



International Programme **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

Save the Children Finland



Save the Children



SAVE THE CHILDREN FINLAND
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

This report serves as the 2020 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

Cover photo:

Mutinta (name changed) was among the children in examination classes allowed back into school during the pandemic in Zambia. During the school closures, she continued to receive nutritious school lunches provided by Save the Children. Her school was also supplied with hand-washing facilities and child-friendly information material on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19. 'During the period when schools had closed, some girls got married, like my friend who got married but was called back to school by the headmaster. I want to be a nurse when I grow up so that I can help take care of the sick, such as those who are suffering from cancer and HIV', Mutinta says.

Photo: Malama Mwila / Save the Children

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ABBREVIATIONS

CO	country office
CP	child protection
CRB	children's rights and business
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
ECCD	early childhood care and development
ECHO	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
EiE	education in emergencies
IDP	internally displaced person
MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
NGO	non-governmental organisation
OCD	organisational capacity development
PRIME	Project reporting information management and evidence
PWV	parenting without violence
SC	Save the Children
SCF	Save the Children Finland
SCI	Save the Children International
SCT	social cash transfer
SGVB	sexual and gender-based violence
SP	social protection
SPCSN	social protection civil society network
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
4Ps	Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Programmee

FOREWORD

The year 2020 was somewhat different than planned for reasons related to COVID-19, and some of the work originally envisaged for the year had to be postponed or completely altered. In some countries we had to postpone or delay some face-to-face training or train smaller groups. Health-related information sharing had to be added to all communication with the communities. For example, in Somalia our trained child protection committee members played an important role in undertaking door-to-door awareness raising campaigns at the community level. Monitoring was also affected by COVID-19 as annual data collection for all indicators was not possible, which impacted on the completeness of the monitoring data for 2020.

COVID-19 also affected the advocacy work of Save the Children Finland (SCF). Instead of continuing with the Stop the War against Children global campaign that was the priority in 2019, the advocacy work in 2020 focused on increasing development and humanitarian budgets to minimise the harmful impact of the pandemic on children. The advocacy wins included increased humanitarian funding in 2020 and an increased development funding allocation for 2021. SCF also had a significant role in influencing Finland's decision to join the Education Cannot Wait fund – a key actor in education in emergencies as well as Global Partnership for Education (GPE) COVID-19 funding. This decision later led Finland to join the GPE donors for the next replenishment period (2022–2025).

The extensive research paper 'Protect a Generation: The Impact of COVID-19 on Children's Lives' also received good coverage. This report was based upon one of the most comprehensive global surveys of children and families during the pandemic (in 2020) and highlighted the need for social protection to be among the measures used to mitigate the negative effects of the pandemic.

Towards the end of the year, SCF actively engaged in the development processes of the Finnish government's Africa strategy, as well as in the government's development policy principles, to ensure continuity over different election periods through the various stakeholder consultations. SCF's goal was to ensure that children's rights are adequately covered (particularly in terms of access to services), that the protection of children in conflicts is ensured and that social protection's role in Finnish development policy is strengthened.

Our work with the corporate sector in 2020 focused on advocacy work on child rights and business: we followed up on the Finnish human rights' due diligence law, as well as joined forces to push for the EU-level human rights due diligence law, together with the other members of the Save the Children movement. SCF also participated in the EU consultation regarding the human rights' due diligence law as an individual member and provided input from the Finnish angle to the Save the Children joint response.

The programme implementation progressed well towards the set outcomes, despite a challenging year caused by the pandemic. COVID-19 caused some slight drawbacks; for example, in Somalia both school drop out and paid child work increased slightly from 2019. However, the year 2020 also brought with it major successes: in Burkina Faso we were able to convince the government about the effectiveness of community child protection committees as part of the child protection system. This approach was scaled up to the national level with Save the Children's child protection technical team supporting the ministry to further develop the community mechanism for child protection, including the development of a complete training package for all community child protection committees in the country. COVID-19 also showed us that the child protection case workers and the community structures that we had supported for 3–4 years in Somalia/Somaliland and Burkina Faso had become strong and were therefore able to continue working despite the restrictions in the countries.

Financially, the year 2020 was also better than had been predicted at the beginning of the pandemic. At the end of the year, the increase in the total revenue of the international programme was about 3.6 million euros. The total expenses of International Programme were 14.1 million euros in 2019 and 17.7 million euros in 2020. SCF secured over 7 million euros with ECHO and INTPA in 2020, and with this amount, the European Union became SCF International Programme's main donor with a 42% share of the total income.

Anne Haaranen

*Director, International Programme
Save the Children Finland*



1. OUR WORK IN NUMBERS



80+

COUNTRIES COVERED

44.9

MILLION CHILDREN REACHED

38.4

MILLION ADULTS REACHED

135

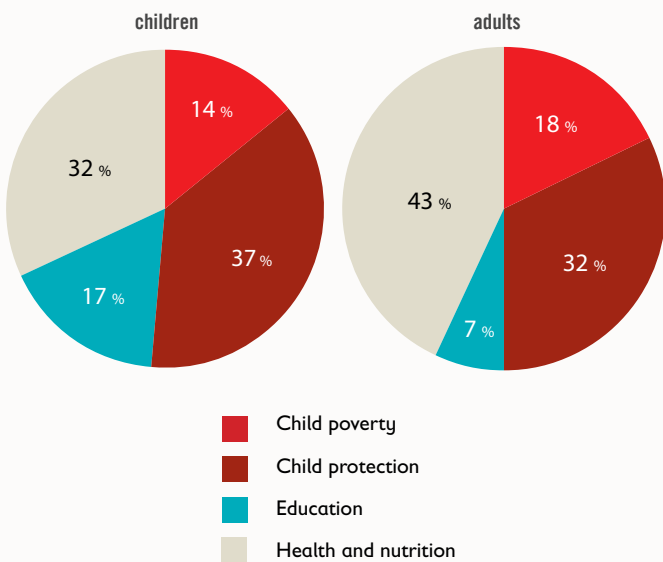
CATEGORISED RESPONSES

760

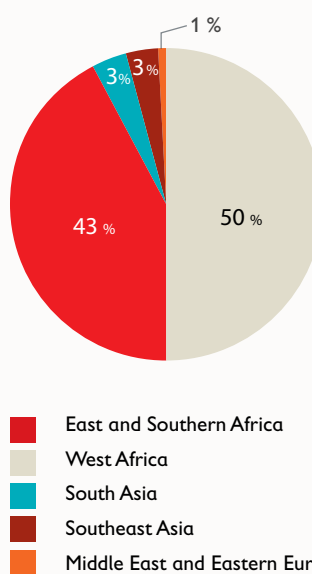
MILLION EUROS EXPENDITURE OF SAVE THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL

SAVE THE CHILDREN FINLAND | DIRECTLY REACHED CHILDREN AND ADULTS

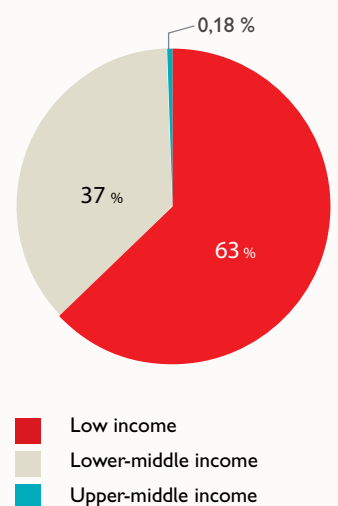
DIRECTLY REACHED CHILDREN AND ADULTS BY THEME



DIRECTLY REACHED CHILDREN BY REGION



CHILDREN REACHED DIRECTLY IN COUNTRIES, CLASSIFIED BY INCOME LEVEL





31
PROJECTS SUPPORTED

17,75
MILLION EUROS EXPENDITURE

12^{*}
COUNTRIES

480 471^{*}
CHILDREN REACHED

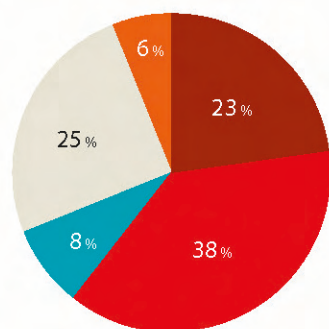
431 482
ADULTS REACHED

* Burkina Faso, Sudan, Somalia, Zambia, Yemen, Turkey, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, the Philippines, Russia (Karelia).

* Not including children reached through some of humanitarian operations supported through pools, for example, in Syria.

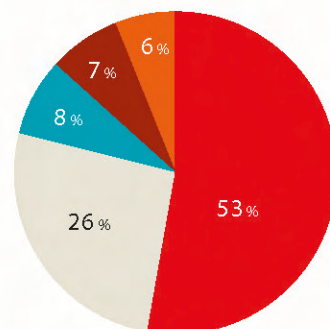
SAVE THE CHILDREN FINLAND | EXPENDITURES

EXPENDITURES BY THEME



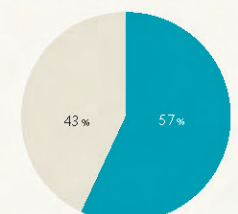
- Child poverty
- Child protection
- Education
- Health and nutrition
- Support to Save the Children humanitarian operations

EXPENDITURES BY REGION



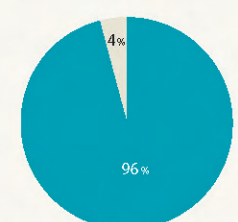
- East and Southern Africa
- West Africa
- South Asia
- Southeast Asia
- Middle East and Eastern Europe

EXPENDITURES BY CONTEXT



- Humanitarian
- Non-humanitarian

EXPENDITURES BY DEVELOPMENT STATUS



- Least developed countries
- Other countries

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

2.1. WEST AFRICA

Burkina Faso continued to suffer from the adverse consequences of climate change, recurrent droughts, the worsening security situation and food insecurity in several regions. In the beginning of 2021, around 3.5 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance, of which 1.7 million were children. In 2020, at the peak of the lean season, 3.3 million people were food insecure, and for the first time in ten years, two provinces in the Sahel region were identified as being in an emergency situation. Also, the nutritional situation deteriorated. In the beginning of 2021, 631 787 children were acutely malnourished representing a 70% increase since June 2020. Around one million people and 300 000 children were affected by the closure and/or limited functioning of health centres and schools. At the end of 2020, in total, 2169 schools were closed. In September the government declared a state of natural disaster as

a result of heavy rainfalls further affecting the lives of over 100 000 people in various parts of the country. The impact of climate change builds on an already fragile situation in a country where over 30% of its national territory is degraded and where the majority of the population make their living from farming.

Burkina Faso experienced a sharp increase of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in 2020, reaching 1.1 million people with 60% of them reported to be children. Displacement mostly takes place in the areas bordering Mali and Niger, and is due to the proliferation of terrorist groups in the area. Displaced people, particularly children, are more vulnerable, for instance, they are more vulnerable to physical and sexual violence, and recruitment by terrorist groups. Birth registration remains a serious issue. In 2020, the Burkinabe Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation estimated that 88% of IDP children



Children taking part in learning activities conducted as part of the European Union-funded education in emergencies programming in Burkina Faso. Due to the deteriorating security situation, more than 2000 schools were closed down. Photo: Save the Children

were lacking birth certificates. With support from a joint Save the Children Finland (SCF) and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) project, the country office (CO) was able to support the issuance of birth certificates to 88 000 children in 2020.

Humanitarian access and operations continue to be hampered by growing insecurity, particularly in northern and eastern parts of the country. For instance, Save the Children (SC) was forced to reduce the number of post-distribution monitorings as a result of UNICEF not being able to distribute all its intended cash transfers. Also, SC faced further difficulties in gaining access in those areas severely affected by the conflict.

Burkina Faso was one of the first West African countries to have reported COVID-19 cases and was able to tackle the virus through strict containment measures, most of which were gradually lifted, with the exception of land borders that still remained closed as of December 2020. As schools closed, SC had to close its child-friendly spaces in the Oudalan province in the Sahel region. In addition, several trainings organised by SC needed to be downsized and/or postponed due to COVID-19, and requirements for social distancing affected the trainings held. Some activities needed to be postponed due to assembly restrictions and quarantines.

SAVE THE CHILDREN IN BURKINA FASO 2020 - A SNAPSHOT

In 2020, the portfolio of the SC Burkina Faso CO was worth 16.6 million euros. SC reached 1.7 million people with its programming activities, including 690 000 children. In 2020 SCF supported the Burkina Faso CO with 4.1 million euros.

2.2. EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Somalia and **Sudan** are facing myriad persistent and protracted humanitarian crises driven by political instability, widespread insecurity and recurring climate disasters. In 2020, the economic impacts of COVID-19, a desert locust upsurge, flooding, cyclical disease outbreaks and localised conflict drove humanitarian needs and affected thousands of people in both countries. Sudan hosts one of the largest

refugee populations (1.1 million refugees and asylum seekers) in Africa. Among the refugee population, 48% are under 18 years old. Moreover, as a result of the fighting in Ethiopia's Tigray region at the beginning of November 2020, close to 45 000 Ethiopian refugees crossed the border into Sudan. Initial population profiles indicated that over 40% were children. Also, in **Zambia** 2.3 million people were affected by drought in 2020. The drought situation led to over 2200 children dropping out of school at the beginning of the year, which was followed by school closure due to COVID-19 in March 2020 when more than 4.2 million children and adolescents were sent home in response to the outbreak of COVID-19.

The negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Zambia economy were far reaching, leading to a depreciation of the local currency, high inflation, reduced exports and tourist inflows and raised prices of essential commodities, resulting in a high cost of living. Debt has been a central factor steering adverse economic impacts in the country. When it comes to the state of civil society, CIVICUS categorises Somalia and Sudan as repressed, while Zambia's civil society is assessed as obstructed. In Somalia, President Mohamed Abdullahi 'Farmaajo' signed an amendment to the media law which continued to criminalise the work of journalists and falls short of international standards. In Sudan the government has not taken significant steps to improve the environment for freedom of expression and media pluralism, although the pressure on independent journalists and media has eased after al-Bashir's removal. In July 2020, Somalia's parliament impeached the prime minister, Hassan Ali Khaire, after a vote of no confidence for failing to prepare and deliver a strategy that would see the first fully democratic elections held in the country for the first time since 1969.

In all three countries SC continued its work to strengthen civil society and advocate for the realisation of child rights. The Somali CO supported civil society organisation (CSO) delegates and children in attending the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) pre-session and articulating their concerns about the situation of children to the Geneva-based Child Rights Committee of Experts. In Sudan SC continued advocating for children's rights and being at the forefront of key wins, such as passing of the laws against corporal punishment and FGM. In Zambia SC delivered a submission to Parliamentary Committee on Child Matters on the need to prioritise sexual reproductive health and



In Somalia, the growing climate crisis and other emergency situations have led to food insecurity, increased water shortages, widespread disease outbreaks, displacement and a drastic reduction in household income. At a camp for displaced families, two-year-old Suhuur (name changed) was diagnosed with and treated for pneumonia and malnutrition.
 Photo: Sacha Myers / Save the Children

rights for children and young people in Zambia, strengthening existing laws and policies that support sexual reproductive health and rights and highlighting girls' increased vulnerability as a result of COVID-19. The Zambian parliament committed itself to retaining the existing Comprehensive Sexuality Education curriculum, including strengthening the role of key stakeholders (including parents, and religious and traditional leaders) in its implementation. Parliament also committed itself to prioritising the safe return of children to schools during the pandemic in order to reduce the vulnerability of girls to sexual exploitation.

