



**REPORT ON THE PARALLEL**

**SESSION ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

**HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2016 AT SILVER SPRINGS HOTEL-BUGOLOBI**



**ORGANIZED BY**

**THE LEGAL AID SERVICE PROVIDERS' NETWORK (LASPNET)**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LASPNET organized a parallel session at the two day National learning event convened by UCRNN in partnership with the ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, to discuss the long term efforts to end all forms of violence against children. The session was held in Mutungo hall at Silver Springs Hotel from 11.00am-13.00pm had three presentations from stakeholders in the justice system.

Various issues emerged from the session such as; lack of a definition in the justice system of the words “violence against women” and “vulnerability;” prolonged stay of children on remand; negligent and unprofessional police officers; ignorance of basic procedures of the law such as bail; lack of legal representation for children, stakeholders working in isolation which could lead to duplication of activities and; limited to no implementation of the many good innovations. To this note, recommendations were made including the need to: engage in strategic litigation to kick off the implementation of various non-implemented innovations on children; gazette remand homes as lower courts to handle juvenile issues; embrace the diversion guidelines, state funded legal representation for children and; sensitize the community at all levels to enable them handle issues relating to children comprehensively. The report is structured in the form of chapters;

Chapter one covers the introduction, objectives and methodology, nature of Participants, expected outcomes and; a summary of the session outcomes. Chapter two centers on the opening remarks from the Executive Director, LASPNET. Chapter three focuses on the three presentations. Chapter four details the plenary discussions and summary of key recommendations. And Chapter five, contains closing Remarks from His Worship, a conclusion, and annexures of the concept note, agenda, list of participants and the presentations.

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

**AAV**            Action Against Violence

<b>CBCPMs</b>	Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms
<b>CRR</b>	Center for Reparation and Rehabilitation
<b>FAPAD</b>	Facilitation of Peace and Development
<b>JLOS</b>	Justice, Law and Order Sector
<b>KCCA</b>	Kampala Capital City Authority
<b>LASPNET</b>	Legal Aid Service Providers' Network
<b>LASPS</b>	Legal Aid Service Providers'
<b>MGLSD</b>	Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development
<b>OVC</b>	Orphans, Vulnerable Children
<b>PLA</b>	Platform for Labor Action
<b>RLP</b>	Refugee Law Project
<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual Gender Based Violence
<b>UCRNN</b>	Uganda Child Rights NGO Network
<b>ULS</b>	Uganda Law Society
<b>UMSC</b>	Uganda Muslim Supreme Council
<b>UPF</b>	Uganda Police Force
<b>UYDEL</b>	Uganda Youth Development Link
<b>VAC</b>	Violence Against Childr

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. Introduction

The available data on children in Uganda highlights violence against children as a major problem especially within the family and school settings (Yiga 2013). According to ACPF Survey, 48% of children between 11-17 years reported having been whipped /canned within the family while 63% reported having experienced the same form of violence in the community (mostly schools); up to 32% of the children reported having been punched, kicked or slapped in the family while 36% reported the same kind of violence from the community. Defilement continued to lead in sex related crimes in 2014 and 2013. A total of 12,077 cases were reported and investigated in 2014 compared to 9,598 cases in 2013, showing an increase of 25.8%.<sup>1</sup> Besides defilement, children also report being talked to and touched in a sexual manner, being exposed to exposed to sexual/pornographic material. Another major form of violence experienced by children in Uganda is neglect. In 2011, the police recorded 8,075 cases of child neglect. According to the ACPF 2012 survey among children 11-17 years, 8% of children reported being denied food, 7% denied medical care and 5% denied adequate clothing all within the family setting.

Schools are the second most common place where children experience violence the most ranging from corporal punishment to sexual harassment and peer on peer violence (bullying). In 2014 MoES (2014) produced guidelines on the reporting, tracking, referral and response on violence against children in schools.

Children enter into the justice system as victims of crimes, witnesses of crimes and when in conflict with the law. The number of children in conflict with the law has been noted to be on the increase<sup>2</sup>. On the other hand, the other category of children seeking services in the justice system though largely unknown cannot be underestimated. Children, by reason of their physical and mental immaturity, need special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth.<sup>3</sup>

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) make an explicit, bold and universal commitment to ending violence against children, in all its forms. In target 16.2 and other

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<sup>1</sup> Annual Crime report 2014

<sup>2</sup> JLOS Annual Report 2013/2014.

<sup>3</sup> Opening preamble of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights later on reiterated by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

violence-related targets of the SDGs, UN Member States commit to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children by 2030. Given the widespread prevalence of violence and its detrimental impacts on a child's human rights and dignity, the achievement of this commitment will be critical.

It is against this background that Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN) organized a two day National learning event during which different actors- policy and implementers, children and their parents/guardians, discussed strategies on how to end all forms of violence against children. The discussions explored strategies for prevention, response and case management, the latter leading to an improvement in access to justice for children, rehabilitation and re-integration into the community.

LASPNET, a network that brings together 49 legal aid service providers across 70 districts with a view of harmonizing the service provided through among others quality assurance was identified as a key stakeholder especially in relation to protection and promotion of access to justice through corroboration and harnessing synergies with its membership to support the National learning event. In doing so, it convened a parallel session to discuss the long term efforts to end all forms of violence against children under the Theme: *VAC and Access to Justice*. The Topic of discussion was, *“Ending all forms Violence against children: The role of justice system actors.”* This platform enabled members to have a collective voice on access to justice; and enhanced capacity of LASPs to provide professional quality services.

## 1.2. Overall purpose of the Parallel session

The overall goal of the parallel session on access to justice at the National Learning Symposium was for stakeholders to discuss and lay strategies aimed at effectively responding to all forms violence against children especially those that interface with the justice system through improved case management in order to ensure access to justice for children.

## 1.3. Specific objectives of the Parallel Session

- I. To provide stakeholders with an opportunity to share experiences of the stakeholders in the justice system in ending violence against children.
- II. To provide a platform for policy makers to continue to provide strategies on how to respond to cases of violence against children



- III. To explore strategies for improved cases management that will enhance access to justice for children that have suffered violence

#### 1.4. Expected Outcomes

The parallel session was aimed at increasing the awareness of the prevalence on violence against children and to highlight strategies that the justice system actors can explore to ensure effective response and redress.

#### 1.5. Methodology

The session started off with few remarks from the convener followed by three presentations. The first presentation was on the situational analysis of children in contact with the law by Mrs. Mary Kyomugisha Onoria; the second on community based child protection mechanisms in Kiyindi fishing community-Buikwe by Ms. Agatha Kafuko and the third on; tying loose ends and promoting exchange of information between the National Strategic Programme Plan of interventions for orphans and other Vulnerable children and the justice system in Uganda by Mr. Timothy Opobo of the AfriChild Centre- Uganda.

#### 1.6. Participants at the parallel session

Participants included 61 stakeholders from the child justice sector namely; the Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS); the Judiciary; the Police; Lawyers, including LASPs and state attorneys; representatives from not-for-profit organizations working with children in a social work capacity; and members of LASPNET of which 23 were Male, and 38 were female.

