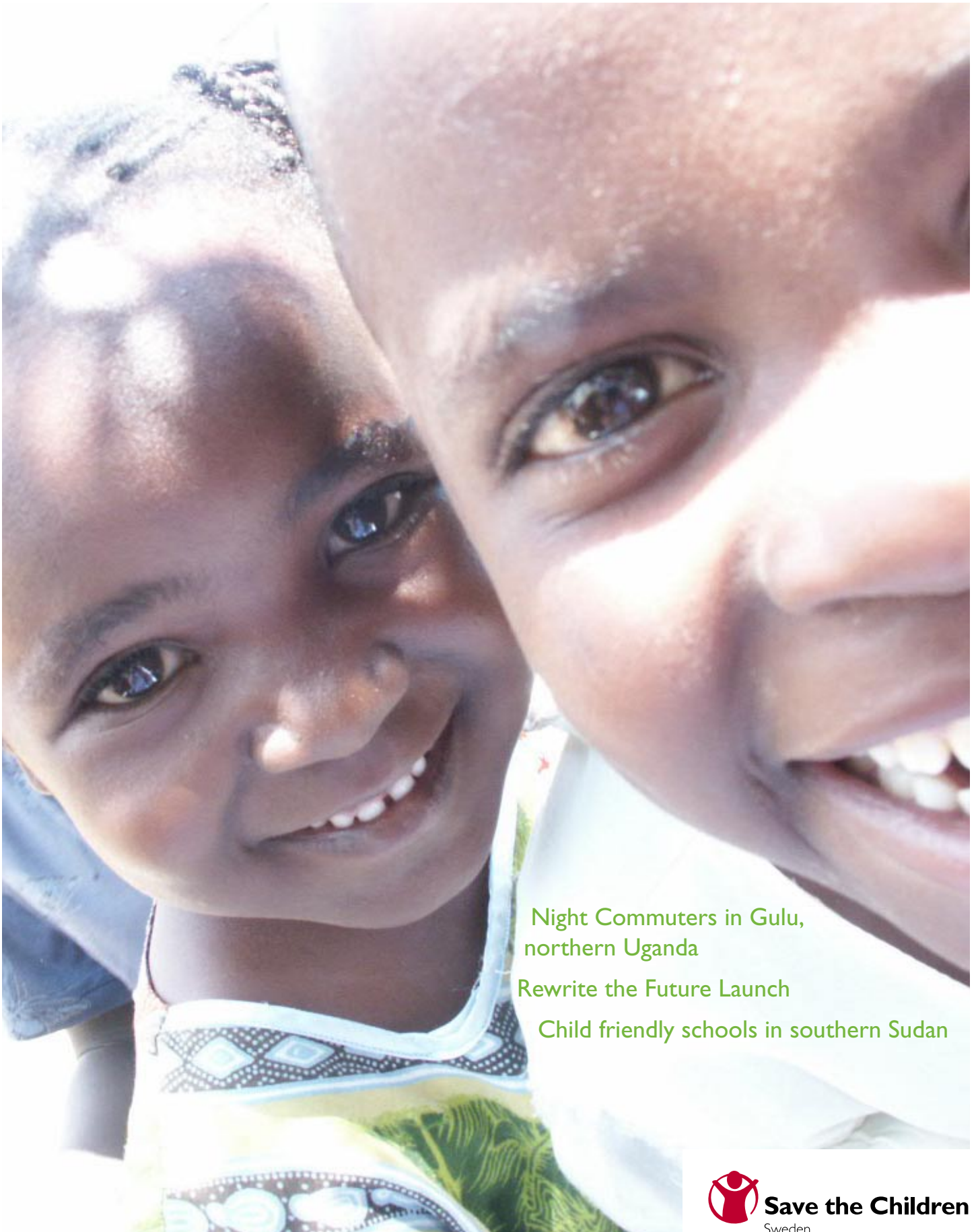


bulletin

special insight Education has been found to be one of the best means to address children affected by war; marginalised and poor children. Save the Children Sweden works through the schools to provide children normality though they are living in difficult circumstances. Read more on pages 4–5.



