



International programme

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



SAVE THE CHILDREN FINLAND



SAVE THE CHILDREN FINLAND
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

This report serves as the 2018 annual 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. Names have been changed to protect identities.

Save the Children © 2019

Front cover

Four-year-old Anita's widowed mother is the sole breadwinner of the family. Through the CSSP project implemented in Nepal, Anita's mother was supported to apply for and receive a widow's allowance, and Anita has been granted a child grant allowance. Anita has been able to continue going to the Elementary Child Development Centre while her older siblings attend a school supported by Save the Children.

Photo: Nabin Maharjan / Save the Children

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS: SAVE THE CHILDREN FINLAND REPORT 2018

CO	Country office
CSP	Country Strategic Plan
CP	Child protection
CSO	Civil society organisation
CSSP	Child-sensitive social protection
CVA	Cash and voucher assistance
DEVCO	Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development
DRR	Disaster risk reduction
ECCD	Early childhood care and development
ECHO	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
EU	European Union
IDP	Internally displaced person
MEAL	Monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning
MESAF	Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family
MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
PRIME	Programme Reporting, Information Management and Evidence
PWV	Parenting Without Violence
SP	Social protection
TA	Technical advisor
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene

FOREWORD

In 2018, Save the Children Finland worked in 10 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. We directly reached more than 104 159 girls, 91 826 boys and 185 834 adults through our projects. Our expenditure totalled 11.2 million euros and was funded by institutional donors, corporates and private donors. During the year, we were able to increase our annual budget by 30%, which exceeded the targeted growth substantially. The main bulk of the growth came from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and the Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO). Also the programme co-operation agreement with UNICEF in Burkina Faso yielded fruit with an increased funding base from them. The share of humanitarian funding grew from 34% to 53.8% in 2018.

The second year of our five-year programme was 2018. The stable implementation of the programme was challenged by the volatile operating environment of some of our programme countries. The most challenging situation has been in Burkina Faso, where the number of internally displaced people has increased by 440% during the year. Travel restrictions in Burkina Faso, Somalia, Sudan and Iraq caused some cases delays in implementation and other challenges to monitoring activities. Despite these difficulties, in the end we were able to implement most of the programme as planned.

In 2018, Save the Children Finland put a strong emphasis on developing a rigid monitoring system for the parenting component within the child sensitive social protection (CSSP) work. We were also strongly engaged in rolling out the Parenting Without Violence (PWV) Common Approach¹ and supported the initial development of a Community-Based Child Protection Systems Common Approach and the Resourcing Families for Better Nutrition

Common Approach. For both of our key themes, CSSP and CP, the bulk of the work in 2018 was done with the caregivers. The quantitative and qualitative post assessment of the parenting programme in India, Nepal² and the Philippines and the qualitative post assessment in Somalia carried out in 2018 suggest that the interventions are having a considerable impact on parenting behaviours. In all countries, the physical punishment of children (slapping, hitting, pinching etc.) reduced by more than a third. Parents/caregivers also started to praise their children more and generally intensified their engagement with them. Children also indicated that parental time, attention paid to them, and the use of praise and encouragement to improve their self-perception and relationship with their parents had all increased.

The highlight of our advocacy and campaign work was the decision made by the Finnish Government in November 2018 to ban arms sales to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Working effectively with the media, Save the Children and its partners contributed to increased public awareness of the conflict and gathered nearly 9000 signatures supporting a ban on the sale of arms. Alongside this, Save the Children conducted private advocacy to the government using a variety of platforms.

In 2018 we reached approximately 50 businesses through trainings on child rights and business in collaboration with Finnish Textile and Fashion, Finnpartnership and FIBS. Also, the national human rights due diligence campaign has worked well together with our wider engagement of corporates under child rights and business.

Anne Haaranen
Director, International Programme
Save the Children Finland

1 A common approach is Save the Children's best understanding of how to solve a particular problem for children. It is based on evidence, it can be adapted to work in multiple contexts and also replicated in different countries.

2 <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/qualitative-post-assessment-study-impact-parenting-programme-linked-government-child-grant>

1. INTRODUCTION

Global Save the Children movement



40
MILLION CHILDREN REACHED

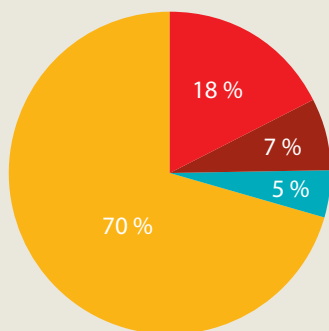
24
MILLION ADULTS REACHED

118
COUNTRIES

1090
MILLION € VALUE OF RESPONSES

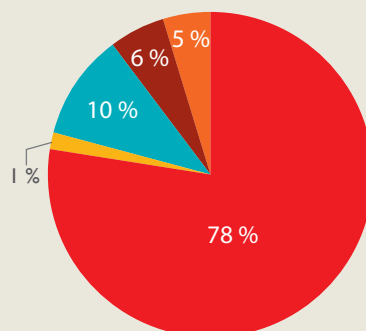
In 2018, through Save the Children's and our partners' work, **we directly reached over 40 million children – half of them girls – in 118 countries**, helping them to survive, learn and be protected. The total value of Save the Children's responses was approximately **1090 million euros**, out of which Save the Children Finland's share was over **11.2 million euros**. The value of Save the Children's total humanitarian response was around **495 million euros**, out of which Save the Children Finland's share was **6 million euros**. In 2018 Save the Children responded to **113 categorised emergencies in 58 countries, reaching 12.2 million beneficiaries**, out of whom almost **seven million were children**. Save the Children directly reached over **24 million adults** across all of our development, humanitarian and campaign work and indirectly reached **93 million children**.

DIRECTLY REACHED CHILDREN BY THEME



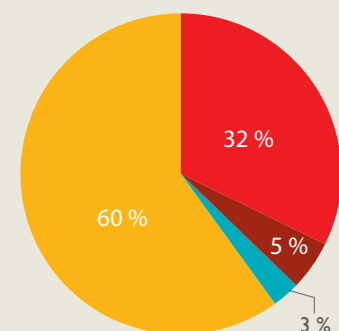
- Health and Nutrition
- Child sensitive social protection/Child poverty
- Child protection
- Education

DIRECTLY REACHED CHILDREN BY REGION



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

DIRECTLY REACHED ADULTS BY THEME



- Health and Nutrition
- Child sensitive social protection/Child poverty
- Child protection
- Education



In 2018 Save the Children Finland directly reached more than **195 985** children. Through **22 projects in 10 countries**, we directly reached more than **104 159 girls, 91 826 boys and 185 834 adults**. Projects were implemented in Africa (Burkina Faso, Sudan, Somalia/Somaliland, Zambia), Asia (India, Nepal, the Philippines, Myanmar) and the Middle East and Eastern Europe (Iraq and the Russian Federation). Save the Children Finland also supported humanitarian operations of Save the Children International in for example Bangladesh, Indonesia, Syria and Yemen. Several tens of thousands of children were provided with emergency relief through this contribution.

The total volume of international programmes operations in 2018 was **11.25 million euros**, which consisted of funding from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA), the European Union (EU), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and funding from corporates and private donors.

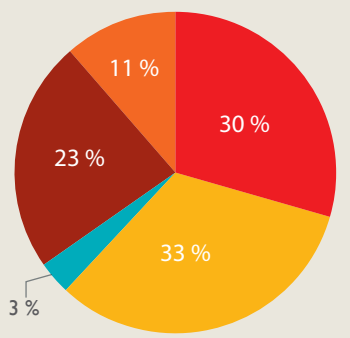
195 985
CHILDREN REACHED

185 834
ADULTS REACHED

10
COUNTRIES

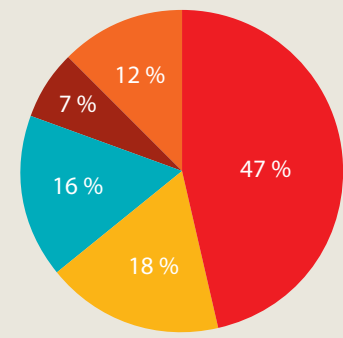
11.25
MILLION € VALUE OF RESPONSES

EXPENDITURES BY THEME



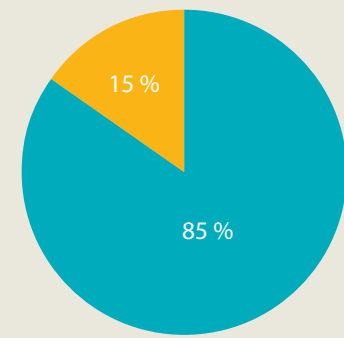
- Child Protection
- Child sensitive social protection/child poverty
- Education
- Health and Nutrition
- Support to Save the Children humanitarian operations

EXPENDITURES BY REGION



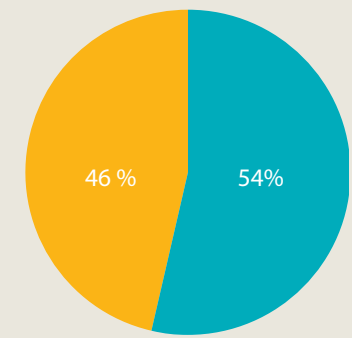
- East and Southern Africa
- West Africa
- South Asia
- Southeast Asia
- Middle East and Europe

EXPENDITURES BY DEVELOPMENT STATUS



- Least developed countries
- Others

EXPENDITURES BY CONTEXT



- Humanitarian
- Non-humanitarian



Through its programming, ranging through five main areas of work (child poverty, protection, Child Rights Governance, education and health) in both long-term and emergency settings, Save the Children Finland directly reached more than 195 000 children in 2018.



Photo: Save the Children

2. A COMPLEX WORKING ENVIRONMENT

The number of children living in conflict zones has doubled since the end of the cold war. New analysis from Save the Children showed that the numbers of grave violations of children's rights in conflict reported and verified by the United Nations (UN) have almost tripled since 2010. Hundreds of thousands of children are dying every year as a result of the indirect effects of conflict – including malnutrition, disease and the breakdown of healthcare, water and sanitation.¹

At the beginning of 2018, 68 million people were forcibly displaced, over double the number of those displaced in 2005 and representing a larger population than that of the UK or France. More than half of these people are children, many of whom are likely to be amongst the poorest and most vulnerable children on the planet. As trends of displacement move ever upwards, it is increasingly essential that we identify solutions that ensure the wellbeing and futures of displaced children.

2.1. WEST AFRICA

In 2018 Burkina Faso experienced a significant decrease in its security situation following an increase in attacks by Islamist militants in the northern and eastern part of the country, predominantly in the provinces of the Est, Boucle du Mouhoun and Hauts-Bassins regions. In 2018 around 193 incidents of insecurity were recorded, which was a significant increase from the 12 incidents of 2016. These incidents also included a terrorist attack in the capital of Ouagadougou on March 2nd, where armed assailants targeting the French embassy and the army headquarters, killing sixteen people. As the country plunged into a humanitarian crisis, President Kaboré declared a state of emergency on December 31st in several northern provinces. According to United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in December 2018 the number

of internally displaced people in the north was around 47 029 civilians, a 443% increase since January 2018. In the same region, around 24 000 refugees from Mali are present. In addition to this, some 180 people have already been killed in the turmoil, and the kidnapping and injuring of people working for local authorities and suspected informants continues.

The number of internally displaced people has increased by 440% in 12 months in Burkina Faso.

Schools have been particularly targeted throughout the crisis and teachers have been threatened and around 779 schools have been forced to close, depriving 96 000 girls and boys of education. Around 14 health facilities have closed or are only partially operational, resulting in 105 000 people having no access to health care.

Burkina Faso also experienced its worse food crisis in years due to the combination of erratic rainfall, insecurity and high prices. Moreover, the lean season in 2018 was significantly more severe than before. The drought and the early arrival of the lean season left 954 000 people in need of emergency food assistance, which nearly quadrupled the figure from the previous year. As around 80% of Burkinabe rely on subsistence farming as their main source of income, the outcome of the food crisis had a significant impact on families and particularly on young children. According to a SMART survey, around 133 000 children under five years old were expected to be severely malnourished in 2019. Several studies indicate that the changes in the weather pattern could be directly linked to climate change.

The recent changes in the country context have also

¹ 'Stop the War on Children: Protecting Children in 21st Century Conflict', Save the Children 2019.



Photo: Max Holm / Save the Children

In rural areas of Burkina Faso, families are highly vulnerable to environmental shocks. Dry spells have contributed to persistently high rates of food insecurity and undernutrition. The photo shows a family that has been able to improve their food and nutrition security through a CSSP project of Save the Children Finland.

had an impact on Save the Children's projects in the region. The worsening security situation has been taken into consideration in new security measures implemented to ensure the safety of the staff, partners and volunteers working in Save the Children's projects. This includes travel restrictions to some locations, as well as ensuring that the staff use transportation that does not draw too much attention to the organisation.

In some locations Save the Children is among the last remaining organisations still implementing projects as the deteriorating security situation means that several other local actors and authorities have left the affected areas.

Operating in a humanitarian context has also brought challenges in terms of recruitment as staff are understandably reluctant to work in villages with a high risk of violent attacks. We have seen some delays in the implementation

of activities due to limited possibilities of staff travelling to target areas. There is a growing need to quickly hire new staff as the situation evolves and humanitarian operations expand. Save the Children has taken up new themes and projects, such as Education in Emergency, in order to be able to better support the growing number of newly displaced internally displaced person (IDP) children and ensure that their access to education is not interrupted by the ongoing crisis. As the crisis remains volatile, the security measures are regularly monitored and revised.

2.2. EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Sudan and Somalia continued to face protracted and complex humanitarian challenges driven by internal conflicts, natural disasters and large-scale displacements that led to epidemics, food insecurity and malnutrition. There were



Photo: Save the Children

At Kajmar Rural Hospital and the attached Nutrition Centre, supported by Save the Children, 18-month-old **Adan** was diagnosed as suffering from diarrhoea and acute malnutrition. Adan was enrolled in a supplementary feeding programme, and after two months of treatment, her condition was significantly improved. “Through the programme’s ‘nutrition education sessions’ I have gained very useful knowledge of how to provide a diversified diet and maintain

good hygiene practices”, her mother **Zainab** said. More than 43 000 children were directly reached by the ECHO-funded project providing a life-saving response to the health and nutrition needs of the displaced population and host communities in North Darfur and North Kordofan.



Photo: Mustafa Saeed / Save the Children

The number of displaced persons has increased in Somalia in recent years due to drought, conflict and flooding. The picture shows an IDP camp outside Baidoa, where vulnerable families and children were supported by Save the Children Finland in 2018.

nearly five million people in Somalia in need of humanitarian assistance and more than 1.5 million faced an immediate food assistance need at the end of 2018.² Malnutrition rates remain high across the Somalia, while the malnutrition rates in Sudan remain among the highest in Africa, with one in six children suffering from acute malnutrition.³

At the end of 2018, 5 million people in Somalia were in need of humanitarian assistance

The number of IDPs remains high in Somalia at 2.6 million people. Over 300 000 displaced people were forcefully evicted from their improvised dwellings in 2018. On average, about 26 000 displaced people are evicted every month from makeshift shelters, especially in urban areas.⁴ The situation is not much better in Sudan, where the status quo of sporadic

fighting during 2018 also meant that the numbers of displaced people continue to create vulnerabilities, with the majority being children and women. Jebel Marra in Darfur, the Nuba Mountains in South Kordofan and certain localities along the Blue Nile remained mostly inaccessible despite some improvements to access. With more than one million refugees, Sudan hosts one of the largest refugee populations in Africa. The number of registered refugees from South Sudan in Darfur currently stands at 150 326 as of December 2018.⁵ Moreover, hundreds of thousands of children, especially in conflict-afflicted areas, also continue to be out of school.

The economic crisis in Sudan has triggered a rise in the cost of living and eroded household purchasing power and the annual inflation reached almost 70% by November 2018.⁶ The situation was aggravated by shortages of fuel, bread, medicines and cash, making people stand in long queues for hours to get these basic living commodities. A chronic liquidity

2 European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, Somalia Factsheet, February 2019

3 European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, Sudan Factsheet, February 2019

4 European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations: Somalia Factsheet, February 2019

5 UNICEF Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report, December 2018

6 UNICEF Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report, December 2018

crisis where banks and ATMs were only dispensing up to 2000 Sudanese pounds a day (approximately US\$40 a day) to account holders was also worsening the situation and fuelling a lack of confidence in the banking system.⁷

The rising cost of living and basic commodities has especially impacted on vulnerable children and families, including 5.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, and has slowed humanitarian and development operations by all humanitarian and development actors. Faced with this situation, Sudan witnessed multiple civil demonstrations that intensified at the end of the year.

There are over 1 million refugees in Sudan

The debt burden in Zambia does not make it any easier for a country where corruption is also widely spread. The fiscal deficit for 2018 is set to be more than 9% of GDP. In 2018 civil servants did not receive payment every month. Arrears for government contractors are mounting. This in turn is hurting businesses. The share of bad loans on banks' books has increased to 13% from 8% two years ago. Between January and June 2018, Zambia experienced a crisis in the form of the increased prices of tomatoes and onions on the market. The high price of tomatoes and onions affected thousands of families throughout the country because the two commodities are basic necessities in households.

In 2018, there were suspicions concerning the misuse of funds by the central government in Zambia. Finland had supported the implementation of Zambia's national social protection (SP) policy as part of development cooperation between the two countries. This work was funded through the Social Cash Transfer Programme and the UN's Social Protection Programme. Some of the aid distributed through the Social Cash Transfer Programme had not reached households, which further led Finland to suspend its aid and announce that funds paid earlier must not be used for the programme's needs.

Despite Sudan's government's suggestions in recent years that it is open to national dialogue with civil society and other political parties, there has been little action to support such statements. On the contrary, the government excluded civil society organisations (CSOs) from dialogue because it assumed that they were opposed to the regime in power.⁸ In late 2018, to respond to the waves of protests, the Sudanese security officials were accused by several organisations, such as the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, of excessive use of force, killing more than 40 civilians, and of multiple arbitrary detentions of civilians for their involvement in the protests.

