed more emphasis on information generated. Quantitative methods of data collection were used for the majority of respondents who are the units of analysis for the study. Qualitative methods allowed the researcher to collect rich and in-depth data from the sample to facilitate for the construction of their own view point. Qualitative research methods focused on the quality of data on a rather small and purposive sample which included the NGO service providers and government agencies’ officers in Eldoret town.

3.6.2 Key Informant Interviews

Patton (2002) defines key informant interviews as a qualitative research technique that involves conducting intensive individual interviews with a small number of respondents to explore their perspectives on a particular idea, program, or situation. Interviews with children officers and staff from Department of Social Services, Eldoret Municipality allowed the researcher to collect in-depth information on the phenomenon of street children and the social-political factors affecting the street children in Eldoret town. The researcher adopted semi-structured interviews with open-ended questions which were employed as one of the methods for data collection to provide qualitative data which complimented the quantitative data.

3.6.3 Focused Group Discussions

As Kumar (1987) notes the focus group discussions is a form of a rapid assessment, semi-structured data gathering method in which a purposively selected set of participants gather to discuss issues and concerns based on a list of key themes drawn up by the researcher / facilitator. This was one of the key methods of data collection in this study and involved service providers from the 5 non-governmental organisations directly involved with street children.
The researcher used secondary sources of data as part of data collection methods for the study. These were from published and unpublished materials, journals, newspaper articles and studies on the phenomenon of street children. Secondary data allowed the researcher to detect and identify trends in the social and political challenges facing street children after the post election violence in Eldoret town.

3.7 Tools for Data Collection

The researcher employed different research tools in the data collection process. These tools had elements of both quantitative and qualitative approaches and were recommended in order to strengthen data collection for the study. Alternatively, three or more different kinds of data (for example questionnaires, interview, Focus Group Discussions and observation) were applied on the same problem to complement each other.

3.7.1 Questionnaire

The study employed semi-structured questionnaire instruments to gather information from street children. The preference for using questionnaires for informants is based on the fact that respondents are able to complete it without help and anonymously. The method is also cheaper and quicker than other methods while reaching out to a larger sample (Bryman, 2008; Cohen, et al., 2007). The questions were developed based on the information required to reveal the causes of the factors that led to their being on the streets, activities that street children are involved in Eldoret town, challenges they face, knowledge and use of interventions offered by government and non governmental service providers. The questionnaires with close ended response items were pre-coded in order to facilitate the process of data entry into computer software. The researcher administered the questionnaires using face to face interview approach. This assisted the street children to better understand the questions of the study.
3.7.2 Focused Group Discussion Guide

The study proposed the use of Focus Group Discussions to gather information from non-governmental service providers. Burgess et al. (1988) recommend the technique as it encourages discussion and debate about topics/issues thus facilitating the sharing of ideas and hearing what is important to respondents. The researcher held a group discussion with the social workers from the five NGOs working with street children in Eldoret town. The guide was designed according to the various themes that are of importance to the study. These included the push and pull factors that have led to the increase of street children in Eldoret town, social and political challenges that street children endure in their lives, services they offer to street children, challenges they encounter in providing these services and assistance they would require to strengthen their efforts to assist street children.

The children who participated in the FGDs were identified through the barracks members who were the co-ordinators along with the street children workers as they have a good rapport with street children. Focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with recruited children who discussed until no new information was forthcoming (three FGDs, each comprising of 10-15 children, aged 8-18 years were held). FGDs with social workers were undertaken after introduction to the institutions management where a moderator was identified to lead the discussions. The moderator was chosen in terms of their experience in working with street children.

3.7.3 Key Informant Interview Guide

The study used in-depth interviews with key informants of the study; through in-depth interviews the researcher was able to develop a professional perception of social and political challenges facing street children, interventions designed to assist them and create a guide to conduct the information gathering process from the categories of respondents. Interviews were based on the three research questions these are; factors, which push children to work or live on street, socio-political challenges facing street children, sort of street children interventions and problems that professionals are faced with and finally, social workers’ suggestions for the solution of this problem. Key informants were identified through prior knowledge.
The researcher used participant observation as a method for data generation. Sommer and Sommer (2001) argue that observations help researchers answer questions such as: how do environments create opportunities or obstacles for people such as a place to informally talk, view entertainment together, or prohibit communication?; how do people manipulate or change their surroundings to meet their needs?; and what takes place in particular settings? In this study the unit of observation was the street children’s barracks.

Punch (2000) notes that participant observation occurs when the observer becomes part of the environment of the people being studied. Punch proposes the use of participant observation with children while they are in their own spaces as it enables them to feel more comfortable. According to Punch (2002a) there are likely to be some differences between what people say they do and what they actually do in practice which is why it was necessary to include observation methods. The researcher developed an observation checklist which was used to observe the activities of street children during the different times and the use of space in their environment. The method enabled the researcher to observe how street children in Eldoret town interact with their environment and also have a firsthand view of the interactions between individuals and other groups of children.

### 3.8 Validity and Reliability of Research Instruments

When eliciting children’s views; difficulties which child researchers must confront include the question that is often asked whether they can truly believe children can account for their experiences (Morrow, 1999). Ennew (1994) recognizes that lies and evasions are less likely to occur when a researcher has built up a relationship of trust with children. In this regard time needs to be invested to form a relationship and gain their trust. Building rapport is one way of establishing validity and reliability in research work with street children as suggested by Punch (2002b) and Morrow (1999). The researcher involved the children to participate more freely in the discussions by holding an introductory activity through ice-breakers and quick-games and energizers as suggested by Lalani (2009).
The use of a familiar environment and setting is also a strategy used to establish validity and reliability in research work with children (Punch, 2002b). The FGDs with street children took place at the ECCO Children Centre in the outskirts of Eldoret town where the street children frequent to play. The researcher also continually advised the children that there is no right or wrong answer. An additional issue of research work with children is that the choice of which data to include and the interpretation of the data is in the power of the adult researcher (Punch, 2002b). The danger here is the bias of the researcher because as an adult because researchers may have their own opinions and views of the world. Fine and Sandstrom (1988) argue that as “grown-ups”, we are limited by our tendency to process children’s talk through our own view of the world.

3.9 Ethical Considerations

In social research confidentiality and anonymity of information provided by the respondents is of utmost importance. If a researcher satisfies the respondents in regard to the confidentiality and anonymity of the information they provide the validity of the responses is guaranteed as they provide actual information. Informed consent was established by providing information to the respondents as to the nature and purpose of the study. The researcher acquired a letter from the University of Nairobi in order to increase confidence in the respondents regarding the purpose of the study. The letter gave confidence to the respondents in answering the questions as objectively as possible because they knew that it was an academic study which was not going to victimize them in any way for the views given. The guidelines for Child Participation in Kenya were adhered to the letter.

