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Providing conceptually grounded insights on modifiable determinants of trafficking-related outcomes to inform a counter-trafficking Behaviour Change Campaign in Haiti

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INNOVATIONS FOR
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Introduction

- Estimated 59,000 Haitians in modern slavery in 2018 (<u>Walk Free Foundation</u>)

- Child trafficking in Haiti:

  - **Residential institutions**

  - **Child domestic servitude**, socially normative practice known as *restavek* – over 400,000 in Haiti in 2015 (<u>FAFO</u>)

  - **Cross-border trafficking** to the Dominican Republic (<u>Bleszynska 2021</u>)

Goal: Examine knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) around varied forms of trafficking in Haiti; to inform Behaviour Change Campaign (BCC)

Roadmap

- Methods

- Data and Descriptive Statistics

- Results

- Discussion and Policy Implications

- Conclusion

- Questions

Methods

- Bivariable data analysis (Chi-squared tests) and adjusted analysis (Classification and Regression Trees, or CART)

  - *Explore associations between knowledge, perceptions, practices and potentially supportive behaviours for child trafficking*

- Primary outcomes:

  - Having a restavek in their home

  - "Potential behaviour" outcomes for institution-related trafficking and cross-border trafficking

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Data and Descriptive Statistics

- Existing baseline survey data (n=530)
  i. General population household heads (n=460)

  ii. Heads of vulnerable families (n=37)

  iii. Police officers and judges (n=33)

- Qualitative data from semi-structured interviews (n=20) and two Focus Group Discussions
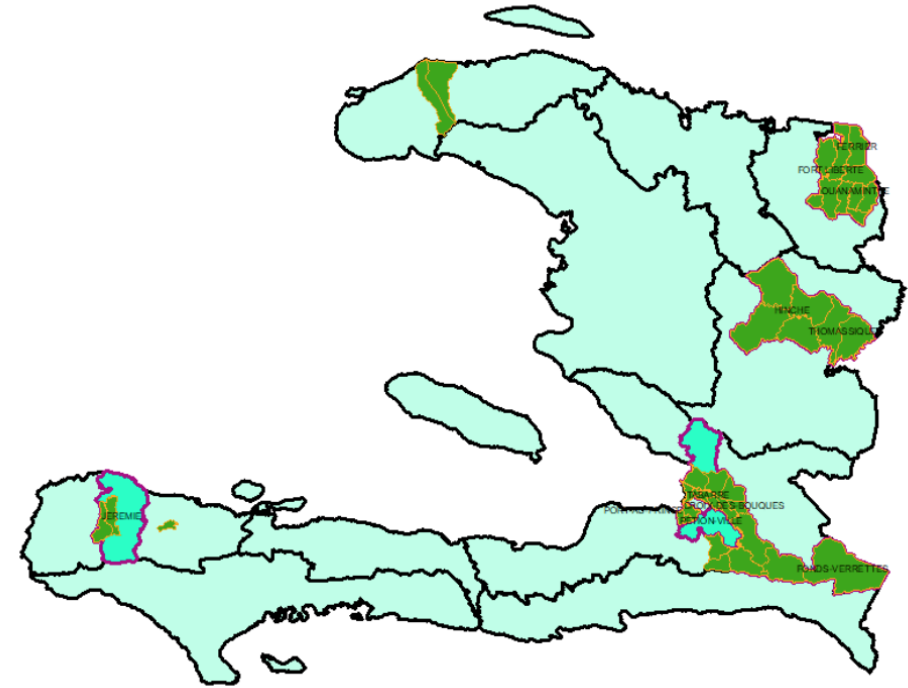

Figure 1. Map of municipalities for general population household cluster sampling (n=12)

Data and Descriptive Statistics

Question	Response	General population (n=460)	Vulnerable Families (n=37)	Police & Judges (n=33)	Whole sample (n=530)
Has restavek		28 (6.1%)	0	2 (6.1%)	30 (5.6%)
Ever asked relatives to stop using restavek in homes	Yes	46 (49.5%)	2 (66.7%)	4 (57.1%)	52 (50.5%)
	No	47 (50.5%)	1 (33.3%)	3 (42.9%)	51 (49.5%)
Sent their child as a restavek	**Yes**	0	14 (37.8%)	0	14 (2.6%)
	No	442 (96.1%)	23 (62.2%)	33 (100%)	498 (94.0%)
	Don't know	18 (3.9%)	0	0	18 (3.4%)
Sent their child to an institution	**Yes**	0	26 (70.3%)	0	26 (4.9%)
	No	422 (91.7%)	11 (29.7%)	33 (100%)	466 (87.9%)
	Don't know	38 (8.3%)	0	0	38 (7.2%)

