

MasharikiNews

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF EAST AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE



Oct 2013 - Jan 2014

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Thousands of children affected by the South Sudan crisis

South Sudan team

My name is Gatur and I am 14 years old. On the 15th of December, there was shooting at night in our area. They were shooting big guns. Some men came to our house and started shooting into the house through the windows. We were all inside at the time; we fell to the floor because they were shooting and that is when I broke my arm. My mother was shot in both feet. We decided to run here but our father didn't run with us, and now I don't know where he is. He hasn't been in contact with us since we became separated, and I don't know if he is still alive.

On 15 December 2013, fighting broke out in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, and the conflict soon spread to other parts of the country. Since that time, an unknown number of people (estimates range from 1,000 to 10,000) have been killed and almost 400,000 have been forced to flee their homes. At least 60,000 people are currently sheltering in UN bases in Juba and throughout the country. An estimated 50,000 people have also crossed into neighbouring countries, mainly Uganda.

While ceasefire talks have begun between government and rebel delegations in Addis Ababa, no agreement has yet been met.

The numbers of internally displaced people are growing. In Awerial, just across the river Nile from the conflict-affected area of Bor, an estimated 84,000 internally displaced people are currently collected, with more people arriving by boat every day. There are also several thousand individuals – including many vulnerable children – trapped on the other side of the river; unable to pay for the journey.

Deng, a teacher and father of four, recently fled the fighting with his extended family and is now

living under a tree in Awerial. "My children used to drink milk and good food, but for the last three days we have been begging for food", he said. "Many people are sick from diarrhoea and have bad coughs. We fled the guns but we are now facing new enemies – hunger and disease." In UN sites and in other areas where displaced people are gathered there remain urgent needs for food, healthcare, household items, protection, shelter and WASH facilities.

The Save the Children response is currently focused on the two UN sites in Juba, Juba 3 and Tomping, and in January 2014 operations started in Awerial, Lakes State.

In Juba, our activities are focused on the provision of emergency non-food items for IDPs, and supporting partners in providing child protection activities. There are numerous protection concerns within the sites including issues of

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A family wakes up after spending the night sleeping under a tree in Awerial. With tens of thousands of people already in Awerial and more arriving every day, shelter is in short supply and most people are staying under trees with just the few items they managed to bring with them after they fled conflict in Bor.

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From the Editor



Welcome to our maiden issue of 'Mashariki' news. A melting pot of success stories from the East Africa countries and the regional office, this information tool aims to ensure wider engagement on how we can do what we are doing even better!

Mashariki, is the Kiswahili translation for the word East – thus news from East Africa.

If you have compelling photos and interesting stories to share as well comments, please contact your country office Communications Manager or email Elizabeth.Muiruri@savethechildren.org

Our thought for 2014:

“What counts in life is not mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.”

The late Nelson Mandela

We look forward to hearing from you.

Have an amazing year ahead....!

E.M
Issue Editor

... from page 1.

separated children and the risk of forcible recruitment, as well as the urgent need for psychosocial support. We are supporting Family Tracing and Reunification and working with protection partners on Child Protection monitoring.

In Awerial, Save the Children is the lead for child protection and education, and will also be providing nutrition support. We are also looking at working in other areas once access opens up.

Currently, Save the Children has chartered three aid flights to Juba. The plane-loads of emergency relief items have benefited more than 9,000 families displaced by the fighting in South Sudan.

This outbreak of violence is a huge setback for the children of the world's newest nation. After decades of devastating civil conflict, a return to unrest and its associated displacement would have very serious consequences for children's survival and development.

Becoming one...

With the dawn of a new year, I would like to take time to reflect and acknowledge the good work that you have been doing and focus on the opportunities that lie ahead.

Just over one year ago, Save the Children in East Africa transitioned to become one; we have made good progress in our region with one country still finalizing the process. I wish to thank the management and staff throughout the East Africa region for your sterling efforts, time and energies to make our programs a success. We have seen our programs grow and strengthen; we have results-oriented and engaged staff with a quest to ensure the rights of children in East Africa are realised, and active 'advocacy' roles in all countries including the Regional Office. Thank you EA staff or your support, patience and continued commitment to the work of Save the Children. I salute you and feel honoured to have led such a team of dedicated and committed development professionals.

The continued support from our members and donors, together with partners, will allow us to develop and implement quality programs and respond to the varied challenges faced by children and communities in East Africa. This past December, Nairobi hosted International Program Senior Management Meeting that included the SCI executive board, Members, and all Country Directors. This was an excellent opportunity to gather as one and work towards the sustainability of our work with and for children.

As we start 2014, I would like to request four things of East Africa staff:

- We work together to strengthen our quality programming, coordinating our expertise, resources and skills to ensure information flow, knowledge management



Hussein Halane,
East Africa Regional
Director

and innovation within the region;

- We work together to strengthen our operations quality, ensuring Country Offices reflect quality systems, policies and procedures;
- We work together to provide leadership in regional thematic priorities, including the EA resilience approach, and by exploring wider opportunities across our sectors that reflect our dynamic regional context;
- We work together to promote a culture of quality in all that we do, ensuring we collectively build an organizational culture that values teamwork and collaboration, one that fosters communication through trust, harnesses the richness of our diversity, and one that centralizes our values and collective accountability.

I believe we can do it and as the late Nelson Mandela once said, "It always looks impossible until it is done."

We look ahead into the New Year with confidence and hope. We know there are vast challenges ahead, but we also know we have the right staff, partners and resources to address these challenges, and ensure the work of Save the Children continues to have a positive impact on the children and communities we serve.

As I myself transition to a new role, after 19 years with Save the Children, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work, dedication and commitment. I wish you and your families, good health, peace, happiness and prosperity in the New Year, and in the years to come.



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In November 2013, thirteen agencies working in Africa, including Save the Children, issued a joint statement calling on African governments to strengthen their child protection systems to secure the right of children to a life free from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect in both emergency and non-emergency settings.

The statement stresses that fulfillment of this right to protection will directly contribute to the achievement of national socio-economic development and poverty reduction agendas in Africa. The thirteen agencies delivered their recommendations during the 22nd Session of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Over 400 million children live in sub-Saharan Africa, almost half of the total population. Although data on child protection issues is limited, the risks of violence, abuse and exploitation are significant. A growing number of country studies show very high prevalence rates of physical and sexual violence, and associations between violence and a range of physical, reproductive and mental health problems. Almost 40 percent of girls are married by age 18, and approximately 60 percent of children are not registered at birth. Female genital mutilation/cutting is practiced in some 29 countries in Africa, with prevalence rates of 80 percent or more in some of those countries.

