

A Situational Analysis of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Chad

by Daniel Deuzoumbe Passalet

(Translated from the French by Luc Ferran)

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview of the country:

Geography: Chad has an area of 1,284,000 km and is located in the middle of the African continent. The capital is N'djamena.

Population: The country is home to almost 9 million people (July 2002), 52% of which are women and 47.8% of which are under 14 years of age. The infant mortality rate is 93.46 deaths per 1,000 births. Life expectancy at birth for the total population is 51.27 years.

Languages: French and Arabic are official languages and Sara is widely spoken in the south. There are more than 120 different languages or dialects.

Religion: The three main religions are Islam (51%), Christianity (35%) and Animism (7%).

Economy: With a Gross Domestic Product (GNP) of \$8.9 billion dollars and a real growth rate of 8%, Chad is largely a country of subsistence farming and livestock raising (more than 80% of the population relies on these two activities). Key exports are cotton, cattle and gum Arabic and oil in the near future. Chad's industrial production includes cotton textiles, meatpacking, beer brewing, natron (sodium carbonate), soap, cigarettes, and construction materials. In general, Chad relies heavily on foreign investment and aid. At present, international companies are investing in the exploitation of oil reserves there.

Political Situation: After achieving independence from France in 1960, Chad embarked on three decades of civil and ethnic conflict and suffered invasions at the hands of Libya. A precarious peace took hold in 1990 but by 1998, a new rebellion started in the north. A peace agreement was signed in 2002. The political situation varies according to a deep North-South divide. On the international level, Chad is often in dispute with Nigeria over murky territorial demarcation.

1.2 Basic Social Services

Health Sector: The 1997 study on health and demography (*enquête sur la santé et la démographie* - EDST) revealed that 103 of every 1000 children die before the age of one and 40% of children under five years old suffer from stunted growth.

According to the same source, female circumcision, forced and/or early marriage, and food-related taboos are still present in some areas of Chad.

Furthermore, according to the Health Information Systems Division (or *division du système d'information sanitaire*), the doctor-patient ratio is 26 000 patients per doctor. There is a total of 289 doctors and 593 nurses or 1 nurse per 12,000 patients.

As for midwives, there is a total 170 in the entire country for the 1,744,415 women old enough to give birth

Safe Drinking Water: Only 2% of households enjoy safe drinking water. The remainder of the population drinks surface or well water, often of poor quality. Public hygiene is poor with irregular trash collection, even in large urban centres.

Children At-Risk: Children in Chad are the most at-risk in the world according to UNICEF. The number of street children or children struggling to survive is growing. There are perhaps more than 11,000 children living in the streets who are victims of all kinds of violence and who enjoy none of the legal, emotional or physical protection required by the Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified in 1989.

Education: According to Article 35 of the Chad's 1996 Constitution, primary education is guaranteed. It is free and mandatory for all. Unfortunately, this stipulation has never been respected and primary education is still not free. According to 1996 statistics, girls represent 19.37% of children in primary education. The percentage is smaller in middle and high school and is insignificant in higher education.

According to official statistics, 95% of women do not know how to read or write (French, Arabic or Sara). However, it is important to note that this statistic does not include women who read and write in their own language.

Furthermore, the portion of the annual budget allocated to health services personnel, administration, and programmes is 7.4% and 21% is allocated to education.

1.3 Political Situation

Chad has seen armed rebellions and various uprisings since its independence in 1960. These have not been helpful to Chad's economic development. At present, there are several armed political movements, which are trying to take power by force.

Two thirds of Chad's National Assembly is composed of representatives of the political party currently in power. The legal system is made up of a little over one hundred active magistrates and a court of appeal in the capital N'djamena.

There are 14 juvenile divisions of courts of justice in 14 prefectures, only one of which is operational (N'djamena). There are no judges or magistrates specialised in children's affairs in Chad.

In addition, tribalism, parochialism, regionalism and corruption are dangerously rampant in the Chad government without any measures being taken to curb their effects.

About ten human rights organisations have been created and are operational on the field. They denounce injustice and grave human rights violations daily.

1.4 Economic Development

At \$365, the GDP per capita in Chad is one of the lowest on the world. 38% of the GDP comes from the agricultural sector while industry accounts for 11%.

