



International Programme **ANNUAL REPORT 2019**



Save the Children

Save the Children Finland



SAVE THE CHILDREN FINLAND
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

This report serves as the 2019 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.

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OUR 2030 AMBITION FOR CHILDREN

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

SURVIVE:



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

LEARN:



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

BE PROTECTED:



By 2030, violence against children will no longer be tolerated

Front cover

One-year-old Mohamed is checked for malnutrition using a mid-upper arm circumference measuring tape at a mobile health clinic of Save the Children in Somaliland.

Photo: Mustafa Saeed/Save the Children

CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS	I
FOREWORD	II
1. OUR WORK IN NUMBERS	1
2. OPERATIONAL CONTEXT: THE IMPACT OF CHANGES IN THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT	3
2.1. West Africa	3
2.2. Eastern and Southern Africa	4
2.3. The Middle East	6
2.4. Asia	7
3. THE STRATEGIC FOCUS AND PROGRAMME OUTCOMES	10
3.1. Programme progress and key learnings in 2019	10
3.2. Child poverty	12
3.3. Child protection	19
3.4. Child Rights Governance	24
3.5. Other thematic areas: Education, and health and nutrition	26
4. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES	31
5. COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY	35
6. ENSURING QUALITY PROGRAMMING	38
6.1. Results-based monitoring	38
6.2. Save the Children Finland added value and improved quality globally	38
7. MANAGEMENT	40
7.1. General management	40
7.2. Human resource management	41
7.3. The funding base and account management	42
7.4. Financial management	44
7.5. Risk management	44
ANNEX: CASE STUDIES FROM THE FIELD	45

ABBREVIATIONS

AMS	award management system
CAs	common approaches
CFS	child-friendly space
CO	country office
CP	child protection
CRG	child rights governance
CSO	civil society organisation
CSSP	child sensitive social protection
CVA	cash and voucher assistance
DEVCO	The European Commission's 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
EiE	education in emergencies
HH	household
IDP	internally displaced person
IYCF	infant and young child feeding
MEAL	monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning
MESAF	Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family of the Republic of Somaliland
MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
MTR	mid-term review
NGO	non-governmental organisation
PWV	Parenting without Violence
SAM	severe acute malnutrition
SCT	social cash transfer
SGVB	sexual and gender-based violence
SP	social protection
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
4Ps	Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program

FOREWORD

The year 2019 was the centenary anniversary of Save the Children. The momentum was used to launch the Stop the War on Children campaign. Internationally, Save the Children organised high-profile roundtables and a conference to secure engagement and commitments from numerous political and institutional actors to protect children in conflict. In Helsinki we organised a hundredth anniversary event in Tiukula with 60 high-level participants. As part of the campaign, a Stop War on Children petition was launched which was signed by 6000 people by end of the year.

The year 2019 was an active year for advocacy with parliamentary elections, a new government programme, EU elections and Finnish EU presidency. We advocated for a government programme with a strong global role, a commitment from Finland to a multilateral system and a commitment to increasing funding for NGOs and official development assistance. We also advocated for multi-year humanitarian funding and for Finland to increasingly support education and child protection as part of its humanitarian action. Both of these have materialised to some extent.

Successes in joint advocacy work with other members and Save the Children advocacy offices included stopping a harmful counter-terrorism resolution that would have nullified the humanitarian exemption that currently applies in Somalia and renewing the mandates of the Group of Eminent Experts for Yemen and the Commission of Inquiry for Myanmar, which both include a focus on the violations of children's rights. In Finland we did a lot of private advocacy and some public media work to support the repatriation of foreign children in al-Hol and other camps in North-East Syria.

In 2019 we were able to further strengthen our work with the corporate sector by increasing the amount of active corporate partnerships contributing to child rights from five to seven. Our collaboration with Business Finland continued, with our main achievement being a joint co-creation workshop 'Innovation for Development and Crisis', organised as a part of

Nairobi Innovation Week in June. We continued to raise awareness about the child rights impacts of businesses. The key achievement in 2019 was that the human rights due diligence law was included into the Finnish government programme.

Programme implementation progressed steadily in 2019 with no major interruptions. An internal mid-term review was carried out in spring 2019 on the Save the Children Finland programme. The review focused on effectiveness, relevance and scalability and the cross-cutting themes of gender sensitivity and child participation. As per the review, progress seems to be steady and consistent: most improvements have been gained in the outcome of access to Social Protection. For example, in Nepal 93% of all people eligible in the project areas had been covered by end of 2019, while the figure in 2017 was 79%. For children this means better nutrition, increase of school enrolment and less violence at home.

The year 2019 was also successful in terms of increasing our funding base. The UNICEF account saw a huge growth with the portfolio amount increasing from €350,000 in 2018 to €1,820,379 in 2019. This was the result of strong long-term investment in relationship building with UNICEF, as well as being a result of increasing human resources for UNICEF compliance and account management. We were also able to strengthen the EU account portfolio by gaining the leadership responsibility of the ECHO Social Protection opportunities in Somalia and all DEVCO funding opportunities in Indonesia, in addition to ECHO and DEVCO leadership in Burkina Faso and Sudan. In 2019 Save the Children Finland secured €5,116,000 for ECHO projects. We were also successful with our home donor, the Finnish MFA, receiving an additional €1.5 million for programme-based support and €1.2 million for humanitarian projects.

Anne Haaranen

*Director, International Programme
Save the Children Finland*



1. OUR WORK IN NUMBERS



117
COUNTRIES



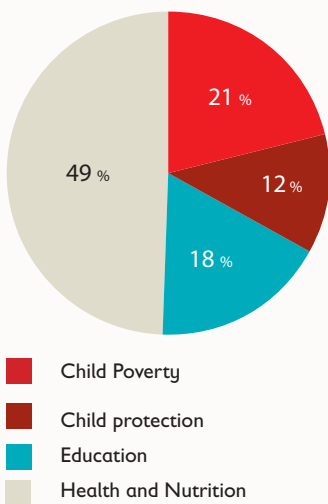
38,7
MILLION
CHILDREN
REACHED

29,1
MILLION
ADULTS
REACHED

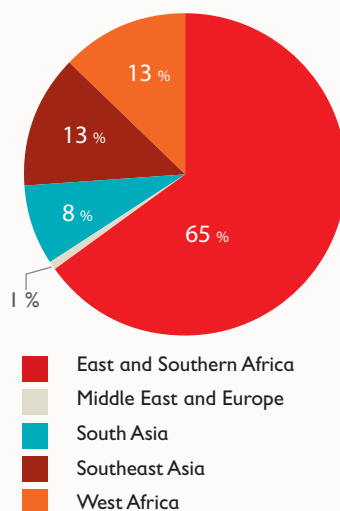
130
CATEGORISED
RESPONSES

SAVE THE CHILDREN FINLAND | DIRECTLY REACHED CHILDREN AND ADULTS¹

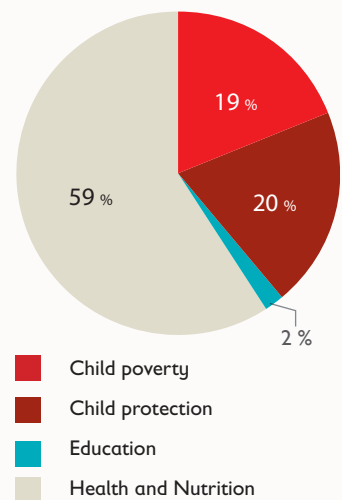
DIRECTLY REACHED CHILDREN BY THEME



DIRECTLY REACHED CHILDREN BY REGION



DIRECTLY REACHED ADULTS BY THEME



¹ Covered countries: Burkina Faso, Sudan, Somalia, Zambia, Mozambique, Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, the Philippines, Russia (Karelia). Figures do not include children reached through some of humanitarian operations supported through pools, for example, in Syria.



Save the Children
Finland International
Programme

14
COUNTRIES

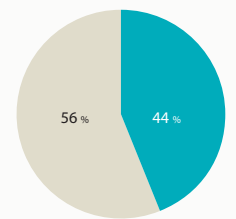


297 933
CHILDREN
REACHED

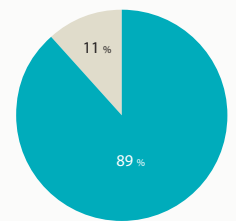
230 109
ADULTS
REACHED

14,216
MILLION EUROS
EXPENDITURE

EXPENDITURES BY CONTEXT



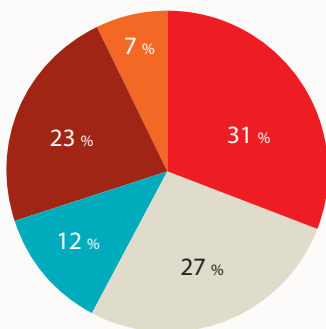
EXPENDITURES BY DEVELOPMENT STATUS



Least developed countries
Other countries

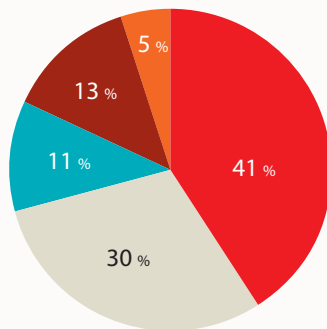
SAVE THE CHILDREN FINLAND | EXPENDITURES

EXPENDITURES BY THEME



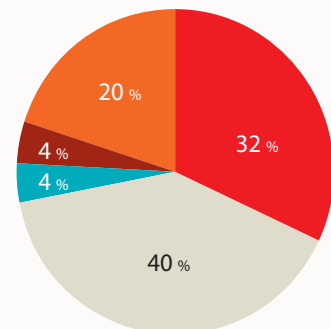
Child Protection
Child poverty
Education
Health and Nutrition
Support to Save the Children humanitarian operations

EXPENDITURES BY REGION



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

EXPENDITURES BY FUNDING SOURCE



MFA
EU
UNICEF
Corporates
Other

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

2.1. WEST AFRICA

Burkina Faso's internally displaced person (IDP) crisis worsened in 2019. The government had registered 560,000 people as displaced as a result of violence in several locations across the country by the end of December 2019. According to the Humanitarian Needs Overview, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance had risen to 1.5 million by the end of the year. According to the Protection Cluster, there were more than 367,000 children in need of child protection (CP) services and psychological distress and mental health were estimated to affect more than four out of five children. At least 57% of registered IDP children are without birth certificates² and birth registration remains a major challenge, especially in the context of population displacement. The number of food-insecure people in Burkina drastically increased from 676,000 people in 2018 to 1.2 million people at the end of 2019. The conflict also resulted in the closing of

schools and health clinics, further deteriorating the situation for children and their families. In 2018 only 4 health centres had closed due to the violence, whereas in 2019, over 95 centres were forced to close. Similarly, in 2018 around 779 schools were closed, while the number of closed schools in 2019 was 1784, leaving 246,000 students affected.

Four out of five children in Burkina Faso are suffering from psychological distress.

With the worsening IDP crisis and deteriorating operational context, there has been a strong shift from traditional development programming to more humanitarian action. In 2019 Save the Children became an active member of the humanitarian coordination mechanisms, including the Humanitarian Country Team and clusters. Save the Children in

² CONASUR figure (Sept 2019)



A safe learning space set up for children missing out on their education in conflict-affected areas in Burkina Faso.

Burkina Faso validated its new humanitarian strategy and continued to strengthen its security procedures and to build the capacity of staff for humanitarian action. Ensuring the safety of staff became a priority as the attacks on civilians spread to new areas and were a threat in almost every implementation area. Strict travel restrictions remain in the country, limiting the in-country travel of both expatriate and Burkinabe in major parts of the country. Mitigations include contingency plans for existing projects, for example, cash distributions became too dangerous to implement in a traditional way, thus new mobile transfer and post-distribution modalities were developed.

The worsening security situation with hundreds of school closures, especially in the Sahel area, led Save the Children to expand its education programming. Save the Children is a key partner for the Ministry of Education, participates in the education cluster meetings and provides technical support for the elaboration of the national strategy for education in crisis-affected areas.

Burkina Faso 2019 – snapshot

In 2019, the portfolio of Save the Children Burkina Faso country office (CO) increased from 5.5 million to 8.5 million euros and there was a staff increase from 70 to 260. Save the Children reached 175,308 people with its programming activities, including 84,503 children. The CO was able to increase its portfolio with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), renew the relationship with European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and tap into funding from Education Cannot Wait. Save the Children Finland supported Burkina Faso CO in 2019 with 4.1 million euros.

2.2. EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

The climate crisis badly affected parts of eastern and southern Africa in 2019, with floods, landslides, droughts and cyclones leaving at least 33 million people at emergency levels of food insecurity. The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

report shows increasing evidence that climate change is contributing to higher temperatures in the region and that these temperatures are exacerbating the impacts of drought and flooding.³

All our programming countries in this region – **Somalia, Sudan and Zambia** – experienced a harsh dry season in 2019. In Somalia heavy rain at the end of the year resulted in flooding displacing 570,000 people. In addition, tropical storm Pawan affected 35,000 people in Puntland and a locust infestation damaged 70,000 acres of crops. Collectively these shocks left over six million Somalis in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in December 2019 – a 36% increase compared to late 2018. **Zambia** also got its share of the unpredictable weather conditions with erratic rains and droughts that created severe food insecurity for more than 2.3 million people with an estimated 1.9 million living at crisis levels. In **Sudan**, 58% of households (HH) were not able to meet their daily food requirements and more than 2.7 million children are malnourished⁴. On top of struggling with the unpredictable climate, both Sudan and Zambia struggled with increasing inflation rates and the devaluation of local currencies, which resulted in the increased cost of living and reduced HH purchasing power in both countries.

Flooding displaced 570,000 people in Somalia.

Also, on the political front Sudan experienced big changes in 2019. In the beginning of 2019, Sudan was added to the CIVICUS watch list of countries where the civic freedoms are under serious threat due to the rapid decline in the fundamental freedoms. Mass protests and civil unrest led to the stepping down of former president Omar Al-Bashir in April 2019. The Transitional Military Council which took over was met by further protests. In August, the Forces of Freedom & Change and the Transitional Military Council signed political and constitutional declarations, forming the Sovereign Council which is set to govern for a three-year interim period. The newly appointed Prime Minister, Abdullah Hamdok, opened the gates for global cooperation. The international community (e.g. the US and EU) have publicly stated

³ <https://www.savethechildren.net/news/2019-climate-shocks-claim-more-1200-lives-across-east-and-southern-africa>

⁴ Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020

their support of the democratic transition in Sudan and support the country's economy, suggesting lifting Sudan from the list of countries sponsoring terrorism, lifting sanctions and dropping pending debts. According to CIVICUS, there have been some minimal improvements in the human rights situation in Sudan after the transition took place. However, there are still reports of intimidation, arrests and government surveillance experienced by the activists and human rights defenders.⁵

The change of the regime in Sudan improved Save the Children's ability to advance child rights.

The changing of the national landscape in Sudan had a dramatic impact on Save the Children's ability to achieve an impact for children. Under the new regime it has been possible to openly address issues which were kept silent before (e.g. female genital mutilation). The government is open to discussing pro-child changes in policy and budgeting, and positive moves have been already been taken, such as the announcement that 50% of the budget will be earmarked for social development. However, the newly formed government is fragile, and the precarious economic situation could lead to further instability. During the first half of the year, Save the Children implemented security measures such as the banning of all travel by international staff to Sudan, which prevented Save the Children Finland staff members from conducting monitoring visits to the project locations. The instability also made it difficult to recruit the needed staff for the ongoing projects, specially the international staff. After the transition to a civil-led government, some national non-governmental organisations (NGOs) – including two partners in Save the Children Finland ECHO projects – have been dissolved by the government due to their connection with the previous government. This required a quick replacement of the implementing partners and the projects have been delivered with no major negative impacts, and overall, the expected results were achieved.

