Situation Analysis of Children in Uganda
2015

#InvestInUGchildren : Realise Uganda’s Vision 2040
The Right To Health

Uganda ranks among the top 10 countries in the world for high maternal, new-born and child mortality rates.

Pregnancy

Maternal Mortality Rate

Death due to direct causes:
- Hemorrhage: 42%
- Labour: 22%
- Unsafe abortion: 11%
- Malaria: 11%
- Anaemia: 7%

Death due to indirect causes:
- 36%

18 Ugandan mothers die every day

Good ante-natal care can prevent up to 1/4 of maternal deaths

- 48% of pregnant women make the recommended minimum of 4 ante-natal care visits
- 43% of births do not take place in a health facility
- 29% of health facilities do not offer ante-natal care

438 deaths per 100,000 live births

18 Ugandan mothers die every day
Post-natal care

The first day and week are when most infant deaths occur

Child mortality rates
(Deaths per 1,000 live births)

- First day: 13 deaths
- First week: 20 deaths
- First 28 days: 27 deaths
- First year: 56 deaths
- First 5 years: 90 deaths

Maternal health is directly linked to newborn health

- 2% of women receive a post-natal check-up within one hour of birth
- 33% of women receive post-natal care in the first 2 days after delivery
Child Health

- Pneumonia: 16% (52 die every day)
- Malaria: 13% (42 die every day)
- Diarrhea: 10% (33 die every day)

Malaria, diarrhea and infections like HIV account for more than 70% of under-five deaths.

Nutrition

- Chronic under-nutrition permanently stunts the growth of the body and brain.
- 33% Chronically undernourished
- 5% Severely undernourished
- 14% Underweight

Under-nutrition accounts for 40% of under 5 deaths.

- 2.4 million children are chronically undernourished

37% of mothers do not exclusively breastfeed in the first 6 months.
**HIV / AIDS**

The number of AIDS-related deaths of children under 5 decreased by more than 50%.

But the number of AIDS-related deaths of adolescents more than doubled.

- **66%** of all new HIV infections are contracted by adolescent girls.
- **18%** of new HIV infections in Uganda are due to mother-to-child-transmission.

**Globally, HIV is now the second leading cause of death among adolescents.**

- **3 out of 10 households** do not have a latrine.
- **30%** of children do not have access to safe water.
- **8%** of mothers of under 5 year old children have soap and water readily available for handwashing.
- **30%** of new HIV infections in Uganda are due to mother-to-child-transmission.
- **60%** of children live more than a 30 minute trip from the nearest water source.

**WASH**

**Water Sanitation and Hygiene**

**Barriers**

- In spite of free health care, parents pay 61% of their children’s health care costs.
- Not enough skilled health workers to assist mothers during pregnancy and child birth, especially in rural areas.
- Frequent lack of medicine cause families to pay pharmacies and drug outlets to obtain treatment.
- Social norms and cultural practices such as child marriage put mothers’ and babies’ lives at risk.

**Actions**

- Eliminate informal user-fees.
- Increase spending on children’s health.
- Make social protection systems more sensitive to children’s health needs.
The Right To Education

Pre-primary school
(Aged 3-5)

Only 10% of Ugandan children enroll.

Primary school
(Aged 6-12)

33% of children who start primary school drop out before completing.

Enrollment rate

P1 94%
P5 63%
P7 32%

of children (first-time enrollment)

Secondary school
(Aged 13-18)

3/4 of children who started primary school never make it to secondary.

Quality of education

Only 1 in 5 teachers are qualified to teach English and Math.

60% of teachers are not even teaching.

29% are in school but not in class.

24% are not even at school.

6% are in class but not teaching.

Only 40% of students are literate at the end of primary school.

Student proficiency in core secondary school subjects is poor.

43% Math

47% English

15% Biology

62% enrolled in Kampala

Only 6% enrolled in Karamoja

Only 5% enrolled in West Nile
Violence in schools

Violence against children is frequent in schools

Despite being banned, corporal punishment is still common in schools

High numbers of students report being abused by a teacher or bullied in school.

Male teachers often sexually harass girls.

WASH

There is only 1 latrine for every 70 students (nearly double the national standard of 1:40)

Only 33% of students have access to handwashing facilities in schools

Disabilities

Only 10% of children with disabilities access specialized schools

Only 5% of children with disabilities in public schools are getting specialized education

Barriers

- Poverty, which forces many children to drop out of school and work to support their families.
- Fees and hidden costs which make education inaccessible for many children.
- Poor quality teaching and teacher absenteeism lead to low levels of achievement.
- Violence in school contributes to dropping out and poor performance.

Actions

- Eliminate all informal schooling costs.
- Invest in teacher training.
- Create opportunities for pregnant girls and young mothers to continue their education.
- Eliminate violence in schools.
The Right To Protection

- Nearly 40% of children have experienced physical violence
- 58% of 15-19 year old women have experienced physical or sexual violence
- 11% of children are orphans
- 2.4 million children are involved in exploitative labour
- 40% of under-five children are not registered at birth (3 million children)
- 2.5 million children live with a disability
- 2 out of 3 do not receive any form of support
Actions

- Implemented a cohesive child protection strategy.
- Strengthen and implement the national strategy to eliminate child labour.
- Encourage progressive attitudes and behaviour towards children.

Barriers

- Poverty makes children vulnerable to social, sexual and economic exploitation.
- Weak and uncoordinated child protection systems leave children unprotected and without access to basic services.

Nearly 50% of 20-49 year old women were married by the age of 18
(3 million women)

15% were married by the age of 15
(900,000 women)

Among the Pokot women and girls **Female Genital Mutilation / Cutting** is estimated at **95%**

1 in 4 teenage girls are pregnant or have a child (700,000)

Where FGM/C is practiced in Uganda

- Popoi
- Karamoja
- Pokot
- Samburu
The Right To Participation

When participatory initiatives are carried out in a meaningful way, children are often empowered to affect positive change in their lives and communities.

Not giving children a voice is a lost opportunity for Uganda’s development and future prosperity.

Barriers
- Adults who believe that children have neither the right nor the capability to influence decisions that affect their lives.
- A lack of skills and willingness among politicians, officials and other adults involved with children to work with them as partners and collaborators.
- A lack of formal structures and infrastructure aimed at facilitating children’s participation.
- Participatory initiatives that do exist can often exclude the poorest and most disadvantaged children.

Actions
- Raise awareness about the value of children’s participation.
- Develop and implement a national child participation strategy.
- Support children’s participation through rights awareness training and support for children’s activities and forums.
- Invest in a community of practice to support monitoring and evaluation of child participation activities.