



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME REPORT 2017–2021



Save the Children

Save the Children Finland

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME REPORT 2017–2021



SAVE THE CHILDREN FINLAND
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

This report serves as the 2017–2021 programme report to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland under programme-based support. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the ministry.

The names of children and caregivers have been changed to protect their identities.

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OUR 2030 AMBITION FOR CHILDREN

Save the Children is working to deliver a shared vision for 2030, focused on three breakthrough goals:

SURVIVE:



By 2030, no child will die from preventable causes before their fifth birthday

LEARN:



By 2030, all children learn from a good-quality basic education

BE PROTECTED:



By 2030, violence against children will no longer be tolerated

Cover photo: A mother with her child at a health clinic supported by Save the Children in Sudan. In 2021 alone, the health and nutrition projects co-funded by the European Union reached around 200 000 persons in Sudan. More than half of these people were children.

Photo: Save the Children.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CO	country office
CP	child protection
CRA	Child Rights Act (Somaliland)
CRB	child rights and business
CSO	civil society organisation
CSSP	child-sensitive social protection
CVA	cash and voucher assistance
DG ECHO	European Commission Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
DG INTPA	European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships
DRR	disaster risk reduction
ECCD	early childhood care and development
EiE	education in emergencies
IDP	internally displaced person
MESAF	Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family (Somaliland)
MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Finland)
NGO	non-governmental organisation
OCD	organisational capacity development
PWV	parenting without violence
SCT	social cash transfer
SMT	senior management team
SP	social protection
SPCSN	Social Protection Civil Society Network
TA	technical advisor
TWG	technical working group
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund
4Ps	Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Programme

FOREWORD

At the beginning of the programme period 2017–2021, hardly anyone could have imagined the circumstances in which the programme would be run. The most drastic change in the operating context was obviously Covid-19, which affected people's lives and project implementation significantly. Services were closed, gatherings were prohibited and travel was restricted. The rural areas were particularly hard hit as they lack infrastructure, essential equipment and electricity. The school closures had a negative impact on children's education, an increasing number of girls fell pregnant, boys' use of alcohol and drugs increased and many children also faced the risk of dropping out of school permanently. Many families continued to suffer from the economic impacts of the pandemic through the deaths of family members, the loss of income opportunities, increasing inequalities and levels of hunger, and poor nutrition levels.

At the same time, civic space has been shrinking globally and civil society operates in an increasingly hostile environment in most of Save the Children's programme countries. Due to increasingly complex conflicts, the number of internally displaced people has grown in the past years – in Burkina Faso alone there are now 1.5 million displaced people (61.5% of them children). The effects of conflicts, combined with Covid-19 and the worsening effects of climate change (especially drought in Sahel and Somalia, floods and storms in Asia), have impacted on the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance. The year 2021 saw a record high of 235 million people in need of assistance globally, with people in some of the Save the Children Finland programme countries not being exceptions: Burkina Faso: 3.5 million; Sudan: 13.4 million – an increase of 4.1 million people from 2020; Somalia: 5.9 million; Yemen: 20.7 million – 66% of the population.

Despite all the challenges, the Save the Children Finland programme saw steady growth, both in terms of results and resources. Overall, Save the Children Finland programmes directly reached over 265 000 children (53% of them girls) annually and nearly 300 000 adults (59% of them women) during

2017–2021. Over 73% of the children reached were in Southern and Eastern Africa.

One of the major successes has been the increased access to social protection by eligible households in several programme countries. Approximately 120 000 people were supported by Save the Children Finland to access either government social protection programmes or humanitarian cash assistance during the entire programme period. Another successful approach has been the 'cash plus' approach. Both combining the 'plus approach' of a parenting programme with improving access to social assistance through the establishment of accountability mechanisms and building the capacity of government service providers have been essential.

The parenting programmes formed a key component of both the social protection and child protection (CP) programmes. These provided caregivers with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to parent positively without using violence and provided them with ways to empower and value children. The evaluations conducted revealed that positive parenting programmes – coupled with efforts to strengthen children's life skills, self-confidence and agency – were an effective approach to preventing violence at the family level and improving children's socio-emotional skills.

By the end of the five-year programme, substantial progress had also been made in strengthening the community CP systems by improving the quality of key formal and informal service providers in the programme countries. Evaluations indicated that a multi-pronged approach to strengthening CP systems and supporting informal, community-based CP mechanisms is an effective pathway to increasing awareness of available services, and identifying and referring children in need of support.

During this programming period, there was also an increased focus on online violence against children in Save the Children Finland's programming countries. A pilot project to support safe and responsible use of the internet by children in Zambia was the Zambia

Kids Online study, carried out in 2021; it revealed that both adults' and children's knowledge on how to protect children is very limited. In Turkey a digital and a board game that aimed at reducing violence, bullying and discrimination among children from different nationalities was developed to tackle peer bullying in schools.

In addition to the key thematic areas of social protection and CP, Save the Children Finland also supported other projects in the fields of education, and health and nutrition. Initially the focus was on early childhood education, but since 2019 Save the Children Finland has engaged in education in emergencies in Burkina Faso, Sudan and Bangladesh through humanitarian funding from the European Commission and reached between 20 000 and 30 000 children with quality education each year. Similarly, health and nutrition projects were supported in Zambia, Sudan and Burkina Faso with funding from the EU and UNICEF. On average, approximately 4 000 children under five years old received treatment for severe acute malnutrition on a yearly basis with the support of Save the Children Finland, and over 40 000 malnourished children were reached in 2021 alone through health and nutrition services.

Special effort was made to promote gender transformation through the programming for example, in Nepal and the Philippines, the engagement of fathers in the parenting programme to increase disability inclusion, especially in Somalia, in collaboration with the Abilis Foundation. The guidance on disability inclusion has been used globally by Save the Children and thus was not limited to Save the Children Finland's projects.

The final year of the programme was heavy with research and studies, with altogether 27 separate studies and evaluations conducted. The findings of the conducted research and programming evidence were extensively utilised in communications. Throughout the programme, communications successfully expanded, and the number of subscribers and followers of communication channels grew each year. In 2021 the number of subscribers to the monthly newsletter rose by a third, to over 40 000, and the social media channels had more than 100 000 followers at the end of 2021, around twice as many as at the beginning of the programme period. The expansion was supported by extensive engagement with media:

a total of 3 160 news stories covering global development themes and activities related to Save the Children Finland were published in Finnish media during the programme period. This represents a ten per cent increase compared with the previous five years.

In Finland advocacy was largely built around the key priorities of child poverty and violence against children and was conducted around two global campaigns: Stop War on Children, which has run since 2019, and Save Our Education, which ran in 2021. In the programme countries, many of the advocacy wins in the areas of CP and child sensitive social protection were culminations of the work carried out through the programme period. There were significant results, especially in Somalia (Somaliland), Zambia and Nepal. In Somaliland the sustained efforts towards approval of the Child Rights Act (pending since 2019) paid off and the act was finally approved. In Nepal, the Social Protection Civil Society Network, initiated by Save the Children in Nepal, was able to prevent the government from discontinuing the partial disability allowance and the widow allowance for women under 60 years old.

None of this would have been possible without the partners and donors of Save the Children Finland. The number of formal civil society partners increased steadily to around 50 partners annually and the active corporate partnerships contributing to child rights remained stable throughout the programme period, the key partners being Nokia, Valmet, Fortum, the S Group and Business Finland. The donor base has also grown, the latest new donor being GIZ. At the beginning of the programme, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland contributed 50% of the annual budget. During the programme cycle the importance of the European Commission (for both development and humanitarian funding) grew, and since 2019, it has been the biggest donor of Save the Children Finland's international programmes. A stable cooperation relationship with UNICEF was also established in Burkina Faso, in Turkey (2020) and in Ivory Coast (2021). The overall programme budget of Save the Children Finland grew from 8 million euros in 2017 to nearly 20 million euros in 2021.

Anne Haaranen

*Director, International Programme
Save the Children Finland*



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Handwritten Arabic text on a wall, including a list of names and numbers.

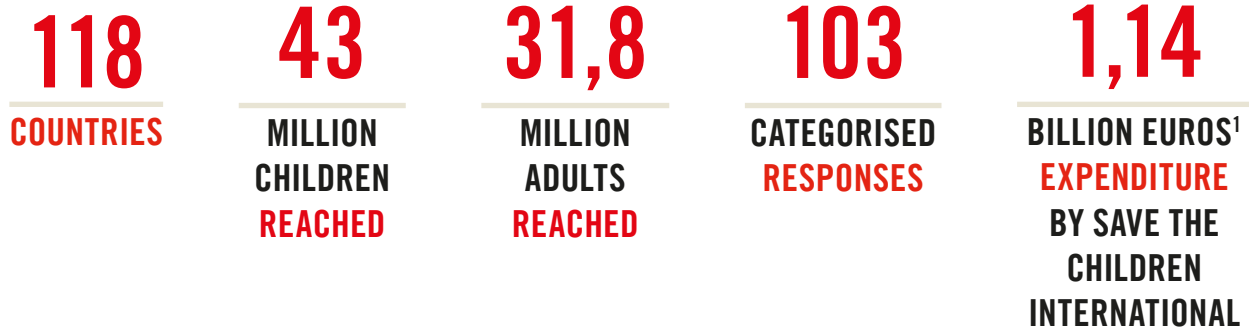


The Children

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OUR WORK IN NUMBERS

GLOBAL SAVE THE CHILDREN MOVEMENT 2021

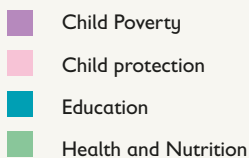
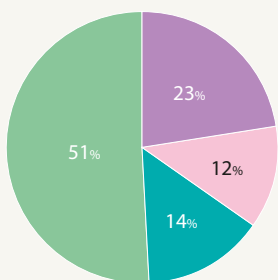


SAVE THE CHILDREN FINLAND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME 2021

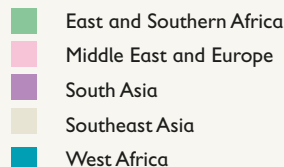
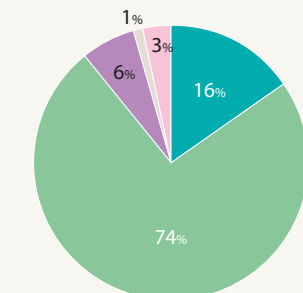


SAVE THE CHILDREN FINLAND | DIRECTLY REACHED CHILDREN AND ADULTS IN 2021

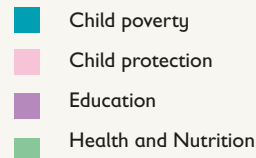
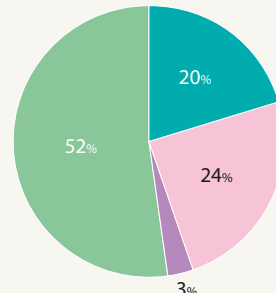
CHILDREN REACHED DIRECTLY, CLASSIFIED BY PROGRAMME THEME



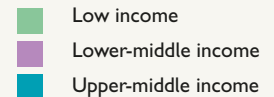
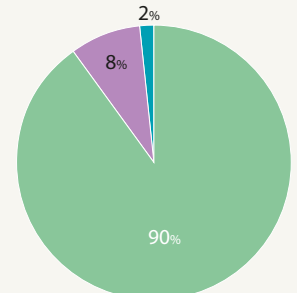
CHILDREN REACHED DIRECTLY, CLASSIFIED BY REGION



ADULTS REACHED DIRECTLY, CLASSIFIED BY PROGRAMME THEME



CHILDREN REACHED DIRECTLY IN COUNTRIES, CLASSIFIED BY INCOME LEVEL



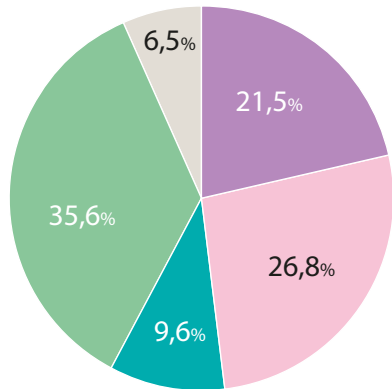
1 Total expenditure of Save the Children International in 2021 was \$1,292 million.

2 Burkina Faso, Sudan, Somalia, Zambia, Yemen, Turkey, Nepal, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Russia (Karelia). In addition, Save the Children Finland supported humanitarian operations of Save the Children in various countries.

3 Of the 31 supported awards, 8 were under Programme Based Support of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of

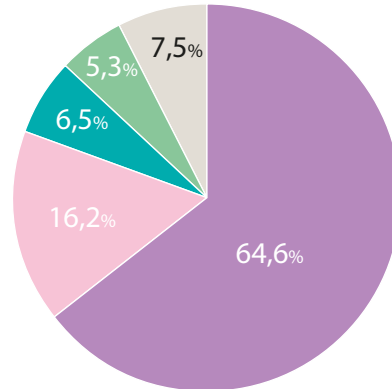
ALLOCATION OF EXPENDITURES IN 2021

2021 EXPENDITURES BY THEME



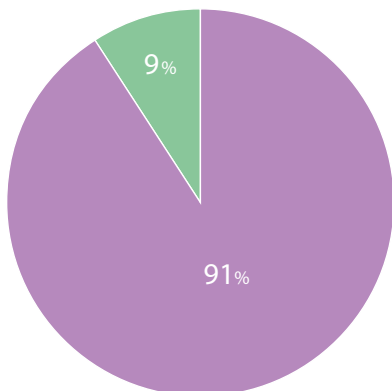
- Child Protection
- Child Poverty
- Education
- Health and nutrition
- Support to Save the Children humanitarian operation

2021 EXPENDITURES BY REGION



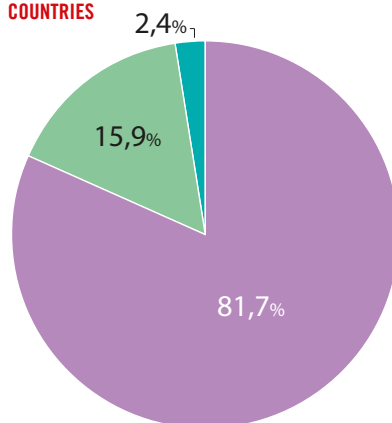
- East and Southern Africa
- West Africa
- South Asia
- Southeast Asia
- The Middle East and Europe

2021 EXPENDITURES BY DEVELOPMENT STATUS OF COUNTRIES



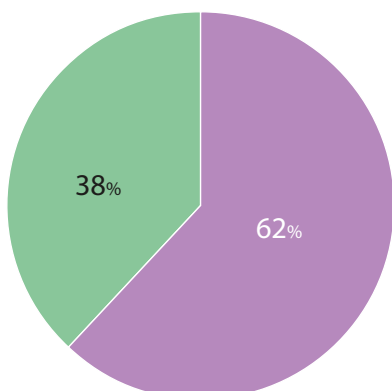
- Least developed countries
- Other countries

2021 EXPENDITURE BY INCOME LEVEL OF COUNTRIES



- Low income
- Lower-middle income
- Upper-middle income

2021 EXPENDITURES BY CONTEXT



- Humanitarian
- Non-humanitarian

SAVE THE CHILDREN FINLAND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME 2017–2021

125 763–480 471

CHILDREN REACHED ANNUALLY⁴

94 857–431 482

ADULTS REACHED ANNUALLY

17

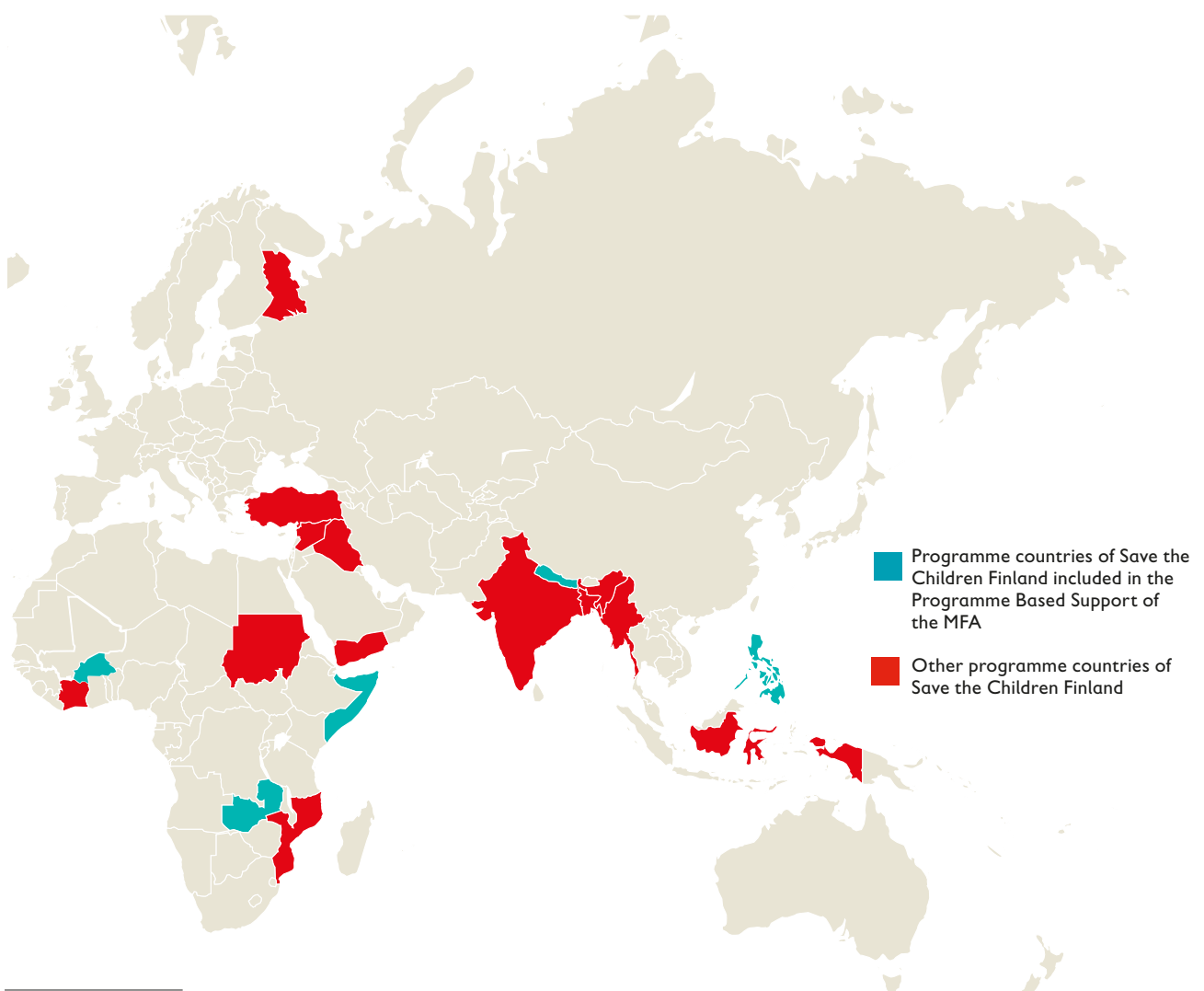
COUNTRIES COVERED⁵

78

PROJECTS SUPPORTED⁶

71

MILLION EUROS EXPENDITURE



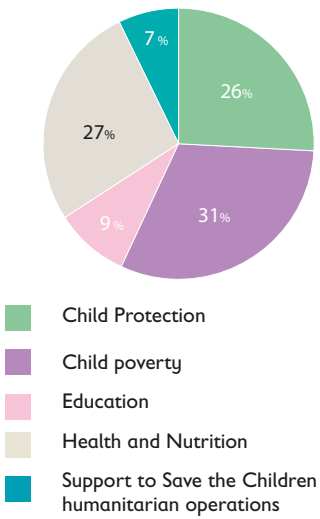
4 Annual reach figures are not cumulative as some individuals reached during one particular year are also covered by programme activities during other years. The figures do not include children reached through some humanitarian operations supported through pools.

5 Ivory Coast, **Burkina Faso**, Sudan, **Somalia**, **Zambia**, Mozambique, Yemen, Turkey, Syria, Iraq, **Nepal**, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Indonesia, **the Philippines**, Russia (Karelia). Countries in bold/turquoise were included in the Programme Based Support of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

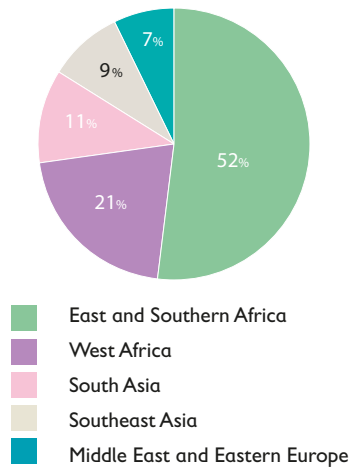
6 In addition, Save the Children Finland supported various humanitarian operations of Save the Children.

