



THE NATIONAL LEARNING EVENT ON CHILD WELLBEING



Applying Legal and Policy Frameworks for Improved Child Wellbeing

October 25th – 26th, 2017

Kampala, Uganda

VOICE OF A CHILD

I opened my mouth, I spoke
Everyone stopped and stared
'Hold on, Hold on'
Was the chairperson's greeting
'I presume Adults are running this meeting.'
You're just a child, we know what's best
'I am sure we'll come to some agreement'.
I felt like screaming, but what could be done
After all, this system can't be beaten.
I wasn't there, just an illusion.
Talking to the walls, still nobody noticed
Before I knew it, my life was planned
What's the point of me being in this meeting?
I began to rebel, I wanted to be heard
But to them I was a problem
A reject sample of a human being
I wanted someone to come through the door
With listening ears
Someone who understood my fears
The things that should have been said by this reject human being,
Are really quite full of meaning

OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

Uganda has comprehensive legal and policy framework for the care and protection of its population including children. However, over the past decade, research studies on the legal and policy framework in Uganda point out a major gap as policy implementation. The mapping of the National Child Protection system in Uganda 2013 report is one such study.

The government of Uganda in its efforts to strengthen the child protection system in Uganda chairs and hosts a multi - stakeholder national coordination mechanism on child protection (The National Child Protection Working Group) aimed at harmonizing national actions to emerging child protection concerns. Learning from policy, research and practice is one of the strategies employed by the Child Protection Working Group (CPWG). The CPWG secretariat conceptualized the 2017 learning agenda under the theme, *“Applying legal and policy frameworks for improved child wellbeing”*.

The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) in collaboration with the National Child Protection Working Group(NCPWG) convened child protection actors including government (policy makers), UN agencies, international development partners, civil society, academia and practitioners to reflect on the status of child rights fulfillment, existing laws, policy frameworks, and gaps in program implementation.

NATIONAL LEARNING EVENT THEME

Applying legal and
policy frameworks for
improved child
wellbeing



Key Objectives:

- + Highlight existing legal and policy frameworks and guidelines on children across sectors in alignment to the four (4) cardinal rights of children.
- + Provide an opportunity to stakeholders notably the social service workforce from local governments, civil society, international organisations and children among others to share their perspectives and experiences in application of the law and policies on children.
- + Disseminate existing legal and policy implementation frameworks across all line Ministries with a mandate on children.
- + Build consensus among policy makers, practitioners and academia on required critical actions to address identified gaps in processes of policy formulation and roll out that impede effective policy implementation by the social service workforce on children.

The learning event was officially opened by the Minister of State for Youth and Children affairs, Hon. Florence Nakiwala Kiyingi who decried widespread prevalence of violence against children at the household level. The Minister recognized key national and international commitments by Uganda Government upon which programs are being created to ensure a safer life for children starting with the soon to be released National Action Plan (NAP) and a more comprehensive and

relevant National Child Policy to replace the OVC policy. The Minister echoed participants' recognition that Uganda has comprehensive and sound child policies which need to be effected if child rights are to be realized. Hon Minister Kiyingi applauded the efforts of all stakeholders to do better for children as an investment in the future and pronounced that the learning event becomes an annual event. Children from different parts of the country participated effectively and urged duty bearers to review legal policies and how they affect children.

LEARNING EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



- + Integrating children's issues into national planning
- + Taking stock of national laws and policies for children
- + Legal frameworks and their application
- + Reflection on efficacy of sector laws and policies on children
- + Children's voices- experiences and advocacy for change
- + Psychosocial support and children's wellbeing
- + Early Integrated Childhood Education
- + National Violence Against Children Survey
- + The Uganda Child Helpline (611)
- + Resources for Child Protection(Case Management handbooks, manuals) and Guidelines for the establishment and management of the Uganda Child Helpline District Action Centres
- + Resolutions and recommendations

WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

- + Mondo Kyateka, Ag. Commissioner, Youth and Children Affairs, MGLSD
- + James Kabogozza, Consultant/Child Protection Specialist
- + Stella Ayoo Odongo, Executive Director, UCRNN
- + Patrick Onyango Mangan, Country Director, TPO Uganda
- + Deogratius Yiga, Consultant/Development Links Consult

PARTICIPANT PROFILE

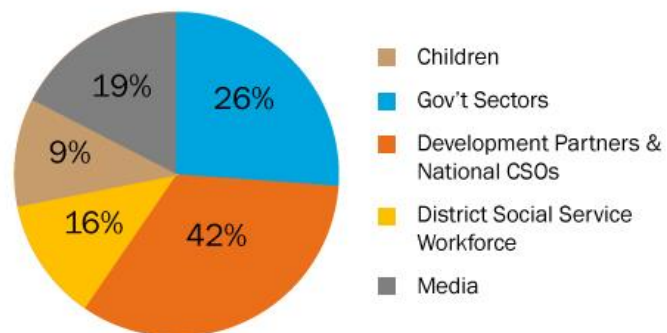


Figure 1: Participant profile

EVENT SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS



RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- + National Learning event on child wellbeing established as an annual symposium
- + Audits of policies, legal frameworks and implementation mechanisms will be conducted to assess efficacy
- + Prioritize program based planning, and approval of sector and Local Government budgets that appropriately integrate child welfare
- + Ensure appropriate child representation and participation in policy formulation, dissemination, implementation and assessment
- + Capacity strengthening, skills and knowledge on operationalizing children's rights under the law for all actors
- + Strengthen and harmonize multi-sectoral collaboration at all levels for learning, and relevant sustainable child wellbeing programs
- + Align children's programs to official policy guidelines
- + Promote community involvement in fulfilling children's rights

ACRONYMS

ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CPWG	Child Protection Working Group
DOVCC	District OVC Coordinating Committee
ECD	Early Childhood Development
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development
MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports
NAP	National Action Plan
NIECD	National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy
NDP	National Development Plan
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
OVC MIS	Orphans and Vulnerable Children Management Information System
PSS	Psychosocial Support
RTRR	Reporting Tracking Referral Response
SOVCC	Sub-county OVC Coordinating Committee
UPE	Universal Primary Education
USE	Universal Secondary Education
VAC	Violence Against Children
VACS	Violence Against Children Survey

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DAY 1: Welcome Remarks, Official Opening & Reflection on Existing Frameworks

The national learning event was a collaborative effort between the National Child protection Working Group and Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. The learning agenda began with identification of existing laws, policies, frameworks as well as national strategies and their effect on child wellbeing. Participants critically reviewed policies across key sectors including Education, Health, Social development and Justice, Law and Order to pinpoint what is working and gaps in implementation.



OPENING REMARKS - *Francis Mondo Kyateka, Acting Commissioner of Youth & Children Affairs, MGLSD*

The commissioner welcomed guests, recognizing the children and encouraging their participation in issues pertaining to their rights. He also applauded multi-sectoral and multi-level participation of both state and non-state actors representing national and district stakeholders. Commissioner Mondo thanked participants for making it in overwhelming numbers and extended special thanks to The Africhild Centre, TPO Uganda, Save the Children, Plan Uganda, World Vision, REPSSI, and USAID 4 children for financial support.

“ The purpose of our being here is to highlight the existing legal policy framework and guidelines on children across sectors in alignment with the cardinal rights of children. We are here to provide an opportunity to stake holders notably the Social Service Workforce from local governments, civil societies and international organisations among others to share their experiences in implementation of the law and polices on children. It has been said time and again that Uganda is not short of the legal frame works nor is it short of the policies, the key issue is have we made the right policies, have we made the right legal instruments and have we made our commitments matter, are we leaving to our commitments, are we enforcing the law, are we implementing the policies?. We are here to exchange notes if we have not implemented, why we haven't implemented right from the Local Government to the National Level to the civil society organisations. Are we using the resources that we mobilise to do the things we ought to do?”

OVERVIEW: LEGAL & POLICY FRAMEWORKS ON CHILDREN

Relevance of Legal and Policy Frameworks on Human Capital Development: Children Aspects in NDP II by Dr Sekamate Sebuliba, National Planning Authority

Dr. Sekamate Sebuliba recognised the national learning event as a critical opportunity to share key national development strategies, investments, innovations and commitments to achieve Uganda's Vision 2040, of a *transformed society in which children are prioritised*.



Dr Sekamate Sebuliba, NPA Keynote Speaker with Moderator Stella Ayoo Odongo, UCRNN



We look at children and their welfare today as the building blocks, as the firm foundation of future humanity.”

UGANDA VISION 2040



3(ten) year plans



5(five) year development plans



A per capita income of USD 9500

Key development strategies guiding national planning

These were as highlighted by keynote speaker

Agenda 2030

Uganda is a signatory to the sustainable development goals to promote rapid and sustained inclusive economic growth.

Global Goals

The United Nations on the Rights of Children, Education for all among others. Uganda's national plans are as such, informed by these global commitments.

Uganda Vision 2040

Seeking a shift of the Ugandan society from a predominantly low income to a middle income country. Government has put key strategies and deliberate instruments in place to achieve this including: ic) three ten year plans, ii) six five year development plans, sector development plans, local government development plans, work plans and budgets. The National Development Plan is the key government planning document driving efforts towards that vision.

National Development Plan (NDP II)

National Development Plan (NDP II) 2015/ 2016 - 2019/2020 the second series of the six development plans themed "*Strengthening Uganda's competitiveness for wealth creation, employment and inclusive growth*". NDP II prioritized key opportunities out of many including agriculture, tourism, minerals and gas. However, the two fundamental issues singled as drivers of growth are infrastructure and human structure development. Strategic interventions designed under human capital development include: health, education, skills and social development. The keynote speaker emphasized that the starting point in all these is the welfare and wellbeing of children.

Child Welfare in Focus

Child Welfare at national planning level is perceived in terms of sector plans that are addressing child issues beginning with early childhood development, proper health and nutrition for pregnant and lactating women, good child health, nutrition, access to education, reducing infant maternity, sanitation and hygiene, social protection for all especially the vulnerable children, aspects of decent shelter, child labor and the rights of vulnerable children to ensure inclusive growth.

Respecting the rights of children today is not just the right thing to do but it makes perfect rational economic sense if we are really interested in our future transformation. Adults today that it is these children here who will take care of your retirement in the years to come so unless we treat them well today and appropriately invest in them we are endangering our own retirement.

The Importance of prioritizing child wellbeing

Dr Sebuliba emphasized the following issues driving urgent action to invest in children

A Young Population

Uganda's population has a high dependency value with 55% being below 18 years contributing to a high overall dependency ratio of 103%. As such, the key note speaker pointed out that it is critical to invest in the welfare of children while at the same time promoting responsible parenthood. *The National Planning Authority promotes family planning programs to empower families to have the number of children they would like and care for.*

Key Statistics



- + **8% of the children are orphans** and **13% of primary school children** in the age range of 6-12 years **don't attend school** for various reasons.
- + The infant mortality rate is estimated at 53 per 1000 live births. Although this represents some improvements over the years obviously more needs to be done because we want children to be in school and we don't want any children dying before their 5th birthday. The census also showed that among children less than 18 years, **only 32% had a birth certificate** and yet it is a key tool in child welfare and protection.
- + The Uganda National Household survey 2016/2017 estimated that the percentage of people living in poverty increased from about 20% in 2013 to 27% in 2016/2017 and of course that means when poverty level rises, more **children are likely fall below the poverty line which is the most vulnerable segment of society.**
- + It was recorded that the late primary school rate declined from 86% to about 80%.

Service Delivery vs. Investment in the Future Human Capital

Development efforts in Uganda have focused more on improving service delivery as a way to drive human development and social economic growth. Human development has been considered a consumption segment. *NPA's human development expenditure actually constitutes investment in the future human capital.*

A Multi-sectoral Strategy to Prioritize Children

The National Planning Authority is working with several sectors to ensure that child wellbeing is at the centre of their development plans and initiatives at national and district levels.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR	PRIORITY
Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development	Access to services for vulnerable persons, promotion of social inclusion and building resilience for effective participation in development Strengthening child protection systems at all levels (household and community)
Ministry of Health	Provision of health for rural persons, training of community health extension workers who will popularize access and provision of sanitation and hygiene to all household levels
Ministry of Education and Sports	Quality and relevant education is priority. Establishment of ECD centers at all primary schools, efficiency and effective service delivery, respond to poverty related issues, action for children with special needs
Ministry of Water and Environment	Increased access to safe water and mainstreaming climate change in all programs.

Commitments



To do things differently means that we shall all commit to take all these appropriate and excellent policies and laws from the paper to the actual actions that they deserve today for the betterment of our next generations.