Despite the impact of the climate shocks on the operating environment in Somalia, Save the Children was able to continue programme work with little or no changes to Save the Children Finland-funded

projects. Dedicated staff members, good civil society organisation (CSO) partners, the respect and acceptance of the local communities, and good relations with the government at local and national level all enabled Save the Children's operations to continue. Save the Children continued to be active in national coordination mechanisms, working closely with the Donor Working Group's Technical Assistance Facility, which was formed in 2019 to design the standard operating procedures for future safety nets. The CO participated in the protection, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), food security, education, health and nutrition clusters, and was the co-coordinator of the health and education clusters. Save the Children also co-chaired the Financial Service Providers Work Stream as well as the health NGO coordination forum in Nairobi, and co-chairs the Child Protection Working Group in Baidoa and Mogadishu and represents international non-governmental organisations in the Somalia Humanitarian Fund Advisory Board that directs the clusters, sets priorities for funding and makes decisions about allocating funds to various sectors.



Photo: Kate Stanworth / Save the Children.

A Mobile Health Team of Save the Children in Somalia's Puntland referred 18-month-old Ayan (name changed) to a stabilisation centre for treatment against severe acute malnutrition.

⁵ CIVICUS

In Zambia Save the Children continued to reinforce the collaborative work among CSOs which promote child rights through networks – such as the National Child Rights Forum, the Child Budget Network, Zambia Tax Platform and the Ending Child Marriages Network – in order to monitor, report and advocate for the enactment of child-focused legislation and budgeting for an enabling environment. Save the Children provided technical capacity through advocacy training and dialogue sessions with CSOs and networks, which have contributed to a stronger and unified advocacy front in the work around child rights.

Somalia 2019 – snapshot

The annual portfolio volume for Somalia CO was 92 million euros. Save the Children reached 2.7 million beneficiaries directly, of which 1.5 million were children.⁶ In addition, 1.3 million people were reached indirectly through behaviour change communications. The CO was able to maintain a diverse funding portfolio, including several new and strategic donors, including Global Partnership for Education, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Philanthropies, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. Save the Children Finland supported Somalia CO in 2019 with 1.97 million euros.

2.3. THE MIDDLE EAST

The Middle East region continued to suffer from two of the world's worst humanitarian crises, those in Yemen and Syria. The continuation of the conflict in Yemen resulted in increased needs with an estimated 24.1 million people requiring humanitarian aid.

Over two million children are out of school in Yemen.

Yemen continued to be one of the worst countries to be child with approximately 12,000 reported

grave violations from 2013 onwards.⁷ The damage and closure of schools and hospitals has disrupted access to education and health services, leaving children even more vulnerable. As the new school year began in September 2019, two million children were out of school. The country was also hit by a cholera epidemic in early 2019, with almost a million suspected cases during the course of the year, out of which 25% were children under five.

The situation has not been any better in Syria where the humanitarian situation escalated in the northeast and northwest of the country. The ninth year of the crisis led to the worst displacement since the beginning of the Syrian conflict and became a largest refugee displacement in the world. Since December 2019, nearly a million people fled from their homes in northwest Syria. Most of those who escaped were extremely vulnerable and approximately 60% of them were children. The fall of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria led to a situation of more than 7000 children of foreign nationalities living across three camps, including al-Hol, in northeast Syria. More than 3300 of the children were under five. The living conditions in the camps are overcrowded and humanitarian aid has been insufficient to meet all the needs. Among these children and their mothers, Finnish nationals were also discovered.⁸

The challenging environment in Yemen had an impact on Save the Children's operations. The fuel crisis caused limited fuel availability and affected Save the Children's ability to transport aid to project locations. In addition, the CO experienced challenges in getting official approvals from the government to sign partner sub-agreements. This affected the timely start-up of project activities. The heavy restrictions by the authorities on protection programming⁹ affected most CP projects. Despite these issues, Save the Children continued to strengthen partnership processes¹⁰ and internal capacity-building efforts to increase access to hard-to-reach areas. The permit delays were mitigated by the temporarily changing modality of certain projects, changing from working with local partners to direct implementation. Other mitigation means were, for example, extending reach through innovative implementation mechanisms, such as using mobile health

⁶ Over half of the children directly reached were girls.

⁷ Children and Armed Conflict report, UN Secretary General, 2019

⁸ Save the Children Finland did active advocacy work to repatriate the children with Finnish nationality from al-Hol in 2019.

⁹ Including gender-based violence, child recruitment, community-based child-friendly spaces and mine risk education.

¹⁰ Developing a partnership positioning paper, and a clear role and responsibilities of partnership management.



Children playing outside their school in Idlib, Syria.

teams. Save the Children introduced cash and livelihoods for protection programming, reaching more than 3000 women with these activities.

Despite the challenges, Save the Children continued to have a good reputation and strong ties with key stakeholders, including CSO partners and local authorities, as well as the respect and acceptance of the local communities and project beneficiaries. In 2019 Save the Children continued to increase and maintain strong engagement within the cluster system¹¹ and other coordination bodies co-chairing the national CP, health and education clusters and being a member of the Humanitarian Country Team.

The Yemen CO in 2019 – a snapshot

The Yemen CO had a total of 59 grants with a total portfolio of \$86 million across all the key sectors including health and nutrition, education, WASH, CP, and food security and livelihoods, making Save the Children the largest international NGO in Yemen. Save the Children's programme reached a total of 2.4 million people, including 1.5 million children, in 2019, of which 1.7 million people received health and nutrition services and over 200,000 children benefitted from education activities. Save the Children Finland supported the Yemen CO in 2019 with 1.2 million euros.

2.4. ASIA

Despite the robust economic growth in Asia, many children continue to live in poverty. The persistent and growing inequalities in the region mean that groups of children are being left behind when economic gains do not reach the poorest segments of the societies.

Myanmar's economy grew as market reforms progressed and investment in infrastructure continued. Despite these gains, 32% of the population remains below the poverty line and stunting levels remain high at 30%. The country's failure to hold the military to account for human rights abuses restrained engagement by the international community and resulted in the government defending itself in December 2019 at the International Court of Justice against allegations of genocide committed in Rakhine. International efforts to return large numbers of Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh to Rakhine failed, largely as a result of the government's failure to make progress on the Rohingya people's demands for freedom of movement and citizenship. The government introduced a camp closure policy in an attempt to normalise the situation of IDPs in Kachin, Rakhine and other parts of the country. On the other side of the border in Bangladesh, Save the Children continued

Photo: Save the Children's partner in Syria, Hurras Network

¹¹ Save the Children is an active member of the health, nutrition, child protection, education and food security and livelihood (FSL) clusters and is a member of the Strategic Advisory Groups for the health, nutrition, WASH and FSL clusters.

to ensure Rohingya children and their families are supported. In particular, basic education – an area Save the Children Finland supports – still needs to be dramatically scaled-up and accredited.

In Myanmar 32% of the population remains below the poverty line.

In **Nepal**, 2019 was another year in a row in with a stable government. While Nepal's transition to federalism is profound and will require years to unfold, progress has been made with setting up key institutional structures and strengthening regulatory frameworks. The federal set up was solidified during 2019 with employee adjustment processes and the government deploying staff to the local governments. All these developments have created challenges in some project activities, such as vital event

registration and social protection (SP) programmes which are managed at local level. On a positive note, SP has evolved as priority of the government, which further paves the way for Save the Children Finland to work on SP. The government has increased the benefit size of different allowances and has started the implementation of a universal child grant in six districts. The **Philippines** also witnessed some positive development with the nationwide Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (the 4Ps) being signed into a law in December 2019. The 4Ps becoming law gives Save the Children a good opportunity to put forward innovations (especially the parenting package) at the national level to strengthen the child sensitivity of the national SP programme. This is important because, despite the Philippines being a middle-income country, it ranks ninth in the world for having the most stunted children and more than third of all children live below the poverty line.¹² Thus, the strengthening of SP services is critical in reducing families' vulnerability.

¹² UNICEF, 2019



Photo: Save the Children

Amalia (to the right) is a volunteer facilitator of social protection and parenting skills for Save the Children in Letyte Province, in the Philippines. Amalia has also applied her acquired knowledge to her own children.

In the Philippines the Republic Act was passed, which ensures care for pregnant women and their child for the child's first two years of life.

Also, some positive developments to advance child rights took place in Asia. In Myanmar a new Child Rights law was enacted, which makes child rights legally enforceable. In Nepal, for the first time in the country's history, a case of a teacher applying corporal punishment to students was taken to court, citing the recently passed Children's Act that prohibits all corporal punishment of children. In the Philippines, Save the Children's advocacy work contributed significantly to the passage of the Republic Act 11148 or the First 1000 Days Law which ensures care for pregnant women and their child, from the start of the pregnancy to the child's first two years of life.

However, space for civil society continued to be uncertain in most Save the Children Finland programming countries (Myanmar, India and Bangladesh) that have repressed or obstructed (Philippines, Nepal) civil society space according to the CIVICUS monitor. In Nepal contradictory messages were coming out related to registration/approval

processes of international NGOs, the hardware vs software support ratio and reporting requirements. Despite this flux environment, Save the Children in Nepal was able to secure approvals for a five-year long 'general agreement' and a 'project agreement' with the government, ensuring our operation space in Nepal, at least for the coming years. Regarding limiting the freedom of expression, the situation is most concerning in **India**, which has recently been added to CIVICUS Monitor Watch List due to a rapid decline in fundamental democratic freedoms following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's re-election in May 2019. Serious concerns regarding the exercise of civic freedoms, such as continuous repressive laws and judicial harassment targeted at students and CSOs, have been expressed by CIVICUS, although these have not yet had any direct impact on Save the Children—supported activities in Dungapur.

Save the Children Philippines in 2019 – a snapshot

The annual volume of Save the Children in the Philippines was 38 million euros and it directly reached almost 150,000 beneficiaries and indirectly reached 1.4 million. In 2019 Save the Children Philippines transitioned into becoming an independent Associate Member of Save the Children. Save the Children Finland supported Save the Children Philippines in 2019 with 200,000 euros.

Photo: Nabin Maharjan / Save the Children



2019 was the first full year for which the landmark Children's Act 2075 was in effect in Nepal. The new legislation is paving the way to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of children in the country.

3. THE STRATEGIC FOCUS AND PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

3.1. PROGRAMME PROGRESS AND KEY LEARNINGS IN 2019

In 2019, an internal mid-term review (MTR) was carried out on seven Save the Children Finland projects¹³: five child-sensitive social protection (CSSP) projects in Somaliland, Zambia, the Philippines, Nepal and India and two CP projects in Burkina Faso and Somaliland. The review focused on effectiveness, relevance and scalability and the Save the Children Finland cross-cutting themes of gender sensitivity and child participation. A total of 905 stakeholders¹⁴ participated in the MTR, including beneficiaries, Save the Children and partner staff, authorities and service providers. For the CSSP programme the review focused on access, parenting practises and governmental SP programmes' child sensitivity.¹⁵ As per the review, progress seems to be quite steady and consistent: most improvements have been gained in the outcome of access to SP, while the outcome on child-sensitive government strategies and programmes has been the most challenging.¹⁶ Seventy percent of the projects considered the interventions to be either relevant or highly relevant, and almost 80% assessed the projects to be scalable. Key recommendations for the CSSP programme were to further strengthen awareness on SP and other services; to further build authorities' capacity to run SP schemes; to train more people to be parenting facilitators in order to ensure quality; and to further enhance cooperation with the government and other stakeholders on SP.

The MTR for CP projects in Burkina Faso and Somaliland confirmed that the projects were considered very relevant and scalable in both countries. Progress under the outcome on strengthening CP

systems has seen slower progress compared to the outcome on access to appropriate care,¹⁷ although under the CP systems, the outcome of children's improved capacity to protect themselves fared reasonably well. Although both projects reported improvement in CP service delivery capacity and in actual CP service delivery, the implementation of CP laws and policies in the Burkina Faso project is somewhat lagging behind. The positive effects achieved by the projects were also seen as proof of relevance in both countries; for example, there was improved capacity of the CP service providers and there were improvements in CP case management, such as significantly shorter processing times. In Somaliland the willingness of local authorities to carry on activities started by the project was also considered to confirm the relevance of the activities. Also, opportunities for scaling up have been identified across both outcomes, particularly regarding the parenting component, for which there is great demand from the beneficiaries' side. The recommendations for the CP projects were along similar lines as those for the CSSP projects: train more parenting facilitators to ensure quality, improve collaboration/coordination with the relevant authorities and further strengthen advocacy.

As for gender inclusion, the majority of the projects were assessed to have some elements of gender sensitivity while one project was assessed to be gender sensitive and one to be gender transformative. All projects fared well for gender equality considerations being included in the project activities, while low scores were most common for having sufficient technical and financial resources for gender equality and for project sustainability in terms of gender-transformative approaches. The key common

¹³ Six projects are funded through the Programme-based Support instrument

¹⁴ 361 women, 277 men, 151 girls, 116 boys

¹⁵ These focus areas refer to programme Outcomes 2,3 and 4.

¹⁶ Refer to Chapter 3.2. for more detailed data on the achievement.

¹⁷ Programme Outcome 5: community child protection systems are strengthened; Outcome 6: children have access to appropriate protection and care.

strategies to promote gender sensitivity were providing equal access to project activities, data disaggregation by sex and gender training. Challenges included the limited participation of men and boys, especially in parenting activities. Three areas of recommendations were shared by more than one project: developing strategies and/or documenting efforts to involve more men, disaggregating data by age in order to carry out an age- and gender-disaggregated analysis of data, and continuing gender training.

Child participation was assessed to be voluntary and respectful, and was most common during implementation and planning phases, while the weakest integration for child participation was during the monitoring and evaluation phases. The key recommendations for enhancing children's participation were to strengthen training on child participation, to enhance inclusiveness and to improve projects' complaints and feedback mechanisms. Individual projects have addressed the MTR recommendations in their management responses, while the programme-level recommendations will guide the development of the new Save the Children Finland global programme.

One of the key focus areas to improve the programme in 2019 was the strengthening of disability inclusion. The International Programme team staff was jointly trained by a Finnish disabled people's organisation, Abilis, and the new Save the Children Disability Inclusion Director in May, which was followed by two disability inclusion trainings in Somalia for staff and partners working in Save the Children Finland-funded projects. Utilisation of the Washington group questionnaire was also taken up, and several staff members participated in webinars in order to be able to better guide COs with the questionnaire. Although the questions are simple, asking the questions in the proper manner is more challenging. COs' capacity and understanding of disability inclusion and utilisation of the Washington group questions is still limited, which became evident when reviewing the responses of the questionnaires. To further strengthen disability inclusion in the current programme, as well as in the future programme, Save the Children Finland decided to start a strategic long-term co-operation with

Abilis. At the beginning of 2020, Save the Children Finland and Abilis signed a programmatic memorandum of understanding and a consultancy agreement to support the strengthening of the disability inclusion in the Save the Children Finland programme.

