

# Hidden Violence

*Preventing and responding to sexual exploitation  
and sexual abuse of adolescent boys*

Case Studies and Directions for Action

Authors: Piotr Pawlak and Gary Barker

**A Briefing Paper by MenCare**

 **OAK**  
**FOUNDATION**

*Generously Funded by the Oak Foundation*

## Oak Foundation

Oak Foundation commits its resources to address issues of global, social and environmental concern, particularly those that have a major impact on the lives of the disadvantaged. Oak Foundation was formally established in 1998 in Geneva, Switzerland. The first two programs to get underway were Environment and Child Abuse, followed by four other substantive programs — Housing and Homelessness, International Human Rights, Issues Affecting Women and Learning Differences. There is also a Special Interest Grants Program, which funds a range of efforts identified by the Trustees that do not fall into the other program areas, and two national programs in Denmark and Zimbabwe. Oak Foundation is an international foundation that has made more than 2,100 grants to not-for-profit organizations across the globe since its establishment in 1998. While Oak Foundation's headquarters remain in Geneva, the Foundation operates offices in seven other countries, including Belize, Bulgaria, Denmark, Ethiopia, the UK, the US and Zimbabwe.

## Promundo

Promundo is a Brazilian non-governmental organization, with offices in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Washington DC, USA, and representation in Rwanda, that seeks to promote gender equality and end violence against women, children and youth through research, programs that seek to promote positive changes in gender norms, and advocacy. Promundo works locally in Rio de Janeiro, nationally throughout Brazil, and internationally. Promundo's three areas of focus include research on gender equity and health, implementing and evaluating programs that promote positive changes in individual behavior and gender norms, and advocating for the integration of gender equality initiatives in public policy.

## MenCare

MenCare – A Global Fatherhood Campaign – is coordinated by Promundo, Sonke Gender Justice Network and the MenEngage Alliance to promote men's involvement as fathers and as caregivers. It seeks to provide support materials, messages, policy recommendations and research to encourage local MenEngage partners, NGOs, women's rights organizations, governments and UN partners to implement campaign activities in their settings. Visit us to learn more! Visit our website ([www.men-care.org](http://www.men-care.org)), find us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/mencarecampaign](http://www.facebook.com/mencarecampaign)), and follow us on Twitter ([www.twitter.com/@MenCareGlobal](http://www.twitter.com/@MenCareGlobal)).



Sonke Gender  
Justice Network  
HIV/AIDS, Gender Equality, Human Rights

Men Care  
A GLOBAL FATHERHOOD CAMPAIGN



### The MenCare Campaign's Statement on Sexual Violence and Abuse

MenCare is a global campaign coordinated by Promundo and the Sonke Gender Justice Network that advocates for men's gender equitable involvement as fathers and caregivers. It is the campaign's belief that an important part of being supportive partners and caregivers is preventing sexual violence and abuse of young girls and boys. As "Hidden Violence" shows, youth, especially those in resource poor settings, are particularly at risk for sexual abuse and exploitation. Carlos' Story demonstrates (see video at [www.men-care.org](http://www.men-care.org)) that men as fathers, friends, brothers and caregivers can serve as allies to help survivors of sexual violence heal the past and support a strong future. MenCare will engage men to prevent sexual abuse by

- Raising their awareness around the issue via campaigns (community, national and global);
- Providing education around what constitutes sexual abuse, violence and exploitation;
- Developing tools that empower men to speak out when they see abuse in their communities.

## Introduction

Boys and girls experience sexual violence and sexual exploitation in gender differentiated ways. Numerous national-level surveys have found that boys experience these forms of violence at lower rates than girls do, but at rates that nevertheless merit great attention. Boys are less likely to seek help, especially from formal services, when they experience sexual violence. Particular groups of boys also face higher risk, such as street boys. Boys' experiences of sexual violence are tied to feelings of shame, uncertainty, confusion and homophobic attitudes from the part of parents, service providers and legal or police officials.

This document summarizes results from the report, *Hidden Violence: Preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of adolescent boys, Case Studies and Directions for Action*, prepared in 2012 by Promundo for the OAK Foundation. It first introduces some of the literature on the topic, then follows with international project experiences featuring a case study and video clip produced in Nicaragua. Conclusions, emerging issues and final recommendations are then presented.