## 2. OPENING REMARKS

### 2.1. Opening remarks by Ms. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa ED, LASPNET



As session chair, she started off by thanking the participants for turning up in big numbers to support the Parallel Session which was part and parcel of the National Learning Event convened by UCRNN in Partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MGLSD) and other stakeholders like LASPNET with the intention of galvanizing

efforts to eliminate violence against children in Uganda.

She revealed that the programme originally had one presenter who was to present on the situational analysis of children in contact or conflict with the law, then closely followed by a plenary to discuss the strategies on how stakeholders can work together to eliminate violence against children in Uganda but focusing on Access to Justice for the Children. However, she had been guided that two additional presentations shall be made. In the interest of preserving enough time for deliberations, every presenter was allocated a maximum of 15 minutes to conclude their presentation.

Ms. Namubiru concluded her remarks by requesting the participants to quickly introduce themselves by name, title and organization before the presentations commenced.

### 3. PRESENTATIONS

This chapter covers the various presentations by the in the charge of the Naguru Remand Home on the situational analysis of children in contact or in conflict with the law this followed by research on the documentation of the existing Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms in fishing communities and it was concluded by the presentation by that the research review explored linkages with legal protections and social protections for children.

#### 3.1. Violence Against Children: Situational Analysis of Children in Contact or Conflict with the law, by Mrs. Kyomugisha Mary Onoria<sup>4</sup>

In her presentation she defined a child as a person under the age of 18years and violence to mean anything from physical and psychological abuse to neglect or negligent treatment. She mentioned that violence occurs in many places including in homes; schools; institutions; the community and work setting and the perpetrators are Parents; Relatives; Boyfriends or girlfriends; Schoolmates; Teachers and Employers. It takes various forms of Sexual abuse; Physical violence; Psychological violence; Economic violence; Harmful cultural traditional practices; Child marriage; Child neglect & maltreatment. From the presentation, the notable challenges with protecting



<sup>4</sup> Mrs. Kyomugisha is the current in charge Naguru Remand Home and has 22 years of experience working with children. She started at the National Reception Centre (where they keep abandoned, abused etc. children) for 13 years

children from violence include; delay in concluding investigations; high withdrawal rates of complaints by victims and low conviction rates; Lack of adequate training and sensitization among the police, medical practitioners, prosecutors and judiciary on SGBV; Unnecessary adjournments by courts; Lack of child friendly procedures and processes (Judicial officer and lawyers dress in official attire while handling juvenile offences, and sometimes, children cases are handled in open court with adults) and; Capacity gaps (Save for justice system actors who have been trained especially under the Justice for Children Programme many still lack the knowledge, skills and experience of handling children).

## She made the following recommendations

- Prioritize child sensitive social protection policies and programmes. (Apply the best interest of the child principles in decision making regarding the child)
- Make use of court facilities and procedures that will enable the child to be heard.
- Address the full range of needs including the legal and non-legal measures.
- Set up standards on how to manage juvenile offender and facilities (basic needs from food ,health education, human resource, security, engagement of juveniles, age determination, examination of juveniles before they are remanding)
- Alleviate poverty which is the cause of child neglect leading to child delinquency
- Juvenile justice Administration manuals and standards providing for friendly investigation , child friendly court environment and sentencing guidelines that promotes more non-custodial orders and diversion within the community
- Urgent consideration and operationalization of the proposal to separate probation function from social and welfare
- Provide for trial and sentencing jurisdiction to the High court: Amendment of the law to have the judges who try cases where juveniles are charged with adults pass sentences other than forwarding the juveniles to family and children court
- Construction of police facilities with juveniles' cell.
- Provision of adequate resources human and financial for child friendly, timely investigation and prosecution of juvenile cases.
- Capacity building and massive awareness of child rights and responsibilities.
- Capacity building and training on child justice should be institutionalized and continuous.

She concluded her presentation by saying,

***“No Violence against Children is justifiable, & all violence against children is preventable.”***

### 3.2. Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms in Kiyindi Fishing Community, Buikwe by Ms. Agatha Kafuko<sup>5</sup>

In her presentation she noted that the research was commissioned by Africhild with the aim of identifying the risks and harms to children, document the existing Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms (CBCPMs) in fishing communities and; identifying linkages between CBCPMs and formal child protection systems. The research scope focused on community based child based mechanisms conducted by ethnography methodology in the kayindi fishing community of Buikwe.

The study discovered that the biggest issues facing children were: Child neglect; dropping out of school and; early pregnancy that ranked highest in risks and harms to children in



the fishing community. These were closely followed by pornography; and child prostitution; child labor; drug abuse and; defilement (real defilement and monetary defilement. Under real defilement, the Victim is usually aged 6 and below, the act causes alarm in the society, it is intolerable by the community and instances are reported to police. Whereas under monetary defilement; the Victim is usually aged 7 and above, when it occurs, the victims parents negotiate with perpetrators, and girls with pubescent signs are not considered as victims). Child sacrifice and drowned emerged as the least risk factors to children in fishing communities. The rampancy of Child neglect is attributed to; poverty, large families; complex family relations and single parenting. Pornography owes its prevalence to exposure at bars, lodges and; film and disco halls. Child labour on the other hand is caused by the increase in child headed families. Dropping out of school is wide spread because the lake is viewed as an infinite resource. Child Sacrifice prevalence is ranked low because it invokes collective fear and anger of the community.

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<sup>5</sup> Ms. Agatha Kafuko is a social worker and lecturer in the department of social work and administration of Makerere and a Research Associate of the Africhild Centre which is also at Makerere University. She is a Child Rights Advocate and has experience at the National Level working with various actors to ensure a better environment for children. In the past, she has worked with leading Child Rights NGO's like ANPPCAN Uganda.

She is a researcher with 15years experience and research interests are in the area of child protection systems

Figure I: Table showing Risks and harms to children in Kiyindi fishing community

RISK	FREQ	AV. RANK
Child neglect	9/9	1.1
Child labour	5/9	1.4
Child prostitution	5/9	2.2
Defilement	3/9	1.9
School drop out	8/9	3.0
Pornography (karaoke, films, sex shows, disco halls)	4/9	1.3
Drug abuse	5/9	2.3
Early pregnancy	6/9	3.5
Child sacrifice	5/9	3.4
Physical violence against children	5/9	3.7
Drowning	3/9	2.4

To reduce on the prevalence of the risk and harm factors, the research recommended some action points for the community to take forward including: arresting employers of children: Increase access to services: Provision of vocational and non-formal education: Boosting capacity of formal mechanisms: Establishment and enforcement of by laws: Economic empowerment: Rejuvenation of LC system: Parenting programmes.

As she concluded, she noted that there are weak linkages between formal and Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms.

