

# **SEXUALLY ABUSED AND SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN YUNNAN PROVINCE, CHINA**

**A qualitative assessment of their health  
needs and available services in  
selected areas of the province**

**United Nations**

**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

**Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency  
(Sida)**

**Section for International Maternal and Child Health  
Uppsala University, Sweden**

**All-China Youth Federation  
China**

**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

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## ***PREFACE***

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) initiated a project entitled Strengthening National HRD Capabilities through the Training of Social Service and Health Personnel to Combat Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) in January 1998. The participating countries in the four-year project include Cambodia; China

(Yunnan Province); Lao People's Democratic Republic; Myanmar; Thailand; and Viet Nam. The project is being funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), with supplemental funding by UNFPA, UNDCP and UNAIDS.

The project was formulated in response to ESCAP Resolution 53/4 on the *Elimination of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth in Asia and the Pacific*, which was adopted by the fifty-third session of the Commission in April 1997. The basis for the resolution was a proposal for action formulated by ESCAP member governments at the Asia-Pacific Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth, held in Beijing, in October 1996. The Meeting concluded that a lack of information existed on the situation of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of young people; the health and social services available for those victims and potential victims of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation were inadequate; and social service and health providers lacked training. The ESCAP project has sought to address all of these identified gaps.

In the first phase of the ESCAP project, qualitative research was conducted in each of the six GMS countries, to determine the situation of sexually abused and sexually exploited children, focusing on their comprehensive health needs and available services. The resulting national research reports form the basis for the curriculum and training material for the *ESCAP HRD Course on Psychosocial and Medical Services for Sexually Abused and Sexually Exploited Children and Youth*, launched in September 2000.

The following report for Yunnan Province, China, entitled *Sexually Abused and Sexually Exploited Children and Youth in Yunnan Province, China: a Qualitative Assessment of their Health Needs and Available Services in Selected Areas of the Province* had the following objectives:

- To collect and analyse existing information on the situation of sexual abuse (rape and incest) and sexual exploitation (trafficking, pornography and prostitution) in the country context of China;
- To identify common health (medical, psychological and social) problems and needs of sexually abused and sexually exploited children;
- To explore the range of services available to sexually abused and sexually exploited children and the capacities and potential of different agencies in providing such services.

Chapter One begins with an overview of the geography and population of the area, as well as an introduction to the cultural and socioeconomic situation in Yunnan Province. The current situation of sexually abused and sexually exploited children in China and national actions are also outlined followed by a presentation of the study's objectives and definition of terms. Chapter Two discusses the methodology used to develop the study as well as that adopted by the members of the research team during the study itself. Problems encountered over the course of the study are also outlined and discussed. Chapter Three presents the research findings beginning with a presentation of the primary research results. The profile and health needs of the interviewed children are presented by province including the services available to sexually abused and sexually exploited children and youth in each province. A national synthesis outlining the causes of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children is then presented along with an analysis of the gaps in service provision for sexually abused and sexually exploited children. The study ends with Chapter Four, which presents the conclusions and recommendations.

This report has been produced with the generous financial support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) under the ESCAP project “Strengthening National HRD Capabilities through the Training of Social Service and Health Personnel to Combat Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

## ***CONTENTS***

	<i><b>Page</b></i>
<b>Preface</b> .....	iii
<b>Acronyms and Terms</b> .....	vi
<b>Map of China</b> .....	vii
<b>1. Introduction</b> .....	1
1.1 Yunnan Province: Overview.....	1
1.2 Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth.....	1
1.3 Factors Affecting Physical and Psychosocial Health.....	4
1.4 National Actions .....	4
1.5 Objectives of the Study .....	5
1.6 Definition of Terms .....	5
1.7 Confidentiality .....	6
<b>2. Methodology</b> .....	7
2.1 Planning the Research.....	7
2.2 Research Sites .....	8
2.3 The Research Process .....	9
2.4 Problems Encountered.....	10
2.5 Data Analysis and Report Writing.....	11
<b>3. Research Findings</b> .....	13
3.1 Kunming City.....	13
3.2 Quijing City .....	16
3.3 Jinghong City .....	19
3.4 Simao District.....	21
3.5 Research Findings on the Problems and Needs of Sexually Abused and Sexually Exploited Children and Youth.....	23
<b>4. Conclusions and Recommendations</b> .....	25
4.1 Summary.....	25

4.2	Conclusions .....	28
4.3	Recommendations .....	29
	<b>Annex</b> .....	33
	<b>Appendices</b> .....	45
	<b>References</b>	59

## ***ACRONYMS AND TERMS***

<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
<b>Chutai</b>	A girl who provides direct sexual services, such as sexual intercourse
<b>CSW</b>	Commercial sex worker
<b>ESCAP</b>	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>PA</b>	Pornographic Attendant is a collective name given by the Public Security Department to those who are involved in pornographic activities in public places of entertainment
<b>PRA</b>	Participatory Rural Appraisal
<b>SAC</b>	Sexual Abuse of Children
<b>Sanpei</b>	A joint name given by the common people to Zuotai girls and Chutai girls
<b>SEC</b>	Sexual Exploitation of Children
<b>STDs</b>	Sexually-transmitted diseases
<b>Zuotai</b>	A girl who entertains a client in public places of entertainment without providing direct sexual services

## **Chapter 1**

### ***INTRODUCTION***

#### **1.1 Yunnan Province: Overview**

Yunnan is a mountainous frontier province situated in the southwest of China. It is the eighth largest province in the country, occupying a total area of 394,000 square kilometres. Abundant in natural resources, it borders on the provinces of Guangxi and Guizhou in the East, Sichuan in the North, Tibet in the Northwest, Myanmar in the West, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam in the South, and it lies very close to Thailand and India as well.

The total population of Yunnan was 40.94 million at the end of 1997. Of this, the urban population numbered 19.373 million while the rural population accounted for 21.567 million of the total population. Of this, 13.6043 million are from the 25 ethnic groups living in the region, giving Yunnan province the highest concentration of ethnic groups in China. The majority of ethnic groups live in compact communities with populations ranging from 5 thousand to 4 million inhabitants. Due to its diverse population, there is a great disparity between districts regarding socio-economic status, education levels, and cultural and social habits.

China's sex ratio is 106 men for every 100 women. The excess of males in the population is attributable to the one-child-per-family policy of the Chinese Government, and parents' preference for sons. Although ethnic minorities in China are exempted from the national birth-control policy, many of them have nonetheless adhere to it.

Yunnan has seen rapid socio-economic development in recent years, and a big rise in tourism. In 1997, the GDP of Yunnan province reached 164.423 billion yuan, ranking eighteenth in the country.

The level of compulsory education in the region has increased rapidly, with an attendance rate for school-age children of 98.36 per cent and a pupils' admission rate for high school of 76.05 per cent. The percentage of illiterate women in Yunnan has dropped from over 90 per cent in 1949 to below 50 per cent by 1993. 88 per cent of those educated at universities and colleges now live in cities and towns, while the majority of those with only a primary education live in villages. 90.99 per cent of urban children are educated to the primary school level, while 7.81 per cent of urban children enter higher education. By contrast, 71.02 per cent of rural children are educated to the primary level, and only 0.1 per cent enter higher education.

## **1.2 Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth**

### **1.2.1 Sexual Abuse of Children and Youth in Yunnan Province**

According to police investigations and court records, cases of sexual abuse of youth and children have decreased annually over the past two decades. The incidence of abuse in remote and mountainous rural areas is higher than in the city. However, these figures are debatable, since very few cases of abuse are reported. This is because victims are unwilling to report their cases to the police, for fear of social stigmatization, discrimination or blame in the light of traditional perceptions of chastity. Furthermore, cases of abuse often involve family members, which can bring shame to a family, so victims are even less likely to disclose the abuse. As a consequence, the number of victims who report to the police is small and it is extremely difficult to find out how many cases actually occur.

People's perception and awareness of abuse are changing, and gradually the public is becoming more sympathetic towards victims. Moreover, an increasing number of people and organizations are now working hard to help victims and raise public awareness, which may help encourage more victims to report incidences of abuse.

## **1.2.2 The Situation of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth in Yunnan Province**

Trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation was rampant in China prior to the 1949 founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC). After 1949, the practice was strictly outlawed and was effectively suppressed during the 1950s and the 1960s, but it resurfaced again in the late 1970s with the introduction of pro-market reforms. Today, trafficking in women and children has become widespread, meriting national concern.

According to official estimates, there are approximately 1 million women and children in prostitution in China.<sup>1</sup> In 1991-92, the Public Security Bureau uncovered more than 50,000 cases of the abduction and sale of women and children. In 1993-94, 24,751 women and 2,731 children who had been trafficked were reportedly rescued.<sup>2</sup> However, according to one estimate, the total number of women and children abducted and sold may be at least double the official figures.<sup>3</sup>

The low ratio of women to men in modern China and the high cost of dowries and wedding expenses are often cited as primary reasons for the market in "purchased wives".<sup>4</sup> Women and girls from poor, remote southwestern regions, such as Yunnan, are routinely trafficked by criminal syndicates and to strangers in other Chinese provinces and Chinese speaking countries, such as Taiwan Province of China.

The threat of HIV/AIDS has contributed to an increase in the recruitment of young children, because children are assumed to be unaffected by disease. Additionally, it is widely believed in China that sex with virgins will increase male virility. An estimated six per cent of HIV/AIDS cases in the province are contracted through sexual intercourse, with heterosexual intercourse being the predominant mode of infection, since men frequent commercial sex workers and pass the disease on to their wives.<sup>5</sup> As a result, the rate of HIV/AIDS infection is rapidly rising in Yunnan. The high demand for foreign prostitutes in Thailand has also fuelled the trafficking of children and youth from Yunnan, which has become a major target for Thai traffickers.<sup>6</sup>

Poverty is perhaps the biggest underlying factor forcing children and youth into prostitution.<sup>7</sup> Traffickers and mafia gangs buy both boys and girls from poor families or parents who are banned under the law from having a second child.<sup>8</sup> Poverty has even prompted some families to cooperate with traffickers, as remittances from the prostitution of their children often constitute the primary family income, or at least a significant portion of it.

The Coalition Against Trafficking of Women (CATW) report that each year, tens of thousands of young, mostly rural Chinese women, are abducted or lured away from their homes by criminal syndicates promising work or travel. The women are then raped or beaten and sold to brothels in Asia's major sex centres. The overwhelming majority of trafficked victims are generally under the age of 20, and are often illiterate.<sup>9</sup> At a regional conference on *Illegal Labour Movement: The Case of Trafficking in Women and Children* held in Bangkok in 1997, the Chinese delegation attributed the rise of the commercial economy, the regional imbalance in economic development, the skewed sex ratio in remote country areas, the remnants of traditional arranged marriages, insufficient enforcement of laws and lenient penalties for traffickers as factors contributing to the problem.<sup>10</sup>

Studies conducted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) found that many of the children and youth who were trafficked from Yunnan province were not in

fact coerced. The report claims that, as alternative income earning opportunities become more and more scarce, an “attitude change” towards prostitution has occurred:

*“There are rising numbers of girls who are simply persuaded into a job and are well aware of the trafficking process. Many of them socialize with prostitutes and through peer pressure and familiarity with the environment become prostitutes voluntarily.” (ILO/IPEC 1997)*

However, there have also been numerous cases involving abduction. For example, a *Dai* woman from Yunnan told of how she and her friend were kidnapped while crossing the border into Myanmar to purchase cheap clothing. The two women were then drugged and later taken to Thailand to work in a brothel. When they attempted to escape, the women said they were caught, tortured and threatened with death if they tried to escape again.<sup>11</sup>

Cross-border migration has increased significantly due to the effects of globalization and the opening up of borders to previously remote areas such as Yunnan. Intranational and international trafficking networks operate mainly between Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam and Lao People’s Democratic Republic. In 1996 the police exposed a transnational gang of traffickers in the Simao area. The gang was composed of nine Chinese and Burmese traders who had trafficked 37 women into brothels in Thailand in four years. These underground networks are facilitated by the physical proximity of the countries, inter-country roads across the shared border, and other established connections such as cross-border commercial trade and marriages. Cross-border communication in this area is also made easier due to similarities of language, culture and customs around the border areas.

Traffickers often use forged ID cards and employment certificates to lure their victims with promises of employment. Notably, female traffickers tend to outnumber their male counterparts.<sup>12</sup> The ILO has observed that trafficking in the Greater Mekong Subregion has become much more sophisticated and well organized in recent years.<sup>13</sup>

### **1.3 Factors Affecting Physical and Psychosocial Health**

UNICEF found the effects of sexual exploitation on children as being profound and possibly permanent:

*“Normal sexual, physical and emotional development is stunted. Self-esteem and confidence are undermined. Sexually exploited children are especially vulnerable to the effects of physical and verbal violence, drugs and sexually transmitted diseases.”<sup>14</sup>*

Sexually exploited children are at high risk of exposure to drug abuse and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV/AIDS, all of which have a detrimental effect on their health and well-being. In November 1998, the Yunnan Health Times reported that:

*“[B]y the end of 1997, the AIDS virus-infected population had reached 5033 in Yunnan Province and 14,758 in the country as a whole. There were 159 AIDS cases and 116 deaths reported altogether. The AIDS virus-infected people increased further in number in 1998.”<sup>15</sup>*

By the end of the third quarter of 1998, 5,000 HIV positive individuals had been found through “spot” monitoring among high risk groups. “Spot” monitoring targeted drug users, as well as prostitutes and their clients who had been arrested by the Public Security Bureaux. The infection rate among females had risen from 2.5 per cent in 1996

to 17 per cent by the end of 1998, and current trends suggest that the rate of sexual transmission is increasing rapidly.

There are also many psychosocial problems that arise in children and youth who have worked in the commercial sex trade. The cultural stigmatization associated with loss of virginity, as in cases of abuse, and prostitution leave many young victims with severe emotional problems, such as depression, shame, anxiety and self-loathing.

## **1.4 National Actions**

The Chinese Government strongly prohibits prostitution and all aspects of the sex trade. In recent years the government has introduced many legal measures aimed at limiting these practices, such as police raids and banning the use of private rooms in - night-clubs and massage parlours, which are often used for sex. However, one side-effect of government measures has been to drive commercial sexual activities underground, and new manifestations, such as the practice of “Sanpei” girls – or hostesses – has increased dramatically. The covert nature of these activities makes it difficult for police authorities to investigate and penalise those involved.

