



Uganda



Government focal points

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Government
Contacts and
References

Pathfinding since September 2016

Recent developments: National Action Plans, Laws, and Budget

2015

Uganda launched the [African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa](#). The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development launched the [National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy \(2014/15-2019/20\)](#).

2016

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.

2016

Uganda launched the [National Action Plan for Child Well-Being 2016-2021](#).

2017

Uganda launched the action plan of the [National Child Policy \(2017-2022\)](#), which makes ending violence against children a national priority area.

2018

The Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development developed a [Multisectoral Framework for Adolescent Girls](#), which addresses violence, and published the [Uganda National Parenting Guidelines](#), which aims to provide comprehensive multisectoral interventions to parenting.

2019

Uganda hosted a side event at the 2019 Commission on the Status of Women on ending violence against children through effective social protection systems.



Multi-stakeholder
Collaboration and
Consultation
with Children

- 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.

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.

- In 2015, Uganda conducted a Violence Against Children Survey (VACS) under the leadership of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development with funding from PEPFAR through USAID and CDC, UNICEF and Together for Girls. A technical working group led the planning process and adapted the survey from a core protocol. The AfriChild Centre for Excellence, through ChildFund International and the Makerere University School of Public Health, led the survey implementation. UNICEF coordinated the study, while CDC provided technical assistance and TPO Uganda (Transcultural Psychosocial Organization) managed the response plan.
- 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.



Data Collection and Situation Analysis



Collective Action and INSPIRE

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.

Reporting into CRCs and SDGs

Reported to the CRC in 2005.
Underwent UPR in 2016.



Reported to the High-Level Political Forum in 2016.



Expected to undergo next UPR in 2021.



Opportunities for 2019 where End Violence will engage

Build political will/ global movement

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.

Resource mobilization

3. Organize a donor roundtable based on NPA analysis, including consideration for refugee and internally displaced children.

Equip practitioners

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.