

# Strategies to Improve Effectiveness of Rehabilitation Interventions for Street Children's Social Development in Kakamega Central Sub-County, Kenya

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## Abstract

Street children's challenges are dynamic in nature. The study problem was the inadequacy of effective rehabilitation strategies that promote street children's social development. The objective of the study was to determine strategies for improving effectiveness of rehabilitation interventions for street children social development in Kakamega Central Sub-county, Kenya. Evaluation research design was adopted. Study population included 220 street children in closed and open rehabilitation systems, 30 GOK and NGO's rehabilitation staff, 10 social workers, 8 GOK officers, 5 counselors and 21 businessmen. Primary and secondary data were used. Primary data collection utilized questionnaires, interview guides, observation checklists and Focus Group Discussion. Cluster and snow-ball sampling were used to sample street children. Census and purposive sampling were used to sample key informants. Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics, specifically frequencies, percentages and mean. Inferential statistics were Chi-square test of independence and Spearman's rank order correlation. Qualitative data analysis and interpretation utilized coding, voices and narrative analysis. Data was displayed in form of graphs, charts and tables. This study established that, 191(87%) of key informants and street children indicated that rehabilitation interventions should be improved. Strategies to improve effectiveness of rehabilitation interventions were; establish a listening platform for stakeholders and beneficiaries' views in street children rehabilitation programmes 56(25.6%); establish a comprehensive rehabilitation and dropping centre for street children 31(13.9%); start Income Generating Activities in street children interventions 28(12.6%) while 10(4.7%) insisted on the improvement on education services and employable vocational skills training. There is a weak positive and insignificant relationship between open system rehabilitation intervention and sustainability strategy ( $\Upsilon=0.086$ ,  $\alpha=0.468$ ,  $\rho$ -value=0.05). This implies that open system rehabilitations interventions are sustainable to a less degree. On the other hand there is a positive and significant relationship between closed system rehabilitation interventions and sustainability strategy ( $\Upsilon=0.470$ ,  $\alpha=0.000$ ,  $\rho$ -value=0.05). This implies that closed system interventions are more sustainable as compared to the open rehabilitation systems. Therefore closed system rehabilitation interventions may have greater effectiveness on the street children's social development.

**Keywords:** Street children, Effective interventions, Social development and Rehabilitation strategies

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## 1.1 Background

A street child refers to "any girl or boy who has not reached adulthood, for whom the street has become her or his habitual abode and/or sources of livelihood, and who is inadequately protected, supervised or directed by adults" (UNICEF, 2005). The United Nations issued a Resolution on the Plight of Street Children in 1992, expressing concern over their emergence and marginalization. This resulted into street children rehabilitation interventions on local and regional levels which provide safety, healthcare, counseling, education, vocational training, legal aid, love, food, clothing, sports, recreation and other social development services (UNICEF, 2012). In Kenya, there are estimated 250,000 street children and over 60,000 are in the capital city of Nairobi with an estimate of 2000 street children in Kakamega County (Wakhu, 2002). Kenya has 8 rehabilitation schools which are custodial schools for the rehabilitation and training of delinquent juveniles and street children (UNICEF, 2012). It is estimated that about 90 percent of the children in these schools are derived from streets via Juvenile Courts and remand homes. However only one rehabilitation centre called 'Kirigiti' cater for girls (The Consortium for Street Children, 2011). Rehabilitating street children requires collective efforts of all relevant stakeholders.

## 1.2 Statement of the problem

Street children are an existing and growing social problem in Kenya and it's expected to grow given the rapid rate of urbanization through devolution and its resultant impacts on the contemporary society. Street children continue to face socio-economical challenges in their struggle to participate in the wider community. Moreover, the already tense relationship within the society exacerbate as they are viewed as the major suspects of looting and vandalism. Despite government and NGO interventions towards alleviation of the problem of street children, there is

inadequacy of effective rehabilitation strategies that promote street children's social development. There is therefore need to identify challenges of particular groups of street children and design strategies to alleviate their situations (UNICEF, 2011). Due to their exposure to violence both at home and on the street; street children grow into adults who engage in criminal activities thus threatening security of the public. In Kakamega County, interventions for street children by government and NGOs have been reactive rather than preventive. Although street children interventions keep mushrooming the number of street children is also on the rise in Kakamega town (Morangi, 2013). Thus the situation necessitates an in-depth understanding and investigation to understand the challenges facing street children and recommend effective rehabilitation strategies through which their social development can be addressed. It's upon this background that this study sought to determine effective rehabilitative strategies for improving the street children's social development in Kakamega Central Sub-county, Kenya.