3.10 Data Analysis

Data analysis process involves several activities; data coding, entry and modification. The study employed both qualitative and quantitative methods both of which required different processes. Qualitative data from the in-depth interviews and focus group discussions was categorized into different themes as they emerged during the field interviews as suggested by Lalani (2009) after which thematic analysis was done of key issues raised by discussants. For quantitative data cleaning of generated information through coding was undertaken to identify errors, omissions and inconsistencies which
was then followed by data entry process, using the Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS). The researcher undertook a descriptive statistical analysis of the information gathered from the respondents. Descriptive statistics allowed the researcher to be able to detect patterns and themes from data collected for inference. Descriptive statistics were presented in tables and graphs as well as and the researcher’s own interpretation in verbatim.
CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

4.1 Introduction

This section presents the data and subsequent analysis and interpretation of key variables derived from the study. The data is presented through charts, figures and tables. As earlier noted, these data were generated from the completed questionnaires from street children in the three randomly selected barracks namely Jumahaji, California and Juakali. The Focus Group Discussions with 15 social workers from Non-Governmental Organizations working with street children in Eldoret town and key informant interviews with Government agencies namely; The District Children Officer Eldoret West, Children Officers Eldoret West and Eldoret Municipal Officers from department of Social Services and Focus Group Discussions with street children were additional sources of data in this study.

4.2 Socio–Demographic Data

4.2.1 Age of Respondents

With regard to the age variable, children between the ages of 6 ñ 10 years were 20.0 %. Respondents between the ages of 11 ñ 15 were 48.9 % and 31.1 % were between the ages of 16 ñ 18 as shown in Table 4.1 below. At the end of the day, the ages of the children were bound to be subjective based on what they believed their ages were since we had no objective way of verifying Childrens ages. The Study indicates that 90 % of the children fall within the age bracket of (11-15). The highest concentration of the children is found between the age ranges of 12 ñ 14 years which is represented by 64.3% and these findings agree with the findings of Suda (1995).

Table 4.1: Age of Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 - 10 years</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 ñ 15</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>48.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 ñ 18</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>31.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>45</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 4.1 above shows the ages of respondents, disaggregating the age data to gender, the females between ages 6–10 representing 21.4 % with 20.0 % representing male. Those between ages 11–15 were boys with 50.0 % compared to 42.8 % for girls. The study also established that there were more girls between ages of 16–18 years with 35.7 % and 30.0 % representing boys. This indicates that the girls come to the streets at an older age compared to the boys.

4.2.2 Gender of Respondents

With regard to the variable of gender, out of the 44 respondents that were interviewed, 66.7 % of them were male compared to 31.1 % who comprised of female street children. The study findings showed that majority of street children are male and so did observation in the barracks. This is shown in Table 4.2 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender of Respondents</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>66.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>31.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing Response</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.2 shows the gender distribution among the respondents. From the above analysis, it is clear that few 31.1 % female street children are on the streets compared to their male counterparts who account for 66.7 %. One street boy explained, during the study, that:

“When my parents died, my sister was taken to live with my aunt and my brother and I were told to take care of our home. Nobody could come to visit us, when we finished spending all the money and food that was donated during the funeral of our mother, we started sleeping hungry and no one could give us anything including our uncle who lives in the neighbourhood. So we decided to start going into the streets in the morning to beg for food and money and come back in the evening and eventually decided to sleep on the streets.” (Male Street Boy, 17 years).

The above findings are similar to a study by Oino, et al, (2012) where he found in one of the focus group discussions with street children in Eldoret Municipality, that whenever
The caretakers seem to prefer to foster girls other than boys, as girls are considered a sign of wealth in future unlike boys who will want to inherit land when they grow up. It is also seen as a bad omen for girls to be on the streets, as they will engage in activities such as prostitution that shake the morals of the society. The other reason why there are less female street children was that girls unlike their boy counterparts would easily be absorbed in alternative family activities including working as house girls early marriages instead of joining street life. Similarly, they were also the first choice target for those engaged in rehabilitation of street children. This in overall makes them fewer on the streets than their male peers on the streets. Similarly, some cultures seem to be more protective to the a girl child than the boy child and the presence of girls on the streets according to Aptekar & Ciano-Federoff, (1994) will be challenging to the existing norms and values within society and their presence on the streets violates cultural norms for female behaviour.

4.2.3 Level of Education of Respondents

With regard to their level of education the study as indicated in Table 4.3 shows that those with no education at all were represented at 17.8 %, those with nursery level of education were represented at 6.7%. Children who had attended school to the lower primary level which is between classes 1-4 were represented at 26.7 % while those with an upper primary level of education which is class 5-8 were represented at 33.3 %. Street children with a secondary level of education were represented at 4.4 %, while 11.1 % were missing responses. Respondents were also asked to indicate whether they were currently in school where 9.1 % indicated yes whereas 82.2 % indicated no and 8.9 % were missing responses.

These findings indicate that street children lack access to education facilities as highlighted in the literature review section of this study. The findings show that the level of education between the two genders has been established, with those who had no education at all being 41.6 % among the female and 7.1 % among the males. Those with nursery education were 10.7 % among the male with none among the female children, class 1-4 level of education among the females was 25 % compared to 32.1 % of the male children, class 5-8 was shown at 25.0 % for females and 42.8 % for males, with 7.1 % of males having a secondary level of education. These findings demonstrate that
than females, indicating the preference for sending the male child to school as compared to the girl child.

Key informant interviews revealed that most street children in Eldoret town did not attend school. Results revealed that there are children who come to the streets during the day and go home in the evening, and that, at times they may attend school but will frequent the streets during the school holidays. These children comprise of those who are sent to the streets by their parents so as to supplement the family income. Social workers’ interviews also revealed that although parents often try to refer street children to public primary schools, requirements such as uniforms and desks were required and that parents had no capacity to provide these materials. Further, due to children’s appearance and habits of using drugs and noting that they were not completely rehabilitated, school administration were hesitant to accept them since they would negatively influence other pupils.

Table 4.3: Level of Education among Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of education</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>17.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 1 ÷ 4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>26.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 5 ÷ 8</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing Responses</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>45</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.3 above indicates the level of education among the respondents. The majority 33.3% had reached between class 5 and 8. 26.7% between class 1 and 4. The least had been to nursery level. Focus group discussions with street children revealed that indeed most of the children would like to go back to school stating that it was the only intervention that they deemed would benefit them in the long term. Some of the children however were sceptical of where they would be admitted to school but at a lower grade than they preferred. They were against being taken to classes with other smaller children claiming that they were not being given interview examinations to determine what level of class they should be placed in.
The researcher also sought to establish where the street children live, whether at home or on the streets of Eldoret town. Majority of the street children did in fact live on the streets of Eldoret town and accounted for 71.1% while 28.9% were on the streets during the day and in the evenings returned to their homes. Street children who lived at home were from the outskirts of Eldoret town which included Bondeni, Langas, HillSchool area and Msikitini.

Key informant interviews revealed that indeed most of the street children come from the informal settlements around Eldoret town which include Kambi Turkana, Kamukunji, Mweyenderi, Huruma and Kambi Somali which are walking distances from Eldoret town. These are the children who are generally described as being on rather than off the streets. These findings are similar to those of StichtingNederlandse Urijwilligers/German Technical Cooperation (2002) where the majority of street children maintain strong ties with their natal homes, going back to them either in the evenings or weekends or at the end of the month.

Table 4.4: Residence of Street Children in Eldoret Town

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residence of Street Children</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>28.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streets / Barracks</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>71.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>45</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.4 above shows the street children's residence. 28.9% of the children are residents in their homes while the majority 71.1% on the streets or Barracks.

