



**Capacity Building of African National Human Rights Institutions
for Improved Promotion and Protection of Child Rights
Training Workshop Held at Radisson Blu Hotel in Lusaka,
Zambia on 14-15th November 2017**



**Report Submitted to the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions
(NANHRI)**

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Executive Summary

This report is based on a training meant for building the capacity of National Human Rights Institutions to be more engaged with issues of the promotion and protection of child rights. Supported by Plan International through funding from Sida, the two day training took place in Lusaka, Zambia on 14-15 November 2017. It was attended by nine human rights institutions from Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Tanzania as well as representatives of the Plan International Zambia and Pan Africa Office. It was graced by the First Vice-Chair of the Africa Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child with presence of two officers from the Secretariat.

The workshop was facilitated using various techniques including powerpoint presentations, case studies from the countries' human rights institutions and Plan's approach to child rights, group work and plenary presentations, and individual planning by the National Human Rights Institutions themselves. Day 1 coverage of the workshop included child rights programming approach with a gender lens, role of the National Human Rights Institutions in promotion and protection of child rights, barriers and remedies to the work of the institutions on child rights, and an over view of the report of the child rights mapping exercise. Day 2 addressed experiences and issues of networking for the institutions including challenges and good practices, and action planning for child rights related interventions.

Following the workshop, there were key action points identified by specific National Human Rights Institutions focused on:

1. Setting up of child rights structures/mechanisms/units
2. Strengthening existing mechanisms/structures in terms of human capacity and financial resources
3. Institutionalizing child rights mechanisms and structures within the human rights institutions and strategic plans
4. Improving knowledge management to enhance institutional memory
5. Enhancing collaboration and networking internally and externally with other National Human Rights Institutions in sub-regional and continental levels, civil society and partners
6. Strengthening the participation of the National Human Rights Institutions in the reporting cycle particularly follow up to concluding observations and recommendations.
7. Strengthening child participatory approaches within the National Human Rights Institutions and making these institutions accessible to children.

List of common abbreviations and acronyms

ACRWC	African Charter for the Rights and Welfare of the Child
CCCD	Child Centred Community Development
CRP	Child Rights Programming
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
NANHRI	Network of African Human Rights Institutions
NHRIs	National Human Rights Institutions
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

1. Background

The Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) in partnership with Plan International – Pan African Office (PAO) with the financial support of Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA) - have collaborated in a project, the Pan Africa State Accountability Project (PASAP) to strengthen the capacity of African NHRIs to carry out effective human rights programming and to interact with key international and regional human rights mechanisms, in particular engaging with the African Committee of experts on the Rights and Welfare of a Child (ACERWC) and Child Rights CSO coalitions.

The first activity envisaged under the project was a capacity assessment and mapping exercise in order to identify NHRIs level of engagement in the promotion and protection of children's rights and the needs thereof. This was undertaken between May 2016 and March 2017 through desk review, an online survey covering all 44 NANHRI members, and face-to-face interviews with a few selected NHRIs – Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal and Tanzania.

The overall finding from the assessment and mapping exercise was that most of the NHRIs in Africa have not given priority to child rights monitoring and advocacy. Issues of children are handled generically alongside other broader human rights programmes and projects.

Although there are worrying cases of abuse of child rights as exemplified for instance by street children phenomenon in Senegal, exploitation and ritual killing of Albino children in Tanzania, and child labour and early marriages in Malawi, efforts to monitor and advocate for redressing these abuses don't always happen as per the mandates of the NHRIs.

The reason behind the weak operations of the NHRIs range from low budget allocations (mostly to cover only recurrent expenditure), lack of dedicated staff on child rights implying low prioritization of children's issues, weak constitutional mandates in places like Senegal, and limited awareness of what the NHRIs can do to enhance child rights within their mandates. In countries like Kenya, there has been controversies on which institution should be handling child rights following the existence of the NHRI (Kenya National Commission on Human Rights) and the National Gender and Equality Commission. The same case applies for Senegal where there is the NHRI (CSDH) and the Office of the Director of Human Rights.

These two cases show duplicity in the roles of human rights actors with the resultant confusion and weak operations. It can be interpreted as a possible approach by the respective states to operate parallel structures that check on the powers of the NHRIs. From the assessment findings, there are also gaps in terms of NHRIs' engagements with regional mechanisms and within their countries as well as weak advocacy skills. This concept is an effort towards strengthening these areas.

From the assessment and capacity mapping, it is clear that the NHRIs have lived to their broad mandates of monitoring human rights including handling reported cases. Some have

gone beyond the general provisions of their constitutional or other mandates to entrench child rights programming. However, the NHRIs are in general weak in terms of financial and human capacity. Furthermore, and although engagements with regional and national actors as well as international agencies working with children would remedy this weakness, the networking largely remains limited.

