

NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child
**Database of NGO Reports presented to the UN Committee on
the Rights of the Child.**

Document Title:

**Response to the Government of Uganda Country Report on the
Implementation of The UN Convention On The Rights of the Child**

Region:

East Africa, Africa

Country:

Uganda

Issued by:

Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN)

Date of publication of NGO Report:

02/97

Date of presentation to presessional working group:

06/97

CRC Session

(at which related national state party report was submitted):

16th Session : Sept - Oct 97

Language:

English

Document Text

[Link to related state party report at UNHCHR in English](#)

[Link to related state party report at UNHCHR in French](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN) is grateful to the individuals and organisations who contributed ideas, time and information for this report. Special thanks go to Dr. R.M.N. Nyonyintono, Chairperson ANPPCAN (U) who co-ordinated the production of the report. UCRNN further appreciates financial and material support from Red Barnet, Save the Children Fund (U.K.), Redd Barna and Concern Worldwide which facilitated the preparation of the report and workshop to review the report.

UCRNN, February 1997

ABSTRACT

In general, the NGO report agrees that the information presented in the Government report is a

fair reflection of the situation of children in Uganda at the time of writing the report.

The NGO report is presented in the following way:

(i) comment is made on the information presented by Government, (ii) any inconsistencies or gaps are mentioned, (iii) an analysis of the situation is made highlighting the key issues and problems up to the present time (1997), and (iv) recommendations are made on what Government and NGOs should do. The recommendations appear under appropriate headings in appendix 1.

In general it is recommended that the partnership between Government and NGOs in implementing the c-c should be strengthened; however **NGOs should maintain the role of an independent body to bring pressure to bear on Government to honour its promise to the children of Uganda made 16th June 1992 at the launching of UNPAC.**

The priority recommendations in the NGO report are:

1. Increase Government budgetary allocation to the key social sector components for UNPAC and the implementation of the Children Statute.

2. The Government together with NGOs should accelerate the dissemination of the relevant sections of (i) the Constitution; (ii) the Children Statute (1996) and (iii) all other relevant provisions of child care and protection especially at grassroots level.

3. The Government together with NGOs should examine cultural practices and especially child-rearing practices in the light of the CRC as an instrument of social change.

4. The Government should set up an effective and sustainable mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the CRC and enjoyment of the rights by children.

5. As part of the preventive strategy, Government should develop programmes for out of school children (including early school drop-outs) since these constitute the major category of exploited working children.

Government must speed up the development of legislation, policy and guidelines on child labour.

The highlights of the report are:

1. Background

The CRC is being gradually implemented against a situation where the family in Uganda has high dependency burden. Eighty percent (80%) of Ugandans who die of AIDS are in the productive age-group, as a result the family as the basic unit for the care and protection of the child is undermined.

2. General Measures

The majority of key Legislative and administrative measures which were in preparation at the time of reporting are now in place.

It is commendable that Government has made some significant initial steps to ensure enjoyment of the rights by the children e.g. democratisation and decentralisation of governance, poverty alleviation, National Immunisation Day (NIDs) for eradication of polio, and support to universal primary education. The impact has not been felt as yet and it is still too early to evaluate the mechanisms employed to implement these measures.

However there is major concern about the inadequacy of Government funding for the implementation of the measures, the majority of which is provided by donors and therefore does

not ensure sustainability.

3. Definition of the Child.

The constitution and Children Statute (1996) are clear on the definition of a child in Uganda as a person below the age of 18 years. There is some controversy over age 18 among the general populace which needs to be resolved through sensitisation and education programmes for adults and children. There is need to establish a norm of care and protection of all children. Girls, in particular, are forced to assume adult roles prematurely.

4. General Principles

The CRC is potentially an instrument of social change. Some of the principles call for development of a broader understanding of child-rearing practices in line with the values of the CRC.

5. Civil Rights and Freedoms

Basic civil rights and freedoms are protected in the Constitution. The rights of children will be further protected under the Children Statute 1996. However, certain cultural practices deny these rights. There is need to ensure legal support and aid for children at the grassroots level.

6. Family Environment and Alternative Care

The Government policy of institutionalisation as a last resort for the alternative care of children is good. However, the reality of families being increasingly overburdened demands the development of a range of alternative forms of care for children which fully supports their needs and rights.

7. Basic Health and Health Services

The PHC strategy and UNPAC have yielded some improvements in key health and social indicators, but the actual situation of children in Uganda is still very poor. Performance is lagging far behind the UNPAC targets for the year 2000 and the indicators are worse than comparable neighbouring countries (table 2, page 9). This means a major challenge to speed up the development of DPACs and SPACs for all districts and their actual implementation. There is also concern about the over dependency of the health sector on donor funding.

8. Education, Leisure and Cultural Activities

While Primary enrolment has improved, the drop-out rate continues to be high, and as a result **illiteracy is high. Universal Primary Education** introduced in February 1997 is commended. The challenge now is to continue initiatives which make education accessible while maintaining quality education for all children.

9. Special Protection Measure..

In general the existing measures are remedial rather than preventive Enforcement of the remedial measures is still poor and as a result children continue to be exploited.

The Government rehabilitated children involved in armed conflict up to 1986. Children caught up in the armed rebellion in northern Uganda since 1987 have not received adequate support from Government. Existing initiatives are by NGOs. There is an urgent need for concrete measures to address the needs of children caught up in armed conflict in Uganda.

Legal provision for juvenile offenders has improved with guarantees in the Constitution and Children Statute (1996). However the actual condition for child offenders and young children of mothers in prison are appalling despite concern being raised with Government.

Drug abuse is on the increase but the mechanisms to protect children are very weak and children are being increasingly exploited by the drug industry.

Sexual exploitation and abuse of children is a serious and increasing problem. The content and

nature of the defilement law detracts from its effective application. Child prostitution and pornography are increasingly evident in urban areas. Sexual exploitation and abuse of children goes on at the household and community level where cultural practices encourage early marriage, and other forms of exploitation of young girls.

There is need to sensitise adults and children and empower them to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse of children. There is also need to improve application of the law on defilement.

10. Children of Minorities and Indigenous Population.

While there are no minorities or indigenous populations in Uganda, there are ethnic groupings who are threatened by resettlement policies which do not adequately protect their survival. It is important to safeguard such ethnic groups in future resettlement programmes.

