


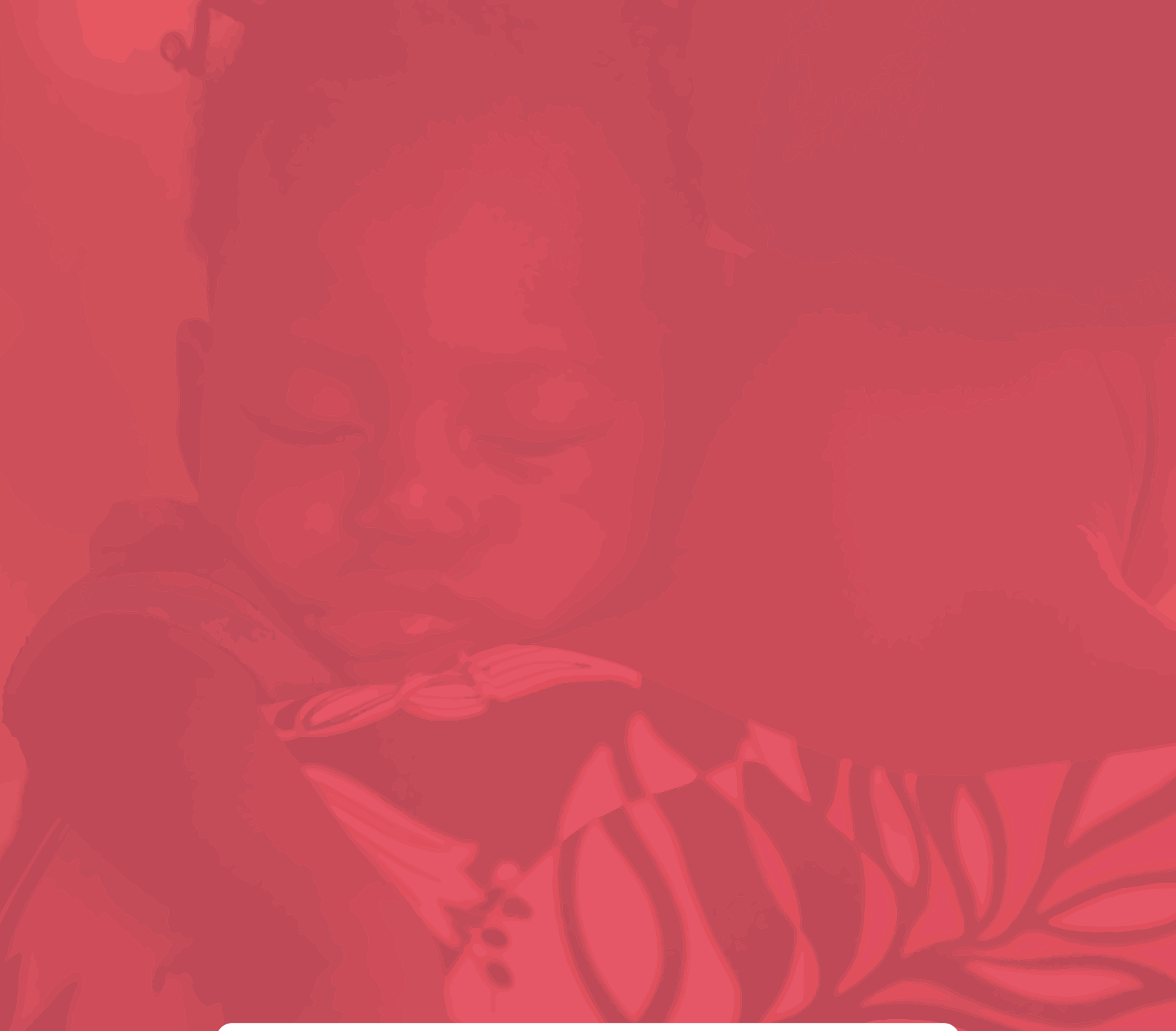


EUROPEAN UNION



**ISSUE PAPER ON
REINTEGRATION OF
FEMALE EX-INMATES
& THEIR CHILDREN**





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INTRODUCTION

Only 4% of all prison inmates are female. It doesn't surprise, then, that most of the information on prison inmates and, consequently, most interventions designed for inmates focus on the needs and experiences of male inmates. In a world where women are still structurally discriminated against, it is imperative to develop gender-specific interventions in all fields, including the rehabilitation and reintegration of female prison inmates.

This paper brings together the lessons learnt and recommendations from interventions implemented with the Uganda Prisons Service in Lango, Acholi and West Nile. Successful rehabilitation and reintegration can only be achieved through partnerships and commitment by all stakeholders. Thus, this paper lobbies for the active involvement of local government structures. The paper also puts forward recommendations for future interventions in the fields of rehabilitation and reintegration for women in prison and also for their children who sometimes have no alternative but to stay in incarceration with their mothers.

