

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



#InvestInUGchildren: Realize Uganda's Vision 2040







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A note from the Representative

WITH 56 PER CENT OF ITS POPULATION UNDER THE AGE OF 18,

Uganda's future lies with its children. The country's vision for 2040 is to become a middle income country, when today's children will be the driving force behind this goal.

Uganda has made progress on many fronts. But early childhood and adolescence remain periods of high risk. Poverty is still widespread, especially among young children. Social and economic disparities persist in rural areas and the disadvantaged Eastern and Northern regions.

These gaps can be narrowed with the right approach. For UNICEF Uganda, this means strengthening national capacity to extend services and protection to the poorest and most excluded children, using proven and cost-effective strategies and programmes.

In 2015, this was achieved by helping Uganda channel more resources towards reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH). The Sharpened Plan for RMNCAH was revised, and funding from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria helped to expand integrated community case management from 27 to 50 districts. An online health management information system and district-led planning were further complemented through an accountability scorecard for RMNCAH within the latest district health information system (DHIS2).

At least 80 per cent of children were vaccinated against measles, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus in districts with the poorest immunization levels. To help reduce Uganda's high levels of stunting, an early childhood development (ECD) training package was rolled out for all 112 district community development officers in the country.

UNICEF continued to provide clean drinking water and adequate sanitation in schools, health centres and communities in 34 districts and areas affected by emergencies. UNICEF also supported more than half a million refugees from

the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Burundi and Somalia with health, nutrition, water, sanitation and protection services.

A new integrated ECD policy was finalized for approval by Cabinet and ECD indicators were included in the 2016 Demographic and Health Survey. Early learning standards were finalized and implemented in 250 ECD centres in 28 districts. The quality of early learning was improved through the licensing of 63 per cent of the ECD centres that meet minimum standards. Three-quarters of the centres have trained and licensed caregivers.

Advocacy by the United Nations system in Uganda led to the establishment of an inter-ministerial task force, which will coordinate the national response and commitment by the First Lady to champion adolescent girls' development. Implementation of a national strategy to end child marriage in 37 districts and a national strategy to address the high levels of school violence began in 2015. A total of 2,718 cases of child violence were managed through the UNICEFsupported national child helpline. UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund continued to support national efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation and cutting in the six districts where the practice prevails.

In social protection, the government increased funding to roll out the senior citizens' grant from 15 to 55 districts, while UNICEF helped develop a business case for investments in child-sensitive social protection.

UNICEF continued to shine the spotlight on children through its '#InvestInUGchildren: Realize Uganda's Vision 2040' campaign. Innovative approaches, using technology for development, were used to strengthen UNICEF's work in Uganda in health, education and birth registration.

Aida Girma-Melaku Representative, UNICEF Uganda

Charles Aheebwa and his classmates raise hands to answer their teacher's question during a lesson at Harugongo Primary School, Kicwamba Sub-county, Kabarole District.



Childhood by numbers



EARLY CHILDHOOD IS FULL OF RISK



ADOLESCENT GIRLS ARE VERY VULNERABLE IN UGANDA

ALL NEW HIV INFECTIONS



66% ARE CONTRACTED BY ADOLESCENT GIRLS







CHILDREN NEED SUPPORT AT SCHOOL

YOUNG CHILDREN (3–5 YEARS)

ONLY 1 IN 10 ATTENDS PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL

15% OF CHILDREN AGED 6-17 HAVE NEVER BEEN TO SCHOOL

33% CHILDREN THAT DROP OUT OF PRIMARY SCHOOL

> ONLY 1 IN 4 CHILDREN WHO START PRIMARY SCHOOL MAKES IT TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

2.5 MILLION CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS OVERNMENT SCHOOLS OVERN

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Keeping children alive and thriving

RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

Infant and child mortality rates have improved dramatically in Uganda. But more needs to be done to close the gaps in maternal and child health, especially for newborns, as well as in nutrition and HIV service delivery. Access to safe drinking water and good sanitation, which is still limited for many Ugandan children, is another priority.

SAVING THE LIVES OF MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

In 2015, UNICEF and other United Nations agencies supported the government to revise the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Sharpened Plan. This helped to ensure that Uganda remained a priority country for the second phase of the Global Financing Facility, a key funding platform of the United Nations Secretary-General's Every Woman Every Child Global Strategy 2.0.

Helping Babies Breathe (HBB+) was scaled up in 47 districts during the year, covering all district hospitals and health centres/facilities. HBB+ teaches health workers neonatal resuscitation techniques and essential newborn care in resource-limited areas. In Eastern and West Nile regions, 93 per cent of newborns were successfully resuscitated. Deaths due to asphyxia fell from 26 per cent to 4 per cent.

