

**NGOS' INTERVENTIONS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION OF  
STREET CHILDREN IN UGANDA: A CASE OF CHILD RESTORATION  
OUTREACH CROMBALE CITY**

**ELIZABETH AMONGIN**

**ES17/M31/001**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL  
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF  
DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK OF UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

**September, 2024**



**UGANDA CHRISTIAN  
UNIVERSITY**

*A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa*

## DECLARATION

I, AMONGIN ELIZABETH, declare that this piece of work is entirely my own creation and has not been submitted elsewhere for any Master of Social Work award at any University or higher institution of learning in Uganda. However, where necessary, due acknowledgments have been made.



Sign: ..... Date: September, 2024

**REG.NO. ES17/M31/001**

**Master of Social Work**

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to the Almighty God, the giver of life and from whom all Knowledge and wisdom comes. Without God, nothing that there is about this research and the entire course would have been possible. To Him be the glory!

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to humbly thank, with sincere gratitude the Almighty God for enabling me come this far with this piece of work. I must admit that if it was not the hand of God, I would not have reached this far. There were a lot of obstacles towards completion of this course but, Ebenezer; thus far has the Lord brought me.

I bless the Lord for my supervisor, Mr. Otim Odeng Francis for all the patience and sacrifice; without him I would have quit this race which was so challenging that I was at the point of surrendering when he took me up. I salute you Sir!

I also extend my gratitude to the research assistants; Janet Mukama (RIP), Denis Waneloba, Peter Wabwire, Mwanika Baker research assistants and all the participants and respondents for their cooperation otherwise I would not have successfully completed the exercise. I also want to appreciate with much humility the efforts and guidance of Mr. Sentamu Moses whose experience helped me to refine this work.

Finally, I want to profoundly appreciate my son Nathan Omiel who unreservedly provided me with a home to be when I was studying this Masters. He encouraged and prayed for me. May God richly bless you son.

## APPROVAL

I certify that this research was done by AMONGIN ELIZABETH under my supervision and is submitted with my approval.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Francis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sign: .....Date: 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2024

Name: MR. OTIM ODENG FRANCIS  
**SUPERVISOR**

## Table of Contents

DECLARATION .....	i
DEDICATION.....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	iii
APPROVAL .....	iv
LIST OF TABLES/CHARTS AND FIGURES.....	viii
LIST OF APPENDICES.....	ix
LIST OF ACRONYMS.....	x
ABSTRACT.....	xi
CHAPTER ONE .....	1
GENERAL INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND.....	1
1.1. Introduction .....	1
1.2. Background to the study .....	1
1.3. Statement of the Problem.....	8
1.4 Purpose of the study.....	9
1.5. Objectives of the study .....	9
1.6. Research questions.....	9
1.7. Scope of the study .....	9
1.8. Justification of the Study.....	11
1.9. Significance of the study.....	12
1.10. Research framework.....	13
1.10.1. Conceptual Framework .....	13
1.11. DEFINITION OF KEY CONCEPTS .....	15
CHAPTER TWO .....	17
LITERATURE REVIEW .....	17
2.1. Introduction .....	17
2.2. Street Children and NGO involvement.....	17
2.3. Interventions NGOs are using in the socio-economic transformation of street children.....	21
2.4. Contribution of NGO interventions on the socio-economic transformation of street children.....	25
2.5. Challenges street children face as a result of NGO interventions.....	29

<b>CHAPTER THREE.....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY.....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>3.1: Introduction .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>3.2. Research design.....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>3.3. Area of the Study .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>3.4. Sources of Information .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>3.5. Population and sampling techniques .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>3.5.2. Sampling and sampling techniques.....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>3.5.2.1. Sampling Techniques .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>3.5.2.2. Measurement Levels .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>3.5.2.3. Qualitative sampling technique .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>3.6. Data Collection Procedure .....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>3.7. Data Collection Instruments .....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>3.7.1.1. Questionnaires .....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>3.8. Quality and Error control .....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>3.9. Validity of the research instruments.....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>3.10. Reliability of the Research Instruments .....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>3.11. Data processing and Analysis .....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>3.12. Ethical considerations .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>3.13. Methodological constraints.....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>CHAPTER FOUR.....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>4.1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>4.2. Data of respondents .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>4.2.2. Sex of the Respondents .....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>4.2.3. Level of education .....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>4.2.4. Religious Affiliations of Respondents.....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>4.2.5. Period of being a street child.....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>4.3. CRO Interventions on the socio-economic transformation of street children .....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>4.4. CRO contribution on the socio-economic transformation of street children.....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>4.5. Challenges street children are experiencing as a result of NGO interventions.....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>CHAPTER FIVE.....</b>	<b>62</b>

<b>SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>5.1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>5.2. Summary .....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>5.3. Conclusions.....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>5.3.1. NGOs Interventions on the socio-economic transformation of street children .....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>5.3.2. The contribution of the NGO interventions on the socio-economic.....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>transformation of street children .....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>5.3.3. Challenges children are experiencing as a result of NGO interventions .....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>5.4. Recommendations.....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>5.5. Areas of future research .....</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1: CONSENT FORM .....</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2: QUESTIONAIRE.....</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>APPENDIX 3: IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR CRO ALLUMNI (INDIVIDUAL) .....</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>APPENDIX 4: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR PROBATION OFFICER.....</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>APPENDIX 5: OBSERVATION CHECKLIST FOR THE INTERVENTIONS OFFERED BY CRO TO STREET CHILDREN IN MBALE.....</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>APPENDIX 6: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NGO (CRO) OFFICIALS. INDEPTH INTERVIEWS .....</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>APPENDIX 7: GUIDELINES FOR INTERVIEWING CHILDREN .....</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>APPENDIX 8: COVID -19 STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES .....</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>APPENDIX 9: CRO CHILD PROTECTION GUIDELINES .....</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>APPENDIX 10: APPROVAL LETTER FROM THE UNIVERSITY .....</b>	<b>85</b>

## LIST OF TABLES/CHARTS AND FIGURES

Table 1:.....	Quantitative sample selection
Table 2: .....	Qualitative Sampling technique
Table 3:.....	Respondents' ages
Table 4:.....	Highest level of Education attained
Table 5:.....	Religious Affiliation of Respondents
Table 6:.....	Time spent with CRO
Table 7:.....	Interventions by CRO
Table 8:.....	Transformation of Street children
Table 9:.....	Challenges

### CHARTS

Chart 1:.....	Showing sex of respondents
Chart 2: .....	Showing time spent on the streets

### LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1:.....	Map of Mbale City
Figure 2:.....	Conceptual Framework
Figure 3:.....	Social Systems Framework

## LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: ..... Consent Form
- Appendix 2: ..... Questionnaire
- Appendix 3: ..... In-depth Guide for CRO Alumni
- Appendix 4: ..... Interview Guide for Probation Officer
- Appendix 5: ..... Observation Checklist
- Appendix 6: ..... Questionnaire for NGO officials
- Appendix 7: ..... Guidelines for interviewing children
- Appendix 8: ..... Covid-19 SOPs
- Appendix 9: ..... CRO Child Protection Guidelines
- Appendix 10: ..... Letter of Approval from University

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ANPPCAN	-	African Network for Prevention and Protection of Children Against Neglect
COVID-19	-	Corona Virus Disease 19
CRO	-	Child Restoration Outreach
CSC	-	Consortium for Street Children
CVI	-	Content Validity Index
FGD	-	Focus Group Discussions
KSCRC	-	Kisumu Street Children Rehabilitation Consortium
LCs	-	Local Councils
NGOs	-	Non-Government Organizations
OHCHR	-	Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights
SASCU	-	Save Street Children Uganda
SOPs	-	Standard Operating Procedures
Tdh	-	Terres de Hommes
UNICEF	-	United Nations International Children Emergency Fund
WHO	-	World Health Organization

## ABSTRACT

*This research was on NGOs interventions and socio-economic transformation of street children in Uganda: A case of Child Restoration Outreach (CRO) in Mbale City. The purpose was to explore interventions CRO was using for socio-economic transformation of street children; assess the contribution of such interventions on the socio-economic transformation of street children and establish challenges children experienced as a result of such interventions. The study used both quantitative and qualitative methods in collecting and analyzing data. Out of 80 children registered with CRO, 70 were found present. Using Yamane (1967) formula, a sample of 60 was selected. Data collection tools included interview guides, focus group discussions, and questionnaires. Purposive sampling was used to select key informants, while simple random sampling identified the street children who participated in the study. The findings revealed that CRO played a significant role in improving the lives of street children by providing shelter, meals, healthcare, covering their medical expenses. However, the study found out that CRO was unable to pay school fees for the children. Overall, the study concluded that CRO had a positive impact on street children's lives in Mbale City. The research recommended that the Ugandan government and other stakeholders create a supportive environment for all children, including street children, by offering supplementary funding to NGOs to address the issue of education. Additionally, the study urged the government to improve security in the Karamoja region, where many of the street children come from due to insecurity, and ensure food security in the area, as famine is one of the factors driving Karamojong children to the streets of Mbale.*

## CHAPTER ONE

### GENERAL INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

#### 1.1. Introduction

Street children are children of both sexes who spend all or most of their time on the streets, and maintain insignificant contact or none at all with their families. Many NGOs in the urban areas of Uganda have interventions geared towards improving the livelihoods of the street children. This study examines NGOs interventions and the socio-economic transformation of street children. This chapter presents background to the study, statement of the problem, objectives and research questions.

#### 1.2. Background to the study

Street children, as defined by researchers and non-governmental organizations are individuals below 18 years, spend a significant amount of time on the streets, have limited contact with their families, lack clear addresses, and lack supervision, protection, and guidance. This leaves them vulnerable to various health and psychological threats (Koraim, A. & Hussein, N. 1998). Factors such as economic growth, poverty, conflict, erosion of traditional values, family violence, and abuse contribute to their marginalized status in society. Street children often lack proper connections with essential institutions for child development, such as family, education, and health. Their exposure to harsh environments and unconventional lifestyles makes them prone to substance use, particularly alcohol and other psychoactive substances, posing threats to their overall well-being. Moreover, the

stigma attached to street children leads them to view health and social services with suspicion (Ojelabi & Oyewole, 2012).

Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) are entities that are autonomous from government. They are usually nonprofit and many of them are involved in humanitarian activities which include provision of social services. These also include clubs and associations providing services to their members and others. NGOs are understood as having a high level of public trust, making them a preferred alternative for addressing the concerns of society and stakeholders. Perceived as nonprofit entities, they are quite often independent of government influence, although they may sometimes receive funding from government (Church, J., 2021). CRO is one such an NGO, a local organization working to address the plight of street children in Uganda. The suffering of street children is a global phenomena that has contributed to a number of issues for millions of youngsters throughout the world (UNICEF, 2007).

World over, street children are sidelined in society, facing harsh conditions including hunger, physical abuse, deprivation of basic needs such as education and health care (Pasolin, 2016). She further observes that a combination of economic, social, political and cultural factors including migration force children into the streets. Chimdessa (2022) also finds that youngsters turn to the streets for economic reasons such as poverty, family problems, orphanhood, peer pressure, or parental pressure.

While on the street, the children survive by stealing, begging, or working in the informal economy, where income is sometimes poor (Zena & Aneth, 2010).

Accordingly, the nature and the lifestyle street children live make it difficult to compute accurate figures about them. In the mid-1990s the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF came up with an estimate of approximately 100 million street children worldwide with that number steadily increasing (Cumber et al, 2015). The phenomenon of the street children is growing alongside the increasing world population with 40 million street children in Latin America, and at least 18 million in India (Parveen, 2016). However, the United Nations contends that there are approximately 150 million and that the number is increasing by the day (Kevin, 2015). The age bracket ranges between 3 to 18 years, with 40% of them being totally homeless, while 60% are part-time workers on the streets (Amnesty International, 1999). Some are sent out by their impoverished parents to do menial jobs or beg. According to studies, the majority of street children are males aged 10 to 14, with younger ones being the most impacted (Amnesty International, 1999; Shahina Parveen, 2016).

Street children face various challenges as they struggle for survival. The greatest, having to deal with the public perceptions and the treatment they are subjected to (OHCHR, 2011). Quite often, they are also seen as outcasts rather than children to be nurtured and protected; being fought and socially harassed through numerous forms of social control, thus sidelining them and placing them in a condition of bewilderment. The most disturbing aspect is that street children endlessly suffer from physical, sexual and psychological abuses, majority often being victims of child trafficking for cheap labor and sexual exploitation. Their vulnerability to a series of challenges and risks points to a major feature of their daily life (UNICEF, 2007). Hutchison (2010) observes that the daily life of street child is similar to living in an enemy territory.

The level of poverty in which millions of children around the world grow is not only unacceptable by the standards of the Convention on the Rights of the Child but grossly unwarranted because they in turn transfer this poverty unfortunately to the future generations of their children. Investing in health, education and much more to such children under hazardous conditions is not only ethical, moral and economic but political as well because these children are a foundation for generations to come (Povian, 2015).

In areas where there is armed conflict, the number of children living and working on the streets has skyrocketed, for example Freetown (Sierra Leone) and Monrovia (Liberia) where parents and care givers have been killed, the economy disrupted and family as well as community ties severed; the increasing population in the rural areas being beyond the carrying capacity of the land (Bogale, 2015). Street children in Ethiopia are considered a national plague, with over 100,000 of them living and/or working on the streets, around 2,555 of whom are in Ethiopia (Bogale 2015). The Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs, 2007) in a study supported by UNICEF estimated the average numbers of children on the streets of Ethiopian cities at nearly 150,000 with approximately 60,000 of them living in the capital city (UNICEF, 2012). In South Africa, for example, it is estimated that 250,000 children and adolescents live on the street (Boniface and Rosenberg, 2019). Several of them are in major cities, such as Durban, South Africa's second biggest city (StatSA, 2014). Street children were initially recognized in East Africa, specifically Kenya, in the early 1960s, and their numbers have since risen (Musenene, 2021). Approximately 350,000 children are seen filling the streets every day. Every day, 30,000 people are found in Nairobi alone. The same

situation is not different in Rwanda where families have been put in restricted planned accommodation leading to families going to urban centres in search of employment (Ochola, 2010).

In Kenya, street children are a vulnerable category and project a phenomenon that is heart-rending. They warn that if not well handled, they could cause a security risk to the country. Currently, Nairobi city and other urban centers in Kenya face the challenge of groups of children sluggishly strolling around the streets. Some of them have grown into adults, resulting into the emergence of street families. According to the Directorate for Children Services, the current amount is between 60,000 and 80,000. Even after Kenyan government declared free universal education the problem is still seen to persist (Kisirkoi, 2016). Many children find themselves living on the streets due to hostile conditions in their homes. It is noteworthy that a considerable number of these children encounter ongoing mistreatment not only from their families but also from law enforcement, sex tourists, and even fellow street-dwellers. CSC is actively fundraising to offer grants to its local partners in Tanzania, aiming to support their efforts in implementing effective measures to prevent violence against street children.

