



# REPORT - HEADCOUNT OF STREET-CONNECTED CHILDREN

*In the Central Business District and surrounding areas in Kumasi*





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IN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT  
AND SURROUNDING AREAS  
IN KUMASI

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## Supporting Organisations

### CHANCE FOR CHILDREN

Chance for Children (CFC) is a Non-Profit Organisation in Ghana with a foundation and association in Switzerland. For more than 20 years CFC has been strengthening thousands of street-connected children and their families by providing them with broad range of opportunities to build a better future for themselves. CFCs work with street connected children revolves around street work, prevention, reintegration, supporting young adults to attain professional qualifications, and also involves collaborations with various stakeholder groups at district, regional and national level. Currently CFC is operating through 4 main locations: Accra, Hebron, Kumasi and Tamale. During all these years CFC has established close and fruitful relationships with the Department of Social Welfare, NGOs, Foundations, International organisations, and companies. It's out of one of these collaborations that the headcount of street connected children in Kumasi was conceived and eventually done. Kindly find more Information about us on [www.chance-for-children.org](http://www.chance-for-children.org)

### MUSLIM FAMILY COUNSELLING SERVICES

The Muslim Family Counselling Services (MFCS) is a not-for-profit organization established in 1990 to provide information and services on, health (Sexual and Reproductive Health), human rights, education, income generating activities and prevention within deprived communities in Ghana. Our goal is to improve the quality of life of people by working with other agencies in joint efforts to provide the appropriate information and services for socio-cultural transformation.

MFCS seeks the realization of the full potential and total human development of people in deprived communities. In pursuit of this noble goal, MFCS reaches out to marginalized and deprived persons in deprived communities through participatory community mobilization activities, cultural, community empowerment and capacity building.

For the past 30 years, Muslim Family Counselling Services (MFCS) have been implementing education, human rights and health related projects including policy and budget advocacy as well as community mobilization and education.

**Our Vision** is a well-endowed society of men, women and children living in a satisfied environment devoid of Illness, poverty and squalor. **Our Mission** is to promote Health, Education, Human Rights and Reduce Poverty through partnerships within Deprived Communities in Ghana.

MFCS has been working with young people on the streets of Kumasi for the past 15 years. Our work focuses on improving the lives of young people in such situations by supporting child-led initiatives for self-empowerment through education, reintegration with families and skills training. MFCS has established a street work programmes since 2013 in the central Business districts of Kumasi with the support of StreetInvest. MFCS is currently the West African Coordinating Partner for the global alliance for street work established by StreetInvest. You can get more information on MFCS on [www.mfcsghana.org](http://www.mfcsghana.org)

## SAFE CHILD ADVOCACY

Safe-Child Advocacy (SCA), Catholic Archdiocese of Kumasi formerly Street Children Project (SCP) is a Non-Governmental and Non-Profit Organization concerned about the plight of the vulnerable in the society, particularly children and youth on the street of Kumasi. We work to reintegrate and rehabilitate as well as facilitate access to essential services for our target group through sponsorship in education and skill training.

The organization established on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2005, is managed by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul, a female Religious Congregation of Catholic sisters founded in 1633 for service of the poor. The Daughters of Charity have their general headquarters in Paris – France and Provincial headquarters in Nigeria, West Africa.

Beside children and youths in street situation, SCA also provide support services to empower young women in other vulnerable situations such as victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, and child marriage, etc. for economic independence. The organization for the past 15 years has impacted the lives of thousands of vulnerable children and young adults through sponsorship in education and skill development within Ashanti and the Northern Regions respectively.

SCA is located at Bomapata-Roman Hill near the St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica (behind the Catholic Bookshop) in Kumasi the capital city of the revered Ashanti Region, a very important and historical center of Ghana.

Safe-Child Advocacy has a Management Board, a Management Team, staff and volunteers who perform different roles in the establishment to ensure the realization of our Vision and Mission. SCA management team and staff are directly accountable to the legal owner- the Catholic Archdiocese of Kumasi, the Provincial Leadership team of the Daughters of Charity Province of Nigeria, and our major partner organizations, KZE/Misereor and Adamfo Ghana and others who fund most of our activities. SCA is supported by a Management Board whose members are appointed by the office of the Catholic Archbishop of Kumasi.

**Our Vision** is to foster a society where children enjoy safe childhood and develop their potentials to fullest.

**Our Mission** is to uphold safe childhood for all children and the realization of the Rights of the Child, we commit to address the root-causes of child streetism, through collaboration and advocacy, to empower children in street and other vulnerable situation, by providing opportunities for reintegration, formal education, and enterprise development.

SCA operate from these three (3) Centres; **Drop-in Centre at Roman Hill, St. Louise Vocational Training Centre (VTC) at Appiedu and the St. Vincent Day-Care Centre**

More information about SCA can be found at [www.safechildadvocacy.org](http://www.safechildadvocacy.org)

## StreetInvest

StreetInvest (SI) is an International Development NGO based in the UK, which exists to put a trustworthy adult in the lives of all street-connected children through promoting and supporting Street Work. This is a child-centered, rights-based form of youth work that takes place where the child is, on the street. StreetInvest hosts the Global Alliance for Street Work, which brings together NGOs, communities, academics and other partners, to promote and foster Street Work worldwide.



StreetInvest is a recognized authority on the Street Work methodology and rights-based approaches to street-connected children and young people. It pioneered the observational headcount as the leading methodology for collecting data on street-connected children. Since its development in 2011, StreetInvest has co-led headcounts in Ghana, Ethiopia (commissioned by UNICEF), Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Kenya and India, delivering headcount training to over 250 practitioners and collecting detailed statistics on over 100,000 street-connected children and young people. StreetInvest is also renowned in the sector for its role in the drafting of UN General Comment 21 (2017) on children in street situations and indicators, facilitating consultations between street-connected children and global leaders. StreetInvest has also been a technical advisor for UNICEF to create standardized protocols on data for street-connected children.

StreetInvest and MFCS have a long-established partnership. Previous collaborations include the Growing Up On The Street (GUOTS) project, the world's largest participatory research project on street-connected children in Africa, hosted by StreetInvest and the University of Dundee and funded by ESRC (2012), as well as the first headcount of street-connected children conducted in Kumasi in 2013.

StreetInvest and MFCS formalized their partnership in 2017 with the establishment of the Global Alliance for Street Work, when MFCS formally became the Regional Coordinating Partner for West Africa."

## Acknowledgements

The headcount was carried out by 3 street work partner organisations in Kumasi; Muslim Family Counselling Services (MFCS), Chance for Children (CFC) and Safe Child Advocacy (SCA), with technical support from StreetInvest UK. Close support also was given by the 6 Municipals and Metropolitan assemblies within the Central Kumasi Area i.e. Asokore Mampong, Asokwa, Oforikrom, Old Tafo, Suame, and KMA. The Regional Office of the Department of Social Welfare also gave a lot of for their kind words and encouragement.

The training and supervision of the Headcount was by Mahmoud Tijani, the manager of the West African Regional Partnership of the Global Alliance for Street Work and StreetInvest supported in the analysis of the data and the development of this report. Daniela Rüdisüli Sodjah, the Executive Director of Chance for Children, Sr Olicia Umoh, Director of Safe Child Advocacy, and other staff of the partner organisations gave valuable contributions to the production of this report. Other CSOs in the MFCS led Street Work network funded by StreetInvest took part including Seed of Hope (SoH) Foundation and Centre for Youth and Literacy development (CYLiD).

The report was made possible with the support of many individuals and organisations. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this endeavour, especially the Gibert Asiedu of Chance for Children and Akwasi Prempeh of Safe Child Advocacy.

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## List of Acronyms

CSW	Commercial sex worker
SCC	Street Connected Children
MFCS	Muslim Family Counselling Services
CFC	Chance For Children
SCA	Safe Child Advocacy
ISW	Introduction to Street Work
SW	Street Work/Worker
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

## 1. Executive Summary

This report analyses the findings from an observational quantitative headcount of street-connected children conducted in the Central Business District in Kumasi in October 2021. The aim of the headcount was to establish realistic and timely numbers of street-connected children to reach a deeper understanding of the demographics of the population. This headcount was initiated by three partner organisations: **Muslim Family Counselling Services (MFCS)**, **Chance for Children (CFC)** and **Safe Child Advocacy (SCA)** to inform their policy and practise in the work with street connected children. The headcount was jointly funded by the above mentioned organisations. It was delivered by StreetInvest's Global Trainer based in Kumasi and working with MFCS with support from management members from the other two partner organisations in this partnership.

The methodology used in the headcount was developed by StreetInvest and has been used in other countries including Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sierra Leone and India. It is an observational methodology which does not rely on sampling or estimates. In addition to the granting the right to use the headcount methodology, StreetInvest also provided technical support for organising and implementing the headcount. StreetInvest also contributed to the review of the data and the report. The data is disaggregated by age, gender and activities. Headcounts were done during the day and at night in pre-determined areas of Kumasi over four consecutive days and two nights. The operational lead was local civil society organisations MFCS. The headcount teams included staff from Chance for Children, Safe Child Advocacy, Muslim family Counselling Services, Centre for Youth and Literacy Development, Seed of Hope and some community volunteers from United Way Ghana.

A total of 6,693 street-connected children aged 0-18 years were counted in the day and night counts. 2,468 were male and 4,180 were female. More than half of the street-connected children were in the oldest age-range of 13-17 years (50.6%). 21% were aged 0-5 years and 19.2% were aged 6-12 years. There were 397 males and 575 females at night. The ratio of females to males was slightly lower at night. The age distribution was similar to the day count, with dominance of the oldest age group at 71%. 7% of the total street-connected children.

Out of the 6,693 street-connected children 50.6% were not engaged in any economic activity, while 24.5% were engaged in casual work. 10.9% were engaged in begging with 7.4% and 4.3% doing movable and fixed businesses respectively. The ratio of males that were not working at the time of counting went down in descending order from the youngest age being 74.8% to the oldest with 29.9% of the children observed. Amongst the female street-connected children, the oldest age group had a higher proportion of children not working at 48.2% with the other age groups having lower proportions than that of the male. This made the female having a cumulatively a higher percentage not engaged at 51.7% at the time of counting. There were higher percentages of female in fixed and movable businesses.

At night the ratio of male street-connected children in the younger age categories were higher than that of females. There were 40.8% males and 59.2% females on the streets at night. A total of 158 female street-connected children were observed engaged in CSW. This represents 27.5% of female street-connected children at night and 16.8% of all children observed at night.



This data should help inform the planning of adequate intervention services to ensure the street-connected children on the streets of Kumasi are safer, better supported and valued by their communities. It is the duty of the government in partnership with CSOs to ensure the rights of children on the streets are equal to all other children and that they are able to grow and develop so they can reach their potential, and reduce the abuse and discrimination that they suffer.

The stakeholders involved in the headcount provided invaluable input and made recommendations stemming from the headcount findings. These include:

- Revive the child protection systems in the country and ensure that all street-connected children are integrated into this system from the district to the national levels.
- Work to ensure that street-connected children have access to health, social and education systems through promoting partnership among CSOs and government agencies. Where the street-connected children need to have documentation such as NHIS and National ID cards to access these services, these types of partnership should support them to acquire these documents.
- Some interventions need to continue with street-connected children even where they go beyond 18 years since some of them might have missed many opportunities having grown up on the streets, and might not be ready for adult life at the age of 18 years.
- Design and implement targeted interventions for the youngest children with strong street connections.
- Design and implement targeted interventions for girls on the streets and especially educating them on their sexual and reproductive health and support them to access services when in need.
- Provide targeted support to girls and young women engaged in CSW.
- Night Street Work: the headcount showed a significant number of street-connected children at night in some locations, where possible organisations should have presence of some street workers at night in these areas.
- Provide targeted support and intervention for children begging and also manage how to work with the overwhelming numbers of children migrating from other West African countries who come to beg on the streets of Kumasi and other Ghanaian cities.
- Issue measures to monitor the situation of migrant children and investigate the possibility that they might have been trafficked from other West African countries to engage in begging and CSW and stop the flow. This would include cooperation with countries of origin of these children and ensure full protection of children in both the home countries and in Ghana to ensure that these children are not seen as 'illegal' in Ghana and that repatriation is done only if it is safe and in the best interest of each specific child.