CONTENT

ABSTRACT

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

TEE COUNTRY CRC REPORT

I. GENERAL MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION

Article 4 - Legislative, Administrative and other measures

Legislative measures ~

- 1.The Constitution (1995)
- 2.The Children Statute (1996)
- 3.The Local Government Statute 1993
4. The Law on Defilement (1990)

Administrative Measures

1. The Uganda National Plan of Action for Children (UNPAC)
2. The Social Welfare Policy
3. Democratisation and Decentralisation of Government
4. Decentralisation
5. The Rehabilitation and Development Plan (RDP)

Constraints

Illiteracy
Outdated Laws

B. Article 42 - Publicising the CRC

C. Article 44(5) Distribution of the Country CRC Report

II DEFINITION OF A CHILD

III GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- A. Article 2-Non-discrimination
- B. Article 3 - Best interest of the Child
- C. Article 6 - The right to life, survival and development
- D. Article 12 - Respect for the views of the Child

IV CIVIL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

- A. Article 7 - Name and Nationality
- B. Article 8 - Preservation of Identify
- D. Article 17 - Access to appropriate information

V FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND ALTERNATIVE CARE

- A. Article 5 - Parental guidance
- B. Article 18 - Parental Responsibility
- C. Article 9 - Separation from parents
- D. Article 20 - Children deprived of a family environment
- E. Article 21 - Adoption
- F. Article 11 - Illicit transfer and non-return
- G. Article 19 - Protection from abuse and Neglect
- H. Article 39 - Recovery and rehabilitation support for abused children
- I. Article 25 - Periodic review of placement

VI. BASIC HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES

- A. Article 6 - Survival and development
- B. Health and health services
- C. Disabled children

VII EDUCATION, LEISURE AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

- A. Article 28 - Education including vocational training and guidance
- C. Leisure, recreation and cultural activities

VII SPECIAL PROTECTION MEASURES

- A. Article 38,39 - Armed conflict
- B. Article 40 - Administration of Juvenile Justice
- C. Children in situations of exploitation
 - Article 32 - Child labour
 - Article 33 - Drug abuse
 - Article 34 - Sexual exploitation and sexual abuse
- D. Article 30: Children of minorities or indigenous populations

BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDIX

- 1: Recommendations
- 2: Articles which have not been commented on
- 3: Details of Causes of Disabilities in Children in Uganda
- 4: Member NGOs and NGOs Which participated in producing the Report.
- 5: Participants in the National NGO Report Review Workshop 2.3 February 1997

TABLE

LIST OF TABLES

- 1: Government Budgetary Allocation to Key Social Sector Components of UNPAC (% of National Budget)
- 2: Comparative Indicators of Child Mortality Rate 1960 -1995

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

(In alphabetical order)

AIDS Acquired Immune deficiency Syndrome
ANPPCAN African Network for Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect.

CBHC Community Based Health Care
 CBO Community Based Organisation
 CHW Community health Worker
 CLRC Child Law Review Committee
 CRC Convention on the Rights of the Child
 DC District Council
 DCCP Department of Child Care and Protection
 DPAC District Plan of Action for Children
 EARS Educational Assessment and Resource Services
 ESA External Support Agencies
 FCC Family and Children Court
 GDP Gross Domestic Product
 GoU Government of Uganda
 GUSCO Gulu Save Children Organisation Human Immunodeficiency Virus
 LC Local Council
 LRA Lords Resistance Army
 MoE&S Ministry of Education and Sports
 MOFEP Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
 MoG&CD Ministry of Gender and Community Development
 MoLSA Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs National Council for Children
 NGO Non-Governmental Organisation
 NIDs National Immunisation days
 OAU CRAWC Organisation of African Unity Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child.
 PAP Poverty Alleviation Programme.
 PAPSCA Programme for Alleviation of Poverty and Social Consequences of Adjustment
 PHC Primary Health Care
 PTA Parent Teacher Association
 RC Resistance Council
 RDP Rehabilitation and development Plan
 SAP Structural Adjustment Policy
 SCA Secretary for Children Affairs Save the Children Fund
 SPAC Sub-county Plan of Action for Children
 SYFA Save Youth from AIDS
 UAC Uganda AIDS Commission
 UCRNN Uganda Child Rights NGO Network
 UDHS Uganda Demographic and Health Survey
 UFCAA Uganda Foster Care and Adoption Association
 UNISE Uganda National Institute of Special Education
 UNPAC Uganda National Plan of Action for Children
 UNPAN Uganda National Plan of Action for Nutrition
 UPE Universal Primary Education
 VC Vice Chairperson

Notes:

RC Resistance Councils are the administrative councils within the Local Government infrastructure which were established by the National Resistance Council (NRC) in 1986.

LC When the Local Government Bill which is before Parliament comes into force as the Local Council Act, the RC will become Local Councils. The Councils are referred to as RC now except where it is stated otherwise, e.g. the Constitution and Children Statute 1996.

The areas of concern about the implementation of the Children Statute are:

INTRODUCTION

The UCRNN report or NGO report is a response to the first Government report and the updates which have been made in 1996/97.

In general the Government is committed to the CRC and has initiated important measures for its implementation. The main concern in the NGO report is that implementation has been slow because the Government has not allocated adequate funds and other necessary resources to facilitate implementation. The difference between commitment and necessary resourcing should be eliminated during the next reporting period (1997 - 2002).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Uganda's population is estimated to be 19.8 million with a child population of 10.6 million or 53.5% (MoFEP). Life expectancy for adults in Uganda is very low at 42 years and predicted to fall even further.

THE COUNTRY CRC REPORT, In general the country report gives a true picture of the situation in

Uganda. A lot of hope was expressed about the implementation measures which were under preparation at the time. There is still concern over the slow pace at which implementation is taking place. The social sector has remained grossly under-funded. See table 1, page 3.

II GENERAL MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION

Article 4 - Legislative, Administrative and other Measures

Legislative Measures (para: 2 - 5, 20, 35, ...)

1. Chapter 4 of the Constitution guarantees human rights and freedoms and article 34 specifies children's rights. The Children Statute, 1996 specifically addresses the issues of child care and protection.

The Constitution, as supreme law in Uganda, defines the social norms for the care and protection of children and supersedes all traditional practices which are in conflict with the rights of the child. This is commendable, however, the real challenge is in the process of translating these legislative measures into practical applications which ensure that such rights are enjoyed by children.

2. The Children Statute (1996), is a milestone in child care and protection because it makes both care and protection legally enforceable. The Statute has received Presidential assent and a Task Force has been established to develop a National Implementation Strategy. The position of Secretary for Children Affairs (SCA) will be created in the LC structure, juvenile justice reforms are proposed, and Children and Family Courts will be established, at District level to ensure the welfare of children in the judicial systems.

The Statute brings together the majority of the principles and provisions of the UN/CRC and OAU) Charter (CRWAC). It recognises the key role of the family, community and state as partners in the care and protection of children.

The areas of concern about the implementation of the Children Statute are:

- Although the Department of Probation and Child Protection (DCCP) in the Ministry of Gender and Community Development (MoG&CD) has the mandate to ensure the implementation of the Statute, the DCCP is grossly under-funded and under-resourced, and heavily dependant on donor funding.
- Although a task force has been established to develop a National Implementation Strategy, and government has provided support 'in kind', the major operational costs are being underwritten by child-oriented international NGOs. Government must, however, make a commitment to provide sufficient resources to ensure the effective implementation of the Statute.

3. The Local Government Statute 1993 mandated Vice Chairperson (VC) of the Resistance Councils (RC) to protect children's welfare. Unfortunately there was no systematic programme

to equip the VCs to fulfil their responsibilities, although this work has been undertaken by NGO's in some Districts. The new role of Secretary for Children's Affairs (SCA) will be established within Local Councils, in line with the Children Statute.

Local councils have great potential for ensuring the care and protection of children at grassroots level but the process of decentralisation was not facilitated by the necessary capacity building. Thus, the potential of increased support for children's rights is being hampered by limited resourcing and skills development.

