

19th session of the Human Rights Council, agenda item 6

UPR Uganda

This Statement is delivered on behalf of World Vision Uganda and Franciscans International

Concerns about maternal and child health were made by a number of Governments during this review, and we express our appreciation to them and thank the Government of Uganda for its acceptance of several recommendations and commitments to making improvements in this area. A number of recommendations relate specifically to the reduction of maternal mortality rates. We would urge the Government of Uganda when implementing these, to extend their reach to improve the situation for newborn and child mortality rates as well.

The current under-five mortality rate in Uganda is 137 deaths per 1000 live births, and 70% of child mortality is due to malaria, diarrhea, pneumonia and malnutrition.

In particular, we would like to emphasize the continuing barriers to access to health care. For every 100,000 people, there are 8 medical doctors, 55 nurses and 16 mid wives – most of whom work in urban areas, leaving rural areas grossly under-served. Although the Uganda Minimum Health Care package seeks to ensure free health services for all at the point of access, many health units regularly run out of medicines, and corruption in the health sector has resulted in the theft of many drugs, dispensing of expired drugs, abuse of patients and impunity of those involved.

Finally, without increasing financial resources, efforts to expand and improve health services will fail to make real change. We therefore strongly urge the Government of Uganda - if it hasn't already done so - to accept the recommendation made by Belgium, to raise the health budget to 15 % in line with the Abjua Declaration.

World Vision and Franciscans remain committed to assisting the Government of Uganda in the implementation of their national and international obligations with respect to maternal and child health,

Thank you Mme President