### **1.3 Research objective**

To determine strategies for improving effectiveness of rehabilitation interventions for street children social development in Kakamega Central Sub- county, Kenya

### **1.4 Literature review**

#### **1.4.1 Strategies for Improving Effectiveness of Rehabilitation Interventions for Social Development of Street Children in Kenya**

Daily Nation, 2015 July reported that, during the GES (Global Entrepreneurship Summit) in Nairobi on July 24th, 2015, street children were rounded up from Nairobi City Square and sent to Joseph Kang'ethe Rehabilitation Centre, this symbolizes that they are a societal problem to be addressed. In 1991, through a Presidential decree, the Government of Kenya established the District Children's Advisory Committees (AACs), in each district. The purpose was to enhance involvement of the community, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), private sector (business community), line ministries, Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in the administration of matters relating to children. By then, only the Department of children's services under the Ministry of Home Affairs and National Heritage was running public supportive and preventive programmes for the benefit of actual and potential street children (WHO, 2002).

Although most of the country's local authorities (municipalities and county councils) were approved under the Children and Young Persons CAP 141 which was to manage both types of programmes, however, none mounted a supportive programme (Morangi, 2013). These interventions were, primarily, based on the rehabilitation and training of street children and were based on the delinquent nature of 6-18 year olds of whom street children were a majority. The programme was organized into two types of institutions namely, Approved Schools now known as Rehabilitation Schools and Juvenile Remand Homes now known as Children's Remand Homes, under the Children's Act 2001. Approved Schools on the other hand were custodial schools for the rehabilitation and training of delinquent juveniles and youngsters (CRADLE, 2004). The Department of Children Services had (nine) 9 such schools in the country, with a capacity of 3,000 children (GOK, 1990).

Wakhu, (2012) discourage these forms of interventions while acknowledging that in order to address the issue of street children effectively, both such long and short-term interventions are necessary. In addition, there should be a focus on preventive (rather than rehabilitative) solutions. For instance, provision of food, clothes, medicines, and shelter may even help to perpetuate the problem by making street life bearable and intensifying a child's dependence on programs (Volpi, 2002). Therefore this study sought to fill the gap between preventive and reactive interventions. In 1998, the Department of Children Services established the Volunteer Children Officers system. The concept was piloted 2004 in seven (7) Districts (now sub-counties). The volunteers Children Officers (VCOs) complement the work of children officers by providing supervisory services to children in need of care and protection and those in conflict with the law at the location/village level. The VCOs worked under close supervision of the District Children's Officers (CSC, 2004). The VCO system however, has significantly been hampered by lack of funding, inadequate and systematic training to enhance their capacities in service delivery to children.

Under the National Alliance Rainbow Coalition (NARC) government (2003), Office of the Vice President and Ministry of Home Affairs was created with the mandate to coordinate all children services as stipulated in the Children's Act of 2001. The Government also set up the National Council for Children Services to oversee proper planning, financing, coordination and supervision of child welfare activities. Representatives were drawn from relevant government ministries, civil societies, private sector and religious organizations. At the district level these structures are called Area Advisory Councils (AACs) (Kenya Gazette, 2002). In 2008, the Government of Kenya reorganized its ministries and the Department of Children Services was moved from Office of the Vice President and Ministry of Home Affairs to Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development currently under the state department of Labour Social Security and Services. The Ministry through the Department of Children Services empowers the vulnerable groups and children in need of care and protection such as street children, orphans,

marginalized children (CRADLE, 2004). Although the governments have all this rehabilitative strategies, the number of street children is escalating therefore this study sought to find ways of improving this efforts by evaluating better rehabilitative strategies in Kenya.

The NARC Government through the Ministry of Local Government embarked on a rehabilitation program for street children in collaboration with the National Youth Services (NYS) to offer trainings, in an effort to provide them with rehabilitation services, non formal education, vocational skills, reintegration back to formal education and family reintegration (Awori, 2007). Reception centres were also set up in four (4) provinces including Central, Coast, Rift valley and Nairobi. In the reception centres street children are received, assessed, categorized and given appropriate support and assistance or referred to relevant agencies Consortium for street children (2011). In 2003, 6000 ex-street children were rehabilitated and enrolled in different primary schools countrywide while 800 other street children acquired vocational skills in various national youth service units countrywide (Awori, 2007). This study sought to establish the social status of these graduates from these rehabilitation interventions so as to see the programme's effectiveness and impact.

Under the president Kibaki NARC administration, the Government of Kenya made great strides in the provisions of supportive services to street children. Various bodies were created and mandated to work with street children in Kenya (Awori, 2007). In 2003, The Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund (SFRTF) was established under the Ministry of Local Government now under Ministry of Devolution and Planning through a Gazette Notice No. 1558 of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2003 (Undugu, 2008). The mandate of SFRTF was to coordinate rehabilitation activities for street families in Kenya in partnership with other service providers, educate the public, mobilize resources, manage a fund to support rehabilitation and reintegration activities, and encourage decentralization of activities to County governments to benefit those surviving on streets of Kenya's towns among other functions (Awori, 2007). Apart from government funding, this study sought to establish other sources of funding to street children rehabilitation interventions.

The Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund (STRF) rehabilitates and returns street children to their families and supports their re-integration into the community. The Trust has moved from emergency response and immediate basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, health and psychosocial support to long-term programs including support for their education, vocational skills and small scale business for self-reliant Muigai, (2003). Another government of Kenya strategy for improving street children social development was the National Youth Service Act, Chapter 208 provides for the establishment of a National Youth Service (NYS). The functions of the NYS and related matters include training of young citizens to serve the nation and employment of its members in tasks of national importance. Eligibility to the service starts at the age of 16. Muigai, (2003) acknowledges that service opportunities are usually advertised in the daily newspapers where college and university students often apply, but since April 2003, approximately 800 street children from Nairobi and Mombasa had been actively recruited into the NYS to become "useful citizens, like other Kenyans". This study sought to evaluate the effect of this strategy in Kakamega Central Sub-County.

A joint study on Street Children and Juvenile Justice in Kenya (2004) by CRADLE, Undugu Society of Kenya and Consortium for Street Children (CSC) however notes that there have been newspaper reports claiming that the first batch of street children graduates from the NYC have simply returned to the streets 'more ruthless and hardened'. If the 'recruitment' was in any way forced, this constitutes a gross violation of the rights of these children. Thus this study sought to find out the human rights violation actions that may hinder effective social development of street children.

The National Rainbow Coalition Government also initiated The Street Children Capacity Building Project in 2004 which aimed at enhancing the capacity of organizations that are addressing the plight of both actual and potential street children in Kenya. The project has been based in Nairobi with a national out-reach, and working in partnership with organizations and governmental institutions in key urban centres in different towns. Based on the programs' objectives, the project developed training modules which address three thematic areas namely: management of street children organizations, Participatory Action Research (PAR), and Paralegal and child Rights. The project is based on a community and neighborhood based model to protect children against violence which signifies a paradigm shift from the rehabilitative programmes that characterized early governmental interventions (Muigai, 2003). This study sought to establish the effect of these community and neighborhood based model to protect street children through open rehabilitation system in Kakamega Central Sub-County, Kenya.

#### **1.4.2 The Challenges of Street Children Rehabilitation Interventions**

Undugu, (2008) reports that rehabilitation interventions experience relatively similar problems and constraints in their operation and expansion. These include budgetary constraints, lack of land, delays in placement of graduates and lack of public and government support and a possible retreat of the graduates to street life (UNCEF, 2005). There seems to be no co-ordination among the NGOs themselves or between the NGOs and the government departments. This has lead to occasional demolition of some NGO community-based shelter programmes. However, in government circles, the phenomenon of street children is viewed as representing a potential threat to the security of the state (Undugu, 2008). This study sought to evaluate strategies of managing these challenges and

developing better strategies to improve street children rehabilitation interventions.

### 1.5 Methodology

Evaluation research design was employed in the study. The rationale for using evaluation research design is based on the fact that it helps make judgments about merits, values or worth of a development programme like street children rehabilitation interventions (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). This research design helped to know the successes, challenges and strategies of improvement related to street children rehabilitation interventions in Kakamega Central sub-county, Kenya. It utilized interviews with key informants in rehabilitation programmes.

Study population included 220 street children in closed and open rehabilitation systems, 30 Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations rehabilitation staff, 10 social workers, 8 Governmental officers, 5 counselors and 21 businessmen. Primary and secondary data were used. Primary data collection utilized questionnaires, interview guides, observation checklists and Focus Group Discussion. Cluster and snow-ball sampling were used to sample street children. Census and purposive sampling were used to sample the key informants. Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics specifically frequencies, percentages and means. Qualitative data analysis and interpretation utilized data coding, voice and narrative analysis. Data was displayed in form of graphs, charts and tables. The data obtained from the field was organized, edited to ensure completeness, comprehensibility and consistency, classified and coded according to the study objective for analysis.

