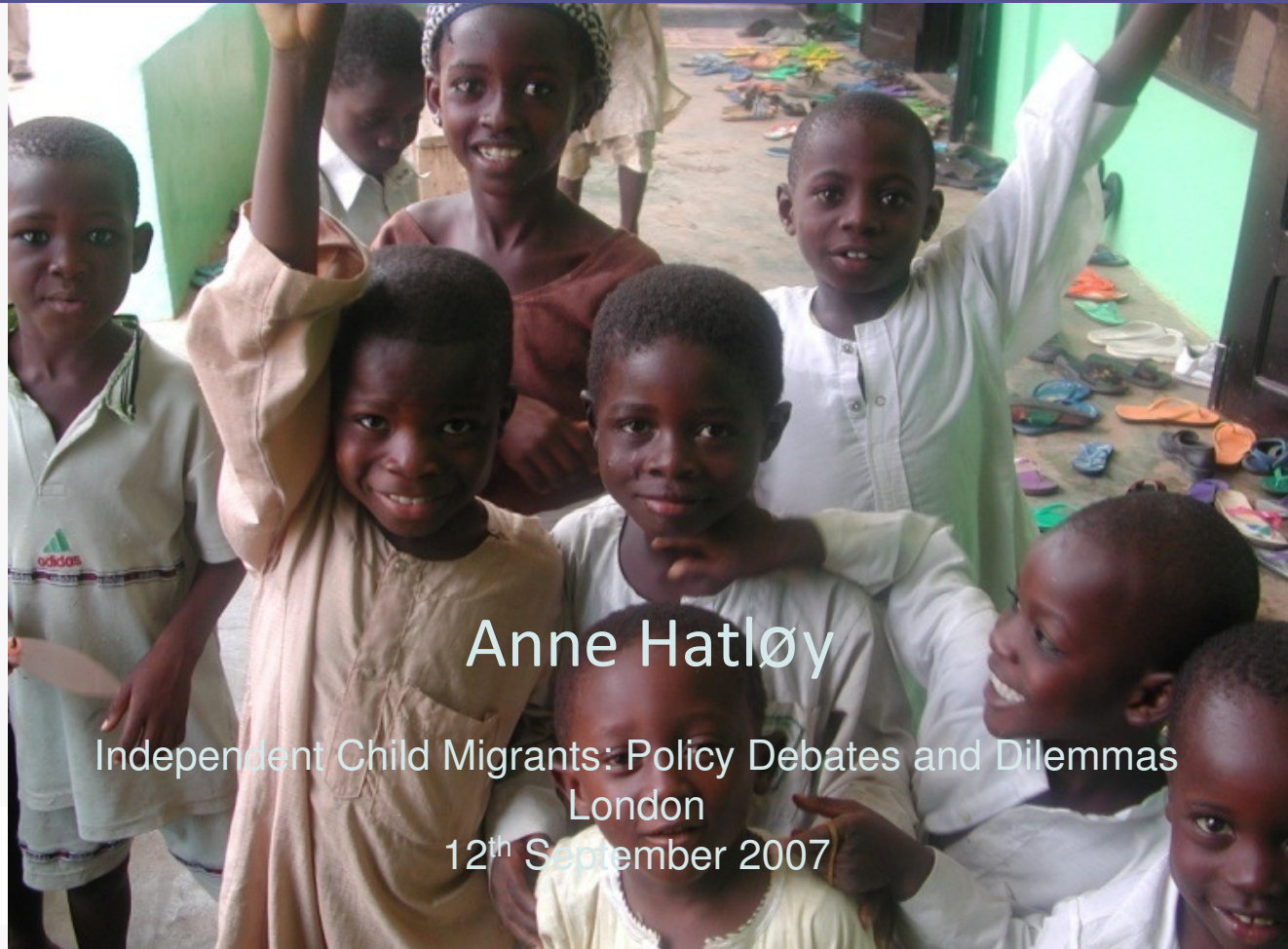


Relocation and trafficking – is there a link?