Based on the findings of the assessment, a raft of recommendations were made with a particular focus on capacity building of NHRIs in order to prioritize child rights programming based on their mandates, visibility and profiling. A much broader approach towards capacity building was recommended to include networking at regional and national levels, monitoring and evaluation, child rights violations data use for advocacy, gender and child rights, resource mobilization within the state and outside, and the NHRIs' role in ACRWC monitoring and advocacy.

It is against this backdrop that NANHRI organized a two-day training for its member NHRIs in order to enhance their knowledge and skills to enable them prioritize children rights programming and actively engage with other actors including the state for better promotion and protection of children's rights.

2. Objectives of the Training

The training sought to:

1. Enhance the knowledge and skills of African NHRIs in order to prioritize child rights programming based on their statutory mandates, structure, power, activities and action plans with respect to child rights monitoring and advocacy.
2. Provide a platform for knowledge and experiences sharing among African NHRIs of their work on child rights with a view to coming up with practical solutions for addressing the factors impeding NHRIs work in the promotion and protection of children's rights.
3. Increase their ability in networking with other actors in the child rights sector at various levels for better promotion and protection of children's rights.
4. Enhance NHRIs capacity to mainstream gender concerns in their work on child rights monitoring and advocacy.
5. Collectively develop a regional programme for supporting the work of NHRIs in their efforts to prioritize and enhance interventions focusing on the promotion and protection of children's rights.

The objectives were covered using the agenda presented as Annex 1.

3. Expected Outcomes

The training workshop was expected to contribute to:

1. Increased knowledge, skills and commitment by African NHRIs towards prioritization, development and implementation of programmes for better promotion and protection of children's rights.
2. Increased networking between NHRIs and other actors working in the child rights sector.
3. Increased understanding and attention to gender concerns in NHRIs work on child rights monitoring and advocacy.
4. A programme developed for supporting NHRIs child rights work.

4. Target Participants

The training brought together staff of nine (9) NHRIs namely; Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia as well as representatives of Plan International and the Africa Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC). NANHRI staff was also in attendance. The full list of participants is presented as Annex 2.

5. Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony was officiated by representatives from Zambia Human Rights Commission, Plan International and NANHRI with the key note address coming from the ACERWC.

- i) First there were welcome and opening remarks by Commissioner Ackson Mhlakeni Zulu of the Zambia Human Rights Commission (ZHRC). On behalf of the Chairperson of the ZHRC and his own behalf, the Commissioner welcomed participants to Zambia and to the meeting. He pointed out that the focus of the workshop was on child rights programming in terms of monitoring and advocacy following a capacity mapping undertaken recently. He emphasized that the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) had set strategic goals and objectives for realization of human rights in general and child rights in particular. NANHRI and Plan International were through the capacity building process boosting these plans to ensure that children receive appropriate protection as members of the human family. Zambia Human Rights Commission was glad to host the workshop especially at a time when the African Commission on Human and People's Rights had called for special attention to be given to matters affecting children. The Commissioner pointed out that the NHRIs were in countries bound by the United Nations Convention on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (UNCRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), both of which call for non-discrimination and best interests of the child.

He wished the participants a fruitful deliberations with the hope that these would contribute to better realization of child rights. The Commissioner then declared the workshop officially opened.

ii) Second were remarks by Mr. Samuel Norgah, Plan International. Mr. Norgah congratulated NANHRI for undertaking the training, which he believed to be an important step in enhancing the capacity of NHRIs to respect human rights and for this case those of children. Plan is committed to partnerships with NHRIs and NANHRI as these seek to boost the roles of independent human rights institutions in respecting, protecting, promoting and fulfilling human and child rights. Plan's support, via this capacity training, is resourced by a project for the promotion of accountability, known as Pan African State Accountability Project (PASAP).

NANHRI had undertaken capacity assessment and mapping with results showing incredible work of NHRIs but there are still some challenges around staffing, capacity, funding, clarity and duplication of roles (in some countries) and low priority given to children's issues. In this respect therefore, Plan believes that the training is timely, relevant and creates a platform to share knowledge, develop skills and build on existing good practices.

During the just ended 61st ordinary session of the ACHPR in Banjul, one of the issues that kept resounding was the weak follow up of investigations, violation of children's rights in Africa and the weak collaboration between NHRIs and CSOs. On behalf of Plan, he hoped this meeting would also find space to deliberate of some of these issues. He expected the meeting to enhance skills, awareness and knowledge on child rights, pave ways for increasing networking and strengthen gender and child rights in the promotional and advocacy work of NHRIs. He reiterated Plan's commitment to the partnership with NANHRI and NHRIs in the promotion of rights of children (especially girls) in Africa. He then wished the participants fruitful, fun and productive training.



