



African Child Policy Forum

MEDIA COVERAGE DURING ACPF CONFERENCE 7-8 DECEMBER 2010

BY BARTLEY ROBBS COMMUNICATIONS



THE LANCET

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(10\)62245-3/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)62245-3/fulltext)

Page 1960, 11 December 2010

Child wellbeing in Africa: the true wealth of nations

The Lancet

The logic is simple: investing in children is an investment in tomorrow's peace, stability, security, democracy, and sustainable development. And nowhere in the world is the case for investment in children as clear-cut and powerful as it is in Africa—a continent so often seen as synonymous with conflict, instability, and poverty. But although governments are never short of good words to say about advancing children's wellbeing, how committed are they in practice? This is the fundamental question posed by [The African Child Policy Forum](#) in *The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2011: Budgeting for Children*.

The report's authors took national budgets to be indicative of the true extent to which governments are prepared to match speeches with tangible action. To assess how far national budgets went toward addressing the needs of children, the authors analysed budget spending on health, education, early childhood development, and social protection in 52 African countries up to 2008.

The picture for health was mixed. Despite encouraging improvements in immunisation coverage, nutritional status, and reduced infant mortality in many African countries over the past 10 years, investment in child health is still low across much of the continent. At Abuja in 2001, African Governments pledged to allocate at least 15% of their annual budgets to the improvement of the health sector. By 2008, only four countries—Liberia, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zambia—had achieved that target, with most of the rest investing only between 4 and 6%. Only two-thirds of African countries spend more than the WHO minimum amount of US\$34 per person per year. Little wonder that almost half the countries in Africa were found in the report to have child mortality levels more than two times higher than the Millennium Development Goal target for 2015.

The progress made by some of the poorest countries in Africa, such as Rwanda, is proof positive that commitment to child wellbeing is not a question of resources; it is a question of both political will and the ability to translate that will into action. National budgets must reflect the importance of children's rights and wellbeing to the future social, economic, and political health of a nation.



THE WORLD TODAY

7th Dec 2010

http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/console/p00c6k4c/The_World_Today_07_12_2010



NETWORK AFRICA

7th December 2010

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/audioconsole/?stream=networkafrica>



FOCUS ON AFRICA

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/audioconsole/?stream=focusonafrica>

Wealthy African states failing to invest in children

13th December 2010

New report finds that the African countries which invest the most in children are among the poorest on the continent. What does that say about the priorities of its leaders?

Children are unambiguously the focus of the millennium development goals (MDGs). They are directly affected by each of the MDG targets, and their wide eyes stare out from the cover of nearly every MDG report. But despite language that puts the child at the centre of development, African governments have almost overwhelmingly failed to translate lofty political promises into concrete budgetary commitments.

An almost mechanical explanation for this gap between words and deeds might suggest that cash-strapped African governments simply can't afford to honour all their ambitious international commitments, particularly after the global economic crisis. But, according to a new report from the African Child Policy Forum, the countries that invest the most in children are among the poorest on the continent.

Niger, Mozambique and Tanzania – which, according to World Bank figures, had 2008 per capita GDPs of US\$364, \$441 and \$503 respectively – top the list of big spenders, significantly outperforming more prosperous countries such as Angola, Egypt and South Africa.

Launched last week at the fourth international policy conference on the African child, the African Report on Child Wellbeing 2011 reviews the budgets of 52 African governments between 2006 and 2008, focusing on spending in sectors that most directly impact children – health, education, early childhood development and social protection.

Among its findings, the report claims that only four countries – Liberia, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia – have met their 2001 commitments to spend at least 15% of their national budgets on health (most countries invest closer to 5%). And only six countries – Lesotho, Djibouti, Botswana, Swaziland, Tunisia and Kenya – have met their 2000 commitments to allocate 9% for education. The report suggests that African states will not be able to afford the long-term social and economic costs of under-investing in children. "The earlier in life the investment, the bigger the payoff," it claims, reasserting the argument that education is a crucial driver of economic development.

To measure and compare African governments' overall investments in children, the report presents a new performance index for budgeting for children, aggregating indicators across each of the key social sectors.

Setting this index against per capita GDP, the report finds no simple relationship between the wealth of a country and the extent to which it "budgets for children".

The countries that invest the most in children are by no means the wealthiest, and countries with the same level of wealth by no means spend the same amount on social sectors. For example, while the per capita GDPs of Nigeria, Sudan and Zambia are not so far apart - \$1,370, \$1,404 and \$1,165

respectively - their spending on health ranges from less than 5% (Nigeria) to more than 15% (Zambia) of their national budgets.

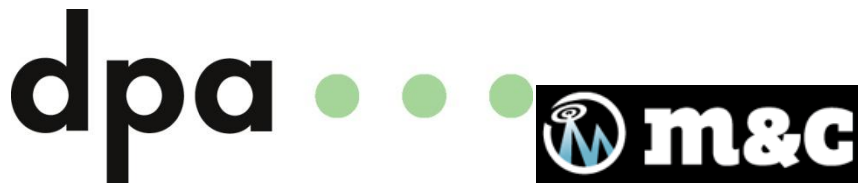
These findings challenge the claim that social spending is a "luxury" reserved for children in rich countries and the argument that wealth will simply trickle-down. Instead, the report re-politicises the process by which a country's wealth is translated into the well-being of its citizens.

"A country's commitment to its children is not necessarily a function of its economic wealth, but rather a function of its determination to allocate the maximum resources it has at its disposal for the benefit of, first and foremost, its children," claims the report.

But why are some governments more determined to "budget for children" than others? What drove the relatively cash-poor governments of Niger, Mozambique, and Tanzania, for example, to heavily prioritise social spending in their budgets? Were they convinced by arguments that investing in children today will benefit the country in the future? Or were governments pressured to meet their commitments?

Bringing budgets into the public domain can provide a powerful tool for citizens to pressure their governments into honouring public commitments. Reports such as this one can also expose bad arguments, like, "we can't afford to spend more", that are too often passed off as fact.

Understanding when and why some governments do indeed "budget for children" is as important as identifying those that don't.



http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/health/news/article_1603916.php/Tanzania-spends-most-Sudan-least-on-children

Tanzania spends most, Sudan least on children

Dec 7, 2010, 8:06 GMT

Addis Ababa - Tanzania, Mozambique and Niger spend the most on child wellbeing in Africa - with [Sudan](#), Angola and Burundi at the bottom of the table, a report published Tuesday said. The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2011, released in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, examined African government spending on child health, education, development and social protection between 2006 and 2008.

Despite lower economic status than some of their neighbours, countries such as Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda and Tanzania scored highly in the index, whilst a number of African governments with relatively high incomes, including Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Mauritania and [Sudan](#), scored low. 'The research clearly shows that the sheer wealth of a country does not determine the level of commitment to budgeting for children,' said David Mugawe, head of the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF).

'Rather, it is a case of political will being translated into action and prioritising children in national budgets.'

According to the report, the global economic crisis worsened the situation, leading to budget cuts affecting children and families skipping meals and reducing school enrolment, as well as an increase in child prostitution.

The report by ACPF - a pan-African centre for policy research - was launched at the opening of the Fourth International Policy Conference on the African Child.

The conference will examine the challenges facing children in Africa and the policy choices for governments.

<http://www.afriqueavenir.org/en/2010/12/08/few-african-countries-budgeting-for-children-new-report-reveals/>

Few African countries budgeting for children, new report reveals

December 8th, 2010 in Development, News

APA-Nairobi (Kenya) Tanzania, Mozambique and Niger are the three most committed to budgeting for children, along with Gabon, Senegal, Tunisia, Seychelles, Algeria, Cape Verde and South Africa, who make up the category of best performers allocating the maximum of their available resources to children, said a new report by The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) launched on Tuesday in Ethiopia, a said a press release issued in Nairobi.