Night Commuters in Gulu,
northern Uganda

Rewrite the Future Launch

Child friendly schools in southern Sudan



Save the Children
Sweden

partner portrait

Gulu Support the Children Organisation, GUSCO

GUSCO is a vibrant Ugandan NGO, which has been operating in the district of Gulu for the last ten years. The three women, Betty Akech Okullo, Geraldine Onguti and Mary Oker who founded the organisation, were driven by love and compassion for the returning children, only to later realize that they had created a number of challenging issues ranging from programming to policy development.

In 1994, when the organisation was established, there was no mechanism either by government or NGOs put in place to rehabilitate and reintegrate child soldiers who return from captivity.

The common practice by the Uganda army (the escapees made the first contact with the army) was to parade the emaciated, wounded and poorly dressed formerly abducted children who escape from the rebels before in a public rally so that they could be identified by their parents or relatives. This process humiliated the children and implicated whoever associated themselves with the "rebels" prompting some relatives to deny "their" children. It was then (1994) that these women thought of establishing a "shelter" where the returning formerly abducted children would be nursed as well as meet

with their parents or relatives in a more dignified manner.

Thousands of children have been abducted and forcefully conscripted into the rebel army to fight or be used as sex slaves. The experiences the children undergo are indescribable: many have been forced to participate in killing their own family members, subjected to extreme brutality, fought numerous battles and been exposed to other debilitating situations which have left them in emotional and psychosocial turmoil. Over the years, many children have been escaping or are rescued by the army. These have needed special psychosocial support to enable them resettle in the community. Moreover thousands more children remain entrapped in the clutches of the rebels with no hope of escape.

Addressing the need of the children and preparing the community to accept them is thus paramount to effective reintegration of the formerly abducted children in the community.

GUSCO has been supported by Save the Children since 1994; first by Save the Children Denmark, and later by Save the Children in Uganda, comprised of Denmark, Norway, Sweden and UK.

Regional update

Northern Sudan

SCS has been working with Child Friendly Society (AMEL) for almost a decade now, providing basic alternative education and vocational training to IDPs children in Khartoum's localities.

A short documentary was made to cover and show the success of this alternative education centre, hoping to promote AMEL society and the project itself. SCS and AMEL organised a one day presentation of the film which included national and international NGOs discussing the experience, and provided an opportunity to relevant NGOs to replicate the project.

One of SCS most committed and dedicated partners, the Sudanese National Society for the Deaf, has managed to raise funds from local sponsors and built another branch of the deaf institute. The new branch is in a more accessible area for deaf children and provides classes for teen students. The institute also has specialised equipment that improves the hearing ability of the hearing impaired. SCS funded the opening of the institute which had the Sudanese First Lady as the guest of Honour.



Regional Office in Nairobi formally inaugurated

On Monday 13 November, the regional Office for SCS in Eastern and Central Africa was formally inaugurated. Among the guests were SCS Chairperson Ms Marianne Nivert, SCS Secretary General Ms Charlotte Petri Gornitzka, the Ambassador of Sweden to Kenya, HE Ms Anna Brandt, Save the Children Alliance Chairperson Mr Barry Clark and the Director of the NGO Board of Kenya Mr David Isoe.

More than 60 guests gathered in the new office, and learned more about the work of SCS in Eastern and Central Africa through various exhibitions highlighting child protection in North Darfur, the situation of orphaned children in Ethiopia, children in conflict with the law in SCS Diversion project in Kisumu, Kenya, and SCS youth education programmes in southern Sudan.

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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Save the Children
Sweden



Children's Rights

Exit strategy for SCS refugee programme in Ethiopia

Save the Children Sweden has for over 13 years, been operating in four Sudanese refugee settlements in Gambella and Benishangul Regional States in Western Ethiopia: Bonga, Dimma, Pugnido and Sherkole. Throughout the years, SCS has been implementing intervention activities targeting vulnerable groups of children in the camps.