Dr Sebuliba ended the key note speech with the following commitments .NPA through the relevant Ministries, departments and agencies will continue implementing child welfare policy interventions aimed at:

- + Reducing child mortality,
- + Reducing child hunger and nutrition,
- + Provision of safe water and sanitation to all children at school, households and communities.
- + Improving the productivity capacities of citizens (human capital) particularly children for development growth
- + Support and advocacy to promote and protect the rights of children for equity as per the 1995 constitution
- + Social protection services for the orphans and vulnerable children
- + Appropriate programs, projects based on proved analysis and policies especially economic growth.

Plenary: Observations, Questions and Remarks

7 Key Issues

Below, questions directed to key note speaker, responses are indicated

1. INADEQUATE RESOURCES

Why are children's issues not considered a priority in all sector budgets and local government planning to the extent that certificate of compliance are only issued to sectors with appropriate integration of child welfare issues; and that local governments assessments and appraisals hinge on appropriate inclusion of child wellbeing?

RESPONSE:

A Multi-sectoral approach to budgeting

NPA is operating in a situation of resource constraints. However, government is working to introduce a culture of 'budgeting together' multi-sectoral approach for planning and budgeting. Government has changed its budgeting architecture from output based budgeting to programs based budgeting. The former encouraged parallel operations with each sector planning alone. However with program based budgeting the sectors will focus on collective outcomes. Sectors will be required to plan together to avoid a lot of repetitive action and wastage from duplication which will avail more resources for programs. A certificate of compliance will be issued by the National Planning Authority only to those sectors which have effectively integrated children's issues in their budgets and plans.

Innovation to increase fund allocation

NPA is emphasizing allocation of resources to innovative approaches encouraging both sectors and local government to come up with groundbreaking ways of addressing some of the issues that affect children. These winning approaches are a priority for funding by government as well as development partners who equally look out for sustainable, cost effective and high impact initiatives to help children.

Increase in budget share for child welfare

In the National Development plan II child development and child welfare are a cross cutting issue which are in a special category where they receive funds from different sources. The challenge is that this is not known to many actors especially local government, and as such we are in the process of sensitising the local governments more on budgeting for children.

2. EVIDENCE BASED PLANNING

Does NPA have any child wellbeing indicators that they use to inform the planning and for assessing sector performance? Are you able to ascertain targets realized?

RESPONSE:

Including child welfare indicators in the assessment frame work is challenging as this assessment frame work is more of an indicator frame tool and we don't want to over load it so with that effect the government has come up with a new assessment frame work. The new Finance Management Act empowers NPA to give a certificate of compliance to every budget and now this compliance is to ensure that the national budget as well as the sector budget and the local government budgets are in line with the national priorities. In NDP II child welfare indicators are some of the high level priorities so when we are assessing the budget and the sector plans budgets they are covered.

3. CHILDCARE SERVICES/WORKERS

How are child caregivers included in plans, budgets and programs on child wellbeing as they have a direct influence on child care outcomes?

RESPONSE:

Periodically the Uganda National Bureau of Statistics carries out surveys on child welfare indicators and we use these to track progress in child welfare and that actors including civil society and private sector partners can build upon the findings to address gaps.

4. THE MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN

What is government doing to protect the most at risk children such as street children?

RESPONSE:

We focus on prevention, the push factors that put children on the street in the first place. For example we promote responsible parenthood; we want to help parents have the number of children they would like and can ably look after. This is not to blame anybody, or imply that these children on the street are not to be cared for. No, we are mandated to care for all children, they are Ugandan citizens.

Prevention is better than cure and for all these challenges we have to look at the root causes, we found out that some of the reasons for child abandonment is unplanned pregnancies so we are working to enable couples to receive the family planning services they need to manage their family size.

5. CHILD LABOR, CORRUPTION, RIGHTS ABUSES & DENIAL OF JUSTICE

What is government doing to address child labor as well as deal with the corrupt officials who don't pay attention when children report such cases and incidents of defilement or who charge families for birth certificates?

RESPONSE:

For both issues child labor and corruption in case handling when children report rights abuses, we have laws in place and we have sectors that are supposed to address these issues and this is why a multi-sectoral approach is critical. If we make sure that all the sectors not only public institutions but also NGOs, development partners are working together these issues can be addressed. The police, the judiciary, Ministry of Internal Affairs and related agencies, the ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (the social development sector) should address all these concerns in their sector planning and sector reviews. In issuance of a certificate of compliance, we would make sure that we track to see that many of these citizens' concerns come out and are reflected in sector performances.

NPA is strengthening partnerships especially with cultural and religious institutions and to emphasize the partnership with civil society organisations because government is fully aware that many of these rights abuses, crimes against children and social ills can't be addressed or resolved just through the law alone.

6. How can Local Governments allocate the amount they deem appropriate for children if budgets are controlled by conditionality set at the center?

RESPONSE:

The certificate of compliance is one way government can ensure that child wellbeing is prioritized now for the moment, we are coming from a bad situation however if child wellbeing is diligently and faithfully reflected in the sector budgets, plans, local government plans and budgets we shall be able to improve child welfare so when we do the assessment, that is what NPA is doing to see that priorities are adhered to and for now that is what we have and changing it may take another long period which may prove counterproductive so we request you bear with us as the intention is clearly stated to get all sectors to prioritize children.

7. The NPA is asking us to think of children as our future and therefore a critical investment, what do parents do when the reality is poverty and they do not have any money to invest in them?

RESPONSE:

This is a real problem and we also see it and on the ground there is also a serious problem so that is why we are coming up with programs like universal primary education. Through these programs we have tried to address the issue of quantity but now there is an issue of quality. In health we are working towards universal health coverage so it is not that we don't recognize the contradiction or competition but what we are saying is that we are starting that we want to make sure that this time we start in a planned and focused way and that is why the budgeting architecture was altered.

Presentation: Legal and Policy Frameworks On Children

Jane Stella Ogwang PPWO/Ag Assistant Commissioner Children Affairs

Existing National Laws & Policies for Children

Uganda has a robust legal and policy framework for children has been in place for over two decades following the Ratification of the United Nations convention on the rights of the child ratified in 1990 and the African Charter on their Rights and Welfare of the Child ratified in 1994.

“There are still many challenges in implementing the Legal and Policy frame work which have undermined the achievements made so far in the improvement of the well- being of children”. Jane Stella Ogwang

Key Laws & Policies

- + **UNCRC and its optional protocol** provides for the global provisions which every member state must observe in providing for the rights of the children in the country.
- + **ACRWC** for African member states to establish provisions which protect African children from unique cultural practices which are harmful to children.
- + **The Constitution of Uganda 1995 (as amended)** includes care and protection of children
- + **National Development Plan II** considers investment in children as the first step toward building a strong human capital to enable the country to achieve its vision 2040.
- + **The Children Act, Cap59** provides the overarching legal framework for childcare and protection in Uganda. The Act draws heavily from provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC).
- + **The Children (Amendment) Act, 2016** enhances the protection of children; strengthens the provision for guardianship of children; strengthens the conditions for inter country adoption; prohibits corporal punishment; provides for the National Children Authority; repeals the National Council for Children Act; and provides for other related matters
- + **The Probation Act** establishes probation services for children and adults placed on probation and provides for the probation officer to support children in conflict with the law and those in need of care and protection.

Experiences in Application of Laws and Policies

Moderator: Patrick Onyango Mangeni, Country Director TPO Uganda

Practitioners shared their experiences in application of laws and policies

Humanitarian Response

Fortunate Natukunda, Nakivaale Refugee Settlement, Office of the Prime Minister

Refugee children benefits and rights:

Guided by Uganda laws and policies and Office of the Prime Minister community services are provided for refugee children to ensure they receive services, and human rights protected. Refugee children are entitled to the same benefits as those of Ugandan nationals.

EXAMPLES:

- + **The Registration Act:** NIRA does birth registration of all children born in settlements and issues birth certificates. Refugee children born in health centres at the settlements are also issued a birth certificate and standard vaccination. Two week old babies not born in health centres can also access support through the health centres including birth registration.
- + **Health Services:** Refugee children are entitled to public health services available including immunization.
- + **Universal Primary Education:** Refugee children benefit from UPE programs.
- + **Foster Care:** Children who arrive without their parents are assessed and placed in foster families. Placement is based on the best interest of the child and camp commandants monitor children placed in foster care.

CHALLENGES:

- + It is difficult to plan resources for a specific number of refugee children when the number exceeds planned support, implantation of programs and services is not adequate to meet the overwhelming needs.
- + As a category with specific needs there are gaps because under UPE there is an expectation of parental contribution, however, for children in foster homes the resource support is not possible which hinders their education.

Access to Education

Acia Marino, District Education Officer

Education is a right for all citizens and related policies apply

EXAMPLES:

- + **The Uganda Constitution 1995:** Education is a right for all citizens
- + **Education Act:** The state, parents and other stakeholders have the responsibility to provide education for the children
- + **Universal Secondary Education, Universal Primary Education, UPET**
- + **Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy:** Guidelines on taking care of the child from conception to lower primary level.
- + **Alternative to corporal punishment guidelines:** Encourages the use of dialogue and other non-violent forms of discipline

CHALLENGES:

The policies implementation is partially successful. More adhered to in urban setting than in rural areas:

- + Rural communities are ignorant of the laws and policies. There is need to translate them into local languages.
- + Negligence: Many rural households are not aware that their children have the right to be protected from corporal punishment, child labor, abuse, early marriage.
- + Poverty: PTA contribution of Uganda Shillings 500 per term some parents fail to pay; no food for children at school.
- + Some traditional practices hinder policy implementation. For example once a girl menstruates she is considered ready for marriage.

GOOD PRACTICES:

The district leadership got involved and mobilized the community to discuss the issues that were causing children to fail. The leadership used every platform including radio to sensitize household's about children's rights, keeping children in school and supporting them, teachers were also required to perform their duties effectively. Performance improved dramatically.

Justice Law & Order Sector

Helen Edimu, J4C Coordinator

The sector operates within the legal framework including:

- + **UNCRC Article 40:** A distinctive system of juvenile justice in Uganda
- + **Article 34:** Children are not to be mixed with adults in detention. However at police, there are no specific detention facilities for children and as a result children can end up with adults contrary to the requirements of the law.

EXAMPLES:

- + Arrest and detention of children is the last resort as a result, actors are able to divert petty cases from formal justice system.
- + **'Fit persons'** have been trained and facilitated to track cases of children and linking them with justice actors.
- + **Knowledge, Skills gap and Parental irresponsibility:** Some parents do not want to associate with their children once they have committed a crime.
 - Some parents abandon their children with judicial officers.
 - Some judicial officers are not knowledgeable about laws concerning children in conflict with the law; some police officers do not know which offence to charge.
 - Children who are detained on Friday spend more than 24 hours incarcerated.
 - There are no reception centers for children in need of care and protection; and sometimes such children are kept with offenders.
 - The probation and social welfare function can be overwhelming and hard to balance as it leans more to social welfare and the probation function is largely missing. In addition, remand Homes – most times there is no fuel to bring the children to court.
 - Diversion – the community support systems including fit persons, the cultural institutions are weak; and the LCs are not legally operational to handle petty offences. Even when the courts are in position to divert cases the community is not prepared. Diversion guidelines are still being developed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- + Strengthen community structures to handle
- + Sensitize the judicial officers on children issues – since in Law School Child Justice is not taught
- + Add staff into the PSWO role and separate roles

- + Victim support: perpetrators seem to be the focus with little support to the victim after extracting evidence. Children particularly need to be supported throughout beyond legal e.g. PSS and other requirements.
- + Ages of children: Majority of children currently do not have birth certificate and yet this is critical for child justice, birth registration is key.

Response to Child Abuse

Susan Alamai, Probation and Social Welfare officer, Tororo

Children's Act Cap 59 is the main legal document.

The probation officer responds to child abuse cases and children in need of protection across district.

Logistics remain a challenge but through collaboration with other departments including the district planner, other sectors for example police, health, education and civil society we are able to reach children in need of protection. For example CSOs have supported case management e.g. payment for medical examination of sexually abused children.

Refugee children are also supported; during the Kenya post-election violence in Tororo they were many children in need of protection who received services.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- + There is need for a mindset shift, and education of the community, behavior change campaigns to enable communities understand what abuse is, and how to respond. For example community dialogues with parents on child care and protection will provide helpful direction.
- + MGLSD has developed parenting guidelines, the handbook on Legal aid for children in Uganda by LAPSNET; and the DPP handbook on guidelines these should be disseminated to stakeholders. The laws and policies are not disseminated widely it is only the officers who can afford to pay them this means there is limited access to information
- + Actors require implementing guidelines in order to carry out their job, in order to fully implement the diversion we need the guidelines to be disseminated.