Notwithstanding the enormity of the challenges, a complex operating environment in which to deliver programmes smoothly and navigating the operational restrictions resulting from the pandemic, all three COs were able to consistently meet their operational and programme quality targets throughout the year. COs provided COVID-19 plans as soon as the pandemic began. SC managed to make a number of adaptations to enable programmes to continue delivering for children, including the following: COs added COVID-19-awareness trainings into project activities; COs provided personal protective equipment, soap and handwashing facilities; and Emergent Literacy and Math was scaled up in the home early

learning programme in order to reach more out-of-school children. SC also used its platforms to raise awareness of the impacts on children, for instance, radio and television were used to highlight the reduced allocation to the health budget and the negative impact this has on the survival of children and health outcomes.

Throughout the year, the COs organised Microsoft Teams updates and produced status reports on operations and the corona situation, as well as, on the material effects of COVID-19 on children. SCF-funded projects were monitored online, training and technical advice were now organised by using Teams, activities that could be implemented face-to-face were organised for smaller groups according to COVID-19 guidance and activities that could not be implemented in 2020 were moved to 2021.

SAVE THE CHILDREN IN SUDAN - IN A SNAPSHOT

The annual portfolio volume for the Sudan CO was 25.4 million euros, whereas SCF supported Sudan CO in 2020 with 3.7 million euros and provided capacity building and technical expertise. SC reached 997 899 beneficiaries directly, of which 508 368 were children.

2.3. THE MIDDLE EAST

In 2020, the conditions in the Middle East region remained very challenging for civil society. According to CIVICUS, there have been no major improvements in civic space over the past year. Human rights defenders, journalists and other activists continue to bear the brunt of authoritarian excesses. According to CIVICUS, Yemen suspended newspaper printing and distribution, citing COVID-19 fears. Similarly, in Turkey the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in journalists being jailed for causing panic and for publishing reports on coronavirus that were outside the knowledge of the authorities. Also in Turkey, a temporary ban on assembly and restrictions on CSOs' work was set during COVID-19, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs) not being permitted to conduct their usual operations if they involved gathering people or any training, which challenged the ways of working for the Turkey CO in general.

In 2020, Yemen continued to be one of the worst countries in the world with an unprecedented and unpredictable humanitarian operational environment in which 80% of the country population required humanitarian assistance, which can be termed as the onset of a pre-famine situation. The COVID-19 pandemic further deteriorated the situation and, in addition, the CO encountered funding suspensions of the United States, leading to a reduced level of funding and significant funding gaps when trying to sustain the operational and technical teams. Bureaucratic challenges with Yemeni authorities caused additional delays in project implementations. Getting official

approvals from the authorities to sign the partner sub-agreements affected the timely start up of several project activities, including an SCF-funded project. Nevertheless, the SC Yemen team was able to achieve remarkable impacts in regard to reaching affected people by the timely adaptation and implementation of COVID-19 response interventions. During the pandemic, SC adapted programming guidance for safe service delivery and put safe working protocols in place, including a remote management protocol.

In Turkey, reaching already disadvantaged refugees was even more challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic. The operational context created by COVID-19 pushed the Turkey CO to adapt technological solutions and revise the ways of programme implementation. The CO was able to implement most of the programming via digital platforms by conducting workshops and trainings online. The SCF-funded project fitted well into this new operation mode. With the project, a digital game and a board game were developed to address the peer bullying of Syrian refugee children in schools. The game was developed together with children, but due to COVID-19, all the workshops with children were conducted online.

SAVE THE CHILDREN IN TURKEY 2020 - A SNAPSHOT

The annual volume of the Turkey CO was 3.8 million euros in 2020. SC's programme reached a total of 16 547 people, including 4 561 children. SCF supported the Turkey CO in 2020 with 212 146 euros.



Salima (name changed), 18 months old, is measured at a health centre supported by Save the Children – located near Aden, Yemen – where she has been receiving treatment for severe acute malnutrition. Photo: Mohammed Awadh / Save the Children



In Nepal, seven-year-old Suresh (name changed) was able to continue his learning after he was provided with self-learning materials and could access radioed teaching sessions based on the same materials. 'Sometimes my schoolteacher visits my home to support me. I am very happy now. I am so happy. I always wear a mask and wash my hands nowadays, which I learnt from the radio', says Suresh. Photo: Save the Children

2.4. ASIA

The year 2020 was challenging for millions of families and children in Asia as the COVID-19 situation escalated rapidly in many countries in the region and families were pushed deeper into poverty, which had a particularly adverse impact on children. There is evidence that child labour, child abuse, child marriage and child trafficking have been rapidly increasing in many countries in Asia as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Families struggle to earn a living and support their families. In addition, in many countries schools have been closed for months, which has meant that children have not been learning for large part of the year and have been missing out on school meals. Social protection, our key focus in Asia, has become a key measure with which to address the devastating social and economic impacts of COVID-19 as it prevents poor households from falling further into poverty and helps them to cope with the crisis, and subsequently, our work in the region has become more relevant than ever. The restrictions brought about by COVID-19 have also created new innovations, such as the digital anti-child labour campaign in India, and new ways of working remotely and reaching our communities.

Of the SCF programme countries in Asia, India currently has some of the highest numbers of COVID-19 cases in the world. The impact of the worsening economic situation and the loss of local livelihood opportunities also became evident in our project

area, Dungapur, during the year. The government schools were closed in March and child labour notably increased in the project area during the pandemic as families looked for other income-earning opportunities and children were not attending school anyway. It is likely that many of these children will not return to school after the pandemic. The nationwide lockdown that was imposed in March to curb the spread of COVID-19 affected the implementation of the project for the first half of the year and movement restrictions resulted in delays, postponements and the redesigning of some of the project activities as the community could only be reached through the phone or Skype.

Similarly, in Nepal and the Philippines, project activities were adjusted to meet the current needs and to take COVID-19 restrictions into account or they were postponed. In Nepal, we responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by providing surgical masks, sanitisers, personal protective equipment kits and other protective equipment to frontline health workers and others responding to the pandemic and we supported the establishment of two isolation centres. This support benefitted more than 3965 people in the Kavre, Dolakha and Mahottari districts. In Nepal another challenge during the year was the dissolution of the Federal Parliament, the following political instability and the frequent turnover of bureaucrats and decision makers, which created challenges and delays for advocacy and policy work.

In the Philippines, project outputs were still accomplished through the community champions with virtual supervision by the project team, especially during the first half of the year where most local governments (*barangays*) were on enhanced community quarantine if not lockdown. In Myanmar, our education project key activities were accomplished before March 2020 and the pandemic only had limited impact on our work.

According to CIVICUS (2020), in many countries the emergency measures introduced to tackle the pandemic have had troubling impacts on human rights and the space for civil society. Youth were one of the groups most commonly involved in civic space incidents. Violations and restrictions on civic space continued across Asia, particularly through restricting legislation but also through censorship and harassment, and a crackdown on protestors. In the Philippines, according to CIVICUS, the assault on the freedom of expression and media freedom have persisted and the status of civil space was downgraded to *repressed* in 2020. In India, migrant workers were severely impacted upon by the government's sudden announcement of an immediate nationwide lockdown in March 2020. In Myanmar the authorities used COVID-19 response measures as a pretext to harass and extort ethnic Rohingya people. In Nepal, according to the Universal Periodic Review (which took place in 2020), the Government of Nepal has not implemented any of the recommendations

relating to civic space during its previous review examination. Repressive laws have been used to limit the work of independent CSOs and to suppress the freedom of expression.¹ Civic space in India has also continued to decline through several restrictive laws being introduced, including the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, which proposed amendments to the receipt and usage of foreign contributions for all non-profit organisations. The bill became a law in September 2020 and it prohibits the transfer of a foreign contribution to other persons/organisations, which means that organisations such as SC are not be able to transfer funds to grassroots partners. This clearly has a negative impact of the status of Indian civil society and the rights of freedom of association, expression and assembly. For our project, the bill has had limited impact as the local partner organisation has had a smaller role in the project and we found alternative ways to work with our partner; however, for Indian civil society, the law has far-reaching consequences.

SAVE THE CHILDREN IN NEPAL 2020 - A SNAPSHOT

The annual volume of SC in Nepal in 2020 was 25.9 million euros and it directly reached almost 1.4 million beneficiaries, out of which 568 000 were children. SCF supported the Nepal CO in 2020 with 0.5 million euros.

1 CIVICUS, 2020: 'People Power Under Attack 2020: A Report Based on Data from the CIVICUS Monitor'.

3. THE STRATEGIC FOCUS AND PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

3.1. PROGRAMME PROGRESS

The programme is progressing well towards the set outcomes, despite a challenging year caused by the pandemic. COVID-19 caused some slight drawbacks; for example, in Somalia there were more school drop-outs and paid child work slightly increased from 2019. Also, due to COVID-19 restrictions, annual data collection for some indicators was not possible, which impacted on the completeness of the monitoring data for 2020. For example, school drop-out data collection was not possible in India due to the fact that schools had been closed for most of the year due to lockdowns.

On the other hand, progress on access to the social protection (SP) of eligible households took major leaps in 2020. We have been able to increase access year after year, and for example, in Nepal at the end

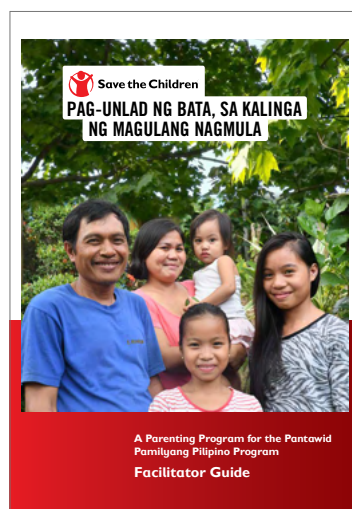
of 2020, 98% of eligible people already had access to SP benefits in the project locations. We are also progressing well with improving the quality of child protection (CP) systems. Out of 46 service providers, 73% scored *green*, meaning that the quality of their services fulfilled the minimum criteria. The number of service providers assessed has increased yearly and the scores have improved. Overall, despite the challenges produced by COVID-19, it seems that the programme outcomes and set targets can be achieved by the end of 2021.

When looking at the four components (scale, voice, innovation, partnerships) of the theory of change, it seems that the programme implementation is following the components and that they seem to be effective and enforce the realisation of the outcomes.

Analysis of the four components of the ToC show



The family of Hassan and Aluna (names changed) has benefitted from the Save the Children cash transfer programme implemented in a camp for displaced persons in Somaliland. The family has used the support to set up a tea shop and to buy food, basic necessities and learning materials. 'I want to be a doctor because we don't have any health-centre here in the camp. I want to be a surgeon', says Hassan. Photo: Mustafa Saeed / Save the Children



Research papers and other information resources were extensively used to increase the understanding of child sensitive social protection programming topics, as well as to influence policymaking.

that, for example, under the **scale** component, in Burkina Faso we were able to convince the government of the effectiveness of community CP committees as part of a CP system. This approach was scaled up at national level with SC's CP technical team supporting the ministry² to further develop the community mechanism for CP, including the development of a complete training package for all community CP committees in the country. Another example is from the Philippines where one of the regional government's formally adopted the child sensitive social protection (CSSP) parenting programme as a part of their social case management strategy for recipients of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Programme (the 4Ps). SC will be training all social workers in the region to deliver the CSSP parenting package. This shifts our role from direct implementation to capacity building. The regional government is also encouraging the national government to scale up the parenting programme to all 4Ps parents in the country, which could increase the number of children impacted on by the SC approach to several hundred thousand children across the country.

Within the **voice** component, in Zambia a compendium of case studies highlighting the negative impact of irregular and inconsistent disbursement of social cash transfers (SCTs) to poor and vulnerable children was developed to support our advocacy efforts for regularising SCTs in Zambia. The idea was to utilise the compendium as an advocacy tool to bring the voices of children to social protection policymakers, emphasising the urgency and critical need to regularise SCTs. At the beginning of 2021 these efforts

contributed to the government making increased budgetary announcements and allocations for SCTs, as well as the disbursement of pending payments from previous years.

An example of the **innovation** component is the co-operation with Abilis. SCF started strategic long-term co-operation with Abilis to strengthen the programme's disability inclusion. As part of the co-operation, Abilis trained the SC CO and the staff of partners in Somalia. The training led Abilis to review SC's training package on parenting without violence (PwV) and give guidance in order to strengthen the disability inclusion in it. This will have movement-wide consequences as Save the Children International (SCI) will be adopting the revised disability-inclusive PwV guidance when rolling out the PwV common approach globally. Another example of the innovation component is the engagement of facilitators from communities in order to facilitate positive parenting groups' sessions. It has proven to be the right approach as they are accepted and listened to by the local parents/caregivers.

None of the above would have been possible without working in **partnership** with local and national governments, local NGOs and community based organisations. For example, memorandums of understanding with the ministries in Burkina Faso and Somalia/Somaliland have enabled us to deepen our system approach and support the scale up of our approaches with these governments. For more details on achieving the outcomes, please see Sections 3.2 and 3.3.

3.2. CHILD POVERTY

FOCUS AREA: CSSP AND CHILD-SENSITIVE LIVELIHOODS

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

Save the Children Finland outcomes	Indicators
1. Reduced child poverty in relation to nutrition, education and the reduction of child work	<p>% children under five that are underweight</p> <p>% children involved in paid child work (the age category varies from country to country, depending on the local context)</p> <p>Drop-out rate among children (the age category varies from country to country, depending on the local context)</p>
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)	<p>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</p> <p>The increased use of transparency and accountability mechanisms for accessing social protection</p>
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

Significant progress has been made on reducing child poverty in the CSSP projects across Asia and Africa in the last four years. Regarding a reduction in paid child work, the highest decrease was seen in India where 81%³ of the children identified in 2020 were removed from paid work. In Somaliland/Somalia paid child work stood at 2.37%, an increase of 2.1% in 2019 (0.2%), whereas in Zambia it reduced by 17.4% (from 21% to 3.6%). When it comes to education, the dropout and enrolment rate in Somaliland/Somalia stood at 2.1% and 75% respectively, compared with 0.54% and 78% in 2019. The slight dip in the enrolment rate, and the

increase in the drop-out rate and paid child work in Somaliland/Somalia can largely be attributed to the sudden shock and challenge posed by COVID-19. In India, due to the lockdown because of COVID-19, schools were closed for the academic year so drop out could not be collected. With regard to the impact on nutrition, there was a 4.7%⁴ reduction in underweight children in Zambia. In Nepal, where a new cohort of children were studied in 2020, the number of underweight children reduced by 4%.⁵

In Somalia, during 2020, the CSSP project was expanded to an additional 150 households in the three existing intervention IDP locations of Hargeisa and 300 households in three new IDP locations in Baidoa. Baseline findings indicate that the enrolment of children was at 35% and 65% in Hargeisa and Baidoa respectively and the percentage

3 274 out of 338 children were identified

4 From 11.6% to 4.8%

5 From 24% to 20%



Safa, 4, proudly shows one of her family's goats. Her family moved to a new village after they lost most of their livestock to drought in Somaliland. Financial support granted to the family enabled Safa's older siblings to start school. The family could also avoid selling their goats and other remaining assets.
Photo: Mustafa Saeed / Save the Children

of children in paid work was at 8% and 3% in Hargeisa and Baidoa respectively. We could not collect the nutrition-related anthropometric data of children during the baseline because of COVID-19 restrictions.