Due to the expected repatriation of the refugee communities, following the end of the civil war in southern Sudan as well as the level of sustainability of the programmes and willingness of implementing partners to takeover ongoing activities, SCS is in the process of implementing an exit strategy.

The Refugee programme of SCS was initiated in response to the absence of intervention activities specifically targeting children and addressing their psychosocial needs. The programme aimed at facilitating the reintegration of children affected by war; minimising the effects of war on children, and creating awareness on the rights of children. The primary beneficiaries of the programme were preschool children and primary school children, girls, unaccompanied minors, separated children and children with disabilities.

A report of the documentation and assessment of these programmes was made by independent consultants Chamber of Rights Consultancy, and gives detailed account of Save the Children Sweden's experience in the Refugee programmes.

The programme comprises two major components: the Community Based Education programme and the Psychosocial Support programme. The Community Based Education programme

involved the provision of preschool and alternative education to refugee children and support to primary school education in the refugee camps. The Psychosocial Support programme, on the other hand, covered activities directed at the rehabilitation and integration of vulnerable groups of children and youth.

According to the report, both components of the Refugee programme has brought about significant positive impacts in terms of improving the lives of refugee children and ensuring their wellbeing, in policy and practice affecting the lives of children, children's and young people's participation, equity and non-discrimination of children and young people, and in the commitment and capacity of refugee communities to support children's rights. The major lessons learned are:

- the efficacy of a rights perspective in addressing the whole spectrum of needs and bringing about long term solutions;
- the importance of psychosocial interventions targeting children in emergency situations;
- the importance of preschool education and recreational activities in addressing the psychosocial effects of war and displacement on children;
- the role of community participation and activities targeting community structures in ensuring the sustainability of intervention results in a cost effective manner; and
- the importance of mainstreaming and integration in addressing intervention issues at multiple levels in an efficient and cost effective manner.

SCS Chairperson and Secretary General visited Eastern and Central Africa

8–14 November, the SCS Chairperson Ms Marianne Nivert and SCS Secretary General Ms Charlotte Petri Gornitzka, and SC Alliance Chairperson Mr Barry Clarke visited Eastern and Central Africa.

The visit was to participate in the opening of the regional Office in Nairobi, but also to get a better understanding of the context SCS are working in this region, and learn more about the regional programmes.

The visit included two days in southern Sudan, where the guests met children and teachers in a pre-school in Rumbek, Lakes State. They also visited Malualkon, and met youth participating in SCS Youth Education Programme in Malualkon, and children and teachers at a primary school, supported by Save the Children UK.

In Nairobi, the guest met with representatives from the Children's Department and Police Headquarters, as well as visited a Child Protection Unit, supported by SCS, and a Community Support Programme for diverted children in Kariako outside Nairobi.

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.

Save the Children Sweden stresses the important aspects of child safety, child friendly and supportive learning environments, as well as community and child participation. The publication *How to Construct Child Friendly Schools – the Importance of a Supportive Physical Environment and Community Participation* provides an overview of the global discourse on how schools can be constructed in a child friendly way and why this is important, and also partner with local NGOs in developing education programmes for marginalised children.

Child friendly schools and access to education for marginalised children

There are still a large number of children in Ethiopia who do not have access to education; street children, domestic working girls, children with disabilities, orphans, pastoralist and rural poor girls. Through its Alternative Basic Education programme in Addis Ababa City Administration and Oromia SCS is partnering with local NGOs in developing and implementing programmes of education that caters for more than 11,000 marginalised children. In the southern region SCS is working in alliance with Save the Children Norway in developing pilot basic education programme for marginalised pastoralist communities.

As one of the most vulnerable groups refugee children need special support. SCS has been providing preschool care and education direct support to about 10,500 preschool children and it has also been supporting the training, material provision and other aspects of primary education programme for about 15,000 refugee children in 4 refugee camps in western Ethiopia. The schools and preschools are managed by the communities.

