



Child Sexual Exploitation in Beaufort West

Situation and needs analysis

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Child sexual exploitation in Beaufort West

Situation and needs analysis

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Executive Summary

This report was researched and written by Southern Hemisphere, as commissioned by Molo Songololo. The situation and needs analysis of the sexual exploitation of children in Beaufort West, in the Western Cape Province of South Africa, was achieved through a limited background study and through a small, qualitative sample of in-depth interviews with 26 adult community members, 11 children, ten community service providers, totalling 47 individuals interviewed plus the four focus groups. Two interviewers were drawn from the Beaufort West community, with a social worker from the Department of Social Development and all were given on and off-site training and mentoring. The interviews were grouped and processed using Nvivo 7 computer software.

Molo Songololo's working definition of child sexual exploitation refers to the financial exploitation as well as exploitation through taking unfair advantage of a child's vulnerability.

The objectives of the situation analysis and needs assessment were in essence, to understand the nature, extent and manifestation of the sexual exploitation of children (CSE) in the community and to identify available services that address the problems. It was also to conduct an assessment of the needs of the community regarding CSE which included support mechanisms and services needed in response to CSE offences; and finally, to make recommendations for the prevention and reduction of CSE incidences in the communities.

Beaufort West, the oldest town in the Central Karoo, is situated in the Western Cape. Its road links to the surrounding major cities meaning that tourists and truckers travel through, and often overnight. The most recent background available on Beaufort West comes from the census of 2001. It indicates that almost a quarter of the population is unemployed, and there is a high level of low-income earners.

As of the census of 2001, there are 37,073 people residing in the municipality. The racial composition of the municipality is 73 % Coloured, 16% Black African, 11% White and 0% Indian/Asian.

The situation analysis revealed that sexual exploitation of children was an established fact in Beaufort West. The SABC screened video of exploitation of children by truckers, gave the background of a community publicly aware of the problem. Respondents noted unemployment leading to poverty as a major contributing factor. Parental difficulties, such as single parenting issues, abusive parents, sexual violence in families were some of the reasons many respondents gave. Stories of the rape of children, particularly girl children, were related by children and young adult respondents as well. The fact that the N1 highway is essentially the town's main road and stop off point for truckers, was also named as one of the largest situational issues which informed the issue of sexual exploitation in Beaufort West. Feelings of disempowerment, helplessness at the difficulties of parenting children and truant children, were expressed.

Very few incidents of child pornography were cited. Respondents said that children were exploited mostly by truckers and by men who were older than them, who were of all races and professions, and who came from different centres in South Africa. Sexual favours from children were returned with material goods, bank accounts, store accounts, hard cash, clothes, jewellery, cell phones, drugs, alcohol and food. With money received children bought clothes, drugs, alcohol, toiletries and food for themselves and food for their families. Pimps were perceived as being friends and peers. The overall sense from

the tone of the respondents in interviews used in the report, reveals a growing normalisation of the sexual exploitation of children, as an accepted activity in Beaufort West.

The needs analysis revealed that there are services which are geared towards assisting children, but there is no sustained support for helping sexually exploited children. While support systems for a variety of issues exist in Beaufort West, there were conflicting experiences about the usefulness of these services.

The small qualitative sample can in no way make any representative claim to the situation regarding the actual numbers of exploited children in Beaufort West. The qualitative data shows that the amount of knowledge and evidence from the respondents regarding exploited children, warrants further investigation and intervention by Molo Songololo, to set up specific services to assist in this problem, in Beaufort West.

1. Introduction

Molo Songololo is a non-profit child rights organisation that strives to advance children's rights to ensure their protection, development, survival and participation through education, training, lobbying, advocacy and support services. Molo Songololo (MS) was established in South Africa in 1979, initially to combat apartheid policies, racial segregation and oppression and to advance the rights of children, by exposing their plight at that time, and pioneering interventions for their protection.

Since 1996 MS has increased its effort for the prevention and intervention of child sexual exploitation, including trafficking. They have noted that children in poor communities are particularly vulnerable in CSE¹. In various initial study findings, they report on the sexual exploitation of children in Western Cape Communities, which takes place in public and private places, by people ranging from their own parents, boyfriends, taxi-drivers, gangsters and drug dealers, all of whom sell them for sex. The perpetrators who use child prostitutes include married men from respectable homes with wives and children, and men in positions of power. While boys are sexually exploited, girls are most vulnerable to exploitation².

Andy Dawes, veteran researcher in the field of violence against children, has called Molo Songololo pioneers in the field, for their particular success in their Atlantis project, which triumphed in facilitating children to exit from sexual exploitation.

The town of Beaufort West was identified as an area for intervention by the Department of Social Development. Molo Songololo conducted initial site visits to Beaufort West and met with the police, Social Development personnel, the Labour Department, Community Development workers and young people, that revealed the primary problem to be physically located at the truckers' stop where girls and boys are picked up on the street as well as at particular clubs. Girls aged 12 and older males between 18 and 28 were involved. Lack of services, and work opportunities, some saying unemployment were given as reasons. Reports of trafficking children from Beaufort West were also made. The youth there say that they are seeking a life style that can only be attained through "sugar daddies" as these older working men are able to maintain the child prostitutes³.

2. Research objectives and team

Molo Songololo is now in the process of setting up new projects in the Beaufort West area and, in order to give voice to the community and especially for children who are being sexually exploited. The objective of this research is to provide a situational analysis and

¹ Trafficking in Children in the Western Cape, South Africa, Molo Songololo report, Karen Koen, 2005

² Project proposal for Prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation in the Western Cape Province (reporting on Atlantis project 01.04.2006 to 31.03.2007 and proposal for BW and Delft 01.10 2006 to 31.03.2008)

³ Project proposal for Prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation in the Western Cape Province (reporting on Atlantis project 01.04.2006 to 31.03.2007 and proposal for BW and Delft 01.10 2006 to 31.03.2008)

needs assessment of Beaufort West. This is to provide a clearer indication of the issues and needs of the community in relation to the issue of children and sexual exploitation, and help shape the projects implemented in these areas, in order to produce more effective results.

The objectives of the situation analysis and needs assessment were to:

- Get a profile of victims and offenders;
- Map the profile of community;
- Understand the nature, extent and manifestation of CSE in the community;
- Understand the factors that impact on the vulnerability of children, placing them at risk;
- To understand the perceptions, attitudes, opinions and responses of the community;
- To identify and availability of programmes, sites and role players involved in child protection and prevention of CSE;
- To conduct an assessment of the needs of the community regarding CSE which includes support mechanisms and services needed in response to CSE offences;
- To make recommendations for the prevention and reduction of CSE incidences in the communities.

Southern Hemisphere Consultants was contracted do the situation and needs analysis. Dena Lomofsky and Nana Davies were involved at many stages in the process. Bastienne Klein was the senior researcher, and Wilma Wessels the project coordinator. Gertrude Zvavanjanja and Nadia Gain gave project backup. Lorna Houston is the project leader for Molo Songololo. Lizel Smith was research assistant; Thembile Jolingana and Chantel Louw were fieldworkers.

3. Research Methodology and Sample

3.1 *Research Methodology*

Southern Hemisphere Consultants designed a participatory qualitative research methodology to draw on the experience of various stakeholders involved in the project area of Delft. It was agreed that a qualitative rather than a quantitative methodology would be required. The research employed a multi-method research methodology combining:

- documentary review
- training workshops for the fieldworkers
- semi-structured interviews for the interviews and focus group sessions.
- Semi-structured qualitative interviews, that were used for some stakeholders in order to draw in-depth information about the experience CSE in the community, and the needs of these stakeholders regarding CSE, as well as getting stories and anecdotes.

3.1.1 Research Approach

The research process was a participatory one, with several inputs from the project representatives. A research-planning workshop was held for staff, board members and any other relevant stakeholders identified by Molo Songololo at the beginning of the research. At this workshop the scope and expected outcomes of the situational analysis and needs assessment were clarified and we agreed on the key issues, which were covered.

Fieldworkers gave input into the decision making on questionnaire content. The senior researcher went into the field with fieldworkers to Beaufort West, to do interviews, facilitate focus groups and observe the fieldworkers in training. Fieldwork progress reports and a topline report were submitted to keep the organisation in touch with issues raised in the field. Once a draft report was compiled and distributed, a feedback and recommendations workshop was facilitated to encourage discussion around the findings and recommendations.

Due to the very sensitive nature of this topic, we agreed that due to the ethical implications of conducting interviews with children around their experiences and needs regarding sexual exploitation, the social worker in Beaufort West would be responsible for interviewing the children concerned. In addition to this, children who were interviewed were offered and were assured of support, at any time after the interview was completed. While confidentiality was assured to all the children interviewed, the fieldworkers undertook to report situations of a serious nature, to Molo Songololo Head Office staff.

In addition to interviewing children, we obtained more in depth information from adults (both parents of victims and general community) in the community around these issues. Interviews were conducted with organisations that provide services around the sexual exploitation of children in each community. This included organisation and centres involved in the prevention of CSE and providing services to CSE victims and any other related service organisations as identified by Molo Songololo.

Focus groups were held with other role players that either provided services or had something to say about the issue of the sexual exploitation of children.

3.1.2 Research Instruments

The research instruments were developed by the consultants with the fieldworkers, the Atlantis Project workers, and Molo Songololo staff, before going into field. Four research instruments were developed:

- Semi structured schedule for adult community members;
- Semi structured schedule for organizations and service providers;
- Focus group schedule for other role players;
- Semi structured schedules for sexually exploited children and friends of children who had been sexually exploited.

The interviews were coded using Nvivo software, and the coding reports were used in the analysis, which resulted in the findings section, below.

The interview questions are attached in Appendix Two of this report.

3.2 Interviewee Selection

The consultancy acted on leads from Molo Songololo, that came from sources such as the Department for Social Development in the Western Cape, a social worker in Beaufort West, and the fieldworkers themselves, as they came from the communities in which this research was conducted.

The fieldworkers who did the interviewing participated in a training and mentoring process to enable them to do the research.

The stakeholders interviewed were community service providers, adult community members, such as parents of children, and other concerned adults; Sexually exploited children and young adults (i.e. those a few years over the 18 year cut off point) as well as friends of sexually exploited children were interviewed. The focus groups were made up of community members who had an interest in talking about what they knew on the issue.

The consultants were contracted to initially enable the output of 45 interviews, four focus groups in Beaufort West (a total of 90 interviews and eight focus groups), using fieldworkers from the respective communities. Finding children to interview around their experiences of child sexual exploitation was a challenge in Beaufort West. Lorna Houston assisted with some of the interviews with children and sexually exploited adults.

As a result, Beaufort West fieldworkers and the research assistant conducted more than the required target, totalling 47 interviews and four focus groups. The following table shows the sample categories and resultant interviews.

Table 1: Research Sample for Beaufort West

Stakeholders	Number of interviews/focus groups
Adult community members	26/25
Children	11/10
Service Providers	10/10
Focus groups (with Service providers)	4/4
TOTAL	47 interviews 4 focus groups

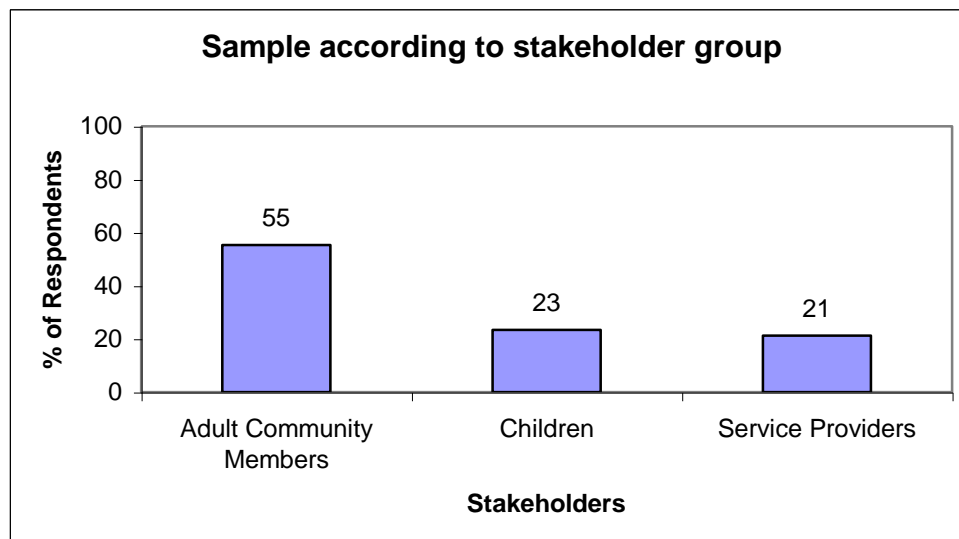
The background of the respondents for Beaufort West is outlined below.

3.3 Research Sample for Beaufort West

In total, 47 interviews were done in Beaufort West, which was more than the required 45 interviews. Of the 47 interviews, 26 were conducted with adult community members (ACM), ten with service providers (SP) and eleven with children in the community. The graph below displays the sample across stakeholder group⁴.

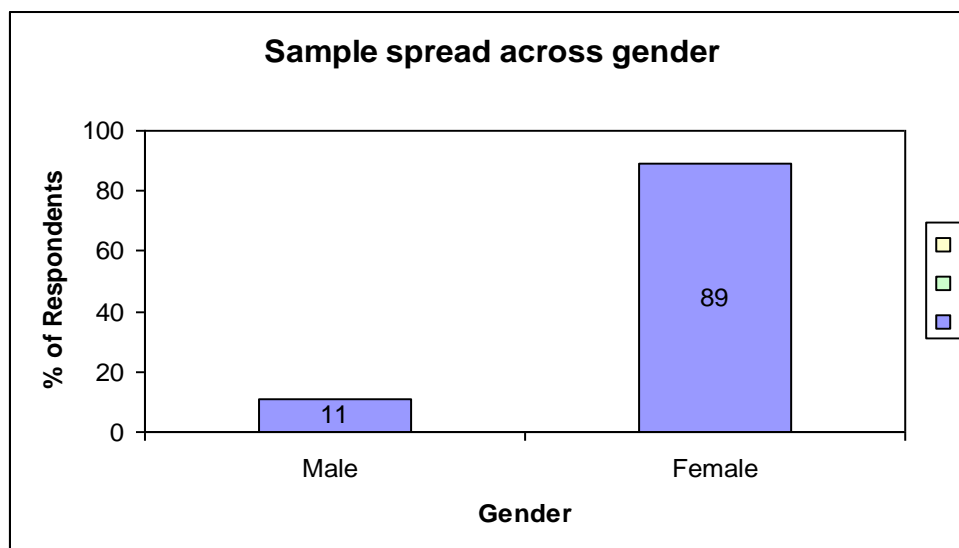
⁴ Due to rounding off, this only adds up to 99%. The actual figures for sample across stakeholders is 23.4% children, 55.3% adult community members and 21.3% service providers.

