



CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE



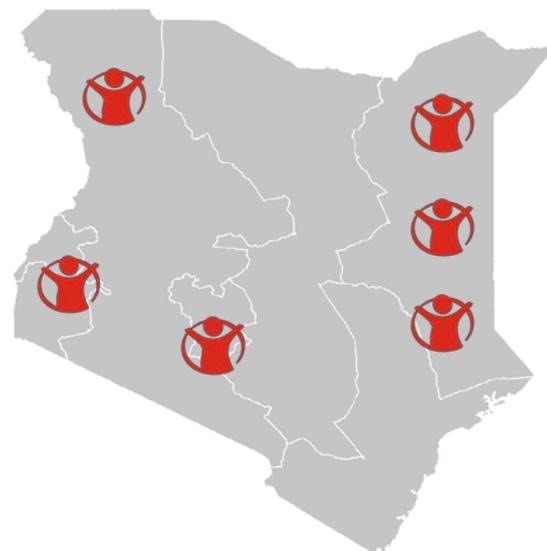
Save the Children

Kenya Programme 2016-2018

About Us

Save the Children has been operational in Kenya since the 1950s, providing support to children through developmental and humanitarian relief programmes delivered both directly and through local partners. Current Save the Children programming in Kenya focuses on Health, Nutrition and WASH, Child Protection, Child Rights Governance, Education and Child Poverty.

In 2012, as part of a global reorganization process, Save the Children combined the programmes of SC UK, SC Canada and SC Finland to create a single operation in Kenya. In February 2014, we completed a second transition, which saw us join forces with the British INGO, Merlin, and merge their health and nutrition programmes with our own. Save the Children has an operational presence in Bungoma, Busia, Garissa (Dadaab Refugee Camp), Mandera, Nairobi, Turkana and Wajir counties and works through partners in many other parts of the country.



Our Theory of Change

Our approach to programming is driven by our Theory of Change.

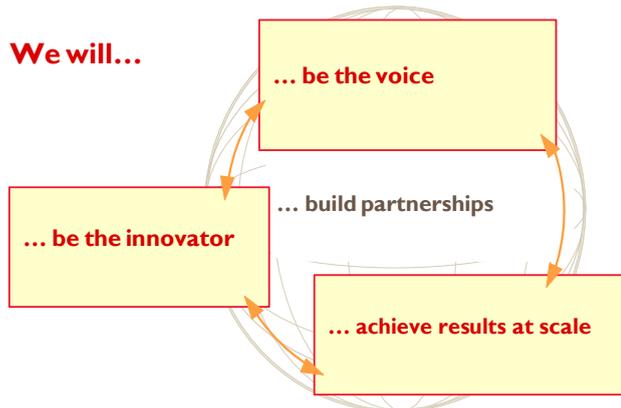
Being the voice: We advocate and campaign for better practices and policies to fulfil children's rights and ensure that children's voices are heard (particularly those of children most marginalized or living in poverty).

Being the innovator: We develop and prove evidence based, replicable breakthrough solutions to problems facing children.

Achieving results at scale: We support effective implementation of best practices, policies and programmes for children, leveraging on our knowledge to ensure sustainable impact.

Building partnerships: We collaborate with children, civil society organizations, communities, governments and the private sector to share knowledge, influence others and build capacity to ensure that children's rights are met.

We will...



Our Child Rights Governance work in Kenya

Save the Children, works in partnership with other civil society organizations and children to support the government to fulfil commitments made in respect to child rights.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and children are influential in lobbying the government to ratify outstanding international legal instruments that relate to children besides developing complementary/ alternative reports and following up on the implementation of concluding observations from the treaty bodies. Save the Children works with and through children's assemblies, child rights clubs and other representative groups of children to ensure that children are actively engaged in influencing decisions and policies that affect the achievement of their rights.

Save the Children also takes advantage of the provisions in the Constitution and the Public Finance Management Act to mobilize CSOs and children to meaningfully participate in the budget making process by making informed contributions on public revenue matters at both the national and county levels.



Our current strategy: 2016-2018

Supporting the global breakthrough Our Child Rights Governance (CRG) work will focus largely on supporting our three breakthroughs – child survival, learning, and protection from violence – and our new global campaign ‘Every Last Child’

What do we want to achieve in Kenya by 2030?

- Improve accountability for the rights of the most deprived children
- Influence local and national governance to ensure child survival, learning, and protection
- Advocate for open and resilient institutions that deliver children’s rights
- Lobby for increased and improved quality of public spending on essential services for child rights

What is our target for 2016-2018?