Learning is enhanced in an environment that respects the dignity of a child as human being and in an environment that is stimulating. However many schools are not a safe place for children to learn. Corporal punishment, degrading and humiliating psychological punishment, gender based violence, and various harmful traditional practices are part of everyday life of school and community. The UN study on Violence against Children conducted and widely consulted at national, regional and international level also confirms this. SCS has been working with partners and others in

combating violence against children in schools and other settings by conducting studies, by providing appropriate training and awareness to teachers, parents, community members, government representatives and other stakeholders on harmful effects of violence and by promoting non-violent ways of dealing with children. We are currently working with government counterparts to develop guidelines for implementing the ban on corporal punishment which has been guaranteed by the Federal Constitution and directives of Ministry of Education

Democratic minded, responsible citizens who respect others rights and defend that of their own could not be developed in an environment where children do not have the right and opportunity to be listened to and to take active part in issues that concern them. While schools are supposed to be a place where children take active part through participating in issues and decisions that affect them, the practice in most of the schools is that children are not listened to. In order to change this situation SCS is working with partners to promote children's involvement in schools, primarily through establishing child rights clubs and student participation forums. Children in all our supported schools learn about children's rights and are empowered to claim their rights when violated. Teachers, partner staff, government staff and children are trained on, methods for facilitating children's participation.

Child rights clubs have played a major role in advocating for rights of children during Global Education campaigns; they have taken part in consultations to end violence at national, regional

and international level, they have been involved in development of national plans of action and last but not least in defending children's right through creating awareness on rights using such mechanism as school mini-media, through reporting cases of violations such as early marriage, sexual abuse etc and through discussions with school management.

Education is a basic right for every child. SCS has been working with Save the Children Alliance to promote the provision of alternative basic education by the main duty bearer, the government. It has been working to promote girls education through involvement in a joint study with SC Alliance, UNESCO and UNICEF and through involvement in dissemination workshops held at regional and national levels. It has collaborated every year with Basic Education Association Ethiopia in organising the Global Campaign for Education activities in Ethiopia to advocate for the fulfillment of the right to education through various campaign activities.

Fulfillment of access, equity and quality in basic education in Ethiopia is strongly linked to budget allocations. Therefore we are currently engaged in conducting budget analysis for primary education individually and as part of Save the Children Alliance to advocate for more resources for fulfilling children's right to education.

Southern Sudan has experienced one of the world's most devastating civil wars. Among all the negative effects of the war was the collapse of the education system. However, with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in January 2005, peace was finally brought to the country and a new era of peace



building and reconciliation, resettling and reconstruction was ushered.

The new era of reconstruction in southern Sudan is particularly evident when it comes to education and the construction of schools. Many actors are now supporting the building of new schools. Unfortunately, these processes often lack attention to the important aspects of child safety, child friendly and supportive learning environments, as well as community and child participation, where children and communities are able to contribute with their experience and knowledge in the planning and constructing of schools. It is in this vein that SCS has come up with the publication *How to Construct Child Friendly Schools – the Importance of a Supportive Physical Environment and Community Participation*, which provides an overview of the global discourse on how schools can be constructed in a child friendly way and why this is important. The global recommendations presented in this study will be used as a basis to improve the school construction process in southern

Sudan from a child rights perspective. The next step will be to apply the findings to the specific context of southern Sudan together with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST), local communities and children. Together with its partners, SCS hopes to greatly contribute to the construction of child friendly schools in southern Sudan and help improve the standards of education.

A good and supportive physical environment is a prerequisite for children's health and survival. Hence, access to water and sanitation is a fundamental right, which needs to be addressed in the school construction process. It is also crucial that children's safety is protected within the school premises as well as along the route to and from school; and that the school environment is inclusive and accessible to all children, including children with disabilities. Furthermore, the publication emphasises on the strong connection that exists between children's physical environment and their development in general. For example, the opportunity

for children to play in a safe and secure environment is of great significance to their physical, cognitive and emotional development.