In accordance with the provisions of the criminal law of China, those who have forced, introduced, or lured women into prostitution are liable to criminal prosecution. Punishments are most severe for those who force or lure those under the age of 14. Penalties include imprisonment for life or, in very serious cases, the death sentence. The Chinese Government has formulated a series of laws and regulations to prohibit and restrain all forms of prostitution.<sup>16</sup> Relevant legislation includes:

- *An Announcement to Firmly Ban the Prostitution-related Activities and Restrain the Spread of VD*, promulgated by the State Council in 1986;
- *A Resolution to strictly forbid all forms of Prostitution* adopted by the NPC Standing Committee in 1991; and
- *Measures for the Rehabilitation and Re-education of Prostitutes and Procurers*, promulgated by the State Council.

In addition, new criminal laws adopted in 1997 modified and expanded the - definitions of certain illegal and criminal activities. For example:

- The crime of rape was extended to include the crime of raping underage children;
- The definition of prostitution was broadened to include the crime of organizing and forcing others to prostitute, the crime of luring or introducing someone into prostitution, the crime of luring underage children into prostitution and the crime of soliciting an underage child; and
- Trafficking was identified as a crime, including the crime of trafficking in women and children and the crime of buying trafficked women and children.

## **1.5 Objectives of the Study**

- To develop a deep understanding of the social, psychological and health - situations and needs of sexually abused and sexually exploited children and youth;

- To conduct research into their health needs and the appropriate services which could be developed to find more effective protective measures for children and youth affected by sexual abuse and sexual exploitation;
- To enable children and youth to safeguard themselves and resume a normal life;
- To enable adolescents and children, in particular girl children, to protect - themselves from potentially abusive and/or exploitative situations;
- To decrease infection and morbidity rates of HIV/AIDS and STDs; and
- To enable people to understand and empathize with victims.

## 1.6 Definition of Terms

**Child** is defined as any human being under the age of 18 years.

**Sexual Abuse of Children** can be defined as contacts or interactions between a child and an older or more knowledgeable child or adult (stranger, sibling, or person in positions of authority such as parent or caretaker) where the child is being used as an object for older child or adult sexual needs. These contacts or interactions are carried out against the child using force, trickery, bribes, threats or pressure.

**Sexual abuse**<sup>17</sup> can be physical, verbal or emotional and includes:

- Touching and fondling of the sexual portions of the child's body (genitals and anus) or touching the breasts of pubescent females, or the child's touching the sexual portions of a partner's body;
- Sexual kissing;
- Penetration, which includes penile, digital and object penetration of the vagina, mouth or anus;
- Exposing children to adult sexual activity or pornographic movies and photographs;
- Making lewd comments about the child's body;
- Making obscene phone calls;
- Having a child pose, undress or perform in a sexual fashion on film or in person (exhibitionism); and
- 'peeping' into bathrooms or bedrooms to spy on a child (voyeurism).

**Commercial sexual exploitation of children** is defined by the United Nation, which defines it as the use of a child for sexual purposes (parent, family member, procurer, teacher, etc).

There are three forms of commercial sexual exploitation, which have already been defined by the United Nations, namely: child prostitution; trafficking; and sale of children across borders and within countries for sexual purposes and pornography.

**Child prostitution** is an act of engaging or offering the services of a child to a person to perform sexual acts for money or other rewards with that person or another.

**Trafficking and sale of children across borders and within countries for sexual purposes** is the transfer of a child from one party to another for whatever purpose in exchange for financial consideration or other rewards. Sexual trafficking is the

profitable business of transporting children for commercial sexual purposes. It can be across borders or within countries, across state lines, from city to city, or from rural areas to urban areas.

**Child pornography** is the visual or audio material, which uses children in a sexual context. It consists of the visual depiction of a child engaged in explicit sexual conduct, real or simulated, or the lewd exhibition of the genitals intended for the sexual gratification of the user, and involved production, distribution and/or use of such material.

## **1.7 Confidentiality**

Throughout the study, pseudonyms have been used instead of the children's real names, in order to protect their privacy and right to confidentiality.

## **Chapter 2** ***METHODOLOGY***

### **2.1 Planning the Research**

#### **2.1.1 Research Institutions Involved**

Because the Yunnan Youth Federation (YYF) felt inadequately prepared to conduct the research, it identified the Sociology Institution of Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences as the relevant research arm for the project, because of its experience in conducting research into trafficking. YYF assisted in contacting and coordinating with the organizations to be interviewed.

#### **2.1.2 Research Team**

The research team was composed of six people:

Professor Qiao Hengrui acted as the leader and research team coordinator for this study, and is the director of the Sociology Institute of the Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences.

Assistant Professor He Zhixiong was selected for his extensive experience in ethnic issues in the mountainous regions of Yunnan, and has also worked on cross-border issues as well as having worked on a project to assess the impact of AIDS on children. The third team member was Assistant Professor Zhang Jie, who was included in the team because of her prior research on women in rural areas using Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) methodology, as well as for her work on drugs and HIV/AIDS research in border regions.

Assistant Professor Zhang Hongwen is an anthropology major, and she has previously participated in projects on women's and children's cross-border migration and rural women's reproductive health. The fifth member of the team

was Assistant Professor Zhao Qun, who was selected for her extensive experience in women's development issues in rural areas, while Professor Fang Jian was chosen for his expertise in data analysis.

A seventh team member was computer expert Han Wu, who later left the research team because he found that he could not communicate with the target group and had not received the necessary training to do so.

### **2.1.3 Stages of Research**

The research team divided its work into four stages after first attending a three-day training session on qualitative research approaches, which was facilitated by the CEDC (Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances) expert from ESCAP.

During the first stage the research team developed a research outline and translated interview guides, both of which were provided by ESCAP. Care was taken to ensure that the materials were relevant to the Chinese situation and culture.

In the second stage the team members sought relevant materials, developed a model for interviewing, and proceeded with interviewing representatives from relevant government departments, including the Public Security Bureau, The Department of Health, The Civil Administration, The Cultural Department, The Women's Federation, The Political-Legal Council, and The Department for AIDS Prevention.

During the third stage of the research, field research was conducted in selected districts, which involved interviewing relevant individuals and organizations, as well as children and youth from the target groups.

The final stage entailed organizing and assessing obtained materials, analysing the interview guides and writing reports on the findings.

## **2.2 Research Sites**

Six research sites in Yunnan Province were originally chosen as research locations. They were Kunming, Dali and Qujing (urban centres), as well as Jinghong in Xishuangbanna Prefecture. Ruili and Hekou were chosen as representative of border areas. Ultimately however, the research team decided not to conduct research in Ruili, Hekou and Dali due to lack of time and budgetary constraints. The researchers later decided to include Simao and Lancang due to the presence of trafficking at these sites, and because of their border locations. However, local government officials in this area did not understand the project objectives and were uncooperative.

Due to a lack of time and budgetary constraints, researchers eventually decided to restrict the research to only four places. The team selected Kunming, Jinghong, Simao and Qujing as the main research sites for the project, for the following reasons:

**Kunming**, as the capital city of Yunnan, is more developed than any other part of the province in terms of economics, social practices and culture, with a strong commercial tendency and a thriving cultural and leisure industry. Therefore, Kunming was felt to be an important site for a study of the commercial sex industry.

**Jinghong**, the capital city of Xishuangbanna, was selected as a research site because of the rapid growth in tourism there in recent years with concurrent

developments in the hotel and leisure industries, making it a likely centre for prostitution. In addition Xishuangbanna Prefecture shares a border with Myanmar, with frequent communication among the people of both countries, including the border inhabitants, within which underground activities of trafficking can take place. Therefore a key-point investigation on the situation of trafficking in adolescents and children could be carried out in the area.

**Simao** was selected because its two frontier counties, Menglian and Lancang, were known as places where transnational trafficking occurred. The investigation in Simao focused on the trafficking of adolescents and children and their transnational flow.

**Qujing** was selected due to the fact that, although it is an important city in the northeast of Yunnan, it is still relatively slow in terms of social, economic and cultural growth. Here, researchers were able to investigate the situation of sexually abused and exploited children in an under-developed area of northeastern Yunnan, in order to provide a comparison with other more developed areas.

## **2.3 The Research Process**

### **2.3.1 Identification and Selection of Target Groups**

The scope of the project mandate was extremely broad, including both sexual exploitation (prostitution, pornography and trafficking), as well as sexual abuse (rape and incest). Although there are overlaps between the two areas, they required different research approaches in terms of methodology and ethics.

Researchers sought to interview children and youth in forced detention places, such as Public Security Detention Centres, drug rehabilitation centres, and those in re-education programmes. The researchers organized group discussions among girls who had worked as commercial sex workers.

Information on girls who had been subjected to trafficking, rape or incest was available mainly through the local Women's Federations and through some direct interviews with girls and their families in the counties of Menglian and Lancang in Simao. A combination of participatory observation and interviews was used to gather information on the girls who had been involved in the commercial sex industry, and time was devoted to forming good relations with them in order to facilitate the interview process.

#### ***Services available for sexually abused and sexually exploited children and youth***

At the time the research was conducted, there were no services, organizations or administrations aimed specifically at treating sexually abused and sexually exploited children and youth. Therefore, only a few institutions and hospitals with an interest in the protection of the rights and interests of women and children were approached for interviews.

As the research dealt with sensitive issues, researchers took the method of combining detailed, probing interviews with data collected through interview guides. Group discussions were also held in order to obtain further information. Additionally, interviews were held with representatives from government departments, hospitals and

NGOs. The team was divided into two groups, which shared the research and fieldwork. The total time for on-site research was approximately two months.

### **2.3.2 Interviewing and Data Collection**

During the course of the research 78 interviews were conducted with sexually abused and sexually exploited children and youth in four cities. Data from 26 cases met the criteria of the study, and are included here. Most of the data was collected through direct interviews, although in some cases families, friends or care-workers provided the information. All the cases are females. 23 of the cases were victims of sexual exploitation, although eight of those girls also had a history of sexual abuse. Three of the girls were sexually abused and had not experienced any sexual exploitation. Of the 23 sexually exploited girls, five had been trafficked across the border into other countries.

Interviews were also conducted with government officials, medical professionals, care workers and other professionals who had direct or indirect contact with the target groups of the study.

#### **Interview process and sites**

##### ***Kunming***

- Kunming Rehabilitation and Detention Centre: nine people were interviewed, but only four of the interviews were suitable for use in the final study. Information was obtained through interviews and PRA techniques.
- Kunming Drug Rehabilitation Centre: 30 persons were identified as suitable for research analysis. However, only 20 of them were willing to cooperate with researchers in fulfilling the aims of the research.
- Private Clinic: researchers did not meet any patients, but were able to interview practitioners.
- The STD Monitoring Centre of Kunming: one of the persons in charge was interviewed.
- Observations of bars, nightclubs and private clinics were also made.

##### ***Xishuangbanna Prefecture***

Researchers visited and interviewed the Public Health Bureau, the Women's - Federation and the Psychological-Legal Consultation Centre for Women and Children in this prefecture.

##### ***Jinghong***

Three sexually exploited girls were interviewed in Jinghong, of whom two were commercial sex workers who had voluntarily entered the commercial sex trade, while one had been trafficked. Researchers visited the skin disease prophylactic-therapeutic hospital, the Women's Federation and the Drug Rehabilitation Centre of Jinghong.

##### ***Quijing***

Six sexually exploited girls were interviewed in Quijing, one of whom had a history of sexual abuse. Researchers visited the local Public Security Bureau, the local police stations and the Detention and Repatriation Centre in Lancang district.

### ***Simao***

40 women were interviewed in Simao district, but data from only four of the interviews satisfied the researchers' interview criteria. The four women had all been coerced into commercial sex work through trafficking.

Researchers visited the local Public Security Bureau, and liaised with local Women's Federations to gain indirect information about cases, and to gain access to sexually abused and sexually exploited children and youth who had been victims of trafficking, or their families.

## **2.4 Problems Encountered**

Prostitution-related activities are a sensitive issue to investigate and difficult to access, particularly given that prostitution is now prohibited in China. However, most of the problems encountered were related to the interview process itself. It was noted that sexual abuse and sexual exploitation are sensitive issues, and research of this nature can impinge on the privacy of individuals if care is not taken. In Chinese society, STDs and HIV/AIDS are very confidential matters. Information on these matters remains confidential and is restricted to relevant individuals such as doctors. Prior to conducting interviews, it was necessary for the researchers to visit service providers one or more times to explain in detail the purpose of the project. Furthermore, since prostitution is illegal in China, for the sexually exploited girls and young women to admit to being sexually exploited signifies that they have been involved in illegal activities.

Distinct barriers exist in identifying and approaching the target group, even when using the method of participatory observation to identify and approach relevant individuals. The problem lies not in the identification of the target group but in approaching them. As indicated earlier, girls involved in the commercial sex trade are usually unwilling to discuss the nature of their work, or their personal feelings and experiences. This makes it very difficult for even female investigators to approach and make contact with them.

In the case of interviewing women who had previously been victims of trafficking, or involved in prostitution-related activities, the scope of interviewing was severely limited due to the lack of closeness between interviewers and interviewees, coupled with the extreme sensitivity of a topic which can be very painful to recall and discuss. Therefore, bearing in mind these two major issues, observation instead of direct interviews was used as a research method where ever possible.

In the case of interviewing women who had been victims of trafficking, or involved in prostitution, researchers took time to carefully explain the research, showed an equal and respectful attitude towards the girls, and promised not to damage their reputations. In addition, researchers took advantage of the good relations between the cadres of the local Women's Federations and former prostitutes or victims of trafficking to carry out work of this kind and create an atmosphere of trust and openness.

## **2.5 Data Analysis and Report Writing**

Researchers transcribed the interviews, which had been recorded. The interview results and interview guides were passed onto the computer specialist, who distributed data in the form of frequency tables.

## Chapter 3

### ***RESEARCH FINDINGS***

This chapter provides an introduction to the situations faced by the 26 sexually exploited and sexually abused children and youth interviewed at the four research sites, and an account of their physical, psychological and social needs. The account includes an overview of existing services aimed at assisting and treating victims of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, and makes recommendations for appropriate services which could better meet the needs of this group. The third part provides a summary and analysis of the research findings.

#### **3.1 Kunming City**

Kunming is the capital of Yunnan and the economic, political and cultural centre of the province. By the end of 1997, the total population of Kunming had reached 3.8382 million; of this, 13.1 per cent were from ethnic minority groups.