The development of the AskKids, digital, easy-to-use feedback and information solution, which will enable the more meaningful participation of children, continued in 2019. A desk study on the existing feedback tools and Save the Children staff and partners' experiences in using them was done in early 2019. Save the Children Finland also scoped the interest of possible corporate partners in adapting one of the existing tools for our purposes. As a result, Save the Children Finland started collaboration with Pajat Solutions Ltd, who modified an existing mobile data collection solution (PoiMapper) to include an audio- and voice-recording feature, in order to facilitate illiterate children using the feedback application. This early prototype was tested in Somalia/Somaliland and Burkina Faso with a small group of boys and girls aged 9–14, including IDP populations. The feedback of the children, staff and partners involved in the testing was positive and encouraging for further development of the application to make it more child friendly and easy to use. We will continue to design the digital solutions with Pajat Solutions in 2020, with the aim that the digital data gathered with the solution can be effectively analysed and visualised to help Save the Children steer management and plan its projects and services. In addition, the digital feedback solution will enable the more meaningful participation of children in what we do.

In 2019 Save the Children Finland increased its focus on protecting children in conflicts, as well as on education in emergencies (EiE) programming. The decision to direct 500,000 euros to the newly established Save the Children's Protecting Children in Conflict Pooled Fund¹⁸ significantly strengthened Save the Children's capacity to protect children in conflict.¹⁹ With increasing EiE needs on the ground, as well as improved funding possibilities from donors for EiE programming,²⁰ Save the Children Finland was also able to strengthen its education programming with two projects in Sudan and Burkina Faso.

¹⁸ More details on the results achieved through the fund, see Section 3.3.

¹⁹ Save the Children Finland's contribution to the fund in 2019 was 30% of the entire pooled fund.

²⁰ This is reflected in the Results Framework, which was updated towards the end of Q3 in 2019 to include EiE outcomes.

Extending programming to include EiE also meant a need to sign agreements with Save the Children Norway and Save the Children Sweden to gain joint technical expertise to support EiE projects. The strengthened Nordic collaboration is in line with Save the Children's vision of the effective utilisation

and sharing of the available expertise within the movement. In line with this vision, Save the Children Finland supported Save the Children Sweden with CP expertise in Zambia. In the future we could be looking at using joint technical expertise more between Nordic members.

3.2. CHILD POVERTY

FOCUS AREA: CSSP AND CHILD-SENSITIVE LIVELIHOODS

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

Save the Children Finland outcomes	Save the Children Finland indicators
1. Reduced child poverty in relation to nutrition, education and the reduction of child work	% children under five that are underweight % children involved in paid child work (the age category varies from country to country, depending on the local context) Drop-out rate among children (the age category varies from country to country, depending on the local context)
2. Social protection strategies and programmes are made child sensitive	Social protection policy and programme implementation endorse CSSP as a key approach to addressing the deprivation and vulnerability of children (each country has a specific indicator detailing the policies or programmes we are targeting)
3. Improved access to social protection programmes for deprived households and their children (including in emergencies)	The increase (as a percentage and number) in access to social protection for both the female and male caregivers of deprived children – including cash and in-kind transfers The increased use of transparency and accountability mechanisms for accessing social protection
4. Improved parenting and care-giving practice among targeted households	The 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	

Progress towards the outcomes

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

During the last three years, some impressive achievements have been made in the CSSP projects across Asia and Africa. With regard to impact on nutrition, there was a 13.4% reduction in underweight children in Nepal.²¹ As regards reduction in paid child work, progress can be seen in Somaliland/Somalia, India

and Zambia. The highest decrease was seen in Somaliland/Somalia where paid child work dropped by 17.2% and in India/Dungarpur where the reduction was 5.14%.²² In Zambia, there was a reduction from 30% of children involved in paid child work in 2017 to 21% at the end of 2019, however, the same indicator was recorded at 14% in the end of 2018, thereby suggesting an increase of 7 percentage points between 2018 and 2019. This can largely be attributed to the irregularity in the disbursement of the Social Cash Transfer (SCT) programme in Zambia in 2019, leading to children from some of the

²¹ From 37.6% to 24.2% in Nepal.

²² From 17.4% to 0.2% in Somalia and from 5.60% to 0.46% in India.

poorest and vulnerable HHs getting involved in paid work to fend for themselves and their families.

Percentage of children involved in paid child work (age category varies from country to country depending on the local context)	Baseline	2018	2019
Somalia	17%	1,2%	0,30%
Zambia	30%	14%	21%
India	5,6 %		0,5%

When it comes to education, the dropout rates reduced significantly and consistently from the baseline (7.86% reduction in Somaliland/Somalia, 4.6% reduction in Zambia and 8% reduction in India²³), achieving the targeted dropout rate in Somalia/Somaliland and India. Furthermore, in Somaliland/Somalia the enrolment rate increased by a massive 51%.²⁴ Only in Nepal were the results not as expected – the dropout rate stood at 11.7% at the end of 2019, a 0.7 percentage point increase from the baseline of 11% and notably higher than the 8.96% recorded in 2018. The lack of progress on this indicator in Nepal is likely to be a reflection in the shift in focus of the contents of the parenting programme. The initial plan was to add a parenting session on the importance of education. However, as the sessions are aimed at improving the development of children under five years of age, it was decided that this session should be dropped and that the focus should be on areas relevant to early childhood. Hence, there has been no input by the project aimed at reducing the dropout rate.

Drop-out rate among children (age category varies from country to country depending on the local context)	Baseline	2018	2019
Somalia	8%	2,36%	0,53%
Zambia	13,6%	13%	9%
India	12,6 %		4,6%

23 From 8.4% to 0.54% in Somalia; from 13.6% to 9% in Zambia; from 12.60% to 4.59 in India.

24 From 27% to 78%.

25 The food consumption score aggregates HH-level data on the diversity and frequency of food groups consumed over the previous seven days, which is then weighted according to the relative nutritional value of the consumed food groups.

26 The Coping Strategy Index is an indicator of a HH's food security, assessing the extent to which HHs use harmful coping strategies when they do not have enough food or enough money to buy food. The result is reported by a numeric score.

The humanitarian cash and voucher assistance (CVA) supported by Save the Children Finland in 2019 was mostly sector specific and focused on food security outcomes. In Baidoa Somalia, beneficiary HHs' access to and diversity of foods consumed improved during the project implementation. The percentage of HHs with an acceptable food consumption score²⁵ increased from 19% at baseline to 86%, measured in the post-distribution monitoring. In Elliri Sudan, the percentage of HHs with an acceptable food consumption score increased from 8% at baseline to 16% in the post-distribution monitoring. Similarly, the use of harmful coping strategies reduced, as demonstrated in the case of Baidoa where the average coping strategy index score²⁶ reduced from 38 at baseline to 14 in the post-distribution monitoring, indicating improved HH food security.

OUTCOME 2: Social protection strategies and programmes are made child sensitive

In Asia, there was substantial recognition of the CSSP parenting programme by different governments in addition to Save the Children being requested by different governments and multilateral organisations to engage in advancing SP programmes on the ground. A key achievement in Nepal was that several municipalities came forward and committed to pay regular remuneration of parenting facilitators, trained by Save the Children, to deliver the parenting programme for Child Grant beneficiary families. Similarly, in the Philippines one of the 17 regional governments incorporated the parenting programme, developed under the CSSP project, as part of the mandatory sessions to be undertaken by parents receiving the 4Ps. Save the Children was also requested to train the government field staff on the parenting programme in selected areas. In India, the Women and Child Development department in two districts of Rajasthan state offered its frontline workers to be trained on the CSSP parenting programme. This is a very encouraging achievement, especially from a scaling-up perspective, since the CSSP parenting programme will now be delivered by

government frontline staff as an integral part of the Palanhar Yojana ('Caregiver Scheme').

Save the Children has also been able to position itself well on a national level in relation to governmental SP development. In Nepal, Save the Children, in collaboration with UNICEF and the Department of National ID and Civil Registration, was involved in organising an orientation programme on the Universal Child Grant for local governments, reaching out to around 2000 local government employees and executives in four districts. Several issues relating to accessing SP and birth registration came up, which were further considered in a national-level workshop, chaired by the Director General from the Department of National ID and Civil Registration and attended by key staff from the concerned ministries, the National Planning Commission, UNICEF, the World Bank and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID). In the Philippines, the 4Ps were signed into an act during the reporting period. The Department of Social Welfare and Development also signed the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the 4Ps Act and Save the Children was one of the few NGOs invited to the consultations for providing inputs to develop the Implementing Rules and Regulations .

In Africa the progress has been more modest due to the limited number of existing SP programmes. However, in Somaliland/Somalia, Save the Children provided extensive support to drafting the 2019–2020 strategic plan of the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family (MESAF) and were successful in advocating for the need to develop a SP policy for the country. Additionally, in June 2019, a scoping study for the SP sector in Somaliland was conducted in partnership with the MESAF. The study focused on exploring poverty and vulnerability; the political and institutional arrangements; and the way forward for SP in Somaliland. It will contribute to the MESAF's strategic oversight on SP, as well as inform the drafting of the SP policy.

In Zambia, a technical round table meeting was organised by Save the Children in April 2019, involving SP stakeholders such as the World Bank, SIDA, WFP, UNICEF and national-level CSOs. Save the Children presented its CSSP model to improve child wellbeing and also facilitated the session on the

inconsistent disbursement of the SCT. The need to engage as a collective and advocate for regularisation of the SCT was emphasised, and Save the Children was encouraged to play a critical and pivotal role. In Burkina Faso, we successfully launched the CSSP pilot project with UNICEF and the National Council for Social Protection. Through the pilot, Save the Children is involved in developing the capacity of the National Council for Social Protection for CSSP, alongside providing technical assistance and hand holding support to national NGO partners implementing the project.

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

Most governments in Asia provide a number of SP programmes for poor and vulnerable groups. Although the programmes are often limited in terms of cash transfer size, they do constitute an important contribution to a poor HH's income. A key problem though is that many people, even if fulfilling the eligibility criteria, are unaware of their entitlements and the processes involved in gaining access.

Percentage of female and male caregivers of deprived children that access SP - including cash and in-kind transfers)	Baseline	2018	2019
Nepal	80%	84%	93%
India	60%	77%	83%

In 2017 (i.e. at baseline) the total number of people accessing government SP programmes in the programme areas in Asia was **8784**. By the end of 2019 this figure had increased more than threefold to **26,354**; out of these, 1028 were people with disabilities²⁷ who have gained access to government disability allowances.

In Nepal and India, where the access work has been evolving over several years, 93% and 83% of all people eligible in the project areas had been covered by the end of 2019. This constitutes a significant progress from 2017, when the figures were 79% in Nepal and 60% in India. The considerable progress in access is a result of capacitating local governments to keep track of eligible people, support them to procure the

27 41% female (women and girls)

documents that are required, help them through the application process and a result of increasing the awareness of people to the entitlements. In Nepal, the World Bank and the national government are considering scaling up the above described approach developed by Save the Children to additional areas of the country. In the Philippines, the regional government is requesting Save the Children to train additional local governments on the strategies adopted beyond the project area.

In Africa, unlike Asia, there are not many government-led SP programmes available. Therefore, the approach being adopted is a mix of (i) helping poor and vulnerable HHs secure access to the government-funded SP programmes (where available), with a similar approach to that used in Asia, and (ii) piloting long-term direct cash transfer programmes as a means to engage and galvanise governments to invest in SP. In 2019, **6525** HHs were reached with direct cash transfers (3547 HHs through humanitarian projects and 2979 HHs through CSSP development projects) in Somalia, Burkina Faso, Sudan and Iraq. Out of these, 460 HHs with family members with disabilities were supported in Baidoa Somalia, including 105 HHs with children with disabilities. In Zambia, no new enrolment on the SCT took place and only two of the six mandated annual transfers were disbursed by the government.

All targets regarding an increase in access to SP are on track or have been overachieved. The only anomaly is Zambia where the context has changed given the corruption scandal in the SCT programme, the shrinking fiscal space and the financial distress being faced by the government. One of the key assumptions in the CSSP project in Zambia was that the government would maintain its ambition to roll out SCT across all provinces/districts, which does not hold currently. The focus in the project, therefore, has been revised to strongly advocate for making SCT payments regular and consistent. In Somalia, the direct cash transfer to 300 HHs (the Child Grant) in 2017 was developed with the MESAF (erstwhile, the Ministry of Employment, Social and Family Affairs) based on the understanding that the MESAF would take the child grant forward as a government-owned SP scheme. However, during the MTR

in 2019, the Director of the Social Affairs Department informed that the MESAF does not have the required resources to finance and run the child grant in the immediate future and has requested an extension in order not to lose the momentum and progress made.

Save the Children's intensive work on promoting the uptake of **transparency and accountability** measures to access SP in Nepal and India also produced substantial results in 2019. In Nepal, by the end of 2019, 45 municipalities were regularly using instruments for promoting transparency (e.g. sharing a list of beneficiaries) against 9 municipalities in 2017. Likewise, the regular use of accountability measures (public hearings, social audits) increased from 6 municipalities to 26 municipalities in 2019. In India, the use of statutory accountability measures (the Right to Information Act, the Public Services Guarantee Act) to avail programmes, push for pending payments or put up other grievances increased from 252 registered cases in 2017 to 901 in 2019. All demands/complaints put forward were resolved.

In Africa, rigorous work was undertaken to promote transparency and accountability mechanisms²⁸ in all three CSSP programming countries with very encouraging results. The use of accountability mechanisms resulted in improved services at the health centres and schools in all three CSSP intervention IDP camps in Somaliland. In Burkina Faso, seven citizen monitoring committees were established across two provinces which regularly used instruments to promote transparency with respect to allocated budgets and provisions for public services. Likewise, social accountability tools were also regularly used in five municipalities to get relevant service providers to address public grievances. In Zambia, comprehensive guidance on how to establish transparency and accountability mechanisms was developed and two public hearings were undertaken.

Although transparency and accountability mechanisms have been established in all CSSP projects and are functioning effectively, more effort and time are needed to ensure that the measures developed continue to be used as an integral part of the SP system beyond the projects.

²⁸ Community score cards, public hearings, interface meetings.

OUTCOME 4: Improved parenting and caregiving practices among targeted households

A parenting programme has been introduced as a key approach to promote CSSP in all project locations across Africa and Asia. The programme is based on a common set of sessions focusing on enhancing the skills of parents/caregivers in regard to supporting the emotional, social and cognitive development of children and improving family budgeting practices. Additional thematic sessions are added based on the objectives of the SP programme (e.g. related to nutrition, GE, child labour or education).

The pre- and post-assessments to track down the behavioural change of caregivers covered a total of **381** parents/caregivers and **186** children in the intervention areas and an equivalent number in the control areas. Both quantitative and qualitative results

suggest a positive trend in behavioural change, as well as a nascent impact on children. The post-assessment²⁹ showed that parents/caregivers engaged and communicated more with their children, felt more positive towards their children and reduced harsh disciplining methods.³⁰ The findings were supported through qualitative data. In the Philippines and India, there was also a slight increase in the well-being scores of children (whose parents took part in the sessions) at the post-assessment stage as opposed to those in the control area.

Percentage of supported caregivers that demonstrate improved parenting and caregiving attitudes and practises*	Baseline	2018	2019
Nepal	63%	84%	93%
Philippines	71%	-	78%
India	16%	-	46%

²⁹ That is, 4–5 months after the sessions were delivered.

