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## ANNEX 2 : DRC Workshop report



### **Context:**

Oxfam Novib held a Programme Development event in The Hague from November 24 to 27, 2014 for multi-country Programme Development around SRHR. Two Programme Development loops emerged from the event. The loops are: (1) Early Marriage and (2) SRHR & VAW. During the Programme Development event, basic Programme Frameworks were developed. Oxfam Country Offices of Bangladesh, DR Congo, Laos, Nigeria and Pakistan expressed their interest in developing the SRHR Programme further into fundable proposals for various donors.

As an ongoing process the DRC country office has contributed to a proposal to the Finish government and has expressed its interest in applying to a Dutch MoFA call that has recently come out.

In order to improve the quality of our programme and thus DRC's contributions to the multi-country process we organized a participatory planning meeting on Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015 with 22 participants and 3 Oxfam staff (including facilitators Rebecca Boyce and Lord Ongong). The meeting took one day and allowed us to produce a gender power analysis of the SRHR and VAW situation as it pertains to our target group.

### **Objectives:**

- Contribute to the Multi-Country Programme development “Women on the Move”
- Engage and build alliances with local actors from South Kivu in making a collective analysis of power and gender relations in this context.
- Improve and build partnerships beyond funding between Oxfam, partners and important actors in the SRHR and VAW sectors for the joint development of our programme.
- Deepen our understanding of the gender and power imbalances felt by women, girls, especially sex workers and girls at risk in order to clearly identify their needs and the possible responses.
- Confirm or improve the objectives set out in the DRC programme “women on the Move”
- Document the process using video interviews.



### Specific Outcomes:

Participants 22 in total from varied groups:

AFEM (Women in Media partner)	Provincial Education Ministry representative
Caucus des Femmes (women political partner)	Provincial Justice Ministry representative
Espoir Femmes (sex worker group)	RACOF (youth SRHR partner)
UMANDE (sex worker group)	RAJECOPOD (youth SRHR group)
We Can (EVAW partner)	University Students
Provincial Gender Ministry representative	
UNFPA (data & mapping for SGBV)	
UNHCR (SGBV rep)	
Pathfinder (INGO for SRHR)	

Objectives:

The global objective the DRC CO had identified for the Finnish proposal was approved by the participants and a third specific objective was suggested and adopted.

Global Objective:

Contribute to the development and strengthening of women and girls who are involved or at risk of participating in the sex industry in South Kivu to claim and exercise their SRHR in a society that better protects them from VAW/GBV.

The specific objectives were:

- 1) Attitudes of male leaders and role models are changed in support of SRHR and EVAW
- 2) Government and private health care providers facilitate access to SRHR services for key populations including sex workers and out of school adolescent girls

Additional specific objective:

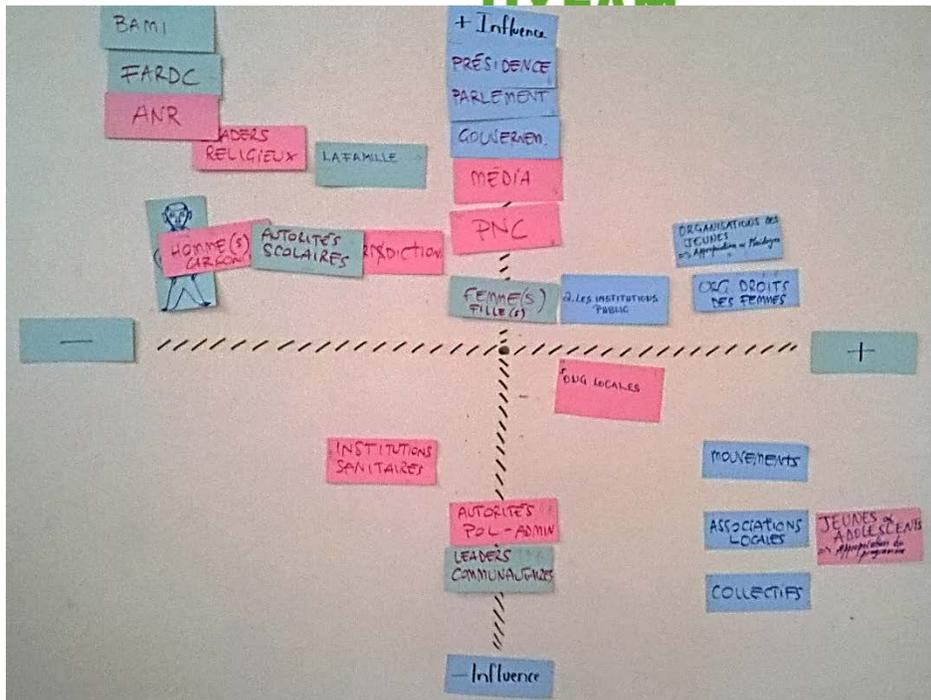
- 3) Oxfam its partners build the capacity of sex workers and girls at risk to claim and exercise their rights.