The report was launched at the opening of the Fourth International Policy Conference on the African Child (IPC) taking place in Addis Ababa (7-8 December) in partnership with the UN Economic Commission for Africa .

The report titled "African Report on Child Wellbeing 2011 : Budgeting for Children" measures African government's investment in children and confirms that a country's commitment to child rights and well-being is not dependent on their economic status, but rather on political will and spending priorities.

The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) report reviewed the budget performance of 52 African governments between 2006-2008 focuses on spending in sectors that most directly impact on children.

At the opposite end, the low performers identified in the Performance Index for Budgeting for Children developed by ACPF include Sudan, Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone.

These countries scored low due to lower levels of investment in sectors benefiting children, the decline of these allocations over the years and relatively high military expenditure, said the press release.

In addition to identifying three categories of child-friendly budgetary performance, the Report analyses the extent to which a country's budget commitment to children relates to the volume of resources at a government's disposal.

Despite lower economic status than some of their neighbours, countries such as Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda and Tanzania scored highly in the Index, whilst conversely, a number of African governments with relatively high incomes including Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Mauritania and the Sudan, scored low.

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http://www.ansa-africa.net/index.php/views/news_view/tanzania_spends_most_sudan_least_on_children/

Tanzania spends most, Sudan least on children

07 December 2010

[Monsters and Critics](#)

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'The research clearly shows that the sheer wealth of a country does not determine the level of commitment to budgeting for children,' said David Mugawe, head of the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF). 'Rather, it is a case of political will being translated into action and prioritising children in national budgets.'

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L'engagement pour les droits et le bien-être des enfants dépend de la volonté politique des pays (rapport)

Addis-Abeba, 7 déc (MAP) - L'engagement pour les droits et le bien-être des enfants ne dépend pas de la situation économique des pays mais plutôt de leur volonté politique et des priorités de leurs dépenses, indique un rapport sur le bien-être des enfants 2011. Selon ce rapport, publié mardi à Addis-Abeba par l'organisation panafricaine +The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF)+, l'Afrique a encore un niveau d'investissement "relativement bas" en matière de la santé des enfants, et ce malgré les améliorations encourageantes enregistrées ces dix dernières années dans ce domaine dans de nombreux pays africains avec une couverture d'immunisation accrue, un statut nutritionnel amélioré et des réductions de la mortalité infantile.

"Les droits et le bien-être des enfants sont intrinsèquement liés aux budgets publics et ce nouveau rapport révèle des différences marquées entre les pays africains en termes de leur engagement et leur volonté de traduire la rhétorique politique en allocations budgétaires au profit des enfants", a déclaré le Directeur exécutif d'ACPF, David Mugawe, ajoutant que "les tendances ou les changements dans les allocations budgétaires pour les enfants servent de mesures de procuration du degré auquel les gouvernements sont vraiment engagés pour consacrer les droits de l'enfant". En matière d'éducation, alors que l'Afrique a fait des progrès remarquables aux niveaux primaire et secondaire avec des resultants encourageants dans la réduction de l'écart du genre, la région consacre moins de 3 pc des ressources mondiale d'éducation, laissant en dehors de l'école un nombre important d'enfants, note le rapport. Concernant la protection sociale, les auteurs du document estiment que ce secteur est le plus négligé en Afrique avec 80 pc de déficit. "Malgré le rôle crucial que la protection sociale peut jouer dans la vie des enfants et sa contribution à la réduction de la pauvreté, de nombreux pays africains consacrent moins de 3 pc du PIB aux programmes de protection sociale", indique le rapport.

Intitulé

"Budgétisation pour les enfants", ce rapport reflète l'impact de la crise économique mondiale sur les enfants d'Afrique. Avec un écart budgétaire moyen de 5 pc du PIB dans la région (environ 13 pays sont confrontés à un déficit de plus de 5 pc), les budgets pour l'éducation, la santé et la protection sociale sont réduits et au niveau des ménages, les familles sont en train de prendre des mesures qui incluent la réduction du nombre de repas consommés, la réduction des effectifs scolaires, un absentéisme accru et la mendicité à l'école outre la famine saisonnière qui force les enfants dans le travail temporaire. ACPF, une organisation panafricaine indépendante de recherche et de plaidoyer qui vise à placer les enfants d'Afrique au centre de l'agenda public et politique, travaille avec d'autres organisations des droits de l'enfant pour élaborer et mettre en oeuvre des politiques et programmes en faveur des enfants.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/africa>

From AfroNews24.com

Tanzania spends most, Sudan least on children

Author: Philipp Hedemann - Published December 7, 2010 11:33 am GMT

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At the opposite end, the low performers identified in the Performance Index for Budgeting for Children developed by ACPF include Sudan, Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone.

These countries scored low due to lower levels of investment in sectors benefiting children, the decline of these allocations over the years and relatively high military expenditure, said the press release.

In addition to identifying three categories of child-friendly budgetary performance, the Report analyses the extent to which a country's budget commitment to children relates to the volume of resources at a government's disposal.

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From Medical News Today

New Report Reveals How African Countries Are Performing In Budgeting For Their Children

Article Date: 07 Dec 2010 - 2:00 PST

A new report launched today by The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) measures African government's investment in children and confirms that a country's commitment to child rights and wellbeing is not dependent on their economic status, but rather on political will and spending priorities.

The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2011: Budgeting for Children reviewed the budget performance of 52 African governments between 2006-2008 focusing on spending in sectors that most directly impact on children. It found a continent of contrasts and that the governments of Tanzania, Mozambique and Niger are the three most committed to budgeting for children, along with Gabon, Senegal, Tunisia, Seychelles, Algeria, Cape Verde and South Africa, who make up the category of best performers allocating the maximum of their available resources to children.

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"Children's rights and wellbeing are intrinsically linked with public budgets and this new report reveals stark differences between African countries in terms of their commitment and readiness to translate political rhetoric into concrete budgetary allocations for the benefit of children," said ACPF Executive Director, David Mugawe. "Trends or changes in budgetary allocations for children serve as proxy measures of the extent to which governments are truly committed to realising the rights of the child."

In addition to identifying three categories of child-friendly budgetary performance, the Report analyses the extent to which a country's budget commitment to children relates to the volume of resources at a government's disposal. Despite lower economic status than some of their neighbours, countries such as Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda and Tanzania scored highly in the Index, whilst conversely, a number of African governments with relatively high incomes including Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Mauritania and the Sudan, scored low. "The research clearly shows that the sheer wealth of a country does not determine the level of commitment to budgeting for children", said Mr Mugawe. "Rather, it is a case of political will being translated into action and prioritising children in national budgets".

THE MEDICAL NEWS

<http://www.news-medical.net/news/20101206/New-report-reveals-how-African-countries-are-performing-in-budgeting-for-their-children.aspx>

New report reveals how African countries are performing in budgeting for their children

6. December 2010 17:40

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“The research clearly shows that the sheer wealth of a country does not determine the level of commitment to budgeting for children”, said Mr Mugawe. “Rather, it is a case of political will being translated into action and prioritising children in national budgets”.

Looking in more detail at the four key sectors affecting children in Africa, the Report analyses progress in budget spending, or lack of it, on health, education, early childhood development and social protection. Whilst the last ten years have witnessed encouraging improvements in child health in many African countries with increased immunisation coverage, improved nutritional status and reductions in infant mortality, Africa still has a relatively low level of investment. Most countries invested only between 4-6% of GDP in health in 2008, well below the commitment made at Abuja in 2001 to spend 15% of national budgets on health. Eight years on, only four countries have reached that target – Liberia, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia. And there are sharp contrasts. Whilst Liberia spent nearly 12% of its GDP on health and Rwanda increased health spending by nearly 19%, others, such as DRC, spent less than 2% and health budgets declined in Malawi and Swaziland, whilst others remained almost unchanged.