In Uganda, the presence of street children was initially recorded in the early 1970s, a consequence of a civil war that left more than 800,000 orphans (Bwambale, 2021). According to a 2013 survey by ANPPCAN, approximately 10,000 street children were estimated to be in Uganda, signifying a 70% rise since 1993. Moreover, an average of 16 new children were reported to be joining the streets of Kampala daily (Kalezi, 2022). James Jacobs et al (2004) state that Uganda having been immensely affected by the

HIV/AIDS epidemic in the 1980s and 1990s, experienced the highest incidence of children left orphaned due to AIDS, resulting in a significant influx of children seeking refuge on the streets. They further note that street children often times are seen as deficient of societal norms; despite the efforts that have been made to change their behavior, they are trapped in a relentless cycle of despair. (Kawala et al, 2020) contend that, despite economic and political growth, Uganda fails to address the needs of street children due to a lack of government assistance in the form of financial allocations.

Founded in 2005, Save A Street Child Uganda (SASCU) aims for a society where no child resides on the streets. The organization targets children in underprivileged communities characterized by elevated instances of child labor, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. SASCU endeavors to offer these children temporary care and protection through a rehabilitation process that includes reuniting them with their families.

(Save Street Children Uganda official website ([sascu.org](http://sascu.org))). Retrak in Uganda is reaching out to street children by providing them with food, medical care, clothing, hygiene and shelter which they so greatly need. Additionally, they address the reasons why children come on the streets by helping families to reconcile, enabling children to complete their education or gain vocational skills as well as provide means to earn sustainable income. This long-term approach is seen to work as three-quarters of the children make a decision to remain home rather than return to the streets (Retrak Annual report, 2018).

Uganda possesses one of the largest youth populations globally, with over 56 percent of its 37 million residents being under the age of 18. Furthermore, over 52 percent of the population is living in poverty. According to civil society organizations, local government officials and police officers assigned to the Child and Family Protection Unit are tasked with prioritizing the well-being of children. Nevertheless, there is an increasing number of Ugandan children residing on the streets (Yiga, 2018). Even though family-focused care is optimal for children, a considerable number of children in Uganda face the possibility of separation from their families. Many families grapple with challenges in adequately caring for, protecting, and supporting their children, jeopardizing both their immediate well-being and long-term development. Poverty is noted as a significant contributing factor to the vulnerability of families and children, exposing them to various risks, including child-family separation. This vulnerability often coexists with other factors such as abuse, violence, neglect, family violence, parental substance use, illness or loss, and physical or mental health issues among caregivers or children, as well as additional stressors (Selleck et al, 2018).

In Mbale City, Child Restoration Outreach is the only NGO with a focus on supporting street children. Founded in 1992, as a result of the influx of children on the streets of Mbale due to the civil war in the northeastern part of Uganda and cattle rustling in the Karamoja region, their interventions have been in the areas of rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration as well as formal education and vocational training among others. They note that in the late 1980s to mid-1990s, it was civil strife that led to children coming on the streets but from late 90s to date, HIV/AIDS and poverty became the main contributors (Young, 2004).

### **1.3. Statement of the Problem**

The increasing number of street children is a universally growing problem, it is estimated that about 150 million children are on the street worldwide (Community Children Worldwide Resource Library, 2010) with 30 percent of these coming from Sub-Saharan Africa. Ugandan cities are home to an estimated 15,000 street children, a figure which is likely higher according to Bwambale et al. (2021), who noted the majority of these children reside in Mbale, Iganga, Jinja, and Kampala. An earlier study by Retrak (2018) estimated over 18,000 children living and begging on the streets of Uganda, suggesting the number is steadily increasing. In Mbale, the Retrak study identified 578 children living permanently on the streets and an additional 4,039 children working on the streets before returning to slum neighborhoods. Child Restoration Outreach (CRO) data further revealed a significant rise in street children in Mbale, with numbers growing from 3,248 in 2016 to 5,326 in 2020, representing a 64% increase in five years. Despite these rising figures, CRO data also shows a decline in the number of children reached by their interventions, from 827 in 2016 to 477 in 2019, reflecting a 40% drop. These statistics imply that there is a decreasing trend in the number of street children reached out by CRO which has led to increased street children on the streets of Mbale city. If this trend is not addressed timely, we shall continue to witness street theft, insecurity and continued moral degradation around the city, this study therefore was carried out to assess CRO's interventions on the socio-economic transformation of street children and to better understand the effectiveness of these measures and identify areas where further action is needed.

#### **1.4 Purpose of the study**

The purpose of the study was to examine NGOs' interventions on the socio-economic transformation of street children in Mbale City.

#### **1.5. Objectives of the study**

1.5.1 To explore interventions CRO is using for socio-economic transformation of street children in Mbale City.

1.5.2 To assess the contribution of CRO interventions on the socio-economic transformation of street children in Mbale City.

1.5.3 To establish the challenges street children are experiencing as a result of CRO interventions in Mbale City.

#### **1.6. Research questions**

1.6.1. What kind of interventions does CRO use for the socio-economic transformation of street children?

1.6.2. How has CRO contributed to the socio-economic transformation of street children in Mbale City?

1.6.3 What challenges have street children experienced as a result of CROs' interventions?

#### **1.7. Scope of the study**

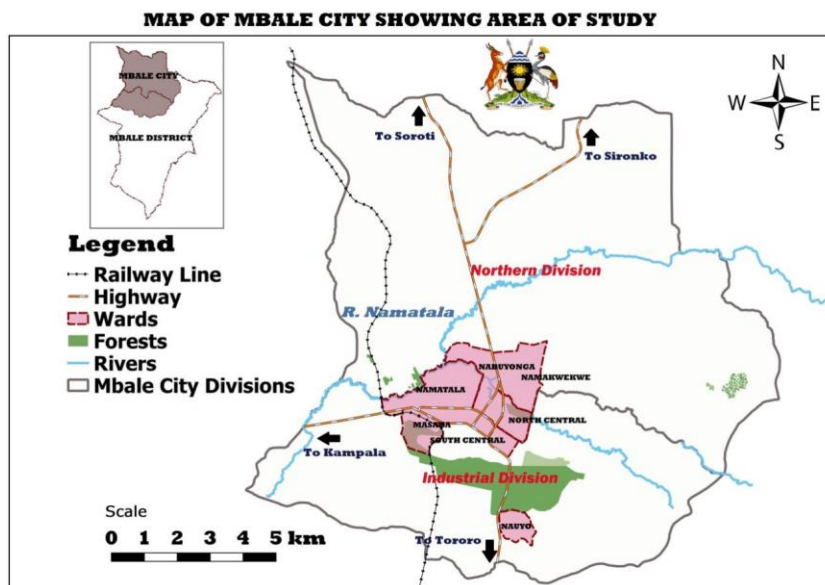
##### **1.7.1. Geographical Scope**

The study was conducted in Mbale City, Eastern Uganda. Mbale city is a cosmopolitan business hub that attracts various groups of people from the neighbouring districts and two major boarder points with Kenya. Mbale is a mature eastern capital for the

surrounding rural districts situated at the foothill of mountain Elgon, a product of volcanic action and located 00° 57'N 34° 20'E.

Mbale city consists of two Divisions; Industrial and Northern which are constituencies. Industrial Division has four wards namely; Malukhu, Masaba, Namatala, North central and South-central. Northern Division has six wards which include; IUIU, Nabuyonga, Namakwekwe, Nkoma, North-central and Nauyo Town Council. For the purpose of this study, the researcher specifically considered the following wards in the two divisions, Namatala, Nabuyonga, Namakwekwe, Masaba, north central and south central where CRO is located but also where street children are visibly found.

Figure 1: Map of Mbale City



### 1.7.2. Content Scope

The study examined the effects of CRO interventions on street children more specifically the changes in the lives of street children. It specifically examined interventions by CRO and how the street children responded to such programmes. Such interventions included; rescuing children from street, resettlement, formal & informal

education, feeding, recreation, psychosocial support, Medical care, and networking. It also looked at the level of transformation as a result of CRO involvement in the lives of street children such as children settled at home and at school, children leaving street habits such as drug use, accepting to study and completing school with gainful employment and becoming role models in society. It explored possible negative effects of such interventions such as children may return to the streets after resettlement, refuse to go back home, drop out of school, refuse services by the NGOs or become hardened on the streets.

### **1.7.3. Time scope**

The study was limited to 2018 - 2021. According to the enumeration exercise carried out by Retrak in 2018, there were over 4000 street children in Mbale city and this number is seen to increase steadily (Retrak, 2018a).

### **1.8. Justification of the Study**

This study was undertaken because of the growing number of street children in Mbale city who are a social problem in town especially in the night hours. There are not many NGOs addressing the issue apart from Child Restoration Outreach, a local Christian NGO that has been the only one having interventions towards street children while others support the children indirectly. Despite their interventions, children are still many and the numbers are rapidly increasing on the streets of Mbale city (Retrak, 2018b). Therefore, the research sought to establish the kind of interventions CRO has adopted, the extent to which they have addressed the vice and reveal the challenges that street

children have encountered that makes their number continue to grow on the streets despite interventions by NGOs such as CRO.

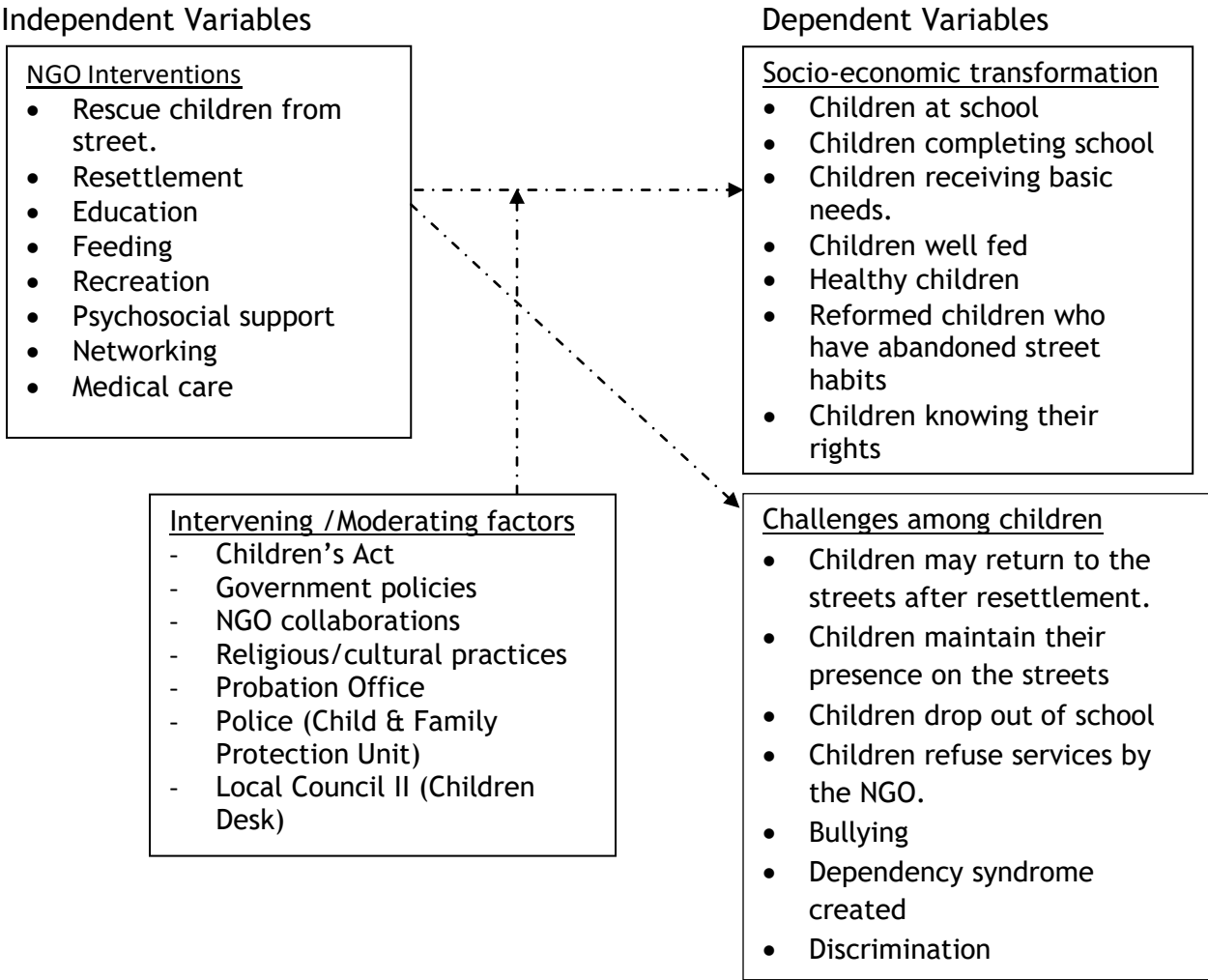
### **1.9. Significance of the study**

The findings of this research sought to identify the shortfalls in the interventions by NGOs to address this challenge and recommend ways to bridge the gaps. The research majorly sought to understand the interventions the NGO uses in socio-economic transformation of street children. The study put a spotlight on the challenges street children experience as a result of NGO interventions. The results of the study will serve as a foundation for future research, building upon the identified gaps and the literature presented in the findings. This will add to the current body of knowledge on the subject of street children. The research will also lead to the completion of the prerequisites for the award of Master of Social Work degree of Uganda Christian University.

**1.10. Research framework**

**1.10.1. Conceptual Framework**

**Figure 2:** Conceptual frame work showing relationship between the NGOs’ interventions and the socio-economic transformation of street children.



Source: Adopted from Agosin, M. & Mayer, R. (2000)

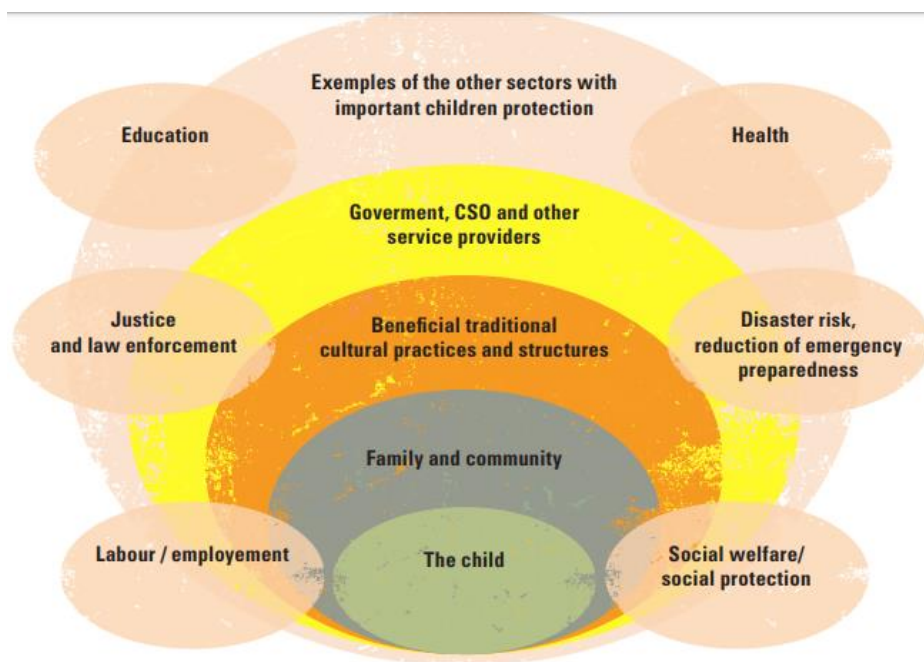
## **Explanation**

The figure above shows the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variables where the intervention once fully given attention to would lead to the desired outcomes such as street children evacuated from the streets, living in a safe environment at home resettled, nurtured, protected and in good health with all basic needs provided. All these can be achieved when all the actors in the intervening variables play a lead role in the mitigation of violation of children's rights as indicated in the above framework. However, despite such interventions, there could still be a possibility that some children may not positively respond to NGO interventions. The social systems theory explains these interventions clearly where no single entity can solely address the challenge of children on the streets but rather collaboration between and among various actors as shown in the conceptual framework above.