Monitoring and demanding child rights with children

Working in partnership with other civil society organizations and children, we aim to see:

- Child friendly spaces and platforms for children’s voices and opinions to be heard are in place and are effectively enabling children to access and attain their rights
- Recommendations from treaty bodies integrated into law and policy.
- Children’s Rights and business principles are used as an instrument to push for greater private sector respect and support for children’s rights.
- An enabling environment for civil society without unnecessary restrictions on their registration, funding or carrying out specific human and child rights activities

Good governance deliver child rights

In this regard our actions will aim to see:

- CSOs and children influence emerging legislations and policies that have an effect on children in Kenya.
- The comprehensive implementation of the National Plan of Action
- County governments implementing their child rights obligations.
- National human rights institutions monitoring and defending children’s rights in all contexts

Public Investment in Children:

Our actions will lead to:

- Increased public spending on child focused sectors of health, social protection and education
- Children actively participating in budgeting processes at national, county and school levels

Which children will we target?

The most deprived and marginalised children in Kenya living in the following areas:

- Arid and Semi-Arid Land areas (ASALs)
- Refugee and IDP settings
- Urban informal settlements

Our cross thematic interventions

CRG work identifies and addresses the systemic, underlying and/or structural aspects that enable or hinder the realization of child rights (survival, learning and protection).

To enable CRG to contribute to all its programmatic areas by 2018, Save the Children in Kenya will develop synergies in the following thematic areas:

- **Health and Nutrition:** No child dies from preventable causes before their fifth birthday
- **Education:** All children learn from a quality basic education.
- **Child Protection:** Violence against children is no longer tolerated.
- **Child Poverty:** All children and their families meet their basic needs and escape the intergenerational cycle of poverty

Deliberate efforts will be made to ensure that all thematic areas have a proper understanding of CRG work, and how it can contribute to the realization of their breakthroughs. Capacity building for CRG staff on public investment in children will be important considering that it is a fairly new area. Implementation of CRG work in humanitarian contexts and incorporating Disaster Risk Reduction will also be a key focus considering the different emergencies that arise in country.

Other key cross considerations to be integrated in all CRG sub-themes will be:

Resilience: CRG builds resilient governance institutions able to deliver children’s rights in all contexts including before, during and after humanitarian crises, disaster risk reduction with children and preparedness planning, **Gender:** integrating gender perspectives in all our work

Our Child Rights Governance work in Kenya



We are improving transparency and accountability in budget planning, disbursement and utilization of funds in targeted schools, counties and at the national level.

With funding from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Save the Children, Kenya implemented a three year child rights governance project from 2014 to 2016 in partnership with the Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children (KAACR).

The project, 'Child-friendly County Budgets,' was implemented in 5 counties of Siaya, Kakamega, Kwale, Wajir and Mombasa. It aimed at ensuring that child specific sectors including education, health, social protection, disaster risk reduction and child care services receive adequate funding. The project focused on increasing the levels of access to budget information by citizens, particularly children, so that they are enabled to effectively participate in the budgeting cycle including planning, implementation and monitoring of relevant expenditure. In addition to this, the project promoted engagement of children in local planning and budgeting processes, through child rights clubs and the Children Assemblies, which are government established and funded. Another area of particular focus was disaster risk reduction (DRR) so as to ensure that children and their communities are better prepared and have the capacity and resources to survive and be protected during hazards and disasters.

In order to monitor the Kenya government's commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children (ACWRC), Save the Children supports partners in the preparation and submission of both State and Civil Society reports. National advocacy aimed at attaining legal and policy reform around investment in children is also conducted in the course of implementing the project. Finally, the project supported the strengthening of an active and responsive civil society movement that can effectively lobby for child friendly county budgets.

Our programmes in Kenya

Advocating for accountability:

Through our advocacy work, we are ensuring that we are the voice for children especially in our programme areas which have some of the most deprived children in Kenya. Our approach to advocacy is based on the following key principles:

- **Evidence (research and policy):** our advocacy work draws directly on our programmes and are informed by evidence and best practices generated by our Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) systems and by our research. The project has supported the development of County specific legislations relating to children - a case in point is the Siaya County Child Care Bill of 2015.
- **Influence (media and advocacy):** Our advocacy work engages all media and aims to catalyse public opinion and influence decision makers to bring about change.
- **Outcry (mobilisation):** in partnership with civil society, children and community led initiatives, we mobilise children and communities to claim their rights and to monitor their implementation. The County Government of Kakamega has for the first time made an allocation of KES 600,000 in the 2016/2017 budget to support strengthen the County Children Assembly. This is not a mean achievement for the County Child Rights Network (CCRN), as it is a result of continuous sensitisation of the MCA's about the Children's Assembly and lobbying done within the last two years.