^Participants only responded to this question if they hadn't placed a child in an institution and they had relatives who had placed a child in an institution

Table 1. Participant characteristics and practices (n=530)

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Results

Institutions

- Majority would help relatives open orphanages and help parents place children in them

- Many perceived orphanages to be harmful, but beliefs they were the **only viable option** (33.3%) and **knowing others who had placed children in orphanages** (20.4%) were strong predictors of potential behaviours supporting institutions

Restavek

- Majority recognized harms for children (sexual abuse and overwork)

- Influenced whether had a restavek: **knowing friends/relatives with a restavek** (20.5%); view that it formed a sense of **solidarity** (24.1%) and was **not trafficking** (20.9%)

Cross-border migration & trafficking

- Much less support, but predictors were **optimism about entrusting female relatives** to smugglers and belief that **living conditions/opportunities** were better than Haiti (30.7%)

Discussion and Policy Implications

Policy Recommendation	BCC Ideas
Access to and knowledge of *alternatives to orphanages*; Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour should continue to develop family and community-based alternative care	Include studies of successful fostering placements and family reunification; how access to wider social and financial support could enable families to stay together
Knowledge of harms does not influence having a **restavek** in the absence of viable alternatives (childcare options, protections to attract adults to domestic work, safe and decent work policies)	Emphasize that "true" solidarity for restavek should include safe and decent working conditions for children above a minimum age
In the absence of viable alternatives at home, **migration** flows will continue; evidence review of policy options for brokerage services and informed migration should be conducted	Optimistic beliefs are erroneous (entrusting female relatives to brokers does not protect them from sexual abuse)

Conclusion

- BCC could showcase successful fostering placements and promote awareness of wider financial and social welfare schemes to keep children at home.

- Beyond awareness raising campaigns, donors and NGOs should continue supporting development of policies and services which enable Haitian families to stay together.

- *Limitations:*

  - Conducting survey during COVID-19

  - Spillover risk of quasi-experimental evaluation of future BCC

  - Use of potential behaviours as outcomes due to purposive sampling

Questions?

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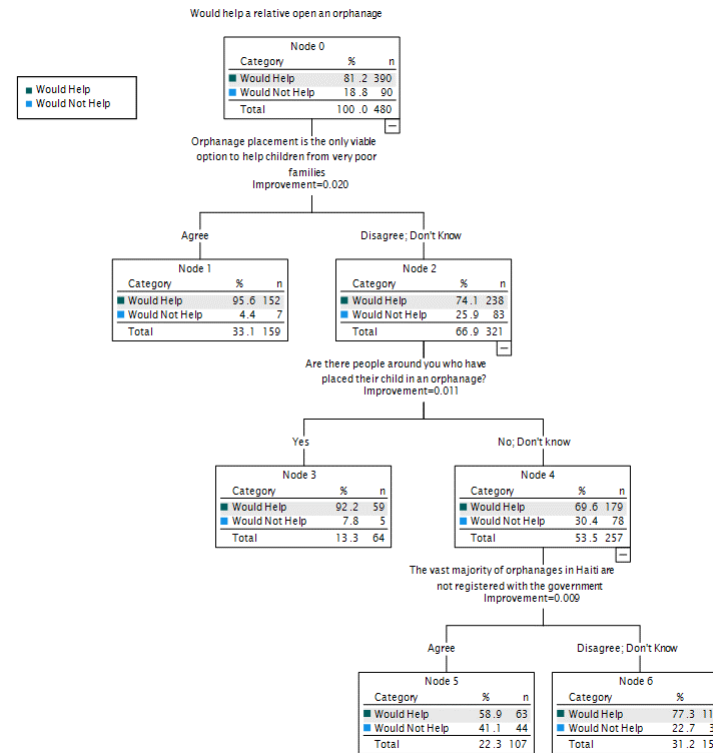# Appendix 1: CART Figure – Institutions Example

