Care Reform in Uganda: Timeline of System Achievements

Uganda Core Country Team

1995

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, is the overriding national legal framework for ensuring the rights of children. It specifically mentions the rights of children to know and be cared for by their parents or guardians.

Local Government Act, 1997, decentralize the protection of and services for children to local governments and mandates that local authorities plan interventions for children.

The Universal Primary Education Policy, 1997, introduced free universal primary education for all children.

2004

The Children Act (Cap 59), 2004, establishes the rights of the child and the roles of local authorities. It delineates procedures for dealing with children in conflict with the law and the care and protection of children, including alternative care arrangements (foster care placements, adoption, and institutional care).

National Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Policy, 2004, provides a framework for OVC programming in Uganda.

The Education Act, 2008, makes basic education compulsory for all children ages 6 years and above.

2010

National Framework for Alternative Care (2012) was developed to provide a framework to guide care reform, promote family support, and prevent unnecessary family separation

Uganda Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy (2013) was developed to promote equitable access to quality and relevant early childhood development services for children 0–8 years.

Children (Approved Homes) Rules, 2013, outline minimum quality standards stipulated for approved homes for children. An assessment toolkit was developed in 2013 to assess compliance of residential care facilites with the rules.

2012

A national Alternative Care Panel was established in **2012**. This panel approves new foster and adoptive parents.

2013

National Strategic Programme Plan of Interventions for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children I (2005/06–2009/10) provides a framework to facilitate an effective and coordinated OVC response

The Uganda National Development Plan I (2010/11–2014/15) was launched in 2010, establishing the overarching planning framework for national development. It provides the basis for the design of social protection interventions.

Strengthening Uganda's National Response for Implementation of Services for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children (SUNRISE) Project was implemented between **2010 and 2015**.

2014

National Strategic Programme Plan of Interventions for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children II (2011/12–2015/16) provides a framework to facilitate an effective and coordinated response to reduce the vulnerability of children and improve their well-being. The plan provides guidance for OVC programming.

Family strengthening and alternative care-related projects were implemented, including **Strong Beginnings (2014–2015), Deinstitutionalization of Orphans and Vulnerable Children** project **(2014–2017),** and **Sustainable Comprehensive Responses for Vulnerable Children** project **(2011–2018)**.

2014

Alternative Care Training Curriculum was developed in **2014**

2014

Ugandans Adopt Campaign launched in **2014**

2015

An **Alternative Care Task Force** was established in **2015**.

Alternative Care Implementation Unit established in **2014** under the MGLSD to lead and coordinate the childcare reform process

2015

Standard operating procedures for family reintegration were developed **(2015)**.

2015

Strengthen African Families Campaign, 2015

2016

The **National Action Plan On Alternative Care for Children (2016/2017–2020/2021)** was developed.

The Uganda National Parenting Guidelines (2016) were developed.

Uganda Child Helpline Service was launched in **2015**.
Family strengthening and alternative care-related projects were implemented, including **Family Resilience** and **Economic Strengthening to Keep and Reintegrate Children into Families** projects **(2016–2019)** and **Sustainable Outcomes for Children and Youth** and **Better Outcomes for Children and Youth, 2016–2020.**

2016

The **National Social Protection Policy, 2015**, provides for childcare and protection under the component on "social care for children."

The Children Act Cap. 59 (2004) was amended in **2016** by an Act of Parliament, **The Children (Amendment) Act, 2016**, and sets out a continuum of care for vulnerable children.

2017

Development of the National Child Policy (ongoing)

2017

Keeping Children in Healthy and Protective Families project

Leadership and governance
Monitoring and evaluation/ information systems
Service delivery mechanisms
Finance
Workforce
Social norms and practices/ advocacy
Coordination and collaboration
Gatekeeping
Legal and policy framework

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development