

bulletin

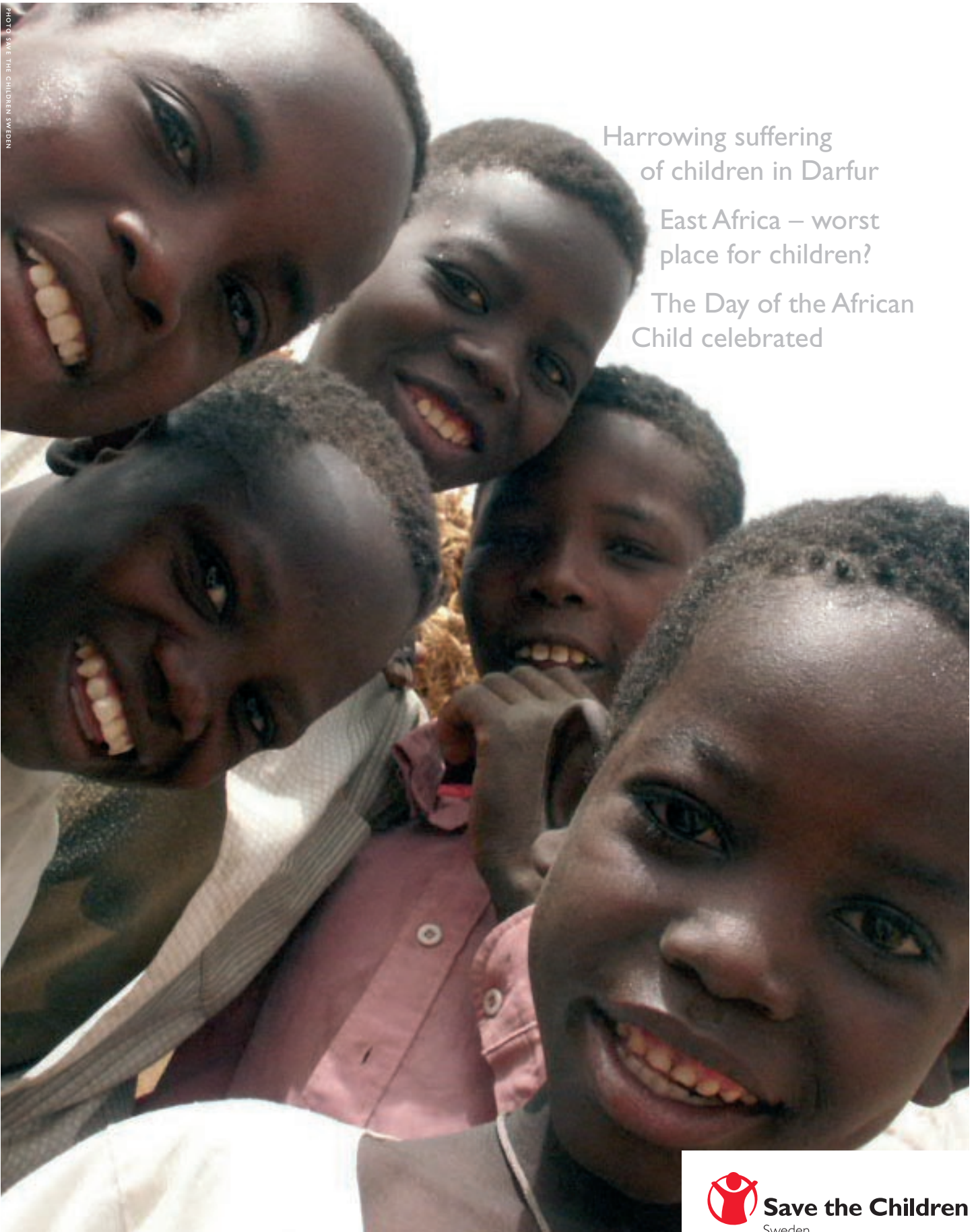
special insight All forms of violence and abuse damage children's happiness, security and safety, sometimes for life. In Eastern and Central Africa, Save the Children Sweden works to end violence and abuse against children, and support child protection in situations of conflict. Read more on pages 4-7.

PHOTO: SAVE THE CHILDREN SWEDEN

Harrowing suffering
of children in Darfur

East Africa – worst
place for children?

The Day of the African
Child celebrated



Save the Children
Sweden

partner portrait

Sudan Production Aid, SUPRAID

At the heart of Twic in Warrap state is Sudan Production Aid (SUPRAID), an indigenous non-governmental organisation that has dedicated itself to fostering peace in the community.

Over the years, SUPRAID has acquired fame for its work especially for organising the now reputable Twic Olympics. The Twic Olympics are aimed at encouraging interaction among the youth and the community at large through sports, music and drama.

Save the Children Sweden (SCS) has been working with SUPRAID since its inception. It has been funding the Olympics because it believes in child participation, its

encouragement and enhancement as one of the fundamentals of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and aims to continue to do so.

SCS also believes in SUPRAID'S entry point into the community and works with them in its advocacy work to create awareness on children's rights and other social issues as HIV/AIDS. To this regard, we salute SUPRAID and hearten it to move forward with its work.

