



## IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS FOR KITALE CHILDREN

### INDEPENDENT MID-TERM EVALUATION REPORT

SUBMITTED TO

# RAILWAY CHILDREN

BY

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents.....	ii
LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.....	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND DISCLAIMER.....	v
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	vi
<b>Unit 1: INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Project background and context.....	1
1.2 Rationale and justification for the Kitale project.....	3
1.3 Project interventions.....	4
1.4 Purpose and scope of the evaluation.....	5
1.5 Evaluation criteria and questions.....	5
<b>Unit 2: EVALUATION METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH.....</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 Desk/literature review.....	6
2.2 Target respondents.....	6
2.3 Data collection tools and methods.....	7
2.4 Ethical considerations in interviewing children.....	7
2.5 Study limitations.....	8
2.6 Data analysis and management.....	8
<b>Unit 3: EVALUATION FINDINGS.....</b>	<b>9</b>
3.1 Project relevance and strategic fit.....	9
3.2 Validity of project interventions and design.....	10
3.2.1 Adequacy of project design process.....	10
3.2.2 Appropriateness of project design process.....	11
3.2.3 Project goal, outcomes and appropriateness of indicators.....	11

3.2.4	Brief description of the target children.....	12
3.3	Project effectiveness by outcomes and indicators .....	13
3.3.1	Outcome 1: Children living on the streets will be reintegrated and access school. ....	14
3.3.1.1	Observations in relation to achievement of outcome 1 .....	16
3.3.2	Outcome 2: Youth will be supported to access vocational and business skills training so as to live sustainably and independently within society .....	20
3.3.2.1	Observations in relation to achievement of outcome 2 .....	24
3.3.3	Outcome 3: Number of reintegrated children will have increased livelihood opportunities through skills training, business startup kits and bio intensive farming inputs reducing levels of poverty in the home and enabling families to support their children in school .....	25
3.3.3.1	Observations in relation to achievement of outcome 3 .....	28
3.4	Efficiency of resource use, project management, monitoring and governance.....	29
3.5	Impact orientation and project sustainability .....	31
3.6	Lessons learned and emerging good practices.....	33
	<b>Unit 4: MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>34</b>
	REFERENCES .....	38
	LIST OF PEOPLE INTEVIEWED .....	39
	Figure 1: Number reporting to have been on the streets .....	12
	Figure 2: Length of time on street .....	13
	Figure 3: Ever been to rehabilitation home.....	13
	Figure 4: Time spent in rehabilitation home.....	17
	Figure 5: Most significant change for children.....	26
	Table 1: Status summary of children reintegrated in year 1 and 2.....	15

## LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>BIA</b>	:	Bio Intensive Agriculture
<b>BRC</b>	:	Birunda Rehabilitation Centre
<b>CRK</b>	:	Child Rescue Kenya
<b>FGD</b>	:	Focus Group Discussion
<b>ID</b>	:	Identification Card
<b>RC</b>	:	Railway Children
<b>Kshs</b>	:	Kenya Shilling
<b>MSEA</b>	:	Micro and Small Enterprises Authority
<b>SS</b>	:	Street Smart
<b>ToT</b>	:	Training of Trainers
<b>USK</b>	:	Undugu Society of Kenya
<b>UNICEF</b>	:	United Nations Children Fund

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND DISCLAIMER

This is a report of the independent mid-term evaluation of the BIG Lottery Funded Project on Improved Livelihoods for Kitale Children

In the course of this evaluation, we met and spoke to many children, some reintegrated, some undergoing reintegration, and others still on the streets of Kitale. We also talked to parents and guardians as well as other stakeholders in government and civil society. All the people we met and spoke to shared with us invaluable information upon which the synthesis conclusions and recommendations in this report are based. They accommodated us into their daily schedules giving us unlimited attention. Without them this assignment would not have come to fruition. They are the true owners of the information used in the preparation of this report.

The evaluation team remains thankful to Railway Children for their insights, technical inputs to the design of this evaluation and to Child Rescue Kenya for making sure that we were able to meet all the people we needed within a relatively short period of time. Throughout the field consultations they supported us with a genuine urge for us to succeed. For this we remain truly thankful. Finally, special thanks go to Ann Githaiga for the support in managing the assignment and interviewing stakeholders and to Francis Chege, Pamela Libaisi, Eric Wafula, Rose Munene, Alex Mwendwa and Viona Mukasiali who did a tremendous job of interviewing the children.

We have tried to observe objectivity in this report. However, shortcomings and errors in interpretations are inevitable and the author takes responsibility for them all.

Munene Charles

Consultant

August 27, 2015.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report of the independent mid-term evaluation of the project on Improved Livelihoods for Kitale Children. The report gives an independent assessment of the project progress to date across the outcomes. The evaluation was carried out in the month of August 2015 and focuses on the first two years of implementation.

### Background and context

Kitale town continues to feature large numbers of street children. The influx has been blamed on many factors including sporadic ethnic tensions, hunger in the neighboring counties, large numbers of squatters due to displacements and a relatively accommodative populace of Kitale town. Poverty and lack of access to education are other factors that have pushed children to the streets. Others include social cultural factors such as children getting lost during boys' circumcision season when they decide to follow a procession of dancers attending boys' circumcision ceremonies and are later unable trace their way back home. Others are early marriages and pregnancies. This notwithstanding, previous researches done by the project partners show that children actually prefer to be at home rather than on the streets, if only the situation back home was more conducive. This finding informs the project, whose goal is to reduce the number of children on living on the streets of Kitale.

The total project cost is £778,086. Big Lottery Fund contributes £500,000, while RC provides an annual commitment of £35,000. The rest of the contributions come from CRKs own contribution and from other donors. CRK is the local partner responsible for the day to day implementation of the project activities in collaboration with RC, which provides technical support to CRK. The project works to full fill three outcomes, i) children living on the streets will be reintegrated with their families and communities and will be able to access school, ii) Youth will be supported to access vocational and business skills training and as such are able to live sustainably and independently within society and iii) families of reintegrated children will have increased livelihood opportunities through skills training, business start-up kits and bio-intensive farming inputs, reducing levels of poverty in the home and enabling families to support their children in school.

### Methodology and approach

Both quantitative and qualitative methods were used. Quantitative method featured a semi structured questionnaire which targeted 60 children that had been reintegrated. A total of 62 children were reached. Qualitative methods featured Focus Group

Discussions (FGDs), Key Informant Interviews (KII) and in-depth interviews. FGDs were conducted with children on the streets, those undergoing rehabilitation and those whose reintegration was not successful. A total of 48 children were interviewed in FGDs. In-depth interviews were with parents and guardians of reintegrated children and those whose children were previously reintegrated but later left for the streets. These reached 40 parents or guardians. Other stakeholders and project staff were interviewed as key informants. About 18 key informants were interviewed<sup>1</sup>. The methods used were complimentary to each other.

## Main findings

Overall it is noted that the project is relevant to the needs of children, those of their families and the larger community as well as the needs of the county and national government. The project goal strongly mirrors the strategic objectives of both CRK and RC which broadly strive to fight for the rights of children on the streets, in a sustainable way. The project design was informed by a comprehensive problem analysis through in-depth discussions with children on the streets, their families and other stakeholders. The design also benefited from previous experiences by CRK and RC. Challenges facing children on the streets and their families were therefore adequately investigated and validated through the consultations, making the design logical. The roles of staff members are in line with the key phases in the project, which are Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration. This makes the delivery of interventions efficient.

A majority of the children interviewed, 92 percent had been to the streets compared to just about 8 percent that had not. Close to half of the children had been to the streets for just a couple of days before they were contacted. This suggests that the rescue efforts by the project were working well to identify children who move to the streets early enough.

Outcome one was on course having been able to achieve and indeed surpass most targets. Only the number of children that were attending school regularly marginally fell below the set target. This was attributed to some children that had initially been enrolled finally deciding they were no longer interested in school and eventually dropping out. A total of 252 children were reintegrated as at the time of this evaluation. This number surpassed the set target of 225 for year 2 by 27 children. Further 212 children or 84 percent of all the reintegrated children were reported to be attending school regularly. This number mirrors the reported number of successful cases of reintegration meaning that virtually all children that were successfully reintegrated were attending school regularly. All people interviewed indicated that

<sup>1</sup> List of all people interviewed is available in the appendices

the reintegrated children had registered improvements in education progress at all levels. To strengthen reintegration success rates, quarterly reviews/monitoring of a sample of reintegrated cases will assist independent verification of success in reintegration

In total 13 associations or groups had been established in Kitale through the support of the project. Members in the groups averaged 20 though some were not active. All the groups had rules and regulations that were known to members and which they respected. A total of 243 association members against a target of 150 members had national identity cards most of whom had been supported by the project to acquire them. Consequently the youth reported that they had noted remarkable benefits from the identification documents which, for example, shielded them from arbitrary arrests from the police. It was however noted that the premium attached to the national identity cards was high and under age children were deliberately overstating their age so that they could acquire the identity cards. There is therefore need for sensitization on the benefits of holding on until they are of age as overstating their age can lock them out of many services and benefits that are available earlier in life.

Discussion with the group members showed that the majority of them had reduced their drug abuse, both in frequency and amount and a few had stopped altogether. The fact that the group members could confidently state that they had reduced drug intake was encouraging and is seen as a journey to recovery and eventual non-use of drugs. Project reports show that 97 members compared to a target of 125 by the end of year 2 had either reduced or discarded the use of drugs. This translates to 77 percent of the target. While this is slightly below the target, it is considered a great achievement that, for example, the youth in the respective groups were able to keep off glue sniffing for the one hour or so that we met with them. Although some of them were visibly intoxicated, they were not disorderly. This resolve by the youth will require continued and consistent support during and after the project ends given that full recovery from drug abuse may take longer than the project period. As such linking the youth with institutions such as National Authority on Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA) which works closely with government health facilities could guarantee continued and effective support that continue to compliment the group therapy even after this project comes to a close.

Increase in incomes was expected to improve the welfare of the youth and the quality of lives they live. This was being achieved through vocational and business skills training and through group and individual support for business development. Semali group in Kitale for example had a substantial number of members who owned businesses. The group was also involved in a group business (barber shop and hair salon). Group members engaged in table banking where they borrowed money to start or grow their individual businesses. Project documents report that 77 families reported a 35 percent increase in income at the end of year 2 compared to a



set target of 100. Results from interviews with parents and guardians were not very different. When they were asked how they compared their income levels before they received support from CRK and after, about 58 percent of all parents and guardians interviewed stated that their incomes had improved.

Following project support to families, 63 percent of parents and guardians indicated that they were now able to afford food and meet their children's educational needs. The target of 100 families under this indicator had been achieved. Some parents reported that they had diversified their income sources. For example, one parent observed that following the support, they had started roasting maize as an addition to the business they had of selling green uncooked maize. Another had a small outlet where she sold household items but since the support, she had started trading in cereals. In general most parents that received the initial support were able to invest it and were better off than they were before. Parents and guardians were directly asked if the relationship with their children had changed since they joined the project. Notably 93 percent of the interviewed parents and guardians answered in the affirmative. The same was observed by family workers in 158 cases compared to the targeted 100.

Based on the findings of the implemented activities, it is our general view that the project is exercising prudence in the use most of the available resources. This is for example noted from the experienced and qualified staff working in the project, mode of trainings that is cost effective and able to reach more staff and beneficiaries, and the modesty in which CRK delivers this project. The facilities used by SS for example are simple but they serve the purpose as are the project offices. However, there is need for better planning and use of transportation resources available. Although the project has two vehicles and one motorbike, there is only one driver, while only one staff is a trained motorcycle rider. This means that the two vehicles and the motorcycle available are yet to be optimally utilised.

One key lesson learnt was that the starting hypothesis of the association programme, that youth have the capacity and they are capable of taking charge of their lives, appears to be valid. The only major hindrance to this appears to be their low self-esteem. This means that efforts to support youth on the streets need to substantially focus on building their self-esteem. Secondly, family workers have come to appreciate that to avoid losing out resources invested in the BIA and business grants, most families will need more contact time than earlier expected. This is based on the assessed capacity of supported families to stand on their own after the first year of support which was seen to be low. Creating linkages between the older families in the project with relevant agencies such as the, Youth Enterprise Fund (YEF) Micro and Small Enterprises Authority (MSEA), Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) that could continue to build their capacity in business could eventually ease pressure on the project, and allow for more intense attention to new families in the project.

