



**Save the Children**

# Integrated Right to Education & Participation Program (IREAPP)

## NORAD 2015 - 2018





## Introduction

The Integrated Right to Education and Participation Program (IREAPP) is a four-year-program (2015-2018) that aims at enabling children attain their right to quality education and participation in a safe and enabling environment. Funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), the program covers education, child protection, child rights governance and disaster risk reduction.

Using education programming and schools as a platform for integration, Save the Children is working through IREAPP to achieve the following cross-thematic strategic objectives over the course of the four years:

- 1) Children learning in an inclusive, safe environment.
- 2) Increased children's participation in decision-making and monitoring at all levels (school, community, district and national).
- 3) Government at all levels having increased investment in structures, policies and programs in support of children's rights.
- 4) An empowered, active and engaged civil society promoting the realization of children's rights and holding duty-bearers to account.

Through the fulfillment of these objectives, the ultimate goal is to foster environments at all levels that respect and promote the rights of children and prevent and respond to violations.

**Strategic Objective 1:** Children achieve better learning outcomes in an inclusive, safe environment.

Children's learning outcomes are still low and children, especially in hard-to-reach areas, are learning from an unsafe and non-inclusive environment.

The program seeks to improve learning outcomes (literacy, numeracy, life skills and formal examination pass rates) through improving the quality of the learning environment to make it child-centred, inclusive and above all safe for all children.

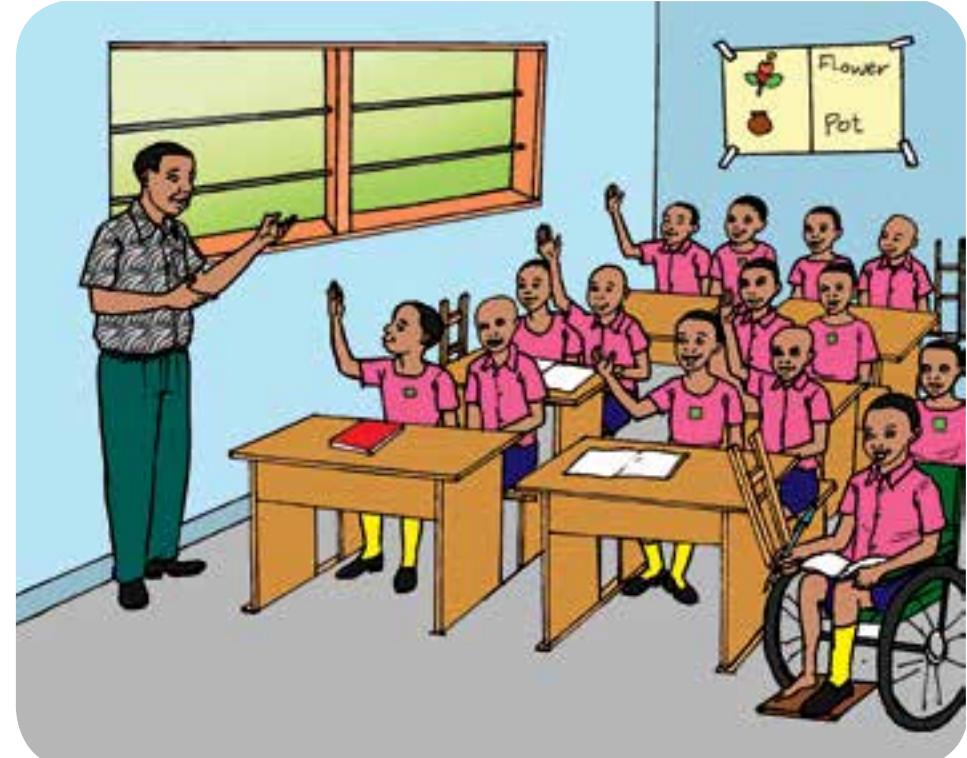
The program includes the construction of latrines and washrooms in selected schools in order to address one of the key barriers to girls accessing education. Schools and children receive WASH support to ensure that latrines and washrooms are put to good use and well maintained.