ARISING ISSUES AND QUESTIONS:

- + Diversion is very significant on matters of children. However, diversion remains unappreciated and therefore not practiced even by people who know about child justice. Hence the burden remains on PSWO to figure out how to handle children in conflict with the law.
- + Local Council chairpersons should be invited to preceding meetings to ensure that they are knowledgeable and skilled to address child protection issues.









- + To what extent do we have commitment from political leaders at all levels because they allocate the budget but circumvent the law? How can we have them committed especially in strengthening community structures and coordination mechanisms?
- + They are no resources at district level to facilitate issues of children who run away from home because of abuse by people in their homes. JLOS has to think innovatively about how to keep the children. Enforcement is the big gap currently yet children continue to be abused. Each sector should plan, budget and implement the right interventions. We have to ask questions: How we are innovating? How we are tapping on community resources? How much do teachers and health workers know about child protection?
- + In JLOS sector, there is so much concentration on children in conflict with the law but forget children in contact with the law there is need for more child friendly procedures and language, issues of neglect and children dealing with court orders.
- + JLOS needs to strengthen skills and collaboration between medical staff and the police to ensure quick effective response
- + Parenting guidelines are a good initiative but there is need for people to take responsibility. Policy makers need to be innovative for example the MGLSD should address the 'bibanda' (video halls) problem that is keeping parents away from looking after their families. Children's minds are also being corrupted by the adult content in the shows.
- + At community level, Child Protection Committee's are active but they are supported by NGOs. How can CPCs be strengthened and sustain themselves without leaning to NGOs How do you see social norms reinforcing or conflicting with laws and policies?
- + From experience implementation challenges with the law emanates from wrong placement of officers e.g. CDO taking the role of PSWOs yet they lack the knowledge and skills including the Act. The induction of PSWOs is very limited so some PSWOs do not know the law including the Children Amendment Act.
- + All policies are welfare based and yet policy analysts are economists- we need an economic aspect to it. There is need for strengthening of coordination.
- + What motivations are in place to motivate people to implement the laws?
- + There is need for literature for children to educate them on their responsibilities.

Children's Voices

// "Government should help pay for poor children so they can attend school and not do odd jobs."

STUDENT, KAMULI DISTRICT

The children would like the government to address the following issues:

 <p>END CHILD LABOUR</p> <p>Some parents make their children spend the day doing odd jobs, working in cocoa plantations to earn money for their families or to buy school requirements</p> <p>Some parents may not send their children to work outside the home but keep them occupied in the home.</p>			
<p>STOP EARLY MARRIAGES</p> <p>Early marriages are taking place, some parents refuse children to go to school and marry them off instead</p>	<p>NO ALCOHOL FOR CHILDREN</p>  <p>Children are drinking alcohol when they are still young, then they can't do anything</p>	<p>CORRUPTION DENIES JUSTICE</p> <p>Cases of defilement are rampant, but when the children report to the police their cases are dismissed because perpetrators bribe them</p>	<p>CHILD PARTICIPATION</p> <p>Children should be involved in policy making</p> 
<p>POOR QUALITY EDUCATION, TEACHERS ALCOHOLISM</p> <p>Low quality education, teachers are drunk on the job and miss classes</p>	<p>SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES</p> <p>Some children have disabilities but in some districts (e.g. Kamuli), the schools have no facilities for such children</p>	<p>SCHOOL MEALS</p> <p>Government schools are free but they don't provide meals. Students are hungry and are not able to focus on school</p> 	<p>DRUG ADDICTION</p> <p>Drug addiction is rampant among the youth especially marijuana, and there is no help for them.</p> 
 <p>PARENTS INCARCERATED</p> <p>When parents are incarcerated, they are taken away from their children, during these periods children are left by themselves, unsafe.</p>	<p>MENSTRUATION MATTERS</p> <p>Girls need to stay in school even during menstrual days. They need sanitary pads which are expensive.</p>	 <p>VIDEO HALLS RUINING CHILDREN</p> <p>Some parents spend a lot of time in 'bibanda' video halls and their children follow suit watching a lot of adult videos instead of being at school.</p>	 <p>VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN</p> <p>Some children are abused by their parents. In other instances, step parents can be harsh and violent.</p>

Official Opening

Hon. Florence Nakiwala Kiyingi, Chief Guest, Minister of State for Youth & Children Affairs

// // You can do things I cannot. I can do things you cannot. Together we can do great things. So friend, let us join hands and do great things.”

MOTHER THERESA



*Hon. Florence Nakiwala Kiyingi,
Minister of State for Youth and
Children Affairs*

The Minister of State for Youth and Children affairs, Hon. Florence Nakiwala Kiyingi, officiated the learning event inviting guests to maximize learning and sharing to improve the status of children. Minister Kiyingi decried the perverse violation of children’s rights happening in the country, especially at household level with the National Survey on Violence against Children (2015).

The Minister recognized key national and international commitments by Uganda Government upon which programs are being created to ensure a safer life for children starting with the soon to be released National Action Plan (NAP) and a more comprehensive and relevant National Child Policy to replace the OVC policy. She echoed participants observation that Uganda has in place a plethora of comprehensive and sound child policies which need to be effected if child rights are to be realized.

“Our homes are now havens of violence and parents are the notable stars in perpetrating this violence. What a shame!” Hon.Florence Nakiwala Kiyingi



Prioritizing action strategies that focus on changing relational norms around children, rather than focusing singly on investing in procedures used to respond to victims of abuse is therefore critical.

She urged stakeholders to prioritize action strategies that focus on changing relational norms around children rather than focusing singly on investing in procedures used to respond to victims of abuse.

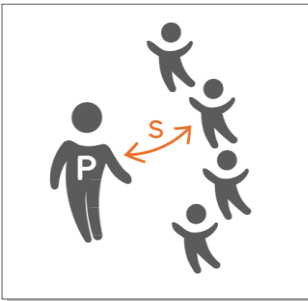
Minister Kiyingi applauded the efforts of education for all children and promoting safe schools. With regards to health, the Minister pointed out that poor children are still at the bottom of the ladder yet the causes are preventable.

Furthermore, Hon. Kiyingi assured stakeholders of the commitment of Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, to devote all available resources and ensure that interventions geared to improving child wellbeing are integrated into government plans and strategies. The Minister officially opened the national learning event on child wellbeing and pronounced it as an Annual event hence forth.

Good Practice in Providing Psychosocial Support

Lynette A. Mudekunye, Advisor, REPSSI

REPSSI is an African psychosocial support (PSS) non-profit organisation. The vision of REPSSI is, “all girls and boys enjoying PSS”. The organisation was celebrating 15 years of existence and day 1 of the learning event ended with a cocktail in celebration of REPSSI work in Uganda.



Defining Psychosocial Support

Psychological-includes feelings (emotions) and thoughts, as well as how people act or behave because of those thoughts and feelings. Social - refers to people’s relationships with friends, family and community. Support - can come from family, friends, community or professionals. PSS influences positive outcomes for children’s wellbeing.

Emerging evidence on the benefits of psychosocial support

The REPSSI advisor highlighted the following:

- + Studies by Lucie Cluver and colleagues – in South Africa and Kenya – in their research on young people living with HIV found that when PSS was included in holistic interventions including socio-economic support, responsive health services, HIV risk is reduced and adherence to treatment improved.
- + Training for teachers in PSS showed long term benefits for teachers and schools. Evaluation in schools where PSS was done showed teachers improved self-care, positive feeling about teaching; self-efficacy (school environment improved, child wellbeing and community engagement – relationship within the school; and between the school and the community.



You can't see electricity but you know when electricity is not here.
You cannot see psychosocial support but you can see when it is not there.

LYNETTE A. MUDEKUNYE, ADVISOR REPSSI

The **REPSSI advisor** used the above analogy to demonstrate that evaluation of PSS services cannot be measured by standards used to weigh changes in other sectors, however change can be measured through the outcomes of providing PSS.

Five Key Strategies (S.C.A.L.E.) to improve PSS in the East African Community (EAC)

- + Social service workforce
- + Coordination of services
- + Availability and accessibility of appropriate services
- + Long lasting positive impact of services
- + Evaluation of services

Highlights of 2017 PSS Forum held in Arusha

- + Improving policy development and fast tracking policy implementation
- + Mainstream PSS and mental health in policies and services
- + Prioritizing long term sustainable investment in children and young people

THE NATIONAL LEARNING EVENT ON CHILD WELLBEING 2017



PHOTOS (L-R): Row 1- Lynette A. Mudekunya, REPPSI; Francis Mondo Kyateka MGS LD; Row 2 - Children participate in learning session; Row 3 – Children session facilitators; Plenary session

DAY 2: Application of Laws, Sector Interventions, Emerging Priorities & Resolutions

Social Development Sector: Ongoing Interventions

Highlights

- + Integrated Early Childhood Development, Sam Acodu, MGLSD
- + Uganda Child Helpline, John Mugisha, MGLSD
- + National Violence Against Children Survey, Lydia Wasula, MGLSD
- + Child Protection Standards, Stella Ayoo Odongo, UCRNN

Presentations Summary

National Integrated Early Childhood Development (NIECD) Policy

NIECD Policy and Action plan was officially launched in Sept, 2016 to give a strategic direction of integrated, comprehensive and holistic delivery of ECD services in the Country. At a policy level, the implementation of ECD and ECD related services remain isolated and fragmented with Government responsibility for the provision or supervision of ECD services presently scattered across various sectors. The NIECD policy framework will harmonize the goals and strategies across sectors and through the multiple levels of government from national, district and community levels towards more coordinated, integrated and inclusive ECD. The multi-disciplinary and diverse needs of young children for their holistic development however will require collective effort of all sectors.

Action Areas:

Early Childhood Care and Education, Child Protection, Food Security and Nutrition, Primary Health Care, Sanitation and Environment, Family Strengthening and Community Support, Communication Advocacy and Resource Mobilization, Multi-sectoral Partnerships and Coordination.

Progress:

- + On-going M&E support visits to districts in collaboration with staff from the line sectors for improved ECD services.
- + IECD reporting tool developed and shared with the district Local governments for efficient and effective data acquisition and reporting.
- + The Ministry in collaboration with UNICEF launched the national multimedia IECD campaign (#BestStartInLife Campaign) in partnership with NTV, New Vision Group and NBS. This was in addition to regional activation meetings to share the new framework.
- + Participated in the development of Country strategic plans for BRAC and Watoto Childcare Ministries where components of integrated ECD were included in their community strategies.

- + TV and Radio talk shows focused on IECD aired on Innerman radio, Radio Bilal, Power FM, Radio Sapientia, NBS TV, NTV, UBC. The UBC, NBS and NTV shows were attended by the State Minister of youth and children who also conducted a press conference urging government and private sector actors to prioritize ECD in planning and budgeting.

Uganda Child Helpline (UCHL)

UCHL is also known by its brand name **'Sauti.'** operates on the short code 116(toll free) accessible from any telecom network. Operational 24 a day and from any part of the country with a team of 42, and 2 police officers(C.F.P.U) and one UPDF officer attached to **'Sauti.'** The helpline includes two sections - call center and case work.

Key Services:

Telephone counselling services, walk-in abuse cases, respond to cases of VAC reported through 116, media and U- report. Provision of information and guidance on child care and protection, referral to essential services, community sensitization activities, online Child Sexual Abuse services, follow up on VAC cases, telephone counselling services, handle walk-in abuse cases, respond to cases of VAC reported through 116,media and U-report, provision of information and guidance on child care and protection, referral to essential services.

Progress:

- + Total calls (Jan - Sept 2017) - 159,208 (broken down as; VAC- 2261, Counselling- 808, Info/inquiry – 11, 827, Others- 144,312)
- + 37% VAC cases closed 63% ongoing at PSWO, LCI, police, CDO, etc.
- + 31 DACs operational & supporting in case follow up
- + OCSA- 29 cases received, 34 schools & internet cafes visited
- + Other activities- awareness raising: media houses, schools, districts

Challenges and Responses:

- + **Skills, Capacity, Practice of Leaders**
 - Local leaders mandated to protect children i.e. not skilled in child protection which hinders action.
 - Cases sometimes take too long in the judicial system.
 - Connivance between duty bearers and perpetrators to destroy evidence or kill a case.
 - *Capacity building of the focal persons to understand the urgency of the cases.*
 - *Building more partnerships with CSOs, Private Sector, International bodies.*

- + **Poor telecom network connectivity issues which lead to many cases stalling.**
 - False information provided by callers affecting case management.
 - The Current system only focuses on phone calls.
 - *Participate and learning from Child Helpline International conferences.*
- + **Some languages are not catered for such as Arabic.**
- + **Children with disabilities**
- + **Case management is costly**
 - Having case management conferencing with duty bearers and service providers.
 - Systems strengthening by opening up more district action centers.
 - Media engagements.
- + **Staff burn out due to the nature of work.**
- + **Solutions to challenges**
 - Staff refresher trainings
 - Staff mental health days to deal with staff burn-out.
 - Sharing annual reports with CPWG secretariat
 - On-going review of the case management manuals

National Violence against Children Survey, 2015 (VAC)

Lydia Wasula, MGLSD

The Uganda Violence against Children Survey was conducted under the leadership of MGLSD with funding from PEPFAR through USAID and CDC, Wellspring Advisors, and UNICEF. The Uganda VACS was a retrospective national household survey of 13-24 year-old males and females. The survey findings provide nationally representative estimates of sexual, physical, and emotional violence against children in Uganda.