Figure 1: Sample spread across Stakeholder group in Beaufort West



In terms of the gender spread across the sample, only five interviews were male and the remaining 42 were females. The graph below shows the composition of males and females in the sample. Here it is displayed that of the sample, 11% were males and 89% were females. The sample of males were comprised of adult community members (6.4%) and service providers (4.3%). The female sample was comprised of all children (23.4%), 48.9% service providers and 17% service providers⁵.

Figure 2: Sample spread across Gender in Beaufort West



⁵ Please note that rounding off to one decimal place was used here for numbers to add up to 100%.

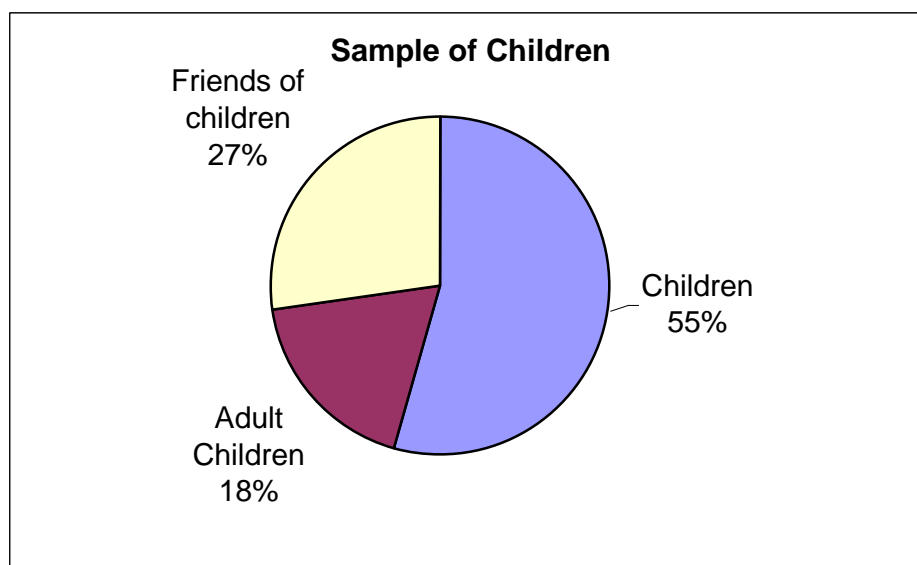
3.3.1 Sample of Children

The sample of children interviewed can be broken down further into three categories:

- Children under 18 years who have been involved in CSE (Categorised as “Children”);
- Children over 18 years who have been involved in CSE when under age (Categorised and “Adult Children”); and
- Friends or relatives of children who have been involved in CSE (Categorised as “Friends of children”)

As displayed in percentages in the graph below, six children (55%), three friends of children (27%) and two adult children (18%) were interviewed in Beaufort West.

Figure 3: Sample of Children in Beaufort West



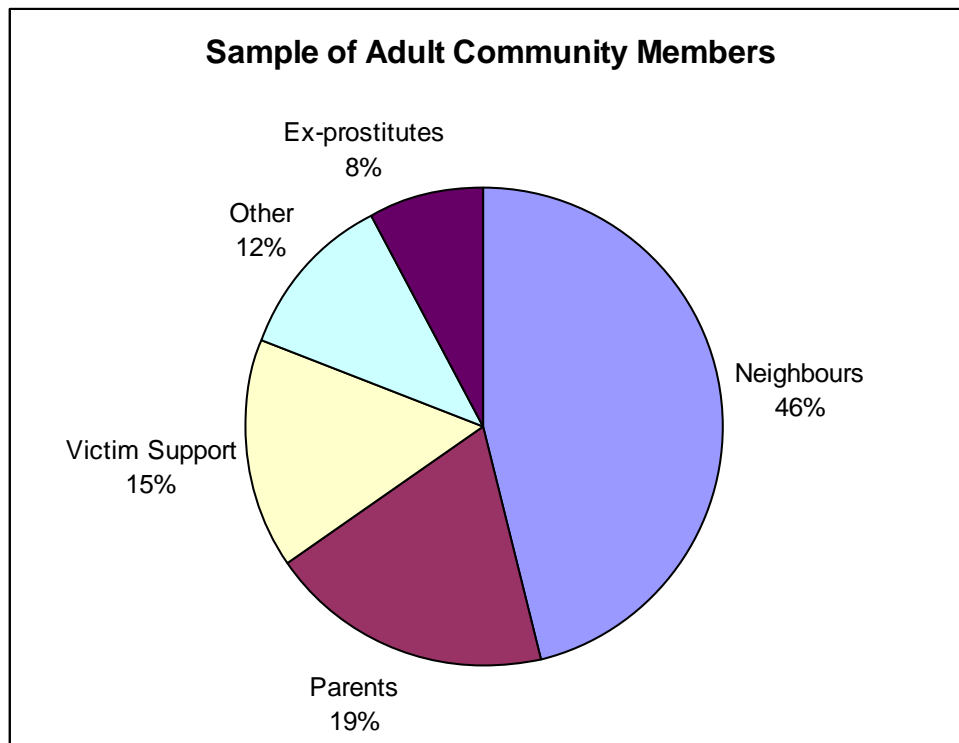
3.3.2 Sample of Adult Community Members

This group was comprised of neighbours in the community, and were made up of the following:

- General “neighbours” in the area (12 respondents)
- “Parents”/Relative of children involved in CSE (5 respondents)
- Victim support workers (4 respondents)
- Ex-sex workers (2 respondents)
- Other, i.e. petrol attendant, social worker and community worker (3 respondents)

The graph below displays the sample of adult community members in percentages.

Figure 4: Sample of Adult Community Members in Beaufort West



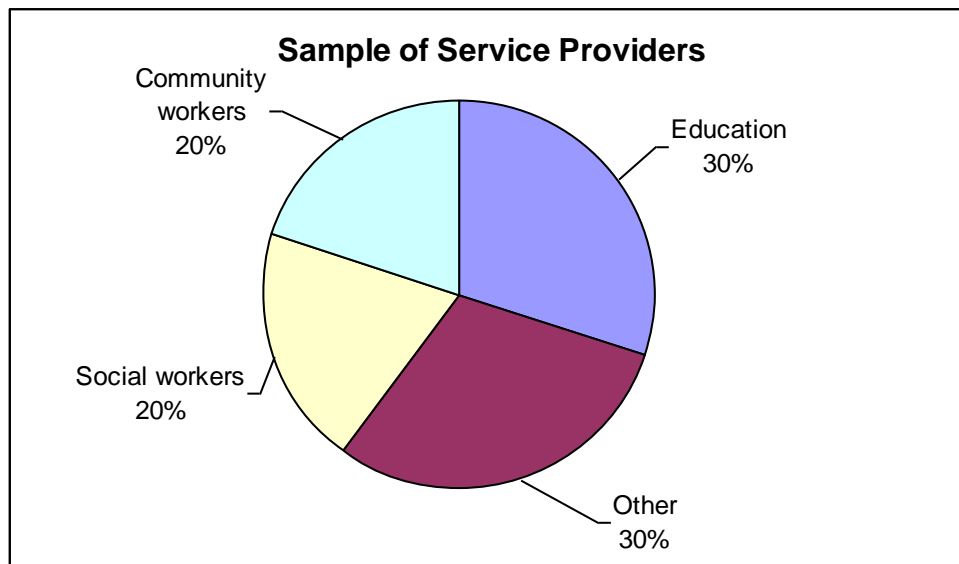
3.3.3 Sample of Service Providers

In terms of service providers in the community, the following stakeholders were interviewed:

- Education (3 respondents)
- Social workers (2 respondents)
- Community workers (2 respondents)
- Other i.e. person working at truckers wellness center, police and nurse (3 respondents)

The chart below displays the service provider interviews in percentages.

Figure 5: Sample of Service Providers in Beaufort West



3.4 Data Analysis

The data analysed is a qualitative analysis based on the 47 interviews and 4 focus group discussions. The structure is focused on the categories of responses from children, adult community members, service providers and the focus groups. Tables have been used, to simplify the findings. Considering the size of these sample groupings, where two or more responses were made on a particular issue, these have been counted as significant qualitative comments.

4. Training of Fieldworkers

Molo Songololo had requested that instead of hiring professional researchers, a preference to rather use members of the communities where research was being done. Advertising was done in the community and local applicants were asked to submit a short interview response, which the consultants set them. After selection, training was held both at the Head Office and within Delft and Beaufort West, which allowed fieldworkers to get a sense of the other's communities. The training included how to facilitate a focus group, how to do individual interviews in a non-judgemental manner, and how to deal with sensitive situations in interviews. The fieldworkers were involved in the interview design and the fieldwork planning meetings. In Beaufort West, Ms. Lizel Smith of the Social Development Department was the research assistant and Ms. Chantel Louw and Mr. Thembile Jonlingana were fieldworkers, for this project.

4.1 Action learning results

4.1.1 Initial evaluation

Upon completion of the workshops, fieldworkers were asked to give feedback on their learning experience. The fieldworkers evaluated that action learning was the best method, for example, having to do dry run interviewing. They found the training helpful in that it encouraged team building. They said that Molo's approach of 'being with you' in the community was most useful. Getting feedback and practical mentoring in the situation was useful. The self-healing techniques taught to them by Lorna Houston, were practical and useful and a good addition to the more academic input.

4.1.2 Summative evaluation

Once fieldwork had been conducted, fieldworkers then gave a more detailed evaluation of the training and mentoring process, where they were asked to give feedback on key skills and learning, challenges, effectiveness of Southern Hemisphere's mentoring and training role and recommendations for improving the process in the future. The findings are based on the feedback from five participants (three in Beaufort West and two in Delft).

In sum, fieldworkers had gained some valuable research skills, particularly around planning of fieldwork and conducting and writing up of interviews. Participants also indicated that they had boosted their self-confidence (one respondent) and learnt to stay positive in difficult situations (two respondents). Furthermore all respondents indicated that they had gained more knowledge on CSE and the specific situations in their relevant areas.

A challenge by two researchers was the limited time available in which the fieldwork had to be conducted.

All respondents indicated that the training and mentoring had assisted them during this process. Two of the respondents indicated that it had helped them to cope:

"The training and mentoring helped me to cope. There was always someone to assist me when I needed guidance."

One of the effects of this research was that the fieldworkers gained insights into their own communities, and learnt an immense amount about the issues under study here. Despite the difficulties of the content they faced, they spoke of it overall as an empowering learning experience. The full fieldworker feedback report can be found in Appendix One.

5. Limitations of this study

This study was initiated to better inform the project work that Molo Songololo will conduct in Beaufort West. The process for the situational and needs analysis got underway in January 2007, leaving very little time to complete the study by the end of April.

This report recognises that it is limited in its capacity to make any representative statements on behalf of the community of Beaufort West and Molo Songololo. It is limited to making qualitative statements on the basis of 47 interviews and 4 focus group discussions. It recognises that no decisive pronouncements on the levels of sexual exploitation in these communities can be made. At most, it can say is that a number of individual stories told to interviewers by children, adult community members and service

providers show that the problem is present, to some degree, in these communities, and that it must be addressed. It takes time to build trust with children, and in particular with exploited children. The time constraints meant that we recognised this would limit our ability to gain information from the children we interviewed. This places limits on the reliability of the information we present here. To offset this limitation, we have put their narratives upfront in this report, to address the issue of minimal quantitative data.

The decision to train and use community members in the respective areas as fieldworkers meant that the project accepted the level of output would be different to that of a professional research agency. This accounts for some of the gaps in this research, such as the paucity of information from service providers and focus groups in some instances. The benefits of using such fieldworkers, meant that they were aware of community dynamics, spoke in mother tongue to interviewees, managed to write up the results in English, and were familiar to the people they interviewed, all of which go a long way to making this research successful. The commitment to empower the respective communities in becoming conscious of the issues and how to deal with them, are very positive long-term goals. The fieldworkers achieved solid experience in becoming skilled interviewers.

5.1 *Limitations of fieldwork*

The following constraints placed limitations on the scope of this work:

- A delay in appointing fieldworkers (due to fieldworker appointee drop out);
- There were difficulties in finding children to interview but these issues were addressed.
- Not enough time to establish trust with children in Beaufort West, to conduct interviews that were rich in data.

6. Document review

This document review considered media, in many forms: literature, videos, texts of television programmes and newspaper reports, which would help give a context and understanding of the sexual exploitation of children, particularly in Delft and Beaufort West. The issue is beginning to attain some prominence in the public domain; in the past, there has not been much documented on specific communities in a strong quantitative sense, to be able to draw firm conclusions on the reasons for the sexual exploitation of children and how to address it successfully in the Western Cape context. There is qualitative data in terms of newspaper reports, information from NGOs working within these communities, research bodies such as the Human Sciences Research council, and one or two television programmes which do interviews with those involved in trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children.

6.1 *Internationally speaking*

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) write an annual report on **The State of the World's Children**. For 2007, the report states that the greatest threats to development of adolescents are abuse, exploitation, violence, and a lack of knowledge

of sexual and reproductive health including HIV and AIDS.⁶ The report's statistics section shows estimates that the number of children living with HIV, aged 0-14 years in South Africa, was 240 thousand, at the end of 2005. They also estimated the prevalence of HIV in South Africa among young men and women (15-24 years) as being 4.5% for men and nearly triple this figure at 14.8 % for women.⁷ This last statistic suggests that women and girl children are more vulnerable than men and boy children, to becoming infected with HIV. Those who are being sexually exploited are particularly vulnerable, in this case.

