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PLA

PLATFORM FOR LABOUR ACTION

PLATFORM FOR LABOUR ACTION

CHILD LABOUR

IN GOLD MINING

A STUDY OF BUGIRI AND MOROTO DISTRICTS OF UGANDA

eco Ecological Christian Organisation

Somero Education for Young People in Uganda

terre des hommes stops child exploitation

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ACROYNMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CBOs	Community-Based Organisation
COCTIPC	Coordination Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
PLA	Platform for Labour Action
UAERA	Uganda Association of External Recruitment Agencies
UN	United Nations
US	United States
VITs	Victims of International Trafficking

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CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.0 Introduction

Platform for Labour Action (PLA) in collaboration with Ecological Christian Organisation (ECO) and Somero Uganda, have received support from Terre de Hommes Netherlands to implement a three year project to end child exploitation in the worst forms of child labour in domestic work and the gold mining areas of Bugiri, Namayingo and Moroto districts of Uganda.

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to progressive elimination of the worst forms of child labour and the improvement of children's rights in Uganda. Among others, one of the key project activities was to first establish a baseline in understanding the intricacies and impact of child labour that currently exist at the identified project areas. To achieve this, a rapid situation analysis was carried out and all factors assessed.

This report provides findings and recommendations from the situational analysis on child labour in gold mining areas of Bugiri, Namayingo and Moroto districts of Uganda. This study was carried out between March 2017 and May 2017 by Platform for Labour Action (PLA) in partnership with Ecological Christian Organisation (ECO) and Somero Uganda.

1.1 Background of the study

With the valuable support received from Terre Des Hommes Netherlands; and PLA in collaboration with Ecological Christian Organisation and Somero Uganda are implementing a program to end child exploitation through an Education and Livelihood project.

It is estimated that about 23% of the children working in Uganda are in Karamoja sub region, while 14% are situated in the Eastern rural region and 10% throughout Kampala[1]. In the mining areas of Budhaya located in Bugiri (or Namayingo) district and Rupa sub-county in Moroto districts, 843 children (531 male, 312 female) were found exploited in child labour activities which were mainly in the mining sector. In Busia district, 120 children (53 male, 67 female) are victims of child trafficking and were mapped in the municipality.[2]

Preliminary engagement with stakeholders by PLA and partners found that at the gold mines in Bugiri, Namayingo and Moroto districts, the parents or guardians propel their children to be employed as family labour and extract gold in order for the children to contribute to family income.

With the number of children involved in child labour activities, it has led to an increase in primary and secondary school dropouts and lowered rates of school enrolments.
This is also coupled with the absence of accessible Universal Primary School (UPE) and Universal Secondary School (USE) national school programs in the identified districts.

The children that are exploited in gold mining face health hazards which are detrimental to their livelihood and may at times lead to death. The children in these working environments are also exposed

1 National Labour Force and Child Activity Survey (2011-2012).
2 Platform for Labour Action (2016), Mapping Report for Children exploited in Child Labour in domestic work, trafficking and gold mining.

to Mercury, a toxic and poisonous substance, which absorbs into the skin and can cause irreversible health damages such as tremors, learning disabilities and even death. The young children are also expected to carry huge loads of soil on their heads and backs, in extreme heat and unfavourable weather conditions[3].
The negative effect of this is that they eventually suffer from back pains and muscle spasms. The working hours and conditions are also not favourable as they work long hours, work underground in the mine tunnels and are at risk of fatal accidents due to falling debris, explosions, collapse of mine walls, and the use of equipment designed for adults.
The children working in such conditions also spend most of their time in ditches, full of dirty water panning gold which makes them susceptible to fungal and other skin infections.

This survey was partly undertaken to validate the preliminary observations by PLA and partners.

The Government of Uganda has ratified a number of regional and international instruments that relate to the welfare and rights of children. These include the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions numbers 182 and 138. The Government has also put in place a number of policy and legal frameworks geared towards the elimination of child labour. Prominent among these is National Action Plan against Worst Forms of Child Labour that highlights the governments' plans for combating the worst forms of child labour in Uganda; the Children's Act aimed at enhancing the protection of children and the National Child Labour Policy (NCLP) which aims at mainstreaming the Child Labour phenomena into broader National, Lower Government and community level Programs. The policy also aims at ensuring reinforcement of the institutional and legislative frameworks for combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL), in addition to stimulating collective and concerted efforts to combat Child Labour at all levels. Despite this legal framework, there are still weaknesses in enforcement amongst the duty bearers and this is due to the lack of technical knowledge to enable them to translate legislation into practice.

Based on the background study, PLA, Ecological Christian Organisation and Somero Uganda have carried out this conclusive study on the situation of child labour in the gold mining project areas of Moroto, Namayingo and Bugiri districts to gain empirical data/ research on the situation of child labour in gold mining for use in informing policy and programming by various stakeholders including government, civil society and the private sector in protecting children from exploitation in the worst forms of child labour in gold mining in Uganda.

1.2 Objectives of The Study

1.2.1 General Objective

To generate valid data on the situation of child labour in the gold mining extractive sector of Bugiri, Namyingo and Moroto districts. This data will enable and support the engagements with the policy makers, district leaders and the private sector for the protection of children from child labour specifically in gold mining in Uganda.

3 United Nations Environment Programme: Analysis of formalization approaches in the artisanal and small scale gold mining sector based on experiences in Ecuador, Mongolia, Peru, Tanzania and Uganda pg 8

1.2.2 Specific Objectives

1. To examine the nature of child labour in gold mining in Moroto, Namyingo and Bugiri districts in Uganda.
2. To identify the hazardous/ worst forms of child labour in gold mining areas of Moroto, Namayingo and Bugiri in Uganda.
3. To ascertain the causes and effects of child labour in the gold mining areas of Moroto, Namayingo and Bugiri in Uganda.
4. To ascertain the existence of child labour policies and extent of their implementation amongst companies in gold mining and the Directorate of Geological Survey and Mines (DGSM) and representatives of mining companies (private sector), Artisanal and Small Scale Miners (ASM) in Bugiri and Moroto districts of Uganda.
5. To ascertain existing interventions and explore opportunities for collaboration in combating child labour in gold mining in Bugiri, Namayingo and Moroto districts.
6. To proffer recommendations for elimination of child labour in gold mining areas of Bugiri, Namayingo and Moroto to policy makers, district leaders, NGO's, PLA and its partners and the community in combating child labour in gold mining.

1.3 Methodology

1.3.1 Study Design

This study adopted a survey design in the three study sites with limited qualitative methods as recommended in the ToRs. A listing of all households involved in gold mining was undertaken. These lists formed the sampling frames that were used for sample selection. Therefore, all children working in the gold mines were identified and enumerated. Thereafter, specific questions relating to children working in the mines and from the same households were used to interview the children.

1.3.2 Sample Selection and Data Collection Methods

A total of 337 households involved in gold mining were reached in the project districts. The study attempted to reach out to all households that had been listed as having children engaged in gold mining. The households were based on sampling frames derived from the listing of households with children working in the gold mines and related activities.

The listing was done by PLA and partners in 2016. The listing was based on two parameters - whether the household had a child of 5-18 years and whether the household had any children dealing or working in the gold mines. The total number of households listed in Rupa Sub-county, Moroto District with children engaged in child labour in Gold mining was 211 and of these 162 (76.7%) were reached. The total number of households listed as engaged in child labour in gold mining in Bugiri and Namayingo district is 295, and of these 175 (59.3%) were reached. For purposes of project implementation, Bugiri and Namayingo District are taken as one project area.

1.3.3 Data Collection Methods

All children from the sampled households and working in the gold mines were interviewed using a structured questionnaire. The parents and guardians of children from the sampled households were also interviewed using the same interview tool. Some of the interviews took place at the gold mines, while others were conducted at their residences.

The qualitative data was collected from key informants and focus group discussion participants. Key informants at central government level were selected from the following; Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development Official in the Department of Labour and Children Affairs, National Council for Children and in the Ministry of Energy and Minerals Development. At the District level, key informants included; Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), District Community Development Officers, District Probation and welfare Officer and the District Labour Officer. The Sub-county Chiefs/Town Clerk(s) and LC III Chairpersons and Community Development Assistants in areas where the mines are located were also interviewed. Two Focus Group Discussions were held in every parish in the sub-county where the gold mining activities were taking place.

A summary of the methods and tools used for data collection are indicated in table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Summary of Data Collection Methods and Tools

Objective	Target group	Issues	Methods of data collection
1. To examine the nature of child labour in gold mining in Moroto, Namayingo and Bugiri districts in Uganda.	Children working in mines	Nature of child labour in gold mines (work done, how it's done, working conditions) etc.	Household interviews with children/parents working in gold mines Key informant interviews Records review
2. To identify the hazardous/ worst forms of child labour in gold mining areas of Moroto, Namayingo and Bugiri in Uganda	Children working in mines	Nature of child labour in gold mines (work done, how it's done, working conditions) etc.	Census of all children/parents working in gold mines using child friendly tools Key informant interview with selected informants Records review
3. To ascertain the causes and effects of child labour in the gold mining areas of Moroto, Namayingo and Bugiri in Uganda.	Children working in mines Parents/ guardians and key informants	Nature of child labour in gold mines (work done, how it's done, working conditions) etc.	Census of all children /parents working in gold mines using child friendly tools FGDs Key informant interview with selected informants Records review
4. To ascertain the existence of child labour policies and extent of their implementation amongst companies in gold mining areas in Bugiri, Namayingo and Moroto	Political leaders and district and national level technical staff	Child labour policies and extent of their implementation	FGDs Key informant interview with selected informants Records review

1.3.4 Data Analysis and Quality Control

Quantitative data was entered into the computer software EPI6 and exported into the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) for subsequent analysis. The quantitative data has been presented in-form of descriptions, frequencies, tables and percentages. Qualitative data from community discussions and key informant interviews was manually analyzed around the major themes of the study as derived from the study objectives.

To ensure that quality data is collected, all research assistants/enumerators were trained and oriented about the survey objectives and methods before data collection. The household and child questionnaire used was pre-tested to ensure consistency and standardization before data collection. Also, all the filled up questionnaires were edited on a daily basis to ensure clarity, completeness and consistency, and where applicable.

1.3.5 Study Area

Source: Administrative Map of Uganda; http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/uganda-administrative-map.htm

Moroto is a district in the Northern region of Uganda. It is a part of the Karamoja sub region. It is bordered by Kabong District to the north, Kenya to the East, Amudat district to the south, Nakapiripirit district to the South West, Napak district to the West and Kotido district to the North West. Moroto district is at the foot of Mt. Moroto. Moroto town is approximately 210 kilometres (130 miles) by road North East of Mbale. Moroto district is plain covered by savannah grassland and some low-lying rocky hills. Karamoja region is generally a hub of mineral resources that are yet to be optimally exploited. There are over fifty different minerals and precious stones in the Karamoja region. Of these, Moroto has gold, silver, copper, iron, titanium, manganese, niobium, tantalite, and chrome. Other proven minerals include marble, mica, garnets, limestone, and asbestos.

Namayingo District local government is located in the South Eastern part of Uganda. The Districts along its boarders are Busia in East, Bugiri in North West and Mayuge on the West. The District also extends to the Uganda/Kenya border in the South East and in the waters of Uganda /Tanzania border in the South. The district is 216 km away from the capital city Kampala through Bugiri District Headquarters.

Bugiri district is located in the South –Eastern part of Uganda. It lies between longitude 33010' East, 3400 East and latitudes 00 6' North and 1012 North. The district along it s boarders are Tororo to the North East, Iganga to the west, Namutumba to the North West, Mayuge to the South West and Busia to the South East. The district also extends to the Uganda/Kenya border in the South East and in the waters of Uganda/Tanzania border in the South. Bugiri town is the biggest commercial centre in the district and it is where the district headquarters are located. The town is 178km (*District DDP 2008/09*) away from Kampala, Uganda's capital city. It is linked to the rest of the country by Trans-African highway tarmac road and numerous murram roads connecting to the neighboring districts in the region (Bugiri District Stat Abst, 2009. UBOS, Uganda).