Calling attention to sexual violence experienced by boys does not minimize the experiences of girls and women. Rather, we seek to **apply a gender lens to boys' experiences of sexual violence and exploitation** and to both raise awareness of particular challenges boys face, and in the case of sexual violence against girls, improve prevention and protection efforts.

## Highlights from the Literature

***Sexual exploitation and sexual violence against boys are under-recognized and under-studied issues.*** Numerous researchers affirm: (1) a lack of recognition of the scope and pervasiveness of male victimization due to sexual violence and exploitation, (2) a failure to appropriately recognize and address the causes, and (3) limited attention to the barriers to reporting and seeking help on the part of boys and men surviving (or young and adult male survivors of) sexual violence.

***Researchers increasingly acknowledge the role of gender in sexual abuse and exploitation of boys and men.*** Stereotypical notions of masculinity are beginning to be discussed in greater detail. Numerous studies affirm how boys are frequently socialized to believe that they need to be strong, protectors, providers, and in other words, "real men" (Ricardo and Barker 2008; WHO 2010). The pressure to embody these qualities often leaves

boys and young men feeling that reporting sexual exploitation or asking for help when they have experienced sexual violence makes them weak or "non-masculine." Similarly, parents, health care workers, teachers and other duty bearers may harbor overt or hidden prejudices related to sexual violence and boys.

***Globally, the World Health Organization estimates that 150 million girls and 73 million boys under the age of 18 have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact*** (UNICEF Tanzania 2011). Data from the US suggests that one in six boys and one in four girls will be sexually abused in their lifetime (National Center for PTSD 2007). Recent studies by Together for Girls in sub-Saharan Africa, UNICEF in South East Asia, IMAGES data (Barker, et al 2011), and North American and European data all find higher rates of sexual exploitation of and sexual violence against girls but significantly high rates of exploitation of boys as well. IMAGES data from six countries found that between 1-21%

### Defining Sexual Violence, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation

**Sexual violence** includes emotional, mental and physical forms of violence. Research into sexual violence experienced by boys and men has identified three groupings of violence (SVRI 2011): “Forcing a man or boy to take part in sexual acts, often humiliating ones; inflicting pain and/or damage to the genitals with the overt or covert threat of interfering with future sexual pleasure; and inflicting damage to the genitals designed to prevent future reproduction.”

Definitions often fail to address specific practices that are considered sexual exploitation of children and overlook connections between the various forms of sexually exploitative and abusive practices and how they compound each other (ECPAT 2009). Any sexually exploitative practices – including commercial sexual exploitation such as prostitution or pornography – involving children (defined as individuals below age 18 by the ILO and UN Convention of the Rights of the Child) are considered a form of **child sexual abuse**.

The ILO defines commercial **sexual exploitation** of children as: the use of children in sexual activities remunerated in cash or in kind; trafficking of children and adolescents for the sex trade; child sex tourism; production, promotion and distribution of pornography involving children; and the use of children in sex shows (public or private). Sexual exploitation differs from child sexual abuse because of the involvement of some kind of remuneration or commercial transaction. Therefore, child sexual abuse need not imply sexual exploitation when there is no remuneration, however sexual exploitation fits within the broader definition of abuse (Frederick 2009). Additional definitions are provided in the Annex.

of men experienced sexual violence growing up, with the highest rates in Rwanda and India.

**Vulnerability factors** vary by context, but pertain to both boys’ and girls’ risks of sexual abuse and exploitation. These factors relate to **poverty and social exclusion** such as homelessness, absence of legal identity or documentation, a need to earn money to survive (or cultural expectation to support the family), and history of drug or alcohol abuse. Living in or near **risk environments**—slums, streets, areas of concentrations of night entertainment (bars, discos, brothels), near highways, ports, borders, military camps, large public works, mining camps, in settings of armed conflict, and in environments with a tolerance for child labor, prostitution or sex tourism—also pose risks (see ILO, 2012). **Family-related risk factors** include weakened family or community networks, absence of parental figures, history of sexual abuse within families, witnessing

or being victim to domestic violence, HIV/AIDS infection in the family, and practices of prostitution among family members (ILO, 2012). Evidence from the US has shown that in three out of ten cases of sexual abuse the perpetrator is a relative of the victim. In six out of ten cases of sexual abuse the victim knows their perpetrator, but the abuser is not a family member (National Center for PTSD 2007).

