

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Complementary Report



On status of Implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) in Nigeria

Submitted to the
African Union

Coordinated by:

The Network of Civil Society Organizations Against Child Trafficking, Abuse and Labour
(NACTAL)
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List of Acronyms

ACJA	-	Administration of Criminal Justice Act
ACRWC	-	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ADB	-	African Development Bank
ANPPCAN	-	African Network for the Prevention and Protection of Child Abuse and Neglect
AONN	-	Association of Orphans and Vulnerable Children NGOs in Nigeria
AU	-	African Union
CMAM	-	Community Management of Acute Malnutrition
CPN	-	Child Protection Network
CRA	-	Nigeria Child Rights Acts
CRL	-	Child Rights Law
CRIC	-	Child Rights Implementation Committee
CSOs	-	Civil Society Organizations
CYPA	-	Children & Young Persons Act
DFID	-	Department for International Development
ECD	-	Early Child Development
EFA	-	Education for All
FEC	-	Federal Executive Council
FGM	-	Female Genital Mutilation
FHCF	-	Family Health Care Foundation
FIDA	-	International Federation for Female Lawyer
FMOE	-	Federal Ministry of Education
FMWASD	-	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
HIV	-	Human Immune Virus
IDP	-	Internally Displaced Person(s)
IYCF	-	Infant and Young Child Feeding
JTF	-	Joint Task Force for the prevention of child's sexual abuse, violence and neglect
JWC	-	Juvenile Welfare Centre
LASEPA	-	Lagos State Environment Agency
LCRIC	-	Local Government Child Rights Implementation Committee
M&E	-	Monitoring and Evaluation
MWASW	-	Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
NACTAL	-	Network of Civil Society Organizations Against Child, Trafficking, Abuse and Labour
NAFDAC	-	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration Control
NAPTIP	-	National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking of in Persons
NBS	-	National Bureau of Statistics
NDLEA	-	National Drug Law Enforcement Agency
NEMA	-	National Emergency Management Agency
NHRC	-	National Human Rights Commission
NIMC	-	National Identity Management Commission
NOMIS	-	National Orphans and Vulnerable Children Management Information
NPA	-	National Priority Agenda
NPA	-	National Plan of Action
NPopC	-	National Population Commission System
OVC	-	Orphans and Vulnerable Children

PEWASH	-	Partnership for Expanded Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene
PGs	-	President Generals of Town Union
PPP	-	Public Private Partnership
SEMA	-	State Emergency Management Agency
SCRIC	-	States Child Rights Implementation Committee
TIP	-	Trafficking in Persons
UBE	-	Universal Basic Education
UBEC	-	Universal Basic Education Commission
UNCRC	-	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	-	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNODC	-	United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime
USAID	-	United States Agency for International Development
VAC	-	Violence Against Children
VAPP	-	Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act
WASH	-	Water Sanitation and Hygiene

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We commend the wider CSO Coalitions and stakeholders across Nigeria that availed their expertise in different thematic areas by participating in the initial preliminary-consultative process of data collection and sharing their inputs to substantiate the assertions and recommendations of this report, leading to the consultative workshop. We also appreciate all the CSOs who attended the consultative workshop for their invaluable and active contributions towards the development of this report and the partnerships which have been built towards achieving more in the best interest of the child and the protection of the rights and welfare of the child now and in the future.

We particularly appreciate the opportunity provided by the African Union to CSOs in Africa to develop Complementary Reports on the status of implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) to balance the reports submitted by States including Nigeria.

We commend the effort and commitment of Oral Grandeur Nwoko – Honourable Speaker of the FCT Children’s Parliament in the development of this report and his participation at the consultative workshop.

Finally, we appreciate the expertise of members of the Technical Committee for their objective review and professional edit and validation of this report.

Executive Summary

Since the ratification of the African Charter on The Rights and Welfare of the Child in July 2001 by Nigeria, efforts have been made to develop comprehensive Legal and Policy Framework in line with the Charter. An example is the 2003 Child's Right Act (CRA) which domesticated provisions of the Charter as well as the United Nations Convention on the rights of the Child (UNCRC). The CRA provides the laws, privileges, responsibilities of the parents, and children and affirms that every action carried out for a child must be in the best interest of the child.

Impressively, we note the enactment of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015 and other extant laws; the National Health Policy (2016) Chapter 4.1.1 stipulates that: *'Every government in Nigeria shall strive to reduce infant mortality rate, provide medical and health care, adequate nutrition and safe drinking water, hygienic and sanitized environments, combat diseases and malnutrition, support and mobilize through local and community resources, the development of primary health care for children;* Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPP, 2015) and the 2015 Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Enforcement and Administration (TIPPEA) Act. Both the VAPP and TIPPEA are enforced by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) while the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs support NAPTIP on the VAPP Act.

Despite the availability of all these legal frameworks in Nigeria, there still exist challenges in the implementation and enforcement of most of them. For instance, 11 states are yet to adopt the CRA, while implementation, and enforcement at the states that have adopted the CRA is ineffective in addressing the issues of child abuses. Furthermore, the CRA is perceived by some religious and traditional leaders in certain parts of the country to be in contradiction with certain religious and cultural tenets such as child marriage, FGM and child labour.

We have noted with concern the inconsistencies in the different laws in Nigeria regarding the definition of a child. These inconsistencies on the defined age of a child create misinterpretation across different states on different issues of migration, marriage, employment, etc. We therefore call on the Nigerian government to harmonise existing laws with the ACRWC.

We are also concerned with low enrolment of children in schools due to insecurity in the country especially the North-East and the unfriendly government policies such as 'payment of charges/taxes and levies as a pre-condition for school enrolment and retention in public schools. Although accurate up-to-date data in this area is not available, reports from field partners illustrates this decline in school enrolment.

CSOs are pleased with the call to action for States to implement amongst others verification procedures: birth registration, age verification and marriage registration as part of measures to end child marriage as captured in the 2017 joint general comment of the African Commission

on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and the African Committee of Experts on The Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) on ending child marriage.

It is worthy to mention the healthy government/CSO partnerships in Nigeria such as the collaboration between Child and Youth Protection Foundation (CYPF) and other CSOs with the National Population Commission (NPopC) on birth registration across the nation.

We are optimistic that this CSO complementary report will galvanise discussion between the AU and State parties in the protection of rights and welfare of the child, ending child marriage and child labour. We call on the Nigeria government to ensure that the Child Rights Act supersede all other instruments at the Federal level. We also call on states that have passed the CRA to fully implement the provisions in the Act. The government should facilitate and provide adequate funding to established structures for sustainability such as children reception centers, shelters, orphanage homes and to build sustainable partnerships with CSOs to implement child focused programmes.