Studies of children and youth in West Africa



Anne Hatløy

Independent Child Migrants: Policy Debates and Dilemmas

London

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Studies on children's activity in West Africa



Overview of the projects

- Child relocation and trafficking

- Mali, Burkina Faso and Ghana (2003)
Funded by Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA)

- Street children

- Bamako , Mali and Accra, Ghana (2004)
Funded by NMFA

- Children in cocoa

- Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana (2004)
Funded by NMFA

- Diamond related work

- Kono, Sierra Leone (2005)
Funded by NMFA

- Economic activities in postwar Liberia

- Lofa (2005)
Funded by NMFA

- Child beggars

- Dakar, Senegal (2006/07)
Funded by the World Bank, in collaboration with UCW (Understanding Children's Work)

Most important forms of child relocation

- Kin households
 - Kin fostering
 - Domestic work
 - Education
- Work places
 - Workshops and apprenticeship centres
 - Petty trade and other informal sector businesses
 - Fishery
 - Farms
- Muslim clerics

Parents motivation for sending children away

- Poverty
 - No possibility to feed and raise
- Give the children better opportunities
 - Education
 - Socialisation
 - Work experience
- Religious education

Childs motivation

- Dream of a bike
- Earn to their father, to own education, or to prepare their adult life
- Adventure
 - Storys from older children
 - Inspired from TV and other media
- No oportunities in the place of origin
 - Lack of education
 - Lack of work
- Religious education

Most children in West Africa work as farmers...



Three categories:

1. Own family

2. Relatives

3. Stranger

Others do domestic work

1. In own family
2. For relatives
3. For strangers



Some work in the 'industrial' sector

As the children in the diamond sector in Sierra Leone

1. Living with parents
2. Living with relatives
3. Living with employer



... and some are working in the streets



In Accra there are a lot of girls in the street,

In Bamako and Dakar mainly boys

Some move for religious reasons

89 percent of the child beggars in Dakar are *talibés*, quaranic school boys



Some want to learn new skills

Such as mechanics



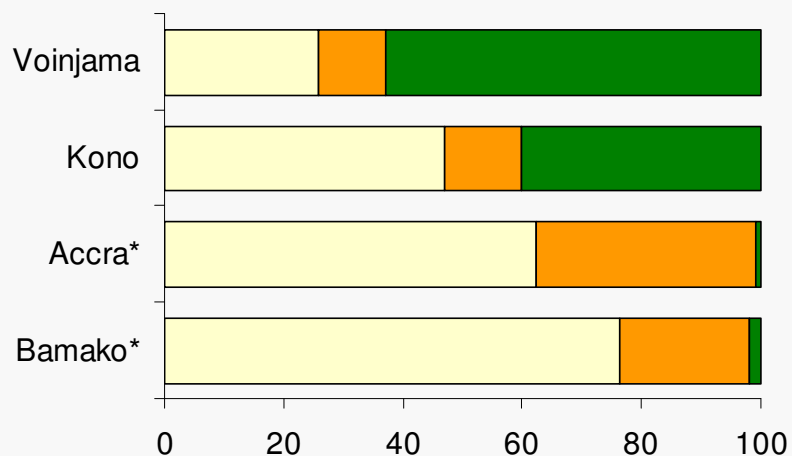
...some end up in prostitution



Some go to school, but low quality of schools

School attendance

□ Never attended □ Former enrolled ■ Currently enrolled

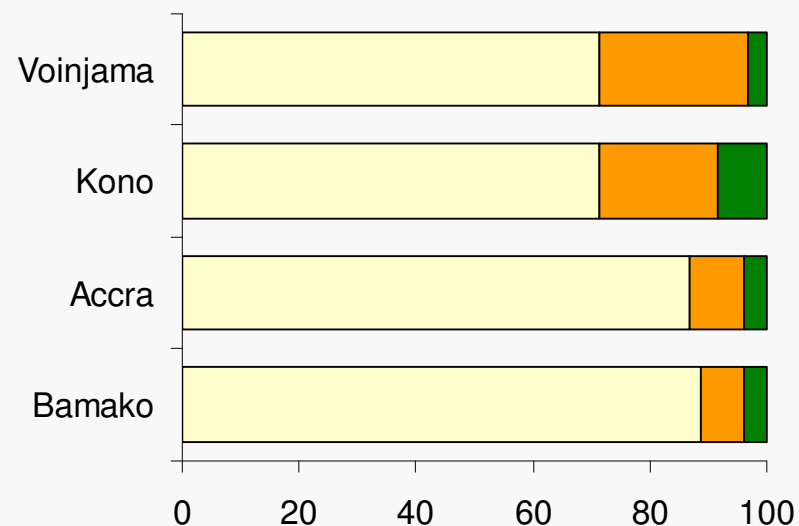


*Additional 50 % in Mali have been in Koranic school

*Additional 8 % in Ghana have been to Koranic school

Ability to read

□ No □ With difficulty ■ Easily



Children work, inside and outside the household

- Some move away
- ...but are they victims of trafficking?

