

CHILD RIGHTS IN NIGERIA

Presented by

SOS Children's Villages Nigeria

UPR Info Pre-sessions

Situation in Nigeria – Issue 1

Access to quality compulsory education for the most marginalized children (almajiri and nomadic children)

Previous UPR recommendations

- At the last UPR, Nigeria received several recommendations to ensure that all children without discrimination have access to compulsory education and to improve quality of education and school dropout. These recommendations were made by Slovakia, Saudi Arabia, Estonia, Algeria, Tunisia, and Djibouti.

New Developments

- Aside the Almajiri Education Programme, Nomadic Education Policy, and the Universal Basic Education Act by previous governments, there are no remarkable new developments in this area.

New Needs

- Almajiri children account for 2 million out-of-school children in Nigeria, while nomadic school-aged children number 3.1 million, most of whom remain outside of the formal education system. This requires more investment to drive programmatic support that will help reverse this trend.

Recommendations – Issue 1

- In light of the above, we would encourage States to recommend Nigeria the following:
 - **Intensify efforts to ensure access to quality compulsory education to all children without discrimination, including in particular almajiri and nomadic children.**

Situation in Nigeria – Issue 2

Social protection for children in disadvantaged situations

Previous UPR recommendations

- At the last UPR, Bhutan, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Yemen, and Zimbabwe recommended that Nigeria redoubled its efforts to reduce poverty and improve the socio-economic conditions of the most marginalized groups, such as women and children.

New Developments

- The government initiatives, such as the Conditional Cash Transfer Programs (CCT), the National Social Investment Programs, and the Home-Grown School Feeding Program aim to provide financial assistance, improve access to education and healthcare, and reduce the vulnerability of targeted households.

New Needs

- 67.5% of children aged 0–17 are multidimensional poor, making up half (51%) of the total impoverished population in Nigeria. This requires greater investment in social protection interventions.

Recommendations – Issue 2



- **We would encourage States to recommend that the Nigerian government step up its efforts to ensure universal social protection, with a particular focus on children, especially those in disadvantaged situations.**

Situation in Nigeria – Issue 3

Lack of data on marginalized children and child participation in decision-making

Previous UPR recommendation

- At the last UPR, Uganda recommended to the Nigerian government to promote and protect the human rights of vulnerable persons in its population.

New Developments

- Existing Child Parliament structures at the state level and the Federal Capital Territory.
- The National Child Rights Implementation Committee has identified the review of the Child Rights Act as a major priority and included in its work plan for 2024.
- On going efforts by government to update the marginalized children register.

New Needs

- It is important to collect accurate data on marginalized children to effectively address their situation.
- Create opportunities for children, particularly from the marginalized groups, to share their experiences, express their opinions, and contribute to the development and implementation of policies and programs.

Recommendations – Issue 3

- **Strengthen its data-collection system on marginalized children, particularly children without or at risk of losing parental care, in order to facilitate the analysis and response to specific social needs;**
- **Further invest in amplification of children's voices to ensure that children's perspectives, particularly from marginalized groups, are heard and taken into account in decision-making processes at all levels.**
- **Review the federal Child Rights Act and the Child Rights Laws at state level, and actively involve children, including through the children's parliaments, especially those from marginalized groups.**



Thank you!