Introduction

1. Preparation of this report

This report is the outcome of concerted effort summed up from Child Rights promotion and protection focused organisation and stakeholders in Nigeria to ensure that all the relevant sections of the Nigerian report are responded to from a CSOs perspective. The following processes were adopted in the development of this report:

- Inception meeting
- Broad-based online and one-on-one consultations
- A CSOs consultative workshop and
- A Technical Committee validation meeting

Inception Meeting

The report team held an inception meeting at the beginning of the process where the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the report process was extensively discussed and adopted. It was agreed at the inception meeting that preliminary information would be gathered through a broad-based online consultation using a simple report collection template. At the meeting, the draft report template tool was discussed and adopted¹. The report development process as agreed at the meeting is outlined below:

- Broad-based online and one-on-one consultations
- A CSOs consultative workshop and
- A Technical Committee validation meeting

Broad-based online and one-on-one consultation

To ensure that all the relevant child rights civil society organizations' stakeholders are well represented in the Nigerian CSOs alternative report on ACRWC, an online wide and one-on-one consultation was conducted targeting reputable CSO networks, coalitions and independent experts from whom calls for input and information were collated. An electronic report collection template was shared to more than 50 CSO networks, coalitions and independent experts representing different interests on child rights across the country.

Desk review

Wide-ranging literature review process including the utilisation of the ACRWC documents and reporting guidelines for CSOs, international and regional reports on the rights and welfare of the child, national policies, strategic plans, work plans, budgets and other legal frameworks, the Nigeria 2nd and 3rd submitted state report on the ACWRC, CSO publications, and other comparative and relevant literature.

CSO consultative workshop

A 3-day CSOs consultative workshop was held from 21 to 23 February 2018 and attended by

¹ Copy of report collection tool attached as Annex

more than 50 CSOs drawn from different thematic areas and representing the six geo-political zones of the country (South-West, South-East, South-South, North-Central, North-East, North-West). At the consultative workshop, the submissions received during the broad-based consultations were discussed and reviewed. At the end of the consultative workshop a draft ACWRC CSOs complementary report was developed and adopted by all the members.

Technical Committee Meeting for Report Validation

The Technical Committee held a 1-day post-consultative workshop to review and validate the draft CSOs Complementary report. The validation meeting held on 24 February 2018 was attended by 10 CSOs, networks and coalition representatives.

2. Limitation

Dearth of current data to a large extent affected some of the required references in this report.

Chapter 1: General Measures of Implementation – Articles 1,2,3,4,26

- 1.1. Nigeria ratified the African Charter on The Rights and Welfare of the Child in July, 2001. Since then, comprehensive Legal and Policy Framework has been developed in the intervening period in line with the Charter. The Child's Right Act for instance has domesticated some of the provisions of the Charter as well as the United Nations Convention on the rights of the Child (UNCRC). The Child's Right Act, 2003 provides the laws, privileges, responsibilities of the parents, and children and affirms that every action carried out for a child must be in the best interest of that child.
- 1.2. Other policies and laws that support the ACRWC in Nigeria include: The Nigerian Constitution 1999 as amended; the National Health Policy (2016); the National Priority Agenda for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) 2013-2020; Declaration of Year of Action to End Violence Against Children (2015); formulation of Priority Actions to End Violence Against Children (in Nigeria) 2015; the Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Enforcement and Administration (TIPPEA) Act 2015; the Universal Basic Education Act 2003 (amended 2005, 2014); the Birth, Death (Compulsory Registration) Act 1992; the National Human Rights Commission Act 1995. The Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015, Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPP, 2015). The 2015 TIPPEA Act renamed NAPTIP to the 'National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons', thus streamlining NAPTIP's mandate to increase its efficiency, with 6 specialized departments and reinforced powers including for co-ordination purposes and enforcement of all other laws on TIP and other related offences such as the VAPP 2015 Act. The TIPPEA Act 2015 also tightens penalty provisions and reduces the discretion of judges to offer the option of fine in lieu of prison term.
- 1.3. In line with these policies and laws, the government has established 2 additional NAPTIP Zonal Offices with personnel covering Benue and Osun States. Juvenile Welfare Centres are available across Police Stations in the country vested with the responsibility of addressing cases involving and relating to children. Civil Society Coalitions working on child rights and child protection exist such as NACTAL, National Council of Child Rights Advocates of Nigeria (NACCRAN), Child Protection Network (CPN) and Association of Orphans and Vulnerable Children NGOs in Nigeria (AONN). United States Agency for International Development (USAID) via the SMILE Project and 4C have supported the use of the National Orphans and Vulnerable Children Management Information System (NOVCMIS) to strengthen monitoring and data collection, collation, analysis and reporting software for OVC response in Nigeria.
- 1.4. Activities of the Child Rights Implementation Committee (CRIC) tasked with the responsibility of popularization and monitoring the implementation of the CRA is only functional in Kwara, Benue and Lagos states. The Nigeria government and CSOs continue

to commemorate the day of the African Child annually on the 16 of June through National Child Rights Rallies across the country. CSOs including the International Federation for Female Lawyers (FIDA) facilitated media campaigns via radio and television programs to sensitise the public about the CRA and the VAPP Act. Simplified copies of the CRA and the VAPP Act were produced and distributed to stakeholders at different levels during sensitization activities and town hall meetings held across the states by different state and non-state actors. The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWASD) have also produced and distributed the CRA in the three (3) major local languages (Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo).

1.5. Civil Society Organizations have acknowledged the efforts of the Nigeria government in the implementation of the ACRWC, however, the following concerns still exist:

- 1) Child Rights Act is yet to be adopted in 11 states, while implementation, and enforcement in the states that have adopted the CRA is ineffective in addressing the issues of child abuses. The main reason we are yet to achieve acceptance of the CRA in some states especially in the North is based on religious beliefs and non-acceptance of the age of a child which the CRA states as 0-17.9 (below 18years old). For instance, the CRA is perceived by religious and traditional leaders to be in contradiction with certain religious and cultural tenets such as early child marriage, FGM and child labour.
- 2) Lack of nation-wide interface mechanisms between the government and CSOs to actualize the implementation of the CRA/CRL e.g. the absence of State Child Rights Implementation Committee (SCRIC) in some states where CRA have been domesticated and are nonfunctional in most cases where they exist. Also, the formation and strengthening of the Children's Parliament where they exist with no clear criteria for the process of children to be elected into the parliament.
- 3) Delays are often experienced in Administration of justice due to frequent adjournment of cases and there is inadequate Child Justice Administration in most States. Structures such as the Family Courts are only existent on paper in many States where they have been established; National Coordination Response to Child Rights Issues in Emergency Centers is also weak.
- 4) The 1999 Constitution as amended does not include the provisions and clauses on social services for children despite the call by the National Priority Agenda, 2013-2020 that this should be inclusive.
- 5) Inadequate collaboration between NBS and other stakeholders in data management on socio-economic issues leads to irregular data collection and impact assessments on the state of violations and abuses against the rights and welfare of children (**Table 9, P 25, 2nd and 3rd ACRWC Nigeria periodic report** have data for only 2011 and 2012). Poor Coordination of NOMIS among all sectors for effective data management

Article 2: Definition of a Child

1.6. The Child's Right Act 2003 defines a child as a person who has not attained the age of eighteen years. Article 2 of the Children and Young Persons Act (CYPA), however, defines a child as: [a] person under the age of 14 years, while 'young person' means a person who has attained the age of 14 years and is under the age of 17 years." p.21-22); The Immigration Act views a person below 16 years as a minor; while the Matrimonial Causes Act regards the age of maturity to start at 21 years; the Penal Code states: "No act is an offence which is done by a child under 7 years of age; or by a child above seven years of age but under twelve years of age who has not attained sufficient maturity of understanding to judge the nature and consequence of such act." (Article 50).

