



Programme Profile

Eastern and Central Africa Region 2006/2007



Save the Children
Sweden

Introduction

This Programme Profile 2006/2007 for Save the Children Sweden in Eastern and Central Africa, gives an overall description how far we have managed to reach in achieving our vision of a world in which all children's rights are fulfilled.

A few examples of Save the Children Sweden's work this year include support in making the environment of Sudanese refugee children in Ethiopia more child friendly, promoting the ban on landmines by the government of Sudan and enrolling more children, particularly girls, in schools in southern Sudan.

We have also increased our dialogue with the governments in the region to get them fully aware of their obligations to develop National Plan of Actions and reporting mechanism on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

In order to see sustainable changes in children's lives, it means a continuous fight for children's rights in partnership with NGOs, local community groups and governments.

Hans Ridemark
Regional Representative



Save the Children Sweden in Eastern and Central Africa

Save the Children Sweden started working in Eastern and Central Africa in 1965. It has offices in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Nairobi, Kenya; and Khartoum, Sudan.

Save the Children Sweden has long-term child-rights based development programmes in Ethiopia and Sudan, and supports local partners in Kenya, Eritrea, Somaliland and Uganda. The organisation focuses on building the capacity of local people, community-based structures and organisations. In Eastern and Central Africa, it works with more than forty different non-governmental organisations and government bodies. In addition, it has adopted a direct implementation approach in southern Sudan.

All of the work in the region focuses on children's rights, and tackles issues that affect marginalised children. The core of the work focuses on children affected by conflict, discrimination, abuse, exploitation, and HIV/AIDS. Save the Children Sweden's focus also includes education,

child participation and good governance in the best interest of the child.

All countries in Eastern and Central Africa have signed the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, except Somalia. Most of the countries have also signed or ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Despite this progress, laws protecting children are not yet enforced, harmful traditions prevail in most communities and children are rarely given the opportunity to speak out. Save the Children Sweden strives to create awareness about children's rights, builds the capacity of local communities to protect those rights and lobbies governments to respect them.

Creating participation with children, listening to their opinions and criticisms, is a cornerstone of the work of Save the Children Sweden. As such, the organisation insists that all of its partners involve children in their programme planning, implementation and evaluation. The organisation also supports forums for children to speak out.

Save the Children Sweden has helped partners to organise youth forums in northern Sudan and Ethiopia, which brought together young people from around the countries to comment on the governments' National Plans of Action in relation to the UN Special Session on Children.

Save the Children Sweden also supports the writing of the complementary reports done by NGOs to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Sudan. It has brought together NGO and government representatives, who draft the complementary reports throughout the region, so they can learn from another and all reports will be of higher quality.

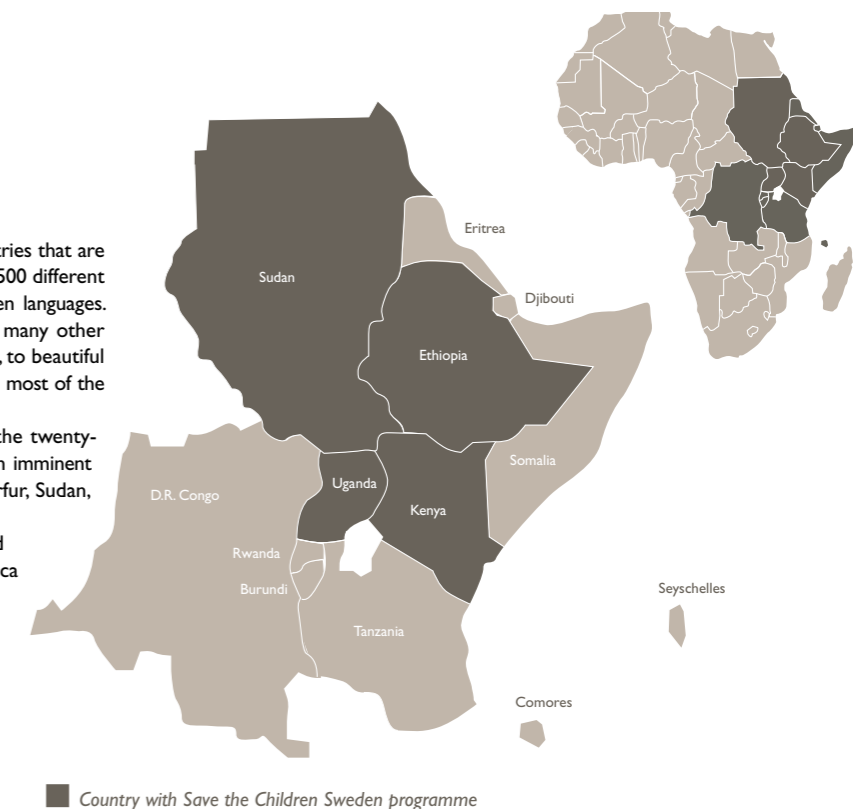
Save the Children Sweden works with various ministries within governments, parliaments and supreme courts to advocate for the symmetry of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and national legislation. Once that is achieved, the organisation works hard to ensure that the laws are implemented.