Furthermore, the evaluation learnt that there was a difference between groups formed by youth on the streets and those by youth from slums areas. Groups in the slums were more solid and focused on their goals, while those in the streets suffered organisational challenges and consistency in group activities. Having previously benefited from handouts, groups in the streets appeared more inclined to short term, quick gains, such as sharing out of any finances at their disposal. Members of groups in streets were also more busy and mobile compared to those from the slums making group cohesion in the streets relatively hard to achieve. Finally, group based support as well as individual support to building the capacity of youth and support for families through BIA and business grants were flagged as emerging good practices that will need to be evaluated further to gather evidence as to the extent to which they can be promoted as successful practices.

Based on the findings of this evaluation, a number of recommendations which could improve the effectiveness of the project and ensure more sustainable outcomes are proposed. These are;

- i. There is need for the project to consider linking youth trained in skills and those supported with business grants as well as families supported with BIA and business grants with relevant institutions/structures for continuity now and after project closure. Relevant institutions include but not limited to: similar youth and women groups within the target community, Youth Enterprise Fund (YEF), Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) and Micro and Small Enterprises Authority implementing similar approaches in the community. These are mandated to promote entrepreneurship through training and financial support hence crucial in offering continuity to the supported beneficiaries. The linkage will ease pressure on the project, ensure intense support for newer beneficiaries in the project and possibly offer continued support after project closure
- ii. Similarly, while the group therapy approach for youth involved in drug abuse is commendable, their recovery was expected to take long and for some extend beyond the project period. To ensure continuity in the recovery efforts, the project should consider establishing closer linkages between the youth and relevant institutions and structures such as National Authority for the Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA), which works with government health facilities to support rehabilitation of people previously involved drug and alcohol abuse and existing community based organizations and youth groups working in rehabilitation of youth. This will complement the work the project is involved in and ensure continued support for recovering youth even after project closure.

- iii. In the view of the above recommendation CRK needs to conduct an assessment of relevant institutions and structures to support the linkages for the aforementioned recommendations. The assessment is expected to identify possible institutions and structure which can take such responsibilities of ensuring there is continuity in support of the youth and women in business and those youth recovering from drug abuse, the possible areas of linkage, responsibility CRK should play and process of linkage.
- iv. The overall quality of preparation of parents and guardians of children being reintegrated will need to be improved by ensuring more interaction of all involved prior to reintegration. Similarly, CRK should clearly identify and define what activities to be undertaken during the rehabilitation. At the minimum, all families where children are being reintegrated will need to be contacted and prepared, while subsequent contact and visits could be based on need basis.
- v. The use of available transportation resources will need to be reviewed to make them more efficient and useful. This may require hiring of an additional driver for the second car and encouraging staff to learn how to ride the available motorcycle. This will improve the outreach coverage by family workers and other project staff.
- vi. The project management and the advocacy officer will need to play a more aggressive role in appraising and sensitising the local leaders on the design and benefits of the Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (RRR) approach and consequently lobby the county and national governments to take a more active role in addressing the needs of street connected children in Kitale.
- vii. Peer to peer mistreatment was reported by a few children interviewed. To prevent this, confidential and accessible reporting mechanisms should be promoted. These could include speak out boxes which encourage reporting and guarantee confidentiality.
- viii. There is need to ensure that the same services available for boys at SS are also available for girls. Even though girls connected to the streets in Kitale are fewer compared to boys, services available at SS are less conducive for them. This may be denying them an opportunity to productively engage with SS staff and benefit like the boys. Deliberate efforts need to be made ensure the facility is useful to girls as well. This could be through securing additional space for girls, varying the time so that there are specific visiting hours for boys and for girls. This could increase the number of girls rescued.

- ix. Children and youth will need to be sensitised against the rush to register for national identity cards when still too young. While the IDs save them from some trouble, very early registration is counter-productive. If a 16 year old gets into conflict with the law and holds an ID, chances are that they will be treated as adults. Furthermore, a 16 year old would be expected to stop being a youth as defined in the National Youth Policy two years before the actual cut of age, and as such stop enjoying benefits that accrue to youth. Yet as children the law is quite protective of children and lenient on them. A project identity card may just serve them as well.
- x. To ensure accuracy of the data provided in terms of success in reintegration the consultant proposes a consistent quarterly review of the case of children reintegrated by the person tasked to undertake project reviews. In doing so, the designated person could select at least 4 random cases from the list of the reintegrated children and follow them up to their homes to ascertain the realization of the outcome indicators.
- xi. It is important for purposes of learning and consistency for CRK to define and document what Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration is to CRK. The concept will entail issues such as; what is the mandatory entry age, period of rehabilitation, what are its approaches to rehabilitation, what does reintegration entail, what tools are used to document cases from rescues to reintegration etc. Key to this process will be to determine what is successful reintegration i.e. when do we say that a case has been successfully being reintegrated?

## Unit

## 1

## INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Project background and context

On the 8th of December 1993, one member of Kenya's 7th Parliament posed a question to the Minister for Home affairs and National Heritage as quoted; *'Is the Minister aware that children of Turkana Origin are roaming in the streets of Kitale town without any efforts being made to rehabilitate them? What steps is the Minister taking to rehabilitate these children?'*

In his response the assistant minister noted; *'...district children advisory committee aimed at coordinating activities relating to children had been set up to help rehabilitate the children through programmes such as education, vocational training, medicare, food and clothing support through various agencies'*.

When pressed to elaborate more on his response, the assistant minister reported that *'Kitale town had about 200 street children from different ethnic groups and that various efforts were being done including, construction of Kipsongo training centre that was scheduled to begin in 1994, provision of a meal a day by Bosco Immaculate, food, education and family support by World Vision, and food shelter and clothing and medicare by Kitale Orphan Trust'*

This response drew criticism from other members who observed that the government focused on dealing with the effects as opposed to the causes of the influx of children on the streets. To their disappointment the minister responded as quoted; *'Mr Speaker Sir, the cause is actually a general phenomenon all over Africa. Africa is a poor continent and because of our poverty we are unable to treat the cause'*<sup>1</sup>.

Fast forward, 22 years later in 2015, the situation in Kitale is pretty much the same. Children still roam the streets, this time not 200 but an estimated 600 children<sup>2</sup>. According to a study by Railway Children carried out in 2011<sup>3</sup>, the upsurge in numbers has been attributed to among other factors, the post-election violence mostly experienced in the Rift Valley region since 1992 and more pronounced in the aftermath of the 2007 general elections, hunger and food insecurity in neighbouring counties, lack of education opportunities due to costs associated with schooling and challenges

1 [https://books.google.co.ke/books?id=1jVK1gD6G1QC&pg=RA1-PA2726&lpg=RA1-PA2726&dq=street+children+in+Kitale&source=bl&ots=rtosBmd\\_c&sig=IWJorZRCWnzQQrIb9cKYp1SLgnM&hl=en&sa=X&redir\\_esc=y#v=onepage&q=street%20children%20in%20Kitale&f=false](https://books.google.co.ke/books?id=1jVK1gD6G1QC&pg=RA1-PA2726&lpg=RA1-PA2726&dq=street+children+in+Kitale&source=bl&ots=rtosBmd_c&sig=IWJorZRCWnzQQrIb9cKYp1SLgnM&hl=en&sa=X&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=street%20children%20in%20Kitale&f=false)

2 This number was based on estimates from different stakeholders that were interviewed. It is however also noted that Child Rescue Kenya had prior to this evaluation undertaken a headcount of children on the streets. The results of the exercise were yet to be released.

3 Struggling to Survive: Children living alone on the streets in Tanzania and Kenya

experienced at the household level including abuse, separation of parents, neglect by parents or care givers and loss of parent(s).

A UNICEF report on profiling of children connected to the streets in the Rift Valley<sup>4</sup> clearly brought out factors that push children in the streets. Hunger was the lead push factor, followed by abuse at home and post-election violence and inability to join school. Discussions with stakeholders in Kitale brought forth other factors including, family breakups, peer pressure, change of guardianship and social cultural factors such as early marriages, early pregnancies, and the circumcision season when many children get lost as they follow the traditional processions. It was also noted that boys are seldom welcomed by their stepfathers. This is because if the stepfathers oversee their circumcision, then such stepsons become their sons and are entitled to inherit from them. Many stepfathers shy away from this, and tend to push the children away. The main pull factors according to the same report were to earn money, peer pressure and availability of services such as food handouts on the streets. Qualitative research findings by Railway Children (RC) and Child Rescue Kenya (CRK) carried out in 2009 in Kitale and the Railway Children study of 2011<sup>5</sup> also attest to the above findings, whereby children outlined some of the key push factors as poverty, lack of access to education and violence<sup>6</sup>.

Research findings further revealed that families were generally not able to provide for the needs of their children or support their right to education. The report indeed noted that it was the desire to go to school which encouraged children to move to the streets, believing they could earn some money which would enable them to return to school. There was therefore a realisation of the need to work with the families that such children came from, to help provide for improved livelihoods and incomes and establish positive relationships within the family that nurture an environment conducive to healthy development.

By this time, RC in collaboration with CRK and Undugu Society of Kenya (USK) were already implementing programmes on reintegration and support for the improvement of the welfare of families. However, CRK's strategic plan 2012-2016, which was informed by wide consultations with the target beneficiaries and stakeholders, firmed up the organisation's resolve to adopt a holistic approach in addressing the needs of children on the streets. The integrated approach which incorporates rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies is expected to transform the lives of children and youth in Kitale, enabling a transition away from the streets to a life of social inclusion, with opportunities for education and employment.

The project aims to reduce the number of children and youth living on the street in Kitale and those at risk of running to the streets, by improving livelihoods in the

4 <https://www.crin.org/docs/Rift%20Valley.pdf>

5 Struggling to Survive: Children living alone on the streets in Tanzania and Kenya

6 Improved Livelihoods for Kitale Children: Business plan

families of reintegrated children and ensuring enrolment in education. The expected outcomes from the interventions are;

- a) Children living on the streets will be reintegrated with their families and communities and will be able to attend school and complete primary education.
- b) Youth will be supported to access vocational and business skills training and as such are able to live sustainably and independently within society.
- c) Families of reintegrated children will have increased livelihood opportunities through skills training, business start-up kits and bio-intensive farming inputs, reducing levels of poverty in the home and enabling families to support their children in school.

The evaluation was guided by the following four evaluation questions as follows;

- i. Is the project making satisfactory progress in timely achievement of project outputs (as per log-frame) and related delivery of activities?
- ii. Are project activities adequate to realize the objectives?
- iii. In what ways can the project, implementation be improved to better meet the project objectives
- iv. How can the overall design of the project be improved to better achieve the set targets?

The total project cost is £778,086. Big Lottery Fund contributes £500,000, while RC provides an annual commitment of £35,000. The rest of the contributions come from CRKs own contribution and from other donors. CRK is the local partner responsible for the day to day implementation of the project activities in collaboration with RC, which provides technical support to CRK.

## **1.2 Rationale and justification for the Kitale project**

Despite the numerous interventions and actors focusing on addressing the needs of children on the streets of Kitale, long term benefits for the children and their families was still a mirage. Children on the streets and their families remain the most marginalised of groups in society. For example the projects business plan reports that 83 percent of the children connected to the streets in Kitale spend all their time on the streets and outside the formal education system. Their inclusion into the realm of opportunities enjoyed by other members of society is not only a right but also an opportunity to broaden their economic participation which would translate to more incomes and food security. This would consequently lead to improved welfare at the household level, increased enrolment and retention rates in school. With basic education, the cycle of children connected to the streets was likely to be broken and current trends reversed.