The 2007 report includes a panel on sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking of children, thus drawing attention to the international crisis these issues present. The report states that according to a World Health Organisation study (2002) 150 million girls and 73 million boys under the age of 18 had forced sex or other physical and sexual violence, forced upon them. The report estimates that 1.8 million children are forced into commercial sex work, whether sold into trafficking by 'desperately poor families' or abducted and trafficked into brothels or other exploitative environments. They note that these children are 'subjected to neglect, sexual violence and physical and psychological abuse'⁸.

The report also points out the link between domestic violence in the form of physical or sexual assault against girls and women, and the difficulty of reporting this, as the abuser was an intimate partner. In their reporting on domestic violence against children, they note that

*'Studies from some of the largest countries in the developing world, including China Colombia, Egypt, India, Mexico, the Philippines and **South Africa**, indicate a strong correlation between violence against women and violence against children.'*
(emphasis added)⁹

The report details that boys as well as girls are affected by exploitation, but that the girls are more vulnerable to the exploitation. They note that boys who are exposed to domestic violence in their homes, are twice as likely to become abusive themselves than others who are not exposed to such violence.

No violence against children is viable

The Report of the Independent Expert for the United Nations Study on Violence against Children is quoted as saying that there are steps that must be made toward the reality the 'no violence against children is viable'¹⁰. It recognises that legal and economic resources are required to end such violence. The measures include advising governments to establish an ombudsperson or commission for children's rights in accordance with the 'Paris Principles'. The report advocates for the establishment of a Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Violence against Children to advocate at the international level, in conjunction with UNICEF, the World Health Organization and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the creation of a UN inter-agency group on violence against children, with representation from NGOs and children themselves.¹¹

⁶ The State of the World's children 2007. The United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, New York, page 4.

⁷ Ibid page 115.

⁸ Ibid pg 5.

⁹ Ibid pg 23.

¹⁰ Ibid, pg 23-24.

¹¹ Ibid, pg 23-24.

This UNICEF report motivates that getting rid of gender discrimination and in order to empower women more, requires an enhancement of women's influence in key decisions that shape their lives and that of children in three areas - household, workplace and the political sphere. Positive changes in these three spheres, is seen by UNICEF as the key to a profound and positive impact on children anywhere in the world¹².

6.2 Legislative Frameworks

South Africa is a signatory to international agreements, in particular its ratification of the:

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1990;
- The African charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 2000;
- The Stockholm declaration; and
- The Stockholm agenda for action.

In terms of International agreements to combat child sexual exploitation, South Africa's government has signed:

- The Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, 2002;
- The International Labour Organisation Convention 182, on the elimination of the worst forms of Child Labour;
- The Yokohama Minute, 2001;
- The Protocol to prevent and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime.

In South Africa's Constitution, the Bill of Rights, Act 108 of 1996, child is defined as any person under the age of 18 years. It states that "A child's best interest is of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child". Section 28 (1d) affords children the right to "be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation". Chapter 2 states that the government must respect, protect, promote and fulfil these rights.

In 1996 South Africa put in place the National Programme of Action (NPA) for children co-ordinated by the Office on the Rights of the Child in the Presidency. It provides a holistic framework for state departments to put children's issues on their agendas being a vehicle for co-ordinated action between NGOs, government and child related structures.

Commercial sexual exploitation of children is prohibited in section 50A (1) of the Child Care Act (1983) as amended. It further prohibits sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children. In addition there are also prohibitive provisions in the Sexual Offences Act (1989, as amended). In addition, there are prohibitive provisions in the Sexual Offences Act (1989 as amended) and the Films and Publications Act 65 of 1996 that protects children from exploitation in child pornography.

Two significant legislative processes are under way, namely the review of the Sexual Offences act (1989 as amended) which broadens the definition of rape that includes male anal penetration, and sets down extensive provisions for the protection of children from

¹² Ibid, summary page.

sexual exploitation. The Children's Bill, which went before Parliament in 2003, is meant to replace the Child Care Act of 1983. It aims to provide a holistic approach to the rights of all children.

In 2006 the Children's Gauge, a publication of the University of Cape Town's Children's Institute, reported that the first part of the Children's Bill (which is to replace the Child Care Act of 1983) considered a major step forward for South Africa, was passed by the National Assembly in December 2005. This Act focuses on giving effect to constitutional rights to protection, social services and family care, in particular the right to protection from abuse, neglect, maltreatment and degradation. It also obliges ALL government departments to deliver their services to children in an integrated way.¹³ The Act is perceived as putting the appropriate measures in place. It remains to be seen if its implementation is possible and achievable and whether or not it will be able to address children's rights and interests on the ground, will need to be evaluated.

A new Liquor Act will come into effect in approximately July 2007. This act will regulate liquor licences and makes the municipalities a role player in the liquor licence application process, and thus also will make it easier to prosecute/police owners of shebeens for having children on their premises.

6.3 South Africa in Context

6.3.1 The Children's Gauge

The *Children's Gauge* (2005) reports that according to the 2004 *General Household Survey* (Statistics South Africa) census, there are over 18,021,817 million children, making up 43 % of the total population in South Africa. Of this figure, 67% are children between the ages of 6-17. Male children account for 53% of the total figure, and female children 47%. Black children account for 84 %, of this amount followed by Coloured children at 8%, White at 6% and Indian at 2%. Kwa-Zulu Natal has 21% of the total number of children, compared with the Western Cape's 1,558,708 children, at 9%¹⁴.

The Gauge also reported that in South Africa in 2004 there were approximately 3.3 million orphans, children who had lost a biological parent, or both. This number totalled to 18% of all children in South Africa. Kwa-Zulu Natal and the Eastern Cape were provinces where these orphans were resident. The gauge noted with caution (due to lack of substantial evidence) the concern that the number of children headed households will rapidly increase due to the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

The Gauge found that children were vulnerable to different forms of abuse, and that children's rights to protection from all kinds of assault, are still under threat. In 2003 the Medical Research Council of South Africa found that injury by firearms or other blunt objects to children under 15 years resulted in 10% of deaths for that year. The Gauge cites Carol Bower of *Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect* (RAPCAN) who gave an estimated figure of 400 000 - 500 000 children who are sexually

¹³ South African Child Gauge 2005, Children's Institute University of Cape Town, Edited by Marian Jacobs, Maylene Shung-King and Charmaine Smith; University of Cape Town, 2006, page 16.

¹⁴ South African Child Gauge 2005, Children's Institute University of Cape Town, Edited by Marian Jacobs, Maylene Shung-King and Charmaine Smith.

abused every year in South Africa.

6.3.2 Media

In South Africa, the silence on the sexual exploitation of children is beginning to break in many sectors. Issues such as human trafficking, child pornography, and the prosecution of child offenders are being given a greater voice in the South African context. For example, in the field of medicine, concern over high levels of trauma and child abuse in South Africa prompted personnel at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital to launch a book, 'Paediatric Trauma and Child Abuse', aimed at improving medical staff responses to such incidents.

During the period of this research, the Weekend Argus reported on February 17 2007, on two issues related to the sexual exploitation of children. The first one detailed how police arrested two men (aged 24 and 28) one from Venda and one from KwaZulu-Natal, for allegedly luring girls as young as 10 years, into brothels in Soweto. The Argus claimed that at least 10 children at the brothel, between 10 and 14 years, were paid for sex. The parents, teachers and police had all worked together and the men were charged with statutory rape. A clinical psychologist who worked with adolescents was quoted as saying that the long-term psychological effects on these children "are absolutely devastating".

The second article in the same newspaper, details how two Johannesburg Metro policemen were fired a year after they allegedly used a cellphone to film themselves having sex with a 15 year old girl. They then distributed the footage and placed it on the internet, in 2006. They were dismissed for bringing the city council into disrepute, not due to any complaints received, but only after the council noticed the coverage the case was getting in the media.

These isolated examples show the growing consciousness and attention the issues are receiving.

6.3.3 From South Africa's Broadcaster

South Africa's broadcaster, the SABC, has in recent years, brought the issues into focus and reality and into almost every home in South Africa. The SABC 3 channel's Special Assignment series have screened episodes on the sexual exploitation of children, the trafficking of women and pornography.

The video on *Human Trafficking in Women (2003)*, outlines the South African context where Thai women are brought into South Africa under the false pretence of work. The journalists tracked South African traffickers to Ladysmith and exposed the operation. The video revealed how professional men pay for sex with trafficked women and how badly the women are treated.

Bunny¹⁵ Town II (2005) was the Special Assignment, follow up to *Bunny Town*, a programme which revealed how paedophiles in Cape Town sexually exploited under age boys and girls. Due to the response the programme received from children who said they had similar stories concerning sexual exploitation, *Bunny Town II* unmasked a man who for years had been using children for sex who is known to community workers and city officials as a child molester. The programme featured experts on the issue, who reported that more services were required to fast track cases, and that specialised police child units were being dismantled and that trials of suspected paedophiles got postponed for

¹⁵ A 'bunny' is a man who behaves like a woman.

years.

Minor Exposure, screened on August 20 2005, documented the fact that in 2004, court cases involving child pornography increased dramatically. The concern is that images of South African our own children could soon find their way onto the countless child porn websites via small-time local producers. It was noted that 'Only when we start seeing our children basically being exploited being abused that is when it is already too late.'

In the video *Kinders van die Nag* (Children of the Night), produced by Johan Baily, Molo Songololo was interviewed. The video showed how child abuse lead to children living their lives on the streets of Cape Town - in this case, the suburb of Steurhof. One reason for sexual exploitation here, was the result of failed attempts at getting gainful employment.

6.4 The Western Cape Provincial Context

Andrew Dawes who researched child abuse in the Western Cape for the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) in 2006, noted that child rapes are a critical emergency, in the Cape Times of 02 April 2007. The sexual abuse of children in the Cape Town metropole, Southern Cape and Karoo regions, (where statistics were available), showed that abuse of children under 13 years was on the increase. He noted that society is becoming tolerant of abusers. The article states that "If children are not protected they will have the same passivity towards their children".

Communities are beginning to try and take action. The Cape Times of 29 March 2007 broke the story of a three year old girl who was raped in Rawsonville. The rapist was known to the community and was arrested. This case is highlighted here, because of the commentary made by the community leader, namely that

"This isn't just an issue about parenting skills. This highlights a much broader problem in the community. Tik and other drugs are rampant and, we think, causing these issues of violence. We need to put a stop to drug use, but we need more help. "

The level of complexity of the problem is great. In the Cape Times of 13 April 2007, an article was published on the fact that children were raping their peers, the age of perpetration getting younger. Some of the reasons given were overcrowding leading to children being exposed to adult sexuality and were often exposed to and on the receiving end of violence.

In the HSRC report of 2006, Dawes and his co-researchers cite the commercial sexual exploitation of children, as condemned by the International Labour Organisation, as one of the worst forms of child labour¹⁶. While they note that there is not enough data that can supply reliable picture of the scale of the problem, the smaller qualitative studies are taken into account. Molo Songololo's reports are cited in this work to substantiate arguments that children are manipulated into such exploitation. Poverty is seen as one factor, some children seen as breadwinners. This HSRC report notes that exploited children find it difficult to exit this activity, due to a lack of support for them. The psychological effects

¹⁶ Dawes, A., Long, W., Alexander, L. & Ward, C.L. (2006) A situational analysis of children affected by maltreatment and violence in the Western Cape. A Report for the Research Directorate, Department of Social Services & Poverty Alleviation: Provincial Government of the Western Cape. Cape Town: Human Sciences Research Council, page 28.

show long term impact and long-term substance abuse make it difficult for these children to leave it behind successfully.

The report gives a summary and finding of a report done in 2000 by Barnes-September et al¹⁷, which interviewed children involved in prostitution, aged 13-16 years. The children interviewed said that they got involved so as to support themselves financially and in some cases, their families too. 70% of those interviewed said they believed that prostitution was their only means of income. This is one of the only few studies concerning the sexual exploitation of children in the Western Cape.

6.4.1 Children and Pornography

In March 2007, the Independent Newspaper Group's tabloid, *The Daily Voice* exposed a child pornography ring operating in the poorer suburbs in Cape Town.

The newspaper discovered that drug suppliers in these suburbs started a sub-industry of producing pornographic films using primarily female "Tik addicts" as subjects, many of them as young as 14 years old. In its tradition of not being scared to publish anything diabolical, the newspaper used graphic images from the pornographic film to illustrate the story which it hoped would kick start a campaign against the scourge.¹⁸

The Daily voice subsequently apologised for the child porn story to the parliamentary committee on Home Affairs, and now work to a strict code of conduct.

6.4.2 Trafficking in Children in the Western Cape

Molo Songololo completed their report on trafficking in December 2005. The report found that trafficking in children from rural areas to the city occurred mostly for purposes of labour exploitation and child domestic labour in particular. Service providers were generally more concerned with children's vulnerability to situations including sexual exploitation and trafficking, but this was not yet a priority on their intervention agendas.

6.4.3 Beaufort West

In the SABC's Special Assignment on Beaufort West, *Truck Stop* (2005), the programme gives a picture of the situation of teenage girls who are exploited by passing truck drivers and motorists. It interviews teenage girls, school principals, parents, and other community members who speak about the exploitation and issues of unemployment, substance and drug abuse, and the collapse of family structures. The video gives documentary evidence of a prominent figure, picking up girls under 18, from the main road. The video interviews sexually exploited girls and young women, a trucker, ministers of churches and educators, to give a multi-faceted view of the issue. It also gives a perspective on the dire unemployment situation.

7. Definition of the sexual exploitation of children

For the purpose of this report, a child is defined, as per the Constitutional definition cited

¹⁷ Barnes-September, R., Brown-Adam, I., Myane, A., Kowen, D., & Dyason, G., (2000). Child victims of prostitution in the Western Cape. Belville: Institute for Child and Family Development, University of the Western Cape.