In 2020, SCF's humanitarian cash and voucher assistance (CVA) focused on food security and CP outcomes. In Somalia and Sudan, SCF's CVA interventions improved the food security of beneficiary households: for example, in Somalia, beneficiary households' access to and diversity of foods consumed improved and the use of negative coping strategies was reduced during the implementation of the projects. In Somalia, in Baidoa, the percentage of households with an acceptable food consumption score increased from 50% at baseline to 81% when measured in the post-distribution monitoring. In the project location in Sudan, the average coping strategy index reduced from 13.8 at baseline to 7 in the post-distribution monitoring, demonstrating a systematic improvement of household food security. In Yemen, SCF provided protection cash assistance to over 250 households with the most vulnerable and at-risk children in order to reduce reliance on negative coping mechanisms (e.g. the early marriage of girls, child labour and school dropout).

Percentage of children involved in paid child work*

Country	Baseline	2019	2020
Somalia	17 %	0,30 %	2 %
Zambia	30 %	21 %	3,6 %
India	5,6 %	0,5 %	N/A**

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

**The indicator changed in 2020 so we are only tracking the actual number of children who have been removed from child labour. In 2020 274 children were removed from child labour.

Drop-out rate among children*

Country	Baseline	2019	2020
Somalia	8 %	0,53 %	2,1 %
Zambia	13,6 %	9 %	N/A
India	12,6 %	4,6 %	N/A due to COVID-19

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

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

In Asia, there was progress in the collaborations made with governments in Nepal, the Philippines and India in order to advance the CSSP parenting programme. In India, we trained frontline workers from the Women and Child Development department in the Dungarpur district of the Rajasthan state on the CSSP parenting programme. In Nepal, the municipalities continued to support the expansion of the CSSP parenting programme by remunerating community facilitators trained by SC to deliver the CSSP parenting sessions in the villages. In the Philippines, one of the regional government's formally adopted the CSSP parenting programme as a part of their social case management strategy for recipients of the 4Ps. SC will be training all the social workers in the region to deliver the CSSP parenting package. The regional government is encouraging the national government to scale up the parenting programme to all 4Ps parents in the country. In Nepal, a new SP programme, focusing on orphan children, was introduced in 2020. This is inspired by the Child Endowment Fund developed by SC.

In Africa, in Somaliland/Somalia, a memorandum of understanding was initiated with the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family to develop the SP policy for Somaliland. Additionally, the study on scoping and the sector review of SP in Somaliland were finalised and shared widely within the country and globally. The study undertook simulations for initialising a universal child benefit and recommended it being rolled out on the 'child grant' model being implemented under the SCF-supported CSSP project. The recommendations from the study will be further used to inform the development of the SP policy. In Burkina Faso, a technical round table on CVA and CSSP was organised jointly by SC and the Cash Working Group in October 2020. The event brought together SP stakeholders such as the World Bank, UNICEF, the Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for Social Protection, international NGOs, national organisations and CSOs. Some of the important discussion and action points that came up in the technical round table were the enhanced use of the centralised system (the social register) for beneficiary identification and targeting, the need for improved coordination with the National Council for



'We do not possess any land for cultivation. To earn a living, my husband has been working in India', tells Sumitra, the mother of two-year-old Puja. Sumitra has been supported in accessing social protection and medical support for Puja, who was severely malnourished. Sumitra took part in the parenting programme implemented in Nepal and learned about nutrition, childcare and growth monitoring. Photo: Uma Ghimire / Save the Children

Social Protection to ensure enhanced coverage without overlaps, considering the integration of the CSSP parenting package into SP / cash transfer projects, the reactivation of the Cash Working Group, the need for harmonising and standardising CVA in humanitarian tools and approaches, ensuring the data protection of beneficiaries and the need for promoting the NEXUS approach.

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

Governments in Asia have been implementing a range of SP programmes, which got supplemented with additional programmes and with increased



In Rajasthan, India, access to social protection schemes significantly reduces the risk of children dropping out of school.
Photo: Anders Björkman

allocations to existing programmes as a response to the pandemic. In our project areas, we continued to support eligible people to access regular programmes and build local awareness on additional schemes that were launched to smoothen household incomes during the crisis. In India, successful negotiations were made with the Government of Rajasthan, resulting in the disbursement of all pending payments of the Palanhar Yojana.⁶ In the Philippines, the government introduced the Social Amelioration Programme in response to COVID-19 in order to economically support 18 million vulnerable people with cash transfers. A long list of eligibility criteria was announced and local government units were asked to provide lists of eligible people to the Department of Social Welfare and Development. This became quite a mammoth task for many local governments with a limited overview of the population in their constituency. However, in 19 barangays in which SC had supported the development of a system through which elected representatives take on the responsibility of facilitating people's access to government SP and livelihood programmes, the identification of people for Social Amelioration Programme became smooth, as a result of which, 23 000

people identified as poor and vulnerable received benefits. In Asia, the total number of beneficiaries accessing government SP programmes in the project locations was 8784 in 2017. By the end of 2020, this figure had increased nearly six times from the baseline and was twice of what it was in 2019 at 51 774⁷. In Nepal, over the last four years 978 persons with disabilities have been supported in gaining access to the disability allowance, and piggybacking on the government child grant, 3629 children were provided with super cereals to combat the possible increase in malnutrition due to COVID-19. In Zambia, a compendium of case studies highlighting the negative impact of irregular and inconsistent disbursement of SCTs on poor and vulnerable children was developed. Our advocacy efforts for regularising SCTs in Zambia contributed to the government making increased budgetary announcements and allocations for SCTs, as well as the disbursement of pending payments from previous years. In Somalia, we increased the number of IDP households benefitting from the 'child grant' from 300 to 750. In Burkina Faso about 4300 poor and vulnerable households were supported with regular cash transfers through our pilots under the PIEREF project, supported by

6 A cash transfer for orphans and other vulnerable children

7 The Philippines: 23 515; Nepal: 21 167; India: 7 092

the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Finland, and the UNICEF-supported PEPSE project.

Our efforts to establish government-led mechanisms to ensure systematic access for eligible people is starting to get recognised and owned by local governments. For example, in India an offline project management information system has been developed in close collaboration with the government and is ready to be rolled out by the *panchayats*⁸. SC’s intensive work on promoting the uptake of transparency and accountability measures in regard to access to SP in Nepal, India and Zambia produced substantial results in 2020. In Nepal, by the end of 2020, 58 wards⁹ were using the transparency measures of sharing and displaying a beneficiaries list and 40 of these were regularly using accountability measures such as public hearings. In Zambia, transparency and accountability measures – such as interface meetings, community score cards, public hearings and grievance redressal mechanisms¹⁰ – were being regularly undertaken in the project area. SCF trained the Zambia CO staff and representatives of six CSOs on transparency and accountability promotion. The CO is now scaling up transparency & accountability work to six additional provinces in Zambia. In India, the use of statutory accountability measures¹¹ to avail programmes, push for pending payments or put-up other grievances was continued.

In Somalia there are no government-funded SP schemes and therefore it is difficult to use the transparency and accountability promotion approach to help people access SP benefits. However, significant success was achieved using this approach in the three intervention IDP camps in Hargeisa in order to help households to access basic services. Some of the key achievements were: four additional permanent teachers and five ad hoc teachers being provided to schools and registered in the government payroll system; two new classrooms being constructed; the number of health working days increased from three a week to five a week; and the allocation of public land by the Hargeisa municipality for the Mohamed Moge IDP camp, which is currently on private land with households facing serious challenges regarding water, sanitation and hygiene and other facilities.

In 2020, over 17 700 households were reached with humanitarian cash transfers in Somalia (15 712), Sudan (1800) and Yemen (252). In Baidoa, Somalia, SCF’s continued work with disability inclusion bore fruit: over half of the beneficiary households in the Baidoa project (729 households) had either a head of household or a family member with disabilities, including 409 households with children with disabilities.

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

Country	Baseline	2019	2020
Nepal	80 %	93 %	97 %

OUTCOME 4: Improved parenting and caregiving practices among targeted households

In 2018 a parenting programme was introduced as part of all CSSP projects across Asia and Africa to promote improved parental care among SP recipients. The programme is based on a set of sessions focusing on enhancing the skills of parents/caregivers related to supporting the emotional, social and cognitive development of children and improving family budgeting practices. Additional sessions can be added based on the objectives of the SP programme, for example, objectives related to nutrition, gender equality, child labour, education or disability inclusion. In 2019 we reported on the positive changes observed in parents based on pre- and post-assessment studies which signify the importance of the programme. In 2020 we added new cohorts of parents and children in Asia and new data collection instruments which focus on measuring outcomes for children based on longitudinal studies. The first follow up of the children will be carried out in 2021, but as the impact at child level will take time to materialise, the children will also be studied over a longer period. Due to COVID-19, we were not able to

8 The lowest tier of local government in India
 9 Local government departments
 10 Complaint boxes
 11 The Right to Information Act, the Public Services Guarantee Act

Together with her mother and two siblings, 19-year-old Chileshe (name changed) took part in the parenting-without-violence sessions offered to caregivers in the Ndola District, in Zambia. 'I grew up being beaten by my parents whenever I did something wrong, but I want a different path for my child. At the training I was taught how to communicate effectively, and this has helped me and my mother to have a good relationship.' Photo: Malama Mwila / Save the Children



collect data on adult behaviour change in 2020 in Asia. In Africa, the post-assessments of the parenting programme planned for 2020 have also been postponed to 2021. In 2020, a total of 6182¹² parents/caregivers participated in the CSSP parenting programme. In total 8884 parents/caregivers have taken part in the CSSP parenting programme to date.

KEY STRATEGIES TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

Working in close partnership with different levels of the government, line ministries and elected representatives is key for promoting the sustainability of the child sensitivity of the government SP programmes. Close government co-operation facilitates their ownership and adoption of the strategies and approaches developed under the CSSP projects – especially the mechanisms for promoting transparency and accountability, grievance redressal mechanisms, management information systems and the adoption of the CSSP parenting programme.

As important as working in close co-operation with governments is the formation and strengthening of

civil society networks/groups to build a platform for creating a strong constituency that will advocate for child- and gender-sensitive SP, as well as inclusive SP. For example, in Nepal the Social Protection Civil Society Network, initiated by SC and now comprising 19 CSOs, was instrumental in preventing the government from discontinuing the widow allowance for women below 60 and the partial disability allowance. The network also initiated the *Journal of Social Protection* with the help of SC, for which SP practitioners were invited to produce articles on SP issues in Nepal.

THEMATIC DEVELOPMENT

During 2020, SCF was heavily engaged in developing a global SC approach paper on CSSP which gives an overview of the key focus areas being pursued across the movement. We also led its roll out in the Eastern Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, and Asia regions. SCF also substantially contributed to the development of SC's position paper on universal child benefits. In addition, SCF led the drafting of two papers, 'Gender-responsive Child Sensitive Social

12 2532 in Asia and 3650 in Africa

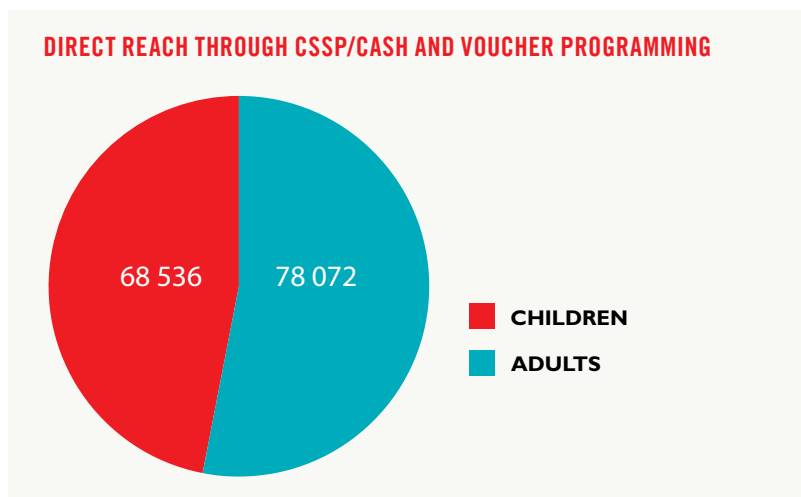
Protection’ and ‘Promoting Disability Inclusion in Child Sensitive Social Protection’, as part of the CSSP Technical Working Group of SCI. In our role of co-leading the CSSP Technical Working Group, we significantly contributed to the strategy development for the CSSP uplift within SC, as well as promoted investment in SP. As a result of intensive engagement and leading the CSSP advancement work within the SC movement, SCF has now become the leading member within SCI for both the European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA) and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) collaboration on SP.

In 2020, SC’s Cash and Markets Humanitarian Technical Working Group specifically supported SCI COs in CVA preparedness and capacity building. With the support of SCF and the working group, the Burkina Faso CO conducted a cash feasibility and risk assessment (as well as a delivery mechanism assessment), contracted several new financial service providers and mobile money operators to speed up the delivery of CVA activities and revised their CVA standard



Save the Children’s report, A Foundation to End Child Poverty, presents a clear, evidence-based policy solution for governments which they can use to progressively work towards universal child benefits.

operating procedures. Feasibility and risk assessments were also carried out in Sudan.



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	The number of targeted CP service providers/interventions that have improved their quality of service in a 12-month period The perceptions of girls/boys of the quality and accessibility of the CP services available or provided in their communities
6. Children, including those on the move, have (improved) access to appropriate family-based support, protection and care	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 THE OUTCOMES

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

Annual indicator data regarding the quality of service shows that the supported service providers in Burkina Faso, Somaliland and Zambia are continuing to progress. The number of assessed service providers has grown from 32 in 2019 to 46 in 2020, while approximately 73%¹³ of the service providers scored green in in both years. In Somaliland, the assessment included a recently established service provider (Malawle Child Welfare Committee), who scored very low in all indicators, and this affected the total achievement in 2020, while in Burkina Faso, service providers reached the green level¹⁴ for the first time. This was achieved by focusing on the quality gaps identified in the 2019 assessment. In response to

these gaps, we supported the rehabilitation of counselling centres and invested in the national rollout of the CP information management system¹⁵. Additionally, to improve information and access to social services, we supported 15 provincial CP services, 14 communal services (at district level) and 22 CP cells (at village level). Also, progress in Zambia has been impressive. In 2019, 75% of assessed service providers scored green, while in 2020 all (100%) the assessed service providers scored green. The only area which still needs improvement with the formal service providers is child safeguarding, which received the lowest scores for all four assessed informal service providers.¹⁶

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

Country	Baseline	2019	2020
Somalia	15	82	83
Burkina Faso	0 %	40 %	43 %
Zambia	33 %	75 %	100 %

13 In 2019 22 out of 30 service providers scored green; in 2020 34 out of 46 service providers scored green.

14 In 2019 0% reached green level, in 2020 43% reached green level.

15 CPIMS+ (Child Protection Information Management Systems), led by UNICEF and SC. We carried out 2 training sessions of social workers on the database.