1.7. These inconsistencies make it difficult to agree on a common definition of who a child really is in Nigeria. Also, some States like Benue State may not provide for repeal of other laws touching on the rights of a child; consequently, CYPA and Penal Code continue to apply in the State, which poses an unfortunate situation for children as this becomes subject to different interpretations based on vested interests.

Article 3: Non-Discrimination

1.8. **Non-discrimination** - Section 42 of the 1999 Constitution provides for freedom from discrimination on the grounds of ethnic group, origin, gender, religion, circumstances of birth, disability, or political opinion.

Article 4: Best Interests of the Child

1.9. Best interests of the child - Where there are inconsistencies in the age of a child, the issue will be resolved in favour of the child. In line with the CRA, sections 1 and 2 states that:

"In every action concerning a child, whether undertaken by an individual, public or private body, institutions or service, court of law, or administrative or legislative authority, the best interest of the child shall be the primary consideration"

1.10. Based on the ongoing, CSOs therefore recommend that:

- a) Definition of a child should be reviewed in all laws and harmonized with ACRWC. CRLs enacted in all Nigerian States should provide for repeal of extant laws that contradict provisions of the CRA
- b) Penalty for infringement of certain part of the Article should be reviewed as part of strategy for enforcement
- c) In matters relating to the Child, CRA should supersede all other instruments at the Federal and State levels which means that certain provisions such as welfare desks at all relevant federal agencies to cater for the needs of abused, neglected and other ill-treated children should be provided for
- d) Systemic mechanisms should be facilitated and adequately funded by government for sustainability such as children reception centres, shelters, Orphanage homes including remand, correctional facilities for children and children in conflict with the law

- e) Government should build sustainable partnerships with CSOs to implement child-focused programmes
- f) Increased establishment of basic curriculum and facilities in the education sector to promote inclusiveness i.e. children with special needs, physical challenges etc.

Chapter 2 - Survival Rights of the Child; Basic Health and Welfare – Articles 5, 13, 14, 20, 21, 26

Article 21: Protection Against Harmful Social and Cultural Practices

2.1. Section 6 of the 2015 Violence against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act prohibits and punishes the crime of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) while Section 25 criminalises the crime of incest.

2.2. Section 33(1) of the Nigerian Constitution 1999 as amended and the CRA affirms children's right to life. Section 404 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act also provides for the suspension of sentence where an expectant mother is convicted to death sentence until she delivers and weans the baby.

2.3. Sections 16 (2) (d) and 17 (3) of the Nigerian Constitution 1999 as amended, Section 175 (6) of the CRA and Integration of Persons with Disabilities (Establishment) Bill 2011 also provides for children in need of special protection measures (mentally, physically challenged, or street children); to ensure they are protected in a manner that would enable them to achieve their fullest, possible social integration, and moral development.

2.4. Nigerian children are not fully enjoying the provisions of the CRA and extant laws as prohibition of child marriage and child betrothal under Sections 21 and 22 of the CRA, prohibition of tattoos and skin marks under Section 24 of CRA, prohibition of Child Trafficking under the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act; (2015) are not respected.

The enforcement of laws are great challenges in Nigeria as good numbers of children are still victims of harmful cultural/religious practices such as FGM, body-parts burning and beating of alleged child witches, child marriage, child-bride kidnapping, wife inheritance, bride price and dowry related violence, virginity test etc are prevalent with some cases being more peculiar to certain parts of the country. (www.stopvaw.org). For instance, the findings of the Nigeria Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2016-2017 indicated that the number of girls aged 0 to 14 years who had FGM stood at 25.3% of a sample population of 17,529.

2.4.1. Case Study

NGOs in collaboration with the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social development arrested and reported to the police a prominent woman who burnt the leg of her 10-year old house help. The woman was later charged and prosecuted. www.channel.com/kogi

2.5. According to *Stepping-Stones Nigeria*, the Akwa Ibom State Government added a clause to the CRA that made it illegal to stigmatize children as witches and this additional clause makes the offender punishable with an imprisonment of 10 to 15 years without any options

of Fine. Other States like Delta, Bauchi, Edo and Kaduna, have demonstrated against labelling and stigmatising children as witches and this confirmed that the problem is not confined to one area of the country. <http://cram.org/camp.html>.

2.6. Considerable increase in number of networks/coalition of CSOs across the country protecting the rights of children such as: CPN, NACCRAN, African Network for the Prevention and Protection of Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN), AONN and NACTAL.

Article 13: Handicapped Children

2.7. The Nigerian Government recognizes children with special needs as a vulnerable group that need to be supported economically, mentally, technically and be protected against all forms of exploitation and abuse. Some development partners and civil society organizations have taken several steps by partnering with government in sensitizing parents who have children with special needs. (e.g. SMILE project in 9 States of Nigeria, ICCM in 4 states).

2.8. Government has established special needs schools and provided special education facilities both at Federal and State levels. Government has also trained teachers on special needs education. Government has established and constructed pedestrian bridges which enabled children that are physically challenged to move and have access to public highways, buildings and other public places. Free education is given to physically challenged children in federal and state schools. (Vivian Iheoma Okpala, CEO Hands Lifting Soul, Anambra State).

Article 14: Health and Health Services

2.9. Section 17 of the Nigerian Constitution 1999 as amended, Section 175 (6) of the CRA, National Health Policy (2016) Chapter 4.1.1 stipulates that: *'Every government in Nigeria shall strive to reduce infant mortality rate, provide medical and health care, adequate nutrition and safe drinking water, hygienic and sanitized environments, combat diseases and malnutrition, support and mobilize through local and community resources, the development of primary health care for children'*. The National Priority Agenda for Vulnerable Children in Nigeria (2013-2020) Pillar 1 also provides for access to quality and affordable healthcare and sustainable access to potable water and basic sanitation.

2.10. Partnership has increased between government and local and international organizations to implement programmes at Federal, State and Local Government Levels such as:

- a) Infrastructure development with additional Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in communities; provision of Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities; establishment of monitoring structure e.g. the State Task Group on Sanitation (STGS); establishment of Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) Centres in 11 States; provision of ambulances at considerable close distances in cases of emergencies

- b) Campaign and Enforcement of crusade against open defecation to prevent infections and diseases; advocacy for the provision of essential health prevention commodities such as drugs in the health facilities; Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs); vitamin A; water treatment; and Zinc Oral Rehydration Solution therapy
- c) Government has increased its expenditure to provide water for drinking/sanitation in both urban/rural areas of the federation. In the year 2016, 200million Naira was budgeted for African Development Bank (ADB) assisted rural water supply/sanitation initiative
- d) The ‘Saving One Million Lives Programme for Results’ (SOML PEforR) launched in April 2015 to increase standard of reproductive health programs for women and children and nutrition interventions
- e) Provision of free Health Care services for children under 5-year and the establishment of the Maternal New-born and Child Health Week (MNCHW). Free immunization Services and Penalty for not-immunizing a Child, Care and Support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children including community sensitization on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and WASH.