Highlights:

- + **Sexual Violence:**
 - More than one in three females (35%) and one in six males (17%) experienced sexual violence in childhood, with over 80% of these youths experiencing more than one incident of sexual violence
- + **Emotional Violence:**
 - (34%) females and males (36%) experienced emotional violence in childhood, with many of these youth (over 80% of females and over 70% of males) experiencing multiple incidents.
- + **Physical Violence:**
 - Over half of all children experience physical violence before age 18, with majority (90%) experiencing multiple incidents of violence.
 - Nearly 9 out of 10 children had experienced physical violence by a teacher in their community

+ **Access to Services:**

Most common reason for not seeking help for both males and females was that they did not think the violence was a problem.

- Majority 73.3% of girls and 63.2% of boys sought help when they were sexual abused. However, only 14.0% of females and 7.8% of males received any services.
- Between 5 and 10 % of individuals who experienced physical or sexual violence in childhood sought help.

CYBER CRIME AS A NEW INVISIBLE YET REAL THREAT TO CHILDREN



You lock the gate but there is a big man somewhere with a beard getting in contact with this child pretending there is a child calling, only to meet them online and hurt them.”

A participant stresses that it is no longer sufficient to keep children safe at home within the confines of a physically protective environment. Once children are online then these ‘protections’ are almost useless as they can be lured away by seemingly invisible criminals who engage them in inappropriate relationships first online, and often ending in physical encounters which put children at risk of abuse and other dangers such as trafficking, rape, defilement among others.

PARTICIPANT

Overview: Child Protection Resources & Standards

Stella Ayoo Odongo, Executive Director UCRNN

The Child Protection resources and standards were developed in response to demand for services generated by the helpline.

HELPLINE GROWTH



2005 toll free helpline developed, by consultant - Deogratius Yiga

- + Initially helpline was under civil society under UCRNN, ANPPCAN and ACTION FOR CHILDREN
- + 100 calls to 200 calls then 500 calls- growth in numbers need for resources support
- + Transition to a government facility, June 2014

Context: Why resources were developed?

- + Gaps in provision of child protection services under the continuum of care
- + Preventive interventions for protecting children were limited
- + Increased violations, new forms of violation were on the rise
- + Response mechanisms were limited , there was a disconnect in services with limited coverage
- + Constrained professional and social welfare functions due to inadequate funding(capacity)
- + Inadequate and uncoordinated support for child survivors
- + Poor case management, poor referral due to absence of uniform system
- + Case work documentation lacking

Resources Handed over:



Official handover of the Child Protection Resources

The *Case Management Handbook* provides standard guidance on how to handle child protection incidents/cases. However, as more professionals started handling child protection cases there was need for training to provide knowledge and skills - as a result the *Child Protection Training Manual* was developed. In order to strengthen responses through the helpline, district action centers were established but required standard procedures on set up and operations. An *Action Center Manual* was developed. The key resources on case management showcased were:

- + The National Case management handbook on Child Protection
- + The National Case Management training manual
- + Guidelines on establishment and management of Uganda helpline action centers

Partners supporting resource development:

Key Partners were under the National Child Protection Working Group notably Save the Children and UNICEF among others.



Why violence, why kick your wife, why beat your children why burn your children's fingers. We should be ashamed and annoyed about the VACS results and it should catapult you into action."

FRANCIS MONDO KYATEKA AG COMMISSIONER YOUTH AND CHILDREN AFFAIRS



Attendees listen to Key Resolutions Voiced during the National Learning Event

Comments & Questions:

Helpline

Refugees should be catered for on the help line as the number is high and these services are required. If Arabic language is a barrier what plans are in place because most of refugees speak the same

There is ongoing work on partnerships with a prospect of Refugee settlements based call centre linked to Uganda Child Helpline. Benchmarking is ongoing with Adjumani settlement as the current case study

Two police officers at call center are they enough?

Yes they are, because police is for coordination with the structures to get perpetrators of reported child abuse

VACS

Why were the number of males reporting to have experienced physical and emotional violence more than females, is it that the women more reserved? Were there Indicators on violence against children with disabilities?

The survey used a global tool and the indicators were cutting across the board; and so some peculiar issues of Uganda interest including Children with Disabilities were not covered. But this is the first survey, future surveys will cater for what was missed.

Are there VACS hot spots we need to look out for?

No because several characteristics ranked differently- For example sexual abuse may be high among girls and not boys yet physical violence is low in the same region.

IECD

Are there any commitments for specialized care givers for children in ECD centers?

The MoES is currently recruiting care givers and capacity building. The gap for now is the facilitation (payment) is not yet defined

IECDs are sparsely distributed what are the plans to even this out?

The Government is working towards every primary school having an ECD centre

Messages were broadcasted on- central TV stations (NBS) what about rural areas?

Media campaign is in phases first in Kampala, local language

How did the IECD policy miss- delivery service framework, the M&E framework which is not complete yet it is approved?

Missing documentation including frameworks and action plans will be disseminated by the end of the year.

How is quality assurance for early childhood centers, such as kindergartens being assured, e.g kindergartens mushrooming everywhere?

Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) put up guiding documents on how to establish these; MoES will flag that at this meeting. Ministry of Education and Sports with support from UNICEF is doing recruitment and capacity strengthening for ECD teachers.

Where do we see the National Children's Authority?

The National Children Authority (NCA) is supposed to play the role of an Ombudsman to check if sector commitments are being fulfilled. However, before it could be constituted, government announced a review of Authorities to determine which ones to close or merge hence MGLSD halt on the establishment of NCA.

The Ministry of Education's focus is education while NIECD is more comprehensive and holistic including other aspects such as health and safety.

Child Protection Resources

Case workers handbooks could be simpler to support persons working in refugee camps



The survey data was received in June and a technical working group developed strategy on dissemination by Ministry of Gender and other dissemination at regional level. With support from UNICEF a consultant has been hired to write a report. Findings have been shared but a report will help us make further interpretations. The report will be disseminated with a national action plan indicating roles and responsibilities.”

LYDIA WASULA



There is another qualitative study that was carried out at the same time by AFRICHILD CENTRE and it will help supplement the VACS action plan and be more relevant to Uganda.”

JAMES KABOGOZZA

Unpacking the Legal & Policy Framework on Children

Participants' reflections on sector specific application of laws and how they are affecting child wellbeing outcomes.

Facilitator: Deogratious Yiga, Development Links Consult

4 Sectors: Justice Law and Order, Education, Health and Social Development

Cross Cutting Issues

Majority of the laws and policies stood out across all sectors with participants identifying application and impact.

5 Key Issues



Laws and policies that place an implementation obligation on your sector



Identify the laws and policies that have made a real difference in the lives of children.



What factors have contributed to their effectiveness?



Why have the laws and policies not been effective in improving the lives of children?



What needs to be done to improve their effectiveness?

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Sector Laws, Policies and Application for Child wellbeing	Reasons For Success	Comments Improving Effectiveness/Sector
Universal Primary Education Universal Secondary Education Free education provided by Uganda Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Awareness Raising and effective mobilization of communities + Government commitment to funding infrastructure and human resources + Through ministry of education , government obligated to ensure a primary school in every parish, secondary in every sub County, polytechnic in every constituency, linkages between sectors inform of integrated interventions(Community Development Officers and education officials) + USE and UPE have made education affordable + Bi-laws and ordinances by Local Government have increased enrollment + Public private partnership between state, parents and other partners increased enrollment + Development alternative programs e.g. ABEK, vocational training. + Establishing special needs education and more inclusive programs, stronger community involvement in education has increased enrollment. + Education Act: Liberalized provision of education which increased access to education. Gross enrollment 110% + Gender Parity:51(G): 49(B) Primary School and 47(G):53(B) Upper level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Early child hood education leaves obligation to private sector including the development sector, which limits access. + ECD Instructors not appropriately trained, current centers are not government owned which put standards and guidelines at risk. + School feeding guidelines are not fully utilized + Not all schools are providing meals- per pronouncements + Automatic promotions- compromises quality + Parents are neglecting their role in supporting their children’s educations (scholastic materials) + USE & UPE makes education free but not compulsory, some children are as such left out + High attrition rate as students advance: For every 10 who enroll only 6 reach primary 6 and of those who finish primary 7 only 3 make it to high school. + Special needs education inadequate, teachers not equipped to handle multiple disabilities, access and inclusion not meeting these students needs + Infrastructure does not meet demands e.g. laboratories, toilet facilities, special needs requirements) + Policies on education are not disseminated, which alienates some communities especially poor illiterate families + School dropout are not tracked effectively

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Sector Laws, Policies and Application for Child wellbeing	Reasons For Success	Comments Improving Effectiveness/Sector
Constitution of Uganda Penal Code	The parent law of the land upon which all other legislation has been adapted to define and address crimes in Uganda	According to the penal code, if parents' consent a child can be married under 18. <i>Application should be in tandem with current legislation for children</i>
Children's Amendment Act: Expanded support for all children beyond OVCs, holistic response	Child amendment act basis for protection of all children. Children's rights in contact/ conflict with the law have improved- e.g. To every extent possible they are separated from adults, diversion. Defined the rights of children- this empowered children to advocate for their rights – through rights clubs, talking compounds. Highlighted rights and responsibilities of actors - including probation officers, police, courts, parental responsibilities	Dissemination of act to equip implementation is critical. <i>Due diligence needed to ensure those adoptions are handled appropriately right from the community through the local councils. *Currently a moratorium on international adoption is being discussed</i>
OVC policy: Developed in response to large numbers of orphans and vulnerable children, will be replaced with the Child Amendment Act to cover other categories of children	OVC MIS under the OVC policy has provided data for accurate planning and programming. It has helped supporting creation of coordination committees at the district and community level (SOVCC, DOVCC) and network systems, and referral pathway established for children's cases. Before the OVC policy, development partners would not invest resources at district level, with the policy investments can be made in a coordinated way in support of the district action plan	Information sharing on transition to the child amendment act.
Social Protection Policy: Focus on vulnerable groups	Has focused government to look at the most at risk populations, and provides a basis for actors to prioritize resources for children Establishes the child helpline 116	Awareness raising, and multi-sectoral collaboration for effective outcomes

THE NATIONAL LEARNING EVENT ON CHILD WELLBEING 2017

Sector Laws, Policies and Application for Child wellbeing	Reasons For Success	Comments Improving Effectiveness/Sector
CHILD LABOUR ACT: Definition on age and what constitutes as labour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + It defined child labour and made a difference between light work and labour – this enables sensitization, awareness + Act provided legal grounds for persecuting those involved in child labour 	Elimination of child labour will require coordination of stake holders, garnering increased political will and galvanizing of resources to respond where incidents occur e.g. tobacco, mining(gold) children handling dangerous products
THE MININGACT	It doesn't regulate mining companies in engaging children.	Regulation of this industry is critical with swift, concrete actions put in place as mining has become lucrative and is expanding putting more children at risk
PREVENTION IN TRAFFICKING IN PERSON ACT	It is helping to protect children by persecuting perpetrators	Due diligence needed to ensure those taking children out of the country have the right permissions. *Currently a moratorium on international adoption is being discussed
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT LOCAL COUNCIL COURTS ACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Mandates the local government to safe guard and protect children + Establishes local courts which handles matters of children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Conditional grants that allow flexibility to address emerging child protection issues + Probation officer is left to local revenues which is minimal + Sector grants are consolidated and it is at the discretion of the DCDO and his team + Structures not flexible one probation and welfare` officer regardless of the size of population
DIVORCE ACT LAND ACT SUCCESSION ACT	Protects family estate. Preventing the sale of land without consent of children and parents(mothers)enable children's right to matrimonial home are protected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Laws on succession are still a bill. + The laws need to become Gender neutral enactment of the amendment to safe guard women and children's right + Protects the estate of the deceased for the children.