In addition, many children also face justice systems that are poorly equipped to support children, whether they are in conflict with the law, victims, witnesses, or in need of care and protection. Evidence also indicates children with disabilities face violence, abuse and stigma while ethnic, linguistic, religious and other divides can also increase the risks to children.

Strengthening child protection systems in Africa

Clare Feinstein

“When children are protected from violence, exploitation, and abuse, they are more likely to attend school and to improve their academic performance. They are also less likely to experience health problems. This agenda is an important contributor to the development of human capital in Africa.”

Thirteen agencies working in Africa called for strengthened child protection systems at the 22nd Session of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) in Addis Ababa. Claire Feinstein (Second left) speaks at the meeting in Ethiopia.

Agencies argue that effective child protection depends on appropriate policies, legislation and regulations, as well as structures and implementation that depend on social acceptance and funding. Actions are needed to strengthen effective promotion, prevention and response to violence, abuse and exploitation, and high quality evidence and data are needed to improve decision-making on child protection.

The ‘call to action’ endorses strengthening protection systems that are integrated, child-centered, and guided by the best interests of the child. In the past, interventions often focused on a single issue or risk to children, but experience shows that an individual child can be confronted by multiple needs, violations and severity. Accordingly, the agencies call for holistic approaches that acknowledge the complexity of children’s problems and the need for a multi-disciplinary response. Child protection systems should be sensitive to context and environment; take full account of the child’s role in the system; and create better coordination, engagement, and capacity of a wide range of actors, from children, youth and families, to traditional and faith leaders, to government, civil society and the private sector.

The inter-agency group and the ACERWC will support State parties to report on child protection using a systems strengthening lens, present the statement to the African Regional Economic Communities (AREC), and support a Road Map for a General Comment.

Save the Children will take a lead role in East Africa, as part of an inter-agency regional grouping. Our work on child protection systems strengthening in Africa is also part of our Addis Advocacy office plans for 2014.



Championing child protection with standby forces

Farida Bascha and Francis Onditi

For over a decade, Save the Children has been working across Africa to strengthen the capacity of military and defense forces, including peace keepers, to protect children, particularly those exposed to armed conflict.

The goal of the Child Protection regional programme is to increase the collaboration and capacity of regional bodies to effectively manage the prevention of, and response to, violence against children in East Africa.

From (3rd right) Hussein Halane, Regional Director for the Save the Children in East Africa holding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and looking on (2nd left) Mr. Benediste Hoareau, Head of Political Affairs East Africa Standby Force (EASF), backed by (2nd right) Farida Bascha, Regional Child Protection Manager, (right) Francis Onditi, Regional Child Protection Project Coordinator and (left) Mr. Getahun Seifu, the EASF Legal Advisor.

Recently, Save the Children East Africa Regional Office (EARO) partnered with the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) to develop a child protection curriculum for security and defence forces as part of the protection mandate held by the Civilian Component of the Standby Force.

The overall objective of the collaboration is aimed at integrating child rights within the Africa Union (AU) Peace Support Operations (PSO) structures and mechanisms through pre-deployment training, reporting and monitoring structures to reduce the risk of harm to women

and children in conflict zones. This project feeds into the global child protection objectives by reducing the number of children recruited into armed forces, and reducing the number of children affected by sexual and gender based violence and family separation.

The initial project focuses on the EASF and Economic Community of West African Standby Force (ECOWAS-Standby Force) with an intention to be rolled out to the other sub-regions in Africa.

The goal of the Child Protection regional programme is to increase the collaboration and capacity of regional bodies to effectively manage the prevention of, and response to, violence against children in East Africa. This work will be developed through strategic partnerships with civil society, regional bodies, and development partners amongst others.

Namana's story

Helen Mould

Namana says, "I am at the Riwoto Stabilisation Centre and health clinic, South Sudan, because of hunger and because my younger sisters are sick, they have diarrhoea and are suffering from flu. The lack of food in our house is making them ill. I was worried before they came here.

My younger sister Tome is 7 months old is here because since she was born, she has been sick with flu and a cough, and was very thin. But now she is getting better because of the medicine. I feel happier now that my sisters are getting treatment.

There is no food at our home. The maize has not been growing because the sun kills the crops. At home we are eating lalok (bitter, wild fruits from the bush) that we boil and then drink. I also go and collect firewood from the bush and sell at the market to buy a small amount of food to

bring home for the other children. If we do not have enough food we will also then go to the bush to collect some greens to eat. But this can sometimes bring on diarrhoea in the younger children, but us older ones are now used to eating these.

My mother asks me to go to the bush to collect firewood but if I can't get any or if it is not sold at the market then we will go to bed without any food because we will have no money to buy anything. Sometimes we go for two days without any food and then I am always worrying about my younger sisters. I don't think about myself, I just worry about my younger sisters. In the morning I go to the bush to get firewood to sell, so I can get food to bring home and then they are happy. I am not going to school because I have to help my mother by collecting firewood and looking after my younger sisters. My mother depends on me; if I refuse to collect firewood then there would be no food at home because we would have nothing to sell at the market and no money for food. If I go to school then my younger sisters will die because there will be no one else to collect food for them.

My mother used to take the children to the witch doctor who told us to do this and that, and to slaughter a goat but there was no improvement, so now we come here to this centre. I am happy now my sisters are here and think that this hospital is better than the witch doctors.

My sisters are now improving and are getting stronger. I ask all mothers to send their sick children here, and to try and give their children good food so they won't fall sick."



Namana, 8 years old, Kapoeta North, Eastern Equatoria state, South Sudan

Battling against child marriage in Ethiopia

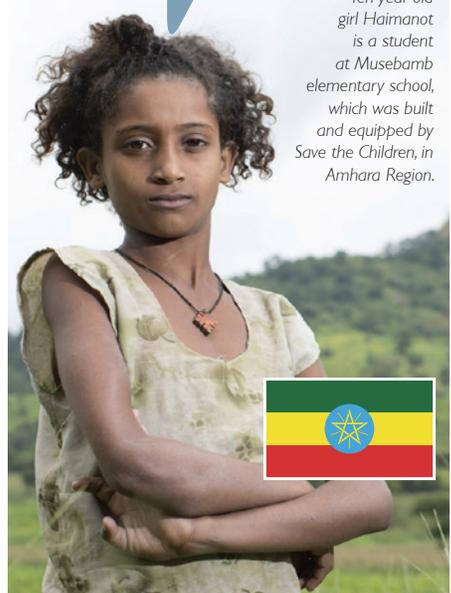
Thomas Lulseged

Early marriage is among the most common harmful traditional practices in Ethiopia in general, and in Amhara Region in particular. According to information from the former Ethiopian Population Council, Amhara Region has the highest prevalence of early marriage (50% of girls were married by age 15 and 80% married by age 18). This is known to be the major cause for most girls to dropout from school.

