Status of Child Rights and Social Protection in Uganda

Uganda Social Protection Platform
and
Africa Platform For Social Protection

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The mission of the **Uganda Social Protection Platform (USPP)** is to strengthen the capacity of CSO's to effectively engage in development and implementation of social protection policies and programmes at all levels in Uganda.

Read about USPP's work on: www.uspp-cso.org

The Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP) exists to create partnerships with civil society and other organizations to engage with governments, regional and continental bodies and international development agencies to develop and implement innovative social protection policies, strategies and programmes in order to make a difference in people's lives in Africa.

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Save the Children

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Acronyms and abbreviations

FCC	Family and Children Court
FIDA	Federation of Women Lawyers
IDP	Internally Displaced persons
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INTERPOL	International Police
LCs	Local Councils
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
NCC	National Council for Children
NDP	National development Plan
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PWDs	People with Disabilities
UCRNN	Uganda Child Rights NGO Network
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children
UNDHR	Universal Declaration for Human Rights
UNDP	United Nations Development program
USE	Universal Secondary Education
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
WFP	World Food Program

Executive Summary

The Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP) together with the Uganda Social Protection Platform (USPP) is implementing a project to support creation of awareness and build capacity of civil society organizations to successfully advocate for policies, systems, and structures to ensure the protection and rights of the children in Uganda. As part of the process, a study of the status of children rights and social protection process was commissioned to establish and document the status of the rights of children and social protection processes. This report highlights rights and social protection issues affecting different groups of vulnerable children that include children living on the street, children affected by conflict, orphans, and children in conflict with the law, children with disabilities, children affected by sexual abuse and those involved in labour.

A recent OVC Situation analysis Report (2009) observes that 8.1 million children are estimated to be vulnerable. The Situation Analysis distinguishes between degrees of vulnerability, classifying children as being generally vulnerable, moderately vulnerable or critically vulnerable. Whereas up to 96% of the children in Uganda have some degree of vulnerability (general vulnerability), it is 51% of all children (totalling 8.1 million) who are either moderately (43%) or critically (8%) vulnerable. HIV/AIDS, orphan hood and poverty are some of the factors contributing to vulnerability. Six million children live in poverty and comprise 62% of the 9.6 million Ugandans experiencing absolute poverty.

Fifteen percent(15%) of Ugandan children (below the age of 18 years) were considered to have been orphaned, implying that at that time there were approximately two million orphaned children in Uganda. Currently 105,000 children are living with HIV/AIDs, yet only 27% are accessing ART that is critical for their suvival. This continues to be a challenge, with 20,000 new children getting infected every year.

Armed conflict has been another factor that has contributed to the vulnerability of children. At the peak of the LRA rebellion, close to 2,000,000 (most of them children) people were displaced and living in IDP camps. 92% of the IDPs have since returned to their homes and villages. However a remnant population of 187,305 IDPs still lives in camps or are still in transit.

Most of these IDPs are no longer recipients of official aid making them extremely vulnerable individuals. The breakdown of the family structure is forcing many children to live on their own. Many children live in child headed households, while about 8000 children are living on the street and 80% of these are homeless[1]. Street Children Statistics of January 2009 by Consortium for Street Children indicates that of an estimated 8 000 Street Children in Uganda, around 4 000 children live on the streets of Kampala. The rest of these children mainly live on the streets of Soroti, Mbale, Busia and Jinja Municipal Councils. Many children because of the difficult situations are falling in conflict with the law. It is estimated that 1.0% of total prisoners were juvenile offenders for various offences. [2] Other children have been forced to get involved in child labour which may be hazardous to their lives.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimated that 44.1% of the children between the ages of 10 and 14 were working, while about 7,000 to 12,000 children are believed to be involved in prostitution in Uganda. According to the Uganda National Household Surveys (UNHS)2009/10 Report, about 7% of the population (1.9 million) people in Uganda have disabilities of which 47.6 per cent have permanent disabilities. Approximately 10% of the total number of Children in Uganda has at least one form of disability.

Over the past two decades, Uganda has shown its commitment to the welfare of children through adoption and implementation of both national and international policy and legal instruments that concern children. Two key legal instruments in this regard are the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995) and the Children's Act (2000). The Constitution provides special protection to children in general and vulnerable children in particular. It makes specific mention of the rights of children to know and to be cared for by their parents or guardians, access medical treatment, and be protected from all forms of exploitation and abuse. The Children's Act (2000) both illuminates the UNCRC and also operationalises constitutional issues concerning children in Uganda. Other relevant legislations include the National Council for Children Act (1996, Cap 60), the National Youth Council Act (2003), the Penal Code Act (Cap.160),

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1   CARITAS
2   According to the UNDP, Human Development Report, 1999

the Local Governments Act (1997, Cap 243), and the Succession Act (1964).

At the international level, Uganda has ratified several conventions that include, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990), the Organisation of African Unity Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990); the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979); and the ILO Convention No.138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (1973) and the ILO Convention No.182 on the Prohibition of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999). Uganda is also party to other international instruments regarding orphans and other vulnerable children that include; the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, UNGASS on HIV/AIDS (2001), a World Fit for Children Declaration (2001), the Millennium Development Goals (2000).

At the policy and program level, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) is the lead agency mandated to ensure that the rights of all children including orphans and other vulnerable children are promoted and upheld. The Social Development Sector Strategic Investment Plan (SDIP-2) provides a planning framework for the sector to address risk and vulnerability among the poor, marginalized and socially excluded groups such as orphans and other vulnerable children among others. It also articulates interventions and strategies to transform mindsets of the poor and vulnerable individuals towards work, improving productivity and development. The SDIP-2 aims at creating an enabling environment for the poor and the vulnerable groups or persons to develop their capacities and take advantage of opportunities to improve their livelihoods for a gender-responsive sustainable development. The Ministry is supported in this responsibility by the National Council for Children and other Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) developed the National OVC Policy (NOP), aimed at improving the quality of life of poor and vulnerable children, such as orphaned children, children living on the street, children in conflict with the law, abused and neglected children, and children in situations of armed conflict. In order to implement the NOP, the GOU and its partners developed the National Strategic Programme Plan of Interventions for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children (NSPPI) and the Quality Standards for the Protection, Care, and Support of Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Uganda (MGLSD 2007).

The National OVC Policy is comprehensive and targets several categories of OVC that include:-

- Orphans and orphans households
- Children affected by armed conflict.
- Children abused or neglected.
- Children in conflict with the law.
- Children affected by HIV/AIDS or other diseases.
- Children in need of alternative family care.
- Children affected by disability.
- Children in 'hard-to-reach' areas
- Children living under the worst forms of labour
- Children living on the streets.

The situation of vulnerable children is still in a dire state and far from solved. The increasing population geared by increasing birth rate in Africa and Uganda in particular is a call for concern. Research shows that Poverty is a crosscutting issue for vulnerability not only to children but the communities and the population at large. Internal conflicts, family breakdowns, wars, uncoordinated child programs and government inefficiencies contribute to vulnerability of the population.

Currently, a number if child intervention programs by civil society and government are being undertaken to address vulnerability of the population. These interventions are more of "project focus", un-coordinated, traditional/conventional in nature not programs which are broad in nature to encompass wider interventions incorporating vital structures like family units, community structures like LCs, and finally enriching the programs with creative and Innovative interventions which are pro poor.

The consultants are of the view that USPP conducts a mapping exercise for all stakeholders in child programming per theme around the country. This can be done with the help of the NGO registration board and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. After this, USPP conduct a profiling exercise on all these stakeholders to get more data/information on their activities; have an opportunity to interface and sensitize them on the need for social protection for children in Uganda.

From these two undertakings, categorize stakeholders according to themes, location, and funding agency if possible. This process will derive a process or criteria for peer to peer mechanisms, collaboration (methods and issues to collaborate on), capacity building needs and overall social protection policy engagement needs.

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

Social protection was defined by the UN in 2001 to be the set of public and private policies and programmes undertaken by societies in response to various contingencies to offset the absence or substantial reduction of income from work; to provide assistance for families with children as well as provide people with health care and housing. Social protection has several functions which include (a) protective – measures designed to save lives and reduce deprivation levels; (b) preventive – reducing people's exposure to risks through social insurance programmes such as pensions and health insurance; (c) promotive - enhance the capability of the vulnerable to protect themselves against hazards and loss of income; and (d) social justice – to reduce inequities and improve social integration through changes in laws, budgetary allocations and redistributive measures.

The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development in 2013 defined Social Protection as public and private interventions to address risks and vulnerabilities that expose individuals to income insecurity and social deprivation leading to undignified lives. It is a basic service and a human right that ensures the dignity of people.

In the Ugandan context, the social protection system is comprised of two pillars namely; social security and social care services. Social security includes direct income support and social insurance. Direct income support is non-contributory transfer to extremely vulnerable individuals and households without any form of income security. Social insurance is a contributory system to mitigate livelihood risks and shocks such as retirement, loss of employment, work related disability and ill health. Social care and support services are concerned with provision of care, support, empowerment and protection to vulnerable persons who are unable to fully care for themselves.

Social protection mechanisms have always existed in African societies Uganda inclusive. The poor and vulnerable like the children, aged and the disabled have always been cared for in Ugandan society through family and community systems. However, as society modernizes and becomes more urbanized, these traditional Social

Protection systems are being replaced by more capitalistic and individualistic tendencies. This can be evidenced by the ever rising levels of poverty among vulnerable individuals and families. As a realization of this trend, many governments are now embarking on developing formal social protection systems as a core component of national development strategies.