According to UNICEF’s 2006 *State of the World’s Children*, **approximately 2 million children worldwide are involved in commercial sexual exploitation** (cited in ILO 2012). The underlying factors in the commercial sexual exploitation of boys and girls are similar and include unequal power relations between children and adults, poverty and the need for self-sustenance, and violence in the home (Ricardo and Barker 2008; Lillywhite and Skidmore 2006; ILO 2012).

***It is a misconception to equate sexual exploitation of boys only with same-sex relationships or to assume that boys who are involved in commercial sexual exploitation are homosexual*** (Ricardo and Barker 2008; Masud Ali 2006). Boys who have been sexually exploited vary in their sexual orientations, socioeconomic backgrounds and ethnicities. Similarly, it is a misconception to equate perpetrators of sexual abuse – especially child sexual abuse – with homosexuality. Many perpetrators identify as heterosexual.

***Most abusers are men; in the US, women perpetrate sexual abuse against boys in 14 percent of cases and against girls in six percent of cases*** (National Center for PTSD 2007). As discussed with vulnerability factors, most abusers are from the same communities as their victims. In countries where there are strong policies regarding the separation of sexes, men may engage in the commercial sexual exploitation of boys and other men more frequently (Ricardo and Barker 2008). Additional contexts where men and boys are commonly sexually exploited include conflict settings and heavily male-dominated environments such as prisons and juvenile detention centers.

***Notions of masculinity and social expectations of boys and men – such as being tough and unemotional – and attitudes surrounding same-sex sexual relations, can lead to underreporting and limited attention and services for male victims of sexual exploitation.*** Given the little that is known, boys face many of the same challenges as girls including difficulty in negotiating condom use and other issues of sexual protection. Impacts of commercial sexual exploitation can be long-lasting (WHO 2000). Sexual violence can be used against boys and men as a tool to emasculate them; to threaten their heterosexual status and to feel stigmatized by same-sex relations. In **conflict settings** in particular, sexual violence is often used as a tool of war to demoralize or threaten individuals and weaken social and familial cohesion (Knerr 2011).

Short-term **impacts** include academic problems, behavioral problems, low self-esteem, delinquency,

depression, increased risk for suicide, high-risk sexual behavior, poor physical health, post-traumatic stress disorder and higher rates of substance abuse (Knerr 2011, Contreras et al 2012). Additional consequences can include obesity, attempted suicide, sexual dysfunction or excessive sexual activity resulting in the acquisition of STIs (Nielsen 1983, Knerr 2011).

***Research by the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre into child trafficking in South Asia has found that boys often have less legal protection from sexual abuse than girls do***, and as a result have limited access to services for survivors. Additional social pressure for boys to assert their masculinity can lead to both the perpetration and denial of abuse. UNICEF's research in South East Asia illustrates how rape and other forms of sexual abuse are used by street children and gangs to establish dominance and protect territory such as sleeping places (Frederick 2009).

A recent Promundo study found that in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 14% of men said they had paid for sex with a girl they believed was under the age of 14, and less than 1% reported ever having paid for sex with a boy under age 18 (Segundo et al 2012). These findings suggest that sexual exploitation of boys is less prevalent or that men are much less likely to report having paid for sex with boys. Furthermore, both men and women were much more likely to “blame the victim” in the case of boys, believing that boys had more agency or freedom of choice to become involved in sex work.

## International Project Experiences

Recognizing the lack of attention to adolescent boys' experiences of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, Promundo, funded by the Oak Foundation, led a two-year effort to further knowledge, research and programming in addressing sexual exploitation and sexual violence of adolescent boys.

Target groups included at-risk adolescents; young men who have experienced sexual exploitation or perpetuated sexual violence against others; stakeholders and service providers; fathers, brothers and male family members; journalists; judges and police. Where there was no existing research on

the topic, formative research, consultation with adolescents, and evaluation of direct beneficiaries of activities were carried out. Additional activities included group education exercises, workshops and trainings, community outreach and social media campaigns.