THE NATIONAL LEARNING EVENT ON CHILD WELLBEING 2017

Sector Laws, Policies and Application for Child wellbeing	Reasons For Success	Comments Improving Effectiveness/Sector
PRISONS ACT	Children below 18 months and those born in prison are protected and are able to stay with their mothers in prison. The children's wellbeing is attended to including food and shelter	<i>Children whose parents are incarcerated are a special category and additional provisions to address children's placement after 18 months is critical. A clear referral pathway for these children is needed, especially if they cannot be returned to the community.</i>
Birth and Registration Act- establishes NIIRA	Children are registered and birth certificates issued, children will also receive national I.D's so that by a mere thumb print they can be identified especially in cases of kidnapping and lost children	<i>Adapt innovative mobilization techniques to register both in and out of school children</i>
UPDF ACT	Protecting children from recruitment from armed forces	Dissemination and Awareness Raising/ Birth registration criteria for accurate determination of age
COMMUNITY SERVICE ACT	Allows parents in conflict with the law to serve their sentence through community service and commuting from home	Increase adoption community service mechanisms for minor offences and use of this option at all levels
REFUGEE ACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Has allowed refugee children to integrate, it's a basis to protect the children + Birth Registration: Refugees and national for identification-access to services- food allocations 	Awareness in refugee community and among service providers
NGULI ACT	Responsible for violence against children in home	Should be amended including regulations
LAW AGAINST NARCOTICS, NDA	Not effective Drugs are rampant and easy to access (chloroform, marijuana, cuba)	

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Sector Policy, Law /Act, Cross Cutting Benefits/Application	Reasons For Success	Comments Improving Effectiveness/Sector
<p>HEALTH SECTOR</p> <p><u>The second National Health Policy (2010)</u></p> <p>+ National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan 2, 2015/2016-2019/2020</p> <p><u>National Adolescent Health Policy</u></p> <p>+ Uganda Food and Nutrition Policy</p> <p>+ Immunizations act, 2016</p>	<p>+ Improved collaboration between Government and development</p> <p>+ Improvement in the level of response to SMC services</p> <p>+ Establishment of youth corners in health centers which are accessible by child mothers and adolescents</p> <p>+ Improved mass media campaign for Mobilization and educating young adolescences such as Radio talk shows and adverts and drama. This has made the communities to become more responsive partners</p> <p>+ Demarcating a specific period of time for Immunizations</p>	<p>+ Deployment of specific persons in charge of specific deliverables for key issues on child health and wellbeing.</p> <p>+ Inadequate knowledge on the level of operationalization of the Policy and how it works</p> <p>+ Low government investment on the policies</p> <p>+ Limited sensitization on the content of the policy</p> <p>+ Lack of ownership of policy due to lack of national inclusion of key stakeholders and commitments in operationalizing the policy</p> <p>+ Limited supervision on the implementation of the policy</p> <p>+ Some policies are more on paper such as adolescences health policy.</p> <p>+ Most of the services available to this group are mainly in Kampala and limited in sub counties/parishes</p> <p>+ Decline in the level of reporting of child abuse due to fears of producing evidences regarding the nature of abuse and cost involved</p> <p>+ Needs to develop Policy response indicators on children</p> <p>+ Needs to improve on the level of enforcement in the implementation of child related policies</p> <p>+ Needs to improve on the level of dissemination of policy documents</p> <p>+ Needs to improve on the level of coordination amongst the policy implementers</p>

Summary of Emerging issues raised

The sector review of policies impacting children enlightened participants about policies and their implications across the sectors. Discussions also proved the preposition that Uganda has many sound laws and policies.



Figure 2: Emerging Issues

Participant Remarks:

- + Diversion is encumbered because Community Development Officers and Probation Officers are not equipped to support the process through alternative dispute resolution methods such as mediations- it is on such technicalities that defilement cases go back and forth from the Resident State Attorneys (RSA's)
- + In order to achieve a multi-sectoral approach we need a unifying platform such as the DOVCC yet they are so many committees such as nutrition and security among others. When do they sit to fit into the DOVCC? A coordinated response is necessary.
- + Probation sector funding is consolidated in Community Based Services Department (CBSD). It is sent as a lump sum and it left to them to divide and allocate it. There is need for an increase the funding for the entire department
- + Point of correction: Adolescents were involved in the creation of the Adolescent health policy they submitted a position paper
- + The juvenile justice system even in policy seems mild on reforming juveniles, some are hard core criminals

Ongoing Interventions for Children

Barbara Kitui, Justice Law and Order Sector Secretariat

Henry Semakula, Ministry of Education and Sports

Facilitator: Stella Ayoo- Odongo, Executive Director, Uganda Child Rights NGO Network

Justice Law and Order Sector: Adjudication, Policing & Correction in 18 institutions

Currently implementing the 4th sector development plan focusing on service delivery, access to JLOS human Rights, strengthening environment for doing business, commercial and land rights. The 4th sector development plan is yet to be launched however work plans are being developed

JUSTICE LAW & ORDER SECTOR



JLOS ensures an enabling environment with laws, policies and frameworks that guard and promote the rights of children

Enabling laws are in place to assure child wellbeing

+ Access to Justice

Service points in the districts and the regional chain linked courts adjudicate all cases including children's matters. These include local council courts, Gender desks, for Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and judiciary increase access to justice for children.

Institutional framework includes family court, alternative dispute resolution to handle land cases, these smaller courts make it easier for women and children to speak out as they are less intimidating but as effective as the higher courts.

Spread across the country are taskforces including leadership steering committees, access to justice, gender rights and human rights sub committees. In absence of policy, inspectors, case management committees – civil society and government, legal aid services for those without representation.

The administrator general handles estate cases and children of the deceased are prioritized

+ NIRA

Through the National Identification and Registration Agency (NIRA) marriages are registered which add protection for children and their rights in the matrimonial home should divorce, death happen.

+ Register Births & Deaths

Children are registered through the National Identification Registration and with finger printing so as to ensure that children at risk can be traced.

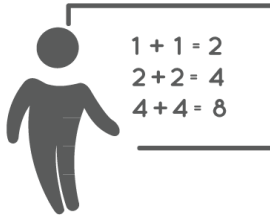
+ Policing

The Child Family Protection Unit is part of the policing components to secure the safety and rights of children. Correctional services cater for children born in prison up to 18 months

+ **Capacity Strengthening**

Human Resource recruiting, training, tooling to focus on children coordination mechanisms is enforced.

POSITIVE IMPACT



Education Act

Liberalized provision of education which increased access to education. Gross enrollment 110%

Gender Parity

- 51(G): 49(B) Primary School
- 47(G):53(B) Upper Level

Opportunities for Improvement

- Early Childhood Education mainly operated by private sectors
- Education is free but not compulsory
- Training for caregivers and instructors is not standardized(mostly non- government training)
- ECD operation guidelines are not enforced



Enrollment was previously at 2 million students. It is currently 8 million

Comments & Questions:

Where does the law compensate witness protection for victims?

The penal code amendment Act provides for other remedies in addition to incarceration including psychosocial support at the cost, compensation, restitution etc

How is JLOS working with other sectors to improve child wellbeing?

Inter sector linkages are key, JLOS partners with other sectors to enforce the rights of children. For example to prosecute sexual abuse cases, JLOS partners with health to produce police form 3, crucial evidence needed at trial.

Education:

- + Developing a Sexuality Education Policy: Ministry of Education and Sports was working on this policy to ensure that children are taught about sexuality appropriately by the right facilitators at the right age. The ministry consulted with all stake holders' including faith and cultural leaders who approved it. However, due to controversy around the framework Government has halted it for further consultations. The School Health policy was developed 10 years ago, but not passed because it was missing ownership and didn't fit in Ministry of Health, Ministry of Gender Labour and Social development. It is a multi-sectoral plan and Ministry of Education has taken ownership the Minister has promised to expedite development process.
- + Menstrual hygiene management is a major focus to help girls everywhere stay in school comfortably. The ministry has reached out to districts and communities to bring attention to this issue. We are calling for male involvement and training champions in schools across the country
- + Enhanced the Presidential Initiative on Aids for Communication for the Youth (PIASCY) as the flagship sector strategy. Educators are being trained on effective approaches and messages (targeting young people) to address HIV and AIDS.
- + Ministry will hold sector review this year to check progress, achievements and learnings
- + Lower secondary school curriculum review was put on hold, new arrangement underway to work on it
- + Guidelines for formation of school clubs are being developed to ensure children are safe and get the best out of these as children can be effectively engaged through classrooms.
- + Reentry policy for children who get pregnant is also being developed
- + Reporting Tracking Referral Response (RTRR) enable to report abuse cases at school e.g. teachers
- + Promoting alternatives to corporal punishment- several circulars have been sent out to the districts regarding this issue
- + The ministry prioritizes the girl child, and human rights a gender task force and education materials have been developed to promote girl child education among other rights issues.

Comments & Questions:

Is the Ministry of Education and Sports thinking about special needs education currently where we see child wellbeing is affected? How is the ministry raising awareness on affirmative action especially for girls and children with disabilities?

Ministry promotes and implements affirmative action 1.5 for girls (university level) there is an addition 4 points for special needs. Encourage school to provide correct information to learners on this benefit/ right.

The old good powerful secondary schools are dying out such as Sacred heart, Sir Samuel Baker in Gulu what plans are in place?

The onus is for you old boys and old girls to partner with these schools to revive and build them.

Given the increased frequency and disruptive nature of strikes deterring the quality of education, how is this issue going to be addressed?

Effective communication between students and the administration is what we have found to be a major cause during our investigations and are encouraging schools to develop peaceful interactions and dispute resolution.

We know that the best situation for child stimulation is with regular contact with their parents. How are you addressing the issue of primary boarding school? How will ministry handle the issue of corporal punishment when children are safe at school but beaten up at home- which undercuts efforts at school?

We encourage teachers to use forums available to educate parents, however corporal punishment out of school is addressed by Ministry of Gender Social development.

We have heard the sexuality education policy will allow the distribution of condoms in school, is that appropriate?

This is not true. The Ministry of Education does not distribute health commodities ours is providing information.

Additional Comments:

- Access to justice is not aligned to wellbeing of children, this is why identification of legal and implementation gaps
- Instruments not disseminated- which means sectors are not clear on opportunities-matters of land transactions can get to conclusion without due regard to children. Later the children suffer- the reason is lack of awareness.

- Some policies don't have penalties to breach of articles e.g. education act no penalties for negligent parents. Similarly policies don't have implementation guidelines to it effective
- Corruption also hampers
- When political structures (local councils) are doubling as local courts there maybe conflict of interest. Independent structures are crucial
- It is hard to measure progress when you are working with policies that in some cases don't have monitoring frameworks or in the case of ECD where we donot have data between 0-8 years
- Effective coordination and linkages should be enforce e.g. the children act talks about duty bearers collaborating but in cases such as teenage mothers reporting at birth centers, and after having their babies leave without being linked to the Community development Office and other services
- Delays- in sending money to the district impact implementing to the extent that sometimes monies are returned
- Our policies should be preventive as well as responsive
- Consider additional protections for child victims of defilement during court procedures. Because victims fear to go and testify openly in the courts cases are dismissed. is there a way to give evidence in a more child friendly way



Assessment of existing laws is critical- whether we are getting what we set out to do when we were setting out to do.”