EXPENDITURE FOR THE TOTAL PROGRAMME PERIOD: 2017–2021

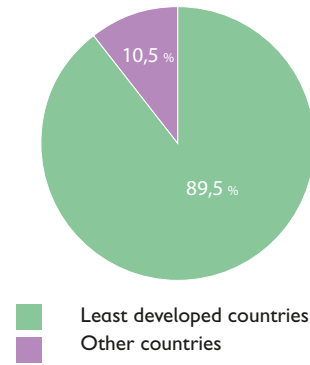
EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAMME THEME



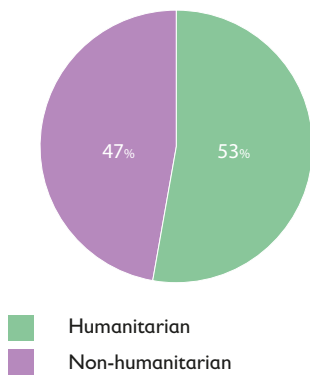
EXPENDITURE BY REGION



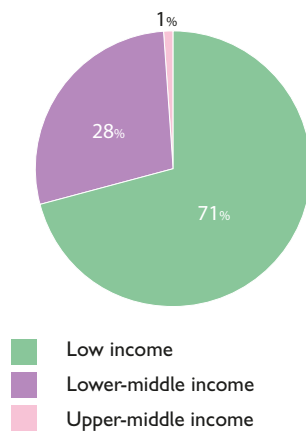
EXPENDITURE BY THE DEVELOPMENT STATUS OF COUNTRIES



EXPENDITURES BY OPERATIONAL CONTEXT



EXPENDITURES BY INCOME LEVEL OF COUNTRIES



1. OPERATIONAL CONTEXT: THE IMPACT OF CHANGES IN THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT

During the programme period (2017–2021) we have seen civic space shrinking globally at alarming speed and civil society operates in an increasingly hostile environment in all Save the Children programme countries. While people have risen in huge numbers to demand democracy and human rights, according to CIVICUS, sustained civil society crackdowns by different governments and attacks on civil society actions continue to increase and have been further escalated by the COVID-19 pandemic. All Save the Children Finland programme countries currently have *obstructed*, *repressed* or *closed* ratings using the CIVICUS classifications.

1.1. WEST AFRICA

Burkina Faso, located in the conflict-ridden Sahel area, is one of the least-developed countries in the world. In recent years, the progressive withdrawal of state presence and persistent violence have resulted in the disruption of basic services, reduced access to livelihoods in the most-affected areas and substantial displacement. Since 2018 the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) had increased from 47 000 to 1.5 million at the end of December 2021, 22.4% of whom are women and 61.5% are children. In 2021 the COVID-19 pandemic and related preventive measures continued to cause further disruptions to livelihoods and social services. The number of people needing humanitarian assistance has also over doubled in the past five years and was estimated by the United Nations to be 3.5 million people at the end of 2021. The number of schools closed due to conflict has increased from 779 schools in 2018 to 3 200 schools at the end of 2021. All this has led to growing dissatisfaction with the government. Protests multiplied after the massacre in Solhan on the 5th of June 2021, in which armed men killed over 100 people. The situation culminated into a military coup in early 2022.

CIVICUS has categorised Burkina Faso's civil society as *obstructed*. The year 2021 saw some new restrictions to the civic space due to growing insecurity and the volatility of the political situation. In June 2021,

Burkina Faso's national media regulator suspended the media group Omega Médias for a period of five days, based on accusations of having broadcast 'erroneous information' following the Solhan attack. On the 27th of November 2021, anti-riot police attempted to disperse a protest (by means including the use of tear gas) in Ouagadougou against both the increasing insecurity caused by terrorist attacks and the 'incapacity' of the administration to deal with the deadly violence. Mobile internet services were suspended on the 20th of November and only restored on the 28th of November, a day after the anti-government protests.

Even though the operational environment became increasingly difficult, Save the Children was able to implement most of its activities as planned due to an extensive network of local partners on the ground.



Photo: Adrien Bitibaly / Save the Children

Between January 2019 and December 2021, the number of internally displaced persons in Burkina Faso rose from 87 000 to 1 580 000. Souleymane, 14, was forced to flee in the dead of the night when armed men attacked her village. Save the Children has supported Souleymane in recovering from the distressing experiences and continuing with her education.

Some activities needed to be readjusted due to access problems. As an example, in the most insecure implementation areas, post-distribution monitoring within the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) child-sensitive social protection (CSSP) project had to be conducted by phone instead of by in-person interviews.

SAVE THE CHILDREN IN BURKINA FASO 2021

In 2021, the portfolio of the Save the Children Burkina Faso Country Office (CO) was worth 18.1 million US dollars. Save the Children reached nearly 2.1 million people with its programming activities, including 162 827 children. In 2021, Save the Children Finland supported the Burkina Faso CO with nearly 2.7 million euros.

1.2. EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Big political changes affected Somalia, Zambia and Sudan in 2021. Both Somalia and Zambia hosted elections while Sudan faced a military coup and the dissolution of both the Sovereignty Council and transitional government.

Zambia held general elections in August 2021. During the run-up to the elections, political violence escalated in the country. Despite this, millions of Zambians went to the polls to cast their vote in the elections that resulted in the transition of power from President Edgar Lungu of the Patriotic Front to the leader of the political opposition, Hakainde Hichilema of the United Party for National Development. In his inaugural speech, the new president, President Hichilema, promised to undertake an ambitious economic and social transformation agenda, create equitable opportunities for all people and reduce poverty. He further promised to pursue policies that will address the core barriers of access to education and ensure that established standards for quality education are met and enforced.

Somaliland held both parliamentary and local council elections in May 2021, after they had been postponed numerous times. The parliamentary election was Somaliland's first since 2005 and the local district elections were the first local district elections since 2012. After the elections, the international community

published a joint statement congratulating Somaliland on the elections that demonstrated a strong commitment to the electoral process and strengthening democracy. The elections were highly important as they are directly tied to the future of the electoral process of the country. As soon as the newly elected House of Representatives came on board, major laws and policies were scheduled for review. A key law is the Child Rights Act (CRA) that has already been reviewed and approved by the House of Representatives.

Further to this, North Sudan's path to democracy has not been smooth. Since the 2019 ousting of the former president, President Omar Bashir, and the subsequent regime change, Sudan has faced political instability and unrest. The military coup and dissolution of both the Sovereignty Council and transitional government in October 2021 further worsened the political climate, contributing to a fluid and volatile situation. Large-scale protests, such as the 'March of Millions', and civil disobedience have become common occurrences in Khartoum and other major cities. Arrests of human rights and civic/community activists and government officials are expected to worsen. Road barricades and frequent closures of ports and highways in the Red Sea state have led to shortages of medicine, wheat flour and fuel across the country. Import and export activities have also been affected. These events, together with the resignation of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok in early January 2022, have contributed to violence, economic/social disruption and political instability, further worsening the already poor humanitarian conditions and increasing the risk of conflict. As a result, international development donors froze funding to Sudan. This, among other factors, had a major impact on the Family Support Programme, which was expected to provide cash transfers to 32 million vulnerable Sudanese people and is currently on hold.

When it comes to the state of civil society, CIVICUS categorises Somalia and Sudan as repressed, while Zambia's civil society is assessed as being obstructed. Since the military coup in October, Sudanese authorities have abducted scores of protesters and politicians. Attacks on and harassment of women protesters and have escalated, including abductions, detentions and deaths. Journalists continue to face arrests and attacks for covering the anti-coup protests, and media stations have been shut down. Civil

Photo: Sacha Myers/Save the Children



In Somalia, a combination of COVID-19, conflict and climate shocks has significantly increased the number of children who are out of school. Save the Children has, among other things, provided school meals and water to ensure that children can continue with their education.

society groups face ongoing serious challenges – ranging from funding restrictions to internet black-outs – which prevent them from undertaking their work. Ahead of the elections in both Somalia and Zambia, civil liberties continued to be restricted. According to CIVICUS, journalists’ freedom of expression was hindered, and independent media platforms were targeted for hosting members of the political opposition or bringing up sensitive issues for the government. In Zambia the targeting was accompanied by restrictive legislations on online freedoms.⁷

The humanitarian situation in both Sudan and Somalia continued to worsen in 2021. In 2021 an estimated of 13.4 million people in Sudan were in need of humanitarian assistance – an increase of 4.1 million people from 2020 and the highest number in the past decade.⁸ Moreover, over 120 000 people fled inter-communal violence in Darfur in the first month of 2021. This is double the number of displacements for the whole of 2020.⁹ Conflict-related displacement has significantly increased towards end of the year in the Jebel Moon area in West Darfur.¹⁰ The situation is not any better in Somalia where the overall number of people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection has increased from 5.2 million people in 2020 to 5.9 million in 2021 and is projected to rise to 7.7 million people in 2022. The poor rains during the last three consecutive seasons have caused widespread

and worsening drought conditions across Somalia. This has resulted in failed crop harvests and widespread water shortages, triggering abnormal livestock migration, a decline in livestock production and increased livestock deaths. Water and food prices have continued to rise sharply. Since December 2021, most parts of the country are experiencing severe drought conditions with the eastern regions of Somaliland being the worst-affected regions. Basic drinking water is hardly accessible in most of the country, hence scaling up the humanitarian response is essential in order to prevent a possible human tragedy.¹¹

For the past two years, COVID affected all these countries heavily as well. The pandemic affected people’s lives and project implementation in different ways. In Somaliland the economy of the country was hugely affected as the livelihoods of most of the IDPs in the target IDP communities depended on casual employment. CSSP project beneficiaries used more than half of the child grant entitlements for food during these difficult times as opposed to education receiving the largest portion of the household expenses, which was the case prior to the outbreak of COVID-19. As part of the containment measures pronounced by the Ministry of Health Development, schools and office-based businesses were closed, social events and gatherings were prohibited, and flights and travel were restricted. These measures

7 CIVICUS country pages for Sudan, Somalia and Zambia.

8 Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan 2021.

9 The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Sudan situation report of 29 March 2021[s].

10 According to Displacement Tracking Matrix8 (DTM, 24 Nov. 2021), 9800 people have been displaced, and estimations of further displacement extends to 150 000 additional individuals, including persons from both parties of the conflict, the Arab nomads and farmers from the Misseriya Jebel tribe in the Jebel Moon locality.

11 Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan 2022.

impacted on project implementation and called for adaptability in order to continue the prior performance: the expected number of participants in trainings, community gatherings, advocacy and other sessions were all aligned in respect to COVID-19 guidelines. Projects funded by Save the Children Finland were monitored online, trainings and technical advice were organised using Teams and activities that could be implemented face to face were organised for smaller groups, according to COVID-19 guidance, including positive parenting and child resilience training. In Somalia context projects could be implemented as against the expected results though with agility. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to overstrain the national health system in Zambia. The rural areas were particularly hard hit as they lack infrastructure, essential equipment and electricity. To mitigate the new wave of COVID-19, the government imposed several restrictions on travelling and social gatherings, as well as closing learning institutions and non-essential businesses. The school closures had a negative impact on children's education as an increasing number of girls fell pregnant and boys' use of alcohol and drugs increased. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, Save the Children had to halt some of its activities while others were adapted and implemented in line with the health guidelines put in place by the Zambian government and World Health Organization.

The Somalia Country Programme is in line with Finland's development policy and Save the Children Finland's work complements Finnish efforts to develop the country.

SAVE THE CHILDREN IN SUDAN 2021

The annual portfolio volume for the Sudan country office (CO) was 35.5 million euros. Save the Children reached 1 384 205 beneficiaries directly, of which 815 733 were children. Save the Children Finland supported the Sudan CO in 2021 with 5.9 million euros and provided capacity building and technical expertise.

1.3. THE MIDDLE EAST

According to CIVICUS, the year 2021 saw no major changes in the conditions of the civil society in the Middle East region when compared with the previous

years. Yemen's civil society remains categorised as closed as human rights defenders, journalists and other activists continue to be targeted by the authorities for exercising their right to freedom of expression. For example, civil society activists and journalists who took part in a peaceful protest demanding better living conditions and respect for public freedom got arrested.

Turkey's civic space has been categorised as repressed by CIVICUS. During the past year, several protests were intervened in by the authorities or they imposed outright bans, while other protests were held without any interference. In 2021, the Turkish government's decision to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence saw protesters take to the streets of Istanbul. According to CIVICUS, internet freedom continues to decline due to censorship, resulting in hundreds of blocked websites and the removal of critical content. President Erdogan's announcement of a new regulation on fake news and foreign-funded news has raised concerns about media freedom and pluralism.

In 2021, Yemen continued to face an unprecedented humanitarian crisis driven by the conflict and economic collapse. The situation was further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, escalating hostilities, torrential rains and widespread flooding. In the country, 20.7 million people – 66 % of the population – need humanitarian or protection assistance while more than half of the population are facing acute hunger. Due to the failing economy and collapsing local currency, the cost of essential commodities – such as food, water, fuel and medicines – have soared, making them unaffordable for many.

In Yemen bureaucratic challenges with Yemeni authorities continued to impact on project implementation. Due to a delay in getting an official approval for a sub-agreement from the local authorities, some project activities were delayed, but successfully delivered once the approval was received. In Turkey the key challenge for the project implementation was formed of the local implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to public health concerns, the vast majority of the project activities funded by Save the Children Finland, such as workshops and different sessions, were conducted online. As a consequence,



Photo: Lean Pasion / Save the Children

In all Asian target countries, Save the Children Finland continued its efforts to improve access to vital services like social protection for families struggling to pay their expenses.

the participation of children in the sessions was affected by the availability of equipment and internet access. To overcome this, the project delivered tablets with mobile data for children who did not have the required technical equipment.

SAVE THE CHILDREN IN TURKEY 2021

The annual volume of the Turkey CO was 4 466 091 million euros in 2021. Save the Children’s programme directly reached a total of 27 488 people, including 14 144 children, and indirectly reached 20 228 people, including 14 336 children. Save the Children Finland supported the Turkey CO in 2021 with 320 818 euros.

1.4. ASIA

The year 2021 was yet another year when COVID-19 and nationwide lockdowns and restrictions continued to cause hardship for millions of families and children

in Asia. The second wave of COVID-19 hit many countries during spring 2021 and was far more devastating than earlier waves with many countries facing shortages of vaccines, hospital beds and other medical supplies. By late April, India had the highest number of COVID cases in the world and other Save the Children Finland programme countries – Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines – soon followed with a surge of COVID-19 cases and deaths, also amongst children. With the vaccination programmes being rolled out slowly across Asia, many families continued to suffer from the social and economic impacts of the pandemic through the deaths of family members, the loss of income opportunities, increasing inequalities and levels of hunger, and poor nutrition levels (which have been increasing across the region).¹²

The pandemic in Asia has had a particularly devastating impact on the lives of millions of children. For example, in the Philippines schools have been closed throughout the entire pandemic, severely affecting children’s education, and many children also faced the risk of dropping out of school permanently. Also, in

12 The Food and Agriculture Organization: <https://www.fao.org/3/cb7494en/cb7494en.pdf>

Nepal schools remained closed for most of the year. School-based project activities could not be completed; thus, resources were diverted to the development of home-based learning materials and Save the Children's COVID response, such as improving hand-washing facilities at schools and the provision of nutrition in close cooperation with the local government.

Children also have had their access to essential health services, vaccinations and nutrition services limited, all of which are critical for their survival. Save the Children in Indonesia conducted a study on human rights violations during the pandemic which found that during the pandemic almost 85% of respondents experienced difficulties in meeting their daily food needs. It also showed that national and regional policies addressing the needs for and rights to social protection (SP) for vulnerable groups during the pandemic were not available or were inadequate and that child rights were impacted on in many different ways, including being impacted on by child marriage, dropping out of school and child labour.

All in all, Save the Children Finland programme countries, regular project activities (such as face-to-face capacity building activities, field visits and monitoring) were halted or adapted due to restrictions in movement and staff sickness, and were adjusted to respond to needs related to COVID-19. SP, our key focus in Asia, continued to be a key measure with which we addressed the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 as it prevents poor households from falling further into poverty and helps them to cope with crises, such as the crisis caused by the pandemic. In India, for example, the project's efforts were intensified in order to facilitate the access of poor families to SP schemes by generating awareness on a new relief package which was announced by the government in the wake of COVID-19.

Asia is also one of the regions most affected by climate change and extreme weather (such as floods, storms and droughts) which continued to cause loss of life and livelihoods, and displacement within our programme countries. Typhoon Rai, which hit the Philippines in late 2021, affected many parts of the Visayas region and Save the Children Finland project areas, causing Save the Children project teams to engage in helping the emergency response.

For civil society, the year 2021 was also turbulent in terms of the civil society space, with no improvement in sight, and according to CIVICUS, COVID-19 continues to be used as a pretext to restrict rights across the globe. All Save the Children Finland programme countries in Asia have civil society space which is classified as *repressed* or *obstructed* and ongoing attacks on civil society, including using different tactics to silence civil society, and arrests of human rights defenders continued in the Philippines and Indonesia in particular. According to CIVICUS (2021), the situation in India is particularly alarming as civil society space has continued to deteriorate, and the authorities have blocked access to foreign funding for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) using the restrictive Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act and have raided the offices of human rights groups for allegedly violating the law. The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act makes it impossible for organisations such as Save the Children to fully engage with grassroots-level local partners.

SAVE THE CHILDREN INDONESIA

The annual volume of Save the Children Indonesia in 2021 was 11 162 950 euros and it directly reached almost 24 099 082 beneficiaries, out of which 8 256 802 were children. Save the Children Finland supported Save the Children Indonesia in 2021 with 420 000 euros.

2. THE STRATEGIC FOCUS AND PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

2.1. PROGRAMME PROGRESS

The programme achieved excellent results despite COVID-19 affecting the implementation for the last two years of the programme period. As in 2020, in 2021 COVID-19 restrictions also caused challenges with some indicator data collection exercises, as well as delaying final evaluation conductions to the very end of the year. For example, school drop-out data collection was not possible in India in 2020 and 2021 due to the fact that schools had been closed for most of the two years due to lockdowns.

NEPAL

- 8 percentage-point reduction in dropping out of school
- 17 percentage-point reduction in paid child work
- 20.58 percentage-point reduction in underweight children aged under five years old
- 8 089 people accessed SP worth of 800 000 euros
- 27 percentage-point increase in improved parenting practices

SOMALIA

- 19 percentage-point reduction in dropping out of school
- 6.5 percentage-point reduction in paid child work
- 2.5 percentage-point reduction in underweight children aged under five years old
- 750 households accessed a pilot child grant
- 22 percentage-point increase in improved parenting practices¹³
- 76 percentage-point increase in child protection service providers who fulfil the minimum criteria

A major success during the programme period has been the increased access to SP) of eligible households. We were able to increase access year after year. The total number of people supported in accessing government SP or humanitarian cash assistance amounted to 120 000 people at the end of 2021. In two countries alone, Nepal and India, the amount of cash received from the government by SP beneficiaries during the programme period rounds up to 2.8 million euros.

The parenting work implemented both in the CSSP and child protection (CP) projects has also proven to be successful. In CSSP projects, there was an increase in improved parenting practices in all countries, varying from a 9 percentage-point increase in the Philippines to a 36 percentage-point increase in India. In CP projects, the parenting work resulted in similar improvements in parenting practices. The average improvement for Somalia and Zambia was 14 percentage points. The CP projects also progressed well in regard to improving the quality of CP systems. The evidence, both from endline indicator data and final evaluations, shows that 91.6% of the supported formal and informal service providers were able to be classed as green in endline quality assessments, compared with 16% in the baseline assessments.

When analysing the four components (scale, voice, innovation, partnerships) of the theory of change, it is clear that the programme implementation is following the components and that they are effective and enforce the realisation of the outcomes.

Under the **scale** component, in the Philippines we were able to create national interest to the cash plus approach after we had signed an agreement in 2020 with one of the regional governments who formally adopted the CSSP parenting programme as a part of their social case management strategy for recipients

The family budgeting sessions included in the child sensitivity package of the CSSP projects support households to make the most of whatever money is available. The photo shows a family in Leyte, in the Philippines, filling in their financial diary.



Photo: Lean Pasion / Save the Children

of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Programme (the 4Ps). Currently Save the Children is negotiating about the national scale up of training social workers in the whole country to deliver the CSSP parenting package. The impact of this can be huge as the number of households benefiting from the 4Ps is over four million across the country. The scale up has shifted our role from one of direct implementation to that of capacity building.

Within the **voice** component, Save the Children Finland worked throughout the programme period to develop the AskKids software that enables children to give feedback in a child-friendly way on the CP services that they had used. The overarching idea was that the feedback will guide the CP service providers in designing more child-friendly services. The evidence on girls' and boys' perceptions of the quality and accessibility of the CP services available that was collected by using AskKids confirms that, compared with the baseline, supported children know the available services better and have improved trust and confidence in regard to approaching the service providers for support. While children now feel that they are being better engaged with by, for example, community CP committees and while some reported that their views and opinions matter, the endline indicator data still points out that more needs to be done in order for services to be child friendly and disability inclusive, and many children still feel that they are not listened to adequately.

An example of the **innovation** component is using family budgeting lessons as part of the child-sensitivity package in the CSSP projects. The purpose of the

family budgeting sessions was to make the most of whatever money is available through SP and other income sources by inculcating a savings habit, facilitating the prioritisation of expenses and the avoidance of debt, and encouraging families to consider children's short- and long-term development needs. Save the Children Finland worked with an organisation known as 'a + b = 3' in order to develop and tailor the sessions to the specific needs of each country. Despite many families having meagre incomes, the data from the monitoring shows that savings were prioritised and had increased in all countries at the time of the post-assessment. This suggests that the sessions have been effective in initiating a savings habit among the families and that even very poor and vulnerable families with irregular incomes can be motivated to save small amounts. All the people who participated in the financial diary pilot were highly appreciative of the family budgeting sessions, which they reported helped them plan and manage their money better.

None of the above would have been possible without working in **partnership** with local and national governments, local NGOs and community-based organisations. For example, memorandums of understanding with the ministries in Burkina Faso and Somalia/Somaliland have enabled us to deepen our system approach and support the scale up of our approaches with these ministries' governments. For more details on achieving the outcomes, please see Sections 2.2 and 2.3.