The following are highlights from ten pilot-scale projects where studies, workshops, training and direct interventions were carried out, with the Nicaragua case (the eleventh project) featured next.

- Rio de Janeiro, **Brazil**: a qualitative study to understand perceptions of professionals working in a national network for prevention of commercial sexual exploitation among adolescent boys and young men.
- Natal, **Brazil**: workshops with adolescent boys and girls to raise their awareness about sexual exploitation.
- Phnom Penh, **Cambodia**: strengthening prevention and protection, partnerships, advocacy and education efforts among partner organizations.
- San Juan, **Costa Rica**: workshops with adolescent boys and research to explore and systemize perceptions and understanding of sexual exploitation of adolescent boys among public-sector professionals in three Central American countries.
- Guatemala City, **Guatemala**: workshops with NGOs, judicial system employees, media and journalists in order to strengthen their capacity to prevent sexual exploitation of adolescent boys.
- Goa, **India**: participatory research exploring experiences and coping mechanisms of boys who are survivors of sexual exploitation.
- New Delhi, **India**: a study to assess the context and extent of sexual exploitation of boys, and boys' socialization in perpetrating violence against younger peers including girls and against women.
- Kingston, **Jamaica**: an interactive approach with young men in correctional institutions, family members, communities and other stakeholders to address the impact of culture and the need for re-socialization of young men's behavior and attitudes around male sexual exploitation.

- Kathmandu, **Nepal**: understanding different dimensions and risks among sexual violence against street boys.
- Cape Town, **South Africa**: a mapping exercise to explore how service providers understand and engage with cases of sexual exploitation of adolescent boys.

### **Featured Case Study and Video Clip: Nicaragua**

Led by the Nicaraguan NGO Puntos de Encuentro, the "*Life Stories of Young Men in Managua*" project focused on participatory action research using life histories. The objectives were to raise public awareness around sexual abuse and to empower young men, survivors and men at risk of engaging in commercial sexual exploitation. **One of the young men's stories was turned into a video clip as part of MenCare**, a global campaign to promote men's caregiving roles and involved, non-violent fatherhood. Both the campaign and clip can be accessed via the MenCare website: [www.men-care.org](http://www.men-care.org). The clip is **a tool to encourage discussions with service providers, teachers, students and facilitators** about current challenges and potential avenues to improving the problem. Boys and men must feel comfortable reporting abuse and seeking help; both of which require changes in social attitudes and policies in many settings; this clip offers a way to begin addressing these needs.

**During workshops and interactive group discussions and activities**, participants were asked to reflect on their experiences of sexual exploitation and sexual violence. Personal testimonies and experiences were shared and collected using the life histories methodology, which allowed the boys and young men to share other aspects of their difficult experiences, as they relate to sexual exploitation, such as drug abuse, child labor, domestic violence, gang/*maras* participation, homelessness, and health problems including injuries, STIs, and HIV/AIDS.

Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, is characterized as a violent city in which crime, gang violence and drug use is common among youth. The

target population included 45 young men aged 15-22, including transgender boys from eight districts of Managua. Participants were from low-income communities with poor healthcare and educational services and lived in overcrowded informal housing settlements (with an average of seven people per home).

Where appropriate, videos and films were used to initiate discussions between participants and facilitators. Within each group, young men developed an interview guide, and trained participant researchers (11 young men and 3 transgender men) interviewed other group members. Findings were compiled into a book, “*Los Hijos del Barrio*,” and one story was used to create the featured clip.

## Results and Lessons Learned from Nicaragua

- Generating positive impacts on the lives of young men who have been sexually exploited is a complex process that takes time. Because young men have other obligations in their lives and face various other challenges, including arrests, drugs, health and social problems, and because complications, recruitment and retention of participants is difficult, providing food and transportation motivated attendance.
- Counseling services were available to all participants, but only a few accessed the services. In Nicaragua, access to mental health care for young men is very limited, and therefore providing individualized attention to participants’ mental well-being should be part of this and similar projects. Life-skills training and educational and vocational training opportunities should be provided to support young men.
- Programs addressing sexual exploitation of adolescents should also include collaborating with local or national government institutions and other influential policy and decision-makers.
- Creating safe spaces offers emotional and physical comfort and is essential for achieving positive results with young men. The Nicaragua

project prioritized providing these safe spaces for participants, in which, often for the first time, the men were heard and understood by others.

