



UCRNN

UGANDA CHILD RIGHTS NGO NETWORK



Promoting Child Rights

Prioritizing Children in the **FY2025/26** Planning and Budgeting Process

CSO Position Paper

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In Partnership with:



Save the
Children

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1.0 Acknowledgement

Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN) would like to acknowledge the following child focused CSOs for their input in developing this paper: **Children at Risk Action Network (CRANE), World Vision, the Afri-Child Centre, Every Child Ministries (ECM), SOMERO-Uganda, Plan International, SOS Children's Villages, Youth for Tax Justice Network, Uganda Community Based Association for Women and Children Welfare (UCOBAC), Concern for the Girl Child (CGC)** with technical guidance and support from Eriks Development Partner and Save the Children.



Executive Director's Foreword.

On behalf Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN), as a network we are deeply committed to ensuring that the needs of children are prioritized in the upcoming FY2025/26 planning and budgeting process. Children and youth comprise a staggering 73.2% of Uganda's population, making their well-being a crucial factor in the country's development.

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the child-focused civil society organizations that have collaborated with UCRNN in developing this position paper. Your input and expertise have been invaluable in shaping the recommendations and ensuring that they address the most pressing issues affecting children in Uganda. Organizations such as Children at Risk Action Network (CRANE), World Vision, the Afri-Child Centre, Every Child Ministries (ECM), SOMERO-Uganda, Plan International, SOS Children's Villages, Youth for Tax Justice Network, Uganda Community Based Association for Women and Children Welfare (UCOBAC), Concern for the Girl Child (CGC), and with support from Eriks Development Partner and Save the Children have all played a vital role in this process.

The recent multidimensional child poverty report paints a concerning picture, with 70% of children lacking age-appropriate books, over 40% not receiving three meals a day, and one in three children unable to visit health facilities when sick. These statistics underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions and increased funding in key sectors such as education, health, and child protection.

Despite the projected increase in the FY2024/25 budget, allocations for the Youth and Children department have remained stagnant at UGX 10.9 billion, reflecting a downward trend in funding despite the growing child population. This trend must be reversed to ensure that children receive the support they need to thrive.

The government has made commendable strides in human capital development, including improvements in healthcare and educational infrastructure. However, more needs to be done to adequately fund programs that directly benefit children and youth. We call upon policymakers to consider the recommendations outlined in this position paper, which aim to address critical issues in the health, education, and child protection sectors.

Our Key recommendations:

- Increasing health expenditure to combat malnutrition and improve child health outcomes, with a focus on food security and nutrition interventions.
- Strengthening school monitoring and supporting curriculum assessment to ensure quality education delivery.
- Addressing the educational needs of refugee children in affected districts.
- Establishing a framework for the sustainable financing of medical oxygen to improve maternal and child health outcomes.

By prioritizing children's rights and well-being in the national budget, policymakers can significantly improve outcomes for children and youth in Uganda, ultimately fostering a healthier and more educated population. UCRNN stands ready to collaborate with the government and other stakeholders to ensure that every child in Uganda has the opportunity to reach their full potential.



DAMON WAMARA
Executive Director
UGANDA CHILD RIGHTS NGO NETWORK

1.1 About the position paper

This paper assesses and shares civil society insights and recommendations on key child sensitive sector issues from the recent national budgets for FY2023/24 and FY2024/25.

It focuses on social sectors such as education, health and child protection and points out what needs to be considered by the relevant Government Ministries, departments and Agencies in the upcoming planning and budgeting process for FY2025/26.

1.2 Introduction

Uganda's recent National and Housing Census revealed an increase of 11.3 million persons from the 2014 census. Key to note is that the census revealed that children (0-17years) and youth (18-30years) comprised 50.5% and 22.7% of the total population respectively, a combined percentage total of 73.2%. This signifies that Uganda has one of the youngest populations in the world, a feat that the policy makers need to put under consideration as they plan and budget for the country in the medium to long term.