2.2. CHILD POVERTY

FOCUS AREA: CSSP AND CHILD-SENSITIVE LIVELIHOODS

Save the **CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL OUTCOME: Both female and male caregivers have sufficient economic resources at all times to meet the essential needs of the children in their care to ensure their survival, learning and protection**

The outcome is linked to United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Articles 26 and 27

PROGRESS TOWARDS THESE OUTCOMES

Save the Children Finland Outcome 1	Indicators	Change created
Reduced child poverty in relation to nutrition, education and the reduction of child work	% of children under five that are underweight	An average of an 8.3 percent-age-point reduction in children under five that are underweight
	% of children involved in paid child work (the age category varies from country to country, depending on the local context)	An average of a 26 percent-age-point reduction in children involved in child labour
	Drop-out rate among children (the age category varies from country to country, depending on the local context)	An average of a 6.2 percent-age-point reduction in the drop-out rate

The programme was successful in reducing child malnutrition, paid child work and the drop out of children from school in the project locations. The key driver behind these achievements has been the implementation of a ‘cash plus’ approach, focused on implementing a parenting package that sensitises caregivers in regard to children’s development needs and rights. Combining the ‘plus approach’ with improving access to social assistance through the establishment of accountability mechanisms that help facilitate interface meetings between service providers and SP beneficiaries has also been key. Special efforts were made to build the capacity of government service providers, for example, the health post workers in Nepal, the local government (panchayats) in India, Community Welfare Assistant Committee members in Zambia and the staff of the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family (MESAF) of Somaliland, which is the lead agency for SP in Somaliland.



Percentage of children under five that are underweight			
Country	Baseline	2020	2021
Nepal	37.58%	24%	24%
Somaliland/Somalia	12.5%	N/A	11.7%
Zambia	11.5%	N/A	7.9%

Good progress was made against the underweight indicator in the three CSSP project countries – Nepal, Zambia and Somalia – where the focus was on improving nutritional outcomes. In Nepal, the percentage of underweight children was significantly reduced from 35% in 2017 to 17% in 2021 in the catchment area of 15 health posts. This reduction can be attributed to the fact that the capacity was built of health post staff by Save the Children in order for

Photo: Save the Children



Conducted assessments indicate clearly that the well-being of children living in project areas has improved on many levels during the programme period.

them to carry out the appropriate growth monitoring of children while also informing mothers of adequate care and nutrition for infants and young children. In Somalia and Zambia, the reduction was less, between 1 and 4 percentage points.

There was an overall reduction in children involved in paid work across the project countries of Zambia, Somalia and India. The most significant reduction was achieved in Somaliland/Somalia and Zambia, the figures being reduced from 17% and 30% at baseline in 2017 to 2.17% and 11% respectively at endline (in 2021). In India, 54% of all children identified as being engaged in paid work during 2020–2021 were removed from child labour. This significant reduction in child work in India, Somaliland/Somalia and Zambia can be attributed to a range of factors, including the promotion of community-based norms against child labour, access to social assistance and undertaking parenting sessions to sensitise parents/caregivers to the negative impacts of child labour. In Nepal, the lengthy nationwide lockdown was a key contributor to the absence of child labour work by the end of 2021. The increase of children involved in paid child work in Zambia from 2020 to 2021 can largely be attributed to the suspension of social cash transfers (SCTs), which led some families with no choice but to put their children into labour.¹⁴

The percentage of children involved in paid child work *



Country	Baseline	2020	2021
Somaliland/ Somalia	17%	2%	2,17%
Zambia	30%	3,6%	11%
India	NA	243/245 identified & removed from child labour ¹⁵	143/471 identified & removed from child labour ¹⁶
Nepal	17%	NA	0%

* The age category varies from country to country depending on the local context

Good results were also achieved with reducing school drop out in Somalia, Zambia and Nepal. In Somalia, for example, the drop-out rate reduced from 8% at baseline to 1.5% at endline. In Nepal, it reduced from 11% at baseline to 3% at endline. Regular ‘child grant’ transfers¹⁷, coupled with the CSSP parenting programme and improved services at the school level were the key drivers behind this reduction in drop-out rates in Somaliland. The capacity building of school management committees and teachers, and providing support to virtual classes via FM radio are among the reasons for the reduction in drop out in Nepal. Although the progress against drop out was on the positive side, children’s education suffered as schools were closed for long periods due to COVID-19.

14 The Case Studies Compendium contains cases related to children getting into labour. This endline data was collected during June/July 2021.

15 The indicator changed in 2020, so we are only tracking the actual number of children who have been removed from child labour. In 2020 243 children were removed from child labour (girls: 118; boys: 125).

16 Only tracking the actual numbers of children who have been removed from child labour. In 2021, a total of 143 children (girls: 48; boys: 95) were removed from child labour.

17 A monthly transfer of 20 US dollars to targeted households under the Save the Children Finland supported the CSSP project.



Drop-out rate among children*			
Country	Base-line	2020	2021
Somaliland/Somalia	8%	2,1%	1,5%
Zambia	13,6%	N/A	9,5%
India	12,6 %	N/A due to COVID-19	N/A due to COVID-19
Nepal	11%	NA	3%

*The age category varies from country to country, depending on the local context

During the programme period, the humanitarian cash and voucher assistance (CVA) supported by Save the Children Finland focused on food security outcomes. For example, at the beginning of 2021, 42% of the households in the project area in Baidoa in Somalia had an acceptable diet, while at the end of 2021 the figure was 74% of the households. In Sudan in 2020, the average coping strategy index reduced from 13.8 at baseline to 7 in the post-distribution monitoring, demonstrating a systematic improvement of household food security. In addition to meeting survival needs, Save the Children Finland’s approach has been to empower the households and progressively address children’s well-being needs. As such, Save the Children Finland has systematically combined CVA with additional, high-quality complementary services and interventions in order to achieve longer-term and sectoral outcomes, especially for children.

Save the Children Finland Outcome 2	Indicator
SP strategies and programmes are made child sensitive	SP policy and programme implementation endorse CSSP as a key approach to addressing the deprivation and vulnerability of children (each country has a specific indicator detailing the policies or programmes we are targeting)

The most significant achievement under this outcome was the recognition by key government stakeholders across the CSSP programme countries regarding the added value of Save the Children’s CSSP parenting programme, delivered alongside social assistance programmes to maximise the impact for children. A key

reason for the success has been the close engagement with local and national governments from the very beginning.

In the Philippines, the regional government of the Eastern Visayas endorsed the parenting programme that we had piloted in several municipalities with recipients of the 4Ps as a part of their social case management strategy. This means that all 270 000 4Ps parents in the region will eventually take part in the parenting programme designed by Save the Children. Save the Children has become a recognised SP actor in the country and was invited as the only CSO to take part in the framing of the Internal Rules and Regulations of the 4Ps SP programme.

In Nepal, five municipalities came forward to fund the implementation of the parenting programme by paying the remuneration of the community-based parenting facilitators trained by Save the Children to work with parents receiving the Child Grant. This demonstrates local government’s willingness to endorse the parenting programme as a key approach to boosting the impact of the Child Grant, and national buy in is likely to be influenced by this. Further, in Nepal a national cash transfer programme has been introduced for orphaned children, modelled on a Save the Children pilot implemented in selected districts.

In Somaliland/Somalia, training for intensive capacity strengthening on SP was undertaken for project staff, national civil society organisations (CSOs), international NGOs, United Nations organisations and government staff from Somaliland and southwest states (from the MESAF and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs respectively). These trainings resulted in the government of Somaliland in particular, and other SP stakeholders in general, having improved their understanding of CSSP and its importance in human capital development. The capacity-building interventions also helped the government to appreciate the need for undertaking a scoping and sector review study of SP in Somaliland during 2019/2020. This was led jointly by the MESAF and Save the Children under the CSSP project. The recommendations of the study led to the MESAF formally requesting funding for the development of an SP policy for Somaliland. Following this request, Save the Children has been leading the process of providing the MESAF with technical, as well as financial, assistance in regard to developing the Social

Save the Children Finland Outcome 3	Indicator	Created change
Improved access to SP programmes for deprived households and their children (including access in emergencies)	The increase (as a percentage and number) in access to SP for both the female and male caregivers of deprived children – including cash and in-kind transfers	Approximately 120 000 people were assisted to access government SP programmes or humanitarian cash
	The increased use of transparency and accountability mechanisms for accessing SP	<p>Technical Assistance mechanisms were used in 70 wards in Nepal and in 32 Community Welfare Assistant Committees in 4 chiefdoms in Zambia.</p> <p>In Somalia/Somaliland, T&A mechanisms were implemented in 6 IDP locations of the project in Hargeisa and Baidoa.</p> <p>In India, 202 persons (2020/2021) used public hearings for grievances' redressal.</p>

Protection Policy for Somaliland. Currently, the draft policy is undergoing translation work so that it can be presented by the MESAF to the cabinet of ministers for approval.

Although not directly affecting the child sensitivity of SP programmes and policy, some important advocacy results were achieved in regard to continuing and regularising SP programmes for vulnerable households. For example, the Social Protection Civil Society Network (SPCSN), initiated by Save the Children in Nepal, was able to prevent the government from discontinuing the partial disability allowance and the widow allowance for women under 60 years old. In Zambia, a compendium of case studies, *Falling Through the Cracks: The impact of inconsistent Social Cash Transfers on children in Lufwanyama district, Zambia* was officially launched and disseminated in March 2021. The compendium documented how the irregular SCT payments in Zambia had affected the children of the SCT beneficiary households in Zambia, profiling children's voices. The event was officially launched by the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services and drew on a number of media houses based in Lusaka and the representatives of donor agencies, including IOM, WFP, UNHCR and USAID. Since then, the SCT has been regularised in the CSSP project area, addressing some of the major challenges that children were facing.

During the programme period, Save the Children Finland supported approximately 120 000 people to access either government SP programmes or humanitarian cash assistance. The work done in order to improve access to SP has been directed towards



Photo: Save the Children

In improving access to social protection programmes for deprived households, the different needs of the individual family members are taken into account.

strengthening local governance structures¹⁸ in order to improve the uptake of SP provisions. The largest number of people supported in availing themselves of SP or livelihood programmes during the programme period was in the Philippines where a total of 31 909 people received support in Leyte, in Eastern Visayas. In response to COVID-19, the government introduced the Social Amelioration Programme and a food package programme which, taken together, were provided to more than 20 000 households in the CSSP project area in 2020. As a result of the systematic capacity building of local governments regarding their capacity to handle SP programmes, the distribution of the social assistance was smooth, and the local government assessed that the targeting of vulnerable households was much more efficient in the project areas than in non-project areas.

In Nepal we supported as many as 8 089 people to

¹⁸ Due to increased decentralisation in Asia, local governments are having a larger role in the governance and distribution of national SP programmes.


The percentage of female and male caregivers of deprived children that access SP – including cash and in-kind transfers

Country	Baseline	2020	2021
Nepal	80% (of eligible beneficiaries)	97% (of eligible beneficiaries)	98% (of eligible beneficiaries)
India	60% (of eligible beneficiaries)	81% (of eligible beneficiaries)	81% (of eligible beneficiaries)
Philippines	0	23 441	31 901 beneficiaries
Somaliland/ Somalia	0	750 households	750 beneficiary households
Zambia	7.8% of households	N/A	20.92% of households
Burkina Faso	0	4 300 households	4 300 beneficiary households

avail themselves of regular SP programmes, the key one being the Child Grant¹⁹ for children under five years old. A sizeable number of people (1 015) were also able to get access to the partial and full disability allowances. The monetary value of the regular cash transfers accessed in Nepal is approximately 800 000 euros for the five-year programme period. In the CSSP operational areas, 98% of all people eligible for the main programmes – the Child Grant, disability allowances, single women and widow allowances, old age pensions – were accessing their entitlements by the end of 2021. This achievement is largely due to SP camps held with the local governments, during which large numbers of people attend, as do the relevant government departments. Through the camps, people who are eligible for a programme get on-the-spot support with their application. The intensive capacity building of municipality staff on the various programmes and the registration system are also key factors for success. Seventy wards²⁰ began practising public hearings on SP on a regular basis, thus enhancing the accountability of the SP system.

In India, where there are many SP programmes, 81% of all people eligible for the main programmes had gained access by the end of 2021 (compared with 60% in 2017) in the project area. This translates into a total number of 7 735 people benefitting from an overall monetary value of approximately 2 000 000 euros. The key programmes here are Palanhar Yojana²¹ and the old age pension. The increased awareness and use of the statutory transparency and accountability mechanisms promoted by the project was an important factor behind this increase. People gained access to their entitlements by resorting to,

for example, the Right to Information Act, which stipulates that the government must respond in a given number of days to a grievance received. The Public Hearing Act was another mechanism used as means of securing SP entitlements. A key contribution of the project towards SP system strengthening was the development of a Management Information System for local governments to track eligibility and access to SP.

In Africa, there is a rather limited number of government-funded SP programmes. However, in Zambia the focus was on regularising the SCT, the main SP programme in the country. Extensive lobbying and advocacy efforts were made for the same with the local and national governments to ensure that the poorest and most marginalised children and their families in the Lufwanyama district have access to the SCT programme in a transparent and accountable manner. There was a 13.12 percentage-point increase in households accessing the SCT during the programme period. Major achievements were made in the last year of the project after the SCT was regularised. A major contributor to this was Save the Children International engaging in national-level advocacy through a *Compendium of Case Studies*, which highlighted the negative impacts of irregular, inadequate and inconsistent SCT on the most deprived and vulnerable children in Lufwanyama. The total number of SCT beneficiary households in Lufwanyama district stood at 7 571 at the end of 2021 compared with approximately 3 000 households in 2017.

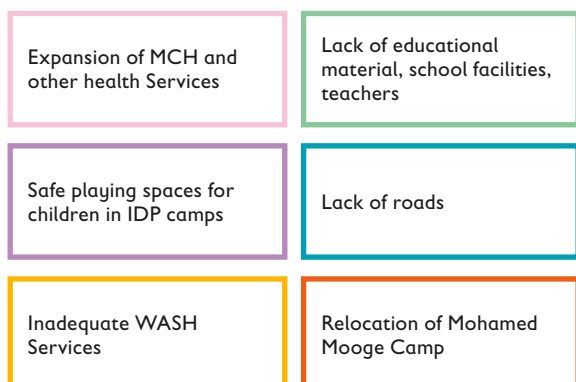
In Burkina Faso, about 4 300 targeted poor and vulnerable households were supported with predictable

19 6 481 beneficiaries were supported to access the Child Grant.

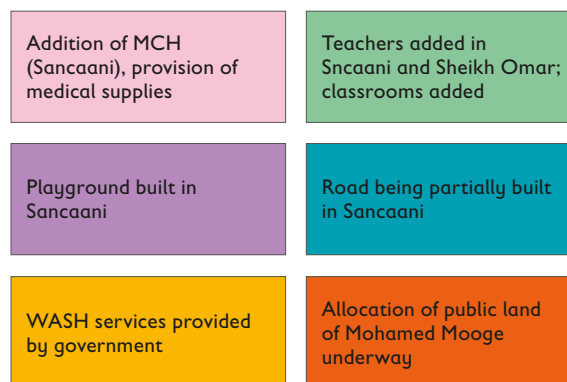
20 A ward is the lowest level of local government.

21 A caregiver scheme for orphaned children.

ISSUES RAISED DURING INTERFACE MEETINGS IN 3 IDP CAMPS IN SOMALILAND



ISSUES ADDRESSED FOLLOWING INTERFACE MEETINGS



*Source: CSSP Somaliland/Somalia endline evaluation report

and regular cash transfers through our CSSP pilots under the PIEREF project supported by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the UNICEF-supported PEPSE project. In Somaliland/Somalia, all the targeted 750 households across Hargeisa in Somaliland and Baidoa, in the Southwest State, received the child grant (initiated by the project) on a regular monthly basis. In Somaliland/Somalia, there are no governmental SP schemes for which access could be increased using the transparency and accountability mechanisms; however, significant progress was made in terms of the improved uptake of basic services (education, health, water, sanitation and hygiene and the allocation of land) by IDP communities, services which have been largely devoid.

From 2017 to 2021, Save the Children Finland’s humanitarian CVA programming focused on serving the most vulnerable people in the several humanitarian crises in Sudan, Somalia, Burkina Faso, Yemen and Iraq. Starting with 7 500 individuals reached per year in 2017, Save the Children Finland progressively scaled up throughout the years, reaching an average of 40 000 individuals in 2021. This assistance was mostly channelled through mobile money and money transfer agents and aimed at covering food security and basic needs. Transfer mechanisms, values and durations were adapted to each context and based on sectoral guidelines, regular market monitoring and active participation in local working groups. To maintain high levels of quality and achieve the intended results, Save the Children Finland closely collaborated with the COs, investing in their local staff capacities, providing tailored support and developing the CO’s cash operations procedures.

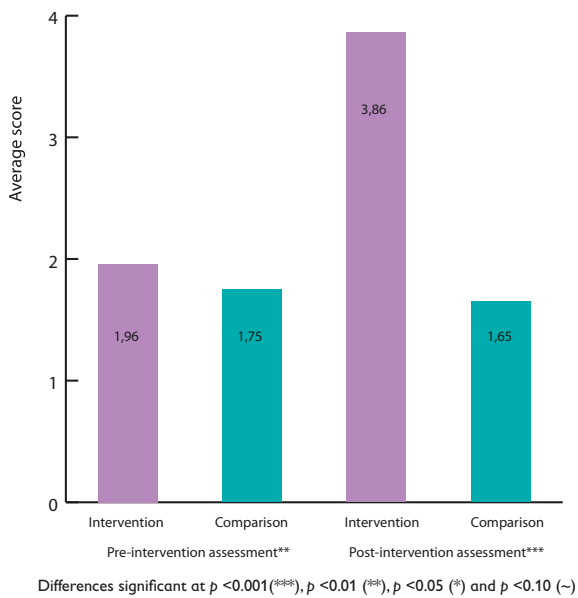
Outcome 4	Indicator	Created change
Improved parenting and caregiving practices among targeted households	The percentage of supported caregivers that demonstrate improved parenting and caregiving attitudes and practices	On average, there was a 24 percentage-point increase in the number of caregivers that demonstrated improved parenting and caregiving attitudes and practices

One of the key cash plus strategies to promote child sensitivity was to introduce a parenting programme for the beneficiaries of different SP programmes targeted under the CSSP projects. The ultimate objective of the parenting programme is to promote improved child development outcomes, whereas improving caregiver behaviour is regarded as an important intermediary outcome. To ascertain the impact of the programme on caregivers as well as children, we conducted pre- and post-assessments across all CSSP projects.

In all CSSP programme countries, there was an overall improvement in parenting practices among the parents/caregivers who participated in the parenting sessions. Globally, the maltreatment of children has been shown to negatively affect children’s development, and the CSSP parenting programme promotes positive disciplining strategies and lays emphasis on explaining to children why some behaviour may be inappropriate. Maltreatment practices are measured through four subscales (i.e. non-violent discipline,

psychological aggression, physical assault and neglect). Caregivers in the intervention areas outperformed caregivers in the control areas in four out of five project²² countries with substantial improvements in all four subscales. As an example, caregivers in one of the cohorts studied in Nepal doubled their use of non-violent discipline practices after the parenting sessions.

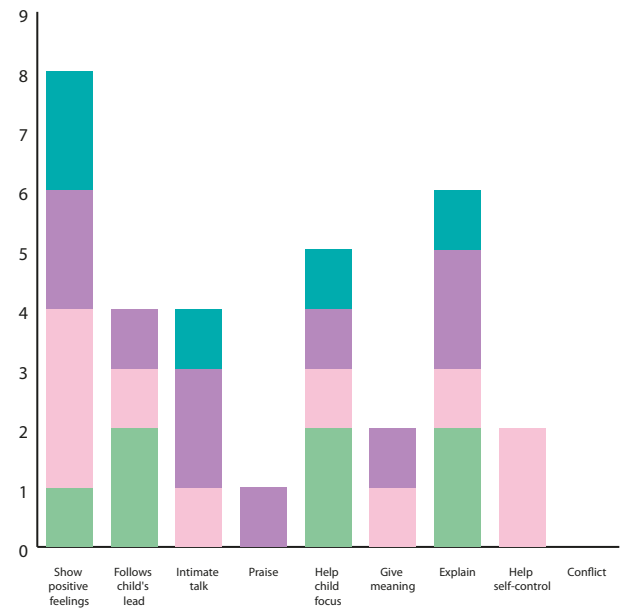
The average non-violent discipline score for intervention and comparison groups in pre-intervention and post-intervention assessments in Nepal.



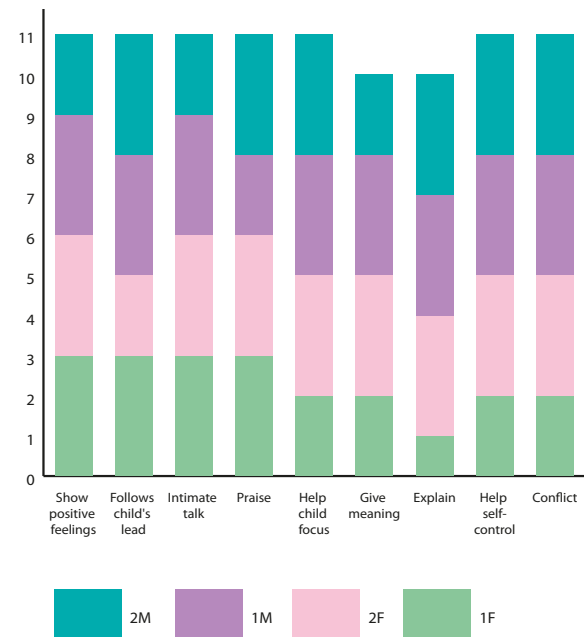
To measure caregivers’ engagement with children, different scales were used focusing on, for example, quality time spent together, following up on children’s attainment in school, physical affection and praise. There were significant improvements in engagement across all the CSSP project countries. For example, engagement improved by 36% points in Zambia and 46% points in Nepal.