JAMES KABOGOOZA SEMBATYA

Emerging Priorities for Action

Agnes Wasike, National Coordinator, Child Protection Working Group

AREA OF CONCERN	RECOMMENDATIONS	PRIORITIES FOR ACTION
Measurement of Frameworks Utilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Weak enforcement of the existing laws and policies on children; + Share out the laws and policies on children as widely as possible; + Universal education should be made compulsory as its benefits supersede sectoral specific targets; + Analysis and Review of Legal and policy frameworks should have clear child focused indicators; + Audit of legal and policy frameworks should focus on child wellbeing outcomes; + Ensure availability of data on the positive impact of the legal and policy frameworks on children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Re-strategize on law enforcement for child well-being + Dissemination of laws and policies should be cascaded down to all actors; + Define a clear strategy to strengthen enforcement of the law on compulsory education under Universal education esp. UPE; + Define clear indicators on application of laws and policies on children; + Undertake an audit of existing laws and policies on children to establish if meeting objectives for which they were developed; + Generate adequate evidence on measurement of the effectiveness of the laws and policies on children
Supportive Structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Capacity Building: Build capacity of all actors at different levels (national to Village) on children laws and policies; + Within Local Council – the courts also serve a political purpose hence a conflict of interest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Capacity building on children laws and policies should be extended to the non mainstream child care workers as well to enhance functionality of referrals and service standards across sectors and levels; + LC dilemma taken care of in the audit of the legal and policy frameworks (as earlier under frameworks utilization)

AREA OF CONCERN	RECOMMENDATIONS	PRIORITIES FOR ACTION
Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Children access to legal services should be improved e.g. children in the community whose parents are in prison; + The existing standards (resources) on child protection and welfare should be applied. + Access to justice for children and wellbeing during the court processes needs to be well planned and resourced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Fast track new legal guidelines that take into consideration the welfare of children; + Monitoring (joint monitoring by government sectors and CSOs) of standards in provision of services for children should be monitored. + JLOS institutions should integrate child justice wellbeing budget lines in respective plans.
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Learning on child wellbeing to be on-going ; + Coordination: The different Structures across sectors that address the wellbeing of children should be more coordinated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Adopt annual learning event on child wellbeing under the leadership of MGLSD; + Define points of convergence between the different coordination structures on children with DOVCC as the unifying structure.
Resourcing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Poor resourcing to Local Governments for policy implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Generate Innovations on multiple and timely resources for implementation of laws and policies on children

APPENDICES

ANNEX I: National Learning Event on Child Wellbeing Conceptual Brief

DATE: 25th - 26th October 2017

THEME: *“Applying legal and policy frameworks for improved child wellbeing”*

INTRODUCTION: Uganda has comprehensive legal and policy framework for the care and protection of its population including children. However, over the past decade, research studies on the legal and policy framework in Uganda point out a major gap as policy implementation. The mapping of the National Child Protection system in Uganda 2013 report is one such study.

The government of Uganda in its efforts to strengthen the child protection system in Uganda chairs and hosts a multi - stakeholder national coordination mechanism on child protection (The National Child Protection Working Group) aimed at harmonizing national actions to emerging child protection concerns. Learning from policy, research and practice is one of the strategies employed by the Child Protection Working Group (CPWG).The CPWG secretariat conceptualized the 2017 national learning agenda on children under the theme, *“Applying legal and policy frameworks for improved child wellbeing”*.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES:

- Highlighting the existing legal and policy frameworks and guidelines on children across sectors in alignment to the 4 cardinal rights of children;
- Provide opportunity to stakeholders notably the social service workforce from local governments, civil society, and international organisations among others to share their experiences in application of the law and policies on children.
- Disseminate existing research findings and information of policy implementation with a focus on gaps and recommendations from practitioners

EXPECTED OUTPUTS:

- Over 150 practitioners including District Local Governments, MDAs, Civil Society and Development Partners and children provided with legal, policy information and protocols for promotion, protection and ensuring children rights
- Over 3000 copies of legal, policy frameworks and guidelines on children rights distributed to different duty bearers, practitioners and other stakeholders.
- Agreed course of action on better practices towards adequate policy and legal framework implementation for children rights protection.

EVENT THEMATIC QUESTIONS:

- Do practitioners (the social service workforce) know all existing laws and policies on children?
- How do they understand and apply the law and policies in extending services to children?
- What gaps and recommendations do practitioners have towards more effective roll out and utilization of laws and policies that impact children?

KEY ACTIVITIES:

- Presentation of existing national legal and policy documents on children
- Exhibitions on a range of policy and legal instruments and documents including best practices from action research and implementation
- Presentations on success stories from practitioners and researchers
- Experience sharing through presentations, discussions and brain storming

ANNEX II: Reflections, Resolutions and Recommendations

ACKNOWLEDGING Uganda’s comprehensive legal and policy frameworks, international and national commitments to promoting child wellbeing including Agenda 2030 of the Sustainable Development Goals, Africa agenda 2063, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the Constitution of Uganda, 1995 as amended, the National Development Plan II, the Social protection policy, the OVC policy and plan, the Integrated Early Childhood Development policy and action plan, Child Labor policy and action plan, Alternative Care framework and action plan, National Strategy to End Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy, National child helpline as provided for by the Children (Amendment) Act, 2016, the Children’s Act Cap 59, Children (Amendment) Act, 2016, the Probation Act, the Domestic Violence Act, and the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act (2010) among others.

RECOGNIZING that child related policies have not translated effectively into successful implementation processes, awareness raising, capacity building, appropriate resource allocation, inter-sector coordination and monitoring among actors resulting in poor child outcomes. Ugandan children continue suffering and remain at risk of violence, poor health, child labour, psychological problems, inadequate education, rights violations and neglect for those in contact and conflict with the law, child marriage, Female Genital Mutilation, trafficking, drugs and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy, and more complex challenges for children with disabilities and other vulnerable categories such as children whose parents are incarcerated.

UNDERSTANDING that the future of Uganda as stipulated in Vision 2040 for a predominantly middle income population will require a highly productive workforce, the children today who are more than half (57 percent) of the population, at a dependence ratio of 102 percent, will need to be well prepared, which makes assuring children’s wellbeing today a strategic investment in the country’s future.

CONSIDERING ongoing efforts for human capital development by government expressed in the National Development Plan II (2015/16-2019/20), the relevant sector development plans and agency strategic plans and budgets are required to integrate interventions that prioritise child wellbeing including Early Childhood Development (ECD), optimal child health, access to universal education, reducing infant mortality, nutrition, sanitation, social protection for vulnerable children, decent shelter and elimination of child labour and the rights of vulnerable children for inclusive growth.

CONVINCED that collaborative, intentional and consistent learning on emerging good practices, policy audits, concerns, program reviews, children’s experiences and bottom up intersectoral coordination are fundamental in improving services and outcomes for children.

Now therefore, the following resolutions and recommendations reached at the National learning event on child wellbeing 2017, shall be a key reference point for stakeholders towards ensuring that Uganda’s children thrive.

RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

National Learning event on child wellbeing established as an annual symposium

1. **Applaud** the authorization by the Minister to hold an annual learning event to reflect on commitments, achievements, challenges, learnings, emerging good practices on child wellbeing and network to leverage resources for children.
2. **Request** Ministry to expand participant’s scope to include more practitioners working at the community level across sectors as well as children from diverse parts of the country in the learning events.

Conduct Audits of policies, legal frameworks and implementation mechanisms

3. **Request** respective Ministries and development actors to conduct legal and policy framework audits with clear child focused indicators that are outcome focused in order to assess efficacy, relevance, gaps and disconnects in application.
4. **Ensure** outcome based data is consistently tracked for all child wellbeing programs to enable evidence based discussions, learning and programming.
5. **Call for** the development and use of indicators on application of laws and policies on children and generate adequate evidence to measure the effectiveness of the laws and policies on children.

Adapt policies to local language, develop easy to read handbooks for implementers as well as child friendly IEC materials

6. **Call** for widespread dissemination of child laws and policies right up to actors on the ground including adaptation to local language and simpler versions to support correct implementation.
7. **Request** that key messages are extracted and adapted from wider policies to be shared with the public.
8. **Request** the development of child friendly IEC materials on policies, programs and action points to empower children to realize the fulfilment of their rights.

Prioritise program based planning, and approval of sector and Local Government budgets that appropriately integrate child welfare

9. **Urge** government through the National Planning Authority to fast track adoption of new legal guidelines for sector budgets that prioritise the welfare of children as a prerequisite for approval.
10. **Call** for significant improvements in planning, increase in resources, finances, knowledge and capacity of Local Government structures to address child wellbeing.
11. **Request** that the welfare of children in contact/conflict with the law is ensured according to legal provisions through development of budgets and plans that include key processes such as preparation of children for court and safe accommodation separate from adults while in detention.
12. **Urge** Justice Law and Order institutions to integrate child wellbeing as a budget line in in their overall Justice for Children planning processes.
13. **Call** for a clear strategy to strengthen enforcement of the law on compulsory education under universal education especially Universal Primary Education emphasizing retention and provision of appropriate infrastructure especially for children with disabilities, separate toilet facilities , and menstrual support for girls to improve attendance.

Ensure appropriate child representation and participation in policy formulation, dissemination, implementation and assessment

14. **Call** for the effective inclusion of a diverse selection of children in the formulation of policies that affect children directly.
15. **Ensure children participate** in the review and amendment of key policies that directly affect their wellbeing.
16. **Request** that children's views and experiences inform the development of child welfare programs.

Capacity strengthening, skills and knowledge on operationalizing children's rights under the law for all actors

17. **Request** that capacity building on children laws and policies should be extended to the non-mainstream child care workers as well to enhance functionality of referrals, maintenance of service standards across sectors and at every level.
18. **Request** the fast tracking of Justice Law and Order sector policies that are still in draft or under review to empower the sector to fully respond to the needs of children in contact or conflict with the law.
19. **Request** moratorium on international adoption to streamline processes to ensure the protection of children.
20. **Ask** that measures are put in place to prevent the police from requesting payment for Police Form 3, and raise awareness among communities on their rights to this service as a key first step to legal redress for victims of sexual violence.
21. **Call** for the stream lining of referral processes and provide safe alternatives for children whose parents are incarcerated and those born in prison and are at the age where they are required to leave.

Strengthen and harmonise multi-sectoral collaboration at all levels for learning, and relevant sustainable child wellbeing programs

22. **Request** for multi-sectoral collaboration across the continuum of policy design and implementation.
23. **Call** for the definition of convergence points between the different coordination structures on children with District OVC Coordinating Committee's as the unifying structure to promote harmonised implementation at the lower level.
24. **Call** for innovations on generating multiple and timely resources for implementation of laws and policies on children.

Align children's programs to official policy guidelines

25. **Call** for awareness raising and immediate enforcement of child labour laws across all sectors
26. **Request** alignment of the Integrated Early Childhood Development policy and action plan with overarching national frameworks and new policies affecting children
27. **Request** that early childhood development services are mainstreamed, and made available also through public government approved programs.
28. **Request** the establishment of adequate facilities and support for children with special needs

Promote community involvement in fulfilling children's rights

29. **Call** for community involvement in protecting children including school feeding and community policing
30. **Urge** Local governments to establish mechanisms involving PTA, school committees and communities to promote school attendance, enrollment especially girl children paying attention to common barriers to steady attendance including menstrual management, separate latrine/ bathroom facilities.

Generated in Kampala, Uganda, 25-26 October, 2017

ANNEX III: National Learning Event on Child Wellbeing Programme

Theme: "Applying legal and policy frameworks for improved child wellbeing"

Session	Time	Activity	Presenter	Moderator
DAY ONE : 25thOCTOBER, 2017				
Welcome & Official Opening	8:30 - 9:00 am	Arrival & Registration	All Participants	National Coordinator, CPWG
	9:00 - 9:05 am	Opening Prayer	All Participants	Mr. Mondo Kyateka, Ag, Commissioner , Youth and Children Affairs
	9:05 - 9:20 am	Self-Introductions		
	9:20 - 9:30am	Welcome Remarks	Commissioner, Youth and Children Affairs, MGLSD	Mr. James Kaboggoza, Consultant
	9:30 - 9:40am	Anthems: National; EAC and Children Anthem	Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Centre - Children Band	Mr. Mondo Kyateka, Ag, Commissioner , Youth and Children Affairs
	9:40 - 10:00am	Speech by Chief Guest/ Official Opening	Minister of State, Youth and Children Affairs	
Legal and policy frameworks on children	10:00 -10:20am	Relevance of legal and policy frameworks in Human Capital Development: Children aspects in NDP II	National Planning Authority	Ms. Stella Ayoo –Odongo, Executive Director, UCRNN
	10:20 -10:50 am	Plenary Discussion	Moderator	
	10:50 -11:20am	TEA BREAK / Exhibition		
	11:20 – 11:40am	Existing national laws and policies on Children: An overview	Jane Stella Ogwang PPWO/Ag Asst. Commissioner Children Affairs	Ms. Stella Ayoo –Odongo, Executive Director, UCRNN
Perceptions and application of the laws and policies on children	11:40 – 12:25 pm	Panelists : Experiences with application of children laws and policies	Helen Edimu, J4C Coordinator-Gulu/Arua; Susan Alamai, PSWO – Tororo; Fortunate Natukunda – Community Services Assistant, Nakivale Refugee Settlement; DHO – Hoima DEO – Arua	Mr. Patrick Onyango Mangan, Country Director, TPO Uganda
	12:25 -1:15 pm	Plenary session	All Participants	
	1:15 -2:15 pm	LUNCH / Exhibitions		
	Unpacking the legal and policy framework on children	2:15 - 3:15 pm	Break away session: Contextual reflection on application of sector specific laws and policies on children for gaps and recommendations	Break Away Sessions: Session 1: MGLSD Session 2: MoH Session 3: MoES Session 4: JLOS
3:15 - 4:00 pm		Presentation and Discussion: Feedback from Break Away Sessions	Session Rapporteurs	
Children Perspectives	4:00 - 4:30 pm	Children Voices	Children Representatives	Mr. Mondo Kyateka, Ag, Commissioner , Youth and Children Affairs
	4:30 - 5:00 pm	Adults response to children's presentation	All Adult Participants	