Abstract

Women in prison are in a unique situation. They experience stigma and rejection from communities more severely, while at the same time being more dependent on these very same communities. Most women have children – either in prison with them or back in their community. The Bangkok Rules¹ stipulates how the specific needs of women in prison should be reflected in the correctional interventions. This paper reflects on experiences from the implementation of rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for women and their children. It first elaborates on the specific needs of women while reflecting on the lessons learnt during the implementation of programmes on rehabilitation and reintegration of women. Lastly, the paper spells out the specific needs and potential interventions for young children who stay in prison with their mothers. Based on this, recommendations have been developed for the Uganda Prisons Service, institutions of local government as well as other governmental and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that are active in the correctional field.

4%
OF ALL PRISON
INMATES ARE
FEMALE

¹ United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (Bangkok Rules), UN Resolution 2010/16

FEMALE PRISON INMATES IN WEST NILE



In Uganda, as in most countries, the social status and expected roles of women are different from those of men. As men's and women's situations are different, it is expected that the reasons for women to commit crimes are also different from those for men. Women are mostly perceived as victims rather than perpetrators. This is reflected in the prison statistics. Women make up approximately 4% of the entire prison population in Uganda (UPS statistics 2019). Our question here is: ***Which crimes have women in prison committed and what are the indicators as to why women commit such crimes?***

Which crimes are women imprisoned for?

According to a study by Advance Afrika, **most of the crimes committed by women are connected to poverty and are a reaction to the social discrimination against women as well as to the violence women experience in their homes. According to the data collected by this study, eight out of 10 female inmates interviewed in Arua and Koboko prisons were incarcerated for crimes related to fighting, theft and assault fuelled by a partner's violence or co-wives** (cf. Advance Afrika 2018: 12). These findings confirm the findings of a research study done by FHRI together with PRI in 2015, which found that the majority of women in prison are there for capital offences (PRI/FHRI 2015). Statistics collected on Ugandan prisons nationwide in March 2019, show that for female offenders, there is an almost equal share between capital (44%) and petty (56%) offences. However, **murder remains by far the single biggest offence among all offences committed by women** (UPS Statistics 2019). In a discussion with a prison official in Arua (OC Women, 5 February 2020) it was confirmed that **approximately 50% of inmates in Arua Women's Prison at that time were detained on capital offences**. Among these, **murder of a close family member remains the most commonly mentioned offence** by prison officials with regard to the cases of female inmates.

How is this linked to conflicts and gender-based violence (GBV)?

Most crimes committed by women are so-called 'crimes of passion' against a member of their own households. Can this be directly linked to dimensions of GBV?

The Advance Afrika baseline study (2019) found that eight out of 10 inmates interviewed in Arua and Koboko prisons experienced GBV, with five of them having been married before the age of 18. This study also brings out the link between GBV and capital offences committed by female inmates: five of the 10 inmates interviewed were incarcerated for killing or attempting to kill their husbands. All five linked their actions to the violence they experienced in their homes. At the same time, only a few reported to the police (1) and/or local leaders (2). The inmates reported fear and lack of trust in and support from authorities in the community as reasons for their hesitation to involve the police and local leaders (Advance Afrika 2019: 10). A study conducted by Advance Afrika in 2017/2018 found, based on feedback from key informants, that 'several cases of manslaughter by female offenders seem to be acts of self-defence against in-laws, husbands and others in connection with sexual abuse, rape, [and] property rights', including access to land (Advance Afrika 2018: 15).



