

(Translated from French)

COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

**WRITTEN REPLIES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA
CONCERNING THE LIST OF ISSUES (CRC/C/Q/RWA/2)
RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF
THE CHILD RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION
OF THE SECOND PERIODIC REPORT OF RWANDA
(CRC/C/70/Add.22)**

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**REPLIES TO THE LIST OF ISSUES SENT TO RWANDA BY
THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

Note: *An asterisk denotes that data are still being collected.

1. (a) Children under 18 living in Rwanda, as a proportion of the total population

4,438,997/8,128,553

Boys: 2,187,615 (= 49 per cent)

Girls: 2,251,382 (= 50.71 per cent)

(b) By age group

0-4: 1,320,231

5-9: 1,141,039

10-14: 1,095,225

15-18: 882,502

(c) By area

Urban: 685,721

Rural: 3,949,613

Note: The figures in the general population and housing census are based on the 0-19 age group.

2. *Birth registration

3. Amounts allocated to children (Rwanda francs)

		2002	2003	2004	Comment
(a) Education	Preprimary and primary	103 471 229	145 463 794	255 039 329	
	Secondary	1 037 088 216	1 210 787 235	1 226 337 686	
	Salaries	12 627 309 465	10 377 884 103	11 839 631 870	
	Maintenance of school buildings		424 933 004	1 533 629 999	
(b) *Health care	Primary health care *Vaccination programmes *Other		1 074 098 760		
(c) *Children with disabilities	Children with mental or physical disabilities				
(d) *Social welfare	Vulnerable families Day-care centres Foster families Institutions				
(e) *Juvenile justice					

	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004
(a) Enrolment rates in preprimary and primary schools	74.5	78.3	96.1
Boys	74.0	77.7	94.3
Girls	74.9	78.9	97.9
(b) Enrolment rates in secondary schools			
(c) Children completing schooling	43.0%	44.8%	
Primary			
Secondary			
(d) Drop-out rate	16.6%	15.2%	
Repetition rates	17.2%	20.4%	
(e) Teacher-pupil ratio	58.9	59.9	66.9
Percentage of qualified teachers	81.2%	85.2%	88.2%

(f) Number of children not attending school	378 079	322 507	50 688
Percentage of children not attending school	25.5%	21.7%	3.9%
(g) *Literacy rate: under 18 over 18			
(h) *Children with disabilities: (i) living with their families (ii) living in institutions (iii) attending regular schools (iv) attending special schools (v) not attending school			
* Adolescent health			

***Number of children:**

- (a) Infected by HIV/AIDS; Aids orphans;
- (b) Affected by HIV/AIDS;
- (c) Heads of households as a result of HIV/AIDS;
- (d) HIV/AIDS orphans living in extended families or institutions.

Number of children:

- (a) *Sent abroad during the genocide;
- (b) *Returned since the genocide;
- (c) Still abroad: 363 children still living abroad have been identified, in the following countries:

Angola: 4
Belgium: 1
Burundi: 21
Central African Republic: 1
Congo: 8
Democratic Republic of the Congo: 235
France: 5

Italy: 1
Kenya: 15
Namibia: 2
Uganda: 17
United Republic of Tanzania: 20
Zambia: 15
Zimbabwe: 3

Note: Figures provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

***Persons aged under 18:**

- (a) Who have committed a crime reported to the police;
- (b) Who have been sentenced, and type of punishment;
- (c) Number and capacity of detention facilities for young persons in conflict with the law;
- (d) Detained in such facilities;
- (e) Recidivism rates;
- (f) Cases of abuse or maltreatment.

Number of children involved in armed conflict who have been through a recovery and reintegration programme:

2001/2002: 370 children - 3 girls, 297 boys;

2004: 99 children, all boys.

*Number of children convicted by the courts;

*Number of children in detention;

*Number of children victims of sexual exploitation, and number of those who have been through recovery and reintegration treatment;

*Number of children involved in substance abuse, and number of those who have been through recovery and reintegration treatment;

*Number of street children, and number of those who have been through social reintegration;

*Number of children involved in child labour.

Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of plans of action

A committee for the implementation of policies on children, COMISOPE, is responsible for monitoring the implementation of policies and plans of action in all provinces. Its task is to ensure that the plans of action are incorporated into the district development plans.

Various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are also assisting in the implementation of the plans of action: at the national level,

Haguraka

ASSOFERWA

Barakabaho

SC/UK

IRC

Word Vision

CRS

Caritas Rwanda.

Each NGO has its own programme, which must, however, be consistent with the national plan of action.

Partners' projects are evaluated through mid-term review meetings involving UNICEF and all governmental and non-governmental partners.

The National Youth Council works with young people aged 15 to 35, and is therefore concerned with children in the 15-18 age group. Two of its members represent it in Parliament and it represents young people in bodies of local administration and community development committees.

It has a number of constituent bodies including a Juniors Commission, an Education Commission and a Gender Commission.

B. General Measures of Implementation

1. Various measures have been taken to address the inconsistencies between customary and statutory law, including:

Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

Ratification of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;

Enactment of Law No. 27/2001 concerning the rights of the child and protection of children against all forms of abuse;

Campaigns by the Government and other bodies such as the National Human Rights Commission, to raise awareness of children's rights;

Launch of the National Programme for Children.

The Children's Code: the discussions on the establishment of a Children's Code have addressed a range of subjects and have involved State services, UNICEF and NGOs. Topics discussed include:

The definition of the child;

The rights and duties of the child;

Custody, guardianship and adoption;

Administrative bodies and their powers;

Identification of resources.

Children who were in detention have been released: in accordance with article 37, paragraph (a), of the Convention, all children aged under 14 at the time of an offence were released.

2. The National Programme for Children was established in 1997 by the Government of Rwanda. It has two components: the protection of vulnerable children; and defence and communication.

It is responsible for preparing policies, programmes and plans of action for children and for coordinating the activities of all partners working with children, with regard to the policies, programmes and plans of action implemented in Rwanda.

The National Human Rights Commission has overall responsibility for sensitizing and educating the population at large in the area of human rights. With regard to children's rights, the Commission has undertaken a number of activities:

- Support for the establishment of human rights courses in secondary schools.
- Training in children's rights (international, regional and national instruments) for community leaders, district mayors and law enforcement officers throughout the country.
- Institutionalization of children's rights, through the training of instructors and the incorporation of human rights courses into school curricula (project run by the Ministry of Education in cooperation with the ICRC and the National Human Rights Commission). In another project set up by the Commission, in cooperation with UNICEF and the Ministry of Defence, members of the military at all levels are trained in children's rights and child protection before, during and after conflicts or natural disasters. Under the same project, courses will be introduced in military schools and academies. The programme will also cover the police and the local defence forces.
- In 2002/2003, the Commission launched an extensive campaign on the teaching of children's rights by children themselves: music competitions (youth clubs), and art, poetry and drama competitions (secondary schools). The campaign culminated in the preparation of a Guide to the Rights of the Child.
- Sensitization of the population at large on children's rights, through a weekly radio programme, *Uburenganzira Iwacu*.

- A process of decentralization - the Commission is now represented in every province - in order to facilitate monitoring, which is carried out by every qualified member and official of the Commission.
- Individual complaints from children: the majority of these were submitted during the first three years, 1999 to 2002, and related mostly to orphans' property, inheritance, adoption, denial of paternity and education (refusal of support by the Fund for Assistance to Survivors of Genocide (FASG) or by the Ministry of Local Administration and Social Affairs).

PART II

Copies of the text of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in all official languages (see annex).

Urgent issues:

1. Care of children infected by and living with HIV/AIDS.
2. Education for all.
3. Rehabilitation and reintegration of street children.
4. Assistance and rehabilitation for children heads of households.

***PART III**