### 3.3. Tying Loose Ends and Promoting Exchange of Information between the National Strategic Program Plan of Interventions for Orphans and other Vulnerable Children; and the Child Justice System in Uganda by Mr. Timothy Opobo<sup>6</sup>

The presenter noted that the research review explored linkages with legal protections for



children in the 5-year Justice, Law and Order Strategy 2012/13- 2016/17 as rolled out in the National Justice for Children Program. And of particular emphasis, was child-vulnerability profiling and assessment frameworks. The desk review made use of multiple sector policy and operational documents; National laws and regulations related to children; off-country literature particularly regarding Orphans and Vulnerable Persons' Programming developed by UN agencies, multi-lateral agencies, and civil society among others; In addition, the Review made use of technical level data from both; the National Strategic Programme Plan of Interventions for Orphans and Vulnerable Children and; the National

Justice for Children Program of the Justice, Law and Order Sector and; Key Informant Interviews conducted with the technical implementers of both programs at the national level

Results of the research indicate a *convergence of intention to support vulnerable children* at the policy level within the NSPPI II and the overall response by the Justice, Law and Order Sector. However, *the research also profiles the areas of divergence in the two programs*. These are discussed below;

#### 1. *Who is a vulnerable child in the legal system and what are his/her needs?*

He noted that a child is expressly defined by law however, a vulnerable child is not even though the law provides protections in instances of lack of provision of essential services. The absence of a standard measureable and easy to use definition of vulnerable children

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<sup>6</sup> Mr. Timothy is currently the Child Protection Manager for Child Fund International in Uganda. He has experience in the field of development practice spanning 10 years through training and wide range practice engagements at community, regional, national and international level. He has previously worked with the African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse in Uganda and Liberia. He's also previously served as Ag. Director of the AfriChild Centre, a multidisciplinary training and Research Center.

translates into inadequate targeting of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in the legal system. Consequently this complicates monitoring outcomes for this category as well. Lacking this information also makes it difficult for the legal system to identify, at the earliest possible stage, those most vulnerable children; who may be in need of protection and how the different institutions can best work together to ensure a consistent approach to service provision

## **2. Inadequacy of Information related to children and their caregivers:**

He briefly highlighted the challenges of finding information on children particularly those who are vulnerable and in need of care and protection.

## **3. Referrals to essential services appropriate to the wellbeing of the child:**

The presenter emphasized that whereas the law provides for the formal justice system as a last resort for management of disputes involving children, lack of information related to available essential services for children by the legal system is one of the contributing factors curtailing its use in practice. Making available this information too expands the range of referral, treatment and sentencing options

## **4. Follow up of children Post-Justice System**

He noted, *“Children spring from communities to go to the justice system. Communities are also where children return after support by the legal system. Post-system follow up receives least to/no funding in the legal system.”*

## **5. Access to/ Integration of data bases:**

Sharing information across the seven components in the NSPP-2 and particularly between the NSPP-2 and the legal system is an important step in integrated interventions. In practice the NSPP-2 OVC MIS and the JLOS MIS have limited connections. Individual and aggregated child related information regarding services to children for instance care orders, adoption, referrals to essential services are not linked to the OVC MIS and vice versa. He concluded by calling for a shift in the way the two programmes work with particular emphasis on improving coordination and exchange of information related to children and; the need for deliberate efforts to have the JLOS sector more involved in OVC Programming.



## 4. Issues Arising, Summary of Recommendations & Closing Remarks

After the presentations, the parallel session was opened up to participants to raise their issues and suggest recommendations. A number of issues related to the lack of a definition of violence against children and vulnerability in the justice system, negligence of police officers, prolonged stay of children in the remand homes beyond the stipulated time, non-implementation of many innovations on children, ignorance of the masses on court procedures such as Bail and recommendations thereto were raised as below.

### 4.1. Plenary discussions and issues emerging

#### **Definition of Vulnerability**

A representative from Centre for Justice Studies and Innovations noted that there is need to get a definition for Violence against Children and Vulnerability in the justice system. She also noted that many good innovations on children are not being implemented. She recommended the filing of a strategic litigation case which may trigger the implementation of the various innovations.

#### **State Funded National Legal Aid for Children**

The need to have State funded National Legal Aid for children and a pronouncement such as practice directions to allow LASPs to be part of mainstream State brief for children were recommended by a representative from FIDA-Uganda.

#### **Role of the Stakeholders in prevention against children.**

A participant appealed to Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MGLSD) to emphasize the role of stakeholders in prevention of violence against children.

#### **Community Sensitization**

The need for extreme sensitization of the community at all levels to enable them comprehensibly handle issues relating to children was recommended by a representative from MGLSD. She also noted that MGLSD shall interface with JLOS and organize a similar event to be attended by stakeholders from social welfare, civil society organizations and the justice sector with the purpose of harmonizing activities and work plans with the view of working together.

#### **Children spending time on remand**

Another participant raised the issues of: - children being kept in remand beyond stipulated time; parents taking their children to remand homes for committing minor

offences and; some police officers act negligently and are corrupt in management of cases that involve children.

**Response:** A representative from Uganda Christian Lawyers Fraternity recommended that all remand homes be gazetted as a lower courts to handle juvenile cases. He also recommended that judicial officers should adopt good practices where children's cases are prioritized.

#### **Lack of Harmonization of interventions related to children**

A representative from World Voices Uganda emphasized the ongoing lack of amalgamation/ harmonization of activities related to children being done by the different stakeholders. Since stakeholders work in isolation, duplication of activities is likely to happen.

**Response:** A participant recommended the harmonization of activities on children undertaken by various stakeholders to ensure efficiency of implementation and the need to jointly build the capacity of civil society organizations, government and the justice system actors on child justice and support their efforts to work together.

#### **Corruption in the Police & Child Pornography**

A Representative from Centre for Reparation and Rehabilitation raised issues ranging from court delays to ignorance of some communities on court procedures such as bail (when can bail be granted) and finally corruption by the police. She then recommended that the police on one hand be sensitized on the importance of cases to curb corruption and communities on the other hand, be sensitized on court procedures such as bail. The same representative inquired on how stakeholders can help protect the identity of children who get caught up in online pornography.

**Response:** Ms. Sylvia noted that the Police now has a Department that handles such matters of online child pornography and she shared the name and number of the officer in charge. She noted further on the issue of corrupt and negligent police officers, Ms. Sylvia also recommended that the Professional standards unit of police should discipline police officers who act negligently and corrupt in management of cases that involve children.

#### **Centers for Children**

A representative from Naguru Reception Centre suggested that Government in partnership with Civil Society Organizations should create centers where parents and

children can be assessed and diagnosed whether it is a parenting challenge or challenges with the child. Citing the danger of subjecting children on remand to the next convenient High court session; the communities ignorance on the basics of the law and; the absence of children issues in the police training curriculum, a participant recommended that children's cases should be given priority and not be subjected to the next convenient high court session; empower communities with the basics of law and finally; police should mainstream children issues in their training curriculum.

**Response:** Ms. Sylvia urged stakeholders to use the already established centers in Mbale and Agago district in the meantime as government intervenes.

#### 4.2. Closing Remarks by His Worship Karamani

His Worship thanked people for coming and participating in the parallel session. He notified participants of the High Court circuit that is soon opening in Mukono and kayunga so people from those areas won't have to travel to Jinja for their cases to be heard. This circuit shall be headed by Justice Mutonyi one of the champions for child friendly justice in the judiciary. He also noted that DCC's are no longer active and recommended that JLOS should revive them and make them more vibrant.