CHAPTER TWO
LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 The History of Gold Mining In Uganda

Mineral discovery in Uganda was started by artisanal miners in the pre-colonial and colonial days. Artisanal and Small Scale Mining (ASM) activities started with the production of iron and salt in South Western Uganda followed by gold and base metal mining in several places in Uganda. Wild cat type of mining was widespread throughout the country and blacksmiths added some value to the minerals before they could be locally utilized throughout the country. In 1919, the Geological Survey and Mines Department (GSMD) of Uganda was established and subsequently 'modern' mining started in the early 1920s.[4]

ASM in Uganda started with the discovery and establishment of a number of colonial gold and tin mines across South Western Uganda between the 1920s and 1950s when small-scale mining was introduced to the indigenous Banyankole, Batoro, Bakiga, and other Bantu-speaking tribes of that region. In 1929, colonialists settled in Busia District (Tiira) after the discovery of the Busia gold field and started mining gold with the assistance of the local people who also realized that there was gold in the area. This in general led to small migrations into mining areas by various local tribes as well as Rwandese and Congolese, whose descendants still populate many of the mining areas in Uganda today (Hinton et al. 2011).

Formal mining started with the arrival of the British Explorers between the 1930s and 1970s leading to the establishment of Falconbridge's Kilembe Mine as the first and only large-scale mine in the country, producing over 271,000 tonnes of blister copper as well as cobalt. Also, phosphates, limestone and several small to medium mines for tungsten, tin, beryl, niobium, tantalum, gold were operated in the 1930s-60s (e.g. *Kitaka, Mwerasandu, Kirwa, Ruhizha*) and several other commodities. During this period these mines were the third GDP contributor after coffee and cotton, contributing up to 35% of the country's foreign export earnings[5].

As Uganda edged towards independence, political tension and insecurity led to the exodus of skilled man power out of Uganda and a subsequent collapse of the mining industry. After independence, Uganda's peace and stability was gradually restored and small scale mining resumed. The international investors that had fled the country were hesitant to return and therefore mining continued on a small scale. There were a few medium scale mining operations especially of strategic minerals like limestone for cement manufacture, but precious metals, base metals and others continued to be exploited on small scale by artisanal miners[6]. With the relative stability experienced since the mid-1980s, a series of gold and base metal discoveries by artisanal miners generated rushes that drew between 1,000 and 5,000 miners and introduced ASM to a number of farming and pastoral communities[7].

4 Platform for Extractive Industries Information: https://www.plexii.org/index.php/mining/asm/history-of-mining-in-uganda last visited on 1oth October 2017.
5 Africa Centre for Energy and Mineral Policy (ACEMP), (2016) Understanding Artisanal Small Scale Artisanal Operations in Uganda; A Mapping Report
6 Platform for Mining Extractives in Uganda, The History of Mining in Uganda https://www.plexii.org/index.php/mining/asm/history-of-mining-in-uganda
7 Ibid

2.2 Areas of and Nature of ASM in Uganda

Most of the ASM activities have been alluvial, but those few occurring in hard rock deposits have led to the establishment of small to medium-scale mechanized operations where mining, crushing, grinding, and gravity concentration equipment replaced the manual hauling, crushing, grinding, and panning methods that characterize ASM across the country. At Busitema for example, cyanide vat leaching was introduced as an alternative to mercury amalgamation which is still practiced by ASM in that region. Although licensing of several other small-scale, hard rock operations (vis-à-vis "Location licenses" for small operations) also resulted from a series of discoveries in the 1980s through to today, these operations continue to be highly manual, employing essentially the same practices as unlicensed and/or illegal miners.[8]

Uganda's extractive industry activities have been identified by the Natural Resource Governance Institute as focused on "extraction of cobalt, gold, copper, iron ore, tungsten, steel, tin and other industrial products such as cement, diamonds, salt and vermiculite".[9] Limestone is sold in local markets whereas gold, tin, and tungsten are major exports.[10] In Busia district, gold was first discovered in the Busia goldfield in 1932, where it occurs in the rich quartz veins and bands of iron which lay beneath the ground. When the colonials left, local people continued 'scratching', mining the seams. In a very poor district, discovering gold on your land is seen as a 'blessing from God'. Sadly, however, it is a subsistence economy. The miners are not officially employed by a mining company, but rather work independently working with hand tools. In addition to the hazards in the pit, as miners chip away at ore and follow veins until the walls collapse, the processing of gold can cause mercury poisoning without the right equipment.[11] Gold mining is also conducted in Karamoja, Kigezi, Bugiri, Namayingo, Busia, Mubende and Buhweju.

Gold mining in Uganda is governed by The Mineral Act (Cap 248). To start mining, an individual would need to acquire a number of licenses. For example, to explore for gold you need a prospecting license which has to be renewed yearly although there some special mining licenses that last for up to 20 years. The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) in collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) regulate the sector including giving out the licenses.

2.3 Active (Formal) Mining Companies in Uganda

Today, there are several multinational companies prospecting and mining gold in Uganda. Currently, Vangold is the largest international player in Uganda's gold industry and carries out its mining activities through two main subsidiaries, the Dome Mines Ltd and Rwenzori Cu & Ni Ltd. Vangold has the license to prospect for gold in the West Nile region.

The Ghana's Blaze Metal Resources Ashanti is also another important player in the gold mining industry. The company carries out gold prospecting in Uganda's Eastern districts of Namayingo and Bugiri. Date from the Department of Geology Survey and Mines shows that there are gold deposits in the districts and this has made prospecting in the area a very hopeful endeavor. The exploration is expected to last for about five years when the mining is supposed to commence.[12]

8 ibid
9 *Uganda: Extractive Industries. http://www.resourcegovernance.org.*
10 Uganda Business Law Handbook: International Business Laws 2012 Pg 140 *ISBN 978-1-4387-7128-1*.
11 Martine Parry (2017)Fair trade brings hope to Uganda's artisanal gold mines http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/Media-Centre/Blog/2017/January/Fairtrade-brings-hope-to-Ugandas-artisanal-gold-mines
12 http://raregoldnuggets.com/?p=1854

2.4 Informal ASM in Uganda: Level and Organisation

Informal and unregulated mining operations are common throughout Uganda. These are areas that are being actively mined by Ugandans and do not form part of formal commercial mining operations. Most miners recover on a probability basis, just a few dollars in gold each day using primitive placer mining techniques.

The Rupa Gold Mine is one of the informal mining operations. It is located close to the North of Moroto Town in the Karamoja Region. It is estimated that as many as 10,000 artisanal miners work on this site to support themselves. Future interest in mining for gold in this region has been met with some resistance due to fears from locals that large scale mining operations would affect their current mining efforts and livelihood. In Bugiri and Namayingo districts, there are no official statistics on the number of people engaged in mining activities but the population in most of the mines is huge and continues to grow as more people resort to gold extraction in anticipation of hitting the jackpot sometime soon.[13] Some of the people have abandoned fishing activity for gold mining on the shores of Lake Victoria, the world's second largest fresh water body shared among Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya in East Africa[14].
At the mining site, artisanal miners operate as independent entities of each other with each miner having exclusive ownership rights over the excavated pit until the pit is exhausted. Instances where miners transfer ownership rights over a gold pit to another miner from another family are rare and not documented. Interestingly, while many artisanal miners cry of non-productive pits and proclaim to little yields if any gold from pits, they never stop or give up digging pits. This is a clear indication that they have very little or no other alternatives forms of survival immediately after gold mining.

Artisanal mining in Rupa is practised as an entire family's survival strategy involving the husband, wife and children. In case of widows, their children are involved or where they lack children, then they (widows) must remarry a brother or relative of their deceased husband to continue to obtain sustenance. Women miners, sometimes, suffer from rape during mining events. In addition to children not going to school (because they helping in the mines), child labour is common occurrence in ASGM areas as children are a source of cheap and often unpaid family labour. The nature and demand for labour, often makes it impossible for such children to attend school. A typical artisanal small-scale gold mining day begins at dawn (5.00am) and ends at 2.00pm.[15]

2.5 Informal ASM in Uganda: Occupational Health and Risks

Miners (both women and men) expose themselves to a number of occupational risks including chronic exposure to dust and heat (sun scorching), accidents involving flying rock fragments, falling debris and collapse of open pit walls or underground tunnels leading to loss of life. *In Uganda, almost all artisanal gold is mined and exported illegally. Unregulated gold mining has been the cause of leading conflicts in the mining sector, smuggling of gold, child labour, human rights abuses, and environmental and human health concerns.*

Companies arriving to carry out exploration have promised communities benefits to mitigate the loss of land use, livelihood and other impacts, including support for improved services such as good schools, hospitals, boreholes, jobs, scholarships, and money in exchange for their cooperation. But even as exploration or mining has continued, the communities have not seen the promised benefits. Moreover, their condition of exploitation and lack of specialised technology for mining have not changed.[16]

13 Pascal Kwesiga; New Vision 2nd June 2017 Poverty killing gold miners
14 Ibid
15 Winfred Ngabiirwe, et-al (2012) Human Rights Status in the Gold Supply Chain of Uganda: A Case for Artisanal Small-Scale Mining in Karamoja Region: Global Rights Alert
16 Artisanal Small-scale Gold Mining, Uganda: https://ejatlas.org/conflict/bahi-manyoni-uranium-mining.

2.6 Informal ASM in Uganda: Nature and Drivers of Child Labour

There are a number of reasons why children work in gold mining, with poverty being amongst the most significant factor. Children often work to supplement their family income. Artisanal mining offers quick cash returns for limited/low skill work.[17]The poor quality of education, a far distance to school, and barriers such as having to pay for school fees, also contributes to increased rates of child labour. The cultural and social factors towards child labour and the non-existent value that communities place on the education of children is also an important contextual factor to consider. This often leads to limited protection of exploited children and limited resource allocation for child labour.

Finally, government's action or inaction to monitor and end child labour greatly contributes to the prevalence of child labour in a particular context. While it may be said that it is universally accepted that poverty is one of the most compelling reasons why children go to work, legal scholarship and country studies show that child labour is the product of a complex web of factors that go deep into the economic and social arena, along with lack of enforcement of anti-child labour laws. The foregoing driving factors of child labour in general will be examined below.

2.6.1 Poverty

Poverty is one of the main reasons why children are forced to work. According to an ILO study conducted in the small-scale mining industry in Peru, Niger, Uganda, and the Philippines, most children are driven to work to support their families. Poverty arises from interrelated factors such as unemployment of one's parents or guardians. In this regard, Esguerra (2003), citing empirical evidence, suggests that unemployment among adults in the African countries such as Uganda, Nigeria, and South Africa increases the likelihood that children will work except in the case where the jobs arise out of self-employment. Thus, it has been postulated that children in households that fall below the poverty line are more likely to work. Therefore, where parents cannot provide the needs of the household, some of their children have to stop schooling and work instead to enhance family income[18].

A report, published by the Ugandan Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD) and UNICEF in 2015, the situation for children in Uganda is extensively analytical. The report concludes that Uganda faces widespread child poverty (that is, multiple deprivations when it comes to nutrition, health, water, education, shelter, sanitation and information). About 4.4 million (22.1 per cent) of children live in poor-income- households. While poverty is spread across the country, there are big disparities across the regions. Child poverty rates for 0–4 year olds are highest in West Nile and Karamoja, where 68 per cent of the youngest children experience multiple deprivations and 56-60 per cent of the children in Mubende District experience child poverty. The findings of the MoGLSD/ UNICEF report point out that 8 per cent of children are critically vulnerable, while 43 per cent are moderately vulnerable[19].

2.6.2 Low Education Attainment of Parents

Aside from the above mentioned push factors, low educational attainment of parents is also seen as a reason why children go to work. Thus, Esguerra (2003) states that the educational attainment of both parents is negatively related to the probability of child work. As is the usual case in sub-Saharan Africa, parents who have completed formal or vocational education are more likely to secure employment than those who have not. Thus, as stated above, unemployment among the parents is most likely to bolster their decision to let their children work to augment the family income[20].

