

Disrupting Harm

Evidence from 13 countries on the context, threats, and children's perspectives of online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Detailed Analysis of the Frontline Service Providers Survey
Kenya

Last updated 27/4/21

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This report is a summary of preliminary data collected for this research project. The perspectives contained herein represent the individuals interviewed and surveyed. Support from the Fund to End Violence Against Children does not constitute endorsement.

Introduction

The Disrupting Harm frontline workers survey aimed to explore the knowledge, attitudes and practices related to OCSEA that are presenting to those directly working to prevent and respond on the welfare frontline. Insights from frontline workers via this survey allowed us to more deeply explore findings from other research activities such as the national literature reviews and government interviews from the perspective of staff directly engaged in the response to this growing problem.

A convenience sample of 50 interviews were conducted with client-facing frontline child protection workers who were surveyed in each participating country. In order to participate in the survey respondents had to meet the following qualifying requirements:

- 1) Be an adult over 18 years of age;
- 2) Work the last 12 months (at least) in the field of social work, psychology or welfare;
- 3) Manage their own case load directly in the last 12 months;
- 4) Have caseloads that included children over the last 12 months.

The survey itself included a combination of 68 closed and open-ended questions. The data was collected via SurveyGizmo and administered by Disrupting Harm staff (either in person, or remotely via phone/Skype – due to COVID-19). Whilst the data collected is not statistically representative, it is still a vital snapshot in indicating scope and broadening our perspectives on knowledge, attitudes and practices related to OCSEA.

NOTE:

In Kenya, the data collection for the survey was conducted during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic from April 17th 2020 to May 16th 2020 where movement restrictions were in place.

Basic Description of Survey Sample

The frontline workers who were surveyed in Kenya (n=50) consisted of 27 females (54%) and 23 males (46%) which is aligned somewhat to the welfare workforce in the country which interestingly has good male and female participation.¹ This illustrates the situation in the country well - the representation of males and females among the frontline workers in Kenya is fairly equal.

Participants were asked to select a single category that best describes their organisation. In reality, these categories are sometimes not mutually exclusive, however the indications of a category that 'best' describes their organisation does help to depict the range of organisations that participants represent (Figure 1).

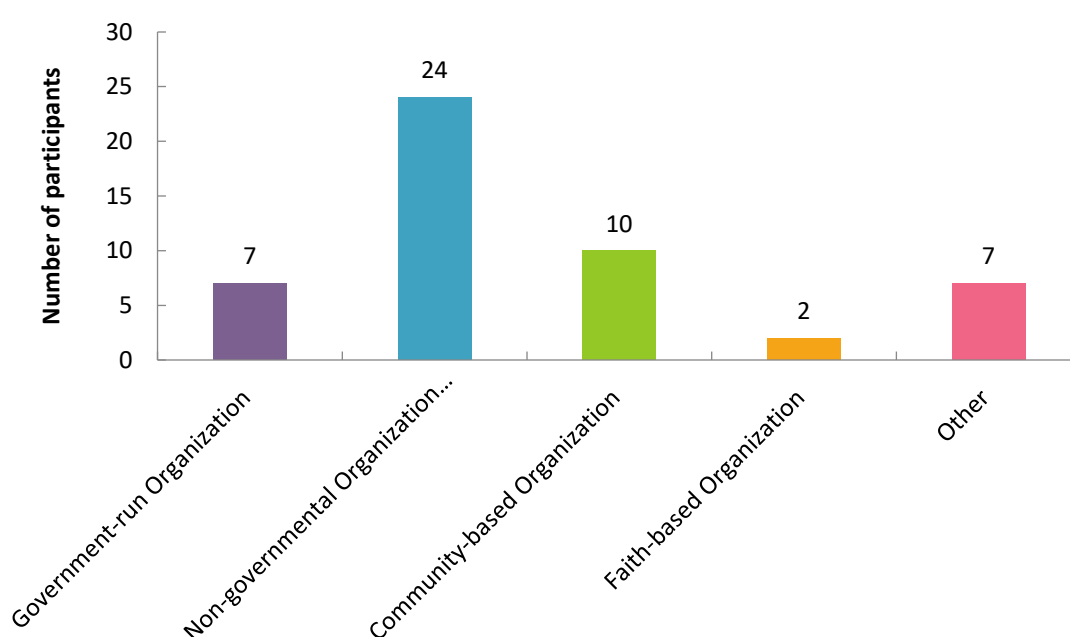


Figure 1. Types of participants' organisations.

48% of participants identified their organisation as non-governmental (n=24) followed by 20% community-based organisations (n=10), 14% government-run organisations (n=7), 4% faith-based organisations (n=2) and 14% other types of organisations (n=7), such as advisory councils or private organisations. There was a lot of bureaucracy required in order to include participants from government departments as they needed approval from higher offices, so while there is representation, this proportion is slightly lower than hoped. On the other hand, front line workers from NGOs and community-based organisations were very keen to participate, with their organisations also very keen to be associated with the survey.

The frontline social support workers were asked to detail what type of services their organisations provided related to children. The results are illustrated in Figure 2 below.

¹ Personal communication from Kenya local field research team.

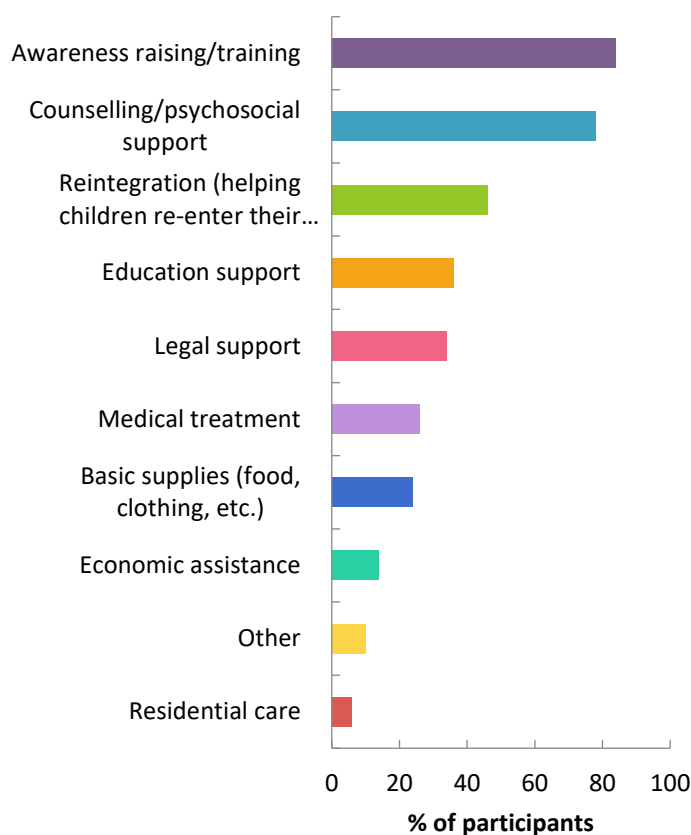


Figure 2. Types of services provided by participants' organisations.

84% of participants worked in organisations providing more than one service to children (n=42). As Figure 2 indicates, the most frequently reported services were awareness raising/training (n=42 – 84%) and counselling/psychosocial support (n=39 – 78%). 23 respondents indicated their organisation provided reintegration services (46%), 18 provided education support (36%), 17 legal support (34%), 13 medical treatment (26%) and providing basic supplies (n=12). The least commonly provided services among participants were economic assistance (n=7 – 14%) and residential care (n=3 – 6%). Interestingly, the participants who indicated that their organisation provided 'economic assistance' also explained that they were only offering those services because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other services mentioned by the frontline social support workers included:

- Advocacy services
- Investigations of child abuse cases
- Harnessing online opportunities for children
- Referral to support services, adoption
- Searching and tracing of missing children

Perpetrator Demographics

To expand on the current understanding of the context in which OCSEA happens in Kenya, the survey sought to explore the typical relationships that were observed by frontline social support workers between offenders and child survivors when they reported having worked with OCSEA cases.

From the 29 respondents who had worked with OCSEA cases, men were commonly identified as perpetrators and facilitators of OCSEA. Out of those who have managed OCSEA cases in the past 12 months, the most commonly referenced relationship between the victim and perpetrator was said to be that the perpetrator was a community member over the age of 18, followed by stranger (national), other relative over 18, parent/stepparent, family friend and community member under 18.

Similarly, participants were asked about the most common relationships between facilitators and victims in the OCSEA cases they have managed. The term ‘facilitator’ had to be better explained to some of the participants by administrators, despite the fact that they were provided with the definition in the survey. Here also, members of the community over 18 were the most commonly selected option followed by strangers and other relatives over 18. Family friends were more commonly reported to be facilitators than perpetrators. The least common relationships between the facilitator and victim were found to be other relatives, siblings over 18, siblings under 18 and foreigners. This goes against the commonly held assumption that it is mostly foreigners committing the abuse.

Some of the participants indicated that they have seen cases where social workers and law enforcement officers were found to commit OCSEA-related crimes, with two of them mentioning: *“I have encountered cases of OCSEA by biological father, step father, teacher and rescue home/shelter manager and caregiver”* (RA3-KY-29-A); *“Local law enforcement agencies don’t realise that OCSEA is a crime and most of the time they are also perpetrators or facilitators of OCSEA. This could be because there’s no law that incriminates OCSEA offenders”* (RA3-KY-47-A). Others described how children get online, where they are contacted by offenders: *“Most children survivors do not have mobile phones of their own, so they use their friends’ phones to access the Internet and get in touch with the perpetrator. Some children even use their parents’ phones to get in touch with the perpetrators even without the knowledge of their parents”* (RA3-KY-30-A).

Below are a number of quotes from participants describing their insights into some of the child sexual exploitation and OCSEA cases they worked with:

14 participants mentioned that the COVID-19 pandemic influenced the number of cases they worked on at the time of taking the survey, e.g.:

“Due to the lockdown caused by COVID-19 the numbers have reduced” (RA3-KY-35-A);

“In the COVID-19 period we have noticed a larger number of teenage girls’ runaways, as opposed to pre-COVID-19 which normally has a larger number of boys aged 2-6yrs old” (RA3-KY-10-A);

“Due to covid-19 I did not receive any cases” (RA3-KY-13-A).

In terms of gender differences, two participants working in rural parts of Kenya commented on cases involving girls:

“More girls are victims of abuse than boys” (RA3-KY-38-A);

“Most survivors I handled were girls” (RA3-KY-30-A).

Three respondents commented on boy cases, with two male frontline social support workers indicating:

“Mostly the boy child feels left out” (RA3-KY-22-A);

“Boys are mostly ridiculed” (RA3-KY-31-A).

One participant talked about how in their opinion COVID-19 increased children’s risk to OCSEA, e.g.:

“With school being closed and children learning online, there is an is a possibility that OCSEA may be on the rise” (RA3-KY-27-A).

Participants also described gender differences:

“Teenage girls in this area are more prone to online Exploitation or OCSEA” (RA3-KY-45-A).