### 1.3 Project interventions

This project is guided by two overriding outcomes<sup>7</sup> which are;

- i. Improved primary school education for the most disadvantaged girls and boys
- ii. Improved livelihoods for the most disadvantaged people

The outcomes will be achieved through a number of distinct but complimentary interventions. An outreach centre dubbed Street Smart (SS) provides basic service to children and youth in the streets. Accessible services include medical care, a place and opportunity to shower and wash clothes and a meal. Children also access informal education, sports and games. During their visits to the centre, the centre staffs build strong relationships with the children and become the responsible adults in their lives, providing them with someone they can trust and talk to, as they consider the different options for their lives. Those children that may be willing to go back home are reintegrated directly from the outreach centre and those whose cases may be more complex or need time to trace their homes and are willing to move away from the streets are referred to Birunda centre<sup>8</sup> for a short-term stay. SS operates an open door policy.

Birunda Rescue Centre (BRC) offers a short-term safe place to stay. This gives the social workers time to make contact with families for prospective reintegration. While at the rescue centre, children are provided with basic needs, group and individual counselling and informal education which prepare them to join formal schools once they are reintegrated. The rescue centre has space for both boys and girls. Children requiring longer stay or those that are not willing to go back home are referred to Liyavo Care Home also run by CRK. At the home all children are enrolled in formal schools. A trained teacher assesses the levels the children fall in to and monitors them until they are reintegrated.

Upon reintegration, social workers establish the location of the child's home and should work closely with the family/guardians to prepare them to receive the child. Ideally the family workers assess the family situation before reintegrating the child. Follow-up visits are planned for after reintegration to monitor the wellbeing of the child and the family. Further, CRK facilitates enrolment of reintegrated children back to school by supporting the parents to negotiate with the local schools. This initial contact with the school is critical in ensuring that the school is prepared to receive the child and that the child and the parents/guardians are not discriminated against. The project also provides school uniforms, books and other school related levies for children where the family cannot afford.

7 [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)

8 Birunda Centre is described in more detail below



In addition to interventions targeting children, CRK also supports the economic empowerment of parents or guardians of reintegrated children to ensure sustainability in reintegration. Some families are trained on Bio Intensive Agriculture (BIA) while others are supported to start small businesses. Finally, CRK received support from USK in introducing the association model in Kitale as a way of working with older youth aged 14-25 who are still on the streets. The model promotes a peer to peer rehabilitation approach, where youth are supported to organise, acquire practical skills and establish themselves into constructive associations. The intention is that the associations also assist to monitor and rescue children entering the streets.

#### 1.4 Purpose and scope of the evaluation

This is an independent midterm evaluation of the four year project, which is intended to serve three main purposes. The first is to assess the achievements of the project interventions against the stated outcomes, including the project effectiveness and second to make recommendations on the future orientation and emphasis of the project during the remaining time. Third, the evaluation is expected to assess the sustainability of impact on the lives of children, young people and their families.

The evaluation covers all aspects of project implementation. Field evaluation visits were made in the larger Trans Nzoia County to assess the progress and experiences of children undergoing reintegration and those that have already been reintegrated. The clients of this evaluation are CRK as the project implementer, Railway Children and Big Lottery Fund.

#### 1.5 Evaluation criteria and questions

The evaluation criteria used was borrowed from the UN evaluation standards and norms<sup>9</sup> and the *Glossary of key terms in evaluation and results-based management* developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)'s Development Assistance Committee (DAC). In line with the results-based approach, the evaluation focused on identifying and analysing results through addressing key questions related to the evaluation concerns and the achievement of the outcomes of the project making as per the logical framework indicators. Overall, the evaluation addressed evaluation concerns based on the ILO defined policy guidelines for results-based evaluation<sup>10</sup>. These include relevance and strategic fit, validity of design, project progress and effectiveness, efficiency of resource use, effectiveness of management arrangements and impact orientation and sustainability. Gender concerns were also taken into consideration. Different tools were developed for different stakeholders and these are available in the appendix.

9 ST/SGB/2000 Regulation and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation

10 ILO policy guidelines for results-based evaluation: Principles, rationale, planning and managing for evaluations, 2012

**Unit  
2****EVALUATION METHODOLOGY  
AND APPROACH**

The evaluation employed a mix of methods involving review of relevant project materials<sup>11</sup>, and field data collection using both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The two methods complimented each other. The qualitative data was used to supplement and augment the quantitative data. The data was then thematically analysed along the project outcomes and with respect to the evaluation questions. Below is a more detailed description of the methods used.

**2.1 Desk/literature review**

Relevant project materials were reviewed in efforts to gain a deeper understanding of the project activities. Some of the materials reviewed include the project proposal, project business plan, project progress reports, summary of indicators, and the list of reintegrated children. Other documents such as the report of the study carried out by United Nations Children Fund and Save the Children in the Rift Valley and extracts from Kenya parliamentary Hansards were reviewed. On the basis of the literature reviewed, the evaluation design including the sampling plan were finalised and additional project insights gained by the evaluation team.

**2.2 Target respondents**

The midterm evaluation was carried out in a participatory manner, objectively involving all stakeholders. Children on the streets of Kitale, those enrolled in Birunda Centre, those that have already been reintegrated and those that were reintegrated and went back to the streets were interviewed. Parents or guardians of reintegrated children as well as parents of guardians of children who had been reintegrated and went back to the streets were also met and consulted. Other stakeholders including children officer, service providers and representative of the county government were similarly interviewed and their views incorporated into this report. Finally, the project staff at Birunda Centre, (Centre workers and family workers), the outreach staff at SS, CRK management staff and RC representative also shared their views with the evaluation team. A list of stakeholder groups and others that were interviewed is available in the appendix.

<sup>11</sup> List of materials reviewed is shown in the Bibliography

### 2.3 Data collection tools and methods

A mix of tools and methods were used depending on the category of respondents. Reintegrated children were interviewed using a one on one interviewing technique whereby a semi structured questionnaire was administered by a trained enumerator. A total of 62 children (36 boys and 26 girls) were interviewed. Children and youth receiving services at SS outreach Centre and those in Birunda rehabilitation Centre were interviewed using the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) approach, guided by a checklist of issues relevant to the thematic areas of focus in this evaluation. Children that had been reintegrated and were back to the streets were also interviewed using the FGD approach, guided by a checklist of issues relevant to their situation. A total of 48 children were interviewed in different FGDs. Further, 32 parents and guardians of reintegrated children were interviewed using the one on one interviewing technique. A semi structured questionnaire was used in these interviews. However, parents of children who had been reintegrated and were back to the streets were interviewed using the FGD approach, guided by a checklist of issues relevant to them. All other stakeholders including project staff, other service providers, children's officer and county government representatives were interviewed through the key informant interview technique also guided by a checklist of issues relevant to their role in addressing the needs of children on the streets of Kitale<sup>12</sup>. All interviews were done by qualified enumerators with past experience carrying out interviews with children.

A total of six enumerators, 3 male and 3 female were involved in both the one on one and the FGDs. These were supervised by an assistant consultant. The lead consultant provided technical backstopping in the field but also participated in several interviews and FGDs. All FGDs were conducted by a pair of enumerators, whereby one enumerator facilitated the discussion while the other took notes and monitored to ensure that all issues in the checklist are addressed during the discussions. All interviews with children were both child friendly and relaxed in the sense that questions were posed in normal conversations and in a language that the children could easily identify with. The facilitators had been trained and had experience on making sure that all children in the group had a chance to give their views on issues, especially where consensus was not reached quickly. Where applicable children that had experienced significant changes in their lives were engaged in more in-depth discussions to allow the evaluation team to better grasp the reasons behind such changes and learn lessons that could inform the project implementation going forward.

### 2.4 Ethical considerations in interviewing children

This midterm evaluation entailed research with the human subject and discussions could trigger memories that could harm the feelings of the targeted children.

<sup>12</sup> Evaluation tools are available as an appendix

However, the safety and welfare of the children being interviewed was of paramount importance and was therefore safeguarded. Specifically, consent was sought first from their parents or guardians, in addition to a requirement for a verbal consent from the child respondent. This was marked on the questionnaire by the enumerator. Similarly the consent of all participants in FGDs was verbally sought from them. Confidentiality of the children interviewed and the information they shared with enumerators was also guaranteed, with children being asked to choose the site they wanted to be interviewed from. The “do no harm” principle was also observed and all enumerators were adequately briefed and trained on what they needed to do in circumstances where children broke down when they recalled painful memories. Most importantly, children were protected from any possible abuse by the study team. All team members signed a code of conduct, they were trained on principles of interviewing children such as in open places and were well supervised all through the interviews. Furthermore all were sensitized and committed to RC’s child protection policy.

## **2.5 Study limitations**

The midterm evaluation progressed without any major problems. However there were a few challenges that were encountered. The first relates to the timing of the study. The bulk of the respondents were children who had been reintegrated and were expected to be enrolled in school. The evaluation took place during the school holidays when a number of children were reported to have left their homes to visit relatives. These had to be replaced with others. The distances travelled from Kitale town were long, some requiring strong off road vehicles. This was however necessary so as to cover the catchment of the area the project covers. Furthermore, reaching children with disabilities posed challenges, given that these were referred by CRK to relevant service providers, located further away and technically they did not receive additional support from the project except the referral.

## **2.6 Data analysis and management**

Qualitative data from the semi structured questionnaire was coded before all data was entered into a computer using the SPSS software for analysis. Frequency tables were first generated and additional cross tabulations of data was done. Analysis of qualitative data was thematically done, and themes and subthemes were generated. Qualitative data was used to augment, extrapolate and complement the quantitative data.

**Unit**  
**3****EVALUATION FINDINGS**

This section presents analysis of the main findings from the mid-term evaluation. The analysis is based on views and opinions of different project stakeholders interviewed in the course of the evaluation, materials reviewed and consultant's impressions from the various consultations and field visits.

**3.1 Project relevance and strategic fit**

Despite an improvement in the uptake of social protection in Kenya, street connected children and their families remain largely excluded from the available social protection mechanisms. Further, despite various strategies by the government such as free primary education, attainment of education for all remains elusive with children being seen on streets in school hours. Kitale town sitting in the North Rift of Kenya is the capital town of the expansive TransNzoia County. The town has for many years been seen as synonymous with street children. The town is the gateway to North Kenya, where the climate is not favourable. Food security has therefore been a perennial challenge in the north. Further, Kitale town has over the years been a safe haven for people escaping ethnic and political violence and tensions in the Rift Valley especially around the Mt Elgon area. A large number of people in Kitale are reported to be migrants settled into schemes following displacement from their original land, occasioned by incidences of violence. These, among other factors have contributed to the influx of children in Kitale town.

About two years back, the county government of Kitale was reported to have rounded up street connected children, many of them assumed to have originated from Turkana County, and deported them to Turkana, in a manner that did not take the interests of the child into consideration. Many actors in both TransNzoia County and Turkana County decried the manner in which the children were handled. All called for a more systematic and humane way of dealing with children on the streets. The evaluation team is of the view that this project offers a sober and systematic approach to addressing the needs of children on the streets. Further, the choice of Kitale is appropriate and strategic given the unique challenges faced in the county and the surroundings, and the concentration of street connected children. The choice of the project site also benefits immensely from the accumulated experience that CRK has over the years in the thematic area.

The interventions by this project were well thought out and strongly mirror the immediate and long term needs of the children themselves, their families and by

extension the government. SS provides basic needs and comfort to the children while at the same time building a relationship that enable SS staff to better understand the needs of the children. They also get to play and learn life skills which later support them to change their attitudes towards life. One child who benefits from the services at SS had this to say;

*'.....were it not for SS we would be smelling so much, but now at least you can see our clothes are not so dirty'*

Birunda on the other hand prepares children for reintegration. Besides the provision of basic services, children get an opportunity to study and prepare for the expected enrolment to school after reintegration. Counselling is offered for individuals and groups as well as life skills, Children interviewed in the Centre were satisfied with the support received.

Finally, youth and parents are also being supported to improve their incomes through skills training and training on BIA and support towards setting up or improving businesses respectively. This support to youth, parents and guardians addresses the immediate and future needs of the children and their siblings. Ideally, improved welfare at the household level was expected to translate to improved ability for parents and guardians to provide for their children, which should reduce the number of children running to the streets. This is also an effort towards reduction and eventual eradication of poverty, an issue that remains on top of the government's agenda.