Commercial trade, tourism and leisure industries are booming in Kunming. - Increasing numbers of girls and young women have poured into the city from other parts of Yunnan in response to employment opportunities in the city. A number of them, unable to find work, have become involved in sex work, while other girls become involved in prostitution because the financial rewards are much higher than for other forms of work available to them.

##### **3.1.1 Interviewee Profiles**

In-depth interviews were conducted with 13 girls in Kunming. Ten of the girls were sexually exploited, and involved in the commercial sex trade. Of those, eight had also been victims of sexual abuse. The remaining 3 of the 13 girls interviewed had suffered from sexual abuse, but had not entered commercial sex work. Only 3 of the 13 girls interviewed in Kunming were aged below 18; the other 10 were 19 to 24 years old. All of the girls were unmarried.

Two of the girls had graduated from primary school, five from middle school, four from senior high school and two from polytechnic school. The majority of the girls interviewed were from the Han ethnic group. Among them, two were from Chongqing, two from Sichuan, one from Guizhou, one from Liaoning, three from other districts or prefectures in the province and the remaining four from Kunming.

Only one of the girl's parents were poorly educated. The remaining twelve girls' parents had received education in elementary middle school, technical school, or senior high school. Only four of the girls came from broken homes, one of whom was brought up by her grandmother, one by her father and two by their mothers.

Six of the 13 girls interviewed had just graduated from school prior to becoming involved in commercial sex. They entered this work because they could not find alternative employment. Two of the girls had been factory workers, one had been a model, one had been a kindergarten teacher, one had been a bus driver and one had

been a waitress in a restaurant. Nine of the 13 had never received any vocational training while the vocational skills of the remaining four included hairdressing, massage, and infant teaching.

### **3.1.2 Background of Sexual Abuse**

Eight of the girls had been subjected to sexual abuse prior to their entry into the sex trade. The abuse included gang rape, and forced sex from their boyfriends, colleagues or acquaintances. The incidents had all occurred when their male friends had been drinking alcohol. Apart from one girl who asked her uncle to accompany her for a physical examination and medical treatment in a hospital, and one girl who became pregnant as a result of the abuse, and went with her boyfriend's mother to have an induced abortion, the majority of the girls had remained silent about the abuse. They were afraid and unwilling to let their parents know about it and consequently none of their parents knew about their experiences. They were also reluctant to go to a clinic for a physical examination.

Sexual abuse was one of the primary factors pushing these girls into the sex trade (other factors included poverty, negative family relations, and coercion). Of the five girls who had been sexually abused and later entered the sex trade, one went to alone to a city where her friends, who were working as prostitutes, persuaded her to become a "Zuotai" girl in a night club, where she would offer sexual services to clients. Another girl felt that since she was no longer a virgin she might as well earn money through prostitution. The other two entered prostitution because they had become drug addicts as a result of the abuse, and needed money to buy drugs. Another girl sold her body because she wanted to save money in order to build a business in the future.

Of the remaining three girls who did not become involved in commercial sex work after their abuse, one is unemployed and lives at home, supported by her parents, another could not concentrate on her work and eventually lost her job and became a street vendor, and one left her boyfriend after being abused by him and found a job as a tour guide. Later, she found a new boyfriend, and became pregnant by him three times, but she had an abortion each time.

The following is the story of one of the girls who entered the commercial sex trade because of dire poverty and a difficult home life.

#### ***Case Study: Mary***

*When Mary was 12 years old, her parents got divorced. Both she and her younger sister lived with their mother. Both her parents re-married, but Mary's stepfather was indifferent towards her and her sister. Her mother bought a passenger bus, but was killed in a traffic accident. Neither the father nor the stepfather were willing to support Mary and her younger sister. Therefore, she decided to go with a group of people in her village to Guangzhou where she was sent to work as a hairdresser. Her job was to wash customers' hair during the day and to sell her body at night. A year later, she returned to Kunming and began to work as a prostitute.*

One of the 13 girls interviewed was tricked by her boyfriend into travelling with him to Kunming, where he sold her into a prostitution ring.

#### ***Case Study: Jane***

*Jane was from the Northeast of China. After graduating from a Senior High School she fell in love with a boy and had a sexual relationship with him. Half a year later, she was glad to hear that her boyfriend and another man wanted to take*

*her and another girl to go down south to Kunming for sightseeing. When they arrived at Kunming railway station, a group of men approached them, and found accommodation for them in a small guesthouse. Later, Jane and the other girl were told that they had been sold to these Kunming men. The men forced the girls to become prostitutes. If they did not obey, they were whipped or beaten. In addition, the men injected heroin into the girls' veins, and once they became addicted, they were dependent on the men to supply them with drugs.*

*The men bought the girls clothes and cosmetics, and provided their board and lodging. The girls stayed in a small guesthouse, and were taken to another hotel to offer sex to clients. Jane tried to escape five times but was unsuccessful. She was severely beaten every time she was re-captured. On the sixth attempt, she finally succeeded in escaping. She ran to another city and worked as a waitress. However, she could not escape her heroin addiction, and resorted to working as a "Zuotai" girl in a night club offering sex to clients in order to feed her addiction. While working at the restaurant she met a boy and fell in love, but later, Jane was arrested by the police for taking drugs and was taken to a drug rehabilitation centre. Now she is anxious to stop taking drugs, and hopes to establish a family with her boyfriend after leaving the centre.*

The ten girls who had been involved in the sex trade were between 14 and 23 years old, and had spent between two months and four years in the sex trade. One had spent only two months working as a "Zuotai" girl out of curiosity, but she did not have intercourse with clients and only accompanied them in drinking, singing, dancing, and offering them indirect sexual services. After two months, she quit because she was afraid her mother would lose face if it became known that she was engaging in this kind of work.

The ten girls who were involved in the sex trade worked as "Zuotai" girls in public entertainment places, such as hotels, night clubs, dancing halls, or hair-dressing salons. The clients would choose girls to take to a small bar and where they would drink, dance, sing, play games and offer indirect sexual services. If a client asked one of them to provide direct sexual services, the girl had the freedom to accept or refuse, and most girls had a say in which clients they would take.

While working as a "Zuotai" girl at a night club, the girls could earn from 200 to 2,000 yuan for sexual intercourse with a client. Only two of the girls received a client every day, while the rest of them received 6 to 20 clients per month. Their monthly income amounted to an average of 3,000 to 20,000 yuan each. The girls generally worked at night, and were at home during the day. Since the girls had volunteered to enter into this trade, no one could force them to receive clients when they did not want to. The majority of the girls were not under the control of any employer, and rented their own accommodation. Most of the girls did not have a regular place of work, but were inclined to return to those places where they had been most successful in terms of clients.

Few girls working in the sex trade said they enjoyed their work. All of them said they could do nothing else to earn money. They used every method to keep their occupation secret so as not to let their parents know about it, because they felt that it was socially unacceptable. All of them wanted to give up drugs, and some of them were concerned about their futures. They took it for granted that they were despised by others and did not know whether they could find a job after being released from the Drug Rehabilitation Centre. Therefore, it is hard to say whether or not they would return to their former work.

### **3.1.3 Factors Affecting Physical and Psychosocial Health**

As the research in Kunming was mainly conducted in a drug rehabilitation centre, the 13 girls interviewed were all drug dependant. About half of them were initially substance abusers who entered the sex trade to earn money to pay for their addiction, while the other half were not drug users prior to their entry into the sex trade. The main drug used was heroin, which is commonly referred to as “white power”. Yunnan lies very close to the Golden Triangle, a major drug producing area. Except for one girl who was forced by a criminal group to use drugs, the remaining 12 bought drugs on their own. Four of the girls took the drugs intravenously, while the remaining eight used other methods. They had used drugs almost every day prior to entering the centre.

Three of the girls who had been sexually abused had not entered into the sex trade, and used condoms while making love with their boyfriends. One girl took oral contraceptives in order to avoid pregnancy. All of the medicines and condoms were bought by the girls themselves, and were used fairly often in their sex life. Two had been pregnant once and another three times. All had terminated the pregnancies. None of the three girls had contracted any STDs.

Of the 10 girls who had entered into the sex trade, one offered only indirect sexual services, so she had not taken any precautions against pregnancy or STDs. The remaining nine girls had direct sexual relations with clients, and used condoms to avoid becoming pregnant. One of the nine girls was provided with condoms by her employer, while the other eight bought them themselves. Generally speaking, clients were reluctant to use condoms. Under such circumstances, the majority of the girls refused to receive clients. None of the girls who had worked in the sex trade had contracted any STDs, nor had any of them become pregnant from clients. Most of the girls hoped to give up their substance abuse, and acquire knowledge of STDs and HIV/AIDS.

All of those interviewed displayed various effect of psychological trauma. The most common problems were feelings of fear, guilt, shame, dejection and an inability to trust others.

### **3.1.4 Available Services**

So far there are no services aimed at rehabilitation for sexually abused and sexually exploited children and youth in Kunming. Some government institutions and a few NGOs have however offered services to children, but none specifically designed for young victims of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.

**The Drug Rehabilitation Centre (DRC)** is under the control of the city’s security bureau, and is responsible for conducting drug rehabilitation, medical treatment, providing legal consultation, psychological counselling, cultural publicity, and teaching of ethics among detained drug addicts. The objective of the DRC is to rehabilitate and provide training for children and youth who are drug addicts, although some of them have also been subjected to sexual abuse and/or sexual exploitation.

**The Repatriation Centre**, in addition to holding and repatriating women who have been trafficked both within and outside China, is responsible for holding and repatriating those who have no identity cards and no place of residence. The Centre is able to offer residents little more than basic medical services, due to a lack of staffing and budgetary constraints.

**Save the Children Fund (UK)** is currently the only foreign NGO providing services aimed specifically at children in Kunming. The work of SCF focuses mainly on training and other projects related to children's needs.

Hospitals, STD centres, and a skin disease monitoring and prevention centre, only supply medical services and provide no counselling to patients. They do not provide services specifically for children and youth, and all medical expenses must be borne by the children themselves or by their families.

## **3.2 Quijing City**

Regarded as an important city in the east of Yunnan province, Quijing has a total area of 32,544.42 square kilometres. By the end of 1997, the city's population totalled 5.6981 million and its GDP rose to 18.38 billion.

### **3.2.1 Interviewee Profiles**

Six girls were interviewed at the Recollection Centre (hereafter referred to as RC), which is operated by the Public Security Bureau of Quijing City. The six girls all worked as commercial sex workers prior to entering RC. Their work places included a hotel, a hairdressers, a small guesthouse, and a night club. The girls were all unmarried and aged between 17 and 20. One had attended school only up to the third grade, two had graduated from elementary middle school, one had attended the first year of senior high school, and one had graduated from senior high school.

The six girls were from Liuzhou City, in the autonomous region of Guangxi Zhuang, the Yibin district of Sichuan province, Xuanwei county, Chuxiong prefecture and the Zhaotong district of Yunnan Province. Apart from one girl who was from an urban area, all the other girls were from rural areas.

Only one of the girls had a poor relationship with her parents while the other five had very good relationships. All of the six girls' parents were still alive, living together and had stable marriages. Two of the girls' parents were illiterate. One girl's father was a university graduate, and her mother had attended senior high school, and the parents of the remaining three girls had graduated from either elementary middle school or senior high school. Three of the girls' parents were farmers, one girl's father was a government official and her mother ran a private business. The remaining two girls' parents owned small businesses.

Before entering into prostitution, two of the girls had worked as farmers, one was a disco dancer, one ran a small restaurant, and one was unemployed. Most of the girls had never received any professional or vocational training.

### **3.2.2 Background of Sexual Abuse**

One of the six girls had been sexually abused at the age of 16, after which she entered into the sex trade. A man had raped her in a hotel room against her will. The girl buried her feelings about the abuse, and did not inform her parents or go to a hospital for a physical examination.

The five other girls entered the sex trade when they were between 16 and 20 years old. One girl came from an impoverished mountainous region. Her mother had always longed for a son, but instead bore five daughters. Due to the poverty of her family, she had to leave school when studying in the third grade. She went to an urban

area to work in a brick factory and then was encouraged by a recruiter to enter the sex industry. Later, her younger sister chose similar work.

Another girl was tricked by a male villager into going to Kunming. He told her that if she went with him, he could find work for her selling cosmetics. Instead, she was taken to Qujing to work as a “Zoutai” girl in a dance hall. She and another girl later went to work in a hairdresser shop to wash clients’ hair, and sometimes provide sexual services.

For the six girls, the longest time spent in the sex trade was one and a half years, while the shortest time was six months. Each girl had received one client per day on average. The sexual services were divided into two kinds. One called “massage”, which means sexual intercourse over a short period of time, usually less than half an hour, while the other is called “sleeping overnight”. Only one girl was not concerned about the age and occupation of her clients, whereas the remaining six girls were very particular about their client’s age. Some preferred clients aged about 30, and some liked clients aged from 30 to 50. The clients were largely merchants, tourists and businessmen.

According to the interviews, the money the girls earned varied from client to client. It generally ranged from 50 yuan to 800 yuan per client, so their monthly income differed greatly. Except for one girl who sent almost all of her money home, the remaining five girls spent the money they earned on drugs, clothes, cosmetics, rent, food and some recreational activities. Generally speaking, the owner of an establishment would collect a fixed sum of about 50 to 100 yuan from them when they made arrangements with clients on the owners premises. This is referred to as a “Zoutai fee”. The girls were mobile and tended to frequent places where they could make the most money and where there were the most clients. The practice of going from one place to another so is known as “Paotai”.

The girls usually slept, rested or relaxed with their friends during the day, and worked at night. None of the girls had disclosed their career to their families. Only one girl said she enjoyed this form of work, and the rest disliked it. Most had entered the trade willingly, and as such, were free to give up the work at any time they liked. In reality, however, they found it very difficult to change professions once they had entered the commercial sex trade.

All six girls were sent to the Recollection Centre to be re-educated after being arrested during police raids. However, a group discussion revealed that they were not sure whether they would return to their former work or not after being released from the Centre. Some believed it would be very difficult for them to find alternative jobs, and claimed that there was more social stigma attached to poverty than to prostitution. They wanted to take advantage of their youth to make enough money to be able to set up a legitimate business in later years. Only one girl wanted to return home while the rest of them were reluctant to do so.

### **3.2.3 Factors Affecting Physical and Psychosocial Health**

Two of the six girls had taken heroin every day, one of which had used it intravenously. Five girls used condoms to prevent pregnancy and STDs. Four of them took oral contraceptives for further protection. One girl was inconsistent in her use of condoms, and only used them when they were supplied by clients, the rest would usually refuse to service clients who were unwilling to use condoms.