CSO are concerned about

- 2.11. Low school enrolment for children with special needs - 39%. (2006 Census, NPopC) and weak enforcement of sanctions against persons who abuse and violate rights of children with special needs.
- 2.12. The lack of WASH facilities in public schools is leading to infection, cholera outbreaks, typhoid and sometimes death of children as evidenced by increased public outcry by parents. In addition to unclear process of selecting food vendors in public and private school systems.
- 2.13. Inadequate budgetary allocation for infrastructural and human resources for health and health care facilities, lack of basic amenities for improved health and the trend of reduction in Government allocations to the health sector from 4.23% to 4.16% and 3.9% in 2016, 2017 and 2018 national budgets respectively as against the recommendation of the 15% Abuja Declaration of 2011. These poor funding affects the response of Nigeria to disease outbreaks such as monkey pox, measles and Lassa fever etc. invariably affecting the quality of life of children as the most affected.

We therefore recommend that:

- 2.14. In partnership with non-state actors, government should commence public enlightenment programmes on the rights, respect and dignity of children with special needs. A referral system amongst service providers (schools, hospitals, NGOs, MDAs, caregivers and other experts including legal) should be established to provide wholistic care and support for the physical, emotional and mental development of children with special needs. Government should also upgrade the available facilities for children with special needs.

2.14.1. Case Study

Family Health Care Foundation (FAHCI) in 2017 established a school for vulnerable children in Nassarawa state called the Early Child Development (ECD). The school was established to provide Primary to Tertiary education for vulnerable children. Currently 36 children are benefiting from this program.

- 2.15. Medical examination should be mandatory for food vendors; clear guidelines should be developed for selection of food vendors and the use of health/sanitation-inspectors in schools, markets and other public places should be reactivated. In addition, government should enforce implementation of the Partnership for Expanded Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (PEWASH) programme across the country.
- 2.16. Government should increase funding for massive infrastructure development of health-care facilities in the country, a total revamp of the health system is urgently needed The Ministry of Health should explore Public-Private-Partnership for the development of the health sector to meet international best practice.

Chapter 3 - Development Rights of the Child – Articles 11, 12, 31 and 8

Article 12: Leisure, Recreation and Cultural Activities

- 1.1. Section 12 of the CRA and the National Priority Agenda for Vulnerable Children in Nigeria (2013-2020) requires that: *‘Every Nigerian child is entitled to rest, leisure and enjoyment of the best attainable state of physical, mental and spiritual health’*.
- 1.2. In line with this policies and priority agenda, the Federal Government annually hosts and organizes National Cultural Events that ensure children participation. State Parties facilitate annually the commemoration of Children’s Day and Day of the African Child on May 27 and 16 June respectively. Some states’ Ministries and Civil Societies regularly ensure that children have local & International learning visits while recreational activities have also been incorporated in school curriculum such as cultural clubs/society to encourage children participation in cultural and other artistic engagements. Good Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP) also exist in the creation of recreational parks across the country.
- 1.3. **CSOs are concerned about** weak government regulation, monitoring and maintenance of the activities of the recreational centres to ensure that all children enjoy the benefits of recreation and leisure and are not put in harm’s way, as happened recently where 23 school children died between Kano and Bauchi on an excursion trip.

Article 9: Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion

- 1.4. CSOs are concerned that children are relegated from participating in activities related to the rights stated in Section 38 subsection 1 of the Nigerian Constitution 1999 as amended which provides for freedom of thought, conscience and Religion. Cultural, traditional, and religious norms and assumptions are impediments to the implementation of these rights as well as limited knowledge understanding and information to parents and community members on the issues of child’s rights.

Article 10: Protection of Privacy

- 1.5. We commend the inauguration of the National Joint Taskforce for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse Violence and Neglect (JTF) in April 2014 by the Nigerian Government. This JTF being piloted in South-East of Nigeria provides a platform for state and non-state actors to respond to child sexual abuse, violence and neglect. The National Priority Agenda (NPA) for Vulnerable Children 2013-2020 also sets as one of its six priorities that all children are safe from abuse, violence, exploitation and neglect.

Article 11: Education

- 1.6. Nigeria has keyed into the Education for All (EFA) goal. Section 15 of the Child Rights Act also states that every child has the right to free and compulsory education. Mechanisms have been put in place by government to increase basic education for children through, the

Universal Basic Education Act 2004 and its strategic policies in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition to efforts by CSOs, some State governments have made considerable effort to provide quality education to children through restructuring existing programmes such as grammar and science schools, infrastructure development to accommodate more children; launch of free school feeding programmes with the aim to increase enrolment in schools (e.g. the Elementary School Feeding and Health Programme - 'OMEALS' in Osun and Ogun states). National Formal Education Centres for out-of-school boys are also operational in some states (e.g. Anambra state). Gender specific education program for girls and free transportation also exists in Jigawa, Ondo and Kano states.

1.7. CSOs are concerned about the low rate of child enrolment and general poor quality of infrastructure and child learning aids in schools such as:

- a) Unqualified teachers in the schools and the UBE system which covers only to Junior Secondary school
- b) low enrolment rate of children in schools due to insecurity in the country especially the North-East, killing and kidnapping of school children in boarding facilities and unfriendly government policies such as 'payment of charges/taxes or levies as a pre-condition for school enrolment and retention in schools
- c) Corporal punishment and violence against children in schools

2.8.1. Case Study

The case of Chibok girls' abduction in 2014 which gave rise to the global twitter #bringbackourgirls; kidnapping of pupils in Model College, Igbonla, Babington Macaulay and Turkish International Schools in Lagos State. Also, 111 school girls of the Government Technical College Dapchi, Yobe state were not accounted for in the aftermath of an invasion by Boko Haram insurgents as reported by Vanguard News Paper of 22 February 2018

2.8.2. Case Study

On the 23rd of February 2018 it was reported that a teacher at Government Day Secondary School Sankalawa in Bungudu Local Government Area of Zamfara state allegedly flogged a child to death. This was reported by Punch News Paper February 21, 2018.

<https://punchng.com/teacher-flogs-student-to-death-in-zamfara/>

1.8. Based on the foregoing, CSOs therefore recommend

- a) Government should promote activities on the right of the child to leisure, recreation and cultural activities.
- b) Improve training of teachers in Colleges of Education and the recruitment process for teachers of primary and secondary schools. Periodic refresher training programs should be undertaken by teachers.

- c) Children should not be mandated to pay taxes and levies as pre-conditions for enrolment and retention in schools.
- d) Abolish corporal punishment in schools and prioritize security in schools.
- e) Provision of security to students and teachers in schools

Chapter 4 - Protection Rights of the Child – Articles 10,26,27,15,16,17,22,23,25,26,27-29

4.1. Section 25 of the Nigeria Constitution 1999 as amended states that every child has a right to acquire a nationality. Section 5 of the CRA also states that every child should be registered after birth. In line with these provisions, the National Population Commission- NPopC and National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) were established to ensure that every child is registered and have an identity. Complementarily, CSOs in Nigeria partner with these Agencies to facilitate birth registration and issuance of birth certificates for children.

4.2. CSOs note the weak system for ensuring that all births are registered at the point of birth, in some rural areas where Traditional Birth Attendants are popularly patronized. Therefore, many children have continued to be born without resort to registration.

Article 15: Child Labour

4.3. Nigeria government has ratified the ILO convention No. 138 on the minimum age for employment and No. 182 on elimination of the worst forms of child labour. Section 59 of the Labour Act CAP L.1. LFN 2004 prohibits a child under the age of 12 years from all work except where he is employed by his family on “light work of an agricultural, domestic or horticultural character”. The Child's Rights Act criminalizes the exploitation of children, including exploitative labour, (Section 28), sexual exploitation (Section 32), and other forms of exploitation (Section 33).