It is the considered view of the evaluation team that the project is relevant to the needs of children, those of their families and the larger community as well as the needs of the county and the national governments. The project goal also mirrors the strategic objectives of both CRK and RC which broadly strive to fight for the rights of children on the streets, in a sustainable way.

### **3.2 Validity of project interventions and design**

Validity of the project interventions and design typically evaluates the extent to which the project activities and design were consistent and compelling. The key question in relation to validity is; how do the two link in-order to produce the desired goal? This section therefore looks at several aspects that build onto the discussion on validity of the project interventions and design. These include adequacy, appropriateness, partners' roles and performance and linkages between inputs and outcomes among others.

#### **3.2.1 Adequacy of project design process**

The project design was logical and coherent. This was informed by a comprehensive problem analysis through in-depth discussions with children on the streets, their

families and other stakeholders. The design also benefits from previous experiences by CRK and RC. Challenges facing children on the streets and their families were therefore adequately investigated and validated through the consultations. Notably, the project proposal was developed in collaboration with CRK as the implementing partner, and through consultation with beneficiaries. As such the local context was also taken into consideration while developing the proposal. Generally the process of designing the project was well done.

The problem analysis is consequently logically linked to the overall project objective which further links quite directly to the project outcomes and indicators. For example, indicator 1 under outcome 1 is *'Number reintegrated retained at home'*. This indicator feeds directly into outcome 1 which is *'Children living on the streets will be reintegrated with their families and communities and will be able to access school'*. This further feeds into the project goal which is to *'reduce the number of children and youth living on the street in Kitale and those at risk of running to the streets, by improving livelihoods in the families of reintegrated children and ensuring enrolment in education'*. The same applies to all other outcomes and indicators.

### **3.2.2 Appropriateness of project design process**

It is noted earlier that the project proposal and by extension the design was based on in-depth consultations with children on the streets, their families and stakeholders dealing with children. This implies that the project design was reflective of the situation and the needs of the children and their families. Further, the project implementation was designed to allow staff with relevant expertise to partake certain tasks. Further, CRK composed of qualified staff with previous experience and knowledge of the local context, have generally been able to effectively implement the project without major challenges. Their role distribution is in line with the key phases in the project which are Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration as seen through the staff members of SS, Birunda Centre and the family workers respectively. The project management staff is tasked with the overall management and coordination, while RC offers technical back-up. This arrangement in the execution of the project is, in our considered view appropriate for the effective delivery of the project.

### **3.2.3 Project goal, outcomes and appropriateness of indicators**

Project indicators are clearly spelt out. This evaluation notes that the indicators conform to the SMART principle as they are Specific, Measurable, Accurate, Realistic and Time Bound (SMART). It was however noted that some of the targets could have been ambitious, when viewed from the perspective of the need to provide quality services. These include targets relating to family support for example, which were noted to be dependent on other factors well outside the confines of the project such

as influence that supported parents and guardians get from other family members. Follow up for reintegrated children was also a challenge given the distances that needed to be covered.

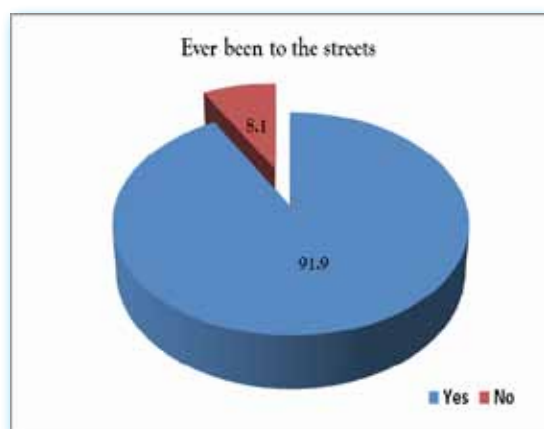
Overall, it is the view of this evaluation that the project design is relevant, contextual and strategic to the achievement of the project goal. The activities and expected outcomes are logically linked to one another. Most indicators are realistic and this could explain why targets have been surpassed towards the end of year 2 when this evaluation was carried out.

### 3.2.4 Brief description of the target children

This description is based on data collected from a random sample of 62 children that were interviewed during the evaluation exercise. In general 58 percent of the children interviewed were boys while 48 percent were girls. This does not however, imply that the proportion of boys to girls in both the centre and on the streets is the same as those interviewed during the evaluation. Deliberate efforts were made to reach as many girls as were available, given that they were generally fewer and less visible on the streets.

All children interviewed were aged below 15 years which is also the target age group for the reintegration candidates. Majority, 63 percent were aged 6-10 years, 28 percent were below 6 years while just about 9 percent were between 11 and 15 years. With regard to the highest level of education they had attained, 95 percent had some primary level education while only 5 percent reported that they had attained some secondary education. Further, 95 percent of the children reported that they lived with a parent, guardian or relative. The others either lived with siblings or alone.

**Figure 1: Number reporting to have been on the streets**



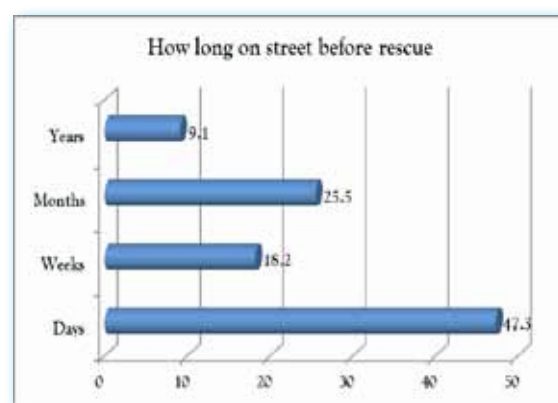
A majority of the children, 92 percent of those interviewed, had been to the streets compared to just about 8 percent that had not been to the streets. It is noted that Birunda Centre runs an open door policy meaning that while a majority of the children could be those rescued from the streets, there were others that had not been to the streets. These were children referred from the government's children department as vulnerable cases from the community who had faced parental



abuse or had been abandoned by parents. This finding is illustrated in the Figure 1. The finding attests that the project was largely responding to the intended target beneficiaries.

**Figure 2: Length of time on street**

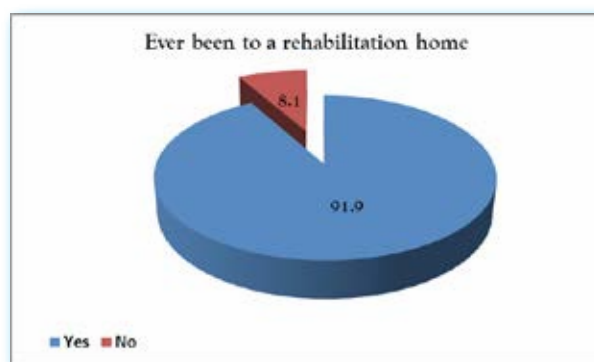
Further, close to half of the children reported that they had been to the streets for just a couple of days before they were rescued. This suggests that the rescue efforts by the project were working well to identify children who move to the streets early enough. About 25 percent had been on the streets for months while just about 9 percent reported to have been on the streets for years. This is seen in Figure 2.



Children had varied reasons why they went to the streets ranging from mistreatment by parents and guardians (33 percent), lack of school fee therefore dropped out of school (21.6 percent), persuaded by friends (17.6 percent) and abandoned (15.7 percent).

**Figure 3: Ever been to rehabilitation home**

A few others mentioned being expelled from home (5.9 percent), orphan hood (3.9 percent) and lost by accident (2 percent). The children were further asked if they had been to a rehabilitation home so as to confirm the validity of the sample. A majority 92 percent were in the affirmative. All these had only been to Birunda centre. It was reported that it was possible to rehabilitate children directly from the SS drop-in centre depending on the nature of their case. It is therefore possible that the 8 percent that had not been to a rehabilitation centre were rehabilitated from elsewhere.



### 3.3 Project effectiveness by outcomes and indicators

The project has three outcomes. These are;

*Outcome 1:* Children living on the streets will be reintegrated with their families and communities and will be able to access school.

*Outcome 2:* Youth will be supported to access vocational and business skills training and as such are able to live sustainably and independently within society

*Outcome 3:* Number of reintegrated children will have increased livelihood opportunities through skills training, business start-up kits and bio intensive farming inputs reducing levels of poverty in the home and enabling families to support their children in school

These outcomes feed into one overall objective which is to reduce the number of children and youth living on the streets in Kitale and those at risk of running to the streets, by improving livelihoods in the families of reintegrated children and ensuring enrolment in education. This is to be achieved through implementation of several interventions all of which have respective outputs. This section presents an assessment of the project effectiveness and achievements in each of the outcomes.

### **3.3.1 Outcome 1: Children living on the streets will be reintegrated and access school.**

This output seeks to reintegrate children living on the streets back to the community and support their access to education. The first indicator under this outcome was on the number of children reintegrated and retained at home. The evaluation findings show that a total of 252 children were reintegrated as at the time of this evaluation. This number surpassed the set target of 225 for year 2 by 27 children. Further discussions with family workers revealed that of this number, 66 children representing about 26 percent of the total number of reintegrated children were not retained at home in the first instance. This implies that 74 percent of children reintegrated in year 1 and 2 were retained in their homes after the first re-integration. Of the children not retained after the initial reintegration, 22 or about 33 percent were re-admitted to the Centre, and later reintegrated. This increased the number of successful cases of reintegration to 83 percent of all cases reintegrated.

However, 44 children or about 17 percent of all reintegrated children were not successfully reintegrated. These were accounted for as follows. An estimated 20 children were on the streets carrying out different mobile activities such as sale of scrap metal and begging. One child had a fixed business on the streets, while 6 had moved to other towns. Another child had been picked up for support by another institution, 2 girls were involved in child labour and one was married. About 13 children could not be traced and their location was also not known. This is summarized in the table 1 below.

The total number of reintegrated children mirrors the list of the children as reported by the project management at the end of August 2015 which also mirrors the number on the list that was used to sample the children interviewed. Furthermore, about 24

percent of all children reintegrated were sampled and individually interviewed as part of the field mission for this evaluation. Overall an 84 percent successful reintegration rate is noted to be quite satisfactory under the circumstances.

**Table 1: Status summary of children reintegrated in year 1 and 2**

Status	Male	Female	Total
<b>Total Number Re-integrated (Year 1 and 2)</b>			<b>252</b>
Total Drop Outs (year 1 and 2)	51	15	66
Re-admitted to the Centre and Reintegrated by Centre or self	18	4	22
<b><i>Not retained and not re-reintegrated</i></b>	<b>34</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>44</b>
In streets doing mobile activities	20	0	20
In street with fixed business	1	0	1
Reported to have moved to other towns	6	0	6
Taken up by other institution	1	0	1
Involved in child labour (employed)	0	2	2
Married	0	1	1
Cannot be traced	6	7	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>44</b>

Source: Birunda Centre

The second indicator was on the number of children who were attending school regularly. According to the project documents, 219 children or 86.9 percent of all the reintegrated children were reported to be attending school regularly. This number mirrors the reported number of successful cases of reintegration meaning that majority children that were successfully reintegrated were attending school regularly. This evaluation further confirms this. When asked what they were currently doing with themselves, 55 children out of the sampled 62 which is equivalent to 88 percent of the sample reported that they were in school. Half of the others were either working, suggesting that they had completed primary whilst the other half reported to be at home. This serves to confirm that most reintegrated children were actually attending school.

The third, fourth and fifth indicators under outcome 1 relate to improvement of education. Indicator 3 specifically measures the improvement in education as stated by teachers. The evaluation team sought the views and perspectives of the family workers and the Birunda centre workers on this indicator given that schools were on holiday and therefore not possible to reach the teachers. Family workers as well as teachers in Birunda Rehabilitation Centre (BRC) were all of the opinion that majority of the children had improved their educational performance and self-esteem since they joined the project. This corresponds to the project documents which show that 182 cases were reported to have improved in education as reported by their teachers against a target of 180. The target had been surpassed by 2.

Indicator 4 measures improvement in educational progress and self-esteem as reported by children and parents. This too posted positive feedback from children and parents. Majority of the children interviewed in both BRC and in SS were categorical that education was the single most important benefit from the project. All were enthusiastic about the opportunity to learn. Parents too were of the same view with 80 percent of those interviewed reporting that education was the most beneficial support. They further reported that support from CRK had seen their children improve in school and become more obedient. Project progress reports confirm this finding. According to the updated findings of August 2015, 190 cases were reported to have improved in education by parents/children against a target of 180. This target had been surpassed by 10 cases.