One of the girls had contracted an STD and had gone to see a private practitioner. However, the disease had not been cured despite having spent a lot of money on medical services. The girl was offered medical services on entry to the Recollection Centre (RC), but her disease has remained uncured so far. The government has borne most of her medical expenses in the RC. Two girls had been pregnant, and both had abortions. The remaining three girls had never been pregnant, nor had they contracted any STDs. However, two of these three girls regularly went to a private clinic for a gynecological examination and treatment, which they paid for themselves. Among the six girls, four expressed a desire to acquire more knowledge about STDs and HIV/AIDS.

The staff at RC also provide some psychological counselling. In the staff's opinion, the psychosocial problems of sexually abused and sexually exploited children and youth result from the severe psychological trauma associated with sex work and included self-loathing, fear, loneliness, humiliation and guilt.

### **3.2.4 Available Services**

So far, the only institution offering specialized services for prostitutes and clients in Qujing is the Recollection Centre. The RC is a government institution and is responsible for detaining and re-educating prostitutes and clients arrested during police raids. The government allocates special funds to pay the living and medical expenses for all the "trainees" in the RC and experts from the STD and Infectious Diseases Section of the Epidemic Prevention Centre are regularly invited to give advice to staff. RC staff supply medical and legal services, as well as psychological counselling.

## **3.3 Jinghong City**

Jinghong is situated at the South of Yunnan province and borders Myanmar. With a total area of 6,958 square kilometres, it has jurisdiction over 13 townships and 86 villages. By the end of 1997, its total population had reached 358,482.

### **3.3.1 Interviewee Profiles**

Three girls were interviewed, aged between 20 and 23. One girl had been trafficked into Malaysia and forced to sell her body, another girl had worked as a commercial sex worker in a massage parlour in Jinghong, while the last girl had gone to Shenzhen to work as a "Sanpei" girl. The first girl graduated from primary school, the second from senior high school, and the third had attended the first year of senior high school. The girls were all from ethnic minority groups. One was Meo, one Han and one Aini. The three girls all had good relationships with their parents. All of the three girls' parents were still alive. Except for one girl's parents who had attended elementary middle school, the remaining two girls' parents were illiterate or had only graduated from primary school. Two of the girls' parents were farmers and the last girl's father was a labourer, while her mother and stepfather owned a restaurant.

One of the three girls had originally worked as a farmer, one was a student and one had been unemployed prior to entering into the sex trade.

### **3.3.2 Background of Sexual Abuse**

One of the girls had been sexually abused prior to her entry into the sex trade. Her story is as follows:

#### ***Case study: Sue's story***

*When Sue was attending senior high school, she met and fell in love with a boy who was a long-distance driver. One day, she had supper with him, and he drank a lot of wine. She accompanied him to his dormitory where he had intercourse with her against her will. She did not tell anyone about what had happened to her, including her family. After the first incident, she began a sexual relationship with the boy. However, the boy also had sexual relations with other girls and did nothing to hide this from her. This pained her, because she had fallen in love with him. She was very hurt, and felt that money was the only way to bring her boyfriend back, so she decided to go to another city to work as a massage girl. She offered sex to clients who were willing pay a high price for her. She sent most of the money she earned to her boyfriend, but he did not change his ways. After a while, the girl was so deeply involved in the sex trade that she could not get out of it, and she began to use narcotics as a way to disassociate herself from what she was doing.*

The girls had all entered the sex trade between the ages of 20 and 21. Two of the girls entered the sex trade as a means to earn more money. Both of them had been influenced by girlfriends who were working as commercial sex workers. Another, was trafficked into Thailand and then forced to sell her body in Malaysia. She escaped the brothel after only two days with the help of another migrant Chinese woman, during her employer's absence. The other two girls had been involved in prostitution for 17 months and eight months respectively. One of them was arrested by the police for using narcotics, and could not continue with the work. The other girl had stopped because she missed her family and feared she would lose face if people in her community knew about her work.

The girl who had been trafficked into Malaysia, had been subjected to many - difficulties during her transit. She was first sold to a Chinese trafficker, then to a Burmese trafficker, then to a Thai man, and eventually she was sold to a Malaysian. Some men used guns to coerce the girls into obeying their orders. During her two-days of prostitution, she had been forced to receive as many as eight clients. Because she was kept under strict surveillance, she was not allowed to move around freely or to correspond with her family. From lunch until around 11 o'clock p.m., she was expected to service clients, and the girls at this brothel were only permitted time off during their monthly menstrual cycle. Each client paid her 100 to 150 Malaysian Ringits. She was obliged to submit all of this to her employer. Since she did not want to be a prostitute, most clients were dissatisfied with her service and paid her very little. These fees were only enough to buy a little extra food, as the food offered her at the brothel was very poor.

Of the two girls who voluntarily entered the commercial sex trade, one received two clients per day, and the other one went to dancehalls and nightclubs, accompanying clients in singing, dancing and drinking, and received five to six clients per month. They were not forced to receive clients, and were free to leave at any time. One worked during the day, and the other worked at night. They usually worked for six to ten hours a day. They were to some extent free to decide what to do and what time to rest. Each girl could make 500 to 2,000 yuan per client and could earn 15,000 to 30,000 yuan per month. They spent the money on clothes, cosmetics, food, rent and drugs, saving little. One of them initially sent some money to her boyfriend, and later, she stopped doing so when she found he no longer loved her. She sent some of her money home to support her father and her younger brother, who was then studying at elementary middle school.

Two of the girls hoped to open a grocery store or some other small business, but all of them wanted to go back home. None of the girls parents or other family members had any idea about their occupations, and they did not want them to, and they feared good men would not be interested in marrying them, because of the kind of work they had been doing.

### **3.3.3 Factors Affecting Physical and Psychosocial Health**

Two of the three girls used heroin, from half a gram to a gram every day.

All three girls had used condoms to avoid pregnancy and to protect them from STDs. The girl trafficked into Malaysia was offered 12 condoms per day by her employer, who was more concerned about the clients than the girls. The other two usually bought condoms from a pharmacy. If clients refused to use condoms, they refused to have sex with them. None of the three girls interviewed had ever contracted any STDs. One of them had been pregnant three times prior to her entry into the sex trade, and her boyfriend had taken her to a hospital for an abortion each time. She had not been for any other medical treatment in a hospital.

All of the girls suffered from fear of social ostracism and causing their parents to lose face. They also suffered from feelings of guilt and dejection, while the girl who was trafficked also had trouble forming relationships and trusting others.

### **3.3.4 Available services**

Some services and organizations have been established specifically for children/youth in the city of Jinghong.

**The Women's Federation and the Youth League** mainly conduct legal training and disseminate information about laws which protect the rights and interests of women and children.

**The Judicial Department of Xishuangbanna Prefecture** runs a legal and psychological consultation centre for the women and children. The Centre was established in cooperation with the local Women's Federation, and is supported by Save the Children Fund, UK. The Centre provides legal aid and psychological support to women and children whose rights and interests have been infringed upon. For example, the Centre provided legal aid to a girl who had been sexually abused, but whose case had been unfairly judged. As a consequence of the Centre's intervention, the perpetrator of the abuse was prosecuted. The main objective of the Centre is to disseminate information about existing laws aimed at protecting the rights and interests of women and juveniles, and to assure the implementation of these laws.

**The Drug Rehabilitation Centre** (Hereafter referred to as DRC) is under the authority of the Public Security Bureau. The objectives of the institution are to administer rehabilitation programmes for drug addicts, disseminates legal information and provides psychological counselling. The social workers at DRC are not trained to deal specifically with cases of sexually abused and sexually exploited children/youth, but since many of those addicted to drugs in DRC are also victims, training in those areas should be provided.

**Hospitals and Anti-epidemic Centres** provide medical services to individuals in need, but they have to pay their own expenses.

## **3.4 Simao District**

Located in the southwest of Yunnan province, Simao District borders Myanmar, Viet Nam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), and has a total area of 45,000 square kilometres, 98.3 per cent of which is mountainous. Simao has a total population of 2.4273 million. In 1997, the district achieved a GDP of 4.191 billion yuan, and received 455,000 domestic tourists and 140,700 foreign tourists from Myanmar, Viet Nam and Lao People's Democratic Republic. The Wa district on which Simao borders in Myanmar has long been known as one of the largest drug producing area in the world.

### **3.4.1 Interviewee Profiles**

Girls and young women who had previously been trafficked or had migrated to a foreign country and forced to work as prostitutes were interviewed. 40 girls, or their family members, were initially interviewed through the local Women's Federations. However, ultimately only four girls met the criteria and could be included in the study. The four girls were aged between 17 and 23. Two of them were married with children, while the other two were unmarried. Of the four girls, one had graduated from elementary middle school, two from primary school, and one had only attended primary school up to the third grade.

All the girls were from the Dai ethnic group and believed in Hinayana Buddhism, and all came from rural areas. One was from Menglian county, while the other three were from Lancang county. All four girls' parents were still alive. One of the girls' parents were divorced, and she had been brought up by her mother, the girls had good relationships with their parents. Their parents were all farmers and were poorly educated.

Prior to being trafficked abroad, the girls were all farm labourers. At the time of the research, three of the girls were working as farmers in their home villages, and one was working in Simao City and lived with her boyfriend and worked in a beer factory. The other three lived in their villages.

### **3.4.2 Background of Sexual Abuse**

Prior to being trafficked, none of the four girls had been subjected to sexual abuse, and all had been trafficked between the ages of 14 and 18.

One girl was taken by her boyfriend to the border and sold to a Burmese trader who then sold her to another group of Burmese. These people sold her to a Thai man who sent her to a massage parlor. Two other girls were trafficked into Burma by people from their village, and were sold to a Burmese trader, who sold them again to a Thai man, who sent them to a brothel. The last girl had gone to Jinghong to buy textiles with a friend, where they met two middle-aged women who befriended them, and then persuaded them to go to work in a Thai brothel. The girls had spent up to 11 days travelling to Thailand. The longest any of them was involved in prostitution was one month. Their situations were generally as follows:

*During the month in which they were coerced into the commercial sex trade, the girls were forced to obey their employers and could not refuse to accept clients or they would be severely beaten. The girls were informed that they had been brought to Thailand to work as sex workers. They were told that they would have to pay off all the debts incurred in buying them before they would be allowed to return home. However, the girls were not told how much they would have to pay, or how long they would have to work before they would be able to pay off their debts. The girls were all very inexperienced and innocent. They had assumed*

*that they would be able to make a lot of money as soon as they arrived in Thailand, but soon found that this was not the case.*

Three of the four girls managed to escape after working only a short time. The fourth girl was helped by a Chinese person living in Thailand, and also eventually escaped.

Each of the four girls received one to three clients daily. The clients were generally aged from 20 to 60. They had no personal freedom and were not permitted to go anywhere. They were only permitted days off during their menstrual periods. Two of the girls stayed in their room during the day, and at night they would receive clients. Another girl began to work in a massage parlor and did not receive any clients until late at night. The last girl stayed in her room, providing sex for clients during the day and would go with the other girls to work as a singer and dancer in a bar at night. The girls generally worked from three to 12 hours a day. All were terribly unhappy.

The girls' parents were extremely worried when they found their daughters missing, however now, although happy their daughters are safe, they are upset because the other villagers gossip about what their daughters had been doing in Thailand, causing the parents to lose face. The two married girls are trying to bring up their children and seek a better life working as farmers, and one of the unmarried girl hopes to marry her boyfriend, while the other just wants to acquire a good job in order to earn a living.

### **3.4.3 Factors Affecting Physical and Psychosocial Health**

None of the four girls had ever used drugs. While working in Thailand, the girls protected themselves from pregnancy and STDs with condoms provided by the brothel owners. None of the girls had contracted any STDs, nor had they been pregnant. One of them said during an interview that all sex workers in the brothel had to receive a physical examination every month. All four girls were in good health.

The girls all suffered from feeling of shame and humiliation, which was perpetuated by their parents feelings of shame towards them. Dejection and self-blame were also common problems.

### **3.4.4 Available Services**

Because there are as yet no official services specifically for assisting sexually abused and sexually exploited children and youth in Simao, the local Women's Federations, especially those working at a grassroots level, have organized the bulk of assistance and conducted awareness-raising activities. Women's cadres visit families and try to solve urgent problems for those who've been trafficked. If they are unable to help, they request help from their superiors.

## **3.5 Research Findings on the Problems and Needs of Sexually Abused and Sexually Exploited Children and Youth**

### **3.5.1 Physical health**

Pregnancy, exposure to STDs, including HIV/AIDS, physical violence and bad health due to substandard food and accommodation are the most common physical health problems faced by sexually abused and sexually exploited children and youth.

Based on the results of interviews, few “Sanpei” girls, those who only accompany clients in drinking, singing and dancing but do not offer direct sexual services, have ever been infected with an STD. The research revealed that girls employed as prostitutes in brothels or massage parlours were told to use condoms in order to avoid pregnancy. Most commercial sex workers made clients wear condoms the majority of the time. But for those who were less careful in their sexual activities, STDs were a problem. To combat STDs, some girls bought medicine, but stopped taking it as soon as the symptoms cleared up, not realizing that the STD could still be active. So, as a result of a lack of information regarding STDs, the effects of the disease persisted.

However, because most of the girls had been responsible in using condoms, there was a low infection rate among those interviewed, but for the girls who were raped or forced into the sex trade, where they had little or no control over client behaviour, infection rates were more pronounced. All those interviewed expressed a desire to have more knowledge on how to prevent STD infection.

Gynaopathy was relatively common among sexually abused and sexually exploited youth and children, particularly among young victims of rape and trafficking aged between 13 and 20 years. This is one girl’s story:

*Sue was 13 when she was raped by two young men who were 17 and 18. Being young, she didn’t dare let her parents know what had happened, but a few days later she began to suffer pain, which was then followed by menses. The menses were abnormal, coming twice a month and lasting over 10 days each time. She went to see the doctor who diagnosed her illness as endometrium hyper plasia. She is now 21, and her menses are still abnormal.*

For treatment of STDs, the girls preferred to go to private clinics because STDs are associated with commercial sex work, and they are ashamed. They fear being identified as service girls and want to maintain anonymity. They do not have to register at private clinics, and the attitude of staff towards them is better than at government hospitals. For gynecological infections, the girls may choose government hospitals, private clinics or private pharmacies, where they buy medicine and treat themselves.

