

Child Protection Assessment in Refugee- hosting Districts

July 2022

14/07/22

Agenda

1. Objective of the assessment
2. Overview of the report structure
3. Key characteristics
4. Limitations
5. Overview of Risks
6. In-depth findings concerning key risks
7. Services and barriers to their access
8. Results from Kampala
9. Conclusions
10. Using the Findings

Objective

To establish an **evidence-base** and **increase partner understanding** of

...

...the prevalence and severity of child protection concerns

...and the effectiveness of child protection services in place

...that affect and aim to protect refugee and host community
children in refugee-hosting districts and Kampala

Introduction



- Background
- Methodology and limitations
- Demographics
- Overview of risks

+ demographics and overview of risks amongst refugees in Kampala

Risks

- Child labour
- Violence against children
- Sexual violence, child marriage and teenage pregnancy
- Psychological distress and neglect
- Unaccompanied and Separated children
- Other risks

+ Child protection risks in Kampala

Services and Barriers to Access



- Gap in service provision
- Access to services
- Barriers to access
- Impact of COVID-19

+ Child protection services and barriers to their access in Kampala



Key characteristics

- Four key demographics: refugee and host community caregivers and children
- All 13 refugee settlements + all hosting districts
- Refugee results are representative at the settlement level
- Host community results are representative at the regional level
- 95% confidence level with an 8% margin of error
- Separate results for refugees living in Kampala
- Quantitative data triangulated with primary qualitative data and secondary data

Limitations

Please read
the full
report!

- Children were asked what they have been **CONCERNED** about; caregivers were asked what they have **WITNESSED**. This makes findings from these two demographic groups difficult to compare.
- Given the sensitive topics, respondents had incentives to under- or over-report on the prevalence of risks.
- Data indicates that the difference between separated and unaccompanied children was not always clear, making these risks difficult to report on accurately.
- Because only five locations were selected for qualitative data collection, it is possible that dynamics specific to certain settlements are glanced over or overlooked.