4. In **1990 Section 123 of the Penal Code Act was amended to make defilement a capital offence.** This amendment has, in some respects, detracted from the creation of an effective response to sexual abuse of children. The charge of defilement does not recognise age differentials between victims and perpetrators. Further, the potential for the sentence of death being passed, creates dilemmas for families, children and decision makers at local level, in reporting instances of sexual abuse thus redress continues to be sought through the traditional practices of restitution.

The main concern here is that while the law has provided a framework for the protection of children from sexual abuse, understanding and implementation of the law is still very poor.

Administrative measures (para 7, 15 - 17)

1. The Uganda National Plan of Action for Children (UNPAC) (Para 15-17)

As the report states the Government has adopted a multi-sectoral approach with a focus on the social sector as the best means of implementing UNPAC.

Uganda followed up its commitment to the 1990 UN Summit Declaration and Plan of Action by initiating UNPAC in 1992. UNPAC set the benchmarks against which improvement in basic indicators for child survival, development and protection are measured. Coming from almost two decades of socio-economic breakdown, such goals are ambitious and the progress recorded so far is commendable.

The details of performance on UNPAC are discussed under the relevant articles i.e. health, education. Table 1, page 3 shows the level of budgetary allocation to key social sectors since the initiation of UNPAC. Although allocation of resources has improved compared to 1991/92, it has remained too low to ensure attainment of the UNPAC targets.

Table 1: Government Budgetary Allocation to key social sector components of UNPAC (% of National Budget)

Sector	Year			
	1991/92	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97
Education	4.1	13.0	7.7	10.0
Health	1.4	4.5	3.4	5.4
Other Social services (includes child protection & water & sanitation)	5.7	1.4	1.5	1.7
Totals	11.2	18.9	12.6	17.1
Compare with: Defence		20.3	21.4	21.4

Source: Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning 1996.

Source: Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning 1996.

A related constraint is lack of capacity to develop the DPACs. Thirty four out of the 39 Districts have been reached but only 5 districts have DPACs. Another 12 Districts have uncompleted DPACs. Less than half the districts are likely to implement their DPACs in 1997. There is

concern that children in the 5 districts where there is rebel activity should receive emergency support from Government and NGOs. The remaining districts that have not developed their DPACs and SPACs need to be facilitated to do so.

There is also serious concern over the poor performance in registration of orphans and lack of relevant district level data for planning, implementation and monitoring of decentralisation of UNPAC. (see recommendation 4 in appendix 1.)

2. Social welfare policy (para. 11-12).

The report talks about a social welfare policy in the making (1993), however, to date the policy is not ready (1997).

Points a - d which will form the basis of the welfare policy need to be re-examined in the light of the weakened family. Furthermore children of first generation migrants who die of AIDS have no immediate extended family to fall back on. Communities and local authorities need a clear policy and comprehensive support to care for and protect such vulnerable children.

Several factors have combined to increase poverty at the household level, including HIV/AIDS, recent turbulent socio-political history, and the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP). As a result, parents/guardians are unable to ensure an acceptable standard of living for their children. All these make it necessary to have an effective social welfare policy to ensure protection for children and families in difficult circumstances. (see recommendation 5 in Appendix 1)

3. Democratisation and Decentralisation of Government (para. 20 - 22).

The Constitution was promulgated on October 8 1995 and was widely publicised during the Parliamentary and Presidential elections of 1996. There have been efforts at political education by Government. Sensitisation about gender equity has also received support. All these have created a conducive atmosphere for the realisation of human rights, including child rights. However, there is still need for Government to take the lead in sensitising and educating people about child rights in its own right. Currently most work on child rights is done by relatively few NGOs, as a result awareness about child rights as advocated by the CRC is still low.

There are still traditional and religious beliefs and practices which undermine the rights of children. None of the child rearing practices in Uganda has been reviewed in the light of CRC requirements. Many adults are either ambivalent or opposed to the idea of child rights because they consider it to be Western orientation to child rearing and one of the major factors contributing to the breakdown of families and discipline among children in Europe and North America.

The future of democracy in Uganda will, to a large extent, be dependent on the implementation of the Children Statute as a means of socialising children into citizens who understand and appreciate their rights and freedoms and those of others.

4. Decentralisation (para 22)

Government allocation for decentralisation has increased steadily since 1994/95. District Councils are responsible for formulating and implementing district level development plans. Lack of capacity to carry out decentralised function is still a major problem. In the case of children, lack of capacity, is shown by failure to formulate and implement DPACs and SPACs for the UNPAC.

Furthermore, decentralised functions have not been phased in so districts are overwhelmed by their present workload. Because a low priority is attached to child welfare issues it is allocated inadequate resources by the districts.

5. The Rehabilitation and Development Plan (RDP) (para. 23 - 28)

The RDP has yet to establish the economic environment in which UNPAC sectoral goals will be achieved.

Constraints (para 25)

While the Government resources have increased through the expansion of the tax base, these funds are not being directed to the social sector. Poverty at the household level is deeply entrenched with 61% of the population classified as poor. (MoFEP, World Bank, 1996)

The Government has embarked on a national poverty eradication programme. The impact of the programme has not yet been felt and poverty at the household level continues to have a negative impact on child survival and development.

The constraints mentioned in paragraphs 26-28 have continued to plague Uganda, although there are measures in place to address them. Political **stability** has been consolidated in most of Uganda but the overall impact of the war in Northern Uganda is to push up the defence budget (see table 1 page 3) and deny children in the North the enjoyment of adequate care and protection.

While new cases of HIV infection are decreasing (MoH/UAC 1995/96), deaths from AIDS are still high. **AZDB** is a direct threat to child care and protection because it removes both parents thus destroying the family which is the basic unit for the care and protection of children.

Illiteracy in Uganda is very high because of low enrolment, high primary drop-out rate and adults who have never attended school. The actual level of illiteracy among children is not known. The introduction of the first phase of universal primary education (UPE) this February (1997) has improved enrolment figures but it is too early to tell what overall impact it will have on the right to access and benefit from formal education.

The Law Reform Commission is in place to **update all laws** and bring them in **line** with the Constitution. There must be effective mechanisms to ensure that the process of law reform yields the intended results especially where cultural and socio-economic practices harm children.

B. Article 42: Publicising the CRC

Preparation of UNPAC and the Children Statute 1996 gave some publicity to the CRC. Most publicity has come through the Day of the African Child (June 16) since 1992 which has been used as a platform by both Government and child-oriented NGOs to advocate for child rights and protection. Some NGOs run regular radio and TV programmes on specific aspects of child rights. Other NGOs contribute through the print media. The Ministry of Education and Sports (MoE&S) also has TV and radio programmes for schools. All these programmes are channels for the dissemination of information about the CRC. There is no indication of the listenership and readership and the impact of these programmes because they are new initiatives evaluations have yet to be carried out.

The implementation of UNPAC especially the seminars to prepare the DPACs and the SPACs and the annual evaluation and consensus workshops have been very useful in educating key implementors about the CRC. However, the resource constraints under which the NCC and districts operate have made it extremely difficult for participants to implement their programmes.