In education, whilst Africa has made impressive strides both at primary and secondary levels with encouraging results in reducing the gender gap, the region spends less than 3% of the world’s education resources, leaving a significant number of its children out of school. But again, there are vast variations between countries. Lesotho, for example, had the highest expenditure on education (some 13% of its GDP), alongside five other countries who have met the *Dakar Education for All* target of allocating 9% of GDP to education by 2010 (Djibouti, Botswana, Swaziland, Tunisia and Kenya). In contrast, some of the resource-endowed countries performed poorly, with Sudan and Equatorial Guinea spending just 0.3% and 1.4% of GDP respectively on education in 2008.

Although Early Childhood Development programmes have been shown to be cost effective in the long run and that their benefits surpass their costs, Africa’s investment in this sector has been almost entirely neglected with only 20 of 52 countries having such programmes in place in 2005, and only 15% of pre-primary school aged children having the opportunity to attend pre-primary schools.

“Investment in early childhood development has been grossly ignored across the region, despite its very great significance”, said Honourable Jessica Alupo, Minister of State for Children in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Uganda. “In economic terms early childhood development is the first step in the process of human capital development and as a result should be viewed not merely as a vehicle for delivering badly needed social services, but also as an important element of economic development and strategy. Africa cannot continue to ignore this imperative.”

The fourth key sector examined in the Report is social protection, especially those initiatives focused on vulnerable children. There is huge unmet need for social protection in Africa – around 80% - and it is the most neglected sector in the continent. “Despite the critical role social protection can play in the lives of children and the contribution such initiatives can make to poverty reduction, many countries in Africa spend less than 3% of GDP on these programmes, the lowest among all regions of the world”, said Dr. Assefa Bequele, Distinguished Fellow of ACPF.

ACPF also highlights the challenges in monitoring governments’ budgets as in the majority of African countries the process lacks transparency with limited participation by the wider public, including children. “In Africa public participation in budgeting is far from uniform practice and very much at the embryonic stages”, said Dr Salim A. Salim, Chairman of the International Board of Trustees, ACPF, former Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity and previously Prime Minister of Tanzania in his taped message to this year’s IPC participants. “But some countries, including Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda, are explicitly providing for people’s right to

participate more in the process and we urge governments to be more transparent and provide disaggregated information to demonstrate the extent to which budget allocations reflect the needs, rights and wellbeing of children.”

The report further reflects on the impact of the global economic crisis on Africa’s children. With an average fiscal gap of 5% of GDP in the region (some 13 countries face a deficit of more than 5%), budgets for education, health and social protection are being cut and at the household level, families are taking measures which include consuming fewer meals, reduced school enrolment, increased absenteeism, seasonal hunger forcing children into casual labour and increased prostitution among youth people with an associated increase in HIV/AIDS and STIs.

ACPF’s report identifies three priority areas for action that will be discussed at the IPC;

- Ensuring priority is given – in both budgetary allocation and implementation – to the realisation of children’s rights and wellbeing
- Ensuring efficient use of resources through transparent budgetary frameworks and processes
- Ensuring adequate support for, and investment in, early childhood development.

www.africanchildforum.org www.africanchildforum.org/fourthipc

Notes: ACPF reviewed the budget performance of 52 African governments between 2006-2008 and developed the Performance Index for Budgeting for Children using five key indicators which were expenditure on health as a percentage of total government expenditure; total public expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP; percentage of the budget for routine EPI vaccines financed by government; military expenditure as a percentage of GDP; and percentage change in governments’ expenditure on health, 2004-2008.

THE MEDICAL NEWS

<http://www.news-medical.net/news/20101209/Report-examines-African-government-funding-for-child-development.aspx>

Report examines African government funding for child development

9. December 2010 01:59

"Tanzania, Mozambique and Niger spend the most on child wellbeing in Africa - with Sudan, Angola and Burundi at the bottom of the table," according to an African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) report, which was launched in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Tuesday at the opening of the Fourth International Policy Conference on the African Child, Deutsche Presse-Agentur/M&C reports (12/7).

"The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2011: Budgeting for Children reviewed the budget performance of 52 African governments between 2006-2008 focusing on spending in sectors that most directly impact on children," according to an ACPF press release. Algeria, Cape Verde, Gabon, Senegal, the Seychelles, South Africa and Tunisia join Mozambique, Niger and Tanzania to "make up the category of best performers allocating the maximum of their available resources to children," the release adds. "At the opposite end, the low performers identified in the Performance Index for Budgeting for Children developed by ACPF include Sudan, Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone. These countries scored low due to lower levels of investment in sectors benefiting children, the decline of these allocations over the years and relatively high military expenditure."

The report also examined "the four key sectors affecting children in Africa ... health, education, early childhood development and social protection," according to the release. "Whilst the last ten years have witnessed encouraging improvements in child health in many African countries with increased immunisation coverage, improved nutritional status and reductions in infant mortality, Africa still has a relatively low level of investment. Most countries invested only between 4-6% of GDP in health in 2008, well below the commitment made at Abuja in 2001 to spend 15% of national budgets on health. Eight years on, only four countries have reached that target - Liberia, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia" (12/7).

"The research clearly shows that the sheer wealth of a country does not determine the level of commitment to budgeting for children," said David Mugawe, ACPF's executive director, DPA/M&C writes. Mugawe added, "Rather, it is a case of political will being translated into action and prioritising children in national budgets."

According to the report, the global economic downturn affected government funding for children, which resulted in "families skipping meals and reducing school enrolment, as well as an increase in child prostitution," the news service writes (12/7). In addition, the report "highlights the challenges in monitoring governments' budgets as in the majority of African countries the process lacks transparency with limited participation by the wider public, including children," the press release states. This was one of three areas of discussion the report identified for the conference. The others include prioritizing children's rights and wellbeing and investment in early childhood development (12/7)

<http://www.clubofmozambique.com/solutions1/sectionnews.php?secao=international&id=20367&tip=one>

New report reveals how African countries are performing in budgeting for their children

(2010-12-08) A new report launched today by The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) measures African government's investment in children and confirms that a country's commitment to child rights and wellbeing is not dependent on their economic status, but rather on political will and spending priorities.

The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2011: Budgeting for Children reviewed the budget performance of 52 African governments between 2006-2008 focusing on spending in sectors that most directly impact on children. It found a continent of contrasts and that the governments of Tanzania, Mozambique and Niger are the three most committed to budgeting for children, along with Gabon, Senegal, Tunisia, Seychelles, Algeria, Cape Verde and South Africa, who make up the category of best performers allocating the maximum of their available resources to children.

At the opposite end, the low performers identified in the Performance Index for Budgeting for Children developed by ACPF include Sudan, Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone. These countries scored low due to lower levels of investment in sectors benefiting children, the decline of these allocations over the years and relatively high military expenditure.

The Report by ACPF - a leading, independent, not-for-profit pan African centre for policy research and dialogue on the African child - was launched at the opening of the Fourth International Policy Conference on the African Child (IPC) taking place in Addis Ababa (7-8 December) in partnership with the UN Economic Commission for Africa. The conference will examine the challenges facing children in Africa and the policy choices for governments.

"Children's rights and wellbeing are intrinsically linked with public budgets and this new report reveals stark differences between African countries in terms of their commitment and readiness to translate political rhetoric into concrete budgetary allocations for the benefit of children," said ACPF Executive Director, David Mugawe. "Trends or changes in budgetary allocations for children serve as proxy measures of the extent to which governments are truly committed to realising the rights of the child."