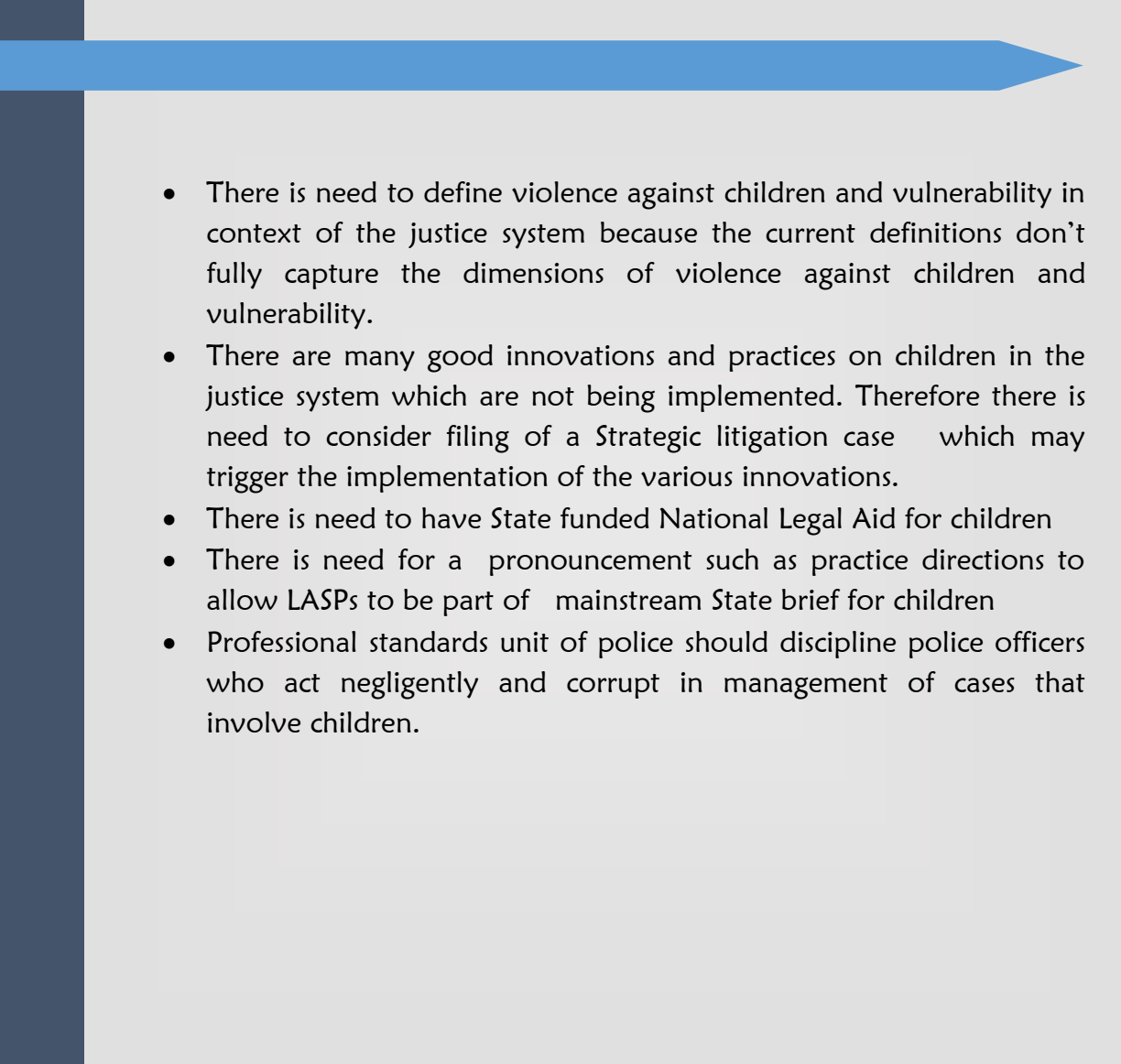
He thanked all people for sparing their time and encouraged them to keep up the spirit of having the children's cause at heart. He concluded by wishing all present journey mercies, thanking the organizers and urging them to continue bringing stakeholders together to deliberate.

Before inviting participants to a lunch on, Ms. Sylvia inspired them with a famous quote from justice Mutonyi saying,

*“Children need to be loved, even when they don't deserve it”*

With those few remarks, the session was closed at 1:30pm and participants invited for a lunch on.

#### 4.3. Summary of Key Recommendations

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- There is need to define violence against children and vulnerability in context of the justice system because the current definitions don't fully capture the dimensions of violence against children and vulnerability.
  - There are many good innovations and practices on children in the justice system which are not being implemented. Therefore there is need to consider filing of a Strategic litigation case which may trigger the implementation of the various innovations.
  - There is need to have State funded National Legal Aid for children
  - There is need for a pronouncement such as practice directions to allow LASPs to be part of mainstream State brief for children
  - Professional standards unit of police should discipline police officers who act negligently and corrupt in management of cases that involve children.

As feedback from the parallel session convened by LASPNET, Ms. Viola Ajok (Research

and Advocacy Officer (LASPNET) presented the emerging issues and key

- Harmonize the activities on children undertaken by various stakeholders to ensure efficiency of implementation.
- There is need to jointly build the capacity of Civil society organizations, government and the justice system actors on child justice and support their efforts to work together.
- Build capacity of the community and the police on the procedures of court and the importance of following such procedures such as bail
- Government and CSOs should create centers where parents and children can be assessed and diagnose whether it is a parenting challenge or the children challenge
- Children shouldn't be subjected to the next convenient High Court Session
- All JLOS institutions should mainstream children issues in their curriculum
- Investigation of cases reported by the children should be unbiased (more often investigating officers take sides with children yet some children could be telling lies)
- Institutions e.g. homes should own up to the children they took under their care and not throw them out just because they have been in contact with the law
- Gazette all remand homes as a lower court to handle juvenile cases
- Encourage judicial officers to adopt good practices where children's cases are prioritized
- Ministry of Gender should put emphasis on the role of stakeholders in the prevention of violence against children
- Encourage judicial officer to follow the good practices where children cases are handled first
- Stakeholders should embrace and implement the diversion guidelines
- There should be more training to deal with, guide, and handle children.
- There is need to document the informal actors and give them guidelines on how to handle children cases.
- There is need for deliberate efforts to have the JLOS sector more involved in OVC Programming.
- Programming for and delivery of legal services in the OVC strategy requires to take into account the linkages and connectivity between and across the justice chain.

Recommendations discussed below at the National Learning event as follows

## THE END

### ANNEXURES

#### Annexure I: Concept Note

#### Concept Note on the Parallel Session on Ending Violence against Children

##### 1.0. Background

The available data on children in Uganda highlights violence against children as a major problem especially within the family and school settings (Yiga 2013). According to ACPF Survey, 48% of children between 11-17 years reported having been whipped /canned within the family while 63% reported having experienced the same form of violence in the community (mostly schools); up to 32% of the children reported having been punched, kicked or slapped in the family while 36% reported the same kind of violence from the community. Defilement continued to lead in sex related crimes in 2014 and 2013. A total of 12,077 cases were reported and investigated in 2014 compared to 9,598 cases in 2013, showing an increase of 25.8%.<sup>7</sup> Besides defilement, children also report being talked to in a sexual manner, being touched in a sexual manner, being exposed to the being exposed to sexual/pornographic material. Another major form of violence experienced by children in Uganda is neglect. In 2011, the police recorded 8,075 cases of child neglect. According to the ACPF 2012 survey among children 11-17 years, 8% of children reported being denied food, 7% denied medical care and 5% denied adequate clothing all within the family setting.