Social protection as a process has a central role in poverty reduction programs in all countries. It can help reduce chronic and transient poverty, protect the poor during adverse events affecting their livelihoods, and support progress on the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. Social protection is also about achieving social justice and social inclusion and ensuring that the poorest and most vulnerable are not left behind as the country develops the quality of life of its people

According to the MGLSD report on Expanding Social Protection, although poverty rates in Uganda have reduced in recent years, 31% of the population still lives in poverty (around 8.5 million people). 26% of all households remain in chronic poverty, characterised by the presence of vulnerable people such as those living with disabilities, long-term illness, and the elderly and young children. Many more are still in danger of falling into poverty as a result of events ranging from drought to death of family members, illness and unemployment. However, on a positive note, in Uganda, there is an ongoing National dialogue on social protection lead by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. The process is being piloted with cash transfers to the aged in selected districts as the first stage of programming. Despite this effort however, a number of questions still remain unanswered like discussions of equal prominence on social services, who should be the lead ministry, roles of the Finance Ministry in the process in protecting the cash transfers, issues of transparency and accountability among others.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development organized in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2000 provided a useful forum for exchange of views on the results obtained since Copenhagen 1995. It was observed on that occasion, as in the past, that Africa remains the only region of the world where the lack of social development raises the most concern (ignorance, poverty and disease). The Continent is home to the greatest number of poor

people in relative terms, and this number has been on the increase since 1990. This is inspite of the existing national and international legal instruments and laws which protect the vulnerable that the majority of African Countries have ratified.

Over time, the above background has instigated a great need by different stakeholders especially Civil Society Organizations like the African Platform for Social Protection (APSP) and the Uganda Social Protection Platform (USPP) to promote increased advocacy for policies, programs, systems and structures that ensure non discrimination of the vulnerable groups especially the children.

Both the APSP and USPP for example raise crucial demands and make recommendation to governments;

a) Need for high level political commitment to social protection as a primary responsibility that lies with the state, which acts in collaboration with other stakeholders. It is important that the state provides a leadership role.

b) Need for the development of a legislative policy framework that includes social protection, for example, the integration of social protection in the national constitution.

c) Development of a national social protection strategy that addresses the country's peculiar situation determined by factors which include among many the proportion of persons who are poor; affected by HIV and AIDS; persons with disability; older persons etc.

d) Need for Inter-ministerial collaboration and co-ordination of all the ministries and stakeholders that are involved in the implementation of the social protection strategy (i.e. ministries of labour, social welfare, health, education, gender, agriculture, finance and economic planning and others).

e) Need for linking social assistance to basic services: e.g. linking cash transfers to education on the child and maternal health, prevention and treatment of illness, and nutrition; agricultural extension or to immunization. This is in addition to the need for collection of gender disaggregated data for monitoring implementation and evaluating the impact and progress on social inclusion among others.

Social protection is therefore about the state sharing the burden of supporting the vulnerable groups in society.

On the other hand, as a subset of social protection, child sensitive social protection describes the wide range of economic and noneconomic social protection interventions that need to be strengthened if the most vulnerable children and families are to benefit. These include (but are not limited to) cash transfers, social work, early childhood development centres and alternative care. The various categories under aforementioned subset of social protection include children in conflict areas, children in conflict with the law, orphaned children, street children, children refugees, child labour, children with disabilities and sexually abused children among others.

This report is an attempt to document and analyse the status of vulnerable children in Uganda based on a social protection perspective, the processes, policy and legislative framework, current interventions, actors and good practices. It also suggests recommendations for addressing the identified gaps in service delivery. The consultancy findings from this study will enable the CSOs to participate in increased awareness and designing policy engagement strategies with government, create awareness and knowledge on the rights of marginalized children in Uganda, sensitise CSOs on policy engagements, skills and strategy and help to establish Peer Review Mechanism between Civil Society Platform and the Government that will monitor and report on the best and bad practices for purposes of learning.

1.2 Purpose and Objectives of the study

The objective of the project is to document the status of children rights and social protection processes in Uganda with a view of creating awareness and build capacity of CSOs to successfully advocate for policies, systems and structures to ensure non-discrimination of marginalized children in Uganda.

1.3 Methodology

The study methodology was mainly desk review of relevant literature reports and publication on child rights and social protection process.

1.4 Limitations of the study

The study team faced some limitations that include the following;

i) Inadequate data on some of the vulnerability child categories.

ii) Some data was not segregated according to gender and other key variables.

iii) Time was inadequate to allow cross checking of information with other data sources.

All in all however, the consultants are of the view that given the timing of the study and resource considerations, all the above were not possible. Nonetheless, we are of the view that the findings are very useful to serve as initial information and create a basis for further planning.

2.0 KEY FINDINGS

This section presents the main findings of the study, the situation of vulnerable children according to eight (8) vulnerability categories namely orphans, sexually abused children, child labour, children living on the street, refugee children, children in conflict with the law, Children affected by armed conflict and children with disabilities. In addition, this section examines the processes, the legal policies, the interventions, the actors, good practices, and challenges.

2.1 Children in Conflict

For much of the last three decades, Uganda suffered several internal conflicts in the Luwero Triangle, Rwenzori Region, Teso, the greater Northern Uganda region and West Nile. The rebellion in Northern Uganda however proliferated by the LRA has been the biggest threat to children. Armed conflicts affect children in many ways including separation, displacement, death, trauma, sexual and physical abuse, denial to the right to education, etc. At the peak of LRA war in northern Uganda, close to two million people were livings in IDPs. However, since the relocation of the LRA from Uganda to DRC, Southern Sudan and the CAR in 2005, the risk of war and its effects on children in Uganda now remains remote.

At the peak of the LRA rebellion, close to 2,000,000 people were displaced and living in IDP camps. 92% of the IDPs have since returned to their homes and villages. According to data provided by the UNHCR sub-office in Gulu, by November 2010, 32,827 IDPs remained in active camps, 79,574 IDPs remained in camps that had officially been closed, and 53,659 IDPs lived in transit sites making a total of 166,060 IDPs. Other sub-regions hosting residual populations displaced by the same two decade conflict are West Nile (about 10,000 IDPs in Adjumani district) and Bunyoro (an additional 20,000 IDPs in Kiryandongo district). Approximately 10,000 IDPs remain in Teso, Most of these IDPs are no longer recipients of official aid making them extremely vulnerable individuals. This gives a total of 187,305 IDPs.

Perhaps the worst impact of armed conflict on children comes with recruiting them of engage as actual combatants. In Uganda, this phenomenon has been endemic the NRA bush war in the Luwero Triangle. The problem further escalated since the late 1980s in Northern Uganda, an estimated 25,000 children and adolescents being forcefully recruited into the Lord's Resistance Army. Abductions peaked between May 2002 and 2003 when an estimated 10,000 children were abducted.

The situation in Uganda has transited from an emergency/humanitarian phase to a post-conflict situation; affected communities continue to grapple with the mid and longer term effects of the war. This is where Social Protection initiatives should focus. Physical, psychological and emotional scars especially for children that have been directly engaged in the conflict affect their growth process.

a) Long Effects of Conflict on Children

A study on child soldiers in *Child Development,* researchers from the University of Hamburg in Germany looked at 330 former Ugandan child soldiers' ages 11 to 17 years. This study was carried out in 2006 at a government boarding school designed to support war-traumatized children and at the same time attempt to identify risk and protective factors to better target support. On average, the children returned from the armed group after about 30 months. Almost all of the children had been exposed to shooting and beatings by armed forces, more than half had killed someone, and more than a quarter had been raped. The researchers found that a third of the children suffered from posttraumatic stress disorder, more than a third were depressed, and more than half had behavioural and emotional problems. Older children had more mental health problems than younger children.

The study also found that almost 90 percent of the child soldiers continued to be exposed to violence once they returned home including caning, burning, being locked up, and being raped and two thirds of them suffered from significant mental health problems. What helped foster the resilience of the one third of children who didn't have significant mental health problems? The researchers discovered it was the qualities of the child and the home environments to which they returned such as less exposure to domestic and community violence, better family socioeconomic situations, less motivation to seek revenge, and more perceived spiritual support. This all happens in a country where there is only one psychiatrist for every 1.3 million people.

While the impact of community level psychosocial initiatives cannot be underestimated, in terms of social protection perspective, there is need for targeted mental health interventions for children and young people who exhibit distress levels that interfere with daily functioning. Such programs would not need to discriminate according to abduction experience, but by default would include a disproportionate number of abductees and those who experienced the most violence. There is need to establish clear systems of referral and capacity building for this higher level of care is needed. Related to this is the need to address physical injuries suffered by some children. Seven percent of female youth and 13 percent of male youth report serious illnesses or injuries.[3]

b) Dealing with Impunity

Since 2000 there has been a systematic engagement with CAAC as it is called in UN circles. Several Global and local initiatives have been put in place to protect children from the being involved and grossly affected by armed conflict

At the international level, a lot of concern has been generated towards efforts that generate protection of children affected by conflict. An underlying normative framework has been set out in a range of international legal instruments, based on humanitarian and human rights law, which provide the legal framework for the six grave violations against children. They include:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966);

- The Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 (1977) and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol 1), the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) (1977);

- The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and its Optional Protocols on armed conflict and sex trafficking;

- The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC, 1998); and

- Customary international humanitarian law.

In addition, the seven resolutions and the structures set up by the Council for monitoring the issue of children affected by armed conflict have greatly reinforced the normative framework and helped guide the Council's approach to this issue. Uganda is a signatory of all the above instruments and has also made other commitments instruments like the Paris Principles.