For more information about SUPRAID, please contact Faith Miyandazi, Communications Officer for SCS in southern Sudan, fiathm@ecaf.savethechildren.se

Keeping Children Safe: a toolkit for child protection

The Keeping Children Safe Coalition, consisting of Save the Children, the Consortium for Street Children, EveryChild, NSPCC, Oxfam, People in Aid, Plan, International Federation Terre des Hommes, Worldvision and the Oak Foundation, has developed a set of tools to help organisations working in developing countries to keep children safe.

Over recent years, there has been increasing recognition of the global nature of child abuse, and growing acceptance of the potential risks to children of adults working in positions of trust. Greater attention, therefore, has been paid to how aid and development agencies ensure that children they are in contact with are kept safe from harm. As a result, many agencies are now putting in place policies and procedures designed to protect children, and keep them safe from harm.

However, many agencies are still not sufficiently aware of the importance of building protection measures into their work. All are looking for practical guidance, tools and support materials

to assist them in overcoming a host of obstacles that confront them in tackling child protection issues in their work.

For these agencies, and for the sector as a whole, there is a need to develop a common understanding of child protection issues, develop good practice across the diverse and complex areas in which they operate and thereby increase accountability in this crucial aspect of their work.

Keeping Children Safe: A Toolkit for Child Protection will help agencies to:

- recruit staff safely.
- strengthen policies and procedures that prevent abuse within agencies.
- help them deter, detect and respond to abuse.
- increase staff confidence to deal with child abuse concerns when they arise.
- keep children safe beyond agency boundaries.
- integrate child protection into all areas of operation.

Visit the Coalition's homepage at www.keepingchildrensafe.org.uk

Get involved – and stay tuned

You don't have to work for Save the Children Sweden to contribute to the Bulletin. Please, share your experience on fulfilling the rights of children, or comment on our work. Send an e-mail to:

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Regional update

Northern Sudan

An estimated 25,000 people have been displaced in North Darfur over the past three weeks, 18,000 of whom have newly arrived in various IDP (Internally displaced people) camps. Regions most affected by recent insecurity include the area south of Tawilla and Korma, southwest of the capital El Fasher, and the vast expanse northwest of Kutum – areas where Save the Children are operational.

The international NGO Tearfund reported that a Sudanese driver for its relief team working in West Darfur had been killed when two Tearfund vehicles were attacked during civil unrest.

Southern Sudan

Inter-ethnic and political violence targeting civilians and aid workers has flared in Sudan leaving at least 36 people dead in two weeks of bloodletting in Juba and Rumbek towns and on the border between Warrap and Unity states on the eve of first vice president Salva Kiir's trip to USA.

In some Southern towns, where a foreign driver was killed and others reported missing, there was a night curfew. In Rumbek, the killings were blamed on unknown assailants and the Lords Resistance Army (LRA), the latter which Kiir is trying to bring to talks with the Ugandan government.

The violence in Warrap involved two rival Dinka clans clashing over cattle theft.

Worst place for children

Sudan, northern Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo are the world's three most dangerous places for children due to wars that have brought death, disease and displacement, a Reuters poll of humanitarian experts showed.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) says 1.8 million children have been affected by a three-year conflict in Sudan's Western Darfur region, where they risk being recruited as fighters and are especially vulnerable to disease and malnutrition. UNICEF says that more than two million children worldwide have died as a direct result of armed conflict in the past decade, and about 20 million have been forced to flee their homes.

More than a million have been orphaned or separated from their families.

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Save the Children
Sweden



Children's Rights

PHOTO SAVE THE CHILDREN SWEDEN

The Day of the African Child celebrated in Addis Ababa

Thirty years back thousands of South African black students marched in the streets of Soweto, demanding for their right to learn in their own language. The response was police brutality where hundreds of children were killed and thousands injured from gun shots opened to disperse the demonstrators. In order to commemorate the victims and honour their courage, the Organization of African Unity, now African Union (AU), dedicated 16 June of every year as from 1991.

In Ethiopia, the Day of the African Child has been colorfully celebrated under the coordination of Ministry of Women Affairs (MOW), as the responsible Ministry mandated for coordinating child rights implementation and promotion in Ethiopia. The theme for this year, as per the decision of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, was the right to protection: Stop violence against children.

The event was organised through the coordination of Children, Youth and Family Affairs Department together with NGOs like Save the Children Sweden,

Christian Children Fund, ANPPCAN, Merry Joy, and UNICEF. During the joint celebration, a children's panel discussion was held. This discussion was led by children and the participants included representatives from MOW and NGOs.

Following an opening speech by the State Minister in charge of Women's Affairs, presentations were made by children focusing on violence against children. In particular their presentation dwelt on issues such as physical and humiliating punishment and child labour vis-à-vis causes, impacts on children and the roles and responsibilities of children, family, school, NGOs and government for curbing the situation. The children actively participated by forwarding different questions and comments.

The list of issues raised by children included involvement of children in matters that concern them, such as consulting children while revising laws and policies, support from government and NGOs in strengthening and establishing children's parliaments in Addis Ababa, and giving attention to the children in rural areas.

Carnival, exhibitions and folklore dancing in Darfur

In northern Sudan, Save the Children Sweden organised a discussion forum on issues of violence against children between children and Government officials. The forum took place on 19 June 2006 and was attended by media and civil society organisations.

The Children discussed issues ranging from domestic violence to violence in schools, on the street and in institutions. The questions raised by the children included the process of juvenile justice, legal penalties for child abusers, street and abandoned children, and religious discrimination.