For pregnancy and HIV/AIDS tests, the interviewees often seek care at government hospitals. They usually use false names and addresses and therefore can not be identified. The girls prefer government hospitals, especially for abortions. Their preference is due to convenience, the reliable modern equipment and qualified staff at government hospitals.

### **3.5.2 Psychosocial Well-being**

Research indicates that psychosocial problems are prominent among youth and children who have been sexually abused. Because of the non-consensual nature of sexual abuse, victims are likely to suffer psychological trauma, and the extent of the trauma increases the younger the child is at the time of the abuse. According to police and the local Women’s Federation, many victims of sexual abuse erect psychological barriers and find it difficult to resume a normal life. Their psychological problems include a sense of inferiority, sadness, an inability to trust others, fear, feelings of humiliation, irritability, difficulties in forming relationships, self-blame, and loneliness.

Interview guides completed by the girls who had become involved in prostitution after they had been abused, revealed that two of them frequently thought of committing suicide, and three of them often try to mutilate themselves. Evidence

suggests that there is a higher chance that young victims of abuse will resort to prostitution, unless they receive counselling and care.

For commercial sex workers, the research found that the main psychosocial problems were fear, self-blame, guilt, sadness, loneliness, anxiety, feelings of humiliation, feelings of frustration, and feelings of dejection.

The women experience fear because of the illegal nature of the profession, and because they are worried about contracting HIV/AIDS. The girls also feared being abused by clients, but know they have no legal recourse because of the illegal nature of their profession. This creates a feeling of shame, both for themselves and for their families. This also leads to a sense of failure.

### **3.5.3 Addressing Psychosocial Problems**

The psychosocial impact of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation on children and youth has gained significant attention in recent years, and some projects have been initiated to assist young victims. However, research has suggested that many sexually exploited youth and children have been entering the sex trade willingly, but the underground nature of these activities make it difficult to reach them unless they are arrested and placed in detention or correction centres. Once in these centres, they receive psychological counselling, medical treatment, legal advice, cultural and physical health education, and education on STDs and AIDS prevention.

## **Chapter 4**

### ***CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS***

This chapter entails a summary and analysis of research findings followed by conclusions and recommendations for action.

#### **4.1 Summary**

Three sexually abused girls and twenty-three sexually exploited children and youth were interviewed for this study. Seven of the sexually exploited interviewees were also victims of sexual abuse, all prior to their entry into the sex trade. A summary of their situations is followed by a comprehensive analysis of the collected data, taking into account all available evidence including personal characteristics, family background, individual lifestyles, as well as the resulting physical, psychological and social health problems of the victims.

##### **4.1.1 Sexually Abused Children and Youth**

Most of the information on the three sexual abuse cases was attained indirectly through records, interviews with families of the victims, or care-workers familiar with them. All the victims were female. According to the victims, the perpetrators of the abuse were often their boyfriends, co-workers or other male acquaintances. None of the cases involved incest.

Following the abuse, only one victim sought help while the other two, fearing reprisal and communal prejudice, remained silent. According to relevant organizations, cases involving sexual abuse are only reported to the police when the victims become pregnant and are therefore unable to hide their predicament. Thus, it is difficult to estimate the actual number of sexual abuse cases, particularly with regard to incest which tends to be veiled in secrecy due to the involvement of family members.

The three sexually abused victims were generally in good physical health, although some pregnancies had resulted from the abuse. All of them had knowledge of contraceptives, including condoms and birth-control pills, which they currently used.

According to the interview guides, there was severe psychological repercussions - resulting from the abuse. This included feelings of inferiority, guilt, self-blame, sadness, loneliness, humiliation, entrapment, shattered confidence and frustration. These emotional problems are exacerbated by the unavailability of counselling and community support, leaving the victims to bear the psychological pressure of the abuse themselves.

#### **4.1.2 Sexually Exploited Children and Youth**

The researchers found that forms of exploitation varied in the different research sites, and only a small percentage of those interviewed had been deceived or coerced into joining the commercial sex industry. Due to immense differences in the levels of economic development between countries and regions, many women freely choose to migrate and regard work in foreign countries as a means of escaping unemployment or the confines of an unhappy life.

However, research indicates that the majority of the women willing to migrate are ignorant of the kind of work they will be engaging in once they arrive at their destination. Many hoped to find work in plantations, farms, shops and private households, and only once they had arrived at their destination and were indebted to the traffickers did they discover that they were to be sex workers. In addition, younger girls have sometimes been deceived by traders who offer to send them abroad for one or two days of sightseeing only to be forced into prostitution upon arrival.

The four girls interviewed in Simao district had all been trafficked and forced to work as prostitutes. One of the three girls interviewed in Jinghong had also been trafficked into Thailand, but she ended up in Malaysia. Since all five girls had migrated willingly with hopes of better financial prospects, the conventional definition of trafficking as a form of kidnapping or non-voluntary migration does not seem to apply to their experiences. However, they were unaware that they would be sold to a brothel and coerced into prostitution upon arriving at their destination. Therefore, due to the deceptive elements involved, their encounters should be regarded as cases of trafficking. Accordingly, the current definition of trafficking must be broadened in order to encompass the issue of forced prostitution as well.

According to interviews with more than 40 victims of trafficking or their family members, the majority of victims were employed as masseuses in massage parlours, while only a small number had been sold to brothels. In one case, a small group of girls were sold to a massage parlour but later managed to escape and performed odd jobs such as restaurant and domestic service work. Notably, a few of the women were also bought by wealthy men and became their wives or mistresses. Thus, massage parlours in Thailand often seem to provide a smoke-screen for the commercial sex trade, and it may be assumed that many women trafficked into countries like Thailand for the purpose of working in massage parlours have often been subjected to commercial sexual exploitation.

The research suggests that, within the sex trade, there are girls who have chosen to work as prostitutes and hostesses, and others who have been coerced. Of the sixteen women interviewed who had worked as prostitutes in Yunnan, only one had been forced to do so. The remaining women had worked in public entertainment places providing indirect sexual services, where they were required to pay a sum of money to the owner of the establishment for permission to work there. Yet, there was another group of girls who were initially forced into prostitution but subsequently voluntarily chose to remain in the profession. However, their decision to continue to work as prostitutes was often related to the psychosocial impact of having been forced into the profession in the first place and their fears of not being able to have a normal life as a result.

In the majority of cases, the women did not work directly for an employer and therefore paid their own expenses for food and lodging. Once the women began working as commercial sex workers, it became difficult for them to give up their lucrative income for alternative type of work. Moreover, the social circles they form and cultural prejudices they face render it hard for young women to seek work elsewhere.

### **4.1.3 Physical and Psychosocial Health Issues**

Eighteen of the twenty-three interviewees had worked as “Zoutai” or “Sanpai” girls. Their educational level was generally higher than that of the remaining five who had been trafficked into foreign countries and forced to work as prostitutes. Thus, the majority of the eighteen girls had acquired at least some knowledge of various STDs including HIV/AIDS, however, the girls who were trafficked had very little knowledge of STDs and their health implications. Among these girls, both physical injuries and mental trauma were evident. In addition to having lost their personal security and freedom, the victims were also deprived of their sexual autonomy and regarded solely as profit-making instruments. The girls were often lethargic and suffered from severe depression and suicidal tendencies, and some contracted STDs.

According to the interviews, among those who had not been trafficked, some had become pregnant or suffered from various forms of STDs and gynecological problems. Similar to cases involving sexual abuse, the psychological impact on victims of sexual exploitation are extensive and include feelings of inferiority, self-blame, guilt, sadness, loneliness, humiliation, lack of confidence, frustration, and dejection.

### **4.1.4 Trafficking and Reintegration**

The aforementioned cases of trafficking indicate that both national and international trafficking networks are facilitated due to (1) the willingness of the victims to migrate and (2) deception used by perpetrators who mislead victims by promising to improve their future prospects.

Traffickers rely heavily on the victims' naivety and willingness to migrate. Once abroad, the victims are helpless and become entirely subject to the traffickers' control. Additionally, due to their status as illegal migrants, victims are bereft of any legal protection from their perpetrators. Notably, those helping the women to migrate are often their relatives, acquaintances or even lovers.

Research indicates that the girls' entry into the commercial sex trade or desire to migrate transnationally were influenced by: (1) friends already involved in prostitution; (2) poverty; or (3) personal circumstances such as poor family relations, unemployment or a history of sexual abuse. Seven of the twenty-three sexually exploited victims interviewed had been sexually abused prior to entering the commercial sex trade.

However, fear of public humiliation prevented them from reporting the abuse to the police or seeking any medical, psychological or social help.

The five girls who had been trafficked encountered many difficulties and barriers in reintegrating into their home communities. They found that their communities, suspicious of the kind of work the girls had been engaged in while abroad, were unwilling to accept them on their return. They consequently faced obstacles in finding suitable marriage partners. Two of them were forced to choose men from outside their communities as their husbands, while the other remaining girls remained unmarried and abandoned by their boyfriends.

The return of women and girls from work overseas provokes a variety of extreme reactions. Even when the migrants had not been involved in sex work, many of them were suspected of having engaged in prostitution and were therefore discriminated against. Far from empathizing with the women's tragic experiences, community members often ostracized them.

However in some cases, for those who weren't trafficked and who return to their communities, the returning girls were envied because they had managed to earn and save a considerable amount of money while working abroad. Not only did they send remittances back home, they brought back large sums of money which they used to purchase new houses, cars, motorcycles, electronics, jewelry and so forth. In turn, the visible wealth, along with their cosmopolitan experience, entice others to migrate as well. In some cases the returnees operated as recruiters or 'middlemen' within the cross-border trafficking networks.

#### **4.1.5 Services Available for Victims of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation**

So far there are no organizations offering medical, psychological or social services specifically for victims of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation at any of the research sites. Thus, there is a large discrepancy between the needs of victims and the services available to them.

There are, however numerous government hospital and private clinics where - victims can seek help, but their staff are inadequately trained to deal with this situation properly.

## **4.2 Conclusions**

### **4.2.1 Situation of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation**

Available evidence indicates that cases involving sexual abuse tend to occur more frequently in remote rural regions than in urban areas. However, according to figures, the overall incidence of sexual abuse has been decreasing.

The investigation and subsequent analysis indicate that the number of cases involving sexual exploitation – including prostitution, trafficking and pornography – has escalated since the late 1970s. The harsh measures taken by the Public Security Department in dealing with the situation has given rise to new forms of commercial sex work and driven activities further underground. Regional socioeconomic discrepancies have also contributed as 'external factors' in the growth of the commercial sex trade. 'Internal factors' driving women and children into the sex industry include a background of sexual abuse, instability in the home environment, failure to find suitable employment, lack of education or frustration in an unhappy marriage or love life.

As many of the sexually exploited and sexually abused children and youth - interviewed lack knowledge of HIV/AIDS and other forms of STDs, despite being at an extreme risk of contracting these viruses, along with pregnancy and other gynecological problems.

#### **4.2.2 Psychosocial Effects of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation**

Many of the girls had experienced problems in their home and social lives which created serious psychosocial problems for them, including exposure to sexual abuse and/or sexual exploitation. Psychosocial problems must be seen as both contributing to and an outcome of the victims' involvement in the commercial sex trade, and as such more needs to be done in providing qualified counselling services to victims of sexual abuse. Actions must also be taken at the community level to raise awareness of the problems of abuse and to combat negative traditional views of women which leave victims feeling alone, dejected and ashamed. Furthermore, a concerted campaign to inform communities about the rights of children and youth also needs to be undertaken.

#### **4.2.3 Health Needs and Available Services**

The victims expressed a desire for both physical and psychological wellbeing. All of them want to attain information regarding STD-prevention and access to confidential medical assistance in case of an infection. Above all, the girls simply wanted to lead normal lives rather than being subjects of public ridicule and discrimination.

In order for these young victims to find happiness and be successfully reintegrated into the community, they will need extensive support from medical practitioners, counsellors, government agencies and community members. Expert counselling regarding the psychological effects of sex work and sexual abuse, along with qualified assistance in overcoming drug dependencies is also required. However, the services available to assist victims are far from adequate in addressing their needs. Thus, relevant services currently offered by governmental and non-governmental organizations require dramatic improvement and expansion.

### **4.3 Recommendations**

In addressing the problems of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and youth, the following section outlines recommendations for three types of intervention to be initially conducted in the Yunnan area. *Primary level intervention* entails programmes aimed at raising awareness and creating safe communities where children can grow up without the threat of sexual abuse or exploitation. *Secondary level intervention* is intended to identify and protect children and youth who are at risk of sexual abuse or exploitation using indicators such as familial circumstances, areas of residence, etc. *Tertiary level intervention* prevents or minimizes further physical or psychological damage to children and youth who have been subjected to sexual abuse or exploitation.

The long-term goals of these three interventions are aimed at improving the living environment and conditions of women, youth and children, as well as achieving a more equitable income distribution. In addressing the issue of poverty – which is often the largest underlying cause of sex trafficking – attention must be accorded to remedying the low social status of women and increasing their access to education, employment, health-care and other poverty-alleviation measures.

Recommendations for training and further research are also set out in this section.

### **4.3.1 Primary Prevention**

#### **Recommendations**

- Sex education should become an integral part of the school curriculum; the need to raise general public awareness on issues concerning sexual and reproductive health must be addressed.
- Existing laws and regulations addressing sexual abuse and exploitation should be fully implemented and enforced. Particularly with regard to curbing the commercial sex trade, trafficking in women and children, pornography and other forms of sexual exploitation. New legislation must be enacted to ensure better protection of the rights and interests of women, children and youth. In addition, steps must be initiated to promote gender equality in both the legal and social spheres.

### **4.3.2 Secondary Prevention**

#### **Recommendations**

- Information regarding sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS must be disseminated extensively in high-risk communities to raise public awareness. Those working in the commercial sex trade must be specifically targeted, since it is especially difficult for sex workers to access public material and information due to the covert nature of their work.
- Measures should be taken to help women, children and youth who have been victims of sexual abuse or exploitation increase their levels of self-esteem, as well as to alleviate negative social attitudes towards them. Additionally, social workers could also be trained to provide advice on relevant laws and sexual matters in order to reach those women, children and youth who have minimal or no access to government programmes.

### **4.3.3 Tertiary Prevention**

#### **Recommendations**

Community-based action must be implemented in assisting sexually abused and sexually exploited children and youth, and to prevent further victimization. The following factors should be taken into consideration when designing community-based programmes:

1. Measures should be designed and implemented according to the prevailing situation in each area. For example, comprehensive development projects could be developed based on data reflecting the socioeconomic status of women and children in an area with a relative concentration of trafficking cases. These development projects should incorporate activities to enhance the protection of the rights and interests of women and children, educational programmes for girls, and promotion of reproductive health.
2. Development of training programmes should be aimed at raising awareness on sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and their prevention.

