

## Session 55 – Sudan

### *Recommendations to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child*

*Prepared by Child Helpline International – month 2010*

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#### **Background:**

Sudan's child helpline was launched under the Family and Child Protection Unit in February 2009. The child helpline can be reached by children and concerned adults through the toll free number 9696. The child helpline as a pilot project is serving the community in and around Khartoum, receiving calls on issues of abuse and violence, psychological and legal consultations, and family concerns.

A fully equipped and resourced child helpline, with improved technologies and capacity has the potential to answer more than 550,000<sup>1</sup> calls.

#### **Recommendation 1**

- The government should allocate appropriate financial and technological resources to support long-term activities of the helpline including for training and capacity building of counselors to meet international quality standards.
- The government should raise awareness about the child helpline with target groups and those working with children.

#### **Recommendation 2**

Ensure that the child helpline has an outreach component to work with marginalised children and those at risk of having their rights violated.

- Early intervention and prevention are essential to protect the rights of all children. Outreach, to work with those children most at risk, is pivotal in this process.
- Allocate appropriate resources to cover costs of outreach activities, build capacity and train counsellors.

#### **Recommendation 3**

The governments should cooperate with the child helpline and recognise it as a vital tool for child protection

- The government should recognise the child helpline as a source of information for policy and legislation on children's issues
- The government should cooperate with the child helpline to remedy child rights violations and stimulate (governmental) child protection agencies to do the same.

#### ***If you wish to receive further information please contact Child Helpline International:***

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<sup>1</sup> According to an estimate of McKinsey. Data used from ITU (2009) and Unicef (2008)