Mr. Samuel Norgah (left) participating in the meeting seated next to Ms. Veronica Mwangi, focal point for Kenya National Commission for Human Rights

- iii) Third were remarks by Marie Ramtu, NANHRI Secretariat. Ms. Ramtu made remarks on behalf of the NANHRI Secretariat. She pointed out that the workshop came after a capacity assessment and mapping exercise to identify NHRIs level of engagement in the promotion and protection of the needs and rights of the African child. She provided a brief overview of the how the capacity assessment was conducted. She added that the workshop comes against a background of increased violations on the rights of children especially sexual gender based violence, exploitation, conflict and structural violence. She also stated that, according to the report, some state have not allocated resources or have in place policies and practices that proactively protect and promote children's rights or prevent violations. In some instances, states as duty bearers directly instigate violence against the rights of children. She further highlighted that NHRIs have a broad mandate to promote and protect the rights of all as stipulated in the Paris Principles. She acknowledged that NHRIs in Africa operate in a relatively challenging environment. In spite of this, they have made commendable achievements. She affirmed that NHRIs should proactively engage their respective governments to ensure implementation of regional and international protective instruments. Specifically in this case the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. She finished by thanking Plan International for being a valuable partner and the Zambia Human Rights Commission for co-hosting.

- iv) Fourth were remarks and key note address by Hon. Justice Maria Mapani, First Vice Chair of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Speaking on behalf of the Chairperson of the ACERWC (Prof. Benyam Dawit Mezmur), Hon. Maria observed that the ACERWC was elated by the invitation which signifies growing partnership. She stated that the ACERWC is committed to working with all stakeholders.



Hon. Maria presenting her keynote address seated with Commissioner Zulu

She pointed out that the ACRWC is a key African Union instrument focusing on the child. A total of 48 countries have ratified the ACRWC except for Democratic Republic of Congo, Morocco, South Sudan, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic and Tunisia. This signifies universal acceptance. Most (39) countries have submitted at least one report to the ACERWC with them receiving concluding observations that help to improve the wellbeing and rights of children. The ACERWC has also undertaken investigative missions in South Sudan, Central Africa Republic and Tanzania in addition to dealing with individual complaints regarding birth registration, statelessness, the unpleasant situation of children in armed conflict, the peculiar plight of children in slavery, and the disturbing realities of children with disabilities including albinism.

She informed the workshop that the ACERWC has developed a long term agenda (Agenda 2040) endorsed by the African Union Executive Council in July 2017. The agenda has 10 key priorities in the promotion and protection of children's rights. The Committee had also recently launched findings of a continental study on the impact of conflicts and crises in 13 countries on African children.

State parties have undertaken legal and practical measures to protect children. Some states have also set up institutions for child protection with appropriate budget allocation. However, the situation of children is far from satisfactory as exemplified by lack of opportunities for the girl child, children in poverty, children with disabilities, children affected by armed conflict, children out of school, children forced into early

marriages (Africa is home to 15 out of the 20 countries in the world with the highest rates of child marriages), children subjected to harmful practices and those deprived of family environments. Extreme violence and terrorism pose further threats and challenges to children. Children on the move is another problem. Exclusion from education as well as the challenges of health and nutrition exacerbates the problem and it is the ACERWC's hope that NHRIs will include all these issues in their agenda.

Collaboration and partnerships is a key element for the realization of the long term agenda and this is where there is hope and room for NHRIs. These independent institutions have lots of relevance in promoting and protecting child rights. Under their broad mandates as stipulated by the Paris Principles, the institutions enhance compliance with international human rights instruments including the Africa Children's Charter. They can assist with monitoring implementation of concluding observations. NHRIs can also undertake strategic advocacy in terms of mobilizing the required political and social acceptance of children protection particularly for children in vulnerable situations. It is hoped that the workshop would get into discussions on how these roles can be played more effectively.

The Hon. Maria informed the workshop that the ACERWC will in its upcoming session scheduled for 6th December 2017 in Khartoum, Sudan deliberate on a functional mechanism for getting NHRIs affiliated with it. This would increase the efficiency of the Committee as a child rights mechanism as well as create a strong, multi-layered and united human rights front, which can effectively respond to the needs of an African child.

6. Introductions, expectations and norms

This introductory session was for setting tone of the workshop. Participants were able to state their diverse expectations for the workshop and also their fears. A key fear was possibly lack of implementation of the action point developed during the workshop. Also norms to govern the entire workshop sessions were suggested and agreed upon by all participants.

