

EACRN EACRN

The Eastern Africa Child Rights Network

ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022



Save the Children.





FOREWORD

I am delighted to present to you the Eastern Africa Child Rights Network (EACRN) Annual Report 2021-2022. The report outlines the strides taken by the Network towards the fulfilment of its mission, vision and objectives.

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a step. As such, EACRN has been taking slow but careful strides towards realizing its vision where children across the region enjoy their rights to survival, development, protection

and participation. The Network's mission and vision aim to promote the rights of children across the region as stipulated in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, as well as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This report summarizes the activities and achievements of the Network members, who form the most significant part of EACRN. The different coalitions have shared their successes, challenges, and way forward in their efforts towards the promotion of children's rights.

The strides made by the Network as a whole, with contribution from the Members, is not to be taken for granted. We commend all the Members for their work and congratulate their efforts towards fulfilling their coalition and network goals. We make a commitment towards continuing to work with the Members in enhancing advocacy for children's rights across the whole region.

We also take this opportunity to appreciate our various partners who have been a part of us through every step of the way. We extend our special gratitude to Plan International and Save the Children International, without whose support we would not have managed.

We commend all the Members, the Board, the Secretariat and other partners who have contributed towards the success of our work throughout the period. We would also like to invite all other stakeholders to collaborate with us in our future aspirations. As to go far, we must walk together.

Damon Wamara

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Damon Wamara'.

**Chairperson
(2021-2023) EACRN
Management Committee**

EACRN

APPRECIATION



Dear members, I really appreciate the management Board for confirming me as EACRN regional coordinator during this reporting year. Indeed the year 2021 - 2022 is a remarkable year for EACRN as it has seen many progress for the network ranging from the networks registration to expansion of its members.

The EACRN Secretariat has been a beehive of activities during the year. The secretariat has remained lean with only two dedicated staff who have been supported by the finance of the host organisation, EACHRights. Am happy to report that we were joined by one Ms. Anita Otieno who is currently working with me as a programme officer after Ms Fraciah Kagu's exit.

The EACRN family has indeed grown and expanded its tentacles to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia Republic, and Republic of Ethiopia who have joined us for the first time with the purpose of deepening and widening child Rights advocacy in Eastern Africa.

I believe we can only do better, and we are committed to ensuring that the network soon expands to Eritrea, Djibouti and Seychelles in the next reporting year.

I wouldn't end without appreciating our dear partners, Plan International (MEESAH and AULO) and Save the Children International for the great support, both technical and finance that you have accorded to us. This journey has been a long one with many hurdles, but the two partners have held us and ensured we remain focused to our goal.

The management board for your great guidance to the secretariat at all times cannot be gainsaid. You indeed have sacrificed your other engagements for the benefit of the EACRN and ensuring that the secretariat works efficiently. Our national coalitions who have always been supportive to host the secretariat during country visits and submitted their reports on time for compilation, and the Almighty God for indeed making us navigate the COVID 19 pandemic challenges.

May the Lord bless all of you for supporting the Secretariat amid all the odds.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Odiga', written over a white background.

Benedict Odiga Omillo Regional
Coordinator.

EACRN

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BACKGROUND

This Report comprises the report of EACRN Board, Secretariat and compiled reports from the Members of EACRN. It contains the activities of each, successes and achievements, challenges faced as well as proposed ways forward.

It is our hope that the Report reflects the position of the above-mentioned stakeholders as accurately as possible. The Report is important in documenting the journey of EACRN, appreciating the work done by all Members, recognizing the progress made by each, identifying the challenges faced and deliberating on proposed solutions and way forward.

In all our activities, as our Chairperson (Damon Wamara) always emphasizes, we work for one purpose: **FOR THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD**. May all our endeavors ever lead us towards achieving this goal.

SECRETARIAT REPORT

1. EACRN BOARD AND SECRETARIAT REPORT

1.1 EACRN Registration

The Secretariat together with the Board managed to successfully complete the registration of EACRN as an independent organization, on **7th February 2022**.



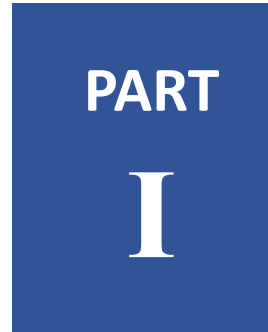
Chairperson after signing the EACRN Registration Certificate

1.2 EACRN Constitution

The EACRN Constitution was successfully passed by members and adopted in **February 2021** after extensive discussions and contributions from Members on the same. The Network is currently working towards the full implementation of its Constitution.

1.3 Formulation and approval of EACRN Strategic Plan 2022 – 2027

The exercise towards the formulation and development of the EACRN Strategic Plan was completed. The Strategic Plan 2022 – 2027 was validated in Nairobi by all on **25th – 29th October 2021**. Following the successful validation, implementation of the Strategic Plan began in January 2022 with the launch set for early June, in the presence of all coalition members as well as partners.

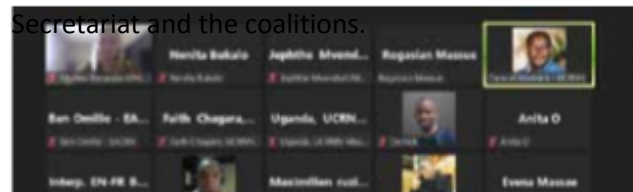


1.4 Formulation and approval of EACRN Policies

In the same spirit of validating the Strategic Plan, the Members validated and later approved organizational policies. These policies are: the Human Resource Policy, the Communication Policy and the Finance policies and procedures. We trust that the implementation of these policies is a great step towards a well-functioning organization.

1.5 CCCs training with UNICEF

The CSO Forum and UNICEF Office to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNICEF AUO) co-organized an introductory session on the Core Commitments for Children (CCC) on **16th November 2021**. As part of this session UNICEF, CSOs and young people reflected on the CCCs and how they can be jointly advanced in Africa. As a follow-up to this discussion, it was agreed that there would be a working session organized together with the Eastern Africa Child Rights Network (EACRN) to build the capacity of the CSOs and share more guidance on how CSOs can advance the CCCs in Africa. The working session took place virtually on **9th March 2022** with representation from the Board, Secretariat and the coalitions.



of some of the attendees of CCCs training

Burundi Child Rights Coalition and Burundi Child

1.6 Launch of the COTT Matrix

EACRN developed and launched the Concluding Observations Trends Tracker (COTT) Matrix with the support of partners. The Matrix Seeks to track the Concluding Observations and Recommendations made to African countries as regards international instruments on Child Rights. It provides a platform to track the Concluding Observations made under the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC); the United Nations Convention on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (UNCRC) as well as its Optional Protocols; and Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

The COTT Matrix is very relevant to the Network and its members. Members are therefore encouraged to make use of the platform in their day-to-day advocacy work on the rights and welfare of children.

1.7 Country Visits

1.7.1 Burundi visit

Following a resolution made in the Members' meeting of October 2021, EACRN Chairperson was accompanied by a member of the Secretariat to carry out an Organizational Capacity Assessment on the two coalitions in Burundi. The country visit happened on **27th February – 3rd March 2022**. The



Group photo with BCRF members

1.7.2 Tanzania visit

The Board and the Secretariat joined Tanzania Child Rights Forum (TCRF) in the launch of their Strategic Plan (2022 – 2026) on **5th May 2022**. The event was a successful event, which was followed by a meeting of the EACRN team with the Board members of TCRF. The Network acknowledges the progress made by TCRF and will offer the support it can towards the Forum in the implementation of its Strategic Plan.