¹⁸ Originally published in The Pretoria News, page 2, May 03 2007. Published on the WWW by IOL publishers on 03 May 2007.

above, as a person less than 18 years of age. The Stockholm Agenda for Action defines commercial sexual exploitation of children as 'sexual abuse by the adult and remuneration in cash or kind to the child or to a third person or persons...(it) constitutes a form of coercion and violence against children and amounts to forced labour and a contemporary form of slavery'.¹⁹

Two commonly used definitions of the sexual exploitation of children are:

- 'use of a child for sexual purposes in exchange for cash or favours between the customer, intermediary or agent and others (parent, family member, procurer and teacher) that profit from the trade in children for these purposes.
- 'act of engaging or offering the services of a child to perform sexual acts for money or other consideration with that person or any other person'.²⁰

For the purpose of this report, we have written from Molo Songololo's departure point that understands the sexual exploitation of children to refer to the financial exploitation as well as exploitation through taking unfair advantage of a child's vulnerability.

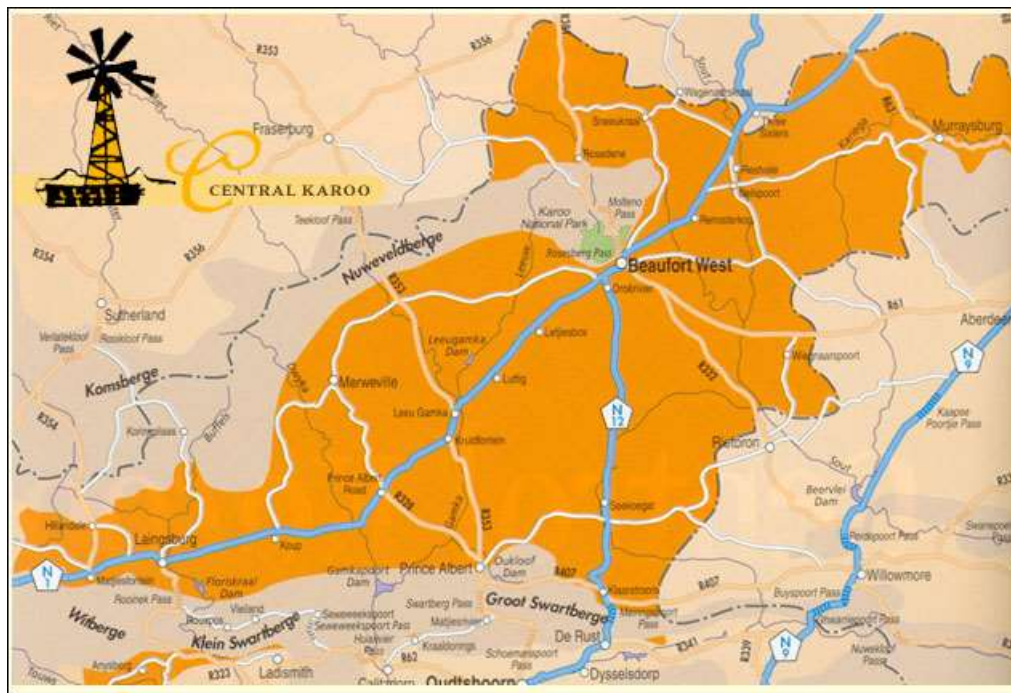
8. Demographic profile for Beaufort West

Beaufort West, the oldest town in the Central Karoo, is situated in the Western Cape (see map below). Its road links to the surrounding major cities meaning that tourists and truckers travel through and often overnight.

¹⁹ Children on the edge, Molo Songololo report by Karen Koen, page 115.

²⁰ Ibid, 116.

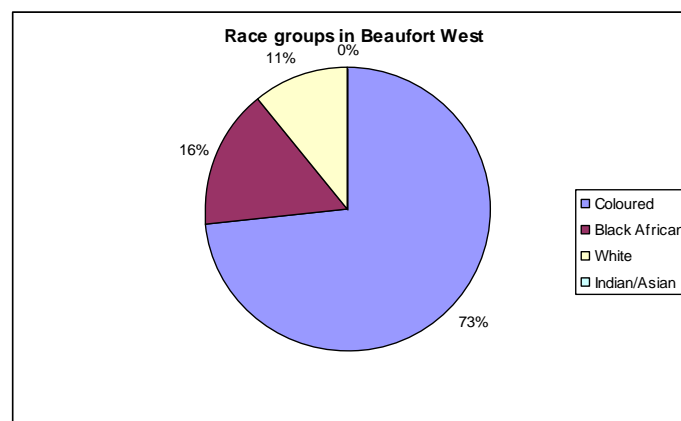
Figure 6: Map of Beaufort West



The most recent background available on Beaufort West comes from the census of 2001. It indicates that almost a quarter of the population is unemployed, and a high level of low-income earners.

As of the census of 2001, there are 37,073 people residing in the municipality. As can be seen in the graph below, the racial composition of the municipality is 73 % Coloured, 16% Black African, 11% White and 0% Indian/Asian²¹.

Figure 7: Population according to Race



The municipality is comprised of 15887 people under the age of 19 years.

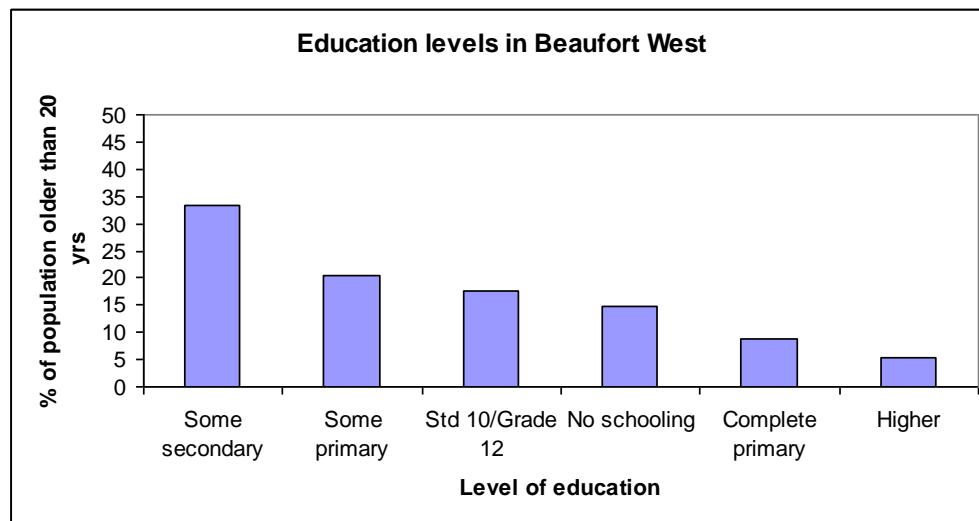
²¹ Please note that these figures have been rounded off.

In terms of gender, for every 100 females there are 92.4 males.

8.1 Education levels

Of residents aged 20 and over 33% have had some high school education, 20% have had some primary school, 18% have finished only high school, 15% have received no schooling, 9% have completed only primary school, and 5% have an education higher than the high school level.

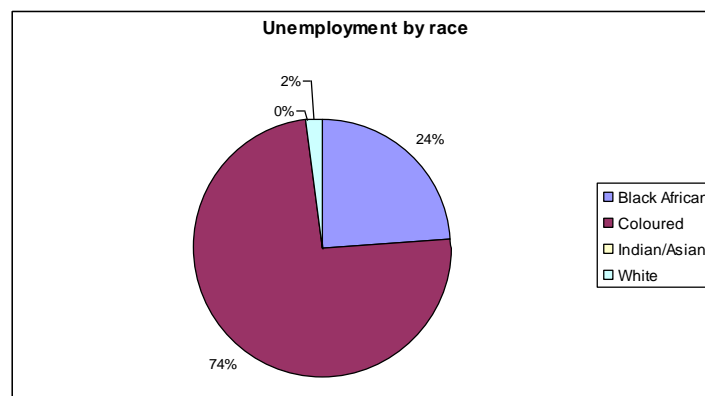
Figure 8: Education levels in Beaufort West



8.2 Unemployment levels

In terms of unemployment, 22 % of the population aged 15-65 is unemployed. As can be seen in the graph below, of the unemployed persons, 24% are Black African, 75% are Coloured, 0% are Indian/Asian, and 2% are White²².

Figure 9: Unemployment according to Race



²² Due to rounding off, numbers do not add up to 100%. The actual figures for unemployment are 26.3% Black African, 74.8% Coloured, 0.1% Asian/Indian and 1.6% white.

8.3 Income levels for Beaufort West

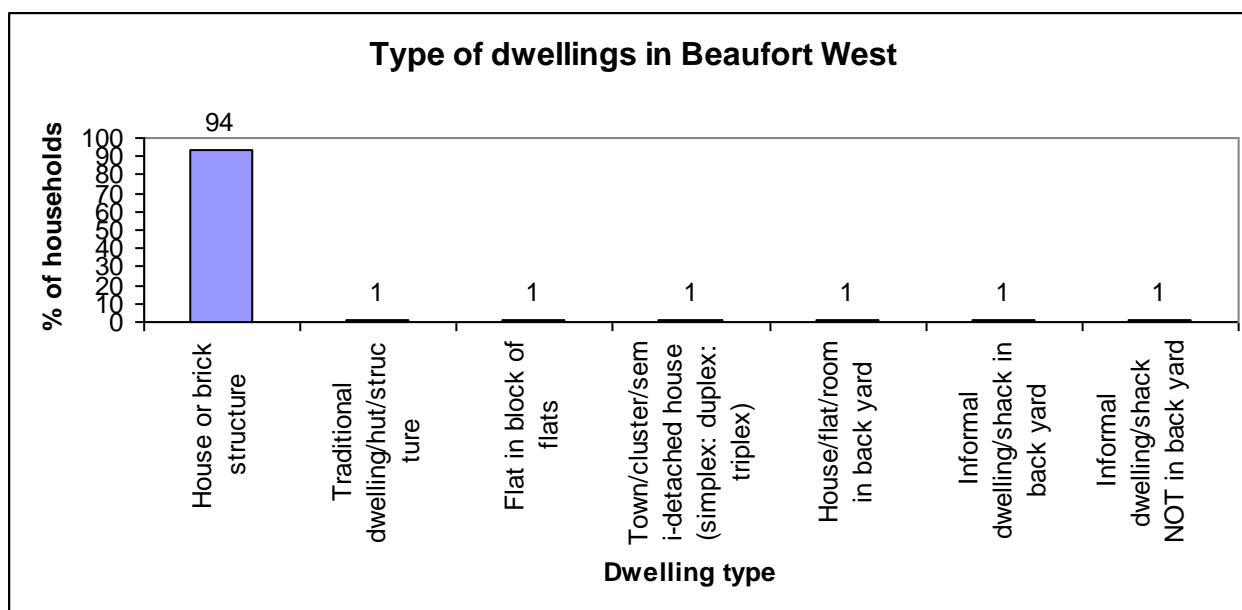
The table below displays the monthly income levels for the Beaufort West population aged 15-65 years, indicating that a minority of people have no income, and a high number earn very little, between R1.00 and R 1600 per month.

Table 2: Income levels for Beaufort West

Amount earned	Beaufort West
No income	141
R 1 - R 400	1442
R 401 - R 800	1936
R 801 - R 1600	1436
R 1601 - R 3200	1255
R 3201 - R 6400	1021
R 6401 - R 12800	400
R 12801 – or more	172

8.4 Housing

There are 8,987 households residing in Beaufort West with an average household size of 4.13 people per household. The types of dwellings are displayed in the graph below. Most people in Beaufort West live in a house or brick structure on a separate stand or yard (93%). Other dwellings include traditional huts, flats, town/cluster/semi detached houses, house/flat/room in back yard, and informal dwelling in back yard.

Figure 10: Type of dwellings in Beaufort West

Furthermore, Beaufort West has a population density²³ of 2.27/km² and a household density²⁴ of 0.55/km².

This information on housing in Beaufort West is illustrated in the table below.

Table 3: Summary of Housing stats for Beaufort West

Total population in Beaufort West	37,073
Number of households residing in municipality	8,987
Population density	2.27/km ² .
Density of household	0.55/km ² .
Average household size	4.13

8.5 Crime Statistics

The crime statistics on the sexual exploitation of children are not specifically listed, in the SAPS reports, as shown below. It is not clear from our research how many cases actually get reported and included in other statistics such as rape and violence against women and children. The crime statistics below show a drop in reported crime from previous years for Beaufort West, with the exception in the three following categories: neglect and

²³ Population density is the number of persons per unit of area.

²⁴ Household density is the number of households per unit of area.

ill-treatment of children (15 reported cases in 2005/6); drug related crimes (319 reported cases in 2005/6) and culpable homicide (27 cases in 2005/6). The incidents mentioned by the respondents in the report leaves no doubt that many cases of violence in all its forms, are not reported to the police. The reasons for under reporting of cases are not discernible from the focus of this study.