3. In order to empower women to defend themselves, programmes to educate women on their legal and personal rights should be expanded.
4. Community-based organizations should increase their capacity to help prevent further cases of trafficking of women and children.
5. Close attention must be paid to helping the most vulnerable group of “rescued” women, children and youth. They must be provided with assistance such as medical treatment, legal aid and psychosocial counselling.
6. Vocational training courses should be offered to women in order to provide them with the means to build stable livelihoods.
7. Training courses should be provided for family members and social workers in communities with high incidence of community members entering the commercial sex trade. The role of participants should be to raise public awareness on legal matters, sexuality and reproductive health, as well as to provide counselling for children and youth who have been involved in or are at risk of involvement in commercial sex work.

#### **4.3.4 Programmes for Sexually Abused and Sexually Exploited Children and Youth**

In order to provide channels for children and youth to leave the sex trade, practical assistance should be made available to them in the areas of schooling, employment, vocational training, marriage, housing and family relations:

- Those who choose to return to prostitution should be advised on the risks of contracting STDs and their means of prevention.
- Training programs offered to detained prostitutes should incorporate elements pertaining to sexual and reproductive health, legal affairs and vocational skills.
- Efforts should be made towards providing psychosocial counselling for sex-workers.
- Family and marriage counselling should be provided for parents or husbands of sex workers in order to create a more favourable family environment following their release from detention centres.
- In order to curb the incidence of sexual abuse, public awareness programmes on sexual issues and sexual health should be made available in communities where cases of sexual abuse are common.
- Legal, psychological and medical assistance must be provided for the sexually abused children and youth in order to prevent further victimization.
- Sex workers come from various cultural and educational backgrounds. Thus, the training methods and materials used in the rehabilitation or detention centres must be appropriately tailored to the specific needs and abilities of the target groups.
- Victims of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation not only need help in developing goals and resuming normal lives, they also need assistance in reintegrating into their families and home communities with minimal personal trauma.
- Although sex workers and potential beneficiaries of training and assistance - programmes could be fairly easily identified, it is difficult to persuade them

to attend these programmes due to the underground nature of their work. This issue has yet to be resolved.

## ***ANNEX***

### **ANNEX I:**

#### **Interview Guides instructions for filling in the Interview Guides**

There are four interview guides and one observational guide:

A. Interview Guide for project managers/coordinators: pages 35-38.

This includes questions on the organization in general, including the type and qualification of staff. There are also general questions on sexually exploited and sexually abused children and youth. Use the 'Health Inventory' as a guide to establish the most common health problems.

B. Interview Guide for health/social care providers: page 39.

Observational Guide at the health/social care facility: pages 40-41.

You should interview those who have direct contact with sexually abused and sexually exploited children and youth on a day-to-day basis in government and non-governmental programme, such as social workers, nurses, medical doctors etc. The Interview guide includes specific questions on work tasks and needs of sexually abused and sexually exploited children and youth as perceived by caregivers.

Use the 'Observational Guide'. The Health Inventory should also be used as a guide to establish the most common health problems of the children and youth.

C. Interview Guide for teachers: page 42.

Contains specific questions for teachers who have direct contact with sexually abused and sexually exploited children and youth.

D. Interview Guide for children, on factors affecting health: page 43.

Interview Guide for children on factors affecting care utilization: page 44.

These Guides also include some pointers on probing a young person's background and their history of sexual abuse and/or sexual exploitation (page 44).

Use the Health Inventory to establish the health problems of the children and youth. When Questioning children, explore the use of diagramming techniques to complement verbal responses (see materials on participatory rural appraisal (PRA) methods with children).

- For each organization with direct services for sexually abused and sexually exploited children and youth, you will be required to fill in Interview Guides

A, B and D. If the organization has a non-formal or vocational school, then you will also fill in C. If children attend a school situated close to the organization, find out the name of the school and the grade (class level) of most of the sexually abused and sexually exploited young people and make arrangements to interview the teachers who teach those grades/classes.

- Please write as clearly as possible, preferably in BLOCK LETTERS. If possible, enter the information into the computer at the end of each day.
- Do not be discouraged if you cannot get answers to a question. Try to get as much information as you can. Remember, in qualitative research it is the richness of the discussions that counts.
- The 'Health Inventory' requires you to fill in the number between 1 and 5, choosing one alternative from the scale provided. With service providers you should only fill in the MOST COMMON health problems of the children under their care. When using the Health Inventory with the children, however, you should fill in ALL their health problems.
- It will take, on average, 10 days to conduct interviews in one location. Interview all service providers and not more than 20 sexually abused and sexually exploited young people in each research site.
- Ask for organization publications and review these for additional information.

## **A. Interview Guide for Project Managers**

NAME OF ORGANIZATION:

MAILING ADDRESS:

CONTACT PERSON/PROGRAMME:

TELEPHONE:

FAX:

E-MAIL:

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION:	Governmental	Non-governmental
	University	Hospital/Clinic
	Religious	Other, specify

DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT:

BRANCHES/CENTRES:	No	Yes (list + address)
	use separate interview guides for each centre	

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:  
(sketch on separate paper if more space required)

WORK STRUCTURE:

ANNUAL BUDGET:

BUDGET ALLOCATED TO EACH AREA OF WORK:

COMMENCEMENT OF CSEC/SA ACTIVITIES (month/year):

TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF:  
(specify number in each area of work/profession)

PREFERRED AGE OF WORKERS:  
(specify area of work/profession)

PREFERRED SEX OF WORKERS:  
(specify area of work/profession)

NUMBER OF PAID STAFF:  
(specify number in each area of work/profession)

PROFESSION OF PAID STAFF:  
(specify for each area of work/profession)

SALARY LEVEL:  
(specify for each area of work/profession)

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS:  
(specify number in each area of work/profession)

PROFESSION OF VOLUNTEERS:  
(specify area of work/profession)

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION (what do they look for in their staff?):  
(specify area of work/profession)

MINIMUM EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:  
(specify qualifications for area of work/profession)

MOTIVATION (what makes the workers stay):  
(specify motivation for each area of work/profession)

STAFF BENEFITS (e.g. housing, transport, medical insurance):  
(specify benefits for each area of work/profession)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT  
(e.g. training, supervision and support):  
(specify opportunities for each area of work/profession)

**SUMMARY OF WORK AND SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS:**  
(ask for brochure and annual report(s) if available)

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES:

TYPE OF SERVICES/CARE PROVIDED:

FACILITIES AVAILABLE:

NUMBER OF CHILDREN AT TIME OF INTERVIEW:

TOTAL NUMBER CARED FOR IN PROGRAMME:

TARGET GROUP:  
(e.g. street children; indicate if children from  
specific ethnic groups are targeted)

AGE GROUP:

SEX:                      Female              Male  
                                    Both

LENGTH OF STAY AT INSTITUTION:

DURATION OF CARE/SUPPORT:  
(for those not in institutions)

HOURS OF SERVICE (when do they open and close?):

COMMON HEALTH PROBLEMS/NEEDS OF CHILDREN:

(see physical and psychosocial inventory)

HOW ARE THEY DEALT WITH:

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN DEALING WITH CHILDREN:

DAILY ACTIVITIES:  
(describe a typical day at the institution)

WEEKLY/MONTHLY/ANNUAL ACTIVITIES:

WHAT IS REQUIRED OF BENEFICIARIES:

MAIN SOURCES OF FUNDS:

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PROGRAMMES:

METHOD OF FOLLOW-UP OF BENEFICIARIES:

COLLABORATING AGENCIES:	Governmental	Non-governmental
	University	Hospital/Clinic
	Religious	Community
	Other, specify	

SPECIFIC AREAS OF COLLABORATION:

STRENGTHS OF THE ORGANIZATION:

CONSTRAINTS:

FUTURE PLANS:

INFORMATION/DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE:  
(Please list all materials available. Use additional paper if necessary)

***Unpublished papers/reports:***

***Published papers/reports/books:***

***Bibliographies:***

***Training materials:***

***Videos:***

***Posters:***

***Others:***

ONGOING AND/OR PLANNED RESEARCH:

METHOD OF DISSEMINATING INFORMATION LISTED ABOVE:

WHAT IMPORTANT THINGS SHOULD CHANGE IN YOUR COUNTRY TO PREVENT SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN?

WHAT MEASURES IN YOUR OPINION SHOULD BE TAKEN TO HELP SEXUALLY EXPLOITED AND SEXUALLY ABUSED CHILDREN TO CHANGE THEIR SITUATION?

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WISH TO ADD?

## **B. Interview Guide for Health/Social Care Providers**

- What is your profession and in which service do you work?
- How long have you worked in this organization? And in this particular service?
- Why do you work in this particular service and how did you begin? What motivates you?
- Are there things you would like to change in your present work?
- What proportion of your patients are sexually exploited or abused children? What proportions of these are male or female?
- What are the most common health problems among the children you see? Among girls? Among boys? (use the health inventory)
- Do you encounter problems associated with or arising from: sexual relations, pregnancy and childbirth, induced abortion, sexually transmitted diseases including HIV infection, AIDS, substance abuse, psychological disorders, developmental delays?
- What difficulties do you face dealing with these children?
- What interventions are included? Play therapy, social skills training etc?
- What procedure do you follow after admitting a child to your centre?
- Do you provide contraceptives or contraceptive information? Do you provide condoms for the prevention of STD/pregnancy? Does your service provide abortion to the children?
- How does a child of either sex have access to your service? Is it through referral or can she/he come directly? Is an appointment necessary? Is the consent of an adult or partner necessary?
- Are some services restricted by age, sex, marital status, ethnic group or citizenship?
- How do you deal with children who cannot be catered for in your programme?

- In a case of referral, where do you refer? How do you follow up the children?
- Do you receive children referred from other centres/organizations?
- To what extent is the service confidential? How many people within the service will have access to the child's name and/or file? Is the individual's name reported for some health matters to others subsequent to the visit?
- Do the children express satisfaction after visiting the service? How is this communicated?
- What are the main barriers to the use of your service by children and what, in your view, could be done to overcome them?
- To what extent do you believe the health problems of sexually abused and exploited children are preventable?
- What, in your opinion, could be done in your service to make it more accessible to sexually abused and exploited children in need?
- What, in your opinion, could be done in your service to make it more effective for sexually abused and exploited children in need?
- Have you had any special training to deal with the special health problems of sexually abused and exploited children? If you have not, would you like to have that opportunity?

## **Health/Social Care Facility Direct Observation**

***Direct observation to assess how health services are actually provided when children are clients. Assess the level and quality of services they receive by using children as clients.***

- What (health) services exist, for whom, where, when, why, how much?
- Who brings the children to the (health) centre?
- How accessible is the (health) centre in terms of location?
- Does the centre have a waiting room for children/service users?
- Do the children/service users encounter problems in getting somebody to attend to them?
- For how long do they wait before they are attended to?
- Do they feel at ease with the environment?
- Are there enough posters in and around the premises? What types?
- How explicit are those posters?
- Does the centre have beds, do children have to leave after being attended to or both?
- If they have to leave, how does it deal with serious cases?
- In case of admission, what procedures are followed?
- In a case of referral, where do they refer?
- In which situations do they refer?
- How do they treat cases of referral from other (health) centres?
- What other follow-up do they use after a child/service user leaves the centre?

- Do they have special rooms to deal with children/service users who have personal problems, that is, with more privacy for discussions?
- How many types of services do they offer at the same time?
- Are there specific provisions for dealing with sexually abused and exploited children?
- What are the facilities available at the centre and what are they short of?
- Can the children using the (health) centre come without appointment?
- Do they require anything from the child before they are attended to?
- How do they assist those who cannot, for instance, fill in forms?
- Do they pay for the treatment/service? Do they pay before or after receiving the treatment/service? How much?
- How are children/service users who cannot pay immediately treated/provided care?
- What are the characteristics of the children using the service with regard to age, sex, marital status?
- What difficulties do they face in presenting their problems?
- Do they make their requests (personal and medical) known to the (health) workers?
- What are the characteristics of the (health) workers with regard to age, sex and training?
- What is the approach or general attitude of the (health) workers to their duties and the children/service users?
- Are the (health) workers approachable?

### **Health Facility Direct Observation** *(continued)*

- Apart from providing health and social services, do they give advice to patients when necessary, especially sexually abused and exploited children?
- How do the (health) workers decongest the centre of those who are not service users?
- How are the children taken care of in terms of feeding?
- Are there hawkers around who sell food to children/service users who are hungry in the course of receiving treatment/care?

#### ***State of physical structures, care and interactions***

- Number of buildings and size
- Condition of buildings
- Facilities available: telephone, cooking, bathroom and toilet, sleeping arrangements, clothing, - recreation (games, toys and books)
- Approach and attitude of caregivers to their duties and children
- quality of care, hygiene, health and nutrition

- Do children show sign of psychological neglect, inadequate stimulation, malnourishment?
  
- Does the centre have any contact with community members?

Additional comments:

NAME OF INTERVIEWER/OBSERVER: .....

DATE AND PLACE OF INTERVIEW: .....

### **C. Interview Guide for Teachers**

- What subjects do you teach? Where do you teach? What grade/age do you teach?
- What are the most common questions children have about sexual abuse and exploitation?
- Do you provide sexual, family life and reproductive health education or information on sexual abuse and exploitation to children?
- If so, of what age and sex?
- Have there been opportunities to involve young people in outlining the education course, and have you made use of young people in any subsequent modifications?
- Have parents been involved in the development or implementation of the activities?
- What are the major lessons you have learned about what makes the education effective?
- Are there opportunities for students to practise skills that would assist them to communicate their feelings and wishes assertively, request assistance, respond to persuasion and deal with threats and violence?
- Do you find it difficult to address issues of sexual abuse and exploitation?
- Do the children find it difficult to discuss these issues?
- What differences in behaviour do you find between the younger and older children?
- What differences in behaviour do you find between the sexes?
- Have you had any special training to deal with sexual abuse and exploitation? If you have not, would you like to have that opportunity?
- Is specific information provided about local health and social services which could meet the needs of sexually abused and exploited children?
- Does the education provide field visits to local health and social services and places where children are engaged in sexual exploitation?