Secretariat with TCRF Board members and partners

1.7.3 South Sudan visit

EACRN in collaboration with Child Rights Coalition of South Sudan held a capacity building training workshop to address shrinking civic space in the build the capacity of CSOs to lobby and advocate for safe and free civic space to deliver humanitarian

A report of the visit and the capacity assessment was also developed.

assistance to the people of South Sudan across the country. The workshop brought together Board members and secretariat of EACRN, members of CRC and different government officials from South Sudan.



Group photo of EACRN and Members of CRC South Sudan

1.8 Capacity Building Training Workshop for Child Rights and Youth -Led CSOs

EACRN in collaboration with the Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Child Rights (KAACR); the East African Civil Society Forum (EACCSOF) – Kenya chapter; African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC); Africa Youth Trust (AYT); Horn of Africa Youth Network and Haki Nawiri Afrika organized for a two-days capacity building training workshop for youth and child rights CSOs on policy advocacy and meaningful engagement with the UNCRC; African Union frameworks and regional CSOs advocacy platforms on **10th and 11th March 2022** in Nairobi. The meeting was well intended and created an interactive platform on international human rights reporting mechanisms, with an emphasis on reporting on children’s rights in the region.

1.9 Youth & Children Indicator Programme

The Secretariat is a part of the technical working group of the Youth and Children Indicator Programme, implemented by Reality of Aid Africa. Members of EACRN from Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi have also had the opportunity to be part of the programme, attending sessions in Nairobi and Lusaka.

The Indicator focuses on strengthening and using countries’ domestic institutions, increasing transparency and predictability of development cooperation towards youth and children. It also supports better engagement and partnerships between foreign and domestic partners in development towards and with youth and children.

1.10 National Dialogue Forum

EACRN Secretariat took part and actively participated at the National Dialogue Forum organized by East African Civil Society Organization’s Forum - Kenya Chapter (EACCSOF – Kenya) in collaboration with other partners. The Forum was held on **24th and 25th March 2022** under the theme: *Towards A Post-Covid 19 Transformation for Socio-Economic Transformation*.

The Forum precedes the East African Community Regional Dialogue Forum and ultimately the Secretary General Forum which is the main platform for citizen participation in the integration process of the East African Community.



EACRN formed part of the National Dialogue Committee and presented

two papers at the Forum through the Secretariat and KAAACR with the titles: *COVID-19 and Human Trafficking: The Socio-Economic Etiology of Human Trafficking and Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse* respectively.

regional level, thus enhancing our work towards the promotion and protection of children's rights.

2.2 Other Activities

EACRN has participated in several other activities towards capacity building of the Secretariat as well as a show of solidarity to its partners and members.

The activities include:

- KAAACR AGM (December 2021)
- Sessions for technical working group on Children Without Parental Care, led by UNICEF and supported by other partners (recurring).
- Policy brief training on strengthening child protection mechanisms at national and county levels. (December 2021)
- Meeting of the Regional Gender Based Violence (GBV) Working Group (December 2021)
- Consultative meeting on Strengthening national child protection systems and cross border collaboration to respond to the needs of migrant and refugee children in East and Horn of Africa (November 2021)
- Capacity Strengthening Workshop on Gender Transformative Programming and Engagement with the African Human Rights Mechanisms. Organized by the African Population and Health Research Center and partners.(April 2022)

Anita Otieno (Secretariat) at a panel during the NDF

2.0 End of SCI Sida Phase I project

The end of the year 2021 marked the end of the first phase of the Sida-CSO Grant (2017-2021) from Save the Children International. We note that the grant was very essential and greatly contributed towards the growth of EACRN and implementation of several programmes. The second phase of the project is set to begin sometime in July, with EACRN grateful to be among the various partners implementing the second phase of the project.

2.1 Election of EACRN Chairperson into the Management of the CSO Forum

EACRN is proud of having her Chairperson serve as the Chairperson of the Management Committee of the Civil Society Forum on the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of The Child (CSO Forum). The Chairperson was elected during the 19th CSO Forum and has since represented the Forum as well as the Network in his capacity. We believe that this gives the Network more visibility and engagement at the

- Commemoration of International Day of Families (May 2022)

2.3 Opportunities for EACRN

Like any other entity, the Network has been faced by several challenges. However, we view the challenges as opportunities to better improve our work and outreach across the Eastern African region and beyond. The main opportunity includes addressing the shrinking civic space across various countries in the region that hinders the efficient work of the Network. Further, EACRN plans to expand its platform into other Eastern African countries including Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia.

EACRN MEMBERS

2.4 KENYA: KENYA ALLIANCE FOR ADVANCEMENT OF CHILDREN (KAACR)

1.0.1 Background

Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children (KAACR) is national umbrella body for NGOs cooperation and exchange of information on children rights in Kenya with a membership of over 250 children agencies in Kenya. KAACR, founded on the basis of the UNCRC, is a registered national umbrella NGO under the NGO Coordination Act of 1990 in 1995. KAACR is an NGO with Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations (2000), Equivalence Determination Certification (2017) from NGOssource, Observer Status with African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) – (2018), member of the Global Partnership to End Violence against

Children (2018), local partner of ECPAT International (2019) and member of Management Committee of Eastern Africa Child Rights Network (2020). KAACR **envisions** a society that protects all the rights of children and youth to survive, develop and participate in all matters concerning them. KAACR's **mission** is to advocate for and promote the realization of rights and responsibilities of children and youth in Kenya.

Over the years, KAACR has experienced tremendous growth that has seen her implement various projects geared towards promoting the rights and welfare of children in Kenya. KAACR has implemented three Strategic Plans 2001 – 2010, 2011 -2015, 2016 - 2020 and are implementing a 5-year Strategic Plan 2021–2025 whose strategic objectives are:

PART 2

- (i) Monitoring domestication of County, National, regional and international child rights instruments
- (ii) Strengthening networking and building partnerships for increased visibility of Children and youth
- (iii) Children and Youth empowerment
- (iv) Research, Learning and documentation
- (v) Institutional Strengthening and Technical Support to partners

1.0.2 Achievements/Success stories (2021/2022)

Sector CSO Advocacy Workshop

- Annual Children

For the last 13 years, KAACR and her member partners have held the annual Children Sector CSO Advocacy Workshops in various parts of Kenya. This forum that brings together stakeholders from various sectors of child protection and development. The forum over the years has attracted national, regional and international representation making it one of the highlights every year – when all KAACR members meet to take stock of achievement, opportunities and challenges encountered by CSOs in each year. In 2020 when it was expected that this workshop would not take place because of COVID 19 pandemic, KAACR became innovative and embraced technology by connecting over 150 member organizations through zoom and other social media platforms to use various connections like zoom and facebook to hold a hybrid session. This was one of the highly attended fora having reached many especially with the online participants. In 2021, KAACR convened 13th Annual Children Sector CSO Workshop whose theme was: ***Strengthening Child Protection in Post COVID 19 Pandemic***. The workshop brought together – CSO representatives from 21 counties to reflect on how COVID 19 Pandemic impacted on the work of CSOs and lives of children in terms of education, protection and participation in community activities.

- **Strengthening Coalitions work**

During the year under review, was privileged to provide leadership to two Coalition projects i.e. Children at Risk Coalition composed of KAACR, African Divine Church and Pillars Care Foundation, that is undertaking activities on eliminating Child Labour in three counties and the Kilifi Cluster made up of 3

Strategic Community Development Organization (CBO), Candlelight Empowerment Kenya (CBO) and KAACR. The Kilifi project was a learning initiative that was aimed at creating safe environments for children and adolescents in school at home and in the community.

At the same time, KAACR is part of the 5-year SHE

LEADS Consortium in Kenya being implemented in 6 counties in Kenya i.e. Homabay, Kisumu, Nairobi, Kajiado, Mombasa and Kwale by Plan International, TdH Netherlands, FEMNET and KAACR (on behalf of DCI Netherlands). She Leads project is a nine country project that is being supported by the Royal Netherland Government. The focus of the project is to amplify the voices of Girls and Young Women. KAACR is implementing the project in Kajiado and Mombasa. We are currently in the second year of the program and we are seeing fundamental outcomes being harvested.