16 See the 'Results framework' for detailed data on the indicator.



Christine (name changed) is a trained community child protection facilitator in Zambia's Copperbelt Province. 'We have set up a centre at a school in our community for people to report child abuse cases. We are seeing a positive change in some parents and caregivers as more of them are willing to come forward to report child abuse cases to the community child protection committees or local law enforcement officers,' she says. Photo: Malama Mwila / Save the Children

In Somaliland the work done to support coordination between formal and informal CP service providers resulted in the local administration providing community committees with access to community halls for free so they could hold meetings and trainings. Volunteers are also being provided with small incentives by the local government in order to motivate their work related to the prevention of and response to CP harms. In Zambia we also contributed to advocacy efforts to recognise the informal CP structures by law and on a policy level. Zambia has several key draft policies¹⁷ which can substantially strengthen the CP system once finalised.

Although case management needs to be done by trained case workers, community volunteers play a role in the identification of children and families in need of protection. By supporting the decentralisation of social services and providing support to community-based CP mechanisms in remote and conflict-affected areas, we were able to improve our targeting and reach out to the most deprived and

marginalised children. Approximately 77% of child welfare committee members in Somaliland reported that they had reacted to child abuse cases in their communities. In Burkina Faso the CP committees identified and referred over 750 children to social services in 2020, demonstrating the increased efficiency of their role as a key link of the system. In Zambia, Community Child Protection Committee members followed up on children that had dropped out of school for various reasons, including COVID-19, and engaged with wider community members regarding the importance of education and violence prevention. Community members in all our countries have also mapped the CP risks in their communities. The main knowledge gap identified in 2019 was related to understanding inclusion and how to ensure the access of children and families with disabilities to CP services. To overcome the gap, we worked in Somalia/Somaliland with local organisations for persons with disabilities and were able to ensure that persons with disabilities are now represented in the child welfare committees. Building on our successes

17 Community development policy, volunteer policy, social welfare policy and the accompanying Social Work Bill.

in Somalia/Somaliland, we will strengthen this component in other countries in the coming year.

Both in Burkina Faso and Somalia, in areas affected by the conflict we set up child-friendly learning spaces for conflict-affected out-of-school children. The children participated in stimulating recreational and social activities meant to alleviate the psychosocial distress and psychological suffering they have experienced. Here again, a strong mental health and psycho-social support component was built into our emergency programme, and extensive capacity-building sessions were delivered for our staff, partners and community members. SCF also supported the Protection Children in Conflict pooled fund with 0.5 million euros in 2020. Pooled funding was allocated to 14 COs and one regional office 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 campaigns interventions.

ANALYSIS OF HUMANITARIAN CP FUNDING, 2020¹⁸

SC worked with the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action to update an analysis of funding for humanitarian CP in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to develop recommendations and to drive forward advocacy on this issue. During revisions of the humanitarian response plans related to COVID-19, the numbers of children identified as being in need of protective interventions increased significantly and, in some cases, doubled (for example, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo). Funding requirements also increased, for example, by threefold in Burkina Faso and Afghanistan. As of September 2020, 12 out of 19 humanitarian response plans had received less than 20% of the funding requested. Funding for CP was 2% of the overall ask in the 19 humanitarian response plans, yet received only 0.8% of allocated funding.

Data also shows good progress with the indicator on girls' and boys' knowledge of and confidence in having access to CP services. In Zambia, 75% of the children (both in and out of school) interviewed were able to mention the key formal and informal support

services available for children (including sexual reproductive health and rights and gender-based violence services). Also, in Somaliland children were able to mention a number of service providers that are supporting children. This was a substantial change in knowledge from 2019, when children were only able to recall very basic services. The children mentioned several types of support provided by organisations, for example: trainings on gender-based violence; the provision of psychosocial and medical support; and awareness raising on the prevention of abuse, building confidence, child rights, conflict resolution and parental skills. The children in Zambia, Somalia and Burkina Faso also indicated that they feel confident to report or talk to any service provider in the community. The children viewed most of the service providers as being more receptive and treating them in a respectful manner. All the groups cited that they trust the organisations working with them and that they are not afraid of them. There has been a big improvement in Burkina Faso in case management practices taking into account the children's voice as an outcome of the extensive capacity building of social workers. In Burkina Faso, 91%¹⁹ of the interviewed children said that they felt listened to and that their opinion was taken into account, 100% said they felt better after having talked to a social worker and that they would recommend the service to a friend, and 82% of were satisfied with the service they received.

COVID-19 brought challenges (e.g. in some countries we had to postpone or delay some face-to-face training sessions or have them for smaller groups). On the other hand, COVID-19 also showed us that the case workers and the community structures that we had already supported for three to four years had become strong and were therefore able to continue working despite the restrictions in countries. Trust has been created in the communities, and it was easier for case workers and the members of community committees to reach out to the community members, even on the phone. Staff and partners were trained in remote case management in both Somalia/Somaliland and in Burkina Faso. Our trained CP committee members also played an important role in the prevention of the COVID-19 pandemic. In

18 Source: Still Unprotected: Humanitarian funding for Child Protection, The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, 2020

19 Data collection from two locations in Burkina Faso, with a sample size of 18 children. In 2021 data will be collected from 500 children.

Somalia/Somaliland they undertook door-to-door awareness-raising campaigns at the community level. The campaigns enabled the committee members to have face-to-face discussions with family members about the situation of the families and children, and COVID-19 protective measures in particular. The method proved to be very effective in reaching people and raising their awareness. Staff and volunteers working on the ground were provided with safety kits (face masks, hand sanitizers and gloves), and in addition, posters with COVID-19 and CP awareness messages were printed and distributed. In Somalia, we also distributed COVID-19-sensitive dignity kits to adolescents.

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

Supported caregivers in Somalia and in Somaliland demonstrated an improvement in parenting practices (of 15% in Somalia, and 29% in Somaliland) after participating in the positive parenting group sessions²⁰. No pre- and post-assessment data is available for Zambia in 2020 as, due to COVID-19 restrictions, only shorter versions of parenting group sessions were conducted and community radio was used to support positive parenting messaging.

% change of supported caregivers demonstrating improvement in parenting practices		
Country	2019 cohort	2020 cohort
Somalia	N/A	15% (from 74% BL to 89% EL)
Somaliland	15 % (from 62% BL to 77% EL)	29% (from 48% BL to 77% EL)

BL= Baseline, EL = Endline

Some adjustments to the PwV approach had to be made due to COVID-19. In Zambia, during the peak of the first wave of the pandemic, adapted materials were used in positive parenting groups' sessions, which were designed to be shorter, while the children's groups' sessions were cancelled. Key messages around positive parenting were contextualised, illustrated and combined in the form of a booklet in order to share positive parenting information among parents/caregivers in the communities. Some

targeted messages for children were also developed. Through the booklets it was possible to disseminate information to the children and caregivers in an informal manner without breaching the movement restrictions. Both Zambia and Somalia/Somaliland also used community radios in raising awareness on positive parenting and keeping children safe during the pandemic. The focus was also on enhancing community understanding of referral mechanisms for caregivers and children. During the second half of the year when the COVID-19 situation was better, face-to-face sessions restarted in both countries. Since the start of the projects, 451 female caregivers and 120 male caregivers have been trained on parenting, out of which 232 female caregivers and 49 male caregivers were trained in 2020. Simultaneously, 284 girls and 271 boys have been reached through children groups' sessions, out of which 128 girls and 127 boys were reached in 2020.

An important achievement in 2020 was our work with the Abilis Foundation, a Finnish organisation for persons with disabilities, to review the PwV toolkit for better disability inclusion. Somalia/Somaliland has managed to include parents/caregivers with disabilities and of children with disabilities in the positive parenting group sessions. Persons with disabilities will be also trained as facilitators for parents' group sessions and children's group sessions. We will continue to further strengthen disability inclusion by, for example, strengthening specific peer-group sessions in which the parents/caregivers of children with disabilities can openly discuss their specific parenting challenges. In 2020 we already supported 100 female and 20 male caregivers of children with disabilities in peer-support groups. We will also in the future include online safety issues in the parenting sessions as many parents and caregivers do not understand how to guide their children on how to use the internet safely and responsibly.

Unfortunately, the challenge to engage fathers / male caregivers has continued to be a big challenge in Somalia/Somaliland where the culture does not support men's public engagement in parenting. We tried to bring the young fathers of children under five to parenting sessions but failed. To rethink our strategy on parenting practice, we commissioned a formative study and an evaluation towards the end of the year. The results of these studies will support the redesign of the approach.

²⁰ The data is for the 2020 cohort. Somaliland baseline = 48%, end line = 77%; Somalia baseline = 74%, end line = 89%.

KEY STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

In CP, the key strategy to ensure sustainability is to work in close partnership with the different levels of the government that are responsible for CP services and to simultaneously strengthen the informal CP structures. In Burkina Faso, the signing of a collaboration agreement with the ministry in charge of CP was a pivotal moment for the Burkina Faso CO. Likewise, in Somalia/Somaliland and Zambia, SC and its local civil society partners work very closely with the ministries responsible for national CP systems and the other government departments that are crucial in the provision of services for children.

Our governmental partners are unanimous in saying that a key added value of our programming is the investment we do in training and coaching the social workforce. We have invested heavily into case management with a strong emphasis on building the capacities and training of social workers, para-social workers and community-based CP committee members. In 2020 specific attention was paid to training service providers on mental health and psycho-social support. This proved to be particularly important in 2020 due to the anxiety and restrictions caused by COVID-19. For example, in the Somaliland child welfare committee members were able to provide counselling support. In Burkina Faso we focused on strengthening the CP system to support survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). We conducted a Training of Trainers for SC staff²¹ on caring for child survivors of SGBV.

Sustainability can only be achieved when the coordination and complementarity of actions are ensured. Therefore, SC seeks to be a member in the national and local coordination structures and national task forces. In Burkina Faso, as a strategic partner of the National Secretariat Council of Child Protection, we actively contributed to the development and government endorsement of the 2022–2024 National Strategy for Child Protection, positively influencing government priorities to end all forms of violence against children. In Zambia, we are members of the government-led National Coordination Committee for Children and the CP Technical Working Group that oversees the implementation of the national Violence against Children Response Plan. We are also working closely with the national information and communication technology regulatory body that

is responsible for regulating the sector and coordinating the implementation of the Child Online Protection Strategy. In the humanitarian context, we have continued being members of humanitarian coordination mechanisms, and we are currently leading the CP area of responsibility at the national level and co-lead it at local levels in Somalia and Burkina Faso, for example. In Burkina Faso, SC – in its position as co-lead – actively contributes to the development of strategic documents (including the 2020–2021 Humanitarian Response Plan) and participates in the monitoring working group and the CP area of responsibility advisory board group.

Systems building cannot be successful if it is not embedded in the cultural and environmental context. One key success of our sustainability approach has been to engage with the community and religious leaders who relayed and positively influenced community behaviour that aimed to strengthen CP. For example, in Burkina Faso, insecurity increased drastically in 2020 with the growing number of internally displaced families and children. Formal CP services left insecure areas, but we managed to provide qualitative multi-sectorial case management through our community approach and particularly through the support of the community CP cells. Those endogenous committees were trained in identifying children in need of protection, referring them to protection services and providing them with psychological first aid. Thanks to clear referral pathways, committees acted as a relay of the CP services in the commune where insecurity prevailed. This successful experience was scaled up by the government at the national level, and our CP team supported the ministry in further developing this community approach to CP with an exhaustive training package for all the CP committees in Burkina Faso.

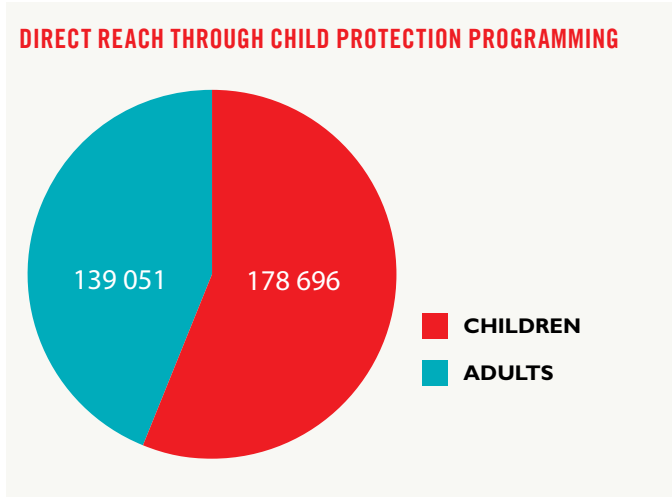
THEMATIC DEVELOPMENT

SCF's CP advisors are members of two SC Technical Working Groups and both are actively involved in the roll out of SC's common approaches in PwV and in case management in countries by conducting the training of staff and partners and by mentoring staff to master knowledge and skills in the common approaches and their tools. The key contributions made by SCF in the Safe and Appropriate Care Technical Working Group were to support the revision and piloting of monitoring and evaluation-revised

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16 staff members from Burkina Faso, Mali and Mauritania.

tools for PwV children’s group sessions; the contribution to the contextualisation of parenting material for the COVID-19 situation; and the analysis of Country Strategic Plans’ milestones related to the safe and appropriate care and support planning of the global PwV Learning Event to be held in 2021. Regarding the CPSS Technical Working Group, SCF participated in the development of a training package on the ‘Coordination of Case Management Response in Emergency Settings’ together with the regional CP area of responsibility in West and Central Africa. Additionally, we supported the roll-out of the CPSS guidance in West and Central Africa.



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 indicator
7. Increased interest and engagement in child rights by the private sector and corporates*	The number of corporates 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	

* Indicator has been modified to include private sector.

PROGRESS TOWARDS THIS OUTCOME

OUTCOME 7: Increased interest and engagement in child rights by the private sector and corporates

In child rights governance, SCF prioritised building partnerships with globally operating companies. The work related to children's rights and business was gaining a foothold at the beginning of 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic made it difficult to proceed with signing new strategic partnerships as companies started to make business continuity plans on their own. Despite several meetings and contacts with the companies to improve the realisation of child rights in companies' business operations and processes, no significant new contracts were signed in 2020. At the end of 2020, SCF had four active corporate partnerships.

It is important for us to have corporate partners supporting SCF's key strategic focus areas, including CSSP programming. Valmet's support of the CSSP project in Dungarpur, India, kicked off at the beginning of the year and proceeded well despite the pandemic. Fortum's investment plans for their new waste management plant in North Jakarta and their CRB agreement with SCF that prevents the use of child labour were confirmed, but as the local authorities' approval was still pending due to the pandemic, the CP programme on reducing harmful child labour and the creation of better opportunities for children did not kick off. Our long-term partner Stora Enso



Anamika (name changed) and her brother had already dropped out of school before the COVID-19 pandemic. Their situation was discovered during a Save the Children-initiated campaign against child labour in the Dungarpur District in Rajasthan, India. In 2020, a total of 229 children were removed from child labour and re-enrolled in school through a CSSP project supported by the service and technology company Valmet. Photo: Save the Children

continued to contribute important funding for our international and domestic programmes (e.g. in the Horn of Africa: Somalia). In the year 2020 the five-year partnership with Nokia²² in Myanmar came to its close. Over those years, Nokia supported SC's work in the communities of three townships in order to improve early learning and development

opportunities for the most marginalised children. SC also reviewed Nokia's policies, processes and guidelines related to child rights against the ten principles of the Children's Rights and Business Principles (CRBP).