On 16 June, children from child friendly spaces in El Fasher organised a carnival with folklore dances, songs and drama in addition to a children drawing exhibition. The carnival included honouring of the students and schools supported by SCS in El Salam camp, whose performance was the best amongst the IDP schools in North Darfur. Speeches were made by children, youth, community leaders, camp administration and other NGO's. In the evening there was a final football tournament organised under the slogan stop violence against children.

Children's rights discussed in Sudanese media

The portrayal of children's issues in the media has a major concern for our work. Save the Children Sweden, in collaboration with CRI, organised a discussion forum on children's rights in Sudanese media on 14 June to enhance ownership of children's rights issues among journalists and to ensure greater coverage for these issues and to celebrate the Day of the African Child.

The forum was attended by over 40 journalists from 15 newspapers, the Sudan News Agency and an electronic newspaper in addition to a number of child focused organisations and child/human rights activists. A paper on the situation of children's rights in Sudan and the role of the media in addressing the related issues by Mr. Yasir Mohamed Ali, a child protection specialist, was presented.

The following discussion was very open and both the journalists and those working with children's issues shared their concern over the issue and it was agreed that greater cooperation between both sides was essential if children's rights issues truly are to become a focus of public debate and interest.

Harrowing suffering of children in North Darfur

David Neveling, of Save the Children Sweden, went to visit the children in Darfur, who are forever affected by war and forced to witness murder, rape and cruelties beyond imagination.

As I land in El Fasher, the capital of north Darfur state, I realise this region, sited on the southern fringes of the Sahara desert, must be one of the harshest and most remote environments on earth.

The scenery is mostly endless sand and rock – in other words, no ideal place to have a refugee crisis. But it was in this extremely poor, arid environment that almost one and a half million people were made homeless – mostly ethnic African Sudanese, who say they were attacked by Arab tribes and Sudanese army units after rebels started an insurrection.

Years later, in July 2006, the reality is that villages are still being torched and civilians are still being forced to flee. It is not known how many have been killed since the conflict began, but some estimates put the number at 400,000 – a terrifying number that will most likely increase.

Since the beginning of 2004, Save the Children Sweden has been operating in North Darfur, focusing on protection of children, education and psychosocial support. In every camp for displaced people, a number of child friendly spaces, kindergartens, have been constructed, providing an every day opportunity for children to play and come together amidst all the suffering. Issues of social integration and reconciliation are important as children often feel isolated, marginalised and stigmatised in periods of

conflict and post-conflict.

El Fasher is the capital of North Darfur state, and home to one of the busiest airports in Darfur – frequently trafficked by United Nations (UN) and African Union (AU) flights, humanitarian aid freights and some commercial flights. The town is held by the government, but rebels hold some of the surrounding countryside.

The UN estimates that 1.2 million ethnic African Darfurians have been displaced by the violence. 70,000 of them are in Al Salam camp for displaced people, on the edge of El Fasher – 8,000 just arrived from South Darfur last month.

Al Salam is a few-kilometre stretch of dust and crude huts. The displaced people are vulnerable and defenceless, and they have felt real terror. Most of the people were driven out of their villages by militias, and many have witnessed rape and murder of family members and neighbours. For children exposed to such extreme circumstances, consideration needs to be given to emotional and developmental support – which is why Save the Children Sweden is training volunteers in the camps in psychosocial support.

Sitting in one of the child friendly spaces, is a softly spoken girl called Nessima, aged 6. She wears a plain headscarf and flip-flops on her feet. She can hardly remember what happened when the Janjaweed came to her village,

Kossa in northeast Tawilla, more than a year ago, and forced everyone to flee by foot the 70 kilometres before finally ending up in Al Salam camp. She has been living in El Salaam ever since, together with 6 sisters and 4 brothers.

From time to time when we talk, Nessima looks away – whether she is shy, or close to tears, is hard to tell. One thing you can tell, is the importance for her to come to the child friendly space every day, to meet her friends, to play and to sing. Her friend Mohammad, sitting next to her, also aged 6, with the same history of fleeing from his village, is determined to one day become a doctor. Both are children of a very young age, yet with horrifying experiences that most children will never come close to – experiences that will last forever.

Tawilla, west of El Fasher, is a barren, depressing place. Its powdery soil is often whipped up into sandstorms, and when the wind is not tormenting the people, the sun beats down at temperatures exceeding 40°C. This is the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) territory – as we left El Fasher we passed two government checkpoints, and then we were on our own, between the fighting forces.

Tawilla is "home" to 20,000 in three different camps for displaced people, on the sandy heights outside Tawilla town; Dali, Argo, and Rwanda camp. The town itself is an empty shell of a village, devoid of people and livestock, everywhere signs of how people fled in a hurry; smashed pots, wrecked huts and sandals on the ground. In the shadows of the old marketplace, a few young men are gathered, members of the rebels on patrol.

The 11 schools in Tawilla, which host more than 7,000 students, have been restored by Save the Children Sweden. In a weeks time, the children will return after a short summer break, eager to learn and make new friends. Textbooks and schoolbags are provided, and voluntary teachers have been trained. One of the most important protection





PHOTO SAVE THE CHILDREN SWEDEN

issues is to care for education, reducing the risks associated with conflict situations and educating children about their rights.