4.2.5 Persons with whom street Children live with

Following the identification of where the street children lived the researcher sought to further establish with whom street children lived with and if they lived at home, the responses are represented in Figure 2 below. Majority of the street children did not indicate with whom they reside with while most of those who lived in the streets revealed that they lived with other street children and comprised of 24.4%. Those who lived with their parents accounted for 13.3% those who lived with their mothers are
4.4% indicated that they lived alone. Those who lived with their mothers were represented by 2.2%.

Figure 2: Persons with whom street Children live with

Figure 2 above shows a graphic representation of the persons who lived with the children. As highlighted in figure 2 above, none of the street children indicated that they lived with their father; who show the caring and nurturing of mothers to their children. The caring and commitment of mothers to stay with their children despite difficult circumstances is enhanced here and some of the children indicated living with their mothers in the streets. This would also imply that most of the street children were from broken families or from single parent backgrounds. Further 55.6% of street children indicated that their mothers were alive compared to 11.1% who said no. With regard to whether their fathers were alive or dead 51.1% indicated that their fathers were indeed alive compared to 8.9% who confirmed that their fathers were dead. The findings imply that most of the children in the street had absentee fathers.

4.2.6 Duration of Respondents in the Streets of EldoretTown

The study in its problem statement had identified that Eldoret town saw an increase in street children after the Post Election Violence of 2007/2008. The researcher therefore, sought to identify how long the sampled street children had been in the streets of
As indicated in Figure 3 below those who have been in the streets for more than 4 years accounted for 53.3 %, 1-3 years were 33.3 % and those who were in the streets for less than one year were represented at 13.3 %.

**Figure 3: Duration of Respondents in the Streets of Eldoret Town**

Reviewed literature attributes the presence of children in the streets to "push" factors such as poverty, war, drought, family dysfunction and the death of a parent as well as "pull" factors like following friends (peer influence), or believing that there were good things to discover in the streets. Street children highlighted various reasons which led them to the streets of Eldoret town which are presented in Table 4.5 below. Seeking food and money from the streets were the most popular reasons for children coming to the streets and represented 17.8 %.

Key informant interviews with the Children officers indicated that poverty had contributed to children coming to town to seek ways of making money since they could not access basic needs in their homes. These are some of the factors that are characterized as pull factors because children see Eldoret town as a location where there is access to the basic needs. Pull factors highlighted by the children included seeking employment where 11.1 % indicated this as a reason for being in the streets; peer influence was also among these factors and accounted for 11.1 %. These findings support Muraya (1993) who states that the influence of friends emerges as the most critical factor pulling girls to the streets. Some of the children were influenced into the streets by their brothers, cousins or relatives who had been on the streets earlier.
Push factors highlighted by street children included sexual abuse by father at 1.1%, death separation was also represented at 6.7% and this finding was similar to the findings of Kudrati et al. (2001) that one quarter of the full-time street girls and a tenth of the boys came from homeless families. Other push factors identified included truancy and indiscipline among the children which accounted for 4.4%, being sent to the streets to beg by parents was represented at 2.2%. The impact of Post Election Violence was also observed in the responses where 11.1% indicated that they were in the streets due to effects of the PEV of 2007/2008. Displacement from their homes to Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps was the reason that led children to the streets of Eldoret town. This is confirmed by a study in Eldoret Municipality by Oino et al., (2012), which found that 30% of the respondents who participated in his study had lived on the streets for a period ranging 4-7 years. These years, according to key informants interviewed were distinguished by the ‘ethnic’ and ‘political’ violence within the Rift valley province of Kenya that caused displacement and homelessness. The key informants (leaders of bases/barracks) further asserted that some of the street children in their bases had come to the streets of Eldoret Municipality from other neighbouring towns which included Nakuru, BurntForest, Nandi, Kuresoi and Molo, all of which were politically hotspots during post-election violence in the year 2007/2008.
Table 4.5 above lists the reasons that pushed children to the street. From the analysis above, it is indicated that majority represented by 17.8% of the respondents came to the streets in search of food and money. Some of the respondents (particularly those street children who could return home in the evening) said that they were sent to the streets to beg for money so that in the evening they can supplement what their parents have. During a focus group discussion one street boy had this to say:

“My brother and I are told to go to the streets on daily basis to beg for money, our mother tells us that it is our duty to bring enough money to purchase vegetables and breakfast for supper...and we are seven members in our family”

(Male street child, 12 years)

While on the streets, street children have different sources of money, which include begging, selling of scrap metal, carton boxes, and bottles which they collect from the garbage dumps. In the event that by the end of the day they don’t get any money they borrow from their colleagues (other street children) and then refund in the following morning. This is seen as protection from harassment and punishment from parents who sent them to beg on the streets.
of the respondents came into the streets through peer influence. Some of the respondents said that they saw their colleagues coming into the streets and could get money quickly and then decided to join them and as they started pursuing street life, they learnt the tricks and culture of the streets. Other street children were brought by the siblings who were already on the streets. During the study one girl said that:

*I didn’t know anything about going on the streets until one day when I accompanied my elder sister, who also introduce me her friends on the streets, and therefore I started coming to the streets slowly and then decided to live here.*

(Female street girl, 13 years)

This means that most street children have networks that help them to consciously decide to join street life. This concurs with a study done by (Oino, et al, 2012) which argues that street children gain entry into the streets through social links. The decision of joining street life is a physical, psychological and social process and leaving home is habitually a gradual process.

Similarly 11.1% of the respondents came into the streets to look for employment. The study found that, while on the street, children are involved in various activities that can earn them money for their livelihoods. For instance, some street children were selling polythene bags at the entrance of Eldoret Municipal Market, others especially the older street children carry luggage for passengers and business people within town for a fee. Some street children also reported to have been used by hoteliers to clean food kiosks, fetch water and clean utensils and peeling Irish potatoes and in return they are given food or some money as a wage. During the study it was observed that street children aged between 5-10 years were the majority in the begging and car parking business.

From the study 6.7% of the respondents said that they came into the street because of parental neglect and abuse. Some of the neglect mentioned include; being at home without food the whole day, not schooling, and walking with tattered clothes. Some of the children claimed that they were beaten and harassed by their step mothers and same was done by step fathers particular to the male child. One boy during the study said that:
My step father told me to return from where I came from... if I don’t know, I can’t know me I am always a burden to him”. (Male street child, 15 years)

From this evidence, it is clear that some children particularly those who are married with their mothers are discriminated against in favour of the biological children with some parents seeing these children as a burden. Therefore, they are not willing to support them as their own children.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child which states that:

State parties are expected to prevent discrimination against the most disadvantaged groups of children. This explicitly refers to children belonging to minorities or indigenous communities, disabled children, children born out of wedlock, children who are non-nationals, migrants, displaced children, refugees and asylum-seekers, and street children. (Detrick, 1999)

Therefore, the State should ensure that these children who are discriminated are provided with care and protection against those who are violating their rights of these children. Such parents should be held accountable.

Further, key informant interviews revealed that street children from as far as Kitale, Bungoma and Turkana make their way to the streets of Eldoret since they are aware of services offered by well wishers and donors. Thus, they view it as a place that is tolerant of street children. Street children also favoured Eldoret since they come from hardship areas such as Turkana, Lokichan and Pokot where there are no facilities such as water and health services and employment opportunities.