- Involving young men of diverse sexual orientations including young transgender men was a successful move. The diversity of participants allowed for analyzing both commonalities and distinct experiences of sexual exploitation among adolescent boys and young men.

## Conclusions from all Project Sites

*Social service providers and professionals in civil society and public sector institutions often have limited knowledge on gender, masculinities, sexuality, sexual orientation, addressing homophobia and stigma around same-sex sexual experiences.* In referring to cases of victimization, the victim is usually seen as a girl being victimized by an adult male (Ennew, 2008), and when referring to a boy, sexual exploitation among boys involved older men, and to a much lesser degree, older women. Stereotypical gender bias is thus expressed in terms of not acknowledging the possibility of boys as victims. The prevailing perception is that boys are tough and able to take care of themselves.

Blaming mothers for not fulfilling their roles as nurturers was another gender bias related to sexual exploitation. This perception seemed to emanate from a belief that mothers are solely responsible for child rearing and nurturing the child’s development (Miller, 2005; Nicolson, 1993). In this social construction of motherhood, mothers shoulder the blame if anything happens to the child and are frowned upon by society for not doing a “good enough job” (Nicolson, 1993).

*Service providers often have difficulty in distinguishing between sexual autonomy and exploitation in the case of boys (and girls).* Some service providers consider it normal that adolescents exchange sex for favors and may only consider this situation “abusive” or “exploitative” when the age difference is particularly pronounced, for example. Issues of autonomy and power imbalances in adolescent relationships are complex but must be discussed among service providers. Awareness of the potential for the weaker, vulnerable adolescent or child to be exploited or abused should always

be considered. At the same time, care should be taken so that protection does not detract from adolescents' autonomy to have consensual, non-coerced sex.

***Practitioners sometimes incorporate their own personal and conservative views about religion, sexuality and sexual autonomy rights into programming.*** The project confirmed that with regard to sexual orientation, there are contrasting opinions, ranging from the view that homosexuality is “unnatural” to the acceptance that it is a personal choice. Some views suggested that individuals could adjust and better their lifestyles if channeled through religion, and that spiritual guidance would “remedy” the situation. Respondents attached much importance to the role of religion in how such cases are handled by parents.

***In order to change the attitudes about working with men and boys, service providers must confront their own biases.*** It is essential that service providers have a deep understanding of gender, masculinity and male sexual violence, including how boys' biological differences influence their sexual behaviors. Approaches to working with at-risk boys must be developed and implemented as part of efforts to address childhood sexual violence.

***Institutions lack sufficient data on the magnitude of the problem; this absence of data allows assumptions to persist of boys as perpetrators rather than survivors of sexual exploitation and affects available care and treatment services.*** Most respondents who worked with cases of exploitation said that girls face higher risks of sexual exploitation. This is generally the case; however, with respect to street children, this review found that cases of sexual exploitation involved mostly boys. Girls' and boys' exposure to risk could also be related to a socialized tendency of parents to keep girls in or close to the household, while encouraging boys to venture out or be more adventurous (Frederick, 2010).

***There is a lack of coherence in age-appropriate practices for children and adolescents.*** Some

service providers perceived that male children require protection due to increased vulnerability, while others conveyed a gender bias that males do not need protection and that they can take care of themselves. While practitioners recognize that children develop at different paces, it was evident that service providers require training and sensitization about gender as well as age-specific needs.

***While this project represents a small investigation into the sexual exploitation of boys, it reflects the difficulties experienced by professionals regarding what constitutes sexual exploitation of boys and how these understandings are influenced by stereotypical gender constructions of male and female roles in society as well as constructions of child sexuality.*** Findings suggest that training on existing children's rights legislation is required with service providers and professionals who receive cases of children and families. Providers also require more reflection and understanding about gender norms and sexuality, including frank discussions and critiques about homophobic attitudes.