44%
CAPITAL OFFENCES



56%
PETTY OFFENCES

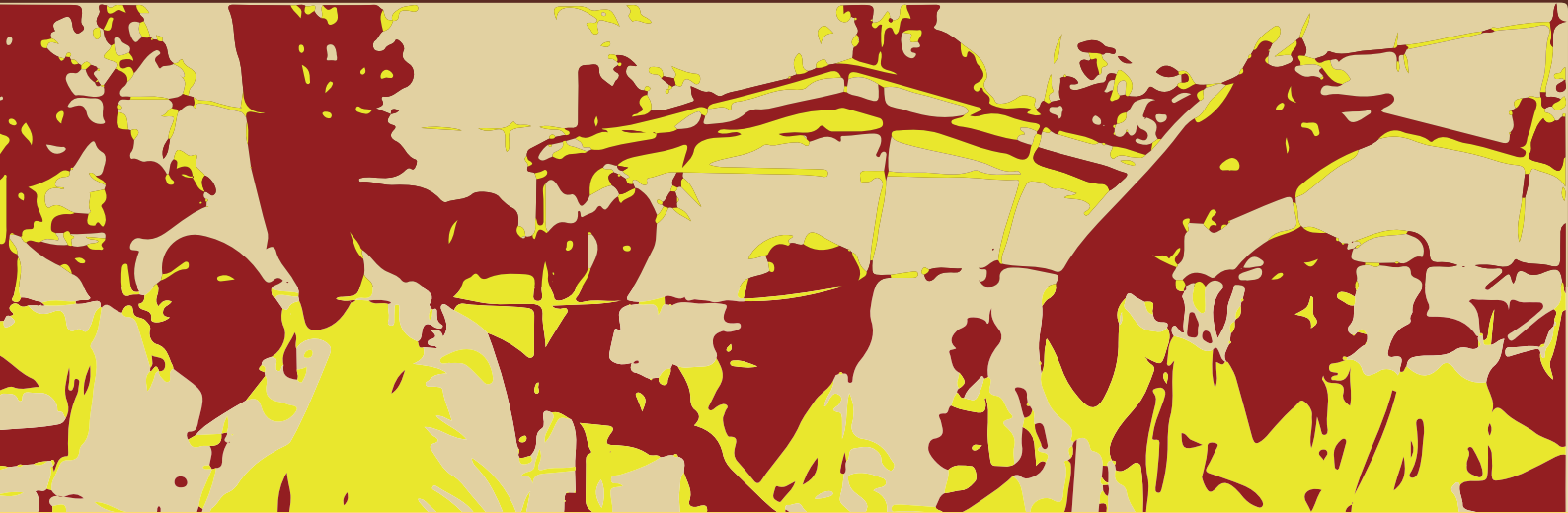


MURDER REMAINS BY FAR THE SINGLE BIGGEST OFFENCE AMONG ALL OFFENCES COMMITTED BY WOMEN

(UPS Statistics 2019)

CONCLUSION: *Women are mostly imprisoned on capital offence charges, with murder of a close family member ranking the highest. It is important to note that the experience of physical or sexual abuse seems to be a significant contributor to crimes committed by women. In addition, women in prison are likely to have weak support structures (e.g. low levels of education, women not being visited or supported by their families). Thus, crimes committed by women seem to be directly linked to a high level of vulnerability.*

REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION NEEDS OF WOMEN



Rehabilitation and reintegration programmes form part of the mandate of the Uganda Prisons Service. Specific programmes and interventions are designed and implemented in order to empower prison inmates. The inmates establish alternative coping strategies and skills to live a crime-free life after jail. As the situation and needs of female inmates is different from those of men, this section asks the following question: ***What is it that women in prison need most in terms of rehabilitation and reintegration support?***

Why is rehabilitation important?

Socio-economic factors such as poverty and social relationships have been identified as risk factors for women's imprisonment. Therefore, gender-specific rehabilitation programmes ought to address the issue of socio-economic empowerment. Inmates expressed the fear that they might not find safe housing after their release and that they might be deserted by their children and families. The 'Prison Rules' published by the Government of Uganda require the Prisons

Service to ensure that *'the purpose of the training and treatment of convicted prisoners shall be to encourage and assist them to lead a good and useful life'* and the Criminal Justice Act 2003 includes the 'reform and rehabilitation of prisoners' among the statutory purposes of sentencing. Rehabilitation services designed in Ugandan prisons aim at enhancing the educational and vocational skills of inmates, and their chances of success upon release as productive individuals.

A number of rehabilitative activities are currently in place at Arua Women's and Koboko prisons.

Female inmates of Arua and Koboko prisons access skilling opportunities such as vocational training in tailoring, knitting and weaving, handicrafts (making baskets, beads and bags) and hairdressing, mainly at Arua Women’s Prison, as well as agricultural activities such as vegetable growing. Other opportunities offered include formal education and Functional Adult Literacy (FAL), entrepreneurship and life skills training, counselling, spiritual and moral guidance and training in the performing arts (forum theatre, among others). (Advance Afrika 2019: 17). These programmes are essential and designed to enable the prison inmates to resettle and reintegrate into the community as productive individuals.

What are the challenges of the current programmes?