C. Article 44(5) Distribution of the Country CRC, Report

The financial constraints under which the CRC report was prepared prevented making it widely available to the public in Uganda. Only 200 copies of the report were prepared and these were not distributed until recently (September 1996) when the report was officially launched.

II DEFINITION OF A CHILD

Uganda has legislated a clear definition of the child and this should make implementation of child rights provisions possible in the long run. The purpose is to bring about a common concept and fair practices towards all children by assuring that the best interests of children are paramount. Previously, a child was defined at different ages for various purposes e.g. maintenance, marriage, labour and adoption.

The aim of the definition is good but the task ahead is enormous because traditional practices in Uganda encourage exploitation of adolescents by regarding them as adults. Child labour, early marriages, teenage pregnancies have made it difficult for a large proportion of Ugandans to accept the definition of the child as a person below 18 years. As a result there is pressure to lower the age to 16 years. However, the Government and NGOs must work together to disseminate information and educate the public about the need to protect children until they reach the age of 18 years.

III. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

A. Article 2 - Non-discrimination.

The Constitution (1995) outlaws all forms of discrimination and is gender-sensitive. However, this is not sufficient to remove discrimination which is widespread in traditional and religious practices, for instance, traditional practices which favour the male over the female child and property rights systems which favour the first male child over all other children.

There is a strong linkage between discrimination and lack of formal education therefore ensuring that education is available to all children is one way of removing much of the discrimination.

B Article 3 - Best interest of the child

Up to now parents have cared for children as a future investment. There is need to sensitise adults to appreciate the need to care for and protect children as an end in itself.

C. Article 6 - The right to life, survival and development.

Uganda's commitment to the survival and development of children is stipulated in UNPAC. Specific sectoral performance indicators given in the report will be discussed under the relevant articles. Uganda is making efforts to guarantee the right to survival and development but the poor state of the social sector infrastructures and under-resourcing continues to deny these rights to the majority of the children.

D. Article 12 - Respect for the views of the child.

While the report refers to the rights which exist under the Children Statute, it will be sometime before children actually enjoy these rights as the infrastructure for implementation is still under preparation.

The family and school are the two institutions where most children will enjoy or be denied respect for their views. Both are under pressure either from tradition or competition, to discipline/suppress children and teach them responsibilities before anything else.

IV CIVIL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

A. Article 7 - Name and Nationality (para 52-55).

Chapter 3 of the Constitution provides a framework for children, foundlings and adults to acquire citizenship by birth, naturalisation or registration. Furthermore all Ugandan traditions put a premium on identity of a child through the parents and relatives.

The Children Statute (1996) provides for procedures for establishing parentage and thus a name and nationality for the child. A child born in wedlock will easily acquire a name and nationality but this is not so for other children. Fathers often refuse to give consent for such children to be registered under their name for fear of responsibility or other compromising consequences.

Traditional and religious stigma against birth out of wedlock often isolates the mothers who are usually young girls and often tend to be ignorant of the protection for themselves and their children under the law. As a result, there are many children in Uganda who have been denied identity and access to maintenance and property rights.

The procedure for establishing parentage which is provided for in the Statute is good but is beyond the capacity of the large majority of guardians.

B. Article 8: Preservation of Identity (Para. 56-60).

Every effort has been made to preserve the identity of children in Uganda in spite of the critical condition of many vulnerable children. Currently the families in Uganda have been undermined by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. They no longer provide adequate support to children some of whom have taken to life on the streets.

The policy to keep children in the family as a means of preserving their identity is a good one but it ignores the needs of children who have no immediate extended family to fall back on. These children often end up in institutions where their identity is not guaranteed.

D. Article 17 - Access to appropriate information (para 64-68)

Availability of general information has increased steadily through Government investment in the production of educational material for the school system. Religious institutions and a few private investors have further contributed towards production of school reading materials. However, availability of quality reading materials for children is still very poor. Illiteracy is a significant factor in lack of access to appropriate information for adults and children.

V. FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND ALTERNATIVE CARE (Para. 74 - 140)

The Report gives an accurate background to the family situation in Uganda noting the variety of families and the main constraints under which families operate. This range of potential child support mechanisms is the key to the capacity of parents, communities, and the Government, to implement the CRC and enable children to enjoy their rights.

Unfortunately, the family institution is currently facing major challenges e.g. 61% of families classified as poor and the high incidence of HIV/AIDS which has affected the family since the early 1980s. It is estimated that up to 10% are infected by HIV (MoH, ACP) which is a major threat to the quality of child care and protection. Armed conflict for the past decade eroded family life in Northern Uganda and children have been a target for rebel torture and abduction.

A. Article 5 - Parental guidance (para, 81-83)

The Report does not comment at all on what is happening in regard to guidance of children in the exercise of their rights as provided in the CRC, yet Article 5 of the CRC calls for that guidance. Parents must be knowledgeable about the rights in order to give proper guidance to their children. (see appendix 1 recommendation 14).

B. Article 18 - Parental Responsibility (para. 84 - 89)

The report described the situation in 1992 whereby the father and his clan had prime responsibility for the child. The Children Statute (1996) has made both parents legally responsible for the child regardless of marital status. This is a great improvement on all previous civil and traditional arrangements for parental responsibility.

The Government has made an effort to assist parents in their responsibilities through poverty alleviation programmes for the most needy families. The programmes should be monitored closely and constantly improved in order to ensure that they achieve the desired impact on poverty at the family level. There is still great need to take an holistic approach to family support to empower parents to fulfil their responsibilities.

C. Article 9 - Separation from parents. (para. 90-95).

Separation for the purpose of safeguarding the best interests of the child is covered in the Children Statute (1996) but is yet to be implemented. To date this separation has been impeded by lack of Government funding for alternative care. Children remain with abusive parents because enforcement officers lack resources to place children in alternative care.

D. Article 20 - Children deprived of a family environment. (para. 101-120).

The information given in the Government report, is a fair picture of the situation. The Government manages a national resettlement programme and the Inspectorate of Children's and Babies Homes. However these activities are funded by the NGO sector. Government should provide long-term funding for these activities, to include homes for children with disability, and follow-up visits

The DCCP has established a Street Children's Desk (1996) and plans to work closely with District Councils and Urban Authorities to facilitate resettlement whenever possible. However, children who run away from home due to abuse and exploitation reject resettlement. The proposed programme should have enough options to cater for various "push factors~ for different types of abused children in order to benefit all of them. Fostering and adoption are viable options, and one NGO has placed over 200 children in alternative families in the past five years.

E. Article 21 - Adoption

The three year period of fostering prior to adoption required by the Children Statute (1996) is considered to be too long. Also the high cost of obtaining an adoption order is beyond the means of many Ugandans. These problems are yet to be addressed. (See Appendix 1 recommendation 15).

F. Article 11 - Illicit transfer and non-return (para. 127-128)

The situation of illicit transfer of children has not changed much since the report. The number of children who have left Uganda illegally is not known. However, there is need to speed up the adoption law in order to enable both Ugandans and non-Ugandans living outside Uganda to adopt children rather than resort to illegal transfer. The Uganda Law Reform Committee and Ministry of Internal Affairs - Immigration Department must ensure the legal procedures and international arrangements to intercept children who are illegally taken out of Uganda.