## 2. 0 Introduction

This report presents the findings of a headcount of street connected children aged 0-18 years who are living and working on the streets in the central business district of Kumasi. This study was made possible through collaborative work of three partner street work organisations working with street connected children and young people on the streets of Kumasi. These organisations are Muslim Family Counselling Services (MFCS), Chance For Children (CFC) and Safe Child Advocacy (SCA).

Street Workers, Officers and Volunteers from these organisations were involved in the training and implementation of this headcount. These government bodies gave the authorization to conduct the exercise. The delivery of the headcount was led by StreetInvest's global trainer based in Kumasi. Approval for the use of materials and methodology and other technical support was provided by StreetInvest. Other partner organisations including Seed of Hope (SoH), Centre for Youth and Literacy Development (CYLiD) contributed staff members to the headcount.

The state has obligations set out under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: To develop, in partnership with academia, civil society and the private sector, systematic, rights-respecting, participatory mechanisms to collect data and share disaggregated information about street-connected children; ensure that the collection and use of such information does not stigmatise or harm these children; integrate data collection on street-connected children into national data collection on children; and ensure national data do not rely solely on household surveys but also cover children living outside household settings<sup>1</sup>.

This report contextualizes the headcount, outlines the methodology applied, explains the field challenges encountered, analyses findings at various levels and makes recommendations for policy and practice.

Estimates for street-connected children in Kumasi have varied greatly. A previous headcount conducted by MFCS in 2013 had some 7,831 street-connected children in central Kumasi while another survey (a census) by Peace Corps Volunteers attached to SCA estimates the street-connected children to be around 20,000. Other estimates and statistical projections and estimates ranging up to about 30,000 street-connected children which the 3 partner organisations indicate are on the higher side. The disparity between these estimates is illustrative of the issues the lack of data presents for street-connected children.

Largely excluded from the national census and often without any form of legal identity, these children are exposed to multiple rights violations, through their invisibility and anonymity. Of particular concern is the constant discriminations these children face in their daily activities on the streets and mostly inability to access health, social and educational services because of lack of important documentations.

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<sup>1</sup> Committee on the Rights of the Child (2017), General comment No. 21 on children in street situations, New York, UN

### 3. Objectives of the headcount

The headcount aimed to:

- Provide robust, contemporary data to inform policy makers and street work organisations on the interventions for street-connected children.
- Establish a uniform data to be used by all partner organisations working with street-connected children in Kumasi.
- Determine the number of street-connected children and young people aged 0-18 years living and working on the streets of Central Business Area of Kumasi.
- Update of a previous headcount conducted in the same areas in 2013.

In addition, the headcount aims to answer the following key questions:

1. How many street-connected children and youth are permanently living/sleeping in the streets of Kumasi?
2. What kind of activities are street-connected children engaged in for survival on the streets?
3. What is the age and gender composition of street-connected children in Kumasi?

## 4. Methodology

StreetInvest's headcount methodology has been recognised as the sector-preferred approach to counting street-connected children<sup>2</sup>. The methodology provides a standardised, scalable, rights-respecting approach to collecting quantitative data on the number of street-connected children in a specified geographical location. The data is disaggregated by age, gender and activities. The analysis and dissemination of this data is to inform the design of policies and programmes for street-connected children.

Six geographical areas were identified in the scoping exercise. A team of data collectors were allocated to each zones. They moved as a team on foot and counted their zones twice. Then, they swapped zones with a different team and carried out the same exercise. The entire group came together and compared the results in a facilitated discussion on the numbers and recording information which could influence the counting results. They went back to their original zones for the final count, and this last round of data collection is considered the final data because at this point the teams' experience, knowledge, and routine is at the most reliable. The previous data is used mainly to validate the final findings.

The headcount methodology was pioneered by StreetInvest's founder, Father Patrick Shanahan, in Ghana in the 1980s and 1990s and has since been used by a range of partners, including UNICEF, to deliver headcounts in: Democratic Republic of Congo; Ethiopia; Ghana; India; Uganda. In the year 2011, this methodology was used to conduct a nationwide headcount of street-connected children in all major towns and cities in the country. That was the first time the methodology was used for a nationwide exercise<sup>3</sup>. As a result of its success a repeat exercise was held in 2019. Railway Children has further developed the methodology and used it for a government commissioned headcount of six major cities in Tanzania in 2017<sup>4</sup>.

StreetInvest's headcount methodology is a process of observation and reflection: seeking to provide quantitative data on all observed street-connected children within a geographic locality at a specific point in time. No form of sampling, estimations or averages are used. During the training, the counters determined the criteria used to identify who a street-connected child is and therefore who will be counted. Age-ranges and types of activities the children engaged in when counted were also predefined.

The methodology requires an in-depth knowledge of the streets and the areas street-connected children use to satisfy their life, survival and development needs. Therefore, the counting teams consisted of people from CSOs and government who have a strong familiarity of the streets and the children who are there. Every team had at least one street/ social worker with extensive experience of working with the street connected children, who are at ease with, and

<sup>2</sup> Consortium for Street Children (2015), Do I Count If You Count Me? CSC Briefing Paper, London, CSC

<sup>3</sup> Street Child of Sierra Leone (2012), National Headcount of Street Children in Sierra Leone, London, Street Child of Sierra Leone

<sup>4</sup> Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and USAID Kizazi Kipya Project (2018), Street-Connected Children in Tanzania: Headcount Findings 2017. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, Railway Children Africa



knowledgeable about, the children in the area. This experience of the street connected children and the understanding of the location and the culture is crucial for any successful intervention<sup>5</sup>.

All counters took part in a four-day training on StreetInvest's accredited Introduction to Street Work (ISW) module followed by a two-day training workshop on the counting methodology, observation skills, data collection tools and reflective practice. Challenges and risks and how to mitigate them were discussed. This was followed by a two-day scoping exercise to be familiar with all the areas to be counted and also agree on boundaries between adjoining counting areas. Trial counts were done exposing the counters to the reality of the streets and these were followed by practicing discussions that are an essential part of the methodology. Prior to the trial counts the group discussed and confirmed the definition, age ranges and categorisation of activities to be utilised in the count. The teams were trained in how to identify the street connected children according to the agreed definitions.

## 4.1 Methodology limitations and mitigation

As with any methodology, head counting has its limitations. It is very difficult to know that every child living and working on the street has been accounted for. What this study represent is the street-connected children and young people observed in six key areas in the central business areas of Kumasi at a moment in time.

Another limitation to head counting is that the method brings the risk of double counting children to some extent because children may move between different areas, so they may be counted more than once. Furthermore, children may be double counted if they suddenly change activities because different data collectors count children involved in different activities. Lastly, because the method is based on observation, children's ages always need to be estimated judging from their appearance and, as such, will not always be precise.

The methodology could be criticized for its lack of participation of the children themselves. However, adopting a more participatory approach that included street-connected children in the counting process would have run the risk of the results being prejudiced by the children themselves. For example, a street-connected child may be predisposed to warn friends to make themselves scarce during the counting process or mislead the counters as to the areas the children frequent.

While conducting this headcount, the methodological limitations were considered and the following mitigating actions were taken to minimise errors.

**Use of local counters:** local partner organisations working with street-connected children and young people were involved in the planning and counting process. These counters were already familiar with the scene and better positioned to spot street-connected children and young people and to differentiate them from children who are just out for the weekend or have come to the city just for the day.

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<sup>5</sup> McEvoy, D, S Morgan, S McCready, J Bennett and P Heany (2013) 'Working with Street-Connected Children: A Training Model for Street Work Practice', Practice: Social Work in Action, 25(4), pp233-250

**Daily debrief meetings:** After every counting session, a facilitated debrief session was held, during which all the teams met to discuss challenges and key areas to watch out for during the next count.

**Recording of possible data affecting challenges:** Any incident noticed that could influence the count was recorded and shared with the supervising team, which considered the field remarks as analysis proceeded. This process facilitated data validation of extreme values and final count results used for analysis.

**Training and piloting:** The counters were taken through a four-day StreetInvest's Introduction to street work training to help them have an in depth understanding of who street-connected children are, what brings the children unto the streets and how to map the streets and to identify key areas where children could be found on the streets. This module also includes sessions on building empathy for street-connected children as well as values and attitude training. Immediately following this was a two-day training that on the StreetInvest's headcount methodology, data collection tools, and possible challenges that they could encounter during the headcount. They were engaged in short practice counts during the training and this helped them to practice this newly learned skills. This process ensured a uniform understanding of counting categories and methodology applied on the ground.

**Group interactions, discussions, and consultations:** The teams were also trained on how to do comprehensive observations. The teams were given assignments on how to observe and memorize things that they observed. After observations, the teams would come together for group discussions and consulted each other on how to go about the challenges that they could encounter during the exercise. After that they would present their observations to the larger group and further facilitated discussions held to ensure that they were observing and recording all the details on the streets.

## 4.2 Definitions and counting categories

The headcount used the following definitions for who should be included in the count:

- a) Children and youth who depend on the streets to live and/or work, whether alone, with peers or with family; and
- b) a wider population of children and youth who have formed strong connections with public spaces and for whom the street plays a vital role in their everyday lives and identities. This wider population includes children who periodically, but not always, live and/or work on the streets and children who do not live or work on the streets but who regularly accompany their peers, siblings or family in the streets.<sup>6</sup>

The headcount also attempted to differentiate between the children that were:

- a) **Working on the streets:** Activities that street-connected children and youth are compelled to engage in for survival in the streets. These activities mainly support them to meet their basic needs, especially food. In most cases they engaged in such activities

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<sup>6</sup> Committee on the Rights of the Child (2017), General comment No. 21 on children in street situations, New York, UN

as selling in traffic, selling in the market, carrying loads on their heads (popularly called *kayayei*), driver's mate (conductor), shop attendant, washing utensils and serving food at local restaurants, car washing, windscreen cleaning, begging, scavenging, sex work, vending of small goods on tables in the market and so on.

- b) Living on the streets:** A situation in which a child spends almost entire of his/her time on the streets. This means that the child's survival is controlled by the streets. This definition includes street-connected children that permanently live and sleep on the streets and street-connected children that could be spending significant time on the streets with no responsible adult. To record this category, the team needs to go out on the streets at hours that is known that any child who has any home to go to has left the streets. The number of street-connected children permanently on the streets was counted during the night count, between 10:00 pm and 12:00 am.

Each child was counted according to gender and age group: 0-5 years, 6-12 years, or 13-18 years. Activities that the children were engaged at the time counting were also recorded.

- (i) Day Count:** During day counts, the activities of street-connected children were broken down into the following categories:

**Fixed business:** Doing business or engage in selling fixed at a particular location. For example, selling basic consumer items in a fixed retail premises. This might not necessarily be a permanent structure. This applied to street-connected children that do business at a specific spot during the time of counting.