The study also found that some of these street children are HIV and AIDS victims, whose devastation has been aggravated by the inefficiency of the traditional social safety nets, particularly the extended family, where in the absence of the biological parents the extended family takes the responsibility of rearing orphaned children. This implies that traditional social protection mechanisms have collapsed. From the foregoing discussion, it is evident that poverty and the need to generate income for livelihood act as motivations for the influx of street children in the streets of Eldoret town. This is in agreement with a
study that was done in Zimbabwe by Ruparanganda (2008), which indicates that poverty has become institutionalized and has affected many people hence explaining the growing phenomenon of street children especially in developing countries. These areas are also prone to frequent droughts and long dry seasons that often decimate livestock.

4.3 Social and political factors that affect street children in Eldoret Town

The study sought to establish the social and political factors affecting street children while on the streets. The study looked into aspects such as access to educational facilities, access to healthcare services and street children’s participation in socio-political activities within the Eldoret town. All the street children sampled for the survey indicated that they participated in socio-economic activities as highlighted in Table 4.6 below.

Table 4.6: Economic activities undertaken by street children in Eldoret Town

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic activities</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Begging</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selling drugs to children</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrying luggage</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collecting and selling scrap metal and plastics</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Begging, Gambling, Hawking and Car Parking</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Sex Worker</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fetching water and cleaning business premises</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick Pocketing</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selling vegetables and food to street children</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peeling potatoes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selling paper bags</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>45</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Majority of the children involved themselves in begging and accounted for 20.0% along with begging, gambling, hawking and serving as parking boys. Collecting and selling scrap metals and plastics was also a favourable economic activity among the street children with 15.6% indicating this as their occupation. Focus Group Discussions with the street children revealed that they are paid Kshs 30 per kilogram of either material. However, social workers indicated that they are sometimes given a raw deal by the scrap metal dealers where they would tamper with the scales to get more material for cheaper prices.

Reviewed literature indicated that street children often suffer discrimination in seeking access to healthcare. The researcher therefore sought to establish if indeed children suffered from illnesses during their time in the streets in order to document their
Table 4.7 below presents the children responses where 60.0% indicated they have been sick compared to 40.0% who said no. Further the study sought to identify what ailments or diseases street children in Eldoret town commonly suffered from which are presented in Figure 4.

**Figure 4: Sicknesses Commonly Suffered by Respondents**

As illustrated in Figure 4 above, majority of street children had suffered from one or more sexually transmitted diseases including gonorrhoea and syphilis and these accounted for 17.8%. This finding implies that street children are involved in unprotected sexual activities which has led to their vulnerability to contracting HIV/AIDS. This finding is similar to that of the SNV/GTZ (2002) where street children in the streets of Nairobi during interviews and workshops, they identified the negative effects of sexual relationships as HIV/AIDS, STDs including syphilis and gonorrhoea. Focus group discussions with social workers revealed that sexual activities were rampant between the street children themselves and also with the community members. Taxi operators and watchmen indeed had sexual relations with street girls and this has contributed to the increase of street families as study findings show.

Skin rashes were also a common occurrence among the street children with 13.3% indicating they had suffered from this kind of ailment. Common colds and malaria combinations were also present and were represented at 8.8%. Similar to this study, UNICEF (2003) observed that many street children look sick, and suffer from coughs, watering eyes and sores. UNICEF further observed that the street children also look
filthy, and live in surroundings with poor sanitation which could result in spread of
diseases like cholera and dysentery. Eldoret town like other major towns in Kenya has also
seen an increase in motorcycles where they are the preferred mode of transport. As such
it was observed that the street children were involved in motorcycle accidents where 2.2%
indicated this as a form of sickness or ailment suffered.

The researcher further sought to ascertain where street children seek health services given
that they were suffering from particular ailments. Public hospitals were the main source
of treatment that street children cited and this accounted for 28.9 % of those who had
suffered from ailments. The study revealed that 11.1 % acknowledged having sought
treatment from public facilities and had to meet the cost of their medicine. The Moi
Referral and Teaching Hospital was the main source of treatment where street children
indicated that they were asked to buy their own medicine from chemists. The findings
imply that street children are accorded the same treatment as children from home that
may have access to medicine with support from their guardians. Street children were at a
disadvantage since they may not be able to have the financial capacity to acquire this
important medication.
## Table 4.7: Health facilities where street children seek health services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health facilities</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Hospital</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>28.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Healers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buy Medicine</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nowhere</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Hospital, Buy Medicine</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECCO (Referral Centre)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>40.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>45</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As observed earlier, street children sought treatment from public health facilities, traditional healers, voluntary services and some did not seek any help for their ailments as indicated in Table 4.7 above.

It was important for the study to identify the experiences of street children while seeking for health services. One of the findings indicated that services in public health facilities were identified as good and friendly by street children and this accounted for 31.1% of the sampled children as shown in table 4.8 below. Further findings revealed that 6.7% had a bad experience with staff at the public facilities where they indicated that they were harassed due to their conditions. One girl said that:

> *When they (medics) discovered that this was my fourth time to seek treat for a similar STI in the same hospital, they were reluctant to treat me, they abused and accused me of being over-generous to every man who passes around at the expense of my body.* (Female Street child, 17 years)

Key informant interviews indeed confirmed this where it was found that street children with sexually transmitted infections (STIs) were looked down upon as they sought health services. Some of the street girls who participated in the study said that they involve themselves in sexual relationships on the streets as a way of survival. This confirms a study done by (Flynn, 2008) who asserts that female street children’s sex-for-food relationships involved an intricate mixture of dependency, support, affection, threats and exploitation. The study found out that sex particularly for female street children was not only used for survival but also for self gratification. As shown earlier street children were
often asked to buy their own medicine upon prescriptions given by the health professionals and this accounted for 4.4%.

Table 4.8: Street children experiences while seeking health services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experiences with seeking health services</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good, they were friendly</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>31.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harassed due to my condition</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was asked to buy medicine</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bitter and hot medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>55.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>45</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.8 above indicates the street children experiences while seeking health services.

1. In the sample 31.1% cited good and friendly. Majority of the street children sought medical help form the Moi Referral and Teaching Hospital which was sufficiently equipped and provided free medical services to Eldoret’s street children.

2. Street children indicated that they were harassed due to their conditions and represented 6.7%. This was attributed to the type of diseases/illnesses that street children were vulnerable to. The study found that majority of street children suffered from STDs and skin rashes which were stigmatised and also perceived to be highly transferrable through contact respectively.

3. Street children also cited that they were asked to buy medicine as indicated by 4.4%. Most of the medical services provided to street children in Eldoret Town were diagnostic but drugs for treatment were rarely provided. The street children were provided with the prescription which they would purchase themselves.

4. In the sample, 2.2% indicted that the medicine was hot and bitter; this was attributed to those who had sought medical treatment from traditional healers. Traditional healers’ services were perceived to be cheaper and were easily accessible to street children.