Regional perspective

Eastern and Central Africa is a vast area comprised of countries that are rich in natural resources, culture and history. There are over 500 different ethnic groups in the area, and at least 100 different spoken languages. Although Islam and Christianity are the dominant religions, many other are practiced. The area ranges from the desert in the north, to beautiful coast-line in the east, to the tropics in the south. People in most of the countries rely on agriculture for their livelihood.

The region is riddled with conflict. However, last year the twenty-year civil war in southern Sudan finally came to an end with imminent peace. At the same time, intense fighting has begun in Darfur, Sudan, affecting thousands of people.

The challenges facing the region also spawn resilience and strength. Children who grow up in Eastern and Central Africa struggle for survival but also show a powerful ability to overcome and find hope amidst the suffering. Save the Children Sweden is trying to capitalise on that strength by supporting children to overcome the odds and lead their countries to a brighter future.



Making children's rights a reality

All countries in Eastern and Central Africa have signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, except Somalia. One country has also signed the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children and seven have ratified it. Despite this, laws protecting children are not enforced, harmful traditions prevail in most communities and children are rarely given the opportunity to be heard. Save the Children strives to create awareness about children's rights, build the capacity of local communities to protect those rights and lobbies the governments to respect them.

In Ethiopia, Kenya, northern and southern Sudan, and Uganda, Save the Children Sweden supports training on children's rights. In collaboration with its partners, the organisation continues to train judges, journalists, lawyers, policy makers, teachers, social workers, refugees, the military, the police, and members of community support groups on children's rights. As these are the people who are supposed to protect

the rights of children, they first need to understand what those rights are.

Listening to children's opinions, ideas and criticisms is a cornerstone of the work of Save the Children Sweden. As such, the organisation insists that all of its partners involve children in their programme planning, implementation and evaluation in all the countries in which it works. The organisation also supports forums for children to speak out.

Recently, Save the Children Sweden helped organise a youth forum in northern Sudan which brought together young people from around the country to comment on the UN Study on Violence Against Children.

Save the Children Sweden also believes it is important to give children the physical and mental space to interact and voice their concerns. As such, the organisation has supported the establishment of children's clubs in Ethiopia and southern Sudan. These clubs, usually managed by children, perform drama, have debates, organise competitions and

raise awareness of their communities on children's rights, harmful traditional practices and other pertinent topics.

The organisation also arranges sporting and cultural events for children and at every public gathering in which it is involved, children are given the opportunity to express themselves, voice their concerns and share their ideas.

In 2005, Save the Children held a Regional Parliamentarians Seminar in Ethiopia on children's rights, where parliamentarians from Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda were invited. The organisation regularly meets with parliamentarians in Ethiopia and Sudan to advocate for children's rights.

In southern Sudan, the organisation holds regular meetings with the top leadership of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), and advocates to ensure children are always on their political agenda. Save the Children lobbied for the ratification of the Sudanese Child Law in 2004, and is now working on reviewing it.

The rebels came and took both me and my friend. They tied our hands behind our back. They ordered us to walk. We walked for two days, day and night. We then met another group of rebels who was led by Vincent Otti (the deputy to Joseph Kony, leader of the Lord's Resistance Army). With this group, there were so many abducted children. We were forced to walk another two days and we went into southern Sudan. Once there, we walked another three days to the camp. It was a place called Kiripajo. We received training there in all kinds of military activities. After the four months of training, we were qualified as soldiers and we were given guns. One of my most difficult moments is when I had to kill other children who refused to be abducted, or got sick so they couldn't walk. I managed to escape to Gusco, and contacted a Child Protection Unit. I feel better now, but still sad inside. My friends in Gulu are completing secondary school. They speak very good English and is doing well. I have lost that opportunity.

John, 16 years old, from Gulu, Uganda

Children in armed conflict

Child protection in emergencies

There are currently conflicts of varying degrees in Eastern and Central Africa, with some considered to be severe. What links all of them is the profoundly negative impact they have on children. Over 90 per cent of casualties and deaths are of civilians and of these over half are children. In addition to threats to their health and well-being, children caught up in war and disaster also face significant insecurity and protection needs. It is estimated that more than two million children have been displaced by war within and outside Sudan.

Displaced children are more vulnerable than refugee children because they are not protected by the Convention on the Status of Refugees. Children uprooted from their home communities face an insecure and uncertain future where their heightened vulnerability leaves them under threat of violence, sexual abuse, trafficking and exploitation. Many, if not all, displaced children will suffer from some degree of psychological distress. Displaced children also have minimal access to education. This reduces their opportunity for a prospective future even after the conflict ends. This inability to attend school correlates with other protection issues.

At any one time, children are actively fighting as soldiers with government armed forces or armed opposition groups. Disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) efforts have helped former child soldiers return to

civilian life.

In emergencies, children face heightened risks of being forcibly displaced and suffer human rights violations through warring parties and other opportunistic groups specifically targeting civilians. Contributing to this vulnerability is the absence of authority and social order which in turn disrupts critical economic systems, as well as material and social infrastructure.