One participant described the reporting system in Kenya:

“These are cases of child exploitation material which I refer to law enforcement through the International Child Sexual Exploitation database and locally to trace the victims” (RA3-KY-06-A).

Others described the kind of cases received:

“The cases were all on exposure to child sexual abuse material” (RA3-KY-25-A);

“A girl aged 12 years who was being exposed to pornographic clips by their house help” (RA3-KY-19-A);

“The cases were for possession and distribution of child abuse and sexual exploitation material, there were more tips on potential cases but limited movement has hindered investigation of the same” (RA3-KY-07-A);

“The case we had was a young girl who was a victim of online abuse mainly was blackmailed to engage in sexual intercourse or her nude photos to be circulated” (RA3-KY-18-A);

A male Judge experienced with handling children cases commented: *“Pursuant to being a Magistrate in [location] in Kenya I have had the advantage to come through so many cases and one of the clear*

disadvantages affecting children within this area related to OCSEA is that people in [location] still practice cultures that are repugnant to justice and morality which are unconstitutional and statutorily barred in Kenya. They are dominantly of the [local] tribe who practice forced marriages, female genital mutilation and pay outs for defilement and rape cases...Most of the enticing in [location] is driven by parents of the minors. Wealthy people and even relatives. There has been an upsurge of cases of sodomy too” (RA3-KY-46-A).

Scenarios

Participants were presented with four scenarios depicting situations in which at least one offender victimised a child through different modes of online sexual abuse and exploitation. After being provided with definitions of 'OCSEA', a 'perpetrator' and a 'facilitator' earlier in the survey, the participants were asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed that the child was a victim and that the offender had committed an OCSEA-related offence.² These questions were designed to elicit insights about how participants assessed different forms and situations of OCSEA. It should be noted that responses are likely based on a combination of the participant's knowledge on the issue, including how these issues may (or may not) be defined in law in a country, as well as influenced by social norms and beliefs. Irrespective of the basis for responses, the results indicate areas that are well understood (sometimes almost unanimously) and others where training and consistent messaging is needed to ensure consistent responses.

A four-point Likert scale was used to assess agreement with statements for the scenario questions. Where interesting indications in differences occurred, we note them, but otherwise combined 'slightly agree' and 'strongly agree' together and 'slightly disagree and strongly disagree' together, resulting in binary agree/disagree categories for the analysis presented here.

² Names for the scenarios were changed to common names in each country for the translations but have been edited in the analysis to be consistent across all the DH reports.

Scenario 1

Palila pays a 16-year-old younger relative, Tamah, to undress while filming and later posts it online. Mamo, who does not know Palila, watches this interaction online from home 30 miles away.

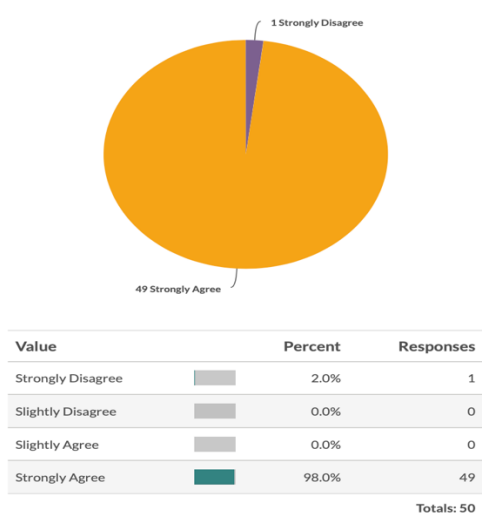


Figure 3. Do you think Tamah is a victim of OCSEA?

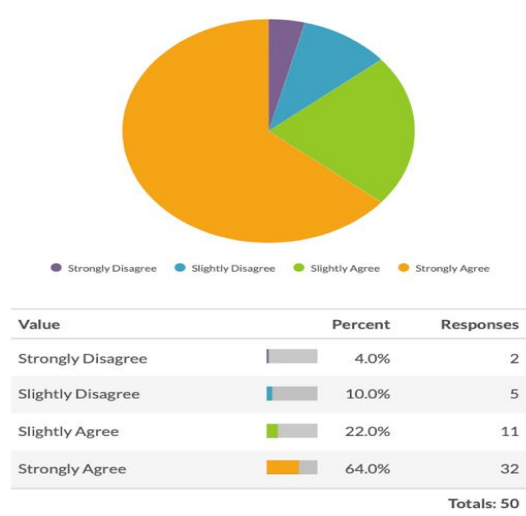


Figure 4. Do you think Mamo has committed an OCSEA-related crime?

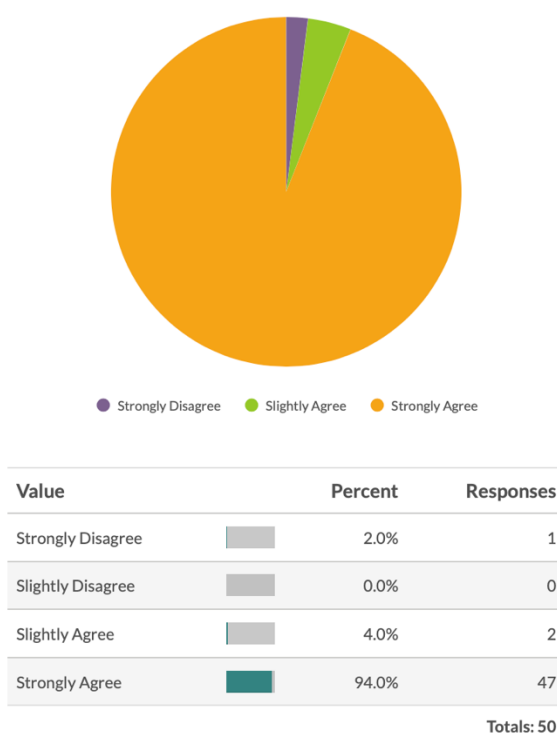


Figure 5. Do you think Palila has committed an OCSEA-related crime?

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98% of the participants strongly agreed that Tamah was a victim of sexual exploitation and that the adult who paid and filmed her had committed an OCSEA-related crime (n=49). One participant

strongly disagreed (2%) (Figure 3). There was no indication for this case in qualitative responses as to why, and this could be a response error.

Of the three circumstances in this scenario, participants seemed to struggle the most to identify if the remote third-party viewing the material had committed an OCSEA related crime – though this was still skewed towards agreement. Out of 50 participants, 11 (22%) only slightly agreed that Mamo had committed an OCSEA-related crime and 7 (14%) disagreed (Figure 4).

Nearly all respondents (98%) agreed that Palila had committed an OCSEA related crime (47 strongly and 2 slightly). As Figure 5 indicates, one participant strongly disagreed (2%).

When given the opportunity to share additional comments on the scenario:

Some participants mentioned that the general public doesn't perceive these types of acts as illegal:

"In many instances, children and adults alike, like in the case of Mamo, are not aware that watching/consuming such material is illegal" (RA3-KY-03-A);

"This are kind of abuses most people think it is not crime" (RA3-KY-38-A);

"I strongly agree that it is a crime posting naked or semi-naked images of a child. Sadly, in Kenya there is no law which states that that is a crime, so technically, it is not. If this case is taken to court, the prosecutor will have to prove how the content is pornographic. Another sad thing is, the child (Tamah) will not agree that what is being done to her is exploitation, hence such a case might not even get reported. Even if it is reported, it will be very difficult to convince Tamah to testify. Now this was majorly my work in the field, doing a lot of guidance and counselling" (RA3-KY-30-A).

For others, the definition of OCSEA-related crime did not seem to be well understood:

"Mamo will be considered to have committed an OCSEA crime if after watching he failed to report to the authorities that someone sent him OCSEA contents" (RA3-KY-01-A).

Participants were also often trying to give an explanation about why Tamah and Palila took part in such actions, saying for example that:

"Maybe Tamah accepted it because of poverty level. To me Palila is using his economic resources in a bad way" (RA3-KY-21-A).

Scenario 2

Kaimi is a 17-year-old student. Kaimi has struggled to make good grades this year and is worried that Uli, a teacher who is a close family friend, will tell Kaimi's dad. Kaimi offers to send Uli naked pictures if he promises not to talk to the family. Uli accepts.

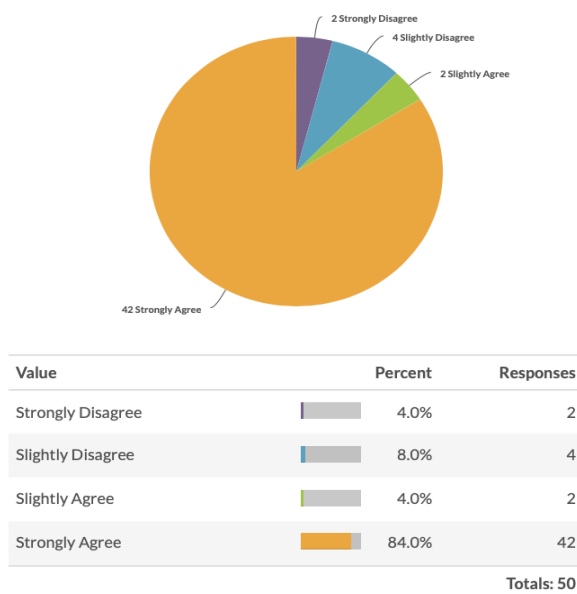


Figure 6. Do you think Kaimi is a victim of OCSEA?

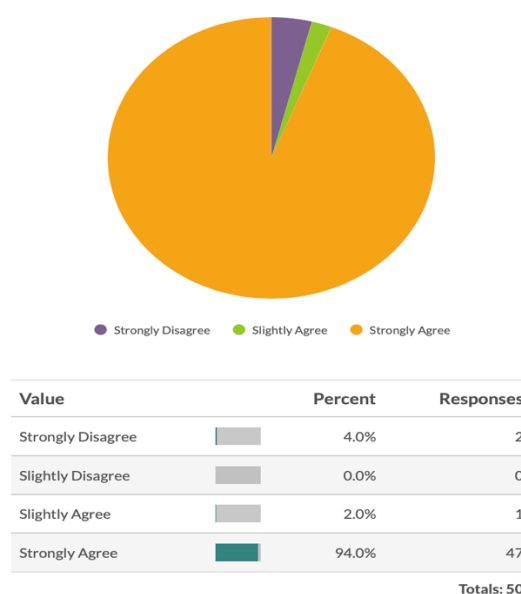


Figure 7. Do you think Uli has committed an OCSEA-related crime?

44 participants (88%) agreed that the student (Kaimi) is a victim of OCSEA (42 strongly and 2 slightly), and 6 participants (12%) disagreed (4 slightly and 2 strongly) – see Figure 6.

As Figure 7 indicates, nearly all respondents agreed that the teacher (Uli) in a position of power has committed an OCSEA-related crime, with 47 strongly agreeing (94%), 1 slightly agreeing (2%) and 2 participants strongly disagreeing (4%).