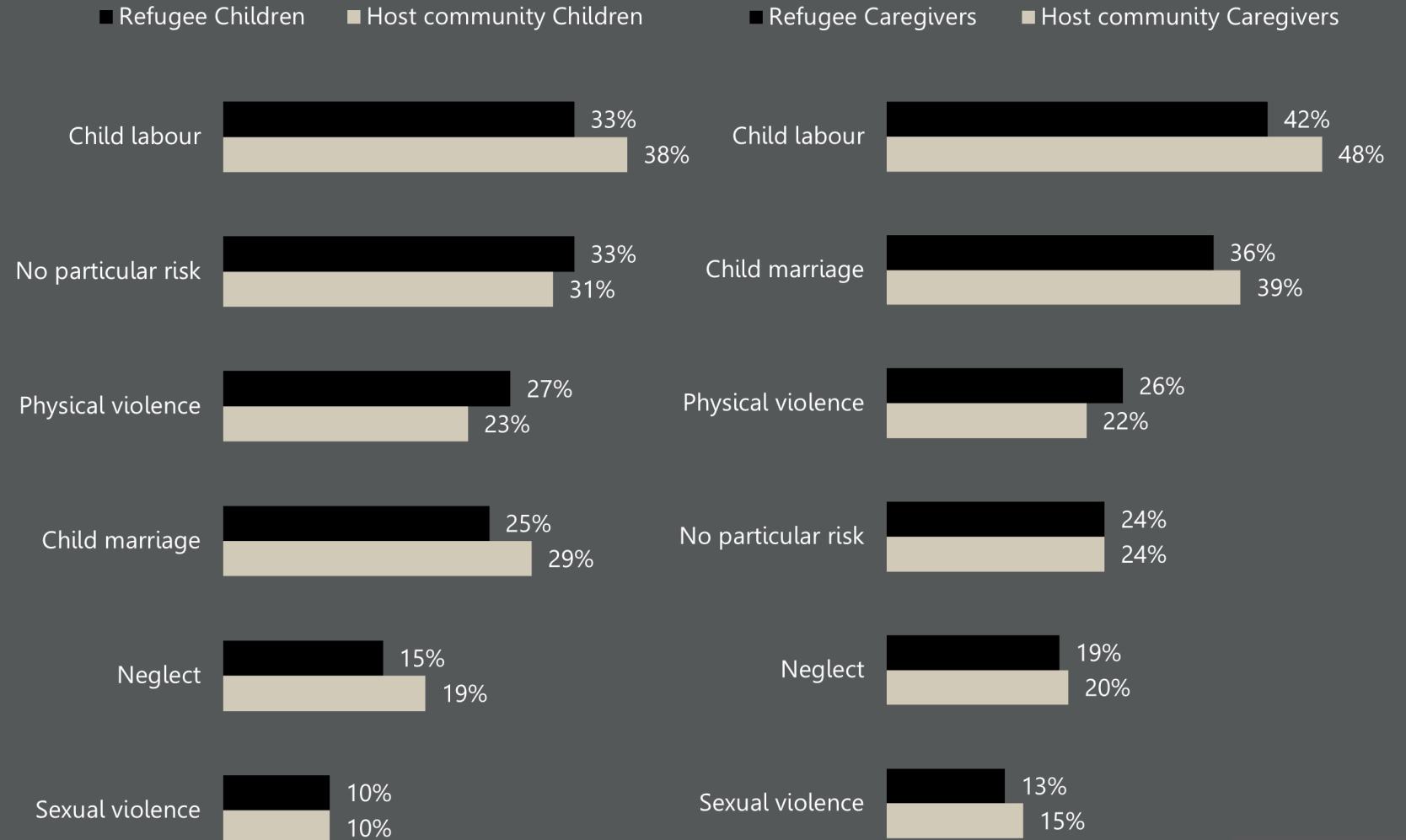


Overview of Risks - Ranking

- Most frequently reported risks: Child labour, Violence Against Children (VAC) (physical and sexual violence), and neglect
- “No risk” in top six for all four key demographic groups
- All groups agree on the top five risks but not on their ranking
- Note the difference between “feared / witnessed” risks and those reported in assessed households → due to sensitive assessment topic, reporting bias is inevitable

Overview of Risks - Ranking

Child labour ranks first amongst the top six risks that refugee and host community children report to have been most concerned about (left) and caregivers report to have witnessed (right) in the three months prior to data collection





Overview of Risks - Disaggregat ions

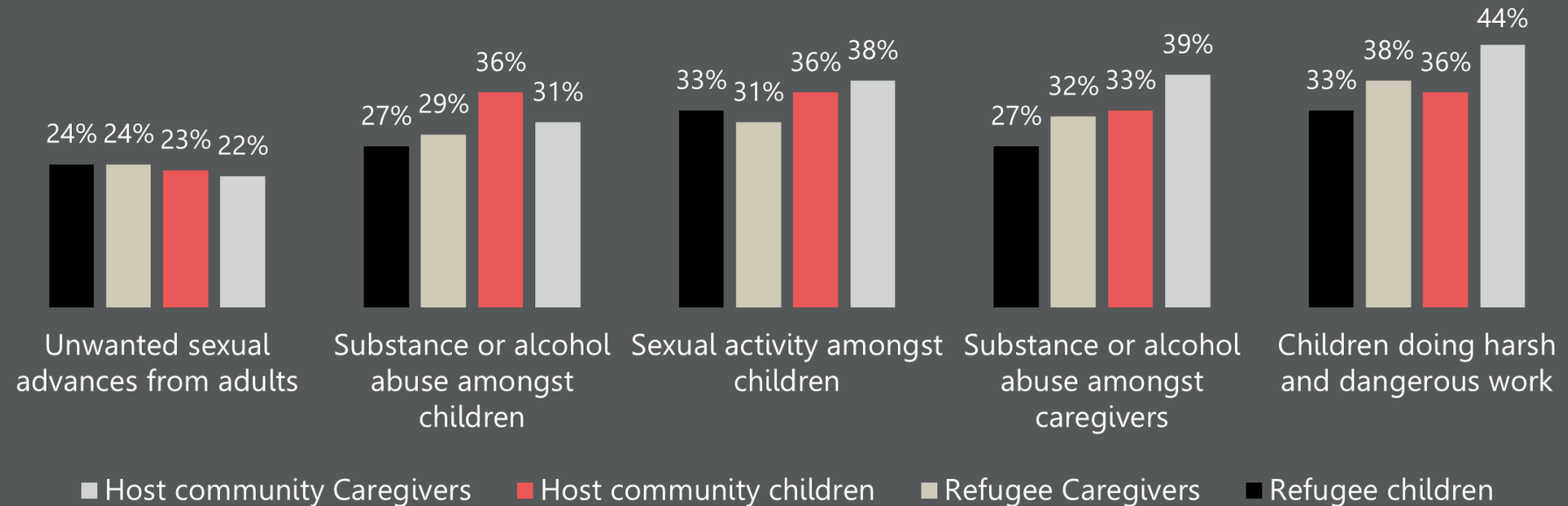
- Reported prevalence of risks higher in the West Nile than the south-west for both refugee and host communities
- Child marriage and physical violence reported to be particularly high in the West Nile
- No noted differences based on age or gender or community type