Furthermore, the 2024 multidimensional child poverty report reveals several concerning issues including 7 in 10 children do not have any books at home that are suitable for their age, more than 40% of children do not get three meals a day – hunger and malnutrition are widespread and almost a third of young children are stunted, 1 in 3 children cannot visit a health facility or get the medicine they need when they are sick and 3 in 10 children don't have the soap and toiletries they need to keep themselves clean.

On the policy front, the National Child Policy (2020) demonstrates the commitment by the Government of Uganda to ensure the well-being of all children. This is a considerable stride in the Country's efforts to uphold children's rights. Many of the obstacles to improving child outcomes can be directly traced to public financial management challenges. Public financing for children should be structured around the broad categories of children's rights; survival, development, protection, participation, and system strengthening to anchor and sustain its effective and coordinated implementation in the short and long run.

1.3 A snapshot of the FY2024/25 budget

The recent FY2024/25 budget amounts to UGX 72.130 trillion, up from UGX 52.736 trillion in FY2023/24.

This comprises domestic revenues of UGX 32.38 trillion, budget support of UGX 1.393 trillion, domestic financing of UGX 8.967 trillion, domestic debt refinancing of UGX 19.8 trillion and project support of UGX 9.583 trillion.

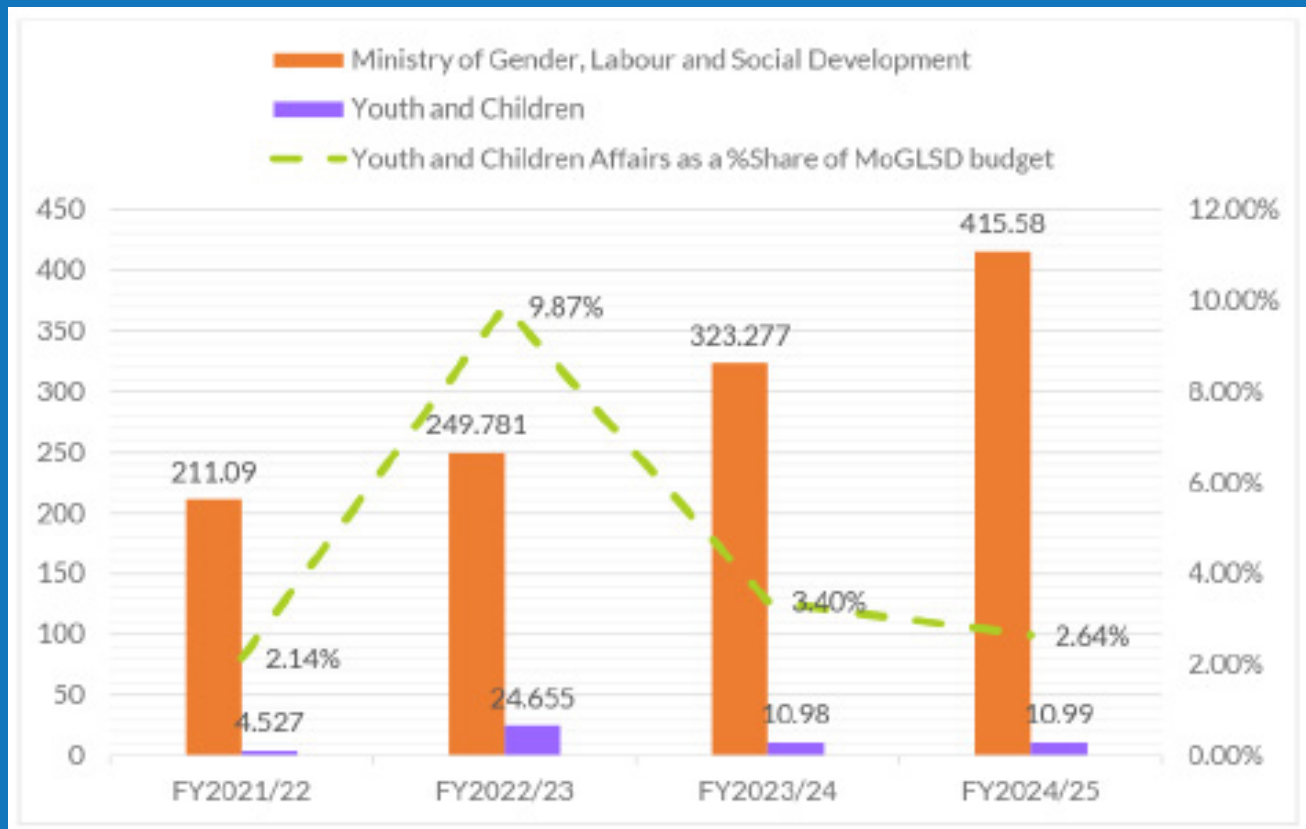
Despite this projected increase in the resource envelope, a significant proportion of the commitments that will take first expenditure call revolve around public debt such as external debt repayments of UGX 3.149 trillion, domestic refinancing of UGX 12.021 trillion, interest payments of UGX 9.064 trillion, Bank of Uganda (BoU) recapitalization of UGX 603 billion and domestic debt payment (BoU) of UGX 9.1 trillion among others.