### **1.10.2. Theoretical Framework**

This research employed the social systems theory in understanding the interplay between the different systems. The concept of social systems theory can be captured in the idea that 'the entirety of a system exceeds the combined impact of its individual components.' This approach emphasizes the evolution and alteration of systems, highlighting their interdependence and interactions. The social systems theory highlights the importance of interactions, interconnectedness, interdependence, and transactions among different systems (Chung, 2016). For instance, in providing education to street children, the NGO will work with the education sector to integrate children into school system; medical institutions for health, as illustrated below.

**Figure 3: Social systems framework**



**Developed by Terres des homes, 2024**

The above framework illustrates how the different systems work together in addressing child related issues. Therefore, it clearly explains how the various interventions are interlinked and jointly moderated by the various intervening factors.

### **1.11. DEFINITION OF KEY CONCEPTS**

#### **Non-Government Organization (NGO)**

There is no generally accepted definition of an NGO and the term carries different meanings in different circumstances. As matter of fact, an NGO is deemed to be independent from the direct control by a government of any sort. However, there are three other largely accepted features that exclude certain categories of bodies from consideration. An NGO will not be established as a political party; but non-profit

making and should not be associated with crime. It must also be non-violent (willet, 2006).

### **Street Child**

Any boy or girl, whose whole life and livelihood is on the street; working and sleeping on the street without any supervision and protection from responsible adults (Panter-Brick, 2002). However, this study considered street children as those girls and boys between the age of 13 to 17 years whose entire life is spent on the streets of Mbale.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1. Introduction

This chapter contains review of literature on the concept of NGOs, their socio-economic interventions on street children, the contribution of NGO interventions on the socio-economic transformation of street children and challenges street children are experiencing as a result of NGO interventions.

#### 2.2. Street Children and NGO involvement

Any girl or boy who has made the street (in the clearest way, including abandoned homes, barren land, etc.) their primary residence and/or means of subsistence and who is not receiving adequate protection, supervision, or guidance from responsible adults is classified as a street child (Hakim and Talukder, 2016a). They separate the street kids into two groups. The first category is "Youngsters of the Street," which refers to homeless children who rely on metropolitan streets for both sleeping and living.

The second classification refers to "Street Children," who both work and reside there during the day before going home to sleep at night, though some of them do occasionally do so (Taiwo, 2022). However, there is no obvious difference between the two classes because they frequently veer beyond their fundamental description: While some children on the streets often choose to live there, others might still maintain connections with their families (Dutta, 2018).

The description of "street children" provided by the United Nations is also accepted by (Hakim and Talukder, 2016b). In light of this, they observe that all kids found in or on

the street would fall under this description. These kids must have been seen spending a significant amount of time on the street. They are typically divided into groups according to the street activities they engage in. Street children are defined by NGOs and researchers as individuals under the age of 18 who live most of their lives on the street, have little or no communication with their families, and lack parental guidance, safety, or guidance, leaving them open to a variety of health as well as psychological dangers (Koraim, A. & Hussein, N. 1998b).

In many societies, street children constitute a marginalized group that faces challenges arising from economic development, conflict, poverty, the erosion of traditional values, marital violence, and both physical and emotional abuse. They lack connections to vital childhood institutions such as family, education, and health, which are deemed appropriate by society. Their exposure to harsh environments and the nature of their lifestyle make them vulnerable to substance abuse, further compromising their overall well-being. The majority of these children engage in alcohol and other psychoactive drug consumption in various locations. Additionally, they experience discrimination and harbor misgivings about social and health services (Ojelabi & Oyewole, 2012b).

The phenomena of children in street situations have many interconnected aspects that make it difficult to pinpoint causes. It is also useless to try to find a single cause that may serve as a general explanation for the phenomenon. The various mixes of economic, social, and political elements at play in local situations shape the dynamics. They also contend that urbanization has a significant negative impact on social interactions, education, health, and housing while taxing an already underfunded public sector. Slums and impoverished neighborhoods develop without the necessary

infrastructure and, in certain instances, are rife with urban violence, which renders it more common for people to live on the streets. Children are compelled to select between family and the community because of financial constraints (Puffer et al 2014). Between these two worlds, children travel back and forth. Because of their extreme movement, it is difficult to collect accurate statistics on these kids. They are not always living on the streets; they may also spend much time in institutions or prison, visit their family shortly, participate in project activities, or be forced to transfer from one location to another. Different classifications are used in the literature, including "street children," "on the street," "without shelter," "at risk," "in dispute with the police," and "in particularly tough situations." These are different but related categories that cannot be compared or combined (Terre des hommes, 2010).

There are a lot of young people and children who are engaged with the streets all over the world. No exact estimates of the number of children and youths who spend most or all of their waking hours on the streets exist due to the challenges of counting and defining this very unstable group; however, they are believed to be in the tens to hundreds of Children and kids with street ties have been characterized in a variety of ways (<https://www.streetchildren.org/>).

Previously, the United Nations Children's Fund characterized street children and youth as "[a]ny girl or boy who has not reached maturity, who has, in the broadest sense, established the street as their habitual residence and/or source of livelihood, and who lacks sufficient protection, guidance, and supervision from responsible adults." These kids, who work and reside on the streets, were further divided into three groups. The terms "children of the street," "children on the street," and "children from street

families" refer to children from families who live on the streets. Children of the street are those who spend all their life on the street with almost no contact with their families. Children on the street spend part of the day or most of the day on the street (ibid). In their report titled, "Protection and promotion of the rights of children trying to work and/or living on the street," the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) argues that children living and/or working in the streets should not be viewed as a social issue but rather as full-fledged individuals with the potential to positively impact society. They must be capable of taking part.

### **Street children and their livelihood**

The livelihood of street children is found to be complicated as a study by Alem (2016), examined the survival mechanisms of street children in Africa and found that, 1.045 % of the street children were involved in begging for survival, 4.13% were engaged in street vending, and 7.68% engaged in daily labour for survival. More findings from other parts of the world like South America show that street children equally begged to survive with statistics standing at 0.66% of the total population of the study, 2.13% were engaged in daily labour, and 8.54% were engaged in gang activity as a means of survival. The findings in Asia also indicate that 8.81% of the street children begged to survive, 30.18% were involved in daily labour, and 11.06% relied on street vending. Furthermore a study by Kamruzzaman (2017), showed that 64.35 of the street children in Bangladesh survived by begging and that they were begging due to poverty while 34.155 were forced beggars.

A study by Fusein and Daniel (2020), found that child beggars in India are only paid 10% of what they beg on a daily basis. This is supported by (Zoumanigui, 2016), who argues that forced begging is documented in Senegal and that children are paid, but that this is coerced/forced begging where the street children have no choice but to agree to the demands of their superiors. It is projected that there are about 168 million child beggars (Avis, 2017), while there are approximately 50,000 child beggars in Senegal. Such numbers speak to the magnitude of the problem of street children.

### **2.3. Interventions NGOs are using in the socio-economic transformation of street children.**

According to Alem (2016), the history of NGOs in relation to their interventions in the lives of street children dates back to the period after the First World War in the southern states of the United States of America. The aim of the NGOs was to intervene in the many situations that were characterized by destitution as a result of having many children lose parents in the war, and had no one to look after them (Van Buggenhout, 2015). This social work role was extended to the Northern states of the United States of America. Since then NGOs have grown in number, and according to the United Nations, ([www.un.org](http://www.un.org) 2022) there are over 5451 international registered NGOs, with over 125 international NGOs working on the rights of children. UNICEF as a global body which aims at fighting for the rights of children operates in over 190 countries (UNICEF, 2022).

With increased globalization, there have emerged new challenges leading to the increasing number of street children in Africa with International Labour Organization estimating the figures to be over 150 million street children

([www.humanium.org/en/street-children](http://www.humanium.org/en/street-children)). Governments in Africa have not been very responsive to the needs of street children which has created a situation where street children have looked like they are neglected (Musabyimana, 2018). To this end, NGOs have been at the center of intervening to ameliorate the plight of street children in Africa and Uganda at large. A qualitative study by Bogale (2015a), found that the governments in Africa needed to supplement the efforts of NGOs by way of passing policies that were to address the street children dilemma through various approaches. More inclusive policies would ensure that some of the causes of street children are addressed through inclusive education policies that are to cut across the economic landscape to create equity (Bogale, 2015b).

NGOs in India have gone as far as providing education to the street children of school going age so that more awareness is created regarding the dangers of street children among stakeholders and other members of the community. According to Oxfam India's website (2022), over 1081 street children were enrolled in school by Oxfam, an international NGO. Oxfam argues that NGOs are in existence to supplement government efforts in development by way of empowering the underprivileged members of society. The challenges faced by street children include psychosocial, physical and sexual abuse have been widely discussed by Zarezadah (2013), who posits that intervention into the needs of street children is very challenging since a single NGO can never solve all the needs of street children. Despite the challenges, many registered NGOs have been responsive to this call. A study carried out by Duta (2018) found that NGOs in India responded to the need for healthcare for the street children by organizing health checkup camps for the street children. Latko and Battle (2016) note that some NGOs in

India operate day care centers to address the problem of street children. The above study also notes that other countries like Latvia and Czech Republic have NGOs that operate day care centers which provide similar services. However according to some district ordinances in Uganda it is criminal for NGOs to extend help to street children as this is thought to encourage street children to remain on the street as argued by the authorities. However some civil society actors don't agree with the government position as they believe that many children are on the streets because they are driven by poverty (Bwambale et al, 2021).

A study by But (2017), notes that because of the presence of faith based NGOs, social work practice in India has been reinforced and this has enabled the many street children to be served. The presence of the faith based NGOs has supplemented the efforts of the government of India in addressing the street child dilemma (Pandya, 2017). A study by Fonsake and Malhotra (2020), note that social work practice by faith based organizations has enabled many street children who are former drug abusers to realize the purpose of life and thus be productive in society.

Some governments like the Czech Republic have partnered with NGOs to create programs and train street social workers to detect their own youngsters as well as locations where children congregate in the streets so as to be able to rehabilitate them and enable them to join their families (Sidor and Abdellaziz, 2020). Also the study notes that in Czech Republic, local radio advertising, newspapers, basic instructions, and social media sites are used to draw street children to the institution. In the outreach work practices of Latvia, India, and the Czech Republic, street children are identified through a variety of channels, which include engaging with school social

pedagogues, the police, family physicians, day care facilities, and just going out into the streets.

The documented NGOs that are dedicated to working on the issues of street children in Uganda include, Save Street Children Uganda (SASCU), Plan International, Save the Children, Child Fund, World Vision, SOS Children's Home, Compassion International, Terres des homes (<https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/>). The above listed NGOs provide education to over 1.5 million children in Uganda schools ([www.globalgiving.org/projects/support](http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/support)). The above observation is in agreement with (Dutta,2018), who states that Education as a component of NGO support activities to street children remain the same worldwide since it is fundamental to the transformation of street children. However some of the education programmes offered to street children is sometimes not consistent as the inadequate funding affects the completion of education programmes which affects job prospects in the future rendering them economically incapacitated (Cumber & Tsoka-Gwegweni, 2015). The age of the target group affects the type of interventions used. When it comes to programs for young children, the emphasis is on basic support, school and family reintegration, while programs for teenagers comprise legal defense, job training, housing, and sexual health.

### **Addressing Deviance**

According to Mccaghy et al (2016), NGOs have a an uphill task always to climb while dealing with street children owing to the fact that these children usually are deviant in nature having come into contact with fellow deviants on the streets who initiate them into the life on the streets. The above submission is well explained by the social

learning theory and social bonding theory by Bandura (2019). Because of the search for identity and acceptance, young people are easily convinced to take up unacceptable behavior so as to fit in the group. Such behavior is usually characterized by violence, drug abuse, prostitution, theft and other forms of criminality (Smetana et al 2015). According to the National center for Drug abuse statistics, Children on the streets often use drugs as a way to cope with the rigors of being on the streets and to numb the pain. According to studies, up to 90% of youth sleeping on the streets use drugs, alcohol, nicotine, heroin, cannabis, and widely available industrial products such shoe glue (United Nations organization world Drug report 2021).

#### **2.4. Contribution of NGO interventions on the socio-economic transformation of street children**

According to Van Raemdock and Sedat-Khan (2017), in their study found that an NGO in South Africa utilized a generalist service model for street children, and was able to successfully achieve some of its goals of rehabilitating street children. Utilizing a qualitative approach, the researchers interviewed 15 former street children who gave their comparison of the situation when they were still on the street and after they were integrated into the I CARE project of street child rehabilitation. All the fifteen former street children are grateful that the NGO was able to identify them and enrolled them on the rehabilitation programme which also included skilling them through handwork and other life skills. They state that life on the streets was terrible as they could hardly afford basic needs of life. However this situation changed after the NGO took care of their needs. All the fifteen were supported by the NGO until they studied and graduated from universities in South Africa with degrees. They are now productive

members of society. The above narrative is not a stand-alone situation as there are other success stories backed by statistical evidence to prove that NGOs have impacted positively the lives of street children. A case in point is the NGO in the United Kingdom, known as Street Child which has supported over 200,000 street children by way of providing for them basic necessities of life but also supports those street children who are talented to go on and realize their potential by way of empowering them ([www.streetchildren.org](http://www.streetchildren.org)). The same story is replicated by NGOs in Africa as they have registered tremendous success in interventions on the lives of street children (Mathews, 2017). Data from Ethiopia shows that 359,960 street children were supported by a total of twelve NGOs who majorly provided feeding and health provision to street children, while Abebech Gobena Orphan and School has supported 2,50,832 street children through education (Alem, & Laha, 2016). This points to the fact that some NGOs have the capacity to support relatively large numbers of street children while others can support a small number due to given factors like the capacity to support the activities of the NGO.