- Is individual counselling provided by you or others in the school which covers sexual abuse and exploitation?
- Have you come across children who are sexually abused or exploited in your school?
- How were they identified and what action was taken?
- Do these children have learning and/or concentration difficulties? Probe for forgetfulness, uneven levels of concentration and difficulties in undertaking simple tasks.
- Do these children socialize with other children in the school easily?
- What other problems do they have that differ from those experienced by other children in your school?
- In your opinion, can the school and teachers play an important role in preventing sexual abuse and exploitation of children? If no, why not? If yes, how?
- What role can the school/teachers play in the reintegration of children who have been sexually abused and/or exploited?

## **D. Interview Guide for Children – Factors Affecting Health**

- Tell me about yourself. Probe for age, family and educational background, ethnic group, type of work.
- Describe in detail the setting in which the children live
- Describe in detail the setting in which the children work
- What do you like/dislike about your work?
- Can you leave if you wish to?
- What are your dreams and future aspirations?
- Do you ever think of returning to your family and/or marriage?
- How often do you visit your family?
- What are your daily activities from the moment you wake up to the time you go to sleep? Probe for working/sleeping hours
- Do you have a day off? How do you spend your free time?
- How much money do you earn? How much is kept by the brothel/bar owner and how much do you receive? Do you share the money you earn with others? How much and how often?
- How much of this money do you send to your parents/family?
- At what age did you enter commercial sex? At what age were you sexually abused?
- Were you forced, sold or did you enter “willingly”? If sold or forced, by whom?
- Were any of your family members or close friends and relatives involved? How?
- How long have you been working?
- What type of sexual exploitation are you involved in?
- Do you have someone to turn to for support when in need?
- Do you have friends? How do they define them?
- Do family members, friends and service providers approve of the work you are doing? Why? How is it communicated?
- Have you been physically or sexually abused at your place of work? By whom? How did it happen?

- How many clients do you have per day? Describe them. Probe for age, sex, profession, nationality of the client.
- Do you use condoms during sexual encounters?
- Do you use them all the time or only with some people? If selective, which people and why?
- Have you suffered from STDs previously? or/and been pregnant?
- What did you do? Probe for the decision to abort or deliver the child and how it was made.
- Did you seek care? Where? What was the reaction of your friends, family members and service providers?
- Have you ever taken any substances? Do you take any currently? If yes, which ones?
- Why do you choose these particular substances? Probe for effects, availability and cost.
- What is/are the slang name(s)? How do you take the substance(s)? Probe for methods of using substances.
- How frequently do you use it/them?
- Do different types of children prefer different substances? Probe for substances used by younger/ older children; boys/girls and children in various work contexts.

## **Interview Guide for Children – Care Utilization**

- What are your medical, psychological and social needs?
- How are your needs/complaints handled by caregivers?
- What preventive methods do you use?
- When do you use health services? Drop-in centres? Rehabilitation centres?
- How frequently do you visit these services?
- When was the last visit? Did you go alone? If no, who accompanied you and why?
- How do you know about these facilities?
- What do you get in terms of services, supplies and advice when do you go there?
- Are there services you do not go to?
- If yes, why? If no, why? Probe for accessibility and acceptability.
- What would you suggest for improving the situation?
- When was the last visit to a doctor?
- What was the diagnosis and length of treatment?
- Was the care and medicine provided free of charge or was there a fee paid?
- If you paid, how much was it and who paid?
- Do you use medicines which were prescribed or suggested by others?
- What kind of help would you wish to have?
- Do you have any recommendations to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse of children in your country?
- What measures should be taken to help victims at various stages of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse?

## **Probing the Child's Background and History of Abuse/Exploitation**

History of sexual exploitation/abuse

description of the child victims in terms of age, sex, socio-economic background, educational level, parents' occupation and educational background, family size, number of siblings, their age and sex, position of victim in family etc.

Who the molesters/agents are

are they adults, strangers, neighbours, someone they know, family members, employers? Probe on how abuse/exploitation took place and the possible reasons. (e.g. a possible cause in domestic sexual abuse is poor marital relationships, death of mother, separation of parents).

Age when molested or when entered commercial sex?

Duration and type of sexual abuse/exploitation

did it only happen once or was it recurrent? Did the sexual abuse include genital penetration or was it only playing/fondling with genitals? Were the children threatened if they disclosed the abuse/exploitation?

How did they stop/end the sexual abuse/exploitation? What was the reaction of peers, teachers, family members, caregivers, officials etc?

## ***APPENDICES***

### **APPENDIX 1:**

#### **Institutions and organizations interviewed**

Yunnan Provincial Department of Civil Affairs, Wuhuashan, Kunming

The Collection and Repatriation Station of Kunming City

Yunnan Children Development Centre, Kunming

Yunnan Provincial Office of AIDS Prevention and Cure, Kunming

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Office and General Vice Squad under the Jurisdiction of Yunnan Provincial Department of Public Security, Kunming

Yunnan Provincial Department of Culture, Kunming

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Office of Kunming Municipal Bureau of Public Security Road, Kunming

The Drug Rehabilitation Post attached to Kunming Municipal Bureau of Public Security

Save the Children Fund (UK), Kunming Office

The Public Health Bureau; the Epidemic Prevention Stations and the Skin Disease and VD Prevention and Cure Stations, Xishuangbanna Prefecture

The Prefectural Women's Federation of Xishuangbanna

Jinghong Municipal Women's Federation

The Psychological and Legal Consultation Center of Women and Children of Xishuangbanna Prefecture

The Drug Rehabilitation Post attached to the Public Security Bureau of Jinghong

Qilin District Police Station

Collection and Education Post for Law-Breakers

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Section of Qujing Public Security Bureau

## **APPENDIX 2:**

### **Current work: Implementation of a Project Survey**

#### **A Project Survey on the Elimination of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth in Xishuangbanna Prefecture**

##### **Rationale**

In accordance with the objective of ESCAP project on the *Elimination of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children in Asia and the Pacific*, the project group identified Xishuangbanna prefecture as a key area for conducting a *Project Survey on Elimination of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of children and youth*.

Xishuangbanna was chosen because the area is a major tourist destination and trade route, and because it borders several countries, as well as the fact that the Mekong river runs through it. These factors have contributed to the growth of the commercial sex industry in the prefecture.

##### **Aims of the project**

The aims of the project were:

- (1) To provide medical and social assistance, with respect to the protection of rights; address social problems; and disseminate information on the prevention and treatment of STDs; and
- (2) To identify a target group for the provision of services, and to investigate the situation regarding the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and their health needs.

##### **Methodology**

Methods used for the survey included qualitative research through interviews and observation; and quantitative analysis derived through questionnaires.

##### **The Work of Safeguarding the Rights of Women and Children**

Those conducting the survey used the document entitled *Safeguarding the Legal Rights of Women and Children* as a guide to conducting a survey on the situations of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation in the survey area.

In accordance with the working characteristics of propagating the rights and interests of women and children and providing assistance to them, Xishuangbanna prefecture has established the *Psychological and Legal and Consultation Service Centre for the Women and Children of Xishuangbanna*, hereafter referred to as the Centre. The Centre was formally set up in March 1997, with the purpose of publicizing and implementing the following legislation:

- The “*Law of Safeguarding the Rights and Interests of Women*”;
- The “*Law of Protection of Juveniles*”; and
- “*An Implementation Outline of Development of Chinese Children in the 1990s*”.

The Centre aims to improve the legal consciousness of women and children and their capacity for self protection in accordance with the relevant laws, in addition to conducting investigations and research.

The following services are provided:

1. Training programmes for professional staff who work with women and children;
2. Psychological, legal and health consultation;
3. Advisory services;
4. Cultural exchanges for women and children; and
5. Introductions services.

Those involved in the project feel the work of the Centre is very important, although difficult at times. Since its establishment, the Centre has taken up more than 200 cases, among which the legal-aid cases involving women and children account for 70 per cent. However, cases which were successful in claiming the rights and interests of women and children only account for about 10 per cent.

The work of promoting rights should take the following into consideration:

1. Women and children need to be informed that rape is a crime, in addition to learning how to protect themselves from a potential rape situation;
2. Women, children and youth should be educated about the *Law for Safeguarding the Rights and Interests of Women and Children*;
3. The *Rules and Regulations of a Village* must incorporate items relevant to the rights and interests of women and children, and local traditional and religious channels should become instrumental in disseminating this information;
4. Women’s Federations can provide a means for establishing networks for maintaining the rights of women and children through a ‘bottom-up’ approach; and
5. Awareness-raising tools, such as media and education, should be exploited.

## **Health-related activities**

The project group considered that a survey of the needs of victims of sexual abuse and exploitation should initially be conducted in order to be establish appropriate health-related services.

### **Awareness-raising for the prevention of STDs**

Xishuangbanna prefecture places great emphasis on STD and HIV/AIDS prevention since it is an issue of major social significance. In response to the increase in STD cases in the locality, and the global spread of HIV/AIDS, awareness-raising activities focusing on STD and HIV/AIDS prevention have been conducted, and efforts have been made to promote health knowledge among members of the commercial sex trade.

*A Project focusing on the Prevention and Control of AIDS*, which also promotes better community understanding of HIV/AIDS patients is currently being implemented by UNICEF, in conjunction with the Yunnan Provincial Government. Various departments have cooperated in the implementation of this training project. The training contents includes:

1. A brief introduction of the project;
2. An introduction to the HIV/AIDS situation in Yunnan province, as well as in neighboring countries and the rest of the world;
3. An introduction in elementary knowledge of HIV/AIDS, and basic prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS;
4. An introduction on the tactics and measures for the prevention and control of AIDS in Yunnan Province;
5. The effects HIV/AIDS has had on society, the economy, politics and culture;
6. The situation regarding the spread, prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS in Xishuangbanna prefecture;
7. Publicizing and explaining the 'Announcement to Strengthen the Work of Prevention and Control of AIDS' Promulgated by Yunnan Provincial Government;
8. The various responsibilities of each department of Xishuangbanna prefecture with respect to their work on the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS; and
9. Health education, including education on the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, through various means, including the use of videos.

The following work has been conducted in accordance with the above project:

1. A discussion course for prefectural and municipal leaders was conducted. The leaders' support is viewed as a major factor required for the successful implementation of the project;
2. A discussion course for leaders of all the departments was conducted, so as to provide a basis for the awareness-raising and education work which will be developed among all the departments;
3. Carrying out awareness-raising activities on AIDS prevention and control at a prefectural meeting on Hygiene and Sanitation work, including a training course for medical personnel;

4. Conduct of a training course for various department personnel, who then - conducted further training programmes among their co-workers in various - departments;
5. Based on the above system of training, further training courses were designed, targeting chiefly the women cadres of the prefecture. It was noted that the Women's Federation is an institution with a wide-reaching network and consistent structure, which attracts participation from a wide range of individuals, and a committed sense of involvement;
6. A training course for doctors in rural areas was conducted, at which more than 300 country doctors were trained, and the training personnel were able to identify the doctors' level of knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS prevention and control. The questionnaires filled out by the doctors indicated that they had sound knowledge of these issues. Because doctors in rural areas are responsible for the health of ethnic groups, who were most in need of relevant information, these doctors can play an important role in conducting HIV/AIDS education in the languages of the local ethnic groups. This is the main means by which awareness can be developed in rural areas;
7. A Training Course for Middle School Students with the aim of developing an understanding of HIV/AIDS. Training courses were carried out for instructors at 12 middle schools in the prefecture, to enable them to develop their own courses for vocational middle school students, who are majoring in areas such as tourism and hotel work, which are associated with the commercial sex trade. It is hoped that these students will be able to act as positive role models in the future;
8. A Training Course for Teachers in rural areas was conducted, aimed at equipping them with knowledge of HIV/AIDS. The high regard with which teachers are held in Chinese society means that this group will be able to significantly influence not only students, but parents and the wider community;
9. A Training Course for the Medical Staff of the Hygiene and Sanitation System was conducted for the personnel and doctors of the hygiene systems at the city and town levels, with the aim of providing training in consultation;
10. A Training Course for Tour Guides in Tourism was conducted for about 1000 tour guides. Information was provided regarding the transmissions of HIV/AIDS, preventive measures, and treatment. The guides were asked to pass on their knowledge to others;
11. A Training Course for Drug Addicts was conducted at the Government Drugs Detention and Rehabilitation Centre, through lectures and audio-visual presentations. Questionnaires completed by those who attended indicated that they had all acquired a basic level of knowledge of the subject;
12. Awareness-raising was carried out through Buddhist monks in temples frequented by member of the Dai ethnic community, and religious festivals also provided a vehicle for disseminating knowledge about HIV/AIDS. The monks are very much revered, and very influential in local areas, and therefore provide a very effective means through which to publicize the issues;

13. Basic knowledge of STDs and HIV/AIDS and prevention were broadcast via cable television, and other arms of the mass media, such as radio, newspapers and magazines, and videos were also used to ensure widespread publicity of the issues;
14. Prior to the launch of the training programmes, A Training Course for the Employees at A Private Clinic was implemented, aimed at providing a survey of Private Practitioners' Knowledge of STDs and HIV/AIDS. About 100 questionnaire were completed during this exercise.

### **Training Methods**

Diverse training and awareness-raising techniques were used, including questionnaires, lectures, videos, and PRA methods.

### **Trends Within the Commercial Sex Trade**

Although the Chinese Government has devoted many years to the prohibition of prostitution and related activities, the commercial sex trade has not yet been extinguished. Evidence suggests that:

1. There is a tendency towards an increase in the number of prostitutes and clients;
2. The average age of prostitutes is decreasing, while clients are from all age groups;
3. In recent years, the number of prostitutes from rural areas has increased most rapidly
4. Activities related to the commercial sex trade are constantly taking new forms.

## **APPENDIX 3: Case Studies**

### **Case Study 1**

In September 1997, the Psychological and Legal Consultation Service Center of Women and Children of Xishuangbanna Prefecture, hereafter referred to as the 'Centre' was informed of a rape case involving a girl who had been raped over a long period in a village. The following is a summary of the case.

After the divorce of her parents, a girl named *Y* and her younger sisters went with their mother to live with the family of their new stepfather, *A*. When *Y* was 15 years old the stepfather raped her. For two years, the stepfather would rape *Y* whenever her mother was out. After *Y* became pregnant, *A* forced his wife to take her daughter to have an abortion. In order to conceal the abuse, *A* arranged a marriage for *Y*. On the wedding night he called her out of the room and violently raped her. *Y*'s new husband could not stand such an abnormal relationship between the "father and daughter", and divorced *Y* in less than two months.