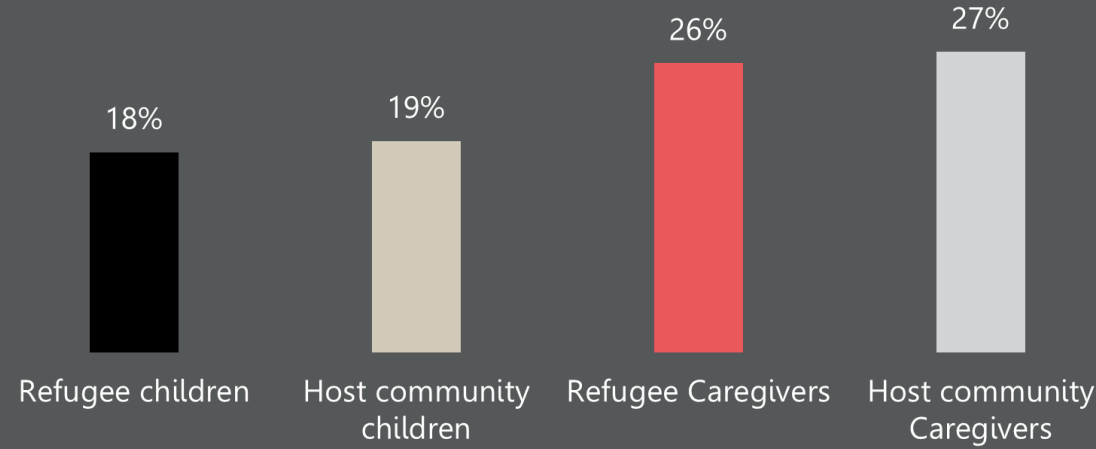
Overview of Risks – Impact of COVID-19

Child protection risks reportedly increased during the COVID-19 period

Proportions of respondents reporting perceiving that child protection risks have increased in their community, since the start of the COVID-19 period by type of risk, respondent type (child/caregiver), and community



Child Labour



Caregivers more likely to report that children in their households engage in child labour than children to report they engage in it

- Age group 12-14 year-olds reportedly most affected by child labour generally
- Age group 15-17 year-olds most affected by harsh and dangerous labour
- Farm work is by far the **most common type** of economic labour children engage in
- **Main causes:** covering basic needs, closed schools, money for family, idleness



Violence Against Children

VAC (as reported by refugee caregivers) more prevalent in the West Nile as compared to the south-west region

Settlement	Refugee caregivers
Imvepi	30%
Rhino Camp	21%
Kiryandongo	19%
Palabek	18%
Lobule	18%
Palorinya	18%
Rwamwanja	9%
Nakivale	8%
Bidibidi	7%
Adjumani	7%
Kyaka II	5%
Oruchinga	4%
Kyangwali	3%

- 12% of refugee and 9% of host community caregivers reported that a child in their HH has experienced violence
- **Perpetrators:** parents and other adult caregivers, other adults in the neighbourhood, peers
- **Most common types:** physical violence, verbal abuse, sexual violence
- **Causes:** substance abuse amongst adults, conflict over resources, and stress in adults