In addition to identifying three categories of child-friendly budgetary performance, the Report analyses the extent to which a country's budget commitment to children relates to the volume of resources at a government's disposal. Despite lower economic status than some of their neighbours, countries such as Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda and Tanzania scored highly in the Index, whilst conversely, a number of African governments with relatively high incomes including Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Mauritania and the Sudan, scored low.

"The research clearly shows that the sheer wealth of a country does not determine the level of commitment to budgeting for children", said Mr Mugawe. "Rather, it is a case of political will being

translated into action and prioritising children in national budgets”.

Looking in more detail at the four key sectors affecting children in Africa, the Report analyses progress in budget spending, or lack of it, on health, education, early childhood development and social protection. Whilst the last ten years have witnessed encouraging improvements in child health in many African countries with increased immunisation coverage, improved nutritional status and reductions in infant mortality, Africa still has a relatively low level of investment. Most countries invested only between 4-6% of GDP in health in 2008, well below the commitment made at Abuja in 2001 to spend 15% of national budgets on health. Eight years on, only four countries have reached that target – Liberia, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia. And there are sharp contrasts. Whilst Liberia spent nearly 12% of its GDP on health and Rwanda increased health spending by nearly 19%, others, such as DRC, spent less than 2% and health budgets declined in Malawi and Swaziland, whilst others remained almost unchanged.

In education, whilst Africa has made impressive strides both at primary and secondary levels with encouraging results in reducing the gender gap, the region spends less than 3% of the world's education resources, leaving a significant number of its children out of school. But again, there are vast variations between countries. Lesotho, for example, had the highest expenditure on education (some 13% of its GDP), alongside five other countries who have met the Dakar Education for All target of allocating 9% of GDP to education by 2010 (Djibouti, Botswana, Swaziland, Tunisia and Kenya). In contrast, some of the resource-endowed countries performed poorly, with Sudan and Equatorial Guinea spending just 0.3% and 1.4% of GDP respectively on education in 2008.

Although Early Childhood Development programmes have been shown to be cost effective in the long run and that their benefits surpass their costs, Africa's investment in this sector has been almost entirely neglected with only 20 of 52 countries having such programmes in place in 2005, and only 15% of pre-primary school aged children having the opportunity to attend pre-primary schools.

“Investment in early childhood development has been grossly ignored across the region, despite its very great significance”, said Honourable Jessica Alupo, Minister of State for Children in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Uganda. “In economic terms early childhood development is the first step in the process of human capital development and as a result should be viewed not merely as a vehicle for delivering badly needed social services, but also as an important element of economic development and strategy. Africa cannot continue to ignore this imperative.”

The fourth key sector examined in the Report is social protection, especially those initiatives focused on vulnerable children. There is huge unmet need for social protection in Africa – around 80% - and it is the most neglected sector in the continent. “Despite the critical role social protection can play in the lives of children and the contribution such initiatives can make to poverty reduction, many countries in Africa spend less than 3% of GDP on these programmes, the lowest among all regions of the world”, said Dr. Assefa Bequele, Distinguished Fellow of ACPF.

ACPF also highlights the challenges in monitoring governments' budgets as in the majority of African countries the process lacks transparency with limited participation by the wider public, including children. “In Africa public participation in budgeting is far from uniform practice and very much at the embryonic stages”, said Dr Salim A. Salim, Chairman of the International Board of Trustees, ACPF, former Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity and previously Prime Minister of Tanzania in his taped message to this year's IPC participants. “But some countries, including Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda, are explicitly providing for people's right to participate more in the process and we urge governments to be more transparent and provide disaggregated information to demonstrate the extent to which budget allocations reflect the needs,

rights and wellbeing of children.”

The report further reflects on the impact of the global economic crisis on Africa’s children. With an average fiscal gap of 5% of GDP in the region (some 13 countries face a deficit of more than 5%), budgets for education, health and social protection are being cut and at the household level, families are taking measures which include consuming fewer meals, reduced school enrolment, increased absenteeism, seasonal hunger forcing children into casual labour and increased prostitution among youth people with an associated increase in HIV/AIDS and STIs.

ACPF’s report identifies three priority areas for action that will be discussed at the IPC;

- Ensuring priority is given – in both budgetary allocation and implementation – to the realisation of children’s rights and wellbeing
- Ensuring efficient use of resources through transparent budgetary frameworks and processes
- Ensuring adequate support for, and investment in, early childhood development.

<http://www.afronews24.com/tanzania-spends-most-sudan-least-on-children-3489.html>

Tanzania spends most, Sudan least on children

Author: Philipp Hedemann - Published December 7, 2010 11:33 am GMT

Addis Ababa (dpa) – Tanzania, Mozambique and Niger spend the most on child wellbeing in Africa – with Sudan, Angola and Burundi at the bottom of the table, a report published Tuesday said.

The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2011, released in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, examined African government spending on child health, education, development and social protection between 2006 and 2008.

Despite lower economic status than some of their neighbours, countries such as Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda and Tanzania scored highly in the index, whilst a number of African governments with relatively high incomes, including Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Mauritania and Sudan, scored low.

“The research clearly shows that the sheer wealth of a country does not determine the level of commitment to budgeting for children,” said David Mugawe, head of the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF).

“Rather, it is a case of political will being translated into action and prioritising children in national budgets.”

According to the report, the global economic crisis worsened the situation, leading to budget cuts affecting children and families skipping meals and reducing school enrolment, as well as an increase in child prostitution.

The report by ACPF – a pan-African centre for policy research – was launched at the opening of the Fourth International Policy Conference on the African Child.

The conference will examine the challenges facing children in Africa and the policy choices for governments.

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<http://www.theafricanews.net/>

From Earth Times Article

Tanzania spends most, Sudan least on children

Earth Times

Mozambique and Niger spend the most on child wellbeing in Africa - with Sudan, Angola and Burundi at the bottom of the table, a report published Tuesday said. The African Report on Child Wellbeing 201...

Health News

Stay Health and Keep Safe

<http://nightlinesmtg.com/>

From Monster and Critics

Tanzania spends most, Sudan least on children

By heltilaiv on Tuesday, December 7th, 2010 | No Comments

(Source: Monsters and Critics Health News) MedWorm Message: Register for MedMatcha, MedWorm's medical advertising network , and receive \$5 free advertising.

Original post:

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<http://www.namibiansun.com/story/tanzania-spends-most-sudan-least-children>

Tanzania spends most, Sudan least on children

December 08, 2010 09:12 - in

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“The research clearly shows that the sheer wealth of a country does not determine the level of commitment to budgeting for children,” said David Mugawe, head of the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF). “Rather, it is a case of political will being translated into action and prioritising children in national budgets.” According to the report, the global economic crisis worsened the situation, leading to budget cuts affecting children and families skipping meals and reducing school enrolment, as well as an increase in child prostitution.

The report by ACPF - a pan-African centre for policy research - was launched at the opening of the Fourth International Policy Conference on the African Child. The conference will examine the challenges facing children in Africa and the policy choices for governments.

Author:

DPA



<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/210393.php>

New Report Reveals How African Countries Are Performing In Budgeting For Their Children

Article Date: 07 Dec 2010 - 2:00 PST

A new report launched today by The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) measures African government's investment in children and confirms that a country's commitment to child rights and wellbeing is not dependent on their economic status, but rather on political will and spending priorities.

The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2011: Budgeting for Children reviewed the budget performance of 52 African governments between 2006-2008 focusing on spending in sectors that most directly impact on children. It found a continent of contrasts and that the governments of Tanzania, Mozambique and Niger are the three most committed to budgeting for children, along with Gabon, Senegal, Tunisia, Seychelles, Algeria, Cape Verde and South Africa, who make up the category of best performers allocating the maximum of their available resources to children.