Table 4: Crime statistics for Beaufort West

Information Management - South African Police Service

Crime in the RSA for April to March 2001/2002 to 2005/2006

Province : Western Cape

Area : Southern Cape

Station : Beaufort West

Beaufort West was the recipient of Merweville, Nieuveland and Nelspoort

Crime Category	April to March				
	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006
Murder	37	24	30	31	22
Rape	65	69	67	55	34
Attempted murder	17	9	19	19	2
Assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm	624	496	527	541	403
Common assault	608	559	460	670	582
Robbery with aggravating circumstances	27	40	95	57	38
Common robbery	119	121	111	113	54
Indecent assault	13	9	22	25	9
Kidnapping	4	3	6	2	2
Abduction	5	2	4	2	2
Neglect and ill-treatment of children	12	7	4	10	15
Culpable homicide	20	23	25	18	27
Public violence	5	3	8	6	3
Carjacking (subcategory of aggravated robbery)	0	0	0	0	0
Truck hijacking (subcategory of aggravated robbery)	0	0	0	0	0
Bank robbery (subcategory of aggravated robbery)	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery of cash in transit (subcategory of aggravated robbery)	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery at residential premises (subcategory of aggravated robbery)	-	3	0	0	0
Robbery at business premises (subcategory of aggravated robbery)	-	0	1	1	0
Arson	20	13	9	7	5
Malicious damage to property	368	303	366	278	255
Crimen injuria	213	213	193	275	169
Burglary at residential premises	445	417	451	383	276
Burglary at business premises	193	165	140	79	64
Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle	14	9	5	5	7
Theft out of or from motor vehicle	161	142	206	142	112
Stock-theft	91	143	138	73	64
Illegal possession of firearms and ammunition	2	5	12	10	7
Drug-related crime	86	79	142	270	319
Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs	37	32	33	64	112
All theft not mentioned elsewhere	987	908	979	879	629
Commercial crime	67	37	39	74	30
Shoplifting	122	128	208	178	157

9. Findings

9.1 *Nature, extent and manifestations of CSE for Beaufort West*

9.1.1 *Community problems in general, as perceived by all respondents*

Adult community members identified the following as the main problems, in general, in Beaufort West. Of the 27 adults who were interviewed at an in-depth level, the following themes arose: **Unemployment and poverty, substance abuse, parenting issues, violence in many forms, HIV, AIDS and pregnancy, issues of denial of the exploitation** within the community. Overall, there is an indication of a sense from these interviews, of feelings of **disempowerment**.

Unemployment and poverty were considered by 17 respondents, to be the greatest problem in Beaufort West. There were 18 responses which identified **substance abuse**, 9 of which specifically pointed to alcohol abuse as a community problem, with the other nine responses stating drug abuse, with dagga and tik named as drugs of choice, by three respondents. **Parenting issues** were stated by seven respondents as community problems, three of whom listed that there was no respect between children and adults; another three said that the school drop out rate for children was a problem, while one said that children were often neglected, or had no adult supervision. Added to this was **teenage pregnancy** problems, as noted by two respondents. **HIV and AIDS** complicated the community's problems, according to five respondents. Domestic **violence** was perceived by two respondents, and physical and verbal abuse towards children was seen as adding to this, by one respondent. Societal violence in the form of crimes (such as theft) and violent crimes was reported as a contributing factor by three respondents. The community was perceived as being in **denial on the issues of sexual exploitation of children**. One respondent said that the youth are sexually active and two others said that girls have relationships with older men. As one respondent put it, "It [CSE] has been a problem for many years. It was undercover but now it is done publicly without any shame." Three different respondents made statements that, when analysing the discourse show the sense of **disempowerment** in the community. The power dynamic between children and adults was summarised succinctly by one respondent who noted "small children/big men". One other said, "In our community there are no institutions who can help children to develop and empower themselves in issues that challenge them.". In conjunction with these senses, one who spoke of unemployment stated, as a community problem a sense of giving up: "Unemployed, lot of people are unemployed. Poverty, lack of care". The most telling thought was one respondent who expressed that "There is no vision among the youth".

In this small sample, between the lines of unemployment and poverty, a few of the respondents have expressed feelings of disempowerment, as one of the underlying community problems.

9.2 Introduction to perceptions, attitudes, opinions and responses to the sexual exploitation of children in Beaufort West

9.2.1 Children

Four respondents, one child, two young adult women, and one child-friend gave their perceptions to the questions in this section.

All four respondents perceived that sexual exploitation was "not ok". "I feel what I'm doing is out of control. It went too far" said one. Another felt that others judged her for being involved, but that she felt good when with the truckers:

"People judge me and swear at me on the street. [The] feeling is nice between truck drivers, they buy [me] alcohol, cool drink, dagga."

The child's comment on sexual exploitation revealed a knowledge of the limits of this activity:

"Children's future is bad. Their thoughts is not right. They sell their bodies. Drugs is not your life it can kill you, it is not a good idea, they must leave it, must learn to say no."

The child-friend stated in two responses that her friends were "not ashamed" and did not see exploitation as a problem, and tried to lure her into exploitation, herself. One of the young adult women expressed wanting something different from life: "I feel very bad because I want a decent job".

9.2.2 Adults

Most of the responses in this section of the questionnaire, were prefaced with the words "I feel bad" in one form or another. The themes that emerged here from the 25 adult respondents were as follows: **the serious situation of exploited children in Beaufort West, ambivalent attitudes, feelings of helplessness and disempowerment, opinions on interventions and normalisation of exploitation.**

The perception of 22 of the adults who engaged with this question, stated in various ways that they thought the issue of **exploited children in Beaufort West was a very serious problem**. It clearly made them feel awful to talk about it. Two respondents perceived that the problem wasn't a serious one; the 23rd stated that their perception of the numbers of exploited girls had declined to less than "ten girls" in 2007, while the 24 and 25th adults, both parents of exploited children, stated their **ambivalent attitudes**, as follows:

"Sex for favours/prostitution is not a problem because these children help us because we are unemployed so they put food on the table." ... "I feel very bad with this because some of the children are still young and some truckers [could've] been their fathers."

"It is a problem but there's nothing we can do because these children are looking after their families. ... I don't feel okay [about my child being on the street], but she's helping us with the money that she earns at the truck shop. ... I would change it if I can find a decent job and house."

On the question of perception on the involvement of adult third parties who facilitate the exploitation, 14 responses directed anger, particularly at parents, and to a lesser extent at children, for allowing involvement in sexual exploitation. Three responses indicated a

perception that parents didn't know what their children were involved in. Four respondents indicated that they were aware of adults who themselves were involved in sexual exploitation.

This **helpless feeling** at trying to face the reality of the sexual exploitation of children, pervades all of the adult interviews on this question. Respondents expressed helplessness in a remorseful manner when speaking about the problem - eight responses detailed what adults wished they could do to make a better life for children, so that they would not have to turn to sexual exploitation. Three respondents illustrate this point:

"I feel very bad and disappointed in my community because this is not a right way for children to react"; "The situation is overboard but we've been in denial and ignorant."; "I just wish I had resources to help these kids. I would rescue them."

Two respondents made statements, which indicated perceptions of normalisation of the situation:

"My daughter comes with her truck man here [to] the house and we talk together".

"It is a big problem in our community but some of the parents don't see it as problem because parents do benefit from their children."

On **opinions on interventions** that would change the problem of sexual exploitation, nine responses were made. These ranged from community commitment to intervene through education, awareness campaigns, parents taking more responsibility, the government and children themselves taking action, through to better parenting skills, and getting employment.

Five responses emerged on the attitudes of being powerless and what could be done to empower a change on the issue:

"Prostitution is more bigger than you can think of in Beaufort West and people aren't really empowered/capacitated enough to fight it that is why it is growing by the day."

The thread of poverty as a reason, adds to the thoughts on disempowerment, as one respondent stated,

"I ask some of the girls why they sell their bodies some will say because of poverty we feel that this is the only way for us to be able to put food on the tables for families."

One respondent with a child involved in exploitation stated that

"I feel that I didn't do my best raising [her]. I feel that I was not strict enough when she was in her teenage stage. I feel powerless because when I try to talk to her she doesn't react positively."

These 25 responses indicate an understanding of the complexities of the exploitation of

children, in particular the growing sense of helplessness and disempowerment and anger of/at the adults who are involved directly and tacitly within the community.

9.2.3 Service Providers

Of the ten service providers, three responded to the questions on these issues. One responded that the Beaufort West community sees sexual exploitation as normal. A second responded with the viewpoint that children were exploited because they didn't respect their own bodies. A third felt that the community has not reacted to the fact that children are exploited:

"The community has done nothing. Some are drug dealers so they receive money from these kids when they sell drugs to them so the community is just relaxed."

9.3 Causes and effects of the sexual exploitation of children as perceived by respondents in Beaufort West

This section considers what leads children to become involved in exploitation and what the effects are on these children. The total of 31 respondents on these issues includes children, adults and a service provider cannot draw conclusive evidence of any sort regarding the causes and effects of the sexual exploitation of children. From the adult community member responses alone, nine themes emerged out of their answers on cause and effect:

- unemployment and poverty;
- parenting and abuse/neglect of children by their families;
- the abuse of alcohol and drugs by parents and families;
- issues around adolescence;
- materialist desires;
- getting attention from parents - wanting love and care;
- an inability to cope with rape and family sexual abuse;
- the broader community taking advantage of the vulnerability of the children;
- drug abuse, alcohol addiction and giving sex in exchange;
- Pregnancy, HIV and AIDS.

Qualitatively, these 31 respondents' responses on cause and effect, paint a picture of a context of helplessness. This was expressed by respondents, as being on the receiving end of unemployment, poverty, in addition to battling with a lack of structural support systems. The effects of this situation and context, is perceived in resulting in children become involved in sexual exploitation.

Children

Four children's responses are considered here. They stem from one girl child, and two young adult women, and one friend of a child who is being sexually exploited.

On the causes, given as reasons why these four girls/young women have sex with people that give them gifts, and/or drugs and/or money, one responded that she had no reason, other than that she liked the money. Another one said due to her rape, she used drugs to help her and needed to support her drug habit which she did through selling sex, also stealing cellphones and wallets. Three out of the four said that they allowed themselves to be exploited because of poverty and unemployment in Beaufort West. One of these last three noted that some girls also did this 'for fun' and that older men found 'young girls are sexy and flexible'.

Their responses also show that sexual violence is a dominant theme. Three of the four respondents stated they had been raped.

The following quotation from one, shows one instance of how this girl is vulnerable in the area she lives in and how the rape was handled, within her family:

"Last year I was on my way to the truck stop to get some money from my previous boyfriend. A guy followed me and grabbed me from behind. He threatened me with a "skaapsker" and raped me. I told my sister but she didn't lay a charge."

The second, a young adult woman also spoke of a rape, and how she handled this.

"In 2003 I walked under the bridge at the N.1 from the truck shop. A man on a bicycle had a knife and threatened to kill me. He raped me. Two girls and three men heard my shouting and rescued me. I laid a charge against this man, he got a life sentence."

From these four respondents, the issue of sexual violence in addition to poverty and unemployment is perceived to account for the effect of allowing themselves to be sexually exploited.

9.3.1 Adult Community Members

All the 26 respondents had much to say about the causes and effects. Causes were attributed as follows.

Issues of **unemployment and poverty** accounted for much of the commentary, with 19 respondents perceiving that sexual exploitation was a way of earning income in families in Beaufort West. This was often expressed as there being no money in the home, and in terms of children going hungry, no food available. As one respondent expressed it,

"It is very bad...I ask some of the girls why they sell their bodies. Some will say, because of poverty, we feel that this is the only way for us to be able to put food on the table for families."

A lack of attention and warmth can be linked to issues of **parenting and abuse/neglect, of children by their families**, was noted by 14 respondents. This included parental neglect, the inability of parents to set boundaries, the problems parents faced due to unemployment and substance abuse. The **abuse of alcohol and drugs by parents and**

families and domestic violence/sexual abuse, was specifically noted by eight respondents as part of the reasons why children left home and got involved in sexual exploitation.

On **Adolescent issues** 7 adults responded that they perceived one of the reasons for children to get involved, was because it was fun. "Some of these children are just naughty and do it for the fun of it." Another 7 responses noted that it was due to peer pressure. **Materialist desires** were noted by five respondents as reasons for involvement. This included the perception that children wanted goods such as cellphones, jewelry fashionable clothes, toiletries, which their parents were unable to afford.

Other reasons linked to adolescence concerned children loitering around in the community. Three respondents linked it to this, one saying that children get involved in "nice times, because there is nothing to do [in Beaufort West]." At least two other respondents linked sexually exploitative activities to adolescent experimentation.

Another three respondents noted that **getting attention from parents and wanting love and care** were also reasons that children were becoming sexually exploited. An **inability to cope with rape and family sexual abuse**, was listed by two respondents, as a reason for resorting to sexually exploitative behaviour.

The effects of these problems were attributed as follows.

The result of the combination of poverty, a lack of employment opportunities, the difficulties which children and young adults face, was found by eight respondents to result in the **broader community taking advantage of the vulnerability of the children**. Said one, "Children get exploited because men take advantage of children and they abuse their powers on them."

The vicious cycles of **drug abuse and alcohol addiction and giving sex in exchange**, to support the drug habit and make sexual exploitation and other unbearable life situations bearable, was perceived as an effect, by five respondents.

One respondent named **Pregnancy** as an effect, citing single parenthood as a result of sexual exploitation where contraception was not used. **HIV and AIDS** was perceived by one respondent as one of the detrimental effects of sexual exploitation.

9.3.2 Service Providers

One social worker said she they knew of a 13 year old child who was involved in sexual exploitation and became HIV positive. It was perceived that the child contracted the HIV virus from her clients.

9.4 Respondents perceptions of the manifestation of sexual exploitation for money and favours, including pornography, in Beaufort West

9.4.1 Children

Children counted for six of the respondents on these issues, two child/adults and three child-friends made for the total of 11 responses in this section. One child in was hesitant about giving information.

Findings from these respondents are found in the following themes:

- Ten out of the 11 respondents said that they personally knew of children who were or had been sexually exploited. The children mentioned were girl children.
- there is a perception that clients can be seen as **boyfriends**, but that a boyfriend is a person with whom one has an emotional attachment, and who does not pay for sex. There is a perception that boyfriends are aware that their girlfriends are sexually exploited by other men.
- there is a perception amongst these respondents that their **involvement in sexual exploitation starts** in different ways, for differing reasons. One is that their friends are involved, and there is adolescent peer pressure to join in, often based on the material goods certain friends obtain for being sexually exploited. Some said that they felt they had no choice in what they were doing, as they were responsible for putting food on the table at home. Most of the children said that they gave some of their money earned in this way to their parents. Most said that parents were aware of what their children were doing.
- Items received **in exchange for sex** were toiletries, clothes, food, cellphones, jewelry, money, drugs and alcohol. The sex mentioned by this group included protected and unprotected sex, straight sex and blow jobs. Money received in return for sex varied in amounts from R30 to R200, per activity, dependent on who was paying. Another reason given is that children feel under pressure to put food on the table at home. Some stated that they felt cared for by their clients. Some also stated that they coped with the exploitation by taking drugs and drinking alcohol.
- The sexual activity was perceived by this group as happening in the front of trucks, at the truck stop/shop, in a room set aside for this in shebeens, in community homes, in back yards, public open spaces, construction sites and in 'smokkelyards', 'smokkelhuise', and drug houses or 'tik huise'.