17 Crispin B. Beltran Resource Centre, Child Labour in Mining and Plantation Communities, pp. 1, 67, 69
18 E. Esguerra (2003), An Analysis of the Causes and Consequences of Child Labour in the Philippines
19 Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development report 2015
20 E. Esguerra (2003), An Analysis of the Causes and Consequences of Child Labour in the Philippines

2.6.3 Failure of the Government to Enforce Laws against Illegal Employment of Children

Work in the mines is considered to be one of the worst forms of child labour as it exposes children to health, safety and moral hazards and that it economically exploits children. On paper, Uganda has one of the most stringent laws on defining and punishing those who hire children to do hazardous and economically exploitative work. In Uganda, AGM is on the increase and is largely a poverty-driven activity used as a coping mechanism with thousands of local communities currently engaged in the mining practice (MEMD, 2011)[21]. The communities in the mining sites live in deplorable sanitary conditions, use toxic chemicals such as mercury in the gold extraction and have severely degraded fragile ecosystems that support their livelihoods (Hinton, 2009).[22]

The current mineral policies and legislation do not provide sufficient opportunities for the formalisation of artisanal gold mining. Instead artisanal mining sites have informal structures that regulate mining, lease of lands and settlements. Theoretically, it is possible for artisanal gold miners to legalise their activities through location licences. In practice, however, the necessary procedures are beyond their reach. In 2015, for example, there were only 12 licence holders registered for artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) in Uganda. Currently policy-makers are reviewing the regulatory framework governing mining in Uganda and the formalisation of artisanal mining is one of the aims.

Although the Mineral Policy of 2001 in Uganda intended to ban child labour in mining, this was never included in the country's Mining Act or the mining regulations. However, Uganda ratified the important International Labour Organization (ILO) and UN conventions pertaining to child labour and included these in national legislation such as the Employment Act, the National Constitution and the Children's Act. Despite the laws child labour is currently on the rise across all regions in Uganda.

2.6.4 Other Economic Factors

Aside from poverty, it has been argued that economic growth has a positive correlation with the decline of the incidence of child labour. Africa as shown by Ethiopia, suggests that poor economic growth has positive relationship with the increase in child labour. On the other end of the spectrum lies China which had seen rapid economic growth between 1980 and 1990 and experienced a steep decline in child labour incidences. It is also cited that economic growth is not the only factor, nor the most important factor.

2.7 The Legal Framework Against Child Labour

2.7.1 The 1995 National Constitution

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda under Article 34 (4) provides for the protection of children from socio-economic exploitation and restricts them to perform work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with their education or to be harmful to their health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

21 Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development report 2011
22 Hinton. (2009). *National Strategy for the Advancement of Artisanal and Small* Scale Mining

2.7.2 The Children Act Cap 59, 2000

Section 8 of Uganda's Children Act Cap, 2000 states that no child shall be employed or engaged in any activity that may be harmful to his or her health, education or mental, physical or moral development.

2.7.3 Employment Act No. 6, 2006

The Employment Act in Section 32 provides that:
(1) A child under the age of 12 years shall not be employed in any business, undertaking or work place. (4) A child shall not be employed in any employment or work, which is injurious to his or her health, dangerous or hazardous or otherwise unsuitable. A child shall not be employed between the hours 7 p.m. and 7 a.m.

2.7.4 Employment (Employment of Children) Regulations, 2012 (S.I. 2012 No. 17)

Consolidates of the law relating to children provides inter alia for the care, protection and maintenance of children. It also establishes a family and children court. Section 8 prohibits the employment or engagement of children "in any activity that may be harmful to his or her health, education or mental, physical or moral development".

2.7.5 Children Statute, 1996 (No. 6 of 1996)

This is a comprehensive legislation on care, protection, and maintenance of children. It makes provision for rights of the child, adoption, parentage of children, children charged with offences, and establishes a Family and Children Court. Section 9 deals with harmful employment. Significant achievements have been registered in the area of policy development that contributes to the elimination of child labour.

2.7.6 National Development Plan 2015-2020

The National Development Plan (2015-2020), recognizes the importance of enhancing human capital development, protection of vulnerable groups including child labourers, enhancing the availability and quality of gainful employment, increasing household incomes and access to quality social services. The National Action Plan on Elimination of Child Labour is in consonance with the above attributes of the NDP.

2.7.7 The Social Development Strategic Plan II (2012-2017)

The Social Development Strategic Plan (SDIP II) acknowledges that child labour undermines national economic development by creating cycles of intergenerational poverty. In its theme,
"Accelerating social transformation through promoting employment and the rights of the vulnerable"
the SDIP aims at, among others, improvement of observance of labour standards, including elimination of child labour and promotion of skills development for young people.

2.7.8 The National Employment Policy 2011

This plan is also aligned to the objectives of the National Employment Policy for Uganda, which promotes decent employment opportunities, observance of fundamental rights and labour standards including elimination of child labour.

2.7.9 The National Child Labour Policy 2006

The Plan specifically operationalizes the implementation of the National Child Labour Policy (2006). The vision of the policy is a society free of exploitative child labour, a society in which all working children enjoy their right to childhood, education, dignity and full development of their potential. The overall objective of the National Child Labour Policy is to guide and promote sustainable action aimed at the progressive elimination of child labour, starting with the worst forms.

The 2006 Uganda National Child Labour Policy acknowledges that education is one of the key strategies for combating child labour. Increased access to quality education opportunities would enable children to develop their capacities and sustainably provide for their families when they become adults and break the cycle of poverty, unemployment, indecent work and child labour. Section 3.2 of the policy gives a descriptive narrative of the situation in Uganda but lacks a policy prescription. It does not prescribe what is best to be done to solve the situation. It only says that several studies were conducted by several organizations: National Council for the Children, Women and Youth Services, Platform for Labour in Action.[23]

2.7.10 Universal Primary and Secondary Education Policies

Universal Primary Education (UPE) provides for free primary education for all children. This is one of the important preventive strategies in the elimination of child labour. The National Child Labour Policy and the Universal Policy on Primary and Secondary Education are interrelated and have mutually supportive goals that need to be jointly pursued to address the twin challenge of elimination of child labour and education for all. However, although UPE and USE are supposed to provide free education, UPE fees and charges still exist either legally or illegally. They include tuition fees, examination fees, purchase of uniforms and textbooks, game fees, contribution to school repairs, school guards, book keeping, teacher resource centres, food, among others, of which they are borne by parents, making it difficult for poor children to access education and survive the full cycle.

There still remains a high rate of school dropouts between grades, such that not all who enter primary schools complete the full cycle. The expansion of primary education through UPE has significantly deteriorated the quality of education. UPE stakeholders have noted that the progress made in enrollments has hampered progress in other areas of EFA goals especially the low quality of education which is depicted in poor scores in school exams of which leads to many pupils being discouraged and end up dropping out of UPE school. The high dropout from UPE schools continues to pose a challenge to successful implementation of the policy. In Uganda, social factors such as lack of school requirements, loss of parents, engaging children in businesses, long distances to school, failure by parents to provide school fees, caring for sick relatives contribute to the high dropout rates from school.[24]

23 National Council for Children (2015) Legal and Policy Assessment report on Child Domestic Workers in Uganda
24 Luci Galimaka (2008)Policy gaps in Universal Primary Education that contribute to school dropout in Uganda

2.8 Emerging key gaps from the literature review

Child labour is a significant social and economic problem in Uganda. The combination of an extremely young population, large numbers of vulnerable children and orphans, high levels of child poverty and a failing education system has pushed 51 per cent of all children aged between 5 and 17 into work. Across the country, more than one in four children (26 per cent) is defined as child labourers. It is estimated that there are about 50,000 artisanal gold miners in Uganda – roughly 20 to 30 per cent of these are children. These estimates mean that 10,000 to 15,000 children are working alongside adults as artisanal gold miners.[25] While poverty is a key driver, the organisation of family labour for gold mining is also key to retaining a child at the mines. Despite the UPE and USE programs in the project areas, some of these children still attend intermittently, and continue working in the mines as well, while others have dropped off completely. Research shows that very few of the children go on to finish secondary school.
There are key resource and policy gaps:

The limited budgetary allocation to the implementation of policies on child protection is the main gap affecting the workplace inspection in the gold mining sectors. Resource constraints at the local government and community levels are also a critical factor for community mobilization and regulation of child labour in the gold mines. The local council leaders responsible for children and the communities are not adequately trained about the laws and policies on child labour to enable them to enforce them. There are no direct interventions in the mining areas to protect children working, while they should be in school.

25 Irene Schipper elt al (2016) No Golden Future; Use of child labour in gold mining in Uganda http://www.stopchildlabour.eu/assets/No-golden-future.pdf

CHAPTER THREE
STUDY FINDINGS

3.1 Introduction and Sample size

A total of 337 household interviews were held across the project area; 118 (35%) in Bugiri District, 162 (48%) in Moroto District and 57 (17%) in Namayingo District. For purposes of project management, Bugiri and Namayingo District are grouped as one project area due to the fact that in some mining sites, are at the border of Namayingo and Bugiri and therefore children from both districts are engaged in child labour at these mining sites. The respective sub counties and parishes in which the study was conducted are indicated in table 4-1 below. Most of the households reached were in rural areas (95%) as compared to those in urban settings (5%).

Table 4-1 Project Study Areas by District, Parish and Sub-County

District	Sub county	Parish	Count	Percent
Bugiri District	Budhaya	Buwolya	118	35
Namayingo	Buyinja	Kifuuyo	57	17
Moroto	Rupa	Rupa Laboneit Lorukimo Nakadili Lokokete	130 19 04 06 01	
	Sub- Total		162	48%
	Total		337	100%

The study attempted to reach out to all households that had been listed as having children engaged in gold mining located in the project areas. The households reached were based on sampling frames derived from the listing of households with children working in the gold mines and related activities. The listing was done by PLA and partners in 2016. The listing was based on two parameters; whether the household had a child of 5-18 years and whether the household had any of their children dealing or working in the gold mines. Total number of households listed in Rupa Sub-county, Moroto District, with children engaged in child labour in Gold mining was 211 households of these, 162 (76.7%) were reached in Moroto District. Total number of households listed as engaged in child labour in gold mining in Bugiri and Namayingo district is 295 households of these, 175 (59.3%) were reached in Bugiri and Namayingo District. For purposes of project implementation, Bugiri and Namayingo District are taken as one project area.

3.2 Household Background Demographics

3.2.1 Household Composition

The households interviewed had a total of 1762 members and of these 53.2% were biological children, 20% household heads, 17% spouses, 3.4% other relatives and 1.0% were non- relatives. Over half of the household members (1021) were children below 18years (58.4%) and 11.3% (194) were below 6

years. Levels of disability within household were 4.1% with physical disability being more pronounced (2.3%) as compared to the learning impairment (0.5%), vision impairment (0.95%) or a combination (0.37%).This study had an exclusive interest in school-going children aged between6-18 years, where about 830 (47.1%) of the total households composition.

3.2.2 Marital Status among Household Heads

Nearly all household heads were married (81.2%), while (10.7%) were widowed and 4.8% were divorced or separated. Only 3.3% are reported as not/ never married with near trends observed between the Bugiri, Namayingo and Moroto districts. However, in respect to family stability, divorce levels were twice as high in Bugiri District (8.0%) as compared to Moroto District (3.2%) and Namayingo District (1.8%).The majority of the household heads (82%) were male, while 18% were female. Female headed households were more pronounced in Namayingo District (27.3%) as compared to Bugiri District (15.1%) and Moroto District (17.5%).

3.3 Education, Literacy and Skill Levels Among Household Heads/Spouse

3.3.1 Formal Education among Household Heads and Spouses

Nearly half of the household heads (52.4%) and spouses (50.3%) didn't have any formal education, while 41.9% and 46% of household heads and spouses respectively had attained primary level education. Levels of educational attainment for secondary and tertiary education were very low for both the household heads and spouses. Levels of non-formal education were exceedingly higher in Moroto District for household heads (92.0%) and spouses (91.2%) as compared to those in Bugiri District for household heads (12% and spouses (9.6%), and those for Namayingo District for household heads (31%) and spouses (28%). This is illustrated in Table 4-2 below.

There is a close correlation between parent's level of education and children's school attendance within the household. This can be evidenced by the fact that formal education attainment among children in Moroto District was considerably very low with 23.3% attending primary education and 74% without formal education. A similar observation has been made by other studies and reports reviewed under chapter two of this report. An analysis of the causes and consequences of child Labour in the Philippines states that the educational attainment of both parents is negatively related to the probability of child work. Parents who have completed formal or vocational education are more likely to secure employment than those who have not. Thus, unemployment among the parents is most likely to bolster their decision to let their children work to augment the family income (Esguerra, 2003). Lack of meaningful employment is directly related to poor or low levels of education. FGDs narratives from female parents based in Nsango Village, Namayingo District, indicate that unemployment among parents is one of the drivers of child labour in gold mining areas.