On a positive note, programme allocations towards the human capital development programme where the biggest proportion of child sensitive interventions lie is projected to increase from UGX 9.58 trillion in FY2023/24 to UGX 9.964 trillion in FY2024/25.

1.4 Budget allocation towards Youth and Children department

Overall allocations towards the Gender and Social Protection sub-sub programme which comprises several interventions that have a direct bearing on child sensitive interventions including the department of Youth and Children is projected to be maintained at UGX 172.733 billion in FY2024/25. More concerningly, the youth and children department budget allocation is projected to be maintained at UGX 10.9 billion in FY2024/25 as shown in figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Budget allocation to the Youth and Children Department (UGX Bns) – FY21/22 to FY24/25



Source: Approved budget estimates FY2021/22 – FY2024/25

Budget allocation towards the Youth and Children department has been on a downward trajectory in the recent financial years. Between FY2021/22 and FY2022/23, the allocation increased significantly from UGX 4.5 billion to UGX 24.6 billion respectively. However, the trajectory has taken a declining trend between FY2022/23 and FY2024/25. This has a significant impact on the adequacy and effectiveness of social services to children in communities despite the fact that the children and youth comprise about 73.2% of the total population as evidenced by the 2024 national population census.

1.5 Milestones made by Government in FY2023/24

We commend the Government of Uganda for the continued investment in human capital development through prioritization of healthcare, education, water, sanitation and hygiene. Below is some of the progress made in the previous 2023/24 Financial Year:

- Digitization of the national health system to facilitate service delivery and tracking of medical supplies and health workers' performance.
- Upgrading of learning facilities in 12 Technical Institutes, and four Vocational Education Centres of Excellence at Uganda Technical Colleges in Bushenyi, Bukalasa, Lira, and Elgon.
- Construction and equipping of 21 laboratories across the country, in selected secondary schools using the UPDF Engineering Brigade.
- Out of 259 seed secondary schools planned under UGIFT, 105 have been completed and 144 are on-going.
- Under the Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP), a total of 23,083 youth projects have benefitted 263,897 youths in areas of agriculture, trade, services and industry. This has created over 1,250,000 indirect jobs
- Water coverage in rural areas is now estimated at 67 percent, and 73 percent in urban areas. Out of 71,225 villages, 56,617 villages have been served with at least one safe water source.

2.0 Key CSO issues and recommendations

The following are the key CSO issues and recommendations that Government should consider as it embarks on the planning and budgeting process for FY2025/26 under the health, education and child protection sub-sectors.