As an example, caregivers in one of the locations in Zambia showed improvement in all the eight themes of the parenting programme from the pre-assessment to the post-assessment, with the greatest improvement on the themes of *praise*, *giving meaning*, *helping self-control* and *conflict*.

Pre-assessment of parenting programme in Zambia, care-givers



Post-assessment of parenting programme in Zambia, care-givers



The success of the parenting programme will ultimately be measured in improvements in child development outcomes. In Asia (i.e. India, Nepal and the Philippines), where we applied globally validated tools to measure changes in children’s development outcomes, the children in the intervention groups outperformed the children in the control groups in all

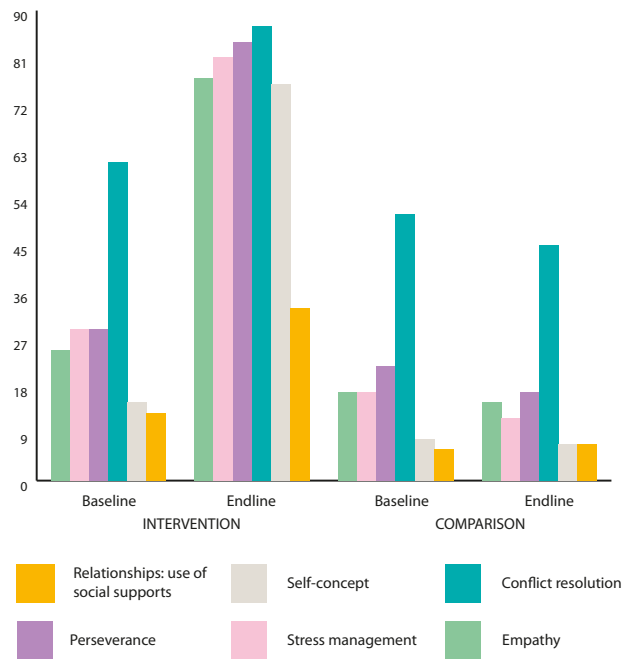
22 In Zambia the change on maltreatment practices was not significant, as reported by the quantitative analysis; however, the qualitative analysis did bring out an improvement in disciplinary practices among the intervention group parents/caregivers.

project areas. In Nepal, where we focused on children below five years old whose mothers are recipients of the government Child Grant programme, the children in the intervention group had much higher gains on all early childhood development domains when measured using the International Development and Early Learning Assessment tool (see the graph at the bottom of the page).

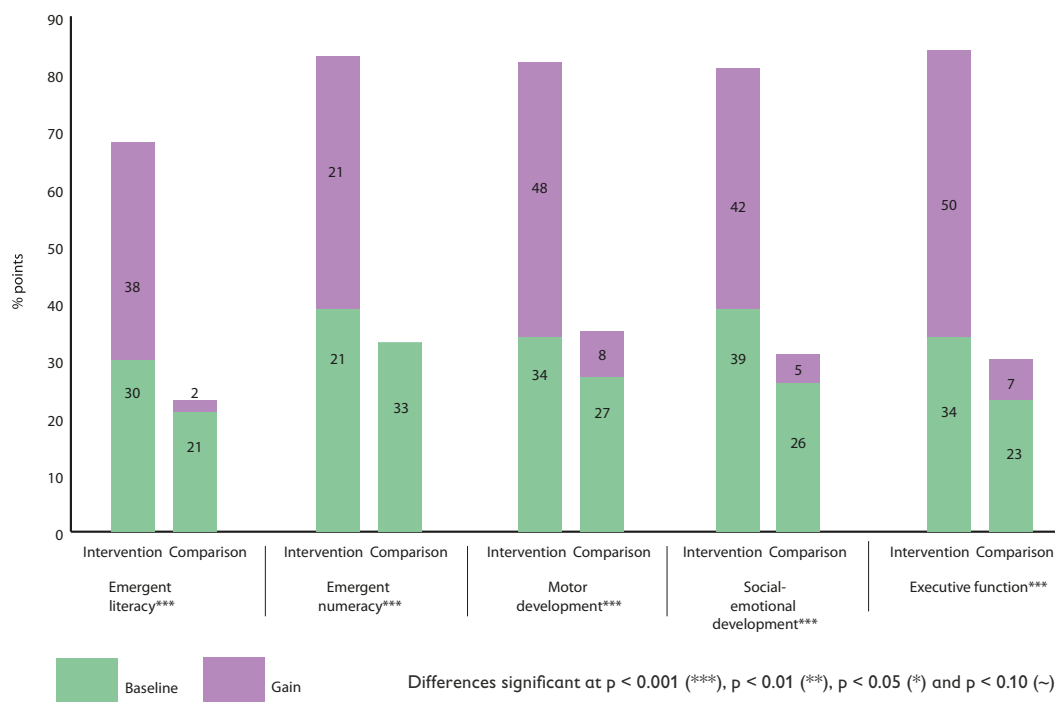
In India – where we are strengthening the Government of Rajasthan’s Palanhar Yojana scheme for orphans and other vulnerable children with parenting sessions, as well as providing life skills sessions for some young adolescents – an impact assessment showed remarkable improvements in the children’s social and emotional skills in the intervention area. The evaluation was based on the International Social and Emotional Learning Assessment - ISELA.

The success of the parenting programme demonstrates the effectiveness of the unique techniques used in preparing facilitators for delivering the sessions, which is based on self-practice, internalisation and encouraging parents to find opportunities in everyday situations to practice good parenting with their children. Intensive training and providing support to facilitators are also key in order to ensure the quality of the programme. In Asia, where we set a benchmark for facilitator performance, a majority of the facilitators were able to reach this.

ISELA domain scores in tracked sample. Intervention N=120, Comparison N=114



Improvement in early development greater for the intervention group than comparison group (3-5 years old)





The percentage of supported caregivers that demonstrate improved parenting and caregiving attitudes and practices

Country	Baseline	2020	2021
Nepal	67%	N/A	94%
Philippines	75%	N/A	84%
India	36%	N/A	72%
Somaliland	30%	NA	67%
Zambia	69%	NA	80%

In Nepal and the Philippines, we made special efforts to also engage fathers in the parenting programme. Qualitative studies confirmed that the efforts had resulted in fathers becoming much more aware of the importance of their role as a parent and how this will have a positive bearing on their children's development. In Nepal, fathers began engaging with childcare activities such as feeding and bathing. In the Philippines it was found that fathers had become much gentler with their children and reduced hitting them as a result of participating in the parenting programme. Moreover, in both project areas, men as well as women reported that husbands are increasingly supporting their wives with domestic chores. A key achievement in Somaliland was to develop and include sessions on promoting disability inclusion as part of delivering the CSSP parenting programme. The disability inclusion sessions were developed in partnership with Abilis, a Finnish disability inclusion specialist organisation. Abilis was also engaged for building the capacity of Save the Children International CO staff, CSOs and government line ministry staff on disability inclusion in Somaliland. The disability inclusion sessions have found great resonance and appreciation among the community members and caregivers being trained on parenting.

Key strategies towards sustainability

The key strategy for sustainability has been the strong partnerships, from the beginning, with local, regional and national governments across the project countries. These partnerships are important since in most cases we are working to strengthen the government's SP system. Targeted capacity building and strengthening measures (such as training the staff of government line ministries and departments, as well as community-based institutions, on Save the

Children's CSSP parenting approach) led to duty bearers' enhanced understanding and ownership of CSSP. In all CSSP countries in Asia, as well as in Zambia, the government came forward to provide their front-line workers to be trained as CSSP parenting facilitators and deliver parenting sessions at the community level. For example, the Department of Social Welfare and Development in the Philippines provided their social worker force to implement the parenting programme for 4P beneficiaries. Likewise in Zambia, the Department of Community Development and Social Welfare allowed and encouraged Community Welfare Assistant Committee members to roll out and deliver the parenting programme for SCT beneficiary households. Although local and national governments in all CSSP countries have been forthcoming and supportive of implementing and scaling up the CSSP parenting programme, the key challenge is still lack of a dedicated work force in most countries (with the exception of the Philippines) which would have the skills, mandate, time and capacity required to successfully deliver a parenting programme.

Government-funded SP programmes in Africa are still limited, especially in some of the least developed countries (Somalia, Burkina Faso) where we engage with a CSSP programme. The focus is still very much on humanitarian and emergency CVA programming. This limits the possibility of leveraging government SP schemes to enhance child sensitivity at scale. Typically, our intervention faces the dual burden of creating evidence and advocating for the need to invest in SP transfers, as well as cash plus approaches such as the CSSP parenting programme. Ultimately, this means that the possibility and time frame for scaling up cash plus approaches become lengthy, challenging and resource intensive.

Another challenge that comes up, particularly in the African context, is the scale of evidence required for both government and development partners to consider the parenting component as a critical part of SP programmes. Undertaking parenting trainings at that scale and the related research studies require substantial budgets, which are difficult to accommodate given the scope and scale of the CSSP programming with which Save the Children Finland can engage.

Although much of the CSSP work is focused on strengthening local government systems for better uptake and inclusion of SP, there is some important work taking place with CSOs. In Nepal, the SPCSN



Making Child Sensitive Social Protection Gender-Responsive: examples from Asia and Africa

Child Sensitive Social Protection Technical Working Group, December 2021

The Making Child-Sensitive Social Protection Gender Responsive -report showcases how gender inequalities have been analysed and responded to in Save the Children’s work on CSSP.

initiated by Save the Children was supported in taking the lead in SP advocacy and national engagements. During this programme period, the SPCSN has become a recognised SP actor in Nepal and has also been able to attract funds from other donors. The SPCSN is made up of existing interest groups – such as migrant workers, victims of trafficking and single women – and is therefore a key voice with which to promote and protect the rights of vulnerable groups vis-a-vis SP. In the Philippines, CSSP staff supported the making of a local CSO comprising of people who have been trained as parenting facilitators. Together with Save the Children, they are now engaged in cascading the parenting programme for the 4Ps. In Zambia, CSO partners were provided with technical training and support on child-centred transparency and social accountability mechanisms, leading to the training of communities and children in six provinces using lessons from the CSSP project in Lufwanyama. The CSOs and communities now have increased capacity and confidence to engage with service providers to improve the quality and reliability of essential and basic services. In Somaliland/Somalia, a SP working group was created which has provided the needed platform for exchanging ideas, knowledge, challenges and improving understanding of CSSP. Implementing civil society partners have established a robust relationship with the national government, local authorities and communities and, with their enhanced capacity to lobby, their efforts will lead to sustainable investment in CSSP.

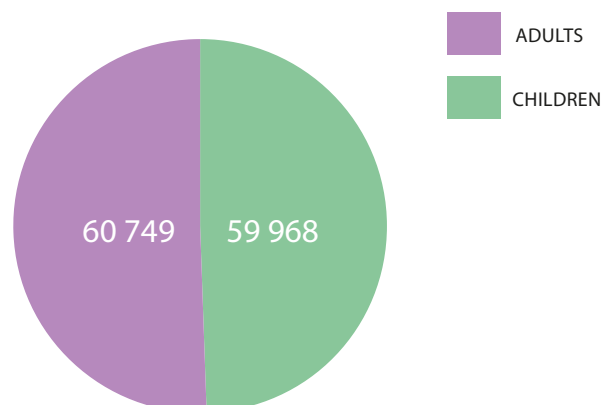
Thematic development

Save the Children Finland SP advisers have actively contributed to the development of the CSSP technical working group (TWG) during the last year and throughout the programme period. A paper entitled *Making Child Sensitive Social Protection Gender Responsive* was initiated and led by Save the Children Finland and brought out the importance of considering gender inequalities as part of CSSP programming. Save the Children Finland also contributed extensively to the development of Save the Children International’s guidance on shock responsive SP, and Save the Children Finland is also leading the development of the guidance on promoting disability inclusion in SP.

The evaluations of parenting as a cash plus initiative have demonstrated the significant impact that this approach can have on children’s development. Based on research in the Asian CSSP countries, there is now evidence to suggest that the programme is improving early childhood development as well as the social and emotional skills of older children. An assessment of the family budgeting sessions that have been introduced as part of the parenting programme has shown that these form a promising initiative with which to support families in improving their financial behaviour.²³

The key lesson learned is that the most crucial elements for scaling up and sustaining CSSP interventions are close engagement with the government from the very outset; forging partnerships with CSOs and development partners, building their capacity; and supporting national, regional and local networks and platforms for advocating for CSSP.

Direct reach through CSSP / cash and voucher programming in 2021



23 For more details on family budgeting, see Sections 3.1 and 6.1.

2.3. CHILD PROTECTION

FOCUS AREA: Child Protection

SAVE THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL OUTCOME: All children are protected through a strong CP system, integrating both formal and informal components

The outcome is linked to UNCRRC Articles 19 and 22

PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES

Outcome 5	Indicators	Change created
Community CP systems are strengthened, in particular so they can meet the needs of the most deprived children and respond effectively to emergencies and other shocks	The number of targeted CP service providers/interventions that have improved their quality of service in a 12-month period	An increase of 37 CP service providers who scored green in the service quality assessment (baseline: 2, endline: 39)
	The perceptions of girls/boys of the quality and accessibility of the CP services available or provided in their communities	A clear improvement in perceptions, but more needs to be done to ensure services are child friendly and disability inclusive

By the end of the five-year programme, substantial progress had been made in strengthening the community CP systems by improving the quality of key formal and informal service providers in programme countries. The number of supported CP service providers that have been assessed with this indicator increased by 143%²⁴ during the programme period, and the evidence both from endline indicator data and final evaluations shows that 75% of the supported formal and informal service providers were able to score green in endline quality assessments, compared with 9.5% in the baseline assessments. According to the final evaluations, projects made significant

contributions to strengthening CP case management by building the capacity of the CP workforce, improving guidance and processes around case management and increasing the number of children receiving services. In total, approximately 3 631 girls and 3 842 boys that were affected by different CP harms (like abuse, neglect and child labour) were supported with CP case management and referral services. Mid-term reviews revealed limited access to CP services for girls and boys with disabilities, and while further improvements are still needed, during the last two years the programme managed to ensure an increased number of 254 children with disabilities who receive case

	# of services assessed		# of services, by rating	
	Baseline	Endline	Baseline	Endline
Service providers (formal, NGO)	13*	40	1	0
			10	12
			2	28
Community-based CP mechanisms	8*	12	2	0
			6	1
			0	11
Total	21	52	3	0
			16	13
			2	39
	Total green %		9.5%	75%

*No baseline data available for the Zambia CP 2020–2021 project.

Photo: Hamze Abdirahman / Save the Children.



Mobilisation of the whole community – from children with their parents to service providers and decision makers – is a key factor for achieving success in strengthening child protection.

management and referral support. This represents 3.4% of the total amount of children receiving CP case management support.



The percentage of targeted CP service providers / interventions that have improved their quality of service in a 12-month period

Country	Baseline	2020	2021
Somalia	15%	83%	91%
Burkina Faso	0%	43%	100%
Zambia	33%	100%	84% ²⁵

Evaluations indicated that a multi-pronged approach to strengthening CP systems and supporting informal, community-based CP mechanisms is an effective pathway to increasing awareness of available services and identifying and referring children in need of support. Evaluations also confirmed that the strategy of supporting formal CP services, coupled with innovative measures that ensured local committees had the right expertise at their disposition to offer more qualified response services, contributed to achieving results. The CP outcome of strengthening community CP systems contributed to the CP impact of building strong

CP systems in the target countries. According to the evaluations, the strengthening of the community-based structures made a critical contribution by closing gaps in the CP system in order that services are available as close as possible to the child.

Some of the key strategies for improving the quality of services were the training, mentoring and coaching of formal and informal service providers; and building the capacity of and networking with other essential services for children, like health and education. The evaluations highlighted that it was critical that the projects worked with different actors and built lineages between them to ensure that other services contributed to CP efforts. These involved, for example, sexual and reproductive health services that were important when wanting to address protection issues such as female genital mutilation/cutting or early and forced child marriage.

Other strategies were also used. Somaliland established a positive practice of assigning social worker students as interns to a partner organisation, and Burkina Faso worked with the national Social Workers Union and supported setting up decentralised formal services at the local level. Introducing Save the

25 While the service providers assessed in 2020 were all able to keep the green status in 2021, service providers in a new project assessed in 2021 were not all classed green and this lowered the overall score. It is however good to keep in mind that the duration of this new project was only 1 year and 9 months (during COVID-19) and this limited capacity-building efforts.

Children’s Steps to Protect Common Approach in 2019 and the Caring for Child Survivors interagency toolkit in 2020 further strengthened our approach to case management support. Quality assessments of national case management systems and structures ensured better coordinating efforts with the governments and other stakeholders and improved our focus on supporting actions with the greatest gaps. For example, in Burkina Faso and in Somalia/Somaliland, successful interagency efforts were made in establishing CP information management systems. In Zambia, interagency work has started on advocating for standard operating procedures, referral mechanisms and case management tools that will be national and guided by the government instead of each organisation using its own system.

The evaluations state that all projects were effective in increasing people’s awareness of CP issues and the availability of services. Strategies like the use of media²⁶, community conversations and public events were confirmed to have been successful strategies in awareness raising. There was however insufficient evidence to conclude whether they have also made substantial contributions to changing social norms and harmful practices on their own and, if they have, to what extent they have done so.

Efforts to influence policy frameworks and implementation were found to be somewhat effective by the evaluations. Some projects had made significantly stronger efforts than others. The personal motivation and attitude of decision makers was an important factor contributing to change at the policy level. However, a need to strengthen political-economy analysis and to employ more effective advocacy strategies within the projects was recommended by the evaluators.

The evidence collected for the indicator of girls’ and boys’ perceptions of the quality and accessibility of the CP services available confirms that, compared with the baseline, supported children know the available services better and have improved trust and confidence to approach the service providers for support. While at baseline many children raised their concern that not all children can access services in equal way, at endline the children did not see any overt discrimination or inequality in service providers targeting and supporting children. While children now feel that they are being better engaged by, for

example, community CP committees, and some reported that their views and opinions matter, the endline indicator data still points out that more needs to be done in order for services to be child friendly and disability inclusive, and many children still feel that they are not listened to adequately.

All the evaluations indicated that the projects, at the output level, had employed effective strategies to improve children’s ability to protect themselves, confirming that work with children is crucial in achieving the programme outcome. The evaluations also provided evidence that building children’s life and leadership skills contributes to more fruitful interpersonal relationships, which reduces the risks of peer/family violence. For example, in Burkina Faso the children who benefitted from training as part of the project’s child resilience activities and children’s groups were almost three times more likely to denounce CP infractions than those who did not participate. Somaliland’s final evaluation pointed out that children who had participated in project activities clearly displayed their ability to identify risk areas, propose behaviour for protecting themselves from harm and take adequate action to report incidences to a range of relevant actors of trust. Parents confirmed in interviews that their children displayed an increased ability to build relations with peers and caregivers, which had led to reduced conflicts. Caregivers also reported that children identified and reported acts of violence towards them and demonstrated increased problem-solving skills. Girls and boys revealed increased levels of awareness of CP risks as well as an increased ability to identify services.

In humanitarian contexts, child-friendly spaces have continued to be an important intervention when implemented in close collaboration with the communities and include structured recreational activities and psychosocial support provided by trained facilitators. For example, the final evaluation of the humanitarian project in Baidoa, Somalia, concluded that child-friendly spaces were needed in order to serve as a common place in which young people could spend their time, avoid dangers and play, socialise, learn and express themselves as they rebuild their lives. Furthermore, these spaces were reported as being needed in order for parents to know where their children are spending their time and with whom. This strategy was also proved to be beneficial in Burkina Faso where insecurity deteriorated from 2019

26 Community radio in Burkina Faso and Zambia and theatre in Burkina Faso.

Photo: Saddam Arab / Save the Children



The child-friendly space run by Save the Children in Baidoa, Somalia, gives displaced children opportunities to play, learn and develop. ‘I have a disability affecting my left arm, but I play with other children and they do not discriminate against me’, says Isak, aged 12.

onwards with massive population displacements. Integrated emergency measures to protect children were taken, such as the distribution of food to IDPs and vulnerable host populations, the distribution of non-food items and setting up child-friendly spaces.

In 2021 Save the Children Finland’s project in Turkey aimed at tackling peer bullying in Turkish public schools in Istanbul through a digital solution and a board game which was created directly with refugee and host community children. The game was developed with a gaming company, Root, and aimed at reducing violence, bullying and discrimination among children. The bullying of Syrian refugee children is a serious problem in Turkey, and violence and bullying in schools is the single biggest reason for school drop-outs dropping out. By playing the space adventure game, children were able to practice empathy skills and learn to understand equality. Syrian refugee children in Grades 4–5 of primary school, together with

Turkish children, participated from the early beginnings of the design of the game in online workshops. The game, Inter-Universe Adventure, has already won games industry awards in Turkey. The game can be played in four languages: Turkish, English, Farsi and Arabic.