The following constructed narrative of a child-adult who is sexually exploited in Beaufort West, illustrates some of the above points

“Yes, [I make a contribution to the money in my home]. I feel forced to have sex: when I see there is no food in the house. I was once raped. I walked under the bridge at the N.1 from the truck shop. A man on a bicycle had a knife and threatened to kill me. He raped me, 2 girls and 3 men heard my shouting and rescue me. I laid a charge against this man, he got a life sentence. I get the money from truckers. [One] is over 40 from Cape Town. If I need something I just call him for money. He paid money to my account. We know each other for two years now. We are working at a relationship. It started at the Truck Shop.

He called me and asked me if I want to do business. I said yes. After a month we started to see each other on a regular basis. He gives me money, he buys me shoes and clothes. We have sex if he comes to Beaufort-Wes, every week. We only have sex in front of the truck at the truck shop. My friends do blow jobs for R30.00. I ask R50.00 for sex.

I work, except on Mondays and Wednesdays. If I'm not in the mood I stay at home. I also have other clients. My mother is aware of what I'm doing. Friends also do what I'm doing. When I was younger I told them [truckers] that I was 23 years old. I'm giving my real age now. I have sex with different people. The truck drivers call me or I approach them. If I manage to get enough money I also give my family. I buy clothes, food and toiletries [for myself]. A client once forced me. It was Monday evening. A client was busy with me and he [another man] forced himself on me, I said he must stop.

My friend who is also a girl and is involved in prostitution asked him, he must leave me alone. Once, after we had sex the clients told me they don't have money I must come back. I felt used and sad. After giving birth I stopped using contraception. My child is at home."

9.4.2 Adults

From the 27 adult respondents, the following themes emerged.

All the respondents said that they knew of **children being sexually exploited**. Most referred to girl children, and in two responses, the sexual exploitation of boy children was mentioned. There was a consistent perception that the truckers, and older men, sometimes married men, were the main perpetrators. The fact that they were married men was also mentioned. Married men from the local and other communities were also mentioned as the sexual exploiters of children. Some responses showed adults perceiving that perpetrators lured children with drugs and alcohol, and that shebeen owners encouraged underage children to drink. Adults saw children standing on the road, or waiting at the truck centre, to meet truckers. Reasons for the exploitation as given in responses included the perception of poverty amongst families and that the exploitation paid for food and clothes in homes; lack of parental attention was also a reason given. Adults perceived that children didn't go missing, but went on trips with truckers to George, Port Elizabeth, Johannesburg. There was a perception that children got paid more money if they went on these trips, or alternatively returned with material goods such as clothes and jewelry. Sexual activity was perceived as taking place in taverns, inns, the truck stop/shop, shebeens, tikhouses, clubs, 'smokkelhuise', private homes, back yards of homes.

In **exchange for sexual favours**, children received **money**, perceived by adults as being between the amounts of R10 to R200. There was one response which indicated that unprotected sex elicited a higher fee (R150) than protected sex (R100). There was also the perception that they used this money to buy food for themselves, and their families. There were a few responses that indicated that clients gave money for food specifically for the families of exploited children. Children also received drugs (tik, dagga), cellphones, alcohol, jewelry, clothes. One respondent told of an incident, in which two seven year old boys were given bread in return for sex.

Pimps were perceived by the adult respondents, to be friends, particularly older friends, parents, and shebeen owners.

The following two stories document the sexual exploitation from two personal adult view points: a parent of a sexually exploited child, and a sexually exploited adult.

"There are children who get to the truck shop to have sex for money to buy food including my daughter. Some of the girls are having sex for drugs - the truck drivers buy drugs (tik) and after they have smoked they sleep with the girls. My daughter and her friends are involved in prostitution. The girls have sex for money and then buy tik and food with the money they get from truckers. There's a girl who was chased away from home by her parent so she stays with us, she's also involved in prostitution. My daughter meets here in my house with her friend and some go to Donkin Street in town and meet with some guys there. They get money in return. how much depends how many guys they've slept with - it starts at R200.00 per night. They go with their friends. Friends [are pimps] involved. We are struggling as parents so we send our children to make money at the truck shop. Children do go there [to shebeens] and drink something and then meet with the guys in taverns when they are drunk. Children don't go missing they just go for tours and are used by their boyfriend who is a truck driver. My daughter has 6 friends that she that she goes with to the truck shop. They go anytime because they are being called (by phone) by the truckers to come. Children stand on the street very often - everyday of the month. My daughter brings her boyfriend here at our home. She used to come with a lot of money and I asked her one day, she said I'm getting it over the bridge that's when I realised she was involved. My daughter was raped at the age of 15 years old and when she was 16 years old she started becoming involved. I do consent, because if I don't there won't be food for us to eat and clothes to wear. I don't feel okay but she's helping us with the money that she earns at the truck shop."

"I started long ago but I was introduced in 1988 when I was 13 years old, with all my friends. We were few, but now it had grown to be a business for our young kids. There is one girl who is involved in prostitution and she is permanently involved, she's 16 years old and denies it. Most of the children get money and buy alcohol some buy tik to take away the shame. I know that young children go in groups to the Shebeens with the intentions of impressing guys with nice clothes that shows a bit of flesh, guys will then ask to buy them beer, they'll agree with the knowledge of giving something in return. They mostly get money and alcohol. How much they get depends on how you impress the guys the way you dress, and how are you structured [physically]. Girls go in groups and one will

target her own truck asking if any of the truckers is interested. They go in groups there are no pimps. Children recruit each other because they are young, they are easily lured by their age groups because some of them see cell phones that the others having so they'll start to be involved. Children do go to shebeens after they've already come from the truck stop they will then buy expensive alcohol and impress others. Some of the girls have boyfriends in the community who know about their involvement in prostitution. They go everyday because some are breadwinners at home if they don't go there won't be something to eat at home. They've become wise, they don't stand on the road the guys call them on their cell phone to come and meet them at a certain place truck stop or Main road. [The sex takes place at] the truck stop. I was involved in prostitution but stopped when I got AIDS and couldn't satisfy guys because sometimes I felt weak and sick. Poverty makes parents to give consent to their kids to be involved in prostitution to earn money for food."

9.4.3 Service Providers and Focus Groups

Of the 10 service providers who made responses, the following themes and issues emerged:

- All 10 of them stated that they knew **children were being sexually exploited** in Beaufort West. Many of them said that it was due to poverty. Some said that they were aware that parents not only knew about this, but that they themselves took their children to places to be sexually exploited. There is a sense from these responses that sexual exploitation is a normalised occupation in Beaufort West. There was a perception from a few that children denied that they were being prostituted, that they had boyfriends, not clients. One said that they knew of a child as young as 10 years who was exploited.
- Their perceptions of what was given to children **in exchange for sex** were money, lifestyle items, cellphones, gifts, bank accounts, food, jewelery, cellphones, clothes and expensive label clothes, drugs, alcohol. There was also the perception that children were receiving love and care where they did not get this from their parents. **Drugs** given in exchange for sex were named as tik (or 'tjoef'), dagga. These and alcohol were perceived by some of these respondents to be a lure to the children, to get them involved in sexual activity. The perception was that the sexual activity took place in illegal shebeens, inns and taverns, the truckshop, private homes, industrial areas, 'smokkel yards' and a hired house for truckers to use for this purpose, in one instance.
- There was a perception that **gangsters** were not involved in pimping children, but were involved in other crimes like stealing and housebreaking. **Pimps** were perceived as being friends of children, parents of children, and the clients themselves.

Stories from service providers, which document these themes:

"I used to distribute condoms and I saw a room at the back [of an inn] where young girls, 14-15 years, go inside those rooms with old men and they are being given sex there. There is one who told me that the only way that they can get money is by sleeping with the people."

"I am aware that many girls do it. There is a girl who used to come to the truck centre but she is sick now. She is HIV positive. She is 13 years and she said that she is the bread winner at home. If she does not come home with something from the truck centre, her parents beat her."

"We had a case of a mother and child (22 years) who are both prostitutes and they go together to the truck shop."

"Parents will agree that their children can be exploited to be able to receive money and take care of some of their daily needs, e.g. food, clothes."

"There is a young girl who is 13 years. She comes with her brothers to the truck centre and she let the boys go and ask if the truckers were interested. If they say yes, she goes in and has sex with them and comes back with money. Then I asked her why she is using her brothers this way and she said that they are my bodyguards"

Of the four focus group responses, the following story from one focus group member gives input in the form of one incident in terms of the exploitation of boys in Beaufort West.

"A man who moves around in all areas of Beaufort West, injects boys with drugs with an injection needle and then uses the boys sexually. He kept a 7 year old boy for 4 days at his place without the parents knowing about it. He built his own shack and walks around with a young woman. The boy whose mother reported it said that the boy felt guilty because the man gave him the option of not having the drug for sex, but the boy chose to have the drug and then the man had sex with him."

9.5 Pornography in Beaufort West

9.5.1 Children

Five respondents, three children involved in sexual exploitation, one friend of a sexually exploited child, and one young sexually exploited adult woman, gave their perceptions on involvement in pornography in Beaufort West. They related who the **perpetrators** were, **how this was done, who with, and how they felt** about it.

One out of the five children said that they had never had anybody photograph/video them naked.

There were six responses from four of the respondents that indicated that they knew pornography involving children was a practice. One of the responses attributed the following story to a "rumour":

"I heard rumours that a shebeen owner's son was arrested for pornography on his computer. He took photos of drunk naked girls that's been sexually exploited, that visits the shebeen."

Three children and one young adult woman related how they had personally been recently involved in pornographic exploitation. The **perpetrators**: one respondent said that it was a "sugar daddy" who saved pornographic pictures of the child (whom she personally knew), on his computer and showed his friends the pictures. Another respondent said one of her friends (also sexually exploited) was photographed by a man with whom she was in a "relationship", who also took pictures of another naked girl. She explained **how this was** done. He took the pictures with a cell phone and used them as a screensaver on his laptop. One other respondent corroborated this story, giving the same details. One respondent described a recent incident, which details payment: "Some guy did it to me and my friend. He paid me R200.00. Me and the guy had sex - he took a photo with his cell phone." Her friend was paid R100.00.

Another respondent explained an incident where her friend was "happy" because she received R50,00, chocolates and some Kentucky Fried Chicken, in payment for having photographs taken of her naked. Another respondent said that she didn't know what they did with naked photographs taken of her. One child expressed the **feeling** that she was not aware of what was going to happen with the photo, and that this made it seem less important. Another respondent said that she didn't feel bad while she was being photographed, because she was "gedot" [drunk] at the time.

In these interviews, the tone of these responses to the fieldworkers on this question, is one describing a normalised action. Through the graphic description of what is photographed and how it is done (not cited here), a sense is conveyed that this is not perceived by those involved as sexual exploitation, but an accepted practice.

9.5.2 Adult perceptions of pornography

Of the 12 adult community members who responded to this issue, six said that there was no pornography going on in their community. Four adult respondents said that they didn't know, or weren't sure whether this was a practice in Beaufort West. Two adults said that children in school were exposed to pornographic pictures in school. One respondent said that

"Based on rumours, guys give alcohol/drugs to children and when are under the influence. Someone/friends will perform the activity (sex) while the other one take picture/photos."

There were no indications that these 12 adults were aware that there was payment for pornographic media which exploited children in the manner the children's responses had described, in this report.

9.5.3 Service Providers

Of the eight respondents on this issue, 3 said that they were not aware of pornography that involved children. Four respondents said that they were aware of pornography. Two respondents said that the perpetrators paid for the pornographic exploitation, with food,

alcohol and drugs. One of these respondents related one story:

"A professional photographer from Cape Town took photos of girls at a shebeen and the truck shop where they were sexually exploited and published them on the internet. Before he exploited them he buy food and alcohol for these girls."

This respondent went on to say that the girls were made drunk before they were photographed. Two respondents said the celebrity photographer, boyfriends and friends were perpetrators involved in pornographic activities which involved the sexual exploitation of girls. Three responses indicated that a 16 year old girl, "young girls", and "girls" were exploited in pornographic activity.

9.6 A profile of sexually exploited children and the perpetrators of this exploitation in Beaufort West

Perceptions of the profile of exploited children and perpetrators, as noted by all respondents, with regard to the relationship between exploited children and perpetrators

9.6.1 Children on the perceived profile of perpetrators

Responses from eight children were from four sexually exploited children, two child-friends, and two young adult women, suggest that children who are sexually exploited, are involved with men within Beaufort West itself, such as scholars, and in one case, a municipal worker. The responses from the two young adult women who are sexually exploited, see the perpetrators as truckers coming from major urban South African centres.