In Zambia, citizens, individually and collectively, have been largely restricted in their ability to exercise their rights and freedoms since 2011. Media freedoms, for instance, have particularly been restricted since the closure of the largest privately owned newspaper, The Post, in June 2017, while other media outlets have either been summoned, intimidated or harassed by the regulators, including the Independent Broadcasting Authority, on the basis of violating broadcasting rules.

The volatile environment has had some impacts on Save the Children's operations in all the three countries. In Somalia there were persistent indirect, short-term impacts in terms of travel restrictions, ticket cancellations, projects teams' movements' restrictions and short-term stations' disruptions. For example, it was not possible for Save the Children staff to visit Baidoa in 2018 due to travel restrictions.

The hostile events were not directly linked to Save the Children activities or presence, even though increased Al Shabaab hostilities may be a cause for alarm for staff operating in Mogadishu as an indiscriminate explosion from a vehicle-borne improvised device or roadside bomb can affect staff who happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Government operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and Al Shabaab increases government-imposed restrictions on any movements, including humanitarian interventions. This has indirectly affected teams' efforts to reach vulnerable

7 CIVICUS, 2018

8 Civic Freedom Monitor, Sudan International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, 2019

populations, especially in North-West and East Puntland.

New security for the actor-related activities (like child kidnapping, forced recruitments, child recruitment) that affect Save the Children's direct beneficiaries, especially children, may require Save the Children's intervention, which will automatically increase the risk profile and will require extra, deliberate security measures in the future.

In Sudan the national crisis affected the timely issuance of visas and travel permits for humanitarian actors and caused delays with the authorities processing projects' technical agreements, hampering the ability of Save the Children to respond to the humanitarian needs in the country. Finally, the tightening situation also resulted in the need for Save the Children to restrict international travel to Sudan.

The 2018 cash liquidity crisis has particularly impacted on Save the Children's cash transfer programme in Sudan, preventing our team from completing the planned cash distributions by the end of the year. After conducting a rapid market assessment in November 2018, Save the Children changed the programme approach and identified that the use of food vouchers was the most feasible and effective solution that would respond to the most urgent food insecurity needs of vulnerable populations and allow an increase of beneficiaries' dietary diversity.

The suspension of Zambia's Social Cash Transfer Programme may affect the implementation of CSSP projects funded by Save the Children Finland that rest on the idea of social cash transfers and how to best focus on children's wellbeing. If the Social Cash Transfer Programme is not functioning, we will need to rethink the activities and how to implement the project until 2021. In 2017 there were 570 000 beneficiary households receiving social cash transfers and this may put pressure on the Government of Zambia to continue the programme. Two-thirds of the funding the Social Cash Transfer Programme comes from the government and one-third comes from the donor community, including Finland.

2.3. THE MIDDLE EAST

In Syria, the overall levels of humanitarian need remained high in 2018 with 11.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including five million children. The year saw unprecedented rates of internal displacement. More than 1.6 million people fled from their homes, many of them children. The intensification of conflict in Eastern Ghouta culminated in the displacement of tens of thousands of people from the area. More than 5.7 million people, including 2.5 million children, have been living as registered refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey since the onset of the conflict. The situation in Yemen is similar to that in Syria. It is estimated that 11.3 million children in Yemen were in need of humanitarian assistance in order to survive in 2018.

Due to the escalating war and a deepening economic crisis in Yemen, the cases of the most dangerous form of malnutrition have more than doubled since the beginning of the crisis. Many hospitals have been damaged by airstrikes or ground fighting. In Syria, over two million school-age children are out of school and 1.3 million are at risk of dropping out.

Every third school in Syria is either damaged, destroyed, sheltering displaced families or used for military purposes. Around half of all healthcare facilities are either partially functioning or not functioning at all. It is estimated that 83% of Syrians now live below the poverty line in Syria and 6.5 million people are facing acute food insecurity. For Iraq, 2018 was a year of transition.

After the Iraqi government's counteroffensive to recapture Mosul ended in December 2017, the country is slowly but surely resuming normal life. Since then more than four million people have returned to their homes across the country.⁹ This includes more than 944 000 people who returned to Mosul throughout 2018,¹⁰ making Mosul the country's top governorate in terms of returns.

The protracted crisis in Iraq has had a devastating impact on children's wellbeing and compromised

9 IOM Return Index, January 2019

10 Round 107, Report 2018, December, IOM DTM



Children in front of a destroyed house in West Mosul, Iraq. In 2018, the wellbeing of the most vulnerable children in West Mosul was improved through livelihood support to their families that included complementary elements in CP. The Cash Transfer programme enabled families to resolve a number of protection concerns that children were facing in their households.

Photo: Sam Tairling / Save the Children

their social, emotional and cognitive development in the long term. The crisis has also impacted on the wellbeing of parents and caregivers, often compromising their ability to adequately care for their children. A year after the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant was expelled from Mosul, children still face constant danger from mines and unexploded munitions. The economic hardship faced by conflict-affected adults increases their children's vulnerability to child marriage, exploitative labour and other major CP issues. Many children are struggling to return to school after years without education. The situation is particularly dismal in west Mosul where 38 out of 54 residential neighbourhoods were moderately or heavily damaged.¹¹ Half of all the schools in conflict-affected areas have been destroyed.¹²

In Iraq, half of all schools in conflict-affected areas have been destroyed

There were no significant changes in the civic space in Iraq in 2018 according to CIVICUS. The freedom of expression remained restricted as journalists continued to assume great risks, such as violence and detention by security forces. In addition, public demonstrations were a precarious undertaking in Iraq. For example, according to CIVICUS in July 2018, at least 13 people were killed and 269 injured in widespread protests that resulted in a violent crackdown on protesters by the authorities.

11 Picking up the Pieces, Save the Children report, May 2018

12 Picking up the Pieces, Save the Children report, May 2018

Difficulties in obtaining a visa from the Government of Iraq posed major challenges for Save the Children Finland staff members in regard to conducting monitoring visits to the project location in Mosul in the Government of Iraq administered area. Due to these travel restrictions, review meetings with the project staff were held in Erbil, in Iraqi Kurdistan.

2.4. ASIA

In Asia, while many children are still being left behind, some major steps were taken to protect the rights of children in Save the Children Finland programming countries.

In September the Government of Nepal endorsed a new Children's Act 2075, paving the way to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of children in Nepal (see more below). In November, the Republic Act 11148

(The First 1000 Days Law) was signed into law in the Philippines, and this act ensures care for pregnant women and their children, running from the start of the pregnancy to the child's first two years of life, by creating access to quality health and nutrition services to help them achieve optimum growth and development. The law is significant as the Philippines is ranked ninth in the list of the ten countries in the world with the highest number of stunted children and there are around 800 000 malnourished children in the country.

In 2018, Nepal endorsed a new children's act

In Nepal the formation of new federal and provincial government is still on-going and has caused some challenges for project implementation due to the



Save the Children has supported the Government of Nepal in its efforts to expand the social protection coverage, especially to reach vulnerable families and their children.

Photo: Nabin Maharjan / Save the Children



Photo: Jonathan Hyams / Save the Children

Case worker, **Tania**, greets sisters **Marium**, 11, and **Ayesha**, 9 (names changed to protect identity), outside their home in a camp for Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Save the Children Finland has supported the humanitarian relief efforts in Bangladesh since the start of the crisis in 2015.

scarcity of staff in the rural municipalities. However, some positive steps have been taken to promote SP programmes and provisions in Nepal. The government has recently endorsed a SP act for the first time and has expanded the coverage of its universal child grant to cover all children below five years of age in low Human Development Index districts of the country, both of which will increase the scope of CSSP work in the upcoming years.

Despite these positive steps, many children in the region still face the threat of violence, and the risk of exploitation and abuse on a daily basis. According

to UNHCR in Bangladesh more than 16 000 new Rohingya refugee arrivals were reported in 2018. There are now approximately 909 000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, including pre-existing Rohingya who fled Myanmar during previous periods of increased violence. At least 55% of all refugees are under the age of 18 and approximately half of the refugee children have not participated in any form of learning either prior to or since arriving in Bangladesh. One in two Rohingya children who fled to Bangladesh without their parents were orphaned by brutal violence and there are currently more than 6000 unaccompanied and separated Rohingya

Save the Children works to enhance the capacity of civil society organisations and communities. A strong, inclusive and democratic civil society is essential for defending and promoting children's rights and for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.



Photo: Save the Children

children living in Cox's Bazar, where they face crippling food shortages and are at increased risk of exploitation and abuse.¹³

Over 6000 unaccompanied Rohingya children are living in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

There are continuing concerns in many countries in Asia about the closing civil space and threats against civil society. In India, Human Rights Watch's annual report stated that the authorities were increasingly using the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act to target civil rights activists and human rights defenders and the Indian government also continued to use the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act to restrict foreign funding for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that are critical of government policies or protest against the government's large development projects.¹⁴

In Nepal, a new proposed policy by the Government

of Nepal would further curtail the work of international and national NGOs operating in the country by tightening the state's control over them.¹⁵ The Philippines – despite the diverse civil society sector – is one of the most dangerous places to be a journalist or a human rights defender according to CIVICUS.¹⁶

For Myanmar, according to CIVICUS, despite recent legislative improvements, there remains a large disconnect between the protection of rights in practice and the reality of the civic space for many people in Myanmar, in particular the Rohingya ethnic minority. In August a UN fact-finding mission found evidence of serious crimes against Rohingya and other ethnic and religious groups.¹⁷ CIVICUS has included Bangladesh on the watch list of countries where there are serious concerns regarding the exercise of civic freedoms and where Individual activists and CSOs in these countries are experiencing a severe infringement of their civic freedoms that are protected by international law.¹⁸

13 <https://www.savethechildren.net/article/alarming-number-rohingya-children-orphaned-brutal-violence-save-children-study>

14 CIVICUS 2018

15 <https://www.civicus.org/index.php/media-resources/news/3232-nepal-government-must-halt-efforts-to-curtail-civil-society-organisations>

16 <https://monitor.civicus.org/newsfeed/2016/09/01/philippines-overview/>

17 <https://monitor.civicus.org/newsfeed/2018/09/19/un-fact-finding-mission-finds-serious-crimes-fuelled-silencing-critical-voices>

18 <https://monitor.civicus.org/watch-list/>

3. THE STRATEGIC FOCUS AND PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

A year of Child Rights Situational Analysis

In 2018 all Save the Children Country Offices (COs) did a Child Rights Situational Analysis that they based the new three-year (2019–2021) country strategy on. Some key emerging trends from the analysis that the new strategies need to address were the need of gender equality to be much more explicitly mainstreamed throughout and the need to address the migration/displacement that features as a critical cross-cutting trend in all regions. In addition, there needs to be a strong shift towards more advocacy/partnerships across all regions and often a new focus on giving technical assistance to governments. Strategic Goals need to be more multi-thematic, which is generally an enabler to advancing our breakthroughs for the most deprived and marginalised. As Save the Children moves globally from self-implementation towards working with partners and building civil society, this will affect the total reach numbers, but in the long run we expect a higher impact at scale.

Some of the main trends that the child rights analysis was able to spot for the Asia region was the increase of the ‘middle class’ in countries and the

increase in inequality. Trends that came through strongly in the Asia region included early childhood care and development (ECCD), nutrition (stunting), climate change and disaster risk reduction (DRR), urbanisation and the growing impact of social media.

In the East and Southern Africa region, Save the Children will maintain its focus on health and nutrition programming. Other strong themes coming through in the region are a focus on adolescents and ECCD. Migration and displacement continue to be an issue, and we expect increases in cross-border work.

The Child Rights Situation Analysis for West and Central Africa revealed that many countries have very poor indicators for the breakthroughs and rapid population growth. There is need for a holistic focus on education, including basic education access but also on protection and nutrition. CP is a critical need in the region, and there were severe indicators in the End of Childhood report.

The context in the Middle East is extremely complex with big needs resulting from children in the recovery stages of conflict. Themes and trends

GLOBAL BREAKTHROUGHS* THAT SAVE THE CHILDREN AIMS TO ACHIEVE BY 2030		
<p>SURVIVE</p> <p>No child dies from preventable causes before their fifth birthday</p>	<p>LEARN</p> <p>All children learn from a quality basic education</p>	<p>PROTECTION</p> <p>Violence against children is no longer tolerated</p>
<p>*Breakthrough: Remarkable and sustainable shifts from the current trends in the way the world treats children</p>		

include youth, the shift to cross-border donor programming, education and CP, which continue to be areas for impact in line with our breakthroughs. In addition, migration and displacement continue to be a big issue in the region.

A focus on improved parenting practices

In Save the Children Finland, in 2018, a strong emphasis was put on developing a rigid monitoring system for the parenting component within the CSSP work. We also strongly engaged in rolling out the PWV Common Approach and supported the initial development of the Community-Based CP Systems Common Approach and Resourcing Families for Better Nutrition Common Approach. For both of our key themes – CSSP and CP – the bulk of the work in 2018 was done with the caregivers. The home should be a respectful, loving, nurturing and non-violent environment for girls and boys.

3.1. CHILD POVERTY

PROGRESS TOWARDS THESE OUTCOMES

OUTCOME 1: Reduced child poverty in relation to nutrition, education and the reduction of child work

Under Outcome 1, with regard to the impact on nutrition, during 2018 Nepal showed a significant reduction in the number of underweight children. In Nepal, the reduction was by 13.78% (decreasing from a baseline of 37.58% to 23.8%) and by 2.8% in Somalia (from 12,5% to 9,7%). As regards to the reduction of number of children (as a percentage) involved in paid child work, the highest decrease was seen in Somalia where it dropped by 15%, from a baseline of 26% to 11%. In Zambia, it reduced by 16% (from 30.3% to 14%) and in Nepal by 10.5% (from 17% to 6.5%).



Photo: Raheema Abdi Hassan / Save the Children

The parenting programme approach is utilised in both development and humanitarian contexts. **Khadra's** family, which includes six children, lives in a crowded settlement for IDPs in the outskirts of Hargeisa, Somaliland. "Before, my children were out of school most of the time as I could not pay for their school fees", Khadra says. The family was selected to receive a child grant and Khadra also took part in the parenting education activities included in a CSSP programme. "I learnt so much about positive parenting. I now sit down and chat with my children as friends. I use the money wisely to keep my children in school."

CSSP AND CHILD-SENSITIVE LIVELIHOODS

SCI outcome: Both female and male caregivers have sufficient economic resources at all times to meet the essential needs of the children in their care in order to ensure their survival, learning and protection

SCF outcomes	SCF indicators
1. Reduced child poverty in relation to nutrition, education and the reduction of child work	*A reduction in the number of underweight children under five *A reduction in paid child work ¹ *Increased retention / reduced drop out among children ²
2. 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 ³
3. Improved access to SP programmes for deprived households and their children (including in emergencies)	*Increase ⁴ in access to SP for both the female and male caregivers of deprived children – including cash and in-kind transfers *Increased use of transparency and accountability mechanisms for accessing SP
4. Improved parenting and care-giving practice among targeted households	*Percentage of supported caregivers that demonstrate improved parenting and caregiving attitudes and practices
The outcomes are linked to United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), Articles 26 and 27	
<p>1 The age category varies from country to country, depending on the local context</p> <p>2 The age category varies from country to country, depending on the local context</p> <p>3 Each country has a specific indicator detailing the policies or programmes we are targeting</p> <p>4 As a percentage and number</p>	



A 13.78% reduction in the number of underweight children in the target area in Nepal

When it comes to education, the dropout rate in Nepal was reduced by 2.06%, from 11.02% to 8.96%, in Zambia it dropped from 13.6% to 13% and in Somaliland it dropped from 8% to 2,4%. In Somalia, where school enrolment is a major issue, we were able to escalate it from 27% to 68%.¹⁹ In addition to the above, in Dungarpur, India, 192 children who had dropped out from school were brought back and have now regularly attended school for the last year. It is worth noting that the learning achievement (measured through the Quality Learning

Environment Framework and tools) increased from 30% to 47.83%. The Baidoa Somalia humanitarian project reported that the enrolment rate of boys and girls from the cash transfer beneficiary households increased from 56% to 76% and from 45% to 74% respectively.

OUTCOME 2: SP strategies and programmes are made child sensitive

During 2018, there was noteworthy progress in our work towards making SP policy, strategy and implementation child sensitive. We were able to firmly situate CSSP as an approach in our programme countries.

In Nepal, a model guideline developed by Save the Children for establishing a Child Endowment Fund

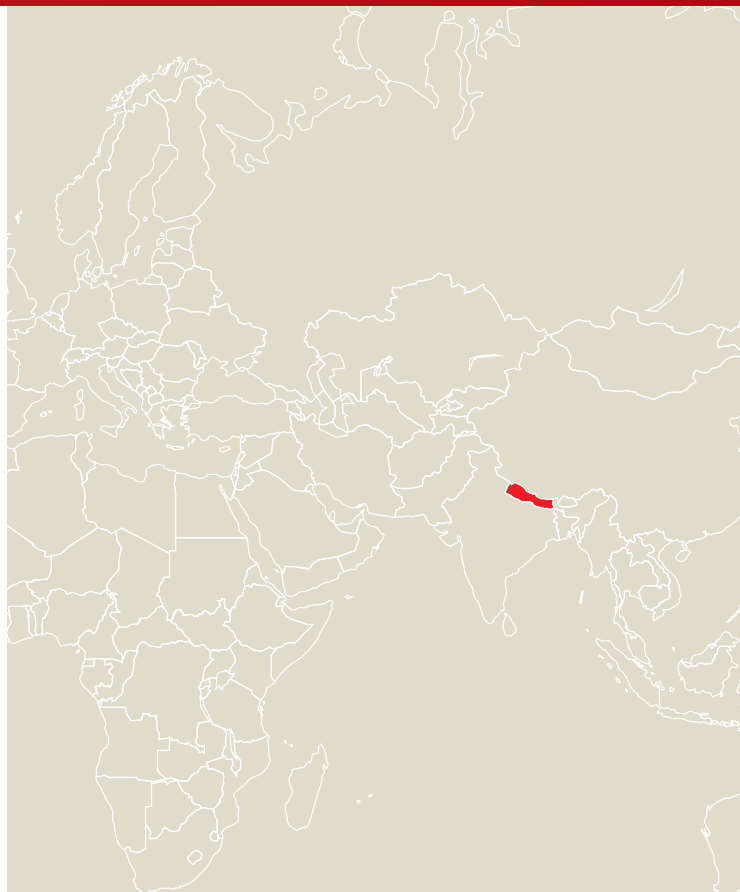
¹⁹ For India the enrolment rate will be reported at the end of 2019 and for the Philippines, at the end of 2021.

at the municipality level was approved by the national government. In practice this means that all 736 municipalities in the country will be following this guideline when they introduce a Child Endowment Fund. The Child Endowment Fund is a capital fund established through the local government budget. It is used for making cash transfers to orphan children.