UNICEF continued to implement innovations in maternal and neonatal survival. For example, a transport voucher scheme in Karamoja encouraged close to 12,000 women to deliver their babies in health facilities. Of these, 830 obstetric complications and 78 newborn complications were treated.

MANAGING CHILDHOOD ILLNESS IN COMMUNITIES

With support from UNICEF, a community health worker strategy is being revised. It will be operational by 2017. Under the new strategy, community extension workers will be paid. This will encourage them to deliver better services than the existing system, where village health teams work as unpaid volunteers. In the meantime, village health teams continued to make progress,



A nurse measures an infant's malnutrition level with a middle-upper-arm-circumference measuring tool at St. Pius Kidepo HC III in Moroto District.

increasing the rate at which children with pneumonia, malaria and diarrhoea received prompt life-saving treatment.

A partnership with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria helped to scale up integrated community case management of childhood illness from 45 to 78 districts.

GETTING CHILDREN IMMUNIZED

Thirty-two districts with the lowest immunization levels were supported to implement the Reaching Every District/Child strategy. As a result, 23 districts (72 per cent) were able to vaccinate at least 80 per cent of children against measles and DPT3. There was also an impressive 70 per cent reduction in unimmunized babies.

UNICEF procured vaccines and supported social mobilization for a national measles campaign and three rounds of polio campaigns targeting children under the age of 1. More than 6 million children were vaccinated against measles, reaching a target of 96 per cent. Polio vaccination reached close to 8 million children (106 per cent coverage).

New vaccines such as the human papillomavirus vaccine were introduced and rolled out to all 112 districts. UNICEF helped to strengthen the cold chain system by procuring and distributing equipment, thermometers, generators, spare parts, vehicles, bicycles, motorcycles, computers and data-monitoring tools.

ADDRESSING HIGH LEVELS OF MALNUTRITION

To support multi-sectoral nutrition implementation, UNICEF helped develop the nutrition policy and strategic plan, a multi-sectoral monitoring and evaluation framework and the National Nutrition Advocacy and Communication Strategy. An estimated 4.2 million – 70 per cent – children under 5 were supplemented with Vitamin A and de-wormed on a national level. Close to 55,000 children with severe acute malnutrition (a third of the national caseload) received treatment in 554 therapeutic feeding centres.

Infant and child feeding practices improved. However, the quality of complementary feeding remains a big challenge. To create community demand and uptake of nutrition services, UNICEF supported national mapping of all informal groups as well as a roll-out of a nutrition and early childhood development training package for all the 112 district community development officers.

A nutrition monitoring session in progress at St. Pius Kidepo HC III in Moroto District.





Midwife Akello Filder gives antiretroviral drugs to a young mother with a 1-year-old child with HIV at Bobi Health Centre III, Gulu District.

BOOSTING HIV CARE AND TREATMENT FOR CHILDREN

UNICEF supported four international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to improve paediatric HIV services, including testing and treating pregnant women and their HIV-exposed children. In the 37 UNICEF-supported districts, infant testing stood at 40 per cent in 2015. Paediatric cotrimoxazole and antiretroviral therapy coverage improved to 40 per cent and 28 per cent, respectively, against 31 and 24 per cent achieved in 2014. District-level analysis showed good coverage of antenatal care and HIV testing and treatment for women.

PROVIDING THE ESSENTIALS OF LIFE

UNICEF continued to provide clean drinking water and adequate sanitation in schools, health centres and communities in 34 districts and areas affected by emergencies. This was achieved by rehabilitating water points, constructing solar-powered water systems, training water user committees and promoting good hygiene practices among Ugandans and refugees alike. Around 48,000 refugees from South Sudan benefited from 13 solar-powered water systems, while sanitation and hygiene promotion activities reached 62,000 refugees.

INSTITUTIONAL DELIVERIES INCREASE IN 20 UNICEF PRIORITY DISTRICTS, INCLUDING KARAMOJA

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MORE AND MORE CHILDREN ARE BEING IMMUNIZED



INTEGRATED COMMUNITY-BASED MANAGEMENT OF CHILDHOOD ILLNESSES IN 19 UNICEF-SUPPORTED DISTRICTS IS IMPROVING

MATERNAL HIV CARE AND TREATMENT IN 37 UNICEF FOCUS DISTRICTS (BY SEPTEMBER 2015)





IN UNICEF-SUPPORTED DISTRICTS



ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER SOURCES AND ADEQUATE SANITATION IN UNICEF FOCUS DISTRICTS



RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

With 15 per cent of Uganda's school-aged children never having stepped inside a classroom, UNICEF's focus in 2015 was to improve access to education, strengthen ECD and create safe and quality learning enviroments.