In addition, more public education and awareness leading to social change is required in the area of challenging gender stereotypes and acknowledgment of child sexuality, in order to create a society that promotes protection and participation rights of children and promotes gender parity. It is clear that while laws and policies on the ***protection of children from sexual exploitation and abuse are in place, implementation, especially with regard to adolescent boys and young men, is challenging and often isolated with only a few successful results.***

Results from workshops and training initiatives with professionals from faith-based development organizations as well as police, military, judiciary and media show that these institutions tend not work with adolescent boys or marginalized populations of young men directly. ***Cultural and social gender stereotypes strongly influence misbeliefs around sexual exploitation of boys and girls.*** Many of them treat male sexual exploitation as a non-existing subject and perceive it as unimportant and unrelated to initiatives they prioritize.

*Several direct interventions with boys affirm their multiple vulnerabilities including homelessness and hunger, stigma and prevalent violence, and fear of discrimination from peers, family and community members.* Many boys believe that they have been prescribed certain roles as young men and must fit into their communities, peer groups and families. Others believe that they must participate in certain sexual activities in order to provide for their families, regardless of injury or emotional harm that they may face. Young men blame themselves for having been sexually exploited and struggle with poor self-esteem, which in turn, re-exposes them to risk. Programs thus must provide relevant information to young men to empower them to understand their self-worth and the positive roles they can play in their communities.

### Emerging Issues

*The general blindness to boys' experiences of sexual violence* in the sexual violence and children's rights field has been noted across the countries that participated in this initiative. This blindness stems from multiple issues, including stereotypes that men and boys are perpetrators of sexual violence and never victims, and deep-rooted discomfort in discussing homosexual contact (whether consensual or coerced). The same "blindness" and denial surrounding sexual violence against girls - that it happens in the home as much as outside, that it involves a gender power imbalance, that it affects those who are the most powerless - also affects sexual violence against boys.

*The risk of "ghettoizing" sexual violence against boys:* while many of the partners wanted to start a separate network on sexual violence against boys, Promundo believes strongly that the topic must be part of existing GBV, child abuse/sexual abuse and sexual violence prevention efforts. Moreover, the topic must be pushed forward in the context of child abuse/maltreatment, as a way of bringing greater attention and sensitivity to gender differences in the dynamics of prevention, perpetration, and victimization, among other critical issues.

*Boys' experiences of violence and violence against women and girls are linked.* Part of the resistance in the GBV field to talking about violence against men and boys has been the belief that it would take resources away from important gains in attention to GBV against women and girls. Data from the Promundo and ICRW IMAGES study shows that clear linkages exist: boys who witness violence as children and/or who experience sexual violence growing up are more likely to use physical and sexual violence against women and girls later in their adult lives (Barker et al, 2011). Calling attention to boys' experiences of sexual violence is about achieving boys' rights but also should be part of ending violence against women and girls.

*Sexual exploitation must be examined through a gender lens, i.e., understanding differences and similarities between and among girls' and boys' experiences.* The fields of sexual violence and child protection often see children as genderless, and boys perhaps more so. In recent years, attention has been drawn to girls' specific vulnerabilities, including with regard to sexual violence, and how girls are treated in their homes, schools, in their communities, and the specific ways they are disempowered (or empowered) based on gender. These efforts include Together for Girls, the Girl Effect, Because I Am a Girl, and the Adolescent Girls Coalition. Discussions about sexual violence against boys are rare or inadequately incorporated into efforts to prevent and mitigate sexual violence. A key gender difference confirmed through numerous studies is that boys and young men (and adult men) are far less likely to tell someone about their experiences or seek support because of their reluctance to seek help, admit vulnerability or be labeled as homosexual.

*There is a need to address boys' experiences of sexual exploitation in connection with homophobia, stigma, discrimination and stereotyping around same-sex experiences* as seen across all projects in this initiative. For organizations working primarily with women and girls, a major challenge was how to more effectively engage in work with boys in the intolerant and homophobic environments where same-sex experiences or homosexuality are taboo.