In Somaliland, with the change in government and the staff of the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family (MESAF), trainings were undertaken to improve their capacity and understanding of SP and the added value of child sensitivity. Significant progress was also made in South Central Somalia (with the Federal Government) where Save the Children was selected as a member of the 'peer review committee' responsible for developing and finalising the SP policy. Members of the committee include the World Bank, the EU, Sida, the International Labour Organization, UNICEF, the World Food Programme, Save the Children and the Food and Agriculture Organization. Being on the peer review committee provides Save the Children with a strategic platform and opportunity to drive CSSP forward.

In Zambia, Save the Children also participated in the Social Protection Week and the quarterly cooperating partners meetings on SP. Shortly after the Social Protection Week, government corruption scandals in the Social Protection Programme were brought to light. The Cooperating Partners (Sweden, Finland, the UK and Irish Aid) withdrew their funding to the Social Cash Transfer pool and to the joint UN programme which focused on building monitoring, evaluation and accountability mechanisms around the SP programme. Besides this, Save the Children also participated in the joint annual review meeting for the SP programmes in the Eastern Province, in the Chadiza district, with all the partners and government ministries in Zambia. The major issues discussed and raised were i) the low number of people on SP programmes as compared to the general population and high levels of poverty in certain areas, ii) the delay in receiving grants from the government for the social cash transfer as well as the school bursaries for vulnerable children and iii) the need to increase the number of food security pack beneficiaries.

In the Philippines, the Department for Social Welfare and Development requested Save the Children to deliver the family development sessions in selected municipalities. Family development sessions are an integral part of the Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino Programme. The Department for Social Welfare and Development staff and teachers were



NEPAL



Punam lives with her family in Nepal. "My son **Aarya** [3.5 years old] was thin and weak since his birth and did not gain much weight", says Punam and continues, "I did not consider his low weight to be a problem until I attended the International Child Development Programme class where we were taught about the importance of a balanced diet in children's growth. I didn't know that we should take our children for regular growth monitoring. I also learnt about good nutrition, ways of caring for my children and their development. Now Aarya is in good health. When I took him for growth monitoring some months back, the belt indicated green, which meant he was healthy".

also trained by Save the Children on its 'Youth Resilience / Life Skills Programme'. This is now being used to deliver youth development sessions at the upper secondary school level.

In Burkina Faso, we were successful in developing a long-term CSSP pilot project with UNICEF. This is a three-year pilot funded by Sida and focuses on working with and developing the capacity of the SP of the National Council for Social Protection on CSSP alongside strengthening and building the capacity of national CSOs to implement CSSP in practice. Besides this, the pilot will also focus on creating evidence of the value of the CSSP approach so that it can be scaled up and replicated by the government and other donors/actors working on SP.

In India, a study was carried out on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), aiming to understand adverse impacts on children. The findings suggested that toddlers were left unattended at home as their mothers were working at MGNREGA sites; children of

breast-feeding age were deprived of their feed as their mothers were unable to nurse them; and children were also found to be working at the sites as proxies for their parents. Based on these findings, Save the Children plans to engage with the government to make the MGNREGA child sensitive by advocating for maternity cover and flexible working hours for pregnant and nursing women among other issues. A film (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EL2xrTo-JEg>) to this effect has also been produced.

OUTCOME 3: Improved access to SP programmes for deprived households and their children

During 2018, a total number of 7077 households were supported to access SP benefits across the CSSP programme area supported by Save the Children Finland. Support was given to 1609 individuals in India, 1522 in Nepal, 600 in the Philippines and 171 in Zambia to access existing government SP



Photo: Milika Kakuwa / Save the Children

Betilious Kalilwa in Nsangwile village in Zambia, can finally support her extended family with basic needs. Besides of caring for her five children, Betilious bears the responsibility for her elderly parents, two sisters and seven year old nephew and niece. "I had very little strength to even be able to provide adequate basic needs such as nutritious foods and medicines required", Betilious recalls. Through Save the Children's Child Sensitive Social Protection project, Betilious was admitted to Zambia's Social Cash Transfer Programme. "I am finally able to independently help my family members instead of depending on my husband to help both his family and mine. I feel like an independent woman".

programmes. In addition to this, 300 IDP households in Somaliland and 2938 families in Burkina Faso were also supported through direct transfers. In the Save the Children Finland humanitarian projects in Mosul Iraq, Baidoa Somalia and South Kordofan Sudan, in total 3390 households were reached with cash transfers. Out of these, in Baidoa, 304 were people with disabilities, including 111 children.



A total number of 7077 people/ households were supported in accessing SP benefits

In Nepal, two films were produced (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8ftBrW0V9w> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-kNv3eJqNOE&t=5s>), one focusing on the various government SP programmes as well as how to access them and the other on the importance of and process for birth registration. These have been highly instrumental in awareness raising with communities as well as with the local government.

Besides the net increase in the number of beneficiaries accessing SP, significant progress was made in terms of establishing transparency and accountability mechanisms, both in Asia and Africa.

In Nepal, the number of wards adopting and using transparency and accountability mechanisms went up from 17 in 2017 to 57 in 2018, an increase of more than threefold. In India, at least 500 grievance cases were registered, of which 229 were resolved, and in Zambia four consultative interface meetings were organised between communities and service providers. In Somaliland (Somalia) a public hearing event was organised extremely successfully which resulted in authorities from the Ministry of Education conducting a monitoring visit to the primary schools in all our three project IDP settlements in order to identify teachers who were not receiving salary or incentives. At the time of reporting, the teachers have started to receive their salary and a health facility extension was also brought into one of the project intervention IDP settlements. The various transparency and accountability mechanisms being



Photo: Save the Children

As part of the efforts to increase transparency and accountability of social protection programmes, orientations sessions are organized for various target groups. Measures also include supporting the practice to hold public hearings on the distribution of social protection.

established and used across the CSSP programme include interface meetings between service providers and communities, public hearings, social audits and the use of statutory accountability mechanisms, such as the Right to Information Act or the Right to Public Services Act in India.

In Somaliland a public hearing event was organised, resulting in authorities from the Ministry of Education conducting a monitoring visit to primary schools.

OUTCOME 4: Improved parenting and caregiving practices among targeted households:

A total of 650 parents/caregivers across Asia and Africa participated in a CSSP tailor-made parenting programme, which focuses on improving the relationship between parents and children. The parenting programme was introduced based on the understanding that parents/caregivers play a pivotal role in children's development. The programme comprises approximately 15 sessions and is implemented over a period of approximately four months.

The quantitative post assessment as well as qualitative post assessment of the parenting programme in



Photo: Kurdo Hasan / Save the Children

“Thirteen-year-old **Hind** (to the left; name changed to protect her identity) getting ready to go to school together with her sisters. The children lost their father when a rocket hit and destroyed their home in Mosul, Iraq. Life was hard, and the children had to stop going to school several times. Things improved, after the family was admitted to Save the Children’s Cash Plus programme, complementing financial support with interventions relevant to child health and survival. “I would like to become a teacher one day because I like school and hope that I can teach others to learn, succeed, graduate and take care of themselves”, says Hind.

India, Nepal²⁰ and the Philippines and the qualitative post assessment in Somalia carried out in 2018 suggest that the interventions are having a considerable impact on parenting behaviours. In all the countries, physical punishment of children (slapping, hitting, pinching etc.) reduced by more than a third. Parents/caregivers also started to praise their children more and generally intensified their engagement with them. Children also indicated that parental time, the attention parents pay to them and the use of praise and encouragement to improve their self-perception and relationship with their parents had increased. In Zambia a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practise (KAP) study was undertaken to understand parenting practices in the project intervention area and the findings from it are being used to develop a “parenting programme”.



**Physical punishment of children
(slapping, hitting, pinching etc.)
reduced by 30%**

In order to further improve the measuring of impact of the parenting programme, a substantial revision of assessment tools used in 2018 was carried out. This will help to provide a menu of the tools/domains that can be used in different contexts to understand and evaluate parenting practices.

In 2018, Save the Children Finland continued the work with Cash Plus complementary interventions in humanitarian projects. To maximise the impact on children’s wellbeing, cash transfers were integrated in the Mosul and Baidoa projects with activities such as infant and young child feeding programmes, CP case management, psychosocial support in the form of child and youth resilience programmes, and sensitisation and trainings on positive discipline for caregivers. In Mosul, 97% of the 110 parents and caregivers that participated in the parenting sessions (75 women, 35 men) demonstrated improved positive parenting skills. In Baidoa, 94% of the children in the cash transfer beneficiary households also reported consuming three meals per day, compared to 47% at baseline.

Key strategies towards sustainability

In order for the CSSP approach and programme to become sustainable, a mix of strategies is being adopted. Besides

20 <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/qualitative-post-assessment-study-impact-parenting-programme-linked-government-child-grant>



PHILIPPINES



Nikki Babe is 13 years old and lives in Leyte, the Philippines. Before Nikki Babe’s mother joined the parenting programme of Save the Children, she was strict and easily got angry with her children. Nikki Babe says that her mother has changed since she joined the sessions. She does not shout at them any more but instead talks in a softer voice and praises her children for their efforts and accomplishments. Their communication has also improved. One of the golden moments between the mother and daughter was when the mother prepared spaghetti for Nikki Babe’s birthday, as Nikki Babe had wished: “I feel happy because my mother prepared for my birthday, and it was also the first time that she said she loves me.”

providing training to an array of stakeholders, including local and national government ministries and departments, representatives from our NGO partners and CBOs, we are intensifying our collaboration with them through joint planning, providing continuous and handholding support as well as monitoring and reviewing selected initiatives.

In Somaliland, Save the Children conducted a training on ‘Social Protection and Child Sensitive Social Protection’ for the staff of the MESAF. In Nepal, the local government staff, as well as national government staff, were trained on how to manage the civil and SP registration system. In Burkina Faso, Save the Children was involved in supporting the government to develop and set up its social registry system (CIBLAGE) to target and identify vulnerable families for SP entitlements. The CIBLAGE process has now been established and is the national targeting system for identifying and supporting vulnerable families with SP benefits. In Zambia, special emphasis was put on investing in strengthening the record-keeping mechanisms of the local institutions responsible for supporting SP Social Cash Transfer beneficiaries. The idea is to ensure that these institutions continue to function effectively even after the project is finished. In the Philippines, we are training volunteers from CBOs, and in Somaliland “community champions” are being trained to deliver the parenting programme. We are also involved in supporting the organisational development of local partner NGOs in the Philippines, Zambia and Burkina Faso.

A key achievement in terms of sustainability is the Community Health Protection Programme in Durgapur, India. The Community Health Protection

Programme is a health service cum insurance initiative, implemented with federated self-help groups of approximately 16 000 tribal women and their families. The initiative was introduced by Save the Children to reduce expenses on health care and improve access to health facilities. Initially, Save the Children paid for the technical (insurance) inputs to set up and run the programme as well as the management of the insurance claims and payment for health staff. All these are now paid directly and managed by the self-help group federations from the premiums/savings. Save the Children no longer needs to extend its support from 2019 onwards.

Thematic development

As part of our work with the Child Poverty Global Theme, we focused on establishing a parenting programme as a key and integral aspect of CSSP. A learning event was held in the Philippines in April with the objective of sharing both the CSSP approaches adopted in Asian programme countries and their effectiveness. An extended learning event was organised in India in October to bring together parenting practitioners across Asia and Africa in order to develop a better understanding of the different parenting approaches existing in Save the Children and their relevance to different contexts. A standardised parenting programme with a menu of assessment tools/domains developed under the CSSP programme has led to it gaining increased recognition within Save the Children International COs.

The rapidly accelerating uptake of cash and voucher assistance (CVA) is fundamentally transforming the

THE ESTIMATED BENEFICIARIES OF THE MFA PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME FOR CHILD POVERTY

	Directly reached children	Directly reached adults
Target 2017–2021	251 450	119 800
Reached in 2018	26 729	52 255

humanitarian sector, and it is also one of the focus areas of the humanitarian work of Save the Children. In 2018, Save the Children Finland was engaged in the development of a child-sensitive humanitarian cash strategy for the whole movement, which will be taken forward in 2019. The aim is to build capacity for the rapid and high-quality delivery of all aspects of the CVA value chain in order to achieve impact for children at scale in humanitarian responses. The next phase will seek to incorporate development programming and objectives into the strategy, building on Save the Children's unique global position and ability to link humanitarian and development programming.

Cash Plus interventions combine household cash transfers with complementary interventions in order to address the multiple drivers of childhood deprivations and generate a more powerful impact for children. In 2018, Save the Children Finland further developed the integration of CVA and CP activities in Iraq and Somalia.

3.2. CHILD PROTECTION

CHILD PROTECTION	
SCI outcome: All children are protected through a strong CP system, integrating both formal and informal components	
SCF outcomes	SCF indicators
5. Community CP systems are strengthened, in particular to meet the needs of the most deprived children and to respond effectively to emergencies and other shocks	*Number of targeted CP service providers/interventions that have improved their quality of service in a 12-month period *Perceptions of girls/boys of the quality and accessibility of the CP services available or provided in their communities
6. Children, including those on the move, have (improved) access to appropriate family-based support, protection and care	*Percentage of supported caregivers that demonstrate improved parenting and caregiving attitudes and practices has increased
The outcomes are linked to UNCRC Articles 19 and 22	

Progress towards the outcomes

OUTCOME 5: Community CP systems are strengthened, in particular to meet the needs of the most deprived children and to respond effectively to emergencies and other shocks

The number of CP service providers being supported, and therefore also being assessed in terms of quality service provision, has increased from the baseline in 2017. In 2017 we only assessed nine formal service providers (five in Somaliland and four in Burkina

Faso) and 12 informal service providers (eight in Somaliland and four in Burkina Faso). In 2018 we already supported 25 formal service providers (15 in Somaliland, three in Zambia and seven in Burkina Faso) and 12 informal service providers (eight in Somaliland and four in Burkina Faso). The formal CP service providers include, for example, key ministries (the ministries of social affairs and justice) and bigger NGOs, which provide both prevention and response services. The informal service providers form a Community-Based Child Protection Mechanism which is defined as “a network or group of individuals at

community level who work in a coordinated way toward child protection goals”. These groups have different names, for example, they are also called child welfare committees in Somalia/Somaliland and child protection committees in Zambia. Moreover, in Burkina Faso, thanks to our advocacy work we have managed to induce the setting up of decentralised formal CP services at local level in four communes, which drastically improved the accessibility of the services to most marginalised children living in remote villages.

The quality of service provision is assessed by using a detailed indicator tool – the “quality of service indicator tool”, which looks at different standards for service provision (e.g. information about the service; child safeguarding; equality and non-discrimination; and staff experience, training and support). A CP service provider is defined as any entity or organisation which provides prevention or response interventions to support the care and protection of children and caregivers. Only those service providers

which receive substantial support from Save the Children and/or its partners are assessed.



A 41% increase in the green category for formal CP service provides in Somaliland

In Somaliland, 20% of formal services in the baseline were in category green (indicating the standard achieved) while at the end of 2018 the green category had been reached by 61% of the supported formal services. In terms of informal services, improvement has been even better, improving from only 8% achieving the green category at baseline to 75% achieving this category as the overall score at the end of 2018. Additionally, the child welfare committees at community level are now better known by the beneficiaries than they were at the beginning of the project. At the baseline only 44% of the



Ten year old **Nasir** used to suffer from abuse and neglect, and was also denied access to education. After his situation was detected by the Child Welfare Committee in his community in Berbera, Somaliland, he received needed medical, social and psychosocial support by various service providers.

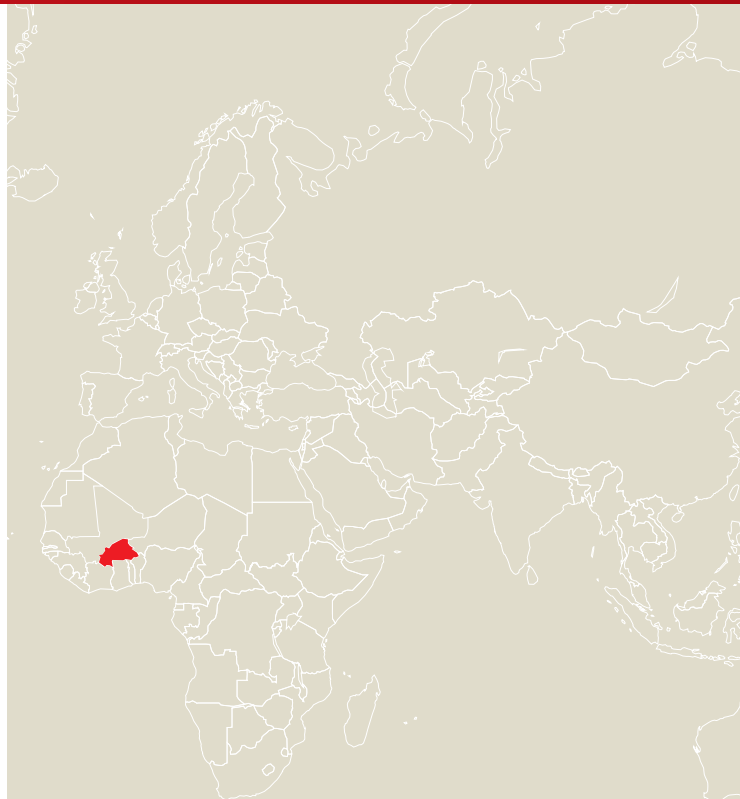
Photo: Save the Children

surveyed community members knew of child welfare committees' existence and role, but by the end of 2018, this had increased to 62%. Although there is a clear improvement due to capacity building efforts, certain standards in service provision still fall too low. The lowest scores are in the areas of ensuring privacy and in child participation, which both need to receive further focus in our capacity building efforts in 2019.