2.1 Health Sub-sector

Expenditure on health is crucial for the sustainable reduction of poverty and breaking the vicious cycle of poverty experienced by roughly 21 per cent of Ugandans. An increase in spending on health can have significant benefits for Ugandan Society, including the reduction of under-five and infant deaths from the current 52 per 1000 and 36 per 1000 respectively.

Recommendations

1. There is need for Government through the Ministry of Health to prioritize and scale up nutrition financing since malnutrition among Uganda's young children and mothers has significant economic costs for the malnourished individual, their households and communities while ensuring nutrition commodities are prioritized.
2. Government needs allocate funds towards strengthening nutrition sensitive awareness and develop skills to initiate and upscale community-led activities against stunting and malnutrition.
3. The Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries needs to adopt the recommendation from the budget committee to allocate UGX 400 billion annually in the next 2 years, for food security and related interventions, with a focus on dietary diversity and food safety.

2.1.2 Limited Investment in Primary Health Care

Primary Health Care is the most inclusive, equitable, cost-effective and efficient approach to enhance people's physical and mental health, as well as social well-being. It enables delivering universal and integrated access to health services as close as possible to people's everyday environments. It also helps deliver the full range of quality services and products that people need for health and well-being, thereby improving coverage and financial protection. Despite the government's commitment to transit from curative to preventive health care, community health interventions coverage in Uganda is still low. Roll out of the Community Health Workers Registry and e-Community Health Information System is very low affecting follow up and reporting rates for the Village Health Teams (VHTs). Relatedly, the wage bill for the sector has remained stagnant meaning that the ministry is unable to recruit and fill positions in the new staffing structure that would support the PHC function. It is key to note that VHTs are

2.1.1 Prevalence of malnutrition in communities

Optimal nutrition during childhood is critical for child growth and development, both in the immediate and in the long term. Addressing malnutrition is part of SDG 2 that countries have committed to, with the aim of ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition by 2030. While child nutrition indicators have improved slightly over the past 15 years, stunting, severe wasting and intrauterine growth retardation cause half of all under-five deaths in Uganda. According to the 2022 UDHS, 26 percent of children under five are stunted and 2.9 percent are wasted (UBOS, 2022). The major cause of malnutrition among children in Uganda are majorly attributed to household food insecurity and these include inadequate dietary intake due to poor feeding frequency, poor feeding practices, insufficient diverse diet and limited awareness about the problem of nutrition.

the cornerstone of the country's PHC and therefore failure to train, retool and remunerate them means that government commitment as provided in the FY2024/25 National Budget Framework Paper of "Expansion of Community level health promotion, education, and prevention services in all programs" will be difficult to achieve.

Recommendations

1. There is need to enhance Primary Health Care budgets to cater for training, retooling and compensating of VHTs; incentivize VHTs to meet RMNCAH performance standards within the expanded community package.
2. Provide an additional wage bill for recruitment of PHC related staff under the new health sector staffing norm. Since priority is to migrate from curative to prevention services, this should be reflected in the recruitment of new staff and to strengthen supervisory structures.
3. We appeal to Government to explore the option of investing in the digitization and operationalisation of community Health Information Systems to enable real time data for disease surveillance and to inform planning and decision making as planned in the Sharpened Plan II.

2.1.3 Limited Provision of Adolescent and Youth Health Services

According to the Uganda Demographic Health Survey 2022, teenage pregnancy continued to stagnate at 24%. The Ministry of Health (MoH) through health facilities across the country continued with the provision of free adolescent and youth-friendly services that are tailored to their needs. The Ministry of Health is dedicated to ensuring that adolescents and young people are given the information and services they need to remain healthy by all stakeholders at all levels. The Government commits to reduce adolescent fertility rate (birth rate per 1,000 adolescent women aged 10-14, 14-19 years) from 108/1,000 in 2021/22 to 100/1,000 in FY 2024/25. Under the National Budget Framework Paper, (NBFP), the Government commits to, "Improve adolescent health services and fast

track the approval and implementation of the adolescent health policy", aiming to update and mainstream adolescent health concerns in the national development process. The last one was last made in 2004. Access to adolescent services continues to be a challenge because of budgetary constraints for functionalization of safe spaces for the adolescents and youth in health facilities.