As part of the life skills component of the program, teachers are trained to deliver comprehensive sexual education, as teenage pregnancy has been identified as a key reason for girls dropping out of school, especially in Karamoja, as well as on how to develop Re-usable Menstruation Pads, which has also been linked to the retention of girls.

The program also trains teachers on non-discrimination, inclusive teaching and child rights, as well as working with school groups and communities to raise awareness on girls' right to education.

**Through these interventions, IREAPP intends to see that:**

- More children (especially girls and children with disabilities) are accessing basic education;



- Learners in all the target schools have improved learning outcomes, including literacy, numeracy and life skills;



- Child-centered disaster risk reduction activities are integrated into education programs of targeted schools;
- There is improved awareness, capacity and mechanisms to prevent, respond and mitigate disaster risks in Karamoja and the Central region;
- Increased safeguarding and protection for children in all target schools;
- The effectiveness of the Quality Learning Environment (QLE) as a programming approach has been tested, documented and shared with partners.

**Strategic Objective 2:** Increased children's participation in decision-making and monitoring at all levels (school, community, district and national). Under this strategic objective, the program aims to strengthen and build upon child participation work to strategically increase children's civil rights. Save the Children's QLE study found that 87.5% and 92% of the schools in Karamoja and Central region respectively lack mechanisms that allow children's participation in decision making on issues affecting them while at school. Active and meaningful child participation

is an integral part of the QLE framework and its guiding principles. Good quality education teaches children how to think critically and creatively and how to voice thoughts, feelings and opinions, while respecting those of others.



Through the Child Rights Governance intervention, the program hopes to bring children into the mainstream of the community development process and make them aware of their aspirations and rights. Children as rights holders will have their capacities built through increasing their access to information, through training, and through provision of appropriate spaces for them to be a part of the decision-making processes both in school and in their communities. Children should be empowered to use child-friendly tools for monitoring and reporting on the delivery of services both in school and outside.

The program works to strengthen existing child groups outside of school that include out-of-school children as well. These will be linked with the council/parliament structures, as well as the National Council for Children to ensure streamlining of the participation process. The goal of the children's councils/assembly is to create sustainable mechanisms for children to engage in policy dialogue and to influence

issues affecting them from the local to national level. Building/fostering alliances and child-led networks shall be geared towards supporting networks achieve wider outreach than individual children's groups; to use their collective voice as a network to achieve desired results, act as intermediaries between their members, donors, and government; better coordinate the activities of member children groups and reduce duplication of efforts.

Through these interventions, IREAPP intends to see that:

- Child Participation is integrated/institutionalized at all decision-making levels;
- Government mechanisms for monitoring implementation of child rights commitments and follow-up on the recommendations by national and international monitoring bodies is improved.

**Strategic Objective 3:** Government at all levels has increased investment in structures, policies and programs in support of children's rights.

A key aim of the program is to enable institutions to be more responsive in their planning, budgeting, auditing, analysis and monitoring of child rights - with a focus on the institutions that determine national plans, budgets and data.

The project aims to facilitate the change through the reinforcement of the capacities of key stakeholders – parliamentarians, sector ministry staff and local authorities on the use of child-friendly budgeting tools, as well as on the Convention on the Rights of the Child reporting and recommendations.

Together with our partners, Save the Children shall further seek to foster the adoption of Child Rights Impact Assessments and evaluation in the local and national policy formulation and budgeting processes at both national and sub-national level to ensure child rights responsive planning, budgeting, auditing, analysis and program management to directly benefit children.



At Local Government, advocacy efforts and support seek to ensure that District Development Plans/strategies include specific commitments to advance children's rights and equity and are adopted and implemented in intervening districts. Specifically, districts and local authorities should understand the QLE framework and its implementation modalities so that their planning and budgeting, as well as monitoring and accountability can reflect the qualitative aspects of QLE.