Figure A1. Classification tree for potential behaviour 'Would help relative to open an orphanage'
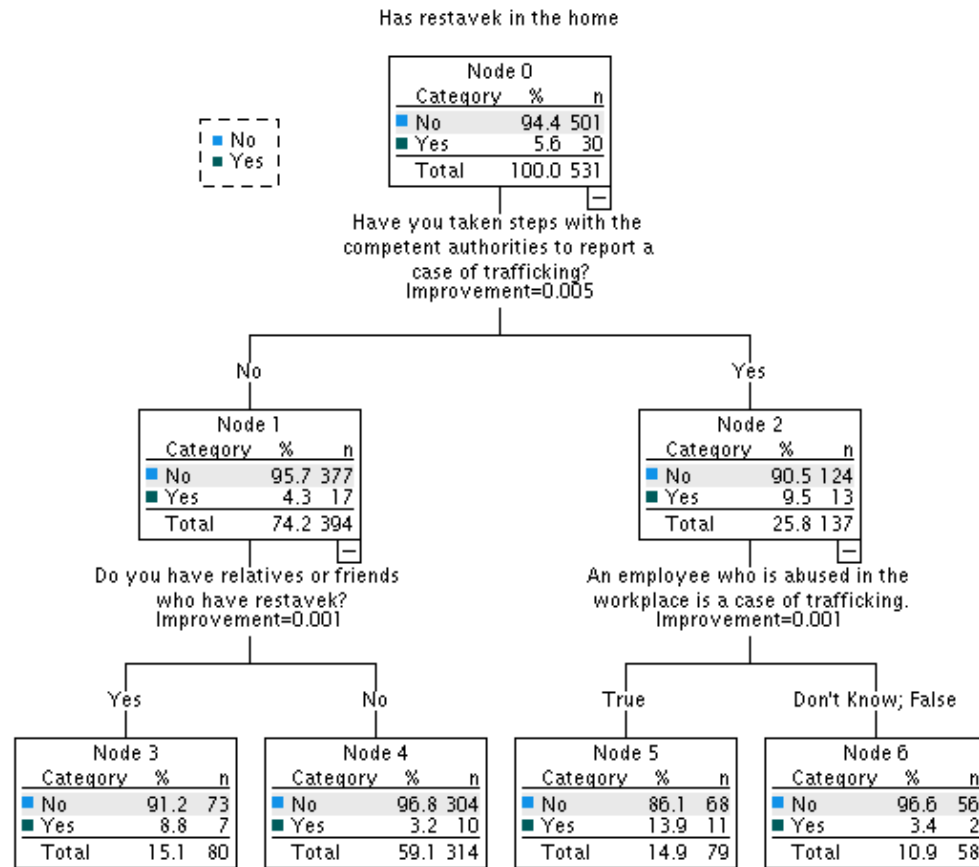
Appendix 2: CART Figure – Restavek Example

Figure A2. Classification tree for practice 'has restavek in the home'

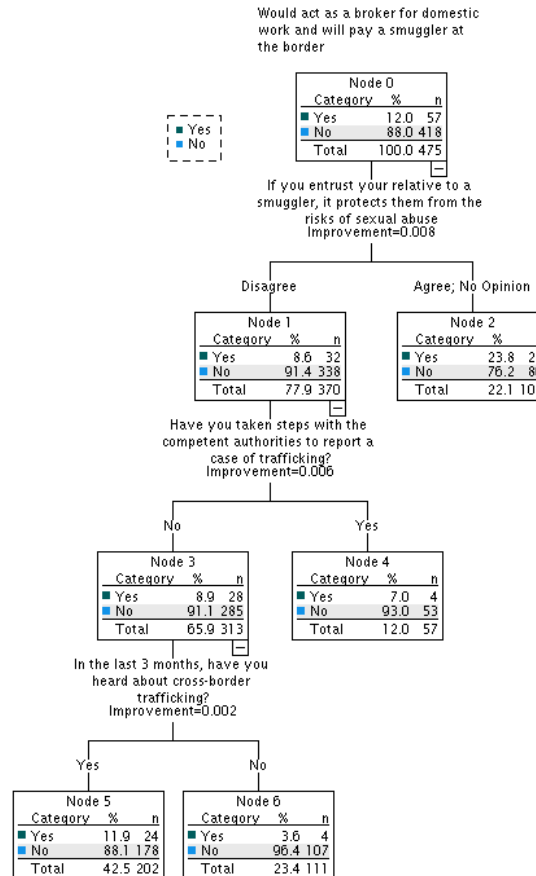# Appendix 3: CART Figure – Cross-Border Migration Example