When given the opportunity to share additional comments on this scenario, participants discussed:

Children being taken advantage of by people in a position of power and the necessity of teachers serving as role models:

“Kaimi is underage, the Uli should be a teacher, leading by example. Not an accomplice” (RA3-KY-22-A);

“Children in many instances are taken advantage of by people who are in a position of power and sometimes their economical background exposes them to such risks” (RA3-KY-03-A).

The occurrence of such incidents in the community:

“This kind of abuse happens in our communities and goes unnoticed” (RA3-KY-38-A).

One participant mentioned the need of providing counselling for the child:

“Kaimi is a child who needs guidance. In his desperate situation, Uli -an adult- takes advantage of the situation instead of helping the child. In Kenya, it is a crime to possess naked images of a child, especially for sexual purposes. The correct thing Uli ought to have done is refer the child to a counsellor for support” (RA3-KY-30-A).

Scenario 3

Sam is a 10-year-old whose family struggles to make ends meet in their rural village. Sam's uncle, Alex, has a good government job and has always given money to help the family out. Recently, Uncle Alex wrote a message to Sam on Facebook asking to have a secret meeting at his house. When Sam arrives, Uncle Alex asked Sam to sit on his lap and began touching his private parts.

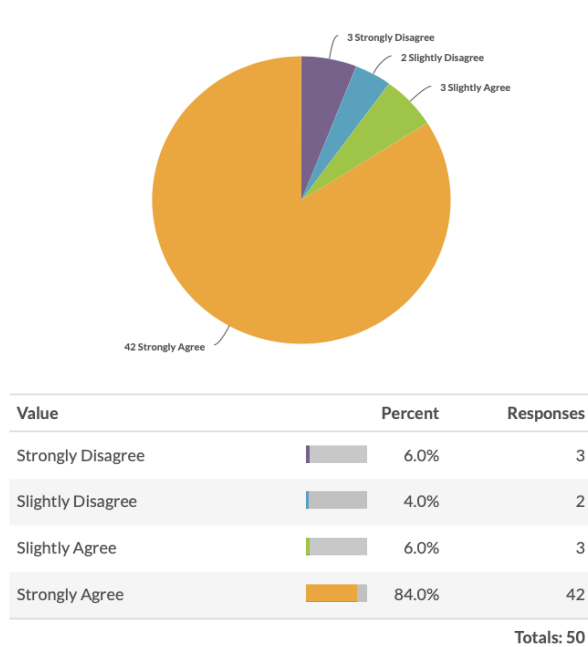


Figure 8. Do you think Sam is a victim of OCSEA?

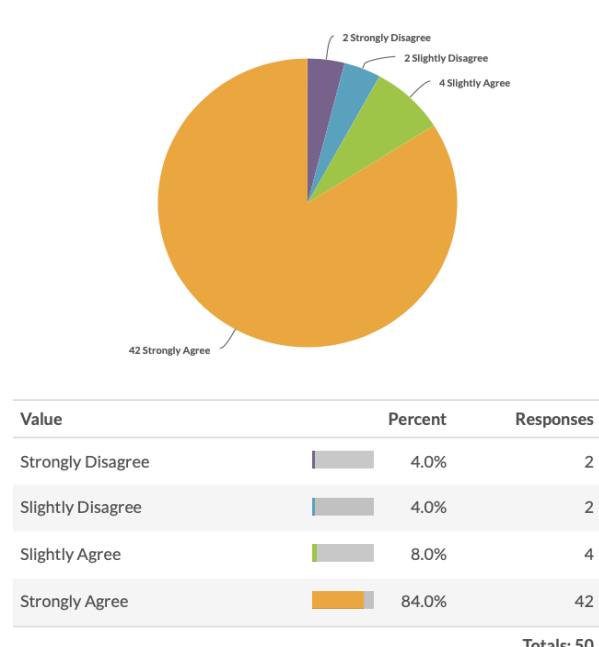


Figure 9. Do you think Alex has committed an OCSEA-related crime?

As Figure 8 shows, 90% of participants (n=45) agreed that the 10-year-old Sam is a victim of OCSEA (42 respondents strongly and 3 slightly) and 10% disagreed (3 respondents strongly and 2 slightly).

Nearly all respondents (n=46 - 92%) agreed that the adult Alex has committed an OCSEA-related crime (42 strongly and 4 slightly) and 8% disagreed (n=4) – see Figure 9.

However, from the additional comments it appears that the perception of the crime seemed to relate to the offline physical abuse rather than the indication of online grooming (via messaging service). This is despite the fact that Kenya is one of the few countries in the Disrupting Harm study where grooming is defined in law. When given the opportunity to share additional comments on the scenario participants mentioned:

The link between online and offline abuse: *“Alex has committed an OCSEA related crime because he used the online platform to ask for a meeting with Sam. Some of the cases of sexual abuse that happen offline can be linked with online as a way in which a child had been groomed and later abused”* (RA3-KY-03-A).

While those who disagreed that Alex committed an OCSEA-related crime argued that: *“Facebook in this situation was innocently used to make the physical meeting possible. The two, Sam and Alex, are closely related so it won't be a crime to ask for a secret meeting. Facebook was not used to send any*

message that would suggest a sexual encounter. The case is sexual abuse, but not OCSEA” (RA3-KY-30-A);

“There is nothing showing any form of online grooming to Sam which makes me think the scenario is not OCSE” (RA3-KY-24-A).

Scenario 4

Joe is 16, and his girlfriend Lucy is 15. They have been dating for a year and regularly have sex. Sometimes, when they can't be together, they send photos to each other of themselves naked. Joe's friend Matt knows about this and breaks into Joe's phone and forwards naked pictures of Lucy to a group of their friends.

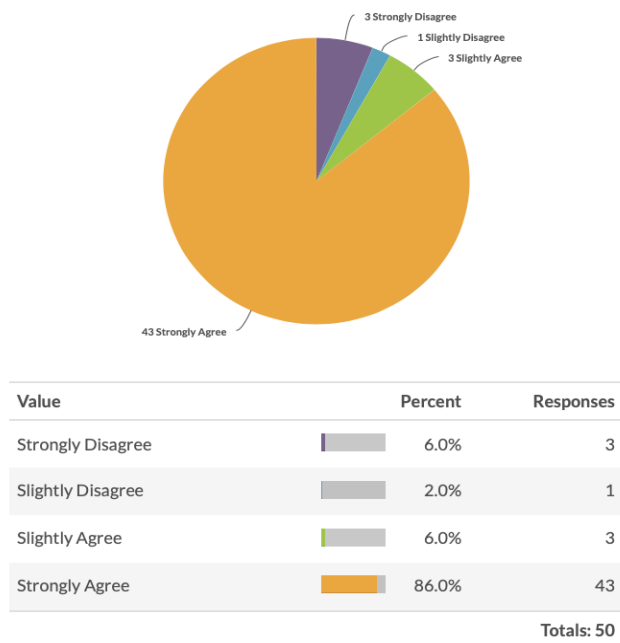


Figure 10. Do you think Lucy is a victim of an OCSEA related crime?

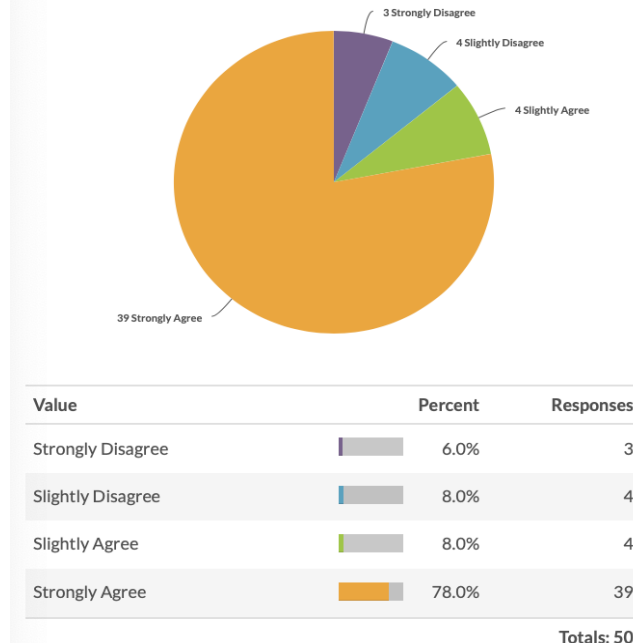


Figure 11. Do you think Joe is a victim of an OCSEA related crime?

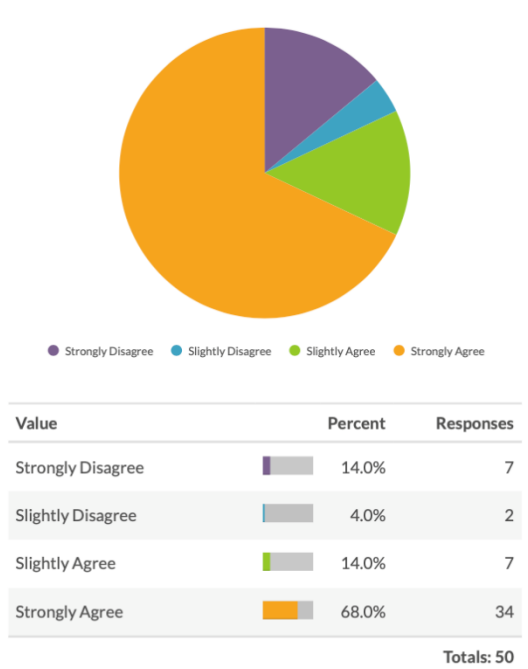


Figure 12. Do you think that Joe has committed an OCSEA related crime?

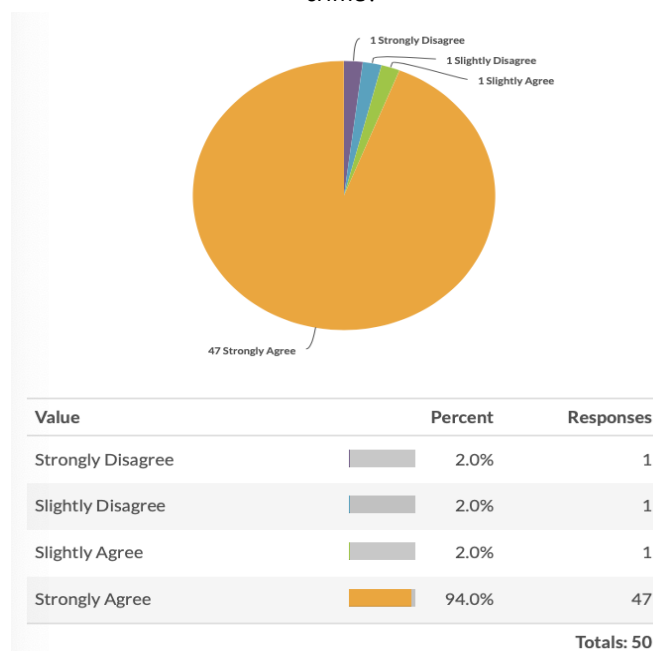


Figure 13. Do you think that Matt has committed an OCSEA related crime?