4.4. We commend the government for the establishment of specific agencies such as NAPITIP as provided in the CRA with special units to handle cases of children in need of care and protection; the inauguration of the National Steering Committee on Labour across Nigeria and the development of the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour in Nigeria (2013-2017).

Article 16: Protection Against Child Abuse and Torture

1.9. CSOs have observed the low reportage and access to supportive services such as medical and psychological services for survivors of rape and abuse and the culture of silence amongst parents/guardians of rape victims due to stigmatization. In some instances, teenage pregnant girls find it difficult to return to school because of stigmatization that comes from the school authorities and peers. The traditional belief in most part of Nigeria is that teenage pregnancy is a sign of waywardness. Oftentimes, the child is disowned by family or taken to a hide-out until she delivers without any recourse to ante-natal care.

Article 17: Administration of Juvenile Justice

4.5. Section 36 (5) of the Nigerian Constitution 1999 as amended provides for the presumption of innocence of every accused person (which of course includes children in conflict with

the law) until proven guilty. Section 34 of the Nigerian Constitution, Section 210, 248 & 250 of the CRA and Section 467 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) further supports the foregoing provisions of the constitution.

4.6. Section 209 of the CRA encourages the disposal of matters involving a child offender by other means of settlement without resort to formal trial, Section 454 of the ACJA provides that in situations where though a charge is proved, having regard to an offender's age, the Court may dismiss the charge or discharge the defendant conditionally (thus complying with non-custodial alternatives towards reformation, reintegration and social rehabilitation of the child.

4.7. Section 155 of the CRA upholds a child's right to legal representation and in fact, to free legal aid in any matter concerning him/her in Court. Section 156 and 157 of the CRA excludes the public and the press from attending Court in matters affecting a child; and prohibits and penalizes the publication of a child's identification details. Section 371 of the ACJA enjoins the Court to have regard to the provisions of the CRA in trying a child in conflict with the law and Section 494 settles the age of the child as under 18 years. Section 207 of the CRA provides for the establishment of a specialized unit of the force to be known as the Specialized Children Police Unit.

4.8. **CSOs are concerned** that children in conflict with the law are kept in regular prisons because there are no correctional centres in many states. The Family Courts, Specialized Children Centres are yet to be established in many Police units.

Article 22: Armed Conflicts

4.9. Nigeria is a signatory to International Humanitarian Laws e.g. the Geneva Convention and its Protocols. Nigeria is currently collaborating with both International Organizations and local CSOs to ensure respect for the rules of Humanitarian International Law in Armed Conflicts which affects the Child e.g. the National Human Rights Commission currently works in collaboration with UNHCR and UNICEF to train Nigerians to monitor armed conflicts in several Northern States of Nigeria in line with International Humanitarian Law.

4.10. CSOs note the efforts of the Nigerian Army to ensure that children are not enlisted into the force in line with Sec. 34 of the CRA of 2003.

4.11. CSOs commend the establishment of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMA), the setting up of IDP camps for protection and care of children affected by armed conflicts.

CSOs are concerned about

4.12. Inadequate coordination, management, insecurity and child protection issues within the IDP camps. For example, cases of bomb explosions, under-age pregnancies, etc still occur.

4.13. Increase proliferation of small arms within the country; use of children as suicide bombers as well as children affected and targeted in the farmers/herdsmen clashes in various parts of the country. Also, the use of underage children in the political process by politicians for undue advantage is a source of concern as an estimated 7 million underage children are reported to have been registered to vote in upcoming elections in Nigeria as recently reported by the Independent National Election Commission.

Article 23: Refugee Children

4.14. Establishment of National Commission on Refugees, Migrants and Internal Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) as an institution to implement the National Refugee Act of 1989 to provide for the proper treatment of refugees, protection of their rights and management of refugee issues in Nigeria.

4.15. We commend the government on the development of the Nigeria Regional Refugee Response plan (2018) with detailed plan for treatment and protection of refugee children and provisions of relief materials including livelihood trainings and empowerment programmes by state and non-state actors.

CSOs are concerned about the

4.16. Lack of civil registration and documentation of children especially at birth has posed challenges in data disaggregation for the purpose of planning, targeted intervention and to determine the true age of children for legal protection purposes.

4.17. Frequency of humanitarian emergencies in the country has disproportionately increased the number of displaced and traumatized children in the country. This is compounded by lack of data and facilities to address challenges affecting emotionally challenged children in Nigeria.

Article 26: Protection Against Apartheid and Discrimination

4.18. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Section 16(2)(d) and Section 17(3), Human Right Law, Child's Right Act /Law (CFRN, HRL, CRA/L) – as observed in the ACERWC Report (2014). Section 42 of the CFRN and ACERWC provides for the support of children with physical and emotional as vulnerable children that should be supported and not stigmatized.

Article 27: Sexual Exploitation

4.19. Section 282 of the Penal code criminalises the rape of a child under the age of puberty as statutory rape with life imprisonment while assault with intent to commit any unnatural offence such as sodomy carries a 14-year imprisonment. Section 31, sub section 1 &2 of the CRA also states that, *“No person, shall have sexual intercourse with a child. A person who contravenes the provision of Subsection (1) of this section commits an offence of rape and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for life.”* This section also provides in subsection (3) that, *“where a person is charged with an offence under this section, it is*

immaterial that— (a) the offender believed the person to be of or above the age of eighteen years; or (b) the sexual intercourse was with the consent of the child”. Section 32(1, 2) of the CRA also stipulates that, *“a person who sexually abuses or sexually exploits a child in any manner not already mentioned under this Part of this Act commits an offence and... is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of fourteen years”*. Section 21 of the CRA also prohibits and criminalises child marriage with a penalty of N500,000 Naira fine; 5 years’ imprisonment or both.

4.20. In the same vein, the Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Enforcement and Administration Act (TIPPEA, 2015) prohibits sexual exploitation of children which includes luring children into unlawful sexual intercourse, recruiting a child for sexual exploitation, recruiting children for pornography, drugging of the child in question for better performance attracts an additional sentence. Sections 16 and 17 focuses on procurement or recruitment of any person under the age of 18 years for the purpose of sexual exploitation and the penalty for such acts.

4.21. The Cyber Crimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act 2015 prohibits and criminalises child pornography while the 2015 Violence against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act domiciled in NAPTIP redefines and punishes offences of rape. Unlike the Penal Code, women can be charged with the offence of rape under the VAPP Act. Likewise, gang Rape carries a joint sentence of 20 years for the offenders, with no option of fine while survivors of this crime can also claim damages. The Act also provides for a register of offenders to be opened and kept public.

Article 28: Drug Abuse

4.22. The National Drug Law Enforcement and Administration Act, 1989 empowered the National Drug Law enforcement Agency to enforce laws against the cultivation, processing, sale, trafficking and use of hard drugs. It also empowered the Agency to investigate persons suspected to have dealings in drugs and other related matters.