#### Map of Study Site

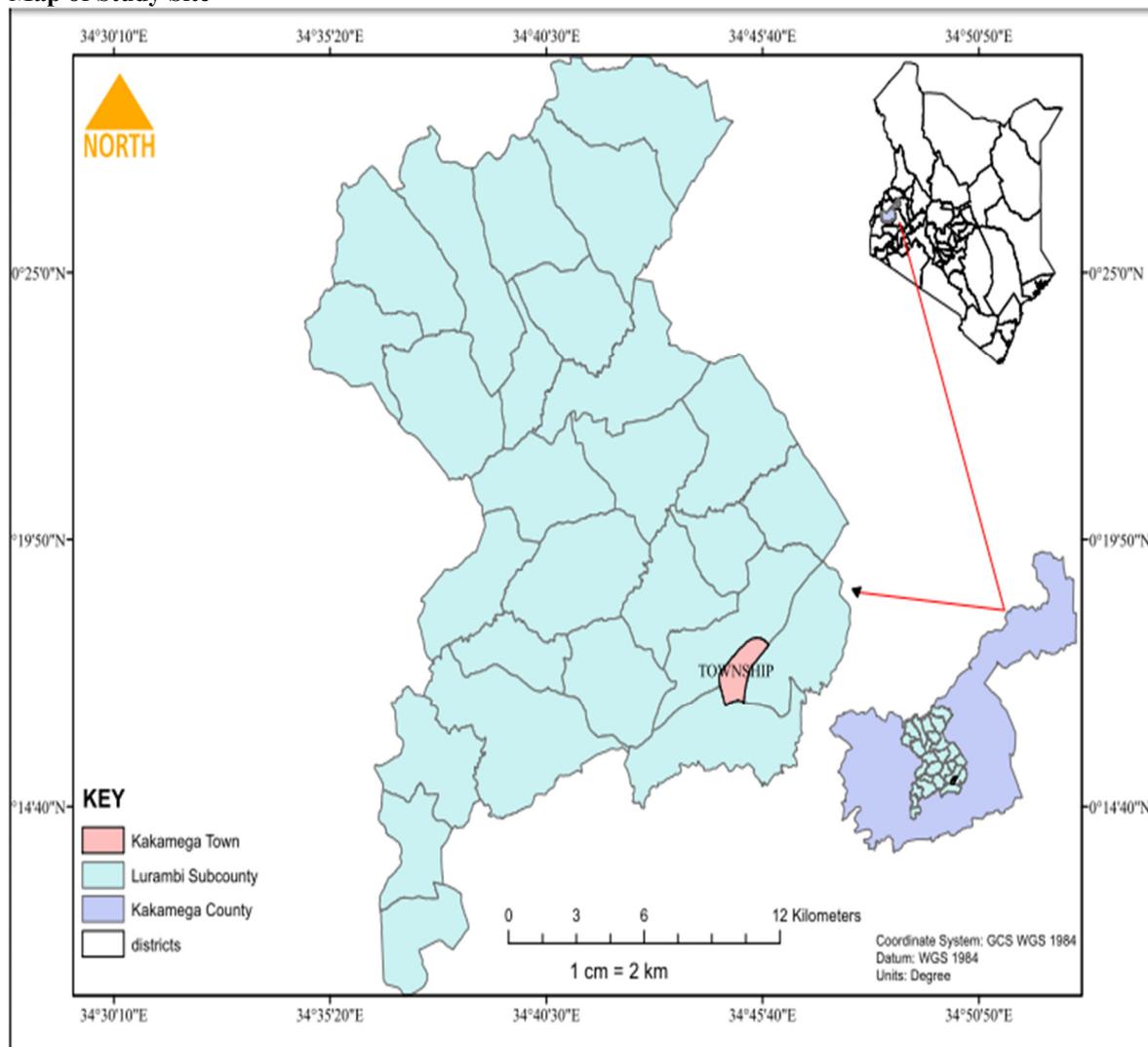


Figure 1.1: GIS Map of Kakamega Central Sub-County (Lurambi constituency)  
Where Street Children are concentrated in the Township zone  
(Source: Field data, 2016)

## 1.6 Findings

### 1.6.1 Strategies to Improve the Effectiveness of Street Children Rehabilitation Interventions in Kakamega Central Sub-County, Kenya

The study sought to evaluate strategies of improving the effectiveness of street children so as to enhance their social development in Kakamega Central sub-county. When the respondents (street children and key informants) were asked views on whether the rehabilitation interventions should be improved, 191(87%) of them said Yes against 18(8%) who said No. Therefore the study determined the suggestions for improvement of street children rehabilitation interventions as presented in Table 1.1

**Table 1.1: Key Informants' and Street Children's Suggestions on Strategies to Improve Rehabilitation Services**

Suggestions to improve services provided	Frequency	%
Improve on education services and employable vocational skills	12	4.7
Provide housing, shelter and other basic needs	8	3.1
Establish partnerships to help street children interventions	21	8.3
Start Income Generating Activities in street children interventions	32	12.6
Establish a comprehensive rehabilitation and dropping centre	35	13.9
Public awareness, attitude change and outreaches on street children	27	10.6
Engage diverse professionals in rehabilitation interventions	17	6.7
The services should be accessible to street children	25	9.8
Using transformed street children as role models for change	8	3.1
Consider gender vulnerabilities in street life	4	1.6
Establish a listening platform for beneficiaries/stakeholders views in street children rehabilitation programmes	65	25.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Researcher, 2016**