The impact on children may be more profound because of their age and stage of development – unless relief efforts consider the specific needs of children, it may be difficult to ensure their basic needs are met and that their rights are protected.

Save the Children Sweden has identified the following priorities in protection efforts for children in emergencies:

- Protect children from physical violence, as to advocate to enhance children's physical safety, such as landmine awareness and rehabilitation programmes.
- Protect children from sexual violence, as to recognise that children are most vulnerable to abuse such as rape, incest and molestation.
- Protect children from exploitation, as to prevent the occurrence of abuse and activities that care for survivors and reintegrate them back into their families and communities.
- Protect children from recruitment into armed forces, as to advocate for

recruitment prevention as well as the release of children at all times from armed forces, rehabilitation and reintegration.

- Protect children from psychosocial distress, as to during periods of crisis children are exposed to a variety of extreme circumstances. In addition to meeting basic needs, such as food and shelter, there needs to be consideration given to emotional and developmental support.
- Protect children from denial of education, as education recognises the child's right to education, reducing the risks associated with conflict situations and educating children about their rights. It provides a safe space for children, can re-establish a sense of normality after the trauma of an emergency, and gives children an opportunity to learn skills essential for coping with an emergency.
- Protect children from family separation and promote appropriate reunification, through advanced preparation and preparedness.
- Protect the abuse of rights of refugee and displaced children, by address the risks through increased access to basic health and education services and better protection monitoring.
- Promote social integration and reconciliation, as children often feel isolated, angry, marginalised and stigmatised in periods of conflict and post-conflict.



Helping to heal the emotional wounds of war

Many of the young people in this region have seen and experienced traumatic events that leave permanent scars. One of the best ways to reduce the effects of war on children is to make their lives as normal as possible. As such, Save the Children Sweden contributes towards creating an environment where children can play, laugh, go to school and interact safely.

The organisation also supports community-based initiatives that provide counselling, recreational activities and encourages school enrolment. Save the Children Sweden trains social workers and teachers to identify and provide care for those in need.

Save the Children Sweden supports communities to build schools so more children are able to attend, provides recreational materials, organises sports, and runs youth centers. In Ethiopia, more than 12,000 refugee

and displaced children are going to school thanks to the organisation, and another 9,000 have opportunities for sports and recreation.

In North Darfur, where conflict is at its peak, the organisation is working towards the provision of quality education, adult support, rehabilitative services, and protection from recruitment into the army and other forms of exploitation. Save the Children Sweden prides itself for that the North Darfur projects, although more oriented towards service delivery, is strongly promoting children's rights and child friendly spaces in an extremely volatile conflict context.

Although the organisation has only been in North Darfur since 2005, its project has proven to be exemplary to other international non governmental organisations (NGO), and Save the Children Sweden is asked for guidance

in relation to children's rights.

The organisation also gives extra focus on children who have been orphaned or separated from their parents due to the war. Save the Children Sweden works with communities to support these children, ensures adults look in on them, look for their families and reunite them and ensure they are participating in school and other social activities once reintegrated into their original communities.

Save the Children Sweden is working with children affected by war in southern Sudan, in the refugee camps of North Darfur and for the internally displaced people in northern Ethiopia.

In 2005, more than 40,000 refugees and displaced children benefited from projects supported by Save the Children Sweden and more than 50,000 children in southern Sudan felt the impact of the support.



Eliminating the use of child soldiers

Children are used as soldiers in many countries in Eastern and Central Africa. Save the Children Sweden tackles the problem in three distinct ways; it works to prevent further recruitment, it works with the military to demobilise those children already in the armed forces; and third, it ensures the demobilised soldiers are reintegrated into their families and communities.

Save the Children Sweden has built a foundation of support within the southern Sudanese communities by raising the awareness of the public on the harm of child recruitment and training "protection teams" to be watchdogs. It has lobbied hard with the leadership of the rebel movement, so that they would take the lead on the demobilisation effort.

In northern Sudan, Save the Children Sweden has initiated a DDR programme for child soldiers. The organisation has been a source of information through its publications and translations regarding issues related to child protection.

In conjunction with military training, Save the Children Sweden supports a variety of reintegration programmes for child soldiers. In Uganda, the Uganda People's Defense Force has set up child protection units to use as a first point of contact for child soldiers, where the children are questioned about their experience when they were abducted.

Save the Children Sweden has intervened to ensure this is done respectfully and with the understanding of the level of trauma that these children have experienced.

In southern Sudan, Save the Children Sweden has trained more than 500 community support groups and social workers on how to give appropriate care and support for former child soldiers. The organisation's networks help in tracing families of abducted children and then reuniting them. The organisation then follows up to ensure the children are thriving in their home environment.

Training of the military and the peacekeeping forces

Save the Children Sweden has found the military pivotal in preventing or permitting the abuse of children in armed conflict. As such, the organisation trains the military on children's rights and child protection. The trainings teach them how to identify child soldiers and what to do with them when they have been found.

The organisation has linked up with the Peace Support Training Centre, PSTC, in Kenya. As a result, officers from all over Africa have been trained. So far the trainings have been provided for military in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, northern and southern Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Some of these officers are trained as trainers and equipped with reader-friendly material so that the knowledge is spread.