### Definition of Actors:

Here are all of the identified actors:



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### Defined Factors:

1. Incite political debate regarding the root causes of sex work or at risk girls to work toward solutions.
2. Advocacy from the grassroots up to the highest forms of government and actors with influence
3. The need to restore social justice and its equitable distribution
4. Women's value is linked to her marriage with a man, must be changed
5. Discriminatory laws and policies exist that must be revised
6. DRC has signed and ratified Maputo protocol, SCR 1325 and 1820, it has a constitution that provides for gender equality, there is a sever law against SGBV, there is a national programme for SRHR
7. There are NGOs working on the issue of sex work, youth at risk, SRHR and VAW
8. The national army called FARDC is in very close proximité with sex workers as they are either perpetrators of violence or the first to respond (in conflict affected areas) there are a number of ethical and legal quesitons around their behaviour.
9. The national police has made some advances; they have a specific protection team for women and children, and a community protection one as well. Their practice is often questionable as they often encourage "friendly solutions" which can further violate sex workers. There is also a big problem of ignorance and exploitation from them that refuses to believe that someone in the sex industry can be raped. They are also often perpetrators and first responders.
10. Health clinics and hospitals who provide SRH services and support to victims/survivors of GBV are often discriminator towards sex workers and girls; there is a moral stigma against unmarried women.



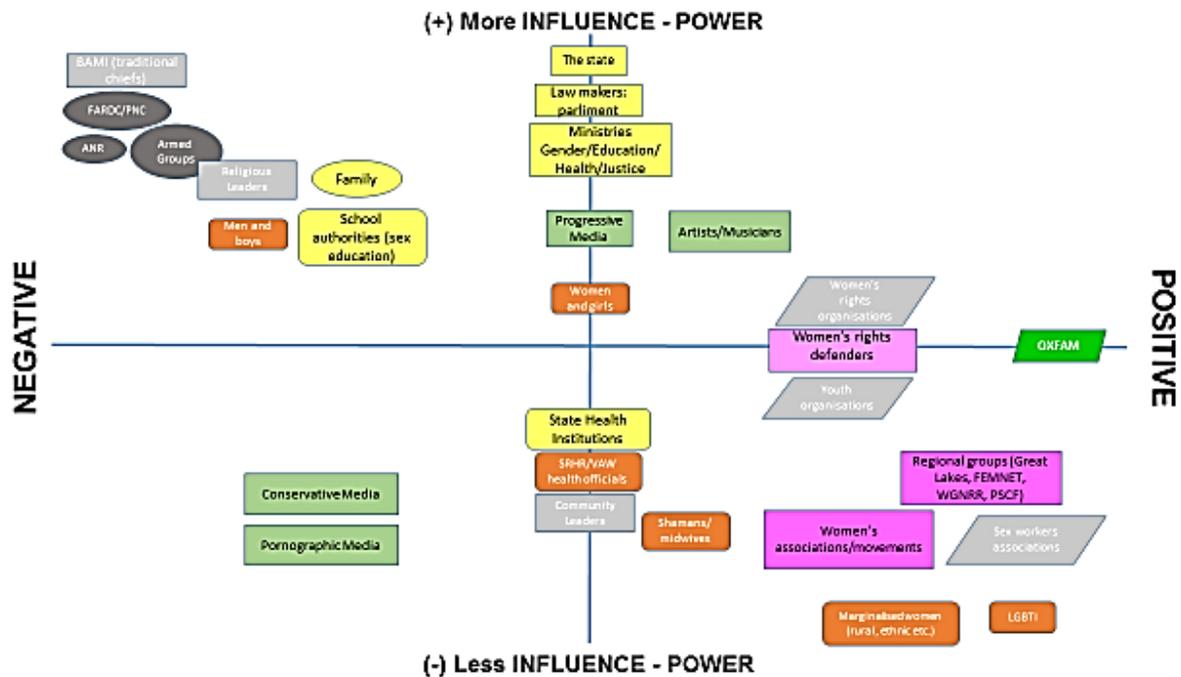
11. Education institutions reinforce the stigmatisation of SRHR and participate in the exclusion of girls with SRH issues (teen pregnancies or STIs can force girls out of school and there is no support for them).
12. Religious leaders reinforce the concept of the “pure woman” and endorse the social rejection of any “social deviation”; they call sex work a sin.