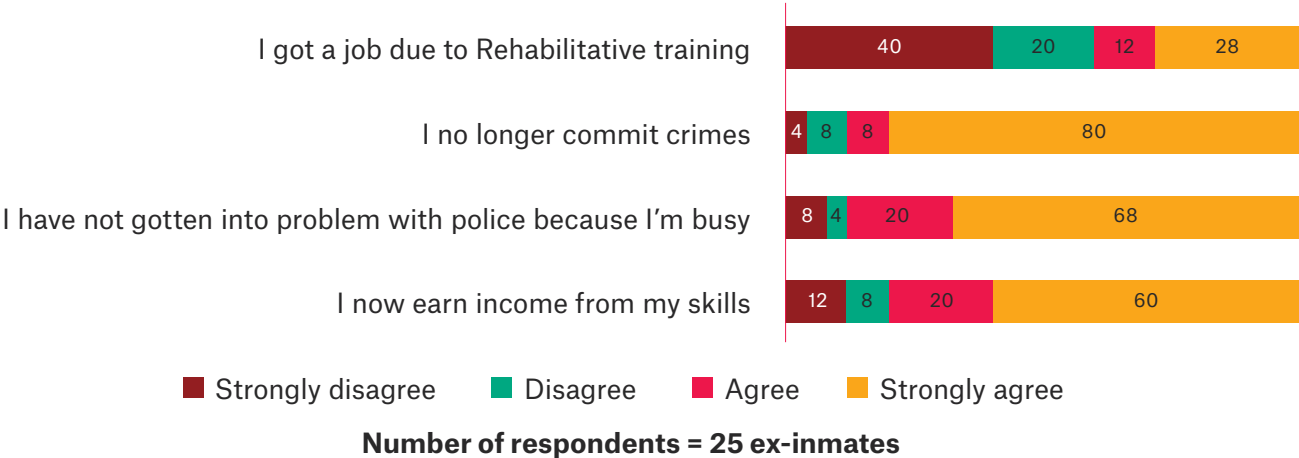
The challenges of rehabilitative programmes in women’s prisons include the ‘*limited number of instructors, limited resources to carry out these programmes and illiteracy-driven low participation*’ (OC Arua Main/Advance Afrika 2018: 15). This is due to the fact that even in the male section, the delivery of rehabilitation programmes mainly relies on the capacities of inmates to be instructors for their peers. In February 2020, a prison official in Arua Women’s Prison pointed out that female inmates often lose morale in the course of training owing to personal distress and uncertainty about their future. According to an Advance Afrika

study (2018), most female inmates do not hold any educational certificate; for instance, in March 2018, there was only one female inmate with a diploma and one with a UACE (Advanced level certificate) (cf. Advance Afrika 2018: 12). This shows that the rate of illiteracy is relatively high among female inmates.

What are the benefits/results of the existing programmes?

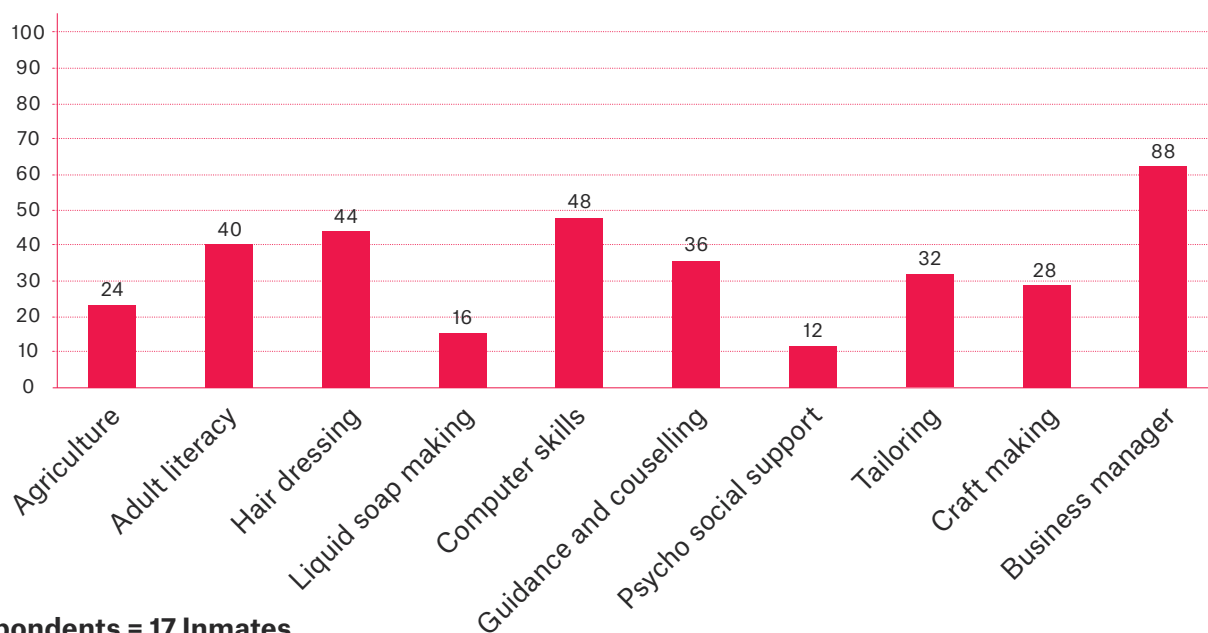
Both inmates and stakeholders agree that rehabilitation activities prepare inmates for their release and support their reintegration into society. **Participation in rehabilitation activities foster behavioural change among the inmates, such as ‘taking responsibility for their action’, ‘being more positive in life’ and ‘being more calm in prison’** (Advance Afrika 2019: 16). With regard to participating in life skills and entrepreneurship training, feedback from the previous evaluations (Advance Afrika 2017, 2019) indicate that the Uganda Prisons Service has in many ways appreciated the training in prison. Through the entrepreneurship training, inmates have been equipped with practical skills, prepared and given a head start in running businesses over other prison inmates. The training has also instilled hope, optimism and resilience in inmates as they learn how to cope with challenging situations when they return to their community.