Moreover, agreements have been signed with the military in Ethiopia, southern Sudan and Uganda, ensuring that children's rights are consistently incorporated in their routine training of soldiers. In 2005, more than 6,000 military officers and peace keepers have been trained on children's rights.

In northern Sudan, Save the Children Sweden provides in depth training for the Sudanese military and police, along with international peacekeeping forces, such as the African Mission in Sudan.

Working to stop harmful traditional practices

Over 90 per cent of girls in northern Sudan and 75 per cent in Ethiopia undergo Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). This harmful traditional practice has been going on for centuries in these countries, despite the health risks and the excruciating pain the children endure. In Ethiopia and Sudan, Save the Children Sweden is supporting organisations and networks that campaign against FGM throughout the nations.

In Sudan, the organisation is a founding member of a network of NGOs coordinating to advocate for change. Their strong lobbying has helped the Medical Council to draft a decree stating that all forms of FGM should stop. This is the first time that key institutions are beginning to take a stand against the harmful traditional practice.

In Khartoum, northern Sudan, the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) made a public pledge to be more vocal about the issue of FGM, and formed a planning committee for abolishing FGM. The committee is to encourage partnership of relevant government institutions and all actors, including political parties and civil society organisations, to promote dialogue, formulate plans, programme, and coordinate and monitor anti-FGM interventions and implementation of international conventions.



Discrimination – Making girls visible

Girls face unfair work loads, most are married off very young, have little or no say as to who they marry, many are circumcised and few have the chance to go to school. As a result of war, poverty and harmful traditions, girls in the region are systematically discriminated against.

Save the Children Sweden is actively advocating for equal rights and treatment of girls throughout the region. The organisation has helped develop a school curriculum that is sensitive to girls and trained female teachers. In northern Sudan, the organisation has started mainstreaming "gender sensitive thinking" into its programmes, and training its partners to do the same.

In southern Sudan, Save the Children Sweden is actively advocating on behalf of vulnerable girls. The situation for southern Sudanese girls is

grave in that they are given away for marriage at a very young age to the man who offers the most cows to the father. As a result, very few girls are in school (less than 8 per cent) or active in community life. The organisation has, therefore, initiated girls' clubs and girls' support groups. It has trained community elders to encourage girls' participation. It has provided materials for girls to ensure they are able to attend school, supported communities to build schools exclusively for girls, started pre-school programmes to encourage girls to go to school early (with evidence that they are more likely to be allowed to continue into primary school) and provided vocational training for girls who are married or no longer attending school.

All of this done in conjunction with mass awareness raising.

Violence Exploitation and abuse

In Uganda, it has been proved that orphans are the ones who most often come into contact with the law. This situation is mirrored in other countries in the region – children who are desperate and exploited are those that seem to get caught by the police. In Eastern and Central Africa, the judicial systems are weak and under funded. As a result, children who come into contact with the legal system rarely receive fair and humane treatment. Save the Children Sweden is supporting a variety of NGOs that support the police and the judiciary to ensure their rights are being respected throughout the process.

Save the Children Sweden supports training of police in Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda, that provide police a foundation on children's rights and give them suggestions on how to treat children in their custody. At the same time, similar training is extended to judges, traditional or customary judges and lawyers so they try juvenile cases accordingly, ensure it is done quickly and that the children are only sentenced to custodial care in extreme cases.

In northern Sudan, Save the Children Sweden provides legal aid, education and rehabilitative services to children in conflict with the law. In

line with this, the organisation partially funded social workers in one court in Khartoum locality to conduct case studies on children and their families to support the courts in reaching appropriate measures, and provide care and protection to the children. In addition to strengthening the legal structures, Save the Children Sweden supports alternative programmes to incarceration, encouraging community-led approaches.

In Ethiopia, a partner organisation has also established community correction centers serving 500 children, which provide structure and support so that the children can overcome the issues that led them to petty crime.

As part of Save the Children's global submission to the UN Study on Violence Against Children, Save the Children Sweden conducted studies in Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda, on children in conflict with the law, physical and humiliating punishment, and child sexual abuse.

Children participated both at the national and regional levels. As chair of the child participation sub group, the organisation developed a concept paper on child participation in the regional consultations, organised training on child participation for steering com-

mittee members, and drafted guidelines and agreements for the selection of child participation in the national and regional consultation.

In northern Sudan, Save the Children Sweden is supporting lawyers to provide legal aid to poor and vulnerable children in conflict with the law. Unfortunately, the systems are not ideal, and children sometimes end up in remand homes. Children in remand homes are able to either go to school or vocational training with support from Save the Children Sweden.

Save the Children Sweden also advocates for changes within the legal systems. In southern Sudan, the organisation took part in the process and the actual drafting of a Children's Bill, which is comparable with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.



I have two daughters. I don't know where I was born because I was so young when I was abducted. I was about two years old. They took me and my brother. My brother is still missing. The abductors took us to West Kordofan. My mother is somewhere in the south, but we don't know where. I grew up with a family. They treated me very badly. I was made to look after the cattle, do domestic work and assist in agriculture. I never went to school. The family sent their children to school but I had to stay home. There were other abducted children living in the house. There were two other girls who came with me, and three boys who are still living with the abductors. I knew I was not part of the family. They used to call me slave, and I was beaten and sexually abused. They used to hit me on my head. I managed to escape once but they brought me back.