As Figure 10 indicates, 92% of respondents (n=46) agreed (43 strongly and 3 slightly) that Lucy is a victim of an OCSEA related crime and 8% of respondents (n=4) disagreed (1 slightly and 3 strongly).

86% of participants (n=43) agreed that Joe is a victim of OCSEA (39 strongly and 4 slightly) and 14% disagreed (3 strongly, 4 slightly) – see Figure 11.

Although with less certainty than previous questions, 82% of participants (n=41) still agreed that Joe has committed an OCSEA related crime, however 14% of those only slightly agreed (n=7). As Figure 12 indicates, 14% strongly disagreed and 4% slightly disagreed with the statement which equals 18% disagreeing (n=9) that Joe has committed an OCSEA related crime.

As Figure 13 indicates, nearly all (96%) respondents indicated that Matt has committed an OCSEA-related crime (n=48). Two participants disagreed.

In additional comments, participants mentioned the need to provide support to the children:

“Because of their age they might not have enough information on what they are engaging themselves into. They need counselling” (RA3-KY-21-A);

“All these are children offenders and they need care and protection” (RA3-KY-27-A).

Summary

Facilitators reported that most participants in Kenya really struggled to understand the scenarios. As reported by the survey facilitator, some read the scenarios over and over again. Despite that, participants overwhelmingly correctly identified the children as victims and the adults as offenders across the four scenarios. However, in two questions there were some divergences.

The first question related to the scenario (Scenario 1) in which an adult paid his 16-year-old female relative to undress while he filmed it and later posted it online. In this scenario, an unrelated individual, Mamo, who did not know the child or the other adult, watched the interaction online from home 30 miles away. Nearly all of the participants agreed that the child was a victim of sexual exploitation and that the adult who paid and filmed her had committed an OCSEA-related crime. However, out of 50 participants, 11 (22%) only slightly agreed that Mamo had committed an OCSEA-related crime and 7 (14%) disagreed (Figure 4).

The second item with some divergence related to the scenario (Scenario 4) in which a 16-year-old male, Joe, and his 15-year-old girlfriend, Lucy, who have been together for a year and were having regular sex and sometimes were sending each other naked photos. In that scenario, Matt, Joe's friend, broke into Joe's phone and forwarded naked pictures of Lucy to a group of their friends. The majority of participants agreed that Lucy and Joe were victims of OCSEA and that Matt has committed an OCSEA related crime. However, participants also overwhelmingly agreed that Joe had committed a crime. 7 (14%) participants chose to 'slightly agree' and 9 (18%) disagreed that Joe has committed an OCSEA related crime (Figure 12). While technically two children consensually photographing themselves naked is a crime, there is ongoing debate about this thinking. For example, if the images had remained between the two consenting parties harm may not have been experienced. In a 2020 study on self-generated content, it was found that children thought it could even provide advantages in their relationships and/or increase their self-esteem.³ On the other hand, when the materials are forwarded without consent, they may end-up circulating the web and being acquired by offenders.⁴ Additionally, the normalisation of sexual content, both in terms of images and sexualised online conversations, may lead to victims underreporting because they may fail to perceive what is happening to them as abusive or exploitative.⁵

³ ECPAT Sweden. (2020, May). ["I början vart det lite läskigt men nu är det vardag" En rapport om yngre barn och egenproducerat material.](#) [Translated from Swedish].

⁴ Bracket Foundation. (2019). Artificial Intelligence: [Combating online sexual abuse of children](#). 10.

⁵ Palmer, T. (2015). [Digital Dangers: the impact of technology on the sexual abuse and exploitation of children](#). Barnado's. 35

Vulnerabilities

Based on their knowledge and experience, participants indicated whether they believed a list of factors about the child and society increased children's vulnerability to general sexual exploitation (i.e., all kinds) and more specifically to OCSEA.

- **Factors about the child identified as increasing vulnerability to general sexual abuse and exploitation.**

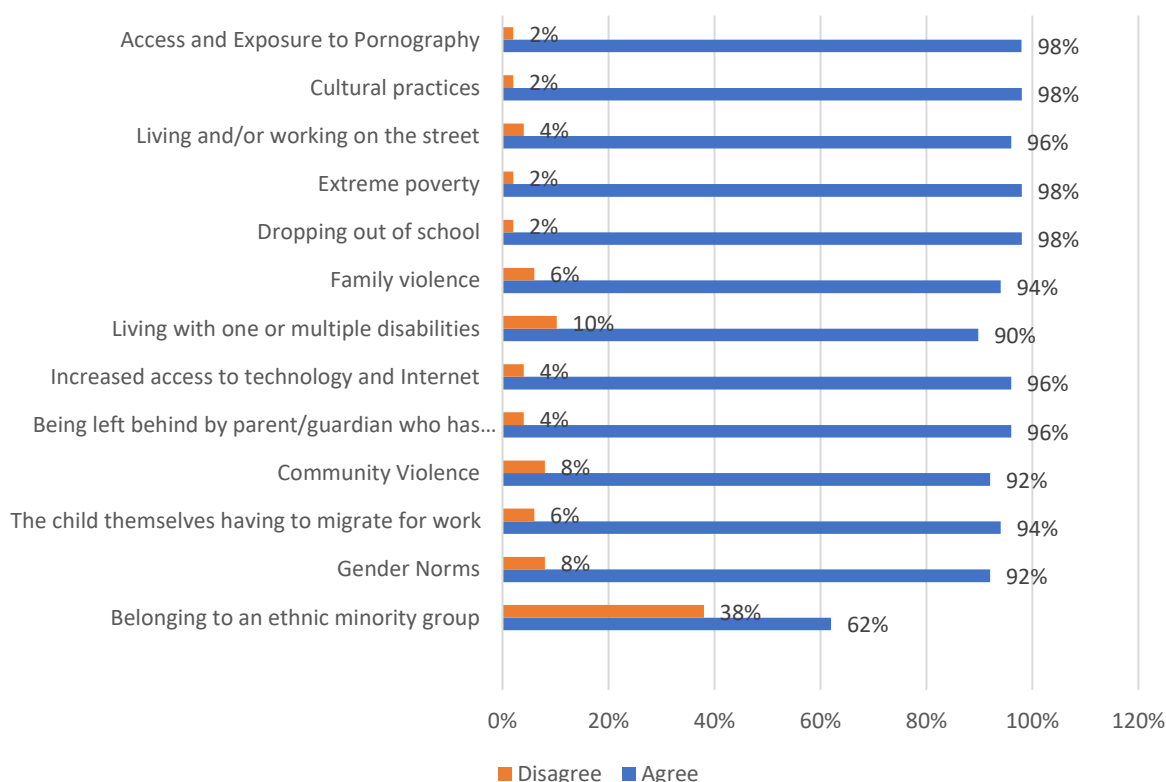


Figure 14. Participants' perceptions of factors about the *child* impacting children's vulnerability to general child sexual exploitation.

Figure 14 shows overwhelming agreement that almost all the factors listed were considered to impact children's vulnerability to child sexual exploitation. It shows that access to/exposure to pornography (98%), cultural practices (98%), extreme poverty (98%) and dropping out of school (98%) were most consistently selected as factors that participants strongly or slightly agreed increased children's vulnerability to sexual exploitation. These factors were followed by working and/or living on the street (96%), increased access to technology and Internet (96%), being left behind by parent/guardian (96%) and family violence (94%). Over 90% of respondents also agreed that community violence, the child having to migrate for work and gender norms increase children's vulnerability to abuse and exploitation. Belonging to an ethnic minority group was a factor about which participants had the most varying opinions – 36% strongly/slightly disagreed and 62% slightly/strongly agreed that it influences child's vulnerability to child sexual exploitation.

Some of the factors additionally listed by participants that they believed strongly increased children's vulnerability to sexual exploitation were:

- Absence of social interactions
- Strict teachers and bullying at school
- Death of parents/guardian
- Lack of information on proper use of technology
- Fear of missing out or peer influence
- Coming from a dysfunctional family
- Religious practices
- Developmental stage crisis and lack of positive protection structures
- Low literacy of parents
- Domestic violence
- Child-headed family

• **Factors about the child identified as increasing vulnerability specifically to OCSEA**

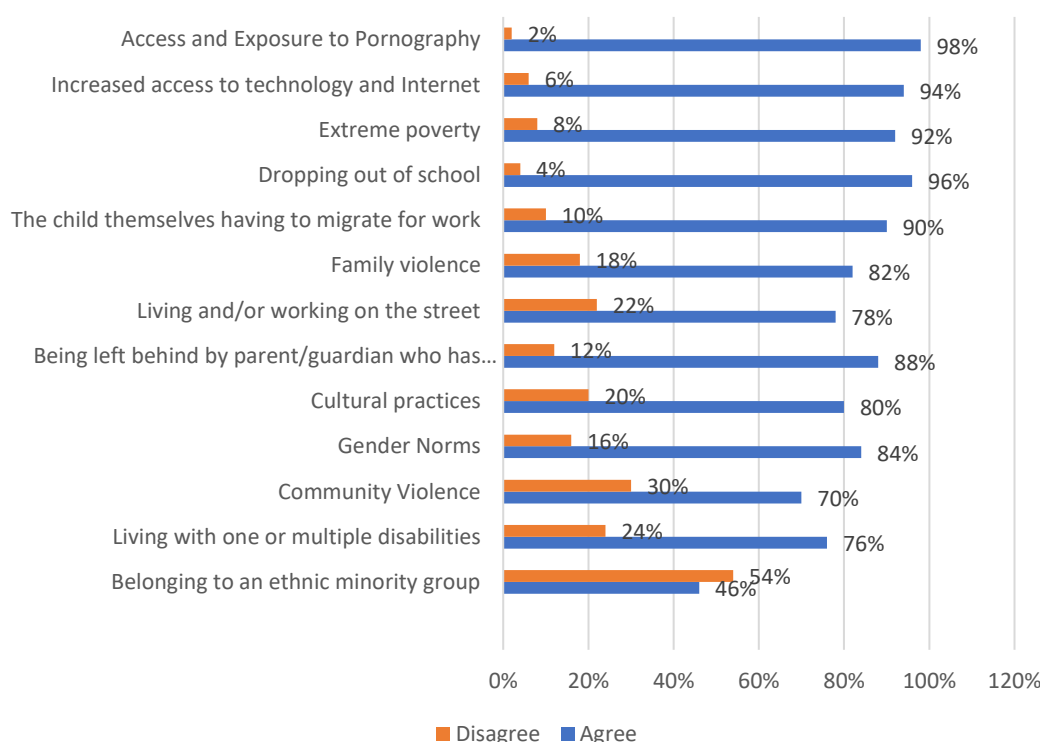


Figure 15. Participants' perceptions of factors about the *child* impacting children's vulnerability to OCSEA.