Many of the country's economic hopes rest on Chadian oil. A large petroleum extraction project is underway in the south of the country and Chad's first oil barrels may be on the markets within a year. The project consists in a pipeline project led by Exxon Mobil Corp.

It is important to note that this project has adversely affected inhabitants of the oil-bearing area. Indirect consequences of the project include educational decline, loss of cultural values, etc. According to the accounts provided by local inhabitants of the said area, it is girls aged 10 to 18 who are dropping out of school and being forced into prostitution in the highest numbers. This is despite the worrying effects of HIV/AIDS in the area.

2. ANALYSIS OF CSEC IN CHAD

It is important to mention that CSEC is assuming proportions detrimental to our traditions, which are, by their essence, opposed to certain aspects of the problem.

Communities in Chad have been living according to a strong tradition, which sees any topic related to sex as taboo. In principle, no sexual relationship is allowed for young unmarried people. All young unmarried people who transgress this principle are violating a long-established custom and thereby rapidly incur social disapproval and its consequences.

The education that is so rigorously instilled in children, especially girls, does not define an exact age either for girls or for boys and relies instead on parents deciding whether or not the children are pubescent. In other words, there are no widely accepted or clearly defined developmental stages in place for children. As a result, the age at which a child is deemed suitable for marriage can vary enormously from household to household or village to village.

Furthermore, all children, and again especially girls, are strictly forbidden from talking openly about anything related to sex and parents must also avoid the topic when in the presence of children. Such topics are highly taboo. A girl who speaks openly of sex is considered “deflowered” and therefore a prostitute (any person who fornicates even just once may, in some local traditions, be considered a prostitute). Among the Moundang people for instance, just one sexual encounter (alleged or proven) is enough for a girl to be ostracised. Young boys could refuse to address her.

There are different types of CSEC in Chad, all of which need to be assessed and analysed.

2.1 Types of Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Chad:

Exploitation exists in Chad and was even recognised as such by the government in 1998 in the presence of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva.

While responding to question 21, the government states that “the problem of commercial sexual exploitation and of child prostitution is real but we are not in possession of exact statistics for a variety of reasons, the main one being the taboo around the topic. Nevertheless, the Penal Code takes measures against such offences as a corruption of public values and morals.” (CRC/C/3/add. 50)

This problem is difficult to measure in terms of extent and frequency because of the absence of reliable data and the surrounding taboo. This is despite existing national law, which comprehensively protects child rights.

The different types of CSEC in Chad are the following:

2.1.1 Prostitution

The term prostitute (or *Azaba* in the local Arabic) means all women or girls who have sexual intercourse with numerous partners they have not themselves chosen in exchange for money or payment in kind.

Traditional education in many Chadian cultures dictates that girls must remain virgins until they are married. Not doing so means dishonour for the girl's mother and family who would then be guilty of poorly educating the daughter. Chadian society upholds these values today in Muslim communities of the north and Moundangs, Animists and Christians of the South West alike, despite many social changes and practices that have been brought.

The Main Causes of Prostitution in Chad

Prostitution increased considerably during the civil war, which lasted from 1979 to 1982.

Unfavourable socio-economic factors affected the lives of most Chadians. The situation was worse depending on the size of a family, pushing fathers to neglect their duties. Unable to cope with their failure to meet basic needs, many fathers turned away from their parental responsibilities and left children to the streets. Boys became street children, known in Chad as "Colombians" (a reference to these boys' drug consumption) and the girls to prostitution where they were exploited by many men in Chad.

In addition to the war, we must mention the dictatorship of ex-President Hissein Habré (1982-1990), which led to the deaths of 40,000 victims, mostly men, which in turn led to many single parent families and a larger number of orphans.

All these circumstances pushed girls, even very young girls, into the streets. According to a thesis on prostitution in 1986 by Mrs. Bedoumdje at the National Administration School, the age of prostitutes in N'djamena varied from 8 to 19.

It is important to note that the death of a husband is often a cause of prostitution. A widow is abandoned without any support and with many children to take care of. It is generally very difficult for them to remarry because men refuse to marry widows with many children. In this way, mothers and girls, and with them other orphans, find themselves in prostitution in order to survive. This situation is most common in big cities but not as much so in rural areas where traditional education persists.