Child friendly schools

The child friendly school approach, localized through the Basic Requirements and Minimum Standards (BRMS) initiative, is the government's major strategy to improve quality and learning outcomes in Uganda. UNICEF supported the piloting of rural computer kiosks with primary school content. Preliminary results show great potential to improve the quality of education and to give teachers additional teaching tools.

Community dialogues or 'barazas', involving more than 15,000 participants, contributed to instilling the importance of education in communities. With UNICEF support, an estimated 32,000 children were brought back to school through focused Go-to-School, Back-to-School and Stay-in-School campaigns.



Children from Jumbe village, in Amudat district of Karamoja, where at least 70 girls and boys have defied tradition and claimed their right to be educated.

Giving children the best start in life

The Integrated ECD Policy, costed action plan, implementation plan and coordination mechanisms were finalized and submitted to Cabinet for approval. A performance assessment system to hold districts accountable for ECD service delivery was devised and rolled out to all 112 districts and 22 municipalities. All local governments have now integrated ECD into their development and financing plans.

Early learning and development standards were completed and implemented in 250 ECD centres in 28 districts. Close to two thirds of 1,759 communitybased ECD centres that met minimum standards were licensed. Of these, 53 per cent have trained and certified caregivers.

Ending violence in schools

The government, with UNICEF support, continued to address widespread violence against children in schools. A policy framework was developed in 2015 and a circular banning corporal punishment in all education institutions was issued. The national strategic plan on violence against children in schools and guidelines on reporting, tracking, referral and response to school violence were launched. Following strong UNICEF advocacy, the Ministry of Education incorporated indicators on school violence into its annual national school census.

UNICEF helped strengthen district coordination to empower district education authorities, school governing bodies, communities and parents to mediate and resolve conflicts that compromise education delivery. In the process, safe learning environments are emerging, progressively nurturing a culture of zero tolerance towards physical and verbal abuse and corporal punishment in schools.



ECD CENTRES IN 34 DISTRICTS INCREASING AND QUALITY OF SERVICES IMPROVING IN UNICEF-SUPPORTED DISTRICTS



QUALITY EDUCATION IMPROVING

PRIMARY SCHOOL COMPLETION RATES IMPROVED

32,464
CHILDREN
BROUGHT BACK
TO SCHOOL IN 28
TARGET DISTRICTS60
FOR
GIRLS AND 16% FOR BOYS54%80
FOR GIRLS AND 16% FOR BOYS72%

SCHOOL VIOLENCE MONITORED



Keeping children safe

RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

Violence against children remains a major child rights issue in Uganda. The Police Crime and Traffic Annual Report for 2014 showed that the number of cases of defilement reported to the police increased from 9,588 in 2013 to 12,752 in 2014. In addition, 667 cases of sexual violence were reported to the child helpline by the end of November 2015.

Getting the information

A national survey on violence against children, supported by UNICEF, the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will for the first time provide a baseline of the prevalence of different forms of violence against children. The findings will inform a sound programmatic prevention and response plan.

Building a comprehensive child protection system

During 2015, UNICEF continued to focus on strengthening the child protection system by addressing persistent bottlenecks in the legal framework. One example is the effort to amend Uganda's Children's Act. UNICEF and civil society partners believe that the changes to the Act will enhance the protection of children, provide for guardianship of children, improve adoption within the country and prohibit corporal punishment.

Improving birth registration

More than 1.2 million children under 5 were registered at birth in 2015. Most received their birth certificates. It is estimated that the national rate of birth registration increased from 30 per cent in 2011 to 68 per cent in 2015 as a result.

Ending child marriage

With UNICEF support, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development developed Uganda's first National Strategy To End Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy. It was disseminated at district level. This is



A warning sign for abuse at school at an elementary school in Kiryandongo District.

an important milestone towards sparing half a million Ugandan teenage girls from early marriage every year.

Stopping child violence

The National Action Plan on Violence against Children in Schools was approved and is being implemented in 30 districts with UNICEF support. The national child helpline received and managed 2,718 cases of violence against children in 2015, including 1,393 emergencies. UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund continued to support national efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation and cutting in six districts where the practice is prevalent.

Strengthening child justice

Witness and victim protection measures and diversion guidelines were adopted with UNICEF support. The year 2015 saw children removed from adult detention facilities, others diverted from the justice system and school children taught by the Uganda police to identify and report violence.