**Moveable business:** Selling of consumer or any other items and moving from one place to another. This applied to street-connected children hawking in and around the markets, in traffic intersections and any other area during the counting period.

**Casual work:** any form of manual work that does not involve selling of goods. This applied to street-connected children carrying loads on their heads (*kayayei*), driver's mates and driving motor tricycles (*aboboyaa* and *praggia*), washing dishes and serving food in local restaurants (*chop bars*), car washing and cleaning windscreens, and shoe-shiners (boys) come into this category.

**Begging:** Requesting money or food from someone else. This applied to street-connected children asking people for money or food.

**Jobless:** Idle or not engaged in any economic or money making trying to make money *at the time of counting*. This applied to street-connected children and youth not engaged in any of the survival activities above at the time of counting. This could be children sitting around, playing, watching movies or football matches at video centres, walking, or sleeping.

- (ii) Night Count:** The above categories did not apply during the night count. The night count was to determine the number of children observed in the morning who spend their entire night

on the streets as defined in **4.4 (b)** above. The following are the categories observed and counted during the night count:

**Permanent on the street:** Children found on the street at night during the hours of counting. The night count was held between 10:00pm – 12:30 am. Attempts to get exact numbers of children who actually live on the streets are always fraught with difficulties. The most reliable way is to visit the streets and observe the children late at night. However, precautionary measures were put in place to ensure that the count is conducted safely. This includes respecting ‘no go’ areas especially in the night, which means that the teams would avoid dark areas. Therefore, the number recorded and presented here are only a snapshot of the areas where the teams could safely cover late at night. The true number of children who are permanently on the streets is believed to be higher.

**Commercial Sex workers:** a street-connected girl either involved in conversation or advertising herself with a view to engage in transactional sex - generally observed at night in specific locations. These children are observed in locations known for prostitution, for example outside certain bars and clubs and specific places in the counting areas.

In addition to these categorizations, special symbols were introduced within the general categories to record:

- Visibly Pregnant girls
- Children with disability

### 4.3 Scope and areas

The headcount covered the following areas in Kumasi:

1. Adum, Railways market, PZ area and Pampaso
2. Central Market, Kejetia Market, 31<sup>st</sup> Market & Roman Hill
3. Aboabo Station, Alabar, Dr. Mensah and Adehyeman Market
4. Racecourse, Suame roundabout, Suame market, Bantama market
5. Asafo market, Lorry terminal, Fishmongers/cold stores, Abinkyi market & Labour Roundabout
6. Amakom traffic light, Anloga junction, Oforikrom market, Tech Junction & Ayigya market

Ahead of the headcount there were meetings and discussions to identify areas in Kumasi where street-connected children live and spend their time both during the day and night. Further discussions led to grouping these areas into counting zones and this determined the number of counters that were needed for the headcount. These organisations also discussed and agreed on releasing their staff who are experienced on the streets to be part of the headcount. Initial scoping of the areas led to an agreement that there would be both day and night counting in all the six counting areas, since children were observed in all the areas even in the night.



## 4.4 Data management and analysis

During the process each counter was assigned a category/categories to count. Each counter was given a paper form developed during the training on which they recorded in the form of a tally. Depending on which category the counter had, he/she recorded, in the form of a tally, the children including the sexes and the age range on the form. At the end of each counting round the form was given to the leader who crosschecks the total and then transfer it onto a summary sheet. This was then submitted to the supervisor in addition to all the tally sheets from the individual team members. The supervisor crosschecked all the sheets against the summary sheet and then entered them onto a data sheet in Excel. That was then accepted as the data recorded for each day of counting. As consistent with the methodology, data for the fourth day was accepted as the final numbers and this is the data presented in this report.

The data from the previous three counts was used mainly for validation of the final findings, by comparing the data from the first three counts with the final count data to see if there were large discrepancies in numbers. At the end of data collection, the data were cleaned by addressing inconsistencies.

After data cleaning, the data were analysed in Excel. The analysis was generally descriptive and involved one-way tabulations to obtain the distribution of the counts across categories of each variable. A few bivariate analyses were conducted to compare the counts by gender, age, and type of activities the street-connected children and youth were engaged in. Results were presented in frequency distribution tables and pie charts.

## 5. Field Activities

### 5.1 On-the-ground coordination

Field activities were coordinated by a StreetInvest's global trainer, who is currently the Regional Coordinator for the Global Alliance for West Africa based in Kumasi, Ghana. He was supported by senior management members of the 2 partner organisation, Deputy Director of SCA and the head of Kumasi office of Chance for Children, who are both experienced street workers working on the streets of Kumasi for a number of years.

In addition, each group had a leader whose roles were to:

- Work closely with the supervisor and motivate the group to carry out the work
- Ensure the group's timetable was adhered to by each member
- Ensure that the methodology was correctly applied when walking with the groups
- Moderate group discussions to ensure team members challenged each other's observations to bring out the richness of the headcount methodology.

## 5.2 Headcount process

Four day and 2 night counts were conducted on consecutive days, with a day's break before the final round of counting. For counts on days one, two and four, the team observed the same areas that they were assigned. They swapped for the count on day three. There was no swapping during the night counts.

The following table (Table 1) illustrates the counting rhythm.

**Table 1a: Counting rhythm for the headcount (day count)**

DAY COUNTS						
Count	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6
1	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
2	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
3	Group 2	Group 1	Group 4	Group 3	Group 6	Group 5
4	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6

**Table 2b: Counting rhythm for the headcount (night count)**

NIGHT COUNTS						
Count	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6
1	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
2	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6

During each count, every counter was assigned a single activity category to count. Upon completion of the area/route, the group leaders, who counted across all categories, compiled the results in a summary sheet to represent the final agreed results of the particular count. In all headcount areas, the day count started at 9:00 am and ended at 2:00pm, followed by a debrief meeting. The night count started at 10:00 pm and ended at 12:00am, also followed by a debrief meeting in the following morning.

## 5.3 Documentation and validation

The headcount results were documented both on paper and through electronic data entry in Excel. The former captured both individual counter results and the final summary sheets, and the latter captured only the summary results concluded at the end of every count. Annex 2 shows the paper-based summary sheets.

The first stage of validation took place when the team concluded a final summary count for each round of counting. The summary sheet was filled in by the team leader. The summary sheet was then transferred to Excel by the Headcount supervisor. The Excel data sheet was shared with the supervisory team. All paper forms were kept safely in a storage.

Upon completion of the headcount, the paper records for the individual team members were compared with the summary sheet. This was subsequently compared with the summary records entered in Excel. In cases of variations between counts, the data collection sheets were taken

into consideration to select the appropriate final count used for analysis. Only minor discrepancies were found in the final data validation process.

## 5.4 Challenges and resulting data considerations

Table 2 outlines the challenges encountered in the different areas and how they were addressed for successful completion of the exercise.

No	Challenge	How it was addressed
1.	How do we categorize a girl found resting with a pan at the time of counting	The methodology is observational and the team records what they actually observed. If the girl was observed resting and not engaged in the headcount, she should be counted as 'not engaged in any work' 'Jobless'.
2.	How can we differentiate between a male and female babies especially during night count	In such a situation the most important thing is to record the baby and the team should observe anything that would suggest the gender like dressing, hair style and any such to agree on the gender.
3.	How do we categorize a minor guiding a blind person who is begging	Such a child should be categorized under the 'begging' category.
4.	Some areas are dark at night and the team cannot enter due to potential risks to the counters	As agreed in the risk assessment, counters should not put themselves into unnecessary risks and that they should respect 'no go' areas. If a corner is too unsafe to enter they can decide as a team to avoid it.

Considering the above constraints and operating under the general rule that the final day's count is the most certain and the night count with the highest number of children observed most accurately presents street-connected children and youth, the fourth and final counts were selected for further data analysis.

## 6. Results and Findings

The summary of the findings of the day and night-counts from all the areas is presented in sections 6.1 to 6.4 below. This is followed by findings in each of the six areas in section 6.5 below.

### 6.1 Summary of day count all areas

#### 6.1.1 Absolute numbers

Table 3 below gives the total (absolute) numbers of all street-connected children counted in all six areas by gender, age group and category (activities they were engaged in). A total of 6,693 street-connected children were observed on the streets during the counting period (13<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> October 2021). This included counting both during the day and night times. It should however be noted that the total number counted during the night (814 street-connected children) is not added in the final total in line with the principle of the methodology. It is known that some of the children counted during the day time would still be on the streets in the night. Therefore, the night count is only to determine the number of children who spend their entire time on the street i.e. street-connected children that lives permanently on the streets and therefore adding this number to the total would amount to double counting. **See section 4.2b above.**

Among male street-connected children, the 13-17 years' age group has the highest number (1,209), followed by 0-5 years (773), and 6-12 years (486). For the females the 13-17 years' age group account for two-thirds of the total number of all street-connected girls (2,794). This is followed by 6-12 years (802) and then 0-5 year (629). There was only a small difference in the number of girls and boys engaged in begging with an equal number of male and female street-connected children aged 0-5 years (193) engaged in begging.

**Table 3: Totals number of street-connected children in Central Kumasi by Age Group, Sex and Category**

CATEGORIES	MALE				FEMALE				TOTAL
	0-5 years	6-12 years	13-17 years	SUB TOTAL	0-5 years	6-12 years	13-17 years	SUB TOTAL	
FIXED BUSINESS	0	4	83	<b>87</b>	0	29	170	<b>199</b>	<b>286</b>
MOVABLE BUSINESS	0	29	113	<b>142</b>	0	78	277	<b>355</b>	<b>497</b>
CASUAL WORK	2	33	636	<b>671</b>	0	149	819	<b>968</b>	<b>1,639</b>
JOBLESS	578	282	362	<b>1,222</b>	436	380	1347	<b>2,163</b>	<b>3,385</b>
BEGGING	193	138	15	<b>346</b>	193	166	23	<b>382</b>	<b>728</b>
CSW (NIGHT)	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	158	<b>158</b>	<b>158</b>
PERMANENT ON THE STREET (NIGHT)	<b>78</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>814</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>1,209</b>	<b>2,468</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>2,794</b>	<b>4,180</b>	<b>6,693</b>



For additional categories introduced, 20 girls aged 13-17 were observed as visibly pregnant and 7 male children with a noticeable disability were observed. All the disabled boys were observed engaged in begging on the streets at the time of counting.

### 6.1.2 Ratios

Table 4 shows the percentages for all street-connected children counted during the daytime in all six areas as they are related by gender, age, and activity. 62.9% of the street-connected children counted were female and 37.1% were male.

Out of 2,468 male counted only 3.5% had fixed businesses, with 5.8% doing movable business. While 27.2% were engaged in casual work, 14% were begging with almost half of all male street-connected children counted (49.5%) being idle or jobless at the time of counting. Majority of the older street-connected boys (13-17 years' category) were engaged in casual work. Three quarters of children aged 0-5 were jobless, and a quarter of them engaged in begging, leaving only a small percentage (0.2%) of this category engaged in casual work. More than half (58%) of the children with the ages of 6-12 years were jobless, and more than a quarter of them (28.4%) were engaged in begging with (6.8%) and (6%) engaged in casual work and movable business respectively. Only (0.6%) were engaged in fixed business. No male child was found engaging in CSW.

For the female street-connected children, more than half of them (51.7%) were jobless at time of counting with 22.1% engaged in casual work. 9.1% of all street-connected girls counted in the day were begging with 8.5% were doing movable businesses and only 4.8% engaged in fixed business. Across the age categorisation, almost half (48.2%) of the 13-17 years' group were jobless at the time of counting with 3.8% of all girls engaged in CSW. All the girls observed engaged in CSW were within the age range of 13-17 years and even within this age group, the percentage of CSW is relatively low, 5.8%.