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Global good practices / Cocktail Reception	5:30 - 7:30 pm	Emerging global evidence: effective Psychosocial support for children & Youth	REPSSI Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office	
DAY TWO: 26thOCTOBER, 2017				
On - going Interventions for Children's Well being: Government Sectors presentations	9:00 - 9:15 am	Overview: Day Two programme	Ms. Agnes Wasike, National Coordinator, Child Protection Working Group	Mr. Mondo Kyateka, Ag, Commissioner , Youth and Children Affairs
	9:15 - 9:30 am	Recap of Day 1 Highlights		
	9:30 -10:30 am	Social Development Sector: On-going interventions	Systems strengthening; Care Reform/Alternative care (Jane Stella Ogwang); Uganda Child Helpline (Angella Rubarema); National IECD policy (Sam Acodu) The National Child Policy; National VAC Survey (Ms. Lydia Wasula); Official handover of National case management handbook on Child Protection (UCRNN)	Mr. Patrick Onyango Mangen, Country Director, TPO Uganda
	10:30 -10: 45 am	Q&A Session	All Participants	
	10: 45 -11:00 am	TEA BREAK		
	11:00 - 11:30 am	Ongoing Interventions:Justice, Law and Order Sector, Health Sector and Education Sector	Sector Representatives	Ms. Stella Ayoo –Odongo, Executive Director, UCRNN
	11:30 -12:00 pm	Q & A Session	All Participants	
	Gaps and recommendations	12:00 - 12:30 pm	Plenary Discussion : Consensus building on overlapping legal and policy implementation gaps & Recommendations	All Participants
12:30 - 12:45 pm		Emerging Priorities for action	Ms. Agnes Wasike, National Coordinator, Child Protection Working Group	Mr. Deogratious Yiga, Development Links Consult
12:45 - 1:15 pm		Learning Event Resolutions & Way Forward	All participants	Mr. Mondo Kyateka, Ag, Commissioner , Youth and Children Affairs
1:15 -1:30 pm		Official Closure	Permanent Secretary, MGLSD	
	1:30 pm	LUNCH & DEPARTURE		

ANNEX IV: Event List of Participants

NAME	INSTITUTION/TITLE	TEL. CONTACT	EMAIL ADDRESS
GOVERNMENT SECTORS			
Senkaali Harriet	MoES	0772513386	senkaali.harriet@gmail.com
Ssemakula Henry	MoES	0772906073	semasug@yahoo.com
Nyamahunge Esther	MGLSD	0782553101	esther.nyamahunge@gmail.com
Adibaa Irene	UPDF/ UG POLICE	0717651177	adibairene@yahoo.com
Musingo Moses	MoES	0772601465	maenmuse@gmail.com
Fortune Musanyi	CRANE Consult	0774929275	muwonge@yahoo.com
Sam Ogwal	NTC	0703791239	samribob@gmail.com
Happy James	YLP/ MGLSD	0774255920	happyjames@gmail.com
Jane Stella Ogwang	MGLSD	0772553415	ogwangpo@gmail.com
Kasule Muhammad	MoES	0782805474	mkasule21@yahoo.uk
Kagya B	MGLSD	0772611682	kbinabulime@yahoo.com
Agnes B. Nampeera	MGLSD	0772412145	bnampeera@yahoo.com
Noel Komunda	MGLSD	0751027127	noel.komunda@gmail.com
Jackie Nakifamba	MGLSD	0700269309	jackie.nakifamba@yahoo.com
Safina Mutumba	MoES	0772520342	
Barbara Kiyui Cobbinah	JLOS	0772470149	bkitui@jlos.go.ug
Lorna Kigozi	MGLSD	0777341880	kigozilorna@gmail.com
Mugpbera Charles	JLOS Secretariat	0752484455	mugaberbmbusa@gmail.com
Sam Acodu	MGLSD	0772603732	acodusam@gmail.com
Sande Alex Bashaija	MGLSD	0775759054	sandealexter@gmail.com
Golooba Rojers	MGLSD	0701823224	rogersgolooba@gmail.com
Julius Nsereko	MGLSD	0783282421	
Buluba Jacqueline	MGLSD	0771478297	lynjaqie@gmail.com
Wiwo Brenda	OPM	0788663336	wiwobrenda@gmail.com
Namukose Faima	Trainee	0703817300	namukosefaima@yahoo.com
Ssesanga Ndiko Lydia	Prisons	0772613868	indiko@yahoo.com
Pimer Sylvia	MGLSD	0774490479	pimersylvia@gmail.com
Kityo Richard	MGLSD	0782528268	kityorichard2015@gmail.com
Natukunda Fortunata	OPM/SLSV ASS	0782724285	fortunata41@gmail.com
Lydia Wasula	MGLSD	0772340910	lydia.wasula@gmail.com
Adong Francis	MGLSD	0772614393	fadong@yahoo.com
Betty Agudo	JLOS	0772442480	bettyagudo@gmail.com
Jimmy Obbo	MGLSD	0704945711	jimmyobbo@gmail.com
Dr. Kato Freeman	MGLSD	0703536006	kattobushrah@gmail.com
Naluyinda Sarah	SCA-OPM	0772946809	snaluyinda@yahoo.com
Mary Kyomugisha	Naguru Remand Home	0772591791	mokyomugisha@gmail.com
Nsangi Irene	Kampiringisa	0772524768	unsangiirene@gmail.com
Brenda Kyomugisha	JLOS/JAC	0772367640	kppbrenda@yahoo.uk
Wabalaki Susan	MGLSD	0785144776	wabalakis@gmail.com
Christine Kajumba	MGLSD	0776468486	kajumbac@gmail.com
K.F. Mondo	MGLSD	0752405145	kyateka@yahoo.com
Majwara William Wilson	MGLSD	07403568029	wwmajwara@gmail.com
Nakuya Joan	MGLSD	0782053243	nakuyajoan6@gmail.com
Naigaga Edith	Police	0782099035	naigagaedith@gmail.com
Luvunia John	MGLSD	0782492923	johnluvunia@gmail.com
Mugisha John	MGLSD	0782639013	gisha2013@gmail.com

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NAME	INSTITUTION/TITLE	TEL. CONTACT	EMAIL ADDRESS
Nakasiita Eva	MGLSD	0775938511	evaynbukie@gmail.com
Kyosiwe Stella	MGLSD	0704569260	stellaborit@gmail.com
Nicole Weinard	MGLSD	0782230835	nicoleweinard@gmail.com
Otto Lucy	MGLSD	0772336925	lucyotto13@gmail.com
Koojo Lucy Kabahuma	ODPP	0772659750	koojolucy@gmail.com
Amanda Agaba Ntambiko	MGLSD	0701445674	amangaagaba@gmail.com
Namugenyi Aisha	MGLSD	0700773888	ashanam2@gmail.com
Agnes M. Wasike	MGLSD	0772511168	agnes@cpwg.ug
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND CSOs			
Gloria Angume	J4C	0782157122	gloriaangume@gmail.com
Grace katusiime	MGLSD	0782367564	gracekat2@yahoo.com
Patience Ninsiima	MGLSD	0706707594	ninsiimapatience12@gmail.com
Odong P.G	MGLSD	0772614393	fgodoy@yahoo.com
Hellen Edimu	JLOS J4C	0782654774	akoledimu@yahoo.com
Harriet Akullu	UNICEF	0717171839	hakullu@unicef.org
Kelvin Sentala	UNHCR		sentala@unhcr.org
Barbra Aber	CiF	0776110338	barbra@chidsifoundation.org
Kabuye Solomon	ACI	0752396849	kasulesolomon@gmail.com
Martha Akello	PLA	0778115720	akellomat@gmail.com
John S. Graham	MULC	0772563656	ssewanjajohn@yahoo.com
James Tumushabe Yesiga	IIDC	0757365171	yesinga@gmail.com
Bamuteta Geoffrey	SCI	0752823342	geoffrey.bamuteta@savethechildren.org
Josephine Namirimu	Chesire Services Uganda	0700251089	namirimuj@gmail.com
John Ssekamatte	NPA	0782584822	jssekamatte@npa.ug
Dorothy Muhumure	FAWEU	0772511904	dora.muhumure@gmail.com
Marianna Garofalo	UNICEF	0775220727	
Ninsiima Sandra R.	Chesire Services Uganda	0700251076	saninsiima@gmail.com
Alfred B. Agaba	AVSI Foundation	0772928551	alfred.agaba@avsi.org
Violet Nakitende	PLA	0704038953	violetnakitende@gmail.com
Andrew Luyombo	NASWU	0772405191	luyomboandrew@gmail.com
James Kabugo	Plan International Uganda	0772951833	kabugojames@gmail.com
Wendabwa Rogers	FAWEU	0782304072	wendabwar@yahoo.com
Murungi Asinani	World Vision	0770990100	asinani@gmail.com
Kapuru Kenneth	ACODEV	0783345902	kapurukenneth@gmail.com
Mugadya Kenneth	UYAFPAH	0706339606	collinmpo@gmail.com
Obong Godfrey	World Vision	0772882506	accpgodgrey@gmail.com
Barak Masinde	World Vision	0776743162	masindebo@yahoo.co.uk
Sonya Kagwa	CiF	0755888333	sonya@chidsifoundation.org
Mubezi David	REPSSI	0701118444	
Claire Namwenge	TPO Uganda	0777259532	claire.namwenge@gmail.com
Wapomo John	UNICEF	0706221505	wapomojohna@gmail.com
Seraphine Awacanyi	ELECU	0758554013	sawacyo@yahoo.com
Michelle Ell	CRS/4Children	0789749391	michelle.ell@crs.org
Samalie Kawesa	CRS/4Children		samalie.kawesi@crs.org
Patrick O. Mangeni	TPO Uganda	0882794806	ponyango@tpouganda.org
Yusrah Nagujja	Refugee Law Project	0752260573	nyusunh@gmail.com
Hampogo M	RLP	0779545152	marykampogo@gmail.com
Susan Anguria	Bnatwana	077771762	suzan.anguria@edaid.org
Edton Babu	Bnatwana	0772730683	edtonbantwana@gmail.com

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NAME	INSTITUTION/TITLE	TEL. CONTACT	EMAIL ADDRESS
Anthony Makumbi	Data Care	0755000513	amakumbi@datacareug.com
Angume Okello John	Save the Children	0772930140	john.angume@savethechildren.org
Okumu J. Richard	Plan International Uganda	0777697844	
Etiang Moses	Samaritans Purse	0771007242	mentiang@samafricans.org
Taban Edward	TPO Uganda	0782150004	etaban@tpoug.org
Dedan Tugaine	UNHCR	0772710016	tugaine@unhcr.org
Golola L	UNHCR	0772710076	mugume@unhcr.org
Bagula Paul	Plan International Uganda	0784054719	paul.bagula@planinternational.org
Winfred Naggayi	Warchild Canada	0783040501	winfrednaggayi@gmail.com
Nayiga Hellen	CRANE Consult	0772820882	hnayiga@cranenetwork.org
Doreen Alaro	CRS/4Children	0772577251	dalaro@intrahealth.org
Ayo Florence	CRS/SOCY	0784649497	florenceayo@crs.org
Robert Wafula	Plan International Uganda	0782469791	robert.wafula@planinternational.org
Waburoko Benjamin	UCRNN	0772560388	b.waburoko@ucrnn.net
Magall Mortiz	CRS/4Children	0788591229	mamoritz2004@gmail.com
Akawisima J. Vincent	Plan International Uganda	0772531552	jakaley@gmail.com
Byamukama Michael	REPSSI	0772420575	michael.byamukama@repssi.org
Lamunu Sandra	UNHCR	0771899178	santalam@unhcr.org
Lynette Mudekunya	REPSSI	+27823308539	
Florence Amono	World Education	0772611036	florence_amono@worlded.org
Musisi Herbert	REPSSI	0777470337	musisi.herbert@gmail.com
Amonyi Mary	ELECU	0772584073	maryamonyi@gmail.com
Woubishet Mengustu	Samaritans Purse	0772713217	wmengistu@samatitan.org
Cynthia Makoha Mukiibi	Pro Initiatives	0790801513	cynthiamukiibi@gmail.com
Ssebukulu Simeo	NASWU	0703072191	bukulusimeo@gmail.com
Bankusha Caroline	Alternative Care Initiatives	0772433265	cbankusha@gmail.com
Suwede Yunus Abdallah	UNHCR	0772701126	abdallah@unhcr.org
Edelonin Othigo	UNHCR	0755228855	othigo@unhcr.org
Draecabo Charles	NASWU		draecabo@hotmail.com
Lynn Nakabugo	FAWEU	0774524433	lynnnakabugo@gmail.com
Sylvia Mukasa	LAPSNET	0772461615	
Tumwebaze Jackline	CRS/4Children	0789149372	jackline.tumwebaze@crs.org
Stella Ayo Odong	UCRNN	0772467477	
Moses Bijwaha	ACODEV	0782572502	bmoses@acodevuganda.org
Bwanika Dan	World Vision	0755001533	denisbwauta@yahoo.co.uk
Robinah Gimbo	World Vision	0755004097	robinah_gimbo@wvi.org
Mutyaba Stevenson	ACODEV	0782999612	stevenson@gmail.com
Kunakaeh Sundeey	ACODEV	0772950614	ksunday@gmail.com
Kasiita Tonny	UNHCR	0789483776	kasiita@unhcr.org
Patrick Kigundu	Data Care	0752463809	pkagende@datacare.org
Olabo Daniel	WCC	0772072041	dolabo@yahoo.com
Irene Aliga	UNHCR	0776720024	aliga@unhcr.org
Andezu Dorah	Parenting Uganda	0772366774	doraha@parentinguganda.com
Ddamulira Charles	AVSI Foundation	0772363998	charles.ddhamulira@avsi.org
Victoria Tendo	CiF	0776110318	victoria@childsifoundation.org
Richard Wamimbi	CDL	0770880446	richardwamimbi@gmail.com
Sydney Sproul	UNAS	0770140450	ssproul@unas.org.ug
Adriko Robinson	NASWU	0752002984	robbinsonadriko@gmail.com
Mike Luweegi	CRANE Network	0706415661	mluweesi@cranenetwork.org

