

Humanitarian Response



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.

Our Humanitarian Response

Save the Children is committed to reducing children's vulnerability to humanitarian crises, ensuring their right to survival and development after an emergency and providing the support they and their families need to quickly recover and re-establish their lives, dignity and livelihoods.

Our humanitarian interventions cover the three breakthroughs – survival, learning and protection.

In Uganda, Save the Children has responded to emergencies since 2008, beginning with a refugee influx from the Democratic Republic of Congo that year.

Save the Children is currently in 41 settlement locations responding to both the protracted Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) refugee crisis in Rwamwanja (10), Kyangwali (5) and Nyakabande (1); and to the South Sudan refugee crisis in Adjumani (14), Arua (6) and Kiryandongo (5), including the newly opened locations.

Save the Children has been present in Uganda since 1959, delivering a

development programme in over 30 districts as well as a multi-sectoral and integrated humanitarian response for both Congolese and South Sudanese refugees that began in 2008. In the South Sudan refugee crisis, this intervention has reached a total of 162,845 children and their families since the beginning of 2014.

Areas of Intervention

Save the Children intervenes through an integrated approach covering Child Protection in Emergencies, Education in Emergencies, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), preventative nutrition and Child Poverty, thus reaching the same beneficiaries with multiple services. The organisation's programmes benefit both refugee children as well as those in host communities.

i) **Education in Emergencies** – To provide stimulation, early learning and preparedness to join primary school, Save the Children establishes early childhood care and development centers, trains caregivers and provides scholastic and teaching materials for young children.

ii) **Child Protection** – Save the

Healing refugee children's pain through art

Tommy, a seven-year-old South Sudanese boy, watched his mother die during the recent outbreak of violence in South Sudan. He fled his home along with his siblings and aunt to Uganda. Tommy visited Save the Children's child-friendly space in Nyumanzi refugee reception centre, Adjumani district, where he was found to be psychologically traumatised.

Tommy's first step into the child-friendly space was a doorway to healing. At Save the Children's child-friendly centres, children are offered psychosocial support and engaged in recreation and play activities to address psychological distress, reintroduce routine as well as a return to normalcy of life, in the long run.

One of the psychosocial support approaches used is HEART – Healing and Education through Art. HEART makes use of artistic expression – drawing, painting, music, dance and drama – to give children the creative means for telling their personal, often painful, stories, so that they are ready to learn.

“War affects children's emotional stability,” says Save the Children Child Protection Specialist Margaret Atimango. “A child who is traumatised may not be able to talk or relate with other children. Through HEART, we encourage the child to draw, paint, mould or sing and dance, in order to help them express themselves.”

About HEART

HEART is a program that Save the Children designed especially for young children in need, between the ages of three and fourteen. Children struggling to grow up, trapped in the cycle of extreme poverty and limited opportunity, often compounded by trauma, like an emergency, conflict, violence, or the loss of a parent or other loved one.

Children delivers a package of child protection interventions intended to enable children recover from psychological distress, obtain alternative care, reunify with parents and access play and recreation in a safe and secure environment.

We establish Child-Friendly Spaces, register and follow up unaccompanied children and establish/strengthen community-based child protection structures.

iii) **Non-food Items** – To restore the dignity of children who come with almost nothing, Save the Children provides clothing, shoes, blankets, mattresses, mosquito nets, underwear and sanitary kits.

iv) **Nutrition** – To prevent malnutrition among children and lactating mothers, Save the Children offers counselling on breastfeeding, supports mother-baby friendly spaces and carries out malnutrition assessments, referring affected children for further management. In 2015, 10,209 children and 1,289 adults benefited from this intervention.

v) **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene** – To increase the communities' preparedness to deal with epidemics such as cholera, Save the Children sensitises refugees on proper sanitation and hygiene through community theatre, drama and radio talk shows. Save the Children also provides hygiene kits to families and in 2015, we distributed 3,598 hygiene kits that benefited 2,428 households.

v) **Child Poverty** – Through vocational skills training and the provision of start-up capital and kits, Save the Children ensures that youth who dropped out of school have the opportunity to build the skills, networks and self-esteem they need to make the transition to safe and decent livelihoods. This is particularly in Northern and Western Uganda.

Operational Capacity

Save the Children has offices in the four regions of the country, with the humanitarian operational platform supported by the Northern and Western offices. The development and humanitarian programmes are implemented with a workforce of 234 members of staff, 45 of whom serve in the humanitarian response.

Global Sectoral Specialisation

Save the Children is the Global Co-lead of the Education Cluster and among the most active actors in the Global Child Protection Sub-Cluster (in Uganda we are the lead agency for the Child Protection Working Group).



Children playing in a child-friendly space in Pagirinya, Adjumani district.