Similarly, as in the case of children's vulnerability to general child sexual exploitation, access and exposure to pornography (98%), dropping out of school (96%), increased access to Internet and technology (94%), extreme poverty (92%) and the child having to migrate for work (90%) were rated as highly increasing children's vulnerability to OCSEA (Figure 15). The rest of the factors were also highly rated, however their influences on OCSEA were rated as smaller comparing to general child sexual exploitation (e.g., community violence -70% respondents agreed compared to 92% in the child

sexual exploitation question). Belonging to an ethnic minority group (54% disagreed to increasing vulnerability to OCSEA) as well as community violence (30% disagreed) and living with one or multiple disabilities (76% disagreed) received the most varying opinions.

Some of the factors additionally mentioned by participants that they believed strongly increased children's vulnerability to OCSEA were:

- Lack of parental/caregiver's involvement in child's online life
- Lack of information on proper use of technology
- Peer influence or fear of missing out
- Curfew and lockdown since people are idle
- Religious practices
- Developmental stage crisis and lack of positive community child protection network
- Arrogance and lack of mentors
- Access to cyber and PlayStation
- During initiation (circumcision)
- Engaging strangers on social platforms
- Domestic violence
- Not being educated about the dangers of OCSEA

When participants were asked about the **similarities and differences in children's vulnerability when considering online forms of sexual exploitation and abuse in comparison to general sexual exploitation**, a number of participants explained that they believed children from wealthier areas and families are perhaps more at risk of OCSEA because of easier access to mobile phones and Internet (while those from poorer communities more often experience offline abuse). However, the majority of respondents indicated that the vulnerability factors are largely the same (naming poverty, cultural practices or dropping out of school as some of them).

Similarities:

"Children's vulnerability to OCSEA and sexual exploitation generally is almost similar. Factors or the push within a child's environment can be attributed to 1) extreme poverty- where a child may give in knowingly or unknowingly to offline and online sexual abuse/exploitation with the promise that some or all their needs will be met; 2) Increased access to technology and Internet where a child may want to try out of curiosity, fit in (a cool thing to do) or even by the fact that they are exposed to the Internet, they start engaging in online risk-taking behaviour. This then sets them for OCSEA or sexual exploitation generally; 3) Lack of parental/caregiver involvement in a child's online life and social isolation where child has been isolated from contacts like friends, family and even neighbours. This can set a child for OCSEA and or sexual abuse/exploitation within the home environment. If a child is at risk of sexual exploitation or abuse offline then the child is not safe in the online platform" (RA3-KY-03-A);

"The channel is just the variable; abuse is still the same" (RA3-KY-10-A);

"In my view it is similar since one activity will lead to another" (RA3-KY-21-A);

“The factors that increase vulnerability are the same in most cases” (RA3-KY-29-A);

“It is similar in the fact that most of the factors that predispose children to sexual exploitation also can be increased by access to technology both by the perpetrator and the child” (RA3-KY-42-A).

Differences:

“OCSEA is less prevalent because for it to happen it will involve contacting on the online platforms and so a child would have to first have the gadget, access to Internet and the knowledge of navigating the Internet world. On the other hand, a bigger number of children are exposed to sexual exploitation because it can be done by anyone, any time and any place” (RA3-KY-01-A);

“Vulnerability to OCSEA is different to sexual exploitation depending on the locality in which it happens. for instance, in urban areas, higher connectivity and access to Internet increases vulnerability to OCSEA. However, similarities in both arise where the recruitment is undertaken online while the exploitation occurs offline” (RA3-KY-07-A);

“Children who are in rich families have access to phones while children from poor families are [more likely to be] abused offline because they have no access to phones” (RA3-KY-14-A);

“1. Sexual exploitation is rampant because OCSEA cases are not referred as a crime by the community; 2. Following up of OCSEA cases is more challenging as compared to sexual exploitation; 3. Sexual exploitation is more physical” (RA3-KY-20-A);

“Cultural practices lead to both OCSEA and sexual exploitation in general as they have practices repugnant to justice and morality. Dropping out of school can lead to early marriage and also it can lead to a child getting to Child pornography which is more or less similar to the urge to earn a living because of extreme poverty. But extreme poverty might be a catalyst but not necessarily for sexual exploitation” (RA3-KY-46-A).

- **Factors about the society identified as increasing vulnerability to general sexual abuse (any types).**

When asked, “in your country, indicate if you think the following factors about society can increase vulnerability to sexual abuse and exploitation in general” – survey respondents reported the following factors as sources of vulnerability to general sexual exploitation:

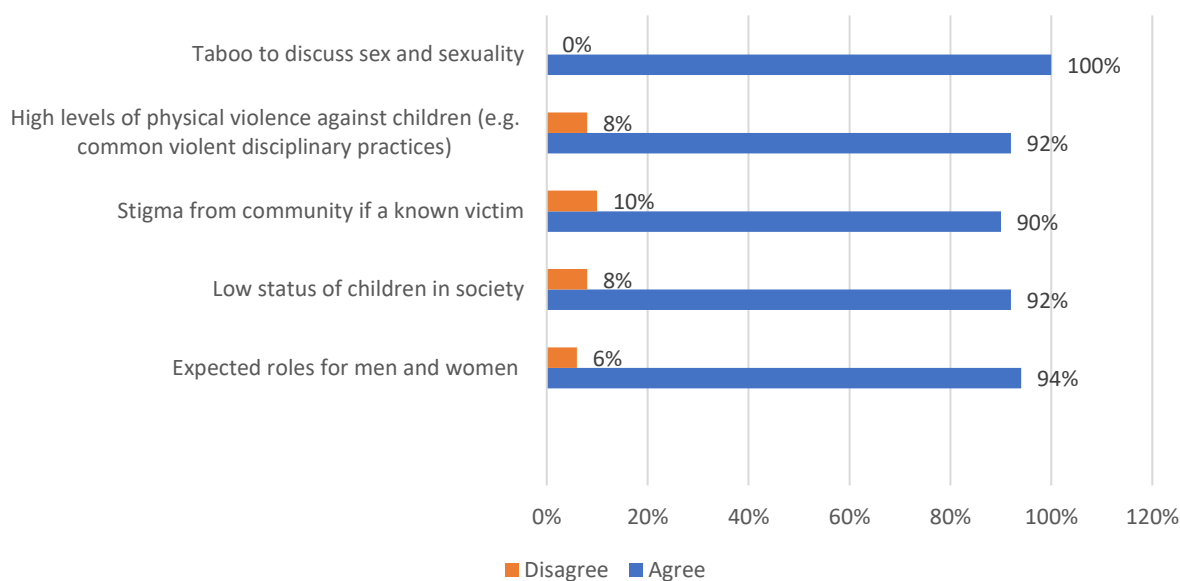


Figure 16. Participants' perceptions of factors about *society* impacting children's vulnerability to general sexual exploitation and abuse.

Nearly all respondents agreed that taboos around discussing sex and sexuality (100%), high levels of violence against children (n=46 - 92%), stigma from communities (n=45 - 90%), low status of children (92%) and expected roles for men and women (n=47 - 94%) increased children's vulnerability to child sexual exploitation (Figure 16).

Additional factors about society mentioned by participants that they believed strongly increased children's vulnerability to sexual exploitation included :

- Stereotypes
- Economic status
- Dysfunctional families
- Fear of peer victimisation or cyberbullying
- Child parenting
- Lack of proper information and mentors in the community
- Early marriages
- "Normalising barbaric acts"
- Increase of single parenting in the society
- Leaving and working from the streets
- Lack of community guidance and counselling
- Social status

- **Factors about the society identified as increasing vulnerability specifically to online forms of child sexual exploitation and abuse**

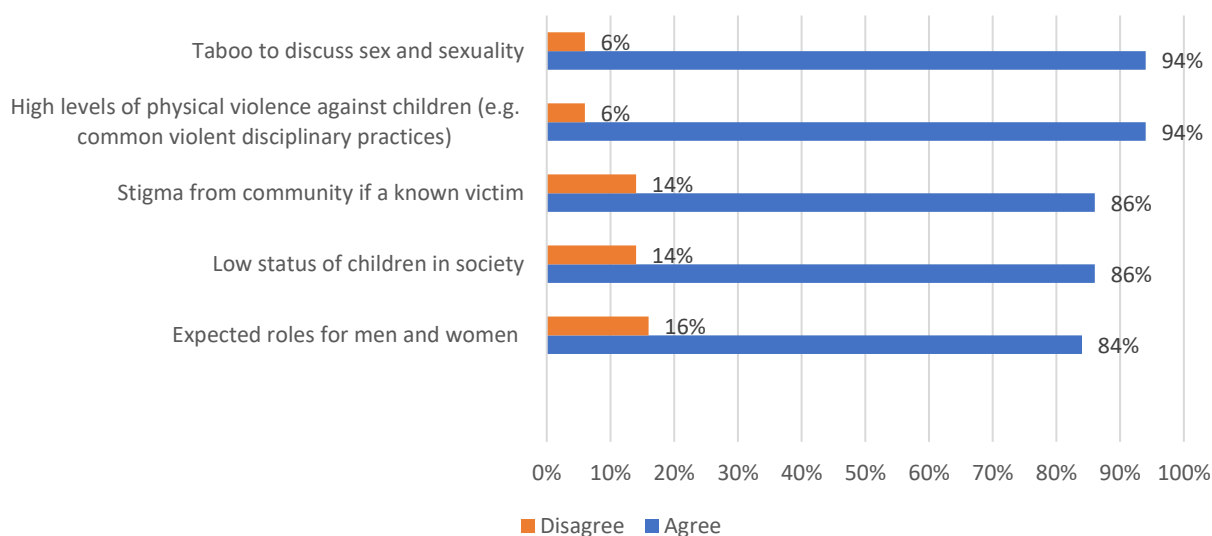


Figure 17. Participants' perceptions of factors about the *society* impacting children's vulnerability specific to OCSEA.

Societal factors increasing vulnerability to OCSEA were largely rated similarly to those increasing vulnerability to child sexual exploitation in general, with taboos around discussing sex and sexuality (n=47 - 94%) and high levels of physical violence (n=47 - 94%) having the biggest influence (Figure 17). The similarity of the results may be influenced by seemingly superficial understandings of OCSEA amongst frontline social support workers, they haven't worked on many OCSEA cases and because of that, they view the vulnerabilities as largely the same as to general child sexual exploitation.