Figure 6: Self-reported relationship between rehabilitation training and reintegration



Source: Advance Afrika 2018: 22

Figure 1: Most relevant skills reported by female inmates



Respondents = 17 Inmates

Source: Advance Afrika 2018: 15

What would women need in terms of rehabilitation programmes?

When asked in 2018 which programmes they would most appreciate, female inmates in West Nile mentioned **business skills (88%), computer skills (48%), adult literacy (40%), hairdressing (44%) and tailoring (32%), guidance, counselling and psycho-social support (48%)** (cf. Advance Afrika 2018: 14). This emphasises the need for programmes on business management skills, including entrepreneurship and life skills.

It was found that 68% of the interviewed female ex-inmates managed to find employment or were self-employed, with the majority being in small businesses and agriculture (Advance Afrika 2018: 23f).

According to the Advance Afrika 2019 baseline study, women in Koboko and Arua districts are most likely to engage in agriculture and informal businesses. Apart from agriculture, women are most likely to engage in vending, catering, hotel-related activities, tailoring, a beauty salon

and hairdressing. These are also the most promising economic opportunities for ex-inmates and, therefore, this reality should inform the rehabilitation programmes provided in prison. At the same time, lack of knowledge of business management is the most commonly mentioned hindering factor for women to start their own business (Advance Afrika 2019: 15). **Out of the 27 female ex-inmates trained in entrepreneurship, 12 (44%), within a relatively short time after their release, managed to establish and run a small-scale business** (Advance Afrika pre- and post-release visits conducted in 2018, 2019 and 2020).

CONCLUSION: Addressing the vulnerability which contributed to the imprisonment of female inmates through focused rehabilitation programmes in the areas of entrepreneurship and life skills is key. Owing to stigmatisation, it remains a challenge for female ex-inmates to be accepted in formal employment, making it crucial to socially empower them as well as create opportunities for self-employment and entrepreneurship for them.

The need and opportunities of social reintegration

'The society looks at women who commit crime as something abnormal or an abomination; they face rejection and stigma', which hinders their reintegration (Community Development Officer [CDO] of Ari sub-county/Advance Afrika 2018: 20). 'The implications of this community perception are that female ex-offenders feel inferior, rejected and unworthy' (Advance Afrika 2018:20).

Out of the women followed up by Advance Afrika (27 women, released after being trained in entrepreneurship and life skills), 26% faced challenges in their social reintegration, while others decided to either go back to their parents or resettle in a new relationship. Very few moved back to their marital homes after their release (Advance Afrika pre- and post-release visits 2018-2020).

As a way of supporting the reintegration of female ex-inmates, the Uganda Prisons Service is using the approach of pre- and post-release visits. Since the service has limited resources, these visits are only carried out in difficult cases. In the 2018 study, lack of programmes for returning ex-inmates and limited post-release visits were mentioned. The report also notes that pre- and post-release visits can promote 'social support to female ex-inmates as a critical factor for successful reintegration' (Advance Afrika 2018: 18).

While prison welfare and rehabilitation officers have the mandate to support reintegration processes, the structures of local government have an equal role to play in supporting reintegration processes. The key actors mentioned are CDOs,

LCIs, religious leaders and parasocials. A stronger linkage between the prison social workers and the structures of the community development office regarding the reintegration of ex-inmates and their children would be essential (interview with the Social Rehabilitation and Welfare Officer in 2020). This could be done, for example, through regular visits of CDOs to prison inmates from their sub-counties in order to record cases, be informed about the inmates' needs and be able to strengthen the follow-up process in their communities. Integration into community structures is also crucial. For example, participation in VSLA circles helps women to stabilise and manage their finances in a good way while strengthening their social support network (information obtained from pre- and post-release visits).

According to several stakeholders, there is a need for an understanding between the Ministry of Local Government and the Ministry of Internal Affairs on how reintegration processes should be jointly supported by the Social Welfare and Rehabilitation offices at the Uganda Prisons Service and the District Community Development Officers (DCDOs) at the district local government. CDOs should be officially assigned the duty to support the successful reintegration of ex-inmates and their children. This should come with a budget allocation to provide the CDOs with the mandate and resources to actively support reintegration processes. At the same time, CDOs need close communication with the prison social workers so that they can have sufficient information to support the reintegration processes (developed based on key informant interviews [KIIs] 4 – 6 February 2020).