Modesty, virginity, good company and limited social outings regulated by parents continue to be promoted and valued as the qualities of a good woman in Moundang and Muslim communities of Chad. Thus, women and girls whose dire circumstances may push them to situations of exploitation are seen as social outcasts and not victims. In the Moundang communities, for example, all girls caught fornicating automatically become wives of the sexual partners the very same day, whatever may be circumstances.

2.1.2 The Sale and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes in Chad

Sale and trafficking of children takes place from the south of the country to the north and is often fuelled by powerful men. However, no measures have been taken against these men despite public knowledge of the guilty parties.

A recent example is that of young Minguemadji, aged 9, daughter of Alladoum Djimako, a farmer in Koumra in the south of Chad. Minguemadji was "sold" as domestic servant by her father to a ministerial representative. He then sent her north where she will never be able to see her family or native land again.

An attestation of this “sale” (a copy of which we possess) was signed in 2002 by a major in the local gendarmerie. Minguemadji escaped and is at the moment with a solicitor specialised in N’djamena. They are awaiting a trial, which is not moving forward.

Certain areas of the city of N’djamena serve as areas that traffic children for sexual purposes. These areas are: Bololo, Kabalaye, Ambasadna. Girls from Cameroon, Togo, Benin, Central African Republic as well as Chad are found in these areas.

According to local accounts we collected, French legionnaires bring girls with them when returning from active duty but abandon them once in France. For example, a Chad girl of 17 years of age was brought to France under these conditions and her family has not heard anything from her since 1982 despite help from the Chad Human Rights League and the French Embassy in Chad.

Such shameful trafficking also exists between Chad and Nigeria. In 1993, a young girl aged 9 was kidnapped by strangers while she was in a market named Ba-illi (near N’djamena) and trafficked to Nigeria. She managed to escape at the beginning of 2003. She stated that she was used as a sexual object during her captivity. According to her account, there are other Chad girls living under similar conditions in Nigeria. The main clients of these trafficking victims are French legionnaires who have acquired the nicknamed “Gobi.”

According to police services and Interpol, trafficking of children for sexual purposes does not exist or is very rare and isolated. They also said that there was an attempt to kidnap six Chadian girls and bring them to Lebanon. The attempt was foiled by the airline Air Afrique but the trafficker was never found.

On The 20th of May 2002, a Cameroonian kidnapped a young Chadian girl of 14 named Dikwa. Her parents have no news of her to this day despite efforts by the Chadian police. There are thus many isolated cases, which should be kept in mind without making generalisations as there are still no systematic studies on the nature and the extent of child trafficking in Chad.

2.1.3 Commercial Sexual Tourism

There is little evidence of commercial sexual exploitation in Chad yet as Chad is no longer a tourist destination since the war of 1979. We met with Interpol and police authorities who told us that there are no special measures in place to protect Chadian children from sexual tourism, unless the sexual partners committed offences against public values or another offence punishable by the law.

Let us note that the legal bill proposed by the Division for Children of the Ministry of Justice does not take this into consideration.

2.1.4 Child Pornography

Child pornography, or the spreading or disseminating of images of sexually exploited children in books, pictures or newspapers, is not evident in Chad. There are no publishing houses in Chad specialised in the publication of such material. There are, however, individual persons who spread pornography without any trouble.

At present, there is no agency regulating films and cassettes, even those of a pornographic nature. Neither are there any tools against the suppression of production, distribution and

possession of pornographic material involving children. This problem is not yet widespread in Chad. Only 2000 of Chadian nationals have access to the Internet (or 0.03%). In fact, Internet connection and electricity fees are the highest in the world. Only 2% of Chadian households have electricity (supplied by sector).

2.2 Related Forms of CSEC

2.2.1 “Tallanis”

Tallanis are small girls who sell foodstuffs in drinking establishments and the larger avenues of Chad’s cities. Others peddle gruel, corn, potatoes, etc. at night on sidewalks and on the large avenues. Some poor families who live off small businesses send their girls into the cities with merchandise that must be sold before the girl can come home.