3.2 MILLION CHILDREN REGISTERED AT BIRTH SINCE 2011



CONCRETE STEPS TO END CHILD MARRIAGE

27 DISTRICTS

RECEIVE THE NEW NATIONAL STRATEGY TO END CHILD MARRIAGE AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY IN 2015

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10 START IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY WITH UNICEF SUPPORT

CHILD JUSTICE SEES RESULTS

SUPPORT TO ORPHANS





Innovations

Uganda has been a pioneer in 'technology for development' within UNICEF since 2009. The first innovations (see box below) have now been used by the government at national scale and are being replicated by UNICEF in many other countries.

KEY INNOVATIONS

- DHIS2 an online health database.
- mTrac an SMS-based health systems strengthening tool, designed to improve reporting on disease surveillance and medicine tracking in all health facilities in Uganda.
- **eHMIS** an online health management information system that brings together DHIS2 and mTrac to improve reporting, analysis and data use nationally.
- EduTrac a system that collects routine educational data from head teachers, teachers and school management committees via SMS.
- U-Report a free, SMS-based system that allows young people to speak out on what's happening in their communities and seek solutions.
 U-report conducts weekly SMS messages and polls to and from young U-reporters.
- **mVRS** a mobile vital records system that enables health workers and local government officials to report births and deaths, with simple verification and printing of certificates.

In 2015, UNICEF used these existing innovations to support district policy and planning while piloting new tools.

As part of the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Sharpened Plan, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to pilot an accountability scorecard in 13 districts. The scorecard, which built on DHIS2, promotes district-led planning, monitoring and budgeting. In 2016, an innovation will be to add U-report community data and bottleneck analysis tools to the scorecard.

A partnership with academia and the private sector led to the field testing of bio-latrines and the 'elephant tap'. Bio-latrines convert human waste into methane, which can be used as fuel for cooking. The residue is used to fertilize school gardens. The elephant tap is a prototype self-locking tap to reduce water wastage during hand washing. The aim is to develop innovations that will improve water, hygiene and sanitation services for Ugandan school children.

UNICEF piloted the Digi School, a portable, solar-powered multimedia educational kit, in two refugee settlements. The findings show that the Digi School improves child participation in ECD centres and adolescent girls' school attendance. However, key software issues need to be resolved before the Digi School can be introduced more comprehensively in humanitarian situations.



A young mother receives medicine from a health care worker at Bobi Health Centre III, Gulu District.





A teacher grades papers at Palenga Primary School in Gulu District.



Emergencies

RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

In 2015, UNICEF provided health, nutrition, water, sanitation and protection services to more than half a million refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Burundi and Somalia.

Health

Two measles and polio supplementary immunization campaigns were carried out in all refugee camps, vaccinating 95 per cent of targeted children.

Nutrition

Integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) was successfully rolled out in districts hosting refugees. A total of 10,293 refugee children from Burundi and South Sudan were treated for severe acute malnutrition, with a cure rate of 75 per cent. IMAM reached 82 per cent of 8,471 children with severe acute malnutrition in Karamoja.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

A 13 km pipeline was built at Nakivale refugee settlement in Isingiro District, helping to improve access to safe water for 13,500 refugees from Burundi. Outbreaks of diarrhoeal diseases were avoided through hygiene promotion, which reached 62,000 refugees in West Nile region. UNICEF supported 13 solar-powered water systems for 48,000 refugees from South Sudan.

Child protection

UNICEF supported the training of 30 child protection committee members. Twelve established child protection committees are managing a child referral mechanism, foster care and reintegration. More than 30,000 children received psychosocial support in 40 child friendly spaces supported by UNICEF. Close to 6,000 separated children from South Sudan were registered using the rapid family tracing and reunification tool.

Early childhood development

UNICEF provided financial support to refugee host communities to construct ECD centres. Innovative outdoor playgrounds were provided to six new ECD centres and 120 community members were trained to facilitate ECD activities.

Disaster preparedness and response

UNICEF also helped to strengthen national and community capacity in disaster preparedness and response. This led to annual child-focused vulnerable/ capacity assessments being carried out successfully. An innovative communitybased mechanism for early warning was implemented, using 500 local monitors to relay early warning messages through a mobile-based system. Conflict and disaster risk management was also integrated into a national peace-building, education and advocacy programme.



Policy, research and evidence

RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

The Government of Uganda and UNICEF launched the *Situation Analysis* of *Children in Uganda 2015* report. The high-profile launch was followed by round-table discussions with members of parliament, government officials and civil society organizations. This secured commitments from different sectors (including parliamentary committees) to act on the report's recommendations.