"Each day I like to go to school. By getting education, I can change myself and my family's life. When I grow up and finish school, I want to be a teacher," said Haimanot.

Save the Children through its child protection project aims to tackle the most common harmful traditional practices in the area - mainly female genital mutilation, early marriage, and gender and sexual-based violence by sensitizing the local community about its impact on child development.

Ten-year old girl Haimanot is a student at Musebamb elementary school, which was built and equipped by Save the Children, in Amhara Region.



A chance to learn in Uganda

Sylvia Nabanoba

My name is Mame Justine, and I am 16 years old. I come from Sake in the Democratic Republic of Congo where I lived with my mother, father and siblings. I went to Sake Catholic Primary School. My childhood was not a smooth one back in Congo.

When the war broke out, many people were killed, including my French teacher. There was a lot of fear in my village. Things got so bad that we could neither go to school nor play in our compound. One day I got home from school and found that my house had been turned upside down with clothes and things lying everywhere. My parents, brother and sisters had disappeared.

At first I thought they had gone to visit nearby. Upon consulting the elder, she suggested that we too should leave. We walked together but the elder got tired and remained at the mission. There was continuous exchange of fire.

I walked alone and crossed to Uganda through Matanda to Nyakabande and was later taken to Rwamwanja Refugee Resettlement Camp. I arrived at Rwamwanja as an unaccompanied refugee girl with no idea of what to do next. Ladies who work with Save the Children noticed and took me to Uganda Red Cross who registered me. Save the Children then traced my aunt in the camp and after one week my dad, mother and sisters arrived. I was very happy to see them. We now live as a family in a small mud and wattle house. Now that I have enrolled in school I want to study till I complete so that I can work for Save the Children to pay them back for their endeavours.

Thank you Save the Children.



The camel library inspires a reading culture

Thomas Lulseged

Last year Abdu had to drop out of school when his family moved in search of pasture and water for their animals. Now he's back at Ruqi ABE centre and says, "I like to go to school every day, and English is my favorite subject. I want to know how to read English. This year I hope my family won't move to other places, so that I can complete my level one education and move up to the next level."

Only 62% of children in the Somali region are enrolled in school, compared to the national average of 92%.

In 2000, Save the Children piloted an alternative basic education program in 20 centres, providing pastoralist children with the opportunity to catch up on their education and enter the formal school system. Now, we're supporting 58 centres in three districts of Somali Region, benefiting more than 6,550 children. We've also trained more than 120 teachers.

Save the Children's camel library is another innovative way of reaching children in remote parts of the region. Led by a herder and librarian, the camel libraries carry trunks of books around the ABE centres in the desert giving children the chance to borrow books on a regular basis.

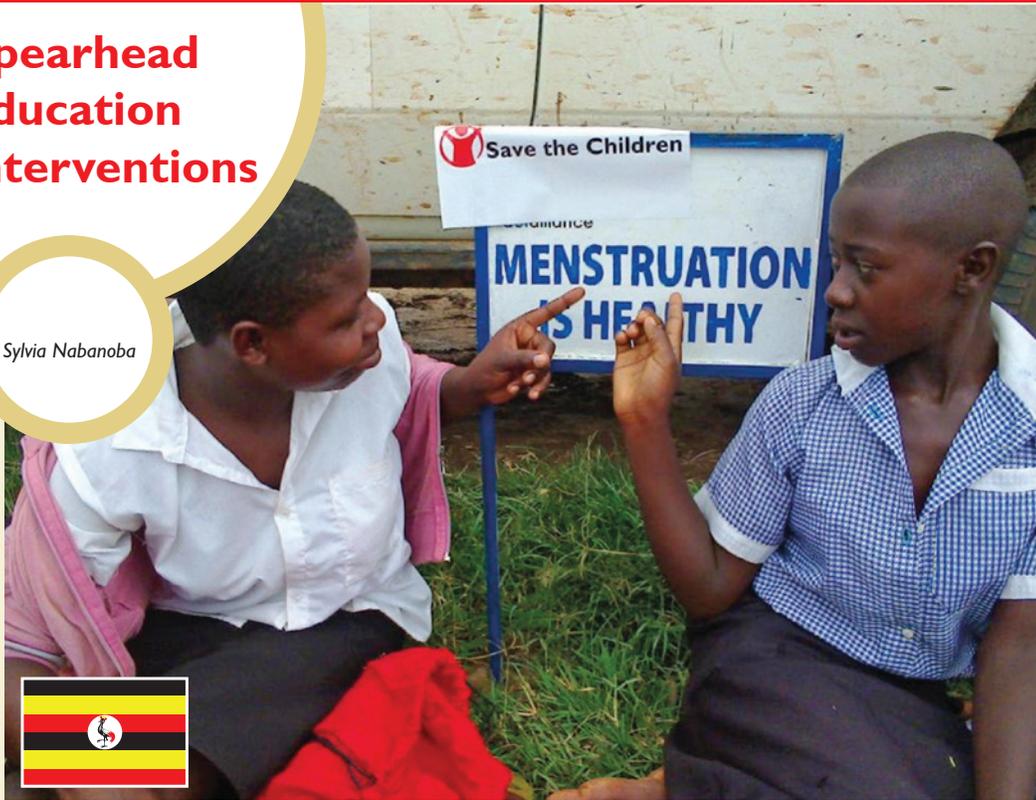


Abdu Aden, seven, holds up flash cards to help his fellow students recognise the English alphabet at Ruqi alternative basic education (ABE) centre in Somali Region.



Spearhead education interventions

Sylvia Nabanoba



My name is Rebecca, and I am 15 years old. In Congo it is still hard for parents to procure scholastic materials for girls 15 years of age and above. This is one of the reasons girls drop out of school when they reach upper classes.

My friends and I are happy to be going to school. We receive scholastic and welfare materials from Save the Children and UNICEF. They also give us other materials a girl needs such as sanitary pads, bags, knickers and other girl-child necessities. We are very grateful to Save the Children. We have also learnt a lot from our fellow Ugandan girls during in and out-of-school meetings that Save the Children facilitates. We hope this continues until we go back to our home.

