



PRESS RELEASE

Child well-being must be prioritized in the Post 2015 Development Agenda:

- **Child focused Civil Society Organizations call upon the government of Uganda to include issues related to child protection and child well-being in Uganda's position in Post 2015 Development agenda.**

We recognize that the year 2015, will be a major historical landmark in the world of development. The era of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will come to a close, and a new development era will be ushered in. We join the rest of Uganda, Africa and the world in congratulating Hon. Sam Kuteesa upon his election as incoming President of the UN General Assembly and are counting on his leadership to ensure that children are not left out in the new development agenda;

It's our position that one important domain and group that should be given priority is children – by far the biggest demographic group in Uganda, the most vulnerable segment of Ugandan society, yet the most important and decisive element for not only Uganda, but Africa's sustained growth, prosperity and participation in the world economy.

Situation of Children in Uganda:

Children comprise of up to 56% of Uganda's population. By 2010, Uganda had a population of 33 million people, including about 19 million children (UNICEF Uganda statistics, 2009). The living conditions for this important group of Ugandan society are still anything, but desirable.

Children continue to live in conditions characterized by inadequate access to health services, biting poverty in homes, exploitation and violence. The living conditions for children in Uganda undermine the four cardinal rights which include the rights to; Survival, Development, Protection and Participation.

We the Child Actors support the development of an ambitious zero based target development framework at the expiry of the current MDGs and ensuring that Children issues are strongly reflected in the Post 2015 Development Agenda. Working in close consultations with Ugandan

children and basing on the review of documents on the UN led Post2015 Development process, the 2011 Children Manifesto; Child Actors recommend the following to be considered for integration into the Ugandan negotiating position.

As civil society organizations working to promote and protect the rights and well-being of all children; it's our appeal that the Post 2015 MDG agenda is reflective of the following commitments;

1. Ensuring the progressive realization of the rights of every child without any discrimination, on the basis of age, gender, disability or any other basis as guaranteed by African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
2. Prohibiting and eliminating all forms of abuse and violence through effective, comprehensive and integrated child protection systems including juvenile justice systems;
3. Ensuring that inclusive social protection measures are put in place to protect, the most vulnerable children and families from economic, political, social and climatic shocks including in those countries affected by conflict;
4. Eliminating the preventable infant and child deaths that continue to persist;
5. Eliminating child malnutrition, specifically stunting;
6. Equipping adolescents with adequate knowledge and skills to enable them protect themselves from reproductive health risks such as HIV and AIDS and to prepare them for decent employment opportunities;
7. Achieving universal access to quality early childhood development programs, primary and secondary education for all children;
8. Ensuring that children have decent living conditions and are not at risk of unnecessary separation from their families;
9. Achieving universal birth registration for all children;
10. Generating and allocating, to the maximum extent possible, domestic resources for investing in children, particularly in health, education, early childhood development and social protection;
11. Ensuring that the best interest of the child is the primary consideration in any action taken for, or on behalf of children and that children's perspectives and contributions are considered and reflected upon in decisions that affect their lives; and,
12. Ensuring the implementation of the global and regional commitment of the rights of the child.

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