

## 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 to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

## Our Breakthroughs

Save the Children works to ensure that all children:

1. **Survive** - No child dies from preventable causes before their fifth birthday.
2. **Learn** - All children learn from a quality basic education.
3. **Are Protected** - Violence against children is no longer tolerated.



## Child Protection

### The Situation

Significant strides have been made towards improving the status of children's rights in Uganda. The legal framework for protection and promotion of children's rights has been enhanced with the enactment of the Children (Amendment) Act 2016. Furthermore, national budget allocations for public services in some child-focused sectors, including education and health, have increased.

Despite these improvements, a significant number of children are still at a distinct disadvantage in almost all areas of life. While the absolute proportions of those affected by deprivation have gone down, the absolute numbers remain high because of the fast growing population, urbanization and other natural hazards.

### Who We Are

Save the Children has been operating in Uganda since 1959. The organisation's work is guided by the National Development Plan II and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Save the Children works with key

stakeholders that include children, civil society organisations, communities, donors, the media and the Government in contributing to the realisation of children's rights.

We strive to create impact for children by delivering programmes through partnerships, being innovative, acting as the voice for and of children and by achieving results at scale. In Uganda, we implement programmes in both development and humanitarian contexts.

### Child Protection Programming

Child Protection refers to measures and structures put in place to prevent and respond to violence affecting children. Ending violence against children is included in the new UN Sustainable Development Goals as Target 16:2; 'end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children'. This echoes our breakthrough that 'violence against children will no longer be tolerated'.

### Child Protection Sub-themes:

Appropriate care; Protection of children from violence; Child protection systems and Protection of children from harmful work.

Save the Children works to ensure that all children are protected. Our work aims at ensuring the reduction of violence against children in all settings, a safe and protective environment for all children in schools, improved well-being of children and increased access to services by children.

We raise awareness about child rights violations (such as corporal punishment, child labour, sexual abuse and early marriage) through community mobilization and the media. We also facilitate access to service provision through working with partners in direct service provision and legal aid, as well as referral systems.

The organisation has established partnerships with the Government through the Ministries of Education and Sports, Justice and Constitutional Affairs and Gender, Labor and Social Development, the National Children's Authority, civil society organisations and various children's platforms to advocate for the protection of children's rights.

We ensure that child protection and gender-based violence referral and response systems in our areas of operation and nationally are functional (for example the child helpline 116). We work towards increasing access to timely response and quality child protection services for children in the refugee settlements where we work in line with the minimum standards for child protection in humanitarian action.

## The Country Programme

Save the Children's country programme is delivered through five thematic areas:

### 1. Child Protection

We protect children from violence and advocate for others to do the same.

### 2. Child Rights Governance

We support children and civil society to demand rights for every child, and hold governments accountable to deliver on

their commitments to children.

### 3. Child Poverty

Save the Children helps children and their families meet their basic needs and escape the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

### 4. Education

The education programme aims at enabling marginalised and deprived young children to receive quality, inclusive early childhood care and then transition successfully into basic education.

### 5. Health and Nutrition

This programme aims at the elimination of preventable newborn and under-five deaths, reduced maternal mortality and improved adolescent sexual and reproductive health outcomes.

## Other Interventions

### Humanitarian Response

Save the Children is responding to the ongoing South Sudanese and Congolese refugee influxes in Adjumani, Arua, Kiryandongo, Kamwenge (Rwamwanja), Hoima (Kyangwali) and Kisoro (Nyakabande) districts.

We ensure that separated and unaccompanied children as well as children at risk are protected. Save the Children, in addition, provides early childhood education and psychosocial support for children.

### Advocacy and Campaigns

In 2016, Save the Children globally launched the **Every Last Child** campaign, which focuses on the most marginalized children in the world.

The campaign calls on the Government to consider local needs and challenges when allocating health resources; to allocate adequate education resources to non-formal schools and to develop a comprehensive and adequately-resourced Child Protection Strategy.

## Child Protection Milestone

On 2nd March, 2016, the Parliament of Uganda passed the long-awaited Children (Amendment) Act, 2016.

1. The Act provides for the introduction of the provision for legal guardianship to only Ugandan nationals, which will eliminate the unethical practice of trafficking children under the guise of legal guardianship.

2. It introduces the provision of services to children in need of care and protection and having access to a confidential reporting mechanism – the national child helpline - supported by all government departments.

3. The law strengthens the institutional mechanism for the promotion of the rights of children through the establishment of the Uganda National Children's Authority to coordinate child-related issues.

**75:** In 2015, Save the Children developed a Restorative and Child Justice manual, using it to train 75 Justice, Law and Order Sector stakeholders, Probation and Social Welfare Officers, Data Clerks, Prosecution and other Judicial Officers, Fit Persons and Prisons and Police officers in Northern Uganda. The officers were equipped with skills in legal aspects relating to children's rights, principles and procedures relevant to the expeditious and successful disposal of juvenile cases. This was in a bid to promote restorative and child-friendly justice principles and practices.