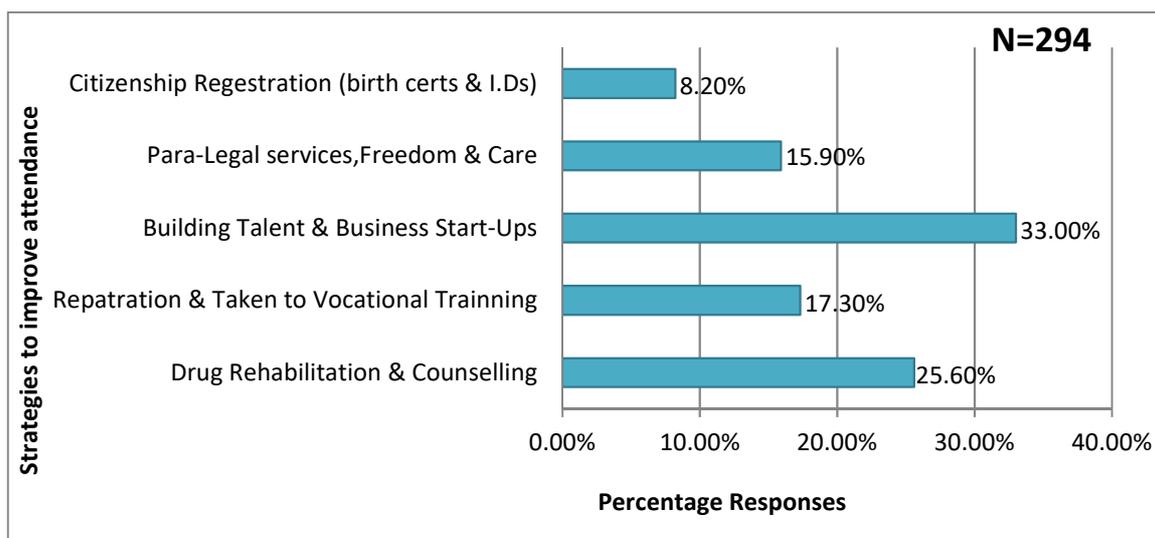
Results in Table 1.1 indicate that 10(4.7%) suggested on the improvement on education services and employable vocational skills so as to make graduates of this rehabilitation interventions self independent. Providing housing, shelter and other basic need was emphasized by 7(3.1%). Establishing partnerships to help street children interventions was pointed out by 18(8.3%). Start Income Generating Activities in street children interventions were 28(12.6%). Establish a comprehensive rehabilitation and dropping centre for street children was suggested by 31(13.9%). Public awareness, positive attitude change and outreaches on street children were shown by 23(10.6%).

The study further established that 15(6.7%) suggested the engaging of diverse professionals in rehabilitation interventions while 22(9.8%) were those who proposed that the services should be accessible to street children. Using transformed street children as role models for change were 7(3.1%). Considering gender vulnerabilities in street life were 4(1.6%). Establish a listening platform for beneficiaries' views in street children rehabilitation programmes were 56(25.6%). These findings imply that service providers in Kakamega Central sub-county use a top-down approach to community development where they identify programs they think fit the street children and this may not be readily accepted and utilized by the street children.

In a similar study by the Rwanda National Commission for Children (2012) when respondents were asked on how to develop street children rehabilitation services and programs, street children particularly identified providing financial aid to their families 2%, shelters 16%, a monthly salary 10%, more trips and recreation 18%, birthday parties 2%, formal education 4%, literacy education 8%, more food 4%, work or jobs 4%, and vocational training 18%, whereas 32% could not identify any means for the development of services provided to them. A study conducted in Eldoret town by Morangi (2012) indicated that street children (8.9%) suggest access to information about rehabilitation interventions should be continuous and available whereas 4.4% indicated that service provider should consult and involve street children on what services they would want to be provided with while 6.7% commented that employment opportunities should be factored in the services provided and that these services should be long-term.

### 1.6.2 Key Informants' and Street Children's Suggestions on Services That Could Increase attendance in Rehabilitation Interventions in Kakamega Central Sub-county

The researcher was interested on services that could increase attendance of street children in the rehabilitation interventions as displayed in Figure 1.2



**Figure.1.2: Key Informants' and Street Children's Suggestions on Services That Could Increase Attendance in Rehabilitation Interventions (Source: Researcher, 2016)**

Results in Figure 1.2 indicate that 56(25.6%) of key informants and street children suggest that the rehabilitation interventions should emphasize more on drug rehabilitation and counseling. This implies that street children need psycho-social support to shun drug abuse and street life. Further, 73(33%) of the respondents commented that employment opportunities and talent development should be factored in the rehabilitation services provided and that these services should be long-term. Interview with the coordinator of the Salvation Army street children rehabilitation project indicated that street children would like to be independent and self-reliant in terms of economic empowerment through small enterprises development. On the other hand 38(17.3%) of suggested that repatriation and vocational trainings should be emphasized in re-integrating rehabilitated street children back into the society while 35(15.9%) proposed on increasing the level of paralegal services, freedom and care for the street children. to some extent, this implies that street children are vulnerable and their human rights are infringed. Further, 18(8.2%) indicated that citizenship registration (birth certificates and national identity cards) should be advocated for by the rehabilitation service providers.

McAdam-Crisp *et al*, (2011) indicated that there has been a growing demand for programmes that can address the needs of street children worldwide with the aim of decreasing the number of street children by enhancing their potential for survival and future prospects. Solomons, (2012) and Mathias, (2005) claim that providing prevention and early intervention to address the needs of street children and to provide better social welfare services for children and their families have proved to be difficult to achieve in practice. Martin, (2010) observes that the implementation of prevention and early intervention services not only saves lives, but saves costs too.