- **Researches undertaken**

- 0 **Disrupting Harm Study**

Being the local partner of ECPAT International, KAACR was tasked the take lead in data collection from practitioners and children in Kenya for the 14-country Disrupting Harm Research that was aimed at amassing evidence on online-child sexual exploitation and abuse. The other countries involved in the research from Eastern and Southern Africa region included Ethiopia, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. Kenya was proudly the first country to complete and launch her study in 2021.

[\(https://www.end-violence.org/sites/\)](https://www.end-violence.org/sites/)

Our Voices

KAACR also supported the Safer Young Lives Research Centre at the University of Bedfordshire in a DELPHI study aimed at promoting the involvement of children and young people affected by sexual violence in research, policy and practice. The study sought to understand whether and how the participation of children and young people impacted by Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSA/E) in decision-making (about their own care or support for other children and young people) can contribute to protection.

- **Conferences and significant meetings**

- **EACRN Management Committee Meetings**

KAACR being a member of the management Committee of the EACRN, participated in three management committee meetings and also actively contributed to development and approval of the EACRN 5-year Strategic Plan and development of key management organizational documents.

- **Youth and Children Indicator Training**

Under the recommendation of EACRN Secretariat, a member of KAACR participated in a training supported by Reality of Aid Africa (ROAA) on Children and Youth Indicator Training in Lusaka, Zambia. The Youth Indicator focuses on strengthening and using countries' domestic institutions, increasing transparency and predictability of development co-operation towards youth and Children. It supports better engagement and partnership of foreign and domestic partners in development towards and with youth and children. Objective of

the Youth Indicator in the Monitoring were: Assess progress, opportunities and obstacles in aligning stakeholder efforts and partnerships with the effectiveness principles towards youth and Children in development Effectiveness, Improving the quality, impact and effectiveness of development co-operation towards youth and Children, the results of the monitoring exercise provide a concrete foundation on which Youth and Children can hold governments, development partners and other stakeholders accountable to ensure effectiveness commitments are met with action. The Indicator generates data for countries to assess their progress towards achieving 20 SDG targets in six key SDGs: Goal 2 (hunger), Goal 4 (education), Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 8 (decent work), Goal 10 (inequality) and Goal 13 (climate change).

Capacity Building Training Workshop for Child Rights And Youth - Led CSO's on Policy Advocacy, Networking And Engagement With the UNCRC; African Union Frameworks And Regional CSOs Advocacy Platforms

KAACR in collaboration with EACRN, the East African Civil Society Forum (EACSOF) – Kenya chapter; African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC); Africa Youth Trust (AYT); Horn of Africa Youth Network and Haki Nawiri Afrika to organize for a two-days capacity building training workshop for youth and child rights CSOs on policy advocacy and meaningful engagement with the UNCRC; African Union frameworks and regional CSOs advocacy platforms.

The key outcomes that were realized in the training were: - Enhanced capacities of Youth and child Rights actors on the UNCRC; AChPR; ACRWC and EAC Consultative Dialogue Framework (NDF), Improved Youth and

partnerships and collaboration to connect and build capacity of their counterparts in influencing national and regional policies and Improved engagement of Youth and Child rights CSOs with the UNCRC, ACERWC; CSO Forum and the EAC CSOs Advocacy Platforms.

The 2 days' non-residential workshop held in Nairobi was attended virtually by 40 participants drawn from the Child Rights and Youth CSOs in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and South Sudan and 25 in person participants from within Nairobi area. The sessions were facilitated by KAACR; EACSOF - Kenya; African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC); Haki Nawiri Afrika and HoAYN with support from EACRN Secretariat. This capacity building training workshop provided an opportunity for Youth and Child Rights actors to understand how to engage with the UNCRC; AU and EAC frameworks to enhance their advocacy efforts from grassroots to national, regional to global levels.

- **National Dialogue Forum (NDF)**

KAACR participated in the National Dialogue Forum (NDF) hosted by Republic of Kenya as part of its implementation of the EAC Consultative Dialogue Framework (CDF). The Forum was an initiative by the Ministry of East African Community and Regional Development in partnership with the East African Civil Society Organizations' Forum (EACSOF) Kenya Chapter and Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA). This was in line with the EAC Consultative Dialogue Framework (CDF) for structured national and regional consultations for civil society organizations, the private sector and other interest groups that include apex bodies for professionals, trade unions, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), youth, political parties,

organization among others. During the forum, we made a presentation on online child sexual exploitation and abuse, and how the pandemic COVID-19 pandemic created fertile ground for cross jurisdictional crime against children.

- **Links of children to services**

- **County Child Rights Networks (CCRN)**

KAACR reaches out to children by providing coordination of the child protection sector through the County Child Rights Networks (CCRN) established in 24 counties across Kenya. CCRNs have been instrumental in ensuring that children are linked to the right state and non state service providers. These include Directorate of Children Services, Pro bono lawyer schemes, Rescue Homes, Health facilities (for both physical and mental wellbeing) and educational Bursaries. The CCRNs play pivotal role in linking child protection actors in Kenya through conferences and social media platform. The networks have also created working relationship with child related government structures like Area Advisory Councils from the County to sub county level and Court Users Committee (CUC) where issues of juvenile justice are discussed.

- **Formation of Child Labour Free Zones**

KAACR coordinates child labour activities through the CaR Coalition in western region that has successfully worked with community members to withdraw over 250 boys and girls from child labour back to school. The project has also registered tremendous progress in support to children withdrawn from child labour to access higher education. The project has also worked with stakeholders at the

community

level and formed 24 child labour free zones to spearhead child elimination of child labour in Kenya.

- **Formation of children and Youth led movements to advance child protection services**

Child participation is one of KAAACR's key pillars that ensures meaningful child participation in identifying and responding to child protection issues in Kenya. Through child right clubs and child rights Defenders, KAAACR has managed to respond to child protection issues effectively from the community to schools. This has influenced the government to scale up child rights operations and activities to Kenya Children Assembly coordinated by the government.

- **Working with children**

Children and young are the core mandate of our coalition. As a coalition we have ensured that they participate in all activities and programs that involve them. During initial development of our proposals, children views are incorporated in the strategies and even in the implementation. As a coalition, we get children views on the concluding remarks and recommendations of the state party report for Kenya as well as their views on the Children bill 2021. At the county level, children in Mombasa participated in giving their views to the Mombasa Gender Mainstreaming policy. KAAACR was also instrumental in reviving the Children Assemblies in Kenya by supporting expertise and financial input during the countrywide elections for the assemblies.

1.0.3 Challenges facing the Coalition

Monitoring of Member networks

KAAACR is a secretariat to all the county Child Rights Networks and the NGO CRC, one of our mandates is to monitor and support the networks in the implementation of their mandate. We collect reports on children from the CCRNs which help us compile the annual reports as well as the state party complimentary report. We faced the challenge of getting all the members' reports on time so as assess them. These delays reporting and sometimes implementation

Access to finances

Access to funding by most of our members in the dwindling donor basket has become a challenge, with some CSOs closing shop and getting into other businesses.

Impact of COVID 19 pandemic

In 2021, most of members as well as the secretariat worked on half capacity in terms of the ability to implement the planned projects and staff as much effort was focused on mitigating the impact of COVID 19 Pandemic emergencies. Most member organizations closed down due to lack of resources and hence reports were not forth coming as has been in past years.