According to our investigations in the city of N’djamen, girls who peddle from morning to evening are doubly at-risk. Some of the younger ones are kidnapped by sorcerers for occult practices if not sexual exploitation.

Evidence indicates that the strategy used by the adult abusers consists in negotiating a price for the entirety of the girl’s products and purchasing the lot. They then sexually abuse her and return the products, which she will be able to sell again.

2.2.2 Child Domestic Servants

Families from poor rural areas send children to live with parents, families or friends who live in the city so that the child may be educated. These girls are financially and sexually exploited. They are provided with poor board, underfed, poorly protected and are very vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Many leave their adopted families to prostitute themselves and be able to keep their earnings. They often refuse to return to their original families because they blame them for having given them away in the first place.

Many of the girls are brought from the countryside to work in drinking establishments and exploited by the adults they serve. This is a violation of Article 14 of Decree 100/*Affaires Sociales* (Social Affairs) of June 1963, which prohibits and punishes the presence of children in a drinking establishment: “the presence of minors under 16 years of age is forbidden...” Article 14 of the same decree promises harsh penalties: “Managers and owners of dancing clubs/bars and other such entertainment-related establishments who do not respect Articles 12 and 13 will be fined 5,000 to 10,000 francs. All establishments who violate the above stipulations can be closed for 15 days.”

As we said above, domestic servitude facilitates CSEC. Often, the girls are exploited and/or abused by their employer, then by cousins and others who live under the same roof as the employer. The child is faced with the dilemma of refusing and losing her job or accepting the humiliating abuse.

The risks, adverse affects and humiliations to which children in domestic servitude are exposed demand that concerted action be taken.

2.2.3 Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation in Educational Institutions

Sexual harassment of girls in educational institutions has unfortunately been very frequent in recent years. Girls are harassed and often given in to the harassment. This practice is known

by authorities at the Ministry of Education as one of the main causes of the dropout rate among girls though they have done nothing to address the issue.

The enrolment age in Chad is 6 for all children. Elementary school in Chad lasts 6 years. During this time, the girls mature. They are given tasks such as cleaning up the teacher's belongings after class and doing the teacher's housework. Eventually, a teacher abuses the girls by giving them small gifts or promising better grades in exchange for sexual favours.

In middle school, the girls are usually only 12 or 13. Teachers use the same strategy as those in elementary school: promising better grades in exchange for sexual satisfaction. Girls who stubbornly refuse do so face grave consequences. Those who dare denounce the advances are always spied on and labelled. They risk being punished by the entire academic staff.

Often enough, school authorities are reluctant to take action. The same thing happens in higher education where this practice of CSEC is a well-known dynamic referred to as "sexually transmitted grades or under the belt intelligence."

2.2.4 *Colts or Puppets*

This form of sexual exploitation is practiced by unmarried well-off women who take adolescents into their care in exchange for sexual satisfaction. The women guarantee their colts or "marios" comfort, payment of school fees, transportation costs and other material benefits in exchange of sexual intercourse.

2.2.5 *Chomorokos*

Men who dress as women, speak like women and enter locations restricted to women are called "Chomokoros" in the local Arabic. These she-he's kidnap even married women for other men in exchange for money for the intermediary and the kidnapped woman. Generally, Chomokoros have nice facilities for receiving clients.

2.2.6 *Bewitchment*

Bewitchment is a common sorcery-based practice in certain Chad communities. The aim is to manipulate a woman or girl by way of mystical force so that she is utterly under the control of the bewitcher. The bewitched victim is bewitched for sexual purposes although she has no desire for amorous liaisons with the caster of the spell. The victim is therefore manipulated to the advantage of the exploiter in exchange for negligible material benefits. The victim is thus a sex slave.

During our investigation, we met two young students in Bongor and in Kelo (southern Chad) who were willing to explain to us how their teachers bewitched them. The first student, Z. C. was a 10th grader in Kelo (Western Tandjilé) and the second, B.S., was a 9th grader in Bongor High School (Mayo-Boneye). The two girls were taken to traditional healers in order to recuperate.

Charges are pending in Bongor High Court for the second case. No disciplinary action was taken against the teachers.

2.2.7 *Early and/or forced marriages*

Throughout our fieldwork, especially in N'djamena, Pala, Bongor, and Kélo, all interviewees admitted having seen forced or early marriage in their communities.