Shinyanga Early Childhood Development (ECD) project

Peter Sitta



Shinyanga has the highest HIV prevalence rate in Tanzania at 7% (Tanzania Demographic Health Survey - TDHS, 2010). Save the Children implements two community based projects in Shinyanga; one that aims to reduce Mother to Child transmission of HIV and reduce stigma and discrimination faced

by people living with HIV & AIDS (PLWHA) through engagement of community groups in 72 villages and another one that supports children of HIV affected households to access basic services.

"We benefit from the Shinyanga ECD project. In the center is a place where we learn our A, B, C

and we socialize with other children. It's a place where they give us nutritious porridge and we play. The best thing is that when we join standard one we are better than those who have not started from the Early Childhood Development Centre (ECD). Thanks to Save the Children International for this wonderful project"



Improving health in communities in South Sudan

Helen Mould

“I have been working as a Community Based Distributor (CBD) for three and a half years. Save the Children came here and told us they wanted people to be CBDs and then the community selected us. I thought that this programme would lead us to a good life and help us rid this community of sickness. The major problems facing children here are malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea, but it is not as bad as it used to be. Everyone in this village now knows that I can treat their children and even people from far away villages come to me when their children are ill.

Community Based Distributor, Regina has been trained by Save the Children to diagnose and treat the three main killers of children under 5; pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria. Here she checks 4-year-old Lochebe (with his mother Nakuk) who two weeks ago she had diagnosed and treated for pneumonia.

“A long time ago people moved from here to the health clinic but it was very tough and so women left their children for five or ten days, and then when the child was so ill they were almost dead then they started to walk to the clinic. Many children died on the way. Now people can get drugs here they don't need to walk long distances to the health clinic.

“Any child who is suffering can come to me for treatment and mothers can bring them to me at any time of day; they can come in the morning, in the evening and even during the night. During the day I also work in the fields where I am growing some crops or I go and look for the grasses that we use to thatch our huts. Normally I see about four children in the morning, two in the evening and one during the night. The most common problems I treat children for are malaria and pneumonia.

“If I am looking for signs of malaria I check the child's forehead to see if they have a fever or if they are shivering, I also ask the mother if there are other problems like vomiting and how long it has been going on for. Then I will immediately treat them for malaria and will give the mother tablets for the child to take for three days, after the child has finished the tablets then the mother will bring the child back to me for a check up to see if the malaria has gone.

“I have treated six children this week; two from pneumonia, three for diarrhoea and one for malaria. The children who had pneumonia were very sick but now they are getting better after treatment.

“All the people from this community know I have drugs and respect me as a doctor and know that I can help their children, this makes me feel proud and is why I appreciate this programme.

Creating opportunities in Uganda

Sylvia Nabanoba

Furaha Nzabonimpa, a 26-year-old single mother, lives in a one-roomed mud house with her two children, six-year-old Nuriete and five-year-old Alphonsine. The family lives next to an Early Childhood Care and Development/Child Friendly Space (ECCD/CFS) centre. Ever since her husband died two years ago, Furaha has struggled to raise the children on her own. She planted maize and beans in Congo but when the harvesting period was due, the war started and she left everything in the gardens. When she arrived in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement, she was selected by the community to be an ECCD/CFS caregiver at the Save the Children-supported ECCD/CFS center in Mahani A in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement.

Furaha is very grateful to the community for selecting her to be one of the 40 caregivers supported by Save the Children.

“The two most exciting things that have happened to me since I came here include the day I received a bicycle from Save the Children’s Country Director and the day I was selected to go for an educational training opportunity in the nearby Fort Portal town.”

Furaha appeals to Save the Children to continue supporting pre-school education in the refugee settlements because those who have joined primary school from the ECCDs are performing very well in their primary schools.



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Coping with difficult times

Sylvia Nabanoba



My name is Caliste Musemakweri, 34 years old. I had been seeing cars with Save the Children logos back in my village in Congo but never bothered to know what work the organization was involved in until I arrived in Nyakabande (Refugee Transit Centre in Kisoro, Uganda). It was raining and my wife had a two-month-old baby. Her responsibility was taking care of the baby while mine was looking after our luggage and the other four children. The weather in Nyakabande was not friendly as it was very cold and wet. We feared losing the baby as it got more cold. For about 40 minutes, we were lining up for registration by the UN, which was conducted by the Uganda Red Cross Society. A truck carrying baby blankets and other children’s items soon arrived, brought by Save the Children. These were distributed to all children. It was all smiles in the camp, especially for the mothers.

After three weeks in Nyakabande, we boarded a bus to Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement. Here again we found Save the Children. This time they were looking out for children who came without parents or guardians. These were called ‘separated children’ and the staff of Save the Children took their records using a phone. These children would be reunited with their parents or guardians through this process. Save the Children also came to our homes registering children who would be enrolled in the Early Childhood Care and Development/Child Friendly Space (ECCD/CFS). I registered my children. At the ECCD/CFS centre my children rediscovered happiness. They spend 80% of their time there, giving me time to do other activities without worrying about them. We are very grateful to Save the Children for taking care of our children during difficult times and making them happy at the CFS.

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Boosting chances to learn in Sudan

Dina T. Abulgasim

How does it feel like to be in a school without a fence and electricity and still continue with education? Despite the lack of proper structures in El Nour Basic School in Blue Nile State at Dmazine locality, you will find children in a normal school environment with positive outlooks.

At that beginning of this school year the students found two fully furnished classrooms and a teacher office that was built during the summer vacation. Every student wished to have the right to use the new classrooms. As the headmistress believed that grade 8 is a critical year, with students getting ready to move into high school, she decided to give them one of the newly established classrooms to ensure that students are well prepared for the transition. Mohamed, 16 years old, in grade 8, believes he is lucky to have access to the newly established classroom.

Mohamed described his previous classrooms made of local materials. *“Throughout the year*

Continued on page 10, col 1



Mohamed among his friends – El Nour Basic School – Blue Nile State- Education Project funded by Sida.

© Save the Children

John Njoka

Children’s voices reflected in the ACERWC

Two years ago, the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), Plan Sweden National Office (Plan SNO), Save the Children Sweden, the Community Law Centre (CLC) of the University of Western Cape in South Africa and the Institute of Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA) based in Banjul, Gambia, agreed to partner as a consortium and enable the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child Committee (ACERWC) to deliver effectively on its mandate. This led to the genesis of a three year project dubbed ‘the African Children’s Charter Project’ (ACCP). Part of this project ensures that the Committee works closely with other African Union entities as well as with civil society organisations (CSOs).