The school also provides a safe space and can re-establish a sense of normality after the trauma of displacement and horror. It gives the children an opportunity to acquire skills essential for coping with an emergency.

Despite the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA), signed in Abuja, Nigeria, on 5 May, fighting continues between the government and Sudanese rebel forces. During my visit, there was a skirmish near the town of Tawilla in North Darfur, and shooting was also reported from Kutum, northeast of El

Fasher, where Save the Children Sweden supports displaced children in two camps; Fata Barno and Kasab camp.

I was scheduled to visit Kutum, but the incidents put pressure on the AU observing forces, cancelling my flight last minute for security reasons – just another reminder of the fragile and tense situation in the region.

The signing of the peace agreement by all the rebel groups, is the talk of the town in Darfur. Whether or not this will bring an end to the violence, is yet to be seen. The political arguments, and the harrowing suffering of the children of North Darfur, are set to continue.

Conference: Violence Against Girls in Africa

The African Child Policy Forum held its Second International Policy Conference on the African Child: Violence Against Girls in Africa on 11–12 May at the UN Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Speakers from AU, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and members from Pan-African policy makers joined women's-rights and child-rights organisations, as well as child survivors of violence.

The widespread problem of violence is a hidden one in Africa because of the very nature of the violence being committed, says Dr. Assefa Bequele, Executive Director of the African Child Policy Forum.

The work of the Forum leading up to the conference, and bringing together organisations, governments and children at the conference, has created dialogue and in-turn, initiated real actions that cast a spotlight on this problem.

The African Child Policy Forum's objective for the conference was to contribute to attitudinal and policy changes toward violence against girls, by initiating an Africa-wide movement against all forms of violence. The conference ensured that African views and positions, especially regarding girls, were reflected in actions and resolutions taken by AU and UN.

Just a few of the presenters who participated in the conference: H. E. Joaquim Chissano, Former Head of State of Mozambique; Prof. Paulo Pinheiro, the Secretary-General's Independent Expert on Violence against Children; Dr. Yakin Erturk, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women; Mr. Jean Baptiste Zoungrana, Chairperson of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; and Prof. Jaap Doek, Chair, of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The African Child Policy Forum has initiated a major programme of work on violence against children that combines research, advocacy and policy dialogue. This work includes extensive research done on violence against girls in Africa, as well as a wide-range of other recent publications on the topic.

SCS would like to extend our greatest appreciation to Ulrika Sonesson, Programme Advisor, SCS in South Africa, and Katie Taft, Communications Officer at Forum, who organized the conference.

All of the Forum's publications can be found at: <http://www.africanchildforum.org/publications.asp>



Regional Children's Consultation on Violence against Girls and Boys

On May 9-10, 2006, Regional Children's Consultation on Violence against Girls and Boys was organised in Ethiopia by SCS in collaboration with Home Office.

24 children from Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Senegal, Somalia and Uganda were assembled at Hilton Hotel in Addis Ababa with the following stated objectives:

1. To provide forum for children to share ideas and experiences from different countries to be strong and to make things better regarding ending violence against children.
2. To give feedback on recommendations made for the UN study on Violence against Children.
3. To ensure that girls and boys actively advocate their recommendations and actions at the Pan-African Conference on Violence against Children/girls in Africa, organised by the African Child Policy Forum (see previous page).
4. To plan for and recommend actions at national, regional and international levels.

There have been several situations in 2006 that made this regional consultation timely and very important. The situations and the achievements of the Children's Consultation include the following:

- The UN Study on Violence against Children is now in its final phase

where the report of the study would be submitted to the UN General Assembly by the end of the year. It has therefore been necessary to strengthen advocacy to get better result at the UN, and to implement what has been achieved after the UN General Assembly.

- It has been necessary to use the opportunity of a high profile conference, Pan-African Policy Conference (see previous page), conducted on 11 and 12 May following the Children's Consultation. Children who have deliberated on their critical issues of violence have utilised the Conference to raise their voices against violence by bringing out their concerns, recommendations and declaration to the conference. Please see the annexed declaration presented to African Policy Conference by children below.
- It has also been necessary to create a forum for children to review, and strengthen, the various recommendations made to end violence against children during the process of the UN Study. Children were thus given this planning opportunity to participate and advocate with NGOs, governments and others to end violence.

During the Consultation the following contents/activities were addressed or conducted:

1. Experience sharing on forms of violence and actions to be taken to end it.
2. Background, purpose and process of the UN Study on Violence against Children.
3. Presentation, review and discussion on children's recommendations made to end violence against children from different parts of the world.
4. Presentations and discussions on ways children could take part in the Pan-African Policy Conference in a child friendly environment and in a meaningful and ethical way.
5. Review of the draft declaration of the Pan African Conference on Violence against Girls in Africa.
6. Discussion and drafting of children's declaration for presentation to the Pan-African Policy Conference by children's representatives.
7. Discussion and identification of key recommendations for the UN Study by children.
8. Development of action plans for country and regional level consumption.

Children's statement

As children from all over Africa, we would like to thank all the NGOs who organized the children's meeting and especially Save the Children's regional office for East and Central Africa.

We would also like to thank the Africa Policy Forum for having organized this conference. We would like to encourage you to continue to organize this kind of forums and continue to invite children and young people from all over Africa.

We would also like to thank Professor Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, for taking his time to come and share his time with us children.