This form of marriage is widespread in Chad and stems from traditional values that do not recognise women as human beings able to express opinions and make individual choices. It is a common social event, which is contrary to positive law.

For some, this practice is linked to local custom while for others it is linked to religion. In both cases, neither reasonable justification nor any advantages of this practice exist for the exploitative situation it creates for the child. Many parents hope to make as much money possible by forcing their girls to marry the wealthiest men possible.

The Mayor of N'djamena provides official approval of these marriages without basing his approvals on legal documents, which establishes marrying age at 16 for girls and 18 for boys.

In preparation for a radio show held by Human Rights Without Borders on marrying age, we met with the Deputy Mayor of N'djamena. He recognised that his office officially sanctions the marriage of 13 year-old girls and older but refused to recognise that his office also sanctions marriage of 12 year-old girls. Yet a year before, the Director of Child Protection at the Ministry of Justice deplored the sanctioning of such marriages by the same mayoral office.

During the remainder of the interview, the Deputy Mayor justified this manipulation of the law by pointing to the Muslim customs but ignored the secularism guaranteed by Chad's 1996 constitution which calls for equality of all Chad citizens before the law in accordance with ratified international conventions.

During the radio show referred to above, a listener phoned and gave his side of the story as beneficiary of forced marriage while a mother also phoned and defended early marriage, noting that two of her girls were already married and there was to be the marriage of a third child. Such calls demonstrate that early child marriages are well anchored in the Chad mindset.

In any event, CSEC is frequent in Chad and gaining ground as a result of facilitating circumstances: realities of everyday life and culture in Chad as well as the weak enforcement of the law.

2.3 Legal Protection of Children Against CSEC

Chad legislature contains ten or so articles in the Penal Code for the protection of children against CSEC. It is important to note that the Chad Penal Code dates from 1969 and has undergone only a few amendments since then. The protection in question concerns two types of sexual offences:

- The first is that which protects children from molestation and homosexual practices: Articles 271, 272, 273, 276 and 2777.
- The second is that which protects children and young people from sexual exploitation such as procuring and incitement to moral vice as in Articles 279, 280, 281, and 282.

Indeed, the Penal Code contains several provisions designed to protect children against commercial sexual exploitation.

The Penal Code discussed above contains provisions protecting children from commercial sexual exploitation. For example, Article 279 and following articles punish all sexual acts committed with a minor, although the words ‘commercial exploitation’ are not used. Also, the sentence for rape of a minor is 5 years imprisonment and a fine of 2 million francs. These articles apply for the same offences committed by a Chad national abroad (Article 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure).

The same code calls for a harsh sentencing in Article 280 of any persons involved in the sale of children. The sentence for sellers, buyers and other intermediaries or all persons who profit from the sale or trafficking of children for sexual purposes is 5 years and a fine of 2 million francs.

Little, however, is being done to effectively enforce legislation concerning the sale of children. The sale and trafficking of children from the south to the north of the country by men in power has been rampant in recent years. No measures have been taken to against these men.

Kidnapping and manipulation of children facilitates commercial sexual exploitation of children (especially girls) and other forms of maltreatment. These are outlawed by the Chad Penal Code (Articles 286 and 289).

Articles 250 and 251 of the Penal Code address the issue of (non) criminal responsibility of children under 13 years of age. In an attempt to provide children with protection of their basic rights at least in the letter of the law, the legislature contains constitutional provisions, which indirectly insure protection against commercial sexual exploitation:

- In 1996, Chad adopted by referendum a constitution that guarantees all universally-recognised fundamental rights and freedoms.
- In article 222, the constitution underlines the legal principle whereby ratified conventions and treaties override internal law.