7. Child right programming

This session sought to inculcate and strengthen participants' knowledge of child rights programming (CRP) approach. The session was delivered through a presentation by the Facilitator, John Njoka, drawing from experiences of international organizations such as Plan International, Save the Children and UNICEF. The presentation was followed with a question and answer session and then experience sharing by Plan Zambia on the Child Centered Community Development (CCCD) used by Plan International since 2003 to incorporate rights based programming within child focused community development.

It was emphasized that although there are variations in terms of what rights based approaches entail, it is agreed that Child Rights Programming (CRP) entails the use of international child rights standards, principles and tools to programme (analyze, plan, implement, monitor and evaluate) for children's needs and rights. The guiding principles for CRP are the international bill of rights, UNCRC (and ACRWC for the continent) and related instruments such as the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). CRP enables both boys and girls to articulate their needs and vulnerabilities so that these get incorporated into change processes that enable them enjoy decent situation and positions in life.

CRP acknowledges that child rights have to be deliberately planned by using basic human rights principles of entitlement, inalienability, complementarity and indivisibility as well as the participation of both duty bearers and rights holders. The specific principles of CRP include use of the UNCRC principles of non-discrimination, best interests of the child, centrality of survival, life and development child participation when examining the rights to survival, development, protection and participation. These aspects exist as rights, principles and standards of procedure in all cases. Attention was drawn on the need for rigorous situation analysis, reaching marginalized children, children's voices, best interest determination and accountability of all actors and levels. The presentation is attached below:



Microsoft PowerPoint
97-2003 Presentator

During the question and answer sessions, participants sought clarification on child participation as well as whether there was room for consensus on international partners on the approach. Child participation was clearly defined as the free and voluntary expression of children's views and opinions regarding their own development or on matters affecting them. It was also stressed that international organizations cannot always be expected to agree on their approaches as long as the spirit of their work is within the UNCRC principles.

Plan International Zambia shared its experience emphasizing that Child Centered Community Development (CCCD) entails a focus on different experiences of boys and girls (importance of the gender approach), addressing both needs and rights, sensitivity of the programme cycle management using a rights based model, striving for meaningful child participation using community resource persons, as well as ensuring inclusion for special needs children such as those with disabilities. Plan Zambia had achieved change using CCCD in terms of getting communities to rally behind children rights and having development efforts that respond to children's realities.

8. The role of NHRIs in child rights promotion and advocacy

This session sought to disseminate the essence of the UNCRC General Comment No. 2 of 2002 on role of NHRIs in the promotion and protection of child rights. The facilitator made a presentation (within the above on CRP attached), followed by a question and answer session as well as experience sharing from the Zambia Human Rights Commission.

It was emphasized that the UNCRC acknowledges the centrality of independent human rights mechanisms such as NHRIs formed within the Paris Principles as promoters and protectors of children. State parties to the UNCRC need to harness these institutions for purposes of boosting the linkage between human and child rights and enhancing greater accountability and realization of child rights. These institutions are partners for achieving equity and equality.

Being independent institutions, NHRIs should have power and adequate support from the state. They should promote child participation and knowledge on child rights across the nations including learning institution. Additional roles could include participating in investigations of child rights violations and even prosecutions acting as *amicus curiae* (friends of courts) as well as be involved in treaty party reporting processes and cycles. For the reporting process, NHRIs need to maintain their freedom and independence but it could be more cost-effective to the UNCRC if NHRIs submitted alternative reports together with civil society as opposed to having own reports unless there were divergences with the other actors. While consultations during treaty reporting are welcome, NHRIs should not be forced by governments to participate in state party reporting or even to accompany in delegations to the plenary sessions for the various reports.

Zambia Human Rights Commission shared its experience pointing out that the commission has a specific Office of the Commissioner of Children charged with the promotion of child rights. Based on the presentation attached below, the commission allocates resources to the office which also has a dedicated staff and ensures that other activities within the organization are sensitive to child rights. Its advocacy message: "We are not the sources of problems, we are the resources that are needed to solve them. We are not expenses, we are an investment. We are not just young people, we are people and citizens of this world." has been drawn from the May 2002 UN Special Session on Children dubbed *A World Fit for Us*.



Microsoft PowerPoint
97-2003 Presentatior

Targeting the state as the primary duty bearers and then parents and society as other actors, the commission focuses on all categories of children including those with disabilities and children in conflict with the law. Child participation is emphasized in the activities of the commission. Issues of children are reflected within the strategic plan with emphasis on investigations and inquiries, awareness raising and other promotional activities. Save the Children has a Memorandum of Understanding with Zambia Human Rights Commission to support its activities in promoting child rights.