Schools are the second most common place where children experience violence the most ranging from corporal punishment to sexual harassment and peer on peer violence (bullying). In 2014 MoES (2014) produced guidelines on the reporting, tracking, referral and response on violence against children in schools.

Children enter into the justice system as victims of crimes, witnesses of crimes and when in conflict with the law. The number of children in conflict with the law has been noted to be on the increase<sup>8</sup>. On the other hand, the other category of children seeking services in the justice system though largely unknown cannot be underestimated. Children, by reason of their physical and mental immaturity, need special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Annual Crime report 2014

<sup>8</sup> JLOS Annual Report 2013/2014.

<sup>9</sup> Opening preamble of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights later on reiterated by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) make an explicit, bold and universal commitment to ending violence against children, in all its forms. In target 16.2 and other violence-related targets of the SDGs, UN Member States commit to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children by 2030. Given the widespread prevalence of violence and its detrimental impacts on a child's human rights and dignity, the achievement of this commitment will be critical.

It is against this background that UCRNN has organized a two day event during which different actors, children and their parents/guardians, discuss strategies on how to end all forms of violence against children. The discussions will explore strategies for prevention, response and case management, the latter leading to an improvement in access to justice for children, rehabilitation and re-integration into the community.

LASPNET has been identified as a key stakeholder especially in relation to protection and promotion of access to justice through corroboration and harnessing synergies with its membership. In support of the National learning event, LASPNET will be convening a parallel session to discuss the long term efforts to end all forms of violence against children under the Theme: *VAC and Access to Justice*. The Topic of discussion will be

*“Ending all forms Violence against children: The role of justice system actors.”*

LASPNET is a network that brings together 49 legal aid service providers across 70 districts with a view of harmonizing the service provided through among others quality assurance. This platform enables members to have a collective voice on access to justice; and enhances capacity of LASPs to provide professional quality services. LASPNET through its coordination interface with its members and stakeholders in the justice system has come across voices raising concerns related to challenges and gaps confronted by LASPs when supporting children who are victims and vulnerable to violence. Therefore parallel session which will be convened by LAPSNET will enable key stakeholders and members come out with strategies to support interventions to support children who have experienced to get justice.

## **2.0. Overall purpose of the Parallel session**

The overall goal of the parallel session on access to justice at the national learning symposium is for stakeholders to discuss and lay strategies aimed at effectively responding to all forms violence against children especially those that interface with the justice system through improved case management in order to ensure access to justice for children .



## Specific objectives

LASPNET therefore hopes:

- To provide stakeholders with an opportunity to share experiences of the stakeholders in the justice system in ending violence against children.
- To provide a platform for policy makers to continue to provide strategies on how to respond to cases of violence against children
- To explore strategies for improved cases management that will enhance access to justice for children that have suffered violence

### 3.0. Methodology

The parallel session will start off with few remarks from the conveners. There will be a brief key note address that will give an overview of the situational analysis of the violence against children as captured within the justice system as well as efforts on going to enhance access to justice for the children in contact with the law. This will be followed by plenary discussions from participants.

### 4.0. Expected Outcomes

The parallel session is aimed at increasing the awareness of the prevalence on violence against children and to high light strategies that the justice system actors can explore to ensure effective response and redress.

### 5.0. Participants at the parallel secession

Participants will include a range of stakeholders from the child justice sector. Participants will be drawn from the Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS); the Judiciary; the Police; Lawyers, including LASPs and state attorneys; representatives from not-for-profit organizations working with children in a social work capacity; and members of LASPNET. Programme is attached

## Annexure II: Agenda

Time	Item	Responsible
11.15am-11.20am	Opening remarks	LASPNET
11.20-12.00pm	<i>Ending all forms Violence against children: The situation of children in the justice system: What is the role of justice system actors in ending violence against children”</i>	Mary Kyomugisha Naguru Remand Home
12.00pm-13.00pm	Plenary session Discussions	Moderator: LASPNET
13.00pm	Lunch	Hotel

### Annexure III: List of Participants

NO	Name	DESIGNATION AND ORGANISATION	GENDER	CONTACT
1	Imela Prossy	AAV	F	0772823556
2	Rob C. Ojok Otim	PM, FAPAD	M	0788346033
3	Egesa Rose	KCCA	F	0794661289
4	Susan Nabirye	LDC,LAC	F	0782643813
5	Angela Mwanje	JUSTICE CENTRES	F	0772556206
6	Namatovu Catherine	UYDEL	F	0783220500
7	Bua Peter Hudson	POLICE	M	0777166371
8	Mirembe Sophia	UMSC	F	0703773203
9	Mutonewa Vicent	UCLF	M	0772667125
10	Nyaketcho Joan	LASPNET	F	0783046596
11	Kajumba Christine	MGLSD	F	0776468486
12	Lydia Kiwanuka	UOCMU	F	0773600549
13	Nakabuye Agnes	INCHARGE OF CHILD AND FAMILY	F	0776257437
14	Mukasa Joseph	MPINGOF	M	0772580935
15	Ndagano Charles	.....	M	0778121414
16	Lokure Manfred		M	0778452229
17	Atim George	LANGO TEKWARO	M	0776550032
18	Robbinah Hakiza	GODSMERCY ORPHANGE CENTRE	F	0772490897
19	Barongo Barnabas	LASPNET	M	0774458758
20	Micheal Ssendiwela		M	0752234695
21	Immaculate Nannyonga	RETRAK	F	0704429078 0782429078
22	Nakubulwa Zauna	KCCA	F	0772425982
23	Nahirya Esther	JUDICIARY	F	0782531112
24	Kinchulera Monica	PLA	F	0702027087
25	Agatha Kafuko	AFRICHILD	F	0792391067
26	Rubagumya Charles	CODEN, ED	M	0712730423
27	Kyomugisha Mary	PWO/OC, NAGURU REMAND	F	0772591791
28	Nsangi Irene	KAMPIRIGISA	F	0772524768