Factors about society also mentioned by participants that they believed strongly increased children's vulnerability to OCSEA were:

- Lack of information on proper use of technology
- Fear of peer victimisation
- Status quo that is associated with individual's vastness with technology
- Lack of role models and counselling
- Easy access to the Internet, children not being allowed to speak up against adults (considered as a sign of disrespect)
- Domestic violence
- Increase of single and child parenting in the society
- Lack of community policing for children
- Social status

When participants were asked specifically **why societal factors increase vulnerability to OCSEA differently to sexual exploitation generally**, they often mentioned that monitoring OCSEA cases at the community level is minimal compared to general sexual exploitation and that society itself does

not have knowledge about OCSEA and new technologies, which results in children being left without guidance on the issue. Some of the responses included:

“Monitoring of OCSEA cases at community level is minimal compared to sexual exploitation” (RA3-KY-20-A);

“Most parents are not able to monitor what the children are doing online and high number of hotspots and free WI-FI” (RA3-KY-12-A);

“My society finds it challenging to transition children into adults through building their confidence and esteem to communicate on matters sexuality or abuse. A child is expected to be shy as a sign of respect so speaking out becomes a concern” (RA3-KY-04-A);

“Unlike past years, now the Internet has become very cheap and easily accessible even in the remote areas, so you find children been lured easily by the few people who have access to the Internet in those villages, with their naivety and cultural beliefs they become vulnerable” (RA3-KY-26-A);

“Exploitation mostly happens to the low class or the less fortunate in the society. OCSEA happens mostly to middle class” (RA3-KY-31-A);

“Some cultural norms can put OCSEA on the rise because of ignorance and that’s why the vulnerability to OCSEA is higher than sexual exploitation” (RA3-KY-47-A);

“People do not understand the online environment, they think it is harmless to discuss certain things online as opposed to physically touching someone” (RA3-KY-10-A);

“Societal factors have less impact to increase vulnerability to OCSEA since the society setting is more controlled by traditional practices and norms as compared to sexual exploitation where it is rampant due to beliefs and cultural practices” (RA3-KY-36-A);

“Factors such as stigmatisation make children shy away from sharing their experiences especially when it comes to online abuse, technology is presumed to be fashionable hence catching up with technology is the dream of every one and therefore it will be difficult for a child to share since he/she might fear that he/she will be denied access” (RA3-KY-19-A).

Reporting

In order to explore what influences decisions about reporting cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse, participants were asked to indicate whether they believed particular social and cultural factors influenced reporting both on general child sexual exploitation (all kinds) and specifically related to OCSEA in Kenya.

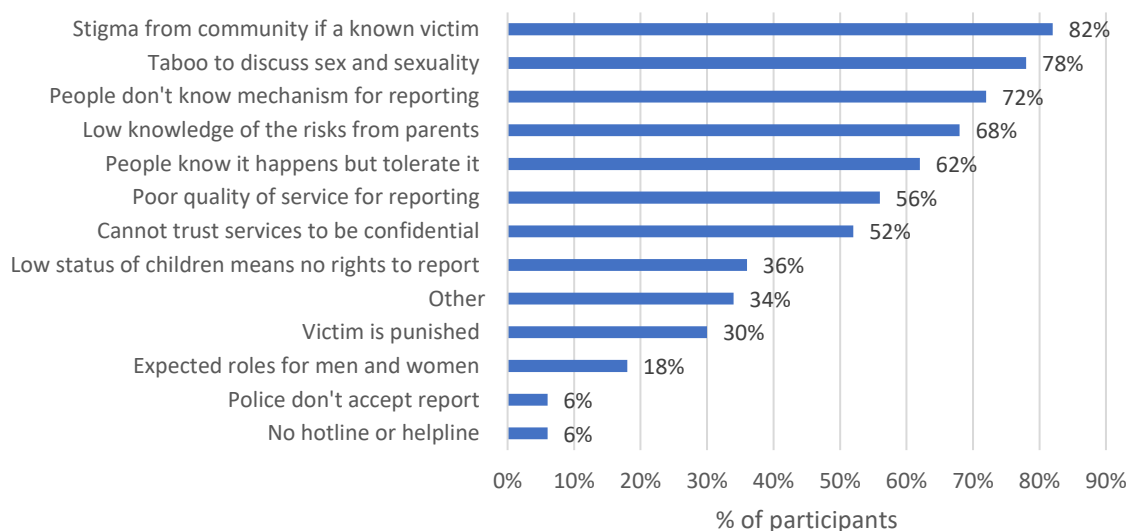


Figure 18. Social and cultural influences on reporting *child sexual exploitation in general*

Figure 18 shows that, again, factors related to social norms - stigma from community (n=41 – 82%) as well as taboos around discussing sex and sexuality (n=39 – 79%) were perceived as main factors influencing reporting child sexual exploitation.

Other factors mentioned by participants that influence reporting child sexual exploitation in general included:

- Cultural practices
- Lack of referral mechanism among different service providers and stakeholders
- Long reporting processes in some cases
- The kind of services that are not sustainable
- Police being rude
- Victim intimidation, significant adults compromised and offered money for silence, corruption in different "support structures" by corrupt officers e.g. Local administrators, child protection volunteers, police officers
- Cases needing more than 90% proof to be expediated
- Families empathising with the perpetrator
- Fear of being harmed by the perpetrator
- Boys are mostly ridiculed
- Lack of exposure to victims and their care takers
- Slow process of getting justice especially in courts
- Parents fearing to own and follow up the process to the end

- Teachers lacking the capacity to recognise abuse

In cases of OCSEA it was low knowledge of the risks from parents (n=36 - 72%) and stigma from community (n=31 – 62%) that were rated as having the biggest influence on reporting (followed by taboo to discuss sex and sexuality) – see Figure 19.

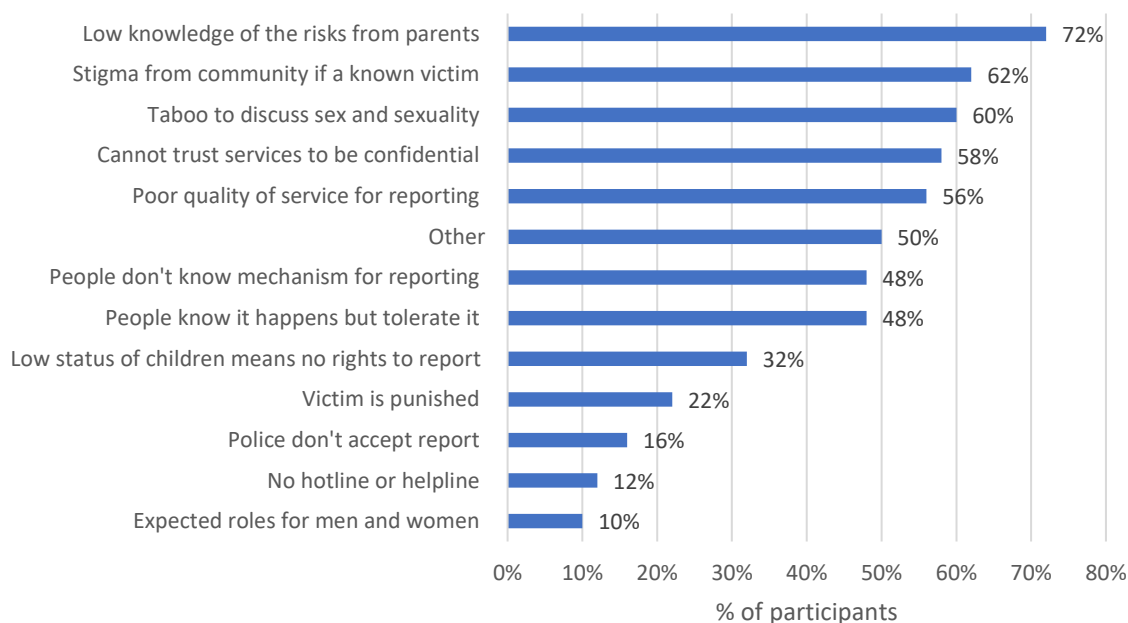


Figure 19. Social and cultural influences on reporting OCSEA

Other factors additionally named by participants as understood to influence reporting OCSEA included:

- Bureaucratic nature of reporting
- Justice delayed in courts (*"Many cases that are reported are not followed up by the relevant authorities who may find it tedious and time consuming to gather evidence and go through the judicial process"* (RA3-KY-29-A))
- Lack of proper knowledge of OCSEA
- Most schools not being aware of OCSEA
- Police being rude
- Lack of awareness of what needs to be done
- The government has not fully invested in OCSEA prevention and reporting

Availability of Support

Respondents were asked to evaluate the overall availability and quality of medical, psychological, legal and reintegration services for child victims of OCSEA.

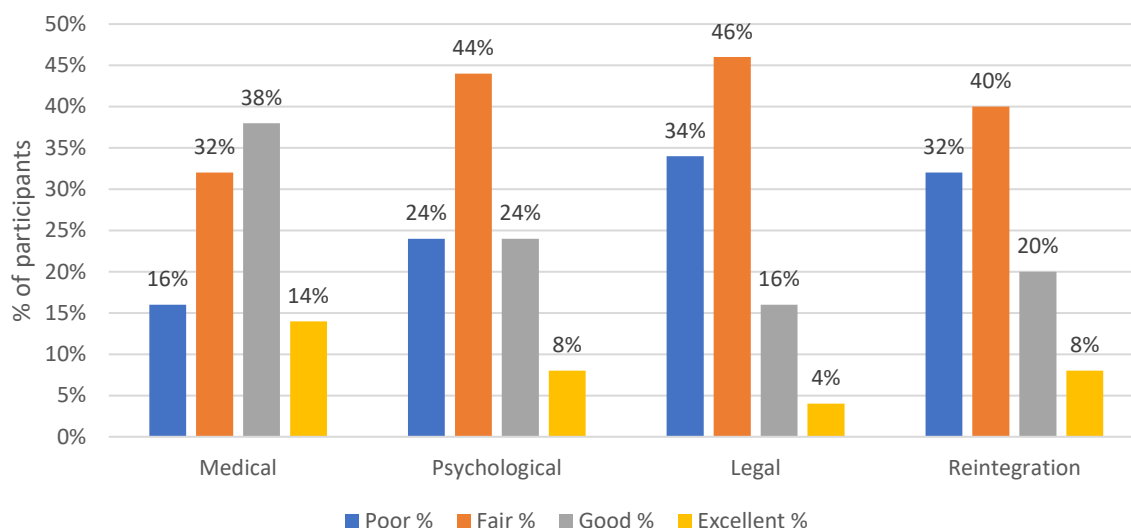


Figure 20. Perception of Availability of Services

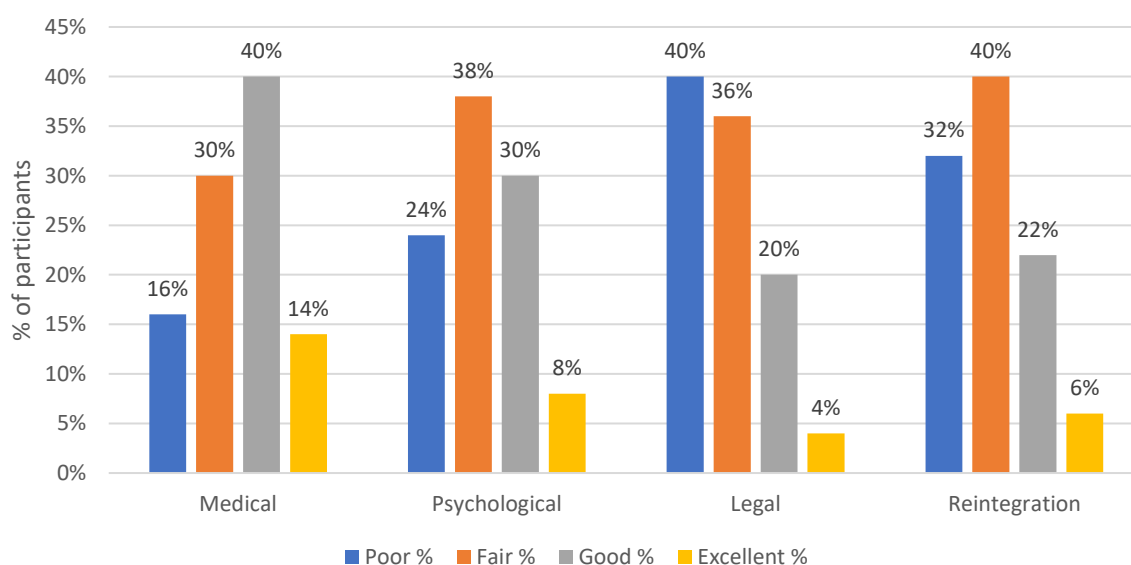


Figure 21. Perception of Quality of Services

Figures 20 and 21 show that legal and reintegration services were rated by the majority as either poor or fair both in terms of their availability (legal – 80%, reintegration – 72%) and quality (legal – 76%, reintegration – 72%). One participant mentioned that “*much is focused on psychosocial support; we still don’t have trained legal experts to support issues to OCSEA*” (RA3-KY-19-A). Observations regarding the need for more specialised professionals were also made in reference to law enforcement officers.