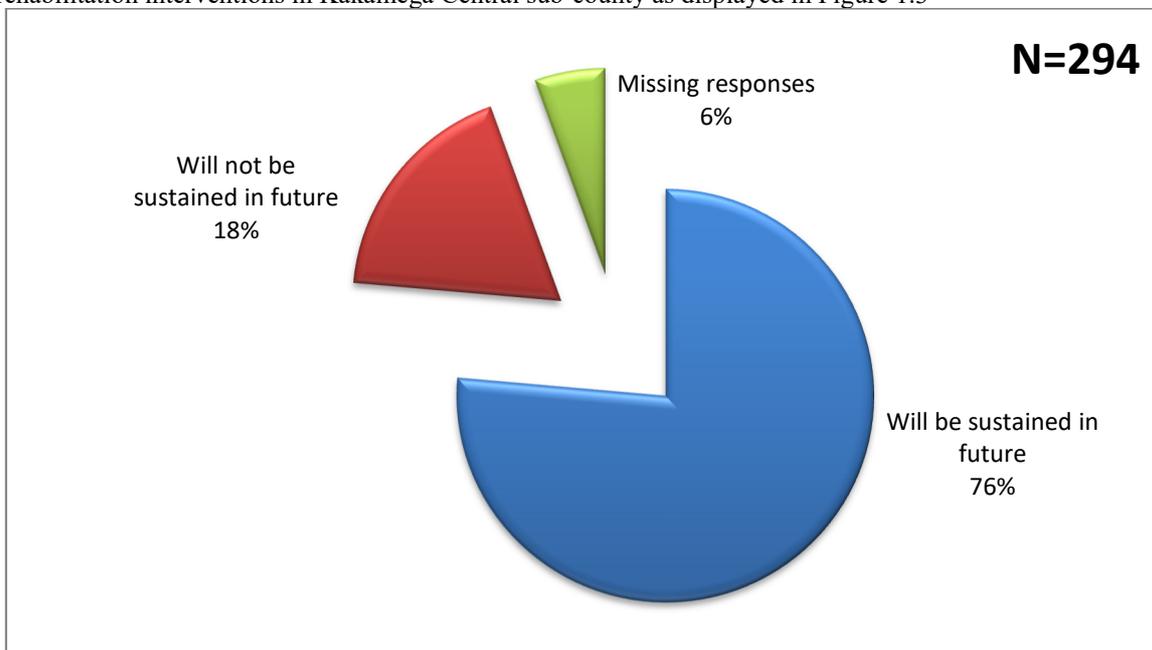
Dutschke (2008) asserts that NGOs /NPOs recognize that prevention services are crucial in the developmental social welfare system. Dunn and Parry-Williams (2008) in their research recommend that governments, with support from UNICEF and NGOs, need to reunify and support children who are inappropriately placed in homes to live with parents and relatives. Van Schalkwyk, (2007) recounts that some NGOs have achieved successful reunification of street children with their families or admitted them to shelters through outreach programmes. According to Ray and Carter, (2007) reunification does not necessarily mean that children will return to live with their parents, as this may not be feasible or appropriate. Feeny, (2005) adds that both the child and the family need to be prepared, and progress be followed after the child is placed with a family. It is time consuming, requires specialist skills, and in practice this approach is often not managed well on the ground. Some organizations establish family homes where children can stay for as long as they need until they are either reunited with their families or can become independent.

A study done in Cairo and Alexandria (1998) suggested that dealing with the problem of street children needs the cooperation of various governmental, non-governmental, and voluntary efforts. Data from the survey indicated that various factors contribute to the emergence and development of the problem of street children in Egypt, which include: Structural, contextual, and policy related issues; The attitudes of local communities and the way people in general perceive the problem of street children, as well as the prevalence of the problem through various poor communities and marginalized areas surrounding major cities, contribute to the emergence and development of the problem; The way the problem of street children has been dealt with, through both governmental and nongovernmental organizations and their collective validity in achieving an effective decrease of the magnitude of the problem and the vulnerability of street children; and the fact that street work is not sufficiently extensive so that many children who reside in areas where NGOs do not function receive no assistance and are not reached

(Feeny, 2005).

### 1.6.3 Key Informants' and Street Children's Opinion on Rehabilitation Interventions Sustainability in Kakamega Central Sub-county, Kenya

The study went further, to determine the opinions of the key informants and street children on how to sustain the s rehabilitation interventions in Kakamega Central sub-county as displayed in Figure 1.3



**Figure.1.3: Key Informants' and Street Children's Opinion on Rehabilitation Interventions Sustainability (Source: Researcher, 2016)**

Results in Figure 1.3 indicate that 168(76.4%) of the key informants and street children said that rehabilitation interventions will be sustained in future while 40(18.1%) said No. Those who said Yes 168(76.4%) gave the following reasons for sustainability: (i) because the programmes are hosting and providing services to many street children 50(30%), (ii) because of the government and international support 42(25%), (iii) because of religion and NGOs support 30(18%), (iv) because of more street children willing to join rehabilitation programmes 25(15%) and (v) because of repatriation, home-tracing, re-integration and follow-up services 21(13%).