1.0.4 Proposed Solutions/Way Forward

Funds sourcing as a coalition

In the recent years, most donors are looking at consortiums and coalitions for funding. This is seen as enhancing transparency and accountability. By making joint funds application will ensure even the members whose capacity is limited get the funds and experience to handle large amounts of money.

Clear linkages with the government on relevant policies

In Kenya, the Directorate of Children Services works as a monitor and oversight of all the CSOs and working closely with them will ensure we have cordial working relationships and sustainability of coalition programs even after completion of those programs

Lobby for Children Ministry

There is need to joint forces and lobby for a specific Ministry that will handle Children and Youth matters. For a long time, child protection spread in several ministries while currently is squeezed in a big ministry that deals with Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens and Social Protection. Issues children get lost in the long name.

1.0.5 Conclusion

Children are core mandate of the coalition thus a fundamental stakeholder, we recommend that child representatives be incorporated at all levels of EACRN i.e. General Assembly, Management, programmatic and activity implementation.

2.5 MADAGASCAR : MADAGASCAR CHILD RIGHTS NETWORK (MCRN)

2.5.1 Background

MCCR is in maturation of a long process that began in 2014, led by the late RASAMOELY.

The large area of the country on the one hand and the lack of communication infrastructure on the other hand made it difficult to revitalize the Coalition because of the significant need for resources.

For two years, the Coalition has become the armed wing of the National Consortium for Citizen Participation, an association recognized as being of public utility, in terms of promoting the citizen participation of actors working for the Rights of the Child.

2.5.2 Achievements / Success Stories 2021/2022

- The structuring according to the 7 interregional bodies is determined and the 25 intervention units are identified
- A document containing the guidelines for the drafting and presentation of the civil society alternative report has been shared with the members of the network
- As representative of the National

Consortium for Citizen Participation in the network of human rights defenders, MCCR will sit on the Human Rights Observatory Committee which is being set up with the High Commissioner for Human Rights United Nations Human Resources for the Madagascar office, for the Right of the Child component.

2.5.3 Challenges Facing the Coalition

The greatest challenge is the mobilization of the necessary resources for the establishment of basic structures and the strengthening of their capacities.

2.5.4 Proposed Solutions / Way Forward

MCCR

relies on the synergy of its actions with those of the National Consortium for Citizen Participation to be able to move forward better.

2.5.5 Conclusion

MCCR has a promising future ahead of it given the commitment of its members supported by its partnership with EACRN which will allow it to benefit from regional experiences.

2.6 RWANDA: COALITION UMWANA KU ISONGA

2.6.1 Background

The Coalition “Umwana ku Isonga/child at the forefront” (CUI) is a Non -Governmental Organization registered under the certificate n^o 219/RGB/NGO/ LP/04/2018 with the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB). CUI has been created with the purposes of networking and alliance building with a mandate to assess and report on the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), on one hand, and to coordinate all activities carried out by individual member organizations within the parameters of advocacy, implementing and reporting on mentioned treaty bodies, on the other hand. Currently CUI is composed by 23 organization members.

2.6.2 Realized Activities by Key Areas Of Intervention

- **Policy analysis and Advocacy in Child Rights**

Under this area, the

Coalition realized different activities including the provision of inputs in the revision of National Gender Policy, together with Rwanda Civil Society Platform and Profemmes Twese Hamwe, CUI provided inputs in the Education Policy which is under revision process. CUI has also conducted a National Budget analysis of four consecutive years (2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021) focusing on Education, Health and Social Protection which was shared to different concerned public institutions such as MINECOFIN, MINEDUC, Ministry of Health, MIGEPROF, NCDA, MINALOC, PARLIAMENT.

This was in line of advocating for increase of budget in the identified areas to address child rights related issues observed in these sectors.

- **Child Protection**

In line of child protection especially on the right to health and survival, the Coalition has paid community health insurance (mutuel de santé) to 100 children from GatsiboD istrict.

The Coalition actively intervened in the case of a child who has 2 years old today but has been defiled at 3 years by her step father and this caused her the physical disability. The Coalition Umwana ku Isonga found this child hosted in a center called AVEH UMURERWA which takes care of children with mental disability while she had no mental disabilities . From this, the Coalition took initiative of following up her case through advocacy at different concerned institutions including NCHR, NUDOR, Humanity and Inclusion and took actions like consultations and diagnosis to the Orthopedic Specialist of

Gatagara

Hospital towards her medical treatment and appropriate education.

In partnership with GASABO district, under “Operation Usafi” the Coalition, as a member of GASABO Child protection network , played its role in unifying a street child with his family.

- **Child participation**

CUI has facilitated 1 female child to attend an exchange learning tour in Malawi about child participation in decision making, where she shared experience with her fellows from Malawi where she has been given an opportunity to share experience of participating in different processes including decision making, national budgeting process, development of child rights related alternative reports, advocacy around child rights issues at local and national institutions.

CUI in collaboration with Gasabo District engaged 30 children from Gasabo children’s forum and 19 from CUI member organizations including children with disabilities in providing their views on National Budget Framework Paper 2020-2021. CUI engaged 22 children from its member organizations, 16 were girls including 1 with disability and 6 boys including 1 with disability to provide their views in CUI UPR child focused alternative report.

In addition to that, CUI appreciates the participation of children in its initiative of breaking the silence about providing SRHR information between parents and children and fighting Sexual and Gender Based Violence. For example, two girl children participated in TV and

Radio talk

shows organized by CUI on breaking the silence about the sexual reproductive health and rights information among children and parents and fighting SGBV in Rwandan Society.

- **Capacity building in Child Rights**

The Coalition Umwana ku Isonga has trained 59 Civil Society Organizations members on child rights based monitoring, child protection and international instruments on child rights including its 19 member organizations, 18 CSOs members (6 females and 12 males) working on child rights in Gatsibo District, 22 members (9females and 13 males) of Rwanda Youth Organizations Forum. In addition to that, CUI supported its member organizations to gain skills in engaging regional mechanisms on child rights through participation in trainings. 106 media practitioners including 77 males including 1 with disability and 39 females were trained on child rights promotion and child protection.

257 teachers including 135 males and 122 females from Burera, Kirehe, Nyarugenge and Ruhango Districts were trained on positive discipline in every day teaching and every day parenting. 76 children from Nyaruguru Children Forum Committee including 45 females and 31 males were trained on child rights advocacy focusing on their role in the implementation of the Children’s Summit resolutions.

As far as capacity building is concerned, CUI after translating the ACRWC recommendations and Agenda 2040 organized training sessions to children and CSOs members in order to increase

their knowledge and carry out evidence based advocacy.

CUI has shared different tools to its member organizations and other stakeholders such as routers with Mango 4G internet, posters and rulers with positive discipline message to teachers from Burera, Kirehe, Nyarugenge and Ruhango.

- **Reporting on and monitoring the**

implementation of UNCRC, ACRWC and UPR

In line with its mandate of assessing and reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Child Rights Convention (UNCRC), the African Charter on the Right and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Coalition Umwana ku Isonga has prepared and submitted alternative reports to the concerned treaty bodies. In addition to that, CUI has collaborated with public institutions in monitoring the implementation of the above mentioned child rights instruments such as the evaluation of the level of implementation of the ACRWC recommendations given to the Government of Rwanda in 2019.

CUI has prepared and submitted the child focused UPR alternative report 2020. More to that CUI as a member of National Task Force on Treaty Bodies reporting, has contributed in the elaboration of the national road map of the implementation of received UPR recommendations by the Government of Rwanda. Furthermore, CUI will continue to strengthen collaboration with key institutions including MIGEPROF and NCDA in setting

national road map of implementation of UNCRC, ACRWC &UPR recommendations given to the Government of Rwanda.