The family married me to an old man. He had grey hair. They married me four years ago against my will. The man had two other wives besides me. When my first child was very young I was forced to go to the fields to work. I left my little girl at the house. If she cried, those in the house would beat her. The boys in the family would also approach me for sex. I was very reluctant with them. At last, my tribesmen came and took me from that family. They brought me to the centre. I was one month pregnant at the time. When the DCC went to collect me from the family. They said they could take me but I had to leave the child. I refused to leave without my child. Finally, they allowed me to take my child with me.

They haven't been able to find my family yet. But if they do, I will be very happy. Thank God I am away from that house and I am free. If I find relatives in the North, I will stay with them. But if they are in the South and it is too difficult, I will not go. I have small children who I have to care for. When my children get older I will send them to school. I don't know if I will ever marry again.

Abug, 24 years old, abductee from Sudan



HIV/AIDS

Ensuring orphans get a fair chance

Save the Children Sweden is collaborating with the government of Ethiopia, NGOs, UNICEF and the International Save the Children Alliance in order to provide care and support to orphans. What is more, the organisation is advocating with the Ethiopian government and donors to ensure orphans are included in their strategies.

Save the Children Sweden is encouraging fostering of orphans instead of institutionalising them. The best solution is for extended families to take the children in, but when that is not possible, the organisation asks neighbourhoods to contribute money and time in order to help support the costs of raising an orphan in their midst. This is done either through

having families foster the children or, when the children are older, by having adults (especially elders) look in on them and ensuring the local administration allows them to stay in their homes. The organisation also ensures these orphans remain in school by providing them support to continue with their education.

In Ethiopia, Save the Children Sweden documented the situation of orphans, focusing on the experiences of orphans in dealing with loss and grief. The children recalled and told their stories, compiled into a document, a memory book. The intention is to help mainly care givers and the civil society to get a better understanding of psychosocial issues

of orphaned children, and get insights into developing effective strategies to address the problems.

In North Darfur, Save the Children Sweden trained 216 teachers on care and psychosocial rehabilitation of war affected children.

In southern Sudan, the organisation trained Community Support Groups on how to assist separated, unaccompanied and formerly abducted returnee children.

Children themselves were involved in many of the projects, and their input on implementation resulted in setting up child support groups, psychosocial counselling, children's training on HIV/AIDS and tutorial educational support.

Support and safety for children living on the streets

Due to poverty, abuse, and HIV/AIDS there are thousands of children living on the streets in the region – an estimated 450,000 children in Ethiopia and 35,000 in Khartoum, northern Sudan. Once children are forced into the streets, it is very difficult to reintegrate them back into society. Therefore, Save the Children Sweden's main intervention is to prevent children from going into the streets. In Sudan and Ethiopia, the organisation supports NGOs to provide alternative education to marginalised and displaced children. By providing them free schooling, that also allows them to work to support themselves and their families, children choose education over life on the streets.

In Ethiopia and Sudan, Save the Children Sweden supports children who have ended up on the street as they are subject to a wide range of abuses by one another and other adults. The organisation is supporting drop-in centers, temporary shelters and outreach programmes serving more than 1,000 children. Here, children receive counselling, food, health care, vocational training, recreational activities, education and information on sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. In addition, meeting sessions between police and children are organised, with the objective of building a good relationship. The national NGOs also try to broker dialogue between the children and their families with the hope that they will return to live with their families.

Save the Children Sweden makes a concerted effort to help girls on the streets. They are susceptible to physical and sexual abuse. The organisation supports an NGO in Ethiopia that is

providing girls involved in sex work with skills, health education, counselling, non-formal education and a safe space so they become strong and confident enough to change professions. Save the Children Sweden is also supporting a hospital in Ethiopia that provides psychosocial and physical care to sexually abused children.

In Kenya, five new child protection units were opened in 2005, adding on to the existing four units already in place. The child protection units are operated by the Kenya Police Department, and are specialised units trained to handle cases involving children – both as victims and perpetrators. Of the 2,500 children diverted in Kenya 2005, 65 per cent were settled back home.

Save the Children Sweden also provides legal aid to children in conflict with the law, and partially funds presence of social workers in one court in Khartoum, northern Sudan, for care and support to the children.

The information obtained from all these projects is used to open the eyes of the government to the severity of the problem of street children, and to foster dialogue between street children, police and the government.



Memory books for orphans in Ethiopia

My father died when I was four years old. I remember him buying me clothes and that he was sick for some time before his death. I have heard that he was suffering from TB.

My mother is alive but she gets sick now and then. She has also stopped to socialize and mix with other people for some time due to her sickness. I do not know exactly what the cause of her sickness is. I am not that much attached with my mother.

I grew up with my grandmother, who lives with my aunts and uncles and an extended family. I started to live with grandma since the birth of my little sister, Kidist, when I was two years old. I was here with my grandmother when my father died.