UNICEF and partners worked on a national child-focused policy research agenda to link research, programming and results for children. UNICEF also supported the formulation of a national child participation strategy. This is expected to play a critical role in transforming societal attitudes towards children and helping raise children's voices in decision-making processes.

UNICEF completed the data collection phase of the national survey on violence against children. The survey measured the scale of emotional, physical and sexual violence, and identified risks and protective factors. The results will inform advocacy and programming in the years to come.

As a result of UNICEF advocacy, the remit of Uganda's Demographic and Health Survey will be broadened. From 2016 the survey will include a module on ECD. It will also include questions on child discipline in the home and on orphans and vulnerable children. UNICEF continued to advocate for the adoption of the new integrated ECD policy and helped develop a dedicated budgetary framework.

UNICEF heavily influenced the second National Development Plan, launched in 2015. As a result of strategic and sustained advocacy using robust evidence, the plan includes a human capital pillar which uses UNICEF's life cycle approach. It also now has a child poverty reduction target in its results framework.

UNICEF played a key role in the approval of the National Social Protection Policy and the on-going formulation of a business case for sustained investments in social protection.

Together with the Ministry of Finance, UNICEF conducted a study titled *Rethinking Public Finance for Children (PF4C): Monitoring for Results.* A new monitoring framework that tracks direct expenditure on basic services affecting children was developed as a result.



The Government of Uganda and UNICEF launched the *Situation Analysis of Children in Uganda 2015.*

RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

UNICEF's #InvestInUGchildren: Realize Uganda's Vision 2040 campaign continued to position Uganda's children as vital to national socioeconomic interest and aspirations. New campaign activities built commitment to child well-being among the government, the private sector, religious institutions and civil society organizations.

In a live broadcast to 10 million viewers, the *Situation Analysis of Children in Uganda 2015* was launched, generating public debate on the need to address issues affecting children. In another live broadcast, private sector leaders committed to mobilize industry to develop a public-private partnership to protect child rights.

In a public event led by the President of Uganda, 500 religious leaders signed a resolution to support parents and communities with knowledge that will save children's lives and protect their health. And UNICEF collaborated with an FC Barcelona Legends team to present a high-profile football match. The call to improve the well-being of children was reiterated at an official state dinner.

The harmonization of children's legislation and the government's agreement to sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child Optional Protocol 3 and the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption were aided by UNICEF's advocacy support to the Uganda Child Rights NGO Network. A social accountability for child rights programme was piloted in four districts, creating space for citizen reports on child rights violations. A national roadmap for Communication for Development in the Ministry of Education and Sports was drawn up through UNICEF's advocacy efforts.

Digital media has been used for wider reach, particularly for adolescents. Over the past year, UNICEF's weekly messages and materials were quoted in over 10,000 media reports, reaching around 20 million people – over half the population of Uganda. The updated social media strategy reached 836,000 people via Facebook. UNICEF achieved 520,000 Twitter impressions during 2015.

FCB Legends enter the Nelson Mandela National Stadium in Kampala where they played with the Ugandan Cranes in a friendly match.



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Funding

UNICEF wishes to thank all its donors for their generous contributions to investing in Uganda's children.

FUNDS RECEIVED BY DONOR, 2015 (US\$)	
The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	14,552,709
The Republic of Korea	8,027,326
The Kingdom of the Netherlands	4,139,324
Swedish International Development Cooperation	4,269,501
United States Fund for UNICEF	3,787,838
UNICEF United Kingdom National Committee	1,005,464
European Commission	1,513,765
United Nations Population Fund	1,242,602
UNICEF Global Education Thematic Fund	750,000
UNICEF Global Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Thematic Fund	750,000
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	712,798
Canada	691,981
UNICEF Global HIV and AIDS Thematic Fund	514,000
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	879,791
The Federal Republic of Germany	356,554
The GAVI Fund	296,913
United Nations Development Programme	286,384
Ireland	155,357
UNICEF Sweden National Committee	149,184
The Republic of Finland	132,212
UNITAID	131,014
UNICEF Japan National Committee	100,437
United States Agency for International Development	92,960
UNICEF Canada National Committee	87,025
Uganda (Global Fund)	72,009
Total	44,697,147



BUDGET PER PROGRAMME AREA, 2015 (US\$)			
Programme area	Other Resources – Regular	Other Resources – Emergency	
Alive	26,266,176	5,682,996	
Learning	3,551,818	1,781,459	
Safe	2,748,883	1,141,432	
Cross sectoral	1,966,253	946,038	
Operations	530,151	81,941	





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