Because of NGO efforts, remarkable change was recorded in the lives of street children in Nepal (Risa, 2018a). She posits that different strategies are applied by social workers to see to it that behavior patterns are changed for the better (Risa, 2018b). For example if the street children are found to be in company of criminals, an effective approach is employed to ensure that first the street children are detached from bad company, and secondly, their needs are addressed but also values and virtues are instilled into them. It is not a one day event, but that many sessions and close monitoring happens to ensure that positive change is observed (Alem, 2016b). She says

love and care for the street children is key in causing change. Most NGOs that are working with children try to make the street children to feel loved by way of providing material help. However parental love to children can only be provided by parents (Oppong Asante 2016). In a qualitative study, Oppong Asante argues that parental love is irreplaceable for the well-being of children. This brings to the fact that NGOs should focus more on enabling street children to find the right identity in regard to family belonging.

Furthermore, upon completing education, the former street children are supported by the NGOs that supported them to complete education to find jobs so that they can live functional lives and be of help to other members of society. A clear example is one provided by Good Samaritan, an NGO in Kenya which supported a number of former street children during their education and even found them job placements (Nyambane, 2017). The findings by Nyambane are also supported by Rezaule (2017), who conducted a study in Vietnam and found that the NGO was going out of its way to find jobs for the former street children it served. However, Rezaule argues that most NGOs that find jobs for their former clients are those that are faith based and those operating in stopping human trafficking. Most of the former clients upon qualifying as lawyers, teachers and respectable members of society end up taking the active role of activists against the named criminal activities.

Children living on the streets often undergo a positive transformation when they interact with social workers at shelters. As they reside in the shelter or work on rebuilding trust, they acquire essential survival skills. The crucial turning point is when a child decides to change behavior and rebuild trust with adults or a social worker. This

process involves the child engaging in communication with others, fostering the development of trusting relationships. The child's behavior shifts towards a more positive role, breaking free from previous reserved and shy tendencies. Once trust is restored, the adult/social worker-child relationship opens up better opportunities for the child's self-image and identity. Ultimately, shelters maintain a semblance of family structure among street children through cooperation, provision of food and shelter, and mutual care and support (Amanda Friberg & Viktoria Martinsson, 2017).

A mid-term review of the Children in Safe Spaces Program was completed in January with assistance from ERIKS. "The project results are observed at many levels...at church level and household level," the evaluator stated. Positive benefits have been shown in children themselves; they are now (more) aware of their rights and have developed life skills including assertiveness, confidence, public speaking, and effective communication. The project was deemed to be effective in large part when comparing what it set out to do to what it had already accomplished. The project is addressing the fundamental needs and issues affecting children living in homes and on the streets (CRANE, 2018). A study by Nyambane reveals that NGOs like Good Samaritan Home in Kenya and the African circle for hope have successfully supported a total of 60 former street children up to completing university education by earning degrees and diplomas which has increased their chances of getting formal employment and living normal lives. Such efforts point to a positive impact by NGOs on members of society.

## **2.5. Challenges street children face as a result of NGO interventions**

There has been a noted increment in the number of NGOs in Africa which has led to the duplication of services in some areas. For example in South Africa alone, the record shows that there are over 200,000 registered non-profit organizations (Kentse, 2020), and in Kenya there has been an abnormal increment of NGOs by 400% between 1997 and 2006, while currently there are over 10,000 NGOs in Kenya (Kenya NGO Board, 2023). A study by Nkomo and Mporu (2022) reveals that in certain urban areas, there has been a rise in the number of drop-in centers that provide food, washing facilities, clothing, and recreational amenities. This has occasionally led to a competitive dynamic among agencies vying for the attention of children. Mporu highlights the concern that these centers might merely enable children to sustain their street lifestyles, encouraging them to seek out the best deals without addressing their broader situation or considering alternative options. This welfare-oriented approach is costly and may prove challenging to sustain. Some organizations, like CHETNA in India, reject this approach, opting not to fulfill the daily needs of children but instead concentrating on their protection.

A study by (Onyiko, 2015) notes that institutionalizing children by NGOs has become a big problem in society. Street children who reside in short or long-term residential facilities undergo skill development activities to facilitate their integration into mainstream society. The goal is to reintegrate them with their families or find alternative living arrangements. However, there are potential risks associated with the institutionalization of these children in residential facilities, especially if their stays are

prolonged. Additionally, there is a risk that they may revert to street life when they age out of these facilities (CSC survey report, 2011).

A study by (Brass et al, 2018) found out that a number of NGOs function with minimal staffing due to resource restrictions. Similarly, the workforce that is present within the NGO is not properly trained to fulfill their jobs. They also claim that if an NGO caring for former street children lacks enough staffing and supervision, the likelihood of physical and sexual abuse in a residential facility significantly rises.

This means that even NGOs are challenged regarding sexual abuse matters, and therefore we shouldn't think that NGOs are saints that can completely guarantee the welfare of children.

Furthermore, if the staff members lack proper training, the institution's efforts towards rehabilitation will be hindered. In cases where the staff is untrained or unprofessional, the former street child is likely to opt to leave the institution (Kisumu Street Children Rehabilitation Consortium, 2018). The practice of grouping homeless children together at drop-in centers, regardless of their age or background, provides a space for bullying in which newcomers and small children are mistreated by older and nasty guys. If this issue is not addressed, the abused youngsters may flee and return to the streets from whence they were recruited (Elliott P. Niboye, 2013).

Some NGOs intervention into the lives of street children have been criticized as they are said to continue keeping the children on the streets instead of causing a change that can enable the children to come off the streets. For example extending help in terms of handouts and food to street children continues to make them to keep begging

(Nboye, 2013). The above is supported by Miriti (2015), who argues that the mode of intervention has continued to keep street children on the streets in Kenya since they go to rehabilitation homes to have lunch and other meals and then return to the streets. According to Lucchini and Stoecklin (2020), NGOs inflate numbers of street children so that they continue getting more funding from donor agencies. Some NGOs have been put on the spot for lack of transparency as they use vulnerable members of society for individual gains. This creates the impression that NGOs are not out to permanently stamp out the street child problem but that they also have hidden interests (Kelly, 2019a).

Because of the above, third world governments have developed mistrust in NGOs and at some point have gone on to sanction them heavily. The case in Ethiopia attests to the above as the government has cracked a whip on the NGOs by way of closing them, and heavily restricting their fundraising activities (Kelly, 2019b).

NGOs have been criticized for assuming that all children on the streets irrespective of their age require the same intervention method to rehabilitate them and yet all these children have a different story. This has seen to it that a number of street children keep going back to the streets (Glauser, 2015). This has happened because NGOs largely employ individuals who are not expert professionals because they are usually cheap to employ (Alem, 2016c).

According to Kabonga (2016), the dependency theory explains why the same problem continues despite the presence of NGOs that claim to address the street child problem in Africa. For example some parents deliberately handover their children to donor

organizations as they deliberately do not want to look after their own children even when they can afford to look after them. This is because of the dependency syndrome where by these Africans are used to free things (education, clothing, medication, etc), not knowing that it is unhealthy for one to neglect his responsibility. As a result there has been a loss of creativity and a loss in the active participation of trying to improve the standard of living. Besides, the dependency syndrome has created a wrong construct that Africans were never creative, have no history, and are just students of civilization (Poncian, 2015). Throughout history Africans have been the innovators of most of what mankind has, and a simple problem of just looking after children can't defeat Africans since Africans have demonstrated that they have family values. The African governments must instill pride in their population to let them treasure the family and contribute to nation building.

According to Karani Onyiko and Daria Kimuli (2015a), institutionalization only serves to save drowning individuals from the upstream. Another drowning victim arrives downstream as soon as they rescue the first. Who is drowning people, should be the key question. Then, rather than continuing the rescue attempt, the focus should be on catching the offender. Following this principle, the emphasis should be on activities aimed at preventing children from ending up on the streets initially. Due to limited institutional capacity, organizations can only accommodate a small number of street children each year, often preferring those aged 8 to 12. This leaves a significant number of children still struggling on the streets (Onyiko and Pechekova, 2021).

Until now, there has been a growing number of both international and locally operated non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with the purported goal of assisting and safeguarding street children (Reimann, 2018).

It is noted by Bandera (2015) that with the fast growing population, the welfare of children and their rights in Africa has become a lucrative industry, with a substantial amount of money allocated to enhance their well-being. However, the actual outcomes often deviate from the intended purpose. Many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in this sector are criticized for not prioritizing the interests of children. Instead of addressing the specific needs of vulnerable children, funds are frequently redirected towards administrative functions. For example, NGOs may receive donations for supporting street or disabled children, but a significant portion of the funds is utilized for administrative purposes (Bah, 2018). Most of the NGO managers drive SUV/high end vehicles (some even own private jets), and live lavish lifestyles yet the people whom they purport to look after are miserable. This undermines the true spirit of helping the street children to achieve their dreams of living normal lives. It is essential to establish a clear definition of the role that (NGOs) play in tackling the issues related to street children and ensuring the overall welfare of children.

According to De Benitez (2011), the intervention provided by some NGOs in the lives of street children does not appropriately respond to the problem at hand. The distinction between services for street-living, street-working and children from street families is often unclear in many organizations. Street outreach and drop-in centers cater to all three groups, but residential facilities primarily target homeless street-living children. There's a risk that street-working children might engage in activities replacing family

care, potentially weakening their ties to the community. The use of residential care may undermine efforts to explore alternative support options within the extended family and community (Patricia Ray, 2011).

However despite the financial hindrance, NGO efforts in offering support to street children can be overlooked owing to the fact that most of the sources of funding to NGO activities are from foreign governments, international agencies, charity organizations and other well-wishers (Reimann, 2017) that want to see a difference in the life of other human beings. To this note the anti NGO proponents argue that NGOs use the cause of solving children issues to get money from donors for individual gains.

On addition to the above, the fact that most NGOs get their money from mostly foreign bodies makes them to account more to the funders as opposed being accountable to the people they serve. Morgan (2016) argues that NGOs can't be a vanguard for development since those they serve can never question them as they are at the receiving end. Scholarship in development studies argues that NGOs focus more on street children other than focusing on what causes the street children phenomena (Reimann, 2017b). Failure to address the root cause of an issue allows the problem to persist hovering around thus we shall continue to see more street children.

## **Conclusion**

From the literature so far reviewed, several scholars have identified a number of interventions and approaches used in addressing the problem of street children. However, in this study, there are gaps that were identified with some of the interventions that could be impacting negatively on efforts to address the street

children phenomenon. The intervention approach used by CRO is only one (rescue), and has not been able to address the situation of street children effectively, which also leads to other social problems like provision of handouts including food among others as well as failure to reintegrate children back to their families encourage dependence on the NGO. This impedes children's reintegration to or reunion with their respective families.

The lack of collaboration between the NGO and government is another gap identified since the latter is a key stakeholder in protecting children's rights. The approach of attaching some children pen pals to cater for their education leaves a lot to be desired as a big number of children are left out of education because they do not have school fees. In addition, although there is a drop in number and an average degree of positive effects on children as a result of CROs' intervention, a recognizable number of children is not experiencing the same amidst continuous influx of the victims in the streets of Mbale city. Besides, children are not given individualized attention to address their specific needs so that interventions would be tailored to the needs of the children.

## CHAPTER THREE

### METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

#### **3.1: Introduction**

This chapter focuses on the methods that were used to collect data and its analysis. This chapter discusses the methods, tools, techniques and procedures that were employed in executing the research.

#### **3.2. Research design**

Research design is a plan of the proposed research work. In this study, research design was considered as a framework that outlines the strategy to be applied in carrying out the study. A descriptive cross-sectional survey research design was adopted with both qualitative and quantitative approaches as a way of triangulating and enhancing the quality of the findings of the study (Amin, 2005; Creswell, 2009). This was appropriate in obtaining information concerning the status of the phenomenon, to describe what the current situation was concerning the variable of the study. The quantitative technique employed the use of structured questionnaires to gather quantitative data while on the other hand; Qualitative technique employed the use of interview guides, and focus group discussion, to obtain qualitative data.

#### **3.3. Area of the Study**

The study was limited to examining NGOs' interventions on the socio-economic transformation of street children in Uganda: A case of Child Restoration Outreach (CRO), Mbale City in Bugisu Sub-Region. This area was chosen because Mbale city according to the latest studies had the highest number of street children, while CRO

particularly was picked because it was the only NGO in Mbale with a mandate to address the issues of street children.

### **3.4. Sources of Information**

The study incorporated both primary and secondary data; secondary data, being data that has been previously gathered and analyzed by others. In contrast, primary data is acquired firsthand from the field, making it original in nature. This data was obtained with a predefined set of objectives aimed at evaluating the current state of a particular problem. Primary data collection became imperative when the researcher could not locate the required information in secondary sources.

Primary data was of interest to the researcher because it enabled her to obtain respondents' attitudes, opinions, interests, and awareness about the topic under study. In order to tackle the current issue. The collection of primary data served a specific purpose and constituted the most significant information for the entire study, consequently being used for analysis.

### **3.5. Population and sampling techniques**

#### **3.5.1: Study Population**

Study population refers to a number of people who meet specific inclusion criteria in a given place at a given time. With reference to this study, the population involved staff from CRO, probation officer, police, and local council members, CRO alumni and 70 present out of 80 street children registered with the Child Restoration Outreach organization in Mbale.

### **3.5.2. Sampling and sampling techniques**

Sample size refers to a portion of the target population chosen through statistical methods to represent the entire population. The sample size of this study was determined based on the population of street children registered with the Child Restoration Outreach organization.

#### **3.5.2.1. Sampling Techniques**

The study adopted the use of the Yemane formula to determine the sample size since the population was predetermined from the CRO registers. Then probability sampling technique through Simple random sampling was used to select respondents for the study by drawing numbers from a pre-set box and those who had picked even numbers were allowed to take part in the study. This method was used because it gives equal chances to participate hence eliminating bias in the entire selection process.

#### **Computation of sample size for the street children**

$$n = N / (1 + N (e)^2).$$

Where n=sample size, e = the proportion of sampling error and N=Population

$$n = 70 / (1 + 70(0.05)^2)$$

$$n = 70 / (1 + 70 \times 0.0025)$$

$$n = 70 / 1.175$$

$$n = 59.574. \text{ Rounded off to } 60.$$

**Table 1: Quantitative Sample selection**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Sample</b>	<b>Sampling Approach</b>
Street children	70	60	Yamane formula of 1967
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>60</b>	

*Source: Primary Field data 2022*

### **3.5.2.2. Measurement Levels**

To ensure validity and reliability, measurement levels must adhere to certain criteria. These levels include; ordinal, nominal, ratio, and interval scales. In this study, the ordinal scale was utilized to assess the respondents' bio-demographic characteristics, while a nominal scale was employed for other variables in the research. The 5-Likert scale ranges from options such as Strongly Agree (1), Agree (2), Disagree (3), Not Sure (4), to Strongly Disagree (5) was used

### **3.5.2.3. Qualitative sampling technique**

Purposive sampling was used to select participants for the study, from which qualitative data would be attained. These participants involved key stakeholders whose input influence effective operation of activities at CRO.