Trafficking definition by ILO

- For the transfer of children to qualify as trafficking, the following criteria should be present:
 - the conclusion of a **transaction**
 - the intervention of an **intermediary**
 - the motive to **exploit**

Prevention of relocation may promote trafficking



Factor that provoke exploitation

- Excess demand for apprenticeship positions may lead to exploitation
- Fishery represents severe exploitation
- Violence, exploitation and sexual abuse known to happen to domestic workers
- Harsh working and living conditions in the informal sector in streets and market places
- Working conditions in the agricultural sector vary
- Religious devotion may lead to exploitation by Muslim clerics

Social and family network protect the child

- Sponsors
 - Safe journey, protection in place, control employers
- Experienced family or friends
 - Safe journey, connections and experience from arenas, protection in place
- Foster possibilities
 - Offer protection and education, job opportunities, live in families

Is trafficking the biggest problem?

- For those concerned, yes, it is a serious problem, but trafficking is part of an even bigger problem:
 - Exploitation of children and worst forms of child labour takes place in work arenas regardless of relocation or methods of recruitment

Exploitation

- Children work, but most help out on family farms and businesses
 - Most work every day, but most intense in peak periods
 - For the foreseeable future this will continue

Exploitation

- In accordance with ILO convention 182, we suggest a focus on exploitation and worst forms of child labour
 - Street children
 - Children working for a salary outside of the family structure
 - Children working with pesticides and other chemicals
 - Children working with welding and other hazardous mechanical work