Table 5: Profile of perpetrators according to children

Category	Description	perceived responses from
Relationship to child	boyfriend boyfriend	child 1 child 2
Married	perpetrator perpetrator	child/adult 1 child/adult 2
Not married	boyfriends perpetrator perpetrator	child 3 child/adult 1 child/adult 2
engaged to be married (to someone other than the child)	boyfriend	child 4
Gender - man	men	all
Gender - woman		no responses
Ages	about 40 21, 15 50 older than 30-40 years + - 21 50 - 56 and older 35-39	child 1 child 3 child 4 child/adult 1 child/adult 2 child/friend 1 child/friend 2
Perceived as living in BW	in the community in the community	child 1 child 2

Category	Description	perceived responses from
	in the community in the community in the community	child 3 child/friend1 child/friend2
Perceived as living elsewhere	from Cape Town from Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban from Cape Town, Johannesburg, Durban and Port Elizabeth	child 4 child/adult 1 child/adult 2
Occupation	working for municipality schooling truckdriver truckdrivers	child 1 child 3 child 4 child/adult 1
Background	divorced with two children from fiancé	child 4
Race	Coloured "African" Coloured, "darkies", Indians, Whites Coloured, "darkies", "Whities" Coloured All races, mostly Black	child 1 and 2 child 3 child/adult 1 child/adult child/friend1 child/friend2

9.6.2 Adult Community members on the perceived profile of perpetrators

From the total of 26 respondents, the details of perpetrators are given as follows:

Table 6: Profile of perpetrators according to adult community members

Category	Description	responses from respondents
Relationship to child		
Married	clients were married	26 adults
Not married	clients were not married	21 adults
Widows (women)	clients included a widow	1 adult response
Divorced	clients are divorced	5 adults
engaged to be married		1 response
Gender - man	clients are men	26 adults
Gender - woman	clients include widows as a category	1 response
Ages	Youngest = 20's Oldest = 80's "30 - 70. As long as you can pay"	20 responses 1 response
Perceived as living in BW	living within community	10 responses

Category	Description	responses from respondents
Perceived as living elsewhere	Cape Town Gauteng Johannesburg Pretoria Durban George Mossel Bay Port Elizabeth Bloemfontein Free State 'All over the world'	26 responses
Occupation (of typical client)	truck drivers business men government officials community people politicians policemen people with lots of money municipal workers professionals famous people tourists well respected BW community members Justice Department rich business people powerful people in BW people in high posts shebeen owners	23 responses 14 responses 5 responses 4 responses 4 responses 3 responses 2 responses 1 response 1 response 1 response 1 response 1 response 1 response 1 response 1 response 1 response 1 response 1 response
Background		
Race	All races Coloured White Black African Indian Xhosa Muslim	13 responses 10 responses 8 responses 5 responses 4 responses 4 responses 2 responses 1 response

9.6.3 Service Providers and Focus Group members on the perceived profile of perpetrators

The following responses were compiled from the ten service providers interviewed, and four focus group discussions. One observation from the one service provider deals with the perception that women are also involved in sexual exploitation as gleaned from a Beaufort West newspaper story:

"A boy talked about an "Auntie who buys lekker drank by die smokkeljaart en hy gee haar 'n lekker tydjie" (An auntie who buys nice alcohol at the shebeen for the boy, and then he gives her a 'good time'.)"

The responses here corroborate the qualitative information from the children, saying that

perpetrators are within and outside of the community, and are typically men of varying ages.

Table 7: Profile of perpetrators according to service providers

Category	Description	Perceived responses from
Relationship to child		
Married	'most of them are married' mostly married	Service provider 1 Focus group 3
Not married		
engaged to be married		
Gender - man	'normally men' men	Focus group 4 Focus group 2
Gender - woman	'auntie'	Service provider 1
Ages	men 20 years and older truckers - 35-55 years	Service provider 1 Focus group 3
Perceived as living in BW	in the community mostly the community	Focus group 1 Focus group 3
Perceived as living elsewhere	Very few from outside Cape Town and Johannesburg	Focus group 3
Occupation	business people, drug dealers, truckers	Focus group 3
Background		
Race	mostly coloured, "very few blacks"	Focus group 3

9.6.4 Children on the perceived profile of sexually exploited children

The six responses of two children, two child/adults and three friends of exploited children are considered here. One child said that she was in grade 9 at school. Both the children and one child/adult, stated that they had been raped; one of them said that she did not use any contraceptives. One child/adult said that she had friends who belonged to gangs, and that she only smoked with a gang. One child-friend noted that some of her exploited friends "don't eat everyday and they'll sometimes come to my house and I'll ask my mother to give them something to eat."

9.6.5 Adult Community members on the perceived profile of sexually exploited children

The responses of ten adult community members are considered here. Their responses show that they personally knew of children who were sexually exploited. From them we learn that the youngest known child to one of them who got involved started at 10 years. Others stated the starting ages as 13, 15, 16 and 17 years. One mentioned a young adult who had started at 18 years. Nobody stated that boys were involved. One said that the race of the girl she knew who was involved was coloured.

9.6.6 Service Providers on the perceived profile of sexually exploited children

The responses here were minimal, but one indicated that coloured girls were involved. Another noted that children drop out at schools in low grades. A third stated that the involvement depended on when that child was exposed to sexual exploitation.

9.7 Factors that impact on the vulnerability of children, placing them at risk of sexual exploitation in Beaufort West

9.7.1 Children

Of the five children, two child/adults and three child-friends who responded, the following themes emerged:

- There were severe problems encountered with parenting, which made them vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Responses indicated that children shared small spaces with extended family members. Up to nine, in one case. Children were made to work; one said she was a domestic worker, who received up to R300 per month in addition to money from boyfriend.
- Unemployment of parents was a factor often stated in these responses.
- Responses indicated that children dropped out of school at an early grade level because their parents can't afford school fees.

- Children spoke of domestic and sexual abuse by their family members. Women family were generally said to abuse alcohol and drugs, and be verbally abusive. Fathers, uncles, and step-fathers were experienced as sexually abusive.
- Children also spoke of being raped by non-family members.

The following story from one child illustrates a potentially vulnerable context:

"I grew up in Beaufort West, and was raised by my great-grandmother. She died in 2000. I started to smoke dagga, buttons, abused alcohol and ended school in standard 6. I started to give my family problems. I don't really have contact with my mother. I was suspended from school last year, because I sold tik on the school premises. I stole the tik. Me and my boyfriend, was involved [in this]. He died. He was stabbed last year."

9.7.2 Adults

Adult responses totalled 18 on this issue. The themes that emerged are:

- The biggest cause in the responses was perceived as a lack of parenting skills. This was seen as allowing children to get influenced by others when supervision or care is missing.
- Abusive backgrounds, particularly sexual abuse of children by fathers and uncles verbal abuse by substance abusing parents leads to problems. Domestic violence (beatings and stabbings) were also given by some

respondents as reasons for children's vulnerability.

- Respondents noted that becoming a parent while still a child was a big contributing factor to a lack of parenting skills. Single parenthood was also cited by a few as a particular problem.
- Unemployment, poor families, families on state grants which were not enough to provide basic needs such as food and school fees, were considered a factor by many of the respondents.
- Some respondents also felt that parents feel they can't support themselves and need children to help them bring in money.
- Low education levels were cited by many respondents, in relation to the problem of employment. One mother said,

"We have difficulties because my husband beats us and he also sleeps with my daughter's friends for R50.00."

Another young adult explained her home life scenario:

"I'm staying with my parents & my younger brother. My mother is unemployed and my father doesn't have a stable job and he drinks a lot every day, he is very violent when he is drunk, sometimes he beats up my mother for my wrong doings and abuses me verbally (swearing & calling me names). My younger brother is using drugs (tik) and I'm also unemployed."

9.7.3 Service providers

Of the ten service providers who responded, the following themes emerged:

- Respondents said that children came from poor homes; they spoke of children who were abandoned, and those who had parents often had no caretakers when these parents were unable to help
- Domestic violence, and sexual abuse were also cited as reasons. Parents were perceived by some respondents as encouraging children into prostitution, and as generally not having an interest in their children; they noted that a warm and caring environment was lacking.
- A few noted that children were forced by their parents to contribute financially to the home.

9.7.4 Focus group

Two respondents from the four focus groups, spoke of

- their perceptions that children are vulnerable in Beaufort West, because of no employment opportunities for youth and their parents.

One member cited this story:

"[A girl I know living in Beaufort West] is from Bloemfontein. Her step-father started to sexually abuse her from the age of 15 years. Every time when her

mother left them alone at he would have sex with her against her will. Sometimes he would sexually abuse her in front of her mother and she wouldn't say a word because she was afraid of him as he would physically abuse her as well. She was a prostitute from the age of 17 years. Because he didn't only abuse her sexually but also physically – he burned her with hot water all over her body. One day she decided to run away from home. She hiked on a truck and was sexually exploited along the way. When she got to Beaufort West, the driver sent her to the shop to buy bread and milk and he drove away when she returned from the shop. She then landed up being taken into the shelters, but she wishes to return to Bloemfontein where she will be living with her aunt but feels that there is no way out."

9.8 Assessment of the needs of the community regarding CSE in Beaufort West

9.8.1 Children on Support mechanisms and services needed in response to CSE offences

Of the seven respondents, four children, one child/adult and two child-friends, responded that the social development department is helpful to them. Two said that they got contraceptives from local clinics and got helpful assistance from the day hospital. One said that she had gone to NGOs for help (after the SABC's Special Assignment programme on the Truck Stop) but that they had not really been helpful. Two said they don't know of any helpful organisations. Two said that they went to helpful family members (an aunt) when they needed help, and one other mentioned trustworthy teachers 'who won't tell' that they are involved in exploitation.

9.8.2 Adults on Support mechanisms and services needed in response to CSE offences

Of the 26 adults who gave responses on this issue, the following experiences emerged. The dominant perception was that there weren't enough social services to assist with this problem.

While some said that they received help from local social and welfare services quite successfully, day hospital who treat them OK. Others indicated that there were not enough services to deal with the community's demands, nor to deal specifically with the issue of sexually exploited children. BADISA and NICRO were cited as helpful specifically for assistance to children, by almost a third of the respondents. One respondent mentioned a shelter at prince valley which accommodates children who were dropped by truck drivers at Beaufort West as a service addressing an effect of sexual exploitation. The VEP, PPASA and the Department of Health were mentioned as services which assisted in some domestic violence issues. There was also a perception that even when cases are reported, the police do not act on this information.

One adult's experience showed one side of the issue, when she requested an intervention from the Department of Social Development:

"[It was] bad. They were not interested. I asked for an appointment that my son can see a psychologist - he was almost sodomised. They did not take me into

consideration."

9.8.3 Service Providers on Support mechanisms and services needed in response to CSE offences

Out of the ten respondents in this group, one said that they report cases to the police. Another perceived that the municipality should provide housing and recreational facilities. One said,

"The community is in pain and anger, because of service providers who don't address the need of the people like crime, unemployment, child abuse which are taking place in the community."

9.9 Community service providers

A list of service providers for Beaufort West Community are attached in the appendix.

9.10 Recommendations for the prevention and reduction of CSE in Beaufort West

9.10.1 Children

Of the seven responses on recommendations, three children, two adult/children, and two child-friends responded. One child said that she "must go back to school." Two felt that they wanted to stop abusing drugs. Two said they wanted to leave Beaufort West to see if there was a future for them, but one felt that she didn't know how to make this happen.

Another expressed a recommendation in this way:

"I would love to change my situation but there is nothing in the community that can keep me busy like for instance drama classes, group discussions about sexual related issues and love life. [It would help] if there can be a peer educator who can organise classes that can educate us on our challenges that we face every day."

There was also the expression of willingness to leave exploitation, if the necessary help was available to do this. Said one,

"I will also do my part to stop prostitution in order for people to help me."

9.10.2 Adults

From the 26 respondents, the following recommendations were made:

- perpetrators must be jailed;
- there must be awareness campaigns on the issue of the human rights of those in the community, as well as drug, alcohol and sexual exploitation;
- trucks should only be allowed to get fuel in Beaufort West, and not stay overnight;

- parents and children need education on the issues, in order to recognise the signs of involvement;
- children need to go back to school and the government has to fund this so that it is within every family's reach;
- exploitation must be reported;
- parents who are abusers and ex-exploited adults need counselling themselves;
- children need to be heard and listened to;
- the community should make better use of what is available to them in terms of existing services;
- job creation for adults needed;
- close shebeens and get rid of drug dealers;
- safe houses where street children and abused children can stay and be supervised.
- rehabilitation centres are needed;
- previously involved exploited people need to stand up and explain what happens;

In stating that a way forward, one adult said,

"people must stop pointing fingers and say it is those people responsibility we must stand up and start to be responsible and involved in our kids well-being."

Another had compassion for the children involved:

"The community must stop criticising and take a step and help the children because they are trapped in these acts. Some feel helpless. They see CSE as the only source of income."

9.10.3 Service Providers

The ten service providers made the following recommendations:

- change the lifestyle of children;
- co operation between community and police is needed to take action against the shebeens without fear of recrimination;
- community members need to get training to become lay psychologists to work with the children;
- police should take children to a social worker to speak to them;
- distribute awareness material about prostitution;
- families need to report cases;

One focus group member expressed that children suffer low self-esteem; they needed motivational support and 'constant workshops' which motivated them.

10. Conclusion

In Beaufort West, there was an overwhelming perception from the responses of interviewees that unemployment and poverty were the background to domestic violence particularly against women and children and sexual exploitation of children. There was a startling perception in a few areas of the responses, indicated in the frank relation of evidence of sexual exploitation, that sexual exploitation was becoming a normalised and accepted activity in the community. In addition to this, was the perception that the helplessness and disempowerment felt by parents and children which drove them to such an acceptance, was something that had to be faced up to, and addressed. The picture painted by the respondent shows a community that is ready for an intervention, such as the type that Molo Songololo has planned.

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Cellphone sex movie gets two cops fired, Sheree Roussouw, The weekend Argus, 17 February 2007

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Now even children are committing acts of rape, Anél Powell, Cape Times, 13 April 2007

Appendix One: Fieldworker feedback report

As part of this research project, fieldworkers living in the communities being researched were recruited to conduct the fieldwork. This was done in order to build some kind of research skills and capacity among community members. Fieldworkers were therefore asked to give feedback on the research process in terms of:

- Research and other skills gained
- Challenges from the research process
- Personal changes that occurred as a result of being involved in this research, and
- Effectiveness of the training and mentoring received
- Recommendations

Research and other skills

Using a scale from one to five (where 1=poor, 2= fair, 3=satisfactory, 4=good, 5=excellent), fieldworkers had to rate how the research project assisted them in strengthening their skills.

The table below displays the results based on five respondents:

Skills/Rating	Poor	Fair	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent
Fieldworker co-ordination		1	1	3	
Interviewing techniques		1	2	2	
Writing up		1	1	2	1
Presentation/ Facilitation			1	3	

Fieldworker co-ordination

Respondents were asked whether this research project helped them to strengthen their co-ordination skills, particularly around setting up of interviews. Of respondents, three indicated “good”, one “satisfactory” and one “fair”. Some learnings were that it is important to plan properly, as indicated by two respondents:

“I learnt that you must always have a plan B, because sometimes an interview or focus group did not realize due to unforeseen circumstances...” (sic)

A respondent also indicated that they learnt the importance of sticking to due dates, confirming interviews and networking.