We girls and boys from 6 countries, Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda commit ourselves to:

- Sensitize other children and our communities on children's rights.
- To form child clubs which teaches children and the communities about child rights and violence against children.
- To do our best not to violate other children's rights.
- To use dialogue and discussions with our peers, parents/guardians and teachers to solve conflicts.

We would like our governments and other responsible organisations to:

- Adopt and implement laws against all forms of violence, including corporal and other forms of humiliating punishment, child sexual abuse, FGM, etc.
- Create awareness raising programs on violence against girls and boys.
- Give a chance to girls and boys to participate in all activities to fight against violence and discrimination.
- Create awareness of the population on the consequences of violence by using child friendly tools for example media to reach children and adults.
- Create child friendly reporting centers where children can report abuse cases.
- Create guidance and counseling clubs in the schools.
- Enable children to have access to the international, regional and national mechanism such as CRC and ACERWC.
- To encourage a follow up on the UN Study on Violence against Children, three years after the study has been finalised. Children should be involved in this follow up to see how much the government has done to implement the recommendations and how much they have done to involve children.

We would now like to conclude with a poem.

Violence, violence, violence

Why do you need to focus your eyes so much on the African Children?

Why do you want to ruin the fruits of tomorrow?

We the African children are tired of sexual violence, corporal punishment, and gender inequality.

Violence, violence, violence

Where do you come from?

Who are your parents?

Why are you the enemy of peace and love?

Oh, God we wish one day, violence and peace could have a peaceful talk

Violence, violence, violence

You made us the children of Africa,

Lose all the hopes in the educational life

You made our future useless,

We are the future leaders and doctors,

teachers, parents doctors, leaders and all the people why do you violate us

*We the African children want peace, love, care and unity
Give us peace today if you want good fruits tomorrow!*



PHOTO ANNA KÄRI

Children and violence

New report: Ending legalised violence against children

"Violence begets violence and we shall reap a whirlwind. Children can be disciplined without violence that instills fear and misery, and I look forward to church communities working with other organisations to use the context of the Study to make progress towards ending all forms of violence against children."

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu,
South Africa

In all countries in Africa parents are still allowed to use corporal and other forms of humiliating punishment on their children. In a majority of African states corporal punishment is still legally and socially accepted in schools. As an example it can be mentioned that more than 40 per cent of children in Sudan are exposed to corporal punishment by their teachers because of arriving late to school.

Save the Children Sweden is working with partner organisations in Africa to reverse the culture of corporal and other forms of humiliating punishment on children and promote positive forms of discipline. An important part of this is to ensure that governments prohibit all forms of corporal punishment of children in the home, in the school, in alternative care settings and in the penal system.

To this end, Save the Children Sweden and the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children has published an All Africa report on corporal and other forms of humiliating punishment called *Ending legalised violence against children*. The report calls on all

African states to fulfil their human rights obligations to children by prohibiting and eliminating all forms of corporal punishment and other humiliating punishment of children.

The 60-page report includes recommendations calling for law reform and educational measures, an analysis of the legality of corporal punishment in all African states and of the international and regional human rights standards that require prohibition.

Research studies from 18 states in the region show varying rates of use of corporal punishment in the home, with a majority of 80 per cent. The report also summarises studies in which children have been interviewed about their experience of corporal punishment and their attitudes to it.

The report emphasises that ending corporal punishment is a global issue – and also a very personal issue because most people in every state in the world have been hit and humiliated. But law reform and other measures to end corporal punishment are now accelerating and the current UN Study on Violence against Children provides a particular context for progress.

The full report is available at www.endcorporalpunishment.org.

Copies of the report are also available from Save the Children Sweden. Please contact Alemtsehay Mulat, Senior Programme Officer, e-mail: alem.mulat@swedsave-et.org

Pan-African seminar on engaging boys and young men, Addis Ababa

Save the Children Sweden in Ethiopia hosted a pan-african seminar on engaging boys and young men 15–16 May in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The seminar, the first of its kind in Africa, was aimed at increasing knowledge of the concepts, methods and best experiences on partnering with boys and young men to address HIV/AIDS and gender based violence.

147 participants from eight African, one Latin American, three European countries attended, representing a wide variety of national, international NGOs, UN agencies and governments.

Based on practical experiences from SCS, its partners and other actors from around the world, the seminar took an indepth look at gender and masculinity research carried out within Ethiopia and Zambia, practical experiences on working with boys and girls from Africa, South Asia, Latin America, and Europe.

The significance of involving boys and young men in combating discrimination against boys and girls, how boys end up as subjects of abuse due to the existing gender roles, and ways to gain the support of boys in fighting violence and HIV/AIDS were some of the points covered by the presenters invited from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. The presentation by the Ethiopian and Sudanese boys and girls and the field visits to the boys group from SCS programmes was an important contribution to the seminar.

It is hoped that the seminar will spark off new initiatives and foster a forum of discussion and possible collaboration on methods and experiences which will be sustained after the seminar.



PHOTO SAVE THE CHILDREN SWEDEN

Update: AMIS Capacity Building Project in Darfur

Following the agreement reached between UNICEF and Save the Children Sweden, the latter has deployed a project team composed of three trainers who are now stationed in various parts of Darfur.

The main objective of the project is to build the capacity of African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) in fulfilling its mandate in the protection of the IDPs and monitoring of human rights violations in Darfur.