Commissioner Fred Waliyuwa in-charge of the Office of Commissioner for Children taking part in the workshop

9. Barriers and remedies to working with children

This session was undertaken in group work. Participants discussed the various barriers hindering NHRIs from undertaking child rights promotion and protection work. The groups were also asked to come up with proposals for remedies to the barriers.



Group discussion



Group presentation

Following the discussions, plenary presentations were made leading to the following overall output (table 1):

Table 1: Barriers and remedies to child rights work by NHRIs

Barriers	Remedies
Generalization of interpretation of human rights and NHRIs mandate	Popularize, sensitize, understand and implement UNCRC General Comment No. 2 on Role of NHRIs in promotion and protection of child rights
Lack of political will and passion from NHRIs; and Lack of understanding of child centered programming	Capacity building (training, exchange visits) to give knowledge and skills Prioritize child rights Lobby for political will from the top
No forums to discuss children’s issues within NHRIs	Greater coordination between field offices and headquarters to establish these forums
No structures, e.g. committees/departments	Advocate and create appropriate structures, e.g. Child Rights Units. This will call for learning from NHRIs with child rights structures
Getting children to participate freely without interference from adults (family/cultural barrier). There are also wrong perceptions of children by parents, schools and even government officials	Raising awareness on child participation Capacity building on child participation
Insufficient budgets allocated to children due to low prioritization	Resource mobilization from international organizations and development partners
Duplication of government agencies dealing with children’s rights and poor coordination	Enhanced inter-sectoral and inter-agency collaboration and coordination
Limited capacity and appreciation of child rights	Well-supported and serious capacity building programmes

10. Summary of the child rights mapping report

The facilitator took the participants through the child rights capacity mapping report which had already been shared with participants for information and review. It was emphasized that this report was a draft and could benefit from participants’ input though within a timely period.

The report is prepared out of the assessment and capacity mapping exercise undertaken by NANHRI in 2016-2017. The overall objective of the capacity assessment and mapping

exercise was to generate information on the level of engagement of African NHRIs in the 44 NANHRI member countries in promoting and protecting children's rights, with a particular focus on monitoring and advocacy for the realization of children's rights. The assessment was undertaken using an online survey, desk reviews and face to face interviews in five countries (Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire, Malawi, Senegal and Tanzania).

The overall finding from the assessment and mapping exercise is that most of the NHRIs in Africa have not given priority to child rights monitoring and advocacy. Issues of children are handled generically alongside other human rights. Although there are worrying cases of abuse of child rights as exemplified for instance by street children phenomenon in Senegal, exploitation and ritual killing of Albino children in Tanzania, and child labour and early marriages in Malawi, efforts to monitor and advocate for redressing these abuses don't always happen as per the mandates of the NHRIs.

The reason behind the weak operations of the NHRIs range from low budget allocations (mostly to cover only recurrent expenditure), lack of dedicated staff on child rights implying low prioritization of child rights, weak constitutional mandates in places like Senegal, and limited awareness of what the NHRIs can do to contribute to the enhancement of child rights within their mandate. From the assessment findings, there are also gaps in terms of NHRIs' engagements with regional mechanisms and within their countries as well as weak advocacy skills. This concept is an effort towards strengthening these areas.

From the assessment and capacity mapping, it is clear that the NHRIs have lived to their broad mandates of monitoring human rights including handling reported cases. Some have gone beyond the general provisions of their constitutional or other mandates to entrench child rights programming. However, the NHRIs are in general weak in terms of financial and human capacity. Furthermore, and although engagements with regional and national actors as well as international agencies working with children would remedy this weak, the networking largely remains limited.

Based on the findings of the assessment, the following is recommended for child rights capacity building, having a child rights programme within NANHRI and for specific weak NHRIs, enhanced networking at sub-regional and regional levels, inter-linkages with child rights networks in-country, and ensuring there is a minimum participation for NHRIs to undertake child rights reporting especially follow up to concluding observations and recommendations.

Attached is the presentation:



Microsoft PowerPoint
97-2003 Presentator

11. The reporting cycle

This session focused on the child rights reporting cycle as envisaged by the UNCRC. In the facilitator's presentation (attached), it was emphasized that reporting takes time and

resources so NHRIs like other actors (state parties and CSOs) need to be clear on the merits of reporting. The key merits include an opportunity to harness the power and influence of the international and regional child rights instruments. In addition, reporting is often known to affect change at the national and even sub-national levels.



Microsoft PowerPoint
97-2003 Presentator

On changes emanating from reporting, Malawi Human Rights Commission gave an example of how the country was able to change the age of children to 18 from 16. Kenya National Commission on Human Rights had also ensured that Nubian children were recognised by the state.