**Table 4: Day Count: Ratios of street-connected children in Central Kumasi by Age Group, Sex and Category**

CATEGORIES	MALE				FEMALE				TOTAL
	0-5 years	6-12 years	13-17 years	SUB TOTAL	0-5 years	6-12 years	13-17 years	SUB TOTAL	
FIXED BUSINESS	0%	0.6%	6.9%	<b>3.5%</b>	0%	3.8%	6.1%	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>
MOVABLE BUSINESS	0%	6.0%	9.3%	<b>5.8%</b>	0%	10.3%	9.9%	<b>8.5%</b>	<b>7.4%</b>
CASUAL WORK	0.2%	6.8%	52.6%	<b>27.2%</b>	0%	18.6%	29.3%	<b>22.1%</b>	<b>24.5%</b>
JOBLESS	74.8%	58.0%	29.9%	<b>49.5%</b>	69.3%	50.2%	48.2%	<b>51.7%</b>	<b>50.6%</b>
BEGGING	25.0%	28.4%	1.2%	<b>14.0%</b>	30.7%	21.9%	0.8%	<b>9.1%</b>	<b>10.9%</b>
CSW (NIGHT)	0%	0%	0%	<b>0%</b>	0%	0%	5.7%	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	(31%) 773	(19%) 486	(49%) 1,209	<b>(36.9%) 2,468</b>	(15%) 629	(18%) 802	(67%) 2,794	<b>(63.1%) 4,225</b>	<b>6,693</b>

For the additional categories, only 20 girls aged 13-17 years were observed as visibly pregnant, with 7 male children observed with a disability at the time of counting.

## 6.2 Summary of night count all areas

### 6.2.1 Absolute numbers

Table 5 below represents the absolute numbers of all street-connected children counted in all the areas during the two rounds of night count by gender, age groups and activities. A total number of 966 street-connected children were observed and counted in all the areas. This comprises of 397 males and 569 females. A total of 78 boys and 30 girls aged between 0-5 years were observed and counted at night in all the areas.

Since it is known that mostly no economic activity was going on at that time of the night (10pm – 12 midnight), the main categorisation during the night count was ‘permanent on the streets’, in that the night count was to determine the proportion of street-connected children who live permanently on the streets. The total figure represents 14.43% of the street-connected children counted during the day.

Another category that is counted during the night is the CSW. The teams went into the areas that are known for commercial sex activities in the night and observe and count the children involved in CSW. While the figure for the CSW is added to the total counted in the morning, the category ‘permanent on the streets’ is not added. This is because the teams go to the same areas they counted in the morning to count the number of children spending the night on the streets. However, the teams do not go to cover CSW, which is known to be happening in the night in those areas, during the day count. Therefore, the number of CSW counted in the night are added to the total counted in the day.

Even though the total number of female street-connected children on the streets almost doubled that of their male peers (See Section 6.1.2), the difference in numbers between the two groups was much tighter in the night. Similarly, in both groups the overwhelming majority of the children on the streets were aged between 13 and 17 years. This age group also accounts for 72% of all street-connected children counted during the night.

**Table 5: Night Count: Totals of street-connected children in Central Kumasi by Age Group, Sex and Category**

CATEGORIES	MALE			SUB TOTAL	FEMALE			SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	0-5 years	6-12 years	13-17 years		0-5 years	6-12 years	13-17 years		
CSW (NIGHT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	158	158	158
PERMANENT ON THE STREET (NIGHT)	78	73	246	397	30	91	290	411	808
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>966</b>

## 6.2.2 Ratios

Table 6 below shows the percentages of all street-connected children counted during the night-time in all six areas by gender, age, and activity. Consistently with the day count, there were more female street-connected children (58.9%) on the streets than male (41.1%), although as noted above, not in as a significant proportion as that observed during the day count. Such different proportions may suggest that girls are more likely than boys to go back to a 'home' to spend the night after daily activities.

The category 'permanent on the streets' accounts for 83.7% of all children on the street in the night, with a huge percentage of these children being within the age of 13-17 years, (61.9% of the male children and 65.2% of female children).

A huge observation made in the night was that there were no boys engaged in Commercial Sex Work in all areas. The teams observed a total of 158 girls who are all aged 13-17 years engaged in CSW at night in the areas counted. This represents 34.8% of girls aged 13-17 years counted at night and 27.5% of all girls counted in the night. Female commercial sex workers made up 16.3% of all the children observed on the streets at night.

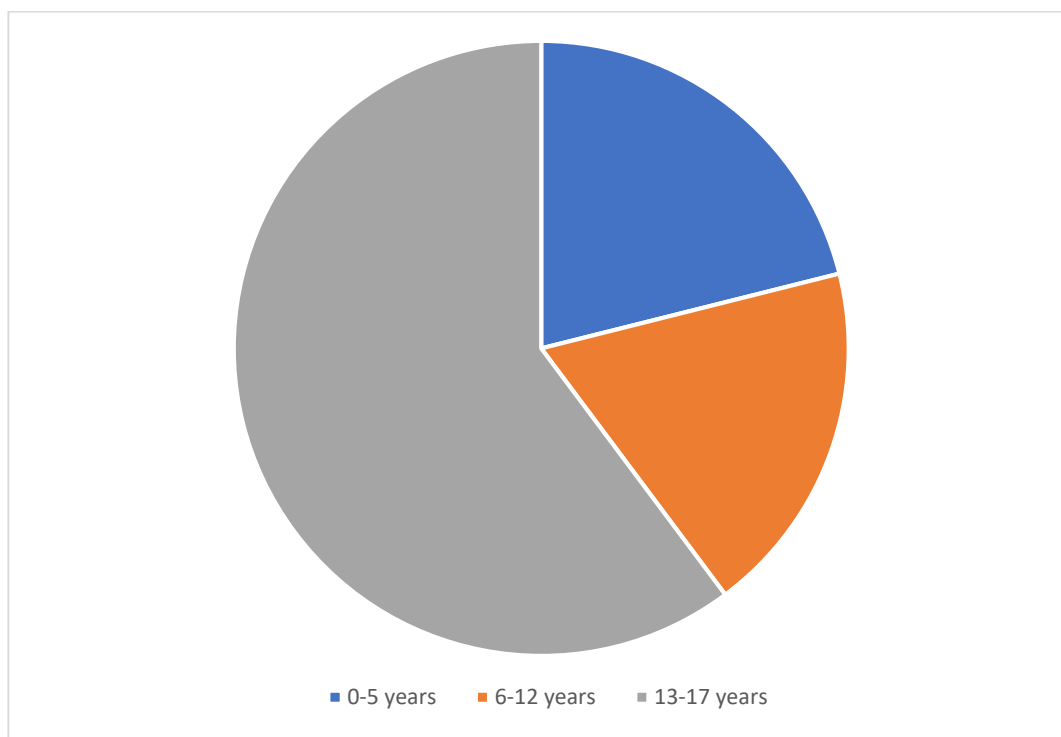
**Table 6: Night Count: Ratios of street-connected children in Central Kumasi by Age Group, Gender and Category**

CATEGORIES	MALE			SUB TOTAL	FEMALE			SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	0-5 years	6-12 years	13-17 years		0-5 years	6-12 years	13-17 years		
CSW (NIGHT)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	34.8%	27.5%	16.3%
PERMANENT ON THE STREET (NIGHT)	19.7%	18.4%	62.0%	100%	5.2%	15.8%	65.2%	72.5%	83.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	<b>18.4%</b>	<b>62.0%</b>	<b>(41.1%) 397</b>	<b>5.27%</b>	<b>15.99%</b>	<b>78.73%</b>	<b>(58.9%) 569</b>	<b>966</b>

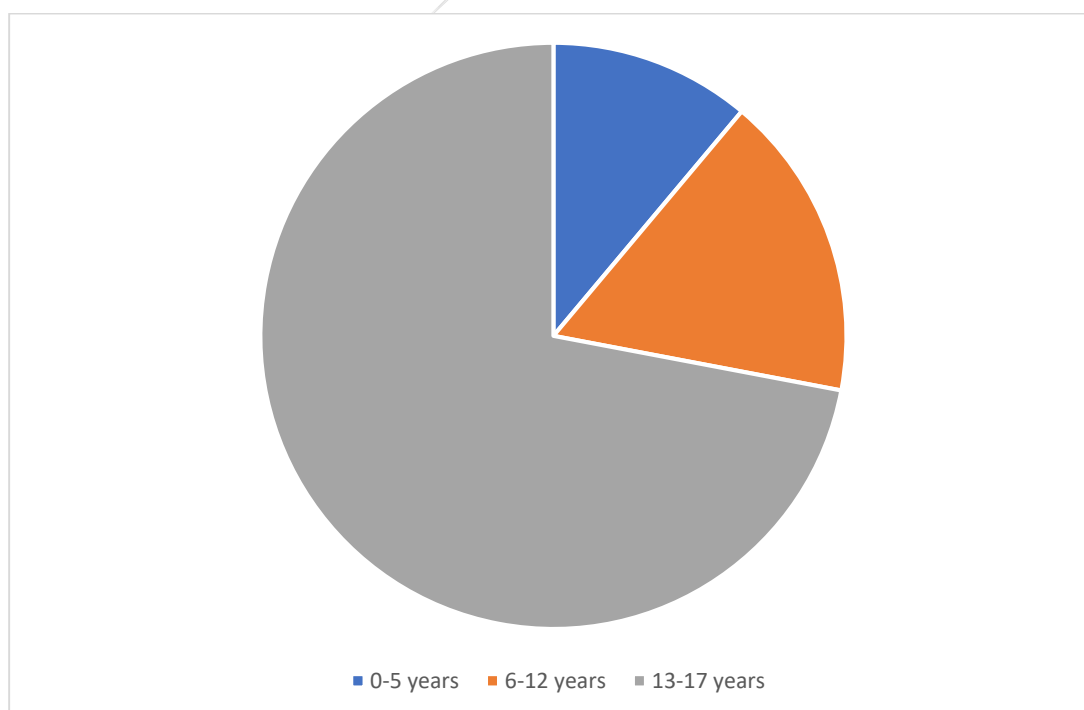
## 6.3 Comparison by gender and age

There are more street-connected girls than boys in both the day and night counts. Girls formed 62.9% compared to 37.1% of boys counted during the day. While significant, the difference between girls and boys counted on the streets at night was slightly smaller at night compared to daytime, with girls representing 59.2% and boys 40.8% of the children counted at night.

Children aged 13-17 constituted the majority of children counted in both female and male groups. Over a third (67%) of girls and a 49% of the boys counted during the day belonged to this age group. Male children of 0-5 years were 19% at night compared to 31% during the day with girls of same age group being 5.2% against a proportion of 15% observed at night.