The SCS team focuses on building the AMIS capacity on children's rights and child protection through training and steering a process in establishing a system on monitoring and reporting of children's rights violations.

The capacity building of AMIS project has got three major components, which include; human rights, gender based violence and children's rights/child protection.

The three components are led by UNHCR, UNFPA and UNICEF/Save the Children Sweden respectively. The overall coordination responsibility lies with UNDP.

The project team, since its deployment and along with other teams involved in the project, has carried out training needs assessment, designed and tested training materials, and finalised a training package for two levels of training namely a training of trainers (TOT) and training of the 7,000 AU forces.

The first TOT was conducted for AMIS Civilian Police (CivPol) where 29 officers had successfully completed the 8 days intensive TOT courses on the three components.

Two other TOTs are under preparation for AMIS protection personnel, which shall be administered in two separate locations. Around 60 participants have been identified to undergo the two TOT courses.

Training on children's rights in IDP camps

CRC training for 67 teachers (31 female) and 67 community leaders, representing PTAs in school and pre-school have been conducted in CRC, where SCS has an operation in Kutum host town and both IDPs camp in Kassap and Fatabarno, Sheikhs and women representatives from Kassap, tribal leader and IDPs leader in Kutum host community.

Escalating violence in North Darfur

Recently, the Government of Sudan (GoS) military attacks have decreased, however, the Inter – SLA clashes, and attacks on the population have resulted in increase of inter ethnic tension, mostly between the Fur and Zagawa. The Janjaweed attacks on villages and the Inter – SLA ethnic fighting continues to affect the daily lives of host and displaced communities.

Even though the incidence of large-scale militia attacks has decreased across the state, populations continue to be controlled/harassed/intimidated by militia. Freedom of movement is limited, and there are reports of people being kept hostage in villages and IDP camps. In some areas civilians are restricted from leaving their places.

Sexual and gender based violence-related incidents are still a major problem. In Kutum and Fatabarno, such incidences widely affect girls, while in the field collecting fire wood or grass for the animals and sometimes on their way home. One key protection challenge lies in the fact that survivors of sexual violence can not easily access medical, legal and judicial services. In such situation, women and girls are at higher risk of stigma and discrimination and they are

not likely to go for the services.

The current African Mission in Sudan (AMIS) protection mandate provides no adequate protection to the community and bears little positive impact on protecting children and civilians. Lack of a robust protection mandate has had a negative effect on the AMIS operation, including that of loss of trust by the population.

The prevailing security situation dictate SCS's interventional areas in North Darfur. SCS plans to extend educational and psychosocial support to additional 3,000 students in basic schools and 4,000 children in pre-schools and Child Friendly Spaces in El Fasher, Tawilla and Kutum IDP camps, making the total number of children accessing education and psychosocial support to about 18,000 and 10,000 children respectively.

On 9 June, 15 Members of the UN Security Council visited Darfur and had meetings with, among others, SCS staff. They were briefed on the current protection crisis and the need for robust protection mandate in Darfur.

Below, Amna Osman Ali, SCS Programme Assistant in Education, visiting a SCS child friendly space in El Kutum IDP camp.



Children in armed conflict and disaster

Recovery and Rehabilitation Project, Blue Nile State

SCS and Child Rights Institute (CRI) have finally received government approval to operate in southern Blue Nile. SCS/CRI is part of a consortium of six national and international NGOs. SCS/CRI focuses on education, capacity building on children's rights and advocacy. Representatives from SCS/CRI were participating in a planning workshop (18–20 June) in Damzin.

Thereafter the team was to recruit

two field staff Education Officers and Community Mobilization Officers. Other positions, such as Project Coordinator and Capacity Building Officer, will be advertised at the national level as well as in the project area.

It is worth noting that the administrative and finance staff, office space and facilities for the whole consortium is under the responsibility of the Islamic Relief.

Meetings, workshops and conferences



Regional workshop: Child Rights Programming

In July this year, Addis Ababa was host to a team of SCS regional staff and partners who attended a three-day workshop on child rights programming (CRP).

The aim of the workshop was to equip the participants with knowledge and skills in CRP. This is important because it adds value in planning for programmes and critically looking at the rights and needs of children.

The workshop was also attended by three state Ministers from the Government of southern Sudan. The ministers were joyful to be in Ethiopia for the first time when their country was in

peace since they had only been there in combat.

The ministers were enlightened by what they learnt at the workshop that the promised to include children's rights issues into their agenda. Fatuma Juma, Programme Officer at SCS in southern Sudan said, "this is the best thing that has ever happened to the southern Sudan programme – having people at the center of power look into issues of children in the region." The workshop was coordinated by the CRP advisor for SCS in South East Asia, Dr Jay Wisecarver.

Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into SCS Sudan programmes

The National Council for Child Welfare, NCCW, in collaboration with SCS and UNICEF, organised the afore-mentioned capacity building workshop which is the first one of its kind and part of SCS and UNICEF joint future plans towards capacity building of the state councils.

17 states participated in this workshop. 15 states in northern Sudan, and 2 states from southern Sudan (Central Equatorial and Eastern Equatorial States). The workshop discussed the situation of children's rights in Sudan, with special emphasis on child protection. The 10 year plan on Sudan Fit for Children was presented.