In order to create a supportive and sustainable child friendly school environment, it is fundamental to involve children themselves in the process of planning, implementation and follow-up. Children are important community members, who are often concerned, interested and eager to make an impact on their physical local environment. Furthermore, children use areas that adults rarely visit and in this way they become experts of their local environment.

However, it is most likely that children's issues will not be considered and prioritised until they are recognised and seen as relevant for the development of the community in general. Experience has shown that placing children's issues on the broader agenda of the community and integrating their participation in the existing community structures is an important way forward for creating a child friendly, participatory environment.

Launch in Khartoum

The launch of the Global Challenge on Education gained much popularity amongst media specialists in Khartoum.

13 September was a day to mark in Khartoum as the Save the Children Alliance members joined hands in advocating for the right to education for children affected by conflict.

The minister of education attended the launch which was covered by journalists from TV, radio and newspapers. The local media was supportive and highlighted the challenge.

International broadcasting networks, such as Jazeera for children and the BBC Arabic radio channel, conducted in-depth interviews with SCS's country director Mr Amin Elfadil who demonstrated his advocacy skills by eloquently talking about children's rights to education.

Launch in Darfur

Save the Children Alliance officially launched the Global Challenge on Education in El Salam, IDP camp in El Fashir. The colourful occasion was attended by more than 5,500 people, including representatives from the Ministry of Education, NGOs in the Camp, local partners, Parents and Teachers Associations (PTAs), Community Leaders, teachers and children.

Children from pre-school and primary school participated in the occasion with each school having different messages.

In collaboration with the El Fashir Council, two permanent sign boards carrying the GCE theme of the campaign Rewrite the Future was made and fixed at selected locations. Unfortunately, the launch itself was not covered by the media due to security restrictions.

Orientation workshop

Facilitated by SCS Field Manager, the workshop enabled the participants to get an understanding of the SC Alliance Rewrite the Future, its main goals and strategies in achieving the intended output and impact on children in countries affected by armed conflict.

50 participants from UN agencies, acting Minister of Education, HAC, social welfare, education directors, representatives from INGOs and NGOs, SCS partners, and PTA representatives attended the workshop in El Fasher.

The workshop was broadcasted on the local TV in El Fashir, North Darfur.

Launch in Juba, southern Sudan

The Rewrite the Future launch was held at the Juba Football stadium. Children from 12 schools around Juba made a procession through the city's main street, led by the police band. The procession started at the Malakia School and ended at Juba football stadium with a sea of over 2,000 school children streaming in; all wearing red Save the Children T-shirts, imprinted with the Rewrite the Future motto.

There was lots of entertainment prior to the launch, among them a football match between two schools and songs and dances from children's teams from SC supported areas. A renowned Sudanese Musician, who happens to be a demobilised child soldier now living in Nairobi, also thrilled the crowd with his enchanted lyrics.

These were followed by speeches from SCS Country Director on behalf

of all SC Alliance members, the MOEST Undersecretary as well as the acting MOEST Minister and the President of southern Sudan, who's also the vice president of the republic of Sudan, HE Salva Kiir Mayardit, who recognised and uploaded the efforts of the SC Alliance in southern Sudan within the two decades of war and thereafter.

The President emphasized that education in southern Sudan was free and compulsory and that every parent had an obligation to send boys and girls to school without discrimination. He also talked about the need for MOEST to link HIV/AIDS to curriculum for children to be taught as part of the syllabus.

Also in attendance were several Ministers of State from different States of southern Sudan, NGO, GOSS officials and the community at large.



PHOTO SAVE THE CHILDREN SWEDEN

Rewrite the Future

Many of the children living in Eastern and Central Africa live in areas experiencing or recovering from armed conflict and displacement. These children and their communities would benefit most from good, regular education. Low levels of international investment in education do little to relieve the situation, and even those children who do have access to school often receive a very poor quality education.

We believe that education should and can be provided to all children, even in the most difficult circumstance. We aim to make a significant and lasting contribution to the education of children affected by

armed conflict. By 2010, we aim to enable three million children affected by conflict to gain access to education, and five million children affected by conflict to benefit from higher quality education, emphasising relevance, learning and participation.