CONCLUSION: *Reintegration support is key to addressing the vulnerability of ex-inmates and helping them settle back effectively into their communities. Psycho-social support as well as mentorship and guidance especially should be provided, as well as other forms of support, where needed. This support could be best provided through a partnership between different stakeholders – including the Uganda Prisons Service, the local government, civil society as well as community leaders, among others.*

STORIES

A story of Rehabilitation

How would you cope, if you were imprisoned with a toddler because of an offence you never intended to commit? Grace Letaru² faced exactly this situation, when she was arrested two years ago. She had taken money to the local police station which she had collected from community members to support needy children on behalf of a group of people who requested her to do so. She says that once she became aware that this was a trick, she took herself to the police station immediately, where she was arrested for obtaining money by false pretence. She was convicted for one year and spent this time in Arua Women's Prison.

But Grace didn't give up hope. She took part in an entrepreneurship training programme organised by Advance Afrika and the Uganda Prisons Service. She also participated in a business plan competition and emerged among the best three. As a reward, she received a bale of clothes upon her release. With the proceeds of the clothes sales, she managed to buy three other bales of children's clothes and establish additional agro businesses. In order to manage her finances well and strengthen her support system, Grace became part of a women's saving and business group. During an interview on Radio Pacis, she said that previously, she had been a market clerk collecting dues from market vendors but was now running her own business, which enabled her to be able to meet her needs and support her family as well.

And back home? While in prison, Grace had been supported to address the conflict with her community. Given that her marital family knew that she was duped into committing the offence, they welcomed her back without hesitation.

As we speak now, Grace has come to appreciate the time she spent in prison as a lesson learnt. Despite all the challenges that came with her incarceration and the hard time she and her family have been through, she managed to transform the difficulties into opportunities.

A journey to reintegration


We all agree that taking the life of another person, even if it was accidental, is hardly justifiable. However, there might be circumstances in our lives which slowly and steadily turn us into a perpetrator. Alice³ experienced such a transformation and is now painfully trying to find her way back to normal life.

Aged 45, she lived for many years with a husband who suffered from alcoholism, spent most of their money on alcohol and abused Alice and their children. She thought that she could deal with the situation by herself. However, one evening, when her husband returned home drunk, the couple started quarrelling and fighting. At that point in her life, Alice felt that the only option she had left was to fight back – she had felt angry and helpless for such a long time. She picked up the pestle from inside a mortar and hit her husband on the head. It was an instinctive act in the course of the fight, aimed at stopping her husband from continuing to fight and not at seriously harming him. However, he immediately collapsed and eventually died at the scene of the fight.

Consequently, Alice was arrested and convicted for murdering her husband. She served 10 years at Arua Women's Prison. However, despite her difficult situation, Alice never gave up. She acquired life skills and got involved in weaving and making baskets at prison. She also received entrepreneurship training. Once her life becomes more stable, she hopes to start up her own business venture using the skills she has acquired.

² All names changed

³ All names changed



One thing that comforts Alice is that, even in prison, she was often visited by her siblings. However, it makes her sad that she can't see or talk to her children. The moment Alice was arrested, her family-in-law took charge of her children but never paid her a single visit. Her children were never allowed to meet their mother either. Evidently, her late husband's family are still grieving. They have lost trust in Alice and feel that she doesn't even deserve to be alive. After Alice was freed from prison, she decided to first stay with her brothers. She lives in fear of her in-laws as she is afraid that they might take revenge and harm her. This fear is shared by her family members, who are trying to protect her from her family-in-law. They have even hidden news of her return from her own children.

When Alice was released, it became clear that she would need support in order to be able to settle back in her community. There is need to find a place for Alice where she can feel safe and start a new life. There is need to foster a dialogue between Alice and her family-in-law in order to address the current tensions and pain experienced on both sides. Thus a trained parasocial worker has taken up the case. As a first step, he is hoping to bring the family-in-law on board in order to identify their current needs and promote healing. In the long run, this could help in setting up a dialogue format with those family members who are willing to take part. There is an effort to involve the LCI of the area in this process in order to strengthen the support structures for both families and promote the dialogue. Alice doesn't expect to be forgiven fully, but she hopes that she will be allowed access to her children and to live without fear.

A Parasocial's Story

Moses⁴ is a trained parasocial worker from Vurra sub-county in Arua district. As a parasocial worker, he is supporting those community members who need counselling and support in handling their conflicts constructively. While Moses hasn't handled many cases of ex-inmates before, he is currently supporting the reintegration of a female ex-inmate from Arua Women's Prison into her home. However, the case has turned out to be complex and sensitive.