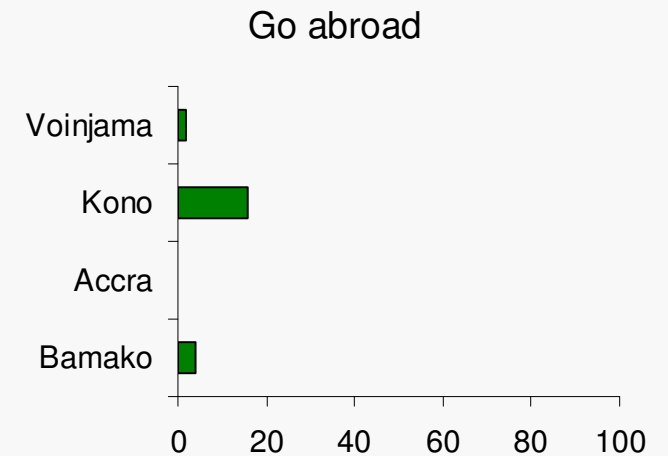
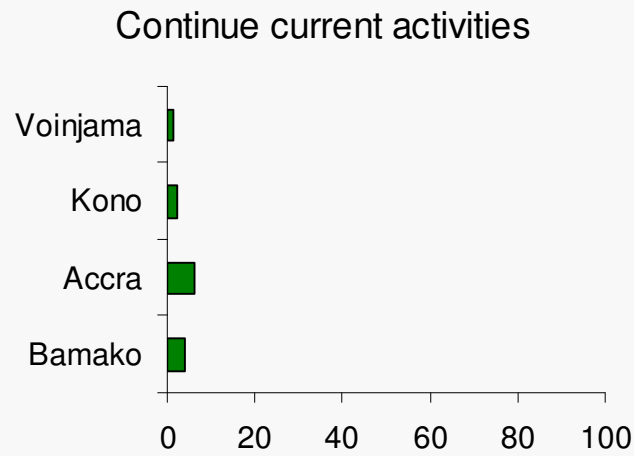
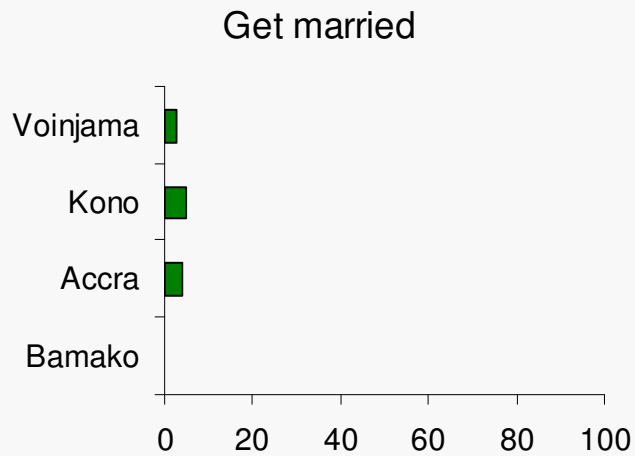
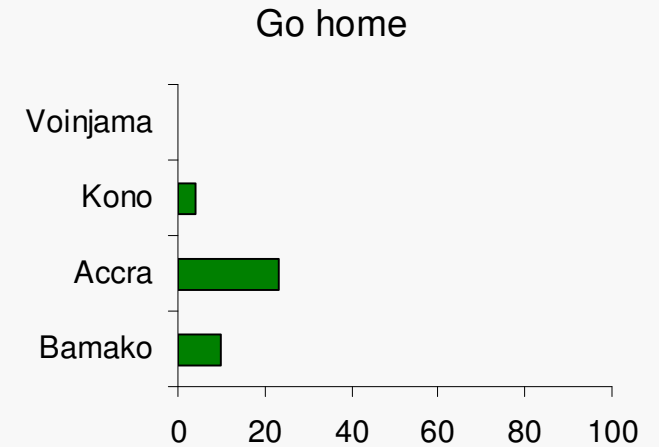
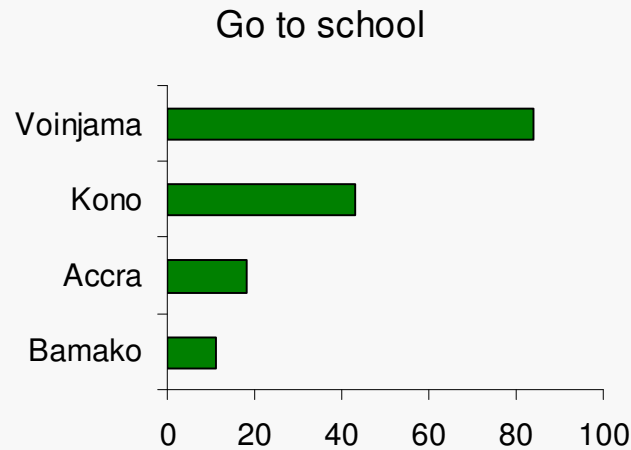
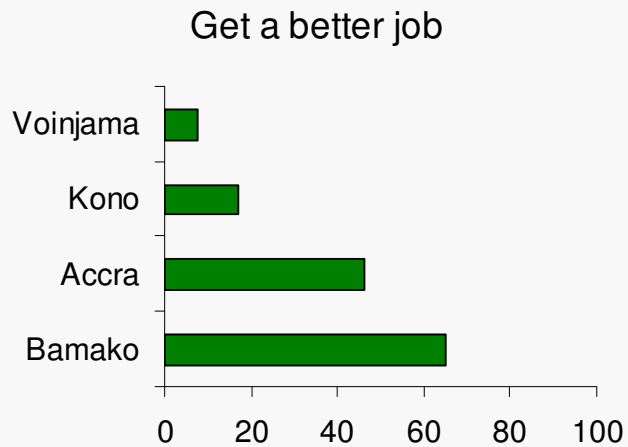
Combating exploitation

- Street children: Do not send them home
 - Give them protection and education
- Trafficked children:
 - Closed borders is not the answer, but the issue of migrating children should be discussed at the regional level.
- Hazardous work
 - Subsidising pesticides appliance

Organising the informal sector

- Unionising small scale mining
 - Working conditions and increased knowledge about the minerals
- Organising street children
 - Using existing street children networks for shelter and protection

Children don't want to go home



Further reading

- Bøås M and Hatløy A (2007) Child labour in West Africa: Different work – different vulnerabilities. *International Migration* (forthcomming)
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- Bøås M and Hatløy A (2006). *After the 'Storm'. Economic activities among returning youths. The case of Voinjama. Fafo-report 523*
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- Bøås M and Hatløy A (2006). *Living in a material world. Children and youth in alluvial diamond mining in Kono District, Sierra Leone. Fafo-report 515*
- Riisøen KH, Hatløy A and Bjerkan L (2004). *Travel to Uncertainty, A study of child relocation in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Mali. Fafo-report 440*