Key among the protective mechanisms protecting child in Uganda has been the Resolution 1612 Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms. The task force, consisting of UNICEF, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Save the Children Uganda, the Uganda Human Rights Commission, and the Uganda Children's Rights Network, have been monitoring and reporting quarterly on Uganda's compliance with UN Resolution 1612 on Children and Armed Conflict. Uganda has since been delisted from its list of countries that actively recruit children into armed forces. Five 5 LRA commanders have been indicted by the by the International Criminal Court. The Ugandan Government has passed the Amnesty Act and established the Amnesty Commission that provides for pardoning persons including children that have engaged but renounced armed rebellion against the state. The War Crimes Division of the Uganda High Court to deal with serious crimes against humanity has been established within the judicial process in Uganda.

2.2 Children in Orphan Hood

Child orphanhood is one of the major causes vulnerability in Uganda which has been excerbated mainly by HIV/IADS, poverty, armed conflict and other natural calamities. It is estimated that 14 percent of Uganda's 17 million children are orphans. According to *Children on the Brink 2000* (Hunter S and Williamson J 2000), in 1990 16.6% of Uganda's children below 15 years were orphaned. The Uganda National Household Survey conducted by UBOS in 2005/6 identified that 15% of Ugandan children (below the age of 18 years) were considered to have been orphaned, implying that at that time there were approximately two million orphaned children in Uganda. Comparison with other sources of data, however, shows that the challenge of orphanhood in Uganda is a growing one, with the proportion of children that are orphaned increasing from 11.5 percent in 1999/2000; to 13.4 percent in 2002/2003[4] and then rising to the current 14.8 percent. The OVC problem is aggravated by the prevailing levels of poverty, high population growth rate, HIV&AIDS,

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3 **Dyan Mazurana** The Survey of war Affected Youth- Research and Programs for Youth in Armed Conflict In Uganda, Tufts University-Feinstein International Center

4   MoGLSD 2007

child labour, inadequacy of support services for children, poor implementation of the existing laws, insecurity, and disease, and now children are now more susceptible to sacrifice than ever before.

The Uganda National Household Survey of 2009/10 indicated that 12% of the children were orphans.1.1 million households had atleast one orphan and 38% of the children aged 0-17 years were vulnerable.

a) HIV/AIDS

Uganda was one of the first countries in which the potential impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic on children was documented and recognized (Hunter 1990, Muller & Abbas 1990, Dunn et al. 1992). It is estimated that the number of orphans in Uganda is 2 million. The majority of orphans are paternal orphans living with their mothers whose health and well being is paramount to the survival of orphans today. Eighty percent of double orphans are attributed to AIDS (UNAIDS, 2002). HIV/AIDS remains a major development challenge and this has implications for the protection of vulnerable children especially orphans as households, and communities to cope with the magnitude of the problem; and governments ability to deliver services to the most vulnerable sections of society.

The intricate relationship between HIV/AIDS and orphan hood needs careful attention especially given the fact that decline in infection rates have not been consistent over the past years. For example it is predicted in the National Development Plan that GDP will fall from a projected 6.5% per year in situations "without AIDS" to 5.3 % under the "With AIDS and without ART" situation. HIV/AIDS raises the overall headcount poverty rate by 1.4 points (1.6 in the rural areas and 0.9 in urban areas). Though access to ARTs has improved from 141,419 in 2009 to about 330,000 persons living with HIV/AIDS in 2010[5], of the 105,000 children living with HIV/AIDs only 27% are accessing ART that is critical for their survival. This will worsen as 20,000 new children are infected every year. To reverse these trends and increase access and utilization of HIV&AIDS services for children, youth and adults, there is need to scale up prevention, treatment, care services and overall social protection interventions such as increased resource allocation to child birth registration services as a process/system to help access to the child rights like obligation to education, health, justice and citizenship;

and strengthening families and communities' capacity to provide care and protection to orphans and other vulnerable children.

b) Poverty As A Factor In OVC Existence

The OVC problem is being aggravated by the prevailing levels of poverty. For example, data available indicate that over six million children live in poverty and comprise 62 percent of the 9.6 million Ugandans experiencing absolute poverty. A recent OVC Situation analysis Report (2009) observes that 8.1 million children are estimated to be vulnerable. The Situation Analysis distinguishes between degrees of vulnerability, classifying children as being generally vulnerable, moderately vulnerable or critically vulnerable. Whereas up to 96 percent of the children in Uganda have some degree of vulnerability (general vulnerability), it is 51 percent of all children (totalling 8 million) who are either moderately (43%) or critically (8%) vulnerable.

c) Legal Framework for Supporting Protection of OVCs

Uganda has shown its commitment to the welfare of children through adoption and implementation of both national and international policy and legal instruments that concern children. Two key legal instruments in this regard are the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995) and the Children's Act (2003). The Constitution provides special protection to children in general and vulnerable children in particular. It makes specific mention of the rights of children to know and to be cared for by their parents or guardians, access medical treatment, and be protected from all forms of exploitation and abuse. The Children's Act (2000) both illuminates the UNCRC and also operationalises constitutional issues concerning children in Uganda. Other relevant legislations include the National Council for Children Statute (1996), the National Youth Council Act (2003), the Penal Code Act (Cap.160), the Local Governments Act (1997,Cap 243), and the Succession Act (1964).

At the international level Uganda has ratified several conventions that include, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990), the Organisation of African Unity Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990); the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979); and the ILO Convention No.138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (1973) and the ILO Convention No.182 on the Prohibition of the Worst

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5   National development Plan(2010/11-2015/2015

Forms of Child Labour (1999). Uganda is also a party to other international instruments regarding orphans and other vulnerable children that include; the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, UNGASS on HIV/AIDS (2001), a World Fit for Children Declaration (2001), the Millennium Development Goals (2000).

d) Responses to the Orphan Problem

In 2004, the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) developed the NOP, aimed at improving the quality of life for poor and vulnerable children, such as orphaned children, street children, abused children, and children in situations of armed conflict. In order to implement the NOP, the GOU and its partners developed a strategy document, the NSPPI (MGLSD 2004b) and the Quality Standards for the Protection, Care, and Support of Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Uganda (MGLSD 2007). These documents identified 10 core program areas (CPAs) essential to the wellbeing of vulnerable children under four main themes or building blocks. The NSPPI has since been revised to cover the period 2011/2012-1215/1216. The NSPPI 11 is intended to guide to the provision of sustainable quality services that minimize vulnerability of children and provide them with the right to live health and meaningful lives that can propel them to becoming responsible citizens.

e) Gaps/Concerns

Paediatric HIV/CARE: Although 0.7 percent of children are infected with HIV, only 115 out of the 300 health care facilities accredited by Ministry of Health (MOH) have integrated paediatric HIV care. Recent scaling down of programs by actors like MildMay and the reduction of donor funding to this sector is creating big gaps in service delivery.

f) Education interventions

Key education interventions at national level include UPE and USE programmes. Though UPE and subsquently USE have help many vulnerable children access education, the programmes have key quality challenges. Although, approximately 51 percent of the OVC were, in 2008, reached with education services, a more recent national survey on the situation of OVC (Kalibala & Lynne, 2010) indicated that only 11 percent of moderately vulnerable children and 8 percent of critically vulnerable children received schooling support in 2009. Though listed as a key policy priority, ECD is not financed by government living it in the hands of private-for profit making out of reach of most vulnerable children.

g) Capacity of Districts and other local government structures to deliver OVC Services

Within the framework of decentralized governance, local governments have the mandate to plan for OVCs as well as implement a range of programmes in the area of health, education, child protection and legal support, just to mention but a few. The ongoing creation of new districts presents a challenge and calls for more resources to create new structures and systems for OVC.[6] There is also a need to coordinate actors at district levels to facilitate participation of children at that level. Secondly, districts need to prioritise and plan to increase resources towards operationalisation, implementation of laws,policies and regulations. Thirdly, there is also need to give more empowerment to District labour offices in terms of human resource and programming.

2.3 Children Living on the street

According to World Health Organisation Mental Health Determinants and populations, 'working with Street Children Module 9', Street children are defined as Children under the age of eighteen who spend most of their life on the streets. There are those who life permanently on the streets "children of the street" These live and earn their 'living' on the streets. There are also those who earn their living on the street but do not necessarily live on the streets. These spend most of their time on the street but usually return to some form of a 'family' unit where there is some kind of supervision or control.

In Uganda, the problem of street children began in the 1970s and continues to be a problem because of civil war, poverty and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Currently, according to Caritas (2001), there were over 10,000 children living on the street in Uganda, and 85% of these are homeless. Street Children Statistics of January 2009 by Consortium for Street Children indicates that of an estimated 8 000 Street Children in Uganda, around 4 000 children live on the streets of Kampala.

UNICEF observes that the problem of street children globally and in Africa in particular rotates around 4 major reasons namely political instabilities, rapid urbanization, run away population growth and increasing disparities in wealth as well as a breakdown in family values. In Uganda's recent past child trafficking especially from Karamoja Region has become another fact in increasing

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6   NSPPI-1 REVIEW AND NSPPI-2 FORMULATION-Draft OVC Report.

children on the street. Some of the reasons for their running away from the region include poverty as a result of cattle rustling that has denied families of livelihood, the insecurity caused by the disarmament process that has caused family break ups and loosened cultural family ties and obligations, the high levels of need for cheap child labour in urban centres and sex trade.

a) Contemporary Approaches

The traditional response to children living on the street by most governments especially in Africa has been repression. Street children arrested for a minor theft or roaming around are often held in custody until somebody can be found to take responsibility for them. This often takes weeks or even months. Detention in harsh circumstances is the common lot of street children everywhere.