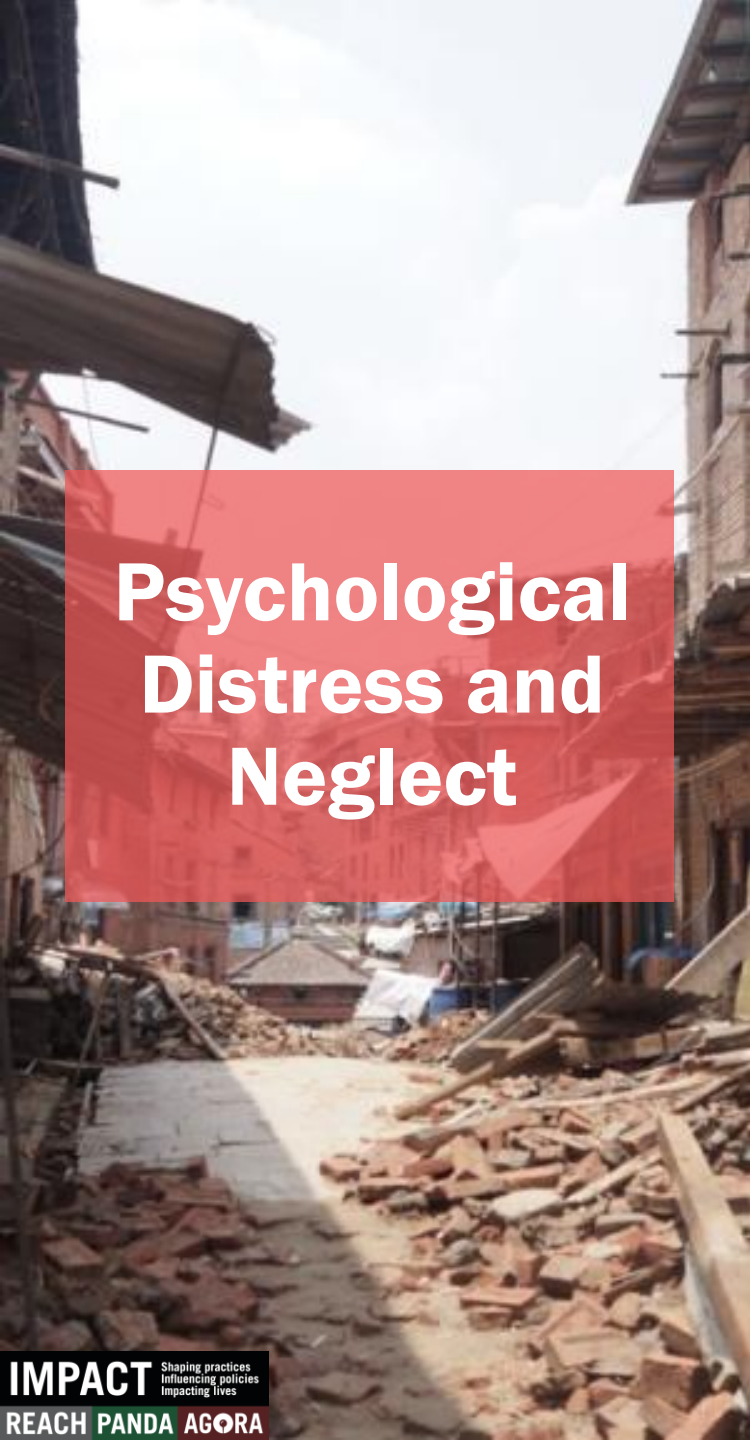
Sexual Violence, Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy

No clear geographical difference in the prevalence of sexual violence against children (as reported by refugee caregivers)

Settlement	Refugee caregivers
Imvepi	26%
Kiryandongo	22%
Rhino Camp	21%
Lobule	19%
Palabek	18%
Nakivale	17%
Palorinya	16%
Kyangwali	14%
Adjumani	13%
Oruchinga	13%
Bidibidi	12%
Kyaka II	10%
Rwamwanja	8%

- 15% of refugee and 14% of host community caregivers reported that a child in their household has experienced sexual violence
- **Locations:** when collecting firewood, around the community, at or on the way to the market
- **Causes:** COVID-19 and associated restrictions, lack of law enforcement, and socio-economic conditions

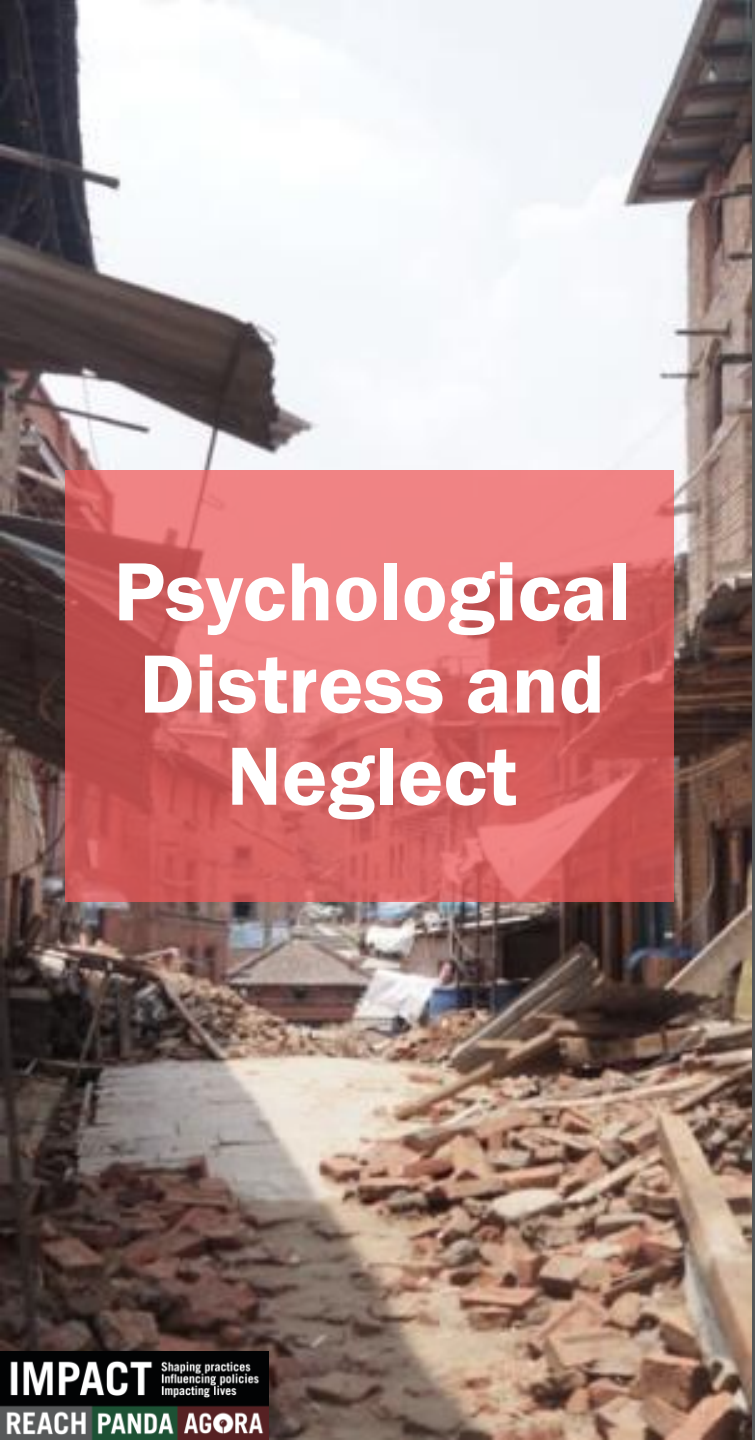
*“COVID-19 increased poverty levels among the people and girls begun looking for other alternatives from the men who made them pregnant.”
(Individual interview with a female caregiver in Kiryandongo)*