2.3.1 Protection of children against CSEC under national law

In addition to the aforementioned Penal Code, there is *inter alia*:

- The National Programme of the Child in Chad (Programme National en faveur de l’enfant Tchadien - PRONAFET);
- Law 007/PR/99 of April 6th, 1999 on due process of minors aged 13 to 18;
- Decree 100 on the protection of adolescents and children of June 18th, 1963;
- Order 2062/PR/MIOC/DG of August 11th, 1990 on the creation of National Press Commission for Children;
- Decree 371/77/CSM/MJ of November 9th, 1977 on the status of penitential detention centres;
- Ruling 001/PCE/CEDNACVG/91 on the restructuring of the armed forces.
- Labour and Social Protection Code of 1996;
- Ministerial Order 3289/Aff.Soc. of December 22nd, 1961 on the creation of the Koundoul rural youth centre (the centre’s mission is to receive and provide vocational training for street children);
- Ruling 006/PR/92 of April 20th, 1992 on recruitment into the armed forces of the Republic of Chad.

2.3.2 Reform Bill on National Legislation Against CSEC

We should note that the above legal documents contain no explicit provisions against CSEC. The code alludes only to kidnapping and procuring.

A forthcoming legal proposal of the Child Protection Department of the Ministry of Justice takes into consideration sexual harassment, paedophilia, soliciting, sexual abuse of minors, child prostitution, moral corruption of children, financial exploitation of minors, forced marriage, etc. The reform comes in the wake of the Yokohama Congress.

At present, victims of CSEC have legal recourse if it is necessary. Indeed, in 2002, it was at the juvenile division of the high court of N'djamena that 29 of 100 complaints filed by parents of concerned victims of CSEC.

2.3.3 International Law

Chad is a signatory to numerous international and regional agreements on human rights and child rights. For instance:

- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Charter on the well-being of the African Child
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights
- Convention 6 on working age
- ILO convention on child night labour
- Convention 33 on minimum working age in the non-industrial sector
- Convention Against Torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading punishments.
- Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on child trafficking, child prostitution and child pornography.
- Agreements against the recruitment of the child into the armed forces.

Please note that the last two protocols have been signed but not ratified.

2.4 State Action Against CSEC

As we mentioned before, the state is lax and cultivates and encourages impunity. In addition to impunity, it is important to note the importance of tradition, which often outweighs positive law. Traditional law usually deals with sexual abuse. As a consequence, the government has not developed a National Plan of Action despite participating at the Second World Congress in Yokohama and officially recognising the problem.

After the Second World Congress and in partnership with UNICEF Chad, a project was designed for children in need of special protection, including protection and psychological rehabilitation for CSEC victims. The project will be financed by UNICEF Chad and by several other generous countries.

The interim Director of the Child Protection Department of the Ministry of Justice has mentioned a National Plan of Action against CSEC now in progress. It was impossible for us to obtain a copy of this document. According to our sources, the plan being put together includes:

- Investigation of sexual exploitation and violations committed against women and children.
- Development of the plan of action and advocacy.
- Development of legislation protecting children against risks of abuse and sexual exploitation.
- Guarantee of care for child victims of CSEC.

According to the same source, this National Plan of Action developed by the Chad government was approved by UNICEF for the 2003-2005.

The Plan targets awareness-raising towards:

- The family, which is considered by Article 37 of the Constitution as “natural and moral base of society”;
- Religious, elected, and traditional leaders because of the moral and inherent authority these people hold over family life and society in general;
- Village organisations and women’s rights associations;
- Managers of dancing clubs and of all activities/establishments related to Social Affairs Decree 100 of 1963.

Another important governmental measure which must be mentioned is official recognition of the Youth Parliament, an AJAC (*Association Jeunesse Anti-Clivage* or *Association of Youth Against Division*) initiative. At the moment, the government and UNICEF Chad are undertaking the running of the Youth Parliament.

3. STUDY

3.1 Methodology

We conducted a study in Pala (South West) and in N'Djamena. This study allowed us to collect numeric information, which will provide a base for the measures taken by actors in the field.

In order to have a precise idea of the problem, 30% of the people were aged 15 to 18 and 45% were aged 31 to 35.

Our study established the following:

Age	Percentage
5 to 9	8.5%
10 to 14	33%
15-18	10.3%
Unsure	4.8%

3.2 Analysis of the findings:

The table reveals the vulnerability of the girls aged 10 to 14. They represent 33% of all the cases.

The numbers also show us that the lack of registered births is problematic since 40% of the people interviewed said that they knew the victims but didn't know their age.