Today, the government of Uganda is increasingly taking ruthless steps to clear the streets of street children and other unscrupulous characters. Yet, they do not offer any viable alternatives to the children living on the street.

Traditionally and culturally, a child was normally a member of a community and could not be separated from it. Today's children however, are the responsibility of individual parents and are ignored by the rest of the community. While the number of children living on the street grows by the day, the community remains silent with the exception of a few individuals and organizations.

While one can speak of some kind of political commitment on the part government, very little is being done to address the problem of street children. Major benchmarks of this commitment include the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). However, most of the direct actions to help street children are being undertaken by Non-Governmental organizations and religious organizations. The community and family roles have not been adequately explored and harmonized at that level to address dynamics of the day regarding children.

b) Actors/Interventions

• RETRAK Charity

This is a UK charity providing support to street children in Kampala. One of their projects called "Rebuilding the lives of street boys in Uganda" supports over 850 boys with the emotional, physical, spiritual, educational and economic needs to facilitate their transition off the streets and back into the community. The project reports over 1,000 boys between the ages of 7 and 20 living on the streets of Kampala, Uganda. Many are orphaned or have been abandoned or abused.

• Action for Street Children (ASK)

This is yet another organization that supports street children programs mostly in Gulu northern Uganda for both resettlement and development programs.

• The Street Children project-Kampala

This is a Christian organization that uses the arts to educate and rehabilitate Ugandan street children. Its vision is to see the street children of Uganda transformed and empowered to become agents of social change in their communities. The Street Child Project (US) runs The News ART Centre (UG), a transitional rehabilitation home for former street boys in Kitala, Uganda. The project uses art because it was seen as medium of expression, useful in forming relationships with street children and advocating on their behalf.

• Kampala Street and other Vulnerable Children Re-insertion Project

This specializes mainly on providing tracing and reunification programs and also vocational skills training.

c) Recommendations

• Accept the problem

The first important step is to realize and acknowledge that the problem of street children is one of the most burning problems and challenge facing the country. There needs to be a firm commitment by all concerned parties like parents, local government leadership, the central government line ministries and NGOs to tackle the problem and not just ignore it hoping that it will go away or that other people are going to come to solve the problem for us.

• Role of education

Education is also seen as a means of helping children on the streets. Most of the street children are illiterate with no basic skills to help them get proper jobs. Education may help break the vicious circle of marginalization and help potential street children towards. There is need to encourage families take advantage of government programs like Universal primary Education and vocational skills training programs to help vulnerable children get skills to help themselves.

- **Strengthening the Family Unit and community responses**

Another way to lessen the incidence of children winding up on the streets is to strengthen the institution of the family. As the basic component of society, the family has not adequately been due considerations that it deserves in terms of state obligations. Paradoxically, it is only recently when it is most threatened, that its natural virtues are being rediscovered. There is need therefore to explore more social protection interventions in terms of for example proposing enactment of family laws that strongly oblige families to support vulnerable children, more family and community empowerment programs that aim at poverty eradication like revolving funds, Entandikwa schemes among others.

- **The Role of Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs)**

Currently in Uganda, innovative work for street children has been almost the exclusive preserve of the NGOs. Their programmes are less expensive, more humane and more affective alternatives to institutionalization. However, while NGOs are to be applauded in their efforts to address the problem of street children, there is need to scrutinize the role of many of these NGOs and the extent to which they either contribute to solving the problem of street children or they actually exacerbate it.

- **Finding Gainful Employment to Street Children**

In practical terms, there is a need to legitimize and further develop the concept of street education, which aims at restoring street children's confidence and rebuilding their contact with society. Opportunities for formal and non-formal education and apprenticeship training could be explored.

- **Increase their participation**

There is little likelihood of finding a lasting solution to the problem of street children without involving the street children themselves. Very often the tendency has been to formulate plans and strategies for children without consulting them. Families, the government and the community at large must seek out the street children and have a meaningful dialogue with them, seek their proposals on what alternative options they would love to see to improve their lives.

In general therefore there is need therefore from all stakeholders to integrate social protection programs that will guarantee peace in the region, reignite family and community roles to protecting the vulnerable children and promote poverty eradication campaigns

2.4 **Children in Conflict with the Law**

The social economic and political circumstances prevailing in Uganda has led to proliferation of young offenders. These circumstances include drug abuse, peer pressure, domestic violence, high rates of unemployment, political instability and urbanization. According to the UNDP, Human Development Report, 1999 1.0% of total prisoners were juveniles for various offences. In 1998 the specific offences involving juveniles were: 34 cases of murder (1.83% of all murders), 189 cases of serious assault (2.53% of all cases), 119 cases of all types of theft (1.10% of all cases), 10 cases of robbery and violent theft (1.10% of all cases). (INTERPOL, International Crime Statistics for 1998, citing National Statistics) According to police report of 2008, out of the total 119,072 cases recorded by police, 2,421 were committed by juvenile offenders which is (2%) of the cases committed.

Table 1: **Police annual report: Juvenile crime rate**

Crime	Numbers
Defilement	466
Theft	268
Assault	163
Breakings	147
Robberies	62
Total	**1,106**

Source: *2010 Police annual crime report*

As per the Juvenile Justice in Uganda report 2009 by the FHI, the state is obliged to register all children at birth, but this is still very far from being achieved as about 4% of the children aged between 12-18 years of age today in Uganda have birth certificates. On the other hand, the UNICEF refugee report on Uganda 2010 indicates only 21 per cent of children under age 5 registered in Uganda. This poses a serious challenge to the juvenile justice system in determining the right age of offenders, later on accessing social services like education.

The government of Uganda established the Justice Law and Order Sector to rehabilitate children in conflict with the law. The purpose is not to punish them over criminal behaviour but to reduce on their delinquency. This was done in response to the international obligations in regard to address the unique needs of the juveniles.

As a result, Uganda established Regional Remand Homes and rehabilitation centres in different parts of the country .Currently, the Justice Law and Order Sector which comprises the sector Ministries of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs (Police and Prisons Departments) and Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development are implementing a pilot Project. Innovative ways are being designed by system actors to address the gaps in the services of children and to adopt much friendlier and expeditious handling of cases of children in conflict with the law.

Under the Pilot Project, children in conflict with the law receive free legal services from relevant government Departments and CSOs as follows:

i)   State funded legal services under Article 28(2)(e) of the Constitution on fair hearing provides for mandatory legal representation of all offenders of capital nature.

ii) Child rights agencies such as Defence for Children International pays private lawyers to represent children in court

iii) Legal Aid Project of Uganda Law Society provides legal services to the poor including children. Other CSOs that provide free legal services to children include Justice Centres Uganda and Uganda Christian Lawyers Fraternity just to mention but a few.

iv) Probation and Social welfare Officers support children during investigations, produce social inquiry reports to courts to help in making appropriate orders, provide rehabilitation services to prepare and reintegrate them back in the community.

a) Legal/policy frameworks

Uganda is signatory to both regional and international legislations/treaties/conventions that set standards as minimum requirements for the treatment of children in conflict with the law. These include the UDHR, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights(ICCPR),the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the UNCRC, the UN Beijing Rules, the African Charter on the welfare of children, The Uganda Constitution, the Children's Act and many other protocol and policies enshrine the need for the state to protect the rights of children among them those in conflict with the law, and set minimum standards for the administration of juvenile justice. These among other things recommend that States adopt "a child-oriented system that recognises the child

as a subject of fundamental rights and freedoms and stresses the need for all actions concerning children to be guided by the best interests of the child as a primary consideration".

b) Contemporary approaches

A very small percentage of police stations nationwide have specialised cells for juveniles and they end up mixing them with adult hardcore criminals. There is continued delay by the minister of justice to make necessary orders for children convicted of capital offences. Some children have been waiting since 1997.

The complaints procedure is very rigorous for both the family of the accused children and the children themselves, full of corruption tendencies. In addition, a situation analysis conducted in 2000 by Defence for Children International (DCI) and partners revealed that Local Council courts were not handling petty offences as stipulated by law, as Local Council committees tended to prioritize cases other than those involving children in conflict with the law. As a result there had been a high influx of children's cases of petty crime into the formal legal system.

c) Good practices

- The police now have a specialised CFPU specifically trained to handle child/family related cases.

- Designation of Local Councils as Courts of First Instance for Children in Conflict with the Law - Uganda

- LCs mandated by law to designate one member of the council as secretary for children's affairs in councils at all levels (Children Act Part 111). This has a number of advantages as below;

- Increase in Diverted Cases that could have ended up in police and Probation office

- Prevention of Mistreatment: Given the inadequacy of detention and remand facilities, the use of Local Council courts to handle child related cases prevents children from being mistreated and learning negative behaviours while in detention centres.

- Use and Public Acceptance of Non-custodial Sanctions and promoting alternative punishments like compensation, apology and restitution. Local Councils have also spearheaded child rights sensitization.

- Keeps children in school: Handling of children's cases by Local Council courts saves school-going children from missing classes while in detention or on remand.

d) Actors/interventions

Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development mandated to provide overall policy and implementation leadership of Child related programs in the country. There is also the 1996 National Council for Children, that was established to provide a structure and mechanism that ensures proper coordination, monitoring and evaluation of all policies and programmes relating to the survival, protection and development of the child and for other connected matters. In addition, there is the Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Children as part of parliament that was earmarked for providing parliamentary advocacy for child issues as priority during formal parliamentary debates. On the private sector, there is the Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN), an umbrella NGO for all child rights focused NGOs in Uganda

2.5   Child Refugees

As defined in the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, a refugee is defined as a person who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country or return there because there is a fear of persecution.