Indicator 5 relates to education improvement and attainment within BRC. Notably BRC offers non formal education in preparation for the children's enrolment in formal schools after reintegration. Teachers at BRC reported that children were often well prepared to join formal schools even when they had been out of school for many years courtesy of the preparation they received at BRC. Almost all, they noted, pick up very well upon joining the centre. This was attested to by project reports which show that 560 children had improved in their education within BRC. This was way more than the targeted number of 225 at the end of year 2. The huge difference resulted from the fact that BRC catered for more children than those reintegrated and all these were reported to have had significant educational improvement and attainment.

### **3.3.1.1 Observations in relation to achievement of outcome 1**

The midterm evaluation team observes that outcome 1 is on course having been able to achieve and in deed surpass most targets. Only the number of children that were attending school regularly marginally fell below the set target. This was attributed to some children that had initially been enrolled, finally deciding they were no longer interested in school and eventually dropping out.

Discussions with children and the project staff indicate that generally, execution of activities was well done. Rescue for example was achieved for about half the children in a matter of a few days. Though modest in infrastructure, the children were appreciative of services they received at the SS drop in centre, majority of whom were recruited and introduced to the centre by CRK staff. Key among the services they singled out includes education, food, and opportunity to bathe and play. It was observed that SS offered a soft landing for most of the children on the streets. Besides the basic needs, the children slowly and progressively gain hope and purpose in life. This gives most of them confidence.

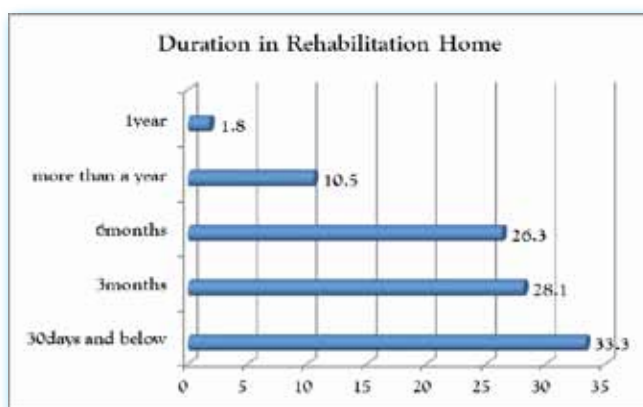
SS, and the services it offers, is particularly an important bridge to BRC eventually to reintegration back to the community. This was attested to by results from the

evaluation. When children met in SS were asked if they would wish to go back home all reported that they would not. They observed that they would be mistreated and harassed at home, they lacked freedom, were involved in child labour and that parents generally abused and neglected them. Younger children at SS would not mind going to BRC, but older ones feel that BRC is for younger children. They would rather be enrolled to other schools or for skills training.

However, when children in BRC were asked if they would mind going home, all girls and half of the boys were willing to go back home. This suggests a change in attitude possibly resulting from the counselling and life skills children benefit from right from the drop in centre. While children like most of the services at SS, they observed that playing materials, toilets and bathrooms were inadequate. Meals were however reported to be adequate. Majority of the children rated the services they received at SS very helpful.

**Figure 4: Time spent in rehabilitation home**

While children in BRC reported that they were not aware of how long they would stay there, all were aware that they would eventually go home. All the 9 girls met at the centre were willing to go home noting that they would only go back to the streets if they were mistreated at home or denied food. Interviews with reintegrated children show that 33.3



percent had been in the rehabilitation home for a maximum of 1 month and 54.4 percent for between 3 to 6 months. About 12.3 percent had been in the rehabilitation home for at least one year. Clearly children spent different time periods in BRC depending on the nature of their cases, circumstances under which they had left home and how fast parents or guardians are traced.

Besides the duration of stay, children were also aware that they were in the centre to 'get an education, learn good manners and to learn to be clean and have self-respect'. They also learn skills such as farming and domestic chores including sweeping and washing. These are life skills which they will eventually need at their respective homes. Generally, children interviewed were satisfied with services offered in BRC and the time they had spent there. This was affirmed by the reintegrated children. More than half 59.6 percent had joined the project within the year meaning that these were direct beneficiaries of the project support. Another 33.3 percent had been in the project for between 2-3 years while 7 percent had been there for 4-5 years. A majority 74.2 percent were recruited directly by the project staff, others were referred by friends, and others by the children department, some following arrests.

Evaluation results also show that rehabilitation and placement were generally well planned. A majority, 76.4 percent of the rehabilitated children reported that they did not face any challenge at the rehabilitation Centre. But a significant 14.5 percent reported that they lacked sufficient basic needs such as clothing and food. Furthermore, when asked what they did not like about the centre, 13 children out of the total sample of 62 reported that they felt home sick, did not get sufficient needs like food and clothing. Of the 13 children, 6 reported that they did not like mistreatment. Further probing of the nature of mistreatment revealed that there were occasional and minor conflicts between children, where for example older boys pinched the younger ones and such cases are often reported to teachers and appropriate action taken. This was confirmed from children interviewed in BRC.

Children interviewed in BRC further reported that they felt comfortable reporting to teachers which suggests that the mistreatment was not from staff. The project management further reported that proper mechanisms had been put in place to prevent mistreatment and abuse of children by peers and staff, and when this happens, prompt action is taken. A few children who may have been disciplined for some reason may have misinterpreted this to be mistreatment. No case of mistreatment by staff was or had been reported. Majority of children were nevertheless content with the services received having reported that they mostly liked playing, provision of basic needs, and learning as reported by 46.4, 38.5, and 25 percent respectively. The children further suggested that the quality and quantity of basic needs should be improved as reported by 89.2 percent.

Upon placement 28 children reported that they faced some challenges including lack of sufficient basic needs (64.3 percent), mistreatment (21.4 percent<sup>13</sup>) and difficulties reintegrating with family (14.3 percent). Those reporting mistreatment mainly mentioned hard work as the main type of mistreatment. Parents and guardians of children that were reintegrated and went back to the streets however argued that hardly did they give the children hard work. Some reported that the children has been used to receiving hard outs on the streets and were therefore not willing to help in any house work. However, all children interviewed reported mistreatment as one of the reasons why they run to the streets as reported by 33 percent of reintegrated children. Children interviewed in groups in SS and BRC also reported mistreatment as one of the main push factors. Mistreatment at home took the form of denial of basic needs, physical and psychological abuse and neglect among others.

Furthermore, interviews with children and parents sought to establish the extent to which the parent or guardian and the child were prepared for reintegration. Notably, 73 percent of the interviewed children reported that they did not have an opportunity to interact with the parents or guardians between the time they were on the streets and before they were reintegrated back home. Similarly 58 percent of parents

13 This was reported to be peer to peer mistreatment such as pinching, fights etc.

reported that they had not been prepared before their children were reintegrated. A few however reported that they had visited BRC, while others noted that project staff had visited them in their homes. Those that were prepared were either called prior to the placement; others had been to counselling sessions while others were just informed that the child would be enrolled to a nearby school meaning they would be staying with them at home. However, 75 percent of the parents reported that they were of the view that their children were adequately prepared of their return. They observed that this was noted in the behaviour of the children, most of whom were very well behaved, others called their parents often, and that most were willing to stay at home. These indicators suggested that the children had been prepared. A few parents nevertheless reported that their children still had fear when they went home. This calls for more attention towards preparation for placement of children back home, where there seems to be gaps with the quality of preparation given to parents and guardians. Those that interacted with the parents or guardians were those whose parents or guardians made a visit to BRC or those whose children had cases that demanded a visit to the home before placement such as cases of serious physical abuse.

More than half, (53.4 percent) of the children reported that they were involved in deciding the type of support they wanted upon reintegration back home. This group of children reported that they were asked what they wanted to do and majority chose to go back to school. The other 46.6 percent were not involved in making the decision. According to this group, the decision was made by either the guardian or the project staff. Others were not aware who made the decision. The young ones were required to go back to school while the older were required to choose between school and support for business or farming. In one case reported by one of the guardians, a 17 year old child was pushed to go back to school by the guardian who wanted her to at least acquire an education certificate but she eventually she dropped out<sup>14</sup> and disappeared, a clear indication of the need to involve children especially the older ones in decision making.

In conclusion, there are clear indications that rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of children are being done as per the project design and are generally achieving the intended outcomes. However, to better consolidate the gains and make the reintegration process more successful, it is recommended that firstly, SS moves to avail similar services they avail boys to girls connected to the streets in Kitale. This is based on the revelation of the important role that SS plays to the transformation of boys and their transition to BRC or back home. The facility can either be expanded or time schedules reorganised to accommodate girls who may shy away for lack of a supportive environment.

14 The girl was reported to have left home one morning to go to school but she had worn additional clothes under the uniform. So she removed her uniform left it in the bush and disappeared. The guardian had been informed that she was working as a house help in Eldoret town (approximately 64KM from Kitale).

Secondly, while most children in the rehabilitation centre did not cite any major challenges, there is a need to improve the monitoring of possible cases of peer to peer mistreatment, however minor, which about 6 children reported to have experienced. Most importantly, additional mechanisms and channels for reporting abuse need to be implemented to offer children a variety of ways in which they can report possible incidences of mistreatment in confidence and free of possible victimization. As it were, children reported incidences of abuse to teachers. In addition speak out boxes have worked well in schools for example in ensuring confidentiality in reporting cases of abuse. Finally, the project will need to strengthen the placement component of reintegration by making deliberate efforts to contact and prepare all parents of children that are being reintegrated and make adequate follow-ups to ensure that children settle and are retained. There was always a reason why a child leaves home, that needs to be thoroughly understood for it to be effectively addressed. This often takes time and it calls for repeated visits and meetings with parents or guardians.

### **3.3.2 Outcome 2: Youth will be supported to access vocational and business skills training so as to live sustainably and independently within society**

This outcome focuses on empowering the youth with vocational and business skills training so that they can better provide for their basic needs and those of their dependents. The outcome addresses the immediate needs among youth but also has a long term perspective whereby the supported youth will see their children and dependents live better and more stable lives than them. Further the support to the youth is also intent on integrating youth to the larger society. They are for example receiving support to acquire national identity cards, which open up opportunities for them. Following this support, it is expected that the attitude the larger community holds towards the youth is bound to change for the better. The youth are also expected to organize and seek to pursue their interest and rights in a more organized and sustainable manner<sup>15</sup>.

The outcome has five indicators. The first indicator is on the number of youth groups with identified leaders and able to convene regular meetings. In total 13 associations or groups had been established in Kitale through the support of the project. Members in the groups averaged 20 though some were not active. During the midterm evaluation and assessment of the association model, 7 youth groups were randomly sampled and met. Discussions with group members revealed that all the 7 groups that were met had group leaders. This is affirmed by the project reports which show that all the 13 groups that had been formed had leaders. This was 3 groups more that the set target for year 2 which was 10 groups. The mode of selection of leaders was through consensus where a suggestion is made and members unanimously agree. During discussions with the groups it was evident that the leaders were known to

<sup>15</sup> More analysis of the association model is available in a separate report.



the members and their roles was also evident from the manner the group carried out its activities during the discussion. What was also remarkable was that in none of the groups were members shy of making their contributions about the group, even in the presence of their leaders. Some would diplomatically even disagree with the leaders on certain issues. The leaders were reported to have received several trainings from CRK on leadership skills. This assisted in ensuring group unity.

Groups met regularly with most reporting that they met every week. These meetings were crucial to the members' welfare as much as they were to the growth and development of the group. Besides discussing group matters, the meetings also offered an opportunity for the members to catch up, know which member faced what challenge and agree on how to support such members. For example it is during these group meetings that members get to know members that could have been arrested, or were sick or new entrants to the street.