"Some parents lack what to do....and they can't provide for their family. So they let the children to go and work to support the family" (Female FGD participant, Nsango Village)

Table 4-2 Levels of education among household heads and spouses by district

Education Level	Bugisu District%		Moroto District %		Namayingo District		Combined	
	HH	Spouse	HH	Spouse	HH	Spouse	HH	Spouse
Lower Primary	41.3	47	2.5	4.4	49.0	42.5	24.4	26.4
Upper Primary	36.5	34.8	3.1	3.6	14.5	30.0	17.4	19.5
Secondary	8.7	7.0	2.0	1.0	5.5	-	5.0	3.1
Tertiary	1.6	1.7	0.6	-	-	-	1.0	1.0
Others e.g. catechism)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
None	11.9	9.6	92.0	91	31.0	27.5	52.4	50.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

3.3.2 Literacy Levels among Household Heads and Spouses

The levels of literacy among household members were generally low (21%), across the study districts with slightly higher levels in Bugiri District (30%)and Namayingo District (17%) as compared to (5%) for Moroto District. The levels of literacy among the household heads (15.8%) were lower than other household members, such as among children (27%). A similar level was observed for the literacy levels among the spouses. Qualitative data also indicates that there are low literacy levels among the general community, including community leaders, especially in the Moroto District. Low literacy levels among community members and leaders have negative consequences in them understanding the impact that child labour has in the life of a child.

3.3.3 Skills Possessed by Household Members

Nearly half of the household members (53%) did not possess any functional skills, as many of them were children. The most common skill among the household members was crop farming (33.3%), livestock farming skills (3.2%), carpentry/masonry (1.0%), pottery (3.6%), driving (0.2%) and others e.g.; tailoring, cookery (2.6%). This indicates that most of the household livelihoods were nature based and vulnerable especially in the face of climate change and consequently tied to poverty. Alternative and improved livelihood skills for such households are key to reducing household vulnerabilities, including reducing exposure of household members to circumstances such as child labour.

A comparative analysis of skills possession by household heads and spouses indicates some similarities and contrasts. Crop farming skills were in near proportions between the household heads (52.5%) and the spouses (53.6%). Possession of more strategic skills such as trading skills was more pronounced among household heads and majority of whom were males (12%) as compared to spouses (3.0%) majority of whom were females. Equally livestock farming skills were more pronounced among household heads (10%) as compared to spouses (3.6%). Pottery skills were mostly possessed by children (74%) as compared to the adults (26%). Possession of crop farming skills was more pronounced in Bugiri and Namayingo Districts as compared to Moroto District. This is illustrated in table 4-3 below. Qualitative information from Key Informant Interview indicates that in the Moroto District, most households were previously engaged in livestock keeping and the lucrative cattle rustling and have found it difficult, partly due to lack of skills and harsh environment, to adjust to crop farming. Therefore, most households around Rupa Sub-county and the district at large lack meaningful alternative livelihood skills. This has exacerbated their levels of vulnerability to poverty.

"The easier option is trying out their luck in gold prospecting....and they work with their children as an easy and free source of labour in the mines" ***(Key Informant Interview-Moroto District)***

"Child labour is difficult to be eliminated from the gold mines in Moroto because it is the only easier alternative income generating activity that does not require special skills for the locals" ***(Key Informant Interview-Moroto District)***

Table 4-3 Main skills possessed by household members by district

	District			Combined
Skills Possessed	Bugiri	Moroto	Namayingo	
Trading	4.5	4.5	1.0	3.8
Crop farming	45.4	18.6	41.0	33.3
Livestock farming	2.1	5.5	1.0	3.2
Carpentry / masonry	0.7	0.7	0.3	1.0
Pottery	0.2	8.4	-	3.6
Others	1.5	5.2	-	2.2
None	45.6	57.9	52.6	52.7
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	

3.4 Primary Economic Activity Undertaken by Household Members

Other than fewer children attending school (21.4%), the primary economic activities undertaken by the household members were gold mining (37.6%), followed by subsistence farming (19.0%). Other economic activities undertaken by household members were generally low as indicated in table 4-4 below. Housework was relatively more pronounced as a secondary economic activity.

Table 4-4 Primary economic activity by household members

Activity	Primary	Secondary
Going to school/ too young	22.4	14.7
Subsistence farming	18.9	24.0
Housework	1.3	8.8
Regular paid public employee	0.1	0.1
Regular paid private employee	0.3	0.2
Own Account Worker	1.7	2.3
Casual labour	1.7	3.7
Gold Mining	37.6	25.4
Others	6.5	9.6
Unemployed	9.7	11.2
Total	100.00	100.00

Farming as a primary activity was more pronounced in Bugiri District (32%) and Namayingo District (39%) as compared to Moroto District (4.2%). This is because Moroto District is predominantly a livestock keeping region. Mean while casual labour was almost not reported in Bugiri and Namayingo Districts as compared to Moroto District (4.0%) indicating lack of meaningful alternative livelihoods in Moroto District. Gold mining as a primary economic activity was more pronounced in Moroto District (63%) as compared to Bugiri District (20%) and Namayingo District (17.0%). Near level proportions were observed between household heads (43%) and spouses (40%) who were involved in subsistence farming as primary economic activity. Also, nearly the same response levels were observed from households, reporting household heads (35.4%) and spouses (40.5%) as engaging in gold mining

as primary economic activity. Households reporting children as engaged in gold mining as primary economic activity were 36.1% for biological children and 62.1% for other children staying in the household.

Qualitative information from Key informants indicates that in terms of economic activity, Moroto depends on limited livestock keeping, casual mining and employment in formal mining. Human living conditions and the quality of life in Moroto has declined considerably due to various factors such as insecurity, long-time marginalization, illiteracy, poor health and poor infrastructure.

"Factors responsible for poverty in the Karamoja region include - persistent poor harvest as a result of dry spells and droughts, cattle rustling and insecurity, poor animal death, lack of water for domestic and production use, poor adaptation to crop farming practices, general ill health, lack of skills and unemployment, limited sources of income and poor leadership at local community levels" ***(Key Informant Moroto District).***

Qualitative information from Bugiri District indicates that gold mining is now considered a job opportunity by the majority of people in the district and as the main source of income for their homes. In the past, gold mining was dominated by adults but with the deteriorating economic situation of the community, it forced young children to get work in gold mining to supplement family income.

"In Budde mining sites, children who are engaged in the mines are more than adults. The majority of the children engaged in the mines are from Budde and some few are from neighbouring villages of Buwolya, Nsango and Namayingo" ***(FGD with male parents-Budde Village, Bugri District).***

3.5 Parental Status and Orphan hood

Most of the households reported that 98% of the parents of the children were still alive; with mother (98%) and father (93.4%) as being alive. Near proportions were observed between the study districts. Information from community FGDs with children and women indicate that some of the children working in the gold mines were orphans.

"Some children are orphans and some others have parents who don't provide" ***(FGD with Children, Nsango B Village –Namayingo District)***

3.6 School Attendance in Current Year (by Children of School Going Age)

3.6.1 Current School Attendance/Level Among Children of School Going Age

Households with children of school going aged between6-18 years were asked whether the children in this age group were currently attending school. Over half of the households had children currently attending school (64.4%) and while 35.6% of the children are currently not in school, with near levels between males (66.2%) and females (62.2%) across the study districts. However, only male children were reported as attending tertiary education or training. Most of the children were currently at primary school level (72.1%), followed by those with children in pre-primary level (16%), secondary level (3.3%) and tertiary level (0.4%). Approximately 8.3% of the household respondents could not readily indicate the level of school attended by their children. The results indicate that for most households engaged in gold mining, children were less likely to progress to secondary school level after their primary education. This is collaborated with findings from district KIIs that indicated limited chances of entry to secondary education after primary leaving education due to limited entry opportunities to secondary or vocational schools, and lack of necessary materials and tuition.

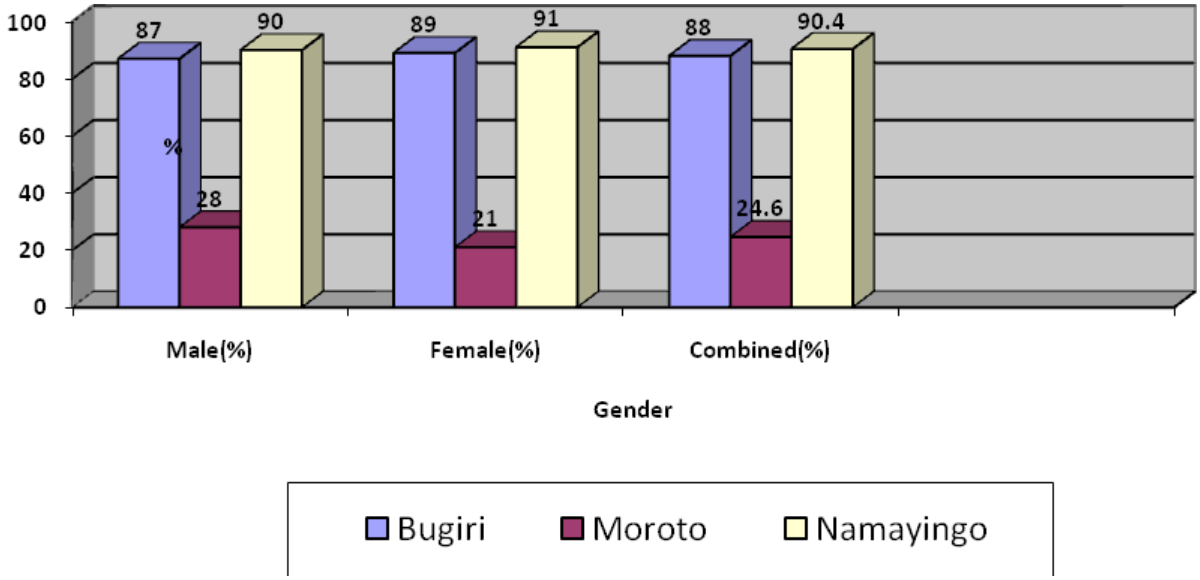
In the current year (2017), the level of school attendance is very low in Moroto District (24.6%) as compared to Bugiri District (88%) and Namayingo District (90.4%). In Moroto District, there was no household that reported having children attending secondary school. This is illustrated in table 4-5.

Table 4.5 School Attendance by District

District	Attendance category		% Total
	Currently in school	Not in school	
Bugiri	88	12	100
Moroto	24.6	75.4	100
Namayingo	90.4	9.6	100

Levels of current school attendance were in near levels, except for Moroto District, between male and female children for especially the primary school level. This is illustrated in figure 1 below.

Figure 1. Level of Current School Attendance by Gender and District



3.6.2 Age of First School Attendance/Level Among Children of School Going Age

A third of the children (currently attending school) first attended school at the age of six years (33.5%), followed by those that first attended school at the age of 7 years (20.5%), above seven years (18.0%), and at five years (14.0%) and below five years (28.4%). Most of the children who first attended school at the age of above seven years were from Moroto District (35.1%), as compared to Bugiri District (18.4%) and Namayingo District (8.0%). Relatively, most children started primary schooling at the official age of six years in Bugiri District (33.4%) and Namayingo District (43.0%) as compared to Moroto District (14.3%).

3.6.3 School Weekly Opening

Nearly all households reported that schools attended were open 5 days a week (95.3%) in the last three weeks before the last term closed (prior to the survey), with near proportions between the study districts; Bugiri (95.4%), Moroto (90.0%) and Namayingo (98%).

3.6.4 Regularity School Attendance/Level Among Children of School Going Age

Regular school attendance was measured in terms of the child being able to attend school for 5 days a week. Survey results indicate that about half of the households with school going children and reported children as attending school for 5 days a week (46%) with near proportions between male children (44.1%) and female children (48.1%).Some households reported other children as attended school for 4 days (25.4%), 3 days (10.5%), 2 days (10%), 1day (2.5%) and (5.3%) not attending at all in the last week before the term closed. Regular school attendance was reported in near proportions across the study districts.

Households with children that did not regularly attend school gave various reasons for irregular attendance. Nearly a third of the households mentioned working with family at the gold mines (32.4%) and lack of school fees (32.4%) as major reasons for their children irregular school attendance; indicating that family gold mining was a pull factor for children from school largely to provide/ supplement family labour. Working for other employers on gold mines was only mentioned by few households (4.3%) as a reason for their children's irregular school attendance. Other reasons for children's irregular school attendance are indicated in table 4-6 below.