Table 2: **Refugee and asylum seekers in Uganda 2008:**

Sudanese	55,937
Rwandese	22,537
Congolese	48,605
Burundians	3,528
Eritreans	2,716
Kenyans	2,641
Ethiopians	1,488
Somalis	8,990
Others	144
Total	146,406

Source: *UNHCR BO Kampala, GoU, IASC Workshop Group*

There are currently still more than 112,000 displaced persons in northern Uganda, including 28,000 children. UNICEF estimates that at least 732,000 people, including approximately 183,000 children, will require humanitarian support to ensure survival during the expected turbulence of 2011.

To address some of the challenges faced by child refugees, the refugee law project was launched in 1999, it was established in response to research which indicated that refugees and asylum seekers and their children did not enjoy their rights in Uganda. Its major focus was on provision of legal Aid and psychosocial support.

The project has expanded to cover 4 thematic areas namely;

1) Access to justice,

2) Mental health and psychosocial wellbeing

3) Gender and Sexuality

4) Conflict, traditional Justice and Governance.

They train police and prisons officers on the above named thematic areas.

a)   Legal/policy frameworks

The National Policy for Internally Displaced Persons was developed in August 2004, and Uganda became one of the first countries to adopt a national policy derived from the Guiding Principles. The policy was meant primarily to address the needs of persons displaced by the armed conflict, and, also, to address the needs of persons displaced by natural or human-made disasters.

- **Establishment of District Disaster Management Committees**

In 1996 before the policy for IDPs, the Government of Uganda through the OPM issued a circular that mandated districts to take lead in the coordination of humanitarian interventions in their areas of jurisdictions.

- **The Cluster Approach**

The approach or humanitarian reform introduced largely by the international community (UN, NGOs, etc) is a way of addressing gaps and strengthening the effectiveness of humanitarian response through building partnerships with UN, NGOs and host governments. The government also as a national mandate plays a role in integrating national programs with those that support IDPs and refugees including UPE, Health and other social services.

b)   Trends/protection and other issues

As per the Refugee Law Project Report 2011, a number of issues were highlighted including the reported illegal arrests and detentions of refugees both children and adults and unfair exploitation from nationals who take advantage of their legal status.

Many of the refugee children and asylum seekers are survivors and have witnessed torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment from their countries of origin, but there are limited options for treatment and rehabilitation in Uganda.

Children seeking asylum particularly fall under nobody's care as both the Government of Uganda and UNHCR do not have a proper mechanism for taking care of them during the asylum process. Those placed under foster care are not adequately monitored to ensure their well being. As such, many children end up being abused in the process of seeking assistance from strangers, while some continue to live in very dire circumstances.

Absence of trained in-house community interpreters was affecting the quality of service delivery to the refugee communities. There is also reported lack of a systematic counselling and child support program that can help minimize traumatic feelings and experiences children go through. In addition, there are reports of child abuse, physical, emotional and sexual by the refugee adults and the host local community members who often defile refugee children, engage them in early marriage and child labour.

c) Actors/interventions

The United nations Agencies like WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF, and UNOCHA take the international lead on matters of refugees. Other international actors NGOs like Action Africa Help International, Africa Development Emergency, Organization, Africa Humanitarian Action, African Initiative for Relief and Development, Danish Refugee Council, *Deutsche Gesellschaft fürTechnische Zusammenarbeit* (GTZ), InterAid Uganda, Save the Children among others. At national level the government through the OPM, line ministries and local governments do the coordination and ensure that national interests are taken care of.

2.6 Child Labour in Uganda

Child labour in Uganda has increased by unprecedented proportion and if the current economic and social trends persist, the number of is expected to increase substantially. The major factors responsible for this increase in child labour are rapid population growth, deterioration in living standards, and inadequate capacity of education systems to cater for all the children of school age and provide them with required educational facilities.

In 1999, the ILO estimated that 44.1 percent of children between the ages of 10 and 14 were working in Uganda (World development indicators, 2001). It was noted that children are mainly employed in garages and metal workshops, selling small items on the streets, begging, washing cars. Children also work on commercial farms, including tea, coffee, and tobacco. The Government of Uganda reports that some of the worst forms of child labour in the country include heavy domestic work, commercial sex and sexual slavery, smuggling of merchandise across borders, and involvement in military operations.

It's reported that Uganda has one of the highest numbers of children working in Africa.

a) Government Legislation, Policies and Institutions on Child Labour

The Uganda Government has put in place policies and legislation to address the problem of child labour. They include the following: The National Child Labour Policy, The National Employment Policy, Plan of Action on Child Labour, The Constitution of Uganda 1995, The Employment Decree Act, The children Statute 1996, The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (GLSD), Universal Secondary Education (USE), Orphans and vulnerable Children Policy 2004. Other International Instruments include;

- The 1973 Minimum Age Convention 138
- The 1999 Convention 182 for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour
- The 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- The OAU Charter on the Rights of Children

b) Trends in Child Labour in Uganda

Research suggests a declining rate of child labour in Uganda and this has been attributed to the following factors:

- Economic growth, especially during the period 1994-2000 which could have resulted in tremendous payoffs in child labour reduction given the fact that child labour is closely linked to poverty level
- Universal Primary Education (UPE) programme initiated in 1997, with the primary goal of providing the minimum necessary facilities and resources to enable children of school-going age to enrol and complete the primary cycle of education could have contributed to the reduction in child labour. (Adam Mugume, 2008).

c) Forms and Causes of Child Labour

The common worst forms of labour in Uganda include: Agriculture, domestic labour, commercial sex exploitation, smuggling and other forms of cross border trade, street children, informal sector employment, fishing, child soldiers and child trafficking. Causes of child labour include;

- Poverty as 38% of the population in Uganda is living below the poverty line
- Economic setbacks arising from recession, climate disaster, conflict or family bereavement
- Cultural practices undermine perception of the long term value of education, especially for girl children.
- HIV/AIDS has led to depletion of household resources by prolonged absence from work and by medical expenses. When parents die, they leave behind orphans who leave school to take charge of the family.
- Irresponsible parenthood. Some parents neglect their children and do not take them to school.
- Ignorance of labour laws. There is generally lack of knowledge about labour laws among the Ugandan population.

d) Potential Stakeholders in the fight Against Child Labour

- Children – working children, former child labourers, children at risk of child labour, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of children, as well as all children in the wider community.
- Youth – vulnerable youth and concerned young people willing to serve as peer educators and role models in mobilization
- Women – especially organized women's groups of different kinds and mothers.
- Parents, families, and extended families – particularly those of the vulnerable children, including foster parents and legal guardians, as well as grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.
- Community, traditional, and religious leaders often play an important role in shaping attitudes and behaviour, particularly in rural and remote locations.
- Recreational, sports, and activity clubs — where they exist — are the places where children congregate, socialize, and express themselves more freely than in other social forums.
- Civil society groups and associations - are often active in poor communities and rural areas, particularly in

development projects or community-based initiatives to strengthen socio-economic bases and structures.

- Police and security forces, including customs, border guards, and the military involved in law enforcement.
- Community-based and local authorities, local councils at all levels provide vital support services by sensitizing communities on labour laws and enforcing these laws
- National government ministries and departments are crucial targets for advocacy campaigns aimed at achieving political and legislative development and reform.
- The media — written, audiovisual and electronic — can considerably enhance awareness-raising in the communities and also support advocacy campaigns to influence national policy, program, and resource development and reform.
- NGOs and other organizations dealing in child labour interventions like Plan for Labour Action.

e) Suggested Solutions for Elimination of Child Labour

According to the ILO, national strategies to address child labour issues should, at minimum, encompass the following five elements:

1. *National plan of action:* Single action or isolated measures against child labour will not have a lasting impact. Actions must be part of an overall national plan.

2. *Research:* To develop effective national (and international) policies and programmes, extensive research must be undertaken to determine the state of child labour.

3. *Awareness:* Child labour is often viewed as an unavoidable consequence of poverty. Without greater awareness about the extent and exploitative nature of child labour, the conditions for change will not occur.

4. *Broad social alliance*: Government action against child labour often ends with making laws. Initiatives against child labour traditionally come from non-governmental organizations that have limited resources. There is need for collective effort in the fight against child labour by all segments of civil society — the media, educators, artists and parliamentarians.

6. *Institutional capacity:* To formulate and execute a national policy, an institutional mechanism (such as

a ministry or a department) within the Government must be created to monitor enforcement

2.7   Children abused and neglected

According to the Police Annual Crime Report of 2012, defilement remained the commonest crime against children. Overall, 7690 cases were reported. Other cases reported include the following:

Table 3: **Cases on children abused and neglected**

Nature of crime	Number of cases reported
Child trafficking	69
Child sacrifice	8
Child neglect	8075
Child desertion	1973
Child torture	1775
Child kidnapping	125
Infanticide	66
Other(assault and incest)	423

The government with support from UNICEF and NGOs including Save the Children and African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) have taken measures to combat this evil.

2.8   Child marriage

The legal minimum age for marriage is 18 years. However, relevant authorities did not enforce the law (Uganda Human Rights Commission Report, 2012).The same report stated that marriage of underage girls by parental arrangement was common in rural areas. Local NGOs and the Police Family and Children Unit reported that acute poverty forced some parents to give away their children as young as 12 years old. A similar problem was reported by UNICEF in its annual report of 2011 where it is stated that 12% of the women reported having married or were in marriage union before they were 15 years old.