Psychological Distress and Neglect

Proportion of respondents reporting having observed mostly negative behaviour changes in caregivers / children since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic

Settlement	Children reporting observing negative behaviour changes in caregivers	Caregivers reporting observing negative behaviour changes in children
Refugees in the West Nile	30%	45%
Host community in the West Nile	36%	45%
Refugees in the south-west	21%	30%
Host community in the south-west	19%	31%



Psychological Distress and Neglect

- **Causes of stress amongst children:** Children report stress due to lack of food, hard work, and not going back to school

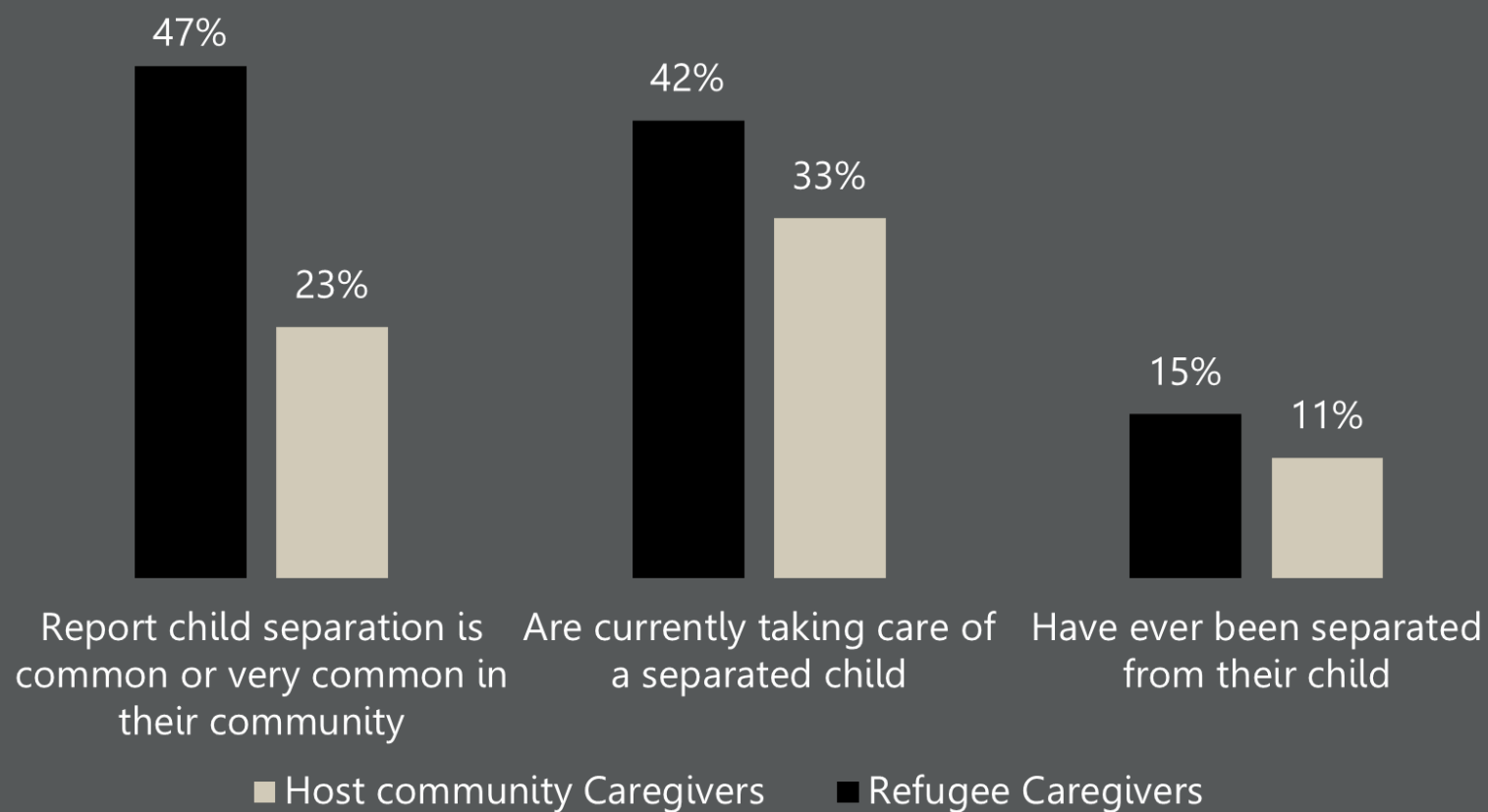
“Child labour, which has increased because of COVID. When the schools were closed, home became the only place they could be (...) most of them have been engaging in different kinds of work to support their parents. (Key informant interview with a protection officer in Kyaka)”