The participants were enlightened on the CRC and its optional protocol, CRC reporting and the concluding observation of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Moreover, sessions on Child Protective Environment and Child

Protection Coordination at national and state levels were discussed.

The opening session was addressed by SCS, UNICEF, State Minister of the Federal Government, State Minister of the Federal Ministry of Health and The State Minister of the Federal Ministry of Social Welfare, Children and Women Affairs.

One of the key recommendations of the workshop was the appeal to increase the current very low rates of expenditure on the basic social service sectors by the government to an acceptable regional level, more coordination and exchange of experiences between the different states, and the need for regular capacity building forums to exchange practical lessons on promoting children's rights.

Plans are underway to organise a similar workshop for southern States in Juba later this year, in collaboration with SCS in southern Sudan.

Global Action Week

SCS in northern Sudan, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Education, national and international NGOs, has celebrated the Global Action Week through a number of activities.

These include a celebration addressed by the President of the republic, where he promised to increase the budgetary allocation to the education sector by 6 per cent. SCS organised a press conference at Sudan News Agency (SUNA), and it was attended by the Under-Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Education, Sudan Network for Education for all (a group of local NGOs) and SCS. SCS focused on the right to free and compulsory education as stipulated in the CRC and transitional constitution.

On the same vein, SCS has organised a discussion forum with the National Assembly sub-Committee on Education to advocate for an increase in budgetary allocation for the education sector.

SCS sponsored a series of TV and radio programs to debate and discuss the situation of primary education in Sudan. SCS documented through video films the situation of the educational physical environment in Khartoum State Squatters and the Blue Nile State, and disseminated that through the media.

Good governance in the best interests of the child

27 and 28 July 2006, SCS organised and held a workshop in Aweil Town for the State government of Northern Bahr-El-Ghazal (NBEG) under the theme "Good governance in the best interests of the child".

The workshop, attended by about 30 representatives of NBEG, was officially opened by the State Deputy Governor and the State Minister for Education.

The workshop was aimed at sensitizing the State government on the role of the new government of southern Sudan (GoSS) as the primary duty bearer for children's rights. Topics covered by facilitators from SCS and UNDP included, the realisation of children's right to education; the role of laws, policies and government budgets in realising children's rights; the contents of the Draft GoSS Children's Bill; human and children's rights in the NBEG State Constitution and the importance of child rights programming to the State government's strategic planning.

Girls' Education Day marked in southern Sudan

7 July was officially declared a day for promoting girls education in southern Sudan by his Excellency the late Dr. John Garang on 7 July 2004. Unfortunately in most parts of southern Sudan the day has not been given the seriousness it deserves as both education departments in the government and the NGO community have not been recognising it.

This year however, Save the Children Sweden in conjunction with the Ministry of Education for Science and Technology (MoEST) in the Government of Southern Sudan managed to mark the day in style. In all states where SCS operates, there were a buzz with activity as people of all ages turned up in huge numbers to promote girls' education. It was all pomp and colour as children entertained the audience with songs, dances, poems and showcased their talents in games and sports.

In Northern Bar El Ghazel, the day was a success due to combined efforts from Save the Children Sweden and UK. Here the ceremony was officiated by his Excellency the commissioner of Aweil East County.

In Jongley state, the event was held at Panyagor and was presided over by His Excellency the executive director of Twic East County. County and Payam officials, women groups, UN agencies, NGO representatives, teachers, parents, church leaders and children of all ages from different schools were invited to participate in the event. This was the same in all the other states.

The core objective of this day is to address issues of girls' education, to advocate for equal opportunities and active participation of girls' in education and development. In the past this has

been difficult particularly in southern Sudan where the society is highly traditional and just coming out of a long period of combat.

Save the Children Sweden has been strident in creating awareness among the communities on the importance of girls' education and education in general. Thus far there has been progress evident in the change in attitudes and perceptions on girls in communities where the rights of girls' have continuously been ignored, violated, abused and totally denied.

The occasion was also used as a platform to set a precedent to MoEST at state level to be encouraged to replicate this annually in order to promote girls education. Education is a right of every child as stipulated in CRC, article 28.

The state has a primary role to fulfil in ensuring that there is free and compulsory education for all children regardless of their status and gender. To effectively accomplish this mission, SCS works with partners at all levels to ensure successful implementation of the global challenge programme in education.

US Congress to visit SCS activities in Al Salam IDP camp, North Darfur

As part of a visit by the US Congress to El Fasher, North Darfur, late August, SCS humanitarian child-focused emergency programme in Al Salam IDP camp will be highlighted, set out to address urgent child protection and developmental rights through improving right to education in an emergency situation, enhance the capacity of civil society, and provision of legal aid among others.

The Arabic week for the Deaf in northern Sudan motivated young people

22 April 2006 was the start of a week in which issues of those with hearing disabilities were put under focus by Arab nations and also in some African countries.

This week was an opportunity for the Sudanese National Society for the Deaf (a close and old partner of SCS) to introduce a more advocacy oriented approach to its work towards empowering children and youth with hearing disabilities. SNSD, with the support of SCS, organised one week full of media coverage and exposure.

SCS and SNSD staff members organised a task force comprising of SNSD students and staff members to execute the work needed for the Arabic week for the deaf. The teams were divided into those distributing posters, those organising the library, those working with the newspapers and those organising the opening day events.