2.9   Harmful traditional Practices

The constitution of Uganda prohibits female genital mutilation (FGM) and other related activities. The law established maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

People have not taken heed due to strong traditional beliefs held by certain communities in Uganda. For instance 30 girls were subjected to FGM in Nakapiripirit district alone in 2012 (Uganda Human Rights Commission Report, 2012).

2.10   Children of mothers in prisons

Female wings of prisons were overcrowded and in some cases conditions were life threatening (Uganda Human Rights Commission Report, 2012).The mothers did not have adequate food and this affected the health of their infants. Lack of water, poor sanitation, poor nutrition and overcrowding of prisons increased the spread of communicable diseases.

Uganda Child Helpline

There are many children in Uganda who suffer from abuse and others are neglected by their parents or their relatives. To address this challenge, Uganda introduced a toll free child helpline. The child helpline code is 116. It is accessible to all networks to report cases of child abuse which are left unreported due to gaps in the child protection system. The child helpline has its headquarters in Kampala and has satellite centres in various parts of the country.

This mechanism of child protection is used for reporting of incidents of violence, speaking out and seeking emergency assistance and getting information on available services specifically for children. Some adults also report cases on behalf of children. The Uganda Child Helpline is being recognized as an integral part of any child protection system to provide an invaluable service to children in need of care and protection. In effect a child is asking to be heard, a right that is enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The idea of the child helpline was initiated in 2005 by Uganda Child Rights NGO Network and ANPPCAN Uganda Chapter and Action for Children. The Child Helpline has gradually gained strength and was formally launched on the Day of the African Child which took place on in Lira Municipal Council on June 16, 2014.

2.11   Child Sexual Abuse

Child sexual abuse has negative and far-reaching physical, psychological, and social effects on the growth, development, and well being of the affected children. It erodes a child's dignity and self-confidence and cause health hazards such as STDs, including HIV and AIDS.

Child sexual abuse takes many forms and the following are the main forms of child sexual abuse in Uganda:

- **Defilement:** According to the crime statistics report of the Uganda Police force 2006, defilement is the most rampant form of child sexual abuse and the highest crime committed in Uganda

- **Child prostitution and commercial sex exploitation of children:** The International Labour Organization Programme on Elimination of Child Labour Report estimated that about 7,000 to 12,000 children are involved in prostitution in Uganda.

- **Child sex tourism:** Child sex tourism is the sexual exploitation of children by a person or persons who travel from their home district, home geographical region, or home country in order to have sexual contact with children (ECPAT 2008)

- **Child Trafficking:** Trafficking in children is a global problem affecting large numbers of children. UNICEF estimates as many as 1.2 million children being trafficked every year. There is a demand for trafficked children as cheap labour or for sexual exploitation.

- Statistics on Child Trafficking are not readily available in Uganda but there is evidence that it is being practiced.

- **Rape:** This is yet another major crime against children and young people that has both short and long term implications on the lives of children including STIs and traumatic effects.

- **Pornography:** According to ILO/IPEC and MoGLSD (2004) the most common form of pornographic acts among children is watching blue movies (51%) followed by watching nude photographs.

- **Incest:** Incest is defined as having sexual intercourse between person who are within the prohibited degrees of affinity and consanguinity. A situation Analysis by ANPPCAN Uganda Chapter 2007 indicated that 50% of all defilement cases reported to police, courts of law and civil society organizations involve close relatives of the victims.

- **Sexual Violence against Children living on the Streets:** In a report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, the government of Uganda estimated that Uganda is home to about 10,000 street children and 85% of these are homeless (MGLSD 2006).

a) National and International Legal and Policy Framework

The Government has put in place institutional and legislative framework on child sexual abuse and includes: The 1995 constitution of Uganda, Children's Act (2004,)

The Penal Code Act Cap 120, The National Council for Children (NCC), Family and Children's Courts (FCC) and the Uganda Police Family Protection Unit. In addition, Uganda is a signatory to the following international instruments and convention on child sexual abuse: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on Protection Against Child Abuse and Torture, ILO convention on Worst Forms of Child Labour and The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child 1992

b) NGOS/Development Agencies

There are quite a number of NGOs and development agencies involved in interventions related to child sexual abuse among which include: ANPPCAN, Save the Children Uganda, UNICEF, World Vision, UCRNN. FIDA, Legal Aid Clinic, Trans-cultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO), Action for Children, Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention, Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL), Hope after Rape, Kids in Need, Slum Aid Project and Dwelling Places. In addition there are rehabilitation programs for sexually abused and exploited children run by NGOs.

c) Factors that Put Children at a Higher Risk of Being Sexually Abused

Certain categories of children are especially at risk of sexual abuse. These include: orphans, child domestic workers, children living in slums, disabled children, children on streets, children in conflict areas, child headed households and children living with step parents. Situations that put children in danger of being sexually abused include: Household poverty, orphan hood, and employment of children (child domestic work, destitution, domestic upheavals, customs and culture/religion, lack of knowledge on child sexual abuse.

d) Recommendations

- Provide free medical examination for children who are sexually abused

- Increase the number of Police Surgeons to cope with the number of reported sexual abuses

- Trial of Sexual abuse victims should be in Camera to preserve their dignity and ensure maximum confidentiality

- The cumbersome and long court procedures involved in handling cases of sexual abuse should be reduce

- Cases involving sexual abuse should expedited in the shortest possible time

- Strengthen community systems to monitor and report violence, abuse against children, child neglect. This can include for example structuring LCs in the official reporting systems.

- Provision of enough support services to families of vulnerable children and the child victims like referral medical services and income generation.

- Strengthen and support referral systems by linking community protection mechanisms to local and national government structures

- Encourage participation of children, build their capacities to equip them with life skills, protection skills and enable them to monitor and report abuse as well as seek support after abuse

- Improve coordination mechanisms at district levels for enhanced access of services

- There is need to expedite the amendment of the Children's Act to address the existing loopholes/gaps

- There are still some gaps in Government of Uganda legal frame work, the Convention on

- the rights of child that would need to be addressed like in the penal code making provision to criminalize child recruitment into the armed forces, and birth registration.

2.12 Children with Disability

Child disability has been increasingly recognized as a human rights issue that is often associated with social exclusion as well as vulnerability to poverty. According to the NDP 2010, about 7% of the population (1.9 million) people in Uganda have disabilities of which 47.6 per cent have permanent disabilities. Approximately 10% of the total number of Children in Uganda has at least one form of disability. A breakdown of the causes of disability among Children in Uganda include; polio, cerebral palsy, epilepsy and visual impairment. The 2002 census further revealed that that about a third (30 percent) of the PWDs were children (below 18 years old) and about a half (49 percent) of the people with a hearing problem were children. More than half of the people with speech problem or Epilepsy were children. On the other hand, the majority of people with sight problem and children with sight problem and rheumatism were 19% and 21% respectively.

The Uganda National Household Survey of 2005/6 revealed that disability the rate in Uganda was 7% while the survey of 2009/10 indicated disability rate of 16%. This is closely related to the 15% disability rate of World Health Organisation (WHO, 2010).

According to the National Council for Disability report (2012), 55% of the children with disabilities lacked functional literacy skills and only 33% had completed primary seven. It was also reported that some children with mental disabilities were denied food and other basic needs. To make matters worse, they were tied on trees like goats in order to control their movements. The report further the rights of children with autism and learning difficulties were ignored due to insufficient special needs schools and teachers.

a) Legal/legislative framework

The government established a National Council for Disability Act 2002 which was enacted by parliament to promote the rights of persons with disability as stipulated in the existing international conventions and legal instruments.

In addition, the government established, the National Policy on disability 2006 whose strategic objective is to promote equal opportunities and enhanced empowerment, participation and protection of persons with disabilities irrespective of gender, age and type of disability. The Persons with Disabilities Act 2006 which provides a legal basis for the implementation of the national policy on disability, the Uganda Foundation for the Blind Act (1954) which focuses on training and welfare of blind persons and the National Council for Disability which provides for coordination mechanisms and monitoring of all stakeholders involved in planning and implementation of programmes and projects on disability. The Uganda Constitution 1995, Article 32 and 35 make provision for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities towards equalization of opportunity and for related matters. On the international level, Uganda has ratified the United Nations Convention on Rights of persons with Disability, the UN Convention on elimination of all forms of Discrimination, the UN Convention on the right of Children and the UN Convention on Universal Primary education.

b) Current African Disability trends

The current trend in service delivery with regard to disability is associations and partnership formation, such as disabled-persons organizations, community-based organizations, and international partnerships with donors, the community and advocacy-based agencies.