At the opposite end, the low performers identified in the Performance Index for Budgeting for Children developed by ACPF include Sudan, Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone. These countries scored low due to lower levels of investment in sectors benefiting children, the decline of these allocations over the years and relatively high military expenditure.

The Report by ACPF - a leading, independent, not-for-profit pan African centre for policy research and dialogue on the African child - was launched at the opening of the Fourth International Policy Conference on the African Child (IPC) taking place in Addis Ababa (7-8 December) in partnership with the UN Economic Commission for Africa . The conference will examine the challenges facing children in Africa and the policy choices for governments.

"Children's rights and wellbeing are intrinsically linked with public budgets and this new report reveals stark differences between African countries in terms of their commitment and readiness to translate political rhetoric into concrete budgetary allocations for the benefit of children," said ACPF Executive Director, David Mugawe. "Trends or changes in budgetary allocations for children serve as proxy measures of the extent to which governments are truly committed to realising the rights of the child." In addition to identifying three categories of child-friendly budgetary performance, the Report analyses the extent to which a country's budget commitment to children relates to the volume of resources at a government's disposal. Despite lower economic status than some of their neighbours, countries such as Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda and Tanzania scored highly in the Index, whilst conversely, a number of African governments with relatively high incomes including Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Mauritania and the Sudan, scored low. "The research clearly shows that the sheer wealth of a country does not determine the level of commitment to budgeting for children", said Mr Mugawe. "Rather, it is a case of political will being translated into action and prioritising children in national budgets".



<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/210877.php>

Report Examines African Government Funding For Child Development

Article Date: 09 Dec 2010 - 6:00 PST

"Tanzania, Mozambique and Niger spend the most on child wellbeing in Africa - with Sudan, Angola and Burundi at the bottom of the table," according to an African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) [report](#), which was launched in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Tuesday at the opening of the [Fourth International Policy Conference on the African Child](#), [Deutsche Presse-Agentur/M&C](#) reports (12/7).

"The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2011: Budgeting for Children reviewed the budget performance of 52 African governments between 2006-2008 focusing on spending in sectors that most directly impact on children," according to an ACPF [press release](#). Algeria, Cape Verde, Gabon, Senegal, the Seychelles, South Africa and Tunisia join Mozambique, Niger and Tanzania to "make up the category of best performers allocating the maximum of their available resources to children," the release adds. "At the opposite end, the low performers identified in the Performance Index for Budgeting for Children developed by ACPF include Sudan, Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone. These countries scored low due to lower levels of investment in sectors benefiting children, the decline of these allocations over the years and relatively high military expenditure."

The report also examined "the four key sectors affecting children in Africa ... health, education, early childhood development and social protection," according to the release. "Whilst the last ten years have witnessed encouraging improvements in child health in many African countries with increased immunisation coverage, improved nutritional status and reductions in infant mortality, Africa still has a relatively low level of investment. Most countries invested only between 4-6% of GDP in health in 2008, well below the commitment made at Abuja in 2001 to spend 15% of national budgets on health. Eight years on, only four countries have reached that target - Liberia, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia" (12/7).

"The research clearly shows that the sheer wealth of a country does not determine the level of commitment to budgeting for children," said David Mugawe, ACPF's executive director, DPA/M&C writes. Mugawe added, "Rather, it is a case of political will being translated into action and prioritising children in national budgets."

According to the report, the global economic downturn affected government funding for children, which resulted in "families skipping meals and reducing school enrolment, as well as an increase in child prostitution," the news service writes (12/7). In addition, the report "highlights the challenges in monitoring governments' budgets as in the majority of African countries the process lacks transparency with limited participation by the wider public, including children," the press release states. This was one of three areas of discussion the report identified for the conference. The others include prioritizing children's rights and wellbeing and investment in early childhood development (12/7).



CATHOLIC INFORMATION SERVICE FOR AFRICA

<http://www.cisanewsafrika.org/news.php?id=4984>

AFRICA: New Report Reveals how Countries Budget for Children

Author: [CISA](#)

Date: Tue 7 Dec 10

ADDIS ABABA, December 7, 2010 ([CISA](#)) -A new report by The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) measures African government's investment in children and confirms that a country's commitment to child rights and wellbeing is not dependent on their economic status, but rather on political will and spending priorities.

The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2011 Budgeting for Children, launched today December 7 reviewed the budget performance of 52 African governments between 2006 and 2008 focusing on spending in sectors that most directly impact on children.

It found a continent of contrasts and that the governments of Tanzania, Mozambique and Niger are the three most committed to budgeting for children, along with Gabon, Senegal, Tunisia, Seychelles, Algeria, Cape Verde and South Africa, who make up the category of best performers allocating the maximum of their available resources to children.

At the opposite end, the low performers identified in the Performance Index for Budgeting for Children developed by ACPF include Sudan, Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone.

These countries scored low due to lower levels of investment in sectors benefiting children, the decline of these allocations over the years and relatively high military expenditure.

The Report by ACPF a leading, independent, not-for-profit pan African centre for policy research and dialogue on the African child was launched at the opening of the Fourth International Policy Conference on the African Child (IPC) taking place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 7 to 8 in partnership with the UN Economic Commission for Africa.

The conference will examine the challenges facing children in Africa and the policy choices for governments.

"Children's rights and wellbeing are intrinsically linked with public budgets and this new report reveals stark differences between African countries in terms of their commitment and readiness to translate political rhetoric into concrete budgetary allocations for the benefit of children," said ACPF Executive Director, David Mugawe. "Trends or changes in budgetary allocations for children serve as proxy measures of the extent to which governments are truly committed to realising the rights of the child," Mugawe said.

"The research clearly shows that the sheer wealth of a country does not determine the level of commitment to budgeting for children. Rather, it is a case of political will being translated into action and prioritising children in national budgets," said Mugawe.



http://www.newsfromafrica.org/newsfromafrica/articles/art_12176.html

Wednesday 8 December 2010

African Child Wellbeing: New Report Reveals Best, Worst Performers

The report by ACPF - a leading, independent, not-for-profit pan African centre for policy research and dialogue on the African child - was launched at the opening of the Fourth International Policy Conference on the African Child (IPC) currently underway in Addis Ababa.

By Henry Neondo

Tanzania, Mozambique and Niger are the three African countries most committed to budgeting for children, a new report launched Tuesday by The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) shows.

The report, which measures African government's investment in children, confirms that a country's commitment to child rights and wellbeing is not dependent on their economic status, but rather on political will and spending priorities.

The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2011: Budgeting for Children reviewed the budget performance of 52 African governments between 2006-2008, focusing on spending in sectors that most directly impact on children. It found a continent of contrasts. Along with the three, the report also names Gabon, Senegal, Tunisia, Seychelles, Algeria, Cape Verde and South Africa who make up the category of best performers allocating the maximum of their available resources to children.

At the opposite end, the low performers identified in the Performance Index for Budgeting for Children developed by ACPF include Sudan, Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone. These countries scored low due to lower levels of investment in sectors benefiting children, the decline of these allocations over the years and relatively high military expenditure.

The report by ACPF - a leading, independent, not-for-profit pan African centre for policy research and dialogue on the African child - was launched at the opening of the Fourth International Policy Conference on the African Child (IPC) currently underway in Addis Ababa , in partnership with the UN Economic Commission for Africa . The conference will examine the challenges facing children in Africa and the policy choices for governments.

"Children's rights and wellbeing are intrinsically linked with public budgets and this new report reveals stark differences between African countries in terms of their commitment and readiness to translate political rhetoric into concrete budgetary allocations for the benefit of children," said ACPF Executive Director, David Mugawe. "Trends or changes in budgetary allocations for children serve as proxy measures of the extent to which governments are truly committed to realising the rights of the child."