Table 4-6 Reasons for children's Irregular School Attendance

Reasons for irregular school attendance	District			
	Bugiri (%)	Moroto (%)	Namayingo (%)	Combined (%)
Domestic work	9.7	10.2	2.7	7.9
Work with family on gold mine	31.0	45.0	2.7	32.4
Work for family business	2.6	6.1	-	2.5
Work for other employers on gold mine	5.2	-	5.4	4.3
Do not want to go to school	-	-	1.4	0.4
Illness	5.2	4.1	2.7	4.3
No school Uniform	5.8	-	5.4	4.7
No stationary	1.3	-	16.2	5.0
Lack of school fees	34.8	18.4	36.5	32.4
Other reasons (mistreatment)	4.5	16.3	2.7	4.1
Total	100	100	100	100

Working with family on gold mines as a reason for irregular school attendance was more pronounced in Moroto District (45%) as compared to Bugiri District (31%) and Namayingo District (27%). Mean while, lack of school fees was relatively more pronounced in Namayingo District (36.3%) and Bugiri District (35%) as compared to Moroto District (18.4%). Lack of scholastic materials such as school uniforms and stationary was more pronounced in Namayingo Districts as compared to the other districts of study. Working for other employers at the gold mines was mentioned factor of irregular school attendance in the South Eastern districts of Bugiri and Namayingo only. Information from district KIIs and FGDs indicates that irregular school attendance was more common in the upper primary cases and also sometimes involved seasonal (agricultural season) dropouts. Qualitative data indicates that besides lack of tuition and school materials, gold mining was a pull/attraction factor away from school in the project area. In Moroto District, the gold mining was largely a family undertaking.

"Among the children in the mines, are children of school going age, those that had never gone to school and even the school drop outs. Even those attending school do not so regularly ***(Key Informant Interview, Rupa Sub-county).***

"Parents cannot provide for their children and they will not or cannot even afford to employ someone else to do the work that will put food on the family plate. Even the UPE school attendance is not a priority in the communities because everyone is thinking of how to survive or about how to get a meal for tomorrow" ***(Key Informant Interview-Rupa Sub-county).***

Above: *Photo depicts a focus group discussion with men in Rupa Sub County discussing child labour in gold mining in their community with the research team.*

Above: *One of the Focus Group Discussions with women in Rupa Sub County discussing child labour in gold mining*

3.6.5 Reasons for Non-School Attendance/Dropout

The households that had children of school going age and were currently not in school (35.6%) were asked if those children had ever attended formal education. Nearly half of the households reported that the children (42.0%) had ever attended school but dropped out, while 58% had never attended school. Further analysis by gender indicates more households reporting the girl child as never attended school (65%) as compared to the male child (52.1%).

There were more house hold pronouncements about children never attending school from Moroto District (90%) as compared to Bugiri District (11%) and Namayingo District (7.3%). Reasons for never attended school were given as: the child has to work with family at the gold mines (44%), household cannot afford school requirements/tuition (27.3%) and the child is still considered too young (14.6%). Other reasons are indicated in table 4-6 below. Further analysis indicates that perceived consideration of child being young were more pronounced in Bugiri and Namayingo Districts as compared to Moroto District. This is indicated in table 4-6. Lack of nearby school, inability to afford tuition, education not being considered valuable, work with family in gold mine and helping with household chores were only mentioned by respondents from Moroto District. This is collaborated with information from key informant interviews from the district.

Table 4-6 Reasons for Never Attended School by District

Reasons never attended school	Districts			
	Bugiri (%)	Moroto (%)	Namayingo (%)	Combined (%)
Too young	71.4	9.4	66.7	14.6
Disabled /illness	7.1	-	33.3	1.0
No school/ school far	-	3.3	-	3..0
Cannot afford Schooling	-	29.8	-	27.3
Family does not allow schooling	-	0.6	-	0.5
Not interested	-	1.1	-	1.0
Education not considered valuable	-	2.3	-	1.5
Work with family on gold mine	-	48.1	-	43.9
Help with household duties	-	5.0	-	4.5
Other (no vacancy at school)	-	0.6	-	0.5
Don't Know	21.4	-	-	0.5
Total	100	100	100	100

Qualitative data indicated that children's labour was needed throughout the gold mining ladder from excavation to sieving. In Moroto District, children were part of the family labour in the gold mines. In other districts, family child labour came at no cost implication. While for other employers, children were easier to deal with in respect to negotiating for cheaper labour.

"Reasons for sometimes staying out of school among others included the view that the money families get from the mines is a way of life and survival.... parents need their children's labour in the mines to fetch water for sieving out the gold, ferry the soil and dig out the soil and collect firewood to burn the marble" **(Key Informant Interview, Rupa Sub-county).**

Cultural values and attitudes about schooling and children are some of the factors keeping children out of school to easily join gold mining employment. This was more pronounced from the key informant interviews from Moroto District. It was observed that it was difficult for parents to let the children go to school so that they themselves (parents) work in the mines. The practice of parents

using children in the gold mines has its roots in the cultural values of the Karamojong people. There was still the cultural aspect of preferring boys to attend school to the girl child an aspect that still need to be advocated against.

"*Girls were denied to go to school because they were thought to turn to prostitution while in school while boys were mostly involved in cattle raiding to accumulate wealth for the family but which is now no more. Mining has now replaced the raiding of cattle as a source of income and families move and work with the boy and girl child as well*" ***(Key Informant Interview-Katikakile Sub-county).***

3.6.6 Level and Reasons for Dropping Out of School

Out of the children not currently in school, 42% of the households indicate that such children had attended school but dropped out; with slightly more pronouncements for male children (48%) as compared to female children (35.2%). Unfortunately, more of the children are reported to have dropped out of primary school level (80.7%) as compared to those dropping out at secondary level (5.0%) and vocational/tertiary level (1.0%), with almost no functional skills at the level of drop out. Some few household respondents (13%) could not recall or tell the school level at which child(ren) dropped out. More children were likely to drop out of school at the age of 12 years and above (66%) most likely in middle or upper primary level.

Major reasons for dropping out of school were - lack of school tuition and materials (54.5%), lack of interest in schooling (18%) and working with family at gold mines (9.0%). Other reasons are indicated in table 4-7 below. Lack of interest in schooling was relatively more pronounced in Bugiri and Namayingo Districts as compared to Moroto District. Working with family on gold mine was only mentioned by respondents from Moroto Districts (30.4%) as indicated in table 4-7. Level of vocational Training was very low in the project area. Qualitative information from FGDs indicates that children worked in gold mining to supplement family income.

"Gold mining is influenced by the economic situation of people in this community. Many are poor and some remove their children and engage them in gold mining to supplement on the little family income." ***(FGD-Female Parents, Budde Village-Namayingo District).***

Table 4-7 Reasons for Dropping out of School by district

Reasons for dropping out of school	Districts			
	Bugiri (%)	Moroto (%)	Namayingo (%)	Combined (%)
Disabled/Illness	2.4	-	-	1.3
Lack of school tuition/materials	56.1	43.4	66	54.5
School too far	2.4	-	6.7	2.5
Family does not allow schooling	-	4.3	-	1.3
Education not considered valuable	26.8	4.3	13.3	17.7
To Learn a Job	2.4	-	6.7	3.8
Work with family on gold mine	-	30.4	-	8.9
Work for other employers on gold mines	2.4	-	-	1.3
Work for other employers on other business	4.9	-	-	2.5
Due to pregnancy	2.4	4.3	-	2.5
Others	-	4.3	-	1.3
Total	100	100	100	100

Secondary data indicates that high levels of poverty, the impact of HIV/AIDS, and orphan-hood leaves children vulnerable and at high risk of falling into child labour due to lack of financial support to continue with their education. Further negative cultural norms that attach low importance on education, viewing children as a source of labour, famine, food insecurity and the high and prohibitive costs of education exacerbate child exploitation[26]. Although Universal Primary Education (UPE) exists it's inaccessible to exploited and at risk children due to inability to meet the hidden costs of exercise books, uniform, lunch money and transport[27].

3.7 Child Labour Situation in Gold Mines in the Study Area

3.7.1 Perception about Child Labour in Gold Mining Areas

While most of the community members indicated that child labour in the gold mining areas was a serious and growing problem, several community members also perceived it as necessary and normal livelihood engagement for the household where such children belonged. Even where some community members think otherwise, they seemed resigned about it in respect to concrete actions against the problem.

"The community perceives child labour on the gold mines as a serious problem in Budde because it has led to absenteeism and high rates of school dropouts of children from schools" ***(Community FGD-Male Parents, Budde Village, Bugiri District).***

"Child labour in Budde village is high. Gold mining is a job but a supplement to income. Many are poor and thus engage their children in child labour in the gold mines to supplement family income" ***(Community FGD-Female Parents, Nsango B Village, Namayingo District).***

"Child labour is a serious and dangerous problem in the community but poverty leaves us children with no choice but to engage in gold mining to help our parents" ***(Community FGD-Children, Nsango B Village, Namayingo District).***

"Gold mining is very bad. Community members would not wish to have their children in gold mining because it's very dangerous to their health but poverty is what makes parents to send their children to work in the mines to earn money to buy household needs" ***(Community FGD-Kimasa Village, Bugiri District).***

Nearly all community discussions and key informant interviews indicated that child labour in gold mining was a growing problem.

"The engagement of children in gold mining has increased due to the drought that intensively affected Kimasa Village. Gold mining has since been considered by the poor families as a major alternative and parents are increasingly engaging their children to work in the mines to get money to buy food and other needs. This has contributed towards increased engagement of children in the mines in this village ***(Community FGD-Kimasa Village, Bugiri District).***

"Parents view children as helpful in working in mines because it makes the children provide for their families. Some community members look at children working in the mines as responsible children..... many people in the community are illiterate and they don't mind about educating their children because they never studied but are surviving. Besides, some children working in the mines are able to

26 National Action Plan on Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Uganda 2012/13-2016/17

27 Ibid

buy a phone. Others have bought motorcycle (for boda-boda business) and this has attracted many children to engage in child labour rather than going to school" ***(Key Informant Interview-Budhaya Sub-county, Bugiri District).***

3.7.2 Child Labour Engagement in Gold Mines and Other Activities in the Last 30 Days

Households were asked if any children aged between 5-18 years had in the last 30 days worked for a wage, salary or any payment in-kind, including assisting family in the gold mines. Nearly half (48.3%) indicated that children had worked for a wage, salary or commission in the gold mines. This was more pronounced among male children at (53.2%) as compared to female child at (42.5%). Qualitative information also indicates that male children were more likely to be actively engaged in gold mining than the females.

"The bigger numbers of children working in the mines are boys. Girls bring things to sell and sometimes get involved in sex for money. Girls sell chapattis and maize among other food stuffs. Boys are mostly used in the mines" ***(Key Informant Interview-Budhaya Sub-county, Bugiri District.***

" The mines are usually dominated by older boys. Girls also engage in the mines but these usually sell food stuff" ***(Community FGD-Parents, Kimasa Village, Bugiri District).***

"The majority of the children engaged in the mines are male children. Female children also engage in mining but these mostly engage in selling food stuffs. The mines are mostly dominated by children of ages 13 and 14 years" ***(Community FGD-Male Parents, Budde Village, Bugiri District.***

"*All types of homes have children working in the mines because of the impact of hunger in the area. In families with very young children, it is the parents who engage in gold mining to get money for the home*" ***(Community FGD-Parents, Kimasa Village, Bugiri District).***

Approximately 40% of the households indicated that children aged between 5-18 years had also participated in running some business either for themselves or with their parents; 59% had worked on some activity outside gold mining such as crop and livestock farming for the household. Activities engaged in outside gold mining were mentioned as livestock keeping, household chores, digging, collecting firewood, vending foodstuffs (maize, groundnuts, etc.), fetching water and feeding animals. Crop farming/ gardening was more pronounced in Namayingo and Bugiri Districts. Also children selling food stuff was more pronounced in Bugiri and Namayingo District.