29	Chepkurui Patricia	UPF	F	0782998615
30	Otar James	PILGRIMS UGANDA (SOROTI)	M	0773430592
31	Charity Ahumuza Onyoin	RLP	F	0772465556
32	Larya Catherine V	LAC	F	0701121770
33	Lydia Namuli .L	CSSF	F	0772402485
34	Deborah Gasana	ULS	F	0774370115
35	Kwesigye Steven	ACTION FOR CHILDREN	M	0706512830
36	Bwete Diana	WARCHILD( CANADA)	F	0782478760
37	Ategeka Estella Felicity	LAC,LDC	F	0784602733
38	Noah Nyende	AFRICHILD	M	0792666618
39	Edith Wakumire	RMC, UWCM	F	0751523387
40	Mirembe Sheirah	UMSC	F	0702143417
41	Grace Katusule	MGLSD	F	0782367564
42	Charles Opolot	AFRICHILD	M	0776411566
43	Ssendagire Jesca	ABCA	F	0772485686
44	Gard Benard	WORLD VOICES	M	0392961664
45	Kigoonya Deoson	MU-CRANE	M	0782478362
46	Karemani Johnson	JUDICIARY	M	0772443835
47	Tukundane Lorna	JUDICIARY	F	077252508
48	Rwandarugau Priscilla	LEGAL OFFICER, CRR( GULU)	F	0702130311
49	Kiconco Prim	LEGAL OFFICER, MCJ	F	0779219630
50	Kaahwa K.Fred	AHURIO	M	0772400284
51	Jarvice Sakajja	AFRICHILD	M	0752644366
52	Maria Musoke	DIRECTOR BUDOE OVC	F	0781679799
53	George Kibiike	CRIP	M	0714775058
54	Mamaa Emmaunel	ADIM.SHARED BLESSINGS	M	0773060725
55	Asaba K. Mercy	CORDINATOR SHARED BLESSINGS	F	0702781546
56	Ringe Florence	POPOW	F	0772357880
57	Stephen Gailuayo	FAD	M	0703950324
58	Nateza Dorah	WORLD VISION	F	0706200505
59	James Kidulu	CCP(MBALE)	M	0787266373
60	Dorcus Asiimwe	ED	F	0701790875 0776608757
61	Naava Marium	PROGRAM OFFICER REC,	F	0772971212

Annexure IV: Presentation by Mrs. Mary Kyomugisha Onoria

## INTRODUCTION

This presentation aims at providing a situational analysis of children, their vulnerability to violence and the opportunities for the role of the justice system aimed at improving the lives of the children.

- **Child** – Is a person under the age of 18 years.
- **Violence** – Can mean anything from physical and psychological abuse to neglect or negligent treatment. Violence against children is a violation of their human rights, a disturbing reality of our societies.

## WHERE VIOLENCE OCCURS

- . ○ In the home and family
- . ○ In schools and educational settings
- . ○ Institutions (Care and Judicial)
- . ○ In work settings
- . ○ In the community

## WHO VIOLATES

- . ○ Parents
- . ○ Relatives
- . ○ Boyfriends or girlfriends
- . ○ Schoolmates
- . ○ Teachers
- . ○ Employers etc.

## FORMS OF VIOLENCE WHICH OCCUR IN ALL SETTINGS

- . ○ Sexual abuse
- . ○ Physical violence
- . ○ Psychological violence
- . ○ Economic violence

- ○ Harmful cultural traditional practices
- ○ Child marriage
- ○ Child neglect & maltreatment

## **THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL IDENTIFIED & CONDEMNED SIX CATEGORIES OF VIOLENCE- AND THIS IS THE SO CALLED SIX GRAVE VIOLETIONS**

They serve as the basis to gather evidence on violations & these include;

- ○ Killing and maiming of children
- ○ Recruitment or use of children as soldiers
- ○ Sexual violence against children
- ○ Attack against schools or hospital
- ○ Denial of humanitarian access for children
- ○ Abduction of children

## **CHALLENGES WITH PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM VIOLENCE**

- ○The lack of priority given to diverting children from the mainstream has led to children being remanded for long periods of time beyond the statutory limit.
- ○Uganda faces widespread child poverty and deprivation with many children facing specific vulnerabilities. Children with disabilities, for example, often find themselves cut off from education and other social services.
- ○Adolescent girls are highly vulnerable to dropping out of school, teenage pregnancy, early marriage and exposure to risky behaviours. Such dynamics bring a lifetime of consequences which affect them and the future generation.
- ○delay in concluding investigations and in conducting trials causes backlog. high withdrawal rates of complaints by victims and low conviction rates
- ○Lack of adequate training and sensitization among the police, medical practitioners, prosecutors and judiciary on SGBV;
- ○Gender insensitive trial procedures and environment, due to inadequate laws and policies establishing gender friendly and child friendly courts (High court)



- ○Unnecessary adjournments by courts;
- ○**Lack of child friendly procedures and processes.** Judicial officer and lawyers dress in official attire while handling juvenile offences, and sometimes, Children cases are handled in open court with adults.
- ○**Capacity gaps:** Save for justice system actors who have been trained especially under the Justice for Children Programme many Still lack the knowledge, skills and experience of handling children.

## SIGNIFICANT COMMITMENTS TO FREE CHILDREN FROM VIOLENCE, INCLUDING

- ○To work collaboratively & individually, at international, regional & national levels, to speed progress towards universal & effective legal prohibition of all violent punishment of children in all settings of their lives,
- ○To ensure that, guided by the best interest of the child, the law providing children with equal protection from assault in their homes is effectively implemented & enforced, recognizing the special value of family relationships,

- ○To pursue & promote necessary & sustained other measures to achieve the elimination of violent punishment of children, including: comprehensive dissemination of the law banning violent punishment & of children's right to protection from all forms of violence, public & parent education, the establishment of safe & child sensitive counselling, reporting & complaint mechanisms to address incidents of violence against children & support child victims,
- ○To establish a reliable data collection system & to encourage, & where appropriate commission, research to measure progress towards the elimination of violent punishment of children & towards full respect for their status as individual people & rights holders

## RECOMMENDATIONS & WAY FORWARD

- ○Priorities child sensitive social protection policies and programmes. (Apply the best interest of the child principles in decision making regarding the child)

- ○ Make use of court facilities and procedures that will enable the child to be heard.
- ○ Address the full range of needs including the legal and non-legal measures.
  - ○ Set up standards on how to manage juvenile offender and facilities (basic needs from food ,health education, human resource, security, engagement of juveniles, age determination, examination of juveniles before they are remanding)
  - ○ Alleviate poverty which is the cause of child neglect leading to child delinquency
- ○ Juvenile justice Administration manuals and standards providing for friendly investigation , child friendly court environment and sentencing guidelines that promotes more non-custodial orders and diversion within the community
- ○ Urgent consideration and operationalization of the proposal to separate probation function from social and welfare

- ○ Provide for trial and sentencing jurisdiction to the High court: Amendment of the law to have the judges who try cases where juveniles are charged with adults pass sentences other than forwarding the juveniles to family and children court
- ○ Construction of police facilities with juvenile's cell.
- ○ Provision of adequate resources human and financial for child friendly, timely investigation and prosecution of juvenile cases.
- ○ Capacity building and massive awareness of child rights and responsibilities.
- ○ capacity building and training on child justice should be institutionalized and continuous.

**Every person serving a child ought to know that children need to be listened to, they need empathy and understanding for them to become better, to have in mind that their time is now and they cannot wait like adults. On the contrary, when they are suspected to commit offence they**

**are treated like adults, sometimes tortured in name of extracting information.**

**N.B - The central message of our work is that no VAC is justifiable, & all violence against children is preventable.**

Thanks

**FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY**

**Annexure V: Presentation by Ms. Agatha Kafuko**

## **Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms in Kiyindi Fishing Community, Buikwe**

Agatha Kafuko  
14<sup>th</sup> June 2016

1

### **Presentation Overview**

- Introduction/Background
- Methodology
- Risks facing children in fishing communities
- Findings on CBCPMs
- Linkages between formal and CBCPMs
- Recommendations from the communities

## Introduction and Background

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- Effective CP responses based on systems approach
- CBCPMs: respond to and prevent child protection risks in a given area
- War affected children in Gulu, Arua and Nebbi
- What do we know about protection rights of children and CBCPMs in the fishing communities ?