- **Research on child rights related issues**

The Coalition, in order to carry out evidence based advocacy and interventions, conducted different researches and assessments on child rights issues such as Research on factors contributing to child defilement in Bugesera, Gatsibo, Nyaruguru and Kigali City(Gasabo, Nyarugenge and Kicukiro) and an assessment on child rights status in Rwanda focusing on right to education, health and social protection in collaboration with National Commission for Human Rights.

2.6.3 Key Achievements by the Coalition

- Consideration of the CUI inputs in the revision of the National Gender Policy which was approved by the Government in February 2021.
- CUI is proud of its interventions in the case of a child with disability has resulted in taking actions like consultations and diagnosis to the Orthopedic Specialist of Gatagara Hospital towards her medical treatment and appropriate education.
- Children whom their capacity were strengthened by the Coalition , have benefited of an exchange learning tour in Malawi . From this tour, they have acquired information from their fellow children and experienced the capacity of conducting a regional discussion on child rights issues with a comparative analysis of both countries.

- CUI and different stakeholders including youth, CSOs, media practitioners and children have adopted a framework which will help in coordinating their efforts in child protection and participation.
- Consideration of CUI recommendations by OHCHR in UPR recommendations given to the Government of Rwanda in 2021. Among the 160 UPR recommendations accepted by the Government of Rwanda around 10 recommendations are talking about children's rights, 4 among the 10 were also proposed by the Coalition UMWANA KU ISONGA alternative report.

2.6.4 Best Practices

- Engaging CUI member organizations in different activities
- Engaging children in CUI activities
- Team work
- Sharing our work with different stakeholders including international, local, public and private institutions
- Lobbying and collaboration with policy makers

2.6.5 Challenges and Mitigation Measures

During the reporting period, CUI encountered challenges that hindered the implementation of activities due to restrictions measures of Covid 19 pandemic such as lockdown, prohibition of social gatherings including meetings, trainings, etc. There have been new priorities which

needed CUI interventions during the pandemic period. However CUI didn't respond due to lack of emergency funds. Nevertheless, CUI managed to cope with the situation by:

- Conducting meetings, trainings online, using small groups of people to gather them.
- Engaging media through radio and TV talk shows

2.6.6 Lessons Learnt

- Engagement with leaders and decision makers from different institutions including public, and private with respect and transparency in CUI advocacy activities contribute to the achievement of aspired positive changes in child protection.
- Having facts based information as a tool contributing to the successful advocacy work.

2.6.7 Success Stories

"A girl child was defiled at 3 years by her step father consequently this caused her thep hysical disability.In addition to that, the child was placed in a center which takes care of children with mental disabilities while she had no mental disabilities. The Coalition Umwana ku Isonga got this information from one of its member organization and took initiative of following up her case in order to the needed interventions to addresst he case. Therefore, after visiting the center and carrying out different analysis, CUI took actions like consultations and diagnosis to the Orthopedic Specialist of Gatagara Hospital towards her medical treatment and appropriate education. Currently,

the child is

hosted in Gatagara and she is being cared for in an appropriate way.”

2.6.8 Conclusion

Coalition Umwana ku Isonga expresses great appreciation to all its partners and stakeholders including government institutions, international and local NGOs, media practitioners and particularly children who contributed to the CUI’s achievements.

Though the Covid 19 pandemic hindered CUI implementation of planned activities including participation in the physical meetings of different international treaty bodies such as presentation of child focused alternative report on UPR, participation in State report presentation, and other meetings planned at regional and continental level, the Coalition continued to collaborate with the Office of High Commission of Human Rights, ACERWC etc and CUI with its member organizations have been able to participate virtually in different planned meetings.

2.7 SOUTH SUDAN: CHILD RIGHTS CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION

Duty bearers and stakeholders during the lobby event for the final ratification of The African Charter

Welfare of the Child in South Sudan – 29th September, 2021.

2.7.1 Background

Child Rights Civil Society Coalition was established in 2012 with the Membership of 15 local CSOs drawn from both the states and national level through support of Save Children International. The Coalition is registered by RRC authority as an independent Civil Society organisation leading the voices for children’s rights in South Sudan and beyond.

The Child Rights Coalition (CRC) is a voluntary network of more than 36 national CSOs in South Sudan committed to ensuring that all children fully enjoy their rights as defined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Child Rights Coalition provides a coordinated platform for CSOs action and plays a central role in key child rights developments at the states and National level in South Sudan. Child Rights Coalition is part of the Eastern Africa Child Rights Network (EACRN)

2.7.2 Achievements

- **Formation of the steering committee**

Following political and economic crisis in 2018 in South Sudan the number of CRC membership dropped and leadership structure was in active for the first time. In this regard, the steering committee was formed, mobilized members, revived the coalition and successfully conducted its second democratic election giving power to the current leadership in office together with members to continue lobby and advocacy for protection and promotion of children rights in South Sudan.

- **'Right to Grow Project'**

CRCSC is in partnership with Centre for Economic Governance and Accountability in Africa and Save the Children International on a five years' project 'Right to Grow' aimed at "All children under 5 well nourished". In 2021 CRCSC Built a pool of members for budget monitoring and sensitisation on budget advocacy matters, conducted pre-workshop Capacity Assessment of budget advocacy skills among CBOs and CSOs and organized a capacity building training of CBOs and CSOs on Budget monitoring and expenditure tracking.

The output implement by CRCSC is that CBOs and CSOs have the technical skills to track, analyse, report and on budget allocation and expenditure, and regularly engage with local government in programming and financial planning.

- **The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) 2021**

The universal periodic review for 2021 was entrusted once again on CRCSC by Save the Children, this was core due to the mobilization capacity and influence of the coalition. This commence in March 2021 assigning coalition members to collect data from their locations of visible presents. The data collected was validated and submitted to UN Human rights committee in July 2021.

- **Online Consultation on Early Child Marriage in Africa**

In July 2021 ACPF organized an online consultation on early child marriage in Africa. Through CRCSC, South Sudan was represented by 12 girls from the different schools in Juba who are school partners of CRCSC. This discussion was a full day event the climaxed with dinner with the children. CRCSC mobilized the children and provided the internet needed for them to join the zoom meeting. The consultative meeting was a learning and experience sharing opportunity for not only CRCSC but also the schools represented.

In September, 2021 African Capacity Alliance funded and supported a consultative engagement on early child marriage model laws. This engagement brought under one roof over 30 duty bearers and stakeholders to discuss the status and available laws on early child marriage.

Children joined virtually online with ACA consultant

- **Lobby meeting to ratify United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.**

On 4th November, 2021 in partnership with Disable Agency for Rehabilitation and Development, CRCSC organized a lobby event to ratify the UNCRPD. This was a consultative event aimed at lobbying duty bearers to initiate procedures for the ratification. A follow up committee was formed to engage the parliament.

- **Lobby for final ratification of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in South Sudan**

As part of state obligation to ratify legal instruments aim at protection and promotion of children rights, Child Rights Civil Society Coalition with support from Africa Capacity Alliance organized a lobby meeting on 29th September 2021 for the ratification of ACRWC in efforts to engage the government, share ACRWC best practices, join commitments and chart the way forward for the final signature of the president. The lobby event was attended by government line ministries of gender, child and social welfare, ministry of education, ministry of health, ministry of foreign affairs and international cooperation, parliamentarians, office of the president, African Union, UN agencies, IGADs, R-JMEC, CTSAMVM,

Human rights commission, Academia, Media, INGOs, CSOs, traditional chiefs, faith-based institution and children.