Working for a wage/salary/commission or payment in kind (including assisting your family) in gold mines was more pronounced in Bugiri district (62%) and Namayingo District (61%) as compared to Moroto District (27.7%). Helping without being paid in any kind of business or activity run by the household was more pronounced in Moroto District (72%) as compared to Bugiri District (29%) and Namayingo District (37%). The child activities engaged in the last 30 days are illustrated in the table 4.8 below

Table 4.8 Activities Engaged in the Last 30 Days

Activities engaged in 30 days	District (%)		
	Bugiri	Moroto	Namayingo
Working for a wage/ salary/ commission or any payment in kind including helping family on gold mines	62	27.7	61
Help without being paid in any kind of business or activity run by your household	20.8	71.7	37.1
Work on any activity outside gold mining such as crop farming or livestock care	65.5	52.1	60

Multiple responses allowed

3.7.3 Activities Undertaken During Gold Mining

Activities allocated to children engaged in gold mining varied irrespective of age, gender and ability. Most of the community members and key informants' indicated that activities assigned were beyond the abilities of children engaged. For children involved in ferrying excavated soil, average number of (10kg) basins carried per day was 19.2 or 192kgs.

Gold mining appears to attract all children with different family backgrounds. Common tasks assigned to children were; excavating/digging up sand/soil, carrying, breaking up the stones aggregates into fine particles, drying up the excavated soil/ sand , fetching water, sieving/ panning and cooking food for the miners. This is illustrated in table 4.9 below. Most of these activities were carried out at or near the excavation sites (88%) while others were carried out at family farm/field (5%) or house compound (7%). It is important to note that the working conditions at most of the excavation sites were very poor; from lacking sanitation, solid waste disposal and drinking water facilities, to lack of shelter and decent resting places.

"*They (children) work mostly as casual labourers. Children at the mines are engaged in sieving, carrying sand, drying sand, crushing stones and a few of the children excavate soil. Those who excavate are about 16-17 years* ***(Community Leaders FGD-Budhaya Sub-county, Bugiri District).***

"Children are usually assigned to sieve sand, dry sand and also carry excavated sand.....work assigned to children is irrespective of age and sex. Children are usually assigned any work that is available" ***(Community FGD-Parents, Kimasa Village, Bugiri District).***

"Children in the mines usually engage in any work available for as long as they can get money out of it. The majority are usually assigned to; wash sand, underground excavation for older children and collecting stones. It's mostly male children who engage in gold mining. Girls are usually engaged in vending and selling food stuffs since they can't excavate soil from underground. There are cultural values that depicts that if girls engage in underground excavation, gold will disappear from the soil" (Community FGD-Male Parents, Budde Village, Bugiri District).

Table 4.9 Activities Assigned to Children at Gold mines

Activities Assigned	Percent
Underground excavation	30%
Surface Excavation	57.1%
Carrying excavated said/gravel	36.0%
Drying excavated sand /gravel	14.2%
Machine grinding excavated sand/gravel	1.0%
Collecting water	61.0%
Sieving through excavated sand/gravel	53.0%
Child care at mine	5.8%
Others (breaking stones, picking stones, selling food)	8.2

Multiple responses allowed

Figure 2. Child emerging from tunnel with bucket of excavated sand/soil-Moroto District

3.7.4 Child Labour Engagement Relations During Gold Mining

With regard to the households that had children working in gold mines in the last 30 days, nearly half of them worked for someone else (44.4%), while 11.6% worked on gold mine for their family but for some payment, 4.5% were own account workers, 34.2% worked on gold mine helping out the family without pay and 5.2 were in other categories such as an apprentice to learn, caring for siblings while adults worked at the mine. Working for someone at gold mines was more pronounced in Bugiri District (76.4%) and Namayingo District (84.0%) as compared to Moroto District (5.0%). Mean while helping without pay at a family mine was more pronounced in Moroto District (71%) as compared to Bugiri District (2.0% and Namayingo District 40%). This is illustrated in table 4.10 below. As indicated in sub-section 3.6.3 above, the supportive roles such as baby sitting, cooking and fetching water were more likely assigned to the female children at the mining sites.

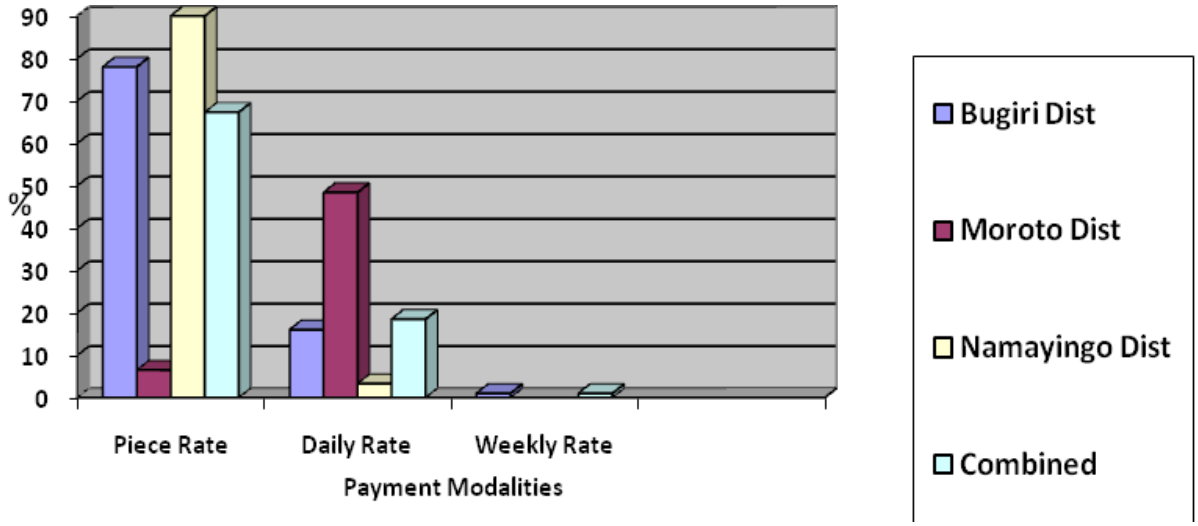
Table 4.10 Engagement Relations while working at Goldmine

Engagement or Working Relations	District (%)			
	Bugiri	Moroto	Namayingo	Combined
Working on gold mines for someone	76.4	4.9	84	44.4
Working on gold mines for family for pay	11.1	14.2	6.0	11.6
Own account worker	2.4	7.8	-	4.5
Helping out family without pay	1.9	70.5	0.7	34.2
Others (apprentice, baby sitting, cooking)	8.2	2.6	6.0	5.2
	100	100	100	100

3.7.5 Payment Modalities for Work At Gold Mines and Income Earned

Most of the children working in the gold mine were paid at a piece rate method (67.3%). Only 18.5% were paid using a daily rate and very few got a weekly rate (0.6%), while the rest were paid in kind (scholastic materials, or wait for profits, food and clothing).The piece rate mode of payment was more pronounced in Bugiri District (77.8%) and Namayingo District (89%) as compared to Moroto District (6.5%). The daily rate method as more pronounced in Moroto District (48.4%) as compared to Bugiri District (15.8%) and Namayingo District (3.3%). This is illustrated in figure 3 below.

Figure 3. Payment Modalities for Children Working at Gold Mines



An average monthly income was generally low; UGX 55,670 only with most of the children (85%) earning less than UGX 10,000 per month. Secondary data indicates that for all the hard work done by the children exploited in the mines, they face economic abuse as they are underpaid for the work done. At the end of the day, the children are paid 1000/= to 2000/= shillings only.[28]Qualitative data indicates a similar situation.

"The situation is bad. Children do heavy work which makes their chests to pain. The children are also paid very little money and some are at times not paid despite the amount of work done" ***(Community FGD-Children, Nsango B Village Namayingo District).***

28 Ibid

"*The bigger the work done, the more the benefits for the child. There's no compensation given in case a child gets injured in the goldmines. It is mostly the employed children themselves who negotiate for their terms of payment*" ***(Community FGD-Female Parents, Nsango B Village, Namayingo District and Male Parents, Budde Village , Bugiri District).***

"It's the employed children themselves who negotiate for their terms of payment. The children receive their pay after the work assigned to them has been accomplished" ***(Community FGD-Parents, Kimasa Village, Bugiri District***).

"When given a basin to sieve gold, one can get 2000 if gold is found and if gold is not found, one is not paid" ***(Community Leaders FGD-Budhaya Sub-county, Bugiri District).***

3.8 Reasons for working in Goldmines

The main reason for working in gold mines is to supplement family income (71.3%) and other reasons given are: help in family business (13.0%), help pay family debt (1.2%), school fees too high (1.4%), not interested in schooling (3.45) and other reasons such as personal needs/ scholastic materials (9.6%). Qualitative data from FGDs and Key Informant Interviews indicate that poverty at the household and community level is a key driver.

Several factors were described by the community and key informants interviewed:

- Poor parents usually send their children to work in the mines to get money to buy household needs. Some of the orphaned children usually engage in gold mining to earn a living.
- Ignorance about the negative impacts of child labour also plays a role in influencing children to engage in the mines.
- There is too much love for money by the children who admire their peers (those who usually get nice things, using the money earned from the mines).
- Children engage in the mines because their parents don't treat education as important.
- Some children work in the mines to raise money for school fees.
- Child neglect by some parents also forces children to seek for livelihood from the mines. There are reported cases of increase of single mother families in the study area.
- Laxity by local leaders also contributes to the problem of child labour in the area.
- In some communities, it was indicated that the schools were too far and in some cases the learning environment and conditions at school were not attractive to several children. Some schools lacked sanitation facilities, drinking water and teachers; which also contributed to disinterest in school by some children. There were also reported cases of children dropping out of school because they could not afford the indirect costs of requirements such as books, uniforms and other materials.
- Lack of secondary and tertiary opportunities was also mentioned as contributing to pushing children into gold mining. Some of the children had completed primary level of education but could not proceed to secondary education due to lack of nearby and affordable secondary or vocational training facilities.
- The nature of labour structure needed for gold mining was also a contributing factor. Child labour is required almost throughout the gold mining ladder, from excavation to sieving. Children were found to easily navigate through the tunnels. For family labour, children were an easier alternative to employing labour from outside the family in a venture that involved some probability success and failure. For other persons working in the mines, employing children was easier and cheaper as these we easy to exploit and sometimes more trustworthy than adults.
- Lack of alternative livelihoods was also a push factor in some communities especially from around Moroto District. Gold mining was the easier and readily available livelihood alternative

to most households since the collapse of the livestock economy and end of cattle rustling in the region. Children were required to help the parents excavate the soils and also fetch water sometimes from distant places.

"Local leaders from LC I to LC III are not doing their role in community. They fear to talk about child labour in gold mining so that they don't lose their votes" (Community Leaders FGD-Budhaya Sub-county, Bugiri District).

"Children can buy whatever they want. This forces them to work to get money since they want to have a good life" (Community Leaders FGD-Budhaya Sub-county, Bugiri District).

"Some children working in the mines are able to buy a phone. Others have bought boda bodas and this has attracted many children to engage in child labour rather than going to school" (Community Leaders FGD-Budhaya Sub-county, Bugiri District).

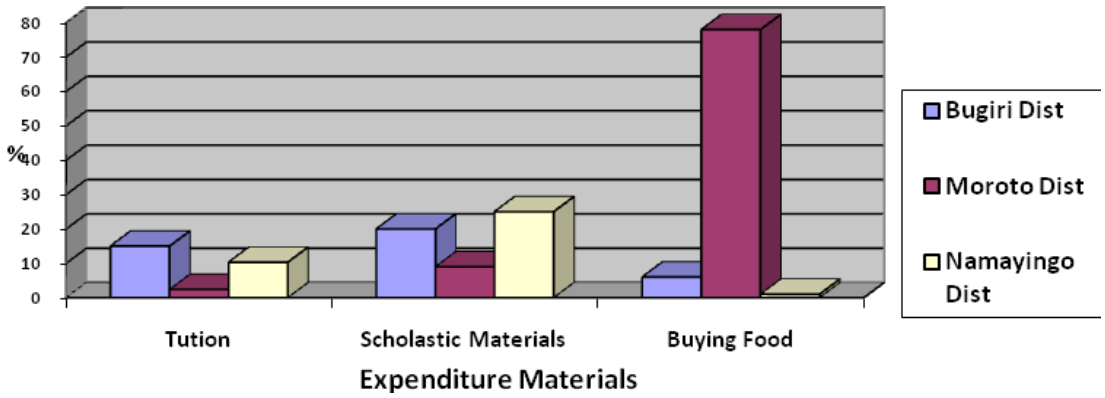
"Employers as well prefer to have children work for them because they are considered to be honest as these can't steal or hide gold in their finger nails while sieving like the adults do. Employers also prefer to engage children to work for them because they can work for any pay" (Community FGD-Parents, Kimasa Village, Bugiri District).