Recommendations

1. Enhance investment towards functionalization of the youth friendly spaces in public health facilities with emphasis on access to information and services.
2. Government needs to allocate some funding to support the 2012 Adolescent Health Service (ADH) standards need to be reviewed and updated to address current adolescent health challenges. Additionally, the various implementation guidelines have not been approved or disseminated, hindering the effective implementation of Adolescent Health Services as adolescent health needs direct investments, not just indirect benefits from broader maternal and child health allocations.

2.1.4 Funding Limitations for Sustainable Medical Oxygen Sector

Oxygen plays a pivotal role in addressing neonatal, infant, child, and maternal health by supporting critical functions such as respiratory support in cases of birth asphyxia, pneumonia, respiratory distress syndrome and other respiratory complications. It is vital for stabilizing patients with severe infections, managing obstetric emergencies, and ensuring the survival of premature and low-birth-weight infants who are at high risk of respiratory distress. Furthermore, various studies have shown that childhood pneumonia is the leading cause of mortality globally and Oxygen is a vital component in supportive care. In Uganda, 1/3 of all admissions require Oxygen therapy with the neonatal and Paediatric units are amongst the greatest consumers of Oxygen in hospital settings and contributing to the longest average time on Oxygen therapy in hospital setting. Despite its importance, the availability of medical oxygen in Uganda's public health institutions is severely constrained due to unsustainable funding for the purchase, maintenance, and distribution of oxygen delivery equipment at the regional level. These funding challenges contribute to poor oxygen availability, exacerbating health outcomes for mothers, newborns, and children, and undermine efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality. In addressing these challenges, Uganda can significantly improve the quality of care provided to neonates, infants, children, and mothers, ultimately reducing preventable deaths and enhancing overall health outcomes in the country.

Recommendations

1. There is need for government to provide a robust framework for the sustainable financing, coordination, and governance of medical oxygen. This framework should include provisions for adequate budget allocations, investment in oxygen infrastructure, and

mechanisms for ongoing maintenance and equipment replacement to ensure consistent oxygen supply in all health facilities.

2. Amidst all the challenges and gaps, government should invest in the critical drivers on improvement of Oxygen delivery and support a regional approach to improve the Oxygen ecosystem.

3. Government needs to work towards strengthening partnerships for Oxygen with the private sector partners including Oxygen production industries like roofing, private sector facilities, map and leverage them to fill the funding gap for Oxygen in Uganda.

2.2 Education sub-sector

The education sector is one of the biggest contributors to the human capital development initiative. Low levels of human capital primarily derive from poor outcomes in education. According to the World Bank's human capital index, a child born in Uganda today will be 38 percent as productive when they grow up as they could be if they enjoyed complete education and full health. Further to this, Uganda has the potential to realize a demographic dividend by expanding education opportunities at the earliest opportunity.

2.2.1 Inadequacies in the school inspection and monitoring systems

School inspection, monitoring and support supervision is inadequate to enforce education standards and support the delivery of quality education. Despite commendable efforts made by government in school inspection like digitalizing school inspection through initiatives like Teacher Effectiveness and Learner Achievement (TELA) and E-inspections, school supervision remains insufficient which has hindered the enforcement of education standards and supporting the delivery of quality services. This could be attributed to the acute underfunding of the Directorate of Education Standards at the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES)

and local governments leading to unreliable reliable school-level supervision. The Budget Committee report on the FY2024/25 budget underscores the importance of strengthening the current inspection system. It emphasizes completing the roll-out of the TELA system to improve education quality nationwide and the e-inspection system to enhance monitoring efficiency. These recommendations aim to address the ongoing challenges and ensure effective oversight in the education sector.