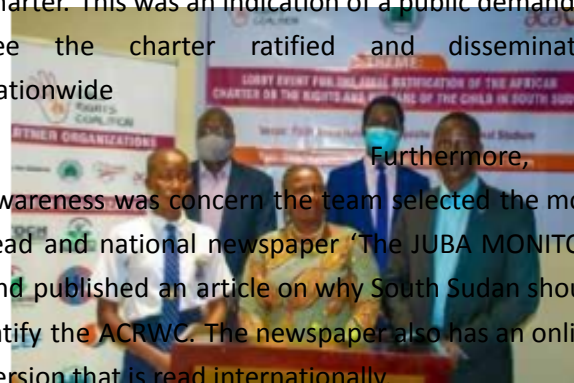
As a result of the event the duty bearers and stakeholders agreed formation of a committee to search for the copy of ACRWC passed by parliament in 2014 and to continue follow up with the office of the president for the final ratification.

The committed was segment into core committee that has all duty bearers i.e. office of the first vice president service cluster, the parliamentarians, Ministry of foreign affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Gender, Child and social Welfare, Ministry of Educations, The South Sudan Human rights taskforce, Academia, Ministry if information

Sub-committee involved stakeholders i.e. UNICEF, Save the Children, Office of the First lady, CRCSC and Media.

with the only nationwide radio stations UNMISS-Radio Miraya which offered talk shows before and after the event. The talk shows were attended by the deputy Chair CRCSC, legal advisor CRCSC and National Coordinator CRCSC. The talk show was a live show that attracted live callers who needed more clarity on the ACRWC and their responses were positive towards the ratification though they knew not much about the children charter. This was an indication of a public demand to see the charter ratified and disseminated nationwide

Furthermore, as awareness was concern the team selected the most read and national newspaper 'The JUBA MONITOR' and published an article on why South Sudan should ratify the ACRWC. The newspaper also has an online version that is read internationally.



Children representative, SCI, CRC and MGCSW issued press statement on ACRWC ratification.

- **Children radio Program**

With the aim to enhance and encourage child participation, CRCSC and SCI in August, 2021 partnered for an activity based project that saw school going children, primary and secondary participate in debates. Topics were preselected by CRCSC and approved by SCI. debates were first conducted in the schools including interschool competitions on the preselected topics. A few representatives of the participating schools were then taken to Radio Miraya. They then debated on radio and jointly issued their recommendations to be addressed by the government.

- **Celebration of International girl child day 2021**



On 11 October,

2021 Girls who are part of the school clubs created with support from Save the Children were given one full day of work experience in SCI head office, Aviation and UNMISS. This inspired many other girls to be interested in school activities and even activities of the clubs. Girls were given opportunity to take key office positions during celebration of international girl child day.

• **Media developments and Upgrade**

In May 2021, CRCSC official website was rebuilt, the redesign was match to the standard required and the responsiveness putting into account the loading speed of the internet in South Sudan. CRCSC official website: www.crc-ss.org. Alongside the official website, dedicated server for CRCSC official webmail was acquired and in use. Official communications emails is communications@crc-ss.org.

This is done to streamline the communications and online presents of CRCSC as required.

CRCSC also revamped the social media activities by strengthening the social media platforms via meaningful engagements and audience attractions. CRCSC on Facebook: Child Rights Civil Society Coalition-SS, CRCSC on Instagram: Child Rights Civil Society Coalition-SS and CRCSC on twitter: @crcsc_ss.

CRSCS has also upgraded its membership applications through and online system. Organizations can now fill forms online and wait for approval only from the Board. This has also made it very easy to widen the membership of the Coalition.

• **Internal policies**

CRCSC has adopted child safeguarding policy, Protection on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, Human Resource policy, Finance Policy, Procurement and Logistic policy.

• **Functional office with 5 staff and fully furnished**

Rents an independent office where secretariat is based to run today day activities.

• **Legally registered**

Renewal of certificate for operation by South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission as a requirement for operation.

• **Office Vehicle**

The Coalition owned motor vehicle that ease the operation of the program for secretariat

• **Amendment to the Constitution 2014**

The term of leadership in office was reduced to 2 years only with clear separation of powers between the board and the secretariat.

• **Admission of new members**

In 2021 New members who met the criteria for membership were admitted to the coalition this include;

CEF – Charity and Empowerment Foundation, **LAWANCI** - Legacy for African Women and Children, **Ifix** Initiative, Junub Child Rights Initiative, and organization pending admission **EWGO** - Empowering Women and Girls

YOCADO, WC – women for change, Union of Disables South Sudan, CHIDDO - Child’s Destiny and Development Organization, AWACD - Agency for Women and Children Development, SWC - Serve with Compassion, WAPO and I CAN South Sudan.

- **Payment of annual membership subscription fees reactivated**

In 2021 some member organizations fully paid their annual membership subscription fees which helped to cover the operational cost of the coalition before the on-going Right to Grow project secured.

2.7.3 Programmes

- Preparation of United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child alternative report, Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and facilitation of UNCRC children independent report
- The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Report
- Advocacy and lobby on policy and budget
- Awareness on ending violence against children
- Representation at national, regional and international child rights meetings
- Monitoring CRC, ACRWC and Child Act 2008, South Sudan
- Forum of exchange and capacity building
- Research and child rights situation analysis • Media campaigns and publicity

Highlights.

- o Apply for NGO forum membership, Regional, and International platforms
- o Increasing membership of the coalition to 100 members o Apply and execute NORAD project SCI o Assembly general Meeting o Continue R2G project
- o CRCSC Institutional capacity building for staff
- o CSOs capacity assessment and capacity building
- o Implementation of South Sudan UNCRC list of recommendations
- o Develop and launch Strategic Action plans
- o Stakeholder’s analysis on child rights advocacy
- o Lobby for funding with UN agencies and International organizations
- o Join Child protection cluster, Nutrition and health o Prepare for internal and external auditing
- o Create different committees for CRC member organization to engage
- o Purchase communication tools e.g Camera and Power Point o Standardize Recruitment procedures.

2.7.5

Challenges

- Limited funding
- Shrinking civic space for the CSOs engagement in South Sudan
- Low participation of member organizations
- Lack of resource mobilization strategy

- To discuss emerging issues and challenges facing children in Sudan
- To document and disseminate information shared in the forums.
- To encourage and maintain NGO involvement in follow-up of the Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

2.8 SUDAN: SUDAN CHILD RIGHTS FORUM (SCRF)

2.8.1 Background

A new coalition was formed from about 27 organizations in 2007 to prepare Sudan 2nd Alternative Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Child Rights Institute is coordinating the process of preparing the report. In addition to discussing the government report and preparing the alternative report, the meetings of the coalition provided a forum for the different NGOs to share experiences and discuss issues of concern. Within the forum, it was suggested that CRI to organize regular forums to the members to reflect their work, share their experiences, raise and discuss issues of concern related to children rights in Sudan.

Objectives of the Forum

- To provide a forum for NGOs to share experiences and exchange information.
- To advocate for the promotion of child rights in Sudan.

2.8.2 Achievements/Success stories (2021/2022)

- Renewed the registration of CRF network for the year 2021:

The general assembly meeting was conducted in

ISSUE	DESIRED RESULT
Ratification of human rights treaties	Determining a time frame for the above human rights treaties
Early marriage & FGM	Clearly stipulate the criminal marriage under the age of 18 and raise awareness of this in the
Protecting children from violence and corporal punishment	National laws, response system
Health care and child mortality	Policies and friendly budgeting
Juvenile justice	Referral system in place
Obtaining a birth certificate and identification documents	Modify SOPs
Protection of children with disabilities	Laws, inclusive education

The right to free and compulsory primary education	Enough budget for education
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April 2021 and attended by the representative of HAC, new board was elected it is covers the area of programs, management, advocacy, and others relevant issues.