**Figure 1: Street-connected children in Central Kumasi age group - Day**

While children aged 13-17 are overrepresented in both day (60%) and night (72%) counts, younger children still constituted a significant proportion of the street-connected child population, with 6-12 children being the least represented during the day (19%), and 0-5 children being the least represented at night (11%)

**Figure 2: Street-connected children by age group – Night**

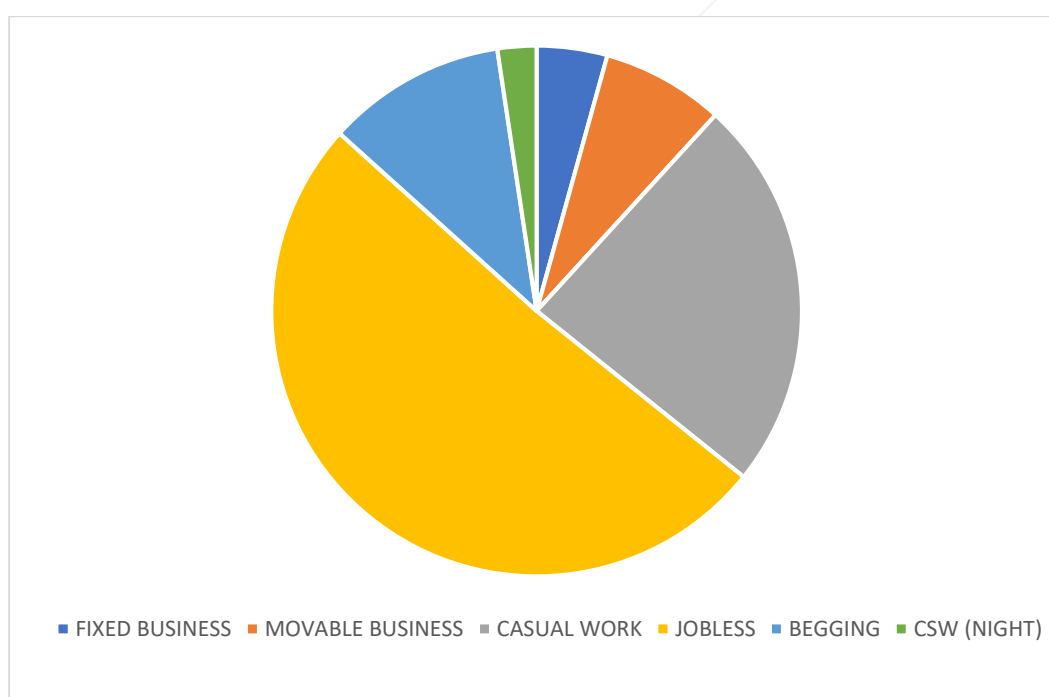


## 6.4 Comparison by gender and activity

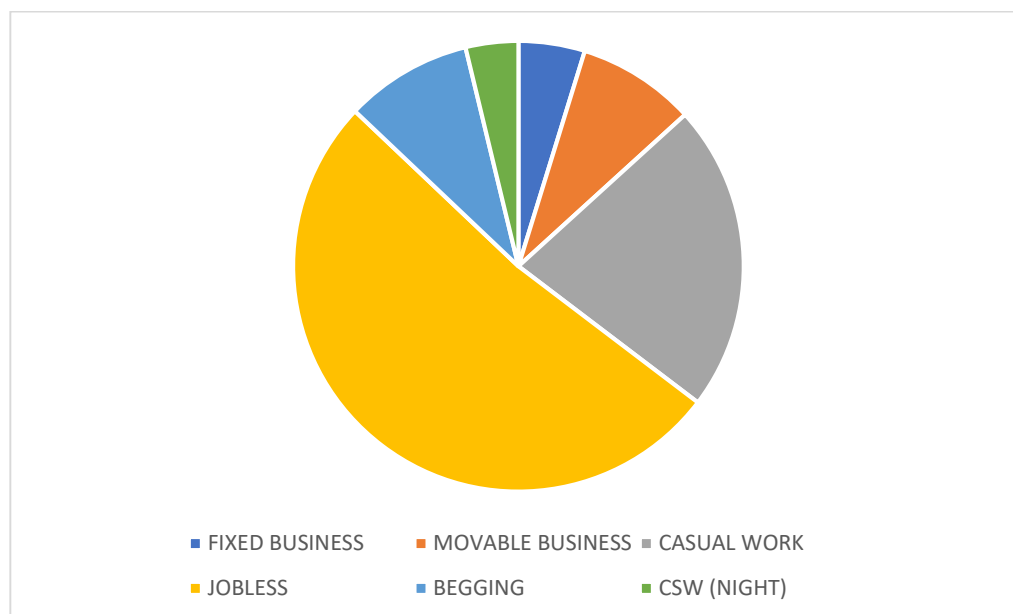
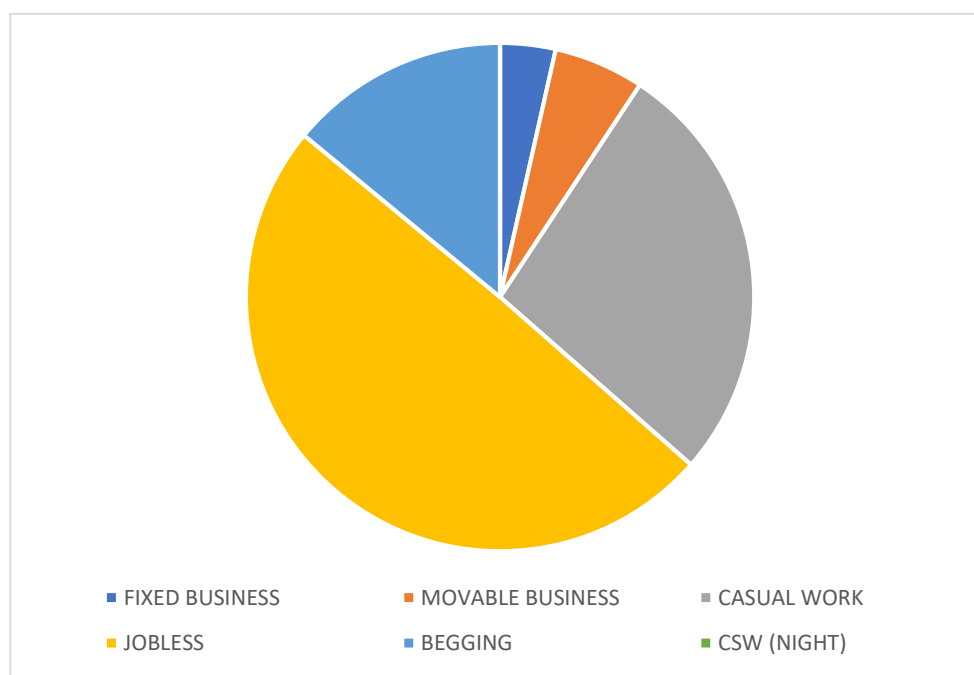
Street-connected children were categorised according to the activities that they were observed engaging in during the count. Street-connected children engage in various activities to support their survival needs on the streets, especially in terms of food and shelter. Most of them engage in activities like carrying loads (kayayei), selling at traffic stops, car washing, minibus conductors (mate), riding motor tricycles, begging, scavenging, sex work, shop assistant, serving and washing bowls in a local restaurant and vending of small goods or in the markets. Those that were not engaged in any activity that earns them any money at the time of counting are categorised as 'jobless'. This word is used for descriptive purpose to avoid any assumptions in consistent with the methodology.

27.2% of male street-connected children engage in casual work while 22.1% of female children engage in casual work. 14% of male street-connected children against 9.1% of female street-connected children were engaged in begging. 3.8% of all street-connected children girls observed and counted were engaged in commercial sex work. This translates into 2.4% of all children counted.

**Figure 3: All Street-connected children by category - Day**

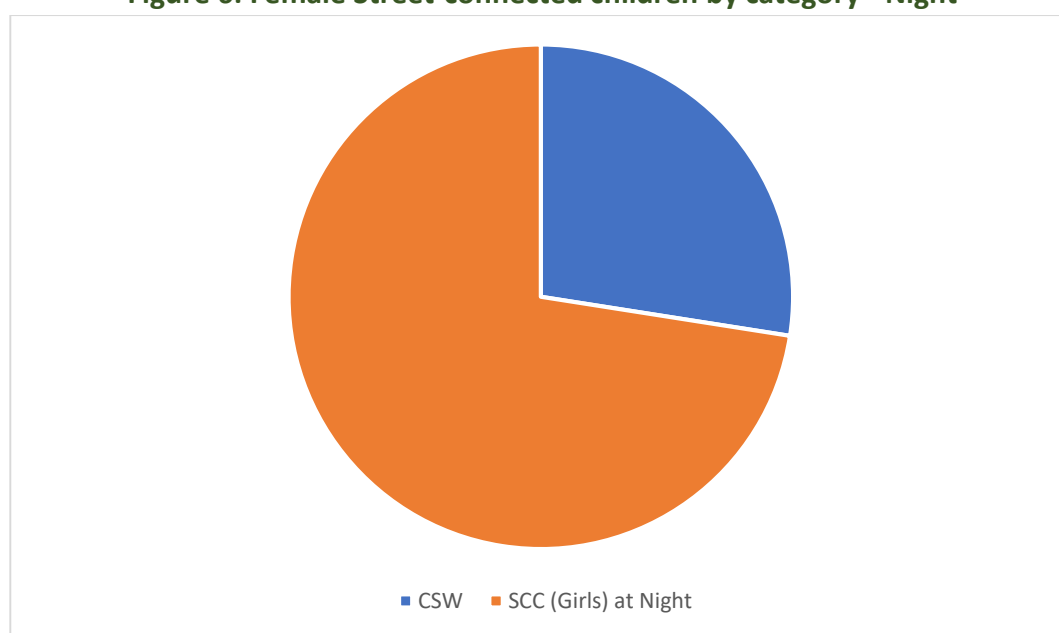


More than half of all street-connected children counted during the day (50.9%) belong to the 'jobless' category. Equally in both female and male groups, approximately half of the population counted belonged to this category with the female street-connected children being 51.7% and the male 49.5%.

**Figure 4: Female Street-connected children by category – Day****Figure 5: Male Street-connected children by category – Day**

For the night count, due to the principle and timing of the count all children were observed under one category of activity, except CSW which by experience is observed to be going on mainly in the night. Similar to what observed in the day, there were more females on the street than male street-connected children, but the difference in the numbers was a bit lower than during the day. This indicates that more of the female street-connected children leave the streets at the end of the day's activities.

The data indicates that 27.5% of the female children on the street at night were engaged in CSW. Street-connected girls engaged in CSW were within the 13-17 age group.

**Figure 6: Female Street-connected children by category - Night**

## 6.5 Comparison by Area

The headcount was done in six different areas in the central business districts of Kumasi and surrounding areas during the day and the night. The following sections analyse the findings from the different areas.

### 6.5.1 Totals from the day count in each area

The day count shows the different concentrations street-connected children in the different areas counted. While there was more than a quarter (26.6%) of street-connected children in Kejetia-Central Market area, there was only 10.2% in the Suame – Racecourse area. The second highest area of concentration of street-connected children is Amakom – Tech Junction area with 18.2%, followed by Asafo-Abinkyi market with 18%, Dr. Mensah- Alabar with 15% and Adum-Railways area with 12%.