**Table 2: Qualitative Sampling technique**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>sample</b>	<b>Sampling Approach</b>
CRO officials	15	8	purposive
Probation officer	1	1	purposive
Police	5	3	purposive
CRO Alumni	15	10	purposive
Local council officials	5	3	purposive
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>25</b>	

*Source: Primary Field data 2022*

### **3.6. Data Collection Procedure**

The researcher obtained an approval letter from the Research Ethics Committee at Uganda Christian University, which she used to secure approval from Child Restoration Outreach in Mbale City. The researcher then made arrangements with different respondents at CRO (top officials at CRO, and street children), and the police officers, probation officer in Mbale city and other key informants. She then proceeded to administer questionnaires, and conduct interviews with the targeted respondents.

### **3.7. Data Collection Instruments**

The researcher used a variety of data collection instruments including observation checklist, interview guides and questionnaires.

#### **3.7.1. Quantitative data collection**

##### **3.7.1.1. Questionnaires**

A closed-ended self-administered questionnaire was used to draw the views, attitudes, and opinions of the respondents (street children).

The use of the Questionnaire enabled the researcher to collect data on several variables at one point in time hence making the enter process first.

### **3.7.2. Qualitative data collection**

#### **3.7.2.1. Observation checklist**

The researcher also developed an observation checklist which was used to assess the impact of CRO on the lives of street children. This instrument was administered to CRO administrators.

#### **3.7.2.2. Key informant interviews**

Key informant interviews were held with participants who included the local council officials and probation officer.

#### **3.7.2.3. Focus group discussions**

Focus group discussions were held with three groups that included the police, CRO officials and CRO alumni.

### **3.8. Quality and Error control**

Quality control is about ensuring acceptable levels of validity and reliability of the study through proper control of unnecessary variables. The researcher used a systematic approach to check the quality of the information in order to avoid double counting.

### **3.9. Validity of the research instruments**

Validity refers to the extent to which a method of data collection measures what it is supposed to measure (Amin, 2005). Adequate measures were taken to ensure that the questionnaire fulfills content validity. Content validity is the scale developed by

rating the items in the research instruments through checking their suitability and relevancy in line with the study objectives. To ensure the validity of instruments, the instruments were developed under the close guidance of the supervisor to assess their structure, contents, clarity and relevancy. In order to determine level of accuracy of an instrument, a content validity index (CVI) was computed (Amin, 2005). Upon establishing items judged as relevant, the formula was as bellow;

$$\text{CVI} = \frac{\text{Number of relevant items}}{\text{Total number of items}} = 13/18 = 0.722$$

Total number of items

A CVI of 0.7 and above was acceptable for the validity of an instrument.

### **3.10. Reliability of the Research Instruments**

Reliability is a measure of the degree to which a research instrument yields consistent results or data after repeated trials (Taherdoost2016).To ensure reliability, the researcher constructed a questionnaire with appropriate wording that was simple, direct and familiar to the respondents. Items in the questionnaire and interview guide that were found double-barreled, leading and based on assumptions were avoided. Respondents were also selected without bias while involving only street children attached to CRO organization because these had directly received services of this NGO.

### **3.11. Data processing and Analysis**

#### **3.11.1. Quantitative data analysis**

This was done through classification of respondents into categories called codes. It involved sorting, editing questionnaires and coding responses after which data was

tabulated and analyzed using a computer programme known as Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 22. It was used because it provided a wide range of tools from basic tabulation to sophisticated multivariate analysis. It is widely used to analyze quantitative data, meaning that data in form of tables and figures were interpreted to make meaning. It is commonly used for academic and commercial purposes (Bryman, 2016).

### **3.11.2. Qualitative data analysis**

The analysis of qualitative data encompassed both thematic and content analysis, focusing on the relevance to the research questions. Content analysis was employed to edit and restructure qualitative data into concise, meaningful sentences. Thematic analysis was utilized to categorize data into themes, with the identification of corresponding codes (Castleberry, 2018). Following data collection, information within the same category was grouped, and its alignment with quantitative data was established, culminating in the creation of a comprehensive report. The interpretation of qualitative data involved making explanations or descriptions based on the gathered information, and the findings were illustrated and supported with quotations or descriptive details.

### **3.12. Ethical considerations**

First and foremost, the researcher sought permission from the University and obtained a letter allowing her to conduct the research. Throughout the planning, data collection, and processing phases, the researcher adhered to various research guidelines to uphold ethical standards. These guidelines included obtaining informed

consent from the participants, clearly communicating that their involvement was voluntary, and assuring them of the option to withdraw from the study at any point or decline to answer questions they found uncomfortable.

The researcher honored the privacy of the participants and ensured confidential handling of information, preventing the identification of individuals by keeping their names undisclosed and maintaining respondent anonymity. Objectivity was ensured through avoiding bias in employing research assistants to collect the data. Since the research involved children as respondents and participants the principle of best interest of the child was considered as stipulated in the National Child Participation Guide for Uganda, 2008. Permission was sought from the organization to interview children and where possible the researcher signed the organization's child protection policy guidelines. The researcher, also in advance established the appropriate language the children were conversant with and arranged for interpretation and/or competent research assistant to conduct the interviews. Street children of 12 years and above were asked for their personal consent to take part in the interview. The researcher observed the Ministry of Health set Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 pandemic during and after the research was conducted.

### **Declaration of Literature**

Throughout the entire study, proper citation and referencing were employed to acknowledge all literature sources. The study was conducted without personal bias, encompassing the interviews, data analysis, and reporting processes.

### **3.13. Methodological constraints**

Collecting data from street children especially fulltime street children was quite difficult because of the nature of their lifestyle. They were very mobile, moving from place to place and almost all the time, they were under the influence of drugs. It was challenging to get information from them when they were high on drugs. Secondly, there were limitations arising from the extraneous variables which were beyond the researchers' control such as respondents' honesty, and personal biases. Thirdly, the attrition: Not all questionnaires were returned completely answered. There was the refusal by some of the street children to participate in the study. The overall response rate was 90%

However, to address this the researcher visited the streets at different times to find street children who were sober for the interviews but also used very friendly language to attract them to participate positively. It was not possible for the researcher to review organizational documents as they were not free to avail them. However, the researcher relied on the information given by the technical staff of the organization.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

#### 4.1. Introduction

This chapter presents analysis, presentation and interpretation of the results of the study. The results were presented and discussed following the research objectives of the study. It starts with respondents' bio data, followed by objectives which are; To explore interventions of NGOs working with street children in Mbale City; To assess the contribution of NGO interventions on socio-economic transformation of street children in Mbale City and To establish the challenges street children experience as a result of NGO interventions.

#### 4.2. Data of respondents

##### 4.2.1. Age of Respondents

The ages of the respondents are as indicated in the table below;

Table 3: Respondents Ages

	Age	Frequency	Percent
Valid	05-09	13	21.7
	10-14	36	60.0
	15 +	11	18.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>

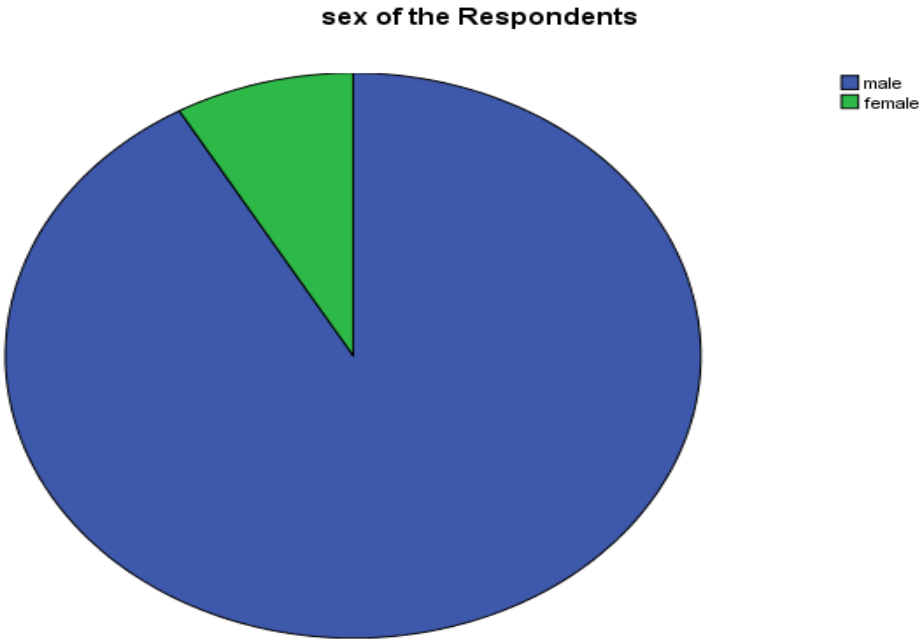
*Source: Primary field data 2022*

The table above shows that, 21.7% of the respondents to the study were aged between 05-09 years, 60% of the respondents were aged between 10-14 years, while 18.3% were aged 15 years and above.

**4.2.2. Sex of the Respondents**

The sex representation of the respondents is as shown in the pie chart below;

Chart 1: Respondents sex



*Source: Primary field data 2022*

The graph shows that 91.7% of the respondents constituted the male gender while only 8.3% constituted the female gender

### 4.2.3. Level of education

Table 4: Highest Level of education attained

Level of Education	Frequency	Percent
PLE	58	96.7
UCE	2	3.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Primary field data 2022*

The table above shows that 96.7% of the respondents held education level which was Primary Leaving Education and below. This means that most of the respondents were below PLE qualification while only 3.3% held qualifications that were Uganda certificate of education and below.

### 4.2.4. Religious Affiliations of Respondents

The religious affiliations of the respondents are as shown in the table below;

Table 5: Religious affiliations of respondents

Religious Affiliation	Frequency	Percent
Anglican	19	31.7
Catholic	24	40.0
Muslim	11	18.3
Traditionalist	3	5.0
Other	3	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>

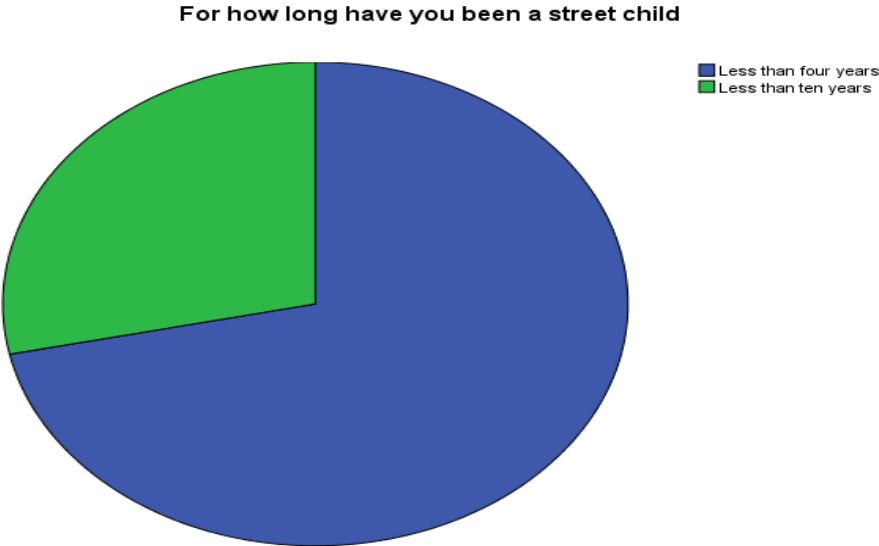
*Source: Primary field data 2022*

The above table shows that, 31.7% of the respondents were of the Anglican faith, 40% were Catholic, 18.3% were Muslim, 5% were traditionalists, and 5% were of other religious denominations.

**4.2.5. Period of being a street child**

The chart below shows the length of time the children respondents of the study have spent in the street.

**Chart 2: Time spent in street**



**Source: Primary field data 2022**

The pie chart shows that 71.7% of the respondents have been street children for less than four years, while 28.3% of the respondents have been street children for less than ten years.

#### 4.2.6. Length of being a CRO beneficiary

The table below shows the length of time the child respondents had spent with CRO.

**Table 6: Time spent with CRO**

Period Spent on Street	Frequency	Percent
Less than five years	47	78.3
More than five years	13	21.7
Total	60	100.0

*Source: Primary field data 2022*

The table above shows that 78.3% of the respondents had been beneficiaries of Child Restoration Outreach for a period of less than five years, while 21.7% had been CRO beneficiaries for a period of more than five years.

#### 4.3. CRO Interventions on the socio-economic transformation of street children

**Table 7: Interventions by CRO**

Interventions	Percentage							
	SA%	A%	NS%	SD%	D%	Mean	STD	N
CRO reunited me with my family	0	0	0	0	100	4.00	0	60
CRO provides me with school fees.	6.7	25	0	4	61.7	3.18	1.396	60
CRO provides me with shelter/home to sleep	31.7	55	0	0	13.3	1.72	1.010	60
CRO provides me with meals	16.7	83.3	0	0	0	1.17	0.376	60
CRO pays my health bills.	16.7	83.3	0	0	0	1.17	0.376	60

*Source: Primary data 2022*

According to table 7, 100% of the street children disagreed that CRO reunited them with their families with a mean of 4.00 and a standard deviation of 0. This is supported by a qualitative insight from one of the stakeholders who had this to say;

*“CRO has never made attempts to bring back my son who has turned out to be a street child on the streets of Mbale although I just come from a neighboring area in Namatala. It is true my source of income is not reliable and I struggle to provide for my family which is one of the reasons why my son became a street child. I feel sorry he is on the streets but I regret that CRO can’t persuade these street children to go back to their homes.”* **Source Respondent 1.**

Another submission from a CRO official can attest to confirm the fact that CRO doesn’t engage in taking children back to their homes.

*“One of the reasons we don’t persuade these street children to go back to their homes is that by the time they left their homes to come to the streets it means that the homes were not safe for them to have a normal life. What we majorly do is welcome them to the CRO premises, and provide them with the needed basics of life for them exist as normal human beings”*

**Source Respondent 3**

In one of the interviews it was established that most street children in Mbale city who are under the care of CRO are from the Karamoja region. These children majorly have come to Mbale to escape the insecurity, violence and famine in Karamoja.

The table further shows that only 6.7% of the respondents strongly agreed that CRO provides them with school fees, 25% agreed that CRO provides them with school fees, 4% strongly disagreed and 61.75 disagreed that CRO provides them with school fees

with a mean of 3.18 and standard deviation of 1.396. According to findings from an interview with one of the CRO officials,

*“The organization doesn’t have money to pay school fees for the street children. Those who claim to receive school fees from the organization are being paid for by some pen pals/friends of the organization who identified them and decided that they could take on the responsibility of paying for their school fees.” Otherwise, if the organization had resources that can support education directly, then probably the organization by now would be having a school of its own owing to the many children who are under the care of the organization”. Source Respondent 6*

The above findings contradict the findings by Dutta (2018), and Alemandah Lah (2016), who argue that NGOs in India and Ethiopia were providing education to street children by paying their school fees. This greatly contrasts what the study findings reveal in Mbale city in regard to how CRO is operationalizing its interventions with street children.

The table also shows that 31.7% of the respondents strongly agreed that CRO provides them with shelter, 55% agreed, and 13.3% disagreed that CRO provides them with shelter. This finding is confirmed by one of the CRO officials who said that one of the interventions in improving the lives of street children is to provide them with shelter.