The man of the larger family was my uncle Henoc, whom we call Chuchula. He was like a father to me. He died last year catching TB, while taking care of a very close friend of him. He was barely 30 when he died. It is his loss which has affected me very much.

Chuchula was my protector, provider and father-figure. He used to tell me funny stories and tales. He used to help me doing homework. He used to take me out to different places including to Anbesa Gibi (the only zoo in the city). He was the one who used to buy me new clothes every major holiday including Christmas and Ethiopian New Year. He was also responsible for covering my education fee and related expenses.

I lost my father but Chuchula was around. I lost Chuchula and there is no one left.

From the *Memory Book*, containing compiled stories of 20 orphaned and vulnerable children in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, compiled by Save the Children Sweden and Handicap National, an Ethiopian NGO, in 2006.

Education Meeting the challenge in Sudan

Ensuring places for all

- Work with communities to rebuild and refurbish schools, and help to allocate and support volunteer teachers.
- Help establish activities for 15,000 pre-school children in camps for displaced people and host communities.
- Focus on particular issues that prevent girls and vulnerable children from attending and completing primary school.
- Demonstrate accelerated learning classes so young people (including girls and children demobilised from armies) can catch up on missed education and free up places for younger children.
- Involve communities, parents and teachers in campaigns for girls' right to primary education and for laws to discourage early marriage.

Active learning with trained teachers

- Provide in-service and pre-service support for teachers and encourage mentoring.
- Train teachers to use a learner-centred approach in schools to enable 73,000 children to benefit from friendly school management systems and trained teachers.
- Contribute to the new network of regional teacher training institutes and county education centres. Aim for one teacher for every 45 students.

Strong, healthy and safe

- Promote the link between education and protection, and promote schools as 'zones of peace'.
- Create awareness of the need to protect children, especially girls and those who fled their homes or are now returning.
- Develop codes of conduct for teacher and student behaviour, including training teachers to deal with disruption without resorting to violence.
- Provide materials that focus on topics such as HIV and AIDS, as well as build awareness of issues such as landmines and unexploded objects.

Ensuring investment for the future

- Help communities lobby government to raise education budgets, urge donors and foreign embassies to increase assistance for education, encourage businesses to give more.
- Work with communities and parent/teacher associations to financially support teachers and keep schools going when money is short.
- Provide local Ministry of Education staff with training and support to manage education budgets.



Global challenge for the future

Many of the children living in Eastern and Central Africa live in areas experiencing or recovering from armed conflict and displacement. Armed conflict blights education. Families split up and survival becomes the most urgent need during war. Education systems break down. Yet schools can give children the skills and knowledge they need to survive conflict and, as they become adults, to reduce the chances of it happening again. 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. Teachers may be few and poorly qualified. Bad training and monitoring leaves children vulnerable to bullying, abuse and even sexual exploitation. Classes could have 100 or more students, and curricula are inadequate or inappropriate.

All children have a right to education. Save the Children 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.

Save the Children 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 significant the educational resources for children in countries affected by conflict; and as a result, we achieve a significant step towards the Millennium Development Goal of all children receiving primary education.

Girls education – Making it work

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.

The rate of enrolment in schools in all of Eastern and Central Africa is very low. Southern Sudan's education system was ruined by civil war, which ended with the signing of a peace agreement between the former rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and the Sudanese government in early 2005. In southern Sudan only 18 per cent of children are enrolled in primary school, 55 per cent in Ethiopia.

One of the best ways to encourage girls to go to school is by enrolling them early. The girls love school, the parents see the value and then they are allowed to continue into primary school. The expectations that girls will be married off early does not give parents an incentive to send them to school. The organisation has supported communities to

build pre-schools in southern Sudan and the refugee camps of western Ethiopia. The schools give parents a much-needed break, they teach children the basics and they give a chance for children to play.

About 8,600 teachers, the majority of whom are untrained volunteers, cover approximately 2,000 schools. Most of these "schools" consist of little more than a blackboard propped under a tree. Many children have to work instead of go to school, some cannot afford school fees and others are in such remote areas that schools do not even exist.

In northern Sudan and Ethiopia, the organisation supports local NGOs that provide "alternative education" to children. These are flexible school programmes that usually condense two school years into one. Because of the flexibility in the programmes, children are able to work for their families' survival and go to school at the same time. The communities help to construct the small one-room schools and teach-

ers are recruited from the area.

Save the Children Sweden lobbies the governments to endorse alternative education as a viable substitute to formal schools. In Sudan, the organisation is lobbying with the government to increase the annual budget allocation for education up to 12 per cent of GDP by 2010. In Ethiopia, the Education Bureau in Addis Ababa endorsed alternative basic education and will accept children who have passed through that system into formal school, and in southern Sudan, Save the Children Sweden has focused its efforts to support communities in building new schools. The organisation has also ensured children have school supplies.

In Darfur, more than 17,000 children attended education services provided by Save the Children Sweden in 2005. In Ethiopia, nearly 30,000 refugee children attended basic education, and more than 10,000 children with disabilities, children living in the streets and orphans attended alternative basic education provided by the organisation.