Also, disability is increasingly being conceptualized as a human-rights issue as well as an important focus of poverty eradication.

d) Causes of Disability

An analysis of the 2002 Census shows that one in three children was born disabled and the rest became disabled after they were born (later in life), with the major cause of disability being disease (56%). Accidents (transport, occupational, others accidents not specified) accounted for one in ten among the disabled children and 0.3 percent of the children became disabled due to war. These results suggest that the environment in which a child is born has profound influence on the extent of child's disability.

e) Types of Disability

According to the 2002 Census, the main types of disability were hearing difficulty (21%), followed by limited use of legs (20%), sight difficulty (13%), and limited use of arms (6%). Related to these four is deafness (5%), loss of legs (2.1%), blindness (1%) and loss of arms (1%). Generally, most of the disability (85%) was physical. Non physical disability (mental retardation, mental illness, epileptic rheumatism) accounted for just over 15 percent.

f) NGOs and Other Institutions Involved Programmes/Interventions on Children with Disability

In Uganda, NGOs/Institutions with focus interventions of child disability include: The National Union of Disabled Persons in Uganda(NUDIPU) (Umbrella organisation) Action on Disability and Development (ADD), National Association of the Deafblind in Uganda (NADBU), Blind But Able (BBA), Community Based Rehabilitation Alliance (COMBRA), Uganda National Association of the Blind (UNAB), Uganda National Action on Physical Disability (UNAPD), National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda (NUWODU), Mental Health Uganda (MHU), Epilepsy Support Association Uganda (ESAU), Uganda Parents of Children with Learning Disabilities (UPACLED), Disabled Women's Network and Resource Organization (DWNRO), Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC), Katalemwa Cheshire Home.

g) International NGOs/ Donor Agencies

International NGOs and donor agencies involved with child disability include: USAID/OMEGA, NUDIPU/APT, Leonard Cheshire Disability, The World Food Programme,

Norwegian Association of the Disabled, World Vision, Association of Volunteers in International Service and UNDP. The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development is the line ministry for disability issues.

h) Challenges

- Absence of social protection programmes for children with disabilities in Uganda.
- Reluctance by employers to employ people with disabilities, in the belief that they were incapable of holding down a job
- Negative social attitudes towards people with disability, particularly in the fields of education, health and justice.
- Neglect of the needs of children with disability. Some parents and family members neglect the needs of disabled children, mainly due to poverty and social exclusion
- Lack of a basic understanding of child health and development among parents makes it difficult to prevent disablement especially during pregnancy and early years of the child
- Prolonged war and civil strife that has led to increased poverty level and isolation, high levels of HIV/AIDS as well as increased dependency Increase in the syndrome; particularly in Northern Uganda.

i) Recommendations

- A comprehensive baseline to generate disability-disaggregated data is needed in order to define and locate all children with disability and to provide appropriate services.
- should be conducted to determine the prevalence rates of children with disabilities in Uganda
- The Uganda Bureau of Statistics and the National Council for Disability should develop input, output and outcome indicators that effectively monitor the extent to which disability has been mainstreamed and included in public
- Disability awareness training should be provided to staff at all levels of local government
- The government and other participating NGOs, stakeholders etc should undertake a comprehensive needs assessment of the assistance needed by people with disabilities in Uganda with people with full participation of people disabilities during this needs assessment
- The government of Uganda Government of Uganda should consider the possibility of developing other forms of social protection for people with disabilities or improve and strengthen the existing legislation as

part of a national social protection framework and action plan

Conclusion

The situation of vulnerable children is still in a dire state and far from solved. The increasing population geared by increasing birth rate in Africa and Uganda in particular is a call for concern. Research shows that Poverty is a crosscutting issue for vulnerability not only to children but the communities and the population at large. Internal conflicts, family breakdowns, wars, uncoordinated child programs and government inefficiencies contribute to vulnerability of the population.

Currently a number if child intervention programs by civil society and government are being undertaken to address vulnerability of the population. These interventions are more of "project focus", un-coordinated, traditional/conventional in nature not programs which are broad in nature to encompass wider interventions incorporating vital structures like family units, community structures like LCs, and finally enriching the programs with creative and Innovative interventions which are Pro poor.

The consultants are of the view that USPP conducts a mapping exercise for all stakeholders in child programming per theme around the country. This can be done with the help of the NGO registration board. After this, conduct a profiling exercise on all these stakeholders to get more data/information on their activities; have an opportunity to interface and sensitize them on the need for social protection for children in Uganda.

Appendix 1: Summary Status of Vulnerable Children

Category of children (themes)	Status of children	Existing child social protection processes (structure, systems, procedures)	What needs improvement (Gaps)	How to improve the gaps (what needs to be done on the gaps)
Children affected by Conflict	Over 25,000 children adolescents were forcefully recruited into the LRA.	**International Initiatives** 1612 Monitoring Uganda the LRA, UPDF and LDUs were listed as parties recruiting and using children in the annex to the Secretary-Generals annual report on children and armed conflict between 2002 and 2007¹. Uganda has now been delisted.	Children among IDPs that are either in transit or in un gazetted camps not accessing basic services.	A more clinical approach may be needed for the severely affected and are still failing to recover.
	90 % of the child soldiers continued to be exposed to violence once they returned two thirds of them suffered from significant mental health problems.	The US Government has committed itself to help Uganda, DRC, Southern Sudan and CAR deal with the LRA by passing the LRA Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act,	There is need to address post conflict traumatic effects for children affected by the war.	Programmes like the PRDP and KIDP etc should have a fully drawn up provision on protection of children before, during and after [armed] conflict and other disasters etc.
	187,305 IDPs in Northern Uganda as of March 2011/ about half may be children.	Uganda a signatory of the ICC. 5 top LRA commanders have already been indicted.	The UN and other child protection actors have raised concerns over delays in releasing children and women rescued from the LRA.	UDPF upholds memorandum of Understanding with UNICEF and Save the Children on agreed standard procedures concerning reception of formerly abducted children.
	183,000 refugee children mainly from DRC, Rwanda, Somalia and Sudan	**Local Initiatives** Repatriation of children rescued from the LRA Child protection IASC sub cluster and the national	There is need to fill knowledge gaps about understanding the long-term effects of war on children and young people.	
	Child Mothers and their minors in need of livelihood support.	UPDF supported by UNICEF and Save the Children To establish Child Protection Units for the reception of children rescued from the LRA.		Reconciliation and healing initiatives should move to a broader level to deal with regional grievances- model around the Truth and Reconciliation Model. The process should
	UPDF continues to receive children and women abducted by LRA-77% went through CMI and UDPF Child protection Units.	Amnesty Act and the Amnesty Commission provide for protection of persons (including children) that have been involved in armed rebellion. War Crimes Division of the Uganda High court has been established to deal with serious crimes against humanity.	There is need to scale up education(tailored to the special needs of children affected by conflict), vocational training, livelihood enhancement and life skills for support special groups of vulnerable children and young persons like the 'Child Mothers'	
	The UN has removed Uganda from its list of countries that actively recruit children into armed forces.	Many international and local NGO, and the UN bodies, and OPM have played an active role in mitigating the effects of armed conflict during and after the conflicts in N.Uganda, E.Uganda, West Nile and the Rwenzori region UNICEF and partners like Save the Children have been involved in supporting the establishment of Child Protection Committees **Programmes** NAADS Nusaf 1&2 PRDP NUREP ALNEP	UPE/USE quality issues limiting benefits accruing to formerly abducted children.	

Category of children (themes)	Status of children	Existing child social protection processes (structure, systems, procedures)	What needs improvement (Gaps)	How to improve the gaps (what needs to be done on the gaps)
Orphaned children	Children (Under 18 years) constitute 57.4% of Uganda's 30.7 million people.	OVC Situational Analysis Studies conducted in 2003 and 2009	National OVC services still remain uncoordinated, incomprehensive, unsustainable and inappropriate.	Increased funding for OVC interventions to enable scaling up of prevention, treatment and care services for children especially OVCs.
	51% of children in Uganda are considered moderately (43%) or critically vulnerable (8%).	The Children's Act (2003) passed, Other relevant legislations protective of Children include the NCC Statute (1996), the National Youth Council Act (2003), the Penal Code Act (Cap.160), the Local Governments Act (1997), and the Succession Act (1964).	Key quality issues exist concerning UPE and USE.	Improve technical capacity of Districts and CSO
	3,000,000 children live below the poverty line.		Reduction in commitment from donors, just to mention but a few.	
	15% of children in Uganda, about (2,000,000) are orphaned and the number of orphans continues to grow.	National OVC Policy established in 2004. Followed by the NSPPI (MGLSD 2004b) and the Quality Standards for the Protection, Care, and Support of OVC in Uganda	Creation of new districts presents a challenge and calls for more resources to create new structures and systems for OVC.	
	At least one in every four households has an orphan.	UPE and USE programs now in place and have helped many vulnerable children to access school		
	Only 11% of 8.1milion children in dire need of services have been reached by external services (education, Heath psychosocial etc).	Within the framework of decentralized governance, local governments have the mandate to plan for OVCs as well as implement a range of programmes in the area of health, education, child protection and legal support.	Health centres particularly II and III further lack equipment for testing children and for diagnosing other ailments. Health personnel lack the requisite training to meet psychosocial needs of children.	
	105,000 children are living with HIV/AIDS and are in need of ART critical for their survival, only 27% are accessing ART. There 20,000 new infections among children every year.	115 out of the 300 health care facilities accredited by Ministry of Health (MOH) have integrated paediatric HIV care.	Supplementary feeding for children on ART is a problem due to poverty.	
			District Human Resource capacity	
			LCs incorporate the reporting structures towards birth registration and abuse	
			Poverty eradication mechanisms include specific provisions for supporting orphans and other vulnerable children	