G. Article 19 - Protection from abuse and neglect (para. 129- 137)

The Government measures are limited to legislation and are remedial. The report does not mention social programmes for prevention of abuse and neglect of children which is widespread in Uganda. Child rearing practices are still authoritarian and excessive force is used in disciplining children both at home and school. The absence of a comprehensive prevention strategy is a major gap in Governments efforts to implement articles 19 and 39 of the CRC.

Implementation of Protective Measures. It is difficult to assess the effectiveness of Government protective measures both present and future because there is lack of appropriate mechanisms for monitoring, and following up cases of child abuse and neglect. As indicated in the Government report, data on the number of children subjected to abuse and neglect is lacking.

The protective measures included in the Children Statute (1996) are good in so far as they formally place responsibility for child protection on the Local Councils.

The Local Councils are well positioned to play a vital role in child protection, but they need the skills and a strong monitoring and supervisory framework. This is not reflected in both the present legislation and policy statements. Law enforcement agencies especially the police tend to be insensitive to the needs and problems of abused children. Government has initiated a programme to sensitise police officers about handling abused children. Unfortunately the programme targets police women only yet child offenders are handled by policemen and women. All these agencies as well as parents and communities need systematic skills training to build their capacity to prevent child abuse and neglect.

H. Article 39 - Recovery and rehabilitation support for abused children.

The Government report admits the absence of programmes to treat and promote the physical and psychological recovery of victims of abuse. In view of the increasing numbers of child victims of sexual and physical abuse, the issue of appropriate and accessible rehabilitative services needs immediate attention.

Given the large number of children who need counselling services and the limited resources, Government should integrate skills for rehabilitation of abused children in the training of all child care professionals to enable them to provide rehabilitative support.

I. Article 25 - Periodic review of placement.

The Government report stated **what was** in the proposed Statute at the time. The reality is that periodic review has not been possible because the DCCP is short of resources. Some NGOs have assisted the DCCP with follow-up visits but this is not adequate to meet all the needs.

VI BASIC HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES

A. Article 6 -Survival and development (para. 141-145)

A number of reputable bodies have produced data on infant and child mortality rates, which, although differing in absolute terms indicate a marked decline in these rates over the years.

Concern arises when these are compared with other countries in the region which indicate that Uganda's child survival rates are improving at a slower rate and as a result will ~not attain the UNPAC goals set for the year 2000 on performance to date.

Table 2: <5 Child Mortality Rates 1960-1995

Country	1960	1995
Kenya	202	90
Sudan	292	115
Tanzania	249	160
Uganda	218	185

Source:UNICEF: The state of the Worlds Children 1997

Malnutrition

The percentage of children <5 suffering from stunting stands at 38% in a country which usually produces an agricultural surplus.

Community Based Health Care

The Government of Uganda supports the concept of community participation in improving the health of the population, however the mechanisms are as yet unclear.

Resources

Government funding of health service delivery falls well below the US dollars 12.00 per capita recommended by the World Bank. In fact the majority of funding is derived from external donors leaving the country vulnerable to their policies.

Distribution of health service in the rural areas is still poor and the cost prohibitive for ordinary families. Furthermore the few existing rural health units are understaffed and experience inadequate supply of drugs. This denies rural and poor urban children enjoyment of survival and development rights.

Immunisation

The percentage of children who have received all the major vaccines before the age of two years is 47.4%. Although this is an improvement, performance lags behind comparable countries in the region.

Although the Children Statute identifies the right to immunisation and the responsibility of parents/guardians to immunise children, there is no effective mechanism to ensure that children

are immunised.

HIV/AIDS

The Safeguard Youth from AIDS (SYFA) programme has improved availability of information about HIV/AIDS for in-school and urban children. However, SYFA activities should be extended to out-of-school and rural areas through appropriate channels e.g. mobile film shows, newsletters, through schools and LC Secretary for Youth.

The extent and impact of HIV/AIDS on children of all ages in Uganda has been overlooked. There are very few hospitals and NGOs which provide limited psycho-social support. The effect that has on their development is not known. More resources and services should be made available to children throughout Uganda by orienting current service providers and giving them necessary skills to cater for the needs of children. (See Appendix 1, recommendation 12).

Breast feeding

While the level of breast feeding remains high, every effort should be made to maintain this activity through the establishment of crèches at work places and increase sensitisation activities.

C. Article 23: Disabled children (para: 171-182).

The report states that there is lack of national data and information on children with disabilities and that the general public is uninformed about the needs of children with disabilities and services available for them. Polio, the leading cause of disability is preventable. Stigmatisation and discrimination continue today in spite of the protections provided in the Constitution and the Children Statute.

The majority of children with disabilities are from poor families and find it very difficult to access the few available services. Provision of special education is limited in the education system. The cost of what is available is too high for most families. Vocational institutions available offer inappropriate skills to a very limited number of children with disabilities thus making it difficult for them to acquire marketable skills.

There are efforts to integrate children with disabilities into the community but no adequate provisions for inclusion are made e.g. appropriate access to schools and classrooms, sidewalks, access to buildings. (See appendix 3 for a breakdown of the causes of disabilities among children).

VII. EDUCATION, LEISURE AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

A. Article 28 - Education including vocational training and guidance (para. 201-213).

The report gives a fair analysis of the situation in education at the time. Some improvements have taken place since. This year (February 1997) has seen the initiation of phased universal primary education (UPE) which is targeting 5.3 million primary school children through a partial Government support package for 4 children per family. Orphans will be fully supported up to 18 years of age. This is a bold positive step and every effort should be made to ensure its success.

Coming from a recent history of breakdown of educational services presents a major challenge. In the past, parents, NGOs and religious institutions have sustained education through innovative methods including Parent Teacher Association (PTA) charges. While these have kept institutions going, they have priced education beyond the reach of many children resulting in low enrolment and high drop-out rates.

Despite a huge input in primary school education many schools are still in a state of disrepair with many having insufficient classrooms and furniture. While an improvement in the pupil:textbook ratio has occurred it is still too high at 5:1 in many rural schools.

Changes in curricula to integrate special education, life skills and pre-school education are underway, but they have not yet been introduced into the schools.

Primary school enrolment at 75% is still far below the UNPAC target of 95%. Female enrolment has dropped to 45% in 1995 (from 52.5% in '91) while drop-out rates for girls increased during the same period. A special girl-child support initiative was launched in 1996 and it is hoped that it will improve drop-out among adolescent girls.

Government budget allocation to education has fluctuated between '92-'96, from a low rate of 4.1% to 10%. However, the allocation to primary school education has been only 3% throughout this period.

According to the Education Act only head teachers are permitted to administer corporal punishment in schools. Despite this there is excessive teacher abuse directed at pupils. Frequent newspaper reports show children who have been seriously injured through this punishment.

The issue of sexual abuse of pupils by teachers, particularly where male teachers abuse girl pupils, is a major area of concern and one that has not been dealt with effectively. As in the case of defilement, the reporting of such abuse is rarely correctly followed up because of the influence teachers have in communities.