The positive parenting programmes focused on providing mothers, fathers and caregivers with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to parent positively without using violence; on empowering children, and ensuring they could feel valued, respected and safe within their family and community; and on supporting communities so that they are willing and able to protect all children from violence. The actual work on the ground was done by trained community mentors and facilitators who know the local context and are listened to, while Save the Children and partners provided capacity building, and continued mentoring and monitoring support.

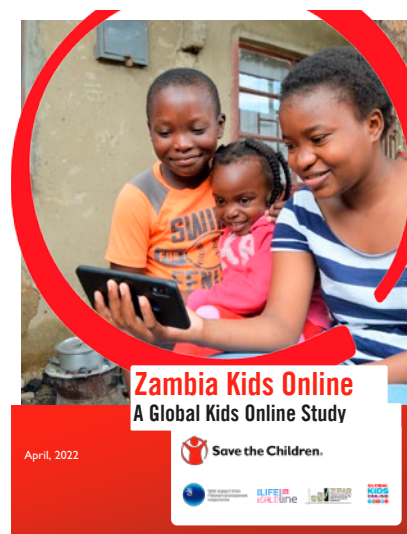
Save the Children Finland Outcome 6	Indicator	Created change
Children, including those on the move, have (improved) access to appropriate family-based support, protection and care	The percentage of supported caregivers that demonstrate improved parenting and caregiving attitudes and practices has increased	On average, there was a 23 percentage-point increase in the number of caregivers that demonstrated improved parenting and caregiving attitudes and practices after a 3-month intervention

The evaluations revealed that positive parenting programmes – coupled with efforts to strengthen children’s life skills, self-confidence and agency – were an effective approach to preventing violence at the family level by improving parent–child relationships, resulting in, for example, better communication between children and their caregivers, and improved trust and mutual understanding. Child participatory approaches enhanced children’s ability to stimulate more positive peer relationships, which reduced the risks of peer violence.

In total, approximately 1 423 female caregivers and 263 male caregivers participated in positive parenting programmes in Burkina Faso, Somalia/Somaliland and Zambia. The pre- and post-assessments that were carried out among the participants in Somalia and Zambia demonstrated a 27 and 10 percentage-point increase respectively in the number of caregivers that demonstrated improved parenting practices after a three-month intervention.

In Somaliland, an impact assessment 12 months after the parenting training among the targeted caregivers and children revealed promising sustainable results. In the most categories assessed, the caregivers’ attitudes and reported practices regarding reduced physical and humiliating punishment of children showed almost the same level of understanding as at the post-assessment nine months earlier. Children’s self-confidence, self-esteem and improved child–child relationships had also been sustained. This was specifically evident among girls. While the impact on caregiver–child interaction was evident in post-assessment and in case stories, and highly valued as an important area of impact by caregivers and children, this change was not sustained very well after one year. Further studies are needed to understand why not and how this could be addressed.

The biggest challenges in our work with families for the improved family-based care of children have been the engagement of fathers/male caregivers and ensuring adequate disability inclusion. To improve male engagement, Somalia/Somaliland targeted religious leaders and, in 2021, organised specific group sessions among young fathers. In Zambia, collaboration with the MenEngage Alliance, which directly works with men and boys on gender justice and gender equality, was able to increase men’s participation. A



The Zambia Kids Online study was the first comprehensive study on children’s online experiences to be conducted in Zambia. The report has received much attention also outside the country.

collaboration with the Abilis Foundation, a Finnish organisation for persons with disabilities, provided guidance on disability inclusion in the implementation of the parenting programme to ensure that parents/caregivers with disabilities, the parents/caregivers of children with disabilities and their organisations are able to participate in all actions and decision-making in the programme. It also provided specific suggestions on positive parenting group sessions for improved disability inclusion. The guidance has been used globally by Save the Children and thus was not limited to Save the Children Finland’s projects. In Somalia/Somaliland, peer support groups with the parents/caregivers of children with disabilities have also been a good pilot with which to break the enormous barriers to the inclusion of children with disabilities.

While most violence against children happens in the physical spaces where children live, learn, play and work, the rapid uptake of digital technology poses significant risks to children’s safety, privacy and well-being. Online and offline violence against children are closely linked. Based on this realisation, and in line with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment 25 on child rights in relation to the digital environment, Save the Children Finland had a pilot project to support safe and responsible use of the internet by children in Zambia. The

Zambia Kids Online study, carried out in 2021, was the first of its kind in Zambia and revealed that many children in Zambia access the internet without their parents knowing about it. At the same time, knowledge on how to protect themselves or their peers is very limited. Parents and other adults (like teachers) have limited understanding and skills to proactively support children on the safe use of the internet. Since most parents think the only way to do this is to limit or deny internet use, children access the internet on their own and in hiding and do not approach adults easily, even when they encounter something that scares or worries them.



The percentage-point change of supported caregivers demonstrating improvement in parenting practices

Country	Change
Somalia – Baidoa	15 percentage points (from 73% at BL to 88% at EL)
Somalia – Abudwak	48 percentage points (from 24% at BL to 72% at EL)
Somaliland	17 percentage points (from 60% at BL to 77% at EL)
BL = baseline, EL = endline; The percentage of caregivers demonstrating improved parenting practices calculated as an average, including all the cohorts in the project area.	

Key strategies for sustainability

The final evaluations confirmed that the programme had several successful strategies for sustainability. Family and community-level strategies and effective relationships with the other actors engaged in CP were identified to be critical for the sustainability of project results because the targeted countries are resource poor, CP systems are underdeveloped, and inter-ministerial coordination is weak. The used approach of building the capacity of state institutions, creating strong links with government and civil society actors engaged in CP and having common guidelines and management systems was also found to be critical for ensuring sustainability with the potential for longer-term results. However, the evaluations pointed out that limitations within formal CP services – such as low budgets, limited workforce, high staff turnover etc. – could impact on sustainability.

Therefore, continued advocacy efforts, particularly in view of improving government investments and inter-ministerial collaboration, are needed. Carrying out sustainability planning in the future was also recommended as it is considered crucial.

The evaluations further indicated that the projects' substantial efforts to build the capacities of parents, children and other individuals working with children demonstrated having a high likelihood of being sustainable.

The evaluations furthermore mentioned that individuals in community CP structures were motivated to continue championing CP in the future. They revealed, however, a somewhat lesser likelihood that efforts to establish community structures were always sustainable as not all the target areas had a strong indication that the members would be motivated, able or sufficiently resourced to continue functioning without external support. Therefore, linking community structures with formal ones has been important, and for example, in Somalia/Somaliland and in Zambia, formal ministries have recognised informal CP structures. Efforts need to be made, to have this recognition regulated in government policies. In Zambia, the CP project has, together with other actors, advocated for the finalisation of community development and volunteer policies.

The key strategy to ensure local ownership while strengthening community CP systems was to work closely with the government and local authorities and engage them both in capacity-building efforts and in project monitoring. The implementation was aligned, whenever possible, with the implementation of governments' action plans and policies, like prevention and response plans for ending violence against children. In the countries where the legal CP framework is still weak, joint advocacy with other, like-minded CSOs was done on the enactment of laws and policies. In the humanitarian context, Save the Children worked very closely with the humanitarian protection cluster, aligning actions with the country's humanitarian response plans. Save the Children is also co-leading the CP area of responsibility in multiple countries at national and/or local levels and actively participates in Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility.



Photo: Save the Children

The capacity building of partners and stakeholders is a key element of Save the Children's programming.

Save the Children Finland trained 178 members of staff and partners representatives in Save the Children's common approaches. Specific training sessions on caring for child survivors were delivered for staff who also manage cascading training to the national social workforce. Training sessions on gender equality mainstreaming, disability inclusion and psychological first aid were also given.²⁷

In our work with families for the improved family-based care of children, the contextualisation of parenting packages and work with community mentors and facilitators have been important for local ownership and for sustainability. There is also potential to work with governments and other stakeholders in order to scale up parenting approaches in the future as the results from the pilots have raised interest and demand for them being scaled up.

Thematic development

Save the Children Finland's two CP Technical Advisors (TA) have been active members of Save the Children's global TWGs on CP systems strengthening and on safe and appropriate care of children. Both advisers are trainers in Save the Children's common approach

to case management (the Steps to Protect common approach) and in the parenting without violence (PwV) common approach and, therefore, have contributed to the development of these common approaches, built the capacity of staff and partners in their implementation and supported evidence building and documenting regarding learning at country, regional and global levels. The TAs have, in addition, also participated in conducting several other specific tasks, like the mapping of CP system strengthening work globally and the development of materials adapted to COVID-19.

Save the Children Finland CP TA is also a member of the CVA and CP Forums, which is meant to enhance Save the Children's global learning on CVA and CP programming. She has also contributed to the inter-agency work on CVA and CP by supporting the piloting of the Toolkit for Monitoring and Evaluating Child Protection When Using CVA, and by commenting on the Money Matters toolkit, which is directed for caseworkers to support adult and adolescent clients with basic money management.

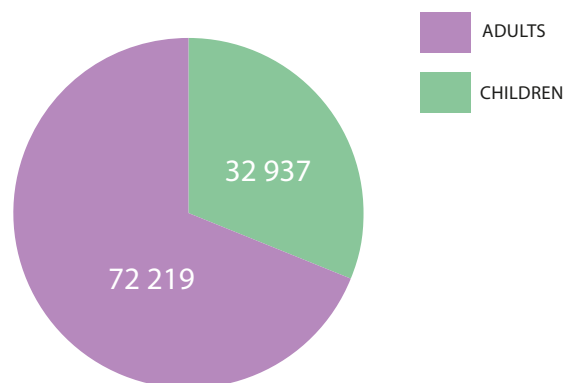
As part of the intervention package that aims to tackle sexual and gender-based violence, Save the

²⁷ 55 members of staff were trained to care for child survivors; training on equality mainstreaming had 39 participants; disability inclusion training had 49 participants; training on CP, including psychological first aid, had 67 participants.

Children developed and piloted the Pere Burkinbila approach in Burkina Faso, which aims at promoting dialogue between parents, uncles and their sons on how safe and responsible sexuality. Lessons learned from the implementation of this approach showed that integrating reproductive sexual health information in the parenting module improves awareness of gender roles in the family and reduces gender-based violence.

The Zambia Kids Online study recommended that online safety and child online protection should be integrated into existing protection systems rather than create duplicate systems targeting online protection. There is a clear need to support parents, caregivers and teachers in engaging with children in relation to their digital experiences, while at the same time fostering an online safety peer-support culture through children’s peer programming, children’s groups and youth clubs.

Direct reach through CP programming



2.4 CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE

FOCUS AREA: Child rights governance

Save the Children International OUTCOME: Improved accountability for the rights of the most deprived children

The outcome supports the enforcement of child rights business principles

PROGRESS TOWARDS THIS OUTCOME

Save the Children Finland Outcome 7	Indicator	Created change
Increased interest and engagement in child rights by the private sector companies	The number of corporates with which Save the Children has a memorandum of understanding, a related agreement or an agreement related to child rights and business.	During the programme period, Save the Children Finland had 7 memoranda of understanding or related agreements with corporates.

In child rights governance, Save the Children Finland has prioritised building partnerships with the private sector. Cooperation with private sector companies is based on the Child Rights Principles which were defined together by Save the Children, UNICEF and the United Nations Global Compact in 2012. They take into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the standards of the World Labour Organization. The 10 principles

of child rights that were created on the basis of these documents provide a clear, strong basis for businesses to manage and improve their corporate social responsibility, which should always include responsibility for children. A company that operates in accordance with these principles seeks to promote the well-being of children and to prevent any adverse effects of its business on children.

The systematic approach adopted with private sector companies has paid off during 2017–2021 as Save the Children Finland was able to keep the number of active corporate partnerships contributing to child rights stable throughout the programme period.

During 2014–2019 Nokia was a key partner to Save the Children Finland, including providing their support in an education programme in Myanmar. Over those five years, Save the Children and Nokia worked in the communities of three townships to improve early learning and development opportunities for the most marginalised children. Save the Children and Nokia developed and deployed technology solutions to help ensure community-managed early childhood care and development (ECCD) centres in Myanmar were sustainable and continued to effectively prepare children for school well into the future. As a result, thousands of Myanmar’s most disadvantaged children got better access to higher quality ECCD and kindergarten classes. In addition, Save the Children Finland helped to review Nokia’s policies, processes and guidelines related to child rights, ensuring their alignment with the ten principles of the child rights and business principles.

One key partnership established in 2019 was an agreement with **Valmet**. Valmet supported the CSSP programme in Dungarpur in India’s Rajasthan during 2020–2021, aiming to develop the circumstances of poor and vulnerable children through increasing access to government SP programmes and strengthening parenting skills to promote better care and nurture of children. In addition, the objective was to reduce child labour and increase school attendance. During 2020–2021 it was possible to organise temporary learning groups during the school closures caused by the COVID pandemic and to get school dropouts back to schools in areas where COVID-19 significantly disrupted children’s education.

We have cooperated with Fortum during the reporting period in Asia (in Indonesia) with a major child rights and business (CRB) study and recommendations for child- and family-friendly operations in a large community. Lately, in COVID’s aftermath, Fortum has been supporting India’s children in getting access to schools as well as access to the available SP schemes in our programme area in Dungarpur in Rajasthan.



Photo: Anders Björkman

The support from the private sector has been crucial for the continuation of the project, improving access to social protection in Rajasthan, India. One of the aims of the action is to reduce child labour and school drop-out rates, while improving school attendance.

Save the Children supports the S Group (a large Finnish network of companies in the retail and service sector) in promoting responsibility in textile production chains. The S Group strives to ensure that sustainability, including that related to human and child rights, is taken into account in its operations. In our pilot CRB project with the S Group in Bangladesh, the ready-made garment production of the S Group's production partner will be evaluated from the employee perspective through an objective study. The aim is to better understand women's and children's rights and to develop family-friendly practices.

Our collaboration with Business Finland has increased during the programme period with Save the Children Finland participating in several country-specific business and innovation weeks (e.g. in India, Kenya, Zambia) organised by Business Finland, Finnpartnership and local Finnish embassies, as well as dedicated 'Sustainable Development Goals boosters', organised by Business Finland, Finnpartnership, local embassies and Finnish Development NGOs Fingo, concentrating on how corporates and NGOs can find common ground with which to solve development issues. With our partners we also got a chance to explore new funding instruments, including getting funding from Finnpartnership.

Advocacy on CRB is closely linked with building partnerships with the private sector. The key part of this is raising the awareness of companies about the child rights impacts of businesses. One of the key achievements was that the human rights due diligence law was included into the Finnish government programme in 2019. This was made possible by the strong multi-stakeholder campaign called **Ykkösketjuun** in which Save the Children participated. The campaign was exceptional because it included not only NGOs and trade unions but also dozens of private companies. Since Save the Children Finland has been actively engaged in advocacy for the national human rights' due diligence law, together with other CSOs, coordinated by Finnwatch, Save the Children Finland has contributed to the process through public consultations, statements and private advocacy. At the EU level, Save the Children Finland has been actively following the human rights' due diligence law through its EU office in Brussels, as well as through public consultations on the process and the contents of the proposed law.



Save the Children Finland was among over 140 civil society organisations, companies and trade unions in Finland that joined the campaign #Ykkösketjuun, which is calling for mandatory human rights due diligence legislation in Finland.

Additionally, Save the Children Finland advanced a CRB agenda by building the capacity of companies and other stakeholders both in Finland and in Save the Children programming countries, particularly at the beginning of the programme period. The trainings on Children's Rights and Business Principles were conducted in collaboration with partners like the Finnish Embassy in Nairobi, the Finnish Business & Society network, Finnpartnership and the Finnish Textile and Fashion organisation, and as a result, over 50 businesses have an increased understanding of how to do business that respects child rights.

During the programme years, Save the Children Finland has engaged with the most important corporate social responsibility networks. The director for the international programme at Save the Children Finland, Anne Haaranen, has been on the board of the Finnish network FIBS, the largest corporate responsibility network in the Nordics, during 2018–2021. In addition, in 2021 Save the Children Finland joined United Nations Global Compact as a signatory member.

Key thematic learning

During the last five years, Save the Children Finland's approach to collaboration with companies has evolved. We have noticed that when our offering

related to CRB involves a flexible approach, encompassing different thematic areas, geographical locations and possible activities, we have more opportunities to find common ground with the private sector and have more chances to develop a strategic approach that also matches the needs of potential partners. We have also learned to leverage the power of Save the Children’s global organisation to find opportunities to work with Finnish businesses in locations where Save the Children Finland does not have active projects. The key challenge when building partnerships with a strong sustainability focus is long lead times. This means that there is a need to initiate many discussions at the same time and it is difficult to plan which one will move forward and when. We have experienced waiting times as long as several years. This requires good and timely coordination and communication, not only with the potential partner but also with the COs and other member organisations when they are involved in these partnerships. Engagement with the private sector on CRB has also opened our work towards development innovations. In particular, engagement with smaller companies interested in developing markets has positively pushed us down this route. In the long term, these new connections will hopefully also improve the use of innovative solutions in our own programming.

A major risk continues to be the unpredictability of corporate partnerships. In the case where a major corporate partner decides to end the partnership (e.g. due to financial reasons) or does not renew the long-term partnership, it is difficult to find a funding replacement opportunity to ensure the continuation of the intervention. Building a contingency plan is also difficult, despite the good relationships with corporates.

Additionally, the power of coalitions and partnerships, especially when advocating for policy change, has also become increasingly clear. Save the Children Finland has been able to benefit from the technical expertise of other business-focused CSOs and partners and has been able to provide the child-rights element into the conversation about sustainable business and compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals.

2.5 OTHER THEMATIC AREAS: EDUCATION, AND HEALTH AND NUTRITION²⁸

2.5.1. Early childhood care and education, and basic education

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE OUTCOMES

Save the Children Finland Outcome 8	Indicator
Children from deprived communities who acquire quality-inclusive early childhood care and education transition successfully to basic education and demonstrate relevant learning outcomes while attending basic education	The positive percentage change in early childhood development outcomes over a project cycle
The outcome is linked to UNCRC Article 28	

During the programme period, Save the Children Finland only implemented one early childhood education project in Myanmar to support this outcome. In Myanmar, in regard to the learning outcomes of 250 selected children, the highest percentage score (72.14%) was found in relation to approaches to learning while the lowest percentage score (41.79%) was related to emergent literacy, with the total average percentage score being 50.02% in the project locations. To support transitions to ECCD, and pre-primary and primary education, 3 045 kindergarten students received early learning interventions and 1 675 teachers from government schools were trained to provide better learning opportunities for early learners during years 2018–2020. All primary school teachers interviewed for final evaluation described children with ECCD experience as being more active, creative and advanced in their learning capacity. They were better in cognitive and language development than the children who did not have the opportunity to attend an ECCD centre. The interviewed parents of children attending early childhood care and education also appreciated their children’s early learning capacities, behaviour and developmental skills. The project’s final evaluation found that 83%²⁹ of the

²⁸ The thematic areas of education, and health and nutrition were funded through DEVCO/ECHO and corporates. 20 out of 24 centres – based on 15 indicators assessing effective functioning.

²⁹ 20 out of 24 centres – based on 15 indicators assessing effective functioning.

Photo: Thein Zaw / Save the Children



A reading session in one of the ECCD centres supported by Save the Children in Myanmar.

ECCD centres that were set up are functioning well, and the average percentage of enrolment was 82%. The enrolment of boys and girls in ECCD centres is nearly the same.³⁰ Overall, 87.5% of children in the project locations are now enrolled at ECCD centres. A key challenge identified in the evaluation was related to children with disabilities. In project townships, 43 children with disabilities were enrolled in primary schools but the teachers could not provide the systematic services needed for them.

Save the Children Finland Outcome 9	Indicator
No child's learning stops because they are caught up in a crisis	# of children enrolled in education through education in emergencies programming
The outcome is linked to UNCRC Article 28	

Students during class at a school supported by Save the Children in Central Darfur, Sudan. The education in emergencies projects, co-funded by the European Union, improve the access of conflict-affected children to safe, violence-free, inclusive and quality education. In 2021, the two education projects of Save the Children Finland directly reached 36 649 children.

From 2019 onwards, Save the Children Finland extended its education programming to include education in emergencies (EiE) work. Between 2019 and 2021, Save the Children Finland supported EiE projects that were implemented in Burkina Faso, Sudan and Bangladesh. The key donor for this work was European Commission Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO). Through EiE projects supported by the Save the Children Finland, between 20 and 30 thousand children who were caught up in crises received quality education each year.

Save the Children Finland's EiE work in 2021 concentrated on Sudan where, at the beginning of the year, more than 2.9 million vulnerable children between the ages of 6 and 16 were in need of assistance in order to continue their education. Due to COVID-19, school closures in March 2020, prolonged conflicts, natural hazards and poverty, an increasingly large number of vulnerable children, including IDPs and refugees, were lacking access to safe, inclusive and quality education in Sudan. This is particularly the case in West Darfur where the recent conflict has resulted in the displacement of more than 12 000 people, 60% of whom are children. In addition, 30 000 school-aged children were estimated to be out of school due to the schools being used as shelters and/or due to have limited access to protective and safe learning facilities.

Save the Children Finland supported two EiE projects funded by DG ECHO that were designed to provide safe access to quality and inclusive education for the most vulnerable children in Central Darfur and West Darfur, the Blue Nile and White Nile, and South Kordofan. The projects were able to reach a total of



Photo: Save the Children

³⁰ 87.38% for boys vs 87.68% for girls with no significant pattern of discrimination/exclusion of children based on gender, ethnicity and religion.