Category of children (themes)	Status of children	Existing child social protection processes (structure, systems, procedures)	What needs improvement (Gaps)	How to improve the gaps (what needs to be done on the gaps)
Children in conflict with the law	UNDP, Human Development Report, 1999 1.0% of total prisoners were juveniles for various offences The INTERPOL, International Crime Statistics for 1998, citing National Statistics 1998 showed that the specific offences involving juveniles were: 34 cases of murder (1.83% of all murders), 189 cases of serious assault (2.53% of all cases), 119 cases of all types of theft (1.10% of all cases), 10 cases of robbery and violent theft (1.10% of all cases). Police report of 2008, out of the total 119,072 cases recorded by police, 2,421 were committed by juvenile offenders giving (2%) In 2010 report 1,1o6 crimes that range from defilement, theft, assault etc committed by juveniles.	• Both regional and international legislations/ treaties/conventions that set standards as minimum requirements for the treatment of children in conflict with the law. • UDHR, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights(ICCPR),the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights(ICESCR), the UNCRC, the UN Beijing Rules, the African Charter on the welfare of children, The Uganda Constitution, the Children's Act • LC structures • NCC • PWOs	• Poor birth registration • Abject Poverty • Breakdown of family unit • Influence of peer pressure • Limited Community and child awareness of the on national laws regarding children • Few police stations nationwide with cells for juvenile offenders • Very few remand homes in the country • Corruption among the police and judiciary	• Strengthen birth registration to determine right age of offenders • Poverty eradication programs • Strengthen community awareness on child protection laws and policies. • Provide police with capacity to provide cells for juvenile offenders • Facilitate all local governments with Remand homes • Fight corruption among the legal institutions of government. • Strengthen local council courts as courts of first instance to cases of children in conflict with the law. • Justice law and order Sector reform that promote developing innovative and achievable strategies and plans e.g. alternative dispute resolution methods, diversion from the justice system
Refugee children	UNICEF estimates that there are currently still more than 112,000 displaced persons in northern Uganda, including 28,000 children In addition at least 732,000 people, including approximately 183,000 children, will require humanitarian support to ensure survival during the expected turbulence of 2011.	• National IDP policy • District Disaster management Committees • Cluster approach	• Internal and external armed conflicts • Poverty and income inequalities • undemocratic governance	• Increasing democratic governance and accountability • Equal benefit on the national cake • Promoting peaceful conflict resolution

Category of children (themes)	Status of children	Existing child social protection processes (structure, systems, procedures)	What needs improvement (Gaps)	How to improve the gaps (what needs to be done on the gaps)
Street children	According to Caritas (2001), currently there were over 10,000 street children in Uganda, and 85% of these are homeless January 2009 report by Consortium for Street Children, Out of an estimated 8 000 Street Children in Uganda around 4 000 children live on the streets of Kampala.	Local councils with mandate to plan child focused programs Child and Family Protection Unit of Children Act	• Weak family unit • Abject Poverty • Gaps in UPE and USE • Limited Vocational skills opportunities • Limited participation of children in policy formulation and program development.	• Acceptance of the problem as real and needing urgent focus • Strengthen the role of education • Strengthen the family unit • Finding gainful employment for the street children • Their voices need to be heard- increase their participation • Involve more NGOs in interventions.
Children with disabilities	• The Uganda 2002 National Census revealed that children (aged 0-17) constituted nearly 30 percent of the PWD • The Census revealed that the proportion of disabled children was higher in rural areas (1.9%) compared to urban areas (1.4%). • The Northern region had the highest proportion of disabled children (2.4%), followed by Eastern (1.8%). Central (1.6% and Western (1.6%) had the least proportion of disabled children. • Approximately 10% of the total number of Children in Uganda has at least one form of disability • Out of the total number of Children with Disabilities, 5.8% have special needs and therefore need special attention.	Legislation • The 1995 Constitution, Article 32 • The Persons with Disabilities Act, 2006. • The National Council for Disability Act 2003 • The Equal Opportunities Act 2008 • Education (Pre-primary, Primary, Post-Primary) Act 2008 • The Local Government Act 1997 • The Children's Act 1996 • The Universities and Tertiary Institutions Act 2001 • The Uganda Traffic and Road Safety Act 1998 Institutions • Prime Minister's Office • Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development • Parliament (5 seats) • Local councils (Representation at every council level) • The National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU) with National Single Impairment Groups • The Uganda National Association of the Deaf • The Uganda National Association of the Blind • Uganda National Action on Physical Disabilities • The National Union of Women with Disabilities in Uganda	• Absence of adequate social protection programmes for children with disabilities in Uganda • Negative social attitudes towards children with disability especially in education, health and justice • Neglect of the needs of children with disability by some parents and family members, mainly due to poverty and social exclusion • Lack of a basic understanding of child health and development among parents makes it difficult to prevent disablement especially during pregnancy and early years of the child • Lack of robust statistical data on disability issues, particularly at District level and below • inadequate implementation modalities for policies on children with disability • Lack of coordination between different line ministries dealing with child disability	• A comprehensive baseline should be conducted to determine the prevalence rates of children with disabilities in Uganda • The government of Uganda should consider the possibility of developing other forms of social protection for people with disabilities as part of a national social protection framework and action plan • The Uganda Bureau of Statistics and the National Council for Disability should develop input, output and outcome indicators that effectively monitor the extent to which disability has been mainstreamed and included in public institutions • Sensitisation campaigns on child disability should be conducted at all levels of government structures and institutions

Category of children (themes)	Status of children	Existing child social protection processes (structure, systems, procedures)	What needs improvement (Gaps)	How to improve the gaps (what needs to be done on the gaps)
Children facing sexual abuse	• Defilement was ranked among the six leading crimes in 2008-2010. • A total of 7,564 cases investigated in 2010. 21 % girls and 7% boys aged 15-19 years were reported to have experienced sexual abuse • The International Labour Organization Programme on Elimination of Child Labour Report estimated that about 7,000 to 12,000 children are involved in prostitution in Uganda. • In 2000/2001 it was reported that there were 65,000 married children (UBOS demographic and health survey).	Legislation • The 1995 constitution of Uganda • Children's Act (2004) • The National Council for Children (NCC) • Family and Children's Courts (FCC) NGOs • ANPPCAN Uganda Chapter • Hope after Rape • Kids in Need • Slum Aid Project • Dwelling Places • UNICEF • Save the children Uganda • Trans-cultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO) • Action for Children • Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention • Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL)	• The capacity of Police Officers from the CFPU to provide psychosocial support services to victims of child sexual abuse is still limited. • The few Social Workers available in the community are overwhelmed by the exceedingly huge volume of Child Sexual abuse cases • Police Stations lack Victim Support Units/centres (VSU) where sexually abused children can be accommodated while undergoing rehabilitation and receiving psychological support. • Some parents are not very cooperative and are reluctant to follow up cases of their abused children to the end, to ensure justice. • Most victims of child sexual abuse cannot afford the required expenses for medical examination as • Children are not followed up owing to lack of facilitation and other logistical inadequacies. • Some of the child abusers are also their guardians or relatives. This makes it difficult for the CFPU to pursue such cases	• Designate more Police Officers to the CFPU • The government should recruit more Social Workers in each district • The government should intensify community education programmes on child abuse and rights. • Follow-ups should be made on all reported cases of child sex abuse. • Adequate facilitation and other logistical support should be given to CFPU and other people involved in child protection services

Category of children (themes)	Status of children	Existing child social protection processes (structure, systems, procedures)	What needs improvement (Gaps)	How to improve the gaps (what needs to be done on the gaps)
Child Labour	• In 1999, the ILO estimated that 44.1 percent of children between the ages of 10 and 14 were working in Uganda (World development indicators, 2001) • Working children in Uganda, 5-14 years = 31.1% (2005-2006) • Working boys, 5-14 years = 32.4% (2005-2006) • Working girls, 5-14 years = 29.8 (2005-2006) • Working children by sector ○ Agriculture = 95.5% ○ Manufacturing = 1.3% ○ Services = 3.0% ○ Other = 0.2% • Minimum working age =14 years ***Source***: *USA Department of Labour, 2008).*	**Legislation** • The Constitution of Uganda 1995 • The Employment Act 2006 • The National Child Labour Policy • The National Employment Policy • Uganda Penal Code • Plan of Action on Child Labour • The children Statute 1996 • Universal Primary Education • Universal Secondary Education (USE) • Orphans and vulnerable Children Policy 2004 **Institutions** • The Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development (MGLSD • Ministry of Education and Sports • Uganda Bureau of Statistics • Child and Family Protection Unit of the National Police **Key NGOs/Development Agencies** • ANPPCAN • Uganda Youth Development Link • Save the Children Uganda • UNICEF • World Vision • ILO-IPEC • PLA **International Conventions/Instruments** • The 1973 Minimum Age Convention 138 • The 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child • The OAU Charter on the Rights of Children	• Failure by some development partners to view child labour as a major development problem has resulted in very few donors supporting child labour issues • Inadequate innovative ways of dealing with child labour in conflict areas • Inadequate school facilities that can attract and retain children in school e.g. school uniforms, books and food • In adequate Vocational Training Opportunities • Most donors for child labour programmes have a short funding cycle. This makes it difficult to do any long term work with the children.	• The government should ensure implementation of national laws and international conventions for its elimination. • There is need for the government to explore the possibility of introducing "conditional cash transfers" (CCT) –payments to poor households made on condition that school children attend school • The National Development Plan should include specific interventions for elimination of child labour • Child labour issues should be addressed within the context of broader human development interventions because the fight against child labour therefore shares common ground with poverty reduction programmes • A rights-based approach to child labour should be mainstreamed in relevant child interventions at all levels based on existing labour laws • The government should enhance vocational training, technologies, and rural development to improve productivity • Apprenticeship programs should be emphasized in vocational training • The government, through the relevant ministries, should focus on basic literacy and numeracy and integrating life skills into education programs, including HIV/AIDS • The government should intensify awareness raising campaigns about child labour and the importance of education.

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