Many orphans are assisted at primary and vocational school levels by both Government and NGOs. However they rarely have a chance to pursue secondary and tertiary education. This is particularly unfortunate for pupils who are capable of achieving much more than a basic education.

The report claims to be addressing the needs of disadvantaged groups such as children with disabilities through UNISE and EARS projects. This is not entirely correct as these programmes are funded by DANIDA. While teachers are being trained in assessment methods, there are insufficient units to allow children with disabilities to be integrated into schools. (see appendix 1 recommendations 13).

C. Article 31 - Leisure, recreation and cultural activities (Para. 220-221)

The report gives an accurate account of how these rights are respected for both in and out-of-school children. The Constitution protects the right to recreation (Chapter XVII) and protection of culture (Chapter XXIV).

The quality of recreation for urban children is a cause for concern because they are often exposed to unsupervised entertainment. Those operating in child leisure business need to be censored.

VIII. SPECIAL PROTECTION MEASURES.

A (2) Article 38, 39-Armed Conflict

In the North of the country, many children are being abducted and forced to fight, commit war atrocities against their will or being used to trade in arms beyond the borders of Uganda. The actual numbers of children exposed to this trauma is not known, the only sources of information are from children who have escaped from their rebel captors and from villages where abductions have happened.

Historically the Government has provided special services for children who fought in the civil war of 1981-86, but no Government programmes or resources have been identified for the child victims of the more recent conflict. NGOs have provided limited emergency relief and rehabilitation services, but the Government needs to establish adequate responses for the long term support of children caught up in armed conflict.

B. Article 40 - Administration of Juvenile Justice (para 233 -236)

The report gives a true picture of inadequacies in the administration of juvenile justice. The declining physical structure of buildings for juvenile remand and detention, the inadequate staffing resources and the insufficient revenue and capital budget allocations are seen in the context of increasing numbers of juveniles entering the Judicial systems.

The detention of children in police cells with adult prisoners or in adult prisons, due to the lack of appropriate accommodation for juveniles or transport to convey them to those which exist, is exacerbated by the length of time taken to process remand cases through the Judicial systems.

Significant reforms are identified in the Children Statute 1996, but again the issues of capacity building and resource limitations must be addressed if such reforms are to be effectively implemented. In addition, the Government needs to undertake development planning to ensure that the available resources e.g. land, buildings and skill potential are fully exploited to ensure the sustainability of the reforms when enacted.

An additional concern relates to those children born whilst their mothers are in custody. Whilst it is intended that such children are relocated to the extended family once they are weaned, this is not always possible and women often wish to keep their children with them rather than release them to hostile relatives or communities. The Government, currently, does not provide Prison Authorities with any additional resources for pre-or post- natal care for such mothers.

C. Children in situations of exploitation

Article 32- Child labour (para. 259-262)

It is true that most of the working children in Uganda are employed outside the formal sector, and they are forced to work because of the difficult socio-economic realities in which they live. Government's claim of sensitising communities about the dangers of child labour as a strategy for tackling the problem is not currently supported by any visible programme or activity on the ground.

This strategy cannot work without an effective regulatory framework for the major forms of informal employment. The Government should be encouraged to commit itself to regulate all exploitative forms of informal employment, e.g. domestic work, children working in agro-processing and children employed in service industries such as bars and lodges.

There is concern, about the abusive and exploitative conditions under which child workers in the informal sector live and work. Whereas Article 34 clause 4 and 5 of the Constitution protects only children in the formal sector from hazardous work, all children who work both in the formal and informal sector need protection from abuse and exploitation by employers and fellow employees.

The Government/UNICEF carried out a child labour assessment study in 1995 which will form the basis of a child labour policy to be incorporated in the national social welfare policy under preparation.

Article 33 - Drug Abuse (para 263 - 269)

Most families/homes that produce alcohol involve children in the process.
Most of the laws concerning drugs and substances cannot be easily enforced.

Drug abuse has increased but there is no accurate data available partly because the problem has not received the attention it deserves. Currently there is no policy, plan of action or resources to deal with the problem.

According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Uganda like elsewhere, is finding it difficult to cope with the rapid communication era which brings in its wake social problems like drug abuse. There is increased abuse of drugs by children especially school children and vulnerable children

like street children and children in child headed households who can easily be exploited by drug traffickers. The practice of using children, especially young girls to traffic illegal drugs is also on the increase. The weak regulatory and monitoring mechanism leaves too many loopholes and thus exposes children to the dangers of drug abuse and trafficking.

Both the Pharmacy Decree of 1972 and the National Drug Authority Statute fall short of protection of children. The Children Statute also sketchily deals with the problem of drug abuse so there are no adequate protection for the children. The Ministry of Education is in the process of incorporating Drug and Substance Abuse in the primary schools syllabus, with the aim of empowering children to fight drug abuse and acquire a knowledge of its harmful aspects.

Some NGOs have raised concern about the problem with substance abuse in schools, amongst street children and slum youth. The general public has been made aware through, sensitisation seminars, workshops, radio, TV, and brochures.

These are commendable efforts and have helped children to a certain extent but they are nowhere near the level of concern and commitment that is called for from the Government to set up an effective machinery to arrest the situation and avoid an impending drug abuse crisis.

Article 34 - **Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse**

Government efforts to protect children from sexual exploitation, lack a preventive strategy. There is an obvious lack of programmes to protect children before they are sexually abused. At the level of administering Justice, i.e. where most of the measures are geared, there are serious limitations relating to the criminal justice system which the Government report acknowledged. The Report does not give any statistical picture of the number of defilement cases being reported to Government authorities and how they have been handled.

On the whole, the existing machinery is inadequate as is reflected in the number of defilement case being referred to NGO Legal clinics by clients who have been inadequately dealt with by the Government machinery. In addition there is no cross-referral between NGO clinics and Government.

In view of the practical problems associated with the monitoring and enforcement of the existing penal code provisions relating to defilement Government should review this law to ensure justice for the children. The reviewed/revised law should send a clear protective message and be seen to defend the defiled child rather than the defiler.

The above problems are compounded by the fact that the existing legal provisions against sexual exploitation have not been adequately disseminated, consequently they have lost their protective value.

Child Prostitution is on the increase partly as a result of increasing poverty, urbanisation, an increasingly liberal society and external marketing which are all promoting child prostitution in Uganda.

Apart from a weak penal code provision against child prostitution and its perpetrators and promoters, there are no serious measures by Government to address the problem. Perpetrators and promoters of prostitution should be severely dealt with. There should also be provision of preventive and rehabilitative support services/programmes to dissuade children from involvement in prostitution.

Pornographic Information: With the liberalisation of the economy particularly the media industry, pornographic information and material are a serious problem. There is need to develop an effective mechanism to curtail the promotion of pornographic material without necessarily undermining the principles of freedom of the press.