Overall in Burkina Faso, the quality of the CP services has increased slightly (except for one service which did not carry out activities in 2018 due to internal challenges such as the transfer of key trained social workers to another location). The standards on child safeguarding and case management considerably increased for all services assessed as a result of the implementation of the capacity building plans (all services provided by staff who received trainings and coaching sessions reached the top orange level for case management). This was confirmed by the children and families surveyed within the Quality of Services assessment. The privacy standard still scores low as a result of poor infrastructure in the social services premises, but this is in the process of being resolved in 2019 as all services have received substantial support to set up counselling areas.

Save the Children's support to build the capacity of CP service providers has very much focused on trainings. However, other kinds of strategies are also used. In Somaliland, Save the Children has collaborated with local universities. Ten University of Hargeisa School of Social Work students and two students from GOLIS University in Berbera from the Department of Development Studies were placed with the local partner as interns²¹. This collaboration has created a good relationship with the universities and while the students have provided hands-on support and coaching support to the community CP structures, at the same time the students have had an opportunity to put their theoretical knowledge and skills into practice and received training from the partner in social work tools like case management. In Burkina Faso, the Save the Children team worked closely with the national social workers' institute to deliver case management trainings. A focus was given to networking with other departments to ensure full holistic support was provided to children. At local level, it seems to work pretty well, but it is still based on individual willingness to support children. There is a need for Save the

21 2/3 of the students were female



BURKINA FASO



My name is **Aminata** and I live Burkina Faso. I left home a couple of years back, after my family wanted to marry me off without my consent. I found out about the arranged marriage when my father brought home a much older man and told me this was my husband-to-be. I refused to marry him and my family kicked me out of home and my father renounced me. Luckily, with the support from Save the Children's social worker, I escaped the marriage and I am able to live with my aunt now. Now I go to school, second grade at an upper secondary, and I work at my aunt's fish shop. I want to talk about my experience to others in order to help others to escape child marriage.

Children and its partners to advocate more at ministry level (especially at the ministries of health, education and justice) for more investment into case management.

Children's perception of the quality and accessibility of the available CP services is being assessed by using a child-friendly focus group discussion guide. The tool measures six standards: information about CP services and access to them, child safeguarding, child participation, effectiveness, equality and non-discrimination. The analysed findings are meant to inform Save the Children, partners and targeted service providers what they need to do differently in order to improve the child-friendliness of their services. While the quality of service indicator tool measures all the service providers supported by Save the Children and/or partners, children also express their views on services that they know help children in their community.

The annual assessment shows some improvement in terms of children's perception of the quality and accessibility of the CP services. In Somaliland and Burkina Faso, all the participating children were able to name the child welfare committees, Save the Children and the partner organisation when asked about their knowledge of organisations or groups that can help children in their respective communities. Many children were able to indicate that these organisations are there to support children and most of them also mentioned that they could access these services alone and for free.

Although there is clear improvement in knowing and trusting the mentioned organisations and child welfare committees in Somaliland and Burkina Faso, the knowledge of the purpose of these service providers providing CP services is still limited among girls and boys. In both countries, child participation also still needs to improve. Children's opinions are not often asked, and especially in regard to decision-making, both girls and boys find it difficult to express how they should be treated. However, in Somaliland, Burkina Faso and Zambia, some subsequent work was delivered to build the knowledge and capacities of girls and boys through children's clubs, children's resilience groups and school councils. These actions led to the improved confidence of children in regard to understanding what is violence, including improved knowledge of its worst forms like child labour and child marriage. In Burkina Faso all the children surveyed were also able to remember the free number, 116, that they can call for help if there is violence.

OUTCOME 6: Children, including those on the move, have (improved) access to appropriate family-based support, protection and care

Save the Children started the implementation of the PWV Common Approach in 2018. The PWV Common Approach is designed as a universal preventative programme for use in development and humanitarian contexts to prevent the physical and humiliating punishment of children and to improve the positive parenting capacities of mothers, fathers



Photo: Save the Children

“Children have told us that mothers now treat them better and discuss various things with them. The kids have then asked us what we did to their mothers, because they have changed so much.” Hamda Mohammed Hersi and Kamal Hassan Isak (in the middle) have facilitated parenting training offered to caregivers of families living in poverty and hardship in Hargeisa and Boroma regions in Somaliland. The training programme is one of the key elements of the Child Sensitive Social Protection project. “We hope to expand our activities so that parents can be offered training throughout the country.”

and both the female and male caregivers of girls and boys of all ages. PWV Common approach leads to work with caregivers, communities and children to transform harmful and discriminatory gender norms, power dynamics and accepted practices that drive violence in the home environment. Specifically, PWV works by improving caregivers' capacity in positive parenting, improving the caregiver-child relationship, building children's confidence to express their views at home and challenge norms and the gender and power dynamics behind discriminatory parenting. Located in the socio-ecological framework, PWV focuses on the child as an active citizen within the contexts of family, community and society. PWV has four components: 1) providing caregivers with the knowledge and skills to parent positively without resorting to violence, 2) empowering children as active citizens in their families and communities, 3) supporting communities to wilfully and ably protect boys and girls from violence and 4) strengthening equitable and gender-sensitive CP systems.



411 caregivers received parenting training in Somalia and Burkina Faso in 2018

In Somaliland, Save the Children, partner staff, community mentors and facilitators have been trained in PWV. The first training was attended by 12 women and 14 men and a follow-up training at the end of 2018 was attended by 11 women and 12 men. Positive parenting group sessions and children group sessions started in two locations in Somaliland and are facilitated by eight female and eight male community mentors and community facilitators. Each positive parenting group participates in 10 sessions (two hours each) and, at the same time, children from the same families had nine children's group sessions. In the middle of and at the end of a three-month programme, two child-adult interaction sessions are organised. In Somaliland so far 50 caregivers²² have participated in positive parenting groups and 25 girls and 25 boys have participated in children's groups both in Hargeisa and in Berbera. In Burkina Faso 361²³ caregivers participated in parenting groups. The implementation of PWV has also started in Zambia. Fifteen women and eight men from Save the Children and NGO partners were trained in the PWV Common Approach and

22 46 women, 4 men

23 163 women, 198 men



SOMALIA



My name is **Yaasmiin**, I am a lawyer and I work as a project officer for a local NGO in Hargeisa. I am a Parenting Without Violence mentor and facilitate positive parenting group sessions. Our group has 25 women. One member of our group, a mother of eight children, told us that she works at the market, selling vegetables and fruits. She comes back home late and in the past things were often not in order at home when she arrived: the house was not clean, the food was not prepared and some of the children were not at home. She used to get so angry that she took a stick, beat the children and shouted at them. After attending four sessions she told us that she has already changed as she has learnt how to talk to her children and how to create a positive relationship with them. She learnt that beating children is not good. When coming back home, she now asks all her children to come together and they share stories. They have started agreeing roles and responsibilities for the children. I became very emotional when this mother told her story in the group as I felt something had changed due to the positive parenting group sessions. I felt proud and I felt that I can make a change. Demand for this programme is high and my community needs it.

parents and children's groups have been formed, although the actual implementation of the sessions will only be done in 2019. The effectiveness of the sessions is monitored by using a pre- and post-training participation caregiver questionnaire, a focus group discussion with caregivers and an observation checklist of caregiver-child interactions. Twelve months after the post-participation questionnaire we will collect follow-up data using the same study instruments in order to know the extent to which the change continued and also the ways in which that happened. Paying attention to gender and power dynamics, the study will examine which of the parents, caregivers and children participating in the programme most and least benefitted from the programme and the reasons for any differences. Since the implementation of the parenting training only started in 2018 in Somalia and Burkina Faso, the data on the change created will only be available in 2019.

Save the Children has a partner in Somaliland, a disability organisation called Disability Action Network. The organisation has trained both Save the Children and partner staff in disability inclusion. Two support groups of caregivers with children with disabilities have been formed, having a total number of 10 female caregivers in both support groups. Save the Children Finland and Norway have also initiated collaboration to support the building of capacity in disability inclusion in Somalia/Somaliland.

Another key element in fighting violence against children is to change the population's belief that violence is good as a means to educate children. In Burkina Faso, we launched a study together with UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Welfare on violence against children, which informs and refines our action. We also carried on the work undertaken last year in developing a radio soap opera, setting up characters with which both children and parents can identify. The purpose is to raise debates among communities on key CP issues, such as child marriage, child exploitation, child migration etc., and to help populations to question current parental practices.

The episodes are broadcasted on the radio and are easily available on mobile phones.

Key strategies towards sustainability

Close collaboration with the government line ministries responsible for CP has continued in all countries where CP projects are implemented. Even in the countries where the government's capacity and structures are still weak (e.g. in Somalia/Somaliland), we aim to engage with the national and local authorities whenever possible. In Zambia and Burkina Faso, representatives from the Ministry of Social Welfare have participated in all of our key trainings. In Burkina Faso, we also involved the ministry in the monitoring and evaluation of social services at province level so they could strengthen their guiding and coordinating role. In 2017 Save the Children had been heavily engaged in supporting the development of both Somaliland's Child Policy and Alternative Care Policy. In 2018, with Save the Children's support, both these documents were printed and an official launch was organised.

While community CP committees are informal and based on voluntary work, we ensure that their capacity is built and that they are known by the government and other stakeholders. Linking formal and informal CP mechanisms and structures is very important in order to ensure sustainability in CP systems' strengthening. In Somaliland the MESAF mapped the existing community CP structures at all levels. Sixty-seven child welfare committees were identified in the main towns of Somaliland.²⁴ We supported mapping in Hargeisa and Berbera and UNICEF supported the mapping in other districts. Discussions are ongoing as to whether the child welfare committees will be officially recognised by the MESAF after the ministry has finalised its strategic plan.

Support to interagency and inter-ministerial coordination structures is also an essential part of building a sustainable CP system. In Zambia we supported the District Child Protection Committee in Ndola to

24 20 in Hargeisa, 21 in Burao, 8 in Boroma, 5 in Berbera, 6 in Lasanod and 7 in Erigavo

develop a multi-sectoral work plan²⁵ for 2019. In Somalia we trained 16²⁶ Save the Children' and partners' staff on mainstreaming CP in other sectors, including training on identification, response, reporting and referral mechanisms for children with CP concerns. The participants included staff from the nutrition, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) and Food Security and Livelihoods sectors.

In the humanitarian context, Save the Children is an active member of the protection cluster and its two working groups: the CP and Gender Based Violence areas of responsibilities. Save the Children co-chairs the Somalia CP areas of responsibilities both in Baidoa and in Nairobi. Save the Children also attended CP working group meetings and protection monthly cluster meetings, coordination meetings and camp coordination and camp management meetings. Agencies implementing CP interventions in Baidoa shared response updates, service sites (IDP settlements) and beneficiary data in order to avoid the duplication of efforts. Save the Children provided financial support to the Child Protection Working Group to conduct monthly CP working coordination meetings. In Burkina Faso, Save the Children has been a key leader in the Groupe de Travail sur la Protection de l'Enfance (a CP working group) promoting coordination in CP system strengthening and joint advocacy initiatives.

Thematic development

Our CP Technical Advisor is one of about 25 CP technical staff in Africa being trained in advanced skills and competencies in the PWV Common Approach. She will provide technical leadership and drive the uptake of the PWV Common Approach in our programming countries in the Africa region by facilitating training of trainers, and capturing and sharing lessons learnt and recommendations globally.

Save the Children Finland has continued being an active member in the Save the Children's Global Child Protection System Task Group and in the Community-Based Child Protection Mechanism Common Approach Working Group by participating in regular calls, exchanging information through emails and contributing to specific tasks. For example, we contributed to the systematic review of Save the Children literature on Community Based Child Protection programming. The purpose of this review was to synthesise the current evidence on what works and what does not in Save the Children Community Based Child Protection programming, to highlight promising practices and to pull out key considerations in order to inform the development of the common approach.

THE ESTIMATED BENEFICIARIES OF THE MFA PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME FOR CP

	Directly reached children	Directly reached adults
Target 2017–2021	20 200	11 280
Reached in 2018	2552	1659

25 30 District Child Protection Committee members (8 female, 22 male) attended the two meetings. In addition to civil society participants, departments of child development, community development, the Department of Social Welfare, the District Health Management Team, the District Education Board Secretary, the Drug Enforcement Commission and the Victim Support Unit participated.

26 11 male, 5 female

3.3. CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE

CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE	
SCI outcome: Improved accountability for the rights of the most deprived children	
SCF outcome	SCF indicators
7. Increased interest and engagement in child rights by private companies	*Number of private companies with which Save the Children has a memorandum of understanding or a child rights and business-related agreement
The outcome supports the enforcement of child rights business principles	

NETWORKING AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR ADVANCING CHILD RIGHTS IN BUSINESS

“Business Finland’s developing markets’ programme started collaboration with Save the Children Finland in the end of 2017. Our common interest has been to explore new solutions for humanitarian settings and developmental challenges; we at Business Finland have brought businesses and academia in to these conversations, and Save the Children has brought in the local expertise from the field. Our collaboration with Save the Children has commonly defined targets and because of our good experiences we are eager to develop it even further.”

Jyrki Härkki,
Head of Developing Markets,
Business Finland

Progress towards this outcome

OUTCOME 7: Increased interest and engagement in child rights by private companies

In our Child Rights Governance work we have continued focusing on child rights and business. As the national and global interest in more strategic and influential corporate social responsibility is increasing inside the private sector, we have also seen that there is tremendous unlocked potential to reach even better results for child rights (especially in developing markets) through corporate collaboration. To find suitable partners for this work we have been both actively involved in different corporate social responsibility stakeholder networks and the related advocacy, and proactively contacted the leading Finnish corporates to start a dialogue around child rights and business.

We continued our collaboration with Business Finland and organised a Child Rights and Business Networking Day during our International Programmes Week In May 2018 and were happy to host more than 20 Finnish corporates in this event. Alongside our own international staff, we also had Save the Children representatives from our programme countries Somalia, Sudan, Zambia, Myanmar and Nepal.

We also trained Finnish companies on child rights and business in collaboration with Finnish Textile and Fashion, Finnpartnership and FIBS, reaching at least 50 businesses through these trainings. In close collaboration with our Indonesia Country Office, we conducted a child rights impact assessment for a Finnish corporate partner. This research was followed by a multi-thematic project plan and the project in Jakarta is due to be launched during 2019. We also have ongoing negotiations with two other leading Finnish companies about a child rights and business-related collaboration.

We reached over 50 businesses through child rights and business trainings in 2018. Save the Children Finland has also actively taken part in different stakeholder dialogues on the use of official development aid to leverage or support the private sector. Also, the national human rights due diligence campaign has played well together with our wider engagement with corporates under child rights and business.

As part of the co-operation with private sector companies, the principles of children's rights and business are promoted. The ten principles, developed by UNICEF, the UN Global Compact and Save the Children, guide companies on the full range of actions they can take to respect and support children's rights.



3.4. OTHER THEMATIC AREAS: EDUCATION, AND HEALTH AND NUTRITION²⁷

FOCUS AREA: Early childhood care and education & basic education

SCI/SCF outcome	SCI/SCF indicators
8. 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	*Positive percentage change in early child development outcomes over a project cycle
The outcome is linked to UNCRC Article 28	

EDUCATION

Progress towards this outcome

OUTCOME 8: 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

In Myanmar, in partnership with Nokia, we continued to focus on improving access to and quality of preschool education for the most marginalised children aged 0–5 in two ethno-linguistic minority townships (Hispaw and Oak Twin) and on advocacy and policy engagement in the education sector. The aim

is to provide children with a sound foundation for their early learning through an innovative and holistic early learning programme combining ECCD opportunities and enhance school readiness and by improving and supporting the learning of children in the kindergarten year. To promote early reading skills and to provide literate environments to support children's learning, we revitalised the community libraries.

In 2018, the focus was on sustaining the investments gained by ensuring the sustainability and quality of community-managed ECCD centres through the provision of technical support to ECCD management committees in order to strengthen community capacity to manage the centres. To improve the quality of learning we strengthened the capacity of

²⁷ The thematic areas of education, and health and nutrition were funded through DEVCO/ECHO, the MFA, bilateral funding and corporates.



MYANMAR



Photo: Reeta Partanen / Save the Children

"I am Daw Hay Mai Soe and I am 24 years old. I worked in a shop before becoming a caregiver. I completed my pre-service training in Oak Twin town and then went to practice for five days in an ECCD centre. I also participated in a five-day positive discipline training and a parenting educator facilitator training. I have now worked as a caregiver for 2.5 years in an ECCD centre in Kone Thar village. I know now how to deal with very active children by getting them involved in different activities and I know that children need to have the consequences of their actions explained to them rather than just saying 'no'. Parents in the village are very supportive of my work and even provide materials for the centre when I need them. I love working with children and want the children in my village to have a better life."

