



Concept note

National symposium on the Day of the African Child

Theme: Leave No Child Behind for Uganda's Development

Organizer: Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

Date: Wednesday 13th June 2018

Venue: Golf Course Hotel, Kampala

Background

This year's Day of the African Child builds on the momentum created by the "The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for Children in Africa: Accelerating Protection, Empowerment and Equal Opportunity." It does so by emphasizing the need to mainstream children's rights in all (Agenda 2030) developmental programs implemented by Member States.

The United Nations (UN) Member States adopted, at the UN Sustainable Development Summit on September 25, 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are a continuation of efforts towards reaching the targets set out in the previous Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) while adopting a more radical approach to global transformation with a particular emphasis on targeting those left furthest behind first. Agenda 2030 sets out 17 SDGs together with several targets to be reached by all Member States and other stakeholders by 2030. The goals bring the pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) together with the elements of peace, justice and viable institutions to drive and maintain overall development and ensure that no child is left behind in the development process¹.

Context Analysis

¹ Ibid,



Uganda is still a patriarchal society guided and regulated by a patriarchal ideology that defines social hierarchal relationship between men women, girls and boys. This governs societal norms and practices, gives social meaning, and defines appropriate behavior or roles for men in relations to women as superior, the main decision makers, controllers of productive resources, and power. The result of this is gender inequality, discrimination, exclusion, marginalization, vulnerability and poverty which end up having children live at the margins of citizenship and rights.

Discriminatory cultural norms compel children to work for the family's survival, deprive them of the investments in their human capital that would support and protect them in adulthood. Early marriage makes children vulnerable to physical and sexual violence, sexually transmitted infection including HIV, and other kinds of exploitation. Additionally disparities are manifested in inequalities in social status, leadership roles and decision-making. Some of the consequences of these inequalities include gender based violence at domestic and community levels, sexual abuse and exploitation and high school drop out rates especially for girls

It is estimated that, over 90% of the children in Uganda are vulnerable due various forms of deprivations and violence. For example, Globally, Uganda is ranked among the hot spots with high rates of child sexual abuses and child marriages, 55% (3.7 million) of children below five years and 38% (6 – 17 years), are deprived in at least two poverty dimensions (MoGLSD, 2011 and UBOS, 2014).The UNCRC defines the four dimensions of children's rights as survival, education and development, protection and participation.

Due to the above bottlenecks, more children are not able to complete school. In the long run they are not able to understand and demand for their rights. These children end up with inadequate life skills which would help them ably engage in viable economic practices. This increases their economic dependence and vulnerability. This also has a bearing on the confidence and assertiveness limiting their participation in decision making.

Recognizing all the above shortfall, as well as progress achieved so far, discrimination and violence against children and violations of their human rights still persist, and that intensification of efforts and empowerment of children is key in decreasing discriminations, violence and poverty, and in promoting and protecting the full and effective enjoyment of their human rights that of empowering children requires the active support and engagement of government and different stakeholders including families and the wider community.



Why the National symposium on EVAC?

Many organizations, institutions, government are playing key roles in shaping the world through the promotion of children's rights including ending violence against children. The key players are actively involved in the development conversations and taking action towards ensuring children rights are respected in Uganda.

This symposium will reflect deeply on the progress and successes in realizing children's rights thus far, to clarify what must be our focus to address the challenges ahead, and to share the reflections and deliberations with others to 'check' our thinking, prompting us on to further progress for children.

During the symposium we will seek to strengthen political will; accelerating action among the key players including government, community structures and the children themselves. Increasing resource allocation; and strengthening collaboration will also be discussed at length. There are three 'windows' that the symposium will focus on **(1) child participation in the development process 2) challenges , progress and achievements 3) promising practices 4) SDG 16 in accelerating Uganda's development.**

Objectives of the symposium

- 1) Seek for collective action towards child protection
- 2) Take stock of ongoing efforts towards child protection

Methodology

In Uganda, the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MGLSD), houses the Department of Children and Youths Affairs as well as the National Children's Authority.² The MGLSD has the mandate of Government Inter-institutional Coordination when it comes to children's affairs. Thus World Vision will organize the symposium in partnership with Ministry of gender.