The Orphaned and Separated Assessments (OSCAR) - health project was the most prominent in Eldoret town and was situated at the Moi Referral and Teaching Hospital (MRTH). Within the OSCAR project social workers refer street children to any of the
Eldoret. Focus group discussions revealed that street discrimination due to their status at the hospitals. Hospitals also asked for comprehensive lists of street children and documentation for them to access services. However, these were not often available for most of the street children who may use different identification names during different exercise.

4.4 Political Factors Affecting Street Children in Eldoret Town

The researcher sought to identify political factors affecting street children. Political factors facing street children include lack and poor of protection of their rights as children, actual and perceived conflict with the law and their inability to defend the infringement of their rights. In the sample 26.7% indicated that they had been arrested compared to 71.1% who indicated no. As illustrated in Figure 5 below there were several reasons for which street children were arrested in Eldoret town. Children were usually arrested during occasional swoops by police in Eldoret town. Interviews revealed that there was no clear approach to conducting these arrests which were mostly influenced by any security threats or occurrences that may have happened where street children were mostly perceived as the culprits. This implies that their rights as individual citizens are usually contravened based purely on a circumstantial evidence which is a threat to their political and human rights.

Loitering in the streets was a major reason leading to arrests as well as being found in the possession of scrap metal which accounted for 8.9% of the sample. This confirms our earlier finding of the large number of street children who were involved in dealing with scrap metal collection and sale. Drug possession was also presented in the responses at 6.7% where street children were commonly found with *bhangi* (Marijuana). Drugs abuse was a prominent past time activity among the street children. Drug abused included sniffing glue, bhang, *changaa* and *busaa*. During an FGD with the children one participant indicated that,

“I mostly sniff glue because it helps me not to feel hungry and feel cold at night because I sleep on the verandah.”
Pickpocketing and touting were also observed to be reasons that had led to arrests among 2.2% of the sample. Touting was also another reason leading to arrests where street children were found touting at the Eldoret town bus terminus. Street children indicated that they were occasionally given the opportunity to persuade passengers to board the matatus (Public Service Vehicles, PSVs) for a relatively lower fee than the normal rates. This happened mostly during evening hours when passengers are rushing to their homes after work. Perez (2007) observes that children arrested for vagrancy or begging are considered offenders in connection with acts that would not be punishable if committed by an adult.

**Figure 5: Reasons for Arrests among Respondents**

The research further sought to establish the experiences of street children during and after their arrest. Figure 6 below illustrates violent beatings from police officers and other inmates' occurrence from the responses which was represented at 6.7%. Children also expressed that they were usually detained with no food for several days the police stations and these accounted for 6.7%. According to Wernham (2004); Roy & Wong (2006) street children are more likely than most children to come into actual or perceived conflict with the law; and in the first place and at the same time, once within the system, they are less able to defend themselves against infringements of their rights.

Among the respondents 4.4% indicated that they were remanded for months with no trials or any judicial process being undertaken at the Children Remand Home (CRH)
Key informant interviews revealed that one of the challenges in protecting the rights of street children was that when the court orders for a child to be committed to a CRH, they don’t take time to gather all the information concerning the child thus, it becomes difficult to assist the child appropriately. Another challenge identified through key informant interviews was that street children did not give true background information which could be used by the social workers in taking any further action such as trying to establish why they are in the streets in order to take appropriate action.

Lack of proper facilities for arrested street children was identified where 2.2% indicated that they slept on the floor during their time in custody in police stations. There were also children who were arrested but later released by police officers without any action being taken and this accounted for 2.2%. They indicated that they paid for their freedom since at their time of arrest they had some money with which they bribed the officers in order to release them with. This finding supports Perez (2007) Governments frequently put forth the idea of improving care for marginalized children, but in practice, these street children will probably end up as criminals because almost no public funds are allocated to support them.

**Figure 6: Street Children Experiences with Police Officers**

Figure 6 above shows a graphical presentation of the street children experience with the police officers. Street children have often suffered the brunt of violence from the
Among the respondents 84.4% indicated yes against 15.6 % whom indicated no. Further the study sought to establish from whom the respondents had suffered violence, with their responses shown as highlighted in Table 4.9.

As note in table 4.9 below, security agencies were the major perpetrators of violence against street children and accounted for 31.1 %. Security agencies included the municipal askaris and the regular police officers. Violence from police officers occurred during the regular swoops of street children whereas violence from municipal askaris occurred when they were found hawking in the streets of Eldoret town. Violence among the street children was also observed where older children were the culprits who were involved in the use violence against the younger children and this was represented by 13.3 %. Business people and the community were also found to use violence against street children and this was shown by 11.1 %. The business people attacked street children who would occupy front verandahs of their business premises while hawkers would also use violence against street children who were involved in selling wares. A focus group discussant indicated how he had been roughed up by 5 hawkers for selling paper bags near the Eldomatt Supermarkets being told that it was their job to sell wares and their work was to chokoramapipa (go through garbage bins). Parents were also found to be violent toward street children where 2.2 % indicated that they had received beatings from their mothers after they had stolen money from them. This further confirms the study findings that there are children of the streets who were born in Eldoret town.

Table 4.9: Source of violence meted to street children
Focus group discussions with social workers revealed that street children often times conflicted with security agents such as the police, day and night guards which at times led to fatalities. Social workers have a problem in dealing with the security agents when they try to seek justice for the street children. This finding is attributed to the fact that most street children when attacked/assaulted do not report in the police station immediately because of ignorance or fear of further brutalities. Thus, it becomes hard to sue some of the offenders without evidence. A social worker stated that:

“The problem is that, even if the street children confide in us about police harassment or violence directed at them; we try to follow up at the police station but no action is taken and reports are not recorded in the police occurrence book” (Social Worker).

Additionally, it was noted by social workers that legal processes for street children were not done in a procedural manner. Although there were child information desks in the police stations these were not often manned and getting assistance from police officers was a big problem as they deemed street children as cases that did not require their attention. Social workers involved in the FGD also shared that there was no guidelines or strategy to deal with street children. As such most of the contacts of street children with law enforcement agencies were during rounding up of the children where they are beaten, harassed and their property and possessions are confiscated from them whenever security agents ambushed their barracks.

“The police conduct sweeps in the streets of Eldoret now and then to round up street children. However, there is no guideline as to how it is conducted but only done when there has been a report of increasing street children, a serious crime
Street children are also at risk of being molested. During the FGDs the researcher found out that there was sodomy practiced among the boys in Eldoret town and on the other hand street children were enticed by smartly dressed men in the town. There was a case of a street child who shared his experience of attempted kidnapping by a woman who suddenly started screaming that she was his mother and the public were harassing the boy to go home with his "mother". This indicates the vulnerability of street children regardless of the gender.

4.5 Street Children Interventions in Eldoret Town

The study sought to establish interventions and services provided to street children where study participants were asked to indicate whether they were aware of these services. Knowledge of the services would influence the decision of street children to seek or utilize such services. Among the respondents 93.3% indicated yes against 2.2% who indicated no and 4.4% did not know. Further the study established that majority of the children found out about the services from other street children and these accounted for 64.5% implying a strong network of communication among street children.

It was evident that there were strong bonds between the street children which involved constantly "looking out" for each other. Street children refer to each other as Kepha (comrade). This implies that if one of the children had knowledge of any assistance being offered to street children by the service providers they would refer this information to their comrades. Study participants also identified social workers as a source of information of these services where 11.1% indicated this. Social workers among the street children are mostly referred to as "teacher". There are street children who learned about the services themselves and this accounted for 2.2%.