Each of the five organisations has clearly defined activities. One of the activities for Save the Children International was to develop a child friendly version of the Guide for CSOs on How to Engage with the ACERWC. Developed by Plan International and Save the Children in 2009 and updated in 2010, this guide informs CSOs on the African Charter; the composition and role of the Committee of Experts and how CSOs can engage with this Committee. However, the guide has been largely relevant to adults, thereby alienating children. Yet child participation is a key area if child rights are to be realized.

In the third quarter of 2013, a consultant was hired under the ACCP project to undertake consultations with children across Africa with a view to coming up with a child friendly guide version of the *Guide for CSOs on How to Engage with the ACERWC*. The consultant visited four countries representing Africa: South Sudan (Eastern), Senegal (West), Zambia (Southern)

and Egypt (North Africa). Egypt’s participation was done virtually due to the prohibitive security situation at the time. Children from these countries were consulted (using creative techniques) on the guide and their input used to draft a child friendly version. These children were aged between 10 and 17 years, came from both rural and urban areas and comprised both girls and boys.

Upon production of a draft document, a validation workshop for the children took place in Lusaka, Zambia. Whilst acknowledging that the consultant had done good work in the production of the child friendly guide, children challenged the Experts working on the document with the following comments:

Some of the words are complex for children.”

- “The document is still long.”
- “Some pictures are not relevant to the rights against which they are presented.”
- “The text is still too small to be read by a child.”
- “Children would need a workbook to make the document more interesting.”

The lesson learned from this process is that children’s voices are often left out when experts develop child rights governance documents. The myth, though perpetuated inadvertently, has been that children have nothing to offer. The time to change this has come and all work on children has to include them as equal partners.

it was wet, hot or cold. We could hardly focus on the lessons; the class might even finish without us paying attention due to the distractions it coveted.” Despite the rain students reported to school because the headmistress encouraged them to continue studying. Sometimes the students used to bring empty sacks from their own home to cover the rooftop of the classroom so as to continue learning in spite of the rain. They would sit on bricks or bring along their own seats from home.

Mohamed isn't just a student, but an active member in his community. He established a planting project in the neighbourhood with two friends and it requires daily watering of the trees. It makes him happy to see the neighbourhood turn green.

Mohamed wishes his peers and colleagues have similar classrooms like his. Through the SIDA fund, the Save the Children education programme in Blue Nile aims to increase access and quality of education for pre-school and primary school for 1190 children. This includes the provision of permanent and temporary classrooms, teachers' offices, learning and teaching materials, seating and teacher trainings.



Mohamed among his friends – El Nour Basic School – Blue Nile State- Education Project funded by Sida.

Tanzania ranks eighth in commitment to tackle hunger and nutrition challenges

Jasminka Milovanovic



New research from the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), in partnership with Save the Children and civil society coalition Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA), has ranked Tanzania 8th out of 45 developing countries in its political commitment to tackling hunger and undernutrition. The research found that despite high rates of undernutrition and hunger Tanzania is ahead of other East African countries including Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi in its political commitment to tackle hunger and undernutrition. However Tanzania still lags behind Malawi and Madagascar.

The Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index (HANCI), launched on 14 November 2013 in Dar es Salaam, is the first global index of its kind showing levels of political commitment to tackling hunger and undernutrition in terms of appropriate policies, legal frameworks, and public spending. The index was created to provide greater transparency and public accountability by measuring what actions governments take, and what they fail to do, in addressing hunger and undernutrition.

Key findings from the research will be presented at the Dar es Salaam launch to members of the Parliamentary Group for Nutrition, Food Security and Children's Rights and PANITA organisations. The launch itself brings together civil society organisations and government representatives working on nutrition and hunger related issues to explore how to use evidence from the research to support their ongoing work to further improve government commitment.

Tanzania is praised for setting out some food security and nutrition systems and mechanisms including instituting a separate budget line for nutrition to improve public oversight, and accountability for spending and substantial investment in health, thus supporting access to essential services for children and women.

However, the report suggests some areas need improvement. These include better coordination mechanisms so that nutrition becomes mainstreamed in policies and strategies across sectors, more resources for tackling hunger and undernutrition and better data from communities and districts affected by hunger and undernutrition to inform policy and plans. 40 Tanzania based experts surveyed by HANCI researchers note that current manifestoes of political parties (2010-2015) do not perceive hunger and nutrition as key development issues. More so, nutrition is not specifically outlined in the Tanzania Development Vision 2025; hence key opportunities to demonstrate commitment are lost.

Among the interesting findings of the research is that low income countries like Malawi and Madagascar and lower middle income Guatemala, are leading the charge against hunger and undernutrition, whilst economic powerhouses such as India and Nigeria are failing some of their most vulnerable citizens. This shows that sustained economic growth does not guarantee that governments will make tackling of hunger or undernutrition a priority.

Lead HANCI researcher at IDS, Dr Dolf te Lintelo said, *“The Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index shines a spot light on what governments are doing, or failing to do, towards addressing hunger and undernutrition. With millions of lives at stake it is essential that we create greater public accountability on this key development issue. Where high levels of political commitment exist, we could see dramatic decreases in the levels of illness and death caused by chronic hunger and to the irreversible damage to the physical and mental development of children caused by undernutrition. We hope that all those committed to combating hunger and undernutrition, whether in communities, NGOs, or governments, will use HANCI as a rallying call for change.”*

East Africa hosts the 2013 regional finance directors meeting

Yvonne Arunga



The East Africa Regional Office hosted the annual Regional Finance Directors (RFD) meeting in November 2013. The annual forum is an opportunity to share key global developments and priorities in finance as well as provide a platform for sharing good practice across the regions and networking. The focus this year, in addition to the regular finance housekeeping issues, was supporting a smooth Merlin transition in 2014.

It was however not all work and no play; the final day was a team building event that included several activities such as mapping out the finance journey since transition using magazine clippings. Guests spotted zebras, wildebeest and antelopes at the roadside, next to the meeting venue. A sight that will be forever etched in their memory.