- **Universal Periodic Review Report**

The CRF network in collaboration with Reyada succeeded in writing the report to the UPR mechanism and it focused on the issues relevant to the child rights Child Rights Forum (CRF) organized (21 members) a meetings during the year 2021 for CRF executive committee members to discuss the preparation of UPR report, training sessions were conducted to enhance the capacity of CRF members the report covered the thematic areas below;

Report of UPR was prepared and submitted to;

- Human right Council and UPR mechanism
- Ministry of Justice in Sudan
- HRC members embassies in Sudan 8 states were chosen due to the past recommendation for the year 2016 (USA, Gator, Netherland, Italy, Eretria)
- National Council for Child Welfare NCCW
- International NGOs (UPR-Info, Child Right Connect)
- **Child participation in UPR**

Reyada with coordination with child connect and UPR info has decided to approve child participation in UPR pre-session on October 2021. Reyada have filled the application form and held a zoom meeting with child connect. A child from child parliament who have met the selection requirements was selected to represent Sudanese children participation. It was agreed that 3 minutes film will be produced to ensure children participation. The participated child will be having series of training to be prepared for the pre session.

- **The Day of the African Child Celebrations**
- CRF conducted a press conference on the occasion
- Children organized celebration and highlighted their rights and prioritized them live press on social media was there

- Written Statement was decimated to partners (Gov., CSOs and Media)

- **Participation in committees of New Sudanese Child Law**

NCCW formulated National committee to review Sudanese Child Law 2010, CRF was a member of this committee with other partner's revision, evolution and new child Act will be adopted after the new parliament in Sudan

- **Mainstreaming Child Rights in Basic Education**

CRF participated with ministry of education adopting new policy to add the concept of child rights to educational curriculum in basic education

- New legislations prohibit corporal punishment in schools:

CRF advocated effectively to stop corporal punishment, the government of Sudan adopted new legislation prohibited it at schools

- CRF is closely monitoring the situations of children in Ethiopian refugees camps in Eastern Sudan:

Mapping children situation by CRF and US Aid and Humterian intervention are expected

2.8.3 Challenges facing the Coalition:

- Despite positive changes over the last years, Sudan still facing a insecurity situation due the dispute between governances partners
- Children in conflict, refugees camps and remote areas they facing disability

and shortage in Nutrition and basic services which impact on the humanitarian

situatio

ns

- Child right governance achievement is un available regardless the instability in the government and the absent of national parliament
- Lack of Budget for CRF programs lack of government fund and international NGOs and UN agencies
- Capacity building for CRF members

(nation al NGOs) is poor to enhance their capacity regional programs are needed.

2.8.4 Proposed Solutions/Way Forward:

- Programs addressing children in conflict, remote and refugees camps are needed
 - Enhance the capacity of CRF in Sudan by the assistance of EACRN and identify gaps and design capacity building programs to address those gaps.
 - Sharing experience and information between EACRN members through visits
- 2.8.5 Conclusion:

Sudan is fighting to reach the completion of the translational stage and attain the fully peace, freedom and equity for Sudanese people.

2.9 TANZANIA: TANZANIA CHILD RIGHTS FORUM (TCRF)

2.9.1 Background

TCRF is a Platform at National level for all CSOs working with and for children in Tanzania with more than 250 members all over the country including Zanzibar (Active around 100). Members comprised of INGO, Local CSO, FBO, and Private Sectors that are child centered. Registered 2012 but its existence proceeded establishment of the Law of Child Act 2009.

Special seat at the National Council of NGO in Tanzania (NaCoNGO) and member of the NPA VAWC

Coordination Committee under PMO

TCRF partners with all National Networks that are child focused in different thematic areas. Also a members or partners to a number of Regional and Global networks including EACRN, CRNSA, CRC, GMTF, etc

Tanzania is doing remarkable effort to comply with the both Regional and Global child rights conventions. The following were reviewed and/or enforced;

For the past 1 year, Tanzania has experienced high rate of children violations that call for all stakeholders to be engaged seriously

TCRF is a member and Treasurer of the EACRN Management Committee

2.9.2 Achievements/Success Stories (2021/2022)

- i. Coordination of Members/Partners National Forums on;
 - a. Advocacy on the visibility of the Child in the respective Ministry
 - b. Progress and Way forward for the Year 2022
 - c. Status of State reports Child Rights Instruments reporting mechanism and their respective Alternative reports
 - d. Preparation of TCRF Strategic Plan 2022-2026 (Launched 5th May

Monitoring implementation of National Plan of Action to end Violence against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC) in collaboration with the Prime Minister's office (Quarterly Meetings)

- iii. Collaboration and Partnership with other National Networks to address burning issues regarding management of Networks in Tanzania
- iv. Participated in the review of Child Rights frameworks in Tanzania in collaboration with CSOs, Government
- v. Coordinated preparation of Alternative reports to the UNCRC and ACERWC (Both Children and CSOs). All reports are at Draft levels awaiting State reports submission
- vi. Partners with other CSOs to commemorate Global and Regional events that are child focused
- vii. Partnership with Regional and Global Networks

- a. EACRN: Member of Management Committee (Treasurer), Regional Meetings, Capacity building, etc
- b. CRNSA: Review of SADC Protocols, Capacity building, Regional Meetings
- c. Others: Child Rights Connect and Graca Machel Trust Foundation

2.9.3 Challenges facing the Coalition

- i. Understaffing at Secretariat
- ii. Insufficient funds to suffice Secretariat requirements to exercise its mandate
- iii. Extremely overdue submission of Alternative reports due to state report
- iv. Cases of child violations are so high
- viii. Fund raising to support Secretariat
- ix. Board and General Meetings

2.9.6 Conclusion

TCRF acknowledges support from EACRN Secretariat and members for encouragement and sharing best practices. We pray for the success of the Regional Network, Our engagement is guaranteed.

2.9.4 Proposed Solutions/Way Forward

- i. Endless advocacy to the Government on adhering to the Global and Regional Child Rights Conventions
- ii. Fund raising strategy in progress to address financial challenges
- iii. Review of Institutional policies
- iv. Operationalization of the new TCRF Strategic Plan 2022-2026

2.9.5 Planned Activities 2022

- i. Completion of both Children and CSO - UNCRC Alternative Reports
- ii. Completion of both Children and CSO - ACRWC Alternative Reports
- iii. National, Regional and International Meetings and programs
- iv. Review of Institutional policies (Secretariat)
- v. Coordinate and collaborate with members and Partners for child focused Commemorations
- vi. Review of National Plan of Action
- vii. Advocacy on various child rights related issues

2.10 UGANDA: Uganda Child Rights Ngos Network (UCRNN)

2.10.1 Introduction

UCRNN envisions a society where children's rights are realized. The Strategic Plan sets out to achieve two strategic objectives geared towards the realization of the vision. The two objectives are: 70% UCRNN members and other child focused CSOs supported to effectively address child rights issues in Uganda and UCRNN's capacity strengthened to deliver its mandate efficiently and sustainably.

This report details specific UCRNN activities undertaken in pursuit of its strategic outcomes and objectives set out in the Strategic Plan. Below is a synopsis of what transpired during the period of January to December 2021.

2.10.2 Activities 2021 (Jan – Dec)

- **Alternative Care CSO Thematic Group Meeting (10th February 2021)**

UCRNN mobilized Organizations that work around Alternative Care in Uganda and had an online engagement discussing how to collectively work as a thematic group to build consensus and generate debate on Alternative Care in the country and devise lasting partnership

and solutions to management of children without parental care.

- **UCRNN Member Director's Meeting (19th February 2021)**

UCRNN mobilized and conducted an online meeting with the various UCRNN Member Directors to discuss how the network can be strengthened to deliver more work in the year 2021. The UCRNN work plan of 2021 was shared with the various directors to clearly indicate how activities are to be run concurrently with the Covid 19 pandemic.