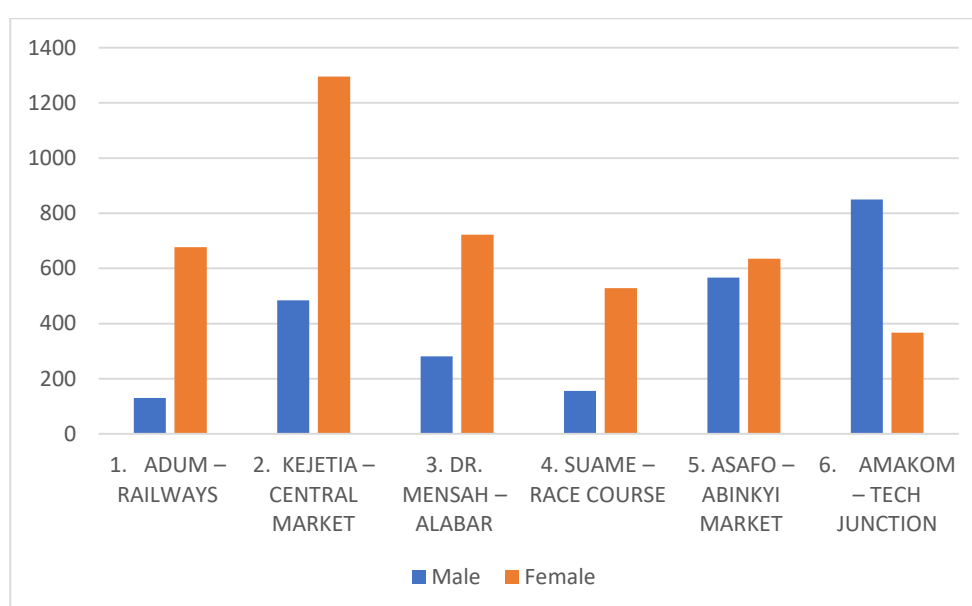
**Table 7: Summary of Day Count: Absolute numbers of street-connected children in each area by Age Group**

AREA	MALE				FEMALE				TOTAL
	0-5 years	6-12 years	13-17 years	SUB TOTAL	0-5 years	6-12 years	13-17 years	SUB TOTAL	
1. ADUM – RAILWAYS	84	11	35	130	56	135	486	677	807
2. KEJETIA – CENTRAL MARKET	286	82	116	484	222	310	764	1,296	1,780
3. DR. MENSAH – ALABAR	73	88	120	281	74	120	528	722	1,003

4. SUAME – RACE COURSE	54	22	80	156	52	46	430	528	684
5. ASAFO – ABINKYI MARKET	122	161	284	567	91	88	456	635	1,202
6. AMAKOM – TECH JUNCTION	154	122	574	850	134	103	130	367	1,217
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>1,209</b>	<b>2,468</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>2,794</b>	<b>4,225</b>	<b>6,693</b>

The age distribution also varied between areas, with street-connected children of all age ranges observed and counted in all the areas. The 13-17 years' group accounted for nearly 60% of all street-connected children counted in the areas.

**Figure 7: Total (male and female) Street-connected children by area – Day**



### 6.5.2 Totals from the night count in each area

The night count figure shows a different concentration of street-connected children from the day in the counting areas. Over 57% of all street-connected children counted were concentrated around Asafo-Abinkyi market area. This is understandable because one of the biggest bus terminals that operates for 24 hours in the city is located in that area, along with a number of entertainment centres. This was also the area where nearly all the girls engaged in CSW were observed. Other areas which were observed having some significant numbers of street-connected children present at night were Suame-Racecourse area 139 (14.4%), followed by Adum-Railways area, 107 (11.1%), Dr. Mensah-Alabar, 81 (8.4%), Kejetia-Central Market, 52 (5.4%) and Amakom-Tech Junction, 36 (3.7%) in that order. Kejetia-Central Market area that had the largest percentage of street-connected children during the day was the one with the least number of children sleeping at night. This is due to the fact that both the Kejetia and Central markets are normally closed at the end of the day and no one is officially allowed to sleep in the market at night. Therefore, the team could not enter the market at night to observe if street-

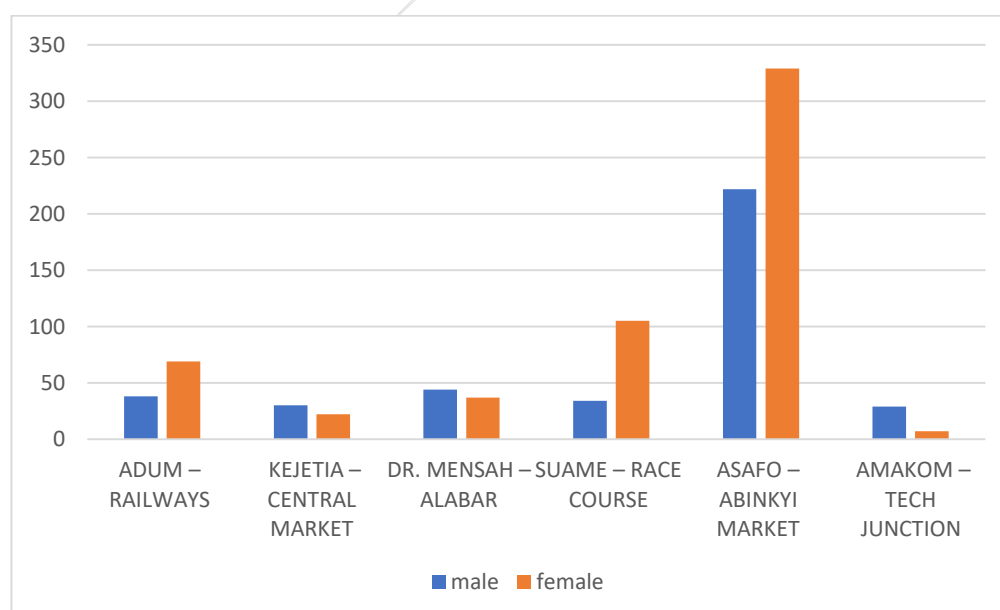
connected children sleep in the market at night. This is a limitation to the number counted in the night in the Kejetia-Central Market area because the team could not enter the market in the night to verify if truly the children are not sleeping in the markets.

**Table 8: Summary of Night Count: Absolute numbers of street-connected children in each area by Age Group**

AREA	MALE				FEMALE				TOTAL
	0-5 years	6-12 years	13-17 years	SUB TOTAL	0-5 years	6-12 years	13-17 years	SUB TOTAL	
3. ADUM – RAILWAYS	0	0	38	38	0	23	46	69	107
4. KEJETIA – CENTRAL MARKET	7	11	12	30	3	9	10	22	52
3. DR. MENSAH – ALABAR	4	10	30	44	0	2	35	37	81
4. SUAME – RACE COURSE	14	11	9	34	5	9	91	105	139
5. ASAFO – ABINKYI MARKET	51	38	133	222	22	48	259	329	551
7. AMAKOM – TECH JUNCTION	2	3	24	29	0	0	7	7	36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>966</b>

Again, the age distribution across all the areas points to the older age group, 13-17 years being the largest group constituting almost 70% of the total population of children observed.

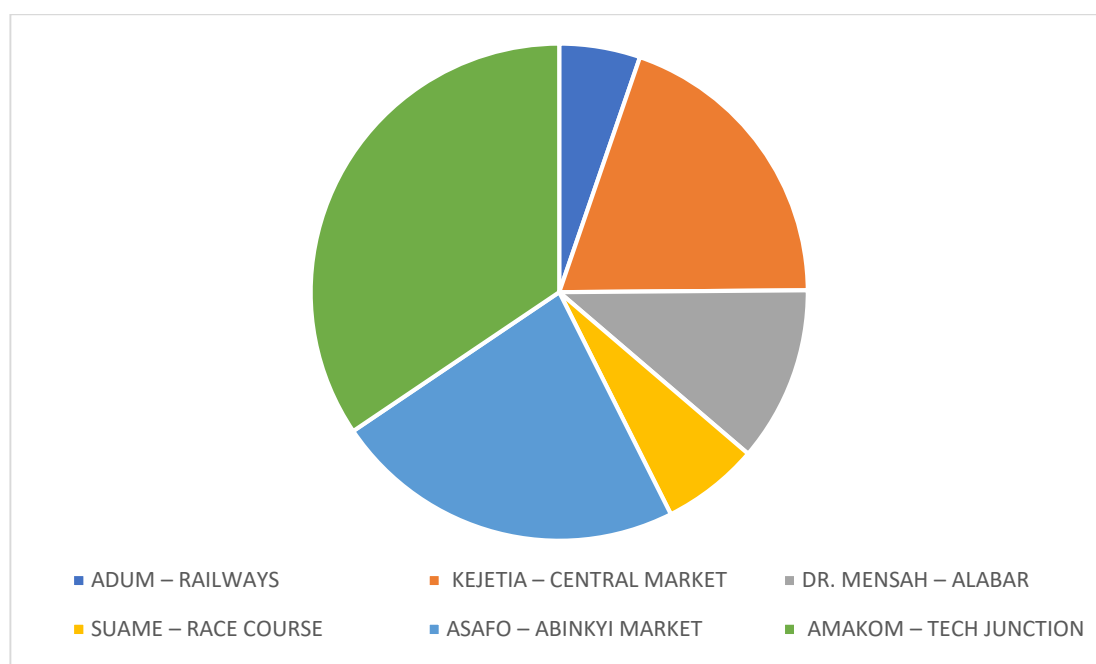
**Figure 8: Total (male and female) Street-connected children by area – Night**



### 6.5.3 Gender distribution in each area

The gender distribution shows a massive majority of street-connected children counted during the day being girls. In most areas, the population of girls more than doubled that of boys with Adum-Railways having the biggest gap in terms of percentage (83.4% girls against 16.6% boys). In other areas such as Suame-Racecourse, Kejetia-Central market and Dr. Mensah-Alabar, girls constituted more than 70% of the street-connected children observed during the day. While in Asafo-Abinkyi area the gap between percentage of girls and boys was considerably closer (52.8% against 47.1%), in Amakom-Tech Junction area the male population were greater than the female by more than two-thirds.

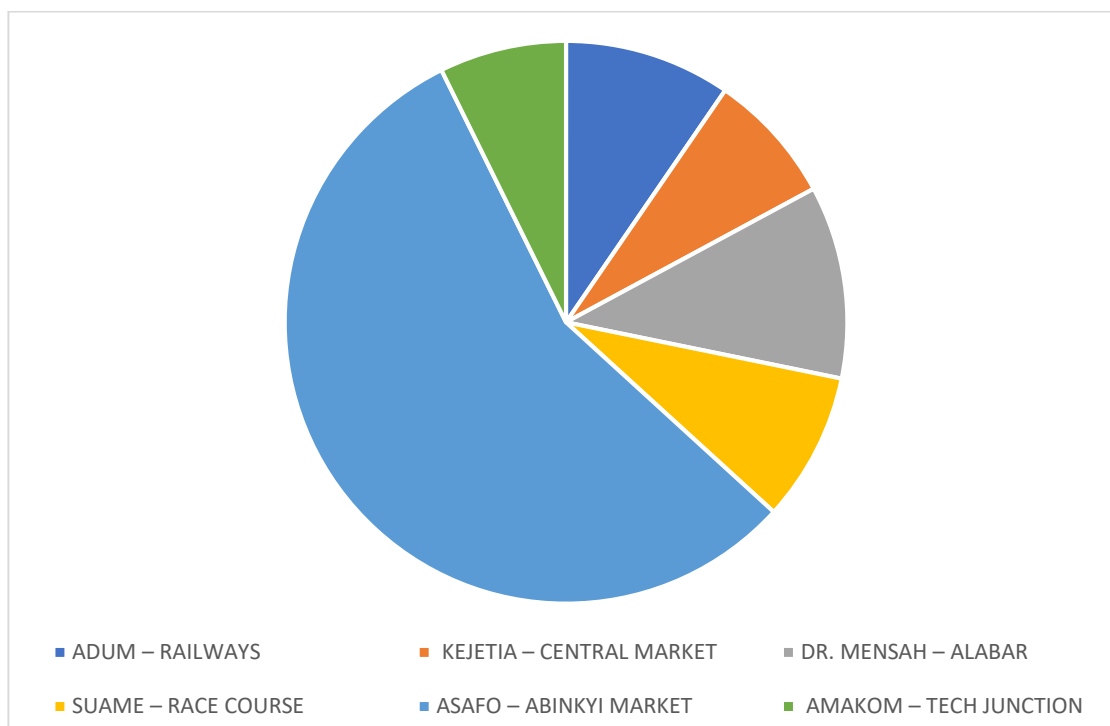
**Figure 9: Male Street-connected children by area -- Day**



The trend for the night was similar to the day with more females than males observed in all the areas, except Amakom-Tech junction area. However, there was a closer gap between percentages of boys and girls than what observed during the day.