56 865 school-aged children in formal education and 2 212 children in non-formal education (through the support of 82 schools). In addition, 6 900 out-of-school children successfully transitioned to formal education after being enrolled in Accelerated Learning Programme classes. Save the Children also conducted the ‘Let us send all children to school’ campaign, which reached 26 800 community members in all target localities, significantly increasing the school enrolment rate, especially for girls. The year 2021 was particularly marked by the significant improvement of teachers’ skills and teaching methods in emergency situations through the organisation of several training sessions.³¹ In addition, the provision of learning and teaching materials to children has significantly improved school enrolment by reducing school-related expenses for families.

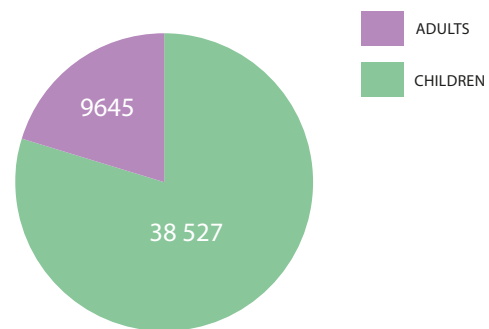
Key strategies for sustainability

To enforce sustainability, whenever possible, Save the Children International always works within the existing education system and in close co-operation with the local ministries of education. The focus is strongly on the capacity building of local partner staff through regular trainings, coaching and mentoring. Seeking ownership of the local communities is also important to ensure a link between the schools and the community. The community leaders, teachers, head teachers and learners are part of the development and implementation of school improvement plans, which enable project sustainability. In Myanmar, for example, the establishment of 24 community-based ECCD management committees for all villages and 22 township ECCD network groups that lead the ECCD interventions, mobilise parents, fundraise for caregiver payments and monitor activities ensure the sustainability of ECCD centres beyond Save the Children’s support.

In Sudan, where the EiE project was primarily implemented in conflict-affected localities, a strong community-based approach was necessary to ensure sustainability and ownership by the local population. To this end, in coordination with the Ministry of Education, Save the Children recruited 30 young, qualified teachers and strongly encouraged community participation in supporting education services by enrolling 42 volunteer teachers to fill the teacher gap in West Darfur. These teachers were offered the same capacity-building opportunity as in-service teachers so that Save the Children could then advocate for their

formal recruitment by the Ministry of Education, thereby supporting the sustainability of the project. In addition, Save the Children organised two training of trainers (ToT) events in Central Darfur on learning well-being in an emergency. This enabled trained teachers from the communities to take ownership of this teaching method and to be able to cascade their knowledge down to their colleagues, thus generating a multiplier effect and strengthening the sustainability of the project.

Direct reach through education programming



2.5.2. Health and nutrition

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE OUTCOMES

Outcome 10	Indicators
Children under five have improved access to preventive and curative health and nutrition services related to acute malnutrition, pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria	<p>The number and percentage of children under five with severe acute malnutrition who received effective treatment</p> <p>The number of children under five who receive health and nutrition services</p> <p>The number and percentage of households provided with improved access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities</p>
The outcome is linked to UNCRC Article 24	

During the programme period, Save the Children Finland supported health and nutrition projects in Zambia, Sudan and Burkina Faso with funding from ECHO, the European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) and UNICEF.

31 363 teachers were trained in 2021.

On average, approximately 4 000³² children under five years old received treatment for severe acute malnutrition on a yearly basis with the support of Save the Children Finland projects.

In Sudan in 2021, two health and nutrition projects were being implemented in North, Central and West Darfur, Khartoum and South Kordofan with funding from ECHO. Activities implemented included the distribution of essential medical supplies to all targeted facilities; screening, medical consultations and treatment; vaccinations; staff and community training; COVID-19 awareness; cash transfers; CP awareness; and case management. The project reached over 18 000 children under five years affected by malnutrition, including 4 128 cases of severe acute malnutrition³³ and 14 033 cases of moderate acute malnutrition.³⁴ In addition, 46 112 children³⁵ under five years old received health and nutrition services in 2021. With the support from UNICEF, Save the Children provided humanitarian health and nutrition services in Burkina Faso in the IDP-dense areas in the form of infant and young child feeding learning groups and micronutrient distribution. From 2019 to 2021, over 28 000 pregnant and lactating women took part in monthly peer-to-peer learning and monitoring sessions,³⁶ and over 4 000 community actors, including health workers and mother leaders, had been trained in optimal nutrition practices.³⁷ Micronutrients had been distributed to 19 744 malnourished children.³⁸ Other activities to combat malnutrition included baby-friendly spaces that provide safe sharing and learning spaces for pregnant and lactating mothers in Burkina Faso and mother-to-mother support groups in Sudan that are trained in basic health messages and screening with MUAC, and the referral of malnourished children and mothers to health facilities. A total of 2 332 cases of malnutrition were referred to the facilities by the support groups for further assessment and management.

As a response to COVID-19, messaging and information sharing were included in projects in both



Photo: Mohammed Osman & Abubaker Garelnabei / Save the Children

Dr Omnia conducting a medical check-up as part of the COVID-19 response of Save the Children in Sudan. ‘Most of the children I have examined were suffering from various degrees of malnutrition. After returning to their homes, they need to be provided with adequate nutrition and supplements.’ Says Dr Omnia.

countries in 2020 and these activities also continued in 2021. In Burkina Faso 500 hygiene kits – including hygiene masks, hydro-alcoholic gels and bars of soap – were distributed. In Sudan the project has been involved in the national COVID-19 vaccine rollout COVAX campaigns and risk communication. The project supported 46 COVAX facilities, reaching 472 889 individuals.³⁹

According to recent UNICEF data, the nationwide prevalence of stunting in Burkina Faso decreased from 24.9% in 2020 to 21.6% in 2021. Infant and young child feeding practices have improved with exclusive breastfeeding increasing by 5.3 percentage points⁴⁰ from 2020 to 2021, notably due to community-based multisectoral programming involving various local structures, traditional leaders and parents. The results are remarkable, especially given the growing physical and food insecurity in the country. The project, implemented by Save the Children, has contributed to these good results.

32 The annual figures varied between 2 267 and 7 899 children depending on the size of the on-going projects in the current year.

33 1 223 boys and 2 905 girls.

34 5 259 boys and 8 774 girls, and 1 492 pregnant and lactating women.

35 Girls: 23 512; boys: 22 610.

36 Against the target of 65 836.

37 Against the target of 7 223.

38 Against the target of 22 500.

39 Female: 157 630; male: 315 259.

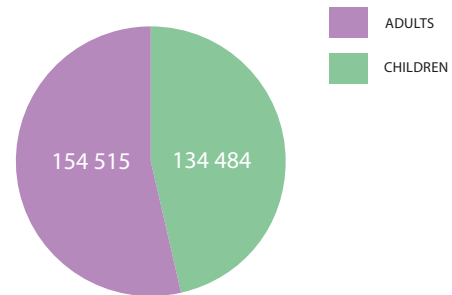
40 69.6% in 2021 compared with 64.3% in 2020.

Key strategies for sustainability

In order to ensure local ownership and the sustainability of the results, Save the Children always implements health and nutrition activities in close collaboration with health authorities at district and national levels. The capacity of the staff working in local health care centres has been improved through training in all projects. In Burkina Faso at national level, the key collaboration partner was the Directorate of Nutrition. The capacity of the staff working in local health care centres was improved through training sessions. Also, community volunteers, including mother leaders, were trained to ensure the continued dissemination of good practices. Throughout implementation, Save the Children has shared the lessons learned in its institutional networks, including sharing them within the nutrition cluster. In Sudan the project was implemented jointly with a local grassroots-based CSO partner and with the close collaboration of the Ministry of Health. The project included the capacity building of teachers on health education and delivering health messages to communities through school children. Mobile vaccination posts were deprioritised, and instead, fixed (static) services were used to ensure the sustainable scale up of vaccination within the government system. Healthcare workers were trained and equipped with the necessary skills to manage and handle outbreaks and communicable diseases. State Ministry of Health staff were trained on supportive supervision, and they monitored the improved health system. Targeted communities were supported to manage sanitation and promote hygiene practices in order to mitigate potential disease outbreaks. Community-led nutrition intervention contributed to strengthening community skills to assess children’s nutrition status and to seeking timely treatment in order to avoid malnutrition-related complications.

DIRECT REACH THROUGH HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAMMING

Direct reach through health and nutrition programming



3. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

The cross-cutting champions teams established in 2020 continued to work in 2021. Their main task in 2021 was to design tools to support the mainstreaming of gender, disability inclusion and climate change adaptation, which are the three cross-cutting issues of the new programme for 2022–2025. In addition, the team members supported the utilisation of the tools in the proposal phase. For following up the milestones of each cross-cutting issue, please see Annex 1.

Disaster risk reduction

The main activities that enhance disaster risk reduction (DRR) are included in the internal and external capacity building on DRR and awareness raising for the broader public on how to prepare for and protect themselves from disasters.

In Zambia and Somalia, CP and child welfare committee members were trained on disaster management. In Zambia this resulted in a recommendation to revise the *Community Based Disaster Risk Management Manual* in order to incorporate DRR into the children's charter and to develop a child disaster prevention and preparedness handbook. An action plan was developed to mainstream DRR into sectoral plans, improve coordination and information sharing among DDMC members and perform community sensitisations. In Somalia the participants in the

training were equipped with knowledge and skills on child-centred DRR, and action plans were developed in order to cascade the knowledge and skills to other staff members and communities, including the children in those communities.

Through different awareness-raising sessions, community members were informed on how to protect themselves from disasters. Awareness raising was conducted in Burkina Faso, Nepal, Somalia and the Philippines. Different means were used for the awareness raising, ranging from educational talks in villages in Burkina Faso and using public service announcements on the radio in Nepal to incorporating DRR information into parenting sessions in Nepal, the Philippines and Somalia.

For example, in Nepal, vulnerable families who were eligible for different SP schemes were mapped, identified and supported in order that they could access the benefits and thus increase their resilience towards sudden income losses. In addition, parenting sessions encouraged SP beneficiaries to keep their documents safe and to have their data included in the Vital Event Registration and Social Protection Management Information System to ensure that documents will not get lost during a disaster. The project made the beneficiaries aware about the importance of having saving for an emergency through a family budgeting session



Disaster risk reduction activities are systematically included in project activities in order to build the resilience and adaptive capacity of communities, including the children in those communities. Activities include raising awareness on the risks posed by natural hazards and man-made disasters, including conflicts, and mitigation measures.

in the parenting programme. This will help people prepare and be resilient during emergencies. In the Philippines the parenting sessions also integrated a ‘Go Balde’ (or ‘bucket-to-go’) session in order to educate people on disaster preparedness vis-a-vis evacuation. In this session, participants are made aware of preparedness for evacuation through having a bucket filled with food and emergency supplies prepared in their homes that is ready to be carried out anytime an evacuation is necessary due to a calamity. People utilised the learnings from the Go Balde session during the recent Typhoon Rai in December 2021. Community awareness of crop insurance was improved in the Philippines through increased intensive awareness raising on the matter.

Also, children were informed about disaster risks. In Somalia, Burkina Faso and the Philippines, child and youth resilience training sessions were given to children’s clubs. All the children who have gone through the clubs have benefited from awareness raising on how to prevent the risks associated with disasters in order to enable them to protect themselves and better manage disasters when they occur.

Gender sensitivity

The strategies used in ensuring gender sensitivity during the programme period have been guided by Save the Children’s Gender Equality Policy and Save the Children Finland’s specific gender equality guidance. All proposals and concept notes that have been developed with support from Save the Children Finland have been assessed at the proposal stage by using the Save the Children’s Standard Gender Equality Marker) or the Humanitarian Gender Equality Marker.⁴¹ In total, 90% of all 49 projects developed between 2017 and 2021 met the minimum standard for being gender sensitive. During the past two years, none of the proposals have been below this minimum requirement. Twelve percent of the projects that met the minimum standard for being gender sensitive were also assessed to be gender transformative.

The training of staff and partners in gender equality has been one of the key priorities, and training materials developed by Save the Children have been used to build capacity in gender equality mainstreaming. In addition, the common approaches used in Save the

The meta-analysis of the evaluation reports of the child protection projects in Burkina Faso, Somaliland and Zambia concluded that good efforts had been made to mainstream gender in project activities.



Children Finland’s CP projects are mainstreaming gender in their learning programmes. The PwV common approach has a focus on strengthening social norms, and the gender and power dynamics that support equal responsibility for positive, non-discriminatory parenting. Also, the CSSP parenting package included specific sessions that address the unequal sharing of caregiving roles and responsibilities between male and female caregivers and they promote more equal decision-making in family financial decision-making.

The engagement of male caregivers in parenting activities has been one of main challenges and efforts have been made to address this by using findings from gender assessments. Improved attendance was reached; for example, in Zambia it was improved by collaborating with the specific men’s network and in Somaliland it was improved by collaborating with religious leaders. In Asia, specific shorter modules have been run with fathers in their own groups.

The meta-analysis of the CP projects’ evaluations in Burkina Faso, Somaliland and Zambia concluded that all the projects had made good efforts to employ gender-sensitive or responsive approaches and ensure the equal participation of girls and boys, as well as equitable benefit from the project results. Projects mainstreamed gender in monitoring by, for example, ensuring that all data was gender disaggregated and that the projects’ staff for Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (including enumerators in studies and evaluations) were gender balanced. The established complaint, feedback and response mechanisms were gender sensitive and special attention

⁴¹ An adaptation of the full version of the Gender Equality Marker developed in 2019 and used for projects to be completed in 12 months old or less in rapid onset crises.

was paid to ensure that any monitoring and evaluation data collection was conducted in safe, private and dignified settings, ensuring the participation of women even in humanitarian settings. Projects also conducted educational activities for children on gender equality. In addition, the qualitative impact assessments of the CSSP parenting sessions on gender equality in the Philippines and Nepal found that there was more equitable sharing of household chores in targeted families and improved awareness and understanding of unequal parenting responsibilities among male caregivers.

According to the evaluations, some projects could have benefitted from additional efforts to contribute to gender transformation. For example, the CSSP parenting sessions' assessments recommended the mainstreaming of gender in all parenting training modules and to continue focusing on working specifically with fathers / male caregivers. However, to do that there is a need to better understand how to efficiently engage men and how to best work in polygamous contexts. The evaluations also suggest that Save the Children takes up a more differentiated approach to addressing norms on gender and sexuality, and putting them into the context of wider dynamics and legal provisions in order to protect women and people of other sexual orientations, gender identities or sexual characteristics.

The key achievements in advocating for legislations and policies that support gender equality for girls and boys were the drafting and endorsement of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy in Nepal at the

municipal level. In Somaliland, we have participated, together with other child rights actors, in supporting the Rape and Sexual Offences Act of 2018, which took a strong stance against rape but was suspended shortly after being enacted due to certain opposition from within Somaliland, and it was replaced with a new act in 2020. The revised act falls short of its mandate to sufficiently protect the survivors of rape and punish perpetrators. Save the Children has continuously advocated for changes before the act will be passed as a law.

Child participation

During 2021 and the programme period overall, the projects engaged children in many ways. Children were consulted about their views on the issues they face and their feedback on what Save the Children is doing to improve things for and with children. In child clubs, children had the opportunity to learn about their rights, gain confidence and lead the planning and implementation of the club activities. In 2021, the members of Child Advisory Committee in Nepal participated in project monitoring and advocated in their municipality for the allocation of a budget for programmes like a child-sensitive parenting class. In Turkey, children played a central role in co-designing an anti-bullying online game and board game, which won a games industry award in Turkey.

Over the duration of the 2017–2021 programme, Save the Children Finland applied the practice of asking the projects to report on the extent to which the child participation in our projects has been *voluntary*,



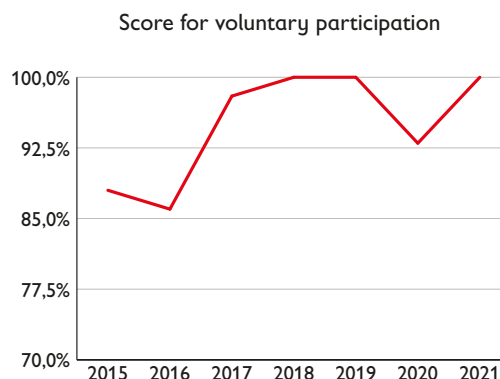
In 2021 in Burkina Faso, Save the Children supported 20 child clubs as part of one child protection project. The around 600 children active in these groups work for the promotion and respect of children's rights. The clubs work together with community groups and local authorities in order to address, for example, child labour. 'To protect other children, I talk with them about everything that we have learned in the club', says Fatimata, aged 14.

*inclusive, and safe and sensitive to risk.*⁴² In the last year of the programme, 14 out of 31 projects submitted their report. All the six projects supported by the Finnish MFA Programme-Based Support have been steadily submitting the reports each year and have also demonstrated steadily high scores in the criteria assessed. In addition, two other projects supported by the MFA, two supported by ECHO, two by UNICEF, one by EU INTPA and one by Save the Children International’s Central Emergency Fund reported in 2021. Ten out of the 14 projects were the same projects that reported in the previous year. The themes of the projects were CSSP, CP and EiE, Nutrition and Food Security. Eleven projects from Africa and three from Asia submitted their reports. Five of the projects were from Burkina Faso and three were from Zambia alone.

The total score for the three minimum standards combined for all the projects is back up to 93% from a slight decrease of last year when the score was 89%.



Deviation between the scores of individual projects has decreased from last year with the lowest project total score this year being 78%, compared with 52% last year. Ten projects scored between 80 and 99% and three projects reached a score of 100%. There is an overall increase in the scores for all three criteria, and importantly, the voluntary nature of participation is back to 100% from 93% in the previous year.



Looking at the programme period as a whole, the projects started strongly in 2017 after ending the previous programme period at a lower score in 2016. The performance in child participation key criteria continued at a high level during the programme, with a slight dip in 2020, which was attributable to the increase in reporting that year by new projects that might not have had enough capacity or time to fully take on board child participation considerations. In the new programme for 2022–2025, Save the Children Finland is looking into renewing the way in which we monitor child participation in projects, aligned with reformed global Save the Children processes.

Civil society capacity strengthening and partner capacity building

During the programme period, the number of formal⁴³ civil society partners increased steadily to around 50 partners annually. The partnerships included formal project-related partnerships and more strategic partnerships which aim to strengthen the broader civil society in our programme countries. In Somaliland, for example, Save the Children built the technical capacity of the CP partner, Youth Volunteers for Development and Environment Conservation (Yovenco), which is an important child rights-focused organisation operating in Somaliland. During the seven-year partnership, Yovenco had its capacity built in regard to mental health and psychosocial support, disability inclusion, prevention and response to gender-based violence, report writing and financial management. The Save the Children project team worked

42 Based on the UNCRC General Comment (nine Basic Requirements on page 26)

43 Partners that have a sub-contracting arrangement

closely with the partner's staff throughout the years in order to learn from each other. It was observed that Yovenco's capacity to be a strong civil society actor improved steadily throughout the years. Because of its improved capacity, Yovenco is now receiving funding from different donors, including United Nations agencies, and has an active role in various national forums.

Throughout the programme period, Save the Children also continued to work closely with less formal structures and community groups – such as CP committees and networks, child-led groups, community-based child welfare committees, school management committees and parent–teacher associations, as well as with governments and the private sector – all of which have a key role in advancing child rights in their respective communities.

Building strategic partnerships with like-minded organisations in order to advance our shared goals is important for us. During this programme period, we further strengthened our partnership with SPCSN in Nepal that was originally initiated by Save the Children. We have provided support to develop the leadership of the SPCSN and the network has now grown into a platform consisting of 16 NGOs and conducts discourse on SP issues and collaborates with national CSOs to advocate for the increased accountability of duty bearers in regard to SP. The SPCSN has become an important advocacy partner for Save the Children for child- and gender-sensitive, inclusive, shock-responsive SP policy. The SPCSN has also played a vital role in national dialogue for SP and has influenced the drafting of the National Integrated Social Protection Framework, the Children's Act 2018 and a ten-year action plan for children.

The partner-owned organisational capacity development process conducted with key partners in Zambia and Burkina Faso was finalised in 2021.⁴⁴ The organisational capacity development (OCD) support provided is independent of other project-related support and focuses on strengthening an independent and sustainable national civil society rather than ensuring compliance and project quality implementation. The aim is that capacity-strengthening activities lead to new or improved organisational policies, systems, tools and procedures. During the final discussions with the two partners (the Luapula Foundation and

the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection in Zambia, they appreciated the inclusive capacity-assessment process and felt that the OCD process will leave them in a better place as an organisation. A key factor for the success was the trust built between Save the Children and the partner during the process. As part of the OCD process, the Luapula Foundation focused on improving its strategic plan and branding, and strengthening both board and child participation through the organisation's activities. Stemming from the Luapula Foundation's recognition that partnerships with local organisations in service delivery for children is crucial and that the Luapula Foundation had not invested enough in the exploration and search for local partners, they decided to focus on creating new partnerships and indeed succeeded in creating connections with several like-minded organisations in order to advance child rights and mobilise resources together. For the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection, some key achievements included a finalised security plan, improved formal accountability mechanisms and child participation in all activities and stronger child safeguarding policy and procurement procedures. For the partner in Burkina Faso, Heera Kadi, OCD support focused on strengthening Heera Kadi's governance structures, including their board and its strategic planning, finance systems, staff feedback mechanisms, advocacy and resource mobilisations, CP policy, and staff safety and security. As a result of the OCD process, Heera Kadi has now developed a written mission, drawn up a strategic plan and developed a security plan. OCD support provided to Heera Kadi continues in the next programme period in order to further strengthen the organisation in these areas and other areas.