In line with the Finnish development policy, we want to cooperate with companies to find new innovative ways to benefit both the private sector partners and SCF work, as well as to contribute to the wider development outcomes. Innovative examples varied from, for example, protecting refugee children online (from harassment or abuse) to organising sustainable electricity solutions (wind power) for slums to enable children's studying possibilities at home during the dark evening hours.

Under the usual circumstances, the advocacy work on CRB has a significant component of raising companies' awareness of CRB. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic this area of work was not particularly visible in 2020. Instead, the advocacy on CRB largely focused on follow-up of the Finnish human rights due diligence law, as well as on joining forces to push for an EU-level human rights due diligence law together with the other members of the SC movement. SCF also participated in the EU consultation on the human rights due diligence law as an individual member and provided input from the Finnish angle to the SC joint response. Coordinated by Finnwatch, SCF also took part in the 430 campaign that aimed at weeding out tax avoidance in order to cover the costs of the coronavirus. While the campaign created a lot of discussion, the ultimate aim was not realised as the campaign was very controversial and upset many of the private sector partners. SCF's programme director continued to be a member of the board of the Finnish corporate responsibility network FIBS.²³

KEY THEMATIC LEARNING

Until the pandemic hit the world, SCF's collaboration with companies had evolved in a solid manner. CRB services were offered to various business sectors in various geographical locations, and thus we had many opportunities to find common ground with the corporates and find and develop strategic approaches that matched their needs as potential partners. We were able to utilise SC's global organisation to find

opportunities for globally operating Finnish corporates from all SC countries. This enabled more conversations and helped to forward the cooperation with several companies. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic it became evident that a contingency plan was missing with regard to global corporate partnerships. As long-term strategic commitments were difficult to establish over remote connections with potential new partners, it was possible to carry on with the existing partnerships, but no significant strategic agreements were signed in 2020. However, a couple of innovative highlights can be mentioned: as SCF had been co-creating a programme with a Nordic telecom operator in protecting children online in Finland and Sweden, those learnings were able to be transferred into a project targeted at protecting Syrian refugee children online (from harassment or abuse). Also, an innovative sustainable electricity solution (wind power provided with a single blade) project proceeded well with the target of offering families in a slum in Kenya's capital (Nairobi) new kinds of electricity solutions.

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A Finnish organisation and network for the promotion of sustainable business.

3.5 OTHER THEMATIC AREAS: EDUCATION, AND HEALTH AND NUTRITION²⁴

3.5.1. EDUCATION

FOCUS AREA: Early childhood care and education & basic education

Save the Children Finland outcome	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 THE OUTCOMES

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

The year 2020 was the final year of our support to improving access and quality of early childhood care and development (ECCD) and smooth transitions to pre-primary and primary education in Myanmar with Nokia's support. In regard to the learning outcomes of 250 selected children, the highest percentage score (72.14%) was found in relation to approaches to learning while the lowest percentage score (41.79%) was related to emergent literacy, with the total average percentage score being 50.02% in the project locations. To support transitions to ECCD, and pre-primary and primary education, 3045 kindergarten students received early learning interventions and 1675 teachers from government schools were trained to provide better learning opportunities for early learners. All (100%) of the primary school teachers interviewed for final evaluation described

children with ECCD experience as being more active, creative and advanced in their learning capacity. They were better in cognitive and language development than the children who did not have the



A young learner at an Save the Children supported early childhood care and development centre in Myanmar.
Photo: Save the Children

opportunity to attend an ECCD centre. The interviewed parents of children attending early childhood care and education also appreciated their children's early learning capacities, behaviour and developmental skills.

SC also actively engaged in ECCD- and kindergarten-related policy discussions across the country, and the strategies and policies for establishing community-based ECCD centres for marginalised and vulnerable children in remote, fragile and conflict areas have been shared with the Ministry of Education and Department of Social Welfare. Because of this, SC has been invited by the Ministry of Education and Department of Social Welfare to support ECCD implementations especially for the expansion of a community-based ECCD programme in Myanmar.

SC supported the construction of ECCD centres and kindergarten buildings as a joint activity with respective communities and provided different capacity building for the ECCD management committees managing the centres. The project's final evaluation found that 83%²⁵ of the ECCD centres that were set up are functioning well, and the average percentage of enrolment was 82%. The enrolment of boys and girls in ECCD centres is nearly the same.²⁶ Overall, 87.5% of children in the project locations are now enrolled at ECCD centres. A key challenge identified in the evaluation was related to children with disabilities. In project townships, 43 children with disabilities enrolled in primary schools but the teachers could not provide the systematic services needed for them.

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

In 2020 SCF education in emergencies (EiE) programming was supported by ECHO in Burkina Faso and Sudan. Through the EiE projects, 23 300 children who were caught up in crisis received quality education over the year.

The year 2020 was the final year of the implementation of ECHO-funded EiE project that was

implemented in the Sahel region of Burkina Faso where attacks by non-identified armed groups who are against western-style education have imperilled learning and caused mass displacement. In certain villages in the area, visible distribution or the use of traditional pedagogical material for learning, such as a pen or a book, could put a teacher's or child's life at risk of an attack by jihadists. SC developed a learning programme solely based on oral pedagogy and supported 22 local communities to set up 77 safe learning spaces where children could gather without fear of attack and trained community facilitators to lead classes. The new pedagogy proved to be a clear key success of the project as it allowed trained community facilitators to deliver literacy and numeracy classes in a low-profile manner without putting children at risk of attack. Additionally, vulnerable children were supported in accessing CP services, specifically in areas subject to insecurity and violence. The approach was also well received by the Ministry of Education, the other key stakeholders in the education sector and communities.

At the beginning of 2020 more than 3.5 million children across Sudan were out of school, with the highest percentages of out-of-school children residing in the most vulnerable or conflict-affected communities. An additional 9.6 million children experienced a prolonged absence from school due to COVID-19 school closures in March 2020 and a postponement of school reopening due to challenges in transitioning to a new academic calendar and curriculum for the 2020–2021 academic year. Despite the nationwide school closure in Sudan, SC supported a total of 37 basic schools in Central and West Darfur States and South Kordofan through improved school infrastructure, equipment, teaching and learning supplies, and a capacity building programme for both the school teachers and Parent Teacher Association groups. As a result, SC reached 18 980 children²⁷ who enrolled in the formal education and benefited from safe, inclusive and quality education. Among those children, 6900²⁸ were out-of-school children who have rejoined formal education as a result of back-to-school campaigns that targeted 31 200²⁹ people from local communities. SC also provided support to

25 20 out of 24 centres – based on 15 indicators assessing effective functioning.

26 87.38% for boys vs 87.68% for girls with no significant pattern of discrimination/exclusion of children based on gender, ethnicity and religion.

27 9371 girls, 8608 boys.

28 4140 girls, 2760 boys.

29 16 533 female, 14 667 male.



Education is the foundation on which children, communities and nations build their future. In 2020 in Sudan, more than 50 000 children were reached by an education in emergencies project supported by the European Union.

Photo: Khalid Abulnor

grade 8 students across our three implementing states and the Blue Nile in order to allow them to complete their final exams despite the school closure. This support included COVID-19 awareness and the disinfection of exam centres. In Central Darfur, SC worked with communities and the Ministry of Education to roll out the Safe Schools approach. This directly led to the claiming back of one school in Jebel Marra, which had been occupied by the army during its closure.

KEY STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

To enforce sustainability, SCI works within the existing education system and in close co-operation with the local ministries of education. The focus is strongly on the capacity building of local partner staff through regular trainings, coaching and mentoring. Seeking ownership of the local communities is also important to ensure a link between the schools and the community. The community leaders', teachers, head teachers and learners are part of the development and implementation of school improvement plans, which enable project sustainability.

In Myanmar the establishment of 24 ECCD management committees for all ECCD villages ensures the sustainability of the ECCD centres. The management committees are leading the ECCD-related

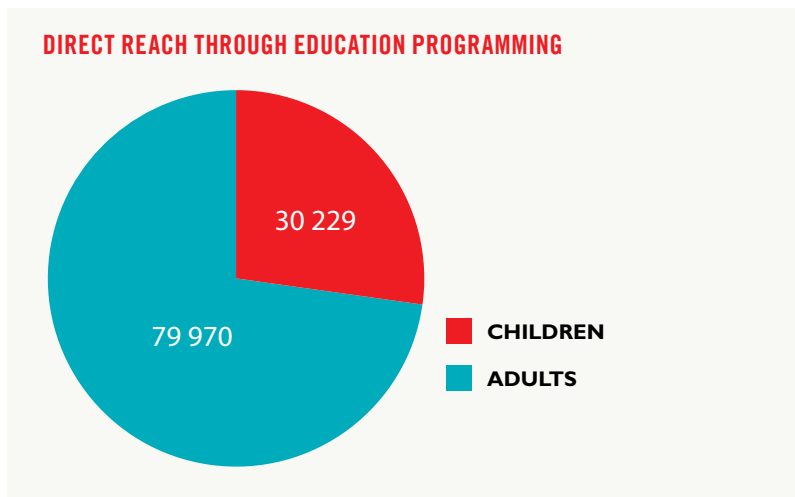
interventions in their respective villages and take the leading role in the implementation of ECCD activities, mobilising parents to send their children to ECCD centres and fund raising for ECCD caregiver's payments. The project also established and supported 22 township ECCD network groups. They were, for example, trained to collect ECCD-related data³⁰ which was shared with government departments and INGOs who are working on ECCD interventions across the country, further contributing to improved ECCD services in the country. All ECCD management committees and networking groups make an official registration with the government department of social welfare as a local independent civil society organisation. According to the final evaluation, this is a significant feasible investment by SC in terms of funding, technical support and close follow-up to ensure functionality and sustainability in the future.

In Burkina Faso, where the project was implemented in conflict-affected areas with limited state presence, a strong community-based approach was necessary. Community committees were responsible for the identification of out-of-school children and recent school dropouts in the targeted communities, in the identification of safe locations for learning spaces and in the selection of animators and facilitators to

30 Utilising mobile data collection methods

lead the learning and recreational activities in the child-friendly learning spaces. The local education authorities, in coordination with SC, had a key role in developing a learning programme solely based on

oral pedagogy and in training the facilitators providing literacy and numeracy lessons in the learning spaces.



3.5.2. HEALTH AND NUTRITION

FOCUS AREA: Health and nutrition	
SCF outcome	Indicators
10. Children under five have improved access to preventive and curative health and nutrition services related to acute malnutrition, pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria	The number and percentage of children under five with severe acute malnutrition who received effective treatment The number of children under five who receive health and nutrition services The number and percentage of households provided with improved access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities
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 Burkina Faso SC provided health and nutrition services in the form of infant and young child feeding learning and monitoring groups for 31 935 lactating or pregnant women and micronutrient distribution for 19 744 malnourished children. To provide a safe sharing and learning space for pregnant and

lactating mothers, six baby-friendly spaces were piloted in IDP-dense areas. Moreover, 3361 actors, including health workers as well as women leaders, were trained in optimal nutrition practices whereas mass-sensitising programmes via radio and TV were given to the community. In Sudan, community-based management of acute malnutrition was successfully implemented in 24 facilities across seven states, resulting in a rapid increase in access to treatment: 7899 children under five years old were treated for severe acute malnutrition; and 15 845 children under five years old were treated for moderate acute malnutrition and discharged within an acceptable SPHERE standard with a cure rate above 85%. SC

To combat COVID-19 and improve health conditions in target areas in Sudan, handwashing stations were installed in, for example, schools and child-friendly spaces. Photo: Save the Children



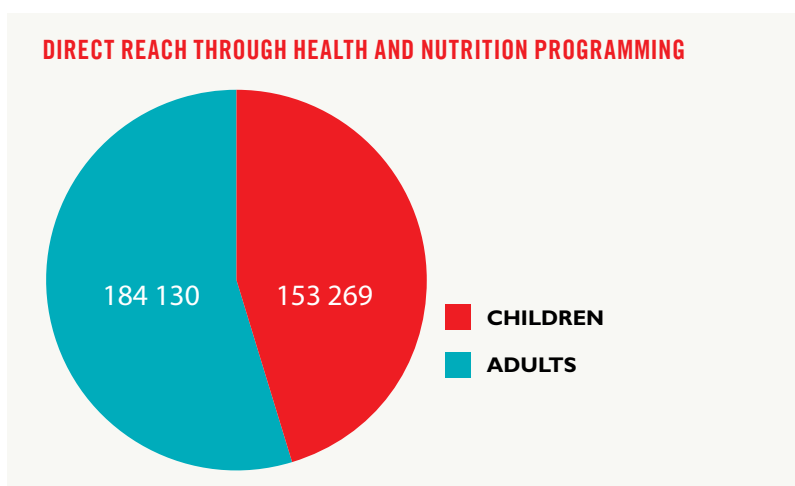
implemented health and nutrition activities in 24 health facilities and seven mobile clinics that were supported to deliver a basic package of primary health care.

As a response to the pandemic, messaging and information sharing related to COVID-19 was included into the projects in both countries. In Burkina Faso, SC distributed 500 hygiene kits, including hygiene masks, hydro-alcoholic gels and bars of soap, while in Sudan, SC led the way in supporting the Ministry of Health to fight COVID-19 by: establishing three fully functional isolation centres; establishing an c Risk Communication and Community Engagement campaign covering 12 states; working with ministries and the United Nations to create national guidance on infant and young child feeding during COVID-19;

and by providing infection prevention control materials, equipment and training in 123 health and nutrition facilities.

KEY STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

In order to ensure local ownership and the sustainability of the results, SC implemented health and nutrition activities in close collaboration with health authorities at district and national levels. In both countries, the capacity of the staff working in local health care centres was improved through training. In Burkina Faso, community volunteers, including mother leaders, were trained to ensure the continued dissemination of good practices, while in Sudan teachers received health education in order to deliver health messages to students and communities.





'In our club, we learned how to keep ourselves safe, for example, during a flood, forest fire or famine', says 15-year-old Aboubacar. In Burkina Faso, more than 1360 children took part in the activities of child clubs. Children received training in disaster risk reduction, for example. Photo: Jacques Bouda / Save the Children

4. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

SCF's *Cross-Cutting Themes Guidance Pack* was revised and rolled out through four on-line trainings at the end of 2019. In 2020 the guidance pack was utilised at the proposal development stage and during implementation (e.g. during projects' quarterly review meetings).

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

In 2020, the projects continued to focus on mitigating the risks of disasters that could hamper the achievements of project outcomes by reducing vulnerabilities, building capacities and preparedness at community level. In Burkina Faso, particular emphasis was placed on building the capacities of children and their parents through sensitisation and training on disaster preparedness, mitigation and resilience.