Indicator 2 is on the number of associations with agreed rules and regulations that govern them. All the 7 groups that were met in FGDs in Kitale reported that they had rules and regulations that governed the groups' activities and check the behaviour of group members. Notably the rules and regulations were not written in most groups but they were known to all members. The rules and regulations touched on issues such as use of drugs, respect for peoples' opinions, need for order in the group, fines for lateness in attending and on making financial contributions. Some groups such as Semali were involved in table banking and they had rules relating to interest rates to be charged. Project reports show that all the 13 groups formed in Kitale had rules and regulations that governed their activities. This was slightly more than the set target of 10 by the end of year 2.

Indicator 3 relates to the number of group members with national identity cards which would open up opportunities and enable them to access services such as voting, banking, social services and so on. Discussions with members of the seven groups met in FGDs revealed that indeed it was problematic for young people to register and acquire national identity cards. This particularly affects children that do not have parents and were not able to trace back their ancestral homes. The project supports such youth by acting as their guardian and facilitating them to apply for the identity cards. Youth that had attained the age of 18 and did not have identity cards confirmed that they were in the process of applying with support from the project. Many reported that they had already applied and were waiting to collect the cards.

According to project reports, a total of 243 association members against a target of 150 members had national identity cards most of who had been supported by the project to acquire them. Consequently the youth reported that they had noted remarkable benefits from the identification documents which for example shielded them from arbitrary arrests by the police. It was however noted that the premium attached to the identity cards was high and under age children were deliberately overstating their

age so that they could acquire the national identity cards. There is therefore need for sensitization on the benefits of holding on until they are of age as, overstating of age will also lock them out of many services and benefits earlier in their life. For example, in the event they fell into conflict with the law, they would be treated as adults. Later on they will lock themselves out, from enjoying the benefits that accrue to youth as per the definition by the national youth policy (35 years). Such benefits include youth funds, preferential treatment in government tenders and so on. If employed they would also be forced to retire early based on the age shown on the identity card

Acquisition of identity cards was however not an end to the misery that some of the youth faced. Some reported that they had previous criminal records that continued to lock them out of opportunities they could otherwise access with the skills gained and after accessing the legal documents. For example, some of the youth with vocational training could still not access gainful employment given that potential employers required them to have certificates of good conduct which make reference to their previous criminal record. There is need for more collaboration with the department of probation to explore provisions in law and procedure that can be used to ensure that reformed youth don't continue to face discrimination on the basis of cases they were long punished for. In the meantime, support to such youth through positive referrals by the project or even the probation office to prospective employers would immensely benefit the youth.

Indicator 4 is on the number of members who have decreased or discarded drug abuse. Notably, most of the groups in Kitale that were formed by youth previously on the streets had members that were heavily involved in abuse of drugs. Discussion with the group members showed that majority of them had reduced their drug abuse, both in frequency and amount and a few had stopped altogether. The fact that the group members could confidently state that they had reduced was encouraging and is seen as a journey to recovery and eventual non-use of drugs. Project reports show that 100 members compared to a target of 125 by the end of year 2 had either reduced or discarded the use of drugs. While this is slightly below the target, it is considered a great achievement that, for example, the youth in the respective groups were able to keep off glue sniffing for the one hour or so that we met with them. Although some of them were visibly intoxicated, they were not disorderly, rather they were alert and able to engage in meaningful discussion. As noted, they were not in denial, they admitted that they still take drugs and that slowly they were trying to stop.

This resolve by the youth at a personal level to reduce and discard drug abuse needs to be supported as it has a long term impact on the lives of the youth. The project has done a commendable job in supporting the association process which has continued to offer therapy to the youth. This was expected to continue in the remaining project phase and beyond. It is also appreciated that the project's role in the association process is key to the continued therapy. However, consistent and sustained support

was necessary given that the recovery process of the youth could stretch beyond the project period. This calls for deliberate efforts to link the associations and recovering youth with relevant agencies that could continue to offer them support. These include the National Authority for the Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA), which for example works with government hospitals and other relevant institutions to establish functional treatment and rehabilitation centres. Others could be the referral hospital in Kitale and any other organisations that could be offering outreach programmes for similar cases. This will ensure sustainability and consistency in the recovery process the youth are undergoing.

Indicator 5 under outcome 2 relates to the number of members with increased income levels and moved towards sustainable living. Increase in incomes was expected to improve the welfare of the youth and the quality of lives they live. This was being achieved through vocational and business skills training and through group and individual support for business development. Semali group from the slum in Kitale for example had substantial members who owned businesses. The group was also involved in a group business (barber shop and hair salon). Group members engaged in table banking where they borrowed money to start or grow their individual businesses. The group for example reported that they had received an estimated Kshs 34,000 support from the project, half of which was used to start the group business while the rest was pooled into the table banking kitty. Such activities were working well in changing the lifestyles of the group members. Indeed, most reported that their incomes had increased since the support and training received from the project.

However, the same was yet to be achieved in some groups especially those that were still new such as ODM although it was also reported that individual members had been enrolled for vocational training, which, when complete, should enable them to start earning. Older groups had members that were engaged in different activities as mechanics, loading, transportation, shoe-shine, selling fish, rearing chicken and others. Most were earning some income and they reported that they had seen some increases in their earnings. Project reports affirm this. As at end of August 2015, 166 members compared to a target of 150 members had reported increases in income which implies the set target for year 2 had been surpassed.

There were slight differences in groups formed in the streets and those in the slums. Groups in the, streets were taking longer to organise and transit to next stages compared to groups in the slums. This was attributed to the diversity in membership among groups in the streets, while those in the slums were formed by people in the same locality. As such mistrust among members of groups in the streets was higher and those evidently required more time to get organised compared to those in slums. Furthermore, members of groups in the streets were reported to have previously been used to handouts. They therefore expected quick gains from the project. This initially slowed their progress in the association process.

### 3.3.2.1 Observations in relation to achievement of outcome 2

Overall, outcome 2 is on course and all indicators are expected to be achieved if activities continue at the same pace. Leadership structures within the groups were forming and quite well established among the older groups. The older groups were clearly more organised than the new ones meaning that it took time for the leadership structures to form and gain root. Wrangles and disunity was for example reported in ODM which is noted to be in the formation stage. But the same was not reported in Oil Libya group which was in capacity building stage. Similarly, groups formed in the slums appeared to be more focused aggressive compared to those in streets. This was attributed to mobility and relatively busy schedules of youth on the streets who were also keener on quick and immediate gains. Those in slums were more patient.

Notably group stability and leadership structures developed with time and it was expected that this stability will be noted in all groups at project end. Similarly, all groups have rules and regulations, whether written or unwritten. These were known to members and respected by the active members. Group meetings were important catching up sessions where challenges faced by members were addressed.

While the project had done well in supporting acquisition of national identity cards (ID) to youth, it was noted that children well below 18 years were rushing to acquire IDs by overstating their age. This calls for sensitisation efforts to enlighten them on the disadvantages of registering for national IDs too early. Most importantly their rights as children should be shared with them, given that these should equally protect them. Acquisition of national IDs too early may give them early access to some opportunities but it will similarly lock them out of some benefits too early. Possibly, a project identity card, may serve them well as they wait to reach the correct age to apply for a national ID. Besides, the law will treat them as adults yet in reality they were still children. A few youth with previous criminal liability faced additional challenge given that certificates of good conduct issued by the national police will always reference the criminal record, yet most youth had since reformed. This is a challenge that the project may need to confront, possibly with closer collaboration with the employers, police and department of probation.

As noted, impressive progress is being made in encouraging youth to reduce or discard drug abuse. There is however need to ensure consistent and sustainable support for those youth that are on this journey to reduce or stop abuse of drugs. Finally, increases in income were evident among youth that were economically engaged and those who belonged to groups with some income generating activities. Significant changes were expected to be seen as youth on vocational training transit to the job market or start their own enterprises and as group based activities grow.

### **3.3.3 Outcome 3: Number of reintegrated children will have increased livelihood opportunities through skills training, business startup kits and bio intensive farming inputs reducing levels of poverty in the home and enabling families to support their children in school**

Outcome 3 seeks to ensure that reintegrated children have no reason to want to go back to the streets while their siblings similarly enjoy better opportunities in the community. Ideally, the outcome supports income generating activities for parents and guardians, which was expected to improve their welfare as well as the welfare of the children under their care. The outcome has six indicators. The first indicator relates to the number of families with income levels increased by 35 percent. Project documents report that 96 families reported this increase in income at the end of year 2 compared to a set target of 100. Results from interviews with parents and guardians were not different. When asked how they compared their income levels before they received support from CRK and after, about 58 percent of all parents and guardians interviewed stated that their incomes had improved.

This finding was expected, given that people progressed at different paces. Discussions with family workers supported this assertion noting that they were still working closely with some parents recruited to the project in year 1. In deed just about 8 families had been phased out. These were reported to be doing well. About 6 families had further been selected for intensive support for one year. These would eventually assist in showing case the benefits from the family support. It was also noted that some initial families recruited in year 1 had been very successful following the support, a factor that was attributed to the possible undivided attention they received from the staff given that the workload was less. A few parents and guardians were of the view that their incomes have not increased because the support from CRK was not sufficient, or because they were relatively new to the project. Others, for example parents that had previously existing businesses reported increases in income of up to 50-80 percent. This finding should nevertheless be analysed with caution given that ordinarily people usually understate or overstate their incomes. More analytical approaches such as those that seek to verify sales and capture regular expenditure may need to be used in project monitoring and during the final evaluation to improve on the accuracy of this indicator.

Indicator 2 is on the number of families able to provide school requirements (fees, uniform, books and desks) to their school going children. Interviews with parents revealed that 70 percent of those interviewed had received some support from the project. The support was both training and inputs for BIA or business start-up or improvement capital. Following the support, 63 percent of parents and guardians indicated that they were now able to afford food and meet their children's educational needs. The target of 100 families under this indicator had been achieved. It was also

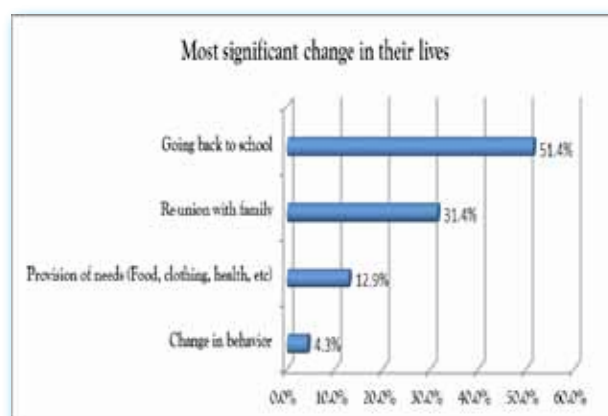
reported by the staff in charge of implementing the BIA that 15 other families not directly supported by the project had shown interest in learning and understanding how BIA works. Of these 5 families were reported to have implemented what they learnt were consistently utilising the BIA approach on their farms and had witnessed increases in their household incomes. An estimated 188 children were reported to have received support with educational requirements directly from the project in year 1 and 2.

Indicator 3 is on the number of families able to build on original inputs and develop further initiatives for income generation and expansion of business and or farming. It was expected that original inputs given to families should support them to generate adequate outputs which they could then plough back into their farming or in their businesses. Parents and guardians were asked how their situation was before and after the support. Overall all parents reported that before the support the situation was bad and they could not afford their basic needs. Following the support, at least 63 percent reported that they could now afford food and basic needs. Individually, some parents and guardians reported that they previously did not have any farming skills while others did not have any work to do but following the initial support, they noted that training on farming had increased their food production.

Further, it was also reported by some parents that they had diversified their income sources. For example, one parent observed that following the support, they had started roasting maize as an addition to the business they had of selling harvested maize. Another had a small outlet where she sold household items but since the support, she had started trading in cereals. In general most parents that received the initial support were able to invest it and were better off than they were before. The project report confirms this. It notes that a total of 29 families, 4 families more than the targeted 25 had been able to build on original inputs. It was observed by all the parents and guardians that had been supported that there was a need for more training on business skills including on issues of record keeping, savings and so on. The project may consider collaboration with other agencies such as the Micro and Small Enterprises Authority (MSEA) to explore ways through which the beneficiaries can benefit from MSEA's trainings.