In addition to identifying three categories of child-friendly budgetary performance, the Report analyses the extent to which a country's budget commitment to children relates to the volume of resources at a government's disposal. Despite lower economic status than some of their neighbours,

countries such as Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda and Tanzania scored highly in the Index, whilst conversely, a number of African governments with relatively high incomes including Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Mauritania and the Sudan, scored low.

“The research clearly shows that the sheer wealth of a country does not determine the level of commitment to budgeting for children”, said Mr Mugawe. “Rather, it is a case of political will being translated into action and prioritising children in national budgets”.

Looking in more detail at the four key sectors affecting children in Africa, the report analyses progress in budget spending, or lack of it, on health, education, early childhood development and social protection. Whilst the last ten years have witnessed encouraging improvements in child health in many African countries with increased immunisation coverage, improved nutritional status and reductions in infant mortality, Africa still has a relatively low level of investment.

Most countries invested only between 4-6 per cent of GDP in health in 2008, well below the commitment made at Abuja in 2001 to spend 15 per cent of national budgets on health. Eight years on, only four countries have reached that target – Liberia, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia. And there are sharp contrasts. Whilst Liberia spent nearly 12 per cent of its GDP on health and Rwanda increased health spending by nearly 19 per cent, others, such as DRC, spent less than 2 per cent and health budgets declined in Malawi and Swaziland, whilst others remained almost unchanged.

In education, whilst Africa has made impressive strides both at primary and secondary levels with encouraging results in reducing the gender gap, the region spends less than 3 per cent of the world’s education resources, leaving a significant number of its children out of school. But again, there are vast variations between countries. Lesotho, for example, had the highest expenditure on education (some 13 per cent of its GDP), alongside five other countries who have met the Dakar Education for All target of allocating 9 per cent of GDP to education by 2010 (Djibouti, Botswana, Swaziland, Tunisia and Kenya). In contrast, some of the resource-endowed countries performed poorly, with Sudan and Equatorial Guinea spending just 0.3 per cent and 1.4 per cent of GDP respectively on education in 2008.

Although Early Childhood Development programmes have been shown to be cost effective in the long run and that their benefits surpass their costs, Africa’s investment in this sector has been almost entirely neglected with only 20 of 52 countries having early childhood programmes in place in 2005, and only 15 per cent of pre-primary school aged children having the opportunity to attend pre-primary schools.

“Investment in early childhood development has been grossly ignored across the region, despite its very great significance”, said Honourable Jessica Alupo, Minister of State for children in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Uganda.

“In economic terms early childhood development is the first step in the process of human capital development and as a result should be viewed not merely as a vehicle for delivering badly needed social services, but also as an important element of economic development and strategy. Africa cannot continue to ignore this imperative. “

The fourth key sector examined in the report is social protection, especially those initiatives focused on vulnerable children. There is huge unmet need for social protection in Africa – around 80 per cent - and it is the most neglected sector in the continent. “Despite the critical role social protection can play in the lives of children and the contribution such initiatives can make to poverty reduction, many countries in Africa spend less than 3 per cent of GDP on these programmes, the lowest among

all regions of the world”, said Dr. Assefa Bequele, Distinguished Fellow of ACPF.

ACPF also highlights the challenges in monitoring governments’ budgets as in the majority of African countries. The process lacks transparency with limited participation by the wider public, including children. “In Africa public participation in budgeting is far from uniform practice and very much at the embryonic stages”, said Dr. Salim A.Salim, in his taped message to this year’s IPC participants.

“But some countries, including Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda, are explicitly providing for people’s right to participate more the process and we urge governments to be more transparent and provide disaggregated information to demonstrate the extent to which budget allocations reflect the needs, rights and wellbeing of children.”

The report further reflects on the impact of the global economic crisis on Africa’s children.

With an average fiscal gap of 5 per cent of GDP in the region, budgets for education, health and social protection are being cut and at the household level, families are taking measures which include fewer meals consumed, reduced school enrolment, increased absenteeism and begging in schools, seasonal hunger forcing children into casual labour and increased prostitution among youth, with an associated increase in HIV/AIDS and STIs.

AG NEWS

TANZANIA:

http://www.burundi-agnews.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1101:africa-07-december-2010-deux-rebelles-rwandais-complotent-en-afrique-du-sud-en-vue-de-destabiliser-la-region-des-grands-lacs&catid=30:daily-africa-news&Itemid=30

Tanzania spends most, Sudan least on children

Dec 7, 2010, 8:06 GMT

http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/health/news/article_1603916.php/Tanzania-spends-most-Sudan-least-on-children

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<http://organizedwisdom.com/new-report-reveals-how-african-countries-are-performing-in-budgeting-for-their-children/3335553/nxi/med>

From News-Medical.net

New report reveals how African countries are performing in budgeting for their children

6. December 2010 17:40

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“The research clearly shows that the sheer wealth of a country does not determine the level of commitment to budgeting for children”, said Mr Mugawe. “Rather, it is a case of political will being translated into action and prioritising children in national budgets”.

Looking in more detail at the four key sectors affecting children in Africa, the Report analyses progress in budget spending, or lack of it, on health, education, early childhood development and social protection. Whilst the last ten years have witnessed encouraging improvements in child health in many African countries with increased immunisation coverage, improved nutritional status and reductions in infant mortality, Africa still has a relatively low level of investment. Most countries invested only between 4-6% of GDP in health in 2008, well below the commitment made at Abuja in 2001 to spend 15% of national budgets on health. Eight years on, only four countries have reached that target – Liberia, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia. And there are sharp contrasts. Whilst Liberia spent nearly 12% of its GDP on health and Rwanda increased health spending by nearly 19%, others, such as DRC, spent less than 2% and health budgets declined in Malawi and Swaziland, whilst others remained almost unchanged.

In education, whilst Africa has made impressive strides both at primary and secondary levels with encouraging results in reducing the gender gap, the region spends less than 3% of the world’s education resources, leaving a significant number of its children out of school. But again, there are vast variations between countries. Lesotho, for example, had the highest expenditure on education (some 13% of its GDP), alongside five other countries who have met the *Dakar Education for All* target of allocating 9% of GDP to education by 2010 (Djibouti, Botswana, Swaziland, Tunisia and Kenya). In contrast, some of the resource-endowed countries performed poorly, with Sudan and Equatorial Guinea spending just 0.3% and 1.4% of GDP respectively on education in 2008.

Although Early Childhood Development programmes have been shown to be cost effective in the long run and that their benefits surpass their costs, Africa’s investment in this sector has been almost entirely neglected with only 20 of 52 countries having such programmes in place in 2005, and only 15% of pre-primary school aged children having the opportunity to attend pre-primary schools.

“Investment in early childhood development has been grossly ignored across the region, despite its very great significance”, said Honourable Jessica Alupo, Minister of State for Children in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Uganda. “In economic terms early childhood development is the first step in the process of human capital development and as a result should be viewed not merely as a vehicle for delivering badly needed social services, but also as an important element of economic development and strategy. Africa cannot continue to ignore this imperative.”

The fourth key sector examined in the Report is social protection, especially those initiatives focused on vulnerable children. There is huge unmet need for social protection in Africa – around 80% - and it is the most neglected sector in the continent. “Despite the critical role social protection can play in the lives of children and the contribution such initiatives can make to poverty reduction, many countries in Africa spend less than 3% of GDP on these programmes, the lowest among all regions of the world”, said Dr. Assefa Bequele, Distinguished Fellow of ACPF.

ACPF also highlights the challenges in monitoring governments’ budgets as in the majority of African countries the process lacks transparency with limited participation by the wider public, including children. “In Africa public participation in budgeting is far from uniform practice and very much at the embryonic stages”, said Dr Salim A. Salim, Chairman of the International Board of Trustees, ACPF, former Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity and previously Prime Minister of Tanzania in his taped message to this year’s IPC participants. “But some countries, including Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda, are explicitly providing for people’s right to

participate more in the process and we urge governments to be more transparent and provide disaggregated information to demonstrate the extent to which budget allocations reflect the needs, rights and wellbeing of children.”