Budget advocacy at county level

Through effective lobbying with the Kakamega county government structures (Executive and the Assemblies), the bursary fund allocation was increased by 100% from KES 60 Million (1 Million per ward for 60 wards) to KES 120 Million (2 million per ward). Besides, the government also allocated KES 2 Million to go towards development of Early Childhood Development (ECD) in three schools per ward, which is 180 schools in the entire County with an allocation of 360 Million. The County Government also allocated KES 5 Million to improve the status of schools across the County, an allocation that was not there in the previous financial year. The County also set aside KES 3 Million towards establishing a rescue centre within the County. This was largely influenced by the lobbying of the Kakamega County Child Rights Networking to ensure that more resources are allocated to children. In Kwale County, the bursary funds improved from KES 11 million per ward in 2014/2015 budget to KES 20 Million bringing the total from KES 220 Million up to KES 400 Million in the 2015/2016 financial year.

Children's voices

In 2015 Save the Children supported 4 children (2 boys and 2 girls) drawn from the Kenya Children's Assembly to attend the Pre-session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva.

The children had an opportunity to engage with the Committee of Experts on issues around the promotion and protection of child rights in the country. The Committee of experts will draw on the views from CSOs and children while integrating the Government on the status of implementation of child rights before making concluding observations.



Save the Children continued supporting the Department of Children Services to host the Kenya Children's Assembly. The two day meeting brought together children representatives from all the 47 counties. The forum availed a platform for children to continue with discussions on the two year running theme on "quality education: my right, my responsibility". Children reviewed a score card that they had initially developed in 2014 to track the implementation of the recommendations they submitted to Government. They were also able to pass several Resolutions including one calling for the abolition or reduction of tax imposed on educational materials which they observed had increased the cost of educational materials thus making them unaffordable.

Innovations

The following innovative approaches feature in our CRG work:

- The use of international treaty reporting mechanisms as an advocacy platform to lobby for critical issues on child rights. This saw the development of the National Plan of Action for Children in Kenya, which the Government had not developed for close to three years. Sustained lobbying through the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism, and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child was instrumental in compelling the Government to act. Further, the platform has proved to be an avenue for lobbying for sensitive issues such as the implementation of a legislation that does not inhibit CSOs operating space in the country.
- Save the Children embraces child rights clubs and the Kenya Children Assembly as critical vehicles for lobbying for policy and legal reforms at both the county and national levels. Memoranda developed by children in their own language have always received favorable responses from the duty bearers. A case in point is the memorandum that was submitted by children to the African Committee of Experts and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Committee members were not only enthusiastic to deliberate with children, but they also drew some concluding observations from the information in the documents.

Strategic partnerships

Close collaboration with implementing and strategic partners, national and local governments, and community level stakeholders has always been a hallmark of Save the Children's work. In Kenya Save the Children has a strong working relationship with the Department of Children's Services, national and county level Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working on child rights. Save the Children also has a strong track record of working collaboratively with and building the capacity of local NGOs, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), community members, authorities, and children. Furthermore, Save the Children has strong working relationships with other INGOs and donors working in Kenya at both the strategic and implementation levels.

Save the Children together with national civil society organizations has been actively involved in the development of policies and legislations that have an impact on children. In 2015, Save the Children offered technical and financial support that resulted in the finalization of the National Plan of Action for Children in Kenya (2015-2022). The organization joined other CSOs in the country to develop memoranda to influence several legislations including the Children Amendment Act, the Borstal Institutions Act, Persons with Disability Act and the Traffic Amendment Act.

At the County level, Save the Children supported CSOs and County governments in the development of various legislations in Kakamega, Mombasa, Kwale and Siaya counties. We supported national child rights focused NGOs in calling for the operationalization of the Public Benefits Organizations Act, besides ensuring that the proposed amendments to the legislation do not inhibit the existing civil society operating space in the country. We have worked very closely with the Children's department and the semi-autonomous governmental agency, the National Council for Children Services (NCCS). Save the Children supported the 7th media awards, to recognize the critical role played by the media in the promotion and protection of child rights.

SUPPORTED BY
OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT AID
FROM THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

Save the Children - Kenya Country Programme
Matundu Close, Off School Lane, Westlands
P.O BOX 27679—00506 Nairobi, Kenya Tel +254 20 4444006/1028/1032/1031
Email: info@savethechildren.org Website: kenya.savethechildren.net