Recommendation

1. The Ministry of Education and Sports and Parliament should prioritize resource allocation to the Directorate of Education Standards to support complementary physical inspections especially at this critical time of rolling out the new lower secondary school curriculum and new digital solutions.

2.2.2 Inadequate resources for assessment of the new lower secondary school curriculum

The current education and curriculum reforms proposed continuous assessment (CA) as a methodology to allow schools to assess candidates in areas not covered by summative assessment. We commend the Uganda National Examination Board (UNEB) for having developed technical tools and procedures for continuous assessment. However, there is insufficient budget allocated for retooling examiners and training teachers on these tools. Moreover, there's lack of funding for the final rollout to schools in 2024, during which UNEB is expected to collect CA scores from S.1 to S.4. UNEB faces a shortfall of UGX6.5 billion required to assess the new lower secondary school curriculum. Addressing these funding gaps is critical for the successful implementation of continuous assessment and the effective evaluation of students under the revised curriculum.

Recommendation

1. The Ministry of Education and Sports

together with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic development should repurpose some of the budget lines to create and allocate at least UGX 6.5bn to UNEB for assessing the New Lower Secondary School Curriculum.

2.2.3 Inadequate Financing of Education in Emergencies and Host Communities

As of June 2024, Uganda hosted over 1.7 million refugees and asylum seekers, primarily settled in 12 refugee hosting districts in the West, West Nile, and Kampala regions of Uganda. This has exacerbated existing challenges of poor infrastructure in schools across all education levels, placing additional strain on the education service delivery in these refugee-hosting districts. There are almost 1 million child refugees living in Uganda. The school-age population has more than doubled in Yumbe district since 2016 with refugee learners outnumbering host community learners in some schools. While schools have embraced and integrated refugee children, in line with the Government's policy commitments, district education departments lack the capacity to provide additional facilities and resources for the current number of learners. There are also staffing challenges with the pupil-to-teacher ratio in refugee-hosting districts exceeding the national average for all education levels necessitating an estimated additional 6,185 teachers to meet government standards of 25 pupils to 1 teacher for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and 53 pupils to 1 teacher for primary and secondary levels.

Recommendations

1. The Ministry of Education and Sports needs to continue its collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and OPM during the development of the transition strategy, to identify the most sustainable solutions for the continued operation of schools in refugee hosting districts.

2. Government through the Ministry of Education and Sports needs to put in place a mechanism to ensure the availability of transition learning opportunities for refugee learners, including language bridging and accelerated education in the next budgeting process.

2.2.4 Curbing the rising cost of education

Currently Uganda is implementing a hybrid system of delivery of education which include public schools, government grant-aided schools, and the purely private schools and community schools - both for profit and not for profit. Although the hybrid system has been credited for expanding access to education, it has also been equally criticised for the growing commercialization of education thus increasing the cost of education. This was evidenced in January 2024 when several schools raised their school fees and other non-tuition fees including development fee, registration fee, examination fee among others.

A 2023 study report titled “Payments in Primary and Secondary Schools Implementing UPE programmes in Uganda” revealed that Ugandan households cover 57% of overall education expenditures, which is a considerable percentage by international standards. Further to this, the National Planning Authority also indicates that about 79% of education expenditures on 6-18-year-olds, the age bracket of students in primary and secondary schools, is finance by their households, up from 43% a decade ago.

While we commend the Government on the progress made towards promoting universal primary and secondary education, we are concerned that the high cost of education threatens completion rates and rolling back significant achievements in the education sector. The lack of clear policy direction on fee payments within UPE and USE schools has created incoherence in the enforcement of unclear instructions regarding school

charges. If unchecked, the burden if school fee payments is likely to weigh heavier on vulnerable populations, including children living in impoverished households, female learners, persons living with disabilities, refugees, those living in post-conflict areas and those in hard-to-reach areas.