³⁰ The PICCOLO tool was used to measure changes in parent/caregiver behaviour towards their child(ren), focusing on how responsive the caregiver is towards the child, how much affection is shown to the child and whether the caregiver encourages the child and takes opportunities to teach new things while they communicate.



Photo: Ganga Pyakurel / Save the Children.

The well-being of eight-year-old Manika (to the left) and her siblings have improved in many ways through the social protection project and its incorporated parenting and child sensitivity package implemented in Nepal.



Photo: Ganga Pyakurel / Save the Children

Four-year-old Soniya is determined to go to school. Soniya has already been enrolled in a preparatory class by her mother. One of the specific objectives of the CSSP project in Nepal is to increase the school attendance of children.

In Africa, the change in caregiver behaviour and the impact on the development of children has not yet been followed up with a post-assessment since it is proposed to be undertaken in Somaliland/Somalia during 2020 and in Zambia during 2021. However, in Baidoa Somalia, where pregnant and lactating women were specifically targeted for CVA and all CVA beneficiary HHs were provided with infant and young child feeding (IYCF) sensitisation, we found out that before the IYCF sensitisation, 37% of women only breastfed their children aged under six months five times a day. After the IYCF sessions, 61% breastfed their children more than six times a day. After the IYCF sessions, 73% of the respondents provided complementary foods to their children aged 6–24 months, compared to only half at baseline. In Baidoa, the impacts of CVA on children's wellbeing were also maximised by integrating CVA with various CP activities, such as parenting without violence (PwV) and case management.

The parenting sessions were carried out with groups of parents/caregivers and delivered by trained and certified facilitators. In 2019 a total of **2256** parents/caregivers took part of the parenting programme in Asia and **446** in Africa. While in Asia the parenting packages for all the CSSP intervention countries have been finalised, in Africa they will be finalised in 2020.

Key strategies for sustainability

The key strategy towards sustainability is the strong focus on training government staff, elected representatives and community-based institutions in regard to improving access to SP. The training continued across all projects with a focus on beneficiary registration, record keeping and database management and the requisite eligibility documents. The purpose of this capacity building is to enhance the skills of the relevant actors to sustain these key processes beyond the projects. (With regard to

transparency and accountability mechanisms, see Outcome 3.)

A pertinent example for sustainability is the 4Ps in the Philippines. A key feature enhancing the uptake of the parenting programme in the CSSP project is close engagement with the regional government and staff responsible for implementing the 4Ps. One of the 17 regional governments incorporated the parenting programme, developed under the CSSP project as part of the mandatory sessions to be undertaken by parents receiving the 4Ps. Save the Children has also been requested to train the government field staff on the parenting programme in selected areas. The aim is to get more agreements with regional governments on the uptake of the parenting programme as part of the 4Ps. In addition to enforcing sustainability, this strategy also enforces scalability.

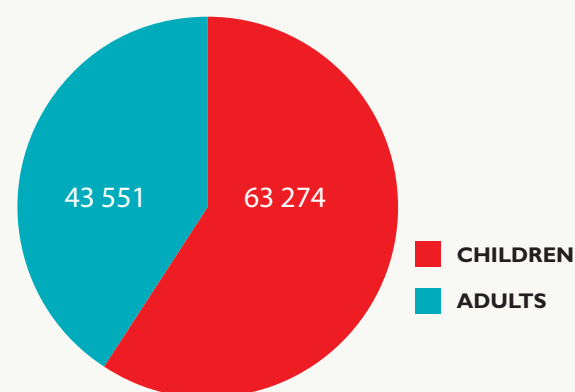
Thematic development

In 2019 Save the Children Finland was represented in the Save the Children International CSSP technical working group, as well as in the Cash and Markets Humanitarian Technical Working Group. As part of these groups, Save the Children Finland was actively engaged in the development of Save the Children International's CSSP technical expertise competency framework which sets out the skills required for different levels of Save the Children International technical staff. An important achievement for Save the Children Finland was that the Save the Children International Child Poverty Global Theme agreed that, within the SP interventions, there is a need for a customised parenting programme. The grassroots knowledge and intensive investment in the area of parenting and corresponding results of Save the Children Finland paved way for this recognition. In the Humanitarian Technical Working Group, Save the Children Finland was involved in improving the cash preparedness, speed of delivery and operational support of CVA.

Save the Children Finland also contributed to the development of a global working arrangement on CSSP with UNICEF, focusing on selected countries across Asia and Africa in order to pursue a common advocacy agenda to advance CSSP nationally.

To enable assessment of impact on caregiver behaviour and the development of children, a set of monitoring tools were tested in 2018. Based on experiences gained in 2018, the tools were slightly revised in 2019 and applied to new parent/child cohorts in all CSSP projects in Asia. In addition to the parenting guides developed, the parenting package includes a set of tools to support and monitor the facilitators who deliver the sessions in the field. Save the Children Finland also introduced a set of qualitative data collection instruments, based on observation, to better understand the nuances of change in caregiver behaviour towards children as a complement to the quantitative/survey tool. The tools will be further fine-tuned based on the experiences from 2019 and finalised in 2020.

DIRECT REACH THROUGH CSSP/CASH AND VOUCHER PROGRAMMING



In 2019, Save the Children Finland's project countries invested in CVA preparedness with the support from Save the Children Finland in different ways: the Somalia CO revised their CVA standard operating procedures and in Burkina Faso the necessary preparations and contracting were completed in order to start mobile cash transfers in January 2020. Save the Children Finland also supported the CVA lessons learned workshop in Khartoum that was organised at the end of the Sudan CO's first CVA project. The project experienced significant delays due to the Sudan liquidity crisis which eventually prompted a change from cash to vouchers as a delivery mechanism. The workshop brought together project staff from the Save the Children International CO and field office, partner organisations and the cash working group to exchange experiences, learn and document lessons learned.

3.3. CHILD PROTECTION

FOCUS AREA: Child Protection	
SAVE THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL OUTCOME: All children are protected through a strong CP system, integrating both formal and informal components	
Save the Children Finland outcomes	Save the Children Finland 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	<p>The number of targeted CP service providers/interventions that have improved their quality of service in a 12-month period</p> <p>The perceptions of girls/boys of the quality and accessibility of the CP services available or provided in their communities</p>
6. Children, including those on the move, have (improved) access to appropriate family-based support, protection and care	The percentage of supported caregivers that demonstrate improved parenting and caregiving attitudes and practices has increased
The outcomes are linked to UNCRC Articles 19 and 22	

PROGRESS TOWARDS THIS OUTCOME

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

Annual indicator data in regard to the quality of service shows that the supported service providers in Burkina Faso, Somaliland and Zambia are progressing well and it looks promising that the set of targets will be achieved by the end of the programme period. While during the baseline only two formal service providers out of a total of 21 assessed service providers met the quality standards (9.5%), 2019 data shows that 73.3% of the 30 service providers assessed had already reached 'level green' by the end of 2019.³¹ The number of both formal and informal service providers being supported (and therefore also assessed on service provision) has also increased during the years.

Although there is clear improvement, certain areas in quality of service provision are still below

standard. In Somaliland the lowest scores are in the areas of ensuring privacy, child participation and child safeguarding. In Zambia child participation is also a challenge and some service providers need to improve in record keeping and in efficiency. In Burkina Faso, while the capacities for delivering case management have considerably increased, training of social workforce, including documentation and confidentiality, needs to improve in order to reach the green level. Both formal and informal service providers in all our target countries need support in ensuring the better inclusion of children with disabilities. Although service providers have a basic understanding of inclusion, they do not have the skills needed to be inclusive and to address stigma in regard to disability.

Percentage of targeted CP service providers / interventions that have improved their quality of service in a 12-month period	Baseline	2018	2019
Somalia	15%	61%	82%
Burkina Faso	0%		40%

³¹ Overall figure for all three countries. Please see results framework for individual indicator data

There was a 63.8% improvement in meeting the quality standards for CP service providers.

There is also good progress in achieving the target that girls and boys are able to identify CP service providers: in all our target countries, both girls and boys confirmed that they know Save the Children, its partner organisations and local community CP structures. This is important progress. Children (e.g. in Somaliland) also confirmed that Child Welfare Committees are now able to better involve children. In Zambia representatives from child rights committees are regularly invited to community CP committees to share their views and concerns. However, more focus needs to be placed on ensuring that children feel that they are being listened to and taken seriously, and therefore have enough confidence to approach service providers, even alone or with a peer if needed. More support is also needed for vulnerable children to access services. Some children specifically mentioned that children with disabilities are not accessing services at all. Out-of-school children in Zambia knew less services and felt less confident in accessing the services they knew.

The key approach to strengthening community-based CP systems in 2019 was building the capacity of government staff and community CP committees in regard to case management and referrals. Case management was developed as a tool to ensure that children and their families are able to benefit from the full range of protective services and support. It helps caseworkers to systematically navigate, it makes referrals, it provides direct support and it coordinates services for a child and her or his family. 'Steps to Protect' is Save the Children's common approach in case management, and its rollout started in Burkina Faso and in Somalia/Somaliland in 2019. In Burkina Faso Save the Children supported the Ministry of Social Affairs in carrying out an evaluation of its case management system and current practices. This quality assessment enabled all CP stakeholders in Burkina Faso to coordinate their efforts and pool their resources to support key priorities for improving the case management system. In Somalia/Somaliland a similar assessment was carried out by

Save the Children. Staff and partners have also been trained, and action plans to improve the system have been developed in Somalia/Somaliland. All work is done in close collaboration with the government and the other key stakeholders (like UNICEF).

Save the Children Finland and its partners provided case management support to 645 children.³²

The biggest challenge in case management is the deficit in reaching sensitive and critical CP cases, like sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases, due to the poor reporting of SGBV cases and due to the limited capacity of community CP committees to handle such cases and refer the parties to adequate services. To overcome this challenge, Save the Children Finland will organise specific SGBV training for staff and partners on the identification and referrals of SGBV cases in 2020. Through the trainings we will build in-depth capacity for services to provide a quality case management response for SGBV cases. We will also ensure that referral pathways will be updated to include clear guidance on how and where community CP committees can refer SGBV cases.

When no government CP services are easily accessible, Save the Children has set up child-friendly spaces (CFSs) and family-friendly centres. Save the Children Finland supported 27 CFSs in Burkina Faso, Somalia and Yemen and two family-friendly centres. These have provided access for over 7000 children³³ to structured play and recreational activities and psychosocial support in a safe, child-friendly and supervised environment, which provides opportunities for vulnerable children to learn, socialise, express themselves, and build self-esteem and resilience. In CFSs, children have been provided with knowledge on hygiene and how to protect themselves from CP risks like sexual abuse. Facilitators and animators³⁴ also received training in psychological first aid. They are able to recognise the symptoms of children in distress, provide them with psychological first aid and refer the most serious cases.

³² 330 girls, 315 boys.

³³ 51% girls.

³⁴ 194 facilitators and animators were trained, out of which 50% were female.

The other key strategy has been to support CP networks at national and local levels in Somalia/Somaliland, Zambia and Burkina Faso to improve coordination of the CP response and referral services and to improve the implementation of CP laws and policies. In humanitarian settings, we are active members in the Child Protection Area of Responsibility and co-chair meetings in Somalia and Burkina Faso. Together with our partners, Save the Children facilitated 19 case-conferencing meetings and 40 CP coordination meetings at local level. These meetings are, in most cases, chaired by relevant government ministries.

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

In Burkina Faso the percentage of parents/caregivers demonstrating improved CP attitudes and behaviour increased to 94% from 61% at the baseline. At the same time, the percentage of target communities in Burkina Faso that perceive the worst forms of child labour negatively increased from 74% at the baseline to 99%. In Somaliland, on the other hand, the findings

show a considerable improvement in awareness with over 88% of the surveyed community members now reporting having reacted to child abuses compared to 19% at baseline.

In Somaliland it was further mentioned that parents (mainly mothers) are now giving more time to their children and are allowing children to participate more in HH decisions. Also, while girls have increasingly improved their confidence, boys were assessed to be increasingly respectful and less violent towards others. In the same way, in Burkina Faso, parents mentioned that there was more harmony within the HH and more respectful communication between all members of the family.

In Somaliland, at baseline, 52% of the female respondents and 56% of the male respondents reported not having hit their children with a hard object in the last month. At the end line, the percentage had increased to 73% for female participants and 75% for male participants. Burkina Faso also reported that there has been a reduction in the cases of the worst forms of child labour, early marriages of girls and rural migration of boys and girls. This was confirmed by



Photo: Noora Nasser / Save the Children.

After being displaced by the conflict in Yemen, 14-year-old Jaber (name changed) dropped out of school. The boy could continue his education after his family was admitted to a cash transfer programme of Save the Children.

the accounts of parents and children during MTR focus group discussions.

“We no longer let girls to be married early.”
(parent, Burkina Faso)

“My family now understands the consequences of female genital mutilation and no family members will be cut in the future.”
(child, Burkina Faso)

The biggest challenge with parenting work so far has been ensuring the engagement of fathers/male³⁵ caregivers in positive parenting group sessions. Lots of discussions have been held in all of our target countries among staff, community mentors and facilitators on how to improve male engagement. Both in Zambia and in Somaliland we will have separate parenting groups for new/expecting mothers and fathers. In Zambia, Save the Children and its partners' staff were trained by Sonke Gender Justice (a South African-based NGO) in the 'Men Engage' approach. It is however important to note that, for example, in Somaliland single mothers prefer to only have sessions with mothers/female caregivers, so the participation of fathers/male caregivers is not even always desired. In Somalia/Somaliland formative research was carried out in 2019 on caregiving practices and it revealed that fathers/male caregivers were absent from home at least for 90% of their time. The mothers were said to collude with the Quranic teachers in administering the most severe forms of corporal punishment on the children (often very young children) attending Quranic schools. Therefore, the project will explore new ways to work even more with religious leaders on positive parenting.

While the initial findings are positive, more attention will be paid in the remaining two years to further improve existing monitoring and evaluation tools and in conducting impact studies and learning events in addition to pre- and post-tests to strengthen the

evidence building on the effectiveness of the PwV common approach. At the same time, more research will be done to understand local parenting and caregiving practices in order to inform the adaptation and contextualisation of the PwV toolkit and sessions guidance even further. The findings of the formative research in Somalia/Somaliland will be used for advocacy efforts with the government and other stakeholders, as well as for contextualisation of the toolkit.

Save the Children Finland supported the Save the Children International Protecting Children in Conflict (PCIC) Pooled Fund with 500,000 euros in 2019. The fund was established in 2019 to commemorate Save the Children's hundredth anniversary and launched the movement's commitment to protect children in conflict. The fund, worth 1.7 million euros in 2019, has been a vital support to increase Save the Children's capacity to protect children in conflict. With the support of the PCIC Pooled Fund, Save the Children has conducted studies and consulted children on how the changing dynamics of conflict have affected them directly; worked with children and on their behalf to advocate for change in laws, policies and practice; and promoted accountability for violations committed. In 2019 funding was allocated to 16 COs operating in the context of armed conflict. Allocations were made with the intention of increasing CO capacity and competencies; generating evidence and learning; and seeding and strengthening programme, advocacy and campaign interventions.