When ex-inmates return home, they are entirely dependent on family members and try to overcome the years of limited contact, potential resentment and a change in household dynamics. Consequently, reintegration becomes easier for ex-inmates who maintained a constant relationship with their relatives while in incarceration. Reintegration and, consequently, the entire life of a female ex-inmate become difficult where the crime committed is of a nature which is hard to forgive. Such is the case of the ex-inmate which Moses is currently supporting. She was sentenced for murdering her husband. In such a case, the pain felt by the victim's family does not cease or heal as a result of the time spent in prison. Often feelings of fear, hate and revenge persist. At the same time, Moses is hoping to support the female ex-inmate as she had experienced GBV for years and the crime she consequently committed seemed to have destroyed her prospects for a peaceful life.

As a trained parasocial worker, Moses' task is to lend an ear to both the ex-inmate and her family as well as to the victim's family. As a parasocial, he is also trained in attending to victims of GBV. Moses is working closely with the LCI of this village in order to facilitate a possible dialogue or mediation process between the families and thus pave the way for peaceful co-existence.

In order to further facilitate his work, Moses needs support from local authorities and leaders. Jointly, conflicts can be addressed in a constructive way, ex-inmates successfully reintegrated and victims of violence protected. Communities need to be fully aware of how the justice system operates and who could support them in case of conflicts and violence. Community dialogues can provide an opportunity to discuss, learn and bring to the table issues that are affecting communities.

4 All names changed



CHILDREN IN PRISON WITH THEIR MOTHERS

Mothers often feel they have no other choice but to take their toddlers with them into the prison setting. However, the experience of arrest and incarceration is extremely difficult and challenging for a child. Thus, specific attention has to be given to the needs of children incarcerated with their mothers. ***What are the needs of children who stay in prison and how can they be addressed?***

Needs of children while in prison

'Decisions to allow children to stay with their mothers in prison shall be based on the best interests of the children. Children in prison with their mothers shall never be treated as prisoners' (Bangkok Rules, Rule 49). Babies can stay with their mothers in prison up to the age of 18 months (Prisons Act 2006). Within Uganda, as of August 2018, there were 263 children detained with their mothers (Mudoola 2018). In March 2019, there were eight toddlers staying with their mothers in Arua Prison and four in Koboko Prison. Arua and Koboko prisons try to provide a special diet for the children, such as milk and soya porridge. In Arua, children are provided with day care services and diapers and mothers with babies are placed in a separate ward.

Children's primary needs are a balanced diet, safety and emotional care. While their mothers are in prison and there is no better place for them to go to, it would be important to provide a setting for them that does not socialise them as if they are prisoners, but is more like a home or family. Children of inmates should not feel they are social outcasts, but need an environment that provides them with the love and care that other children receive in their homes and that are important for their development and growth (OC Women 5 February 2020). **The ACERWC General Comment No. 1 recommends that '[t]he environment provided for the child's upbringing should be as close as possible to that of a child outside prison, with a nursery staffed by specialists who can take care of the child while separated from his or her mother' (paragraph 29).**

Some women who have toddlers come with them to prison, even when they still have several years to serve before release. In a station where no nursery school has been established, these toddlers are not engaged in activities that would promote their early childhood development. The mothers stay with their children but usually don't have any resources or skills to engage them in learning. Given the rivalries that exist between prison inmates, mothers usually fear for their children's safety and don't want to allow them out of their sight. At the same time, they still feel it is better for the children to be with them than in

the family homes – owing to lack of trust in the people at home regarding giving the children the appropriate care (observations from the fieldwork and discussions with prison officials).

In order to enable the design of an appropriate response to the needs of children, prison officials recommended that there should be standard documentation for babies on admission or once born in prison (recommendation provided as a result of the benchmarking visits in 2019). This is in line with the ACERWC⁵ General Comment No. 1: 'On admission to prison the number and personal details of children accompanying their mothers should be recorded' (paragraph 29).

Prison day care centres and how they address needs of children

In order to address the specific needs of women with children in prison, child care facilities have been identified as a key support mechanism. Among others, the Bangkok Rules stress the need for the provision of child care facilities or arrangements where children are imprisoned with their mothers (Rule 42(2)). The Uganda Prisons Service has, so far, with the support of NGOs, established four day care centres: at Luzira Women's, Mbarara Women's, Gulu Women's and Arua Women's Prisons. While the day care centres in Mbarara, Gulu and Arua are managed by the Uganda Prisons Service, the day care centre in Luzira is managed by an external organisation (Family of Africa). The environment in prison is designed to restrain adults and is not appropriate for a child's physical and psychological development. This is in line with the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children which stipulate: 'Best efforts should be made to ensure that children remaining in custody with their parents benefit from adequate care and protection, while guaranteeing their own status as free individuals and access to activities in the community' (paragraph 48).