## Final Recommendations

- Research risk factors, barriers to services, service provider attitudes and perceptions on boys and sexual violence and sexual exploitation.
- Pay greater attention to sexual violence against boys within existing SGBV prevention initiatives.
- Target NGO work in institutional care and detention settings on policy and ‘culture’ with respect to sexual violence; also target militaries and police as agents of protection.
- Make services for sexual violence survivors including medical, legal and psycho-social services available to men and boys in ways that are accessible to them.
- Focus programs that address the sexual exploitation and abuse of children on working with LGBTI groups and include discussions around homophobic sexual violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation.
- Include the sexual exploitation of boys and young men, as a public health issue, in national HIV/AIDS strategic plans, especially in relation to prevention, since young men represent a high-risk group.
- Utilize child protection policies and services to address the needs of males from a gender perspective, address age-specific needs, and screen for sexual violence and exploitation.
- Integrate work to support boys and men who are survivors of sexual violence in the greater field of engaging men and boys in gender equality – through networks such as MenEngage and international campaigns such as MenCare – and in children’s rights and SGBV prevention efforts.

Improving responses to the problem of sexual violence and exploitation among boys entails recognition and dedication among government, civil society and NGO sectors. Findings from research, evaluation, tools and practices across diverse settings must be shared in order to develop the evidence base and adequately address these forms of violence at a global scale.

## Acknowledgements

This program was generously funded by the OAK Foundation.

Gary Barker and Piotr Pawlak of Promundo wrote this report, and Piotr Pawlak coordinated the project globally. Anna Flora Werneck of Childhood Brazil in Sao Paulo, and James Hafner of Stop It Now in Boston, USA, served as project advisors. Anastasia Anthopoulos from OAK Foundation provided guidance and support throughout the project.

The country trainings, workshops, surveys, research was coordinated and conducted by:

- Brazil: Isadora Garcia, Promundo
- Brazil: Anna Paula Felizardo, Resposta
- Cambodia: Alastair Hilton and Yaim Chamreun, Chab Dai
- Costa Rica: Ruthman Moreira, Costa Rican Association for Action, Education, and Research on Masculinity, Family and Sexuality (WEM Institute)
- Guatemala: Maria Eugenia Villareal, ECPAT
- India: Juliana Lohar, Anyay Rahit Zindagi
- India: Nandita Bhatla, International Center for Research on Women
- Jamaica: Patrice Pious and Claudette Pious, Children First Agency
- Nepal: Kirti Thapa and Neelam Dhanushe, Save the Children Nepal
- Nicaragua: Oswaldo Montoya and Douglas Mendoza, Puntos de Encuentro
- South Africa: Christina Nomdo and Kery-Jane Coleman, RAPCAN

## References

- Barker, G., Contreras, J.M., Heilman, B., Singh, A.K., Verma, R.K., and Nascimento, M. *Evolving Men: Initial Results from the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES)*. Washington, D.C.: International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) and Rio de Janeiro: Instituto Promundo. January 2011.
- Contreras et al. (2012). *Bridges to Adulthood: Understanding the Lifelong Influence of Men's Childhood Experience of Violence Analyzing Data from the International Men and Gender Equality Survey*. Washington: ICRW and Rio de Janeiro: Promundo.
- ECPAT. (2008). *Child Trafficking for Sexual Purposes*. A Contribution of ECPAT to the World Congress III Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents. 25-28 November 2008, Rio de Janeiro. Available at: [http://www.ecpat.net/EI/EI\\_publications.asp](http://www.ecpat.net/EI/EI_publications.asp) (Last Accessed 25 April 2012).
- Frederick J. (2009). 'Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Boys in South Asia - A Review of Research Findings, Legislation, Policy and Programme Responses' *Innocenti Working Paper* No. 2010-02. Florence, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre.
- ILO. (2012). *Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children*. Available at: <http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/areas/CSEC/lang--en/index.htm>.
- Knerr W (2011). *Parenting and the prevention of child maltreatment in low- and middle-income countries: A systematic review of interventions and a discussion of prevention of the risks of future violent behaviour among boys*. Oxford: SVRI, Oak Foundation and South African Medical Research Council. Available at: <http://www.svri.org/parenting.pdf>
- Lillywhite and Skidmore (2006) "Boys are not sexually exploited? A challenge to practitioners." *Child Abuse Review*, Vol. 15, Issue 5, 351-361.
- Masud Ali A, Sarkar R (2006). *The Boys and the Bullies: A Situational Analysis Report on Prostitution of Boys in Bangladesh*. Bangkok, ECPAT International in collaboration with INCIDIN Bangladesh.
- National Center for PTSD (2007) *Child Sexual Abuse*. Available at: <http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/pages/child-sexual-abuse.asp>
- Nielsen T (1983). "The Sexual Abuse of Boys: Current Perspectives." *The Personnel and Guidance Journal*, November.
- Ricardo C and Barker B (2008) *Men, Masculinities, Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Violence: A Literature Review and Call for Action*. Rio de Janeiro: Promundo and MenEngage.
- Segundo, M, Nascimento, M, Araujo, D and Moura T (2012). *Men, Women and the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (CSECA) in Four Brazilian Cities: Results from a Qualitative and Quantitative Study*. Rio de Janeiro: Promundo.
- SVRI. 2011. *Care and Support of Male Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence*. Pretoria: SVRI. Available at: <http://www.svri.org/CareSupportofMaleSurviv.pdf>
- UNICEF Tanzania (2011) *Violence Against Children in Tanzania Findings from a National Survey 2009*. Dar es Salaam: UNICEF.
- World Health Organization (2010) "Youth-friendly health policies and services in the European Region: Sharing experiences." Editors: Valentina Baltag and Alex Mathieson. Copenhagen: WHO.