We also aim to ensure that education is established as a recognised means for protecting and supporting children affected by conflict; the international community is mobilised to increase the educational resources for children in countries affected by conflict; and as a result, we achieve a big step towards the Millennium Development Goal of all children receiving primary education.

Meetings, workshops and conferences



Civil Police Training

In Collaboration with Khartoum Council for Child Welfare, 25 male and female civil police attended a one week training on Children's Rights and techniques of how to deal with street children. The authority of the civil police committed to initiate a training unit so they can provide such training to a wide range of civil police.

Capacity building of the African Union Forces in North Darfur

From 30 April to 28 August 2006, 423 AMIS CivPol and 459 Military forces have been trained by Inter-Agency team of trainers. The training project has covered various location in Darfur and a large number of troops have come on board.

In spite of the daily challenges in the region, the project is still ongoing aiming to improve child rights awareness and protection issues among the African Union Forces in Darfur.

National Plan of Action to combat violence draft

In collaboration with NCCW in Sudan, the draft of the National Plan of Action to combat violence against children including corporal punishment was developed. Moreover, SCS has started its preparations for editing the translated Study on Corporal Punishment as part of the UN Study on Violence to be widely disseminated among duty bearers and others as an advocacy tool to ban PHP.

Mainstreaming gender into SCS northern Sudan programme

As part of an ongoing plan to train SCS's staff and partners in northern Sudan, the first part of our gender mainstreaming training took place in mid September. The training proved useful to staff and partners alike as it shed light on the many challenges facing our projects with regards to the complex dimensions of the gender relations and roles of the children we work with.

In order to ensure that SCS does not disrupt gender roles in a negative way, this training is a start to dealing with the impact of projects on gender and ways to enable communities to adjust to changes in gender roles in a participatory manner.

CRC Alternative Report in Sudan

As part of plans to support the civil society initiative to participate in writing the second CRC alternative report, Save the Children Sweden organised an introductory meeting with more than 20 civil society organisations working for children's rights.

The meeting was held to introduce the process of the alternative report and to assign the leading organisation for this. The Child Rights Institute presented its

proposal as they are interested in this role which was received positively. The meeting was successful in that it allowed these organisations to understand and participate in the process from the start.

All those who attended the meeting have committed themselves to be part of the coalition that writes the final report and progress of this will be followed up by Save the Children Sweden as an observing body.

Workshop on Children's Rights in southern Sudan

Save the Children Sweden organised a workshop on children's rights for Parliamentarians and Government Officials in Rumbek, Lakes State, on 6–7 October.

The workshop was well attended and honoured by the presence of the Governor of Lakes State, Hon. Daniel Awet Akot, who officially opened and closed the meeting.

The themes discussed included CRC,

community support structures, education, child protection and non-discrimination. The discussions were open and fruitful and the high-level attendance indicated that children's rights issues are highly prioritised by the Governor's office, Parliamentarians and Government Officials in Lakes.

We hope that the other states where SCS operates could borrow a leaf from this.

Gulu: Escaping the dark

As the light faded from the northern Ugandan sky, the children emerged from their families' mud huts to begin the long walk along dirt roads to Gulu, the nearest town. Skinny boys and girls on the verge of adolescence peered warily into roadside shadows. Some walked as far as seven miles. They were on the move because they live in a world where a child's worst fears come true, where armed men really do come in the darkness to steal children, and their shambling daily trek to safety has become so routine there's a name for them: *Night commuters*.

Michael, a thin 10-year-old wrapped in a patched blanket, spoke of village boys and girls abducted by the armed men and never seen again. "I can't get to sleep at home because I fear they'll come and get me," he said.

The children, typically bedding down on woven mats, packed themselves into tents, schools, hospitals and other public buildings serving as makeshift sanctuaries, guarded by Ugandan Army soldiers. The children were hiding from the Lord's

Resistance Army (LRA). In Gulu, Save the Children now supports one shelter for these night commuters – where they can shower, watch TV and rest in safety. The shelter accommodates 400–500 children every night.