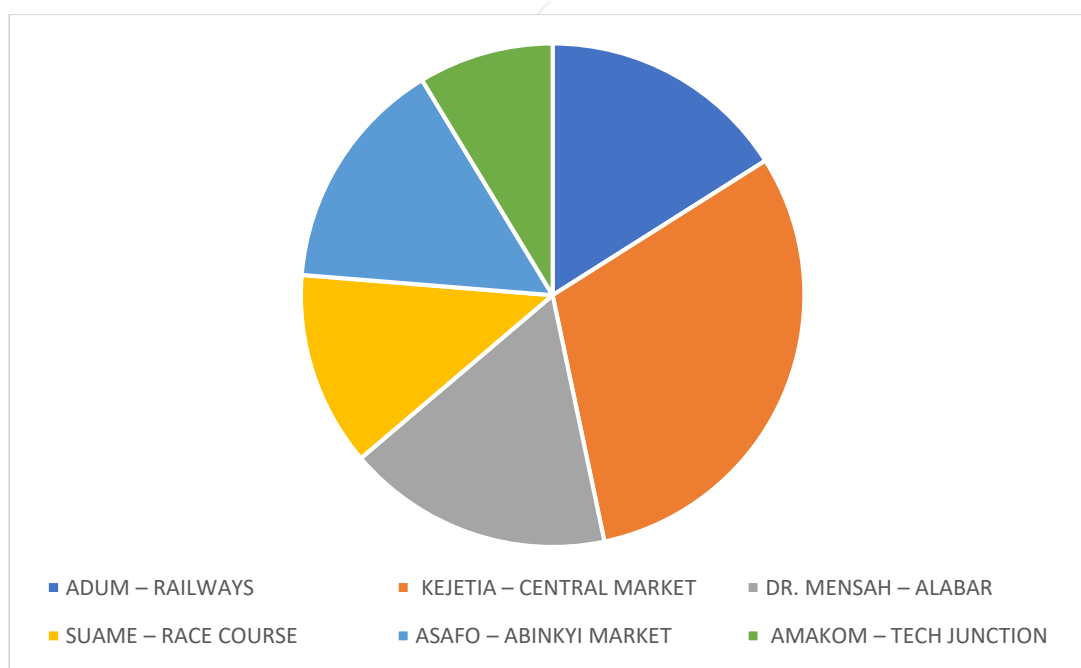


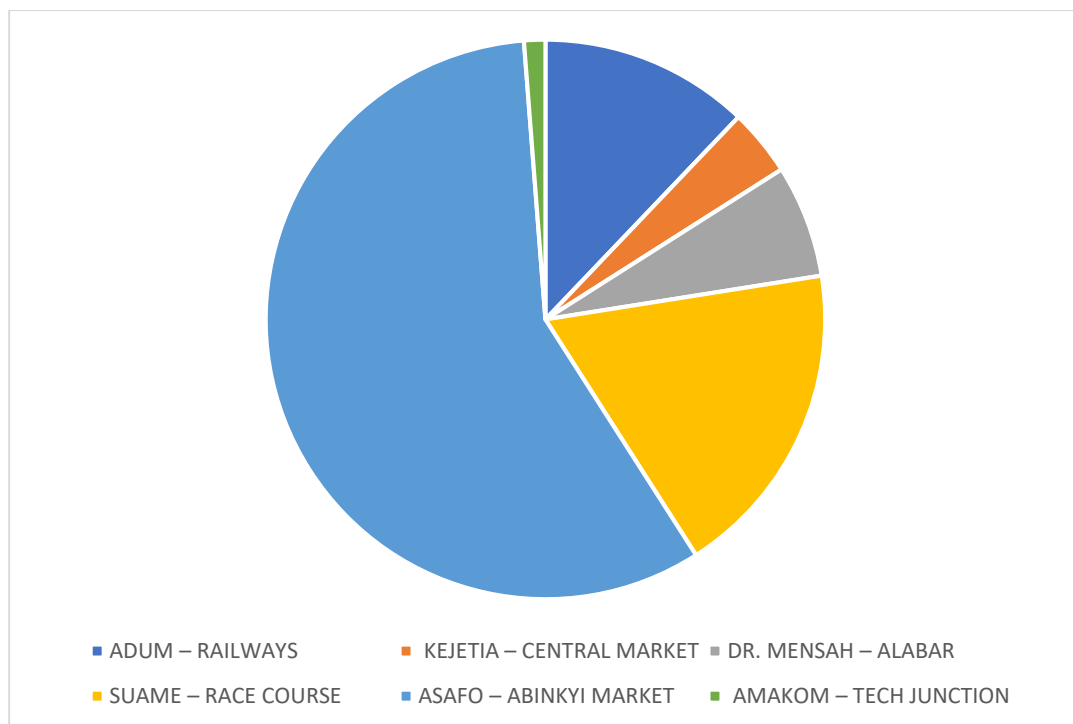
**Figure 10: Male Street-connected children by area - Night**



As to street-connected girls (Figure 11 and 12), the percentages are much higher during the day than at night in all the areas.

**Figure 11: Female Street-connected children by area – Day**



**Figure 12: Female Street-connected children by area - Night**

#### 6.5.4 Activity distribution by counting areas

The proportion of street-connected children engaged in the different activity categories was uniform across most areas with the exception of Amakom-Tech Junction area. Majority of street-connected children observed during the day were not engaged in any economic activity (jobless). The numbers of children 'jobless' at the time of counting varies by area ranging from 72% at Kejetia-Central market to 40.2% at Dr. Mensah-Alabar and averaging more than half in other areas with the exception of Amakom-Tech junction where there were only 27% of them. The distribution of all street-connected children engaged in casual work, movable business, fixed business and begging did not vary significantly from the overall trend. Consistently, CSW was not observed during the day in any area. However, there were few exceptions to this trend in some few areas. In particular, in Amakom-Tech Junction area, begging was the most observed activity (34.1% of children), followed by casual work and joblessness (idle). Begging was also the most observed activity in Dr. Mensah-Alabar constituting 21.2% of the overall activities observed in the areas.

This is consistent with anecdotal evidence that these two areas have a high concentration of children begging on the streets.

**Table 9: Summary of Day Count: Absolute numbers of street-connected children in each area by Category**

CATEGORIES	AREAS						TOTAL
	Adum-Railways	Kejetia-Central Market	Dr. Mensah-Alabar	Suame-Racecourse	Asafo-Abinkyi	Amakom-Tech Junction	
FIXED BUSINESS	65	61	28	58	47	27	286
MOVABLE BUSINESS	63	93	110	43	128	60	497
CASUAL WORK	289	293	249	136	285	387	1,639
JOBLESS	375	1288	403	414	577	328	3,385
BEGGING	14	45	213	33	8	415	728
CSW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>1,780</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>1,217</b>	<b>6693</b>

**Table 10: Summary of Night Count: Absolute numbers of street-connected children in each area by Category**

CATEGORIES	AREAS						TOTAL
	Adum-Railways	Kejetia-Central Market	Dr. Mensah-Alabar	Suame-Racecourse	Asafo-Abinkyi	Amakom-Tech Junction	
CSW (NIGHT)	1	0	0	0	157	0	158
PERMANENT ON THE STREET (NIGHT)	106	52	81	145	394	36	814
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>972</b>

At night, majority of the population of the children centred around Asafo-Abinkyi market area where also 99% of the children in CSW were observed, while only one child was observed engaging in this activities at Adum-Railways area. In total, 28.5% of children in Asafo were engaged in CSW activity, which represents 16.3% of all children observed at night.

**Table 31: Summary of Day Count: Percentages of street-connected children in each area by Category**

CATEGORIES	AREAS						TOTAL
	Adum-Railways	Kejetia-Central Market	Dr. Mensah-Alabar	Suame-Racecourse	Asafo-Abinkyi	Amakom-Tech Junction	
FIXED BUSINESS	8.1%	3.4%	2.8%	8.5%	3.9%	2.2%	4.3%
MOVABLE BUSINESS	8.1%	5.2%	10.9%	6.3%	10.6%	4.9%	7.4%
CASUAL WORK	35.9%	16.5%	24.8%	19.9%	23.7%	31.8%	24.5%
JOBLESS	46.5%	72.4%	40.2%	60.5%	48.0%	27.0%	50.6%

BEGGING	1.7%	2.5%	21.2%	4.8%	0.7%	34.1%	10.9%
CSW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12.0%</b>	<b>26.6%</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>10.2%</b>	<b>18.0%</b>	<b>18.1%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 12: Summary of Night Count: Percentages of street-connected children in each area by Category**

CATEGORIES	AREAS						TOTAL
	Adum-Railways	Kejetia-Central Market	Dr. Mensah-Alabar	Suame-Racecourse	Asafo-Abinkyi	Amakom-Tech Junction	
CSW (NIGHT)	0.9%	0%	0%	0%	28.5%	0%	16.3%
PERMANENT ON THE STREET (NIGHT)	99.1%	100%	100%	100%	71.5%	100%	83.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11.0%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>14.9%</b>	<b>56.7%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>6693</b>

## 6.5.5 Summary of each of the six areas

### 6.5.5.1 Area 1 – Adum/Railways

This area includes the city centre, area around the government offices and an extension of the Kumasi main market inside the old central railway station. About 68% of the children observed in this area are kayayei (female head porters). The majority of these are aged within 13-17 years. Some girls and older kayayei were observed carrying babies while carrying loads. Some of these girls were also either resting or idling around at the time of counting.

Other activities that children were observed to be engaged in during the day count included selling in traffic, mostly at junctions (movable business, 63 children), selling in shops and on top of tables by the roadside (65 children) and working as sales assistants at the shops. Few children were seen begging at the time of counting in the area (14).

Only about 13% (106) of the children counted during the day (806) were also counted during the night. Children counted at night were either idle or sleeping in front of shops and on pavements. Some places in the area are known to be the scene of CSW activities in the city of Kumasi. However, only one child was observed in one of those places among adult CSWs.

### 6.5.5.2 Area 2 - Central Market/Kejetia

This area includes the Kumasi Central Market, that is reported to be the biggest market in West Africa and the new Kejetia market. It is understandable that this area hosts the highest number of street-connected children during the day. Accordingly, more than a third of street-connected children of both genders observed during the day were counted in this area. 72.4% of children observed in this area were 'jobless' at the time of counting. Key activities children were engaged in during the counting period were Kayayei (female head porters), selling on table and hawking

of basic consumer good, working as shop attendants. Only a small percentage of children were engaged in begging (2.5%). The age distribution follows the general pattern with the percentage (72.8% to 27.2%) being wider than the average (63.9% female/36.1% male).

The number of street-connected children counted in the area at night greatly reduced due to the market being closed down. Only 5.3% of the children were observed at night in the area. There was no CSW activity observed at night.

#### 6.5.5.3 Area 3 – Dr. Mensah/Alabar

This area has a noticeable percentage of children begging during the day (21.2%). Majority of the children engaged in begging are located around the rail crossing near the central market. This area also follows the general trend of street-connected children aged 13-17 years being the most represented group during counts. Also, the majority of the children in this area were engaged in any work, jobless', at the time of counting.

This area also had more male than female street-connected children at night. No CSW activity was observed in the area.