As revealed in the findings of this study, street children's networks strengthen the ability to form bonds on the streets. Street children also extend their networks not only to other street children in different bases (barracks), but also to the business community, people and institutions they consider beneficial to their survival while on the streets. According to Lewis Aptekar (1988), friendships between street children permit the forging of
denied by abusive families. As shown in the previous discussion, street children rely on one another for money, food, security and protection, love, encouragement and emotional support.

Table 4.10: Source of information on street children interventions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Information</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friends / Mother</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myself</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>64.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Workers</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing Responses</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>45</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.10 above shows the sources of information on street children interventions. There are several service providers who are involved in providing street children interventions in Eldoret town as illustrated in Figure 7 below. NGOs were identified as the most popular service providers by street children with 37.8% indicating this. The Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) included Ex-Street Children Center Organisation (ECCO), Tumaini Rescue Centre, OSCAR Project, Berur Organisation, Child Welfare Society and Morning Star organization. These organisations provided a range of services which included rehabilitation, repatriation and training as summarized in Appendix 4. Businessmen were also identified as service providers by 22.2% of the study participants. Businessmen provided food and clothing and these were mostly of Asian community members who did this on every Friday. The children had nicknames for the Friday food giving activity which they referred to as Kajumaa (Friday).

FGDs with the street children revealed that street children are selective of the places that they go to seek services. For instance, one of the children said, “organization X usually has a lot of documentation and paper work involved where they ask us a lot of questions and we have never seen the benefit from the exercise. They often promise us that they will take us to school but negate on their promises.

“They also tell us that we should go to school every day” (Male street child, 13 years)
Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) were also involved in providing services to street children. Churches were identified by 20.0% of the study participants and were involved in providing clothing and spiritual guidance to street children.

The key informant interviews revealed that most of the service providers’ intentions were selfish. For instance, the business community gave street children food that was about to expire or date had already expired such as bread, cakes and milk. Further, individual and groups also masquerade as street children service providers where they source funds from well wishers and other established NGOs and the community. This has led to children having a negative perception of any assistance that they would otherwise receive from genuine entities. In one of the FGDs with children a discussant said.

“They (organisations or individuals) say they have come to help us where they give us papers (forms) to fill which are long and tedious but we never see the benefit of such efforts” (Male Street Child 14 years).

The Ushirika Church was identified by street children as the most active. The government has the mandate to regulate any activities undertaken by charitable children institutions (CCI) under the children (charitable children’s institutions) regulations of 2005. For instance where the person or organization registered to run an institution e.g. if a church is registered to run an institution, then the church is the Administering Authority. They are always required to register with the Area Advisory Councils who follow the due process as required.
There were several services that were identified by street children in Eldoret town which are shown in Figure 8 below. As indicated majority of the services provided were food related with 34.3% of the responses showing this. Clothing and food were also observed in the data where 28.2% study participants indicated this service. The high percentages observed between these two services was due to the *kajumaa* exercise by the Asian business community of distributing food to the street children and clothing which was given by donors and churches.

Counselling and rehabilitation was represented at 7.8%. This implies that counselling and rehabilitation were not a priority area. FGDs with the social workers indicated that counselling and rehabilitation was affected by shortage of staff and inadequate technical expertise to undertake the exercise and lack of special facilities to offer counselling services. Provision of livelihood and life skills training were also offered by one of the organisations for older street children. Medical support was represented at 9.4% which was attributed to the OSCAR project which was located at the Moi Referral and Teaching Hospital. The OSCAR project provides health consultation for disadvantaged children such as street children.
Figure 8 above indicates the services provided to street children. The study, having established that there were services for street children in Eldoret town further sought to find out how frequently street children accessed these services. Those who indicated once in a while accounted for 62.2 %; regularly were 22.2 %, rarely 2.2 % and always 4.4 % as illustrated in Table 4.10. Street children indicated that they used the services once in a while because they had to go to particular organizations which would interfere with their activities. They would only go if it was really necessary for them for instance, going to the OSCAR project office when they were feeling unwell. The study also sought to establish the services offered to street children in Eldoret town. The study classified services offered according to the non-governmental organisations which were represented by social workers in the Focus group discussion. These services are summarized as illustrated in Appendix 5.

Table 4.11: Frequency of utilizing street children services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency of service</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Once in a while</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>62.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regularly</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarely</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Always</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing Responses</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>45</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In order to improve the utilization of available services by street children the researcher asked them what improvements they would like to see in their provision. Majority of the
the services should target older children and street mothers and this represented 13.3%. This implies that older street children felt neglected by the service providers who gave more prominence to young street children. This is in contrast with the 2.2% who indicated that these services should target only young children. Among the responses 6.7% commented that employment opportunities should be factored in the services provided and that these services should be long-term. This shows that street children would want to be more independent and self-reliant in terms of economic empowerment. Further the study findings suggest that services provided for children are not sustainable and only increase their dependency.

Table 4.12: Respondents suggestions to improve children services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suggestions for services provided</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment opportunities</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They should be long term</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bring services to the streets</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Should target older children and street mothers</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have one centre for street children to access this services</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Should continuously inform children on services offered</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Involve us to tell them what we want</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They should target only young children</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They are accessible</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>25</strong></td>
<td><strong>55.6</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.12 above indicates the respondent’s suggestions to improve children’s services. Access to information was also another theme observed in the street children comments where 8.9% of respondents cited that service providers should continuously inform children on services offered. Further 4.4% indicated that service provider should consult and involve street children on what services they would want to be provided with. This implies that service providers in Eldoret town use a top down approach to community development where they identify programs for street children which they deem fit and which may not be readily accepted and utilized by the street children.

4.6 Challenges faced by street Children Service Providers

The study further sought to identify challenges faced by service providers in their day to day operations to assist street children. These include;
Children are from different ethnic affiliations/communities and as such presented a challenge to service providers in communicating to them. Especially illiterate ones. Moreover, there are also children with special needs who are on the street especially those who are deaf or dumb and as such need special communication which is a challenge to the social workers since they lack expertise in sign language. Children also ask for food inorder to give any information during the interviews which Social workers are not able to provide.

2. Security was also a concern that affected social workers in their day to day work where they could not access all children especially within the barracks for fear of being attacked by hostile street children especially female Social Workers.

3. Finances were also identified as a key constraint in service provision. During the FGDs the researcher found that social workers occasionally had to go out of their way to use their own money in order to assist street children which affected their motivation towards their work. The social workers also indicated that they are poorly remunerated which leads to low motivation given that they handle very difficult children.

4. Lack of adequate facilities such as in the Children Remand Homes, Rescue Centres, and Charitable Children institutions for safety and rehabilitation of street children.

5. Shortage of social workers was also a constraint identified where an officer would have to do both the office tasks and also undertake fieldwork exercises such as reintegration activities which become tasking thus affecting the morale and performance of their duties of assisting street children.