I have no hands. I only have two fingers. I also only have half a tongue so I don't speak very well. But, I go to school now. I have started attending school since last year. My father is illiterate but he told me to go to school. I have two brothers and two sisters. The brothers and one sister go to school. My older sister lives in the cattle camp. I play with other children but some laugh at me because of my deformity. I love to play football. Because of my disability, I think it is important for me to go to school. I want to learn and become an educated person. So far, I am doing well in school. The hardest thing is that I am unable to do a lot of things because I have no hands. My family is kind to me. They help feed me and dress me.

Emanuelle was identified by a community mobilizer in southern Sudan last year. The mother is struggling to keep the children fed and clothed. Her husband lives in the village and essentially abandoned her and her children. Emanuelle is now going to pre-school and will be there for another two years.

Emanuelle Machek Aliep, from southern Sudan

At Sabah, I wash my clothes, play football and learn. It is the same programme each day. They don't provide food at the programme. If I have some money then I get food, otherwise I do not eat anything. For example today, I have had nothing to eat. On Fridays, I wash cars. I try to earn money for the week. Sometimes there are some cars to wash, other times there are none. I charge 200 dinars per car. That money usually only lasts me a day. Then, for the rest of the week, I borrow money from friends. I don't beg, but I get the younger children to do that.

Before coming to the Sabah center, I was at Soba camp (Soba is a government camp. Street children are picked up by the police and brought to the camp). I stayed at Soba for one year. I left the camp a few days back because I had a toothache. They don't provide any healthcare there. My mom died a long time ago. My father lives in Sinar state (far from Khartoum). I used to live on the streets. When I lived on the streets, I slept near the police station for some protection. I was scared of the police. I was also scared of the older boys, they would steal money from us younger ones. Back then, I did domestic work during the day to earn some extra cash. I really want to learn. I went to a vocational training school and graduated from there. I can't get a job because I don't have an identity card. I don't have a birth certificate or any card to show who I am.

Miser Sala, 14 years old, from Khartoum, northern Sudan

Partners Building local capacity

One of the negative consequences of working in war-torn, poverty-stricken areas is that there is dependence on foreign aid. In southern Sudan, and in the refugee camps, people are dependent on international aid for survival. This is not going to last forever. As such, it is imperative that local structures and organisations are developed and strengthened so that children's rights are protected in the future.

As such, Save the Children Sweden works with more than thirty different indigenous NGOs. The organisation works in partnership with these NGOs, providing them training, support and guidance so that children's rights are protected long in the future.

The organisation also supports more local groups, and works with organisational development. In Ethiopia and northern and southern Sudan, Save the Children Sweden supports the establishment of Parent Teacher Associations (PTA). The PTAs assist in managing the school, creating awareness on the need for and importance of education, building and maintaining the schools and supporting the teachers.

Save the Children Sweden has established and trained more than 500 Community Support Groups (CSG) in southern Sudan. In this instance, concerned adults come together to volunteer to monitor and act on children's rights abuses, trained by Save the Children Sweden. Once trained, they

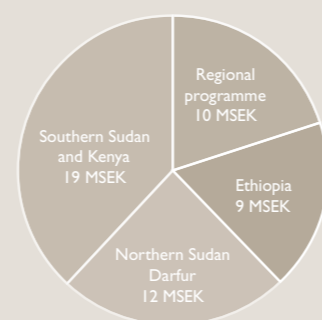
provide psychosocial support to former child soldiers and war-affected children, they encourage families to send their children to school, they ensure the army is no longer recruiting children and they rescue those in the army, trace their families and reunite them together. They are teams of committed adults who not only monitor the situation for children but act when they see problems.

Save the Children Sweden has also trained many of its southern Sudanese staff in the refugee camps of Ethiopia and southern Sudan. As such there are now qualified southern Sudanese to teach, provide community based rehabilitation, run youth centers, and do social work.

Money matters

Save the Children Sweden operates in different programme areas, focusing on vulnerable children in different situations. The total regional budget for 2006 is 54,205 MSEK. The diagramme shows total budget for each country programme within the Eastern and Central Africa region for 2006.

Programme Area	2006 (MSEK)
Children exposed to harmful labour, physical, psychological and sexual abuse	5,778
Children without family support or with insufficient family support	371
Children in armed conflict and disaster	17,752
The right to non-discrimination based on gender, disabilities, social and ethnic background	780
The right to a good and relevant education in a safe and stimulating environment	9,999
The human rights of the child and Child Rights Programming	6,193
Good governance in the best interests of the child	2,855
A civil society for the rights of the child	2,703
Methods, planning and follow-up	7,774
Total	54,205



African Child Policy Forum (ACPF)

A Pan-African child rights organisation working for the protection and promotion of the rights of African children.

African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN)

Works in partnership with other organisations, both governmental and NGOs, and work directly with children, focusing on children and the media; children in conflict with the law; individual cases of violations; reporting and monitoring on CRC, ACWRC and the Kenya Children Act; awareness raising and advocacy on children's issues; and sexual exploitation of children.