Most of the LRA fighting forces were once abductees themselves, who were then forced to visit terror on their own families and villages. For them, returning to civilian life is hard, as one aid worker in Gulu said. "You're trained how to torture. You're trained how to kill. It's all you know". "Fitting into the community is a big challenge."

The challenges are also many for the displaced people waiting to return to their land. Even after security is assured, they will need to repair damage caused by years of neglect. Schools and hospitals need to be rebuilt, and landmines must be removed. But peace talks in southern Sudan offer optimism that the thousands of children still missing might escape their brutal lives in the bush — without risking execution or drowning.



PHOTO SAVE THE CHILDREN SWEDEN

The northern Uganda and Gulu district context

It is generally agreed that the north is the poorest region in the country. Although the general poverty level in Uganda declined by up to 19 per cent from 56 per cent in 1992 to 35 per cent in early 2000, the situation in northern Uganda did not change much. According to Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MOFPED) 2003, poverty level in northern Uganda only declined marginally from 72 per cent in the 1992/1993 periods to only 66 per cent in 1999/2000. Between 1997 and 2000 poverty level in the north rose from 60 per cent to 66 per cent. According to the report, nearly half of the poorest 20 per cent in Uganda live in the northern part of the country.

Geographically the north covers 35 per cent of Uganda's total land surface but it is the least populated region. The key challenges for northern Uganda are insecurity, internal displacement, high population growth rates, high HIV/AIDS rates and historical marginalisation.

Night commuters



PHOTO SAVE THE CHILDREN SWEDEN



PHOTO: SAVE THE CHILDREN SWEDEN

Children and violence

Child Protection Unit established in Khartoum, northern Sudan

Sudan Police has officially formed a Pilot Child/Family Protection unit within a Rights Framework. This initiative is jointly supported by SCS Northern Sudan Programme in collaboration with UNICEF and Sabah (a local NGO who has been a long standing partner of SCS).

This unit had been formed under the auspices of the Police Public Law and Order Dept. previously considered notorious for its gross violations of Human Rights in general and wide practice of violence and corporal punishment against street children in particular. The Unit staff was exposed to training and experiences in Jordan and as part of the capacity building of the staff of the newly established Child/Family Protection Unit within the Police Public Law and Order, SCS in collaboration with UNICEF are going to support the two visits of staff members to be exposed to the Ugandan and South African experience.

SCS has supported SABAH's initiative to establish a National Forum on Juvenile Justice. The forum included other relevant stakeholders from both government and nongovernmental organisations working on juvenile justice. The objective of this forum is to provide a participatory platform that will improve networking for lobbying and advocacy purposes, information sharing and research on juvenile justice issues. SABAH is leading this forum and responsible of calling for meetings, organizing workshops and linking with the ECAF Regional Juvenile Justice network, in addition to any other activities deemed necessary to promote and ensure the Forum plays a proactive role in improving the conditions of children in contact with the law.

Children raise their voices against violence in Ethiopia

19 October marked the event where children were given the opportunity to request action to stop violence's committed to them. In Ethiopia, the International Save the Children Alliance organised the Save the Children World Day of Action to End Violence Against Children at Ghion Hotel, with the active participation of children from all regions of the country.

The purpose of the meeting was to launch the UN Study on Violence Against Children, lobby for the media to give the issue attention, share good experiences to design better programmes and push governments to give better support.

The child-friendly versions of the UN Study, and its recommendations made by Paulo Pinheiro, were translated in to Amharic and distributed to the participants of the meeting. The recommendations were presented to children, media, government representatives and Save the Children Sweden partners.

Getachew Tamene, a child who had participated in the official UN Study launch in New York, gave his account of the official launch and children who participated in the UN Study expressed

their views and posed questions to government officials and NGO representatives. The children also gave strong recommendations as to what should be done to stop the trend of violence. Furthermore, a short film that represented efforts made by children worldwide to stop violence committed against them, was shown.

