



TRAFFICKING'S FOOTPRINT

Baseline Research Findings at a Glance

Child Trafficking & Exploitation

- Cases of child trafficking and other forms of child exploitation were documented in all six districts studied by research teams during 2016-2017, but the number of cases varied widely.
- More than 500 instances of child trafficking were uncovered in 20 communities surveyed in the 2016 phase of the study.
- 107 households with cases of child trafficking were documented in 14 additional communities surveyed in the 2017 phase of the study.
- The percentage of households in a community reporting at least one child subjected to trafficking or exploitation ranged from 2 percent in two communities to 100 percent in one community.



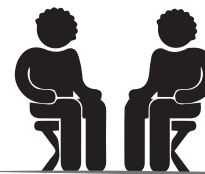
Economic Factors

- In almost all communities studied, residents expressed a desperate need for income-generating activities.
- The economic desperation of some households was demonstrated by the low sums traffickers were able to pay parents to “hire” their child, reportedly ranging from 100 GHS (approximately \$25) to 300 GHS (approximately \$60).



Programmatic Responses

- Free the Slaves and International Needs Ghana are working to combat child trafficking and address its causes through the Growing Up Free program. Overcoming vulnerabilities described by community members during the Trafficking's Footprint baseline study is a core component of the Growing Up Free program. These vulnerabilities include:
 - A general lack of awareness of children's rights under Ghanaian law
 - The absence of strong protective community organizations to protect children from traffickers
 - Difficulties accessing vital services such as health and education
- The Growing Up Free program addresses these vulnerabilities directly through:
 - Community mobilization
 - Socioeconomic service provision
 - Reintegration of survivors
 - Strengthening of the rule of law



Purpose and Use of this Study

- This study collected baseline data on the prevalence and awareness of child trafficking and exploitation in 34 communities selected for the Growing Up Free program. This data will be compared to end-line figures to evaluate the project's success.
- Focus group discussions and community mapping exercises conducted as part of the study provided valuable context about the drivers and mechanics of trafficking in specific project communities so that tailored project activities could be developed. These exercises also identified specific households with cases of trafficking that are being approached now with programmatic interventions to liberate identified children from slavery.
- This study's results are not intended to represent the scope or prevalence of child trafficking or exploitation throughout Ghana.