### Figure 5: Most significant change for children

Indicator 4 relates to families that report improved relationships between parents and their children. Improved relations are a prerequisite for successful reintegration. When reintegrated children were asked the most significant change in their lives,



re-union with the family was the second mostly mentioned change (31.4 percent) after the opportunity to go back to school (51.4 percent). A few other children reported provision of basic needs (12.9 percent) and change in behaviour (4.3 percent), as seen in figure 5 below. These changes allude to improved relationships at the family level.

Parents and guardians were directly asked if the relationship with their children had changed since they joined the project. Notably 93 percent of the interviewed parents and guardians answered in the affirmative. One parent noted that this was a result of counselling she received from CRK. Another noted that the child was more respectful while another noted that the child was more obedient. Another parent reported that the child related very well with the rest of the family members unlike before. Discussion with parents of children whose reintegration was not successful reported that although their children still disappeared back to the streets, they were clearly relating better with the other siblings and with parents, at the time they were at home. Most were still not aware what could have pushed the children to run away. The project report also documents that 157 families compared to the targeted 100 reported that their children had improved in their behaviour and how they related with their parents.

Furthermore from April of 2015, the project had selected 6 families which receive intensive support from the project as a way of testing some of the concerns raised at the family level. These families, some previously supported by the project in year 1, identify specific issues affecting them with support from the project. Family workers then work closely and more intensely with them on issues of for example building self-esteem, improving relationships between children and the parents, and livelihood improvement. Reports of the intensive support indicate that the 6 families were able to achieve more gains within a relatively shorter period and that relationships at the family level had significantly improved in all. It was expected that clear differences between the 6 families and others will be noted with time.

Indicator 5 is closely linked to indicator 4 and relates to family workers observing that there were actually improved relationships between both parents and their children. This was reported in about 158 cases by the family workers. This finding was also evident from discussions with family workers, who report that in general reintegrated children were living cordially with their parents and whenever possible family visits are used to counsel the child and the parents. They attributed the improved relationships to the counselling and life skills the children went through at BRC and the guidance the family workers give to the parents they meet.

Finally indicator 6 relates to the number of school aged children within target families that were attending school. While this was not extensively explored by any of the tools, project documents indicate that 448 children out of a target of 420 were attending school. Reports by parents and guardians also indicate that overall parents were

able to provide the basic and educational needs of other children. Most importantly, enrolling reintegrated children in school has also served to enlighten parents on the importance of education and most were therefore reported to be trying their best to keep children in school as reported by both family workers and parents and guardians of reintegrated children.

### **3.3.3.1 Observations in relation to achievement of outcome 3**

Outcome 3 is on course and all indications are that the set targets will be achieved. Already all targets for year 2 have been achieved or surpassed. When parents and guardians of reintegrated children were for example asked what they could show which they had achieved or gained as a result of being part of the project, different issues were mentioned. These include, knowledge gained that enabled them to farm more productively or run their businesses more professionally, diversification of income generating activities to activities such as selling potato fries (chips), roasting maize, selling fish, selling charcoal and firewood and others. One parent stated that they were able to make savings of up to Kshs 250 (approx. £1.80) each week, while others said their families were now healthier than before. These are significant changes in the lives of the families which go beyond the immediate project support.

While provision of basic needs and school requirements remained a challenge to families, most families were clearly trying as attested by parents and guardians of children that had returned to the streets, as well as those for the reintegrated children. Most had meagre incomes yet they had ensured that the children were attending schools and eating. Diversification of income sources were clearly efforts towards building on the initial support. The high retention rate of reintegrated children was an indication that relationships within the family had improved courtesy of counselling efforts by the project. Overall it can be concluded that the siblings or children currently living with the reintegrated children under the same roof, stood better chances and lived a better life than what the reintegrated children went through before they ran to the streets. Close to 90 percent of all reintegrated children interviewed agreed with the statement that they were confident and willing to continue with their current life outside the streets. This was despite the fact that fewer (65.5 percent) of them agreed to the statement that they were able to get all basic needs from the parents and guardians.

In conclusion, this report notes that outcome 3 has generally been well implemented and all activities are on course. More support for already supported families was necessary especially in training them and ensuring that their businesses pick up. This will consolidate the gains and prevent losses resulting from possible closure of businesses supported by the project. This is based on the understanding that many parents from year 1 were still yet to stabilise in their businesses, yet the feedback on



their progress was appealing. Given that year 3 will bring yet more parents into the project, strategies such as linking older parents with other relevant service providers will reduce the family workers load, and ensure continued support for the families.

### **3.4 Efficiency of resource use, project management, monitoring and governance**

The evaluation did not indulge in reviewing the budgets and how it was utilised. However, based on the findings on the implemented activities, it is our general view that the project is exercising prudence in the use of available resources. Firstly, the project is implemented by qualified staff who understood the local context. This makes them pretty efficient in carrying out various activities especially at the community level. Given their maturity and grasp of the local culture, they have been able to effectively engage with children and parents under sensitive situations, a factor that has seen difficult matters sorted within reasonable time.

Furthermore, staff capacity building has also been achieved through cost effective approaches involving training by RC, Retrak or their other partners. This has increased the capacity of the existing staff. For example, CRK staff reported that every contact with a child is a therapeutic process. This was learnt from the family therapy training from RC, where for example, training on induction and ending process has improved their capacity and has seen reduced dropout rates from BRC. The knowledge gained has translated to children looking forward to the ending process. Project staff that support the formation of associations were trained by Undugu Society of Kenya, through yet another cost effective arrangement, which reached more staff at minimal costs. CRK staff visited USK offices in Nairobi and got to extensively interact with USK's activities with the associations they supported in Nairobi. This is effective learning. In addition, about 4 of the staff in CRK are volunteers. Besides equipping these volunteers with practical skills, the arrangement supports CRK with additional human resources.

Discussions with the different staff revealed that they still felt that there were capacity gaps among them, which, if addressed would improve their respective capacities. Staff at BRC for example reported that they would greatly benefit from more training on among others, counselling, data reporting, assessment of children with special needs, and public relations. The BIA expert also noted that additional exposure to emerging technology and production methods would improve on delivery.

Finally, it was impossible not noticing the humble structure that SS does its tremendous work. Located literally in town, the simple 2 or 3 roomed timber structure provides space for the children to eat, shower and learn. The children make use of the open space outside to play. While this may not be the most ideal, it is quite accessible to

the children and definitely cheaper than most other buildings in town which may also not be too identifiable with the street children. The project management also operates from a modest office in relation to the big name of the organisation in Kitale. This is possibly not because they would not want to be in modern, bigger and better office; rather they use the much of the available resources to deliver direct services to children and youth, while maintaining an image that their clients identify with.

The project is implemented by the Child Rescue Kenya based in Kitale. The project management office is headed by a director (male) who is in charge of overall administration. The director is supported by a project manager (female) who provides guidance on implementation of projects and a finance officer (male) who is in charge of all project finances. The other officers at the management officer are an advocacy officer (male) and a driver (male).

Railway Children Africa supports CRK in the project implementation process, through provision of technical support especially through trainings and monitoring and evaluation. An in country programme development officer for RC regularly interacts with CRK including making monitoring visits to the project area. Discussions with staff for example noted that RC had among others supported them with training on how to conduct community meetings and on family therapy, as well as providing them with templates that they use to capture data and technical support in undertaking a headcount of children on the streets. One staff commented;

*'.....we are very grateful to Railway Children which has taught us many things that have improved the way we work'.*

Periodic project reports (monthly, quarterly and annual) are prepared and sent to the donor through RC. Further Undugu Society of Kenya assists CRK in the development of the Association model in Kitale and as at the time of this evaluation, Undugu had provided Training of Trainers (ToT) training to CRK and hosted them in an exchange visit.

The increasing workload for staff especially the family workers was noted to be a challenge which, if not addressed may affect the quality of work done going forward. It was for example noted that each family worker was supporting an estimated 40 families and this was expected to increase in year 3. This has largely resulted from low phase out rates of families being supported for BIA and tactical support. It is therefore important that a clear strategy for phase out is thought through before the staff get overwhelmed. A viable alternative is to identify and categorise supported families in categories such as those needing intense, moderate or limited support. Those requiring moderate and limited support could be linked with other relevant organisations and agencies such as MSEA, WEF for continued support while the project continues to support newly recruited families and those requiring intense

support. If resources allow, additional staff would immensely ease the pressure that the family workers have.

It was also noted that while the project has two vehicles and one motorbike, efficient utilisation of these resources remained a challenge. The project has only one driver meaning that only one vehicle can actively be used for project work at a time. Furthermore, only one staff was a trained and licenced motorcycle rider. Other staff had to rely on the vehicles. CRK had devised a timetable on sharing of the vehicles which assists in planning the visits. However, two vehicles and one driver effectively translate to one operational vehicle at a time. This may be the reason why there are challenges in parents and guardians preparation prior to placement of children. It is proposed that the project should reorganise the use of the transportation resources by recruiting an additional driver and encouraging other staff to train in motorcycle riding or hiring a rider.

### **3.5 Impact orientation and project sustainability**

Based on the findings of this evaluation, all indications show that the project is on course in meeting all the set targets and the objectives. Already, the goal of reintegration of children from the streets is effectively being achieved at least based on the reported cases of successful reintegration. The fact that reintegrated children are enrolled to school indicates a sustainability potential given that their possibility of these children going back to the streets is significantly minimised.

Further, support to youth is also aimed at broadening of their livelihood opportunities and consequently improving their chances of becoming self-reliant. A number of youth were reported to be on vocational training while others had been supported to start small businesses. If this is sustained, then their lifestyles are likely to change meaning that their children will live better and more stable lives. Vocational training and training in life-skills in investment in knowledge that the children will remain with even after the project closure. These training in including enrolment to schools for smaller children had improved their confidence and self-esteem both of which are crucial in becoming self-reliant.

Support to families also has a long term goal. It is meant to improve incomes at the household level which should consequently result in better healthcare, food security, stable provision of general basic items and more access to learning opportunities. This would then result in better relationships in the family which would see less children running to the streets. This support to families is actually meant to address the push factors which send children to the streets. Evaluation findings show that relationships within families have improved, incomes at the household level are increasing and more children of supported parents are enrolled in school. Ultimately

this will see fewer and fewer children running to the streets due to the improved welfare at the household level.

This project design therefore has a sustainability strategy, where the capacity of children, youth and families is being progressively improved to better provide for their respective basic needs and those of the people that depend on them. This strategy is commendable.

There however seems to be loose linkages with institutions within government which are really the primary duty bearers when it comes to the plight of children. It was for example noted that a high number of children slept on the streets in full view of the county and national governments. Discussions with county representatives only gave hope that one day, there might be action. The county government reported that they were planning to construct a rescue centre which could hold 100 children, which from the understanding of an effective child protection system may appear to be a less pressing priority. Rather, the rehabilitation of children could benefit more if the authorities firstly appreciated the value of the work being done by CRK and further complementing it. It was reported that the courts and children officers often sends children in need of protection to BRC. Supporting its efforts should therefore not be a problem. Linkages with government agencies offering relevant services should also be sought.

Some business people were reported to be supporting children to stay on the streets. Some have donated blankets while others provide the children with adequate food rations and storage of the little money they make. While such support was good in meeting the immediate needs of children, it unfortunately lacks a clear strategy on how to change the quality of life of the children. The support is narrow in perspective. Rather, it would be more beneficial to pull resources together for the common good of the children, an initiative that can best be coordinated by government and local leaders.

Discussions with staff however revealed that while government administrators and other civil society actors were appreciative and supportive of the work by CRK the project has not received much support from local leaders, who are mandated to make policies and decide on budget allocations. It was for example reported that the reintegration process has previously received a backlash from some politicians who alleged that children should not be reintegrated because organisations receive money from donors to fully support the children. This suggests lack of knowledge and ignorance among such leaders. It would be to appraise and sensitize local leaders on what the project was doing and further continue lobbying for their support. In any case, CRK is only supplementing what the government and the leaders should actually be doing. If the government was fully on board as an active service provider,

then the project activities would automatically be anchored in permanent institutions. This would improve on the sustainability potential of most interventions.