During that week, 2000 posters were distributed promoting sign language across Khartoum. Youth with hearing disabilities volunteered to distribute these posters for two days and were extremely motivated by this activity.

Children and HIV/AIDS forum in northern Sudan

As part of its effort to enhance dialogue between civil society and government and its monitoring role for children rights issues Child rights institute is organising a bimonthly forum on children's rights.

The first forum, which discussed the issue of children and HIV/AIDS, took place on 4 June in Khartoum and was well attended by both NGO's and related government bodies.

Kenya: Child protection in emergency drought response

In 2005, inadequate rainfall resulted in total crop failure in 37 districts in Kenya. Approximately 3.5 million people urgently required food assistance. Pasture and water availability was poor, thus compromising livestock health and milk production for household members and, most critically, children.

Initial assessments by World Food Programme (WFP) suggested that over USD 263 million would be required from the global community in response to the drought. The SC Alliance deployed a

multidisciplinary emergency assessment team in Kenya, which completed a rapid assessment in Isiolo and Kajiado districts.

In the area of child protection, the team had the following findings:

- The food shortage pulled children out of school.
- There was an uneven distribution of relief food, meaning vulnerable community members, such as very young children, were not supported.
- An increase in number of working children, mostly work for low wages or food.

- Early marriage remains a problem in the district, this is often linked with the cultural practice of FGM.
- SC response included:
- Staff and partner training on child protection and child participation.
 - Support and training for child-led organisations.
 - Support for vulnerable children through organisations engaged in child protection.
 - Advocacy at district and national level regarding child protection during the drought emergency, and advocacy at the community level against harmful coping mechanisms.



PHOTO SAVE THE CHILDREN SWEDEN

Upcoming events, new publications and picks

Publications update from SCS Bookshop

What Children Say

Results of comparative research on the physical and emotional punishment of children in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Code no 3287, available as PDF

Responding Early to Children's Rights in Emergencies

This booklet describes children's need in emergencies and how we respond to these needs at all stages of an emergency situation. There are also examples of our long-standing partnership with UNHCR in respect to emergency situations. Written by Hans Lind, newly appointed Country Director for Save the Children Sweden in Ethiopia.

Code no 2685, 17 pages, available as PDF

Children's Rights to a Good Physical Environment in Emergency Situations

This report was produced primarily for Save the Children Sweden's regional field offices, local partners and the Save the Children Sweden Emergency Standby Team. It is, however useful for other organisations and groups involved in emergency programmes as it provides examples of how emergency work can be improved by including a child-rights perspective.

Code no 3175, 100 SEK

Focus on Refugee Children

A handbook for training field refugee workers in social and community work

Code no 938, 190 SEK

Whose Children?

This is a book that analyses issues of fostering, group care and other types of

of care arrangements for children and adolescents separated in situations of large-scale emergencies. It discusses what it really means to be separated from the family and what is urgent to put on the agenda to better fulfil separated children's rights.

The book is a successful attempt to involve and analyse girls' and boys' own perceptions with children themselves as first hand sources, it provides a rich source of information on separated and orphaned children, and it draws important and challenging conclusions for those concerned with policy and practice in child care and protection.

250 pages, 190 SEK

Networks of Support

This report examines a large body of historical, anthropological and agency literature relating to child rearing, family life and substitute family care. The purpose of this task was to explore existing understandings of the care arrangements of different groups of separated children in different cultural contexts; to establish some common themes for consideration and to pose questions for further research.

Code no 2602, available as PDF

Series: Save the Children's Contribution to end Violence against Children

Sharing good practice and key recommendations.

Code no 3314–3319, available as PDF

For more information, please visit the SCS Bookshop at www.rb.se/bookshop.

Members of Parliament

Members of the Ethiopian Parliament, from Social Affairs Standing Committee, Capacity Building Affairs Committee and Infrastructure Affairs Standing Committee, paid working visit to SCS and discussed issues concerning children and collaboration for the promotion of children's right in Ethiopia.

The MPs shared their plan for the monitoring of the concerned executive bodies of the government, as well as raised the need for capacity building of MPs. SCS, among others, informed the MPs about the upcoming Eastern and Central Africa Regional Parliamentarians Seminar, to be held in Khartoum, and the consideration of the reports of the government of Ethiopia and the NGOs supplementary report by the UNCRC Committee in 2006.

The visit was led by the Vice Chairman of the Social Affairs Standing Committee Hon. David Rouch, the Committee who is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

Good governance and budget tracking from a child rights perspective

The study *Good Governance and Budget Tracking from a Child Rights Perspectives* was disseminated in a seminar held at Ghion Hotel, Addis Ababa, on 4 May 2006. Federal and Regional Parliamentarians, Head Regional Bureau of Finance and Economic Development, Representatives of Ministries, International and Local NGOs, lawyers, children, private and government media have attended the seminar.

Hon. Mr. David Rouch, Vice Chairman of the Social Affairs Standing Committee of the House of Peoples' Representatives opened the seminar. In his keynote, he emphasised the responsibilities of parliamentarians for monitoring and oversight of the implementation of international and regional legal instruments concerning children, ratified by Ethiopia, and urged fellow parliamentarians to take their accountability for the children in Ethiopia.

He further encouraged the participants of the seminar to take part in public hearings concerning children and support parliamentarians in providing information and research findings.