**Defined Obstacles:**

1. Sex work is not well understood or analysed in DRC
2. There is a lack of knowledge of rights of sex workers
3. The law is mute on the subject of sex workers so while it is not illegal it is also not recognized
4. Sex work is considered taboo/a deviation/or a curse
5. The SRH services available do not understand or sympathise with sex workers
6. There is a big gap in SRH services in rural areas, most of the health budget and resources are found in urban areas
7. Many sex workers live clandestinely
8. Political elite do not consider sex work as an issue that needs addressing

**Gender and Power Analysis**

Given the above information on actors, factors and blockers we analysed the position of various actors in relation to women sex workers and girls at risk. The following power analysis shows the results of this process:





To further analyse which areas to focus on we considered the relations of each of the above actors to our target group. We found that the most important groups to work with to achieve the change we are hoping for in our objectives are the following:

- Men (as clients)
- Family
- Networks of sex workers
- Security sector (FARDC/PNC)
- Women's rights organisations

We noted that these are the most accessible but also who have quite a lot of influence over the group directly. For higher level actors that are more influential politically albeit far removed from sex workers and girls' everyday lives we felt that the following actors will need to be focused on for lobbying and advocacy initiatives.

- Media
- Bami's (traditional leaders)
- Religious leaders
- Parliament

Of course with this group we will have to be very human rights focused because at this point sex work is not considered illegal and we would need to be cautious to avoid worsening the situation by bringing light to it.

From a **gender perspective** it was generally felt that the sex industry is dominated by women but that there are men and transgender folks who work within it.

Power and Control It was agreed that while the patriarchal authorities are by far the most oppressive (especially security sector and religious leaders) that family members including the women and in-laws have a lot of power over women's lives. The family can be among the most influential in the lives of girls at risk of entering the sex industry. A family's economic status, religious beliefs, political/personal levels of conservatism, gender prejudices etc. largely affect whether girls can go to/continue school, whether they are forced into early marriages, supported through unwanted pregnancies etc.

Access to Resources It was a general consensus that sex workers in the context of South Kivu enter the industry for economic reasons. That is, they have limited access to resources and out economic necessity (as opposed to choice) they turn to sex work. There was however an agreement that there are very different categories of sex workers and that a small number of more privileged ones who would consider it a choice. It should be noted that those in this category do not necessarily call it sex work; they are more "copines" or girlfriends of older, married, rich men (often high ranking officials in public service, security sector etc.).

Rights As mentioned earlier the law in DRC does not recognize sex workers rights, as such many abuses occur toward sex workers and LGBTI folks. There are few organisations that specifically work on sex workers rights violations and the work itself can be treacherous. Many sex workers are turned away from medical care or further exploited by justice services because of moral discrimination. Christian dominated values instill a moral compass that favours women who fulfil the "pure woman" stereotype (married, loyal and with kids).

#### **Video documentation:**

In response to the Sharenet request for some video documentation of the meeting we hired a local media group called 3Tamis. They have worked with Oxfam on a number of filming initiatives and came



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to this meeting for the purpose of documenting the meeting and conducting individual interviews with participants. Here are a few photos and the link to the film.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/8aeh0fci8b5faog/REUNION%20HORIZON%20I.mp4?dl=0>