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NAME	INSTITUTION/TITLE	TEL. CONTACT	EMAIL ADDRESS
Dinnah Nabwire	TPO Uganda	0775272007	dnabwire@gmail.com
Judith Nakamanya	World Vision	0782351497	judith.nakamanya@wvi.org
Nakatende Roshan	World Vision	0703951070	nshandean3@gmail.com
Theodora Webale	Africhild Centre	0772471160	theodora@gmail.com
Makumbi Kayira Solomon	Amabujje Ge'Ggwanga	0751985428	amabujjegeggwanga@gmail.com
Annet Namunane	USAID/UPHS	0782176111	annet.namunane@ugandaphs.org
Atimango Margaret	Save the Children	0782827115	margaret.atimango@savethechildren.org
Celia Nalwadda	UNAS	0772537850	celianalwadda@unas.org.ug
Silva Bob Turyamujuka	UWESO	0789544246	silvamusbob@gmail.com
Grace Onyango	REPSSI	0772893816	onyangograce@gmail.com
Namudiba Sandra	UWONET	0773800831	oyasandra@gmail.com
Naome Ayot	Set her Free	0772393834	ayotn81@gmail.com
Babweleera R.	LAPSNET	0785724221	lao@lapsnet.org
Elias Bwambale	Uganda Law Society	0703183941	elzbal2@live.com
Nafuna Jackline	FAWEU	0782543257	nfnjackline@gmail.com
Yiga Deo	DLC	0772507768	dyiga1@devtlink.org
Kabogozza Sembatya	Child Protection Specialist	0776642079	kabogozzass@gmail.com
Claire Namwenge	TPO Uganda	0777259532	claire.namwenge@gmail.com
Anyima Okello J	Save the Children	0772930140	juliusanyima@savethechildren.org
DISTRICT PARTICIPANTS			
Akiror Jane	For CAO	0782504261	janeakiror@gmail.com
Oluka Amosa	SPWO	0782446832	amuosoluka@gmail.com
Alamai Susan	SPWO -Tororo	0772883723	alamaisusan@gmail.com
Akumu Christine Okwi	DCDO -Aomoro	0772604551	acokot@yahoo.com
Muzira David	DCDO -Mityana DLG	0782431941	muziradavid@gmail.com
Dr. Okumu David	DHO -Tororo	0772457360	davidcyrus@gmail.com
Mulabya W	S/PLAN	0772829061	mulabyawilliam@gmail.com
Oguti Vincent	DCDO	0772555391	vincentoguti14@gmail.com
Buyinza Samalie	Nakasongola	0772590712	buyinzasamalie@yahoo.co.uk
Sanyu Irene	SPWO -Nakaseke	0772574532	sanyuirene@yahoo.com
Aduma Geofrey	KDLG	0704967048	adumajeff@yahoo.com
Lokut Paul	PAG-KIDEP	0775766915	lokutpaul3@yahoo.com
Nanyago Lydia	SPWO -Buikwe	0752414181	ngglydia@yahoo.co.uk
Tingira Samuel	District Vice Chairperson	0772319534	tingirasamuel@gmail.com
Tuhairwe Gertrude	DCDO -Kamwenge DLG	0772596228	gtuhairwe@yahoo.com
Mugarura Edward	DCDO -Isingiro	0772619444	mugarued@gmail.com
Julius Ofallo	DCDO -Busia	0772453520	jon7844@gmail.com
Wanyama Patrice	DIS -Busia	0772694188	lumbahumamed@gmail.com
Makoha Catherine	CDO	0773747500	cathymakoha@gmail.com
Namigadde Joyce	SPWO	0772837191	joyshinah@yahoo.com
Kamyia Edward	CAO -Rakai LG	0701436422	kamyiaedward64@gmail.com
Athieno Mary Kevin	Tieng Adhola Institute	0773336968	marykevenathieno@gmail.com
Monyes Esther	PSWO -Napak	0772416083	monyeesther@gmail.com
Monday Stephen	CAO -Kole	0787735549	mondystev2013@gmail.com
Alal Single Dora	CSO THRIVE	0772396010	adora@thrivegulu.org
Kigongo Mathias	LCV/BUIKWE	0772453613	kigongomathias@yahoo.com
Acia Marino	DEO Arua	0782565903	aciamarino@yahoo.com
Kagoda Richard	PSWO	0772466192	richardkagodo@gmail.com
Kasule Sewava Stephen	CGC/Team leader	0788435464	

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NAME	INSTITUTION/TITLE	TEL. CONTACT	EMAIL ADDRESS
Ssenteza Yusuf	CAO -Buikwe	0772455871	ssentezayusuf@yahoo.com
Ofutari S. Barbara	DCDO -Arua	0784601301	bgutaru@gmail.com
Olaboro Franc	CAO	0772469769	francoolaboro@gmail.com
Ndagire Joan H.	Nakaseke LG	0784346746	onyike44@yhao.com
Musisi Joel	Tororo DLG	0772479166	joelmusisi@gmail.com
Kawalya Morgan Aden	DCDO -Gomba	0772993197	morgan.aden@yahoo.com
Atine Leo Conrad	DCDO	0772004062	aniteconrad@gmail.com
Yiga Farook	SPWO	0772004062	yigafarook@gmail.com
Kaggwa John Hannington	DCDO -Butambala DLG	0772557513	
Akoyo Charles	DEO Kamuli DLG	0772634978	srichardakoyo@yahoo.co.uk
Mugisa Simon	SPWO	0782338310	simonmugisha@gmail.com
Kimbugwe Godfrey	DCDO Rakai	0774393837	
Tumwiringire Eric	DEO Kmwenge	0772611597	egbmuringire@gmail.com
Odit Julius Peter	PSWO -Kole	0772657716	podit15@yahoo.com
Hellen Edimu	JLOS -Arua	0782684774	akaedimu@yahoo.com
Kobusinge Grace	for DCDO	07788435464	
MEDIA			
Ronnie Mayanja	Prime Radio/ Reporter	0774455457	Rsmayanja29@gmail.com
Carol kasujja	Vision	0773399050	kasujjacarol@gmail.com
Abbey Ramadhan	New Vision	0759717326	aramadhan@newvision.co.ug
Innocent N	NBS	0779546061	inabaasa@alwaysnbs.tv
Kajumba Annah	UBC-Radio	0752269787	kayambaa@yahoo.co.uk
Denis Kato	Channel 44 TV	0700998564	Katodenis99@gmail.com
Jackie Nantale	Record TV	0704519608	Nantale2015@gmail.com
Ambrose Gahene	ABC Africa	0788914058	rwabikinga@gmail.com
Racheal Nakiwala	Urban TV	0756455509	rachealnaki@gmail.com
Ddungwa Davis Joel	CBS	0783542535	galleyjoel@gmail.com
Ninsiima patience	TV west	0779921897	Ninsiimapatience12@gmail.com
Eva Namukwaya	Radio Simba	0753051264	evanamukwaya@gmail.com
Maria Nantabazi	Akaboozi kubiri	0755362868	
Banonya C	UBC TV	0757374511	berlbanonya@yahoo.com
Nazziwa Jesca	Supper fm	0788422420	jescarax@gmail.com
Nalujja Shamshad	Bukedde TV	0758017807	Shamshads899@gmail.com
Mboowa Nathan	Buddu fm/Digida fm	0701716131	mboowanathan@gmail.com
Patience ahimbisibwe	Daily monitor	0772370556	pahimbisibwe@ug.nationmedia.com
Edward Kiiza	UBC TV	0772046222	Edwardrebecca1970@gmail.com
Namugabi Eva	Radio One	0752370145	evanamugabi@yahoo.com
Alice Luwama	Capital FM	0704471366	Alicelubwama27@gmail.com
Katagwa George	NBS TV	0701444610	gkatagwa@gmail.com
Joseph Bahingwire	KFM	0753062294	joebaling@yahoo.com
Teddy Nandawula	Bukedde paper and Radio	0705243124	tedddynandawula@gmail.com
Richard Kirembeka	Top TV	0757874133	rkirembe@gmail.com
Vicent Muwenda	Salt Fm	0759201803	
Bosco Mugabi	BBS TV	075823198	bmuyabi@yahoo.com
CHILDREN			
Kathabasya Joel	Male student	Western Uganda	
Byamukama Isidiru	Male student	Western Uganda	

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NAME	INSTITUTION/TITLE	TEL. CONTACT	EMAIL ADDRESS
Kamende John	Male student	Western Uganda	
Masereka Derrick Yusuf	Male student	Western Uganda	
BwambaleJuma	Male student	Western Uganda	
Mwambu Mary	Female student	Western Uganda	
Kabughho Joan	Female student	Western Uganda	
KabughhoFaib	Female student	Western Uganda	
Biira Winnie Mukiibi	Female student	Western Uganda	
Mughosole Swizen	Male student	Western Uganda	
Bitina Riziki	Male student	Western Uganda	
Masika Ackenjoy	Female student	Western Uganda	
KabughhoAsinet	Female student	Western Uganda	
Kabughho Olivious	Female student	Western Uganda	
Juuko Iman	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Kirabo Moses	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Nsamba Mark	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Sauda Nakusajji	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Mugisha Gilbert	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Mujjuzi Reagan	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Luyima Najjib	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Ivan Ssembajjwe	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Nyakojjo Wilson	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Habib Wampande	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Junior Pius	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Mugisha Emmanuel	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Manisulu Siraji	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Ayella Lillian	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Bedaika Nancy	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Muwanguzi Emma	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Nuwamanya Felix	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	

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NAME	INSTITUTION/TITLE	TEL. CONTACT	EMAIL ADDRESS
Julius	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Lillian	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Best	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Kibuuka	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Good	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Fahad	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Kiiza Isaac	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Ecoku Ronald	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Kalule Yusuf	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Maureen Kisakye	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Lutaaya Bernard	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Nalwangu Edward	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Wenene Esther	On Rehabilitation program	KNRC - Mpigi	
Loy Nyachwo	Female Student	Kamuli	
Soho Robert	Male Student	Kamuli	
Timothy Gheno	Male Student	Kamuli	
Christine Akiteng	Female Student	Kamuli	
Lakot Eunice	Female Student	Kamuli	
KyosimyeBufhira	Female Student (Kamuli girls College Nawanyago)	Kamuli	
NabiryoApophia	Female Student (Kamuli girls College Nawanyago)	Kamuli	
NamukuveRitah Rebecca	Female Student (Kamuli girls College Nawanyago)	Kamuli	
SsetumbweHaminsi	Male Student (Kamuli Progressive S.S)	Kamuli	
NanyumbaMajidu	Male Student (Kamuli Progressive S.S)	Kamuli	