4.23. We commend the government for the partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the completion of the National Household Survey on Drug Use and Health. Data was collected from 1,050 households in all 36 Nigerian states as well as the Federal Capital Territory. The community-based survey on drug use with pilot survey in 12 States of the country (2 per geo-political zone) was also completed in December 2016. A National Drug Treatment Guidelines to standardize treatment delivery across various Health facilities was developed and training provided to government and CSOs. A pilot drug treatment programme was launched in Kuje Prison and support was provided to five Community Drop-in-Centres run by CSOs for treatment and counselling of substance and drug abuse.

4.24. We also acknowledge the development of the National Drug Control Master Plan (NDCMP) 2015-2019 and the establishment of Drug Rehabilitation Centres to provide counselling and treatment of mental cases resulting from the use of illicit drug usage and abuse.

4.25. Federal Ministry of Education (FMOE) in partnership with UNODC also commenced the piloting of the '*Unplugged Curriculum*' on drug prevention programme for government secondary schools.

Article 29 - Sale, Trafficking and Abduction

4.26. The 2015 TIPPEA Act renamed NAPTIP to the 'National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons', thus streamlining NAPTIP's mandate to increase its efficiency, with 6 specialized departments and reinforced powers including for co-ordination purposes and enforcement of all other laws on TIP and other related offences such as the VAPP 2015 Act. The 2015 TIPPEA Act also tightens penalty provisions and reduces the discretion of judges to offer the option of fine in lieu of prison term.

4.26.1. Case Study

December 11, 2017, a Federal High Court sitting in Lagos sentenced one Miracle Ita to two years imprisonment for trafficking a 16-year-old girl from Oron, Akwa-Ibom to Lagos for prostitution. In addition to payment of a fine of N250, 000.

4.27. In line with the mandate of the TIPPEA Act, NAPTIP in collaboration with partners including UNODC have developed guidelines to support assistance and protection of trafficked victims such as the Standard Operating Procedure on Children in Formal Care; the Guidelines on National Referral Mechanism for Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria (NRM) and the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the coordination of Nigeria's Law Enforcement Agencies on TIP.

4.27.1. Case Study – Law Enforcement Collaboration

In 2018, combined team of NAPTIP and the Department of State services sealed up a controversial illegal maternity and baby factory (Akuchi Herbal Concept, located on Old road, around Pure Water area, New Nyanyan, Abuja) whose acclaimed Chief Medical Director was arrested for allegedly swindling several women who were in dare need of babies. The 38-year-old herbalist, Mr. Chigozie John Emmanuel, A.K.A 'Akuchi' from Enugu State and the owner of Akuchi Herbal Concept, allegedly deceives women into thinking they are pregnant and thereafter giving other people's babies to them having collected lots of money. His arrest was based on a previous arrest by the Nigerian Police, of a woman whom they saw with a baby in Abuja enroute Minna, Niger State. Based on their suspicion, they detained and questioned the woman on the identity of the baby she carried. She admitted to being a patient of Mr. Emmanuel, whom she said administered some herbs to her after years of infertility.

4.28. CSOs across the country such as WOTCLEF, Daughters of Abraham, Real Woman, Rehoboth Homes, Genesis Foundation, Idia Renaissance, Galilee Foundation, Living Word Mission Home and COSUDOW continue to partner with government and international partners to provide rehabilitation shelters to victims of trafficking. A considerable number of CSOs such as Integrated Anti-Human Trafficking and Community Development Initiative (INTACOM AFRICA), MecAHT, SOAR Initiative, Child & Youth Protection Foundation, Girl's Power Initiative (GPI), Center for Women, Youth and Community Action (NACWYCA), Women Consortium of Nigerian (WOCON) continue to partner with NAPTIP and other international partners to provide sensitization and public awareness on trafficking in persons programmes in secondary schools.

4.29. **CSOs are concerned that:**

- a) There is no specific agency tasked with enforcing the 2015 Cyber Crimes Act which hinders implementation and enforcement of the Act.
- b) The number of National Drug Law and Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) field offices and trained staff charged with the responsibility of preventing the use and production of such substances, are grossly inadequate in comparison to the number of users of such drug amongst the children.
- c) Increased number of children exposed to drugs both directly and indirectly by people around them and fear of stigma to seek for help for families whose children are involved in substance abuse
- d) Slow judicial process, hindering quick access to justice for trafficked victims and prosecution of traffickers.
- e) Children from very poor backgrounds are being sold by their families into exploitation which results in a limited family network whereby victims are often orphaned or disowned as a result

4.29.1. Case Study

A 30-year-old arrested suspect sold one of her 4 children (New born baby) to a woman simply identified as Madam Pink at the cost of N350, 000. She confessed to have sold the baby to be able to train the other three in school.

4.30. CSOs therefore recommend

- that government should identify a specific Agency to enforce the Cyber Crime Act;
- Governments at all levels to come up with transformation programs; a National Orientation and Reorientation program to re-orient and re-educate the average Nigerian youth to make them realize that they can actualize their potentials and dreams in Nigeria. Relevant modules on Irregular migration should be incorporated into school curriculum from primary to tertiary level. Innovative and holistic education and life skills capacity should be developed for children and increase

enlightenment programmes for in and out of school children on trafficking in persons.

- Government at all levels to provide incentives and easy access to loans and other funding programs to medium and small businesses to improve the standard of living of citizens. Government should partner with Public and Private institutions to create formal and informal employment for the growing population to minimize the push factors of trafficking, sales and abduction.
- Government should embark on aggressive program for the protection and empowerment of children including strengthening law enforcement cooperation and inter-agency referrals; create children emergency rapid response for rescue and investigation purpose.

4.30.1. Case Study

11 persons arrested by NAPTIP for suspected child trafficking, abduction and sale of children. They were arrested in different parts of Anambra state in a combined operation carried out with the support of the operatives of the Directorate of the State Services (DSS). The suspects comprising 8 women and 3 men were said to have belonged to a criminal syndicate that specialized in kidnapping and sale of babies across the country notably the States of the South-East, Lagos and Abuja.

Three children whose ages range from 8 months to 4 years were recovered during the operation while scores of other children believed to have been trafficked by the gang are yet to be found.

Chapter 5 - Participation Rights of the Child – Articles 7 - 9

Article 7: Freedom of Expression

5.1. Section 7 of the CRA states that:

(1) Every child has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. (2) Parents and, where applicable, legal guardians shall provide guidance and direction in the exercise of these rights having regard to the evolving capacities and best interest of the child. (3) The duty of parents and, where applicable legal guardians to provide guidance and direction in the enjoyment of the right in Subsection (1) of this section by their child or ward shall be respected by all persons, bodies, institutions and authorities. (4) Whenever the fostering, custody, guardianship or adoption of a child is in issue, the right of the child to be brought up in and to practice his religions shall be a paramount consideration’.

Upon this provision, the Nigerian Children's Parliament was inaugurated in December 2000 and it allows for children to participate in affairs affecting them.

Article 8: Freedom of Association

5.2. Section 6 of the CRA states that *“Every child has the right to freedom of association and peaceful assembly in conformity with the law and in accordance with the necessary guidance and directions of his parents or guardians”*. The country continues to support this provision through practical approaches that aids children in exercising their freedom of association through the formation of clubs like the Girls' Guides, Boys' Brigades, Boys' Scouts, Child Rights and Debating Clubs.

