

Protecting Ugandan Children from harm at home

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 <p>November 2017</p> <h2>Protecting Ugandan Children from harm at home</h2> <p>Executive Statement</p> <p>Despite the 1995 Constitution establishing the duty of parents to care for their children, Ugandan children continue to experience multiple forms of violence at home. In addition to physical violence, other forms of violence faced by children include sexual violence either through forced sex, inappropriate touching or sexual harassment. Furthermore, children experience economic violence—through denial of school fees, money for uniforms or health care—as a form of punishment. Previous research shows that 98 percent of children in Uganda experience harsh forms of disciplining—such violent experiences can affect future wellbeing.</p> <p>Extent of violence faced by children</p> <p>A 2005 study examining the violence faced by children in Uganda found that the majority of the children sample were physically punished either at home or at school. Specifically, the 2005 Raising Voices study, which examined 1,408 children from 5 districts in Uganda, showed that 86 percent of the children had experienced physical and emotional violence—particularly through caning, slapping, pinching, being insulted or being shouted at. Most of the physical violence occurred either: at home (39%), school (27%) or both (32%).¹</p> <p>At the same time, the experiences children have in their early lives—and the environments in which they have them—have lifelong impacts. Evidence shows that child experiences of violence affect whether children grow to become healthy and productive members of society.² In Uganda, the 1995 Constitution establishes the duty of parents to care for their children. Specifically, section 4 of Article 31 on the rights of the family states that</p> <p><i>"It is the right and duty of parents to care for and bring up their children."</i></p> <p>In addition to the constitutional dictates, the 2008 Education Act made it mandatory for parents to provide all other scholastic inputs not provided by the state. Specifically, Section 5 on the duties of stakeholders in education and training stipulates that parents and guardians responsibilities include:³</p> <p>(b) Providing parental guidance and psychosocial welfare to their children;</p> <p>(c) Providing food, clothing, shelter, medical care and transport;</p> <p>(e) Participating in the promotion of discipline of their children.</p> <p>Despite the constitutional and statutory provisions, children in Uganda continue to experience multiple forms of violence at home. In addition to physical violence, the Raising Voices Study identified other forms of violence faced by children. Specifically, 76 percent of the sampled children had experienced sexual violence either through forced sex, inappropriate touching or sexual harassment. Moreover, 74 percent of children reported experiencing economic violence—through denial of school fees, money for uniforms or health care—as a form of punishment.</p> <p>On the other hand, households in Uganda play a central role in promoting children's health, development, education, and protection. However, despite the dominance of parents over the household care environment for children, there is limited research in Uganda on how parenting determines children's exposure to violence. Specifically, there is limited information on attitudes and behaviours associated with protective or harmful parenting practices in the country.</p> <p>A survey of parenting practices in 3 districts</p> <p>This brief identifies how children can be protected from harmful parenting practices in Uganda. It is based on a qualitative survey conducted in three districts of Uganda—Kampala, Ibanda and Lira. The survey supplemented the 2015 Violence Against Children Survey (VACS) that assessed lifetime prevalence of exposure to sexual, physical, and verbal violence among 13-24-year-olds.⁴</p> <p>Protecting Ugandan Children from harm at home 1</p>	<p>Title: Protecting Ugandan Children from Harm at Home</p> <p>Author (s): The AfriChild Centre</p> <p>Year of Publication: 2017</p> <p>Access Resource Here:</p>
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