Delegates:

Caroline Stockman	Save the Children Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
Heather Francis	Director of Financial Management
Mike Kostyn	Head of International Programmes Finance
Ben Boxer	Regional Finance Director (RFD) East Africa
Bakate Hall	Regional Finance Director (RFD) South Africa
Gordon Kihuguru	Regional Finance Director (RFD) West Africa
Abbas Abdullah	Regional Finance Director (RFD) Middle East & Eurasia
Alejandro Escobar	Regional Finance Director (RFD) Latin America
Pooja Gupta	Regional Finance Director (RFD) Asia
Simon Ingram	Senior Regional Finance Manager, South Central Asia
Yvonne Arunga	Regional Financial Controller, East Africa

Bridging the gap between academics and humanitarian practitioners

Edwin Kuria

Kenya hosted the Humanitarian Partnership Conference (HPC), which brought together one hundred academicians and humanitarian practitioners from around the world. The University of Nairobi and Inter-agency Working Group (IAWG) in association with Enhancing Learning & Research For Humanitarian Assistance (ELRHA), which sits within Save the Children-UK, hosted the three-day event held at the Kenya Science Campus of the University of Nairobi in the third quarter of 2013.

Billed as the first conference of its kind in Africa with the theme of "Bridging the gap between academics and humanitarian practitioners", the organisers lined up over 20 presentations, with humanitarian practitioners and academicians taking on issues ranging from transformational delivery of education in emergency contexts to humanitarian capacity building and accreditation of courses. At the opening, Professor Horace Ochanda, the Deputy Principal of the Kenya Science Campus of the University of Nairobi, said, "I hope that the partnerships formed at the end of this conference will be documented for value addition." Prof. Ochanda also added that opportunities abound to highlight challenges to academia and NGO partnerships that will lead to practical solutions.

The key speaker, Dr. Vincenzo Bollettino, Executive Director Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Cambridge, MA, USA underscored the importance of academia and humanitarian organizations building partnerships and not consultancies. The conference marks an important milestone in Kenya, and Africa. It aimed to facilitate the participation of humanitarian actors and academics in order to develop highly professional responders, share expertise, and carry out research that generates action for those suffering from the impact of disasters.

ELRHA spearheaded the first humanitarian partnership conference held in Geneva, Switzerland in October 2011. While attending the Geneva conference, Ms. Sheila Waruhiu, the IAWG chairperson and Kenya's HPC champion observed that there was very little representation from the global south (Africa and Asia) and this inspired her to host the conference. At the closing session, Ms. Waruhiu announced that a resolution had been passed to make the conference an annual event in Africa.



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Sheila Waruhiu - IAWG member and HPC champion.



Dr. Vincenzo Bollettino, the key Speaker underscores the importance of academia and humanitarian organisations building partnerships and not consultancies.



Children cheering at the EARO Arusha 'Race for Survival' event.

More than 500 children in Arusha took part in the Global Day of Action for Child Survival – a global relay race dubbed 'Race for Survival' aimed at breaking the world marathon record and raising awareness on the hidden crisis of millions of under-five children dying from preventable causes every year.

The race which covers a full marathon distance 42.195km is a relay event for teams of children who race other teams in different venues. Our marathon drew participants from 4 schools in Arusha; Meru Primary, Arusha Primary, Uhuru Primary and Kaloleni Primary School. Sports personalities such as Restuta Joseph, renown 21km, female record holder and Emmanuel Giniki, joined the East Africa Regional Office Arusha 'Race for Survival' event. The winning team in Arusha completed the race in 2h 23m 15s.

Addressing the children, Arusha Regional Commissioner representative, government representatives and the public, Hussein Halane, the East Africa Regional Director said, "Throughout East Africa, poor children are more likely to die than rich children. Children in the rural areas are more likely to die than their urban

Race for Survival in East Africa

Elizabeth Muiruri

When children are protected from violence, exploitation, and abuse, they are more likely to attend school and to improve their academic performance. They are also less likely to experience health problems. This agenda is an important contributor to the development of human capital in Africa.

cousins. And perhaps most shockingly of all, girls are still more likely to die than boys.

As they say, this is a marathon - not a sprint. It takes endurance, commitment and conviction. But we have seen the incredible results. We have seen the smiles on the faces of the children who have made it through. Those smiles are the gold medals for which we strive. In those eyes we see the glory that drives all athletes. For this is a race that we can win.

So three cheers for all of the children who raced for survival today. By running this race they send a message to our governments that we must do more - all of us - to save the lives whenever possible, of every child born into this world.

It was a successful event as it included an advocacy call by Hassan, 14, Arusha Children Council Representative who challenged the Regional Commissioner representative on health and nutrition, while tabling various asks.

The video of the EARO race for survival event in Arusha is now being uploaded on our EARO youtube account. Please find the link here. <http://youtu.be/RoB4VajoHbY>.



Helping children learn wherever they are

Emily Gikaara
and
Mowlid Mudan

Samira (left) and Abdikane (right) arriving home from Heere Primary School, in Togdheer Region, Somaliland. The school benefited from a water berked (underground water storage), by Save the Children. Now they have an opportunity to study during the long dry spells without disruption.

adds, as she eagerly quickens her walking pace to school, to play with her many friends.

Abdikane is equally ambitious and has high hopes of becoming a teacher, following in the footsteps of his father, Ismail Abdi, one of the teachers at Heere Primary School.

Born into a family of 14 children, two of whom have already graduated to secondary school, Abdikane and Samira have formed a close bond through their studies.

"Abdikane is my brother and he is also my classmate," says Samira.

At 6am, the pitiless sun beats down on the parched soil and scrubland of Togdheer region. Samira, 9, and Abdikane, 11, grab their "Somali pancake" breakfast and begin their walk to school. The route is a deserted one; they pick a path through dried out shrubs and acacia trees. It hasn't rained in Heere village, Togdheer Region, Somaliland recently – and most of the families with livestock have moved to find better pasture. But with each other for company, Samira and Abdikane can talk about their future dreams. "When I finish school I want to go to university," says Samira. Math's is her favourite subject, she

Ismail Abdi (left holding child), is Samira and Abdikane's father who balances the demands of the teaching profession with the pastoralism way of life. "The provision of the water reservoir or berkad provided the opportunity for his children to study without disruptions of moving away in search of water."



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"When we return home we study together. He helps me understand when I am having difficulties. At home, study takes a backseat to do the daily chores of cooking, grazing the animals and helping to look after a family of 16. There are chickens to feed, goats to milk and younger siblings to keep an eye on," she adds.