5.3. CSOs are concerned that children in Nigeria do not have sufficient information on the provisions contained in Sections 6 and 7 of the CRA. Culture and tradition also affects the full implementation of these sections as children are expected to be seen and not heard. The children parliaments are heavily influenced by adults and governments and elected children officials lack the capacities required to advance the cause of children. Children are generally exempted from decision making and their views are not sought on issues that affects them. Children are among the excluded and powerless groups in Nigeria. Children's opinions are rarely sought. This is attributed to the influence of tradition and religion in which children are treated as minors and incapable of deciding for themselves.

5.4. Based on the foregoing, it is therefore recommended that government embarks on widespread dissemination of the CRA/CRL in child-friendly format and language among in and out-of-school children and the general population and to also make concerted efforts to ensure that children participate in decision making. Capacity building programmes for children should also be developed and implemented towards enshrining the ability of children to participate in the decision-making process

Chapter 6 - Family Environment and Alternative Care and Responsibilities of the Child – Articles 16,18,19,20,24,25 and 27

Article 18: Protection of The Family

6.1. In line with Section 14 (2) of the CRA which provides that *“Every child has the right to maintenance by his parents or guardians in accordance with the extent of their means, and the child has the right, in appropriate circumstances, to enforce this right in the family court”* many States have established Family Courts.

Article 19: Parent Care and Protection

6.2. Section 14 of the CRA states that *“Every child has a right to parental care and, protection and accordingly, no child shall be separated from his parents against the wish of the child ...”*. States like Kaduna have passed a law (New Penal Code Law of 2017, Section 206-214) which provides for a term of imprisonment of not less than five years with a fine of not less than N200,000 or both for a father or mother or adult/care giver who intends to or abandon a child without any means of sustenance, shelter or protection.

6.2.1. Case Study

Children’s right is still being infringed by parents, an example is a 9-year old in Ogun state chained indoor to die by his father for stealing before being rescued by Law Enforcement Agencies (Source: punch newspaper, August 1st, 2017)

6.3. We also acknowledge the presence and support of International organizations currently supporting care givers and CSOs to provide child-friendly services in Nigeria such as: PEPFAR, USAID, Management for Science Health (MSH), Pact Nigeria, Plan International, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Save the Children.

Article 20: Parental Responsibilities

6.4. Section 20 of the CRA in spelling out the responsibilities of Parents states that, *“Every parent, guardian, institution, person and authority responsible for the care, maintenance, upbringing, education, training, socialization, employment and rehabilitation of a child has the duty to provide the necessary guidance, discipline, education and training for the child in his or its care such as will equip the child to secure his assimilation, appreciation and observance of the responsibilities...”*

6.5. All states have the National Priority Agenda (NPA) established for vulnerable children response which provides for appropriate approach in parenting skills. In response to this a Parenting Training Curriculum (Better Parenting in Nigeria) has been designed and produced by the FMWASD with support from development partners and has been widely disseminated. **Source:** CRS Nigeria/4Children.

Article 24: Adoption

6.6. Sections 125 – 148 of the CRA and CRL as applicable in many states favour the adoption of abandoned children. The procedure for adoption from government orphanages and homes is captured in policies and guidelines domiciled in the Social welfare unit of the FMWASD. However, the law does not cover adoption cases within families which sometimes are more troubling.

6.7. CSOs are concerned about illegal sale of children; some cases of adoption without the knowledge of the MWASW as well as existence of social mother homes for teenage pregnant girls in some states which is not regulated.

Article 25: Separation from Parents

6.8. Existence of functional Child Protection Networks – AONN, NACTAL, CPN, etc. in all states of the federation that work with relevant state structures to ensure that children separated from their parents receive special protection and assistance

Article 30: Children of Imprisoned Mothers

6.9. Sections 221-225 of the Child's Rights Act states that *'No child shall be ordered to be imprisoned, subjected to corporal punishment or death penalty or have death penalty recorded against him'...and a court shall on sentencing of an expectant or nursing mother consider a non- institutional sentence as an alternative measure to imprisonment. Where institutional sentence is mandatory, an expectant and nursing mother shall be detained at a Special Mother's Centre for a period not longer than the time the child would have attained the age of 6 years.*

6.10. CSOs are concerned

- a) There are no effective legislative measures in place to protect children who are with imprisoned mothers or pregnant women contravening Article 30 of the Charter
- b) Lack of Special Mothers Centres for nursing / expectant mothers in most States as captured by the CRA
- c) Low budget appropriation for OVC which has not allowed for increased awareness on the CRA hence increase in abuse of children by parents and legal guardians.
- d) About the survey report which shows that Nigeria has one of the worst statistics on violence against children, including those inflicted by parents and relatives (**Source:** National Survey on violence against children, Nigeria Population Commission-NPC, CDC and UNICEF 2016).
- e) Poor facilities in orphanages and homes due to poor funding
- f) Lack of public awareness on legal adoption procedure which has led to creation and increase rate of 'short-cut' processes such as child sales, baby factory or Child harvest.

6.11. CSOs therefore recommend the passage of the Social work bill currently at the National Assembly to enable social workers provide services as it affects homes and children.

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3. The Nigerian Constitution 1999 as amended
4. National Health Policy (2016)
5. Nigeria Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2016-2017 by National Bureau of Statistics
6. The National Priority Agenda for (OVC) 2013-2020
7. National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour in Nigeria (2013-2017)
8. The Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Enforcement and Administration (TIPPEA) Act 2015
9. Website of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP - <https://www.naptip.gov.ng>)
10. The Universal Basic Education Act 2003 (amended 2005, 2014)
11. Birth, Death (Compulsory Registration) Act 1992
12. The National Human Rights Commission Act 1995
13. The Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015
14. Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPP 2015)
15. 2017 joint general comment of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and the African Committee of Experts on The Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) on ending child marriage
16. Nigeria 2nd and 3rd submitted state report on the ACWRC
17. Children and Young Persons Act (CYPA)
18. The Nigeria Immigration Act 2015
19. Cyber Crimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc) Act 2015
20. Partnership for Expanded Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (PEWASH), 2016

Annexes

Appendix 1: List of thematic areas represented at the National CSO consultative meeting towards the drafting of the CSOs complementary report

S/n	Name	Coalition/Organization	Thematic Areas	Sex
1	Bola Lanrewaju	Africa-wide Movement for Children; Ethiopia Nigeria. Representative, Lagos	Child protection, development and research based policy formulation	M
2	Solomon Sobade	AMC Network, Lagos/Ogun	Children of Imprisoned Mothers/Adoption	M
3	Marcus Williams	Living Word Mission	Child Protection	M
4	Ayotunde Okelana	ACOMIN, NACTAL, Cleannation Foundation	Health; Education; Protection	M
5	Nelson Akerele Olaniyi	CSOs for HIV/AIDS in Nigeria; Balm in Gilead Foundation For Sustainable Development (BIGIF) IC. Sham	Education, Health, Child protection	M
6	Martin-Mary Falana	CSOS For Adolescent Health in Nigeria	Child Protection	M
7	Ronke Ojeikere	NACCRAN	Girl Child Education, Health-SRHR, Child rights, Women rights, socio-economic empowerment in the grass root	F
8	Olufemi Oyedeji	NACTAL, Kwara State	Child Protection, Education, OVC	M
9	John Amabi Ojochenemi	NACTAL/Kogi State – Foundation for Enhancement and Promotion of Family Life (FEPFL)	Family Issues & Child Related Abuse	M
10	Ajiboye Kadmiel Apasamdakai	Passion Heart Initiative/Numan Adamawa State	Child Abuse on PLV, Reproductive health/OVC	M
11	Lucy Ackanyon	NACTAL/NUJ/ Benue State	Child protection	F
12	Esson Yerima Adagadzu	Family health care foundation	Reproductive health services; Public health services; Economic empowerment; Organizational development; Peace building; Child protection; Adolescent child; WASH; Environmental; OVC; Care & support, referral; Youth development, democracy & good governance	M