Y's mother was both worried and afraid. She felt very sorry for her daughter but also felt she would lose face if she made the situation known to others. She was also afraid of her husband, whose aggressive nature was well-known in the area.

A was finally imprisoned after the "Centre" carried out an investigation, obtained evidence and wrote a report of complaint. However, Y had been physically injured and suffered from mental trauma as a result of the abuse. Furthermore, she was subjected to an unforgiving public, and was blamed for what had happened.

Although the Centre did everything in its power to assist Y, ultimately the physical health and counselling needs of the girl were beyond its capacity.

## **Case Study 2**

On 1 January 1998, a 19-year-old young man called X raped a 13-year-old girl. The case was reported to the Women's Federation, hereafter referred to as 'WF'. Under the framework of protecting the legal rights and interests of underage people, WF reported the case to the local police. However, the police only fined the criminal 2,000 yuan and sentenced him to 7 days administrative attachment for soliciting an underage girl, after which they quickly closed the case. The WF maintained that X had seriously violated the law, and should be punished accordingly. The WF reported the case to the Women's Federation at county level, which immediately confirmed the severity of the case.

A team from WF went to the young girl's village in order to gain more detailed information. The investigation revealed that from February to December 1997, X had raped the girl, then aged 12, many times. His actions had violated the state's criminal law, which states that "an indecent assault on a underage girl is a criminal act and the criminal should be punished according to the state's criminal law". Consequently the case should have been transferred to the judicial authority and placed on file for investigation and prosecution. However, the local police had punished the criminal according to local administrative laws and regulations, using the explanation that there was a local custom which excused young men and women who wanted to have sexual intercourse. However, the police had failed to take the non-consensual nature of the liaison into account.

The case was eventually tried, and is now completed. However, the girl's mental state has been seriously affected as a result of almost a year of violation, followed by a six month lawsuit and trial. She is finding it very difficult to lead a normal life. The girl and her mother felt compelled to move away from the scene of the problems in order to start a new life, but because provision for treatment and counselling is not contained within the boundaries of the current law, the girl's psychological trauma remains.

## **Case Study 3**

The following is an abridged account of a woman who was trafficked into Thailand in 1994. The woman was from the Dai ethnic group, aged 21, and married. The woman had not attended primary school, and was working as a rubber plantation farmer.

### ***B's story***

My brother-in-law, F, asked me if I wanted to go to a foreign country. I replied that I had never been abroad, but had heard other people say it is easy to earn money and fun in a foreign country, and that I would like to go. A few days later, F came up to

me, with another farmer called *G* and together we made arrangements for me to go abroad. As I had no female partner to go with, I went to invite a woman farmer called *C*, who also worked in the rubber plantation. *G* persuaded her to go, saying "If you go to a foreign country, you'll find a lot of opportunities of making money. It is very easy to earn money. You can grow flowers and raise pigs, the work there is very light and relaxed. Don't forget me when you become wealthy in a foreign country". Lured by his flowery words and cunning statements, *G* did not wait to receive her monthly salary and accompanied three of us, including another man aged about 40 years.

We first went from Menge to Menglian. After staying in Menglian for a night, we got on another bus to Jinghong, and prepared to cross the border there. When we arrived in Jinghong, a man aged about 20 was already waiting for us in a small hotel. He told us we would have to cross the border in Menglian, because it was not convenient to cross from Jinghong. So, the four of us went back to Menglian. We stayed there for the night, and the next day the men gave my friend and I 50 yuan and asked us to take a bus to Hedao in Burma. They told us that if the policemen at a pass questioned us, we should say "we're going to a fair." After we arrived in Hedao, we waited for them. Eventually *C* and the middle-aged man arrived by bus.

We took another bus to Mengyang, where we had stayed for four days, in the home of the middle-aged man's relatives. During this period, *G* and I were guarded and were not allowed to go out by ourselves. On the fifth day we were told to disguise ourselves as old women, and were told "do not speak throughout the journey, lower your heads while walking so as not to let anybody notice you. When you arrive at the customs pass where someone will question you, just tell him you're going to a fair in Jingdong". We encountered nothing unusual throughout the journey and arrived in Jingdong with no problems. After taking a bus to another place, the middle-aged man took us to meet our new employer. They spoke to each other in Thai, which we could not understand. In the evening, the middle-aged man said to us, "Now, I've found a employer for you, tomorrow, we are going to part with each other" and he left after receiving money from our employer.

We accompanied the employer to Bangkok, and had been in Bangkok for over one month, when the employer resold us to a Malaysian employer, and we were transferred to Gelong in Malaysia. There, we were sold to a local massage parlor, which was actually a brothel. There, we suffered inhuman treatment, and were cruelly tortured. The employer forced us to take special medicine, which caused physical disorders and abnormal menstruation. We only had enough money to buy food if we took clients every day. Our experience was so terrible that it can not be expressed in words. The employer frequently beat our colleagues who were reluctant to take clients. Such a scene was so appalling that one could hardly bear the sight of it. We had had no personal freedom at all. Our letters had to be examined by the employer first, and then could be posted by one of his men.

Finally *G* escaped with one of the employer's body guards. Her whereabouts is still unknown.

In November 1994, the police raided the massage parlour. The police sent us to the border area between Malaysia and Thailand and then to Bangkok via Thai policemen. Finally, we arrived in Chiangmai.

I began to help in a little restaurant in Chiangmai, where I met a man who helped me to obtain a Burmese identity card, and gave me 40,000 baht.

On 8 August 1996, I finally returned to my home village. My relatives and husband were overjoyed to see me, and were glad that I had been able to escape from a dangerous situation. They knew that I had been tricked by others, and was not to blame for the situation. Now I've made up my mind to work even harder and create a happy life with my husband.

#### **APPENDIX 4:**

### **Articles pertinent to the Criminal Law of P.R.C, revised in March 1997**

- According to the provisions of section 1, article 236: "a person who rapes a woman by a means of violence, or coercion, or using other methods is to be sentenced to imprisonment of from 3 to 10 years".
- According to the provisions of article 2: "a person who rapes an underage girl aged below 14 is to suffer a more severe punishment".
- According to the provisions of article 3: "he who rapes a woman or an underage girl, or conducts one of the following behaviors is to be sentenced to more than 10 years' imprisonment, or imprisonment for life, or death penalty": (1) the act of raping a woman or an underage girl is of a serious nature; (2) the rape of many women or many underage girls; (3) the rape of a woman in public; (4) the rape of a woman in turn with one or two others; (5) the act of rape results in a victim's severe injury and death, or produces other severe consequences.
- According to the provisions of section 2, article 7: a teenager aged 14 but less than 16 who commits the crime of rape is to be prosecuted for his criminal liability.
- According to the provisions of section 2, article 20: the person taking an action of defense while rape is underway, which causes an injury to the illegal aggressor or results in his death, is not to be prosecuted for her criminal liability.
- According to the provisions of section 1, article 56: a rape criminal can also be deprived of political rights.
- According to the provisions of section 2, article 81 in the new criminal law; he who is sentenced to more than ten years' imprisonment or imprisonment for life for committing a rape crime is not to be released on probation.
- According to the provisions of sections 2 and 4, article 241: he who buys a trafficked woman and forces her to have a sexual relationship with him is to be punished in accordance with both the crime of rape and the crime of buying a trafficked woman.
- According to the provisions of section 2, article 259: he who uses his power, subordinate relations and a means of coercion to rape a serviceman's wife is to be convicted of the crime of rape and punished in accordance with that.
- According to the provisions of section 3, article 300 in the new criminal law: he who organizes and uses a cult or other religious sects to rape a woman is to be convicted of the crime of rape and punished in accordance with that.

- According to the provisions of section 2, article 318 in the new criminal law: he who rapes a woman in the process of organizing and helping them to illegally cross the border is to be punished in accordance with several crimes.
- According to the provisions of section 3, article 321 in the new criminal law: he who rapes a women in the process of transporting her illegally across the border is to be punished in accordance with several crimes.
- According to the provisions of article 358: anyone who organizes women or compels them to sell their bodies is to be sentenced to an imprisonment of more than 5 years and less than 10 years and be punished with a fine. Anyone who commits one of the following crimes is to be sentenced to over ten years' imprisonment or imprisonment for life and be punished with a fine or confiscation of property:
  1. The act of organizing women to prostitute themselves;
  2. The act of forcing an underage girl aged less than 14 to sell her body;
  3. The act of forcing several women to sell their bodies or forcing one woman to prostitute herself several times;
  4. The act of forcing a girl to sell her body after raping her;
  5. The act of causing a severe injury or death or other serious consequences to a woman forced to sell her body.

Anyone who commits one of the above-mentioned crimes is to be sentenced to imprisonment for life or the death penalty, and will be punished by confiscation of property. Anyone who helps and organizes women to sell their bodies is to be sentenced to imprisonment of less than 5 years and be punished with a fine; and will be sentenced to an imprisonment of more than 5 years and less than 10 years and punished with a fine if such act is of a serious nature.

- According to the provisions of section 1, article 359: “anyone who lures, accommodates and recommends women to enter prostitution is to be sentenced to an imprisonment of less than 5 years, or detention, or control, and be punished with a fine; and be sentenced to an imprisonment of more than 5 years and be punished with a fine if such act is of a serious nature”.
- According to the provisions of section 2: anyone who lures an underage girl aged less than 14 in prostitution is to be sentenced to more than 5 years' imprisonment and be punished with a fine.
- According to the provisions of section 2, article 360: “the client of an underage girl aged less than 14 is to be sentenced to more than 5 years' imprisonment and be punished with a fine”.
- According to the provisions of article 240: “ anyone who trafficks women and children is to be sentenced to an imprisonment of more than 5 years and less than 10 years and be punished with a fine. Anyone who commits one of the following crimes is to be sentenced to more than 10 years' imprisonment or imprisonment for life, and punished with a fine or confiscation of property; and he is to be sentenced to death penalty and be punished with confiscation of property if his act is of an extremely serious nature:
  1. Leading a group in trafficking in women and children;
  2. The act of trafficking more than 3 women and children;
  3. The act of raping a trafficked woman;

4. The act of deceiving and compelling trafficked women to work prostitutes, or selling them to other buyer who forces them to work as prostitutes;
5. The act of using violence, coercion or narcosis to kidnap women and children for the purpose of selling them to make money;
6. The act of stealing infants and children for the purpose of selling them to make money;
7. Activities which cause severe injuries, or death, or other serious consequences to trafficked women, or trafficked children, or their family members;
8. The act of trafficking women and children into a foreign country.

The new criminal law states clearly that:

1. “Anyone who buys a trafficked woman or a trafficked child is to be sentenced to less than three years’ imprisonment, detention or control”.
2. Anyone who buys a trafficked woman and forces her to have sexual relations with him is to be convicted and punished in accordance with the provisions of article 236.
3. Anyone who buys a trafficked woman or a trafficked child and illegally deprives her of her personal liberty or limits her personal liberty, or injures and humiliates her, is to be convicted and punished in accordance with the relevant provisions in the criminal law.
4. Anyone who buys a trafficked woman or a trafficked child and commits the crimes provided in article 2 and article 3 is to be sentenced and punished together in accordance with several crimes.
5. Anyone who buys a trafficked woman or a trafficked child and then sells her to other buyer is to be convicted and punished in accordance with the provisions of article 240 in the criminal law.
6. Anyone who buys a trafficked woman, or a trafficked child but does not abuse her and prevents her from going home or from being rescued is not to be prosecuted for his criminal liability.

## **APPENDIX 5:**

### **Outlines of Research Interviews**

#### **Public Security Bureau**

1. Does the “crackdown on prostitution” form a regular part of your work? What measures are you taking to prohibit prostitution?
2. What difficulties are experiences in the course of the work?
3. In what ways can the efficiency of the work be improved?
3. What punishments are the prostitutes and clients subjected to after being arrested?
4. What are the prostitutes’ and clients’ opinions of the police?

5. What work have you done in disseminating the knowledge of STDs & HIV/AIDS among the masses including the arrested prostitutes and clients?
6. Are STDs a common problem among the groups concerned?
7. How do you treat the prostitutes and clients who have contracted STDs or HIV/AIDS?
8. What psychological problems do the women prostitutes generally have?

### **Health department**

1. What is the current situation regarding the spread of STDs?
2. What are the government policies related to the STD & HIV/AIDS?
3. What are some of the relevant measures and actions that have been taken so far?
4. Can you tell us something about the management of private practitioners, - particularly in relation to work to monitor STDs?
5. What action have you taken to disseminate knowledge of public health among the people and educate them on these issues?

### **Women's Federation**

1. Can you tell something about the rights and interests of women and children and about the work being undertaken to safeguard their rights and interests?
2. What are the available legal mechanisms for cases of sexual abuses, and what difficulties are encountered in providing legal aid?
3. Can you tell us something about the work being undertaken to identify SAC?
4. How do you disseminate the health knowledge among the SAC and give a assist them?

### **Target Groups**

- What did you like or dislike about your work?
- Were you able to leave the work if you wanted to?
- What are your dreams and ambitions for the future?
- Have you ever considered going back home or getting married?
- Did you regularly visit home while you were working?
- What was your daily routine while you were working?
- Did you have a day off? What did you usually do when you had a day off?
- How much did you usually earn? How much did you have to pay to the employer? And how much did you have left in hand?
- How much money did you send home?
- How old were you when you started to work as a prostitute?
- How old were you when you were sexually abused?

- Were you forced to sell your body? Were you sold into prostitution, or did you volunteer to do the work? If so, who forced you?
- Were any of your family members, or your friends or relatives also involved in the trade?
- How long have you been involved in the trade?
- What forms of sexual exploitation have you been subjected to?
- Did your family members and friends approve of your doing this work?
- Did you ever suffer physical or sexual abuses in the work site? Under what circumstances did it happen?
- How many clients did you have to receive a day? Please give a description of their age, sex, occupation and nationality.
- Did you use a condom while offering a sexual service?
- Did you use a condom while receiving every client?
- Have you ever contracted any STDs? Have you ever been pregnant? If so, what did you do?
- Have you ever been to seek care?
- How did your family members, friends react to your experience?
- What do you feel are your hygienic, psychological and social needs?
- When was the last time you went to a service agency or doctor? Did you go alone? If not, who accompanied you?
- How do you know about such agencies?
- What services, supplies and doctor's advice were available to you when were there?
- Was the treatment free of charge? If not, who paid for it?
- How can health care and other services be improved, in your opinion?

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#### Footnotes:

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