- **Training of Journalists on Alternative Care. (24th February 2021)**

UCRNN collaborated with Child's I Foundation and High Sound for Children to empower journalists with information on the importance of family-based care. Over 20 journalists from various media houses in Uganda attended the training. The training helped build a network of child's rights Journalists in Uganda, Journalists who understand how to report child issues.

- **Stakeholders Meeting on Building Collective Efforts to Curb the Prevailing Increase in Teenage Pregnancies in Schools of Kampala and Wakiso (15th April)**

UCRNN and her members Remnant Generation, Concern for the Girl Child, Afri-Child Centre for Research and Raising Teenagers Uganda organized a meeting with stakeholders to call for urgent need to deal with the existing legal, medical and social barriers to teenage mothers' access to education and health services as well as ensuring protection of the rights of the children. Some of the stakeholders at the meeting were Greater Kampala Metropolitan Police Child Protection and SGBV Health units- Kawempe and Kiruddu Referral Hospitals, Probation Officers and organizations working in the field of child trafficking such as TDH among others.

During the engagement, it was suggested that there is need to advocate for better emergency medical services to the children and more sensitization on the dangers of early pregnancies. Another key outcome from the meeting was to strengthen the Child and family protection unit through capacity building of the personnel who work in the unit.

- **Lead on the submission of the NGO Alternative Report to ACERWC Technical Committee Meeting on Uganda's CSO Report to the AU (22nd April 2021)**

UCRNN convened a technical committee meeting comprising of Development Link Consultants Development Management Consultancy Firm

(DLC) and CSOs to discuss on how best to develop the Alternative Report on the implementation of the African Charter and UNCRC in Uganda. The committee comprised of directors and experienced representatives from Afri-child, Child Fund, World Vision, Free Child Uganda, Concern for the Girl

Child, Platform for labour action, Parenting Uganda, Uganda Society for Disabled Children.

The committee agreed to continue having engagements throughout the year until the conclusion on submission of the NGO complementary report to ACERWC. The committee agreed to point out the key pressing issues CSO's are facing currently in the country with the emergence of the covid 19 pandemic.

- **2 Days Training on Child Rights Monitoring and Reporting to ACERWC and UPR(27th - 28th April 2021)**

UCRNN in partnership with Eastern Africa Child Rights Network (EACRN) organized a two days training for CSOs working with children in Uganda to appreciate their role in working with government to develop the Universal Periodic Review and ensure proper monitoring and reporting to the ACERWC.

Participants were introduced on how the ACERWC examines a State report in a public plenary session, based on information included in the report of the State, and other information received by NGOs. Following the examination of the State report, the Committee of Experts produces Concluding Observations and Recommendations, which should be implemented by the State party. The Concluding Observations and Recommendations are also included in the report of the ACERWC to the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

- **Validation of the NGO Complementary report to ACERWC (27th September 2021)**

The technical committee met to receive and provide input to this document before it was shared for validation with

other CSOs. The 1st draft of the complementary report to the ACERWC was shared by Development Link Consultants in which the committee made comments about it on what was supposed to change.

After all the comments and suggestions from the committee, UCRNN invited all its member organizations to be part of the validation of the report. This engagement was both physical and virtual in order to capture views from the upcountry organizations. The final comments and observations were shared with the Development Links Consultants for use in the final report.

- **Final copies of the NGO Alternative Report and Voices of the Ugandan children submitted.**

After all the scrutiny and vigorous processes to obtain the final copy of the NGO Alternative report, it was submitted together with the Voices of Ugandan Children to the ACERWC on 1st October 2021.

- **Day of the African Child Activities**

- o 14th June 2021 - National Children's Parliament
- o 15th June 2021 – Child – focused Research Symposium
- o 16th June 2021 – Main event by MG LSD
- o 17th June 2021 –Validating a new tool developed by Gracia Michelle Trust (encouraging Child Participation in empowerment in child lead advocacy)

- o 18th June 2021 – Access to Justice and the 30 years of the charter (and Africa fit for Children)
- o 21st June 2021 - An online practical; started between the children commitment from focused budgeting. its partners needed (Budgeting for Children in relation to the achievements of the 30 years of the Charter in Uganda).



- **Setting the child rights agenda in the 11th parliament**

UCRNN sought to delineate the parameters for Parliament- CSO engagement so to set the agenda for the 11th Parliament, that's a mutually symbiotic relationship cultured and developed for the benefit of children in Uganda. The broad objective of the agenda was to provide an operational framework of engagement between Parliament and members of UCRNN particularly in the legislative field for the promotion of democracy and good governance. Key notable outcomes from this engagement were: Defining and guiding the relationship between Parliament and UCRNN and its member organizations, building the capacity of UCRNN so as to be familiar on how to engage Parliament and its process and identifying the

tools that

can be used by CSOs in their engagement with Parliament.

- **Policy Dialogues on Ending Violence against Children (EVAC) in Uganda**

Child Rights CSO'S through UCRNN in partnership with MGLSD organized National Policy Dialogues to discuss the recommendations of the Global Status Report (GSR), take stock of the gaps in Uganda's prevention programming, identify the necessary and **Other Activities**

- Cocktail Meeting with Members from the ACERWC and CSOs (7th May 2021)\
- UCRNN Member Validation of the UPR Report (13th July 2021)
- Webinar on Children's Perspective on Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Covid 19 context (22nd July 2021)
- Orientation of parliamentary gender committee (November 4th- 6th 2021)
- Capturing stories of teenage mothers into a short documentary
- Lobby meeting with Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Children (15th September 2021)
- National child focused budgeting (2nd December 2021)
- Meeting with Committee on Gender, labour and Social Development and UPFC regarding motion to respond on plight of Karamojong children enslaved in streetbegging and child labour (7th December 2021)

- Roundtable consultation on the disrupting harm Uganda report (19 august 2021)
- National consultation workshop on developing the framework for strengthening the social service workforce (13th September, 2021)
- Virtual dialogue on child trafficking in Uganda (September 22nd, 2021)
- Sexual violence against children thematic group meeting 14th/oct/21 kolping hotel (14th October 2021)

2.10.3 Challenges and Solutions

The following challenges emerged during the period of January to December 2021:

- The Resource mobilization has been hit by the Covid 19 pandemic which has made reaching out to members and partners tough however the network has kept closeness with members and partners even in hard times of the pandemic through use of emails, webinars and phone calls.
- The lockdown period made it hard to carry out the day to day activities at the office however some staff was using possible ways to reach office especially use of motor cycles.

2.10.4 Best Practices and Lessons learnt

- Commitment and collaboration among the UCRNN staff amidst the COVID 19 crisis enabled continuity of activities.
- Continuously keeping in touch with members and partners through calls, emails and webinars.

• Team work was crucial for the success activities of the network.

- Giving timely accountability and feedback to the donors and partners is key
- Online engagements especially webinars will be used for a long time.

2.10.5 Conclusion

The Network management committed most of the time on fundraising efforts and continuity of activities during the pandemic and this has been quite engaging. Appreciation is extended to the partners, network members and Board of Directors who have extended a lot of support and commitment during the period of the Covid 19 pandemic

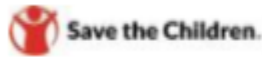
CONCLUSION

EACRN Network Members have clearly demonstrated that they actively engage in the promotion and protection of children's rights across the Eastern African region. The Members are further committed towards realizing their mission, vision and objectives, while representing the voices of many other organizations that form part of the coalitions/forums towards realization of children's rights in their countries.

The success of the members is the success of the Network. Collaborations and partnerships are essential towards achieving our goals. EACRN shall continue to work with the Members to achieve its mission, objectives and purpose.

EACRN

PARTNERS



East African Civil Society Organizations' Forum
The Voice of Civil Society in East Africa



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