Also according to our studies, abusers are almost always nationals of Chad. Only 0.4% were foreigners. Most were members of all different classes and professions: unemployed, farmers, managers in public administration, students, etc...

During our study, all respondents indicated that poverty is the main cause of this problem, which must be fought at all costs. For as long as poverty persists, results against CSEC will always be mitigated.

In our view, the size of the family is also a cause of CSEC. Indeed, a high number of children in a family necessitates better finances which in turn places the children in precarious straits. Many fathers in such circumstances cannot properly assume their responsibilities, which are to house, feed and educate their children. This situation pushes many very young girls into the hands of exploiters. Some of these girls are heads of households who are forced into prostitution after the death of the father or of the mother and father.

Among the other causes of CSEC are:

- Rural exodus
- Irresponsibility of some parents and alcoholism
- Illiteracy
- Domestic violence
- Weight of tradition
- Lax authorities and non-enforcement of legal sanctions against CSEC offenders.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is important to conduct concerted efforts in order to prevent and fight CSEC.

In order to fight the grave violation of child rights as they are defined in the CRC that is CSEC, we recommend the following:

1. Work for the adoption and application of the National Plan of Action currently in being developed.
2. Inform the heads of human rights NGOS on one side and state personnel responsible for applying the law on the other side.
3. Reinvigorate the juvenile delinquency division and provide the division with financial means.
4. Reinvigorate the commission for the monitoring of films and rigorously regulate films in video rental establishments.
5. Ratify and apply the protocol on child trafficking, child prostitution and child pornography and the protocol on the recruitment of the child in armed conflicts.
6. Update and adapt national legislation to existing international agreements.
7. Design a code for children in accordance with the Sovereign National Conference (SNC) of 1993.
8. Vigorously apply Social Affairs Decree 100 of 1963 on regulating movement of minors under 16 within Chad.
9. Re-launch the radio show on child rights created by ministerial order 2062/PR/MIOC/DG of August 11th, 1990.
10. Train relevant professionals: judges, police, doctors, educators, teachers, etc.
11. Inform and involve village and religious leaders, families and children.
12. Improvement of children's general living conditions.
13. Initiate rehabilitation and reinsertion programmes for victims of CSEC.
14. Make certain of a strict and rigorous application of the law.

All of this depends inevitably on mental attitudes changing and on fighting lax public authorities. Without such changes, the updating of legislation will be nothing but wishful thinking.

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Moyombaye Célestine, La prostitution dans la ville de N'Djaména (Thesis). Ecole Nationale d'Administration N'Djaména, Tchad, 1986.

APPENDIX 1 : LIST OF NGOS

L'Association des Femmes Juristes du Tchad (AFJT)

BP : 4089

Tél / Fax : (235) 533074

Email : afjt@intnet.td

Contact : Mme Modobé Nginambaye Djonguido.

N'Djaména, Tchad.

This NGO works on women and child rights issues and records two to three CSEC cases every month. Its goals are to:

- Participate in the development of legal texts, especially those relating to women and children.
- Collect and disseminate information on legal, social, and economic conditions in which women and children live.
- Protect and defend the rights of children.

Droits de l'Homme Sans Frontières (DHSF)

BP 4510

Tél : (235) 514359/ (235) 294031

Email : dhsf64@hotmail.com

N'Djaména Tchad.

Contact : Deuzoumbé Daniel Passalet.

The mission of this organisation is to defend and promote as defined by international conventions.

La Ligue Tchadienne des droits de l'homme (LTDH)

BP 2037

Tel : (235) 292326

Email : ldth@intnet.td

N'Djaména Tchad.

Contact : Dobian Assingar

The goals of this organisation are to protect and promote human rights and the establishment of a legally constituted state.

Association Jeunesse Anti-Clivage (AJAC)

BP 2014

Tel : (235) 514359/ (235) 8423306.

E-mail : anti.clivage@intnet.td

Contact : Antoine SOUGNABE MISSET, Président

This organisation works against all forms of discrimination.

Cellule de Liaison des Associations Féminines (CELIAF)

BP : 4303

Tel : (235) 516800/516434

Email : celiaf@intnet.td

Contact : Mme Mekombé Thérèse

The goals of this organisation are to collect and disseminate information on women's and children's rights amongst network members.