*“Yes CRO provides shelter to street children registered under our care since most of the street children don’t have accommodation.” Source Respondent 8*

The above findings are in agreement with Nyambane (2017), who argues that NGOs that were dealing with street children in Kenya were providing shelter to street children

since most street children never had shelter. However, according to Niboye (2013), some NGOs don't provide shelter to street children as they just provide meals and some health care in form of pain killers and antimalarial medication for simple illnesses while neglecting the other relevant responsibility of ensuring that street children are fully taken care of and nurtured into responsible human beings who can be functional. By not providing shelter to street children means that it is difficult to achieve the aim of the intervention in the life of the street child since the children will spend most of their time on the streets with the very deviant groups that they should keep away from. He argues that because street children are simply provided with what to eat at given intervals of lunch time and supper time, the street children are encouraged to stay on the streets just because there is a form of dependence that is created. The above is supported by Miriti (2015), who argues that the mode of intervention keeps street children on the streets in Kenya since they go to rehabilitation homes to have lunch and other meals and then return to the streets. The provision of shelter to street children enables the NGO to fully monitor the street children which enables the NGO to keep track of the behavior change that is expected of street children after they have been taken on by an NGO to ameliorate their plight (Nyambane, 2017).

Table 7 above also shows that 16.7% strongly agreed and 83.3% agreed that CRO provided them with meals. This means that CRO provides meals to the street children under its care. This finding is supported by interview findings from a CRO official who had this to say,

*“Yes as CRO we look at the most important basics of life among which include food. Human beings can't exist without food. Its better we provide*

*meals for the street children so that they can be able to live another day and have hope so that they are not driven to the extremes of life. Most children who turn out to be street children have been driven to the streets by poverty which makes it hard for them to find what to eat. Most of the street children in our care are from the Karamoja region which experiences high levels of food insecurity with constant draught and famine affecting lives in Karamoja.”*

The above submission is supported by findings from a study by Dhawan et al (2015), who in their study argue that most NGO programs in supporting street children in India include feeding programs to enable the street children to be healthy and strong, and enable them to grow well. The above study shares similar findings with a study conducted in Ethiopia by Alemandah Laha (2016) found that twelve NGOs in Ethiopia were providing food to street children.

The table shows that 16.7% and 83.3 of the street children strongly agreed and agreed respectively that CRO pays their health bills with a mean of 1.17 and a standard deviation of 0.376. This is supported by findings from an interview with one of the CRO officials who disclosed that the organization focuses on providing basic necessities of life to street children which include health services.

*“Child Restoration Outreach is very focused on caring for the street children to enable them to feel like they are human and that they are taken care of. CRO has a nurse at its center in Mbale who provides medical treatment to all street children who are under our care. The organization makes sure to pay for all the health bills incurred by the street child at the organization’s health facility. However, sometimes CRO is incapacitated in handling high medical costs which defeats the organization. In most cases we appeal to*

*well-wishers to help out where we are not able to meet the bills in another hospital for the street children whom we take care of.”*

The above findings are in line with Alemandah Lah (2016) who argues that NGOs play an important role in providing health care to street children so that they can have good health and grow well. This is supported by Dhawan et al (2015), who argue that NGOs provide both medical attention to street children, and also treatment for conditions such as drug addiction. The above findings are not stand alone as Dutta (2018) has argued in his study that NGOs in India were focused on helping to provide health services to street children despite the hard conditions in which they operated. From the above findings one notes that most NGOs dealing with street children focus on the basics of life.

#### 4.4. CRO contribution on the socio-economic transformation of street children

**Table 8: Transformation of street children**

Transformation of street children	SA%	A%	NS%	SD%	D%	Mean	STD	N
My behavior has changed as a result of CRO intervention.	50	50	0	0	0	1.50	0.504	60
CRO has enabled me to know my rights as a child.	28.3	71.7	0	0	0	1.72	0.454	60
I have developed life skills as a result of CRO efforts.	25	75	0	0	0	1.75	0.437	60
I feel better under CRO care	25	73.3	0	0	1.7	1.78	0.524	60

**Source: Primary data 2022**

According to the table above, 50% and 50% of the street children strongly agreed and agreed respectively that their behavior had changed as a result of CRO intervening in their lives with a mean of 1.50 and a standard deviation of 0.504. This can be supported by an interview with a CRO official who testified to the fact that most street

children who are registered to be under the care of a CRO come with different mannerisms.

*“Some street children come when they consume drugs but upon continuous counseling and monitoring, they change their behavior and turn out to be functional children, if street children come to CRO as drug addicts, we undertake efforts to reform them, and many have reformed and become success stories” Respondent 1*

The above is supported by Lorenzo (2022), who notes that because of NGO efforts, remarkable change was registered and observed in the lives of street children in Naples. She argues that if the street children are found to be in the company of criminals, drug addicts or other deviant groups like prostitutes, an effective approach is employed to ensure that first the street children are detached from bad company, and secondly, their needs are addressed but also values and virtues are instilled into them.

The table further shows that 28.3% and 71.7% of the street children strongly agreed and agreed that CRO has enabled them to know their rights as children with a mean of 1.72 and a standard deviation of 0.454. The above finding is supported by one of the CRO officials who said that;

*“Many street children come to this center when they are ignorant about their rights but upon being inducted into our care, we teach them about their rights and many have gone on to be responsible people”.*

This is supported by Nyambane (2017) who posits that upon exiting NGO care and completing education and finding jobs, some street children go on to be responsible people and become helpful to other people who need help.

The table also shows that 25% and 75 % of the street children strongly agreed and agreed respectively that they had developed life skills as a result of NGO efforts in intervening in their lives with a mean of 1.75 and standard deviation of 0.437. The above finding is supported by one of the officials at CRO who in his words said,

*“It is true that many street children come and we counsel them and train them to attain life skills. For example, some come here when they can’t even communicate well with their peers, and can’t manage anger well. But after CRO intervening in their lives, they become so aware of other people’s needs and their own. These children begin to relate well and empathize with other children and people.” Respondent 10*

In an interview with one of the alumni of CRO, a former street child, he submitted in support of the above,

*“I came to CRO when I had lost hope, I was nearly a sadist, I thought the world was against me, and my social skills weren’t good at all. I couldn’t greet people, and this made me to feel bad. But my behavior changed after I joined CRO and by the time I left, I had made many friends and my personal relationships with other people tremendously improved. I have come this far because CRO helped me to realize that I could live a normal life and have life skills; Am forever grateful to CRO.” Respondent 11*

The above findings are in agreement with a study by Nyambane (2017), who argues that through the various rehabilitation programs that NGOs develop in the intervention in the lives of street children, there is a lasting positive impact that is always left on the lives of the street children. Through counseling programs, social integration, and education programs, street children are able to gain skills in social relations, and anger management which are important for a functional person.

Table 8 above further shows that 25% and 73.3% strongly agreed and agreed respectively that they felt better under the care of CRO with a mean of 1.78 and a standard deviation of 0.524. This is supported by a CRO official who in an interview revealed that most street children are very comfortable under the care of CRO and it is the reason why most of them keep coming around. Most former street children who have graduated from CRO programs always keep in touch with us owing to the fact that they usually leave this center when they have become adults. Some CRO alumni confessed to the fact that they always felt comfortable ever since they got into CRO.

*“The conditions in Karamoja are bad, while CRO makes you to feel better than when you are at your own home. I only left CRO after my relatives found me a job, but I keep visiting CRO to check.”* **Source CRO Alumni**

In line with Nyambane (2017), many former street children after completing their stay with NGOs, they always find it difficult to leave since they have formed bonds with the workers of NGOs and the socialization at the NGO center causes them to look at one another as family. It is to this finding that upon completing their education and getting jobs, they keep in touch with their former NGO caretakers. It has been established that usually NGOs that treated street children well always have a good relationship which lasts long.

#### **4.5. Challenges street children are experiencing as a result of NGO interventions**

The table below shows the respondents' views about the challenges children experience as a result CRO interventions.

**Table 9: Challenges street children face as a result of CRO Interventions n=60**  
percentage

Challenges children experience as a result of NGO interventions	SA%	A%	NS%	SD%	D%	Mean	SD	N
The CRO drop-in centre is like a prison	1.7	1.7	0	0	96.7	3.92	0.462	60
There is bullying of street children at CRO	15	16.7	0	0	68.3	3.22	1.195	60
CRO discriminates among street children in Mbale	5	63.3	0	0	31.7	2.58	0.996	60
CRO mistreats street children at their drop-in center	1.7	8.3	0	0	90	3.78	0.666	60

**Source: Primary data 2022**

Table 9 shows that 96.7% of the street children disagreed that the CRO drop in center is like a prison while 1.7% and 1.7% strongly agreed and agreed with a mean of 3.92 and a standard deviation of 0.462. This finding is supported by an interview with the Probation officer at Mbale city division who said;

*“CRO is a good place that provides help to street children. If it was like a prison then the street children wouldn’t be there owing to the fact that children don’t like prisons. Besides if it was like a prison we as the authorities in Mbale city would have got to know about it since the reports of CRO being like a prison would have reached us.”*

The above is not in tandem with the findings of a CSC survey report (2011) which notes that many NGOs offer assistance to street children but give them the liberty to live like free human beings.

The table further shows that 68.3% of the street children disagreed that there is bullying of street children at CRO, while 15% and 16.7% strongly agreed and agreed that there is bullying at CRO with a mean of 3.22 and standard deviation of 1.195. This

means that there are isolated cases of bullying since the majority 68.3% disagreed. This bullying is orchestrated by street children on fellow street children but not by the CRO staff. A staff from CRO in an interview said,

*“Yes, some street children who are new in our care tend to bully other small children since they still harbor antisocial behaviors. However, with a continued stay in our care, these cases usually come to an end owing to the fact that we keep counseling the street children but also monitor their behavior.”*

The above finding does not align with a study by Srivastava & Shareef (2016), who argued that street children are bullied while under the care of NGOs.

The table also shows that 5% and 63.3% of the street children strongly agreed and agreed respectively that there is discrimination against street children in Mbale by CRO in regard to care and attention given. 31.7% disagreed that there is no discrimination with a mean of 2.58 and a standard deviation of 0.996. This is supported by a submission from alumni of CRO who said that,

*“Yes, it is true there is discrimination of street children in Mbale by CRO. Not all street children are treated equally by CRO.”*

The above finding is supported by a study by Kaiser and Sinana (2020), who argue that NGOs offering help to street children tend to discriminate among street children. This discrimination comes in a way of providing a favor to certain street children and leaving out others. This favor comes by way of providing better clothing, feeding, and health care provision.

Table 9 also shows that 90% of the street children disagreed that CRO mistreats street children at the drop-in centers with a mean of 3.78 and a standard deviation of 0.666. This means that the mistreatment of street children at CRO which is registered is an isolated case. In an interview with a CRO official, he said,

*“There is no mistreatment of street children at CRO, otherwise these cases of mistreatment would be in the media, and the police would be aware of the mistreatment of street children who are under our care.”*

This finding is in agreement with Crane in her study of 2018 which revealed that NGOs do a good job in treating street children well to ensure trust and confidence are restored in the child.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1. Introduction

This chapter summarizes the research findings based on the research objectives. The specific objectives of the study sought; to explore interventions the NGOs are using in socio-economic transformation of street children in Mbale City; to assess contribution of NGO Interventions on the socio-economic transformation of street children in Mbale city and to establish the challenges street children are experiencing as a result of NGO interventions.

#### 5.2. Summary

The findings indicate that CRO had interventions in three specific areas, namely shelter, food and payment of medical bills. However in terms of the total needs of the child, there were gaps in the provision of the other needs of children such as in education and reintegration into family life. The findings further show that CRO enabled street children to change their behavior with a mean of 1.50 and a standard deviation of 0.504. CRO has also enabled children to know their rights with a mean of 1.72 and a standard deviation of 0.454. Street children have also gained life skills as a result of CRO efforts with a mean of 1.75 and a standard deviation of 0.437. The findings also indicate that CRO is not like a prison as street children feel free to live there and have freedom. 97.6 of the street children disagreed that CRO is like a prison with a mean of 3.92 and a standard deviation of 0.462. However the study found that

CRO discriminates among street children with a mean of 2.58 and a standard deviation of 0.999.

### **5.3. Conclusions**

The study conclusions are drawn in line with the three objectives of the study.

#### **5.3.1. NGOs Interventions on the socio-economic transformation of street children**

The first objective of the study sought to find the kinds of interventions that NGOs that deal with street children have. Based on the findings, the study concludes that CRO as an NGO has intervened in the lives of street children by providing shelter, meals, and health care in form of paying their health bills. However in the area of providing school fees to street children, CRO has not been able to pay school fees for street children. In addition, CRO has not been able to reunite the street children with their families.

#### **5.3.2. The contribution of the NGO interventions on the socio-economic transformation of street children**

The second objective assessed the transformation of street children as a result of CRO intervention. The study concludes that CRO has been able to register success in enabling street children to change their behavior from bad to good. CRO has also enabled street children to know their rights as children. Further CRO interventions enabled street children to develop life skills through socializing, and anger management. Finally street children felt better under the care of CRO. Thus overall CRO has contributed to the socio-economic transformation of street children.

### **5.3.3. Challenges children are experiencing as a result of NGO interventions**

The third objective of the study sought to assess any challenges children were facing as a result of CRO interventions. The study concludes that CRO is not like a prison since the street children feel better at CRO drop-in center. There is no bullying at CRO, although some isolated cases were reported, and explanations were given as to the registered cases. However, the study also finds that, there is discrimination against street children in Mbale city by CRO, although this was disputed by the CRO officials who claimed that there is no mistreatment of street children by CRO.

### **5.4. Recommendations**

The study recommends that the government of Uganda together with other stakeholders should through the Ministry of Education and Sports provide a conducive environment for all children including the street children by supporting the NGOs with supplementary funding to address the education of street children.

The study further recommends that the government through its different security agencies enforce security in Karamoja region since most street children who are under CRO care come from Karamoja region and end up in Mbale city because of the insecurity in Karamoja.

Furthermore, the government needs to ensure that there is food security in Karamoja since famine is one of the reasons that forces Karamojong children to come to the streets of Mbale and end up as street children.

The study on the aspect of bullying recommends that bigger children be separated from young ones during activities such as serving of food. There should also be distinctive

activities in relation to the age of the children at the centre to avert bullying of young ones by the grown-up street children.

The study recommends that the communities should play a lead role in the development of the community support system for the street children and their families in order to improve their social economic wellbeing. This should be done through involvement of the Local Council structures to champion this cause.

The study further recommends that government and other stakeholders should provide support to the NGOs in terms of provision of food for the street children, ensure a budgetary allocation to address resettlement of children back to their communities and ensuring the community networks through the Local council II which hosts the children's desk ensures the prevention of the exodus of children to towns is curtailed.

The study also recommends that government considers absorbing transformed street children especially those who complete university and apprenticeship in the job market. This will encourage many school-going street children to complete school.