Those who said No 40(18.1%) gave the following reasons for unsustainability of the street rehabilitation interventions; (i) there is indications of corruption and favourism in the rehabilitation interventions 25(63%); (ii) some interventions are for selfish gains politically and spiritually 8(20%); (iii) the number of street children is increasing on weekly basis 5(13%) and (iv) changing and transforming a person from street culture is a very tedious and gradual process 2(5%).

FGD with Government based rehabilitation staff 7 out of 20 confirmed that street children rehabilitation programmes need to be funded by both national and county governments and also NGOs so as to enable them function effectively and be sustained. One discussant said that;

*"The biggest drawback for sustainability is funding... Government budgets for children's care and protection is extremely small or constrained...there are also delays in the transfer of funds too by the government whereas NGOs funding is sometimes not reliable."* (Field data, 2016)

The above sentiments are supported by Solomons (2012) who asserted that international funding is drying up. No budget is set aside for the street children rehabilitation programmes. Thomas de Benitez (2011) as well as Dunn and Parry-Williams (2008) argues that the NGOs responsible for delivering social welfare services are poorly funded and the staff underpaid. Madonsela, the Director General of the Department of Social Development in South Africa, admitted in the Annual Report (2010/2011:8) that the Department of Social Development is confronted with the challenge of addressing major socio-economic issues with limited human and financial resources.

Budlender and Proudlock (2011) remarked that the subsidies provided by the Department of children services rehabilitation and remand homes do not cover the full cost or scope of the social welfare services needed thus a probability of collapse hence no sustainability. The challenge became more acute in the wake of the global financial crisis, which has resulted in widespread budget cuts. Among other things, this has resulted in reduced funding for some NGOs which provide services to street children.

This information can be reinforced by a study conducted by the Rwanda National Commission for street

children, (2012) which concluded that the strengths of effective sustainability of street children rehabilitation interventions sustainability was attributed to reliable financial resources 33.3%, qualified and willing staff 28.5%, 14.2% attributed their success to good collaboration with stakeholders (government including local authorities, children and parents) and good institutional organization at 9.5%.

As a sustainability strategy of street children rehabilitation interventions in Egypt, The General Social Defense Department in Ministry of Social Affairs formulated the following sustainability strategy guidelines: (i) A Steering Committee should be created that represents NGOs dealing with street children to be able to coordinate efforts among them, and between them and other Government projects. (ii) There should be a regular channel for data exchange among NGOs with baseline data on the children they deal with to avoid duality of services. (iii) NGOs should exchange activities and programs, and find means to achieve them in a cooperative way. (iv) There should be a “Code of Ethics” signed by all NGOs of the basic philosophy and principles adopted when dealing with street children. (v) There should be a geographic division of areas/districts of intervention among NGOs to avoid duality of services. (vi) Family reunions can take place through either direct contact with the Social Defense Department and its offices all over Egypt, or through the NGOs that work in areas where street children come from. (vii) Both NGOs and Governments (GOs) should cooperate in terms of providing full-residential care to street children according to the available places they have. (viii) There should be mutual training programs in all areas related to street children, and exchange of training programs among NGOs and GOs working with street children. (ix) There should be an agreement among NGOs and GOs on a proper definition for street children (or the target group). (x) There should be an emphasis on contacting Community Development NGOs that exist in the same areas where the street children projects are carried out to gain their support, especially in areas of awareness raising and community mobilization (Feeny, 2005).

The study further sought to determine the significant relationship between street children rehabilitation intervention systems and the sustainability strategies by use of inferential statistics specifically Spearman rank correlation. The study tested the sustainability of open and closed street children rehabilitation systems separately so as to ascertain which system is more sustainable. These tests were based on the key informants responses where N=74. Table 1.2 displays a correlation between Open system street children rehabilitation intervention and rehabilitation intervention sustainability strategy.

**Table 1.2: Open System Rehabilitation Intervention \* Rehabilitation Intervention Sustainability Strategy in Kakamega Central sub-county, Kenya**

Symmetric Measures						
			Value	Asymp. Error <sup>a</sup>	Std. Approx. T <sup>b</sup>	Approx. Sig.
Interval	by	74Pearson's R	.168		1.449	
Interval		Spearman	.086	.110	.729	.152 <sup>c</sup>
Ordinal by Ordinal		Correlation		.118		.468 <sup>c</sup>
N of Valid Cases						
a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.						
b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.						
c. Based on normal approximation.						