- **Consequences amongst children according to their caregivers:** substance abuse, disrespectful behaviour, high-risk sexual behaviour
- **Consequences amongst caregivers according to children living under their care:** increased workloads for children, substance abuse, preventing children from going to school



UASC

Proportion of caregivers reporting the prevalence of separated children in their households and communities by community type





UASC

Causes: Parents deceased or ill, separation to access education or work, separation during relocation for refugees

Child separation increases other child risks

"There are many children who are separated from their parents (...) these children are always at risk of being abused, overworked and sometimes leave home." (Individual interview with a foster parents in Kiryandongo)

Environmental hazards and road accidents are also frequently reported risk by both refugee and host-community respondents

**Refugee Children
Refugee Caregivers**

- | | | |
|----|------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | 26%
30% | Environmental hazards |
| 2. | 20%
20% | None |
| 3. | 16%
17% | Road accidents |

**Host community Children
Host community Caregivers**

- | | | |
|----|------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | 31%
27% | Environmental hazards |
| 2. | 20%
23% | Road accidents |
| 3. | 15%
21% | None |

Other Risks - Prevalence

"The bridges connecting these villages were poorly built and so they fill up and our kids [are] at risk of drowning if they are to cross these bridges when they are going to school." (Focus group discussion with male caregivers Bidibidi)