### **5.5. Areas of future research**

Since this study touched a few areas of the lives of children while in NGOs that handle them in the streets, there is need to study other areas in order to have complete picture of the situation of children under NGO care in the streets. Such areas include; the effects of drugs and substances on street children; the impact of NGO support on the families of street children; and the causes of child exploitation by family members.

## REFERENCES

- Abdalla, H., Aharonian, F., Benkhali, F. A., Angüner, E. O., Arcaro, C., Armand, C., & Reichherzer, P. (2021). LMC N132D: A mature supernova remnant with a power-law gamma-ray spectrum extending beyond 8 TeV. *Astronomy & Astrophysics*, 655, A7. <https://doi.org/10.1051/0004-6361/202140025>
- Adikini, K. (2015). Factors associated with increasing number of street children in Kampala.
- Alem, H.W., & Laha, A. (2016). Livelihood of street children and the role of social intervention. Hindawi Publishing Corporation Child Development Research.
- Amin, E.M. (2005). Social science Research: concepts, Methodology and analysis. Kampala: Approaches. Sage Publications.
- Bah, Y. M. (2018). Drug abuse among street children. *Journal of Clinical Research in HIV AIDS and Prevention*, 3(3), 12.
- Bandera, A. (2015). Aid or partnership? A case study of the Mhondoro-Mubayira wards1 and 6 against a long history of the non-governmental organizations' presence: towards a theology of holistic development.
- Bandura, A. (2019). The social learning theory of aggression. In *The War System* (pp. 141-156). Routledge.
- Bogale, B. (2015). Street children in Addis Ababa: exploring policy framework for interventions (Doctoral dissertation, St. Mary's University).
- Boiro, H., & Einarsdóttir, J. (2020). "A vicious circle": Repatriation of Bissau-Guinean Quranic Schoolboys From Senegal. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 6(3), 265-280.
- Brass, J. N., Longhofer, W., Robinson, R. S., & Schnable, A. (2018). NGOs and international development: A review of thirty-five years of scholarship. *WorldDevelopment*, 112, 136-149.
- Bryman, A. (2016). *Social research methods*. Oxford University Press.
- Butt, M. U., Hou, Y., Soomro, K. A., & Acquadro Maran, D. (2017). The ABCE model of volunteer motivation. *Journal of Social Service Research*, 43(5), 593-608.
- Bwambale, M. F., Bukuluki, P., Moyer, C. A., & Borne, B. H. V. D. (2021). Demographic and behavioral drivers of intra-urban mobility of migrant street children and youth in Kampala, Uganda. *PLOS ONE*, 16(2), e0247156.
- Castleberry, A., & Nolen, A. (2018). Thematic analysis of qualitative research data: Is it as easy as it sounds? *Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning*, 10(6), 807-815.

Chimdessa, A. (2022). Initiation into the street, challenges, means of survival and perceived strategies to prevent plights among street children in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 2019: A phenomenological study design. PLOS ONE, 17(8), e0272411.

Church, J. (2021). "Library Guides: Non-Government Organization (NGOs): Introduction."

CRANE. (2018). Children At Risk Action Network: Keeping Children Safe - Experiences and Lessons.

Creswell, J.W. (2009). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods*

Cristina, M. Povian. (2015). Children In Need In A Globalized World 7th World C. Mukherjee, "A study on socio-educational and rehabilitation status of street children in Kolkata," IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science, vol. 19, no. 7, pp. 65-102, 2014 croug.org. (2020). The CRO Jinja Journey - CRO-Uganda.

CSC Survey Report. (2011). Still on the street - still short of rights: Analysis of policy and programs related to street-involved children.

Cumber, S. N., & Tsoka-Gwegweni, J. M. (2015). The health profile of street children in Africa: A literature review. *Journal of Public Health in Africa*, 6(2).

De Benítez, S. T. (2011). *State of the world's street children*. London: Consortium for Street Children.

Dhawan, A., Chopra, A., Ambekar, A., & Ray, R. (2015). Treatment seeking behavior of inhalant using street children: Are we prepared to meet their treatment needs. *Indian Journal of Psychological Medicine*, 37(3), 282-287.

Dutta, N. (2018). Street children in India: A study on their access to health and education. *International Journal of Child, Youth and Family Studies*, 9(1), 69-82.

Elliott, P. Niboye. (2013). Effectiveness of Non-governmental Organizations in the Rehabilitation of Street Children - Experiences from Selected NGOs in DareSalaam, Tanzania.

Fantahun, T., & Taa, B. (2022). Children of the street: The cause and consequence of their social exclusion in Gondar city, North West Ethiopia. *Cogent Social Sciences*, 8(1), 2068268.

Fonseka, L., & Malhotra, D. D. (2020). *India: Urban poverty, children and participation*. In *Urban children in distress* (pp. 161-215). Routledge.

Friberg, A., & Martinsson, V. (2017). Problems and solutions when dealing with street children: A qualitative study based on experiences from social workers in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

- Fuseini, T., & Daniel, M. (2020). Child begging, as a manifestation of child labor in Dagbon of Northern Ghana, the perspectives of mallams and parents. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 111, 104836.
- Glauser, B. (2015). Street children: Deconstructing a construct. In *Constructing and reconstructing childhood* (pp. 128-144). Routledge.
- Hakim, M. A., & Talukder, M. J. (2016). An assessment of health status of street children in Tangail, Bangladesh. *Science Journal of Public Health*, 4(1-1).
- Hutchison, R. (2010). *Encyclopedia of Urban Studies*. SAGE Publication.
- Kabonga, I. (2016). Dependency theory and donor aid: A critical analysis. *Africanus*, 46(2), 29-39.
- Kaiser, E., & Sinanan, A. N. (2020). Survival and resilience of female street children experiencing sexual violence in Bangladesh: A qualitative study. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 29(5), 550-569.
- Kaledzi, I. (2022, February 10). Street children in Kampala. Retrieved from <https://www.dw.com/en/abuse-and-poverty-driving-children-to-ugandas-streets/a-60717>
- Kamruzzaman, M., & Hakim, M. A. (2017). Social, biology and economic life of children links on street-begging in Bangladesh: A cross-cultural multivariate analysis. *Mathematics Letters*, 3(1), 12-19.
- Karani Onyiko & Kimuli. (2015). Impact of Institutionalization of street children: A case study of Nairobi City.
- Kawala et al. (2020). Effect of COVID-19 response in Uganda on street children. *Pan African Medical Journal*. ISSN: 1937-8688.
- Kelly, L. (2019). Legislation on non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Rwanda and England and Wales.
- Kentse Radebe & Ncedisa Nkonyeni. (2020, March 5). NGOs today: Competing for resources, power and agency.
- Kisirkoi, F. K., & Mse, G. S. (2016). Education Access and Retention for Street Children: Perspectives from Kenya. *Journal of Education and Practice*, 7(2), 88-94.
- Kisumu Street Children Rehabilitation Consortium. (2018). *Effective Intervention Street-Connected Children: Lessons Learned in Kisumu Kenya and Recommendations for the Future*.
- Koraim, A. (1998). The Dimensions of the Problem of Street Boys. In *Documents of the Conference "Children in Difficult Social Circumstances*. Cairo: Ahebaa El-Toufoula NGO.

- Lorenzo, R. (2022). The Old Man: Getting Around and Recuperating Commitment. In *Children's Free Play and Participation in the City: A Speculative Autobiography Concerning the World it just might Create* (pp. 95-136) Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore.
- Lotko, M., Leikuma, L., & Gopalswamy Battle, M. (2016). Comparative analysis of outreach work with street children in Latvia, Czech Republic, and India.
- Lucchini, R., & Stoecklin, D. (2020). *Children in street situations*. Springer International Publishing.
- Majid, U. (2018). Research fundamentals: Study design, population, and sample size. *Undergraduate Research in Natural and Clinical Science and Technology Journal*, 2, 1-7.
- Amin, E.M. (2005). *Social science Research: concepts, Methodology and analysis*. Kampala: Makerere University
- McCaghy, C., Capron, T., Jamieson, J. D., & Carey, S. H. (2016). *Deviant behavior: Crime, conflict, and interest groups*. Routledge.
- Miriti, M. M. (2015). *An Investigation in the Challenges of Rescuing, Rehabilitating and Reintegrating Street Children: A Case Study of Rehabilitation Centres Within Nairobi County* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Nairobi).
- Morgan, J. (2016). Participation, empowerment and capacity building: Exploring young people's perspectives on the services provided to them by a grassroots NGO in sub-Saharan Africa. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 65, 175-182.
- Mugenda, O. M., & Mugenda, M. (2003). *Research Methods, Kenya: Qualitative and Qualitative approaches*.
- Musabyimana, C. (2018). *Factors Influencing Children to Return to the Street after Reintegration: A Study Conducted in Kimisagara and Nyamirambo Sectors in Nyarugenge District, Kigali City Rwanda* (Doctoral dissertation).
- Musenene, J. K. (2021). *Street children and criminality: A security perspective in Kampala City, A Case Study of Nakivubo Chanel* (Doctoral dissertation, Makerere University).
- Niboye, E. P. (2013). Effectiveness of Non-Governmental Organizations in the Rehabilitation of Street Children-Experiences from Selected NGOs in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. *Journal of Education and Practice*, 4(1), 2013.
- Nicollet Laframboise. (2019). CHARITIES HELPING STREET CHILDREN. Retrieved from <https://borgenproject.org/5-charities-helping-street-children-around-the-world>
- Nkomo, S., & Mporfu, P. (2022). The Impact of Artisanal Mining on Career Development of Adolescents in Zimbabwe. *Interdisciplinary Journal of Rural and Community Studies*, 4, 36-47.

- Nyambane. (2017). Non-Government Organizations Intervention in the Rehabilitation of Street Children in Nairobi City: A case study of Good Samaritan Children's Home and Rehabilitation Centre.
- Ochola. (2010). Street Children in Kenya: A strategy for Interventions.
- OHCHR. (2011). Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Children Working and/or Living on the Street. Geneva, Switzerland.
- Ojelabi, & Oyewole O. (2012). Economic Factors as Correlates of Streetism among Urban Children in Ibadan Metropolis. Nigeria, 2(9).
- Onyiko, K. K., & Pechacova, D. K. (2015). The Impact of Institutionalization of Street children: A Case Study of Nairobi County.
- Open University Press, McGraw-Hill Education. (n.d.). McGraw-Hill House, Shoppe hangers Road, Maidenhead Berkshire England SL6 2QL.
- Oppong, Asante, K. (2016). Street children and adolescents in Ghana: A qualitative study of trajectory and behavioural experiences of homelessness. Global Social Welfare, 3, 33-43.
- Oxfam India. (n.d.). 1081 Out Of School Children Enrolled.
- Panter-Brick, C. (2002). Street children, human rights, and public health: A critique and future directions. Annual Review of Anthropology, 31(1), 147-171.
- Parveen Shahina (2016). TALE OF HOMELESSNESS" SCENARIO, STATUS & STRATEGY, Sociology. KOTA: Faculty of Social Science UNIVERSITY OF KOTA.
- Pasolini, P. P. (2016). The street kids. Europa Editions.
- Patricia R. et al (2011). STILL ON THE STREET - STILL SHORT OF RIGHTS: Analysis of policy and programs related to street-involved children.
- Puffer, E., McDonald, K., Pross, M., & Hudson, D. (2014). Webcam child sex tourism: An emerging global issue.
- Rabbany, G. (2007). Beggars problem in Bangladesh. Narajibon Blog.
- Reimann, K. D. (2017). Up to no good? Recent critics and critiques of NGOs. In Subcontracting Peace (pp. 37-53). Routledge.
- Retrak and Hope for Justice (2018). Enumeration of Children on the streets in Uganda across Four Locations: Iganga, Jinja, Mbale, and Kampala.
- Rezaul Islam, M. (2017). Population shifting and risks of street children in Asia: Possible social work interventions. Global Social Welfare, 4, 149-157.

Risal, N. (2018). Ethnography Research in Real-Life Environment: A Case Study Based on Street Children in Mamaghar, Nepal, Hetauda. *Malaysian Journal of Business and Economics (MJBE)*, 5(1), 107-107.

Robert Odida (2019). Report On Resettlement & Management Of Street Children At Kobulin Youth Skills Training Centre.

Save Street Children Uganda Official Website! (Sascu.Org)

Selleck, K., Newman, J., & Gilmore, D. (2018). Child Protection in Families Experiencing Domestic Violence. US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Sidor, M., & Abdelhafez, D. (2021). NGO-public administration relationships in tackling the homelessness problem in the Czech Republic and Poland. *Administrative Sciences*, 11(1), 24.

Smetana, J. G., Robinson, J., & Rote, W. M. (2015). Socialization in adolescence.

Spector, P. E. (2019). Do not cross me: Optimizing the use of cross-sectional designs. *Journal of Business and Psychology*, 34(2), 125-137.

Srivastava, M., & Shareef, N. (2016). Plight of street children: An explorative study from Varanasi, India. *Indian Journal of Public Health*, 60(4), 290.

Statistics South Africa (December 12, 2014). Statistics South Africa Street Children Organization. (n.d.). Our work. Retrieved from <https://www.streetchildren.org/our-work>

Taherdoost, H. (2016, August 10). Validity and reliability of the research instrument; how to test the validation of a questionnaire/survey in a research. How to test the validation of a questionnaire/survey in a research.

Taiwo, A. O., Odufuwa, B. O., Afon, A. O., & Oladesu, J. O. (2022). Effects of Open Space Characteristics on the Spatial Distribution of Street Children: Experience from Ibadan, Nigeria. *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 00219096221090634.

Teater, B. (2010). An introduction to applying social work theories and methods.

Terre des Hommes. (2010). Children in Street Situations: Sectoral policy.

The New York Times. (2003, February 24). Robert K. Merton, Versatile Sociologist and Father of the Focus Group, Dies at 92. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/24/nyregion/robert-k-merton-versatile-sociologist-and-father-of-the-focus-group-dies-at-92.html>

UNICEF. (2007). A Base Line Survey of Children Living on the Street of Addis Ababa.

UNICEF. (2013). *Championing Children's Rights: A global study of independent human rights institutions for children.*

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2022). *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2022.* Retrieved from un.org

United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. (2012). *Protection and promotion of the rights of children working and/or living on the street.*

UNODC. (2021, June 24). *World Drug Report 2021: Pandemic effects ramp up drug risks, as youth underestimate cannabis dangers.*

Van Buggenhout, M. (2015). *Deconstructing the Social Concept of Street Children: The Durban Case.* Unpublished Thesis. Faculty of Law and Criminology, Criminal Sciences. Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

Van Raemdonck, L., & Seedat-Khan, M. (2018). A case study on a generalist service delivery model for street children in Durban, South Africa: Insights from the capability approach. *Child & Family Social Work, 23*(2), 297-306.

Vis, W. (2017). *Data on the prevalence of the worst forms of child labor.*

Willetts, P. (2006). *UNESCO Encyclopaedia of Life Support Systems, Section 1. Institutional and Infrastructure Resource Issues, Article 1.44. 3.7, NGOs.*

Yamane, T. (1967). *Statistics: An Introductory Analysis, 2nd Edition.* New York: Harper and Row.