6. Lack of capacity and technical expertise to handle many street children who needed counselling and rehabilitation services. Some social workers dealing with street children did not have technical expertise/skills to handle street children issues (the social workers were either less qualified or had trained in a different discipline), thus, became a major impediment in assisting street children. The study established that street children abuse several types of drugs which included, gum, changaa, bhang, kuber, tobacco, D5 and Legatine and become addicted, hence complicating their rehabilitation process. For instance, key informants revealed that children in
the Juvenile Remand Home (JRH) lack access to glue, which sometimes would lead to destruction of the mattresses they use and sniff the gum that is used for the manufacture of mattresses as a supplement for glue. For instance, during the FGDs one of the street children was high on “glue” and could not concentrate on during the discussion and would continuously need to be woken up by the other children.

7. Lack of Comprehensive laws, policies and strategies to address issues of street children. The social workers, during the FGDs, pointed that there are very weak policies and laws which are in place to deal with issues of street children and that there is no strategy in place for officers to refer to when handling street children. As a result every organization has its own approach and as such this leads to duplication of service and waste of resources.
CHAPTER FIVE
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction
This chapter highlights the major findings of this study and draws conclusions based on the results. It also presents the key areas for further research as informed by the findings of the study.

5.2 Summary of Findings
The overall objective of the study was to investigate the social and political factors affecting street children in Eldoret town UasinGishu County. The study was guided by the following specific objectives which were: First, to establish the social and political factors that affect street children in Eldoret town, UasinGishu County. Secondly, to identify challenges facing the promotion of children’s rights with regard to the legal provisions in Eldoret town, and finally to establish interventions adopted to alleviate the problem of street children by the Government and NGOs in Eldoret town.

The study was able to administer and analyse forty five questionnaires to street children in Eldoret town and also have six key informant interviews. We also conducted one focus group discussion with social workers and three Focus group discussions with street children.

The study findings revealed that street children face several social challenges in the streets of Eldoret town. The children revealed that they face discrimination in public health facilities such as the district hospital, and that discrimination is particularly those children who repeatedly or persistently get infected with sexually transmitted infections (STIs) even after treatment in the same hospital. Findings revealed that health practitioners feel irritated on handling them now and again as they seek treatment. Among the respondents 60.0 % said that they had been sick during their stay in the streets. Further, 31.1 % indicated that the personnel at the hospital were friendly and this was because of the existence of the OSCAR project at the Moi Referral and Teaching Hospital. The study also established that street children were asked to go and buy their own medicines from the pharmacies with 4.4 % reporting this. However, this was a
would not be able to raise the money to make the 

and status. This was observed among the children with Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) who accounted for 17.8 % of the study participants.

Study findings from key informant interviews revealed that street children do not enjoy due legal processes when they are in conflict with the law. There are no regulations and strategies to deal with street children especially with the police force. Police round ups are done occasionally where street children are arrested and taken to court then to the children remand home. The round ups are undertaken when there is public outcry over security threat from street children, this is when there is an increase in the number of street children which is associated with rise in criminal activities indicating the public perception of street children as engaging in criminal activities. Among the respondents who had been arrested, 6.7 % indicated that they faced violent acts from police officers and from other inmates; another 6.7 % indicated that they did not receive food for a minimum of two days. Further, the study revealed that street children are victims of violence from security agents, business community and also from pedestrians. Street children have no avenues through which to seek justice and most of them do not seek help after these incidences. FGDs with street children revealed that they only sought for reprieve with leaders of their barracks whenever they faced violence from other street children.

Although police stations had children information desks, they were not fully equipped to deal with issues of street children. Interviews with social workers revealed that these stations were not manned and did not have officers during visits to the police stations that were conducted during the research period. These findings are similar to those of (NCNN) National Children in Need Network (2001) which observes that it can be a challenge to seek justice where children are involved. The result is that many children continue to suffer extreme violations of their rights, including disinherittance and sexual abuse without effective legal redress or relief. Street children also indicated that they are afraid to seek justice from police officers since they fear being arrested.
The study found that social workers and children officers were familiar with child regulations as stipulated in the Children’s Act of 2001 and the Constitution 2010. Further, children officers had in their possession various legal instruments that address children issues. These legal instruments included The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). However, key informant interviews and the focus group discussions with the social workers revealed that they were not utilizing these instruments as required by the law while performing their duty. For instance the collaboration and networking between the police, courts and the social workers was poor. Key informant interviews revealed that there was the Area Advisory Council Committee (AAC) which comprised of line ministries (departments), Non Governmental organizations (NGOs, Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) the Business Community and Good Samaritans who are involved in addressing and deliberating on children issues which include their education, Health, probation, protection and physical planning among others. For instance World Vision has provided training and capacity building on street children problems and identifying strategies to relocate children from the streets. This exercise included the erection of signs around Eldoret town where street children would not be allowed.

5.3 Conclusions
The study established that there are social and political factors negatively affecting street children in Eldoret town after the post-election violence (PEV) of 2007/2008. Education was identified as a challenge where most of the children were not in school although they wished they could join school. Street children were discriminated against in attending public schools with children from normal family settings. School administrations were reluctant to admit these children because of their truancy. Poor guidance and counselling services offered during rehabilitation were also a factor that contributed to the ineffectiveness of this important service for the re-admittance of street children to school.

Discrimination against street children with sexually transmitted infections was pointed out due to lack of professionalism in dealing with children suffering such illnesses. Street children also face security challenges where they are often victims of violence from the security agencies, business community and also from the public. They further, cannot seek redress against these acts due to the fear of being arrested if they made the
Social workers also revealed that cases submitted were not followed up and thus, justice has not been forthcoming.

There were several service providers identified by the street children who included NGOs, FBOs, Business Community and Good Samaritans. However, some of the services provided by the business community and Good Samaritans were identified, by Social Workers, as a factor that led to more children coming to the streets of Eldoret town. Street children revealed that they needed to be more involved in informing service providers on what they would want to be assisted with. It was also clear that street children would want to participate in long term initiatives which were sustainable and would assist them to be self-reliant in the long-run. For instance, they wanted trainings on how to participate in economic activities so that they could be more self-reliant and disengage from dependency.

5.4 Recommendations
The study suggests that the Government and other stakeholders should conduct community awareness creation and sensitization on the challenges facing street children at the community level and design strategies aimed at reducing increasing numbers of street children to urban centres in Eldoret and Kenya.

The study recommends for an effective and efficient coordination mechanism among the stakeholders dealing with street children then under the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Development now under Ministry of Labour Social Security and Services through the Department of Children Services in order to enhance collaboration and networking.

The study recommends that a sector-wide training approach for service providers involved in dealing with street children at all levels be developed, by the Government in collaboration with stakeholders to provide standard and holistic services to street children in the country.

The Government agencies and stakeholders providing services to street children should allocate adequate resources and continuously build the capacity of staff dealing with street children hence improve service to these children.
The police should ensure establishment of well equipped Gender and Children desks at all police stations to identify, track and follow up of cases of street children who are apprehended from the streets and put in their custody.

The study recommends for the protection of street children from politically influenced conflicts which often leads to their vulnerability as victims and perpetrators of ensuing violence.