#### 6.5.5.4 Area 4 – Suame/Racecourse

This area had the lowest number of street-connected children during the day. Kayayei (female head porter) was the top activity street-connect children were engaged in, with female aged 13-17 years making up 62.9% of all children observed in this area. Of all the children observed during daytime, 60.5% percent were not engaged in any work making the area having the largest population of being 'jobless' during the day. Only 4.8% were begging during the day.

In contrast to the day, this area had the second highest number of street-connected children at night across all areas. Female children outnumbered males by as much as 3:1 during the night. Similarly, the age distribution at night heavily tilted towards the 13-17 years' group. There was no CSW observed in the area at night and

#### 6.5.5.5 Area 5 – Asafo/Abinkyi Market

This area had the third largest population of street-connected children during the day and more than half (57%) of all street connected children during the night. Close to half of the street-connected children (48%) counted during the day in this area were not engaged in any kind of work (jobless), with casual work at 23.7% and movable business at 10.6%. Only 3.9% are engaged in fixed business, and only 0.7% were observed to be begging (the lowest percentage of all the areas). Similar to other areas, there were more female than male street-connected children with the oldest group (13-17 years) making up of 71.14% of the number of children observed in this area.

Almost all the street-connected children engaged in CSW (99%) at night were observed in this area. The presence of one of the biggest bus terminal that operates on 24-hour basis and other areas of interest and entertainment in this area accounts for such a high presence of street-connected children in this area at night compared to other areas.

#### 6.5.5.6 Area 6 – Amakom, Anloga Junction, Tech Junction, Ayigya Market

This area was observed to be significantly different from all others in terms of activities and gender, both in the day and at night. Contrary to the general trend of more girls than boys in all the areas, the male street-connected children outnumbered females (850 to 367) during the day.

In terms of activities, this area had the highest number of street-connected children engaged in begging during the day across all areas. A little over one-third of all street-connected children, 34.1% counted in this area were all engaged in begging. Also there were more children engaged in casual work (31.4%) than those who are not engaged in any work (jobless), (27%) during the day. With regards to children engaged in begging in this area, a great number of them appeared to be children from neighbouring West African Countries. As per observation, the begging of children in this area seemed mostly to be organised and managed by adults (mainly women), waiting for the children at some safe distance away. There were also some children in other places who appeared to be on their own without the supervision or the support of an adult.

This area was the one with the lowest number of street-connected children at night, with boys outnumbering girls. In general, the areas were the quietest at night and there were no CSW observed.

## 7 Conclusion and Recommendations

The most significant observation was that many more female than male street-connected children were observed on the streets both during the day and at night. Also noteworthy is the fact that more than half of all children were not engaged in any economic activity on the streets, as noted in the data. The streets are dominated by older children (aged 13-17 years), who according to the work and experience of the organisations involved in this exercise, have lived on the streets for different years.

Such a great number of children being on the streets both during the day and night is a clear sign of a failure of our social and child protection system. These children are exposed to the harshest conditions on the streets including struggling to earn money to feed, clothing and pay for a place to sleep at night. The high numbers of children staying on the streets at night and girls' engagement in CSW is an indication of how difficult the situation is becoming. Many of these children are homeless and they have resorted to sleeping or engaging in some other activities on the streets in the night. This situation is a huge cause of concern. Without targeted and appropriate support many of these will grow up to join the group of young homeless adults on the streets.

Civil society organisations including the 3 partners (MFCS, CFC and SCA) and other organisations operating on the streets are working to ensure that these children are protected from abuse and exploitation on the streets, to reduce the level of discrimination and stigmatization against street-connected children as well helping them to have a better alternative to living and working on the streets. This research is to further give clear data and information to all those who are



interested in coming together to reverse the situation, so to better target interventions and support to make positive impact on the lives of street-connected children.

Below follows a set of recommendations to work towards ensuring the rights of the street-connected children in Kumasi and Ghana are protected and ensured:

- Revive the child protection systems in the country and ensure that all street-connected children are integrated into this system from the district to the national levels.
- Work to ensure that street-connected children have access to health, social and education systems through promoting partnership among CSOs and government agencies. Where the street-connected children need to have documentation such as NHIS and National ID cards to access these services, these types of partnership should support them to acquire these documents.
- Some interventions need to continue with street-connected children even where they go beyond 18 years since some of them might have missed many opportunities having grown up on the streets, and might not be ready for adult life at the age of 18 years.
- Design and implement targeted interventions for the youngest children with strong street connections.
- Design and implement targeted interventions for girls on the streets and especially educating them on their sexual and reproductive health and support them to access services when in need.
- Provide targeted support to girls and young women engaged in CSW.
- Night Street Work: the headcount showed a significant number of street-connected children at night in some locations, where possible organisations should have presence of some street workers at night in these areas.
- Provide targeted support and intervention for children begging and also manage how to work with the overwhelming numbers of children migrating from other West African countries who come to beg on the streets of Kumasi and other Ghanaian cities.
- Issue measures to monitor the situation of migrant children and investigate the possibility that they might have been trafficked from other West African countries to engage in begging and CSW, and stop the flow.

## Annex 1 Counting Zones, Groups and Counters

DAY COUNTS				
Group	Names of Counters	Area	Areas Covered	Swapping
Group 1	1. Ibrahim Abdul Wahab (CfC) – Team Leader 2. Ali Abdul Rahman (SCA) 3. Habiba Ahmed 4. Fati Mohammed Sani (MFCS Volunteer) 5. Hawawu Issah (MFCS) 6. Mohammed Burhanu-Deen (MFCS)	Adum/ Railways	Railways market, Adum, PZ & Pampaso	Group 1 & 2
Group 2	1. Rebecca Kalanbik (SCA) – Team Leader 2. Musah Iddrisu (MFCS) 3. Ayorka Charles (SCA) 4. Nana Baafi (CfC) 5. David (CfC)	Central Market/ Kejetia	Central Market Kejetia Market 31 <sup>st</sup> Market & Roman Hill	
Group 3	1. Manaf Suleman (UW) – Team Leader 2. Ruhamaul Awal (MFCS volunteer) 3. Clinton Yebaoh (SCA) 4. Faustina Manu (SCA) 5. Fati Labaran (MFCS)	Dr. Mensah/ Alabar	Aboabo Station, Alabar, Dr. Mensah and Adehyeman Market	Group 3 & 4
Group 4	1. Arif Ali Musah (SoH) – Team leader 2. Veronica Peh (SCA) 3. Jannatu Abdul Rahman (SoH) 4. Mohammed Awal Shaibu 5. Ismail Abdul Rahman (SoH)	Suame/ Racecourse	Racecourse, Suame roundabout, Suame market, Bantama market	
Group 5	1. Akwasi Prempeh (SCA) – Team Leader 2. Humu Abdul Rahman (SoH) 3. Mohammed Yahuza 4. Maryam Issah 5. Rahmatu Ahmed (MFCS volunteer)	Asafo/ Abinkyi Market	Asafo market, Asafo Lorry terminal, Asafo fishmongers/ cold stores, Abinkyi market	Group 5 & 6
Group 6	1. Gilbert Asiedu (CfC) – Team Leader 2. Joshua Menkah (SCA) 3. Barbara Appiah (SCA) 4. Alhassan Fatima (Community Volunteer)	Amakom/ Tech	Amakom Traffic light, Oforikrom, Anloga junction, Tech junction, Ayigya Market	

<b>NIGHT COUNTS</b>			
<b>Group</b>	<b>Names of Counters</b>	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Areas Covered</b>
Group 1	1. Ibrahim Abdul Wahab (CfC) – Team Leader 2. Fati Mohammed Sani (MFCS Volunteer) 3. Ali Abdul Rahman (SCA) 4. Mohammed Burhanu-Deen (MFCS)	Adum/ Railways	Railways market, Adum, PZ & Pampaso
Group 2	1. Rebecca Kalanbik (SCA) – Team Leader 2. Musah Iddrisu (MFCS) 3. Ayorka Charles (SCA) 4. Nana Baafi (CfC)	Central Market/ Kejetia	Central Market Kejetia Market 31 <sup>st</sup> Market & Roman Hill
Group 3	1. Manaf Suleman (UW) – Team Leader 2. Clinton Yebaoh (SCA) 3. Jannatu Abdul-Rahman (SoH)	Dr. Mensah/ Alabar	Aboabo Station, Alabar, Dr. Mensah and Adehyeman Market
Group 4	1. Ismail Abdul Rahman – Team leader) 2. Veronica Peh (SCA) 3. Mohammed Awal Shaibu 4. Arif Ali Musah (SoH)	Suame/ Racecourse	Racecourse, Suame roundabout, Suame market, Bantama market
Group 5	1. Akwasi Prempeh (SCA) – Team Leader 2. Humu Abdul Rahman (SoH) 3. Mohammed Yahuza 4. Maryam Issah 5. Rahmatu Ahmed (MFCS volunteer)	Asafo/ Abinkyi Market	Asafo market, Asafo Lorry terminal, Asafo fishmongers/ cold stores, Abinkyi market
Group 6	1. Gilbert Asiedu (CfC) – Team Leader 2. Joshua Menkah (SCA) 3. Barbara Appiah (SCA) 4. Alhassan Fatima (Community Volunteer)	Amakom/ Tech	Amakom traffic light, Anloga junction, Oforikrom market, Tech Junction & Ayigya market

## Annex 2 Summary sheets

### Kumasi Headcount 2021, Daily Counting sheet

#### COUNTER – DAY OR NIGHT

Name of Area..... Date.....

Name of Counter..... Name of Group Leader.....

CATEGORY NAME.....

	Male			Female		
	Age 0-5	Age 6-12	Age 13-18	Age 0-5	Age 6-12	Age 13-18
TALLY						
NUMBER						

**p** - Girls who are visibly pregnant

**d** - Child (male or female) with a Physical challenge

# Kumasi Headcount 2021, Daily Counting sheet

TEAM LEADER - DAY

Name of Area Date

Name of Group Leader.

Categories	Male			Female			TOTAL	P - Girls who are visibly pregnant	d - Child (male or female) with a Physical challenge
	Age 0-5	Age 6-12	Age 13-18	Age 0-5	Age 6-12	Age 13-18			
Fixed Business									
Moving Business									
Casual									
Jobless									
Begging									
TOTAL									

## Kumasi Headcount 2021, Daily Counting sheet

TEAM LEADER - NIGHT

Name of Area..... Date.....

Name of Group Leader.....

Categories	Male			Female			TOTAL
	Age 0-5	Age 6-12	Age 13-18	Age 0-5	Age 6-12	Age 13-18	
PERMANENT ON THE STREET							
CSW							
<b>TOTAL</b>							

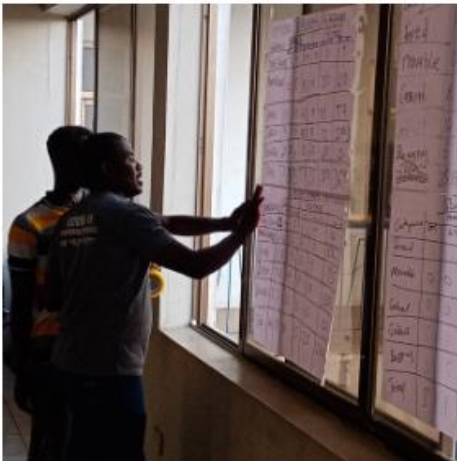
**p** - Girls who are visibly pregnant**d** - Child (male or female) with a Physical challenge





## TRAINING SESSIONS

## BREAK OUT SESSIONS



## GROUP DISCUSSIONS



# THANK YOU