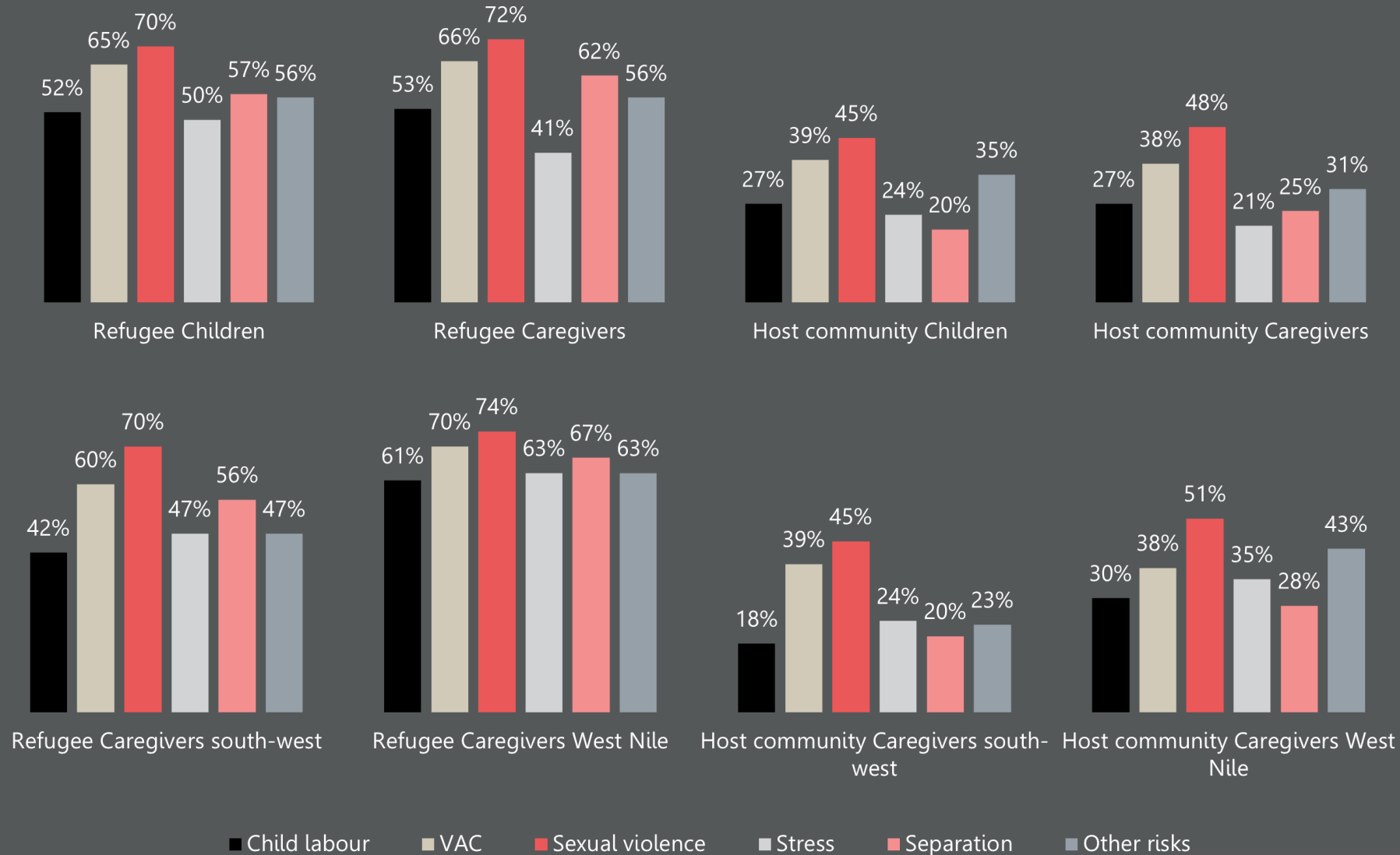
Provision of targeted services

Services addressing particular child protection risks are generally reported to be...

- ... easily accessible to all respondent groups
- ... generally, not sought out often
- ... often rated as “effective” or “very effective” when used
- ... were often reported to be more available to refugees as compared to host community respondents
- ... more available in the West Nile region as compared to the south-west

Provision of targeted services

Availability of services targeting specific child protection risks by community and survey type (top) and as reported by caregivers by region (bottom)





Service Provision

- Inadequate services even prior to COVID-19
- Largely due to lack of funds and human resources (according to humanitarian staff)
- Overall gap in the host community
- Specific gap in provision of vocational services
- Particular access barriers for children with disabilities

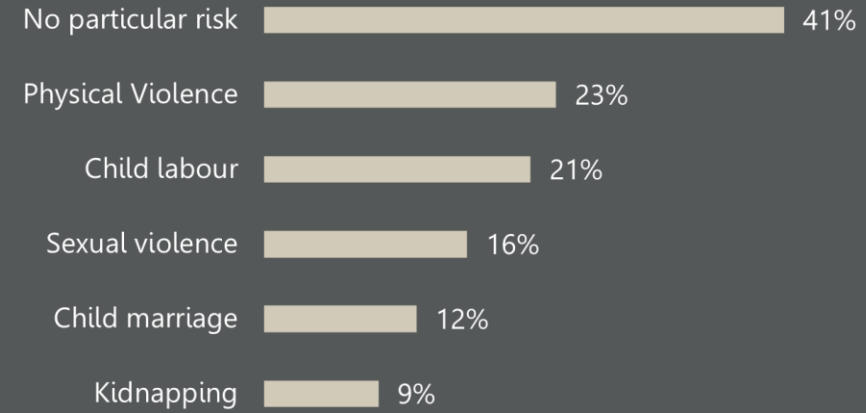
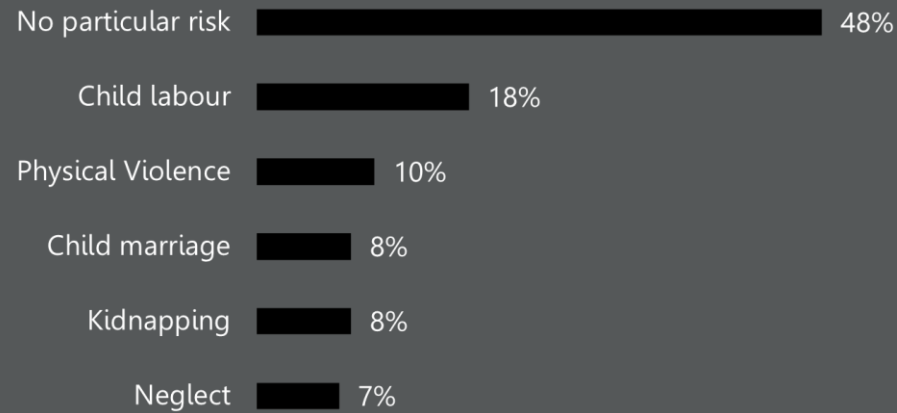