**Through these interventions, IREAPP intends to see that:**

- Institutional, legal and policy frameworks to advance children's rights are reformed, adopted, implemented;
- National and local development plans/strategies have increased budget allocation to services identified by stakeholders including children as important;



- Government has increased ownership of non-formal education schools;
- School governance structures actively engage in basic education performance, budget monitoring and resource mobilization.

**Strategic Objective 4:** An empowered, active and engaged civil society promotes the realization of children's rights and holds duty bearers to account. Strengthening systems and structures at all levels of civil society and government is the key component under this strategic objective as well as strengthening the interfaces between duty-bearers, those that hold duty-bearers to account and rights-holders.

Save the Children works with a variety of partners at all levels; a wide range of civil society organizations (CSOs), including NGOs, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and structures, child-focused coalitions and networks as well as child-led structures such as children's groups, children's councils and parliaments as well as other partners such as media and research institutions.



The program aspires to build strong partnerships characterized by shared objectives, mutual added value, accountability and learning and which strengthen capacities and collaboration at all levels. This is believed to strengthen the sustainability of program results for children in the sense that the growing movement will continue to work to promote and defend children's rights after the end of the project.

**Through these interventions, IREAPP intends to achieve:**

- Improved interface between civil society, government and other partners to promote responsiveness and accountability to children's rights;  
Civil society, child-led (and government) partners have increased technical and organizational capacities to function as change agents for children's rights in Uganda.

## **Geographical presence**

- In Northern Uganda, we are in 16 schools in Gulu district, covering education (including DRR).
- In Central Uganda, we are in Nakasongola (23 schools), Nakaseke (9 schools) and Luwero (3 schools) districts covering Education (including DRR), Child Protection and Child Rights Governance.
- In Karamoja, the programme is in Moroto (14 schools), Napak (14 schools), Nakapiripirit (10schools) and Kotido (14 schools). It covers Education (including DRR), Child Protection and Child Rights Governance.

## **Partners**

IREAPP works together with the following partners:

Gulu University

Warrior Squad

Education partners

Action for Community Development (ACODEV)

African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN)

Community Development Initiative (CODI)

Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC)

Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC)

Uganda National Council for Children (NCC)