ECCD caregivers, kindergarten teachers, and township and community librarians through pre-service, discipline, inclusive education and child participation trainings and through monitoring kindergarten classes with the newly developed kindergarten quality framework. We also continued raising communities' awareness on the importance of schooling and on the kindergarten year in the second year of the roll-out.



7500 children received preschool education supported by Save the Children Finland in 2018

Strengthening the ECCD Networks Group mechanism and ECCD data collection using a mobile application continued in 22 townships in collaboration with Department of Social Welfare in Myanmar in order to track progress and address the urgent needs of ECCD and APE programmes. The expanded use of the mobile application will improve information flow, and enhance the quality of ECCD centres and learning outcomes for children. Having additional and more accurate data will also help the government to better allocate resources for ECCD.

During year 2018 nearly 7,500 children (54% girls) have received pre-school education through enrolment to ECCD and Alternative Parenting Education centres and over 14 000 beneficiaries have benefitted from interventions such as attendance in ECCD awareness raising activities, participated in community mobilization activities and using the library.

Key strategies towards sustainability

Over time, Save the Children will phase out its support of the ECCD centres in Myanmar, enabling them to become 100% community managed. Strengthening the ECCD Network Group mechanism at township and national levels in order to maintain the quality and the functioning of existing ECCD services is the key for the sustainability of the community-managed ECCD services in the future. ECCD network groups are composed of local leaders, caregivers and ECCD management committee representatives. At the national level these groups have recently been federated and registered as a CSO. ECCD network groups have a critical role in ensuring the sustainability of community-managed ECCD centres by regularly monitoring the quality, attendance and sustainability of existing centres, by helping communities manage the centres, by providing trainings and by coordinating the ECCD services in their localities.



Basic skills like reading are essential for personal and academic development. Activities launched in 2015 to increase access to high-quality early childhood and primary education in Myanmar continued. More than 9,000 children were directly reached in 2018.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

HEALTH AND NUTRITION	
SCI/SCF outcome	SCI/SCF indicators
<p>9. Children under five have improved access to preventive and curative health and nutrition services related to acute malnutrition, pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Increased number and percentage of children under five with severe acute malnutrition who received effective treatment * Increased number of children under five who receive health and nutrition services *Increased 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</p>	

Progress towards this outcome

OUTCOME 9: Children under five have improved access to preventive and curative health and nutrition services related to acute malnutrition, pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria

In 2018, efforts to improve the health and nutrition status of children and communities continued in

Zambia and Sudan. In Zambia the DEVCO-supported three-year project on Empowering Communities to Scale Interventions for Good Nutrition entered its second year while in Sudan two health and nutrition-focused ECHO-supported projects reached their final stretch.²⁸

²⁸ These projects will be completed in March 2019.



Nutrition advisors taking Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) for a child at one of the health and nutrition facility in Kalimendo, North Darfur. The area that Save the Children is targeting, with the support by ECHO is characterized with high prevalence of moderate and acute malnutrition. As part of the relief effort, mothers were trained on how to measure the MUAC at home and on when to refer their children to our facility ensuring in this way sustainability.



4055 children with severe malnutrition received treatment or referral

In 2018, in the Zambia and Sudan projects, altogether 4055²⁹ children with severe malnutrition and 3604³⁰ with moderate malnutrition were identified and received treatment or referral. Treatment included being part of the Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme and Outpatient Therapeutic Programme and referrals to the secondary care level in Sudan, where Save the Children also provided 800 cartons on moderate acute malnutrition treatment, ready-to-use therapeutic food for children under five. In Zambia, the severely malnourished children were referred to first-level hospitals for further management while the moderately malnourished children were referred to Infant and Young Child Feeding counsellors for nutrition counselling and treatment was initiated with plump nuts.³¹ Following the

interventions in Zambia, 60 of the 65 children recovered from malnutrition, representing a cure rate of 92%, while monitoring and counselling of the other five through home visits continued.



Over 39 000 children under five received health/nutrition services in Zambia and Sudan

Different health and nutrition services were provided to children in both Zambia and Sudan. In Sudan, 6947 children³² under five were treated in line with Integrated Management of Childhood Illness protocols by trained health care workers. Mobile vaccination was also supported on monthly basis to reach out to nomadic children and children in remote areas. Additionally, 5620 children³³ under one year received all antigens. In Zambia 27219 children under five in all the 15 catchment areas were weighed for growth

29 Out of the children with severe malnutrition, 4051 were identified in Sudan and four in Zambia.

30 Out of those with moderate malnutrition, 3539 were identified in Sudan and 65 in Zambia.

31 A ready-to-use therapeutic feed provided by the Ministry of Health

32 3404 boys and 3543 girls

33 2874 girls and 2746 boys

monitoring. Of these, 23873 (88%) were growing well, while 3346 (12%) children were underweight and were referred to Infant and Young Child Feeding counsellors for nutrition counselling and follow up. Against the baseline of 14% of underweight children reported in 2017, this represents a 2% improvement. Additionally in Zambia the project supported the district health offices in carrying out vitamin supplementation, deworming and growth monitoring.

The projects in Zambia and Sudan continued to work for improving the WASH situation. While no exact data on the number of households with improved access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation exists for Sudan, various activities were undertaken to promote improvement in these areas. Save the Children distributed 5967 Clean Delivery Kits, including a bar of soap for washing hands, to pregnant women in their third trimester who attended the Ante Natal Clinique. Additionally, six health centres were provided with hand washing facilities. A total of 317³⁴ community outreach volunteers were trained and supported in conducting community outreach activities, including the provision of health, sanitation and hygiene messages. Additionally, 14 awareness raising campaigns targeting approximately 30 090 individuals were organised by Save the Children using new modalities, such as drama shows and musical parties. These campaigns addressed issues such as sanitation and hygiene, encouraged people to register their children at birth, and encouraged vaccination and antenatal care.



Over 15 000 people
were provided with
safe drinking water

In Zambia five boreholes were rehabilitated and six new boreholes were constructed, providing safe, clean water to a total population of 15 090. The rehabilitated boreholes will serve approximately 7050 people while the six new boreholes will benefit a total of 8040 people. Six ventilated improved pit latrines were constructed at selected schools, two in each of the three districts covered, benefiting 2146

34 135 female and 182 male



SUDAN



“My name is **Samra Ibrahim Eisa** and I live with my husband and our two children in Um-Kadoya Sharig, a village affected by the Darfur war. Since I was born this village and the surrounding areas never had any basic health services until Save the Children established a clinic. We started getting health and nutrition services. During my pregnancy, I was able to attend awareness sessions and be followed by a midwife. I also received medicines like Fefol and Folic acid, and a kit. I have delivered my baby with the assistance of the same midwife and my son has been vaccinated and has remained healthy so far. This was not the case with my first boy who received local treatments several times by traditional healers and used to be frequently sick and malnourished. After the opening of the clinic he was given some biscuits and he is also fine now. I am grateful to Save the Children for these services.”

pupils. Overall, 30 community sensitisation sessions on appropriate water treatment, sanitation and safe storage were conducted in all the 15 project areas in collaboration with the local councils and the Ministry of Health. A total of 4881³⁵ community members were reached. All 15 village WASH committees established in the first year of the project have since been trained in water and sanitation governance and developed action plans. The committees have since reached 4073 people³⁶ with messages on proper WASH practices. With improved water and sanitation, the project areas in Zambia are demonstrating a decrease in the number of diarrhoea cases: in four of the locations where official data is available, the reduction of diarrhoea cases ranged from a 9% reduction (in Mwinuna) to a 72.5% reduction (in Kanyenda) between 2017 and 2018.

Key strategies towards sustainability

Strategies to provide sustainability to the projects' achievements continue to be based on capacity building, awareness raising and building long-term partnerships. In both Sudan and Zambia health care workers and community members were trained. The trainings were aligned with national sector standards. In Sudan, the capacities of government health staff – such as midwives, medical assistants and other health care workers – were built through trainings that included themes such as communicable diseases surveillance, the reporting system, outbreak investigation and management, the integrated management of childhood illness, infection control and universal precaution. Regarding community capacity building, 317 community outreach volunteers were trained to conduct community outreach activities, including screening and referral of acute malnutrition cases, the follow-up and tracing of absentees and defaulters from the programme, and providing health and WASH messages. In addition, 25 mother groups were established and trained to conduct monthly sessions on infant and young-child feeding, and 21 community health committees were formed and trained on management of health facilities, and monitoring hygiene and sanitation in their communities. .

In Zambia, to ensure sustainability, the government has also been key in mobilising the local government structures to support the project and ensure that the local leadership is engaged in the project activities. Also a memorandum of understanding was signed with Water Aid for the provision of technical support for borehole and pit-latrines construction in order to ensure the quality and sustainability of the structures. Memorandums of understanding with Chibuluma Mines and the Copperbelt Chamber of Commerce are at the draft stage. It is envisaged that collaboration with these two organisations will support the up-scaling of interventions for nutrition in the three districts by bringing together a group of companies that are willing to create social value or target the districts as new markets with their nutritious products. The project cumulatively trained 243 lead farmers in crop production, conservation farming technologies and farming as a business technique in order to foster adoption and to be able to increase the volumes of crop production and crop diversification.

35 2166 males out of which 690 were below 18 years, 2717 females out of which 452 were below 18 years

36 1659 males, 1592 females, 482 boys and 340 girls

More than 97 000 children and 96 000 adults were directly reached in Sudan through ECHO funded Health and Nutrition projects.



4. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

DRR

Improving climate resilience requires promoting the resilience of children as children make up a large proportion of the population in the countries that are most affected by the impacts of climate change. It is imperative that children are taken into account in improving their climate resilience. In addition to working with children, Save the Children is working at all levels by building partnerships and collaborating with communities, civil society, local and national governments in order to minimise the risks facing children and their families. For Save the Children Finland, the DRR activities focus on mitigating the risks of disasters that can hamper the achievements of project outcomes by reducing vulnerabilities,

building capacities and preparedness at community level, and through policy-level interventions.

Only four out of 16 projects have specific DRR activities; this is mainly due to the low capacity of project staff in regard to DRR. The project staff from five projects have been trained on DRR; the remaining staff from 11 projects remain without the needed capacity. Only two of the projects used a Save the Children International resilience marker or donor-specific resilience marker to review their project.

In 2018 DRR has been best embedded into the projects in Nepal, the Philippines and Burkina Faso. The focus of the DRR work in the CSSP project in Nepal



Save the Children is committed to furthering gender equality. This includes efforts to ensure that girls benefit as much as boys from the work of the organisation. Children and adults alike are empowered to work against attitudes and behaviours that harm both girls and boys. The photo shows a child-friendly space established by Save the Children at a camp in Baidoa for IDPs.

Photo: Mohamed Osman / Save the Children

is to strengthen the access of children, their caregivers and other eligible people to existing SP schemes. Girls, boys, women and men from the most deprived and marginalised groups who are eligible for SP schemes, including DRR-related SP schemes, were identified through a social protection eligibility mapping and their access to these schemes was supported in 24 wards in Nepal. Handholding support was provided to 230 people to support their registration process.

The Nepal project also sensitised service providers on child-focused DRR and built their capacity to deliver quality services in the event of a disaster. Trainings and capacity building workshops were organised for municipality and ward staff on the online Vital Event Registration and Social Protection Management Information System, including sessions on how to keep data safe in order to protect against the loss of information in the event of a disaster and sessions for local elected bodies on mainstreaming DRR in development plans. As part of the Nepal CSSP project, 10 schools identified possible emergency situations and safe zones in the schools in case of emergency and prepared School Disaster Management Plans, which were then included in the School Improvement Plans.

In Burkina Faso and the Philippines, DRR topics have been integrated in the parenting and family development sessions. As part of the Philippines CSSP project, capacity building workshops and drills were organised to enhance community knowledge on disaster preparedness and resilience. Parent leaders and CSO partner representatives were also given training on how to promote the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act that mandates the provision of emergency relief and protection for children before, during and after a disaster or some other emergency situation. The act is based on a draft bill developed by Save the Children in 2014 and sets the State of the Philippines as responsible for establishing and implementing a comprehensive strategic programme of action in order to provide children and pregnant and lactating mothers affected by disaster and other emergency situations with the support and assistance necessary for their immediate recovery and protection.

Gender sensitivity

As explained in Chapter 3, in 2018 all Save the Children COs carried out Child Rights Situational Analysis and developed new Country Strategic Plans (CSPs) for 2019–2021. Both processes mainstreamed gender equality as a



BURKINA FASO



Rehabilitation of waterholes: The village of Tiémé in Boucle du Mouhoun is one of the many regions in Burkina Faso that suffers from extreme drought, particularly during the dry season. The water resources are scarce and invaluable to the people of Tiémé. One of the main waterholes in the village is also the source of drinking water for all the livestock in both Tiémé and six neighbouring villages. However, with poor maintenance and a lack of resources, the waterhole was not working properly and was starting to dry out. With support from Save the Children's EU-funded project PROMIRIAN, around 40 people and their families received support in order to work towards fixing the waterhole. After three months of work the waterhole was fixed and was back to its full capacity. The functioning waterhole also had a positive effect on the everyday lives of the villagers as this meant that children did not have to venture so far to fetch water.

core element by analysing existing gender inequalities and by selecting strategic choices regarding how to reduce them. While all the thematic objectives in the CSPs have used “gender lenses”, some COs have also set specific outcomes in their CSPs to tackle gender inequalities. For example, Save the Children Somalia’s CSP has a specific outcome of “120 000 girls and women have a greater voice, and more choice and control over their lives, and gender inequality in Burkina Faso, specifically that related to child marriage and family planning, is reduced.”

Save the Children’s Gender Equality Marker³⁷ has continued to be a compulsory tool at the design stage to provide guidance on and to measure if any concept note or proposal submitted by Save the Children is gender unaware, if it has some elements of gender sensitivity and if it is gender sensitive or gender transformative. Save the Children’s minimum standard is for any project to be gender sensitive³⁸ but whenever possible we aim to be gender transformative.³⁹ Out of the 10 proposals submitted by Save the Children Finland in 2018, two were assessed to be gender transformative, seven were assessed to be gender sensitive and only one was assessed as gender unaware. Out of 16 on-going projects, three had done an in-depth gender analysis and three projects were planning to do an analysis in 2019.

Capacity on gender in the COs is stronger than it is on DRR. The staff from seven out of 16 projects had received proper gender training. A concrete plan on how to achieve gender sensitivity in the project plans was developed at the end of 2018 and was finalised in the beginning of 2019. We will ensure that any new project will include a budget for carrying out a gender analysis in addition to having the funds to build the capacity of staff and partners in regard to gender equality. Whenever possible, we will also aim to have an outcome or an output in our new projects which addresses an identified gender inequality/gap.

Addressing the low participation of fathers and male caregivers in positive parenting

groups: Save the Children supported positive parenting groups, which are implemented both in our CSSP and CP programmes and which aim to actively engage fathers, mothers, and male and female caregivers in positive parenting group sessions, adult-child interactions and in community mobilisation activities. The activities include reflections on gender roles, gender equality and the important roles of both male and female caregivers in raising their children using gender equitable positive parenting approaches. Despite our efforts, the participation of fathers / male caregivers in parenting sessions in our target countries in both Asia and Africa has been low. Consultations have been carried out among women and men, and community leaders in order to have a clearer picture of what cultural factors and other factors hinder the participation of fathers / male caregivers and how these could be addressed. Thorough assessments have already been carried out in Nepal and in India, and in 2019, research will be done in Somalia and Zambia to understand better what roles and responsibilities mothers / female caregivers and fathers / male caregivers have in raising children and which other people (e.g. in-laws) influence parenting practices. These studies also provide recommendations on how gender equality could be better mainstreamed in our parenting programmes. For example, in Nepal we have already introduced shorter parenting courses for fathers and in Somalia we will pilot having a group of young mothers/fathers where efforts are made to ensure that both the mother and father attend sessions together.

Child Participation

The child participation capacity in the COs is on a similar level as the capacity for gender equity. Staff from six projects have recently received training on child participation. Eight out of the 16 projects contained specific child participation activities, like child clubs or child-led research. As in previous years, the projects supported by Save the Children Finland were asked to report against the three minimum

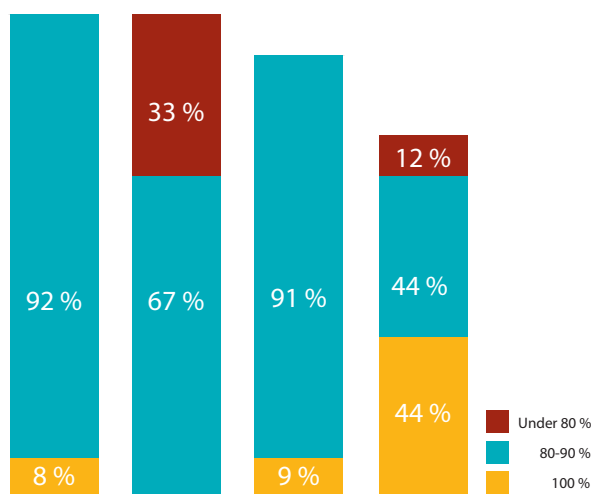
37 The tool analyses gender equality considerations in the certain areas (in needs and context analysis, proposed project activities, the results framework [including M&E], the allocation of technical and financial resources) in order to achieve gender equality and determine whether a proposal/plan has any gender transformative approaches.

38 The proposal consistently identifies and takes into account the different and unique needs, abilities and opportunities of girls, boys, women and men.

39 The proposal is gender sensitive and works with key stakeholders at multiple levels (e.g. individual, household, community, national levels) to identify, address and positively transform the root causes of gender inequality for girls, boys, women and men.

standards for child participation. The reporting assesses the extent to which child participation in our projects is voluntary, inclusive, and safe and sensitive to risk.⁴⁰ In 2018, nine⁴¹ projects out of 16 submitted a fully completed child participation monitoring form. Out of these, six were supported by the Finnish MFA, one by the EU, one by the Red Nose Foundation and one by Save the Children Finland's Children's Emergency Fund. Six projects were the same as those reported in the previous year and three were new projects. The themes of the projects were CSSP⁴² and child protection.⁴³ Five projects from Africa and four from Asia submitted their reports.

