

## Country strategic plan summary for 2004-2009

This document describes how Plan Uganda and its partners will mobilize the different resources to improve the welfare and prospects of vulnerable children. It provides the strategic framework for consistent and continued action from 2004 to 2009.

Plan Uganda's country strategic plan provides information on the main issues affecting children in Uganda and outlines how Plan will address these issues over the next five years. The country strategic plan is a result of the participation and cooperation of various stakeholders and includes views of children, their families, communities, Plan staff and other development partners.

### About Uganda

Uganda is a landlocked country in East Africa and is bordered by Tanzania, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and Kenya. Uganda lies on the north-western shores of Lake Victoria, which is the source of the Nile River, and the equator runs through the country. In the southern half of Uganda, rich soil and rainfall allow for extensive agriculture; in the drier and less fertile northern areas, pastoral economies are common. Approximately 21 percent of the land is cultivated and 45 percent is woodland and grassland. Uganda's equatorial climate provides plentiful sunshine, moderated by bi-annual rainy seasons and the relatively high altitude of most areas of the country.

Uganda has made a good recovery from the disastrous misrule and resulting chaos of the seventies and early eighties. However, war in Northern Uganda over the past two decades has forced millions of people to flee their homes; the greatest percentage of these is women and children. Children in the region face desperate conditions – many are denied access to basic healthcare and education, and people live in fear. Uganda remains one of the poorest countries in the world, with most of the population struggling to meet their basic needs. Nevertheless, Uganda is experiencing economic growth, peace throughout most of the country, and has a stable government.



A young girl in northern Uganda takes care of her baby sibling while her mother looks for food

### Plan Uganda's programs

Plan began work in Uganda in 1992 and is currently working in four districts: Luwero, Kampala, Kamuli and Tororo. In the last five years, Plan has carried out four main programs: **community based primary health care, basic education, natural resource management, and capacity development**. These programs have achieved improved health and education conditions in the relevant communities, improved the availability of food in households, and developed the capacity of children and their communities to participate in development activities. Many issues, however, still affect children and their families in Plan supported communities and these issues need to be addressed.



*My name is Irene and I am 14 years old. When there is no food at home, no one is happy: Children are weak, they cry, they fall sick and cannot go to school. Plan supported our parents with improved maize and ground nuts seeds and cassava cuttings. This has increased food in our homes.*

### Current issues affecting children in Uganda

- HIV/AIDS has increased the number of orphans in communities.
- Children's rights are not respected. Many families are not able to meet the basic needs of their children and they do not fully encourage the recognition of girls' and boys' rights. Cases of child abuse are also common.
- There are poor health conditions for girls, boys and their families. As a result, one out of ten children dies before reaching five years of age.
- Girls, boys and their families have limited access to good quality primary and vocational education.

## How will Plan Uganda address these issues?

### *Protecting girls, boys and their families affected by HIV/AIDS*

- Helping reduce the effects of HIV/AIDS on children and their families
- Helping boys and girls improve their knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding sexuality
- Encouraging women and men to adopt positive reproductive practices
- Strengthening prevention of parent to child transmission of HIV/AIDS
- Supporting counseling and care of people living with HIV/AIDS
- Supporting families affected by HIV/AIDS to cope with child rearing responsibilities



A young girl in the Prevention of Parent-to-Child Transmission Program



Orphans attend a carpentry vocational school, supported by Plan

### *Empowering girls, boys and their families living in poverty*

- Increasing understanding of children's needs and rights
- Working with partners to support the protection, care and development of children
- Supporting communities to identify, plan and manage child-centered projects and demand for services
- Increasing access to credit and savings
- Improving food security in households

### *Strengthening girls', boys' and their families' health*

- Protecting very young children from preventable diseases
- Reducing malnutrition, especially among children
- Improving access to health services
- Promoting positive reproductive health behaviour and practices
- Increasing access to safe water
- Promoting good hygiene and sanitation practices
- Supporting children and their communities to manage basic health care and increase their participation in decision making



Children and women fetch clean water from a Plan supported borehole

### *Promoting lifelong learning*

- Increasing access to early childhood care and development for preschool children
- Supporting more children to access and complete good quality primary education
- Promoting female education
- Helping children to acquire agricultural knowledge and skills
- Providing a wider range of educational opportunities for in and out-of-school children
- Improving care and education of children with disabilities
- Increasing participation of children and their communities in decision making regarding basic education

### *Program Approach*

Plan is implementing the child centred community development approach to assist and enable children, their families, communities and the government to make lasting improvements in the quality of their life. Under this approach, children, youth, women and men are involved in identifying their problems, planning, implementing and monitoring the programs that will bring development in their area and fulfill the rights of children.