



**World Vision**

19<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council, agenda item 6

UPR Uganda

Thank you Madame President,

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 approximately 137 deaths per 1000 live births, and 70% of child mortality is due to malaria, diarrhea, pneumonia and malnutrition. About 38% of children under-five years are stunted and suffer from acute malnutrition.

In particular, we would like to emphasize the continuing barriers to access to health care. For every 100,000 people, there are approximately 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. Furthermore, due to corruption in the health sector, there is persistent theft of many drugs, dispensing of expired drugs, abuse of patients and impunity of those involved.

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 to accept the recommendation made by Belgium, to raise the health budget to 15 % in line with the Abuja Declaration.

Lastly, we call upon Government to implement the existing health related policy and legal frame-work for health systems strengthening.

World Vision and Franciscans International 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