S/n	Name	Coalition/Organization	Thematic Areas	Sex
13	Samuel Gompwell	Living Agenda for Youths Advancement Initiative, Warri, Delta State	Education, Child abuse, Child labour, Child Rights; Women rights; Empowerment	M
14	Chima Franklin Madu	Child Justice Clinic (CJC), Abuja	Access to justice for victims of child abuse	M
15	Abayomi Oluwole Christiana	Global Hope for Women and Children (GLOHWOC), Kogi State	Health; Education; OVC; ASRH	F
16	Umo Isua-Ikoh	Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation	Water and Sanitation; Hygiene; Environmental	M
17	Anietie Effiong	Civil Society on Malaria Control, Immunization and Nutrition/ Global Relief & Empowerment Initiative, Akwa Ibom State	Right to Health; Right to Food & Security; Water; Sanitation & hygiene	M
18	Chris Ify Okonkwo	Save The Youth Empowerment Foundation (SAYEF), Anambra State	Youths	M
19	Oluwatoyin Ayinde	SOS Children's Villages Nigeria	Child care & protection	F
20	Usman Nanfwang	United African States, Plateau State	Environment & Climate change	M
21	Elekwachi Chimezie Lekwas	African Network for The Prevention of & Protection against Child Abuse & Neglect (ANPCAN) Nigeria Chapter, Enugu State	Child protection, development, survival & participation	M
22	Abdulrazaq Sani Alkali	Organization for Community Civic Engagement (OCCEN), Kano State	Youth Rights and participation, Democracy and good governance, education, Health, Child Labour, Child Abuse	M
23	Adams Michael Light E.	Free hearts Africa Reach Out Foundation (FAROF), Kaduna State	Health (HIV) –SRHR, Education (OVC), Child protection (gender based violence)	M
24	Hajiya Bilkisu Musa	Kungiyar Tallafin Mata Development Initiatives (KTMDI), Birnin Kebbi	Child abuse and child labour; Girl child education; Women Adult/literacy	F
25	Jemimah Dawuda Mairabo	Shishiwa Women and Youth Foundation, Jalingo, Taraba State	Women & Child rights, Youth empowerment	F
26	Hajiya Hadiza Mohammed	Women's Rights Initiative	Women and children's rights, Good governance, participation through monitoring & lobbying, Election monitoring, Advocacy	F

S/n	Name	Coalition/Organization	Thematic Areas	Sex
27	Sani Adamu Jauro	Society and the Future, Gombe	Free of Expression & Association, Children Education, Child protection against Abuse, Labour, Torture, Children health, Special need children	M
28	Solomon Agbor Ache	CISCOPE Zonal Office, Bayelsa State	Poverty Eradication	M
29	Kuleino Faruk	Eagle Wings Youth Development Initiative, Adamawa State	Child Protection & Youth empowerment	M
30	Hajiya (Mrs) Sumayyah Sani Ahmed	Sumayya Support Foundation (SSF), Gusau, Zamfara	Girl child education, Child protection	F
31	Mohammed Wuyo	NACTAL, Borno State	Good Governance, Human Rights, Peace Building	M
32	Simon Karu	Young Men Christian Association (YMCA), Bauchi State	Education, Health, Water & Sanitation	M
34	Hussaini Saleh	Family Health and Youth Empowerment Organization (FAHYE), Katsina State	Child Abuse; Child health & Welfare	M
35	Odion, Elizabeth	African Movement of Working Children and Youth, Ogun State	Young people/Children rights, Campaign against poverty, Child participation and child protection	F
36	Peter Olaseni	NACCRAN, FCT	Child Protection	M
37	Oral Grandeur Nwoko	Speaker Children Parliament, FCT		M
38	Folarin Abraham	SOS Children's Villages, Nigeria	Child Care, Protection	M
39	Chinyere Eyoh	NACTAL, FCT	Child Protection	F
40	Francis Onyekwue	NACTAL, FCT	Healing the invincible wounds (Trauma healing), Mental Health Awareness Creation and support, Child protection	M
41	Margaret Udoh	YRAC/WACSO	Education, Health, Child rights awareness creation	F
42	Chioma Onyenucheya – Uko	FIDA, FCT	Legal Intervention and Support for Women and Children	F
43	Gbedozin Elijah Akonasu	African Movement of Working Children and Youth, Lagos	Promotion of the rights of young people (workers), Campaign against poverty, Child participation and child protection	M

S/n	Name	Coalition/Organization	Thematic Areas	Sex
44	Afoseh, Muhammed Hamza	African Movement of Working Children and Youth, Nasarawa State	Promotion of right of children/young people/ Campaign against poverty, Child participation & Protection	M
45	Aladeotan, David Sunday	African Movement of Working Children and Youth, Badagry, Lagos State	Promotion of right of children/young people/ Campaign against poverty, Child participation & Protection	M
46	Odion, Elizabeth	African Movement of Working Children and Youth, Ogun State	Young people/Children rights, Campaign against poverty, Child participation and child protection	F
47	Nathaniel Msen Awuapila	C O R A F I D	Child's right and capacity building	M
48	Kolawole Olatosimi	NACTAL North-Central Zone/ Child and Youth Protection Foundation (CYPF)	Child's right and capacity building	F
49	Aver Gavar	ACERWC/National Human Rights Commission		F

Appendix 2: List of participants at the 3-day National CSO consultative workshop towards the drafting of the CSOs complementary report

S/n	Name	Sex	State	Email and phone number	Coalition/organization
1	Bola Olanrewaju	M	Lagos	bolamnesty@yahoo.com 08033767523	Africawide Movement for Children
2	Solomon Sobade	M	Ogun	wise1solo@gmail.com 08032502103	AMC
3	Marcus Williams	M	Oyo	livingwordmission@gmail.com 08038565552	Child Protection Network
4	Ayo Okelena	M	Osun	cleannation29@gmail.com 08055459052	ACOMIN/Cleanna tion Foundation
5	Nelson Akerele	M	Ekiti	n50.nelson@gmail.com 08061348202	CSOs FOR HIV/AIDS in Nigeria
6	Martin-Mary Falana	M	Ondo	kidsnteensconcern@gmail.com / martinmaryfalana@gmail.com / 08035606915	CSOs For Adolescent Health in Nigeria
7	Ronke Ojeikere	F	Edo	sothawacabenin@yahoo.com 08074403088	NACCRAN
S/n	Name	Sex	State	Email and phone number	Coalition/organization
8	Olufemi Oyedeji	M	Kwara	safinngo2007@yahoo.com	NACTAL

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S/n	Name	Sex	State	Email and phone number	Coalition/organization

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Appendix 3: List of Technical Committee Members at the 1-day Validation Meeting

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