5.5 Areas of further study

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher observed that there is still potential for further research as the outcome of this study. Therefore, the researcher recommended that:

1. A study to be conducted to determine the level of knowledge, attitude and awareness of street children phenomenon among the communities within Eldoret town and its environs.
2. There is need to undertake further research on the number of Charitable Children Institutions (CCIs) in Eldoret town and the services provided to street children and the impact they have had.
3. There is need to carry out an assessment to establish the numbers, gender, age and level of education of street children in Eldoret town for better planning and designing of relevant programmes and interventions.
REFERENCES


Dagoretti Street Children Programme (2001) Baseline Survey. AMREF.


APPENDICE

APPENDIX 1: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR STREET CHILDREN IN
ELDORETTOWN

My name is CarrenOgoti a student at the University of Nairobi undertaking my studies in the Master of Arts in Sociology and Community Development. I am undertaking a study on the Socio – Political factors affecting street children in Eldoret town after the Post –Election Violence of 2007 – 2008. You have been chosen to participate in the study and any information provided will be treated with the utmost confidentiality it deserves.

SECTION A: SOCIO – DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

1. What is your age?
   1 = 6 ÷ 10 [ ]
   2 = 11 ÷ 15 [ ]
   3 = 16 ÷ 18 [ ]

2. Gender?
   1 = Male [ ]
   2 = Female [ ]

3. What is your level of Education?

4. Where do you live?

5. If you live at home, with whom do you live with?

6. If with father, is your mother alive?
   1 = Yes [ ]
   2 = No [ ]
   3 = I Don't Know [ ]

7. If with mother, is your father alive?
   1 = Yes [ ]
   2 = No [ ]
   3 = I Don't Know [ ]
8. For how long have you lived in the street?

   1 = Less than one year   [ ]
   2 = 1 – 3 Years   [ ]
   3 = More than four years   [ ]

9. What led you to come to the streets of Eldoret Town?

   ..............................................................................................................................
   ..............................................................................................................................
   ..............................................................................................................................

8. Do you do any work in the street?
(b) if Yes, What exactly do you do in the streets?

   ..............................................................................................................................
   ..............................................................................................................................
   ..............................................................................................................................

SECTION B: STREET CHILDREN CHALLENGES

9. Have you ever been sick in the last six months?

   1 = Yes   [ ]
   2 = No   [ ]

10. If yes, could you describe the sickness you were suffering from?

   ..............................................................................................................................
   ..............................................................................................................................
   ..............................................................................................................................

11. Where did you seek help when you were sick?

   1 = Public Hospital   [ ]
   2 = Private Hospital   [ ]
   3 = Traditional Healers   [ ]
   4 = Voluntary services   [ ]
   5 = Buy Medicine   [ ]
   6 = Nowhere   [ ]
   7 = Other (Specify)   ..............................................................................................
12. Have you ever been arrested?

1 = Yes [ ]

2 = No [ ]

13. If yes, for what reason had you been arrested?

14. What was your experience as an offender?

15. Have you suffered from any form / acts of violence during your time in the streets?

1 = Yes [ ]

2 = No [ ]

16. If yes, from whom did this violence come from?

1 = Older street children [ ]

2 = Business people / community [ ]

3 = Security agencies (police) [ ]

4 = Other (Specify) [ ]
SECTION C: STREET CHILDREN SERVICES

18. Are you aware of any services providing assistance to street children?

1 = Yes  [  ]
2 = No   [  ]
3 = Don’t Know  [  ]

19. If yes, where do you get this information from?

1 = Government  [  ]
2 = Community   [  ]
3 = Friends     [  ]
4 = Family      [  ]
5 = Other (Specify)  é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é é ó

20. Who are the providers of these services to street children? (Multiple responses possible)

21. What are some of the services provided by those mentioned (above)?

22. How often do you use these services?

   Once in a while
   Regularly
   Rarely
   Never
   Always
23. If never, why don't you utilise these services?

24. In your opinion, how can services provided be more accessible for street children?

Thank you for your cooperation
APPENDIX 2: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

1. What are the social challenges facing street children in Eldoret Town (for boys and girls?)

2. What are the political challenges facing street children in Eldoret Town (for boys and girls?)

3. What services are provided for street children by your organisation?

4. What criterion is used to determine intervention programmes for street children in Eldoret Town?


6. What are the challenges faced in implementing legislation in safeguarding rights of street children?

7. How do you overcome challenges you face?
   
   (a) As an organization
   
   (b) As an individual

8. What services do you offer to street children in Eldoret Town? (Multiple responses possible)

9. In your opinion what can be done to overcome these challenges in future?

10. From your experience what reasons do children give for choosing to come to Eldoret town against other major towns?
11. As a service provider in Eldoret town, are you aware of where the street children originate from?

Yes ( )   No ( )

(b) If yes, list the main places where street children in Eldoret Town come from?

12. Given what you have said above (No. 15 and 16), list the reasons children give for leaving home/regions to come to Eldoret town.

13. In your view what can be done to reverse / minimize the migratory trend you have witnessed
1. What factors contribute to the street children phenomenon in Eldoret town?

2. (a) From your experience are you aware of where the children originate from?
   
   Yes (  ) No (  )

   (b) If yes, list the main places where street children come from?

3. What are the reasons children give for leaving home/regions to come to Eldoret town against other major towns?

4. What socio-political challenges affect street children in Eldoret Town?

5. From your experience, what challenges do you face in safeguarding and protecting street children?

6. What legal instruments (tools) do you use in safeguarding street children?

7. What interventions are in place in Eldoret Town to address issues of street children?

8. Who are involved in providing these interventions?

9. What challenges do service providers experience when giving interventions to street children within Eldoret Town?

10. In your view what can be done to overcome these challenges?
APPENDIX 4: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR STREET CHILDREN

1. What made you come to the streets of Eldoret town?

2. What challenges do you face in the streets of Eldoret town?

3. What services do you receive from

   (a) The Government / Municipality

   (b) The Non-Governmental Organisations

   (c) The community (Business)

   (d) Church Organisations

4. What is your view about the services provided to street children identified above in relation to access?

5. What do you think can be done to improve your life in the streets of Eldoret town?

6. Where do most of the street children in Eldoret town come from?

7. Do we have children who have been born and raised in the streets of Eldoret town?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Organisation</th>
<th>Services Provided</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Childwelfare Society              | • Street children documentation for consequent reunification with families.  
• Providing follow-up in cases where children indicate they are separated from their families due to neglect / mistreatment.  
• Provide economic empowerment programmes to families which are extremely poor  
• Networking with other established organisations such as WFP to integrate certain families in their programmes for example in Turkana |
| Berur Organisation                | • Training which is targeted towards street mothers  
• Provide community sensitization on the impact of children going to the streets during the day (On the streets street children)  
• Provision of rehabilitation to street families |
| Morning Star                      | • Provision of food and shelter to children new to the streets  
• Family repatriation which takes a period of about 6 months to 1 year  
• Training in business activities such as shoe repair, farming and rabbit keeping |
| OSCAR Project                     | • Liaise with health providers to waive fees for street children  
• Providing of referral services at the Moi Referral and Teaching Hospital  
• Provide recreational activities and feeding to improve health of street children |
| Ex-Street Children Community Organisation | • Tracing families of street children for reunification exercises.  
• Provision of skill training. For example ICT, entrepreneurship skills  
• Community mobilization to encourage participation in assisting street children in relocation exercises.  
• Therapeutic family interventions among the informal settlements where most of the children reside. |