Figure A3. Classification tree for potential behaviour 'Would act as a broker for domestic work and pay a smuggler at the border'

Appendix 4: Potential Behaviours – Institutions

Potential Behaviour	Response	General population (n=460)	Vulnerable Families (n=37)	Police & Judges (n=33)	Whole sample (n=530)
Would help a relative open an orphanage	**Yes**	335 (72.8%)	29 (78.4%)	25 (75.8%)	389 (73.4%)
	No	78 (17.0%)	7 (18.9%)	5 (15.2%)	90 (17.0%)
	Don't know	28 (6.1%)	0	1 (3.0%)	29 (5.5%)
	No answer	19 (4.1%)	1 (2.7%)	2 (6.1%)	22 (4.2%)
Would help parents place their child in an orphanage	**Yes**	308 (67.0%)	29 (78.4%)	21 (63.6%)	358 (67.6%)
	No	97 (21.1%)	8 (21.6%)	11 (33.3%)	116 (21.9%)
	Don't know	30 (6.5%)	0	0	30 (5.7%)
	No answer	25 (5.4%)	0	1 (3.0%)	26 (4.9%)

Table A1. Potential behaviours for institutions among general population, vulnerable families, police & judges (n=530)

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Appendix 4: Potential Behaviours – Institutions

Potential Behaviour	Response	General population (n=460)	Vulnerable Families (n=37)	Police & Judges (n=33)	Whole sample (n=530)
Would help recruit children into an orphanage	**Yes**	223 (48.5%)	22 (59.5%)	0	245 (46.2%)
	No	203 (44.1%)	14 (37.8%)	33 (100%)	250 (47.2%)
	Don't know	12 (2.6%)	0	0	12 (2.3%)
	No answer	22 (4.8%)	1 (2.7%)	0	23 (4.3%)
Have considered placing their own child in institution (but didn't) (n=504)	**Yes**	19 (4.1%)	3 (27.3%)	1 (3.0%)	23 (4.6%)
	No	390 (84.8%)	8 (72.8%)	31 (93.9%)	429 (85.1%)
	No answer	51 (11.1%)	0	1 (3.0%)	52 (10.3%)

Table A2. Potential behaviours for institutions among general population, vulnerable families, police & judges (n=530)

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Appendix 4: Potential Behaviours – Cross-Border Migration

Potential Behaviour	Response	General population (n=460)	Vulnerable Families (n=37)	Police & Judges (n=33)	Whole sample (n=530)
Someone offers you help to cross illegally (n=350)	Yes	31 (10.6%)	12 (42.9%)	1 (3.7%)	44 (12.6%)
	No	234 (79.9%)	16 (57.1%)	25 (92.6%)	275 (79.0%)
	Don't know	6 (2.1%)	0	1 (3.7%)	7 (2.0%)
	No answer	22 (7.5%)	0	0	22 (6.3%)
Someone offers you chance act as broker for domestic work and will pay smuggler at border (n=348)	Yes	48 (10.4%)	8 (21.6%)	1 (3.0%)	57 (10.8%)
	No	356 (77.4%)	29 (78.4%)	32 (97.0%)	417 (78.7%)
	Don't know	24 (5.2%)	0	0	24 (4.5%)
	No answer	32 (7.0%)	0	0	32 (6.0%)
Entrust female relative to smuggler if they promise to secure job in the Dominican Republic	Yes	45 (9.8%)	10 (27.0%)	0	55 (10.4%)
	No	356 (77.4%)	27 (73.0%)	33 (100%)	416 (78.5%)
	Don't know	22 (4.8%)	0	0	22 (4.2%)
	No answer	37 (8.0%)	0	0	37 (7.0%)

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Table A3. Potential behaviours for cross-border migration among general population, vulnerable families, police & judges (n=530)