The overall score for child participation does not show any significant change compared to the previous year. What is encouraging, however, is that all the projects reported that participation has been completely voluntary. Steps are still needed to render participation in the projects inclusive and 100% safe. Six of the projects that reported were the same projects as in 2017. No particularly significant change has taken place in the way that these three child participation minimum standards are realised in those six projects.



A positive result is also that the number of projects scoring a full 100% has increased to four, thus making up almost 50% of the projects that reported.

All projects reported implementing consultative child participation and seven out of nine projects also reported implementing collaborative child participation. As in previous years, child participation is well taken into consideration in the implementation stage, but engaging children in design and planning, as well as evaluation processes, still needs improvement.

Civil society capacity strengthening and partner capacity building

The need to strengthen the civil society in Save the Children Finland programming countries remains urgent as, according to CIVICUS, all of our programming countries are classified as having either obstructed and repressed the civil space where individuals are able to organise, participate and communicate freely and without discrimination (Bangladesh, Myanmar, Somalia, Iraq) or closed it (Sudan, Yemen and Syria).

	Voluntary	Inclusive	Safe	TOTAL
2015	88 %	92 %	92 %	91 %
2016	86 %	82 %	87 %	85%
2017	97 %	88 %	92 %	92 %
2018	100%	85%	92%	91%

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

41 Since the number of submitted child participation forms is quite small, the results do not readily lend themselves to generally applicable conclusions

42 5 projects

43 4 projects

THREE EXAMPLES OF ENHANCING/IMPLEMENTING CHILD PARTICIPATION

1

COMPREHENSIVE PROMOTION OF CHILD PARTICIPATION IN THE PHILIPPINES:

The CSSP project in the Philippines promoted child participation in many ways. The project tapped the Barangay children's associations as platforms for children's participation in community engagement. These are community-based mechanisms to address the key issues affecting children. The project also applied the principles of transparency, honesty and accountability by letting children know what the project is all about and what its implementation entails. Children's leadership qualities were enhanced by building their capacity in monitoring skills in order to enable them to monitor the work plans of the community clusters addressing the key issues affecting children. To further enhance children's capacity, peer support groups called P2PS (Peer-to-Peer Support) were formed.

2

CHILD-LED RESEARCH AND CHILD RIGHTS GROUPS IN SOMALIA:

In Somalia CP project child participation is a critical component. A total of 80 children both in and out of school¹ benefited from child-led research training. The children were given the opportunity to participate or not and the project made sure they had all the necessary information to make the decision. Children were trained on basic research skills including data collection and analysis. As a result, children were in a better position to identify protection concerns, prioritise them, collect data, analyse it and advocate for better CP mechanisms. The project also promotes child rights groups, which are all community based to ensure the full participation of children in and out of school. The child rights groups are closely linked with community welfare committees and intern social workers. The child rights groups were trained in organisational management, advocacy, child safeguarding and CP awareness. Children were also empowered to report all violence against children.

1 48 girls and 32 boys

3

CHILD PARTICIPATION TRAINING IN SUDAN:

In order to enhance understanding and capacity regarding child participation, key staff in Save the Children Sudan's CO were trained in child participation. The three-day training was delivered by a Save the Children Finland technical advisor to around 18 Save the Children Sudan staff members in September 2018 in Khartoum. Collaboration with Save the Children Sweden and Save the Children Sudan was in a key role in the preparation of the training materials in order to leverage existing expertise and resources within the movement.

The training consisted of a recap of child rights programming, child participation basics (such as child participation's nine basic requirements and how to apply them), key resources and tools, and fruitful group exercises that include the participants in analysing ongoing projects and the operating context from the point of view of child participation. The training workshop culminated in a joint action plan for the improvement of child participation in the CO. The training was well received. Out of the 12 persons who answered the training assessment, 100% assessed a) the training to have been a positive experience, b) the training to have met their expectations and c) the methodology to have been appropriate and engaging. A follow-up training to dig deeper into child participation in project planning is foreseen (country context allowing) for 2019.



Photo: Max Holm / Save the Children

The participation and empowerment of children are part of all operations. The participation of children is enhanced through the establishment of child clubs and other children's groups. Trainings offered to the children promote their overall capacities, enhance their self-esteem and confidence, and produce better programme outcomes. The photo shows a child club in Nabonswende, Burkina Faso.

In 2018 we partnered with 24 local CSOs through formal contracting arrangements as well as numerous community groups such as school management committees and Parent Teachers Associations, CP committees, child groups, local and national governments (such as the Ministry of Health in Burkina Faso and the MEDAF in Somalia) and the private sector. Close partnerships with civil society actors are critically important but risky, in particular when working in closed environments such as Sudan. In Sudan the civic space is highly constrained by the government and by legislation and state practice, which challenges the freedom and neutrality of CSOs and can jeopardise the performance of CSOs working with Save the Children. In Sudan we have tapped the experience of two local CSO partners – BHAD and SIDO⁴⁴ – in order to strengthen the community component of our health and nutrition programme, to lead behavioural changes in the communities and to

have greater reach and acceptance of the intervention. Both partners have been instrumental in improving access to project beneficiaries and delivering results of the interventions in Sudan. In terms of capacity strengthening, our approach is twofold: we support the strengthening of the technical capacity of our partners to ensure the successful quality implementation of our programme and support strengthening the organisational capacity that an organisation needs to give voice and leverage to children's claims for their rights.

Partners in 13 projects received capacity strengthening in their respective thematic areas during 2018, including, for example, capacity strengthening in regard to knowledge and skills in case management and how to provide referral support (in Nepal), the development of an advocacy plan with the Social Protection Civil Society Network (in Nepal),

44 International Development Organization (SIDO); Balsm Organization for Humanitarian Aid and Development (BHAD)

"I'm very excited to go to school today. Washing people's clothes was very tiring, but I had no choice but to help my mother", **Aisha** says. Ten-year-old Aisha (to the right; name changed) lives with her family in a settlement for displaced persons, located in the outskirts of Baidoa, Somaliland. Capacity building of partner CSOs, community based child welfare committees and relief committees included training on basic case management, identification of child protection concerns and food security and livelihood beneficiary identification and selection. After the family of Aisha started to receive an unconditional cash transfer, the situation for the family improved significantly. Her mother Nuuney stopped sending Aisha to work and instead enrolled her in a nearby school supported by Save the Children. The younger children play at the child-friendly space built by Save the Children in their camp.



Photo: Mohamednur Mohamed / Save the Children



International Child Development Programme and SP (in Somalia), and gender equality, child participation and PWV (in Zambia). In Somalia our partner staff, along with MESAF staff, participated in an exposure visit to Nepal to learn about universal SP schemes based on a lifecycle approach, which was followed by capacity building activities in Hargeisa in order to create a shared understanding of SP as a government policy tool.

During 2018, we identified and selected the strategic partner organisations that are important and influential actors for delivering positive results for children in the long term and those that would benefit from long-term organisational capacity development support. Two countries were identified – Zambia and Burkina Faso – and we made plans to start the Organizational Capacity Development process in 2019. The Organizational Capacity Development and its contents are owned by the partner organisations irrespective of the objectives and performance of the general project supported by Save the Children Finland. To start the process, an in-depth holistic, participatory organisational capacity assessment will be conducted with Save the Children Finland's support. During the assessment, capacity gaps will be identified and prioritised by the partner organisations themselves and the assessment will include areas of capacity that specifically relate to the organisation's identity, structure and systems. The capacity building plan will be implemented over several years and monitored and reviewed regularly.

In a humanitarian context, engaging in and supporting long-term engagement with local civil society actors continues to be challenging due to countervailing pressures that complicate and discourage local partnering. However, globally Save the Children has taken steps to streamline policies and procedures to improve the quality and efficiency of partnership in humanitarian response in order to meet the Grand Bargain commitments.

During 2018, we also engaged in Save the Children's wide work on partnerships through a Save the Children partnership working group which aims to strengthen the overall partnership work in all contexts within Save the Children at global and country levels. The focus during the year was on improving partnership management (including tools, procedures and accountabilities) within the organisation and improving all context partnership functions to ensure high-performing and diverse partnerships in country strategic plans.

5. COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY

FOCUS AREA: Communication and advocacy

SAVE THE CHILDREN FINLAND PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Outcome 10: Increased awareness and understanding of Save the Children Finland and Save the Children International priority themes and general global development issues

Outcome 11: Facilitated and influenced concrete policy changes related to child rights

Outcome 12: The increased active engagement of citizens, old and new supporters of the organisation, partners and stakeholders in concrete action

Outcome 13: The increased accountability and transparency of Save the Children Finland programming and actions through regular and timely communication

Progress towards these expected outcomes

OUTCOME 10: Increased awareness and understanding of Save the Children Finland and Save the Children International priority themes and general global development issues⁴⁵

The thematic priorities of communications in 2018 reflected the priorities and working areas specified in the Global Programme of Save the Children Finland. Particular attention was given to disseminating information related to the three global breakthroughs that Save the Children aims to achieve by 2030, that is, the survival, learning and protection of children. A specific focus was given to the theme of protecting children in conflict. Information on issues around the topic of children and armed conflict was disseminated throughout the year.

The communications included public information and global education while support was also given to advocacy efforts in promoting awareness, understanding and debate on issues related to the rights

of the child and global development. Within the framework of global education, the aim was to guide Finnish citizens towards both individual and communal global responsibility.

The specific target groups of communications were supporters of the organisation, stakeholders in its work and the media sector, through which the general public was reached. All the available communications channels of the organisation, both on-line and traditional, were utilised for informing the public and specific target groups on topics linked to programme focus themes, as well as to programme progress and achieved results.

The media published 659 news stories about Save the Children's international work: a 4% increase in media publicity from 2017

The media work generated the continued high visibility of Save the Children's international work in Finnish media. During the year, the media published all in all 659 news stories, which represents a slight increase from the previous year. Two flagship reports

⁴⁵ Indicators for this outcome are: the no of magazines published, the no of readers/magazines, the no of newsletters published, the no of people reached through web pages, the no of people reached through social media; increasing trend on publicity.



Groundbreaking research and reports by Save the Children that analyse different aspects of the realisation of the rights and development of children were widely disseminated and received extensive media attention in 2018.

OUTCOME 11: Facilitated and influenced concrete policy changes related to child rights

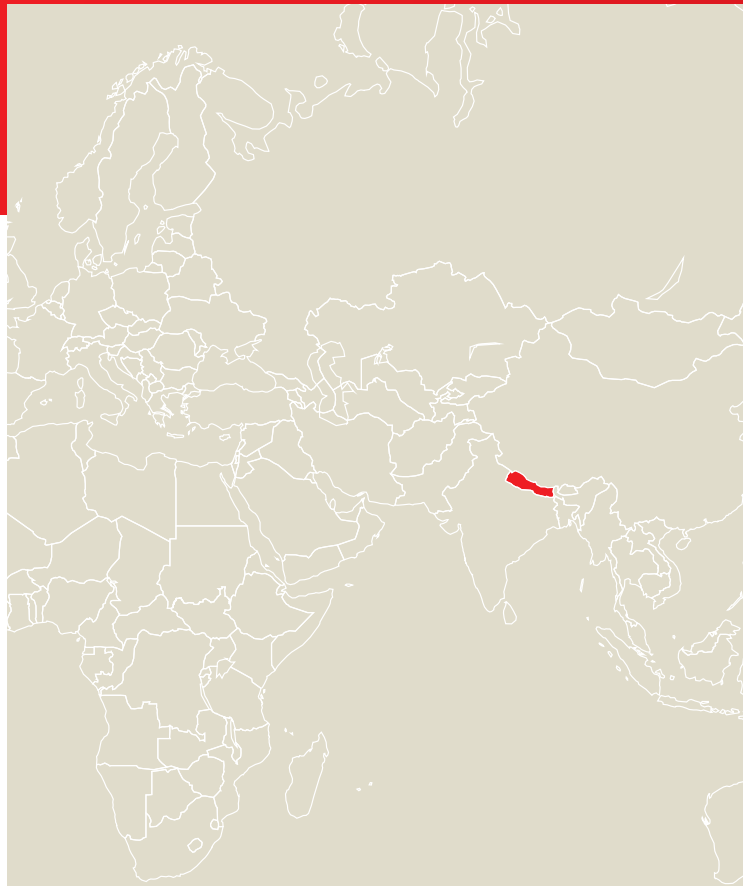
Advocacy played a key part in taking forward concrete child rights–related policy changes. Notable cases were humanitarian advocacy on the Yemen crisis and on CSSP. During 2018 we especially focused on developing a more campaign-oriented way of working and the better integration of advocacy into our programming.

The integration of the advocacy component into our CSSP programmes is important for leveraging long-term change at scale for children. By advocating to governments and other organisations, it is possible to deliver change for many more children. From our review data, we know that CSSP is a powerful approach to improving, for example, children’s social functioning, mental health and learning. The systematically collected evidence that we now have is extremely useful in advocating for policy/programme change at state and national levels. During 2018, this advocacy was taken forward in CSSP projects in India, Nepal, Philippines and Somalia. We also advocated a CSSP approach to donors.

In the Philippines, we have been successful in improving the access of people to SP programmes and continue to advocate that the government adopts the selected approaches developed by Save the Children. In India we have made progress on making existing social security programmes child sensitive. In Somalia we have focused on the living conditions of Somaliland IDPs in general and on the state of three target camps. Save the Children works with partners to influence decision makers to ensure access to quality education, the establishment of child friendly spaces for girls, access to clean water, the promotion of

published by Save the Children in 2018 received particularly good media coverage. The War on Children report highlighted trends concerning the safety and wellbeing of children living in areas impacted by conflict while The Many Faces of Exclusion report focused on poverty, conflict and gender inequality, and on related events that rob children of their childhoods and prevent them from reaching their full potential. Media work included directly supporting journalists in their reporting with background information, interviews and facilitating visits to the countries and operating areas of Save the Children. Such visits were realised in Zambia and the Ukraine.

Information on the progress and achieved results of the International Programme of Save the Children Finland were extensively communicated through the newsletters and magazines of the organisation, namely the biannual bulletin *Tulevaisuus uusiksi / Framtiden Nu* and *Pelastakaa Lapset* magazine. The last two outlets reached some 70 000 households. Newsletters providing information on programme progress reached an additional 55 000 households. During 2018, the number of people engaged through Facebook and Twitter increased by some 20%, with there being more than 54 200 followers at the end of 2018. Outreach activities also included participation in public events, like the annual teaching and education fair *Educa* and the *World Village Festival*.



NEPAL

Nepal's new Children's Act 2075 – paving the way to respecting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of children

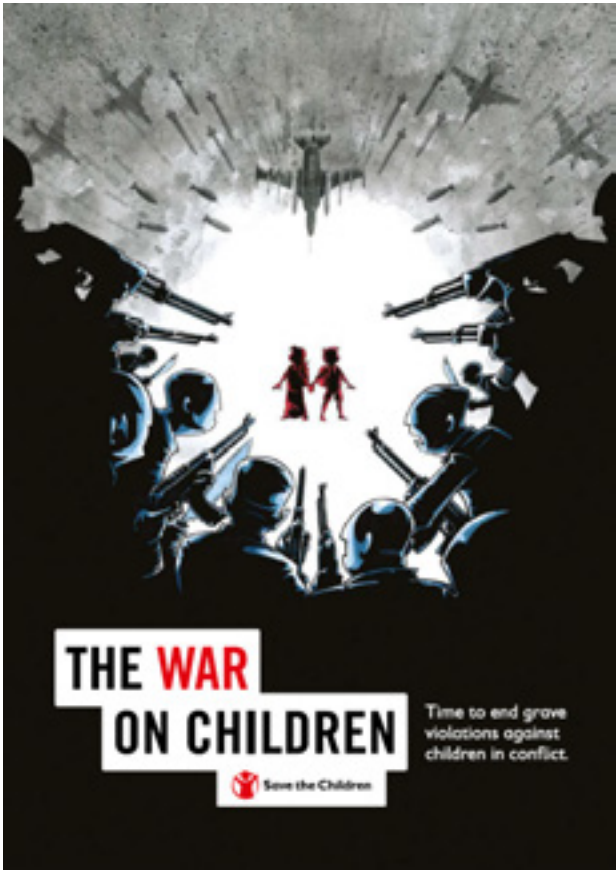
Nepal's 2015 constitution actually has an article dedicated to children's fundamental rights, but this new act translates these provisions and the children's fundamental rights provided in the constitution into a legislative provision, which then allows children to exercise their rights legally.

It substantially differs from the earlier children's act of 1992 as it builds on national and international provisions, such as the UNCRC, meant to promote children's rights, and it recognises both that children are entitled to these rights and that the state has an obligation to uphold their rights. This obligation is threefold: the need to respect the rights, protect the rights and fulfil the rights of Nepal's children. Another new significant addition to the provision list includes that everything must be done to promote the best interests of the children. The act provides a framework to design and implement child-focused programmes that hold duty bearers accountable to children and means a lot for the children of Nepal. Save the Children, along with other national civil society partners and other peer organisations, played a critical role in paving this act.

sanitation and hygiene, establishing a safer environment and adequate housing, increasing access to nutrition and promoting the participation of women and children.

In Nepal 2018 was highly successful year for advocacy. In addition to advocating for the new children's act, we were also successful in advocacy in regard to improving the equal access of vulnerable groups (like orphan children) to SP programmes. Save the Children is leading this and has carried out advocacy work in coordination with NGO partners to have a CSSP policy by the end of 2020 in all the CSSP project municipalities.

Protecting children in conflict was our other advocacy priority. The theme itself is foundational for Save the Children



The War on Children report analysed the situation of children affected by war and other violent conflicts. The report highlighted the need for concerted, collective action in order to turn back the tide of brutality and indifference and better protect children in conflict.