3.9 Expenditures from Income Earned

The majority of the income earned was spent on four items; personal needs, (28.8%), Household/ family needs (31.4%), school needs (16.8%) and school fees (9.2%). The other earnings were surrendered to parents/guardians (11.1%) and or spent to procure brothers/sisters/relatives needs (1.5%). The level of saving was very low (1.1%). Main reasons for saving were to go back to school, start up a business and to buy family basic needs in future.

The expenditure on school fees was relatively more pronounced in Bugiri District (14.6%) and Namayingo District (10.3%) as compared to Moroto District (2.4%). Equally, expenditure on scholastic materials was relatively more pronounced in Bugiri District (20%) and Namayingo District (25%) as compared to Moroto District (9%) indicating that some children were most likely working to pay tuition and procure scholastic materials. Buying personal needs was also relatively pronounced in Bugiri District (47.4%) and Namayingo District (36.1%) as compared to Moroto District (3.6%). In contrast, buying household / family needs was highly more in Moroto District (78.1%) as compared to Bugiri district (5.7%) and Namayingo District (1.0%) indicating that child labour in Moroto District was more related to family survival than the scholastic needs. This is indicated in figure 4. This collaborated with FGD and KII findings that indicate that food insecurity associated with household poverty and environmental challenges to crop and animal farming was one of the key drivers of child labour in gold mining areas in Moroto District.

Figure 4. Expenditure from Income Earned



3.10 Working Conditions in Gold Mines

3.10.1 Time of work, Duration and Age of starting to work:

Average working hours per day is between 7-8 hours per day for the work at the gold mines in all study districts; while 2-3 hours per day was spent on other duties. This illustrated in table 4.11 below. Weekly average hours worked on gold mines was 42 hours.

Table 4.11 Average numbers of Hours worked daily on Gold mines and other work

Day	Average Hours Worked on Gold Mines	Average Hours worked on other duties /tasks
Monday	7.2	2.6
Tuesday	7.8	2.6
Wednesday	8.1	2.6
Thursday	8.5	2.7
Friday	9.1	2.7
Saturday	9.2	3.0
Sunday	9.5	3.3

The average age at which children started working in the gold mines is 8 in all the study districts. Nearly all children worked during the day (98.0%) while 0.8% worked at night and others (1.3%) worked both during day and night with near proportions between study areas.

Households with school going children or currently working in the gold mines were asked at what time such children work at the gold mines. About 42% of the households indicated that children worked after school, 31% including during weekends, 20.1 % during deliberate absence from school, 5.6% before and after school and 1.1% before school opens. Working after school was only mentioned in Bugiri District (47.8%) and Namayingo District (60%), deliberate absence from school to work on the goldmines was pronounced more in Moroto District (74%) as compared to Bugiri District (8.7%) and Namayingo District (3.6%) working during weekends was in near proportions between study areas. Bugiri district (30%) Moroto district (26%) and Namayingo District (36.5%) working before school was only mentioned in Bugiri District.

3.10.2 Length of involvement in Gold Mining for last 12 month

Some children are engaged consistently for 12 month (17%), while some are engaged consistently for 6 months (19.3%), 4 months (18.4%), 8 months (9.4%), 7 months (7.0%), 10 months (5.7%), 5 months (5.4%) and 3 months (5.1%). Other children worked for relatively fewer months; 2 months (3.3%) and 1 month (4.5%). Fewer children worked consistently 9 months (3.3%) and 11 months (1.8%).

3.11 Occupational Health, Safety and injuries:

3.11.1 Protective Wear, Injuries and Health Conditions Suffered

The use of protective wear during work at the gold mines was very low (2.7%); with responses from Bugiri district (3.8%) and Moroto District (2.75%) only meaning that 97.3% of the children working in the gold mines did not use protective wear. In Bugiri district, 96.2% of children did not have protective wear while in Moroto 97.25 % did not have protective wear while working in the gold mines.

Most injuries suffered as a result of working in gold mines were chest pains 75.3%), extreme fatigue/ tiredness (59.2%), eye problems (41.8%) and open wounds (36.5%) with near levels across the study districts. Other injuries and health conditions suffered are indicated in table 4.12 below;

Table 4.12 Injuries and Health Conditions Suffered

Injury/Health Conditions	Percent
Superficial injuries or wounds	36.5
Eye problems	41.8
Extreme fatigue /tiredness	58.2
Chest pain	75.3
Fractures	9.2
Dislocations, sprains and back pain	33.8
Burns corrosions scalds	12.6
Breathing problem	28.0
Skin problems	33.8
Stomach problem	26.1
Others (bleeding, cough)	*16.1*

(Multiple responses allowed)

Qualitative information indicates that work assigned to children at the gold mines was beyond their abilities and also dangerous to their health.

"Children usually suffer from chest pain, breathing problems, backaches, fatigue and skin problems due to cuts by the soil, rocks and tools. Some of the male children when they get money they also get girls and impregnate them at an early age" (***Community Children FGD, Nsango B Village, Namayingo District).***

Above: Some children engaged in child labour in gold mining in Bugiri district spend most of their time in dirty water punning the soil expected to be having gold. As a result of bending for a long time, they complain of backaches, chest pain, fatigue and skin problems.

There are other negative social impacts beyond the poor health outcomes. Community FGD indicated the following undesired negative social outcomes:

- An increase in number of indiscipline children. Some children have lost respect for their parents and other community members because they have money.
- Increased cases of school dropouts and absenteeism.
- Increased early and unwanted pregnancies as a result of increased transactional sexual activities and child prostitution.
- Increased social conflicts within the community.
- Some children have died as a result of accidents in the mines or contracting diseases related to working in the mines

"It has also resulted to death of children who at times get buried inside the soil.....parents lose money in treating children who get health problems from the mines" ***(Community FGD -Females Parents, Nsango B Village, Namayingo District).***

"Some of the boys when they get money they also get girls and some of these girls become pregnant... some are chased from home" ***(Community Children FGD, Nsango B Village, Namayingo District).***

3.11.2 Effects of Health Condition or Injury Suffered on Working in the Gold Mines

Most of the children that have suffered injuries or health conditions while working indicated that injury or health conditions suffered were not very serious so as to lead them to stop working (91.4%) completely. Fewer children stopped work but only for a short time (15.4%). Fewer stopped working for a longer period (1.3%) and only (0.5%) stopped work completely.

Above: *One of the child miners in Moroto district that had survived death after the mine he was digging collapsed on him. On the left, is a wound he gained after a stone cut him while mining and the* ***far right*** *photo shows the swollen face he is recovering from as a result of being covered by a huge chunk of soil in the mine hole.Just 3 days after the incident, he was back in the mines.*

3.11.3 Effects of Workload and Machine Operation

Approximately two thirds of the children working in the goldmines carried heavy loads that were burdening and beyond their abilities (66.5%). Perception and feeling of heavy work load was relatively more pronounced in Moroto District (81%) as compared to Bugiri District (48.4%) and Namayingo district (63.3%). Operation of heavy machinery was low (8.4%).Most of heavy machines reported were hand tools used for assigned tasks such as hammers, grinding machines, iron rods and pick axes. Operation of heavy machinery was relatively more pronounced in Namayingo District (9.3%) and Bugiri District (15.4%) than in Moroto District (5.0%). Other secondary data indicates that at Rupa mining site in Moroto District, children as young as ten years walk about 7 miles to collect water to wash the earth and sieve out gold.[29]

Above: ***Left****, female children carrying water to a distance of 3 kilometres to the mining site of Rupa while on the* ***Right,*** *female children and some adult women embark on a journey to fetch water. Water is used for sieving the gold at the gold mine of Rupa Moroto district.*

29 Max Delany (2011), After the Gold Rush: Is Mining the Future of Karamoja?

3.11.4 Exposure to Dust Fumes, Noise and Vibrations

Exposure to dust, noise and vibration was high in all districts. This is illustrated in table 4.13.Working underground was relatively more pronounced in Moroto District (15%) than in Bugiri District (7.8%) and Namayingo District (6.6%).

Table 4.13 Exposure to Dust fumes, Noise and Vibrations

Exposure element	Percent
Dust, Fumes	95.4
Fire Flames	24.3
Loud Noise, Vibrations	51.5
Extreme Heat	52.1
Dangerous Foods	31.4
Work underground	48.9
Work in stagnant water/pond/these	40.0
Work place to dark confined	22.8
Insufficient Ventilation	21.6
Work with chemical to mixing with water	28.0

The use of chemicals was more pronounced in Bugiri District (7.0%) and Namayingo District (10.7%) as compared to Moroto district (3.0%).

Above: *Right is a boy using mercury in sieving gold in Bugiri district. On the right is the glittering mercury in the blue basin that he is using.*

3.12 Human Relations and Human Rights at the work place

Some of the children working in gold mines reported to have been constantly shouted at (42.5%), repeatedly insulted (37.8%), beaten/physically hurt (19.3%), sexually abused/touched in a way that one did not want (3.4%) and other violations (10.5%). More violations were reported in Moroto District than Bugiri and Namayingo Districts.

3.13 Household Socio Economic status

3.13.1 Household Wellbeing and Residence Indicators

Less than half of the households lived in permanent residence structures (41.8%), while others stayed in temporary houses (51%) and semi-permanent houses (7.2%). Nearly all household reached owned the residences they stayed in (96.2%). Only 3.8% were renting. All household reached depended on firewood as (99.1%) as source of energy for cooking with near proportions between the study districts. Household main source of energy for lighting was paraffin (41.0%) firewood (48%), solar (8.0%) and other sources ((3.0%). The use of firewood as energy for lighting was only mentioned in Moroto District, while use of solar panels for lighting were relatively more pronounced in Bugiri District (15.5%) and Namayingo District (14.0%) as compared to Moroto District (1.2%).

Permanent House structures were largely in Bugiri District (78%) and Namayingo District (63%) as compared to Moroto District (2.3%). Temporary residence structures were relatively more pronounced in Moroto District (87%) as compared to Bugiri District (16.2%) and Namayingo District (13.8%). Equally semi- permanent buildings were more pronounced in Moroto District (11.0%) as compared to Bugiri District (4.3%) and Namayingo District (3.4%).

The household's main source of income (in past 12 months) was working in the gold mines (70%) with relatively higher proportions in Moroto District (98.3%) as compared to Bugiri District (47%) and Namayingo District (32.8%). Subsistence farming as the main source of income was low (23.8%) with more pronouncements in Bugiri District (41%) and Namayingo District (33%) as compared to Moroto District (1.0%). Another source of income was commercial farming (4.3%) only mentioned in Bugiri District (9.6%) and Namayingo District (7.0%) other main sources of income was very low; wage employment (0.3%), non-agricultural enterprises (1.0%) and property income (0.3%)

3.14 Food insecurity and coping mechanism

Nearly all households reported to have experienced food insecurity in the last 5 years (97.4%). Most of the insecurity was caused by crop failure (67%) and lack of resource to procure food (21.0%). This has been collaborated with findings from community dialogues and key informants. Other causes of food insecurity were - insecurity (2.0%), inadequate land (3.2%) and large family size (4.3%). Crop failure was pronounced in near proportions in all the study districts. Coping mechanisms against food insecurity were varied as indicated at table 4.14

Table 4.14 Coping mechanism against Food Storage

Coping mechanism	Bugiri	Moroto	Namayingo	Combined
Food Relief	0.7	10.2	1.7	5.0
Assisted by relatives /friends	1.3	3.6	0.6	2.2
Casual labour	10.7	11.5	11.0	11.1
Sent Children to work in gold mines	2.8	4.6	4.3	4.0
Sent children to work else where	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.5
Reduced number of meals taken per day	6.3	2.9	5.2	4.7
Sent children to relatives	0.9	1.6	1.7	1.4
Others(charcoal burning, credit, migration)	1.7	3.6	1.2	2.4

3.15 Existing Interventions at the District and Community Level on Child Labour.

There are a few local government initiatives and interventions against child labour in the study districts. Some of these interventions are personal initiatives of technical staff and the political leadership. All districts reported that some orientations on National Child Labour Policy with community child welfare committees were conducted.

