The Children Act was passed, banning corporal punishment in schools and making the minimum legal age of marriage 18 years, with no exceptions. This year, Uganda also accepted several recommendations during its Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to protect children from all forms of violence.

Recent developments: National Action Plans, Laws, and Budget

- In 2012, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development established the national Child Protection Working Group, which operates within its institutional framework and mandate. The Working Group draws on the expertise and resources of child protection agencies. By the close of 2014, the Working Group comprised 40 active national child protection stakeholders drawn from government institutions, the United Nations and civil society, and led by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. Members meet bimonthly while the Working Group standing committees organized around particular focus areas meet at least once a month to deliberate on the implementation of activities within the annual work plan.

- The Ministry has also established the Intra-VAC-Technical Working Group, which brings together multiple departments including Youth and Children, Gender and Women, Family and Culture, Literacy and Community Development, Labour and Elderly, and Disability. All VAC-related issues are first managed at the ministerial level through this intra-agency technical working group before they are shared with the Multi-sectoral Task Force. This task force is responsible for bringing together different ministries, development partners and civil society organizations under the chairpersonship of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

Multi-stakeholder Collaboration and Consultation with Children

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Multi-stakeholder Collaboration and Consultation with Children

Investments from the End Violence Fund

- **UNICEF Uganda** is supporting the government to strengthen its overall child protection systems by 1) supporting the creation of an oversight committee, strengthening investigation and protection through legislation and training, and providing support to the National Child Helpline for child victims of online violence; and 2) strengthening coordination and collaboration among child protection actors.

- The Fund has supported seven organizations in Uganda to provide psychosocial support, positive parenting, vocational and life skills training, and case management for children affected by conflict and crisis in refugee settlements and host communities.

- Uganda is one of the 14 countries where the large-scale data collection and research project supported by the Fund, Disrupting Harm, will assess the scale, nature and context of online child sexual exploitation and abuse in 14 countries across Southern and Eastern Africa and Southeast Asia.
Encourage law reform that prohibits corporal punishment in the home, alternative care settings, and daycare, in order to extend the current ban in schools in the Children’s Act to all settings of society.

In 2016, during its Voluntary National Review at the 2016 High Level Political Forum, the government provided baseline data on the situation for child marriage.

In 2017, the results of the VACS were discussed in a data-to-action workshop and went through a process of local interpretation.

In August 2018, the full Uganda VACS report was launched. Data has been disseminated to all 127 districts in Uganda with specific regional data being shared at the regional level. The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development has started to offer technical support to districts on integrating violence against children into district action plans.

Key initiatives for ending VAC in Uganda include the following actions within the INSPIRE strategies: (I) implement the amended Children Act; (R) promote the reporting, tracking, referral and response guidelines on violence against children in schools to create violence-free learning environments; (E) build a positive school climate and prevent school-related gender-based violence through activities outlined in Journeys: Activity Handbook for Teachers and School Staff; and (P) strengthen families using the Parenting Guidelines and undertake the development of an action plan to address and prevent online child sexual abuse. The Refugee and Host Population Empowerment strategic framework, a key component of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), is a transformative approach to bring together a wide range of stakeholders to ensure more effective programming to support the humanitarian/development nexus. The Ministry of Education and Sports has developed a National Sexuality Education Framework, which will guide school-based and non-school based sexuality education in the country. Uganda is a focus country of the UNICEF-UNFPA Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, a multi-donor, multi-stakeholder programme working across 12 countries over four years. Additionally, Uganda is one of 20 countries, which has committed to ending child marriage by the end of 2020 under the Ministerial Commitment on comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents and young people in Eastern and Southern Africa. Uganda is a member country of the Safe to Learn campaign.

The Country Progress Fact Sheets are an overview of where countries stand in terms of the Pathfinding Framework created by End Violence. They were developed in collaboration with the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, Girls Not Brides, Civil Society Forum to End Violence against Children, Together for Girls, UNICEF, ILO and WHO.

Oppportunities for 2019 where End Violence will engage

1. Encourage law reform that prohibits corporal punishment in the home, alternative care settings, and daycare, in order to extend the current ban in schools in the Children’s Act to all settings of society.
2. Encourage plans addressing the prevention of online violence (as opposed to response) and shed light on links between online/offline violence.
3. Organize a donor roundtable based on NPA analysis, including consideration for refugee and internally displaced children.
4. Develop a coordinated response to the VAC survey, included as an action in the Child Wellbeing Plan.
5. Continue to scale up implementation of Good Schools Toolkit and Coaching Boys to Men.
6. Train the social service workforce on INSPIRE.
7. Support a baseline assessment of online violence in 2019-2020; accelerate action around online/offline synergies.