All the children participating in the children's clubs benefitted from disaster risk reduction (DRR) awareness raising. DRR topics were also included in the child resilience sessions, in which 106³¹ children participated in 2020. DRR awareness campaigns were organised in 20 communities in Burkina Faso, reaching over 1500 people. In Nepal, SC supported the local-level disaster management committee by providing personal protective equipment and health materials to a hospital, handwashing and disinfection facilities to school premises, and by airing radio public service announcements to raise awareness about COVID-19.

In Somalia, SC conducted a four-day DRR training for 20 SCI and partner staff³² with the support of the Somaliland National Disaster Preparedness and

31 66 boys, 40 girls.

32 12 female, 8 male.

Food Reserve Authority. This activity is especially important in the country due to it facing a myriad of persistent and protracted humanitarian crises driven by, among other factors, recurring climate disasters. The staff were equipped with knowledge and skills on child-centred DRR and action plans were developed to cascade the knowledge and skills to other staff members and communities, including children in those communities. The established community structures in the IDP camps – including child welfare committees, child rights clubs and community champions – have also played a role in reaching out and communicating to the local government authorities and ministries during disasters and crises.

In October 2020 a Climate Change Champions group was established within the SCF programme team. The idea of the champions' team is to ensure stronger mainstreaming of climate change adaptation in the new programme and moving from DRR to a more comprehensive approach towards climate change.

MILESTONE: A CASE STUDY OF DRR WORK, DESCRIBING OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- In the Philippines, SC used community clusters for children and parent support groups to spread awareness on disaster preparedness and risk reduction, especially during typhoons. The parenting sessions integrated a 'Go-to Balde' ('bucket to go') session to educate people on preparedness for evacuations and the importance of having food and emergency supplies ready and available anytime evacuation is necessary. Through the community clusters for children, children were provided with psychosocial messaging through SMS and Facebook, and through one-to-one calls in order to help with the anxiety and boredom brought about by COVID-19 quarantines and movement restrictions. Through the Barangay Social Protection and Related Initiatives Link in the Philippines, SC built the capacity of *barangays* (the smallest administrative division) in regard to disaster risk preparedness and management. Through the intensive awareness raising, communities' awareness and the availability of crop insurance increased.



Girls attending a child-friendly space in Baidoa, Somalia. In the implementation of the international programme, a special focus is given to gender sensitivity, the promotion of child participation, the integration of disaster risk reduction and the strengthening of civil society. Photo: Save the Children

GENDER SENSITIVITY

In 2020 the Somalia and Burkina Faso COs carried out gender equality self-assessments that measure progress towards embedding gender equality in systems, processes, practices and programmes. In Burkina Faso, staff felt that both females and males were equal in decision-making and in building personal and professional networks, and felt that training on sexual harassment prevention had been done well. However, only 14.9% of women thought that gender issues are discussed openly in the CO. Female staff also requested specific improvement measures for the office environment, like separate toilets and bins. While programmes were identified to contribute to the empowerment of women and girls, the need to systematically integrate indicators on gender equality was identified. Both countries have updated their gender equality action plans based on gender equality self-assessments findings.

As per the sex- and age-disaggregated data received from projects, most activities are equally reaching girls, boys, women and men. All 12 project proposals developed by SCF in 2020 met the minimum standard of being gender sensitive and one out of 12 was gender transformative. Three out of 12 proposals were assessed by using the Standard Gender Equality Marker and the remaining nine were assessed by using the Humanitarian Gender Equality Marker. This is a 29% improvement from 2019 in terms of proposals being gender sensitive.

In total, 62 women and 62 men were trained in gender equality in 2020 by SCF. The training sessions were focusing on prevention of SGBV and on equal rights and opportunities for girls and boys. For example, we delivered a training on 'caring for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence' for 16 CP specialists from Burkina Faso, Mali and Mauritania.³³ This training aimed to review core knowledge of SGBV in the different national contexts and to improve communication skills through healing behaviour and practices. A strong emphasis was placed on strengthening the mental health and psychological support within the case management process that is specific to child survivors. In SCF projects globally, 2034 female caregivers and 262 male caregivers were reached through specific gender-awareness sessions.

In 2020 the Zambia CO carried out a rapid gender analysis focusing on the impact of COVID-19 on girls. Key findings showed that substance abuse among girls had increased. Some women reported the loss of business, and women and girls reported increased fear of SGBV, reduced access to sanitary pads, reduced sexual and reproductive health services and lesser participation in decision-making processes about COVID-19 in communities. Actions were taken both at the advocacy and activity levels to respond to the findings.

The participation of male caregivers in parenting activities has remained a challenge in Islamic countries. A formative study on parenting in Somaliland revealed that female caregivers are influenced by religious leaders and grandmothers in their caregiving practices. Male caregivers are absent from home 90% of their time, but they are seen to have an important role in teaching children the Islamic faith and in ensuring children's access to education and medical support. The findings will guide us when developing strategies for better male engagement in 2021.

MILESTONE: EVIDENCE OF ACHIEVING ELEMENTS OF GENDER TRANSFORMATIVENESS

- To support moving towards gender transformativeness and tackling the root causes of identified gender inequalities, a separate programme for fathers on practical parenting skills was developed in Nepal based on the gender analysis conducted in 2018. To date, the following changes have been noted among 66 male caregivers: a 25% decrease in mothers reporting not being involved in budgeting; a 32% increase in the number of parents who jointly reported making decisions on financial matters; increased communication and sharing of responsibility between mothers and fathers on family budgeting decisions, which also increased family savings; and the increased engagement of fathers in feeding, playing, bonding and communicating with their children, as well as increased understanding of their important role in childcare.

33 Mali & Mauritania are not SCF programme countries, but the training was offered to them as well as it was easy for anyone to join the on-line training.

At the advocacy level, SC in Nepal facilitated and provided technical support for drafting the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion policy in one municipality, and the policy has been endorsed by the local government. In 2020 the project also collaborated and lobbied with 50 national-level NGOs to void the government's decision to discontinue the social security allowance to widowed women below the age of 60 and to people with disabilities. In the end, the Nepal government continued the cash transfer to these vulnerable groups.

CHILD PARTICIPATION

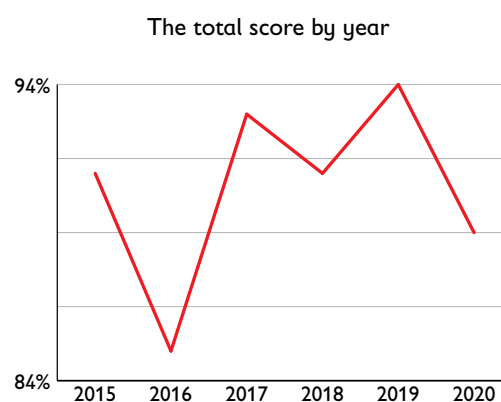
In 2020 SCF was able to restart the child participation improvement process initiated in 2019 with the Burkina Faso CO. By the end of the year, preparations were well underway for selecting a group of Child Participation Focal Points for the CO and starting a process of capacity building and action planning on child participation, supported by SCF.

In the reporting year, 12 projects out of 23³⁴ reported on the extent to which the child participation in our projects has been *voluntary, inclusive, safe and sensitive to risk*³⁵. All six projects supported by the MFA's Programme-Based Support submitted a report. In addition, among the projects that reported were two supported by ECHO, two by SCI's Central Emergency Fund, one by EU's International Cooperation and Development (of the European Commission's Directorate-General) (DEVCO) or International Partnerships and one by UNICEF. Seven out of the 12 projects were the same projects that reported in the previous year. The themes of the projects were CSSP (six projects), CP (four projects) and EiE (two projects). Eight projects from Africa, three from Asia and one from the Middle East submitted their reports. Four of the projects were from Burkina Faso alone.

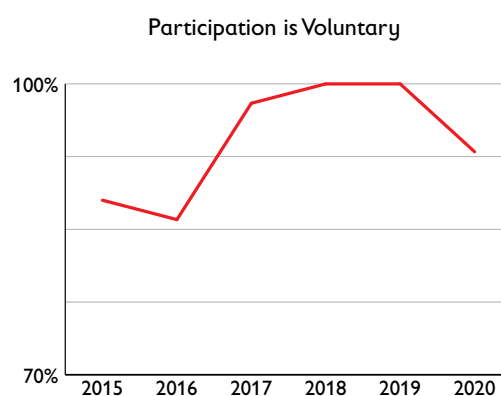
The total score for the three minimum standards combined for all the projects was 89% for the year 2020, down from 94% in 2019.

There was a reduction from the previous year in the scores for all three criteria, with a reduction of seven percentage points in both inclusiveness (dropping from 89% to 82%) and the voluntary nature of participation (dropping from 100% to 93%). On a

THE TOTAL PARTICIPATION SCORE BY YEAR



THE SCORE FOR THE VOLUNTARY NATURE OF PARTICIPATION



positive note, despite a slight decrease, the scores for both voluntary and safe participation are still relatively high at 93% and 92% respectively.

Comparing the scores between the longer-term projects that have a history of reporting on child participation with the new projects – which are either shorter-term projects, new in reporting on child participation or both – it becomes very clear that the general reduction in the scores is, for the most part, attributable to the increase in child-participation reporting by new projects. The total scores in the 'older' projects range between 93% and 100%, while the 'new' projects score between 52% and 85%. It is possible that in these newer projects there is not enough capacity or, especially in the case of humanitarian projects that are often developed and implemented within rushed timelines, there is not enough

³⁴ Since the number of submitted child participation forms is quite small, as before, the results do not readily lend themselves to generally applicable conclusions.

³⁵ Based on the UNCRC General Comment (the nine Basic Requirements described on page 26).

MILESTONE: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MID-TERM REVIEW THAT WERE ACTED ON*

- In the PIEREF project in Burkina Faso, as part of children's case management through individual improvement plans, children have the possibility to influence their case management process. The social workers assigned to the children's cases ask for the children's informed consent, and children give their input and opinions on the actions proposed in their individual improvement plans to meet their needs. The children engaged in children's clubs, supported by community leaders, develop their own activity programmes within their respective communities. The community animators, in the background, offer guidance to the children in the implementation of their activities. The project field staff, trained in child participation in 2019 by SCF, have been applying the acquired knowledge and skills in order to encourage and facilitate the participation of all children in the activities.

*For more details on the mid-term review recommendation, please see the 'Results framework' section.

time to fully take on board child participation considerations.

CIVIL SOCIETY CAPACITY STRENGTHENING AND PARTNER CAPACITY BUILDING

The year 2020 saw civic space shrinking more than ever globally as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and civil society continues to operate in an increasingly hostile environment in all SCF programme countries. Most SCF programme countries have obstructed, repressed or closed ratings (with Sudan being an exception, having a slight improvement) using the CIVICUS classifications. However, Asia raises particular concerns with the Philippines declining into *repressed* status and India introducing new legal restrictions to limit civil society space, which also impacted on our work in India³⁶. Please see Section 2.2 for examples of SC-supported civil society strengthening in Eastern Africa.

36 See Section 2.4.

37 See section 3.2, page 14 on details of achievements in Somalia.

In 2020, SCF formally (through sub-contracting arrangements) partnered with 52 partners. In addition to formal project-related partnerships, we continued to work 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 – all of which have key role in advancing child rights in their respective communities. In Zambia, the work on building transparency and accountability mechanisms to access SCTs was scaled up by the CO to six additional provinces through new CSO partners who were trained on transparency and accountability promotion by SC. In Somaliland, civil society was strengthened in regard to the use of transparency and accountability mechanisms to help households access basic services in IDP camps.³⁷

Building strategic partnerships with like-minded organisations in order to advance our shared goals is important for our work. During 2020, for example, we further strengthened our partnership with the Social Protection Civil Society Network (SPCSN) in Nepal by providing support to develop the leadership of the SPCSN in regard to leading virtual orientation on SP for CSOs all over the country. The network, which was initiated by SC, has grown into a platform consisting of 16 NGOs, conducting discourse on SP issues, conducting monthly meetings to discuss the challenges and mitigation measures, collaborating with national-level CSOs to advocate for these issues in on the local, provincial and federal levels and making duty bearers more accountable on various SP issues. It has also set up a resource centre that includes documents on the national and international laws, practices and policies related to this issue.

Globally we continued our active participation in the SC global partnership working group where we contributed to the improved quality of partnership work by developing tools and resources, and by supporting the enrolment of the SC localisation policy which was approved during the year.



Building the capacity of children and all other actors is at the core of Save the Children's Theory of Change: Photo: Save the Children

MILESTONE: THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REVISED CAPACITY-BUILDING PLANS, SUPPORT AND MONITORING CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

- We continued to invest in the long-term organisational capacity development of key partners through a partner-led and partner-owned organisational capacity development (OCD) process which started with two strategic partners in Zambia in 2019. Our OCD support is independent of other project-related support that is provided and focuses on strengthening an independent and sustainable national civil society rather than on our project implementation. In 2020 we planned to start an OCD process with three more partners, but due to

COVID-19 restrictions, we only managed to start with one partner, Heera Kadi (a community-based organisation in Burkina Faso), by conducting an organisational assessment workshop in late 2020 in order to make an OCD implementation plan for 2021. The plan focuses on strengthening Heera Kadi's governance structures (the board, its strategic planning), finance systems, staff feedback mechanisms, advocacy and resource mobilisations, CP policy, and staff safety and security. Our Zambian partners continued to implement their OCD plans and focused on strengthening their capacities in areas such as improving written policies for accessibility and inclusion, monitoring gender equality and child participation.

5. COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY

FOCUS AREA: Communication and advocacy	
SCF outcome	Indicator
Outcome 11: Increased awareness and understanding of Save the Children Finland and Save the Children International priority themes and general global development issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of magazines published • The number of readers/magazines • The number of newsletters published • The number of people reached through web pages • The number of people reached through social media • The amount of media coverage
Outcome 12: Facilitated and influenced concrete policy changes related to child rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific indicators defined for the outcome.
Outcome 13: The increased active engagement of citizens, old and new supporters of the organisation, partners and stakeholders in concrete action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of people reached through campaigning and global education activities
Outcome 14: The increased accountability and transparency of Save the Children Finland programming and actions through regular and timely communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific indicators defined for the outcome.

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE OUTCOMES

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

A multitude of communications activities were executed in order to increase the awareness on global development issues affecting the realisation of children's rights. Special emphasis was given to two areas: the protection of children in conflicts and reducing child poverty (particular through CSSP). Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, emphasis was also added to the list of emerging challenges for children that are especially related to the breakthrough areas of SC (i.e. survival, learning and protection).

Communications included public information, campaigning, media work and global education. In all activities, communications supported the advocacy,

civic engagement and fundraising functions of the organisation. Primary target groups included media, stakeholders and supporters of the organisation.