Recommendations

1. Parliament together with the Ministry of Education needs to look into having this issue resolved in the FY2024/25 budget process given that failure to address the rising cost of education poses a significant danger to the ability of families to enrol children in school, the learner’s future and thus hinders the country’s sustainable economic growth and development.
2. The Ministry of Education and Sports should spearhead a nationwide consultative process to develop a national-level policy framework for determining charges and their implementation.

2.3 Child Protection sub-sector

Children in Uganda continue to face several protection challenges including orphanhood, teenage pregnancy, child labour, an influx of street-connected children, and violence (MGLSD, 2020). The first-ever Uganda National Violence against Children Survey revealed that more than 76 per cent of children experienced at least one form of violence (MGLSD, 2018). Most children in Uganda have experienced physical violence that threatens and halts their holistic and positive development. According to UNICEF 2020, 59 per cent of girls and 68 per cent of boys experienced physical violence. Efforts to effectively protect children from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect continue to be undermined by the weak implementation and enforcement of existing policies and laws, poverty, limited capacity of a proactive and responsive statutory workforce and the weakening of family structures (MGLSD and

UNICEF, 2015). There is need to strengthen the national child protection system to effectively prevent and respond to abuse, violence, exploitation and neglect against children.

2.3.1 Prevalence of violence, abuse and exploitation against children

Violence against children remains high with 85 per cent of children experiencing at least one violent disciplinary action (UDHS, 2022). According to the UDHS 2016, 44 percent and 59 percent of girls and boys respectively aged 13-17 years had experienced physical violence in the year preceding the survey. Efforts to effectively protect children from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect continue to be undermined by the weak implementation and enforcement of, inadequate safeguards and weak enforcement. Results from the National Violence Against Children (VAC) survey indicate a high prevalence of all forms of violence - physical, sexual, and emotional. Among existing policies and laws 13 to 17-year-olds, 4 in 10 girls and 6 in 10 boys reported physical violence in the year preceding the survey. In addition, 1 in 4 girls (25 percent) and 1 in 10 boys (11 percent) reported sexual violence in the past year.

Recommendations

1. Government needs to enhance budget allocation towards district community-based services departments that host the function of the probation and Social Welfare Officer to support the functionality and sustainability of child well-being committees which play a key role in the planning and mobilization of resources for children. Key to note is that investing in Community Based Services strengthens communities, reduces reliance on emergency services, and saves the government money in the long run.
2. Government needs to consider the establishment of a national framework for Social Welfare Officers will strengthen

provision of trained professionals to support vulnerable populations including children while reducing the burden on the Probation and Social Welfare function at district level.

3. There is need for the Ministry of Finance to allocate resources targeted towards strengthening the implementation and enforcement of existing policies and laws in order to effectively protect children from all forms of violence such as National child policy, National child participation strategy, National child labour policy and The National Strategy to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy 2022/2023 - 2026/2027 among others.

2.3.2 Delayed access to justice

The Children Act provides for children to access justice through the Criminal and Civil Justice Systems, whether as witnesses, victims or in conflict with the law. It provides for state-funded legal aid to be availed to children who are charged with committing capital offences. While children are one of the categories of people that come into contact or conflict with the law, the current criminal justice and social welfare systems in Uganda do not have a coordinated case management process that can support survivors in receiving the required services such as legal, shelter, trauma support, information, and protection from perpetrators and hostile family members. Similarly, there are some cases that do not require formal justice processes such as simple theft and minor sexual offenses that can be settled through alternative justice mechanisms. The Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Centre, where many children in contact with the law are committed to, is under resourced and has limited provisions for counselling and reintegration of children back to their communities.

Recommendations

1. There is need for better resourcing to facilitate more coordinated case management that can effectively support survivors in

receiving the required services especially protection from perpetrators and hostile family members.

2. Government to enhance resourcing for the National Rehabilitation Centre to ensure adequate provisions for counselling and to support the reintegration of children into their families and communities.

3. Ministry of Justice and the JLOS actors should enforce implementation of the Diversionary Guidelines to safeguard children from psychological and physical effects in the formal court processes.