D. **Article 30: Children of minorities or indigenous populations.**

None of the ethnic groupings in Uganda are officially regarded as minor or indigenous. All enjoy equal status under the law.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Government of the Republic of Uganda (GoU) (1995) The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (Entebbe, Government Printer)

GOU/MoFEP: Department of Statistics (1989) Uganda. Demographic and Health Survey (Entebbe Uganda)

_____ (1995) Uganda Demographic and Health Survey. Summary Report.

Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (1992) Uganda National Programme of Action for Children (UNPAC) Priorities for Social Services Sector Development in the 1990s and Implementation Plan (1992/93-1994/95)

GOU/National Council for children (1994) Equity and Vulnerability: A Situation Analysis of Women, Adolescents and Children in Uganda. 1996 statistical Update (Kam'ala, Uganda)

GOU/MoLSA (1995) Uganda Country Report on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (MoLSA Kampala Uganda). Ref. CRC/C/3/Add 40 . June 1996 UN CRC Committee)

Government of Uganda (1996) The Children Statute No. 6 of 1996 (Government printer Entebbe).

GOU/Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries and Ministry of Health (1996) National Food and Nutrition Policy: National Food and Nutrition Council (Entebbe Uganda) (1996) Uganda National Plan of Action for Nutrition (UNPAN) (Entebbe Uganda)

GOU/Ministry of Gender and Community Development (1997) papers Presented at Review Workshop to Update the County CRC Report 21-22nd January 1997. (Jinja. Uganda)

International Save the Children Alliance (1996) Report from Training on the UN CRC for ISCA Members Uganda.

Kakama P.T (1993) Children and their Rights: Village Perceptions. (MOLSA Department of Probation and Social Welfare Kampala Uganda).

Muyinda H, Burton T. 1992 Socio-Economic Influences on the Health and Rehabilitation of Physically Handicapped Rural Children (CHDC, Mulago, Uganda)

National Council for Children (1996) Presentations at UNPAC Review Workshop. (November, 1996, Kampala Uganda)

NGO Group CRC (1994) A Guide for Non-Governmental Organisations Reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. (1995) Education on the Rights of the Child. (Geneva. Switzerland)

Sengendo J, Sebina Nalwonga A J (no date) Situation of Childxen in Uganda: A Literature Review (Makerere University Medical School: Child Health and Development Centre (CHDC)

Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (1996) Report of Workshop the Introduction of the UN CRC to members and Child-Oriented NGOs in Uganda.

UNICEF (1989) Children and Women in Uganda (Kampala, Uganda)

_____ (1990) First Call for Children: Convention on the Rights of the Child. (N.Y.USA)

_____ (1993) Country Programme Update 1990 - 1995 'At a Glance' (Kampala Uganda)

_____ (1995) The State of the Worlds Children: Summary 1995 (N.Y USA)

_____ (1996) Innocenti Studies (1996) Implementing the convention on the Rights of the Child: Resource Mobilisation in Low-Income Countries.

(1997) The State of the Worlds Children 1997 (New York U.S.A)

World Bank (1996) Uganda: The Challenge of Growth and Poverty Reduction: A World Bank Country Study. (Washington DC)

World Vision Uganda and World Vision Relief and Development Inc (1992) Final Survey Bundibugyo Child Survival Project World Vision, Kampala Uganda. CHCD Mulago, Uganda)

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: Full list of Recommendations

Note: Although most recommendations refer to Government and NOOs, the Government should always play the leading role.

1. Budgetary Allocation:

The Government should demonstrate its commitment to the care and protection of children by (i) increasing budgetary allocation to key implementors, (ii) giving more priority concern to the implementation of UNPAC, the Children Statute and other laws and relevant developments in the social sector which ensure enjoyment of the rights by children.

2. Definition of a child and dissemination of the Children Statute (1996)

To resolve current controversy surrounding the definition of a child there is urgent need for the Government to sensitise the general populace on the reasons as to why the age of majority is 18 years and not lower.

3. Enforcement of the Law Against Defilement.

The law on defilement should be reviewed so that appropriate and enforceable punishment is provided so that redress is made possible. The provision of proof of defilement also needs to be reviewed to protect victims from further trauma in the process of seeking justice.

4. Decentralisation of UNPAC.

There is a strong need for Government to develop capacity to formulate, implement and monitor DPACs and SPACs within the District administrative infrastructure.

Government should give support to the NGOs operating in insecure areas of Northern Uganda in order to facilitate the programmes for children as an alternative to DPACs.

5. Social Welfare Policy.

Formulation of the social welfare policy and guidelines for implementation should be accelerated especially (i) support to orphans, (ii) children of the very poor and (iii) other marginalised and vulnerable families and (iv) during disaster situations.

Collaboration between Government and Children's Homes, Foster care & adoption agencies should be strengthened. Resourcing and technical support to ensure proper care and protection for children who genuinely need alternative care needs to be in place.

6. Demographic and Social Indicators.

In future, all demographic and social indicators should classify children as those below the age of 18 years.

7. Legal Education and Aid.

Both Government and NGOs should expand their legal education and legal aid programmes to cover all districts particularly to meet the needs of people at the grassroots where lack of knowledge & access (cost/distance/time constraints) combined with fear of litigation continue to deprive children of enjoyment of their rights and legal protection.

8. Distribution of the Country CRC Report.

Key actors need to develop an effective system of education about child rights and dissemination of all important instruments and key documents.

In future the CRC report should be publicised and distributed widely to policy makers, law makers and implementors, child-care workers, and the general public.

9. General Principles.

Strategies which have been used successfully to mainstream gender equity in development plans in Uganda, should be used to mainstream child rights in all social sector development plans e.g. affirmative action targeting children especially the girl-child, enforcing laws against non-discrimination and equitable property rights at the family level.

Studies into the socio-cultural factors which affect child rearing practices and the rights of the child should be carried out by both Government and NGOs in order to base implementation of CRC provisions on a sound social foundation.

10. Family and Children Court (FCC)

Once FCCs are in place, efforts must be made to ensure that they are accessible and maintain a child-friendly atmosphere.

11. Alternative Care

The Government should develop and support a range of alternative options of which institutionalisation continues to be used as a last resort.

12. Health and Health Services

A health and nutrition data bank should be established and supported. Health education focusing on the use of appropriate weaning food should be available at all health units. Government must work closely with Districts to ensure they include such activities in their planning and that they are resourced appropriately, to reduce the level of stunting.

The national early warning food security system and food distribution mechanisms should be strengthened to ensure timely response to localised food shortages.

The Government should develop and implement guidelines for the support of children affected by HIV/AIDS.

The Government should strengthen its programme and support to the organisations involved in integrating needs of children with disabilities.

13. Education

There is need to improve the pupil: textbook ratio in primary schools.

Recommendations from the White Paper in relation to including life skills in the school curriculum should be implemented forthwith.

The Government should produce a clear policy and guidelines on how to deal with abuse of

power by teachers especially in matters of corporal punishment and sexual exploitation.

All teachers should be trained to include children with disabilities in an integrated school environment.

14. Special Protection Measureu.

Government should establish a data collection system on children affected by different types of disasters in order to plan and provide adequate services.

(a) Armed conflict

The Government needs to establish adequate responses for the needs of children affected by armed conflict.

(b) Children in Conflict with the law.

The provision for reform of the juvenile justice system must be urgently implemented.

Conditions of prisons should be improved to ensure that pregnant women prisoners and those with accompanying children are provided with appropriate support.