Key strategies for sustainability

In 2019, we reinforced our key strategies in order to build stronger, sustainable CP systems. First of all, we invested in children and community participation to increase understanding of violence against children and ownership of the CP system to improve accessibility for the most deprived and marginalised children. It is important to have a real ownership of the population to ensure violence against children is no longer tolerated and that cases are reported.

Our second strategy revolves around the partnership with ministries, and its decentralised and deconcentrated entities in order to ensure our work is built into national systems and is aligned with the key priorities of governments. In this way, our projects

³⁵ Most of the participants (71.3%) have been mothers/female caregivers.

Photo: Kurdo Hasan / Save the Children



Hanin and Huda (names changed) live in Mosul, Iraq. They benefitted extensively from Save the Children’s child protection project which provides improved livelihoods and access to food and education.

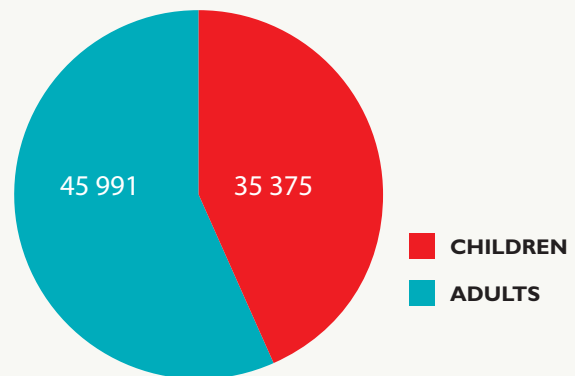
in Burkina Faso had built partnerships with *directions provinciales* at the regional level over the past five years. In 2019, the CO strengthened its partnership with the state by developing a strategic partnership with the ministry aiming to jointly design and monitor the progress of the CP programme. In Somaliland Save the Children has an memorandum of understanding with the MESAF and we work closely towards gaining approval for and improved implementation of CP laws and policies. In Berbera town in Somaliland, our close collaboration with the local government has been a success and the local government has had a separate budget for children for the past three years. In Zambia our work with children’s groups is closely coordinated with the Ministry of General Education and our support to community and district CP structures is spearheaded by the Department of Social Welfare in the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services who, for example, chair the District Child Protection Committee meetings.

36 325 female and 224 male

37 The CA training structure has three levels: the Gold Course = enables one to be a facilitator of courses; the Silver Course = provides the knowledge to implement the CA; and the bronze level = basic knowledge of the CA.

Finally, we strongly invested in the capacity building of social workforces and para-social workforces, this is to say, in the capacity building of both national and civil society partners. Our capacity building looked at improving organisational settings as well as technical capacities. In 2019, we built the technical capacities of 549³⁶ members of the CP committees of 35 communities from Burkina Faso, Somalia/Somaliland, Zambia and Yemen. In Somaliland, we are collaborating with two universities, training social workers and providing placements for social worker students in Save the Children projects.

DIRECT REACH THROUGH CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMMING



Thematic development

In 2019 Save the Children Finland was represented in the Save the Children International Child Protection Systems Task Group and Community-Based Child Protection Working Group. As part of these groups, Save the Children Finland advisors were among the first within the movement to be trained as facilitators³⁷ for the Save the Children common approaches and Steps to Protect. By completing the ‘Gold Course’ in Save the Children’s common approaches (CAs), Save the Children Finland advisors will lead the adaptation of these CAs in multiple countries and in both developmental and humanitarian contexts; design, adapt and deliver capacity building for staff and partners; provide ongoing mentoring and coaching support to staff implementing CAs on the ground; identify and create linkages with other sectors; and champion the CAs in the whole organisation.

3.4. CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE

FOCUS AREA: Child Rights Governance	
SAVE THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL OUTCOME: Improved accountability for the rights of the most deprived children	
Save the Children Finland outcome	Save the Children Finland indicators
7. Increased interest and engagement in child rights by private companies	The 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	

PROGRESS TOWARDS THIS OUTCOME

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

In child rights governance (CRG) Save the Children Finland has prioritised building partnerships with the private sector. Child Rights & Business Principles – published by Save the Children, UNICEF and Global Compact in 2012 – serves as the basis for this work. The systematic approach adopted with companies paid off in 2019. Save the Children Finland was able to increase the amount of active corporate partnerships contributing to child rights from five to seven, and through our new partners we also got a chance to explore new funding instruments. One key new partnership established in 2019 is the three-year agreement with Valmet. Valmet will support CSSP in Dungarpur, India, for three years (2020–2022). As CSSP is the key strategic focus area of Save the Children Finland, it is important for us to also have corporate partners supporting this focus area. Our long-term partner Stora Enso also made an important funding contribution for our international and domestic programming in 2019. Previously, during the years 2014–2016, we have had extensive child rights and business cooperation with them, and we hope to continue the collaboration also in that field in the near future.

At the end of 2019 Save the Children Finland had seven active corporate partnerships.

Our collaboration with Business Finland continued in 2019, with our main achievement being a joint co-creation workshop ‘Innovation for Development and Crisis’, organised as a part of Nairobi Innovation Week in June. Over 60 participants – including more than 20 Finnish start-ups and other businesses, as well as several thematic professionals from Save the Children Kenya and Somalia COs – joined the event. Two concrete outcomes from Nairobi Innovation Week were our collaborations with Finnish education company, HUIPPU Education, in Nepal and with a wind power company, Single Wing, in Kenya, which were both started during the latter half of 2019. On top of this, we were able to open serious discussions on collaboration with several big Finnish companies.

The year 2019 was the last full year of our five-year partnership with Nokia³⁸ in Myanmar. Over those years, Nokia supported Save the Children’s work in the communities of three townships in order to improve early learning and development opportunities for the most marginalised children. As a part of the partnership, Save the Children also reviewed Nokia’s policies, processes and guidelines related to child rights against the ten principles of the Children’s Rights and Business Principles.

Advocacy on child rights and business is closely linked with building partnerships with the private sector. The key part of this is raising the awareness of companies about the child rights impacts of businesses. The key achievement in 2019 was that the human rights due diligence law was included into the Finnish government programme. This was made

³⁸ The partnership with Nokia will end in in May 2020.



Photo: Save the Children

Co-creation for a better future for the children. Multi-sectoral collaboration between Finnish and Kenyan businesses and Save the Children was initiated during the Nairobi Innovation Week.

possible by the strong multi-stakeholder campaign that Save the Children was part of, called Ykkösketjuun. The campaign was exceptional because it included not only NGOs and trade unions but also dozens of private companies. We have shared learnings with Save the Children offices in other countries as similar campaigns are in the making in several European countries.

Save the Children Finland also participated in the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, a Finnish EU presidency event on Business and Human Rights, a Global Compact Nordic Event 2019 in Helsinki and it has commented on the human rights policies of Finnfund and Finnvera to ensure that the child rights perspective is included. Our director for international programme, Anne Haaranen, also renewed her place in the board of Finnish FIBS.³⁹

Key thematic learnings

During the past two years, Save the Children Finland's approach to collaboration with companies has evolved. We have noticed that when our offering related to child rights and business involves a flexible approach, encompassing different thematic areas, geographical locations and possible activities, we have more opportunities to find common ground with the private sector and have more chances to

develop a strategic approach that also matches the needs of potential partners. After several meetings and discussions, we have also learned to leverage the power of Save the Children's global organisation to find opportunities to work with child rights for Finnish businesses, including locations where Save the Children Finland does not have active projects. This has helped us to move conversations and cooperation forward with several companies.

The key challenge when building partnerships with a strong sustainability focus is long lead times. This means there is a need to initiate many collaborations at the same time and it is difficult to plan which one will move forward and when. We have experienced waiting times as long as several years. This requires good and timely coordination and communication, not only with the potential partner but also with the COs and other member organisations when they are involved in these partnerships.

Engagement with the private sector on child rights and business has also opened our work towards development innovations. Especially engagement with smaller companies interested in developing markets has positively pushed us down this route. In the long term, these new connections will hopefully also improve the use of innovative solutions in our own programming.

3.5 OTHER THEMATIC AREAS: EDUCATION, AND HEALTH AND NUTRITION⁴⁰

3.5.1. EDUCATION

FOCUS AREA: Early childhood care and education & basic education	
Save the Children International / Save the Children Finland outcome	Save the Children International / Save the Children Finland indicator
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	The positive percentage change in early child development outcomes over a project cycle
9. No child's learning stops because they are caught up in a crisis (this outcome was added to the Save the Children Finland results frame in order to accommodate the new programming area of Education in Emergencies)	# of children enrolled to education through Education in Emergencies programming.
The outcome is linked to UNCRC Article 28	

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 Myanmar⁴¹ Save the Children continued to provide children in some of the most marginalised ethno-linguistic townships in Bago region and conflict-affected Northern Shan with a sound foundation to their early learning and continued to support transitions to pre-primary and primary education. With a focus on emergent literacy and mathematics, we delivered pre-training and end training for early childhood care and education (ECCD) caregivers and kindergarten teachers in order to equip them with professional skills, such as a literacy boost, inclusive education, positive discipline and peer coaching. Capacity building for ECCD management committees was done on topics such as developing community action plans, book-keeping for revolving funds and disaster risk reduction (DRR). Community

awareness-raising activities on the importance of child development and ECCD were also conducted. In total, 165 village libraries were strengthened to enhance literacy skills to support children's learning. As a result of these activities, 20,785 children benefitted through improved access to and quality of ECCD.

Over 20,000 children are benefiting from ECCD support in Myanmar.

The ECCD continued data collection via a mobile application produced in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare in Myanmar in order to track progress and address the urgent needs of ECCD and alternative parenting programmes. A mobile application developed at the end of the first project phase with the support of Nokia is now in use in 21 townships and in 633 ECCD centres and makes an important contribution to government resource allocation for ECCD by providing additional and more accurate data.

⁴⁰ The thematic areas of education, and health and nutrition were funded through DEVCO/ECHO and corporates.

⁴¹ A project funded by Nokia

OUTCOME 9: No child's learning stops because they are caught up in crises.

In 2019 Save the Children Finland largely extended its education programming to EiE work with support from ECHO. Three EiE projects were implemented in Burkina Faso, Sudan and Bangladesh, supporting quality education for over 30,500 children⁴² caught up in crises.

In the Sahel region of **Burkina Faso**, jihadists have attacked schools, forced teachers into hiding and convinced many parents that their children are better off staying at home. As schools close, thousands of children have become out-of-school children, vulnerable to exploitation, child labour and recruitment to armed groups. Where formal education is not possible, Save the Children is offering alternative forms of education, adapted to the context, by

supporting communities to establish non-formal learning centres⁴³ operated in local languages. In a country where the language of education is normally French, the use of local languages protects those providing the education as well as the pupils. Learning centres also provide children with psychosocial support, case management and referral to other services.

30,500 children living in conflict areas gained access to quality education in 2019 with the support from Save the Children Finland.

In **Sudan**, Save the Children implemented an EiE project in the conflict-affected areas of Central Darfur, where some of the supported schools are located

⁴² Out of which, 55% were girls.

⁴³ 5234 (2698 girls, 2626 boys) children have enrolled for the non-formal education services in the implementation communes.



Photo: Kristiana Marton / Save the Children.

'I am happiest when I am at the learning centre. I have so many friends there and I enjoy learning new things', says 13-year-old Hasina (name changed). Save the Children supports Rohingya children to continue their education in the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

in the villages under the control of rebels. Save the Children was able to indirectly reach and provide assistance and services to the targeted schools and managed the action from a distance through community leaders and schools' head teachers. Through supporting 35 basic schools, the project provided access to quality and protective learning opportunities for 17,168 school children⁴⁴ enrolled in formal education and retained them in school up to the end of the school year. An additional 6,900 out-of-school children⁴⁵ rejoined school as a result of the awareness campaign on the importance of education that was conducted by Save the Children. Save the Children also provided teachers with trainings to improve their capacity and skills related to providing quality learning and a safe learning environment for the children.

In **Bangladesh**, to address the critical educational needs of Rohingya refugee children, Save the Children improved access to safe, protective and age-appropriate learning opportunities for Rohingya pre-primary children and adolescent girls aged 12–14 living in camps in Cox's Bazar. Through the provision of non-formal alternative learning activities, conducted in homes following Save the Children's home-based learning programme, Save the Children established and equipped 50 home-based learning spaces in three camps that currently have 1200 students enrolled⁴⁶ and Save the Children trained 75 female facilitators. Save the Children has also engaged the parents/caregivers of children attending the home-based learning programme to support children's learning and formed 25 community education committees in order to deliver quality, safe education for the most vulnerable Rohingya children.

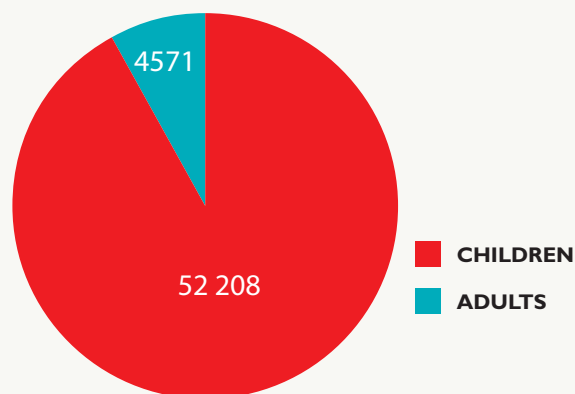
Key strategies for sustainability

In **Myanmar** Save the Children has focused on ensuring the self-sustainability and quality of the community-managed ECCD centres. The communities have been prepared and trained to ensure continuous local funding for the centres, to keep track of salary payments and to follow up on pupil enrolment. The ECCD management committees are also prepared to help the communities to manage the ECCD centres in the future. In 2020, Save the

Children will hand over full management of the ECCD centres to the local communities. Strong ECCD network groups are essential for the centres to operate independently. The groups are composed of local leaders, caregivers and ECCD management committee representatives, and at the national level, these groups have recently been federated and registered as a CSO which will continue its work even after the Save the Children projects have ended. Over the years Save the Children has supported communities to establish 801 ECCD centres and 230 alternative parenting education groups for children in 12 states and regions, reaching 127,588 children. Eighty-nine percent of these centres and groups continued beyond Save the Children's implementation period.

Also, in a conflict situation it is important to partner with local education authorities whenever possible in order to ensure sustainability and acceptance from local communities. In Sudan Save the Children has provided training to local authorities and parent-teacher associations in order to build local capacities and ensure that local communities are better able to respond to and recover from future conflict. The project closely aligns with existing longer-term education initiatives and directly feeds into national registration, school financing and handover processes. In doing so, the project builds on local and national capacity and integrates sustainability measures from the onset, mitigating dependency and recognising local authorities as the primary duty bearer of education provision.