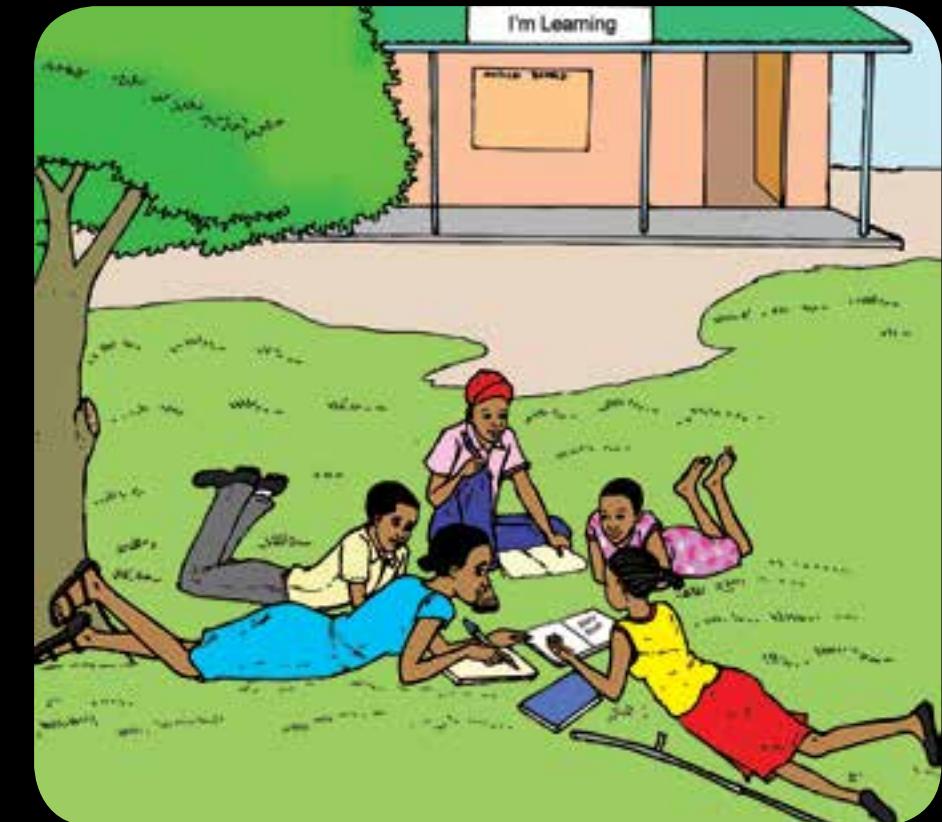
Uganda Child Rights NGO Network

THRIVE Gulu

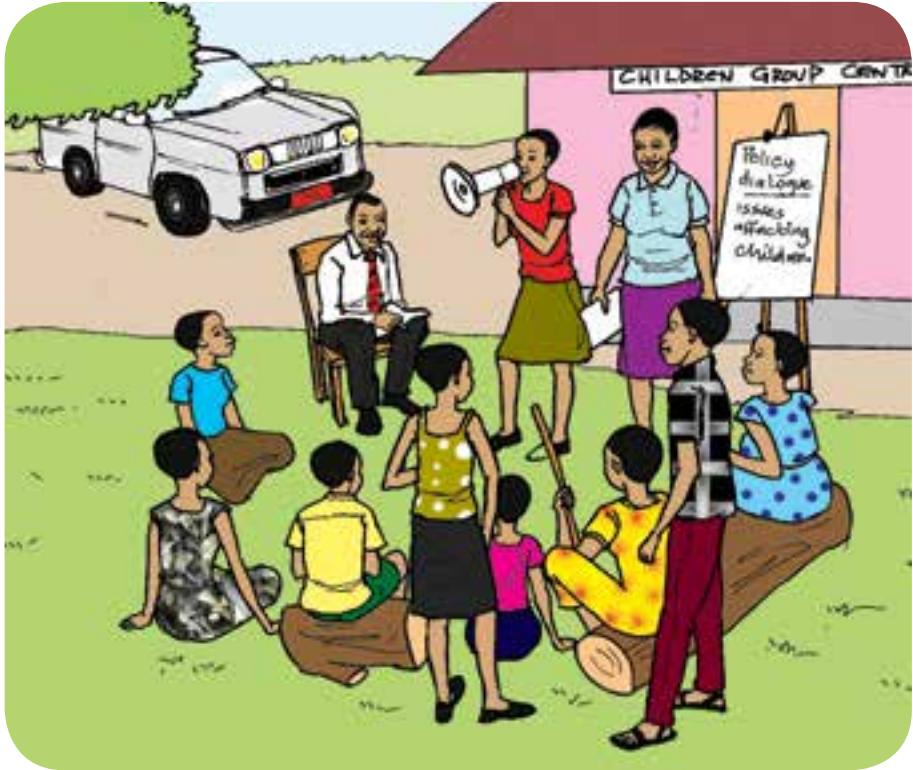
Local Government

## **Target Group**

The program primarily targets primary school-aged children between the ages of five and 12 through interventions focused around and delivered in both formal and non-formal education (NFE) schools.



Through the NFE schools, the program targets teachers and parents through School Management Committees (SMCs) and Parents and Teachers Associations (PTAs). Outside of the schools, the program works with community and religious leaders, children's groups, Government at all levels, research institutions (including Gulu University) for documentation and civil society at all levels. The program works directly with the government structures, too.





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