The #Ykkösketjuun campaign joined citizens, CSOs, companies and trade unions to call for a Finnish law on mandatory human rights due diligence.

and will also be a key priority in coming years. The War on Children report was published in February both in Finland and globally, paving way for increased advocacy. The decision was made to prioritise protecting children in conflict in our humanitarian advocacy. We continued to focus on conflict-related humanitarian crises, especially those in Yemen, Rohingya, Syria and Iraq.

The concentrated efforts of Save the Children helped to secure a major win with the creation (by a Human Rights Council resolution) of a new independent mechanism with which to address crimes and rights violations committed in Myanmar, including those against the Rohingya, and to facilitate fair and independent criminal proceedings. We helped to secure the renewal of the mandate of the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen in a resolution on the human rights situation in the country, despite strong opposition from the League of Arab States and other key countries.

In the EU the multiannual financial framework (MFF) has been our most important advocacy issue. The next MFF, 2021–2027, will be a test of whether the EU delivers for children and promotes their rights both in the EU and beyond its borders. The new MFF will have an overall budget of 1.279 trillion euro, so the question about investment in children is hugely important, especially with the merging of 12 instruments (including development cooperation, human rights, neighbourhood policy, and stability and peace) into the new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument. Save the Children's primary concern has been that some EU Treaty obligations on poverty eradication and development cooperation, as well as international

commitments including Agenda 2030 and the SDG, would be sidelined with the new instrument.

Our advocacy strategies are carefully aligned with the whole Save the Children movement to maximise our impact. We work closely with our advocacy offices in Brussels, Geneva, New York and Addis Abeba and with our colleagues from other countries. Save the Children's new Advocacy and Campaign Impact Report tool has been adopted and makes advocacy data collection and consolidation easier. The primary purpose of the new report tool is to demonstrate the extent to which Save the Children is able to contribute to policy and attitude changes, and to learn and adjust advocacy strategies.

OUTCOME 12: The increased active engagement of citizens, old and new supporters of the organisation, partners and stakeholders in concrete action⁴⁶

In the second half of 2018, the Yemen crisis was the most important advocacy theme for us. Advocacy was done in close collaboration with communications and fundraising to maximise the impact with the campaigning approach. This integrated approach proved powerful. We were able to raise awareness of the Yemen conflict with decision makers and the general public, raise considerable amount of funds for Yemen and gain important traction for advocacy.

In November 2018, the Finnish Government banned arms sales to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in response to advocacy and campaigns from Save the Children and partners on the continued conflict in Yemen. We utilised external events,

46 Indicator: the no of people reached through campaigning and global education activities

such as the discovery of Finnish armoured vehicles being used in the conflict, to launch a public campaign and petition. Working effectively with the media, Save the Children and partners contributed to increased public awareness of the conflict and gathered nearly 9000 signatures supporting a ban on the sale of arms. Alongside this, Save the Children conducted private advocacy to the government using a variety of platforms. An integrated advocacy, communications and fundraising approach contributed to the eventual decision by the government to ban arms sales in November 2018, ahead of a foreign affairs committee statement calling for the same.

The upcoming parliamentary elections, and the EU election and EU presidency of 2019 became increasingly important for our advocacy work in Save the Children Finland during the second half of 2018. We published our election platform, worked together in several coalitions, and met members of parliament and representatives of parties to advocate our themes.

Save the Children played a central role in an election campaign aiming at a national human rights due diligence law in Finland. “Ykkösketjuun” was a unique coalition of Finnish companies, CSOs and trade unions that was formed to support the campaign that was launched in September 2018. The campaign is the best example about the changing attitudes of the corporate sector towards social responsibility. We have seen it in increasing interest in the impact of businesses on children. For Save the Children, the human rights due diligence campaign played well with our wider engagement of corporates under the child rights and business theme.

1655 school children were engaged in the global education activities

In global education, information resources for learning purposes were produced for students and educators in collaboration with the Finnish Broadcasting Company, Yle, and the University of Helsinki’s Faculty of Educational Sciences. These materials focussed on the themes of child rights and the education goal of Agenda 2030. Materials on child

poverty and CP in Nepal were also produced for the direct use of mainly upper-secondary level students and teachers. Global education activities directly engaged around 1665 Finnish school children.

The work done to inform and engage citizens in concrete action for children indirectly resulted in an increased number of people supporting the international work of Save the Children Finland. The number of monthly donors and other persons engaged in various giving programmes of the organisation increased by 18% during the reporting period, amounting to over 15 600 by the end of the year. This enabled communications to reach an increasing number of people with programme information and results achieved.

OUTCOME 13: The increased accountability and transparency of Save the Children Finland programming and actions through regular and timely communication

Communications are utilised as a means to build up and nurture a culture of transparency and accountability. Through this, the organisation has been able to reinforce the trust with all stakeholders and the public at large, and to preserve the good reputation that Save the Children enjoys in Finland and worldwide. A survey conducted by Taloustutkimus in 2018 revealed that Save the Children is among the best-recognised non-profit organisations in Finland. In terms of visibility and overall impression, Save the Children was ranked in 10th position. Save the Children received the second-best score for trustworthiness. This survey reconfirmed the results of the trust barometer of Tekiri Ltd, published in 2017. According to this survey, the general population regard Save the Children as being the third most trustworthy organisation in Finland. Save the Children was ranked the highest of all CSOs and aid organisations.

6. ENSURING QUALITY PROGRAMMING

6.1. A SUMMARY OF THE KEY LEARNINGS FROM 2018

As explained in Chapter 4, mainstreaming cross-cutting issues has been challenging and inconsistent. To improve the implementation of cross-cutting issues, we decided to revise the cross-cutting guidance in November 2018. The decision was made in order to have a tighter focus and selection of pilots for testing effective ways to integrate cross-cutting issues. Based on the learning and a joint half-day session in the TA meeting in Dungarpur in October, the advisors developed concrete action plans for each cross-cutting issue. The most challenging issue has been DRR. We therefore decided to use the first six months in 2019 to review our thinking around DRR and critically assess if there is need to enlarge the scope to include resilience. In 2018, we also realised that the project annual report format did not capture the work done and change created within the cross-cutting issues. Therefore, we decided to revise the project annual reporting format so as to increase the ability to better capture cross-cutting issue integration.

As the projects become more complicated, with several TAs advising one project, there is need to clarify roles and responsibilities. At the beginning of 2019 we decided to appoint a lead TA for each project whose responsibility it is to follow up on all TA action points and co-ordinate the TA support for the given project. We are hoping that this new approach will make the support to COs even more efficient and ensure tighter collaboration and sharing between thematic project components. We continued to use the country engagement plans as a way to structure and show the added value of Save the Children Finland to the COs and the thematic support that we are giving to the projects. Some slight improvements to the engagement plan format were done at the beginning of 2018 to facilitate the process of follow-up. Here the key is also to ensure tighter co-operation and collaboration between TAs.

Collecting data and feedback from children is a consistent need across Save the Children's units and projects. Currently various methods and tools are used to collect data and they are mainly still in paper format and designed for specific contexts or projects. In Save the Children Finland both the domestic and international team had experimented with enhancing children's participation and feedback processes. The Domestic Programmes Team had created a digital tool, "Hemmo", for collecting feedback from children who spend time in support families. The challenge of this tool is that it cannot be modified to be used across different services. The International Programmes Team, on the other hand, had created a tool called the "Child- and Gender-Friendly Quality-of-Services Indicator Tool". The tool is currently in paper format and it is used for collecting qualitative feedback and data from children. The similar needs and interests of the domestic and international teams led to the teams joining efforts in 2018 to find a solution to capture feedback from children in a more child-friendly, flexible and agile way. This initiative is now called "AskKids" and its idea is to find a digital feedback solution that allows children to give feedback and receive information in a two-way process wherein children have the possibility to learn and feel valued for their input. In 2018 the team focused on background research and desk testing, as well as on contacting digital feedback solution providers. Based on this first phase, the AskKids team is currently identifying suitable digital platforms for field testing in 2019.

One of the key learnings in 2018 was in relation to implementing a CVA model in fragile country contexts. Although we had assessed the usability of different CVA models in Sudan, we had considered the risks related to CVA from the government's point of view. The implementation of the cash transfer component in Sudan was significantly delayed due the



In Save the Children's programming, children are involved in all project phases, from planning and implementation to evaluation. Existing mechanisms and processes for feedback from beneficiaries and the collecting of data are continuously evaluated.

government approval process and the consequent closure of the Save the Children International office in North Darfur. Even though the government approval was initially received and beneficiary targeting and registration were conducted, the activities were stopped and the Save the Children International office was closed by the government due to their concerns regarding mobile cash transfers. As a result of the closure of the office and the deepening economic situation and severe cash unavailability in the country, Save the Children was able to complete only two of the six planned cash distributions in 2018. In November 2018, the country team conducted a rapid market assessment which indicated that vouchers are the most appropriate modality to address food insecurity during the current liquidity crisis. Thus, a voucher assistance programme is being currently being planned to replace the cash programme from May 2019 and ensure that programme beneficiaries are not jeopardised and receive the needed food security support. For the timely implementation of activities, it will be important going forward to ensure that authorities have a thorough understanding of the projects and that decisions are taken internally as soon as possible to

react to changing economic environments.

As the funding portfolio of Save the Children Finland is getting more complex and varied, there was a need to streamline and structure the process of proposal development to ensure high quality proposals. As the timeframe for proposal submission for the DEVCO is short in most cases, it is important to have clear guidance and a checklist available. Based on the learnings from 2017, new tools were developed, such as a DEVCO proposal quality review checklist, a go / no go opportunity decision checklist, and Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations proposal development guidelines.

The successful advocacy work towards the Finnish Government in regard to banning arms sales to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates was a great learning on how to enforce tighter collaboration between advocacy, communications and the programme team. The experience guided our efforts on how to improve linking advocacy to programme work and also on how to improve internal communication between teams.

6.2. COMPLIANCE MONITORING

COs that Save the Children Finland works with send biannual narrative project reports to Save the Children Finland for approval. Project monitoring activities, reports and proposal reviews were regularly undertaken to guarantee quality standards. To follow up and support compliance monitoring, the grant managers performed 11 field visits to eight COs in 2018. Also, 11 different workshops/trainings on donor compliance⁴⁷ were facilitated by Save the Children Finland staff with participants in four countries. In addition, a key part of the compliance monitoring is reviewing the quality of the partner audits and following up on how Save the Children COs and partners are implementing the recommendations put forth in the management letters.

An independent results-oriented monitoring has been conducted by DEVCO for our DEVCO award in India. This review focused mostly on project outcomes and sustainability. A report with

recommendations has been produced, and the Save the Children India team is currently addressing all the agreed follow-up actions in order to maximise the project impact and ensure the achievement of its goals.

The Save the Children COs, and Save the Children Finland as a member of Save the Children Alliance, also need to comply with Save the Children's essential standards, policies and procedures. The key performance indicators focus on three areas: operations delivery, awards management, and the risk and financial management of both COs and member organisations. Save the Children Finland performed well against the key member key performance indicators during 2018. In particular, we were successful in having a low number of awards with non-cost extensions, as well as award close-out actions completed on time, both of which imply strong project management and planning.



Photo: Save the Children

Regularly conducted on-site visits by programme staff allow for continuous progress monitoring and addressing issues related to the effective implementation of the interventions.

47 These include DEVCO/ECHO donor engagement, DEVCO Results-Based Monitoring, using the ECHO single form and UNICEF donor compliance.



ACCOUNTABILITY TO BENEFICIARIES IN IRAQ

Complaints and feedback systems are a key feature of accountability towards beneficiaries and as such are part of the MEAL system. Some of the used feedback mechanisms are reactive, such as complaints/feedback boxes and toll-free numbers, and others are proactive, such as post-distribution monitoring and focus group discussions.

In Iraq, high priority cases / major complaints were shared immediately with the project manager and Save the Children field manager for action, and an acknowledgement/response was made to the complainant within 48 hours. Other feedback, e.g. requests for information, minor dissatisfaction or requests to be included in the project, were shared with the finance manager and project manager in a monthly log of calls. During the initial stages of identifying cash transfer beneficiaries, there was a noticeable increase in the number of calls to the helpline by families wishing to be included in the project or asking why they had not been selected for cash assistance. MEAL staff clarified the selection criteria to the callers, thus solving the issue.

6.3. OUTPUT AND OUTCOME MONITORING

With the new monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) advisor in place in March 2018, we were able to further strengthen the project logframe designs and ensure the usage of proper indicators for outputs and outcomes. Tools developed in 2018 include Terms of Reference guidance for final evaluations, process guidance for evaluations and data collection do's and don't's.

Although the overall baselines for the Programme Based Support projects were done in 2017, the specific baselines for the parenting component remained to be done in 2018. The baseline and endline for the parenting component were conducted in Nepal, India, Philippines and Somaliland between January 2018 and September 2018. Altogether nine different qualitative and quantitative studies were conducted. The same or similar tools were used across all the four countries. Parent groups were defined as intervention and control groups where the intervention groups got the International Child Development Programme parenting interventions and the control groups were on the waiting list. Data collectors were trained in the instruments and were part of the content validation exercises prior to data collections. For the quantitative study we used a random cluster design. For children, only intervention clusters were included in the data collection. Structured translated and back-translated questionnaires were used and standardised scales were used on the following domains for both parents and children:

- the parenting quality of care including engaging in the child's activities, attachment and communication (the caregiver perspective, the child perspective)
- neglect and violence (the caregiver perspective, the child perspective)
- general wellbeing.

For the qualitative data collection, the following methods were used: three-minute speech samples; observation of a parent-child activity; focus group discussions with caregivers, International Child Development Programme facilitators and children; and in-depth interviews (only during post-assessment). In Nepal and Somaliland the photovoice method was also tested. The experience showed that the involved methods score reasonably well to good for overall trustworthiness. Particular challenges were experienced in the field with regard to avoiding various sorts of bias,

such as observer/researcher bias and confirmation bias. With regard to research with children, challenges remain in eliciting worthwhile data in a sensitive, child-friendly manner. Based on the experience we are considering future studies on parenting in order to: 1) use more heterogeneous scoring teams in the field (one member serving as a gatekeeper and one as an independent observer), 2) spend time in developing a context-proof activity for the parent-child observations, 3) using vignettes to stimulate rich data collection during the focus group discussions, 4) translate the PICCOLO™ scoring sheet to all the countries that are to be studied and 5) consider alternative methods for collection and interpretation of data with children, such as the Ounce scale instrument for example..

Other studies conducted in 2018 include two studies on the impact of family budgeting sessions as part of the parenting training, one study on the effectiveness of the nutrition sessions as part of the parenting training and one project-level mid-term review for a DEVCO-funded project in Zambia.

6.4. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Save the Children Finland thematic advisors supported the design and development of the monitoring and evaluation systems for activities, supported programme implementation, encouraged the quality and transferral of best practices between countries, and prepared and ran trainings to build the capacity of staff and partners and so contributed to strengthening civil society. In 2018 Save the Children Finland staff facilitated 14 different technical/thematic trainings for Save the Children COs, partners and stakeholder staff. The trainings covered the issues of parenting, child participation, mainstreaming CP, case management, gender equity and cash transfer implementation. In addition, our technical advisors coached the national CO technical specialists and supported them in developing CP and CSSP CO strategic plans, as well as in positioning Save the Children COs as lead organisations on CP and CSSP within their countries.

To strengthen our capacities, our staff members participated in several trainings including hostile environment awareness training, gold and bronze level trainings on CP common approaches, International Child Development Programme trainer-level trainings, outcome mapping and data collection, and Washington Group on Disability Statistics trainings.



GENDER EQUALITY TRAINING IN ZAMBIA

Save the Children Finland's gender equality focal person facilitated a three-day gender equality training for nine female and eight male Save the Children and partners' staff in Zambia. The training used practical exercises and case studies to work on each participant's attitudes and perspectives on gender equality in order to have a deeper understanding of why addressing gender equality in our lives and work matters. In addition, key terms related to gender were unpacked, and key considerations and tools to mainstream gender equality across the programme cycle were presented and practised. These included examples of how to engage men and boys as an important target group and actors in the field of gender equality. Pre- and post-training assessments showed a significant increase in knowledge of the key concepts and on Save the Children's approaches to and tools for working on gender equality. While hardly any of the participants considered girls and boys as key stakeholders in gender equality programme work during the pre-assessment, this perception had substantially changed and the post-training assessment showed a good understanding of the importance of working with everybody, including girls and boys. Building further skills in gender analysis was found to be the key topic in subsequent trainings.

6.5. IMPROVING QUALITY GLOBALLY

In 2018 a lot of focus was given to the roll out of common approaches. By the end of 2018, Save the Children had 12 common approaches approved, most of them having a three-tier training programme available. Four new common approaches are still in the pipeline, waiting to be approved. The Common Approach Learning Programme has been set up to strengthen the knowledge and skills of countries, regions and members to take up, embed and scale up common approaches. All common approaches have a short 'bronze level' 2–3-hour web-based course available for all staff. The implementer 'silver level' course is a 3–4-day face-to-face course with follow-up trainings. The final 'gold level' course gives the skills to facilitate trainings and roll out the common approach.

A key area of improving Save the Children programming quality globally was enhancing disability inclusion. In December 2018, Save the Children signed a letter of understanding with Humanity & Inclusion, which advances the shared mission, interest and platform with which Save the Children works for the most disadvantaged children and their families and which increases the ability of children with disabilities to secure their rights in emergency and humanitarian contexts. Both Humanity & Inclusion and Save the Children are global organisations with country programmes in emergency and humanitarian contexts. There is recognition from both parties that there is significant complementarity in Humanity & Inclusion's and Save the Children's global footprint, expertise and reputations. Our complementary roles in the international system mean that our collaboration could take varied forms across many regions and countries. Other ways to start building up Save the Children's disability work included the establishment of a global Disability Inclusion Working Group, integrating disability inclusion into the Global Results Framework, developing accessibility guidelines and creating a directory of disabled people's organisations to support COs in finding valuable Disabled People Organizations and encouraging members and COs to use the Washington Group questionnaire for data collection.