(c) Child Labour

As part of the preventive strategy, Government should develop programmes for out of school children (including early school drop-outs) since these constitute the major category of exploited working children.

Government must speed up the development of legislation, policy and guidelines on child labour.

(d) Drug abuse

The Government should legislate and implement a clear effective policy on drug abuse and set up an adequately resourced mechanism to monitor and take action on traffickers.

A comprehensive preventive and rehabilitative programune should be instituted to protect and care for affected children.

(e) Sexual Exploitation

Laws which are meant to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse should be reviewed with a view to setting clear enforceable penalties and protecting the child-victim.

Children should be taught how to recognise and avoid exploitative situations and provide mutual support to one another.

15 Adoption

The Government must establish an adequate periodic review system by supporting Districts Councils to ensure there are adequate funds for the work of probation and welfare officers and to ensure that they are effectively linked up with the SCA and Local child care NGOs to reinforce one another's services to the children.

In consultation with relevant bodies, review downwards the length of time required for fostering prior to adoption.

All procedure. necessary for completing the adoption process should be carried out by a qualified probation officer as part of his/he~ standard duties.

APPENDIX 2: LIST 01 ARTICLES NOT COMMENTED UPON.

Due to limitation of time, some articles have been left out. This does not mean that all is well in those areas. The, UCRNN is planning to improve its own monitoring strategy so that all articles

will be discussed in the next report.

Article 13 -Freedom of Expression

Article 14 - Freedom of thought religion and conscience (para 69)

Article 10 - Family Reunification

Article 27a -Recovery of maintenance for the child

Article 22 - Refugee children

Article 26 and 18 (3) -Social Security and Child-care services and facilities

Article 27 -Standard of Living

Article 29 -Aims of Education

ARTICLES WHICH WERE NOT ADDRESSED IN THE GOVERNMENT REPORT:

- bilateral and Multilateral Measures to prevent abduction of, the sale or trafficking in children
- International Humanitarian Law applicable to the child in armed conflict.

APPENDIX 3:

Children With Disabilities. Seen and Registered by USDC Field Staff in the Diutricte of: Masaka, Luwero, Nebbi, Masindi, Arua, and Mayo between April 1993 and March 1996.

Source: USDC record files

	1993/94		1994/95	1995/96 Total	Percentage
Disability	M	F	M	FMF	
Polio	199	163 99	140	107 3332201,162	21.6
Cerebral palsy	113		119	1232742 2039 93 1	17.3
Epilepsy	91	83	329	2913582871,446	26.9
Visual Impairment		31	33	32172158475	8.8
Hearing Impairment	39	33	37	279369298	5.5

Mental Retardation	23	18	27	182012118	2.2
Cleft lip/palate	7	B	14	93626100	1.9
Talipes (club feet)	45	23	46	411 10741303	5.6
Hydrocephalus	6	3	5	34425	0.5
Microcephalous	4	2	0.0 0	0.001 1 1 1 4	0.1
Spina bifida	1	1	0.00	0.001 1 0 0.00 3	0.1
Amputations	3	1	B	0.005219	0.4
Osteomyelitis	14 - 11	12	13	6 2 251 13 83	1.5
Kyphosis		4	6 6	4 2 4 4 31	0.6
Downs Syndrome	0.00	0.00	3	0.0010518	0.3
Burns	8	4	11	510644	0.8
Rheumatoid Arthritis	5	6	3	0.0071435	0.6
Rhetunatic disabilities	17 - 15	7	21	122 27 2 20 1 104	1.9
Congenital disabilities		6	1 15	9 1 11 18 74	1.4
Others	8	8	29	153 3220 112	2.1
Totals	665 -	512	859	70215281123 5,385	100
			-	--	

Notee: K - Maleg F - Female

Appendix 4:
MGOe Which Contributed to the Preparation NGO Report.

I. NGOs which are alma paid-up member. of UCRUN.

1. African Network for Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN).
2. Uganda Foster Care and Adoption Association (UFCAA).
3. Legal Aid Project of Uganda Law Society (LAP).
4. Concern Worldwide.
5. Red Barnet (SCF Denmark)
6. SCF (UK.)
7. Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI)
8. Uganda Women's Effort to Save Orphans (UWESO)
9. Redd Barna (SCF Norway)
10. African Medical Research Foundation (AMREF)
11. Christian Children's Fund (CCF)
12. National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU)
13. Friends of Children Association (for Street Children (FOCA)
14. Uganda Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA (U)1
15. World Vision International (?)

II. Other NGO's which contributed:

16. Child to Child
17. Compassion International
18. Uganda Community Based Action for Children (UCOBAC)
19. Action for Development of the Disabled (ADD)
20. Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC)
21. Hope After Rape.

III. NGOu contributing member to editorial Team:

1. Red Barnet
- 2 SCF (UK)
- 3 Redd Barna**
- 4 ANPPCAN (U)**
- 5 Concern Worldwide
- 6 LAP
- 7 NUDIPU

APPENDIX 5: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE REVIEW MEETING ON THE NGO ALTERNATE REPORT

13th February 1997, Rubaga Kampala, Uganda

Joyce Ayikon National Womens Organisations of Uganda (NAWOU)
Nankaayi Jane Frances Ministry of Local Government (MoLG)
Naomi. Mutegaya - SCF UK
Robinah Rwakoojo - Min of Justice
Aine Fay - Concern Worldwide
Joseph Kafumbe - CBS Radio
Rubanga Martin - FOCA
Prisca Boonabantu - MoLG
Rebecca Nyonyintono - ANPPCAN/UCRNN
P.T. Kakama - Ministry of Gender and Community development
Dick Wanasolo - The People Newspaper
Musisi Geoffrey - AMREF
Emma Ssali - FIDA
David Mulya - NUDIPU
Dr. Margaret Mungherera - Hope After Rape
Bwanika Bbaale -ANPPCAN
Rachael Kabale - LAP
Christine Elomunait - Radio Uganda
Eleanor Sendege - **ADD**
Gladys Wani - Child to Child (ITEK) Institute of Technical Education, Kyambogo
Ronnie Kijjanbu - Ministry of Finance and trade
Rebecca Matovu - World vision
Lubega Mike - UCOBAC
John Kagimu Mukasa - LIPOOTA Newspaper
Jolly Nyeko - Feed the Children
Veronica Nakijoba - Child to Child (ITEK)
Yiga Deogratiith - ANPPCAN (U)
Ruth Nakasujja _ ANPPCAN (U)
Mutengi Lillian - Sanyu TV and Radio
Yogo Akum - Sanyu TV and Radio
Kakwezi - Radio Uganda
A.N. Kalule Sewali - Min of Agriculture Animal Industries and Fisheries
H.W.I. Otim - National Council for Children

[Home](#)

The NGO Reports Database on Children's Rights includes all existing and public reports submitted to the Committee on the Convention of the Rights of the Child by NGOs and NGO Coalitions. The copyright of the reports are retained by the authors and use thereof must be duly acknowledged.

The database is the property of the Liaison Unit of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child and is managed by that unit. For further information or other enquiries please contact the Liaison Unit at dci-ngo.group@pingnet.ch.