The quality and availability of medical services received the highest ratings however that was still only 52% good or excellent for availability and 54% for quality. The availability of psychological services was rated by majority as fair (44%), while an equal percent of participants rated them good (24%) or fair (24%). In terms of quality, psychological services were rated as poor or fair by 62% and as good or excellent by 38%. This is particularly interesting given the majority of participants worked in organisations providing counselling services.

One frontline social support worker from an organisation undertaking awareness raising and training activities argued that: *“The support and counselling centres are not enough and its costly. There are no such free services offered by the government, thus most people don’t take their children for the same. Limited awareness has also made children and parents not realise this as a violation. They accept it as a way of life”* (RA3-KY-37-A).

Several respondents described that awareness raising initiatives on the issue of OCSEA are very much needed in Kenya, and for particular duty-bearer populations (as well as the general population):

“We need more awareness” (RA3-KY-15-A);

“Most of the law enforcers are not aware of it” (RA3-KY-27-A);

“There is limited knowledge on this area, a lot needs to be done” (RA3-KY-31-A).

To better understand what affects the availability of support services for children, respondents were asked to indicate to what extent particular factors they believed had an influence on the availability of services for children.

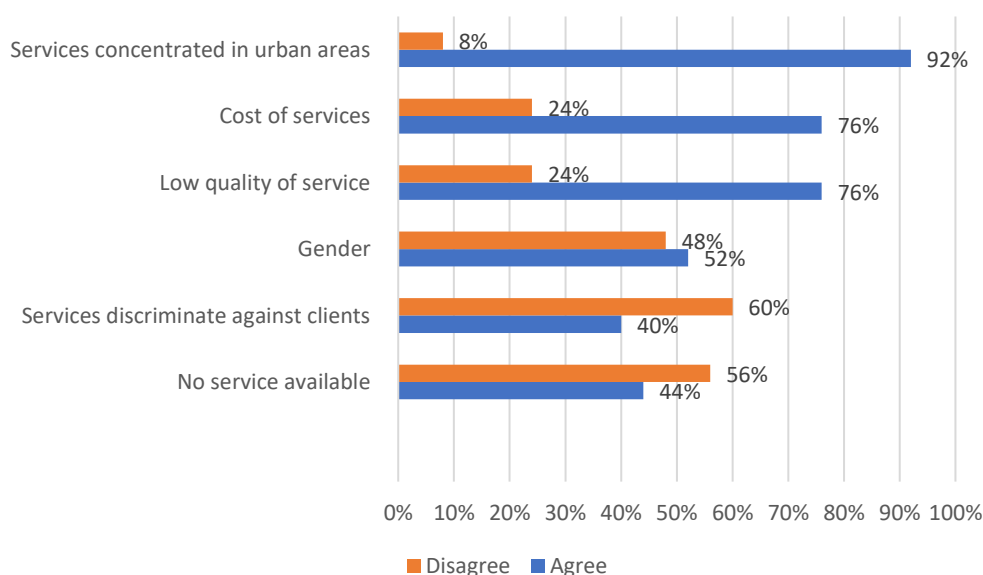


Figure 22. Factors affecting the availability of support services for child victims of child sexual exploitation

Figure 22 above indicates that factors perceived as having the biggest influence on the availability of support services for children recovering from child sexual exploitation was the location – services were concentrated in urban areas (92% strongly or slightly agreed), followed by the cost of such services (76% strongly or slightly agreed) and low quality of services (76% strongly or slightly agreed). More than half of the participants also agreed that gender had an impact on availability of support services for children, however at the same time, 60% indicated that services do not discriminate against clients. The biggest discrepancy was found in the availability of services – with 56% disagreeing that there are no services available while 44% agreed.

Participants mentioned additional factors, including:

- Services in Kenya are often not adequate
- Agencies working on child protection issues are very bureaucratic
- Lack of follow-up mechanisms (sustainability of services is low)
- Lack of community awareness of existence of support for child victims
- Lack of specialised counsellors/therapists for children
- Parents being compromised by perpetrators by being given money or animals to withdraw the matter

When participants were asked to indicate to what extent those same factors affect the availability of support services for child victims of OCSEA, the results were very similar (Figure 23).

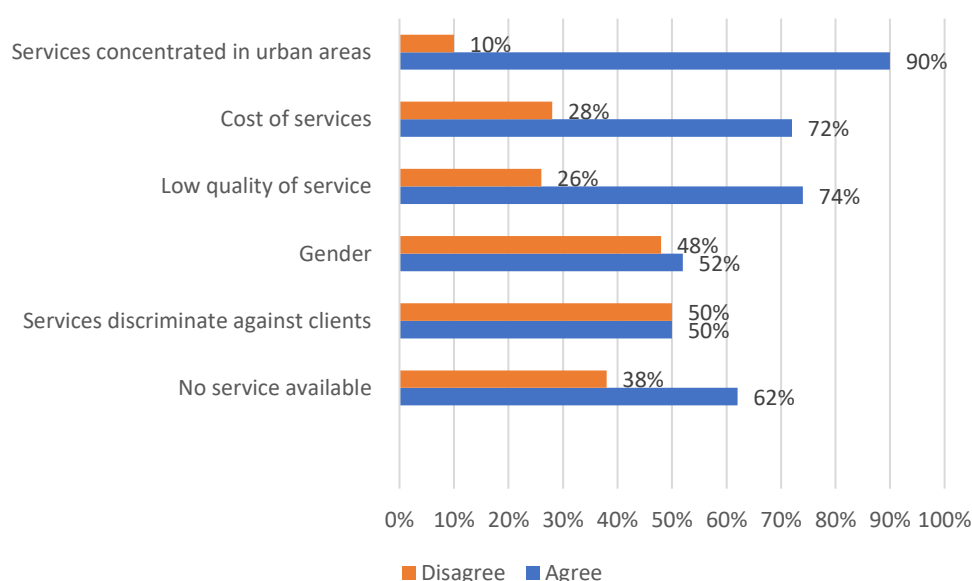


Figure 23. Factors affecting the availability of support services for child victims of OCSEA

The majority indicated that services are concentrated in urban areas (90%) and that the cost of such services (72%) as well as their quality (74%) affect their availability. Biggest discrepancies were found in rating the influence of gender, discrimination and availability of such services.

Respondents additionally mentioned other factors, including:

- OCSEA is new to many
- People do not have the adequate knowledge on the issue
- No government attention on this matter
- Lack of information on existence of support structures that are specific to OCSEA (*"The support systems for helping survivors of OCSEA are extremely limited due to the small number of NGOs dealing in OCSEA. This is also due to insufficient awareness by most service providers from the government on what OCSEA is and how it happens"* (RA3-KY-01-A))
- Lack of follow-up mechanisms
- Need for funding of initiatives

Investigations and Convictions

Participants were asked to estimate the amount of OCSEA cases they managed in the last 12 months and determine approximately how many of those resulted in investigations and convictions. It should be noted that those indications were merely estimates and not reliable counts of official cases.

35 participants indicated that in the last 12 months at least one case of OCSEA they managed directly resulted in a complaint filed to the local police/judicial authorities (total 318 cases estimated).

34 participants indicated that in the last 12 months at least one of the cases they managed resulted in an investigation (total 162 estimated).

14 participants indicated that in the last 12 months at least one of the cases they managed resulted in a conviction (total 42 estimated).

The numbers of reported cases represent only a fraction of the number of OCSEA incidents that we expect are occurring, the majority of which continue to never come to the attention of social workers or law enforcement.

A number of the frontline social support workers mentioned that there are multiple reasons why cases do not get investigated/perpetrators do not receive a conviction. Some of the reasons included agencies taking a lot of time to start the investigation which is often a result of lack of guidelines and procedures on how to process OCSEA cases. The length of the process might also lead to victims losing hope and not wanting to proceed further with the case as well losing evidence.

As one participant commented:

“Parents [are] being convinced by perpetrators by being given money or animals to withdraw the case”
(RA3-KY-27-A).

Law Enforcement and Government Support

In order to understand frontline social support workers perceptions of responses by local law enforcement on the issue of OCSEA, respondents were asked to answer, “Based on your work which best describes local law enforcement's: 1) awareness of OCSEA crimes; and 2) response to OCSEA crimes. Their responses to this question are depicted in Figure 24.

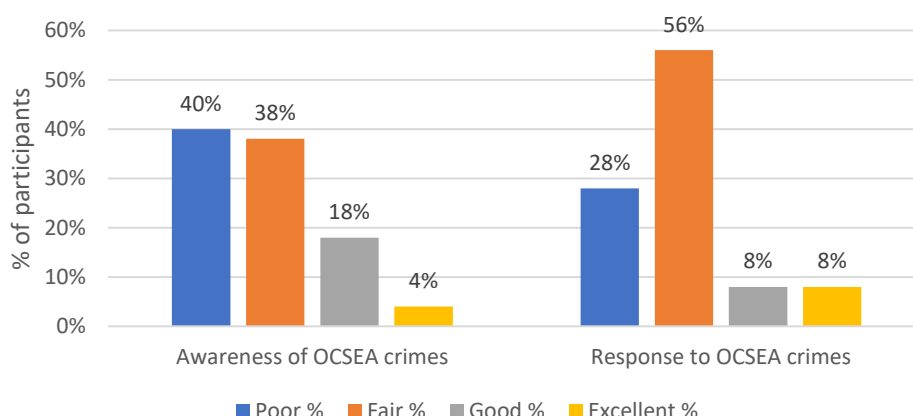


Figure 24. Participants’ perceptions of local law enforcement awareness and response to OCSEA

78% of participants rated law enforcement’s awareness of OCSEA crimes as poor or fair and 84% rated response to OCSEA as poor or fair. Based on these results and respondents’ observations, it appears that even though reported cases may lead to investigation, the actual manner in which the case is handled and the child is supported throughout the process needs improvement. Only 16% of respondents (n=8) rated law enforcements response to OCSEA crimes as good (n=4) or excellent (n=4) and 22% rated their awareness as good (n=9) or excellent (n=2).