Samira and Abdikane come from Togdheer Region in Somaliland, which is currently experiencing the onset of drought. Coming from a pastoralist community that relies on livestock for livelihood and sustainability, the family has to move in search of water and pasture, leaving the school behind. And as the children leave, the school closes. Samira and Abdikane must embrace their pastoralist roots to help their family survive. As a result, mornings which are spent learning Arabic, social science, Somali language and 'break time' which entails running around the football pitch are put on hold.

Ever since Save the Children had provided water storage at the school in the form of a burka (a deep swimming pool size ground tank) it is no longer necessary for all of the family to leave the

Ever since Save the Children had provided water storage at the school in the form of a burka (a deep swimming pool size ground tank) it is no longer necessary for all of the family to leave the village or their school session disrupted. Now the family splits into two, the elder children go with the livestock in search for pasture while the younger children either stay at home or go to school.

village or their school session disrupted. Now the family splits into two, the elder children go with the livestock in search for pasture while the younger children either stay at home or go to school. The younger children help with the animals during holiday season: "Last Idd holiday I went with my five elder siblings to look after my father's animals in another village called Qudus but returned to school after the holiday season," says Abdikane, as he and Samira return home, this time under the blazing midday sun.

Their father, Ismail Abdi, balances the demands of teaching with pastoralism which has always been, his way of life. He says that the provision of the water reservoir or burka has provided the opportunity for his children to study without the disruption of having to move away in the long dry spells. "Because of the effort I have put in them as a father, I am very proud of my children," he says.

"I hope for a very good future for my children. They are well disciplined and have improved literacy and numeracy skills which will help our family a lot," adds Ismail.

Samira (centre) and Abdikane (right) doing their homework while caring for their younger siblings.



Capacity building of humanitarian workers

Catherine Chege



Jubilant trainees cutting the graduation cake.

The Capacity Building team under Save the Children, has been working with other agencies in the Horn of Africa region to train humanitarian workers. The team has successfully delivered four cycles of the Humanitarian Leadership Development Programme (HLDP) and the European Humanitarian Voluntary Programme (EHVP). The team also continues to support the delivery of the Humanitarian Operations Programme (HOP).

At a recent graduation ceremony of 13 trainees for the HLDP and the EHVP, the following remarks were made:

'I'm very excited today, I feel I have achieved my goal and feel more confident in my work'.
Kinsi Farah, HLDP trainee



Agnes Egesa, receiving her certificate from Hussein Halane, The East Africa Regional Director.



Sahal Mohamed, HLDP trainee, receiving his certificate from Hussein Halane, The East Africa Regional Director.

'It's been a great experience working in these programmes, watching the trainees grow from a point of knowing very little about humanitarian work to a level of managing a response has been a great joy'.

Catherine Chege, Senior Programme Officer – Capacity Building.

'I'm not the same person that joined the programme one year ago, I can now comfortably respond to an emergency'.

Agnes Egesa, HLDP trainee

'It has been phenomenal being in this programme – a lot of transformation for me, coming from a development context to learning and getting involved in emergency work'.

Joe Kioko, EHVP trainee

'I wish to congratulate the trainees for the good work they have done in the field stations. My appeal is to get these trainings done at a higher scale'.

Edwin Kuria, SCI Regional Humanitarian Response Manager

'I am by far a better person, I joined the programme as a logistician with no direct implementation experience and wondering – why are these people asking for so many mosquito nets? I now understand programme work and contribute confidently'.

Edna Korir, EHVP trainee

'Agnes has been a very beneficial member of the team – watching her grow from to a point of single handedly mobilizing communities and integrating the emergency aspect to our existing programme has been great. We look forward to having more trainees placed in our programme'.

Kevin Heraniah, Save the Children, Mandera Programme Manager



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New recruits to MEAL in East & Southern Africa!

Clare Feinstein

Over thirty participants from our 8 East African and from 4 Southern African countries as well as from the CP regional programs and CP regional technical advisors in East & South participated in a hands-on practical workshop which equipped them with the tools and knowledge necessary to work.

In November, the Child Protection Initiative (CPI) with the support of SC Finland and the East Africa Child Protection Regional Programme hosted a workshop aimed at creating a step change in Child Protection Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) across East & Southern Africa.

One of the key elements to ensure Save the Children's success is our ability to measure progress and the impact our programmes have on children's lives. During the past three years, the CPI, through a global monitoring and evaluation (M&E) Task Group, has put into place several monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, tools and guidelines, aimed at increasing the capacity of country programmes to design and monitor their child protection programmes.

All these efforts have been developed concomitantly to the establishment of a wider M&E system for Save the Children International (SCI). The CPI works closely with SCI while following its specific mandate to design and rollout child protection resources that build capacity and allow progress measurement across the organization in this particular sector. The priority investment that Members have made

in the M&E part of the CP global initiative over the past year or so is also paying off. We are now making great strides in strengthening the quality of systems to generate the monitoring and evaluation evidence in our child protection programmes.

Over thirty participants from our 8 East African and from 4 Southern African countries as well as from the CP regional programmes and CP regional technical advisors in East & South participated in a hands-on practical workshop which equipped them with the tools and knowledge necessary to work with the CP menu of global outcome indicators, data collection and analysis tools, M&E plans and budgets as well as

bringing in broader issues such as ethics and child safeguarding, the basics of sampling and the issue of context and accountability.

During the four days training, we all became MEAL aficionados with the intention that this M&E journey continues post-training. The Africa training materials are available on our CPI M&E OneNet page. Each participant has an Action Plan detailing at least 3 key things they have taken from the workshop which they will now implement. These are also posted on OneNet enabling peer- and self-monitoring of progress and updating.

The expectation is that excellent CP M&E data will come from East & Southern Africa in the next country annual review (CAR) period. Follow up support is being provided by the regional CP technical advisors (TAs) as well as the CPI global M&E Task Group.

Everyone made the most of this unique opportunity to learn and build our capacity in this area of work that is critical to quality child protection programming.

Strengthening East Africa's child rights civil society organizations through capacity development

Ruth Koshal
and
Daisy Maima



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In 2013, the East Africa Regional Programme facilitated a workshop that sought to share good practice on Organization Capacity Development (OCD), increase knowledge and skills of existing or potential partners and strengthen collaboration amongst Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in East Africa.

OCD is an internal process of change where the role of 'outsiders' is mainly to create favorable conditions and to provide input; that it is a human process, that means it is profoundly affected by people's values & agendas; that generic principles and good practice do exist, but they need to be applied differently in different contexts; that although we face resource and skills constraints in OCD, it is our ultimate attitudes that hold us back, and that the way forward would be to reflect on our attitudes and have the honesty, courage and determination to collaborate with others.