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## What we know about Fishing Communities

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- Children live and work in fishing communities
- Research interest in relation to HIV/AIDS and risky sexual behaviour in the adult population
- Studies have largely excluded children
- The limited research in the area of education
- Anecdotal evidence suggests that children are marginalised and their rights are violated.

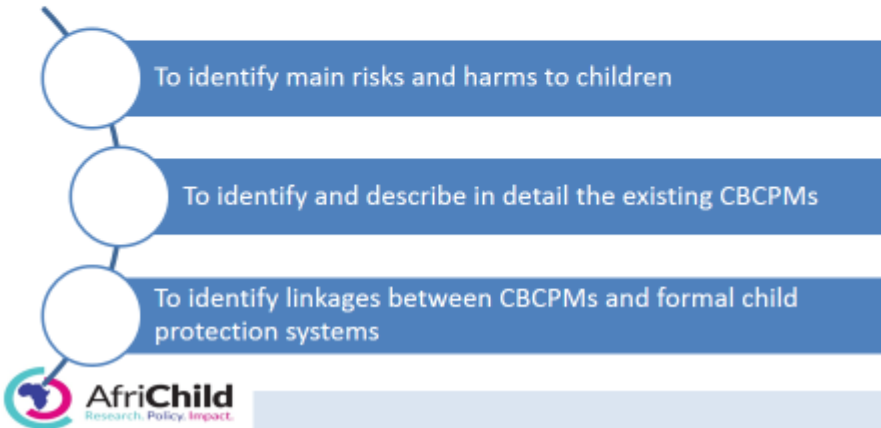


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## Purpose and Objectives

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- To identify the risks to children, and document the existing CBCPMs in fishing communities



## Methodology: Design and Study area

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- Adapted methods and tools by the Columbia Group for Children in Adversity, 2011
- Design: Rapid ethnography in Buikwe district
- One fishing community selected-Kiyindi
- Large site with a permanent and transient population of multiple ethnicities
- A large daytime population
- A marketing hub for fish





## Study Area

- Provides a refuge for criminals
- Minimal access to basic services
- Lake water polluted by landing site activities
- Two NGOs: Uganda Redcross Mukono, sub branch and INCAP-child sponsorship
- No NGO focusing on child protection issues
- One police post
- Beach Management Unit (BMU)
- Unaccompanied children



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## Study Population and sampling criteria

### Population and sampling criteria      Data collection

- Children, men, women, community leaders
- Purposive and convenient sampling
- Ex chairperson of BMU facilitated mobilisation of study participants



## Data Capture and Analysis

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- Data captured using digital recorders, written notes
- Daily discussions on emerging findings
- Planning based on reflections of emerging findings
- Transcripts developed from field notes and recordings
- Thematic analysis done
- Triangulation of information drew out converging perspectives
- Research findings reported in an integrative manner

## Risks and Harms to Children

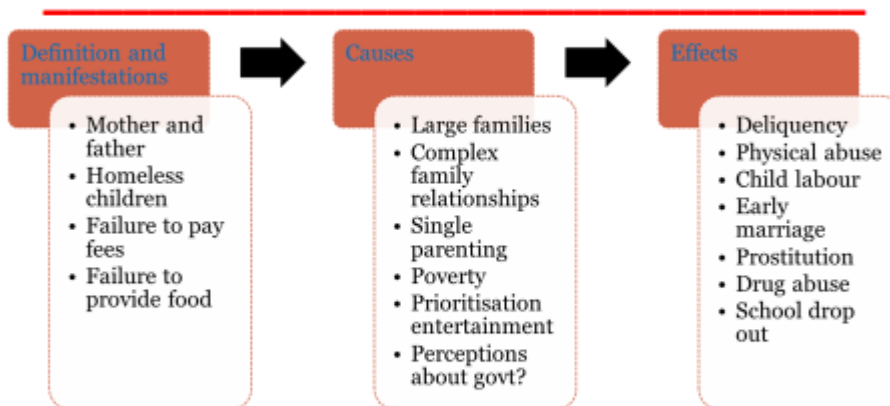
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RISK	FREQ	AV. RANK
Child neglect	9/9	1.1
Child labour	5/9	1.4
Child prostitution	5/9	2.2
Defilement	3/9	1.9
School drop out	8/9	3.0
Pornography (karaoke, films, sex shows, disco halls)	4/9	1.3
Drug abuse	5/9	2.3
Early pregnancy	6/9	3.5
Child sacrifice	5/9	3.4
Physical violence against children	5/9	3.7
Drowning	3/9	2.4

## Children's Perspectives on Most Vulnerable Children

- Out of school
- From economically poor families
- Living with a step parent
- Living with a single mother

## Child Neglect



## Child Labour

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- Child-headed families with live, healthy parents
- Gendered dimensions of child labour
- Inappropriate livelihood strategies with the consent and approval of parents

*Some parents force their children to go into prostitution around Kimwanyi area. Even the boys aged 14 – 15 go to buy (FGD girls 11-17 years)*



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## School Drop Out

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- Enrolment not universal; low completion rates
- Indifference, poverty, school environment
- Long-term benefits vs. Quick gains in fishing
- Lake perceived as infinite resource
- Fisherfolk role models have no education

*"We do not mind about our children's education because we are not educated, but we are okay. A person can survive even without education." (FGD, men, 15+ years)*



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## Defilement

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### Real Defilement

- Victim age is 6 and below
- Causes alarm
- Intolerable
- Reported to police

### Defilement for Money

- Above 6 years
- Parents negotiate with perpetrators
- Girls with pubescent signs not considered as victims

- Step fathers, businessmen, fishermen, boda-boda riders
- Preference for younger sex partners
- Poverty makes girls susceptible to exploitation
- Unequal power relations, economic vulnerabilities of girls
- Sometimes parents complicit in defilement incidents



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## Pornography and Child Prostitution

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- Exposure at bars, lodges, film halls, disco halls
- Prominent bars in Kiyindi -Strong bar
- Children participating in *Kimansulo*-“Pickin” night
- Live sex on stage: Underage girls participate
- Parents take children to watch porn movies
- Young girls going for older men-Kimwany
- Younger boys buy older prostitutes
- Child prostitution in licensed business premises



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## Child Sacrifice

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- Prevalence reported to be low
- Invokes collective fear and anger
- Fishermen suspected perpetrators as they seek to increase yields

## CBCPMs

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### Informal

- Family
- Community
- Local Councils
- BMU

### Formal

- Police
- CDO

## Linkages between Formal and Informal CBCPMs

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- Police ask for LC referral sometimes
- Retributive approach of police not compatible with social harmony values of community
- PSW and CDO are peripheral
- CPC are not close to the community although members are in the community
- Weak linkages between formal and CBCPMs



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## Community Recommendations