Through communication activities, SCF was able to expand its reach considerably compared with previous years. For example, the number of newsletter subscribers almost doubled, increasing to 18 000. Similarly, the number of followers of the social media channels of SCF increased by close to 25%, increasing to 73 000. In 2020 the coverage of the organisation's magazine *Pelastakaa Lapset* increased by one fifth compared with the previous year, reaching 10 000 to 70 000 recipients depending on the issue. The website had 600 000 visitors, over two thirds more than in 2019. Extensive media work also meant reaching larger audiences. In Finland, media visibility related to the international work of SC was at the second highest level recorded, with at least 777 news stories published. Partly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, humanitarian themes dominated the SC-related media reporting. The themes covered included



In 2020, the priorities of advocacy and communications were to build awareness about protecting children in conflicts and build actions to protect children in conflicts, to strengthen the role of social protection in development policy and to strengthen the strategic corporate partnerships related to children's rights and business. Photo: Sacha Myers / Save the Children

the need for increased humanitarian assistance, global inequalities and various CP issues, as well as issues related to the health and nutrition of children. Some half of the news stories were related to conflicts, which supported the efforts to draw public attention to the situation of children affected by armed conflicts. Press releases and statements were issued on a weekly basis.

Collaboration with media enabled SCF to attract public attention to the studies and research reports of SC, among them the two Stop the War on Children reports produced by SCL in 2020. The extensive research paper 'Protect a Generation: The Impact of COVID-19 on Children's Lives' also received good coverage. This report was based upon one of the most comprehensive global surveys of children and families during the pandemic in 2020 and highlighted the need for SP among the measures needed to

mitigate the negative effects of the pandemic. Reports disseminated during the year also included ten studies and briefings produced as part of the CSSP programming. These were made available and circulated in Finland and programming countries, as well as globally through SC's online library, the Resource Centre.

OUTCOME 12: Facilitating and influencing concrete policy changes related to child rights

The year 2020 was somewhat different than planned for reasons related to COVID-19, and some of the original work envisaged for the year had to be postponed or completely altered. SCF had been successfully running the Stop War against Children global campaign within the framework of Protecting Children in Conflict in the previous year, but as the pandemic-related advocacy took over, that work was no longer the top priority. Instead, because of the unprecedented pandemic, in 2020 the advocacy focused on increasing the development and humanitarian budgets in order to minimise the impacts of COVID-19 in developing countries. SCF worked particularly closely with the umbrella-organisation Fingo and other children's organisations. Together with Plan and UNICEF, SCF engaged in the United Nations General Assembly special sessions and Finland's submission.

SCF conducted budget advocacy both independently and as part of the wider campaign of an NGO coalition led by the umbrella organisation Fingo. SCF



Millions of children are living in conflict. Hundreds of thousands of children have experienced grave violations of their rights. The report **Killed and Maimed: A Generation of Violations Against Children**, published in November 2020, explores both the scale of the problem and the core areas where action is not just possible, but essential.

played an instrumental role in the budget advocacy that aimed to increase the level of both humanitarian and development funding to ensure that the impact of the pandemic would be the least harmful for children. The advocacy wins included increased humanitarian funding in 2020 and an increased development funding allocation for in 2021. SCF also had a significant role in influencing Finland's decision to join the Education Cannot Wait fund – a key actor in EiE, as well as in Global Partnership for Education COVID-19 funding. This decision later led Finland to join the Global Partnership for Education donors for the next replenishment period (2022–2025).

During the year SCF ensured that the government policymakers and decision makers had the relevant evidence from the SCF programme. Towards the end of the year SCF actively engaged in the development processes of the government's Africa strategy, as well as in the government development policy principles, in order to ensure continuity over different election periods through the various stakeholder consultations. SCF's goal was to ensure that children's rights are adequately covered, particularly in terms of access to services; that the protection of children in conflicts is ensured; and that SP's role in Finnish

development policy is strengthened. While SCF is relatively happy with the first two goals, unfortunately the government commitment toward SP in development policy did not notably improve.

At the EU level, SCF continued to advocate with SC Europe and other partners, particularly against the decision to tie the Multiannual Financial Framework to migration management, but unfortunately this advocacy was not successful and at least 10% of the funding will have to go to migration-related elements.

Advocacy in SCF programme countries continued to revolve strongly around CSSP and CP. In Somaliland the Child Act's approval has been pending, and it has been with the house of representatives since 2019, but through SC's engagement with the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family, the house of representatives agreed to table the Child Act in their upcoming meeting agenda. To highlight the need to prioritise CSSP in order to reduce the growing vulnerability and other impacts of COVID-19 on children in Zambia, SC participated in live radio and television programmes and held dialogue meetings with key policymakers and decision makers from



In its target countries, Save the Children supports the government and policymakers in developing and putting in place legislation, policies, systems and services that advance the realisation of children's rights. In Somaliland, the comprehensive draft Child Act was approved in November 2020 by the Council of Ministers and submitted to parliament.
Photo: Sacha Myers / Save the Children

different ministries. Additionally, SC ensured the CSO statement in Zambia's Voluntary National Review on Sustainable Development Goals included an element of strengthening CSSP. In Nepal, SC successfully collaborated with the SPCSN – a network that was originally initiated by SC – to void the government's decision to discontinue the social security allowance to widowed women below the age of 60 and to people with disabilities. The SPCSN also provided recommendations that were incorporated into the National Framework of Social Protection drafted by the National Planning Commission. To expand the child grant programme of the Nepalese government in 11 districts, the SPCSN demanded increasing the capital amount of the cash transfers to the children and the expansion of its coverage area, and as a result, the Bagmati Province has announced a cash transfer of NPR 2000 (approximately 14 euros) per month for orphaned and unaccompanied children.

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

Public debate on issues relevant to child rights and development was particularly encouraged and facilitated on social media platforms. In addition, integrated campaigning involving communications, advocacy and fundraising was executed in order to maintain or increase the popular support for global responsibility and the work of the organisation. This partly contributed to the efforts of SCF to ensure the acquirement of the needed funds for its regular programming, as well as to respond to the particular challenges posed by the COVID-19 situation and increasing needs for humanitarian support, for example, in Yemen and Somalia.

Public engagement was also advanced through global education activities. Despite the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 situation, cooperation could continue with educational institutions in Finland. Both primary-level schools and higher education institutions like the Faculty of Educational Sciences at the University of Helsinki were supported in executing global education activities related to child rights through, for example, the dissemination and production of educational materials. These activities reached directly around 1750 learners.

OUTCOME 14: The increased accountability and transparency of SCF programming and actions through regular and timely communication

Information on the work of the organisation was regularly communicated to the public, including stakeholders and supporters of the organisation. Updates highlighting the progress of the programme implementation, and the achieved results and impact were disseminated on all the communication channels of the organisation. During the year, 23 newsletters and other updates were produced for various target groups. Information about the impact and sustainability of the programming was also included in outputs produced for all the other communications channels, such as printed publications, the website and social media.

According to a survey of Taloustutkimus in 2020, SC was ranked in eighth place among the non-profit organisations in Finland in terms of its general impression and visibility. The position had moved up two places from the year 2018. The factors measured in the survey included the brand recognition and visibility, trustworthiness, expertise and effectiveness of the organisations.

6. ENSURING QUALITY PROGRAMMING

6.1. RESULTS-BASED MONITORING AND KEY LEARNINGS

The year 2020 was not as heavy with research and studies as the previous years have been. We conducted one project baseline study and one end-line evaluation. For humanitarian projects in Sudan and Burkina Faso, needs assessments and market assessments were conducted. Some data collection that was planned for 2020 had to be cancelled or postponed due to movement restrictions related to COVID-19.

We continued with quantitative parenting pre-assessments for the PwV approach in Somalia (Baidoa and Hargeisa) and Zambia. The post-assessments will be done in 2021. We also continued to develop the impact assessment package for the CSSP projects child sensitivity component. Aside from the sessions based on actual parenting, the child sensitivity package comprises sessions on family budgeting and the prioritisation of children's needs, which is considered crucial as many households need to manage their income better, including cash transfers, and plan for important expenses related to children. Depending on the objective of the SP programme, as well as specific problems/circumstances of children, sessions can be added to the parenting programme. More than 8000 parents/caregivers had been trained by the end of 2020. After testing several different tools and domains for tracking the change created, in 2020 we settled on two main indicators: ISELA and CREDI. Sampling and tool selection guidance were produced, and staff in India, Nepal and the Philippines were trained on using the tools to facilitate the training of local enumerators. All this had to be done remotely due to COVID-19. Parenting baseline data for a new cohort was collected in the three countries at the end of 2020, follow-up data will be collected in 2021. The new 2022–2025 programme will use the indicators and tools developed.



With support from Save the Children, Somaliland has been piloting child benefits for internally displaced households in Hargeisa, which are embedded in a child-sensitive cash-plus approach. The Scoping Study and Sector Review of Social Protection in Somaliland focuses on this pilot scheme, within the context of Somaliland's wider sector of social development. The review analyses gaps in the current system and identifies key challenges and opportunities when moving forward in order to build the social protection sector and also to scale up CSSP to become Somaliland's first social protection programme.

Some COs were able to organise annual project review meetings despite COVID-19. In Burkina Faso a key lesson learned based on the annual monitoring data was the importance of linking CP and parenting work with support to livelihoods and food security. The higher the poverty levels in the country are, the more important this linkage becomes. Our teams in the field clearly mentioned the difference the additional support made compared to standalone CP projects, and there was clear evidence that there was stronger mobilisation, engagement and participation from families in the parenting programme from parents that had received CVA/livelihoods support.

When following up on the effectiveness of the implementation in regard to the cross-cutting issues, we realised that mainstreaming cross-cutting issues with the support of a sole focal point is not possible. Therefore, SCF set up cross-cutting champions teams to ensure a stronger focus and follow up on these issues. The champions' teams aim to strengthen gender equality, disability inclusion and climate change adaptation in the 2022–2025 programme and they have been working since October 2020. It seems that the teams are a much more efficient way of mainstreaming cross-cutting issues and also simultaneously creating ownership of the cross-cutting issues across the IP team compared with the focal point approach.

The year 2020 included a lot of learning in relation to COVID-19 adaptations to projects and the approaches used. Guidance for COVID-19-sensitive monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning procedures was produced, the parenting trainings were adapted to include COVID-19 messaging and the CVA procedures were changed (where possible) to electronic/mobile transfers to limit contact and the possibility of transmitting the virus. SCI also set up a global learning space for COVID-19 adaptations which support cross-learning.

As a way to support cross-learning within SCF, the new internal quarterly learning and sharing event was introduced in late 2020. Each event presents two programme lessons, they can either be on project or programme level and relate to thematic, award

or account management. The events have been proven to be popular, and they will be continued in 2021.

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

SCI introduced a new structure with Technical Working Groups for each SCI sub-theme. SCF advisors applied to be members of these small groups, who lead the thematic development on behalf of the movement. All of our advisors were approved as members in the Technical Working Groups. This is a big achievement and acknowledgement of the high technical capacity that SCF has, and this grants SCF a unique possibility to influence the global movement's work on CSSP, CP, CVA and child participation.³⁸

In 2020 we further developed the AskKids software to collect feedback from children. Due to the audio settings and cartoon drawings, it is possible to request feedback from illiterate children. SCI is interested in the software and keen to scale up its utilisation once it has been finalised. COVID-19 delayed the field testing of the revised version of AskKids, and the field test was only conducted in Burkina Faso towards the end of 2020 while the Somaliland and Turkey field testing was re-scheduled for 2021. The development work around AskKids will continue in 2021.



Students using learning materials provided to schools in Nepal. Photo: Save the Children

7. MANAGEMENT

7.1. GENERAL MANAGEMENT

The year 2020 was the first year of the SCF strategy. The programme strategy steering groups met regularly to follow up on the implementation of the strategy. The new structure with the cross-functions steering groups seemed to work well and clearly enhanced cross-learning between functions and the international and domestic programmes.

Due to COVID-19, no Regional Advisory Council meetings were held in 2020. Instead, global programme directors met frequently (on a monthly basis) to follow up on the global situation and the adaptation of programmes to the situation. The key issues/priorities of Global Programme Directors joint work in 2020 were: the global funding framework, the right-first-time change process and Technical Expertise transformation, (which aims to increase capacity and technical/thematic knowledge at the CO level).

A key challenge has been that SC has been lacking a consistent approach to project management globally. This has resulted in projects running over budget and over schedule, and in facing challenges in maximising impact. As a response to this, SCI deployed the Project Management Methodology to COs in 2020. It will support the standardisation of project management at SC so that it is possible to deliver projects with consistent quality across the movement. In addition to the PPM, a Project Reporting Information Management and Evidence (PRIME) system has been developed. We expect the go live for the PRIME system in first COs to be in Q2 2021. The go-live date for Finland for PRIME is in the beginning of 2023.

A further three projects are well underway, having been in deployment or having gone live for the first time in 2020: Supply Chain Transformation, which

has already delivered more than 19 million United States dollar in financial benefits and has been critical to our COVID-19 humanitarian response; and Coding, which went live at the SCI centre in January 2020. Of the three projects, Source to Pay began deployment in Q3 2020, having been forced to be delayed due to COVID-19. When implemented fully, the system will reduce the time it takes to get supplies to programmes, reduce manual effort for COs, reduce fraud losses and improve donor compliance. All of these will benefit SCF's project management and should also be reflected in reduced risk levels for SCF programming.

7.2. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

At the end of 2020 SCF had 18.5 staff members working in the international programme's team in Helsinki and abroad. We had 6.7 thematic advisors to support project implementation and to ensure quality and organisational learning. This number includes a shared thematic advisor with the domestic digital wellbeing team. In addition, SCF received technical expertise support from SC USA and SC Norway for health and nutrition, and for education thematic areas for projects in Sudan and Yemen. SCF supported other members with CP expertise in countries that did not have their own experts available. In 2020 the sub-team of Partnership and Portfolio

Management comprised of 4 partnership and portfolio managers, 2.8 portfolio managers, 1 programme coordinator, a global corporate partnerships manager, and 1 advocacy and policy advisor.

Special attention was given to staff wellbeing due to the fact that most of staff were working remotely and there was little face-to-face interaction. Feedback on staff wellbeing was collected twice during the year, and measures were taken to strengthen procedures and processes to support remote work based on the feedback. New digital software and training in utilising it were introduced, and line managers received support in order to improve their remote team management skills.

7.3. THE FUNDING BASE AND ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

The increase in the total revenues of the international programme was about 3.6 million euros in 2020. Our total expenses for the International Programme in 2019 were 14.1 million euros and in 2020 they were 17.7 million euros. SCF's secured 7 398 298 euros with ECHO and DEVCO in 2020. In 2020, the European Commission was SCF's International Programme's main donor, contributing 42% of overall income.

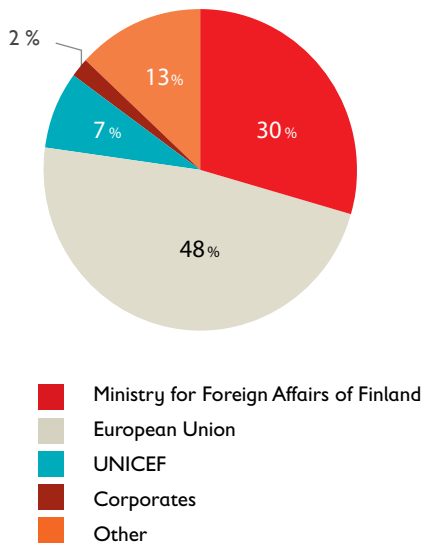


In Nepal, a 'Literacy Boost' intervention has been introduced to enhance the learning performance of children in targeted schools.
Photo: Robic Upadhayay / Save the Children



Mohammed (name changed), who is 2.5 years old, with his parents during a medical check-up at a health facility supported by Save the Children. In Sudan, support from the European Union enabled the implementation of large-scale projects in the fields of education, health and nutrition. Photo: Save the Children

EXPENDITURES BY FUNDING SOURCE



The MFA represented 30% (5 228 686 euros) of the total funding portfolio of the Save the Children Finland International Programme in 2020. In addition to the multi-year programme funding of €2 870 000, the MFA committed an

additional €1 550 000 of funding for 2020–2021. The programme funding was channelled to five countries: Burkina Faso, Somalia, Zambia, Nepal and the Philippines. Additionally, SCF managed to secure MFA long-term humanitarian funding in the January call and additional humanitarian funding in October. Secured humanitarian funding amounted to €2 200 000 in total: €1 700 000 for Somalia and €500 000 for Yemen.