The stages in the reporting cycle were discussed as state party reporting, preparation and submission of alternative reports, pre-session working group, list of issues, states' written submission on the issues, plenary session, concluding observations and follow up to the concluding observations. NHRIs participation was pointed out as very critical in the first two stages (state party reporting and preparation and submission of alternative reports), plenary session and follow up to the concluding observations. NHRIs can do their own reports but combined reports with civil society are recommended to save time and resources. Child participation should be adhered to at all times. The last stage is especially very important. It was emphasized that follow up to concluding observations is particularly important as it is where the child rights protection, promotional and fulfillment mandates of the NHRIs fall.

12. Networking

This session was covered through group discussions and plenary presentations. The groups discussed networking in terms of who they network with and on what especially in matters child rights. Discussions also focused on the challenges faced during networking and identification of the key good practices. Kenya National Commission on Human Rights shared its experience of the networking strategy.

Following the discussions and plenary presentations, the table 2 shows what emerged as the networked stakeholders and the issues addressed.

Table 2: Stakeholders and networking areas for the NHRIs

Key stakeholders	Issues covered in networking
Government: ministries responsible for children's issues, home affairs (Zambia has child migration and CP units), youth and sports, education, health, justice, human	Policy reviews, treaty body reporting, follow up of concluding observations, lobbying and advocacy for reforms, commemoration of calendar events, statutory reporting, joint

rights, gender and others It emerged that Planning and national development ministries are often forgotten but participants named them when reminded.	missions, resource mobilization, capacity building.
Child based CSOs including parents associations as well as those of youth	Intake and referral, alternative reporting, awareness creation, lobbying and advocacy, joint monitoring and reviews, capacity building, data sharing and research, commemoration of calendar events, public interest litigation, resource mobilization. In Nigeria, CSOs come together with the NHRI to form a child protection network. Cote d'Ivoire has an Association of French Speaking Countries (UNICE)
Development partners: UN System especially UNICEF and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Others are Plan International	Resource mobilization, technical support, advocacy and lobbying, reporting, monitoring and evaluation
Media	Advocacy and lobbying
NHRIs, NANHRI, GANHRI (Global Alliance of NHRIs)	Experience sharing, e.g. South Africa and Tanzania, technical support, capacity building, lobbying and advocacy, accreditation, reporting
Public	Participation, feedback, consumers

The challenges of networking were identified as:

- Funding
- Changing priorities
- Inadequate government. support and appreciation of child rights work
- Ever increasing competition among CSOs and development Partners. Similar mandate but conflicting interests hence need for clear Memorandum of Understanding and terms of reference
- Uncoordinated efforts- always reinventing the wheel
- Inadequate technical capacity
- Lack of prioritization to CR issues by NHRIs

- Lack of support to follow up on concluding observations
- Lack of follow up on actions arising from networking hence the need for committing actions to specific institutions and have clear follow up mechanisms
- Politics and bureaucracy within NHRIs and outside
- Absence of children's voices

Examples of good networking practices

- Law and policy reviews, e.g. in Kenya and the region
- Lesson learning through exchanges among NHRI and NANHRI. Malawi and Mozambique are good examples
- Reporting to treaty bodies, Malawi (UNCRC), Kenya (Universal Peer Review and UNCRC)
- Capacity building efforts in different areas
- Case management and referrals across the NHRIs
- Collaboration between NHRI. A good example is the collaboration between Tanzania and South Africa on addressing case of a South African citizen, a human rights defender, detained in Tanzania
- Establishment of sub-regional blocs. There is a move to develop a sub-regional bloc of NHRIs in Southern Africa. and the East African Community
- Working with the government to establish a Child Rights Unit in South Africa Human Rights Commission
- Having an Office of the Commissioner for Children in Zambia working with other units within the Commission and outside
- Working with NGOs, journalists and the prison and judiciary on issues of children

Kenya National Commission on Human Rights shared its networking strategy focusing on having a wide range of stakeholders including government departments, independent institutions such as the ombudspersons office, Witness Protection Agency, Independent Police Oversight Authority as well as the National Gender and Equality Commission. There were however overlaps particularly with the latter commission. Below is the presentation:



Microsoft PowerPoint
97-2003 Presentation

Kenya NHRI has no specific department on child rights hence rather all child rights programmes are **mainstreamed** in all other programmatic interventions (Complaints, Investigations, Economic and Social Rights, reforms and advocacy, research and compliance, public education and training and Redress). The NHRI is acting as an interface between CSOs and government on human rights issues and child right issues in particularly; case referrals, capacity building, joint implementation. Future plans include mainstreaming the cause of child rights within the strategic plan currently under review

but also using opportunities within other programmes to profile, promote and protect child rights. A case of recent analysis and assessment of child rights violations during the ongoing electioneering period was presented (attached). The case study shows children being used for political demonstrations which in turn negatively impacts on their rights especially right to education.