DIRECT REACH THROUGH EDUCATION PROGRAMMING



⁴⁴ 9101 girls, 8059 boys

⁴⁵ 4140 girls, 8059 boys

⁴⁶ 911 girls, 289 boys

3.5.2 HEALTH AND NUTRITION

FOCUS AREA: Health and nutrition	
Save the Children International / Save the Children Finland outcome	Save the Children International / Save the Children Finland indicator
10. Children under five have improved access to preventive and curative health and nutrition services related to acute malnutrition, pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria	<p>The number and percentage of children under five with severe acute malnutrition who received effective treatment</p> <p>The number of children under five who receive health and nutrition services</p> <p>The number and percentage of HHs provided with improved access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities</p>
The outcome is linked to UNCRC Article 24	

PROGRESS TOWARDS THIS OUTCOME

OUTCOME 10: Children under five have improved access to preventive and curative health and nutrition services related to acute malnutrition, pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria

In Zambia, the end line results at the end of the EC2SIGN project⁴⁷ show that the percentage of underweight (weight for age) children aged 6 to 59 months significantly reduced from 11% at baseline in 2017 to 6.3% at end line among the target group. This was achieved through training on recommended child feeding practices, emphasising the importance of iron and folic acid supplementation and diverse diets during pregnancy. In Burkina Faso⁴⁸ 3,793 lactating or pregnant women received health and nutrition services in the form of GASPA (IYCF Practice Learning and Monitoring Groups), and in Sudan, a total of 2,267 children under five were admitted for treatment with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in 2019. Additionally, 4,718 children under five received treatment for moderate acute malnutrition.

Save the Children supported health services in Sudan by, for example, providing essential lifesaving drugs in 24 health facilities. Six rounds of mobile vaccination campaigns were conducted in the targeted

localities. A total of 6,994 children below one year of age received all antigens through static, outreach and mobile vaccination services. Additionally, 6,054 pregnant women attended two antenatal care visits and a total of 3,284 deliveries were attended by skilled health personnel.

Regarding WASH, in Zambia there was a 17% increase in the number of HHs using boreholes as a water source for drinking,⁴⁹ which in turn contributed to the reduction of diarrhoea cases from 12% in 2017 to 9%⁵⁰ in 2019. Also in Sudan, the work for improving the WASH situation continued in 2019. While no exact data on the number of HHs with improved access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation exists, various activities were undertaken to promote improvement in these areas. Hand washing facilities were provided to 20 schools. Two gender-sensitive latrines were constructed and used by 469 school children. Save the Children distributed 1372 clean delivery kits, including a bar of soap for washing hands, to pregnant women.

Key strategies for sustainability

The key to success with health and nutrition interventions in Zambia was the integrated multi-sectoral approach which brought together government line ministries and various partners (both at district and

⁴⁷ A DEVCO-funded project running from 2017 to 2019.

⁴⁸ A UNICEF-funded project running from October 2019 to December 2020.

⁴⁹ From 31% at baseline to 48% at end line.

⁵⁰ Case reduction: from 9333 cases to 7464 cases.



Photo: Save the Children

Children suffering from malnutrition have been cared for through the Health and Nutrition project supported by the European Union / ECHO

community levels) to work together in tackling the common problems of undernutrition. The end line evaluation of the project in Zambia established that the stakeholders were willing and able to sustain project activities beyond the project life. The respondents mentioned that the pool of trainers of trainers that had been created at district and provincial level will continue to capacitate other government staff members and community members. In addition, working in a multi-sectoral approach was said to be something that will continue due to the value created when stakeholders work in such a manner. At community level, the capacity building of volunteers and the health facility staff was also cited as an anchor from which activities will continue to be implemented.

A similar approach has been used in Sudan with the training of teachers and health workers to do health messaging through school children and the broader community. Health workers have also been trained on the clinical case management of SGBV and communicable disease surveillance to increase community capacity and the skills to identify diseases and refer patients for further treatment. Nutrition workers were provided with on-job training on an outpatient therapeutic programme and targeted supplementary feeding programme admission and discharge

criteria, as well as training on nutrition record keeping and stock management. Also, in Burkina Faso awareness raising through media and trainings targeting community leaders and health centre staff have helped to establish sustainable IYCF practices across generations and genders. In addition, Save the Children has promoted group discussions and community dialogues animated by staff and mother leaders in order to raise awareness on good eating, and optimal hygiene and sanitation practices. This has enabled communities to have endogenous responses to malnutrition.

DIRECT REACH THROUGH HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAMMING

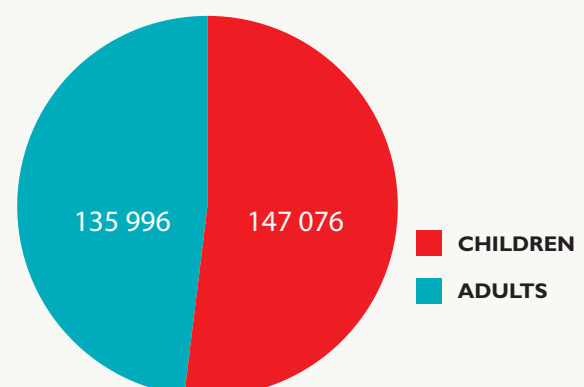




Photo: Max Holm/Save the Children

The members of the child rights club in Nabonswende in Burkina Faso have taken an active role in improving the situation for the children in their village and surrounding area.

4. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Save the Children Finland's Cross-Cutting Themes Guidance Pack was revised in 2019 and rolled out through four on-line trainings. The guidance recommends key tools to be used to support the incorporation and implementation of the cross-cutting issues. It also includes complimentary checklists which can be used at the proposal development stage but which should be specifically helpful during implementation (e.g. during projects' quarterly review meetings).

Disaster risk reduction

In the project countries, Save the Children has developed the skills and capabilities of caregivers, parents and communities through sensitisation and training on disaster preparedness, mitigation and resilience, as a means to adapt to climate change. In Burkina Faso, community leaders were trained on DRR, and community sensitisation sessions were organised, reaching a total of 2,425 people. In Burkina Faso,

DRR topics are also included in the child resilience sessions, in which 308 children participated in 2019. In the Philippines, DRR has been integrated into the family development sessions, and a series of sensitisation and training workshops on DRR and preparedness were organised for families who were displaced due to natural disasters.

In the Philippines Save the Children also provided technical support by organising workshops on the Urban Development and Housing Act in the context of disaster preparedness. In one of the targeted districts, *barangay* Lake Danao, these workshops have resulted in a budget allocation for DRR in the district's Annual Investment Plan, including an allocation for lot acquisition in safe areas for housing relocation, drainage installation along the buildable zones of the purchased lots for relocation and the construction of two child-centred evacuation centres. In Nepal Save the Children provided technical support to the Gaushala municipality of Mahottari

in carrying out a vulnerability and capacity assessment following the Local Disaster Risk Management Plan and Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Planning Guidelines. The assessment identified local risks and vulnerabilities, as well as the capacity to handle the risks at a local level, which were then addressed in a detailed disaster preparedness plan developed by the municipality. In Zambia, Save the Children participated in the annual vulnerability assessment led by the government's Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit.

Gender sensitivity

Save the Children has a Gender Equality Policy (2017), which highlights key guiding principles for engaging in gender equality work. 'How to' guidance is provided in two key documents: the *Gender Program Guidance and Toolkit* (2014) details how to put gender equality into practice in the whole programme cycle, ranging from strategy development and programme planning to monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning and the newly published *Making Gender Equality a Reality* (2019) provides examples of practical interventions to address common gender inequalities identified through gender analysis.

Save the Children has used its Gender Equality Marker since 2014. To meet our minimum standard, and deliver on our global programme quality Key Performance Indicator, projects must be either gender sensitive⁵¹ or gender transformative.⁵² In 2019 Save the Children developed the Humanitarian Gender Equality Marker, which is an adaptation of the full version of Gender Equality Marker. It is used for projects that are 12 months or less in rapid onset crises.

5 out of 7 projects developed by Save the Children Finland in 2019 met the minimum standard.

The Gender Equality Marker tool can also be used to review an ongoing project. Save the Children Finland used Gender Equality Marker in the 2019 MTR. All projects reviewed reported providing equal access to project activities by girls, boys, women and

men although the involvement of men (e.g. in parenting activities) is still a challenge. Data was also well disaggregated by sex but there is need to improve age disaggregation. Gender training for Save the Children International and partner staff and/or the inclusion of sessions on gender equality in project activities with beneficiaries was also commonly reported. Although seven out of eight Save the Children Finland-supported focus countries have a gender equality focal person (or persons), at least at the national level, four COs have a gender equality working group and Save the Children Finland has a gender equality focal person, further training is needed. The extent of the trainings has been quite varied, with e.g. the Somaliland CSSP project reporting extensive training, including training of trainers in gender while some other projects only had had basic gender training. In 2019 30 female and 24 male participants from Save the Children and partner staff were trained in gender equality in Somaliland and Zambia. In addition, the Steps to Protect common approaches and the CSSP parenting package recognise the importance of integrating a strong focus on gender, and trainings included separate sessions on gender and also mainstreamed gender considerations throughout the training sessions in six of our programme countries. Somalia/Somaliland and Zambia have carried out research on parenting and caregiving practices with strong gender analysis, and the findings are now used to improve implementation.

Child participation

In 2018 Save the Children Finland carried out capacity building on child participation for both the Sudan and Burkina Faso COs. It was planned to continue the child participation improvement process in 2019 with further capacity-building efforts and support implementing an action plan for further improvement. However, due to the tumultuous socio-political situation in Sudan and the increasingly deleterious security context in Burkina Faso, as well as internal CO challenges related, among other things, to staff turnover and difficulty in the recruitment of staff, the process was put on hold in light of more urgent priorities. Commitment exists in these COs to re-embark on the child participation improvement process when the situation permits.

Nevertheless, the practice of requesting relevant projects to report against the three selected

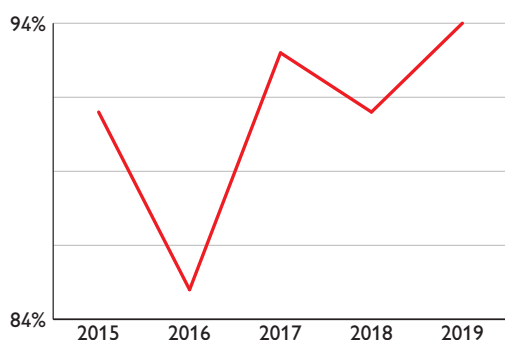
51 They must take into account the different and unique needs, abilities and opportunities of girls, boys, women and men.

52 They must address and positively transform the root causes of gender inequality for girls, boys, women and men.

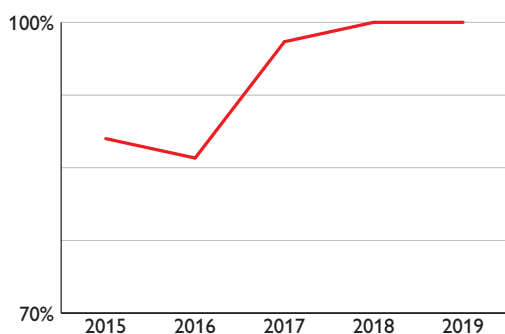
minimum standards for child participation continued in 2019. Reports assessing the extent to which child participation in our projects had been *voluntary, inclusive, and safe and sensitive to risk*⁵³ in 2019 were received from nine⁵⁴ projects out of 26 ongoing projects.

The total score for the three minimum standards combined for all the projects was 94% for the year 2019. When observing the progress during the five years of follow-up, both ups and downs can be seen but with a general trend towards improvement.⁵⁵

The total score by year



Participation is Voluntary



There is a slight improvement in both the scores for inclusiveness as well as for safety and the risk sensitivity of participation. While inclusiveness in 2019 is up from 85% in 2018 to 89% in 2019, safe and risk-sensitive child participation, already quite high at 92% in 2018, increased to 94% in 2019. The progress in terms of voluntary participation is showing a somewhat steadier general progress with the scores on voluntary participation being high for several years in a row and gaining the maximum score of 100% in the past two years.

The type of child participation reported has remained very similar to the previous year, with consultative child participation being the most common type, followed by collaborative child participation in second place and child-led participation in third place. While project implementation still remains the most common project cycle stage for children's participation, in 2019 there has been some improvement in engaging children in the design and planning as well as in the evaluation phases.

Civil society capacity strengthening and partner capacity building

The need to strengthen the civil society in Save the Children Finland programming countries remains as urgent as ever as, according to CIVICUS fundamental freedoms of association, peaceful assembly and expression were backsliding across the world in 2019⁵⁶. This decline in civil society space has been observed in many Save the Children Finland programming countries such as in Sudan where hundreds of protestors were killed during protests, in Burkina Faso where the detention of activists, banning of protests and lack of free press are becoming increasingly common and India where civil society space has shrunk dramatically. In 2019, all Save the Children Finland programming countries either had obstructed, repressed or closed (Sudan, Syria, Yemen) civil society space using CIVICUS classifications.

53 Based on the UNCRC General Comment (nine basic requirements, p. 26).

54 Since the number of submitted child participation forms is quite small, as before, the results do not readily lend themselves to generally applicable conclusions. Six projects were those supported by the MFA Programme-Based Support, one by ECHO, one by the Red Nose Foundation and one by Save the Children Finland's Children's Emergency Fund. Seven out of the nine projects were the same projects that reported in the previous year. The themes of the projects were CSSP (6), CP (2) and EiE (1). Three projects from Africa and six from Asia submitted their reports.

55 It must be noted that the results are only indicative as the reporting projects have not been the same over the years.

56 CIVICUS 2019



Photo: Save the Children

As part of capacity building efforts in Zambia, partner staff members and community volunteers have received training on for example facilitation skills.

In 2019, Save the Children Finland partnered with more civil society partners than ever before, having **53** partners in total.⁵⁷ In addition to formal partnerships, we worked closely with less formal structures and groups in communities, such as CP committees and networks, child-led groups, community-based child welfare committees, school management committees and parent–teacher associations, as well as with governments and the private sector.

In regard to capacity strengthening, in Nepal for example, Save the Children built the technical capacity of the civil society partners to implement a quality-learning environment in schools that includes safety plans through exposure visits to schools and building capacity for case management and how to provide referral support. In Somaliland, we supported the capacity building of our partner HAVOYOKO that has a critical role in implementing the CSSP project by providing continuous training in designing and implementing SP schemes for IDPs. As

a result, the MESAF has assessed HAVOYOKO as having the best knowledge on SP of all the local NGOs in the country.

In order to invest in a long-term organisational capacity development, a partner-led organisational capacity development process was started with two strategic partners in Zambia in 2019. This support is independent of other project-related support provided by Save the Children Finland. The capacity-building efforts aim to strengthen an independent and sustainable Zambian civil society. A key part of organisational capacity development is also being able to monitor and track the improved capacity of the partners to be strong civil society actors. In 2019 Save the Children Finland started discussions with other Save the Children Nordic members on developing a joint monitoring tool for organisational capacity development.

⁵⁷ The number of partners almost doubled from 2018. This is largely due to a new DEVCO project, with 18 sub-grant agreements.

5. COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY

FOCUS AREA: Communication and advocacy

<p>SAVE THE CHILDREN FINLAND PROGRAMME OUTCOMES</p>	<p>Outcome 11: Increased awareness and understanding of Save the Children Finland and Save the Children International priority themes and general global development issues</p> <p>Outcome 12: Facilitated and influenced concrete policy changes related to child rights</p> <p>Outcome 13: The increased active engagement of citizens, old and new supporters of the organisation, partners and stakeholders in concrete action</p> <p>Outcome 14: The increased accountability and transparency of Save the Children Finland programming and actions through regular and timely communication</p>
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Progress towards these expected outcomes

OUTCOME 11: Increased awareness and understanding of Save the Children Finland, Save the Children International priority themes and general global development issues⁵⁸

In line with the global priorities of Save the Children, notable efforts were made to raise public awareness and disseminate information on the situation for children affected by conflicts. Communications thus supported the advocacy efforts to advance the Stop the War on Children campaign and its goal to end violations against children in armed conflict. Attention was also given to communicating information on the themes of the survival, learning and protection of children (i.e. the global breakthroughs that Save the Children aims to achieve by 2030).