Yiga, F. (2018). *Why children still beg on the streets of Kampala.*

Young, L. (2004). *Journeys to the street: the complex migration geographies of Ugandan street children.* *Geoforum, 35*(4), 471-488.

Zarezadeh, T. (2013). *Investigating the status of the street children: Challenges and opportunities.* *Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences, 84,* 1431-1436.

Zena, A., & Aneth, K. (2010). *Coping Strategies Used by Street Children in Time of Illness.* *Dara-es-salaam, Tanzania.*

## APPENDIX 1: CONSENT FORM

I am conducting an academic research that will enable me complete a master's degree in social work and social administration of Uganda Christian university (UCU) The research is entitled: **NGOS' INTERVENTIONS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION OF STREET CHILDREN IN UGANDA: A CASE OF CHILD RESTORATION OUTREACH (CRO), MBALE CITY**

### **Why are you being asked to be part of this study?**

I am contacting you because I know that you are resourceful and you can give me some information based on the questionnaire below. The information and responses that you will provide will be used for academic purposes. It shall be treated with the necessary confidentiality. I therefore request you to fill this questionnaire.

### **Who will see the information collected about you?**

All information given during the research will be confidential and unless you specifically indicate your consent, your name will not appear in any report or publication of the research

The information collected about you during this study will be kept safely. Nobody will know it except the people doing the research.

### **Other information about the study**

If you decide to be in the study, please write your name below. You can change your mind and stop being part of it at any time.

I.....hereby consent/assent to participate in the study, "**NGOS' INTERVENTIONS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION OF STREET CHILDREN IN UGANDA: A CASE OF CHILD RESTORATION OUTREACH (CRO), MBALE CITY**"

Signature.....date.....

**Amongin Elizabeth**

**Reg. Number: ES17/M31/001**

**Telephone: 0776922322**

## APPENDIX 2: QUESTIONNAIRE.

I am conducting an academic research to enable me to complete a master's degree in social work at Uganda Christian University (UCU). The title of my research is **NGOs' Interventions and Socio-Economic Transformation of Street Children in Uganda: A Case of Child Restoration Outreach (CRO.), Mbale City.**

### Section A: Section A: Background information (circle the appropriate number)

	Question	Response of categories	Tick
a	Age of the Respondents	05-09 years 10-14 years 15 years and above	1 2 3
b	Sex of the respondents	Male female	1 2
	For how long have you been a street child?	Less than four years Less than ten years Less than fifteen years	1 2 3
c	Highest level of Education	PLE and below UCE and below	1 2
d	How long have you been a beneficiary of CRO?	Less than five years More than five years	1 2
f	Religion	Anglican catholic Muslim Traditionalist other	1 2 3 4 5

### Section B. 1. What kind of interventions do NGOs have for the socio-economic transformation of street children?

Questions in this section relate to ways of motivating employees without monetary rewards. On a scale of 1-5 please indicate the extent to which you agree with each statement. 1=Agree, 2=strongly agree, 3=Not sure, 4=Disagree, 5=strongly disagree

Code	NGO intervention in the lives of street children	Tick				
		1	2	3	4	5
E-1	The NGO (CRO) Child Restoration Organization provides me with school fees/Education.					
E-2	Child Restoration Organization pays my health bills.					
E-3	CRO provides me with food/meals.					
E-4	CRO provides me with shelter/home to sleep					
E-5	CRO reunited me with my family					

**2. Contribution of NGO interventions on socio-economic transformation of street children on a scale of 1-5,**

1=strongly Agree, 2=Agree, 3=Not sure, 4=Disagree, 5=Strongly Disagree.

	Statement	1	2	3	4	5
a	My behavior has changed as a result of NGO (CRO) intervention.					
b	The NGO (CRO) has enabled me to know my rights as a child.					
c	I have developed life skills as a result of NGO (CRO) efforts.					
d	I feel better under NGO(CRO) care					

**3.What challenges do street children experience as a result of NGO interventions?**

On a scale of 1-5, please indicate the negative effects of NGO interventions on street children. 1=strongly agree, 2=Agree, 3=not sure, 4=Disagree, strongly disagree.

	Statement	1	2	3	4	5		
C-1	The NGO (CRO) drop-in center is like a prison.							
C-2	There is bullying of street children at the CRO Centre.							
C-3	The NGO (CRO) discriminates among street children. It doesn't help all street children in Mbale..							
C-4	There is mistreatment of street children at drop in centres.							

### APPENDIX 3: IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR CRO ALLUMNI (INDIVIDUAL)

My name is Amongin Elizabeth, I am a Master of Social Work student of Uganda Christian University. I am collecting data in relation to **NGOs Interventions on the socio-economic transformation of street children in Uganda; A case of Child Restoration Outreach, Mbale City.**

You have been carefully chosen to participate in this study because of the knowledge and experience you have on the experiences of street children. The study is purely academic and the findings will help in informing policy for both government and NGOs on the effects of their interventions. Your views will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Bio-data:

Age: .....Sex: .....: Level of Education: .....

1. How did you end up on the streets?
2. How long did you stay on the streets?
3. When did you join CRO programme?
4. What were those interventions of CRO with street children then?
5. How did you become who you are today?
6. What are those positive changes you've seen as a result of CRO interventions on street children?
7. What are you currently doing as a former CRO child?
8. What do you think are the negative effects of CRO interventions on street children?
9. In your view, does CRO adequately meet the needs of street children?
9. How would you want CRO to improve in their operations?
10. Are there any other NGOs supporting street children? What do they do for street children?

Thank you for your participation

#### **APPENDIX 4: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR PROBATION OFFICER**

Are you aware of any street children cases in Mbale?

How have you handled/intervened in addressing the street children problem in Mbale?

Which challenges have you encountered as government agency while handling street children?

What do you think about the interventions by CRO in addressing street child problem in Mbale?

Which solution do you think can permanently address street child problem?

Do you think that CRO approach to street child problem is being addressed properly?

Are you aware of any CRO alumni who have succeed as a result of going through the CRO programmes?

## **APPENDIX 5: OBSERVATION CHECKLIST FOR THE INTERVENTIONS OFFERED BY CRO TO STREET CHILDREN IN MBALE**

- Provide job trainings for street children
- Provide food, clothing, education, health care services to street children
- Street visits for rescue, rehabilitation and resettlement for street children
- Carry out street outreaches/visits to street children
- Provide residential services to street children
- Counseling services provision to street children
- Operate non-residential services (day care centres)
- Provide economic support for families of street children
- Facilitate recreation activities for street children
- Record of the number of street children who have graduated from the CRO training programmes

## APPENDIX 6: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NGO (CRO) OFFICIALS-INDEPTH INTERVIEWS

What kind of socio-economic interventions do NGOs have with street children?

What are the challenges of the NGO interventions on street children?

1. To explore the socio-economic interventions of NGOs to street children in Mbale City.

a) What interventions does CRO for instance have with street children in Mbale City?

b) Do you think these interventions address the challenge of street children in Mbale city?

c) Are there other NGOs having similar interventions in Mbale City? Which are they?

d) What activities do they do with street children?

2. To assess the contribution of NGO interventions to the socio-economic transformation of street children.

a) Are there positive changes in the lives of street children as a result of CRO Interventions? b) What are those changes? Explain further

3. To establish the challenges street children are experiencing as a result of NGO intervention in Mbale City.

a) Have you observed any challenges of CRO interventions on street children? What are they? b) How would you want CRO and NGOs to improve in their interventions?

## APPENDIX 7: GUIDELINES FOR INTERVIEWING CHILDREN

For meaningful engagement of children in Uganda the following skills should be put into consideration;

1. The person should be able to know and understand who a child is according to the legal regulations of Uganda as a country. And the engagement must comply with the legal regulations of Uganda and the National Child Participation strategy.
2. The skills to clearly explain the fundamental child rights and articulate to the particular fundamental child right that correlates with meaningful engagement of children.
3. The skills to explain meaningful child participation as a responsibility for children to complement their rights.
4. The ability to create a child friendly environment is also key in creating rapport with the children and therefore an enabling environment for them to open up.
5. The ability to observe and engage the children according to age and evolving capacity.
6. The approach to engaging the children should also be child friendly in terms of tools used to engage the children, words used, feedback approach etc.
7. Ability to use examples that the children you are working with can easily articulate to and are familiar with.
8. The facilitator must ensure that the 9 key principles for meaningful child participation are at play throughout the process of engaging with children.

## APPENDIX 8: COVID -19 STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

### STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR PREVENTING COVID -19 INFECTIONS WHILE CARRYING OUT RESEARCH:

---

Following the new surge of Covid - 19 infections in the country and deaths that have occurred, it is upon this that the researcher will have the following;

1. Temperature gun
2. Box of disposable masks
3. Hand Sanitizers
4. Face Shield where possible
5. Register and contacts of respondents where applicable
6. Social distancing
7. No hugging or handshaking
8. Meeting in a properly aerated place/ no meeting in an enclosed place
9. Disinfecting surface where the meetings are held from before and after the meetings

#### Other items

##### 1. Temperature gun

The researcher will acquire a functioning temperature gun to take temperatures of respondents most especially those who will be taking part in focus group discussions. Anybody with a temperature reading beyond 37.5<sup>0</sup>C will not be allowed to participate in the discussion but rather sent back.

##### 2. Box of masks

The researcher will ensure to have a box of disposable masks to provide every child before the interview or discussion. She will also ensure that everybody participating complies with the SOPs.

##### 3. Hand sanitizers

The researcher will move with a sanitizer to ensure before meeting with the respondents, everybody sanitizes before and after the meeting.

##### 4. Face shield

The researcher will ensure she wears a face shield where possible to ensure self-protection. However where it seems it attracts attention especially of the children, she will endeavor to wear a face mask just like the children.

5. Registering respondents and their contacts

This is important in the event that some of the participants may have tested positive afterwards, their contact can be used to trace them.

6. Social distancing

The seating arrangement during interviews should be 2 meters apart from each other. Those participating in focus group discussion will be divided in smaller groups to facilitate social distancing. They will be addressed before the meeting to sensitize them on Covid-19. Since the participants are many, these smaller groups will be handled by research assistants who also will be observing the SOPs.

7. No hugging or handshaking

Everybody participating in the interview or discussions will not be allowed to shake or hug but rather waving and smiling will be encouraged. Verbal greetings will be encouraged.

8. Meeting in a properly aerated place/ no meeting in an enclosed place

The researcher will ensure meetings will be held in a properly aerated place where social distancing can be observed.

9. Disinfecting surfaces where the meetings are held from before and after the meetings

All places where meetings will be conducted will be disinfected before and after the meetings.

To note:

Anybody who seems to run a fever or has flulike symptoms will not be allowed to participate in the interview or Focus group discussions.



By: Amongin Elizabeth  
(MSW Student on Academic Research)

## APPENDIX 9: CRO CHILD PROTECTION GUIDELINES



### CHILD PROTECTION POLICY GUIDELINES

#### Policy Statement

CRO recognizes that street children are a unique category of vulnerable children that not only face serious vulnerability to all types of abuses as they live and work on the streets but also as they access care and support programmes. CRO believes that just like any other categories of children, street children have rights and deserve to be protected.

CRO also believes that given the confidence and a safe environment, children can become empowered agents to improve their lives, those of their families, and communities. In order to develop to their full potential children must be safeguarded from abuse, discrimination and harm of any kind, be it physical, sexual, emotional or neglect.

CRO also recognizes that Child protection and the prevention of child abuse is a shared responsibility among all stakeholders. All staff employed by CRO, and other stakeholders who come in contact with the children are responsible for the care, safety and protection of all children. This responsibility extends to the identification and timely response to child protection concerns in the context of CRO's interface with children.

#### Preventive Strategies

CRO's primary commitment for children is to prevent abuse from happening at all. These guidelines have been developed in the **best interest of the child** and in respect to the values of respect, fairness/justice, participation, inclusiveness and accountability.

CRO receives visitors, including but not limited to district officials, donors, sister NGOs, independent researchers, consultants and contractors. In the process of learning about CRO programmes or providing services, they get in touch with children. CRO understands that such interaction, if not well handled could potentially lead to abuse of children within CRO premises and programmes. The following guidelines shall direct the behaviour of visitors as they interact with CRO.

#### Visitors **shall**:

- Announce their visit and intentions in writing, in advance and be cleared by **Management** (Programme Manager) before interacting with children in anyway.
- Declare gifts /seek permission of management before giving children gifts.
- Sign a declaration of commitment to uphold the provisions of this policy.

#### Visitors **shall not**:

- Interact with children in the absence of a staff unless permitted by CRO management.
- Take photography, videos and audio recordings without the consent of management, parent/guardian or child.

- Exit project premises with a child unaccompanied by a staff and without clearance from management.
- Dress skimpily or in a manner that is sexually provocative or disgraceful to children.
- Leave automobiles keys and their valuables in the automobiles, if possible park outside and lock all windows and doors.

Please sign this document if you comply with the above guidelines.

Name: Amongin Suzabeta

Signature: 

Title: MSW student

Organization: Uganda Christian University

Country of Origin: Uganda

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Purpose of the visit: To carry out research

Email & Phone contact lizamongin@gmail.com  
0796 92232

## APPENDIX 10: APPROVAL LETTER FROM THE UNIVERSITY



# UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa

11/02/2022

To: Elizabeth Amongin  
Uganda Christian University  
0776922322

CHILD RESTORATION OUTREACH

P. O. Box 1610  
Mbale Uganda

*Accepted*

Type: Initial Review

Re: UCUREC-2022-276: THE EFFECTS OF NGOS' INTERVENTIONS ON STREET CHILDREN IN UGANDA: A CASE OF CHILD RESTORATION OUTREACH (CRO), MBALE CITY, 01, 2022-02-11

I am pleased to inform you that the Uganda Christian University REC, through expedited review held on 11/02/2022 approved the above referenced study. Approval of the research is for the period of 11/02/2022 to 11/02/2023.

As Principal Investigator of the research, you are responsible for fulfilling the following requirements of approval:

1. All co-investigators must be kept informed of the status of the research.
2. Changes, amendments, and addenda to the protocol or the consent form must be submitted to the REC for re-review and approval prior to the activation of the changes.
3. Reports of unanticipated problems involving risks to participants or any new information which could change the risk benefit: ratio must be submitted to the REC.
4. Only approved consent forms are to be used in the enrollment of participants. All consent forms signed by participants and/or witnesses should be retained on file. The REC may conduct audits of all study records, and consent documentation may be part of such audits.
5. Continuing review application must be submitted to the REC **eight** weeks prior to the expiration date of 11/02/2023 in order to continue the study beyond the approved period. Failure to submit a continuing review application in a timely fashion may result in suspension or termination of the study.
6. The REC application number assigned to the research should be cited in any correspondence with the REC of record.
7. You are required to register the research protocol with the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) for final clearance to undertake the study in Uganda.
8. The following is the list of all documents approved in this application by Uganda Christian University REC:

No.	Document Title	Language	Version Number	Version Date
1	Protocol	English	01	2022-02-11

Yours Sincerely

Peter Waiswa

For: Uganda Christian University REC