In addition to the culture of silence and stigma and low knowledge about the issue - *“generally, awareness of OCSEA as an important issue of concern is low among people including law enforcers”* (RA3-KY-03-A) - many frontline social support workers listed limited law enforcement capacity, with one participant mentioning that *“the police are very rude [...]”* (RA3-KY-41-A) and another that *“victim intimidation, significant adults compromised and offered money for silence, corruption in different “support structures” by corrupt officers e.g. local administrators, child protection volunteers, police officers”* (RA3-KY-29-A) as factors likely to limit reporting among child victims. Another mentioned that *“when cases to do with children are presented, the police coordinate well with the children department, but the bureaucracy is too long”* (RA3-KY-04-A).

To better understand the ratings above, participants were asked about their perceptions of the quality of efforts to address OCSEA (Figure 25).

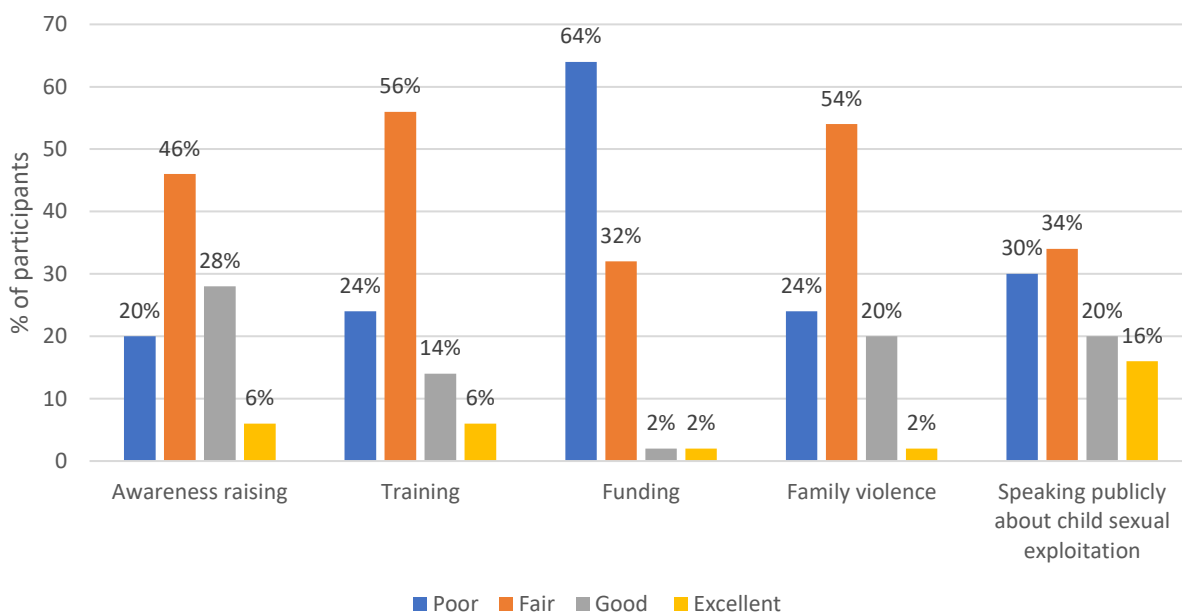


Figure 25. Participants' perceptions of quality of government efforts to address OCSEA

Limited government funding (rated as poor or fair by 96% of respondents) and training (rated as poor or fair by 80% of respondents) were most frequently selected as major obstacles to provide adequate services to child victims of OCSEA. That was followed closely by family violence (78% rated as poor/fair), awareness raising (66% rated as poor/fair) and speaking publicly about child sexual exploitation (64% rated as poor/fair).

Additionally, participants mentioned that:

"The Government has not fully invested in OCSEA prevention and reporting" (RA3-KY-27-A);

"A lot needs to be done. I do acknowledge that conversations have started but we have a long way to go in terms of awareness creation and setting up of appropriate response structures and also effective referral pathways" (RA3-KY-29-A).

Others however, stated that *"The Directorate of Criminal Investigations Child Protection Unit in my country are doing quite a lot in regard to OCSEA and they have been in the frontline creating awareness and responding to issues of OSCEA"* (RA3-KY-17-A).

Throughout the qualitative responses across the entire survey, limited government and law enforcement training were consistently described as major obstacles to reporting and providing adequate services to child victims and engaging in other key activities to address OCSEA. As one participant expressed: *"the government is yet to review law that can incriminate online evidence. The law enforcement and police officers have not been trained on how to handle such violations. The public equally are not informed on these violations and therefore few are reporting"*(RA3-KY-37-A), while another commented: *"many officers have not been trained on OCSEA, hence the need to do more by all partners so that responses to these kinds of cases can be prompt"* (RA3-KY-36-A).

Next, frontline social support workers surveyed were asked to assess the collaboration on OCSEA between non-government sectors such as NGOs, tourism companies, Internet companies etc. The results are illustrated in Figure 26.

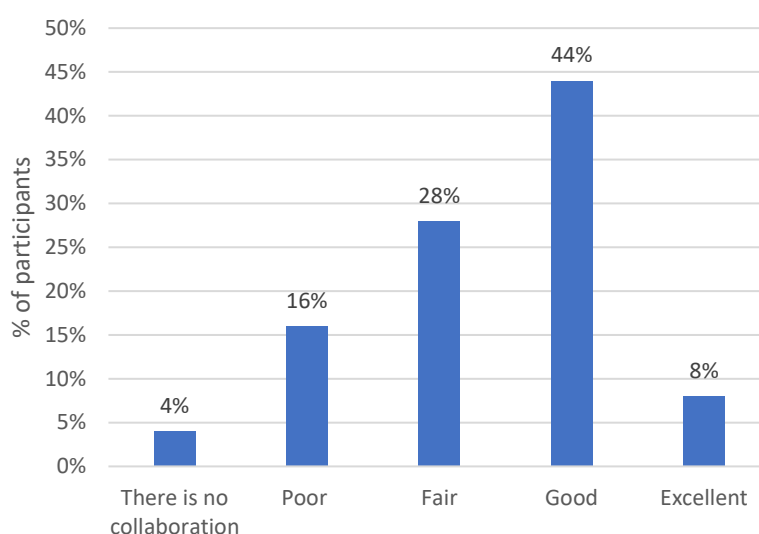


Figure 26. Participants perceptions of collaboration on OCSEA between non-government

While 52% of respondents (n=26) rated the collaboration between providers as good (n=22 – 44%) or excellent (n=4 – 8%), 48% (n =24) rated it as fair (n=14 – 28%), poor (n=8 – 16%) or non-existent (n=2 – 4%).

In additional comments, participants mentioned that:

“NGOs don't like supporting each other unless they are both doing the same project” (RA3-KY-30-A);

“There is some activity I feel it needs more hands-on deck” (RA3-KY-15-A);

“The government must not take for granted the issues that surrounds the children especially on the Internet. They give less support to organisations that try to deal with online issues, governments should be supportive” (RA3-KY-26-A);

“The Directorate of Criminal Investigations Child Protection Unit in my country are doing quite a lot in regard to OCSEA and they have been in the front-line creating awareness and responding to issues of OSCEA” (RA3-KY-17-A).

Public Awareness

Lastly, the survey attempted to ascertain the levels of public awareness around the issues of OCSEA in Kenya. In order to do so, frontline social support workers were asked to subjectively appraise young people's awareness, parent's awareness and the general public's awareness of OCSEA – their responses are illustrated in Figure 27.

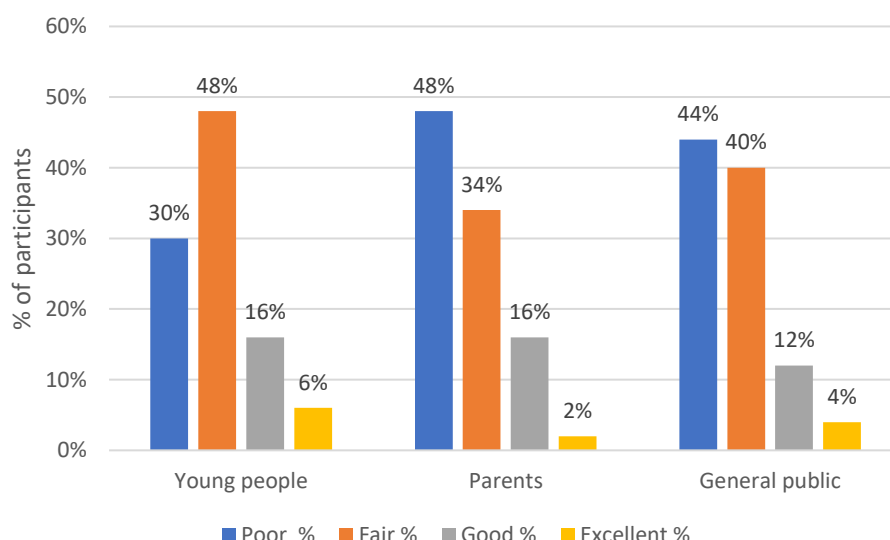


Figure 27. Awareness of OCSEA

Figure 27 shows that the majority of participants described young people's, parent's and the general public's awareness of OCSEA as either poor or fair, with parents being rated as having the poorest knowledge of the issue (48%), closely followed by the general public (44%). Young people were rated as having the highest awareness out of the three groups, however the majority still rated it as poor (30%) or fair (48%). In their comments, several participants suggested that awareness raising is very much needed in the community and many people do not see online crimes as an issue.

Respondents were given the option to provide additional comments to qualify their answers above. Some of the responses included:

"There is little knowledge in several parts of the country on OCSEA" (RA3-KY-23-A);

"Awareness should be done as much as it was done for COVID-19. Especially with IT and communication companies and the media" (RA3-KY-04-A);

"Considering the popularity of mobile phones and the social media, as well as the accessibility of the gadgets by children, the risk to children is growing at an alarming rate. We are witnessing a change in sexual behaviour amongst the adult population, probably due to globalisation and sexual behaviour and acts that were previously unheard of in the society have become common. The moral fibre of the society has been eroded. The traditional child protection structures have collapsed and need re-inventing. Child protection has to be adjusted to address all needs/risks to children by updating responses to address emerging trends" (RA3-KY-29-A);

“The public, law enforcers, policy makers, victims and perpetrators need to be enlightened on the magnitude of online violations with clear reporting and address mechanisms” (RA3-KY-37-A).