Media work generated a good visibility in Finnish news outlets. The number of published news stories was over 500, a similar amount to previous years. Around two thirds of the stories focussed on various emergencies, with particular attention given to conflicts like those in Yemen and Syria. Efforts to raise public attention to the themes of climate change and the

global refugee and migration crisis were also well reflected in a good number of media stories. Good media coverage was also generated on the realisation of child rights. Save the Children's **2019 Global Childhood report** alone was reported upon in close to 70 news articles.

The information resources produced were disseminated globally to programming partners and stakeholders, as well as to research institutions. Published reports and studies were disseminated through various online platforms, like Save the Children's Resource Centre.

Throughout the year, the public and relevant stakeholders were informed about the implementation of the international programme, particularly highlighting the achieved outcomes and impact. Programme updates and results were disseminated by social media platforms, printed publications and the website of the organisation. The regularly issued newsletters reached close to 20,000 HHs and updates were disseminated to up to 100,000 HHs. Comprehensive information was provided through the quarterly published *Pelastakaa Lapset* magazine, distributed to up to 50,000 HHs. The website, providing

⁵⁸ Indicators for this outcome are: # of magazines published, # of readers/magazines, # of newsletters published, # of people reached through web pages, # of people reached through social media; # of media coverage.

basic information and updates on the programme activities of the organisation, saw a significant increase in traffic (73%) from the previous year.

OUTCOME 12: Facilitated and influenced concrete policy changes related to child rights

The year 2019 was an active year for advocacy with parliamentary elections, a new government programme, EU elections and Finnish EU presidency. Before the elections and during the government negotiations, Save the Children Finland advocated for a government programme with a strong global role and a commitment from Finland to a multilateral system and a commitment to increasing funding for NGOs and official development assistance. We also advocated for multi-year humanitarian funding and for Finland to increasingly support education and CP as part of its humanitarian action. Two-year humanitarian funding become possible by end of 2019 and there were also positive signs that Finland would become a supporter of the Education Cannot Wait fund that is a key actor on EiE. The new humanitarian strategy of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA) humanitarian strategy includes clear reference to children as a specific vulnerable group but stops short of further commitment to prioritising CP. However, overall we saw some important steps in a positive direction for the Finnish humanitarian funding system.

Regarding EU advocacy, Save the Children Finland continued to lobby – together with our EU office, Fingo and Västoliitto – for the EU Multiannual Financial Framework⁵⁹ and the new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument in order to increase investment in children and ensure that funding is not used for harmful migration management practises. We also advocated for Finland to be active on civil society participation in upcoming programming as unfortunately EU practices are not too open.

Regarding humanitarian advocacy, Save the Children Finland works closely with other Save the Children members and our advocacy offices in Brussels, New York and Geneva. Successes in this work included stopping a harmful counter-terrorism resolution that



Save the Children's Stop the War on Children 2019 report highlighted challenges children face in conflicts.

would have nullified the humanitarian exemption that currently applies in Somalia and renewing the mandates of the Group of Eminent Experts for Yemen and the Commission of Inquiry for Myanmar, which both include a focus on the violations of children's rights. While we were not successful in getting the Saudi- and Emirati-led coalition listed for attacks on schools and hospitals – the campaigning ahead of the publication of the Children and Armed Conflict 2019 report and advocacy in the lead up to the debate contributed to general pressure for increased accountability that assisted with private advocacy.

Foreign children associated with the Islamic State in Syria formed one of the main topics Save the Children Finland engaged on. We did a lot of private advocacy and some public media work to support the repatriation of foreign children –including Finnish children – in al-Hol and other camps in North East Syria. In December Finland finally put a progressive policy in place and repatriated two orphans. Save the Children Finland was the most vocal CSO demanding the repatriation.

In Save the Children Finland programme countries, we continued to advocate for scaling up and mainstreaming approaches developed especially in CSSP projects. In Somaliland Save the Children Finland met with the MESAF and together conducted a one-day workshop on lobbying and advocacy with government agencies and other actors in order to improve or establish basic services and infrastructures. The

⁵⁹ The Multiannual Financial Framework is worth 90 billion euros.

participants – including ministries and community representatives from targeted IDPs – discussed the achievements of and existing gaps in basic IDP services. One of the biggest achievements from this consultation was that Hargeisa local municipality and the Ministry of Public Works and Housing promised to provide land to Mohamed Moge IDP camp residents. In India, Save the Children continued efforts to forge a partnership with Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj and the Rural Development Institute to gain their support in raising the issue of making the largest SP programme in the world – the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme – child sensitive. The potential impact on children will be very high as these interventions can be easily up-scaled and reach out to a bigger number of children.

OUTCOME 13: The increased active engagement of citizens, old and new supporters of the organisation, partners and stakeholders in concrete action⁶⁰

The year 2019 was the hundredth anniversary of Save the Children, and that momentum was used to launch the Stop the War on Children campaign. In February the Stop the War on Children flagship report was launched, and it received substantial media attention. Internationally, Save the Children organised high-profile roundtables, conferences and official side events throughout the year, including at the Munich Security Conference, the UN General Assembly, the African Union and events in capital cities around the world. These events helped secure engagement and commitments from numerous political and institutional actors and have created a platform from which further commitments can be secured. In Helsinki we organised a Save the Children hundredth anniversary event in our headquarters with about 60 invited guests participating. As part of the campaign push, we launched a Stop War on Children petition that was signed by 6000 people by end of the year.

General civic engagement and participation in public debate on issues related to children's rights were promoted through Facebook and Twitter. The engagement of the public was also advanced through taking part in national campaigns in Finland, like that of the Red Nose Day, which in 2019 highlighted

programme activities of Save the Children in Burkina Faso. The campaign partner, the Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE, produced stories on our work to strengthen CP and reduce child poverty in Burkina Faso.

Various global education activities were additionally undertaken, with the objective of guiding Finnish citizens towards both individual and communal global responsibility. Comprehensive schools in Finland were supported in implementing global education activities through the provision of information and by conducting school visits. We also had some co-operation with the Department of Education at the University of Helsinki. In addition, educational units of YLE were supported in producing materials for children and youth on child labour and the sexual abuse of children. Outreach activities additionally included participation in public events, like the annual teaching and education fair, Educa, and the World Village Festival.

OUTCOME 14: The increased accountability and transparency of Save the Children Finland programming and actions through regular and timely communication

Furthering transparency and accountability are at the core of the communications of Save the Children. The organisation deems it vital to reinforce the trust of the general public and its supporters, as well as among partners and stakeholders. The reputation held by Save the Children is at a high level worldwide. In Finland, the organisation has acquired an even stronger position in this respect than before. A survey conducted by Taloustutkimus in 2020 revealed that Save the Children is ranked in eighth place of all the non-profit organisations in Finland both in terms of the general impression and visibility of the organisation. The position has moved up two places from the previous year. In the survey, the organisations were measured, for example, in terms of trustworthiness, expertise, effectiveness and visibility.

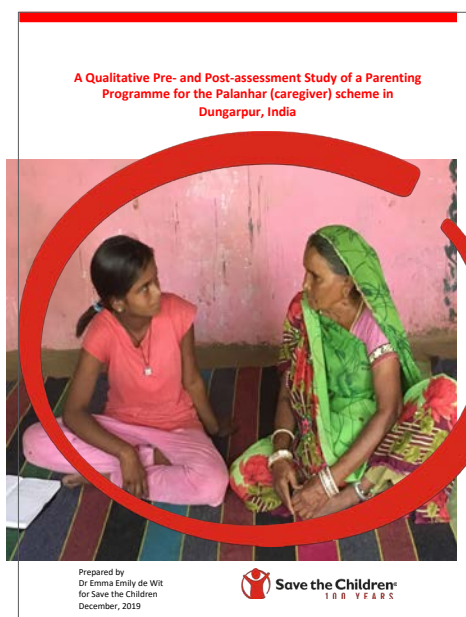
⁶⁰ Indicator: # of people reached through campaigning and global education activities.

6. ENSURING QUALITY PROGRAMMING

6.1. RESULTS-BASED MONITORING

In 2019 Save the Children Finland conducted the MTRs for projects that receive Programme-based Support funding as well as a programme-level meta-analysis of the MTRs. The main purposes of the MTRs were, on one hand, to facilitate an internal process to assess the extent to which individual projects' outputs are leading the projects towards their planned outcomes. The results and recommendations from the individual projects' assessments were intended to help the projects carry out any necessary course corrections and to take stock of lessons learned for future projects. On the other hand, the MTR set out to assess the findings and learnings from the individual projects' reviews at a more programmatic level. Specific objectives of the meta MTR were: (1) to analyse the selected individual projects' MTR reports in view of possible common findings in terms of effectiveness, relevance and scalability, as well as in terms of the cross-cutting themes of gender sensitivity and child participation and (2) to draw common recommendations and lessons learned that will be useful for improving Save the Children Finland's programming now and in the future. The main recommendations and conclusions from the review are detailed in Chapter 3.

In 2019 Save the Children Finland continued the rigid impact assessments of the International Child Development Programme parenting and child sensitivity package effectiveness in Nepal, the Philippines and India by conducting a second set of qualitative and quantitative studies. While assessing the impact of the package we were also assessing the effectiveness of the tools (questionnaires, scales, qualitative methods) used for the impact assessment. Based on the experience, we will be further streamlining the monitoring package in 2020 in order to have a final set of tools to be used in the future for assessing the impact of the child sensitivity package.



In-depth information on various aspects on the role of CSSP in poverty reduction has been made available to policymakers and practitioners through numerous studies and reports produced.

Other studies conducted in 2019 include final evaluations for projects funded by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International cooperation and Development (DEVCO) and ECHO-funded projects in Zambia and Sudan, and humanitarian projects in Iraq and Baidoa, Somalia.

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

Save the Children Finland CP Technical Advisors participated in and Steps to Protect common approach 'gold' courses, placing Save the Children Finland Technical Advisor's among the key resources on CP

within the global movement. In addition, Save the Children Finland, Save the Children Germany and Save the Children Norway jointly funded a *'Formative Study' to Pilot Parenting without Violence Common Approach* in Somaliland and Puntland. The formative research by a consultant was supported by an advisory committee, of which Save the Children Finland's CP Technical Advisor is a member. The study aimed to help Save the Children International and its partners to understand the characteristics of the physical and humiliating punishment of children in the target communities and to generate evidence that would constitute an integral part of developing further or adapting the programme approaches and help to refine and improve the ongoing related interventions. The study focused on the behaviour, attitude and practices of the target communities, including children, and aimed to complement existing epidemiological and behavioural data to assist in programme planning and design. The study findings will enable Save the Children International and its partners to contextualize PwV and to adapt it to the practical realities of the sociocultural and traditional norms that inform the violent disciplining methods used by families and institutional caregivers.

During 2019, Save the Children Finland continued active engagement in Save the Children's global work on partnerships through a Save the Children partnership-working group and collaboration with other Nordic Save the Children organisations with the aim of maximising the use of resources and learning from each other in areas such as partner exit strategies, localisation, nexus and best practices in partner capacity building. Save the Children Finland also focused on strengthening our partnership approaches and the development of tools to further support independent civil society in our programme countries.

In 2019 Save the Children Finland CP and CSSP Technical Advisor's participated in the development of Technical Competency Frameworks. The frameworks will help to achieve a consistent, aligned approach to technical competencies by listing key technical competencies for different roles. Rolling out the framework should further improve and ensure the quality of work within the movement.

7. MANAGEMENT

7.1. GENERAL MANAGEMENT

Save the Children Finland's new strategy for 2019–2022 was approved in the Member's Meeting in May 2019. As part of the rolling out process, an indicator technical working group and steering groups for each of the programme strategy outcomes were formed. During the second half of 2019 the steering groups developed the organisations workplan for 2020, a monitoring plan for the strategy indicators and a data collection tool. This is the first time that Save the Children Finland has joint thematic steering groups between domestic and international programmes.

Save the Children International Regional Advisory Council meetings, which focus on discussing plans and strategies at a regional level, were only organised in the Middle East and Eastern Europe and West

and Central Africa in 2019 in conjunction with Save the Children International programme directors face-to-face meetings. The meetings identified a clear push to move away from a compliance lens – not looking at child safeguarding, data protection, counter-terrorism and ethical risks through the compliance lens but through a values and mandates lens.

Progress outlined by the findings of the **Core Humanitarian Standard** audit was important in 2019. Save the Children's average scores increased across eight out of its nine commitments with a range of good practices identified. These included a strengthened emphasis on monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL), including a better integration of child participation in monitoring. However further improvements are needed to



Photo: Kristiana Marton / Save the Children

Learning new essential skills.

strengthen localisation and environmental impact assessments, to improve the quality of needs assessments and to ensure a stronger learning loop.

Save the Children International focused on several development projects in 2019 in order to improve the performance of its operations. The projects were as follows: Accelerating Delivery and Improvement; the Award Management System Re-platform (AMS RP); Oracle Human Resource; Supply Chain Transformation; and Source to Pay. Of these, the AMS RP directly affected Save the Children Finland's way of working. All projects – from opportunity to closure and audit – are recorded in the Award Management System (AMS) and go through a system of workflows that allow Save the Children members and Save the Children International to capture key decision points in an awards life cycle. Proposals, reports, amendments and audits are therefore uploaded into the system and approved by relevant members of the

Save the Children International teams and Save the Children members. Joint approval is mandatory from both members and Save the Children International before an award can proceed to the next stage.

Through the DATIX child safeguarding reporting system, two safeguarding suspicions within Save the Children Finland-funded projects⁶¹ were reported in 2019. Neither of the suspicions involved Save the Children staff and the cases were investigated and closed within three months of being reported.

7.2. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

At the end of 2019, Save the Children Finland had 18 staff members working in the international programme's team in Helsinki and abroad. In 2019 we had 6.4 thematic advisors to support project implementation and to ensure quality and organisational learning. In addition, Save the Children Finland

⁶¹ The Sudan ECHO project and Ministry of Foreign Affairs humanitarian project in Somalia.



Photo: Save the Children

Funding from European Union / ECHO enabled us to reach over 78,000 children in Sudan with Health and Nutrition services.

received technical expertise support from Save the Children USA, Save the Children Norway and Save the Children Sweden for the health and nutrition, and education thematic areas for projects in Sudan, Yemen and Burkina Faso. Save the Children Finland supported other members with CP expertise in countries that did not have their own experts available.

In 2019 the sub-team of Partnership and Portfolio Management comprised of 3 partnership and portfolio managers, 2.6 portfolio managers, 2 programme coordinators, a global corporate partnerships manager and 1 advocacy and policy advisor. The human resource capacity of the Partnership and Portfolio Management team increased by 2.0 levels of effort in 2019 compared to 2018, with a separate ECHO/DEVCO portfolio manager for Burkina Faso and an additional programme coordinator in head office.

In 2019 Save the Children Finland used a new staff wellbeing questionnaire, SIQNI. The three main areas of improvement for the whole organisation were identified as fair pay for work, improved career development possibilities and improved management of the organisation. An action plan was developed by the Senior Management Team and each team/unit to tackle the improvement areas.