2.3.3 Limited child participation in the planning and budgeting processes

Children's right to participate is clearly articulated in international instruments, to which Uganda is a signatory, as well as in several national legal frameworks and policy documents. The Children Act Cap.59 (as amended) entails various provisions aimed at upholding the right of children to participate in all issues that affect their survival and development. Similarly, Section 8 of the third schedule of the Local Government Act (Cap.243) provides for the right of children to play an active role within their local communities. However, ensuring meaningful child participation is still a challenge. Some of the key barriers to child participation include a lack of understanding of what comprises meaningful child participation, unequal power relations between children, caregivers and other adults, and entrenched attitudes regarding child participation rooted in cultural and normative beliefs. Additionally, there are limitations regarding the capacity of government and civil society officials to facilitate children's participation, which requires a wide range of skills and experience.

Recommendations

1. There is need for Government through the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to support District Local

Governments in understanding what comprises meaningful child participation within the planning and budgeting processes to ensure the perspectives of children are incorporated in the budgets.

2. Government needs to prioritize resourcing the revised child participation strategy once the ongoing review process is finalized to ensure meaningful child participation in the planning and budgeting processes at national and subnational level.

2.3.4 Non-adherence to the legal provisions on climate financing

Nearly every child in the country has been affected by climate change through the occurrence of natural disasters, environmental degradation, and biodiversity loss. These devastate agriculture, cutting children off from nutritious foods and safe water. They can lead to dangerous environments and disease outbreaks, and destroy the safe shelter, quality health care and education systems that children need to survive and thrive. To address this, Government of Uganda under Section 9(6)(a) of the Public Finance Management Act 2015 (as amended), Section 30 of the Climate Change Act, 2021 and the National Environment Act 2019 made a provision for all Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) work towards mainstreaming environmental and climate change issues in their detailed budget estimates. Furthermore, in order to ensure effective budgeting for climate change, the Ministry of Finance created the climate change and climate adaptation budget outputs in the Programme Budgeting System (PBS). Unfortunately, despite these provisions, several Government Agencies including local governments are yet to fully adhere accordingly.

Recommendations

1. Accounting Officers need to develop and mainstream clear interventions for environmental conservation and mitigation and adaptation to climate change effects by defining their workplans with clear outputs and outcomes to facilitate the monitoring of implementation of the identified interventions.
2. The Ministry of Water and Environment and the National Environment Management Authority need to follow up and provide the required technical support to the Programme Working Groups to facilitate the assessment of climate integration.

3.0 Conclusion

It is worth noting that Government budgets possess significant power and influence in advancing the realization of children's rights and that children are among the biggest user groups of essential public services. Uganda cannot reach Vision 2040 or realize the potential rewards of its human capital without investing in critical areas of child development. There is therefore need for Government to re-think on how to attain the highest dividends from its bulging young population by making public investments that ensure that families are effectively supported to protect and nurture their children as well as fostering resilience in families and communities to become more self-sustaining, and able to provide stable environments in which children can thrive.

About UCRNN

Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN) is a coalition of over 150 child-focused organizations including community-based, national, and international NGOs working for the welfare and rights of over 3 million vulnerable children in Uganda. Established in 1997 to spearhead the generation of the NGO Alternative report on the progress of implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Network has over the years played a leading role in mobilizing child focused organizations for collective action at national, regional and international level and has been the CSO voice on child rights in Uganda.

Vision:

A society where children's rights are realized.

Mission:

To undertake collective action for the promotion and protection of children's rights in Uganda.



Our Subscribed Members



A large group of children, mostly boys, are seated in a classroom or school setting. They are wearing school uniforms, including light blue shirts and purple sweaters. Some children are holding books or papers. In the foreground, a teacher or adult is standing, wearing a white t-shirt with the text "Sleeping better a night" and "MUS". The background shows a large room with many more children seated at desks. The overall scene is a busy, educational environment.

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WITH CHILDREN,
BY CHILDREN.**

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