Interviewing skills

Two respondents indicated that had strengthened this “satisfactorily” and one indicated “good”.

Some of the key skills learnt that were mentioned were:

- Probing (3 respondents)
- Listening skills

- Staying neutral
- Summarising

Some of the challenges indicated were around staying neutral, probing and being patient with respondents who do not want to open up.

Another respondent commented that “the interview techniques were very useful in conducting interviews and I will use them in the future”.

Writing up

Respondents indicated that in terms of strengthening their skills in writing up of interviews, the research project was

- “Fair” (1 respondent)

“This process was the most interesting one. I sometimes laughed at my self as some of the sentences were not making sense but the group was very helpful”

- “Satisfactory” (1 respondents)

“Due to the language I must conduct the interview in Afrikaans then do the writing up in English – it was time consuming”

This respondent did however learn computer skills through writing up.

- “Good” (2 respondents)

“It was difficult from the start because you had to remember everything, but it helped me how to tell the story to someone who did not know the story”

- “Excellent” (1 respondent)

“I’ve learnt to write up everything that a person is telling me”

Presentation skills

Respondents were asked to rate the extent to which the project strengthened their presentation skills. One respondent did not answer this question, as he/she did not conduct a focus group session. Three respondents indicated that the research project was good in strengthening their presentation skills and commented:

“My presentation skills improved a lot and it boosted my self confidence”

“I learnt lot of things on presentation especially focus groups, where everyone want her or his view to be hand, I learn how to make people understand and to know how to treat another person views with respect” (sic)

The other respondent indicated that this project “satisfactorily” assisted her/him in presentation skills.

Other skills learnt

Some other skills that respondents learnt were:

- Communication skills

- Being positive even when things don't work out (2 respondents)
- Thinking skills

"...it did a small contribution on my thinking skills, like if I do not have a client I must think who I can interview now." (sic)

Participants were asked what assisted them in strengthening their skills:

- Training received (4)
- Team work (2)
- The manual (1)

"The workshops that Southern Hemisphere conducted were good and the manuals helped a lot"

- Attitude (1)

"To take chances and need to experience things in life....have patience"

Challenges

Some of the challenges faced by participants during this project were:

- Time limit (2 respondents)

"The challenge was the limited time that we had to complete the whole research but we managed to finish because we worked during the night"

- Computer skills (1 respondent)
- Limited human resources (1 respondent)
- Having no contribution from research assistant in Delft (1 respondent)
- Emotional reaction to stories heard (1 respondent)

Personal changes

For all respondents, their own knowledge and awareness of social issues, specifically related to child sexual exploitation has increased. Respondents commented:

"The research was an eye opener for me, because I didn't know that CSE really exist in B/West"

"I learnt a lot about CSE like I did not know about it, it was a learning environment for me to learn a new thing in life, I am proud of that."

Furthermore one of these respondents indicated that communities need to be educated on these issues:

"Yes I saw a hungry community that needs to be educated on the social issues"

until that need is met the people were going to perish”

One respondent made mention of research skills that has increased.

One respondent also indicated that they felt “good and professional” when conducting interviews.

Another respondent indicated that he had learnt to be patient and confident through this research process.

Training and mentoring

All respondents indicated that the training and mentoring had assisted them during this process. Two of the respondents indicated that it had helped them to cope:

“The training and mentoring helped me to cope. There was always someone to assist me when I needed guidance”

Others indicated that it had helped them to gain skills and knowledge around conducting fieldwork:

“It definitely did because I had some of the skills but did not have a platform to execute them. Southern Hemisphere digged deep in me and brought back everything” (sic)

“It did assist me to learn more about research, more knowledge. Training was excellent.”

Recommendations

Some recommendations were to extend the time for fieldwork to be conducted, and to have ethical requirements in place when doing research. Another respondent said that interview venues had to be confirmed as it was sometimes dangerous in certain areas. Finally it was also suggested that more training on writing up of interviews be given.

One respondent was happy about the research process and commented:

“You guys were excellent (Wilma & Bastienne) and please keep up the good work. The research process was well organized”

Conclusion

Generally respondent were happy with the research process in terms of their skills gained and mentoring and training received. Some logistical challenges were faced by fieldworkers, especially in terms of the limited time in which the interviews had to be conducted. Furthermore all of the respondents increased their awareness of child sexual exploitation.

Appendix Two: List of organisations in Beaufort West

Government			
Name of organisation	Location	Services offered	Contact Details
Department of Social Development	117 Donkin Street, Beaufort West, 6970	Range of services for children, young adults, victims of violence, the elderly, the homeless and substance abusers Protection and safety services for children School readiness Training Job placement of young adults Assistance when in trouble with law Disbursement of social grants Assistance for survivors of crime Integration programmes and frail care for the elderly Shelters and integration programmes for the homeless Treatment and counselling for substance abusers	Child Protection Co-ordinator: Lizel Smith Tel: 023 414 3204 Fax: 023 414 2128
Municipality	15 Church Street, Beaufort West, 6970		Tel: 023 414 8100 Fax: 023 415 1373 Email: bwes_admin@telkomsa.net
Community Development Workers (Dept. Local Gov and Housing)	Beaufort West	Assisting communities & networking with communities and government departments Referrals	Co-ordinator: Yolanda Van Wyk Tel: 082 303 0378

Health			
Name of organisation	Location	Services offered	Contact Details
Beaufort West Hospital Community Health Clinic	C/o van Schalkwyk & Dawid Streets, Beaufort West	Contraception/Family planning Primary health care	Ms M Job 023 415 2188
Kwamandlenkosi Clinic	Plaza Road, Kwamandlenkosi	Contraception/Family planning Primary health care	Sr C Ngcofe 023 415 2121 ext 252
Merweville Clinic	Hugenot Street, Merweville	Contraception/Family planning Primary health care	Sr E J van Rensburg 023 501 4026
Newtown clinic	Dawid Street, Beaufort-West	Contraception/Family planning Primary health care	Sr Smith 023 415 2121 ext 218
Nieuvelpark clinic	Zero Street, Nieuvelpark	Contraception/Family planning Primary health care	Sr Makok 023 415 2121 ext 218
Constitution Street Clinic	Constitution street	Primary health care Contraception/Family planning	Sr E van der Vyfer 023 415 2121 ext 259
Roadside Wellness Center	N1	Undertake HIV/AIDS awareness education, primary health care, STI treatment through syndromic management and condom distribution	Conrad Nathan 023 415 2681
Beaufort West Provincial Hospital	Voortrekker Street, Beaufort West	Crisis counselling available at Trauma unit. Comfort room in cases of rape, domestic violence and assault. Awareness raising at schools. Referrals HIV and AID workshops Family planning	Matron Jonker Tel: 023 415 2188 Fax: 023 414 2466
Progressive Primary health care	55 Blythe Street Beaufort West	Health services Community health workers Support shelters Life skills/Counselling	Florence Syzaar Tel/fax: 023 414 3715 Cell: 083 559 4973

Counselling and other services			
Name of organisation	Location	Services offered	Contact Details
FEMNET		Interventions in violent family situations. Referrals of women and children to Social Services for counselling. Emergency accommodation for 2 - 3 women or children overnight.	Isabella Baartman 023 414 2765
Diakonaledienste	20 Brand Street Beaufort West	Social work and counselling services Church based welfare organisation	Tel 023 414 3973 Fax: 023 414 4976
Karoo Centre for Human Rights	104B New Street, Beaufort West, 6970	Prisoner rights referral (men & women). Awareness programmes around domestic violence, including information on rights and how to apply for interdicts. Awareness raising programmes with farm workers (men and women) around their rights and on land issues. Capacitate advise offices and ECD centre	Tel: 023 414 2480 Fax: 023 414 2470
NICRO		Domestic and abusive relationships (violence against women) Sexually abused children Counselling services Educational programmes at schools Community victim support Legal assistance for women who are or have been physically, verbally, emotionally, sexually and/or economically abused. Open and closed support groups. Trauma debriefing. Training	023 415-3677
Hands off our children (HOOC)		Abuse Prevention Monitoring/Evaluation Empowerment Victim Support Assessment Social Counselling Training Community Development Interpretation Counselling Trauma Counselling Life Skills Training	Tel: 021 483 5717
Victim Support programme (part of NICRO programme)		Domestic violence Open days Talks Counselling for victims and perpetrators	info@nicro.co.za 023 415-3677

		Community education and awareness raising	
New Life	Beaufort West	Life skills training Holiday programmes Feeding schemes Street children	023 415 1964
Klawervlei and Karoo Community Development programme		Help unemployed farm women	Tel/Fax: 023 415 2882 bw@minds.co.za
BADISA	20 Brand Street Beaufort West	Rape, domestic violence and sexual assault	Ms. T Bredekamp Bw.badisa@telkomsa.net Tel: 023 414 3568 Fax: 023 414 4976

Security			
Name of organisation	Location	Services offered	Contact Details
SAPS (& Child protection unit)	39 Bird Street Beaufort West	24 hour child abuse service Referrals when charges are laid	Tel: 023 414 2157 Fax: 023 414 4159
Community Police Forum		The purpose of a CPF is to create and maintain a safe and secure environment for citizens living in the area. They work in partnership with the SAPS	Tel: 023 414 2157 Fax: 023 414 4159

Disability			
Name of organisation	Location	Services offered	Contact Details
Centre for disabled persons	Kwa Mandlekosi	Life skills and hard skills training Arts and crafts Coping for adults (occupational therapy)	023 415 1650

Drug rehabilitation			
Name of organisation	Location	Services offered	Contact Details
Drug education agency support group (DEA)		Support for drug abusers and their families	Kenny Van de Merwe 083 3186 101
Christelike Alkoholiste Bond (CAB)			Tel: (023) 342-1162 (023) 347-3232

Feeding schemes and shelters			
Name of organization	Location	Services offered	Contact Details
Prince Valley Women's	Prince Valley	Housing, food and clothing for abused women and children (including CSE children)	FEMNET

Development Forum			
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HIV and AID related			
Name of organisation	Location	Services offered	Contact Details
Khomanani		Treating people with HIV and AIDS	Euna Wentzel 083 5877 570
BAAG (Beaufort AIDS Action Group)	7 Kersner Street Beaufort West	HIV and AIDS School children HIV AIDS training Counselling Support groups Nutritional support Home based care HIV AIDS awareness	Tel: 023 415 2188 ext 256 Fax: 415 2121 ext 218
Alpha and Omega AIDS group	754 Jones Avenue Kwa mandlenkosi	Counselling and home based care Applying grants for PWA's Assist social workers in finding suitable homes to HIV orphans	Tel: 023 414 3351 Fax: 023 415 1735
Khululeka	Kwa Mandlenkosi	HIV and AIDS orphans Feeding schemes Provide clothing Community awareness raising Referrals	023 414 4508

Recreational			
Name of organisation	Location	Services offered	Contact Details
Dance teacher		Ballroom dancing	Fransie Adams 023-3143731

Education and ECD			
Name of organisation	Location	Services offered	Contact Details
Beaufort West Secondary School	Hill Street, Rustdene, Beaufort West, 6970	Educate children Referrals when cases are reported Life orientation programmes Feeding schemes	(023) 414-2386
Beaufort Secondary School Adult learning centre	Hill Street, Rustdene, Beaufort West, 6970	Educate children Referrals when cases are reported Life orientation programmes Feeding schemes	Mr D.D. Henry Tel: 023 415 1921 Fax: 023 414 2616
Beaufort West Preparatory School	De Villiers St Beaufort West 6970	Educate children Referrals when cases are reported Life orientation programmes Feeding schemes	023 414-2457
Teske Memorial primary	Teske Street Beaufort West	Educate children Referrals when cases are reported Life orientation programmes Feeding schemes	Tel: 023 414 2665 Fax: 023 414 3053 Email: headmaster@teske.wcape.school.za
St Matthews Primary	Bantam Street Beaufort West	Educate children Referrals when cases are reported Life orientation programmes Feeding schemes	Tel: 023 414 2729 Fax: 023 414 4824
Beaufort Wes Voorb	BEAUFORT WEST	Educate children Referrals when cases are reported Life orientation programmes Feeding schemes	(023) 4142457
Niko Brummer Prim.	Beaufort West	Educate children Referrals when cases are reported Life orientation programmes Feeding schemes	(023) 4142507
Sentraal Hs.	Beaufort West	Educate children Referrals when cases are reported Life orientation programmes Feeding schemes	(023) 4142552
Maddison Prim.	Beaufort West	Educate children Referrals when cases are reported Life orientation programmes Feeding schemes	(023) 4143359
Bastiaanse Sek.	Beaufort West	Educate children Referrals when cases are reported Life orientation programmes Feeding schemes	(023) 4152550
Restvale Met Prim.	Beaufort West	Educate children Referrals when cases are reported Life orientation programmes Feeding schemes	(023) 4161648

Klawervlei Prim.	Beaufort West	Educate children Referrals when cases are reported Life orientation programmes Feeding schemes	(023) 4181672
Layton Ngk Prim.	Beaufort West	Educate children Referrals when cases are reported Life orientation programmes Feeding schemes	(023) 4121665
Mandlenkosi Sec	Kwa mandlenkosi	Educate children Referrals when cases are reported Life orientation programmes Feeding schemes	(023) 4152400
H.M. Dlikidla Prim.	Kwa mandlenkosi	Educate children Referrals when cases are reported Life orientation programmes Feeding schemes	(023) 4143134
John D Crawford Prim	Rustdene	Educate children Referrals when cases are reported Life orientation programmes Feeding schemes	(023) 4142664
A.H. Barnard Prim.	Rustdene	Educate children Referrals when cases are reported Life orientation programmes Feeding schemes	Griffithss Makok 023-4143731
St. John's Preprim	Rustdene	Educate children Referrals when cases are reported Life orientation programmes Feeding schemes	(023) 4152408
Masixole Day Center		Educate children Referrals when cases are reported Life orientation programmes Feeding schemes	Mrs B. Matthys (023) 415-3323 Cell Number: 082 420 7608