The symposium will be informed by the policy process that government especially Ministry of Gender has and is under taking towards child protection. World Vision being a key

² As per the Children's Amendment Act 2016.



partner in the event will share evidence through children's voice which will arise from already on going activities including (public hearings at sub-county level, school debates (in the schools being supported by World Vision , essay writing competition in the schools supported by World Vision and district open dialogues in World Vision districts of operation (district Gala).

This will be a one-day Dialogue and will comprise the following activities:

- Plenary sessions to be addressed by stakeholders including profiling the voices of children
- Children's activities (children's panel, children's pome)
- Breakout sessions to address specific issues and topics
- Self-organized side events where institutions can present their programs and galvanize support for their activities
- An exhibition where organizations can exhibit their projects and activities

Expected participants

Chief Guest: Minister of Gender Labour and Social Development

S/N	Categories of stakeholders	Key Institutions to participate
1	UN Agencies and other Development Partners	UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO, IRISH AID, World Bank, USAID,
2	Line Ministries and other Agencies	MoES, MGLSD, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs ,Uganda Police Force(Child protection Unit), Parliament of Uganda(members of the Children Parliamentary Forum), Uganda Human Rights Commission, National Children's Authority, National Planning Authority, Ministry of Local Government



3	Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)/ Media	Members of the Child Protection Working Group, ISC VACiS, selected National Women Organizations and those working on children related issues ³ , Media (UBC TV and radio, NTV,NBS, radio one)
4	Religious Institutions	All Members of Uganda Inter-Religious Council (Catholics, Anglican, Muslims, Orthodox, Bahai, Adventists, Pentecostal.
5	Cultural Institutions	All Cultural Institutions registered and recognized by the MGLSD.(Ministers will be invited from various kingdoms, Buganda, Busoga, Bunyoro,Toro,Arua,Teso,Kasese
6	District representatives	CAOs, selected district chairperson(Buikwe), Probation Officers,DEOs, DHOs, Par- asocial workers ,Model parents , representatives of communities (LC IIIs)
7	Education institutions	Universities representatives, DEOs ,Selected, school heads and children

Role of Ministry of gender

- 1) Mobilizing all government Agencies and development partners
 - 2) Sending out invitations by 1st June 2018
 - 3) Managing the program
 - 4) Moderating the event
 - 5) Rapotuering
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The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

PROGRAM FOR THE NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR THE DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD -13TH JUNE 2018 AT GOLF COURSE HOTEL KAMPALA

Time	Activity	Responsible person
8:00 – 8:30am	Arrival of invited participants and registration	MGLSD
	Arrival of Guest of Honor	
	Tour of exhibition stalls	
	prayer	
	Singing of anthems	
8:30 – 9:00am	Welcome remarks	MGLSD
	Remarks by World Vision	National Director
	Official opening	Director Social Protection
9:00 – 10:00am	Key note Address (The Presentation will provide progress and achievements in Uganda towards accelerating Protection, Empowerment and Equal Opportunity for children)	Director, NPA
10:00 – 10:30am	Discussant from MGLSD, UNICEF, and Save the Children on Why children should not be left behind and what we are doing to ensure this? Achievements and what needs to be done further	Moderator
10:30 – 11:00am	Tea Break	
11:00 – 12:00pm	Panel for children on VAC. A panel of children to share why children are left behind. These will be selected from sub-county and district engagements held earlier	World Vision
12:00 – 1:00pm	Panel discussion of partners working towards	Moderator



	achievement of SDG 16.2 (plan, CSO rep, LG rep, MGLSD)	
1:00 – 2:00pm	Lunch	
2:00 – 2:45pm	Developing a Call to Action and Commitments by the Different members in the room as they respond to the issues raised by the children	MGLSD
2:45 -3:15pm	Entertainment interlude by children	World Vision
3:15 -3:30pm	Speech by the UN Resident Coordinator	
3:30 -4:00pm	Closing remarks	MGLSD
	Closure	