While relevant structures and units such as the District Labour Office, Child Welfare and Probation Office, Police and District Education Office with direct responsibility over children's rights and development were in place, reviews of the district development plans indicate little commitment for programming and implementing programs against child labour.

All District Labour Offices visited did not have well laid out work plans which they were implementing against child in the gold mining areas. Complementary support roles from District Education Office to enforce education policy requirements, such as regular school attendance for children of school going age were limited around the study areas. Complementary support roles of Child Welfare and Probation to enforce parental support for children well-being were equally limited. Enforcing regulations against child labour by the Police Department was also limited due to lack of logistical, financial and human resources. Mass sensitisation against child was also very limited as an initiative of the local governments.

Some of the few interventions against child labour were initiated and supported under collaboration by CSOs/NGOs operating in the project areas; PLA in Bugiri District and ECO and Safer World in Moroto District; collaboration between the community leadership and police to remove children working in the gold mines and arrest offenders. Encourage parents and guardians to take children to school and avoid sending children to work in the gold mines. This also includes working PLA, ECO and Safer World register and support children to get back to school and stop working in the gold mines.

"Out of personal initiative, I work with well wishers to carry out sensitization on radio about child labour and the roles of the labour office.....going for inspections in factory is also out of own initiative and not supported by the district. It is therefore not carried out as often as it should" ***(District Labour Office-Moroto).***

"The office of the labour officer has no budget and is a struggling office within the district....and is not well supported by the district..... and the parents and other duty bearers also are not regularly informed or reminded of their duties and obligations to prevent child labour" ***(District Labour Office-Bugiri District).***

The districts are all implementing livelihood support programs through credit provision and training such as the youth livelihood program scheme and women enterprise scheme. Some of these programs are intended to improve or create alternative means of income for the community members. However, it was observed that parents and guardians in Moroto District were not actively involved in these government livelihood credit programs because they believed that borrowing money will lead them to debt and cause bondage problems. Some parents and guardians also feared taking credit because they lacked skills and commercial venture in which to meaningfully invest the money.

3.16 Challenges of Implementing District Level Interventions Against Child labour

1. The districts lacked financial and logistical support to initiate district level programs or implement national policies and regulations against child labour. Limited budgetary allocation to implementation of policies on child protection is a key gap affecting work place inspection in the gold mining sectors. At the time of the study, the labour officers for both Bugiri and Moroto District did not have a specific budget to conduct inspection in the mining sites.
   "The Labour Office is usually challenged by lack of means. The Labour Officer in Bugiri gets office impress of UGX 100,000/= a month which is not enough to support implementation of all activities of combating of child labour in the gold mines" ***(District Labour Office-Bugiri)***

2. Lack of logistics makes it difficult to conduct regular inspections and supervision of the activities around the gold mines. It is even more difficult for the districts to plan a program for withdrawal and rehabilitation of children exploited in gold mining.

3. The local council leaders responsible for children welfare and the community members are not adequately sensitised and trained in the laws and policies on child labour to enable them to enforce them or comply. This is challenged by cultural values and mindsets that do not value education among some of the community members. The local leaders for example chairpersons' of the village (LC1), Secretary for children affairs lack adequate knowledge, skills and awareness to address child labour issues.

4. Several laws, policies and guidelines on child labour are not well known by the local leaders at the community level. Resource constraints at local government are a critical barrier for community mobilization against child labour in the gold mines.

5. Coordination and collaboration from complementary units such as the District Education Office (to ensure that all school going children are in school) is weak; even where there are UPE and USE programs. There are few interventions in the mining areas to look out for children working while they should be in school. There are also few programs to enforce parental support for children's education. There is a need to have collaborated and coordinated approach and work plan to monitor instances of child neglect and irregular school attendance because of gold mining.

6. Although Universal Primary Education exists it is inaccessible to exploited and at risk children due to inability to meet the hidden costs of exercise books, uniform, lunch money and transport.

CHAPTER FOUR
STUDY CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Conclusions

Child labour is an increasing and significant social and economic problem in the gold mining areas of Uganda. There's a combination of factors that have led children been involved in child labour employment activities, such as, household poverty, environmental and social vulnerability, parental illiteracy, lack of alternative meaningful livelihoods, lack of employable skills and negative cultural values as well as complacent attitudes about children's education. Some of these children have never attended school, while others still intermittently attend, as well as working in the mines or drop out of school completely. The children are not able to progress on to secondary school or vocational training around the project areas. For most households engaged in gold mining, children were less likely to complete primary school and (or) even progress to secondary school level after their primary education due to lack of necessary material, dues or lack of nearby secondary schools.

While community members observed that child labour was a serious local problem, community members and leaders knowledge levels about the policies and regulations against child labour is low/ of the community leaders and members sounded resigned about the problem as a "necessary evil". Local government and community initiatives and programs to stop child labour were low, intermittent and compromised by logistical, financial and human resource capacities.

Collaboration between the mandate holder units and other complementary support structures within the local government levels was weak. Some of the current initiatives against child labour were extra-centred, initiated and implemented by CSOs/NGOs with little integration within the district or sub-county development plans.

The limited budgetary allocation to implementation of policies on child protection is a key gap affecting the work place inspection in the gold mining areas. At the time of the study, all district labour officers did not have a specific budget to program and implement work plans such as regular inspections at the mining sites, withdrawal of exploited children and prosecution of offenders and ensuring that such children are placed in school. Resource constraints at the local government and community levels are also a critical factor for community mobilization and regulation of child labour in the gold mines.

There is a close relationship between parent's (low) level of education and children's likelihood to miss school and ultimately work in the gold mines. A similar observation has been made by other studies and reports reviewed under chapter two of this report. Parents who have completed formal or vocational education are more likely to have their children attend school and also be able to secure employment than those who have not. Thus, unemployment and illiteracy among the parents are most likely to bolster their decision to let their children work in the gold mines to augment the family income. Low literacy levels among community members and leaders compromise their abilities to appreciate the value of education and thus have negative consequences about child labour. This underscores the need for community sensitisation and functional adult literacy as one of the long-term interventions against child labour in the gold mines.

Several recommendations were made by the district and community members and other stakeholders consulted. These are summarised here.

4.2 District Level Recommendations

1. Engage the community and parents to stop child labour and support the children to stay in school through sensitisation and mobilisation.
2. Local governments together with central government should plan and put in place alternative means of better livelihood that can be embraced by the parents other than looking at their children as the only possible means of support for family survival.
3. The districts should be supported to lobby among the partners such as Save the Children, Education Corporation and Development, Straight Talk Foundation to support the districts with financial and logistical support to implement national policy and regulations against child labour.
4. The central government and CSOs should support the local government to draft and put up by-laws on children welfare and development including child labour.
5. Build the capacity of the district labour officers, police and community local leaders especially on mediation and arbitration procedures for handling child labour issues, carrying out regular inspections at gold mines; share the inspection reports with other stakeholders.
6. Advocate for the allocation of a budget vote or conditional grant for the districts labour offices.
7. Sensitization against child labour using the mediums of radio, TV and community dialogues with the parents and all those involved.
8. Promote livelihood production systems that add value to the key local resources and products, for example livestock production in Moroto District and cereals processing in Bugiri and Namayingo Districts.

4.3 Study Recommendations

1. The districts should collaborate with and be supported by partners such as CSOs/NGOs and licences mineral firms to undertake mass sensitisation about the problem of child in gold mining and other sectors. Mass sensitisation and community education about the problem of child labour is necessary to leverage community appreciation about the problem and support for programs aimed at eliminating child labour at community level. This is necessary to change the resigned and cultural attitudes of parents and guardians toward children working in the gold mines as sometimes inevitable or productive. Most of the community members believed that children should work in the gold mines as an extension of family labour or income and this orchestrates child labour and exploitation.

   Mass sensitisation should also include an engagement of the parents and guardians to encourage and support their children to stay in school. Mass sensitisation can be done through community meetings, radio and translated relevant IEC materials about child labour polices, laws and regulations.

2. The districts should collaborate with and be supported by central government, partners such as CSOs/NGOs and licences mineral firms to undertake regular inspection of mining areas, withdrawal exploited children and prosecute offenders.
3. The districts and partners such as CSOs/NGOs should develop and implement a program to support artisanal miners to form cooperatives and associations in order to improve on their working conditions. It is through such associations that artisanal miners can be engaged to binding resolutions to support the elimination of child labour in gold mining areas.

4. There is a need for the District Local Governments and CSOs/NGOs to train the children withdrawn from or at risk of joining child labour in the gold mine so that children can be able to report parents and other community members who employ their fellow children.
5. To achieve all recommendations raised in this report, it is necessary to build the capacity of the local governments and community leadership through logistical and financial support for relevant programs for eliminating child labour and their implementation. It is also critical that local leaders at the district, sub-county and community level be trained about the problems of child labour in gold mining areas and how they can be involved sustainably in implementing programs, policies and regulations against child labour in their areas.
6. It is recommended that the central government in partnership with local governments and other partners support artisanal miners with relevant training and work tools and facilities that reduce on the demand for child labour at the gold mines. There is a need to study the gold mining ladder and identify the critical tools/implements and facilities that can reduce on the demand for child labour. The provision of water facilities around the gold mining sites in Moroto District was mentioned as one of the possible interventions that cab reduce on the demand for child labour around such sites
7. There is a need for targeted sensitisation and training of children withdrawn from the gold mines so as to provide a platform for the children to champion change to stop child exploitation and enhance enforcement and compliance with the child labour laws and policies.
8. The districts together with other partners should plan for withdrawal and rehabilitation, provision of education complementary opportunities or alternatives for those that dropped out of school for some time; and also support those who intermittently attend school with necessary resources or materials for regular attendance and or support those who wish to join secondary and vocational training.
9. Lastly, the districts need to plan for and improve livelihoods of these exploited children and their households through building their knowledge and skills for alternative livelihoods which reduces the vulnerability of the family to poverty and the effects of the climatic change.

ANNEX I

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND SPECIFIC TASKS FOR THE CONSULTANT AND KEY OUTPUTS

A: SPECIFIC TASKS FOR THE CONSULTANT

1. Review Literature and Developing the research tools
2. Develop the methodology and design of study.
3. Train research team /orient the research team before conducting the research.
4. Pre-test the research tools
5. Prepare a check list for preliminary visits to areas of study with PLA
6. Participate in field work/ data collection.
7. Conduct data analysis and report writing.
8. Conduct presentations at the two feedback/ validation workshops (one in Bugiri and one in Moroto).
9. Prepare the final situation analysis report
10. Present/ share the findings of the situational analysis on child labour in gold mining areas of Bugiri and Moroto at a Breakfast meeting at the national level

B: KEY OUT PUTS FOR THE CONSULTANT

1. Inception report with clear methodology and approach and research tools and schedule of activities time lines
2. Review of the literature
3. List of key informants and FGDs participants
4. Prepare field report and discuss it with PLA before dissemination at validation workshops in each of the two project areas of Bugiri and Moroto. This will be done within two weeks of completion of field work.
5. Two reports on the process and proceedings of the dissemination/ validation workshops in each of the two project areas.
6. Submission of draft report for discussion with PLA Executive Director Legal and Strategy Adviser and Program teams within two weeks of completion of field work.
7. Inclusion of key lessons from the field.
8. Submission of a final Draft report incorporating comments from PLA Executive Director, Legal and Strategy Adviser, Program teams within one week after meeting with team.

ANNEX II

TIME LINE AND REPORTING

The research will take place between **21stFebruary 2017 -15th April 2017.**The consultant will report to the Executive Director Platform for Labour Action**.**

WORK PLAN-SCHEDULE

Timing												
Activity	**Wk 1**	**Wk 2**	**Wk 3**	**Wk 4**	**Wk 5**	**Wkk 6**	**Wk 7**	**Wk 8**	**Wk 9**	**W k 10**	**W k 11**	**W k 12**
Inception Report												
Pre-visits												
Literature review												
Developing data collection tools												
Identify and training enumerators												
Pre-test Data collection tools												
Field Data Collection												
Data analysis												
Report writing												
Validation workshops												
Draft Field Report submission												
National Level Workshop												
Final Report												

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