According to Penny Ward, the workshop facilitator, there is no definitive textbook philosophy to define OCD, and thus the broad definitions. Penny cited **Save the Children's** definition which defines OCD as a **'holistic, consciously planned process aimed at integrating child rights programming approaches and strengthening all aspects of an evolving core partner's capacity in order to create strong, sustainable child rights organizations.** A clear understanding of the concepts, values and processes of OCD helps organizations realize the different Intervention required towards being a vibrant organization.

The Southern Africa Region Chairperson of the Child Rights Network for South Africa (CRNSA) provided an overview of the regional network as an opportunity for EA participants to learn good practice. He stated that 45.5% of Southern Africa's population of 260 million people are children and that despite this significant percentage, policy milestones on children's rights at regional level have been limited. He mentioned the existence of thematic networks such as the *Southern African Network to End Corporal and Humiliating Punishment and Promoting Positive Discipline* and the *Child Helpline Regional Group* among others. Within the East Africa region, eight countries that Save the Children works with have been able to form Child Rights networks which consist of different child stakeholders.



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Hussein Halani welcomes participants, in the background is Ruth Koshal.



Participants take part in feedback session.



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Groups holding consultative sessions.

Investment in Children: Right issue at the right time, says Ethiopia

Bob Muchabaiwa



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The Senior Management Team of Save the Children in Ethiopia (SCE) has thrown its weight behind the Child Rights Governance breakthrough on Investment in Children (IIC). At the opening of the Capacity Enhancement Workshop on Investment in Children for SCE staff and partners, held on the 20th and 21st of November 2013 in Addis Ababa, Katy Webley, Programme Development Quality Director for SCE said that “work on investment in children is the right issue at the right time with immense potential to bring lasting change in the lives of children not only in Ethiopia but across the world”.

The workshop was co-facilitated by Solomon Gezagne Mulat (East Africa Child Rights Governance Advisor) and Bob Libert Muchabaiwa (Investment in Children Manager for the Child Rights Governance Global Initiative - CRGI). It was attended by SCE staff members from all its thematic areas as well as partners from the media, civil society and academia. The workshop will also be followed by an in-depth study on progress and challenges regarding Investment in Children in Ethiopia. The East Africa Regional Office, through Solomon Mulat and Bob Muchabaiwa, are assisting SCE with the research and IIC training.

“The main objective of the workshop was to enable SCE staff and partners to design and effectively implement investment in children initiatives, including budget analysis and advocacy, social accountability and expenditure tracking”, said Alemayehu Awraris, Head of Child Rights Governance for SCE. At the close of the workshop, many participants were confident and ready to implement programmes on investment in children. Kalkidan Yishak from Fana Broadcasting Services implored state and non-state actors to work as one family in this endeavor considering that both government and civil society are targeting the same child. “The fact that many of the participants are already involved in a joint social accountability programme between the government, the World Bank and in local governance means that SCE’s work on IIC will easily take off”, said Solomon Mulat.

The ultimate goal of work on investment in children (the CRG breakthrough) is that all children, especially the poorest, benefit from greater public investment and better use of society’s resources. Article 4 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) calls upon all state parties to invest in children to

the maximum extent possible of their available resources in order to realize child rights. The CRGI defines Investment in Children as spending on specific areas that directly benefit children as set out in the UNCRC and its Optional Protocols particularly on social protection, health, education, child protection, emergencies and the requisite child rights infrastructure and systems (UNCRC General Measures of Implementation). John Graham the Country Director for SCE, whilst welcoming the strategic framework on investment in children challenged the CRG team “to come up with strong social accountability models that are relevant to national contexts in order to achieve the breakthrough on investment in children”. Abdulatif Idris from Addis Ababa University also challenged Save the Children to work with the academia to generate knowledge on how governments can improve the quantity and quality of public spending on children.

“It is only through adequate and sustained public spending on children, especially from domestic resources, that governments, including the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, can realize child rights” said Bob Muchabaiwa during the closing session.

Save the Children pushes for increased youth engagement in Africa

Kirsten Larsen

The Education for Youth Empowerment (EYE) forum that includes staff from SCI country offices interested, in or having EYE projects met in November 2013. The group comes together every half year to share experiences, learn from each other, and participate in training or capacity building, relevant for EYE.

The group included representatives from Ethiopia, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda, who came together for 5 days in Nairobi. This year the program included a one day session, on program presentations and experience sharing, a session on how to involve youth

actively in monitoring and evaluation, and three days of condensed training in performance management planning.



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Child Friendly Space in Kwangwali camp, Uganda - staff here are scaling up for the arrival of a new caseload of refugees from the DRC and have many lessons to share.

The Humanitarian Affairs Unit in East Africa has been developing several research projects on topics prioritized by the Regional Office. One of these projects is a report focusing on the large refugee caseload in East Africa. This is the first report in a series of products designed to support Save the Children in planning strategically for our engagement in refugee/IDP camp settings and build on the lessons learned and innovative programming that we are doing in the field.

Visits to our field sites such as Maban, South Sudan and Kwangwali, Uganda to meet with Save the Children expert technical staff in the field has been invaluable in collecting the input from those who work in these challenging contexts every day. Child Protection and Education leads across the region will be included in a discussion designed to develop recommendations and lessons learned and to share the many examples of innovative programming which they lead in the field. Technical briefs in both these issue areas will be produced to support field teams and county offices in operationalizing this learning.

Consultation for this project is spanning all levels, from field staff working in the camps to country offices, technical advisors in the region and account managers in Save the Children members. An advocacy product will also be developed at the regional level which can be used externally with donors to draw attention to the needs of the displaced populations and the programmes designed for their protection and welfare.

About us...



In Africa, Save the Children operates out of three regional hubs: East Africa, Southern Africa, and West and Central Africa regional offices. The East Africa Regional Office is based in Nairobi and supports our work in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia. In 2012, Save the Children worked directly with an estimated 6.6 million children and indirectly with 13.6 million across East Africa.

We support governments and partners to improve access to good quality child and maternal healthcare. We promote innovative education programs, literacy projects and early childhood care and development. We respond to emergency situations, delivering life-saving humanitarian services to children and families affected by conflict and crisis. We support governments and partners to put measures and structures in place to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence affecting children. We work to achieve immediate and lasting change within children's lives.



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EA_Savechildren



<http://youtu.be/RoB4VajpHbY>

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