## Annex

International Instrument/ Organization	Definition
Declaration of First World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (1996)	<b>Commercial sexual exploitation</b> comprises “sexual abuse by the adult and remuneration in cash or kind to the child or a third person or persons. The child is treated as a sexual object and as a commercial object.... [It] amounts to forced labor and a contemporary form of slavery.”
ILO Convention No.182: Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (1999)  International Labor Conference II Hazardous Work. International Labor Conference. 87th Session. Geneva. June 1999.	The worst forms of child labor include: a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the <b>sale and trafficking of children</b> , debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labor, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict; b) the use, procuring or offering of a <b>child for prostitution, for the production of pornography</b> or for pornographic performances. Recommendation 190 by the ILO added that consideration should be given, inter alia, to: a) work which exposes children to physical, psychological or <b>sexual abuse</b> .
Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2000)	<b>Child prostitution</b> means the use of a child in sexual activities for remuneration or any other form of consideration. The remuneration or other consideration could be provided to the prostitute or to another person. <b>Child pornography</b> means any representation, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or any representation of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes.
UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000)	<b>Trafficking</b> is defined as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, <b>for the purpose of exploitation</b> . <b>Exploitation</b> shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”
ECPAT International (2001)	There are three primary and interrelated forms of <b>commercial sexual exploitation of children</b> : prostitution, pornography and trafficking for sexual purposes. The key element is that this violation of rights arises through a commercial transaction of some kind. There is an exchange in which one or more parties gain a benefit such as cash-goods from the exploitation for sexual purposes of someone below the age of 18. Other forms of sexual exploitation of children include child sex tourism, child marriage and forced marriage.

International Instrument/ Organization	Definition
UN Secretariat (2003) Secretary-General's Bulletin: Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. ST/SGB/2003/13	<b>Sexual exploitation</b> refers to any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another. <b>Sexual abuse</b> means the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.
UNICEF Child Protection Programme home page. <a href="http://www.unicef.org/programme/cprotection">www.unicef.org/ programme/cprotection</a>	UNICEF defines child <b>sexual abuse</b> as “the involvement of a child in a sexual activity to which he or she is unable to give informed consent (and may not fully comprehend), or for which the child is not developmentally prepared and cannot give consent, or which violates the laws or social taboos of society.” As per UNICEF’s definition, sexual abuse becomes “ <b>sexual exploitation</b> when a second party benefits – through making a profit or through a quid pro quo – through sexual activity involving a child. This may include prostitution, brothel and street-based sexual exploitation, trafficking for sexual purposes and child pornography.”
Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, Lanzarote, 2007, article 18.	<b>Sexual abuse:</b> engaging in sexual activities with a child who, according to the relevant provisions of national law, has not reached the legal age for sexual activities; where use is made of coercion, force or threats; or abuse is made of a recognized position of trust, authority or influence over the child, including within the family; or abuse is made of a particularly vulnerable situation of the child, notably because of a mental or physical disability or a situation of dependence.