13. Action planning by the NHRIs

All the seven NHRIs thought through and presented action points to guide their child rights promotion and advocacy during the next 6-12 months (table 3). Apart from Zambia which follows a January – December financial year, and South Africa whose financial year runs between April to March of the following year, the rest uses the July – June financial year hence this should guide the budgetary aspects for these activities. It was made clear that these action points do not bind NANHRI or Plan International for support but NANHRI would use them as follow up guide as well as in coming up with a coherent child rights programme.

Table 3: Action points for the participating NHRIs

NHRI	Identified action points
Cote d'Ivoire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a child desk to address child rights violations especially girl education • Equip and train the desk beyond the commissioner in-charge • Enhance collaboration with ministries of education, health and others as well as civil society and media/journalists
Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalise knowledge management • Staff capacity building on child rights programming • Lobby for inclusion of child rights programming within ongoing strategic planning so as to institutionalize child rights programming approach • Lobbying government compliance to treaty body reporting • Submit alternative reports • Review the National Human Rights Policy (Sessional Paper No. 4 of 2013) for enhanced inclusivity including child rights
Malawi	<p>Strengthen follow up on UNCRC and ACRWC concluding observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold meetings to popularise concluding observations • Conduct consultative meetings with stakeholders to develop an implementation plan with clear indicators

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage stakeholders to validate the implementation plan • Implement and monitor the implementation plan <p>Strengthen data and information management within MHRC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping on all child rights data among stakeholders • Put in place an information management system • Situational analysis every 6 months • Ensure children reports <p>Strengthen accessibility of MHRC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have child rights focal points at various levels including schools • Encourage visits by children • Review education system to incorporate NHRI knowledge • Submit an NHRI report to the ACERWC by December 2017
Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate child rights committees under the supervision of a commissioner on child rights • Improve collaboration with CSOs and government agencies within the framework of the Child Protection Network with the NHRI having the supervisory role • Integrate child participatory approaches on all issues affecting children
South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure child rights are reflected regularly in all the NHRI activities • Work more efficiently with CSOs • Improve knowledge management for better institutional memory <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote child participation within and outside the commission • Engage with parliament and other departments to boost political will • Promote safe environments for children • Establish a dedicated child rights unit
Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitize new commissioners joining in January 2018 on child rights activities of the commission • Institutionalize child rights by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enhance synergies between child help desk and child focal point ○ Advocate for having a commissioner for child rights • Enhance networking with other child rights actors and stakeholders <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and enhance staff capacity on child rights

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a child rights unit within the commission
Zambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective planning and follow up of the concluding observations through a 100% dedicated staff within the structure Enhance staff numbers (from only 1 currently to an appropriate size) and knowledge on child rights <p>Objective: establish and strengthen a formal structure of the Office of Commissioner for Children’s Rights</p>

14. Way forward and closing

The way forward was pointed out as drafting of the workshop report, validation by participations within the following week, finalization of the report and follow up of the action points by NANHRI. NANHRI and Plan would also continue seeking opportunities for further engagement with the NHRIs on the subject of child rights.

Commissioner Zulu then closed the workshop while emphasizing the centrality of NHRIs role in child rights promotion and protection. Partnerships with other actors are required for this to be a success.

15. Workshop feedback

The workshop was generally positively rated with most aspects being ranked high to medium as follows.

1. Overall, how do rate your knowledge on the Promotion and Protection of Child Rights (Please circle one)

	Low		Medium		High
Before the session	1(0)	2(1)	3(4)	4(1)	5(0)
After the session	1(0)	2(0)	3(0)	4(2)	5(4)

***This section was skipped by one respondent.*

2. Please rate your impression on the following (Please mark X on one box)

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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i.	The workshop met my expectations				4	4
ii.	The objectives of the workshop were clearly defined			1	2	5
iii.	The content of the workshop was organized and easy to follow				5	3
iv.	Appropriate visual aids were utilized		1	4	2	1
v.	The materials distributed were appropriate and useful				5	3
vi.	The facilitators were knowledgeable about the content				3	5
vii.	The facilitators were effective in their presentation					8
viii.	Participation was encouraged					8
ix.	Adequate time was dedicated to each session		3	3	2	
x.	I have an increased understanding of my role in promoting and protecting child rights				4	4
xi.	I will be able to apply the knowledge learned				4	4

3. Overall how do rate the session (Please circle one)

- a. Very poor
- b. Poor
- c. Average
- d. Good (5)**
- e. Excellent (2)**

***One respondent skipped this section*

4. What aspect(s) of the workshop did you like best?

- Experience sharing on children rights by the NHRIs. Particularly the good work being carried out on prioritizing children rights by Zambia Commission.
- Information sharing.
- The good discussion on the networking aspect as well as on the challenges on

child right implementation programs. I also liked the sessions where Zambia and Kenya shared their experiences.