7.3. THE FUNDING BASE AND ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

The increase in total revenues of international programme was 2.7 million euros in 2019, with an increase of 1.2 million euros in emergency relief funds (Children's Emergency Fund) to international programme activities, especially for humanitarian projects, an increase of 1.9 million euros in EU funding and a decrease of 0.7 million euros in MFA funding.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

The MFA represented 32% (€4,558,199) of the total funding portfolio of the Save the Children Finland International Programme in 2019. In addition to the multi-year programme funding of €2,870,000, Save the Children Finland received €1,550,000 through the additional funding call for 2020–2021. In line with the ongoing programme, the majority of the additional funding is directed to strengthening the CSSP

and CP projects, specifically those in Somaliland/Somalia and Zambia. The MFA Programme-based Support programme continued to be implemented in five countries: Burkina Faso, Somalia, Zambia, Nepal and the Philippines. Account lead responsibilities for these programme countries included collecting donor intelligence, engaging with the donor both in Helsinki and in the respective Finnish embassies, supporting COs to position themselves for funding and acting as the main interlocutor for COs on behalf of the account. In addition, Save the Children Finland facilitated MFA visits to Burkina Faso and Save the Children in Somalia.

Funding from the humanitarian unit was €1,200,000 for humanitarian projects in Yemen and Somalia. The humanitarian funding call for 2020 enabled Save the Children Finland to apply for a two-year funding as Save the Children Finland fulfilled the MFA criteria for high-quality project management and on-schedule implementation.

DEVCO/ECHO

The year 2019 was an important year for Save the Children Finland's EU account with the increase of its EU portfolio. Save the Children Finland now has the leadership responsibility of the ECHO Social Protection opportunities in Somalia and all DEVCO funding opportunities in Indonesia, in addition to ECHO and DEVCO leadership in Burkina Faso and Sudan.

EU funding represented 40% (€5,724,887) of the total funding portfolio of the Save the Children Finland International Programme in 2019. During the year, Save the Children Finland secured €5,116,000 with ECHO projects in Burkina Faso (€916,000) and Sudan (€4,200,000). It represents an increase of 12% compared to the previous year. The proposal success rate in 2019 was 100%, with the approval of all four proposals submitted to ECHO, and no new proposals to DEVCO. As for DEVCO, Save the Children Finland had four active projects in Burkina Faso, Zambia and India in 2019. Burkina Faso accounted for the majority of the funds with two active projects, totalling €5,351,605. Regarding the ECHO portfolio, Save the Children Finland had four active projects, three in Sudan (with a volume of €4,200,000) and one in Burkina Faso.



Photo: Ganga Pyakurel / Save the Children

Beneficiaries of the CSSP project implemented in Nepal through the MFA Programme-based Support programme.

The year 2019 was particularly marked by a strong investment by Save the Children Finland in consolidating and sharing knowledge about SP in EU Humanitarian–Development settings. Among others, Save the Children Finland mapped the EU’s external policies and priorities regarding SP. We also developed internal guidelines for other Save the Children members and COs on how to pre-position for CSSP programming with ECHO. Given Save the Children Finland’s accumulated experience and knowledge in this sector, these initiatives helped to consolidate Save the Children Finland’s leadership in SP within the movement. It was also a perfect match with the EU prioritisation of SP in 2019 as a way for the EU to implement its nexus commitments.

During the year, Save the Children Finland has been represented in several events related to EU-external aid in Brussels, such as those related to SP, climate change, EiE, the Sahel strategic response, European Development Days and the ECHO Partners’ Conference.

UNICEF

The UNICEF account saw a big growth in 2019. The portfolio amount increased from €350,000 in 2018 to €1,820,379 in 2019, with an annual volume of €521,664 in 2019. This was the result of strong long-term investment in relationship building with UNICEF on the ground in Burkina Faso as well as increasing knowledge and human resources on UNICEF compliance and account management. In 2019 four projects were approved by UNICEF in Burkina Faso. Two CP projects are focusing on combating all forms of violence against children by strengthen the community-based CP systems and improving the birth registration system. A new CSSP project continued to build on the foundation of Save the Children Finland’s previous CSSP collaboration with UNICEF. The new project is designed to improve children’s well-being in the poorest HHs through increased income and consumption, and includes a cash transfer component to ensure that the most vulnerable HHs are reached quickly and efficiently. The CSSP

project was designed to complement the existing projects in the region. The fourth new UNICEF project was in response to the worsening humanitarian crisis and the urgent food shortages that thousands of families, and particularly their children, were suffering from due to the displacement and violence.

7.4. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Financial management of any project/award is implemented in accordance of the Master Programming Agreement and the Member Contribution Agreement, signed by Save the Children Finland and Save the Children International. These agreements set out the roles and responsibilities of all members. It also sets out the obligations relating to project funds and donor requirements and Save the Children International's obligations in relation to reporting and performance standards.

In 2019 Save the Children Finland strengthened its Finance Department with two new assistant controllers. Assistant controllers and portfolio managers track expenditure progress on a monthly basis through budget versus actual comparisons. Regular award reviews take place in country in order to review the financial, operational and programmatic performance of an award and take any actions required to ensure the delivery of objectives in line with donor compliance requirements.

7.5. RISK MANAGEMENT

Save the Children has a set of risk management procedures and tools, such as country office risk management plans (to help getting assurance in regard to how risks are being identified and managed in each country of operation). Save the Children International also has a number of specialists responsible for putting processes and tools into place to support the management of risks in their own areas of responsibility.⁶² For every project an award risk assessment is filled out to identify the challenges that could cause Save the Children to fail in its obligations and how they are managed.

The identified main internal and external risks for Save the Children Finland's programme were contextual risks, like children facing violence and abuse

within our projects. Another risk is changes in the political and/or administrative environment, such as elections, coups d'état or governance reform processes. Possible natural disasters and a volatile security situation, the shrinking space of civil society due to restrictive legislation and challenging reporting requirements or funding limitations are also seen risks for programme implementation.

Travel restrictions due to the security situation prevented Save the Children Finland staff from conducting monitoring visits, and attending kick-off and review meetings in person in Burkina Faso, Sudan and Somalia. In these cases, the kick-off meetings were organised through Skype. Travel restrictions varied from a total travel ban for international staff to the country (Sudan) to limiting travel to capital cities only. The instability also made it difficult to recruit the needed staff for the ongoing projects in Sudan and Burkina Faso.

In Burkina Faso the main challenge was the deteriorating security situation that resulted in the closure of many governmental services, including social services and schools. The extremist group attacks made it difficult to access some of the project locations while increasing the number of IDPs in other project locations. This affected the project activities, such as cash distributions that became too dangerous to implement in a traditional way. However, new mobile transfer and post-distribution modalities were developed. In addition to the security situation, the CO of Burkina Faso had difficulties in working with governmental partners in transferring the funding on time and supporting the partners in financial reporting, as well ensuring that the government parties take ownership of the created social services. As a mitigation measure, the CO recruited a new partnership coordinator that improved the collaboration with the government actors.

Due to the very effective incident reporting system, five alleged fraud or misuse of funds cases were reported by Save the Children International to Save the Children Finland in 2019. Most of the cases were minor in nature and in one of the cases the loss could not be identified and was not funded by Save the Children Finland. One of the cases happened in 2018.

⁶² Such as the areas Safety and Security, Fraud, Child Safeguarding and Legal

ANNEX: CASE STUDIES FROM THE FIELD*

India: Back to school with the help of social protection

Asha Ahari is 17-year-old student in Government Senior secondary school in Savgarh, Dungapur. She has five siblings and lives with her mother, and the family is very poor. Asha's father died when she was in eighth class. Following her father's death, Asha was forced to leave school and she joined her elder sister Meera working on a construction site in Gujarat. She was eventually identified in an anti-child labour campaign and brought back home to her village. A Save the Children staff member guided her mother in applying for support from the government PALANHAR social protection scheme, which is a caregiver scheme to improve the living conditions of orphan children and other vulnerable children. Support from the scheme has now made it possible for Asha to re-enrol in school and continue her studies.



Somaliland: Supporting life skills for children

Bile is a 10-year-old boy living in Hargeisa, Somalia. He used to spend a lot of time with his friends and have a lot of conflicts with his parents. Luckily Bile was able to attend training sessions on child rights, child protection and life skills conducted by Save the Children in the area. This helped Bile gain the confidence needed in public speaking and communicating with others. The group activities helped him and the other members to learn how to work together as a team to accomplish a common task and share responsibilities. He also received a school uniform, education materials and a school bag:

"I learnt a lot from the workshops I attended. Being a member of the Child Rights Group has really changed me. I understand my rights and responsibilities, the rights of my parents and the importance of education. Now my relationship with my parents and other children has improved."

Bile has become an active and influential child rights activist in his community. One of the key achievements that Bile is very proud of as a leader is helping 20 children who had dropped out of school to return to school and continue with their education.



*Annex photos: Save the Children

Burkina Faso: Providing education in emergency contexts

Since 2016, Burkina Faso had faced recurrent attacks by armed groups that affect the whole territory. Schools have been deliberately destroyed, teachers threatened and children deprived of their right to education, which leads them to a risk of abuse, violence and exploitation. Save the Children has set up alternative learning spaces where children are offered community-based, non-formal education and psychosocial support.

Abdoulaye is a 14-year-old student participating in non-formal education in an alternative learning space. He and his family had to flee his village when the village, including the village school, were attacked in December 2019. Abdoulaye is sad about having had to leave his classmates, friends and neighbourhood in such a brutal way. He also fears the presence of armed groups in the area.

In Gorom-Gorom, Abdoulaye has benefited from the support of Save the Children through child-friendly learning spaces. In his words, he feels very good with his classmates gathered in the spaces with the community facilitator and moderator:



'I come to the space five times a week to learn and play with my friends.' Abdoulaye is especially happy to be able to maintain his educational level while frequenting the space. He is very happy to be with his friends and learning many good things: 'We are learning songs, stories, lessons and life skills. I have many friends, and I play football and hide and seek with them.'

Nepal: Making systems resilient

Save the Children in Nepal enhanced the knowledge of social protection recipients in terms of keeping their documents safe and making service providers accountable for continuing their services in all circumstances. Save the Children also capacitated government staff regarding the vital online event registration and social protection management information system.

In 2019, Save the Children trained 89 ward and municipality staff members on the management information system, which included topics such as how to keep data safe and how to protect against the loss of information in the event of a disaster. The child protection committees in Nepal have established a child tracking system that supports up-to-date data on children and their geographical whereabouts, which is crucial during the time of a



disaster. The committees also maintain a roster of people trained on psychosocial support, which can be used during a disaster response to provide psychological first aid to children and adults.



Zambia: Strengthening local partners capacity

The organisational capacity development process with the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) and the Luapula Foundation started by conducting in-depth holistic, participatory organisational capacity assessments to identify and prioritise key capacity areas relating to an organisation's identity, structure and systems that require strengthening.

Based on organisational capacity assessments that are fully owned by organisations themselves, the key capacity areas strengthened in 2019 for JCTR included, for example, child-safeguarding procedures, and improving child participation and empowerment in partners' activities, the strengthening of organisations' written accessibility and inclusion policies, and the strengthening of procurement policies.

For the Luapula Foundation the focus was on improving governance and creating a national board as the Luapula Foundation grew from a regional NGO into a national NGO in 2014 while



the board was only constituted at regional level. In line with strengthening the organisational governance, Luapula is also strengthening its strategic plan and investing in improving its networks and partnerships with like-minded local organisations in order to improve service delivery for children and the scaling up of support services for children.

Sudan: Supporting health services for pregnant women

During the Darfur conflict, the village of **Khadouja** lost all its services, including its health care services. Before Save the Children's intervention, families medicated themselves with traditional medicines and used traditional midwives to deliver their babies, which made it difficult to be referred for obstetric care in the case of complications. In her late pregnancy, Khadouja suddenly started bleeding and her husband rushed her to the Save the Children health facility in the village. She was immediately informed that she needed to be transferred to a hospital where she was assigned an emergency caesarean operation and safely delivered a healthy young boy. Save the Children is supporting emergency obstetric referrals in Khadouja's village and covered all the expenses.



Kenya: Co-creation with corporates

In June 2019, Save the Children and Business Finland's Business with Impact programme (BEAM) tested the effectiveness of multi-sectoral cooperation as part of Nairobi Innovation Week in Kenya.

With Save the Children Somalia and Kenya country offices, we organised a co-creation workshop about 'Innovation for Development and Crisis'. In the end over 60 participants, including more than 20 Finnish start-ups and businesses, as well as several thematic professionals from Save the Children Kenya and Somalia country offices, joined the event.

To address the real-life challenges of the children, Save the Children Kenya and Somalia identified the critical points in their programming that were most in need of new solutions and innovation beforehand. Finnish companies taking part in the workshop had the chance to learn about the challenges in advance, but the real work of face-to-face interaction and generating value through cooperation began in Nairobi.

Challenges and working groups in the workshop included topics such as education, healthcare, early childhood care and education, nutrition and energy. For Save the Children, the event provided a chance to learn about the expertise of the Finnish businesses and to identify new potential partners interested in helping us in our work for the benefit of every last child. For the businesses, this kind of co-creation with an international NGO and local thematic experts was a good way to increase their understanding about the context, and opportunities and challenges of developing markets.

The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive from both the companies and local Save the Children staff who were able to gain new insights into their own work. Since the workshop, we have continued cooperation with Business Finland and several other actors and companies.



Somalia/Somaliland: Combatting gender differences in parenting roles and responsibilities

Save the Children conducted a study in order to understand factors which influence the behaviour of caregivers in the target communities on matters of physical and humiliating punishment. The information will be used to further contextualise the positive parenting group sessions' guidance and to strengthen the Parenting without Violence programming with parents/caregivers and communities. Some of the findings in relation to gender roles and responsibilities were the following:

- Male caregivers were absent from home at least for 90% of their time. This automatically shifted the role of the primary disciplinarian to the female caregivers. The mother/female caregivers were described as harsh and often using harsh

punishment, but the father/male caregivers were described as harsher. Children singled out the mother/female caregiver as the only person they could confide in on matters of private interest and feelings.

- Grandmothers significantly influenced the caregiving practices of their grandchildren.
- Female caregivers reported being more influenced by religious leaders, their mothers and sisters, and their teachers. The male caregivers are influenced more by their wives, fathers, close relatives and their brothers.



Global: The search for the ‘perfect’ child participation enhancement tool



Having noticed that the previous child participation guidance tool was not actively used, Save the Children Finland looked into the existing tools within the movement. A new tool, adapted from Save the Children Sweden, was tested during the Philippines child-sensitive social protection project mid-term review. The feedback from the pilot indicated that the tool was too much of a box-ticking exercise with not enough analysis backing up the assessment

The tool was then modified to include more guidance on different aspects of child participation with the aim of facilitating the use of the tool with more information and examples. This second version of the tool was then tested in six projects' mid-term reviews. The feedback this time indicated that the

tool was now too heavy and time-consuming. The search for and development of a suitable tool for assessing and improving child participation thus continues, implying that some changes are needed in Save the Children Finland's child participation milestones for the remaining years of the programme as we now cannot rely on using the same tool in the final evaluation as was used in the mid-term review. At the same time, the recently established Save the Children International global Child Participation Technical Working Group is expected to develop organisation-wide guidance and tools for child participation within a certain time frame, hopefully leading to common child participation assessment in the future.



OUR VISION

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



OUR MISSION

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



OUR VALUES

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

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