The report further reflects on the impact of the global economic crisis on Africa’s children. With an average fiscal gap of 5% of GDP in the region (some 13 countries face a deficit of more than 5%), budgets for education, health and social protection are being cut and at the household level, families are taking measures which include consuming fewer meals, reduced school enrolment, increased absenteeism, seasonal hunger forcing children into casual labour and increased prostitution among youth people with an associated increase in HIV/AIDS and STIs.

ACPF’s report identifies three priority areas for action that will be discussed at the IPC;

- Ensuring priority is given – in both budgetary allocation and implementation – to the realisation of children’s rights and wellbeing
- Ensuring efficient use of resources through transparent budgetary frameworks and processes
- Ensuring adequate support for, and investment in, early childhood development.

AFRO PAGES.FR

<http://www.afropages.fr/20101208368097/Few-African-countries-budgeting-for-children-new-report-reveals.html>

Few African countries budgeting for children, new report reveals

Mercredi, 08 Décembre 2010 02:28

APA-Nairobi (Kenya) Tanzania, Mozambique and Niger are the three most committed to budgeting for children, along with Gabon, Senegal, Tunisia, Seychelles, Algeria, Cape Verde and South Africa, who make up the category of best performers allocating the maximum of their available resources to children, said a new report by The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) launched on Tuesday in Ethiopia, a said a press release issued in Nairobi.

The report was launched at the opening of the Fourth International Policy Conference on the African Child (IPC) taking place in Addis Ababa (7-8 December) in partnership with the UN Economic Commission for Africa .

The report titled "African Report on Child Wellbeing 2011 : Budgeting for Children" measures African government's investment in children and confirms that a country's commitment to child rights and well-being is not dependent on their economic status, but rather on political will and spending priorities.

The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) report reviewed the budget performance of 52 African governments between 2006-2008 focuses on spending in sectors that most directly impact on children.

At the opposite end, the low performers identified in the Performance Index for Budgeting for Children developed by ACPF include Sudan, Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone.

These countries scored low due to lower levels of investment in sectors benefiting children, the decline of these allocations over the years and relatively high military expenditure, said the press release.

In addition to identifying three categories of child-friendly budgetary performance, the Report analyses the extent to which a country's budget commitment to children relates to the volume of resources at a government's disposal.

Despite lower economic status than some of their neighbours, countries such as Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda and Tanzania scored highly in the Index, whilst conversely, a number of African governments with relatively high incomes including Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Mauritania and the Sudan, scored low.

ACPF is a leading, independent, not-for-profit pan African centre for policy research and dialogue on the African child.

The Fourth International Policy Conference on the African Child (IPC) will examine the challenges facing children in Africa and the policy choices for governments.



<http://education.einnews.com/central-africa/>

Report examines African government funding for child development

9 Dec 2010 07:20 GMT

... spend the most on child wellbeing in **Africa** - with Sudan, Angola and **Burundi** at the ... key sectors affecting children in **Africa** ... health, **education**, early childhood development and social protection," according ... resulted in "families skipping meals and reducing **school** enrolment, as well as an increase in ...

<http://www.newsnw.co.uk/h/Current+Affairs/War+&+Terrorism/Wars/Sudan%7C%7CDarfur?search=&type=&searchheadlines=&Page=5>

From Monsters and Critics

Tanzania spends most, Sudan least on children

Dec 7, 2010, 8:06 GMT

Addis Ababa - Tanzania, Mozambique and Niger spend the most on child wellbeing in Africa - with [Sudan](#), Angola and Burundi at the bottom of the table, a report published Tuesday said. The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2011, released in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, examined African government spending on child health, education, development and social protection between 2006 and 2008.

Despite lower economic status than some of their neighbours, countries such as Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda and Tanzania scored highly in the index, whilst a number of [African governments](#) with relatively high incomes, including Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Mauritania and Sudan, scored low. 'The research clearly shows that the sheer wealth of a country does not determine the level of commitment to budgeting for children,' said David Mugawe, head of the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF).

'Rather, it is a case of political will being translated into action and prioritising children in national budgets.'

According to the report, the global economic crisis worsened the situation, leading to budget cuts affecting children and families skipping meals and reducing school enrolment, as well as an increase in child prostitution.

The report by ACPF - a pan-African centre for policy research - was launched at the opening of the Fourth International Policy Conference on the African Child.

The conference will examine the challenges facing children in Africa and the policy choices for governments.



<http://ionsudan.net/feeds>

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<http://interceder.net/list/niger>

From News-Medical.net

Report examines African government funding for child development

9. December 2010 01:59

"Tanzania, Mozambique and Niger spend the most on child wellbeing in Africa - with Sudan, Angola and Burundi at the bottom of the table," according to an African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) report, which was launched in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Tuesday at the opening of the Fourth International Policy Conference on the African Child, Deutsche Presse-Agentur/M&C reports (12/7).

"The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2011: Budgeting for Children reviewed the budget performance of 52 African governments between 2006-2008 focusing on spending in sectors that most directly impact on children," according to an ACPF press release. Algeria, Cape Verde, Gabon, Senegal, the Seychelles, South Africa and Tunisia join Mozambique, Niger and Tanzania to "make up the category of best performers allocating the maximum of their available resources to children," the release adds. "At the opposite end, the low performers identified in the Performance Index for Budgeting for Children developed by ACPF include Sudan, Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone. These countries scored low due to lower levels of investment in sectors benefiting children, the decline of these allocations over the years and relatively high military expenditure."

The report also examined "the four key sectors affecting children in Africa ... health, education, early childhood development and social protection," according to the release. "Whilst the last ten years have witnessed encouraging improvements in child health in many African countries with increased immunisation coverage, improved nutritional status and reductions in infant mortality, Africa still has a relatively low level of investment. Most countries invested only between 4-6% of GDP in health in 2008, well below the commitment made at Abuja in 2001 to spend 15% of national budgets on health. Eight years on, only four countries have reached that target - Liberia, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia" (12/7).

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According to the report, the global economic downturn affected government funding for children, which resulted in "families skipping meals and reducing school enrolment, as well as an increase in child prostitution," the news service writes (12/7). In addition, the report "highlights the challenges in monitoring governments' budgets as in the majority of African countries the process lacks transparency with limited participation by the wider public, including children," the press release states. This was one of three areas of discussion the report identified for the conference. The others include prioritizing children's rights and wellbeing and investment in early childhood development (12/7)

<http://enterprisepost.com/biomed/bio/report-examines-african-government-funding-for-child-development.html>

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[http://globalhealth.kff.org/Daily-Reports/2010/December/08/GH-120810-African-Child-Report.aspx?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+kff/kdghpr+\(Kaiser+Daily+Global+Health+Policy+Report\)](http://globalhealth.kff.org/Daily-Reports/2010/December/08/GH-120810-African-Child-Report.aspx?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+kff/kdghpr+(Kaiser+Daily+Global+Health+Policy+Report))

Report Examines African Government Funding For Child Development

Wednesday, December 08, 2010

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<http://www.devwire.eu/global-health/70.html>

From Kaiser Network

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Wednesday, December 08, 2010

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<http://str8talkchronicle.com/?p=10901>

How African countries are performing in budgeting for kids

Written by: The Editor on 7th December 2010

A new report launched today by The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) measures African government's investment in children and confirms that a country's commitment to child rights and wellbeing is not dependent on their economic status, but rather on political will and spending priorities. The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2011: Budgeting for Children, reviewed the budget performance of 52 African governments between 2006 and 2008, focusing on spending in sectors that most directly impact on children. It found a continent of contrasts and that the governments of Tanzania, Mozambique and Niger are the three most committed to budgeting for children, along with Gabon, Senegal, Tunisia, Seychelles, Algeria, Cape Verde and South Africa, who make up the category of best performers allocating the maximum of their available resources to children.