Service Provision

- Key barriers are lack of services, distance to services, and COVID-19 restrictions
- More than 1/3 of respondents reported children are not accessing social activities (e.g., non-school based activities that encourage their play, socializing and development)
- During COVID-19, risks increased, and simultaneously, service provision and access decreased...
- ... reportedly largely due to further reductions in funding and COVID-19 movement restrictions

Kampala

The top six risks that children in Kampala reported being most concerned (left) about and refugee caregivers reported having witnessed (right) in the three months prior to data collection are similar to those in the settlements

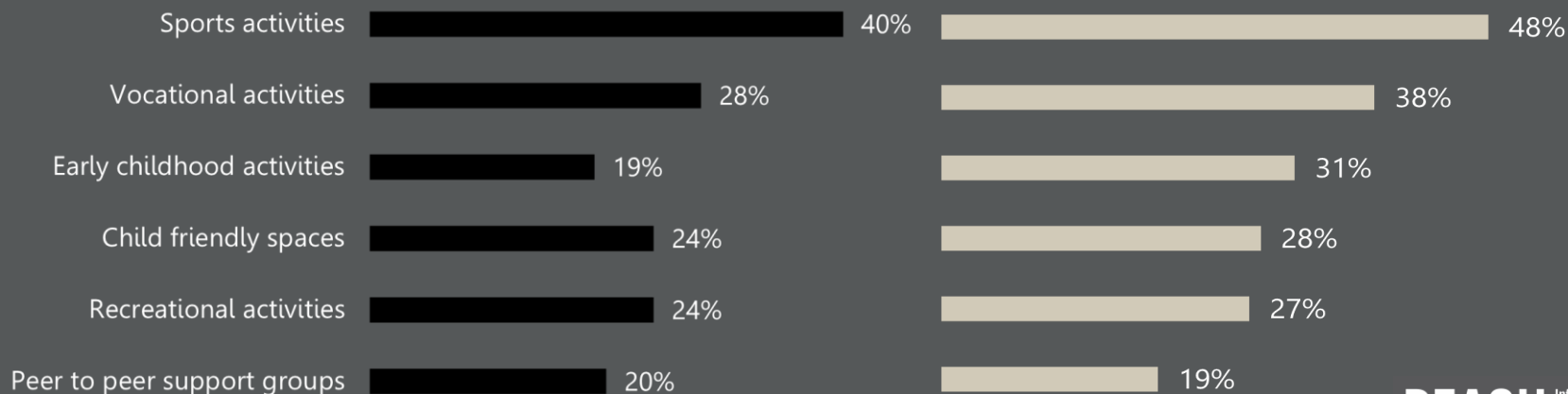


- “no particular risk” most frequently selected option for children and caregivers asked about child protection risks
- The remaining most frequently mentioned risks similar to those mentioned in the settlements
- Increased risks during the COVID-19 period

Kampala

- CP services reported to be less available in Kampala as compared to the settlements
- Availability of services specialized to particular risks was reported by ca. 20% of refugee children and caregivers in Kampala
- Over 50% of respondents reported that children do not engage in non-school-based activities that include or encourage playing, learning, and socializing with other children.

Proportion of child (left) and caregiver (right) respondents in Kampala reporting on needed social activities/services



Conclusions

- Key risks: child labour, physical violence, and child marriage
- Risks have increased during the COVID-19 period
- Poverty is an underlying cause and COVID-19 has exacerbated most of the risks reportedly due to the impact on household income.
- There was an overall gap in service provision even prior to the start of the pandemic.
- Service provision amongst the host community is particularly low despite often similar levels of reported prevalence of risk.
- During COVID-19, funding and access to services has reportedly declined further.

Using the Findings

Link to the
full report
[here](#)

Recommendations

Although no recommendation have been included in the report, further discussions between technical experts (e.g., CPSWG) could be needed to transform the findings into a format that makes their implementation feasible

Datasets

IMPACT has made the raw data as well as the analysed data available on [our repository](#). The analysis files include further settlement-level information.

Thank you for your attention



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