Throughout the programme period, Save the Children Finland continued its engagement with the Save the Children partnership working group, which focuses on strengthening the overall partnership work in all contexts. Over the years Save the Children Finland has contributed, together with other Save the Children members, to the improved quality of partnerships within the movement by developing partnership management tools, resources and accountabilities, and by supporting the enrolment of the Save the Children localisation policy, which was approved in 2021 and which will further guide our work in the coming years.

⁴⁴ The total of three OCD project partners contributing to the policy priority area, result 4.2: 'The number of developing-country CSOs with improved capacity to influence development in line with Agenda 2030'

4. COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE OUTCOMES

Outcome 11	Indicators
Increased awareness and understanding of Save the Children Finland and Save the Children International priority themes and general global development issues	The number of magazines published The number of readers/ magazines The number of newsletters published The number of people reached through web pages The number of people reached through social media The amount of media coverage

In the final year of the programme period, communications continued focussing on raising awareness and promoting public debate on global development and issues affecting the realisation of children’s rights. The highlighted themes of communications were the eradication of child poverty, access to inclusive quality education and the protection of children. Cross-cutting themes encompassed child participation and gender equality. Communication also focused on showcasing progress made and results achieved for children through the programming of both Save the Children Finland and the global movement.

During the programme period, the communications of Save the Children Finland continuously reached increasing audiences. The communication channels of Save the Children International and its network of COs and Regional Offices were also utilised in order to reach audiences outside Finland. For example, materials produced from the humanitarian work in Baidoa, Somalia, were utilised by Save the Children Somalia Country Office in their communication linked to the Global Disability Summit of 2022.

The number of subscribers and followers of the printed and electronic channels of the organisation grew each year. In 2021, for example, the number of

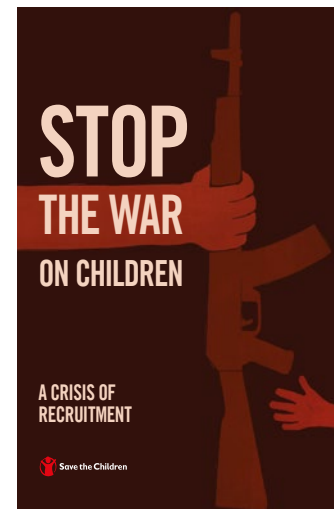
subscribers of the monthly main newsletter rose by a third to over 40 000. The social media channels of Save the Children Finland had more than 100 000 followers at the end of 2021, around twice as many as at the beginning of the programme period. The web pages, providing news and basic information about the programming of the organisation, had over half a million visitors in 2021, an increase of 200 000 from 2017. The quarterly published magazine of the organisation reached 12 000–65 000 households in 2021, depending on the issue.

An extensive engagement with media resulted in high media visibility throughout the programme period. A total of 3 160 news stories covering global development themes and activities related to Save the Children were published in Finnish media during the programme period. This represents a ten percent increase compared with the previous five years. In 2021, more than 700 news stories were registered.

More than a third of the published news stories focussed on CP issues, particularly in emergency situations. Gender-based violence, like child marriages, also received wide media attention. Within the theme of health and nutrition, media particularly reported on the situation in our focus regions in both West and East Africa, but also in Afghanistan. The global challenge of children not accessing education, partly related to the COVID-19 pandemic, was a third major topic featured in the news

Media co-operation included the production of content, for example, for the use of the Finnish Broadcasting Company, YLE. The Nose Day campaign and televised show featured stories highlighting programme activities in Burkina Faso. The broadcasted main event alone reached around one million people in Finland. Also in 2021, materials were produced for the popular television programme *Laulu rakkaudelle* (*Secret Song Suomi*). The special edition broadcasted in March 2022 and reached around one million people; it featured Save the Children programming in Syria, Zambia and Yemen, as well as our humanitarian work and efforts to eradicate child poverty.

The regularly produced reports related to the Save the Children’s Stop the War on Children campaign are widely disseminated and also reported upon by media. The reports of 2021 looked in detail at two of the UN’s six grave violations against children in conflict: sexual violence against children and the recruitment or use of children as soldiers.



Outcome 12	Indicators:
Facilitating and influencing concrete policy changes related to child rights	No specific indicators defined for the outcome

Save the Children Finland continued to advocate the key thematic priorities of CP and CSSP in 2021, while also joining Save the Children’s global one-year campaign, Save Our Education, that was launched to prevent a further education catastrophe as 90% of children in the world had their education interrupted due to COVID management measures and vulnerable children missed out not only on education but also on vital services such as nutrition and health. Across the globe budgets for education were reduced due to the financial impacts of COVID which extended the existing funding gap for education, especially in low- and middle-income countries. The aim of the campaign was to strengthen the role of education in development policy across the globe and to ensure adequate funding commitments and allocation to the education sector and to catch up with the lost learning. Save the Children Finland’s goal was to ensure poverty and its impacts on education would be better understood in development policy. In particular, the role of SP and CSSP were emphasised throughout advocacy efforts.

To that effect, a webinar was organised on the International Day of Education together with a like-minded CSO, especially targeting politicians and policymakers at the MFA. Save the Children Finland also had a representative as a guest speaker in the MFA’s ‘Partners in Development’ live broadcast that focused on education, hosted at the University of Jyväskylä’s Sustainable Development Goal 4 seminar, as well as

a podcast of National Union of Students in Finnish Universities of Applied Sciences, in order to talk about the EU’s role in providing global education together with a member of Urpilainen’s cabinet. A social media campaign called ‘100 days of action’ was published over 100 days using most of Save the Children Finland channels on children’s right to education and the ways in which Save the Children is able to provide support. In the campaign, the role of CSSP was highlighted as an effective tool. Save the Children Finland also made public statements and opinion pieces in media, as well as in its magazine, about the need to sustain support for education and to make sure the efforts are not only focusing on the education sector but also on the basic services that help to achieve the education outcomes.

A webinar for increased understanding of child labour was organised together with the Trade Union Solidarity Centre of Finland, with speakers from the University of Tampere providing the research perspective and speakers from international organisations, such as UNICEF and the Global Partnership for Education, providing their views on what works best when trying to eliminate child labour. A broad article on child labour was published in the Save the Children Finland magazine and other content on the theme was published through the corporate and fundraising newsletters.

Towards the end of the year the focus was shifted back to the *Stop War on Children* campaign that Save the Children Finland has been engaging in since 2019. This coincided with the uprising of Taliban in Afghanistan, and Save the Children Finland took the opportunity to link the two in advocacy on protecting

children in conflict. Save the Children Finland held several meetings with politicians and utilised the *Stop the War on Children* report on child recruitment to advocate for a more prominent role of the protection of children in humanitarian policy. The organisation also prepared for Finland’s upcoming Human Rights Council position and met with the Human Rights Council team to present joint areas of work and to seek leverage for the joint positions.

Finally, Save the Children Finland continued working together with the umbrella organisation Fingo and likeminded CSOs on budget advocacy. Unfortunately, the development budget saw a decrease of 35 million euro starting from 2023.

In the programme countries, many of the advocacy wins in the areas of CP and CSSP were culminations of the work carried out through the programme period. There were significant results, especially in Somalia (Somaliland), Zambia and Nepal. In Somaliland, Save the Children continued to work towards approval of the CRA that had been pending since 2019 through engaging with the new parliament and meetings with the human rights, judiciary and legislative committee and the MESAF. As a result, the CRA was finally approved. It is a comprehensive piece of legislation that guarantees the rights of all children in Somaliland and strengthens the accountability of the state in regard to fulfilling its promises and the rights of the children. Additionally, two other policies (the Child Protection Policy and the Alternative Care Policy) were approved, and these policies were disseminated. Despite all these positive achievements, the implementation of laws and policies is still a big challenge, hence, a plan and a budget are required to ensure implementations are done in collaboration with key stakeholders. For more specific results on CSSP advocacy work in Somaliland, Zambia and Nepal, please refer to Chapter 3.2., Outcome 2.

Outcome 13	Indicators:
The increased active engagement of citizens, old and new supporters of the organisation, partners and stakeholders in concrete action	The number of people reached through campaigning and global education activities



Photo: Bassam Al-Thalaja

‘We, the people, the children, we’re the most affected by this war. We cannot play, learn, or even fulfil our dreams.’ says Haya, aged 12, who is a representative of the Children’s Parliament in Sana’a, which has been calling for an end to the conflict. Save the Children has supported the children’s parliament through advocacy training and technical support.

Even though the COVID-19 restrictions affected global education activities, co-operation with key partners (like the Teacher Education and Swedish School of Social Science of the University of Helsinki) continued in 2021. Guest lectures and materials provided to teachers covered different issues related to child rights.

Campaigning focussed on two themes in 2021. The global Save Our Education campaign called for learning and access to education for children affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the programming countries of Save the Children, both children and parents were mobilised in campaigning activities, and information was widely disseminated in different communication channels. The second main drive highlighted



Throughout the programme period, communications and advocacy brought forward the topic of climate change, its adverse effects, and the urgent need for action. The report *Born into the Climate Crisis (2021)* lay out how the intergenerational impacts of climate change are infringing on children’s rights to life, education, and protection.

throughout the year was the Stop the War on Children campaign of Save the Children. Actions included the dissemination of the two campaign reports of 2021, spotlighting sexual violence against children in conflict situations and the recruitment of children by armed groups. Conflicts that were prioritised in communications in 2021 were those in Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen.

Extensive work was also undertaken to increase the popular support for development assistance and engagement with global responsibility. Civic engagement and the fundraising functions of the organisation were supported with the aim of both raising awareness on programming activities and themes, and also ensuring the needed financial support for programme activities.

All the available communications channels of the organisation were utilised to inform the public, stakeholders and supporters about the implementation of the programme, the achieved results and the impact. These efforts served as a means to promote the transparency and accountability of the programme work and other operations of the organisation.

Newsletters and other updates were issued on an almost weekly basis to various target groups. The newsletters, articles in the magazine and regularly conducted communication drives on social media highlighted both immediate and sustainable positive effects achieved to the lives of children and the societies in which they live.

Programme communications also included the publishing of research papers and studies, as well as project evaluation and analysis reports generated as part of programming. During the programme period, close to 30 studies linked to CSSP alone were disseminated to stakeholders and made publicly available, for example, in Save the Children’s Resource Centre. The findings of the conducted research and programming evidence were extensively utilised in all programme communications.

Outcome 14	Indicators:
The increased accountability and transparency of Save the Children Finland programming and actions through regular and timely communication	No specific indicators defined for the outcome

5. ENSURING QUALITY PROGRAMMING

5.1. RESULTS-BASED MONITORING AND KEY LEARNINGS

The final year of the programme was heavy with research and studies. We conducted 27 separate studies and evaluations. Needs assessments and baselines for ECHO and other donors were also conducted.

A CP programme meta-evaluation was conducted based on the individual CP project evaluations. The idea was to draw together the learnings and recommendations from different CP projects in order to support the development of the new CP thematic programme for 2022–2025. Overall, the meta-evaluation assessed Save the Children Finland’s CP programming to have been effective in view of achieving planned results in the areas of increasing awareness and sensitivity amongst different stakeholders, increasing children’s ability to protect themselves and increasing access to services.⁴⁵

One of the key recommendations from the CP meta-evaluation was to prioritise the use of approaches that enhance child–parent relationships as a strategy for reducing violence at family level and further test the PwV approach in order to make it ready to scale into different contexts through different actors. A key challenge that we had noticed ourselves and which also came out in the meta-evaluation was the inappropriateness of our CP programme level indicators. The meta-evaluation recommends that Save the Children develops’ social norm change strategies at project level that include stronger indicators and methodologies with which to measure change. Thus, we have put a lot of emphasis on choosing more appropriate and globally validated programme-level indicators for the CP programme 2022–2025 and developing unified data collection tools that are used across all CP projects. Another key recommendation for the CP projects was to work more closely with other social sectors in order to build multi-sectoral responses to protection, particularly when addressing issues such as early and unwanted pregnancy or early and forced child marriage. These are not only protection issues but also issues of sexual and



The report *Breaking Barriers to Access Social Protection: A Review of Save the Children’s Approach in Nepal* examines the interventions developed by Save the Children to improve people’s access to government social protection programmes.

reproductive health and rights and can be caused by poverty-related negative coping strategies.

In Burkina Faso a key lesson that came out strongly in the end evaluation is the importance of linking CP and parenting work with support to livelihoods and food security. The higher the poverty levels in the country are, the more important this linkage becomes. The evidence from Burkina Faso project shows that parents who had received CVA or livelihood support had a stronger engagement and participation in the parenting programme than the parents who had not received any economic support.

Throughout the programme period, Save the Children Finland put significant emphasis on testing several different tools and domains for tracking change created for children through the child sensitivity activities

⁴⁵ Check section 2.2 on CP for more detailed results.

within the CSSP projects. In 2020 we settled on two main indicators: International Social and Emotional Learning Assessment; and Caregiver Reported Early Development Instruments Sampling. Tool selection guidance were produced, and staff in India, Nepal and the Philippines were trained on using the tools to facilitate the training of local enumerators. Impact assessments for the CSSP projects child sensitivity component was done late in 2021 utilising the baseline and endline data collected in 2020 and 2021 for the new cohorts of parents. The 2022–2025 programme will use the indicators and tools developed during this programme period.

The child sensitivity package comprises sessions on family budgeting and the prioritisation of children's needs, which are considered crucial as many households need to manage their income better, including cash transfers, and plan for important expenses related to children. To understand the effectiveness of the family budgeting sessions, Save the Children Finland introduced a financial diaries methodology on a pilot basis with 20 families in each of the three countries of Nepal, the Philippines and India. The 'light approach' adopted focused on tracking expenses daily both prior to and after the family budgeting sessions. The families were visited weekly to encourage them to keep the diaries up to date. The diaries were filled in daily for a period of three months before the family budgeting sessions and for the same amount of time after the sessions.

Save the Children Finland also requested that the families noted their income in the diary in order to understand the main sources of their earnings and livelihoods. In addition to analysing the data stemming from the diaries, a brief qualitative study based on focus group discussions and household case studies was carried out. This was to contextualise the findings from the diaries and to understand people's overall experiences of the family budgeting sessions. Data from the diaries show that savings were prioritised and had increased in all countries at the time of the post-assessment. This suggests that the sessions have been effective in initiating a savings habit among the families, and that even poor and vulnerable families with irregular incomes can be motivated to save tiny amounts. All the people who participated in the financial diary pilot were highly appreciative of the family budgeting sessions, which they reported helped them plan and manage their money better. Most families have continued to use their financial diary even after the post-assessment period as a way

of keeping track of expenses. Hence, the financial diary has not only served as an instrument to assess changes in spending patterns but has also become a useful tool for improved family budgeting.

COVID-19 strongly impacted on implementation and monitoring during the last two years of the programme. COVID also impacted on the timeline and plans for data collection, which in many cases had to be pushed to the very end of the year due to travel and meeting restrictions in different countries. In the CP projects, trained case workers, community structures and volunteers proved to be an essential resource during the COVID-19 when they were able to provide adapted services within the community in which they lived. Other major lessons learned from COVID-19 include the stronger utilisation of IT in providing training, cash assistance, communication messaging and monitoring data collection. The leap to utilising technology for development will continue in the new programme phase by, for example, digitalising the CSSP parenting training. In the future, the digitalisation of training sessions will facilitate the scaling up of these sessions.

Save the Children Finland led a child participation improvement process in Burkina Faso that was finalised in 2021 and provided a good opportunity for learning and collecting good practices on capacity building and running remote training programmes. Some of the key learnings included: having commitment and support from CO management is key for a sustained process; the application process and post-training certificate helped to maintain the motivation and attendance of the participants throughout the process; engaging co-facilitators from the CO and Regional Office helped to bring onboard relevant context and regional expertise; and connecting with global processes ongoing at the Save the Children global level (the testing of the child participation organisational assessment tool) brought along synergies and added value at both the global and country levels.

Setting up the cross-cutting champions teams in 2020 to ensure a stronger focus and follow up on cross-cutting issues proved to be effective. It is evident that the teams are a much more efficient way of mainstreaming cross-cutting issues and simultaneously creating ownership of the cross-cutting issues across the International Programme team when compared with the focal point approach.

Photo: Save the Children



AskKids is a digital tool that allows children to give their ideas and feedback in a safe, accessible and child-friendly way.

5.2. SAVE THE CHILDREN FINLAND ADDED VALUE AND IMPROVED QUALITY GLOBALLY

During the programme period, Save the Children Finland TAs participated actively in the development of the Save the Children movement-wide common approaches and were also selected as members to the TWGs when those were established in early 2020. Save the Children Finland's TAs were selected to lead two different task groups within the CSSP TWG; one of the task groups focuses on gender and CSSP, and the other focuses on disability and CSSP. Leading these task groups grants Save the Children Finland a good opportunity to push for stronger disability and gender sensitivity in the CSSP work.⁴⁶

The AskKids software was launched internally within all COs that Save the Children Finland was working with at the end of 2021. From 2022 onwards, the software can be used movement wide for collecting baseline data from children and also for collecting any kind of feedback from children in a child-friendly way. Due to the audio settings and cartoon drawings, it is also possible to request feedback from illiterate children.

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See Sections 2.2 and 2.3 'Thematic development' for detailed information on Technical Working Group work

6. MANAGEMENT

6.1. GENERAL MANAGEMENT

A major improvement from a general management point of view happened in 2019 when the first joint programme strategy for Save the Children Finland's domestic and international programme was endorsed by the organisation's board. For the roll out of the strategy, steering groups were formed with participation from teams and units across Save the Children Finland's domestic and international programmes. The new structure clearly enhanced cross-learning between functions and the international and domestic programmes.

New management structures endorsed during the programme period include new ways of working of the senior management team (SMT) including regular meetings of an enlarged SMT which comprises of the domestic and international programmes' SMT members in addition to the organisation's SMT. As part of the new ways of working, decision-making forums and structures were streamlined. Thus, decision-making processes are now clearer, documented properly and communicated to the staff in a more structured way.

Major improvements were also made to the IT systems during the programme period; the salary payment process was digitalised and a new work-time digital follow-up system, Nepton, was rolled out in May 2021. The new system allows all employees, even those working from abroad, to digitally code their work time. Also, a new IT system, Netvisor, was rolled out in January 2021 to support the finance department. The roll out of Save the Children International's programme management system, the Project Reporting, Information Management and Evidence (PRIME) system, was postponed to 2022 for the first wave of countries. Save the Children Finland's turn will only be in 2023. The accountability programme of Save the Children Finland was launched in 2021 and our carbon footprint was calculated as part of a joint Save the Children movement-wide carbon footprint estimation.

All Save the Children International regional and Global Program Directors group meetings have been carried out online during the last two years. In 2021, Global Programme Directors met on monthly bases using Teams to follow up on the global situation and the adaptation of programmes to the situation. The key priorities of the Global Programme Directors joint work in 2020 and 2021 were: the global funding framework, the right-first-time change process and technical expertise transformation (which aims to increase capacity and thematic knowledge at the CO level).

Save the Children endorsed its new three-year strategy in June 2021. Also, all Save the Children International COs developed new country strategy papers during 2021. Major trends affecting Save the Children's work globally were assessed to be COVID-19, conflict and climate. Together, they are negatively impacting children on a greater scale than we have seen in decades. To counter these forces, over the next three years (2022–2024) Save the Children will drive towards four strategic goals that are mutually reinforcing in a child's life: ensuring a healthy and nutritious start, a safe return to school and learning, a life free from violence and a resilient family with the resources to support them. The global strategy leverages some of Save the Children's strongest areas of work and builds on key successes from the last years, including common approaches, humanitarian surge and flex funding, a global campaign pilot and digital systems' adoption across Save the Children International.

6.2. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

At the end of the programme period, Save the Children Finland had 20 staff members working in the International Programme team in Helsinki and abroad. During the programme period the staff number increased by four people, out of whom 3.5 were

strengthening the Portfolio and Partnership management. The remaining 0.5 member of staff is the child well-being TA shared with the domestic team. The strongest HR investment was invested into expertise in new business development and engagement with the European Union (ECHO and DEVCO/INTPA since 2021), UNICEF, African Development Bank and the World Bank. The division of tasks between Partnership and Portfolio Managers was done from January 2018 onwards and has been assessed to be effective. From January 2018, Portfolio Managers acted as a key focal point for their countries and managing all projects within their assigned countries. Partnerships Managers are responsible for building strong donor relationships with their respective accounts.