Due to the global pandemic, MFA visits to respective countries could not be facilitated, but SCF facilitated, for example, Teams meetings with the Finnish embassy staff in Zambia, Kenya and Nepal.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION – DG ECHO AND DG DEVCO

In 2020, the European Commission became the biggest donor of SCF’s international programmes, covering 49% of its overall expenditure. During the year we have secured a total of 7 398 298 euros and reached a 94% proposal success rate (9 proposals were approved out of 11). Among those, 3 600 000 euros came from ECHO to support

humanitarian life-saving interventions in Sudan, in the fields of health, nutrition, food security and EiE, as well as support to the COVID-19 isolation centres. A total of 2 268 298 euros from ECHO have been channelled to our cash assistance and SP project in Somalia, conducted within a consortium of seven international NGOs. Finally, with 1 530 000 euros of DEVCO funds we started a project in Indonesia to protect and promote the human rights of vulnerable groups (including their rights to government SP) in response to the impact of COVID-19.

SCF became the leading member on SP for both the DG ECHO and DG DEVCO accounts of the SC movement. In this capacity, we have met with ECHO and DEVCO SP specialists to discuss EU policies and priorities on this thematic, as a response to the COVID-19 crisis. We also became the leading member for DG DEVCO high-level engagement and our CEO, Hanna Markkula-Kivisilta, met with DG DEVCO director Henriette Geiger to discuss long-term solutions to COVID-19 by strengthening SP, health systems and education support, and the supporting space for civic engagement.

UNICEF

In comparison to the record budget of 1 820 000 euros in 2019, in 2020 the size of the UNICEF portfolio in Burkina Faso reduced to 1 335 000 euros. In 2020 the CO concentrated on the effective implementation and monitoring of

ongoing UNICEF projects in the sectors of CP, CSSP, and health and nutrition in emergencies. The CP projects continued tackling all forms of violence against children by strengthening the community-based CP systems as well as by improving birth registration systems. The SP project continued to improve children's wellbeing in the poorest households, including through a cash transfer component. The health and nutrition intervention launched in October 2019 continued to address the worsening humanitarian crisis and malnutrition that thousands of families, and particularly their children, were suffering from due to increasing displacement and violence. No new UNICEF projects in Burkina Faso were approved in 2020.

Besides leading the UNICEF account in Burkina Faso, in 2020 SCF was allocated the UNICEF country lead position in Turkey. Liaison and donor engagement started in the country.

7.4. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The new financial management system Netvisor was deployed on 1st January 2021. Planning and training for the FMS change process were carried out in 2020. The requirements of coding and PRIME were incorporated in the new system.

The financial management of any project/award is



Mohamed (name changed) writing on the blackboard at a supported school in Central Darfur, Sudan.

Photo: Save the Children

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

7.5. RISK MANAGEMENT

The COVID-19 global pandemic was one of the external risks that realised in 2020 and one that none could have foreseen. The pandemic prevented SCF staff from taking the face-to-face technical assistance mission to programme countries, conducting monitoring visits and attending kick-off and review meetings. In programme countries, SC staff had to implement remotely, involving smaller groups of people and taking COVID-19 precautions. More emphasis was also given to community awareness of the pandemic. Some of the activities, like trainings or studies, had to be postponed to 2021.

The rise in domestic violence and gender-based violence could be seen to be due to tension in households along with reduced livelihoods options and increased poverty brought about by the pandemic. Therefore, children facing violence and abuse within our projects was one of the contextual risks identified for SCF's programme that was realised in 2020. In Somalia, within a SCF project, one of the child-friendly spaces volunteers was beaten to death.

In India, the government made an amendment to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) which oversees foreign funding to NGOs. Any grant made to an Indian NGO would not allow re-granting or sub-granting. This means that funders who currently use FCRA-registered NGOs as re-granters in order to support other FCRA-registered Indian NGOs may no longer do so. Additionally, Indian NGOs who

serve as a lead implementer on a given project may no longer create sub-grant relationships with other NGOs using foreign funding. The International Commission of Jurists states that the FCRA is 'severely shrinking' civil space in India and poses unnecessary obstacles to human rights defenders by 'unlawfully obstructing' the work of NGOs in the country of 1.3 billion. The FCRA fails to comply with India's international legal obligations to respect and protect the rights to freedom of association, expression and peaceful assembly, and the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs.

The current SCF-funded CSSP project has mainly been implemented by SC India and therefore did not have a huge impact in implementation in 2020, but amending the FCRA can be seen as one of the external risks that were identified at the planning stage of the project (i.e. the shrinking space of civil society due to restrictive legislation) that was realised in 2020.

In line with the SC whistle blowing policy and procedures, and due to an effective SC internal incident reporting system, SCF received four notifications of alleged fraud or misuse of funds cases in 2020. All of the cases were minor in nature and had no impact of the programme implementation. Three of the cases were from Yemen, where SCF had one MFA humanitarian-funded project, and one from Myanmar, where SCF had corporate funding. None of the cases were therefore from countries supported by MFA CSO programme funding. All the reported fraud cases where on procuring and complaint was raised, either by a supplier or by SC compliance staff. In all the reported fraud cases about procuring and wherever a complaint was raised, either by a supplier or by SC compliance staff, all of the cases were properly investigated and in none of the cases could a loss be identified. No child safeguarding cases were reported for a SCF-funded project in 2020.

ANNEX: CASE STUDIES FROM THE FIELD

The Philippines: Improving parenting skills

Jefferson is 10 years old and lives with his family, including six siblings, in Villaba, Leyte, in the Philippines. His family is very poor and a beneficiary of the government's conditional cash transfer programme 4Ps. Jefferson's mother participated in the Parenting Programme supported by SC in her community which aims to strengthen the child sensitivity of social protection programmes such as the 4Ps. Improved child-sensitive parenting sessions, which are part of the 4Ps design, increase the responsiveness of parents and other caregivers to the needs and rights of children and lead to better child development outcomes.

As a result of his mother's participation in the parenting programme, Jefferson has observed positive changes in her behaviour and parenting skills. Jefferson says, 'She does not punish me by hitting me anymore. She shows me that she loves me. She hugs me, kisses me and talks to me about the things that I'm interested in or those things that matter to me.'



Burkina Faso: Preventing early and unwanted pregnancies

Youssef is a shy 12-year-old boy who did not confide in his father. He explains that he used to be scared of explaining to his father that a test at school had not gone well and was ashamed to tell him that he was interested in a girl because his father would say that Youssef was not yet old enough to have a girlfriend. His father – Mamadou Soura, a farmer living in Sabarougou village in Western part of Burkina Faso – is one of the fathers who has participated in trainings which aim to connect fathers and their teenage sons with a view to improving communication on questions around sexuality. The trainings aim to change the behaviour of teenagers and prevent early and unwanted pregnancies. Mamadou explains that he used to only communicate with his son about problems he faced at home and at school, and that he did not

talk about sexuality at all with his son (Youssef) because the topic is considered taboo. He felt that if he had talked about this topic with his son, rather than satisfying his curiosity, it would encourage him to explore. Mamadou has now understood that he should assist his son in the process of maturing, and therefore, he has changed his way of communicating with his son as well as with his daughter. He uses a box with illustrated cards to discuss sexuality despite it being a taboo, and his children also have an opportunity to ask questions during the session. During the last months Youssef has noticed a change in his father. Youssef now has more confidence in confiding to his father, particularly about school. He tells us that his father still has two picture boxes in his room and that he cannot wait for him to explain what stories these boxes still contain.



Sudan: Strengthening literacy skills



After school closures due to COVID-19, **Hana***, nine, from Central Darfur, says she cannot wait to return to her school, which she passes by on her way to the field to cultivate crops with her mother. In Central Darfur the pandemic is not the only obstacle to children's education. Areas in Jebel Marra in Central Darfur continue to suffer from a state of conflict, unrest, violence and a severe lack of security, which leads to the interruption of education. Out of nearly 48 000 school-age children, only 20% are enrolled in schools, and amongst the remaining 80% of out-of-school children, the majority are girls.

Hana, completed fourth grade in Al Zahraa Primary School in February 2020, and she is excited to go the next grade in her school. SC supports the authorities in Central Darfur to provide safe, violence-free, inclusive and quality education to conflict-affected girls and boys who are refugees, returnees, IDPs and from affected host communities who are at risk of violence and abuse.

'I know about the work of SC very well; it's the organisation which provided us with textbooks, exercise books, notebooks, pencils and other useful tools.' Hana says. She describes the details of her progress in her skills and those of her peers: 'Now, instead of having no books at all like before, every three students share a textbook together. We are now able to read in groups and even at home after school. Our reading has improved; we are also writing in the notebooks provided to us, which helped us to improve our handwriting a lot, and our teachers are giving us the grade "good" for our work.'

Hana describes one of the core approaches used in the programme, also known as a literacy boost, an evidence-based approach that supports teachers, students, parents and communities in building children's reading and writing skills, placing equal emphasis on literacy acquisition in formal schooling and in communities.

Zambia: Protecting children from online abuse

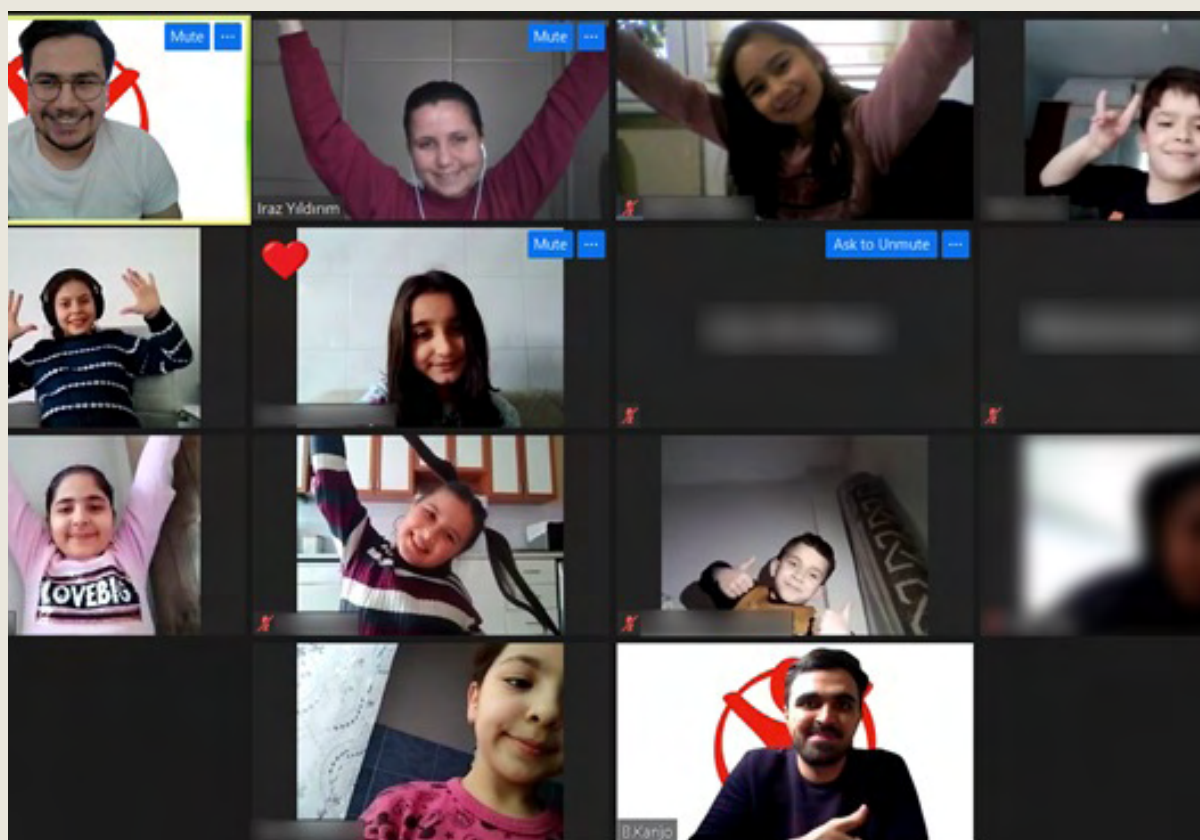
Lydia is an 18-year-old girl from Ndola and, like many other students, she is able to access the internet at school and also by mobile phone. According to a survey conducted by Zambia Information Communication Authority – ZICTA in 2015, about 70% of internet users in Zambia are youths and most commonly the internet is used for social networking. Facebook is the most popular platform that the youth are using and WhatsApp is the second most popular platform. While the internet may offer many opportunities, it also involves risks. Children are particularly at risk because of their age and vulnerability. Save the Children, together with ZICTA, organised an orientation training for children and youth on the safe use of the internet. One of the participants, Lydia, explains: ‘The information I received during the training helped me to stop visiting websites with inappropriate content because it can have a negative effect on my behaviour and expectations. I have stopped sharing my phone number and chatting with people I don’t know, especially older men, because I don’t know the intentions that they may have. The main objective of SC’s Keeping Zambian Boys and Girls Safe Online Project is to make children less vulnerable to online violence and abuse, and to have a better access to support if they are subjected to online harm. Lydia continues: ‘I am glad I volunteered to be part of the orientation because I am now able to use the internet, Facebook and WhatsApp more positively and safely.’



Turkey: Stopping peer bullying in school

Sixteen primary school children in grade 4 from the host and Syrian refugee communities attended SC workshops regularly during the academic year 2020–2021 in Leyla Bayram Primary School in Istanbul. Due to COVID-19, all the SCI workshops were held online. The purpose of the workshops was to develop a digital game and a board game together with children, and the games would reduce bullying. Children enjoyed the workshops and describe them to us. **Eslem** says, ‘We chose the game characters of the board game. We chose the name of the board game and digital game.’ **Yagmur** says, ‘We laughed, we had fun. We talked about bullying, our feelings, our thoughts and our

behaviour.’ **Behra** says, ‘We talked about what males or females can do. At the end, we realised that both can do everything.’ The children have messages from the SC workshops for other children. **Yagmur** says, ‘Come to these children’s workshops; learn to deal with peer bullying.’ She continues, ‘Learn how to communicate with other children.’ **Azra** says, ‘Attend these children’s workshops to say goodbye to bullying; to say “hi” to love’ and **Liva** concludes, ‘Join the children’s workshops not only to avoid bullying but also to get lots of more friends run towards friendship.’ After testing rounds the final game will rolled out in June 2021 for both the school and a larger audience on the internet.





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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