An attempt to improve humanitarian programming was the establishment of the Global Humanitarian Surge Platform in 2018. Throughout 2018 several work streams were working on the development of the platform's structure, procedures and process. Finally, at the beginning of the 2019, the platform was launched. During the process over one hundred humanitarian surge team members were transformed from members into Save the Children employees. The platform is fully operational and responsible for the deployment of all surge capacity across Save the Children Alliance.

In 2018 the Programme and Project Management and Programme Reporting, Information Management and Evidence (PRIME) initiative proceeded at full speed. It was established at the end of 2017 in response to requests for improved skills and capacity in programme and project management. The PRIME part of the project is the IT platform that supports Programme and Project Management. It will provide tools to guide users through the project management methodology and act as a repository of comparable data from projects across the world. The first COs and members will start using PRIME towards the end of 2019. Save The Children Finland's turn to roll out the system is in 2020.

7. PERSONNEL IN SAVE THE CHILDREN FINLAND'S INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME TEAM

At the end of 2018, Save the Children Finland had 12 staff members working in the International Programme's team in Helsinki. The International Programme's team was supported by the Finance team and the Communications and Fundraising teams. In 2018 we had four (4) thematic advisors deployed in the field and 2.4 based in the Helsinki Head Office to support project implementation and to ensure quality and organisational learning. The sub-team of Programme Development and Quality, under the team head, had technical advisors in the fields of cash transfers and livelihoods, MEAL, CP and social protection. In addition to having thematic knowledge on child poverty (CSSP, cash transfers and livelihoods) and CP, we also have expertise in DRR, child participation, gender and civil society strengthening.

The sub-team of Partnership and Portfolio Management comprised of three partnership and portfolio managers, 1.6 portfolio managers, a global corporates partnership manager and one advocacy and

policy advisor under the line management of the programme director. The partnership and portfolio managers ways of working and the division of tasks and responsibilities between them were assessed and analysed throughout 2017. As an outcome of that process, we revised the job descriptions and titles to better reflect their responsibilities in December 2017. Starting from January 2018, portfolio managers acted as key focal points for their portfolio countries, managing all projects within those countries. Partnership managers are responsible for building strong donor relationships with their respective accounts (i.e. with donors). Due to the increased annual budget, there was need to also increase the HR capacity for partnership and awards management. The HR capacity of the Partnership and Portfolio Management team increased by 0.5 Level of Effort in 2018 compared to 2017, with a separate UNICEF partnership manager and an additional awards coordinator for six months for Burkina Faso.



8. MANAGEMENT

8.1. THE FUNDING BASE AND ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

In 2018 Save the Children Finland's International Programmes represented 32% of the total volume of Save the Children Finland with a range of different funding sources.

The MFA of Finland

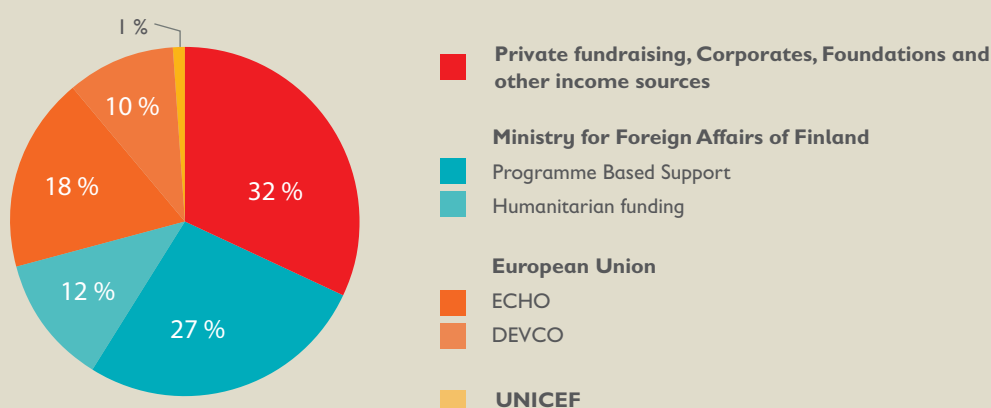
The MFA represented 39% of the total funding portfolio of Save the Children Finland's International Programmes in 2018. Programme funding from the CSO Unit was 2 870 000 euros and was allocated to six awards in Burkina Faso, Somalia, Zambia, Nepal and the Philippines; project planning, evaluations and capacity development; human resources; and communication and administration. Funding from the humanitarian unit was 1 200 000 euros and utilised for two humanitarian projects in Iraq and Somalia. Responsibilities towards these programme countries included collecting donor intelligence; engaging with the donor, both in Helsinki and in the respective Finnish embassies in Kenya and in Zambia; supporting COs to position themselves for funding; and acting as the main interlocutor for COs on behalf of the account.

There were several interactions with the MFA during 2018, starting from the annual negotiations for both humanitarian and development funding that were organised at the beginning of the year. In April 2018, MFA representatives from the CSO Unit visited the Save the Children Zambia CO and met with the country director, together with Save the Children Finland's CP advisor. Also in April, the senior officer in the CSO Unit, the programme officer in the Unit for the Horn of Africa and Eastern Africa and the senior adviser in the Unit for Sectoral Policy paid a visit to the Save the Children Somalia Area Office in Hargeisa and the CO in Nairobi.

In May, Save the Children Finland organised its five-day Annual Strategic Meeting and had a day where representatives from both five Save the Children COs and the MFA Finland could meet and interact. A closer look was given to possible cooperation in Burkina Faso, Sudan, Somalia, Zambia and Nepal. A closer look was given to possible cooperation in Burkina Faso, Sudan, Somalia, Zambia and Nepal.

In September, Save the Children Finland visited the Embassy of Finland in Nairobi. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Save the Children Somalia CO and the embassy of Somalia's team leader. The embassy of Somalia's team leader was

EXPENDITURES OF SAVE THE CHILDREN FINLAND BY FUNDING SOURCE



as part of the country strategy plan process and with other members to ensure that member and CO plans will reflect and drive the global work plan. The new strategy 2020–2022 for Save the Children Finland was to a large extent developed during the third and fourth quarter of 2018 in order for it to be approved in May 2019 by the counsel. Save the Children members contribute to wider-country annual planning and annual country reporting processes. Save the Children Finland staff participated in two Country Consultation Group meetings in 2018, both of them were organised in conjunction with the country strategy development process. Regional Advisory Council meetings are forums in which to discuss plans and strategies at a regional level. In 2018, Save the Children Finland participated in Asia and Africa Regional Advisory Councils. Global programme directors had four face-to-face meetings during the year and the steering committees of child poverty and CP met twice in 2018. In addition to these, several Skype meetings were carried out.

Save the Children has a zero tolerance towards the abuse and exploitation of children by any of our representatives. In addition, we are equally committed to doing everything within our power to avoid unintended harm or accidents to children as a result of any of our activities. In support of the Child Safeguarding Policy, Save the Children has a set of standards, procedures, guidance and tools. Through the DATIX reporting system, 369 child safeguarding incidents⁴⁸ were reported globally in 2018. Out of the total number of reported incidents, 66 involved partner staff and 303 involved Save the Children staff or volunteers. One of every four reported incidents were about physical abuse. Measures taken in 2018 to strengthen child safeguarding include the delivery of a new child safeguarding policy, revising the Code of Conduct to include a stronger safeguarding component and completion of the ECHO safeguarding audit.

There were six child safeguarding concerns reported that were within projects funded by Save the Children Finland. For three of the cases the suspected person was a Save the Children CO staff and in three cases a member from a partner, supplier or community. Two of the concerns were found to be true and this resulted in staff resignation and reporting to the local police. None of the cases that were found to be true included Save the Children staff.

One of Save the Children's key strategic objectives globally is to operate more effectively and efficiently. In order to achieve the objective, Save the Children started to develop and embed cost-effective systems like PRIME and a new coding system and processes that help the organisation to better manage change. Key actions taken in 2018 to improve effectiveness were the introduction of the Effort Reporting mobile app, the launch of a new improved cost allocation method calculator and the introduction of a new Global Timesheet submission report. In 2018 Save the Children International started the process of strengthening the CO platforms, including those in fragile contexts, and invested time and energy in understanding the challenges and key drivers of performance.

In Save the Children Finland the staff wellbeing questionnaire is done every two years and in 2018 we continued to implement the improvement plan based on the results of the wellbeing questionnaire from 2017. The main actions implemented in 2018 were the launch of a new model and process for performance discussions, the launch of new intranet and internal communication strategy to enhance internal communication, improved procedures and guidance to support line managers and the definition of an organisation-wide management culture including a revised terms of reference for the Senior Management Team.

8.3. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Coding Project was set up as part of the High Performing Organisation strategic priority in order to simplify, standardise and improve the quality of Save the Children's financial data across our global organisation, ranging from members to Save the Children International field offices. Access to accurate, reliable financial data is essential to our operations. We rely on it to make very important management decisions, to track progress towards our Global Breakthroughs for children and to effectively report to our donors so they keep funding our programmes. Most importantly, it will result in less stress and complexity by reducing time spent manually manipulating data. This will help free up vital time to deliver high quality programmes for children.

At the moment, we do not speak the same financial

48 The incidents include all concerns that a child is being harmed or that someone might harm a child.

language across Save the Children. We all use different financial data structures and different financial management tools and processes. This means we do not have one version of the truth when reporting on our global income and expenditure. The Coding Project aims to simplify and enhance our IT systems that contain financial data, our global financial reports and our staff training on financial coding.

In 2018 the following are some of the key changes which were introduced by Save The Children International in order make effort reporting and the cost allocation methodology more accurate:

- Introduction of the Effort reporting mobile app – this has been tested in a number of countries and is now available for wider use.
- The launch of a new improved cost allocation method calculator – enhancements include the functionality to allow automating “the cost allocation method in detail” tab and calculations to assist with estimating the premises’ directly charged costs.
- The introduction of a new Global Timesheet submission report – this will allow Save the Children International regions and centres to see the timesheet submission rates across all COs throughout the month.

8.4. RISK MANAGEMENT

Save the Children has a set of risk management procedures and tools, such as a CO risk management plan, to help get assurance that risks are being identified and managed in each country of operation and how that is happening. Save The Children International also has a number of specialists who are largely responsible for putting processes and tools into place to support the management of risks in their areas of responsibility, such as Safety and Security, Fraud, Child Safeguarding, Legal and other similar areas. This structure is replicated at the regional and CO levels to at least some degree, either through specific roles or through focal points. Additionally, before the start of each project an award risk assessment is filled out identifying the challenges that could cause us to fail in our obligation and how we are managing those challenges.

Save the Children Finland identified the main internal and external risks when planning the programme for 2017–21. These were contextual risks: children facing violence and abuse within our projects; changes in the political and/or administrative environment, such as elections, coups d’état or governance reform processes; natural disasters and a volatile security situation; the shrinking space of civil society due to restrictive legislation; and challenging reporting requirements or funding limitations.

In Sudan, the new monetary policy of the central bank, restricting the money supply to protect the Sudanese pound, has contributed to a liquidity crunch that worsened at the end of 2018 and negatively impacted Save the Children’s cash transfer programme. At the end of the year almost all the people in the country were affected by that policy as the central bank was not injecting enough fresh currency, which has triggered a liquidity crisis. As a result of that unpredictable situation, Save the Children was able to complete only two of the six planned cash distributions in 2018. In November 2018, the country team conducted a rapid market assessment which indicated that a voucher system is the most appropriate method to address food insecurity and, at same time, deal with the severe cash unavailability. Thus, a voucher assistance programme is currently being planned to replace the cash programme from May 2019 and ensure that programme beneficiaries are not jeopardised and receive the needed food security support.

One of the contextual risks that activated in 2018 was the difficulty in obtaining a visa from the Government of Iraq. This posed major challenges for Save the Children Finland staff members conducting monitoring visits to the project location in Mosul in the Government of Iraq administered area. Due to these travel restrictions, review meetings with the project staff were held in Erbil, in Iraqi Kurdistan. Also, in Somalia the volatile security situation in southern-central Somalia had an effect on the project monitoring as there was no access to the project site in Baidoa. Both the kick-off meeting and later the review meeting were held in Mogadishu.

A programme-related risk in Burkina Faso was the low operational capacity to implement our projects in the Save the Children CO in Ouagadougou and other field offices. The same risk we saw already in

2017 continued in 2018. This was due to the sudden increase of funding in the country and the lack of a significant increase in hiring staff in the field and the lack of capacity of project managers. In order to address the issue, Save the Children Finland decided to hire a trainee to assist in the management and monitoring of projects funded by Save the Children Finland. In 2018 there was another trainee hired and towards end of the year and in the beginning of 2019 she was hired as a Save the Children Finland staff member, placed in Ouagadougou. This has enormously helped the cooperation with the Burkina Faso CO and Save the Children Finland HO.

Due to the very effective incident reporting system, five alleged fraud or misuse-of-funds cases in projects supported by Save the Children Finland were reported by Save The Children International to Save the Children Finland in 2018. All the reported cases were investigated and one case was found to not be true. For the remaining four cases the loss was fairly small, ranging from a few kilos of rice to a couple of hundred euros. The main consequences of the cases were the cancellation of partner agreements.

Regarding risk management when travelling, Save the Children International has a very profound Travel Safety and Security protocol in place including rating countries according to their threat level (*very low / low / medium / high / very high*) and accordingly listing countries of restricted travel. When travelling to such a country, like Somalia, there are Standard Operating Procedures in place for travelling. First, one must have successfully completed a Save the Children International approved Global Safety and Security training course and then get the approval for travel from both the country director and the CO security focal point. The security situation is updated constantly and in a city like Mogadishu there is a staff security briefing every morning. Travel requests and staff movements are approved or rejected according to the most recent security situation reports in different locations of Somalia. Save the Children also has an online system for travel authorisation. Essential information like contact details for making emergency contact while away and medical coverage information is required for all guest travellers.





Photo: Nabin Maharjan / Save the Children

ANNEX: THE SITUATION FOR CHILDREN IN SAVE THE CHILDREN FINLAND'S PROGRAMME COUNTRIES

End of Childhood Index 2019

CHILDHOOD ENDER	CHILD DIES	CHILD IS SEVERELY MALNOURISHED	CHILD IS OUT OF SCHOOL	CHILD BEGINS WORK LIFE	CHILD MARRIES	CHILD HAS A CHILD	CHILD IS A VICTIM OF EXTREME VIOLENCE		END OF CHILDHOOD INDEX 2019	
							Population forcibly displaced by conflict (% of total)†	Child homicide rate (deaths per 100,000 population aged 0-19)	Score (out of 1,000)	Rank (out of 176)
INDICATOR	Under-5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	Child stunting (% children aged 0-59 months)	Out-of-school children of primary and secondary school age (%)	Children engaged in child labor (% ages 5-17)	Adolescents currently married or in union (% girls aged 15-19)	Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19)	2017	2018	2016	
Burkina Faso	81.2	27.3	38.5	39.2 x,y	31.5 x	106.5	0.2	5.0	565	167
India	39.4	38.4	20.2	11.8 x,y	15.2 a,b	24.5	0.0	1.3	769	113
Iraq	30.4	9.9 a	21.9 x	7.3 a	18.4 a,b	79.8	8.3 c	6.7	768	115
Myanmar	48.6	29.2	18.8	9.3 y	11.9 b	29.0	2.9 c	2.0	786	109
Nepal	33.7	35.8	13.8	37.4	27.1 a	62.1	0.1	1.5	685	134
Philippines	28.1	33.4	6.1	11.1 x,y	8.5 a	59.9	0.5 c	3.5	800	102
Russian Federation	7.6	...	3.4	...	7.5 x	22.5	0.1	1.5	940	38
Somalia*	127.2	25.3 x	48.7 x,z	49.0 x,y	24.6 b,x	102.2	25.8 c	3.1	468	171
Sudan	63.2	38.2	47.3 x	24.9	20.0 b	67.2	6.7 c	3.1	615	151
Zambia*	60.0	40.0	22.2 z	40.6 x,y	16.9	86.0	0.0	5.5	623	150

Save the Children's annual **End of Childhood Index** assesses the extent to which childhood is threatened due to a variety of childhood 'enders'.

The examined indicators signal the disruption of childhood and represent life-changing events that potentially prevent children from reaching their full potential: poor health, malnutrition, exclusion from education, child labour, child marriage, early pregnancy and extreme violence.

These 'childhood enders' are most prevalent where poverty, conflict and gender bias overlap to create toxic environments for children.

End of Childhood Index scores for countries are calculated on a scale of 1 to 1000 and reflect the average level of performance across eight indicators:

940 or above: few children are missing out on childhood

760 to 939: some children are missing out on childhood

600 to 759: many children are missing out on childhood

380 to 599: most children are missing out on childhood

379 or below: nearly all children are missing out on childhood

Coloring reflects prevalence: **Moderate High Very high**

... Data are unavailable or outdated (i.e., pre-2005)

+ Data refer to the most recent year available during the reference period

a Estimate from recent MICS or DHS (pending reanalysis)

b Estimate does not include consensual unions

c There is evidence of recruitment and use of children (e.g., as child soldiers)

d Includes displaced populations from Serbia and Kosovo

e Includes displaced populations of Tibetan origin

x Data refer to the most recent year available during the period 2005-2012

y Data differ from the standard definition (interpret with caution)

z Data are from the secondary source (interpret with caution)

§ Includes Eastern and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa, Djibouti, Sudan

‡ Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States

** Excludes China

* To include as many countries as possible in the rankings, school attendance data for these 20 countries were sourced from surveys because recent enrollment data were not available

† Includes refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (refugees and IDPs) and others of concern to UNHCR

Note: For indicator definitions, primary and secondary data sources, prevalence thresholds and regional classifications, see Methodology and Research Notes.

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