The representative of the Addis Ababa Police Commission expressed to the children that the Commission will continue to exert the efforts in protecting children against violence. He was quoted in the major government newspaper, stating that the police would work more to end violence's against children. So far, he said, the police had brought to justice several offenders who beat, raped, assaulted and committed other forms of violence against children. –You are valuable information providers, he added, acknowledging the children's capacity to speak for themselves.

The meeting also gained attention from the media. Journalists from public and private media attended the event and gave a wide coverage on both print and broadcast media, which shows the growing interest on child rights issues among the media.



PHOTO: SAVE THE CHILDREN SWEDEN



Upcoming events, new publications and picks

Publications update from SCS Bookshop

Hyena Square

Buying drugs is cheap; buying sex is even cheaper at Hyena Square in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Here 18-year-old Elisa works in a container, counselling young commercial sex workers on HIV/AIDS. She's well qualified as she was once one of them and is now living with HIV. Elisa wants to lead a normal life and help others but struggles with ghosts from her past and the fear of a future with AIDS.

The film powerfully shows the complexity of factors contributing to the vulnerability of young women to HIV and is very useful for initiating discussions on HIV and AIDS. It is adapted to a young audience but works well in all age groups.

English and Swedish subtitles, DVD pal, 28 min
Code no 3326, 150 SEK

Kidnapped childhood

Betty and Millie are war veterans. They spent their youth in the Lord's Resistance Army and were given to commanders. They became experienced soldiers and walked through northern Uganda and Sudan with a child and an AK47 on their backs. Betty lived close to rebel leader Joseph Kony and saw him whip her comrades to death with sticks.

The conflict in northern Uganda is more than anything a war about children. The children are both the warriors and the war

bounty. Some 20,000 of them have been kidnapped and used as carriers, soldiers and sex slaves. They are the hostages in a region left paralysed and whose population lives in camps.

The girls and women who escaped from the rebels tell their stories. We learn how they fight for the children they bore with men whom they were forced to serve. We follow them when they are reunited with their displaced families and start their search for a new life.

English and Swedish subtitles, DVD pal, 28 min
Code no 3327, 150 SEK

Protecting Children in Emergencies Policy Brief

Save the Children has identified seven critical types of protection that children require in disaster areas and war zones.

Code no 3286

Children and Education

According to CRC, every child has a right to education. This publication presents what is stated in the Convention about children and education, and how Save the Children is working within this area.

Code no 2776

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

The implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Ethiopia reviewed by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

In Geneva, 12–15 September, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child reviewed the third periodic report of Ethiopia 1998–2003 on how the country is implementing the provisions of CRC. Save the Children Sweden have actively participated in the review.

The delegation from Ethiopia, nine persons, was for the first time composed of members from miscellaneous decision making bodies. The Ethiopian delegation, led by the Minister for Women's Affairs, included parliamentarians, the Human Rights Commissioner, Vice President of the Supreme Court and experts from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women's Affairs and Ministry of Justice.

Parliamentarians were invited for the first time due to the initiation of Save the Children Sweden and sponsorship of UNICEF. The involvement of parliamentarians in the delegation is believed to enhance the awareness and cooperation of parliamentarians in working together towards the implementation of children's rights in Ethiopia.

After the final report reviewed by the committee, concluding observations were given. The committee welcomed the submission of the third periodic report, the detailed written replies to its list of issues and the constructive dialogue with a high-level, cross-sectional delegation.

Among several recommendations given by the committee, one urges the state party to prioritise and increase budgetary allocations for children at both national and local levels to improve the implementation of the rights of the child throughout the country, and in particular to pay attention to the protection of vulnerable children, including children belonging to ethnic minorities, children with disabilities, children affected by and/or infected with HIV/AIDS and children living in poverty and in remote areas.

Save the Children Sweden is to set up a coordination system for government and CSOs/NGOs work at federal, regional and local level in Ethiopia by the end of 2007.