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- Arrest employers of children
- Increase access to services
- Provision of vocational and non formal education
- Boosting capacity of formal mechanisms
- Establishment and enforcement of bylaws
- Economic empowerment
- Rejuvenation of LC system
- Parenting programmes



- Community sensitization

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## Summary

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- Vulnerability of children
- A parenting crisis in fishing communities
- Gross violation of rights of children in fishing communities
- It's all about money!
- Weak response by the formal mechanisms to respond to weakening social and CBCPMs
- Weak linkages between formal and CBCPMs

*End*

*Thanks for Listening*





**Tying Loose Ends and Promoting  
Exchange of Information between  
The National Strategic Program Plan  
Of Interventions For Orphans And  
Other Vulnerable Children; And The  
Child Justice System In Uganda :**



## **BACKGROUND**

- Legal protections for children constitute a fraction of basic services crucial to child wellbeing.
- A legal system utilizing a vulnerable child lens in its programming **prevents** occurrence of abuse; **empowers** children, caregivers, households and communities to better protect children;
- and also **provides child-friendly responses upon evidence of violence, abuse and neglect of children;**
- When this is done, the law becomes a critical tool and lever in the promotion of child wellbeing - in a complementary fashion with other child care needs.



## BACKGROUND

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- Providing the full complement of services to a child has its root in the unassailable rights of children to grow up in a safe and nurturing environment;
- It is of vital importance that the design and responses of the legal protection systems are rooted in a full and holistic understanding of child wellbeing,
- the rights of the child, the roles of the community and related essential service providers;
- and the contribution of the legal system to the whole spectrum of child development.



## RESEARCH

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- The Review explores linkages with legal protections for children in the 5-year Justice, Law and Order Strategy 2012/13- 2016/17 as rolled out in the National Justice for Children Program;
- Of particular emphasis is child-vulnerability profiling and assessment frameworks including potential for utilization in the justice system;
- In addition the Review examines the quality of operational data generated and the extent of interoperability and utilization between the two programmes



## METHODOLOGY-DESK REVIEW

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- The Review made use of multiple sector policy and operational documents ;
- National laws and regulations related to children;
- Off-country literature particularly regarding Orphans and Vulnerable Persons' Programming developed by UN agencies, multi-lateral agencies, and civil society among others;



## METHODOLOGY-DESK REVIEW

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- In addition, the Review made use of technical level data from both;
- the National Strategic Programme Plan of Interventions for Orphans and Vulnerable Children and;
- the National Justice for Children Program of the Justice, Law and Order Sector.
- Key Informant Interviews conducted with the technical implementers of both programs at the national level



## FINDINGS-Areas of Convergence

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- Results indicate a ***convergence of intention to support vulnerable children*** at the policy level within the NSPPI II and the overall response by the Justice, Law and Order Sector;
- Similarly in both Sectors and Programs there ***exists a convergence in the overarching intention to work in an integrated, collaborative and cooperative manner to improve outcomes for children.***



## FINDINGS-Areas of Divergence

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### ***1) Who is a vulnerable child in the legal system and what are his/her needs?***

- A child is expressly defined by law. A vulnerable child is not even though the law provides protections in instances of lack of provision of essential services.
- The absence of a standard measureable and easy to use definition of vulnerable children translates into inadequate targeting of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in the legal system.



## FINDINGS-Areas of Divergence

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- Consequently this complicates monitoring outcomes for this category as well;
- Lacking this information also makes it difficult for the legal system to identify, at the earliest possible stage, those most vulnerable children;
- who may be in need of protection and how the different institutions can best work together to ensure a consistent approach to service provision.



## FINDINGS-Areas of Divergence

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- The National OVC policy defines vulnerability and the National OVC Programme of Interventions provides a systematic framework for identification, delivery of services and assessment of outcomes spanning health, education, social protection, economic strengthening among others.
- *In its development of the National Justice for Children Strategy, the legal system will benefit from an advanced process of definition of the markers of child vulnerability in the NSPP-2.*



## FINDINGS-Areas of Divergence

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### 2) Inadequacy of Information related to children and their caregivers:

- Legal provisions require legal practitioners to obtain information related to children to inform their decisions.
- There is no recognized repository of community information for utilization by the legal system.
- The ability of the legal system to arrive at appropriate outcomes is limited by the inadequacy of information about the child and caregivers available.



## FINDINGS-Areas of Divergence

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- Under the NSPP-2 Districts routinely generate registers of OVCs aggregated from individual children, households, sub-counties and district level data.
- *It is possible for the legal system to use this data for planning and to measure improvements in service delivery.*
- *The efforts undertaken under OVC and the data available in the OVC MIS would be a useful start as well as to the discussion towards prevention, risk minimization strategies and responses—all areas in which legal programming for OVCs is presently inadequate.*



## FINDINGS-Areas of Divergence

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### 3) Referrals to essential services appropriate to the wellbeing of the child:

- Whereas the law provides for the formal justice system as a last resort for management of disputes involving children,
- Lack of information related to available essential services for children by the legal system is one of the contributing factors curtailing its use in practice.
- Making available this information too expands the ***range of referral, treatment and sentencing options.***



## FINDINGS-Areas of Divergence

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- The NSPP-2 maps and maintains a register of services and service providers at sub-county and district levels. The Service Provider register is also available in the OVC MIS.
- *When made available to the legal system, the above data provides a sound basis for legal sector programming in the location of legal information services;*
- *Primary legal aid, location of family and children services, diversion of children from the legal system; access to essential services and as an aide to decision making.*



## FINDINGS-Areas of Divergence

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### 4. Follow up of children post-Justice System

- Children spring from communities to go to the justice system. Communities are also where children return after support by the legal system.
- Post-system follow up receives least to/no funding in the legal system



## FINDINGS-Areas of Divergence

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- The NSPP-2 Program makes provision for a Service Delivery Register. All OVCs who access a service are recorded into a service delivery register.
- This categorizes those children or households that have received services within the package, the support received the outcomes and impact to the child and the caregivers.
- *This provides a mechanism for follow up of children drawing together all resources available in the community to track the impact of the services on the child and its family.*





## FINDINGS-Areas of Divergence

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### 5. Access to/ Integration of data bases:

- Sharing information across the seven components in the NSPP-2 and particularly between the NSPP-2 and the legal system is an important step in integrated interventions.
- In practice the NSPP-2 OVC MIS and the JLOS MIS have limited connections.... individual and aggregated child related information regarding services to children for instance care orders, adoption, referrals to essential services are not linked to the OVC MIS and vice versa.



## FINDINGS-Areas of Divergence

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### 6. Linkages within and Across:

- Programming for and delivery of legal services in the OVC strategy requires to take into account the linkages and connectivity between and across the justice chain;
- Whereas both strategic intentions point to strengthening capacities of the front-line service providers;
- There is a case for identifying the critical areas for linkage, as well as, strengthen the capacity intersection actors and structures;
- The bridges between the three sectors to ensure a seamless flow of services for children between communities; local government and the justice system.



## CONCLUSION

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- All the above challenges call for a shift in the way the two programmes work – to put children at the Centre requires more coordination and exchange of information.
- There is need for deliberate efforts to have the JLOS sector more involved in OVC Programming is key.



Thank you