**Source: Researcher, 2016**

Results in Table 1.2 indicate that there is a weak positive and insignificant relationship between open system rehabilitation intervention and Rehabilitation intervention sustainability strategy ( $Y=0.086$ ,  $\alpha=0.468$ ,  $\rho$ -value=0.05). This implies that open system rehabilitations interventions are sustainable to a less degree. Therefore it may not have a great effect on street children’s social development. A study done in Cairo and Alexandria (1998) found out those street children who visit the drop-in centers (open rehabilitation systems) and reside on the street show a lower level of social development due to their deprivation of direct and long-term behavioral modification programs and the lack of attachments. Cross and Roux, (2010) as well as Ray *et al*, (2011) point out that Psychosocial and social adjustment of street children is normally defined and reached through the interaction between the child and the institution (whether the institution is the family, social welfare institutions, peer groups, or others) in which the child acquires the basic skills and help needed to establish and maintain his/ her psychosocial adjustment towards himself/herself and to the surrounding environment.

Therefore on this argument, the open rehabilitation system may not promote sustainable social development to street children. During an interview with the Kakamega Central Social Development Officer it was noted that the weak positive and insignificant relationship between open system rehabilitation intervention and rehabilitation intervention sustainability strategy can be attributed to: Lack of the social support system to street children in the drop-in centers (open rehabilitation systems). Inappropriateness of the types of educational, emotional, psychological, recreational, and other programs provided in the open system drop-in centers to street children to meet with their basic social and psychological needs. Irregularity of street children to the open system drop-in centers might interrupt their learning process due to interrupting the programs. The Children Officer of Kakamega

Central Sub-county noted that street children open rehabilitation system interventions experience irregular interaction between the children and the social workers in the open system drop-in centers which might lead to negative consequences with regard to the effectiveness of the programs provided and also children might benefit from some programs (like food or recreations) and not all the other programs provided. The manager of Kakamega Rehabilitation School added that programs provided in open rehabilitation interventions might lack attractiveness or appropriateness to meet with the real psychological needs and social situations of street children and also returning back to the street after spending a day in the open system drop-in center might result in negative social adjustment, since children have to return back to a homeless existence at night. Therefore, the researcher suggests that this data can be helpful to provide feedback information when developing effective programs to deal with the problem of street children in Kakamega Central sub-county, Kenya.

Having established that open rehabilitation system is less sustainable, the study therefore determined the relationship between street children closed system intervention and rehabilitation intervention sustainability strategy as presented in Table 1.3

**Table 1.3: Closed System Rehabilitation Intervention\* Rehabilitation Intervention Sustainability Strategy in Kakamega Central sub-county, Kenya**

Symmetric Measures			Value	Asymp. Error <sup>a</sup>	Std.	Approx. T <sup>b</sup>	Approx. Sig.
Interval	by	Pearson's R	.459			4.384	
Interval		Spearman	.470	.071		4.513	.000 <sup>c</sup>
Ordinal by Ordinal		Correlation	.74	.086			.000 <sup>c</sup>
N of Valid Cases							

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.

b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.

c. Based on normal approximation.

**Source: Researcher, 2016**

Table 1.3 results indicate that there is a positive and significant relationship between closed system rehabilitation interventions and rehabilitation intervention sustainability strategy ( $Y=0.470$ ,  $\alpha=0.000$ ,  $\rho$ -value=0.05). This implies that closed system rehabilitation interventions are sustainable as compared to the open rehabilitation systems. Therefore they may have a great effect on the street children's social development.

Findings of a study done in Cairo and Alexandria (1998) found out that there is a significant statistical difference for children closed system resident institutions in terms of psychosocial adjustment and development in which T-Test reached 7.48 by 0.01, if compared to street children in the open system drop-in centers. The overall scores of both tests revealed that children residents of governmental institutions have a higher rate of psychosocial adjustment and development (Feeny, 2005). During an interview with Children Officer in Kakamega Central sub-county it was revealed that there is a positive and significant relationship between closed system rehabilitation interventions and rehabilitation intervention sustainability strategy because of: The positive interaction between the social workers and the children in the closed system rehabilitation institutions. The appropriateness of the programs applied to the real needs of the children, which have their impact on the way the child become more psychosocially adjusted. General acceptance of the children residents of the institution to the programs provided to them. Stability of the programs provided over an extended period of time often leads to positive results. The high efficacy of closed street children rehabilitation interventions attracting government (National and County governments) and NGO (Local and International) funding.

To this extend therefore, the researcher emphasize that what emerges from the inferential correlation between rehabilitation interventions and rehabilitation sustainability strategy is a clarion call for financial support, personnel development, frequency, intensity, and duration of rehabilitation service provision, rather than a clear-cut advantage for closed system institutionalization rehabilitation interventions. Street children need greater care than they are now receiving in either open or closed system rehabilitation interventions.

**1.7 Conclusions**

This study concludes that, street children are viewed as a problem to the community, public and the state. The formulation of policies and development of rehabilitation intervention to redress the street children phenomenon are expected to be multi-faceted, involving the parents, the community, NGOs, FBOs, central government and county government.

**1.8 Recommendations**

The study recommends that, there should be a listening platform to include the views of street children in rehabilitation interventions and also a collaborative mechanism to bring on board stakeholders and partners involved in street children rehabilitation interventions in order enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of the

street children rehabilitation interventions.

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