- The reporting cycle on the UNCRC and the African Charter.
- Best practices shared from other NHRIs especially from Zambia and Kenya, State reporting, balancing child participation, conceptualization of child rights and responsibilities.
- Aspects dealing with state reporting and alternative reporting.
- The ambiance in general that prevailed and the conviviality made me forget the language barrier. It felt like we knew each other always (Translated from French).
- Two days was short but the facilitator's approach was great.

5. What aspect(s) of the workshop could be improved?

- The agenda was too packed for the time available for the workshop. Such important and knowledge imparting workshop should be given adequate time for best results.
- The time allocated should be improved.
- Time allocated for the workshop.
- Most of the things were OK though more effort have to done in providing translated documents either in writing or during presentation so that all of us(Translated from French).

6. Additional comments

- Need for follow up preferably invite same persons – no re-invention of wheels.
- The time allocated to the workshop was not adequate looking at the title of the workshop, training on advocacy and monitoring child rights. I expected more on a presentation on advocacy strategies and monitoring tools. Please consider that for next time.



Annex 1: Agenda

Capacity Building of African NHRIs for Improved Promotion and Protection of Child Rights

14th to 15th November 2017, Radisson Blu Hotel, Lusaka - Zambia

Tuesday, 14th November 2017

8.30 - 9.00 am: Registration of participants

9.00 – 9.30 am: **Opening ceremony**

- i. Welcome remarks by Commissioner Ackson Mhlakeni Zulu, Zambia Human Rights Commission
- ii. Remarks by Zambia Child Rights Network/CRNSA
- iii. Remarks by Mr. Samuel Norgah, Plan International
- iv. Remarks by Marie Ramtu, NANHRI Secretariat
- v. Remarks and key note address by Hon. Justice Maria Mapani, Vice Chair of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

9.30 – 10.30 am: Introduction of participants, expectations and objectives

Confirmation of the workshop agenda

Group Photo

10.30 – 11.00 am: Coffee/tea Break

11.00 – 1pm: **Understanding child rights programming**

- i. A presentation on Plan's Child Centred Community Development Framework, Plan Zambia
- ii. Role of NHRIs in promotion and protection of child rights
- iii. Zambia NHRI Work on Child Rights Promotion and Protection, Commissioner Fred Wamundia Waliuuya

- 1.00 – 2.00 pm: Lunch Break
- 2.00 – 3.30 pm: Barriers and remedies to NHRIs focus on child rights (group work)
- 3.30 – 4.00 pm: Coffee/tea Break
- 4.00- 5.00 pm: A presentation of the report of the NHRIs capacity assessment and mapping survey on child rights programming

Wednesday, 15th November 2017

- 8.30 - 9.00 am: Recap of Day 1
- 9.00 – 10.00 am: Reporting cycle for child rights instruments
- 10.00 – 10.30 am: Experience sharing of NHRIs vis-à-vis reporting cycle
NHRIs' independent reporting
- 10.30 – 11.00 am: Coffee/tea Break
- 11.00 – 1pm: Networking for monitoring child rights promotion and implementation

- A case study of the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights
- 1.00 – 2.00 pm: Lunch Break
- 2.00 – 4.00 pm: Planning a child rights monitoring and advocacy framework/programme for NHRIs (group work)
- 3.30 – 4.00 pm: Coffee/tea Break
- 4.00- 5.00 pm: Way forward

Closing remarks

Annex 2: List of participants

Name of participant	Organization and country
Zago Hubert Gueu	Commission Nationale des Droits l'Homme de Cote d'Ivoire
Veronica Wambui Mwangi	Kenya National Commission for Human Rights
Michael Mperembe	Malawi Human Rights Commission
Olayinka Morolayo Odibe	National Human Rights Commission Nigeria
Omolara Toyin Akintoye	South Africa Human Rights Commission
Stanley Kalokola	Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance, Tanzania
Hon. Justice Maria Mapani-Kawimbe	First Vice-Chair, Africa Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
Ayalew Getachew	Secretariat, Africa Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
Catherine Wanjiru Maina	Secretariat, Africa Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
Samuel Norgah	Director, Plan International Pan Africa & African Union Office
Ackson Mhlakeni Zulu	Commissioner, Zambia Human Rights Commission
Fred Wamundia Waliuuya	Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner for Children, Zambia Human Rights Commission
Samuel Tembo	Zambia Human Rights Commission
Lazarus Mwale	Plan International Zambia
Marie Ramtu	NANHRI
John Njoka	Consultant