Rationale for the day care centres – why are they needed? While day care centres are intended to ensure the safety and development of small babies, they might be important in enabling the children to be close to their mothers since the prison setting is not appropriate for children. Staying with female

⁵ African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)

inmates in the prison setting exposes the children to negative behaviours and abusive language (OC, Arua Women's Prison). However, mothers in prison often don't have a safe place or person they trust well enough in the community to leave their children with. Day care centres attached to a prison unit can provide a child-friendly learning environment during day time, empower mothers in their parenting role, and enable mothers to attend other rehabilitation activities while still keeping the children close to them.

How do these day care centres operate - being managed by prisons? Support from the Uganda Prisons Service headquarters is key to further empowering the station management in running the day care centres. It is at station level that staff and inmates with an interest and skills in educating and taking care of children are being identified and attached to the day care centres. Currently in Arua and Mbarara, assigned prison staff and inmates take care of all the children who stay in prison with their mothers from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The children return to their mothers at lock-up time. The day care centres provide a space for children to play, learn, have an appropriate diet and rest in a more appropriate environment. All the day care centres allow for staff to bring their toddlers, thus giving the inmates' children the opportunity to interact with other children. In all cases the day care centres are built on prison land, opposite the women's prison, outside the actual unit fence. Day care centres have been built and equipped by NGOs, but are supposed to be managed and maintained by the Uganda Prisons Service.

Resettlement of children in their communities

As mothers are often not comfortable with having their children return to a family that has rejected them, alternative ways of taking care of the children should be thought about. Child development centres were mentioned as potential partners to help take care of the children in a more conducive environment during the time their mothers are in prison. Where a child can no longer stay in prison, any resettlement should always be done based on a thorough assessment of the best interest of the child⁶ – meaning that children cannot be resettled into communities

⁶ See also ACERWC General Comment No. 1, paragraph 29

where their wellbeing is in question. The Bangkok Rules state: 'The removal of the child from prison shall be undertaken with sensitivity, only when alternative care arrangements for the child have been identified (...)' (Rule 52(2)). The probation office under the office of the DCDO is meant to support all children in need in their district. Thus, in an ideal situation, they should work together with the prison leadership to resettle children from prison into their homes or provide alternatives for their resettlement (e.g. foster families or CDCs). According to officials from Arua District Local Government and Arua prisons, this is possible and could be beneficial to all. However, there is lack of official commitment and a budget to support the resettlement of children from prison (KIIs 4-10 February 2020 with CDO Pabbo, DCDO Arua, DPC Arua, RPC Arua; Dialogue Meetings 2018 /2019 with CDOs, CDCs and DCCs in Arua and Koboko).

The organisation, Family of Africa, supports the resettlement effort by providing a home in Kampala to children of four years and above who cannot be resettled in their families while their mothers are still in prison. While this model is also a recommended option in other stations, there is need to provide an official framework for supporting children above 18 months, which can be organised through partnerships (Benchmarking Luzira and Mbarara).

CONCLUSION: *There is need to create child-friendly environments for children near their mothers to meet their developmental needs. It is also important to develop guidelines for the justice system and streamline the approach to handling mothers and children from the point of arrest up to their reintegration after their release from prison.*

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE - RECOMMENDATIONS

Rehabilitation of Female Inmates

- There is need for the Uganda Prisons Service to provide rehabilitation programmes in order to address the vulnerability of female inmates (practical skills, life skills, individual empowerment and counselling).
- There is need for specific counselling and therapeutic support to victims and perpetrators of violence (e.g. women who have been victims of GBV and consequently became perpetrators of crime).
- There is need for interventions targeting young girls in prison who have been involved in prostitution.

Reintegration of Female Inmates

- There is need for social reintegration support in communities – which implies the establishment of a close link between the social workers and the CDOs.
- The community-based services need to establish a close link with the Uganda Prisons Service and actively support reintegration processes.
- A prison social worker/reintegration officer should be stationed at the district to facilitate reintegration processes.

- Uganda Prisons Service post-release efforts should consider family-focused interventions, particularly counselling, mediation, dialogue and mentorship for the female offenders to repair relations with their husbands, children and community that are often affected by their incarceration.

Children in Prison

- The community-based services need to take responsibility for the wellbeing and resettlement of children belonging to female prison inmates. They should be fully in charge of managing and running the day care centres. Ideally, every regional prison with a women's section should also have its own facility providing early childhood development services for children staying in prison with their mothers.
- The Uganda Prisons Service should take charge of maintenance and day-to-day running of the facilities and ensure that there are qualified staff available at the day care centres.

Crime Prevention

- Community structures, such as LCIs and parasocials among others, should be trained and actively engaged to support communities in handling conflict issues positively and to support referrals.

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