At the opposite end, the low performers identified in the Performance Index for Budgeting for Children developed by ACPF include Sudan, Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone. These countries scored low due to lower levels of investment in sectors benefiting children, the decline of these allocations over the years and relatively high military expenditure.

The Report by ACPF – a leading, independent, not-for-profit pan African centre for policy research and dialogue on the African child – was launched at the opening of the Fourth International Policy Conference on the African Child (IPC) taking place in Addis Ababa (7-8 December) in partnership with the UN Economic Commission for Africa . The conference will examine the challenges facing children in Africa and the policy choices for governments.

“Children’s rights and wellbeing are intrinsically linked with public budgets and this new report reveals stark differences between African countries in terms of their commitment and readiness to translate political rhetoric into concrete budgetary allocations for the benefit of children,” said ACPF Executive Director, David Mugawe. “Trends or changes in budgetary allocations for children serve as proxy measures of the extent to which governments are truly committed to realizing the rights of the child.”

Mr. Mugawe, a Ugandan national, assumed his new position as Executive Director of ACPF, a leading Pan-African institution of policy research and dialogue based in Addis Ababa, on July 1, 2010. He took over from Dr. Assefa Bequele who founded the ACPF in 2003. Dr. Assefa left the position as ACPF’s founding Executive Director after seven years of service. The Board asked him to continue serving the organisation, as a “Distinguished Fellow”, in an advisory and representational role.

Mr. Mugawe joined the ACPF in 2005 as Director of Finance and Administration and successfully moved up the ladders, subsequently becoming Director of Programmes and later, Deputy Executive Director. He has some 20 years of experience in programme management and leadership positions in social work, child rights and international development and has served in Uganda, Kenya, the DRC and the United Kingdom. He is also the author of various ACPF reports and publications on child rights and wellbeing. Mr. Mugawe has a Degree in Social Work and Administration from Makerere University, Uganda, and a Masters in Business Administration from Bradford University, UK.

In addition to identifying three categories of child-friendly budgetary performance, the Report analyses the extent to which a country's budget commitment to children relates to the volume of resources at a government's disposal. Despite lower economic status than some of their neighbours, countries such as Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda and Tanzania scored highly in the Index, whilst conversely, a number of African governments with relatively high incomes including Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Mauritania and the Sudan, scored low. "The research clearly shows that the sheer wealth of a country does not determine the level of commitment to budgeting for children", said Mr Mugawe. "Rather, it is a case of political will being translated into action and prioritizing children in national budgets."



<http://thecitizen.co.tz/business/13-local-business/6250-study-gives-tanzania-high-marks-on-investing-in-childrens-future.html>

Study gives Tanzania high marks on investing in children's future

Saturday, 11 December 2010 09:01

Addis Ababa. A new report launched early this week by The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) measures African government's investment in children and confirms that a country's commitment to child rights and wellbeing is not dependent on their economic status, but rather on political will and spending priorities.

The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2011: Budgeting for Children reviews the budget performance of 52 African governments during 2006-2008 focusing on spending in sectors that most directly impact on children.

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Looking in more detail at the four key sectors affecting children in Africa, the report analyses progress in budget spending, or lack of it, on health, education, early childhood development and social protection. Whilst the last ten years have witnessed encouraging improvements in child health in many African countries with increased immunisation coverage, improved nutritional status and reductions in infant mortality, Africa still has a relatively low level of investment.

Most countries invested only between 4-6 per cent of GDP in health in 2008, well below the commitment made at Abuja in 2001 to spend 15 per cent of national budgets on health. Eight years on, only four countries have reached that target – Liberia, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia.

And there are sharp contrasts. Whilst Liberia spent nearly 12 per cent of its GDP on health and Rwanda increased health spending by nearly 19 per cent, others, such as DR Congo, spent less than two per cent and health budgets declined in Malawi and Swaziland, whilst others remained almost unchanged.

In education, whilst Africa has made impressive strides both at primary and secondary levels with encouraging results in reducing the gender gap, the region spends less than three per cent of the world's education resources, leaving a significant number of its children out of school. But again, there are vast variations between countries.

Lesotho, for example, had the highest expenditure on education (some 13 per cent of its GDP), alongside five other countries who have met the Dakar Education for All target of allocating nine per cent of GDP to education by 2010 (Djibouti, Botswana, Swaziland, Tunisia and Kenya). In contrast, some of the resource-endowed countries performed poorly, with Sudan and Equatorial Guinea spending just 0.3 per cent and 1.4 per cent of GDP respectively on education in 2008.

Although Early Childhood Development programmes have been shown to be cost effective in the long run and that their benefits surpass their costs, Africa's investment in this sector has been almost entirely neglected with only 20 of 52 countries having such programmes in place in 2005, and only 15 per cent of pre-primary school aged children having the opportunity to attend pre-primary schools.

“Investment in early childhood development has been grossly ignored across the region, despite its very great significance”, said Ms Jessica Alupo, Uganda’s minister of State for Children in the ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

“In economic terms early childhood development is the first step in the process of human capital development and as a result should be viewed not merely as a vehicle for delivering badly needed social services, but also as an important element of economic development and strategy. Africa cannot continue to ignore this imperative.”

The fourth key sector examined in the report is social protection, especially those initiatives focused on vulnerable children. There is huge unmet need for social protection in Africa – around 80 per cent - and it is the most neglected sector in the continent.

“Despite the critical role social protection can play in the lives of children and the contribution such initiatives can make to poverty reduction, many countries in Africa spend less than three per cent of GDP on these programmes, the lowest among all regions of the world”, said Dr Assefa Bequele, Distinguished Fellow of ACPF. ACPF also highlights the challenges in monitoring governments’ budgets as in the majority of African countries the process lack transparency with limited participation by the wider public, including children.

“In Africa public participation in budgeting is far from uniform practice and very much at the embryonic stages”, said Dr Salim Ahmed Salim, chairman of the International Board of Trustees, ACPF, former Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity and previously Prime Minister of Tanzania in his taped message to this year’s IPC participants.

“But some countries, including Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda, are explicitly providing for people’s right to participate more in the process and we urge governments to be more transparent and provide disaggregated information to demonstrate the extent to which budget allocations reflect the needs, rights and wellbeing of children.”

The report further reflects on the impact of the global economic crisis on Africa’s children. With an average fiscal gap of five per cent of GDP in the region (some 13 countries face a deficit of more than five per cent), budgets for education, health and social protection are being cut and at the household level, families are taking measures which include consuming fewer meals, reduced school enrolment, increased absenteeism, seasonal hunger forcing children into casual labour and increased prostitution among youth people with an associated increase in HIV/Aids and STIs.

ACPF’s report identifies three priority areas for action that were discussed at the IPC;

- Ensuring priority is given – in both budgetary allocation and implementation – to the realisation of children’s rights and wellbeing
- Ensuring efficient use of resources through transparent budgetary frameworks and processes
- Ensuring adequate support for, and investment in, early childhood development.

HealthyLifeTips.org

<http://healthylifetips.org/new-report-reveals-how-african-countries-are-performing-in-budgeting-for-their-children/>

New Report Reveals How African Countries Are Performing In Budgeting For Their Children

by MIKE on DECEMBER 7, 2010

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New report reveals how African countries are performing in budgeting for their children



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A new report launched today by The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) measures African government's investment in children and confirms that a country's commitment to child rights and wellbeing is not dependent on their economic status, but rather on political will and spending priorities