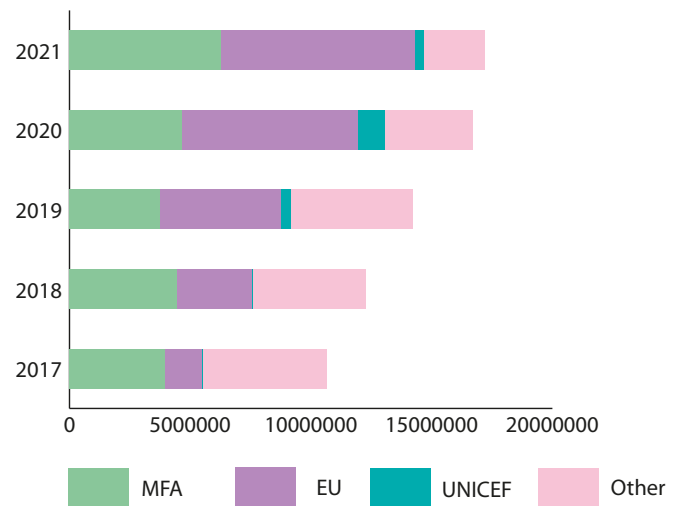
For the last two years of the programme, special attention to staff well-being had to be given due to most staff working remotely because of COVID restrictions. Feedback on staff well-being was collected regularly and measures were taken to improved remote team management skills. In 2021 the second SIQNI staff well-being assessment was carried out. The three main areas of improvement for the whole organisation were identified as fair pay for work, improved career development possibilities and improved management of the organisation. An action plan was developed by the SMT, and each team/unit has its unique plan that aims to tackle the improvement areas.

6.3. THE FUNDING BASE AND ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

In 2018 Save the Children Finland’s International Programme represented 32% of the total volume of Save the Children Finland with a range of different funding sources. The MFA represented 39% of the total International Programme budget and the EU represented 28% in 2018. By 2021, the EU had become the biggest donor for Save the Children Finland with a 41% share of the total budget, the MFA having reduced funding to covering 33% of the budget. Throughout the years we have invested in consolidating our portfolio in our key programming countries and themes. Together with other members and COs, we have invested in developing joint engagement strategies and plans for improving the relationship and partnership management with the European Commission, UNICEF, the World Bank and the MFA (Finland) in our priority

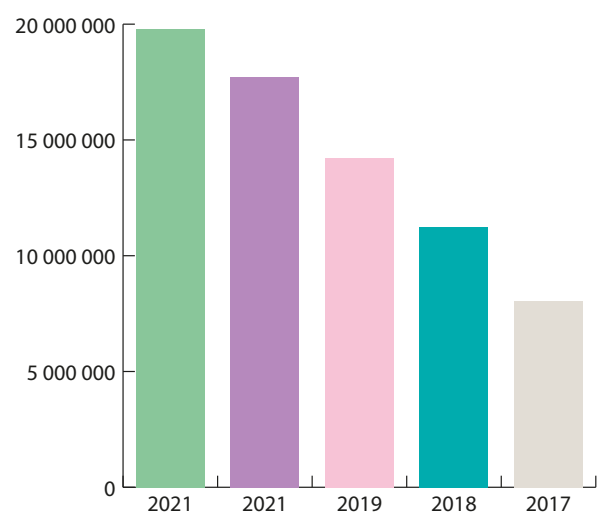
countries. The engagement work done in Sudan with the World Bank for over two years, showed great progress in 2021 when Save the Children in Sudan, with its partners, was selected to support the rollout and implementation of the Sudan Family Support Programme funded by the World Bank. Save the Children’s role would have been the technical support on cash plus approaches, targeting, building accountability mechanisms, information management systems, capacity building and coordination mechanisms. Unfortunately, due to the changes in the government, the whole programme was put on hold by donors.

Funding of operations by source, 2017-2021



* Other funding includes individual giving (e.g. private giving, corporates, foundations) and various institutional donors.

Funding of operations 2017–2021, in euros



In 2021, Save the Children Finland also was granted the possibility to tap into GIZ/KfW Development

Bank funding by Save the Children Germany. A team of five Save the Children members shall strengthen active and strategic engagement and outreach efforts at regional and country level to establish GIZ/KfW Development Bank contacts in country and regionally to raise Save the Children's profile vis-à-vis GIZ/KfW Development Bank and to position the organisation as a possible implementing partner. In 2021, Save the Children Finland received its first project funding from GIZ in Ivory Coast.

The MFA: At the start of the programme in 2018, the MFA represented 39% of the total funding portfolio of Save the Children Finland's international programmes. In 2021 the share of the MFA had reduced to 33% (6.3 million euros) of the total funding portfolio of Save the Children Finland's International Programme. Over the years, the MFA's funding increased from four million euros in 2018 to 6.3 million euros in 2021. The increase was due to MFA humanitarian funding. In 2021 the CSO programme funding for development interventions amounted 3 878 076 euros. Programme funding was channelled to CP and child poverty / CSSP projects in five countries: Burkina Faso, Somalia, Zambia, Nepal and the Philippines. In 2020, Save the Children Finland managed to secure MFA long-term humanitarian funding for Somalia and additional humanitarian funding for Yemen in the October 2020 call. These two projects were also implemented in 2021. Additional MFA humanitarian funding of one million euros was secured for Abudwak in Somalia. MFA humanitarian funding amounted to 2 400 000 euros in total in 2021.

Smooth cooperation with the MFA CSO Unit and the new desk officer, as well as with the Humanitarian Unit, continued throughout the year. Towards the end of the year, Save the Children Finland scheduled Teams meetings with respective Finnish Embassies on Save the Children's new strategy and Save the Children Finland's new programme, together with Save the Children COs. A meeting with the embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, regarding Somalia was held in November and a meeting with the embassy in Lusaka, Zambia, was postponed till early 2022, as were the meetings with the embassies in Kathmandu, Nepal, and Manila, the Philippines.

DG ECHO and DG INTPA: At the start of the programme in 2018, EU funding represented 28% of the total funding portfolio of Save the Children Finland's international programme. In 2021 the share of the EU had increased to 46% of its overall expenditure. Over the years, the annual expenditure of EU funding increased from six million euros in 2018 to nine million euros in 2021. Since 2019, the European Commission has been the biggest donor of Save the Children Finland's international programmes. In 2021, 62% of the EU funding was directed to responding to humanitarian crises while 38% of the funding was directed to supporting longer-term development cooperation in Burkina Faso and Indonesia.⁴⁷ Half of the ongoing projects in 2021 concentrated on delivering results on CP and CSSP, while the other half was concentrated on health, nutrition and education results.



In Sudan, Save the Children implements extensive health and nutrition projects that are co-funded by the European Union. The health facilities run or supported by Save the Children provide life-saving health services, ranging from health promotion to prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

During 2021, Save the Children Finland managed to secure new funding for a total of 12 110 730 euros and reached an 80% proposal success rate (4 proposals out of 5). Among those, 9 425 500 euros came from ECHO to support humanitarian life-saving interventions in Sudan, in the fields of health, nutrition, food security and EiE, as well as to support COVID-19 isolation centres. A total of 1 085 230 euros from ECHO have been channelled into cash assistance and SP in Somalia as part of a wider action conducted within a consortium of seven international NGOs. Finally, 1 600 000 euros from ECHO has been directed to support cash assistance, nutrition, food security and shelters in Burkina Faso. While our efforts in channelling ECHO funding to humanitarian urgencies in Sudan, Burkina Faso and Somalia have been successful in 2021, we expect to have more INTPA opportunities available at the start of the new seven-year funding period of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe.

Save the Children Finland invested in strengthening its EU award management capacity throughout the entire programme period (e.g. implementing internal trainings, developing new tools and a go-no-go decision process as part of risk management, conducted together with the Finance Unit). In 2021, we were busy building the capacities of our COs in Sudan, Burkina Faso and Indonesia regarding EU compliance, as well as the new EU priorities, trends and strategies for development cooperation and future engagement with the EU.

During 2021, Save the Children Finland actively contributed to Save the Children in Europe 2022–2024 strategy development. For the first time, Save the Children has a strategy for its work in Europe across the interdependent areas of advocacy and funding for international programmes as well as domestic programmes. This document outlines strategic priorities, including the partnership with the EU, and highlights areas of mutual accountability that are required to achieve our shared objectives.

UNICEF: During the programme period, Save the Children Finland was capable of establishing a stable cooperation relationship with UNICEF in Burkina Faso. The total value of active UNICEF awards grew from 130 000 euros in 2017 to 1.8 million euros by the end of 2020. In 2021, Save the Children Finland was awarded two new grants worth 845 000 euros,

building on the successes of the previous cooperation. The CSSP project continued to monitor the effects of cash transfers in the poorest households. It also strengthened the child sensitivity of those transfers and continued building evidence on the benefits of the approach. The health and nutrition intervention continued to address the worsening humanitarian crisis and malnutrition that thousands of families, particularly the children of those families, were suffering from due to increasing displacement and violence.

Besides Burkina Faso, Save the Children Finland leads UNICEF engagement in Turkey (since 2020) and in Ivory Coast (since 2021). Engagement and the mapping of collaboration potential in both countries is ongoing. In Turkey, at the request of UNICEF, the CO provided child/youth resilience training for one of UNICEF's implementing partners in late 2021. More training sessions are in the pipeline. In Ivory Coast, the CO had several meetings with UNICEF's CP section in 2021. Some of those meetings were supported by Save the Children Finland. In Ivory Coast, both UNICEF and Save the Children are members of the Work – No Child's Business coalition that tackles the worst forms of child labour.

During the programme period, Save the Children Finland also supported strategic engagement with UNICEF in Somaliland and in Zambia. In Somaliland, UNICEF and Save the Children Finland co-funded the development of the Somaliland Social Protection Policy.

6.4. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The financial management of any project/award is implemented in accordance with the Master Programming Agreement and the Member Contribution Agreement, signed by Save the Children Finland and Save the Children International. These agreements set out the roles and responsibilities of all members. They also set out the obligations relating to project funds and donor requirements and Save the Children International's obligations in relation to reporting and performance standards. Assistant controllers and portfolio managers track expenditure progress on a monthly basis through budget-versus-actual comparisons. Regular award reviews took place through quarterly Teams meetings in order to review the financial and operational performance of an award and take any actions required to ensure the delivery

of objectives in line with donor compliance requirements.

Having the new financial management system Netvisor in place since January 2021, the follow up and tracking of expenditures is more efficient and easier for all Portfolio Managers, and they all have on-going access to our financial management system.

6.5. RISK MANAGEMENT

The COVID-19 global pandemic was one of the external risks that continued to have an impact on project implementation in 2021. Technical assistance missions, monitoring visits, and kick-off and review meetings continued to be conducted online through Teams. In programme countries, Save the Children staff implemented remotely, involving smaller groups of people and taking other COVID-19 precautions.

Risks related to the operating environment, such as the shrinking CSO space realised in India with the restrictive Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act that made it impossible for organisations such as Save the Children to fully engage with grass-roots-level local partners. Political unrest in Sudan resulted in international development donors freezing funding to Sudan, which meant that Save the Children Finland's planned project in Sudan could not be started in 2022. Typhoon Rai in the Philippines was one of the identified risks as a natural hazard that was realised in late 2021. The typhoon affected many parts of the Visayas region and Save the Children Finland project areas, causing Save the Children project teams to engage in helping in the emergency response.

In 2021, Save the Children Finland updated the risk matrix to be in line with the MFA categorisation presented in the Oppimisen Areena event in April 2021. Child safeguarding, reputational risk and COVID-19 were added as risks on their own. More information on preventive measures and responsibilities were added. The scoring of risk was also changed in order to be in line with the Save the Children International calculation.

In line with the Save the Children whistle-blowing policy and procedures, and due to an effective Save the Children internal incident reporting system, Save the Children Finland received three notifications of alleged fraud or misuse of funds cases in 2021.



Photo: Bimala Sapkota

Sound financial management is included in much of the trainings offered to families as part of programme execution. In Nepal, Save the Children has been implementing the Child Grant Plus programme since 2018. The initiative aims to augment the impact of the Child Grant outcomes by providing training sessions on family budgeting, parenting and nutrition.

Two cases were regarding the Concern Worldwide-led ECHO Cash Consortium project, where Save the Children is in an implementing partner. There were obscurities with the cash transfer payments that came out during proactive telephone calls to beneficiaries and via the complaint response mechanisms. The Save the Children Somalia Country Office took immediate actions to report the issue to the Somali Cash Consortium (Concern Worldwide) and they explained the step taken by Save the Children of suspending the cash instalments to one of the targeted IDP camps until the issue was solved. The transaction lists with complaint response mechanism reports were crosschecked to determine the exact amount extorted by the perpetrator. A meeting with the local authority and the Ministry of the Interior was planned in order to discuss how the money will be returned while observing the do-no-harm principle. A meeting with the perpetrators was also planned in order to explain Save the Children International's policy on money extortion, show the evidence and inform them that they need to return the money immediately. Save the Children Finland did not yet receive the 'case closed' report from Save the Children International.

The third reported case was regarding the Illaa Linta Caruurta project, the CP project supported by MFA CSO programme funding. There was some unclarity in the financial bookkeeping and Save the Children froze the funding to the implementing partner at the end of 2021 in order to sort out the issue. Nothing was found to be amiss, and the partner remains Save the Children's implementing partner in 2022.

There were no child safeguarding or sexual harassment cases reported for a project funded by Save the Children Finland in 2021.

Annex 1. Cross-cutting milestone follow up

Disaster Risk Reduction

Milestone: Research/studies on how disaster risk reduction has built resilience

No research/studies as such were conducted during the evaluation. However, case studies on how disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities have been attributed to improved resilience were collected. For example, here follows a case study from Nepal: the Gaushala Municipality is one of the local-level bodies in Mahottari which lies in the Terai. It is heavily affected by yearly floods that damage crops and houses; poverty levels are high. The local government used to provide support to the people on an ad hoc basis which was insufficient to meet the needs of people who have been affected by more frequent storms and floods caused by climate change. Considering the situation of different hazards, the Gaushala Municipality developed their own local-level disaster preparedness plan called the Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan for 2020. They identified the major hazards in Gaushala, such as: earthquakes, draughts, floods, fires, snake bites, wind (storms), thunderstorms and cold waves. In addition, different health hazards, including COVID-19, also create problems in the community. The plan, which was prepared with the support of Save the Children, is very supportive of systematising the response mechanism and building the resilience of the community, even if the leadership of the municipality changes.

Gender

Milestone: Success stories collected on achieving gender-transformative elements in projects supported by Save the Children Finland

‘My father-in-law and husband run a small medical shop and discouraged me from stepping out of the house earlier; they never consulted me on any matter related to our household finances. But now they realise that I, too, am aware of financial issues. They have even suggested that I run some enterprise of my own.’ (Impact assessment of family budgeting sessions in Nepal)

In Burkina Faso, one of the root causes of child marriage is that adolescents’ SRHR are considered taboo and are not discussed with children. The PRODEPS project increased awareness of girls’ rights and gender-based violence by working specifically with fathers and boys, including religious leaders. This improved trust and communication between parents and adolescent children.

‘The project gave us knowledge of how to manage our sexuality before marriage. It strengthened my links with my dad and there isn’t shame between me and my dad [when talking about sexuality]’ (FGD with boys aged 13–17 in Burkina Faso)

Child participation

Milestone: Good practices collected on child participation training sessions.

In 2021, the child participation improvement process that Save the Children Finland initiated in 2019 with the Burkina Faso CO was completed. The year started with a series of weekly trainings targeting the CO Child Participation Focal Points selected through an application process in the previous year. Altogether, 14 focal points across different thematic areas and a field office and CO were trained. After the general training, the focal points selected eight representatives from among themselves to form a child participation TWG that continued with a series of workshops facilitated by Save the Children Finland in order to carry out a child participation organisational situation analysis and subsequent action planning for child participation improvement. Over the year, the TWG continued to finetune the action plan, which was later presented to the CO SMT. Activities to be taken into account in future proposals were identified and highlighted, and the TWG continued to drive the implementation of the action plan forward.

Strengthening civil society

Milestone: The integration of strengthening civil society in the evaluation process using organisational capacity assessment as a baseline, case stories collected

Strengthening civil society was not included in the evaluation process as it was not feasible given that some processes (starting Organizational Capacity Development in Burkina Faso in particular) were delayed due to COVID-19. Final evaluation discussions were held with partners and the feedback on the process was positive.



The children's clubs and other civic action groups supported by Save the Children play a pivotal role in strengthening child participation and child civil society on local, national and also regional levels.



Sudan: Saving children's and women's lives

Fatima is a mother of eight children and a midwife from Sudan working to help women during and after their pregnancies. She already wanted to become a midwife as a young woman in order to help women defeat the risks experienced during childbirth.

'In my village several women died during delivery, in some cases caused by the traditional birth practices. I thought that I wanted to change that and help women deliver in a safe way,' she says.

In much of Sudan, the lack of healthcare is a severe problem. In the rural areas, villages are usually short of water, medicines and equipment and the healthcare staff is incompletely trained.

Especially in North Darfur, malnutrition rates are very high. Climate change has reduced the rainfalls further and, as a result, poor harvests impacted severely on the population in the last years. Further, Sudan is experiencing an economic crisis with soaring inflation. The UN's World Food Programme has warned that 40% of the Sudanese population will be at the risk of hunger in 2022.

These same problems occur in Fatima's home village, Qissat Gamat. In the 1990s she decided to leave the

village to study at the school of midwifery. Several years later, as an experienced midwife, she returned home.

From 2015, Save the Children, with the support of EU Humanitarian Aid, has worked in Qissat Gamat and the surrounding villages, renovating facilities, training staff, building rooms for deliveries and introducing a nutrition programme.

Fatima carefully monitors the overall health of the mothers during pregnancy.

'Women come to see me throughout their pregnancies. When the time for delivery comes, I will ride my camel as fast as possible to assist them,' she says.

As women can now access more and better-quality healthcare during their pregnancies, mortality rates during deliveries have notably decreased.

'Less women are dying now, because of the support they can receive from the health centre, from myself and from my colleagues. I am so grateful for that,' she says.



Photo: Save the Children

Burkina Faso: Preventing child marriage with support for education

Aminata is a 14-year-old girl from Burkina Faso. Her rights were threatened by a child marriage. Child marriage is a violation of children's human rights and a form of gender-based violence that robs children of childhood and also disrupts their education.

In Burkina Faso, child marriage is a compulsory action for many impoverished families. Men from Aminata's extended family wanted to marry her without her consent or the consent of her father. The elderly father of Aminata has serious health issues and the salary of her mother is not sufficient to support the whole family. The older brothers of Aminata have already been forced to drop out of school. The family's situation is quite critical and Aminata's schooling is thus threatened.

With her mother, Aminata went to the Provincial Directorate for Women, National Solidarity, Family and Humanitarian Action (DPFSFAH) to request for assistance for Aminata's school fees so that she could continue her school year.

Aminata takes now part in a project by Save the Children and its partner, Réseau Africain Jeunesse, Santé et Développement au Burkina Faso (RAJS/BF). The project is co-financed by the European Union and private donors of Save the Children Finland. The project aims to increase the supply and demand of civil registration and social services in the Hauts-Bassins, Cascades and Sud-Ouest regions of Burkina Faso.

Aminata received financial help for her school fees and school supplies. 'I have now resumed my classes, reunited with my classmates and escaped forced marriage. I will continue to do well in school in order to get my diplomas before I get married,' she says.

Her father is also cheerful for his child : 'Thanks to the support, my daughter was protected from a marriage that we never hoped for.'

Somalia: Education for displaced children with disabilities

Khayrto is a 11-year-old girl from Baidoa, Somalia. She lives in a camp for internally displaced persons.

Khayrto and many other children with a disability face discrimination at home, in the school and in the community in Somalia.

‘I didn’t choose to live with disability, I was born like that. When I am writing at school, children whisper to each other asking what this girl without an arm is doing in the class. It hurts me and I report them to the teacher. Our teacher says everyone should be treated equally.’ says Khayrto.

Save the Children Finland promotes the basic rights of Khayrto and other children with disabilities by disseminating information and educating communities

to promote the inclusion and equality of people with disabilities in all areas of life. In particular, teachers’ awareness of the special needs of children has been raised for several years.

‘When our teacher asks us questions, students raise their hands. If I know the answer, I also raise my hand. Teachers treat us all equally. My mother also treats me the same as my siblings. When I grow up, I also want to become a teacher.’ says Khayrto.



Photo: Saddam Arab / Save the Children



Photo: Binod Thapa Magar

Nepal: Disability allowances for basic needs and education

Anil is a nine-year-old boy from Mahottari, Nepal, who was born with an intellectual disability. He lives with his mother, grandparents, older brother and eight-year-old sister, Neha, who also has an intellectual disability.

In Mahottari, 24 percent of the people eligible for the Social Protection Scheme have no access to the services provided by the government in the project area. Although living alongside three people with a disability in the family, Anil's mother, Sushila Devi, was unaware of the social protection schemes.

The family was approached by a Save the Children CSSP project staff who helped the family to get disability cards for both children and the physically disabled grandfather. The project staff took the family to the venue where cards were being distributed. As a result, the family members with disability received 'Blue Cards' which allow them to get NPR 1600 every month in disability allowances provided by the Government of Nepal.

In coordination with the Municipality of Bardibas and the Department of Women and Children, Save the Children and its implementing partner organised a camp to distribute Disability Identification Cards where 356 people with a disability received cards according to their condition.

Before receiving the allowance, Anil's family relied solely on the little income from their farm. Disability allowances have helped in meeting the basic needs of the family, as well as meeting the educational and health needs of the children. 'Since my children received the Blue Cards, I worry less about having to spend money on their schooling. I also buy them nutritious fruits often and can provide them with decent clothes every few months.' says Sushila.



OUR VISION

A world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.



OUR MISSION

To inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.



OUR VALUES

In all that we do, we will demonstrate our values of Accountability, Ambition, Collaboration, Creativity and Integrity.

Save the Children Finland Head Office

Koskelantie 38

00610 Helsinki

Tel. +358 10 843 5000

Fax +358 10 843 5111

info@savethechildren.fi