### **3.6 Lessons learned and emerging good practices**

Some lessons have been learnt in the course of implementing this project. Key among them is that youth have the capacity and they are capable of taking charge of their lives. The only major hindrance to this is their low self-esteem. This therefore means that efforts to support youth on the streets needs to majorly focus on building their self-esteem. Secondly family workers have come to appreciate that to avoid losing out resources in the BIA and business grants supports most families will need more contact time that earlier expected. Further the project learnt that there was a difference between groups formed by youth on the streets and those by youth from slums areas. Groups by youth in the streets tended to be more problematic and took long to get organised. This meant that they needed more support and time compared to those in the slums.

Finally, group based support to building the capacity of youth was noted to be contributing to ownership of interventions among the youth and was possibly an emerging good practice in supporting such vulnerable youth. Similarly, support for families through BIA and tactical support seems to contribute towards improving the welfare of families. It also had potential to break the cycle of vulnerability that pushes children to the streets. This too was a potential candidate for an emerging good practice. It is proposed that the two emerging practices continue being monitored and subjected to more rigorous evaluation during the end line evaluation on whether the two will be good practices in this project, which can be replicated elsewhere.

**Unit  
4****MAIN CONCLUSIONS  
AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Undoubtedly, this project has made substantial progress in satisfying the set targets for the first half of the project period. These include successful reintegration of children and ensuring that children, both reintegrated and other vulnerable children are enrolled and retained in schools. The project prepares the rescued children for school at BRC before they are placed back home. Overall these children were reported to have improved in their education performance. This meets the objectives of outcome 1.

More youth groups have been established than the set target. The groups were slowly taking shape and growing. Leadership structures were forming, including building on consensus on the rules and regulations that govern them, which members respect. Members were accessing identity cards through the projects support which enabled them to access key services and avoid blatant harassment. Most importantly, the youths were regaining their self-esteem and most were reported to have reduced their drugs intake. Youth were enrolled for vocational training and groups supported to start businesses. Some had running businesses. All these would lead to improved incomes and sustainable living as envisaged in outcome 2.

Families had been supported with BIA and business grants support and parents and guardians reported increased incomes after adoption of new farming methods and diversification of business activities. The majority of families were able to provide for basic needs and school requirements for most of their children. This had improved relationships between children and their parents which is what was envisaged in outcome 3.

Finally, the evaluation notes that there are various lessons and immense knowledge emerging from the implementation of this project. While the logical flow in the process of reintegration had been anticipated and documented in the project design document, variations from what was anticipated have been experienced. These relate to the period of rehabilitation which varies from less than 30 days to more than six months, period of retention after reintegration, extent of follow up of reintegrated cases, period of support to families and youth among others. This is seen as learning curve for CRK. It is therefore imperative that this process is documented, firstly to inform future similar interventions, secondly to preserve the knowledge gained for current and future employees, thirdly to inform interventions by other actors and lastly to inform the advocacy and lobbying process. Ultimately, CRK's experiences should enable them define what successful reintegration is.

Based on the findings of this evaluation, the evaluation team proposes a number of recommendations which could improve the effectiveness of the project and ensure more sustainable outcomes. These are;

- i. There is need for the project to consider linking youth trained in skills and those supported with business grants as well as families supported with BIA and business grants with relevant institutions/structures for continuity now and after project closure. Relevant institutions include but not limited to: similar youth and women groups within the target community, Youth Enterprise Fund (YEF), Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) and Micro and Small Enterprises Authority implementing similar approaches in the community. These are mandated to promote entrepreneurship through training and financial support hence crucial in offering continuity to the supported beneficiaries. The linkage will ease pressure on the project, ensure intense support for newer beneficiaries in the project and possibly offer continued support after project closure
- ii. Similarly, while the group therapy approach for youth involved in drug abuse is commendable, their recovery was expected to take long and for some extend beyond the project period. To ensure continuity in the recovery efforts, the project should consider establishing closer linkages between the youth and relevant institutions and structures such as National Authority for the Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA), which works with government health facilities to support rehabilitation of people previously involved drug and alcohol abuse and existing community based organizations and youth groups working in rehabilitation of youth. This will complement the work the project is involved in and ensure continued support for recovering youth even after project closure.
- iii. In the view of the above recommendation CRK needs to conduct an assessment of relevant institutions and structures to support the linkages for the aforementioned recommendations. The assessment is expected to identify possible institutions and structure which can take such responsibilities of ensuring there is continuity in support of the youth and women in business and those youth recovering from drug abuse, the possible areas of linkage, responsibility CRK should play and process of linkage.
- iv. The overall quality of preparation of parents and guardians of children being reintegrated will need to be improved by ensuring more interaction of all involved prior to reintegration. Similarly, CRK should clearly identify and define what activities to be undertaken during the rehabilitation. At the minimum, all families where children are being reintegrated will need to be contacted and prepared, while subsequent contact and visits could be based on need basis.

- v. The use of available transportation resources will need to be reviewed to make them more efficient and useful. This may require hiring of an additional driver for the second car and encouraging staff to learn how to ride the available motorcycle. This will improve the outreach coverage by family workers and other project staff.
- vi. The project management and the advocacy officer will need to play a more aggressive role in appraising and sensitising the local leaders on the design and benefits of the Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (RRR) approach and consequently lobby the county and national governments to take a more active role in addressing the needs of street connected children in Kitale.
- vii. Peer to peer mistreatment was reported by a few children interviewed. To prevent this, confidential and accessible reporting mechanisms should be promoted. These could include speak out boxes which encourage reporting and guarantee confidentiality.
- viii. There is need to ensure that the same services available for boys at SS are also available for girls. Even though girls connected to the streets in Kitale are fewer compared to boys, services available at SS are less conducive for them. This may be denying them an opportunity to productively engage with SS staff and benefit like the boys. Deliberate efforts need to be made ensure the facility is useful to girls as well. This could be through securing additional space for girls, varying the time so that there are specific visiting hours for boys and for girls. This could increase the number of girls rescued.
- ix. Children and youth will need to be sensitised against the rush to register for national identity cards when still too young. While the IDs save them from some trouble, very early registration is counter-productive. If a 16 year old gets into conflict with the law and holds an ID, chances are that they will be treated as adults. Furthermore, a 16 year old would be expected to stop being a youth as defined in the National Youth Policy two years before the actual cut of age, and as such stop enjoying benefits that accrue to youth. Yet as children the law is quite protective of children and lenient on them. A project identity card may just serve them as well.
- x. To ensure accuracy of the data provided in terms of success in reintegration the consultant proposes a consistent quarterly review of the case of children reintegrated by the person tasked to undertake project reviews. In doing so, the designated person could select at least 4 random cases from the list of the reintegrated children and follow them up to their homes to ascertain the realization of the outcome indicators.



- xi. It is important for purposes of learning and consistency for CRK to define and document what the concept of Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration means to CRK based on their experience. The concept will entail issues such as; what is the mandatory entry age, period of rehabilitation, what are its approaches to rehabilitation, what does reintegration entail, what tools are used to document cases from rescues to reintegration etc. Key to this process will be to determine what successful reintegration is i.e. when we say that a case has been successfully being reintegrated.

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## LIST OF PEOPLE INTERVIEWED

### Children interviewed in Focus Group Discussions

Name	Age	Category	Where Interviewed
<b>Group 1</b>			
Quellen Kakai	19	On the Streets	Street Smart
Emanuel Barasa	17	On the Streets	Street Smart
Emmanuel Wanyonyi	17	On the Streets	Street Smart
Emmanuel Wangila	16	On the Streets	Street Smart
Caroline Naliaka	15	On the Streets	Street Smart
Dan Wekesa	14	On the Streets	Street Smart
Timothy Wasike	14	On the Streets	Street Smart
Joseph Kipkorir	14	On the Streets	Street Smart
Felix Juma	14	On the Streets	Street Smart
Isaac Wekesa	14	On the Streets	Street Smart
Timothy Ekiru	14	On the Streets	Street Smart
<b>Group 2</b>			
Stephen Maina	13	On the Streets	Street Smart
Emmanuel Looyan	11	On the Streets	Street Smart
Peter Wangila	11	On the Streets	Street Smart
Samson Mukwahana	13	On the Streets	Street Smart
Nicholas Wanjala	12	On the Streets	Street Smart
Kevin Wanjala	13	On the Streets	Street Smart
Shem Odero	13	On the Streets	Street Smart
Evans Kimtai	12	On the Streets	Street Smart
Alfred Kimtai	12	On the Streets	Street Smart
Kevin Musoma	12	On the Streets	Street Smart
Dennis Wafula	13	On the Streets	Street Smart
Moses Wanjala	12	On the Streets	Street Smart
Lavin Baraka	12	On the Streets	Street Smart
<b>Group 1</b>			
Sarah Keya	12	Undergoing Rehabilitation	Birunda Rehabilitation Centre
Mary Wanjiku	7	Undergoing Rehabilitation	Birunda Rehabilitation Centre
Sharon Akinyi	5	Undergoing Rehabilitation	Birunda Rehabilitation Centre
Tracy Faith	6	Undergoing Rehabilitation	Birunda Rehabilitation Centre
Lilian Akinyi	12	Undergoing Rehabilitation	Birunda Rehabilitation Centre
Esther Nekesa	10	Undergoing Rehabilitation	Birunda Rehabilitation Centre
Mercy Wafula	9	Undergoing Rehabilitation	Birunda Rehabilitation Centre
Hellen Amoi	15	Undergoing Rehabilitation	Birunda Rehabilitation Centre
Jescah Chepchumba	12	Undergoing Rehabilitation	Birunda Rehabilitation Centre
<b>Group 2</b>			
George Walela	12	Undergoing Rehabilitation	Birunda Rehabilitation Centre
Isaiah Nandwa	15	Undergoing Rehabilitation	Birunda Rehabilitation Centre
Samuel Wafula	13	Undergoing Rehabilitation	Birunda Rehabilitation Centre
Echwa Muya	12	Undergoing Rehabilitation	Birunda Rehabilitation Centre
Jackson Wenani	13	Undergoing Rehabilitation	Birunda Rehabilitation Centre
Frankline Walesi	14	Undergoing Rehabilitation	Birunda Rehabilitation Centre
Denis Simiyu	16	Undergoing Rehabilitation	Birunda Rehabilitation Centre
Joseph Simiyu	14	Undergoing Rehabilitation	Birunda Rehabilitation Centre
Brian Chole	11	Undergoing Rehabilitation	Birunda Rehabilitation Centre

### Children whose reintegration was not successful

Name	Age	Category	Where Interviewed
Samson Mukwana	13	Unsuccessful reintegration	Street Smart
Job Wekesa	15	Unsuccessful reintegration	Street Smart
Timothy Ekiru	14	Unsuccessful reintegration	Street Smart
Manuel Wamalwa	15	Unsuccessful reintegration	Street Smart

### Parent or Guardians of unsuccessful cases of reintegration

Name	Child
Metrine Chelagat	Elizabeth Nangoni
Eunice Boiti	Allan Kwemoi
Martha Halima	Joseph Nakain
Caroline Nelima	Brian Wafula
Lilian Chebet	Kevin Kibet
Priscah Nabangala	Malon Wafula
Alice Machuma	Milton Yohana
Moses Nyongesa	Samson Mukwana

### Stakeholders

Name	Organisation	Designation
Stephen Mule	Department of children Service	Children Officer
Rose Sabul	Kenya Police	Investigating officer
Mercy Kashagira	Daughters of Charity Kitale	Social Worker
Janet Mukhwana	Administration	Chief
Redemta Wekesa	TransNzoia County Government	Director of social services

### Project staffs (to be confirmed and completed)

Name	Designation
Ian Wilson	Director
Janet Kariuki	Programmes Manager
Erick Muchoge	Finance and Administration Officer
Mary Gatama	RC Programmes Development Officer
Violet Asale	BIA
Samuel Labolia	Family Worker
Judith Chepsigor	Family Worker
Juliet Keter	Social Worker
Duncan Wanjala	BIA
Jackline Namtaa	Family Worker
Sylvester Mbugua	Street Worker
Elizabeth Njeri	Street Worker
Stephen Baraza	Social Worker
Esther Chebet Kipkwai	Teacher
Violet Ndalilah	Child Care/ Teacher
Elkana Ndiema	Child Care/ Social Worker
Silas Bushuru	BIA
Sylvia Mwangi	Cook