Center for Development Initiatives (CDI)

Rural based Ethiopian NGO, focusing on education.

Child Rights Institute (CRI)

Northern Sudanese NGO, focusing on research, advocacy and capacity building related to children's rights.

Child Rights Watch (CRW)

Northern Sudanese NGO, advocating for children's rights and focusing on the armed forces.

Department of Children's Services

Kenya government department responsible for all children matters in Kenya. DCS has operational offices in almost all districts in the country and is the focal organisation for all agencies that work in the children's sector in Kenya.

Emanuel Development Association (EDA)

Ethiopian NGO, focusing on education.

Ethiopian National Association for Mentally Retarded Children and Youth

Ethiopian NGO, focusing on children with mental handicap.

Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission

Ethiopian government agency, fighting corruption and promotion of Civic Education in the schools and school civic education club.

Federal Supreme Court

Ethiopian government agency, aims at the introduction of legal, institutional and operational reforms for an enhanced protection of the rights of children in general, and children in conflict with the law and abused children in Ethiopia in particular.

Focus on Children at Risk

Ethiopian NGO focusing on education.

Forum on Street Children Ethiopia

Ethiopian NGO, working for right of urban disadvantaged children in general; sexually abused and exploited children, child labour, and children in conflict with the law in particular.

Handicap National

Ethiopian NGO, focusing on children with physical disabilities and disfunctions.

Hiwot Ethiopia

Ethiopian youth organisation, actively involved in youth sexual reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention through awareness raising and behavioural change.

Hope Enterprises

Ethiopian NGO, focusing on education.

Integrated Family Service Organization (IFSO)

Ethiopian NGO that uses alternative sensitisation and awareness raising of community members, Ider leaders and children in schools. It uses innovative approaches in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS.

Khartoum Council for Child Welfare (KCCW)

Northern Sudan government department, responsible for monitoring and promoting children's rights in Khartoum State. Conducting research with children to study the opinion

of children with disability towards services rendered to them in Khartoum State.

Khartoum Center for Human Rights and Environmental Development (KCHERD)

Northern Sudanese NGO, promoting and raising awareness on human rights issues, and prevents and reduces human rights violations. The programmes include human rights awareness raising, legal aid and Women and Children prisons programmes. The center is also active in researching and documenting human rights violations.

Mekdim AIDS Orphans and Persons with HIV Association

Ethiopian NGO, focusing on awareness raising and combating HIV/AIDS. It is an association established by people infected and affected with HIV/AIDS.

National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW)

The Government of Sudan established NCCW in 1992 after the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). NCCW disseminates knowledge and information on the CRC and other international instruments on child rights within government authorities and civil society. NCCW is responsible for writing the official reports to the UN Committee on Children's Rights.

Nile Agency for Documentaton and Advocacy (NADA)

Southern Sudanese NGO, focusing on dissemination and circulation of CRC, through print and audio-visual forms and advocate for children's rights, protection and development.

Organization for Prevention, Rehabilitation and Integration of Female Street Children (OPRIFS)

Ethiopian NGO, working with female street children, counselling, health programme, temporary shelter, and family reunification.

Prognyst

Ethiopian NGO, focusing on education.

Peace Support Training Centre Kenya (DOD)

Kenya government institution, responsible for training soldiers who are sent to other countries for Peace Keeping mission and military observer missions. They also train military officer from other countries in Africa.

Relief Society of Tigray (REST)

Ethiopian NGO focusing on promoting the rights of vulnerable children.

Sabah Association for Child Care & Development (SABAH)

Northern Sudanese NGO focusing on exploited and abused children in Khartoum, Sudan.

Save the Children in Uganda

Save the Children organisation with strong links with the agencies in the Justice Law and Order Sector (police, judiciary, probation and welfare office).

Society for the Advancement of Human Rights Education (SAHRE)

Ethiopian NGO focusing on education, and promoting human rights.

Southern Sudan Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission

Southern Sudanese NGO, focusing on promoting protection of all children in southern Sudan from recruitment into armed forces, monitors, assess, lobby, advocate and evaluate all activities and policies.

Sudan National Committee on Traditional Practices (SNCTP)

Northern Sudanese NGO, focusing on campaigning against harmful traditional practices, especially FGM. SNCTP has

connections with the Inter-African Committee (IAC) and other similar associations.

Sudan Protection Aid (SUPRAID)

Southern Sudanese NGO, focusing on promoting children and youth participation through music, dance and drama, and to promote awareness on children's rights, human rights, peace and reconciliation, HIV/AIDS, and to advocate for issues of good governance and socio-economic development.

Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SRRC)

A humanitarian wing of SPLM, co-ordinating relief and rehabilitation services in southern Sudan.

Sudanese National Society for the Deaf (SNSD)

Member of the Arab Association of the Deaf and the World Federation of the Deaf, focusing on teachers' training as the foundation for the deaf education. SNSD is also advocating for integration of the deaf children in the society by training family members in sign language and other skills necessary for communication with deaf children.

Sudanese Network for Abolition of Female Genital Mutilation Tradition (SUNAFT)

Northern Sudanese anti-FGM network formed of more than twenty-five organisations, advocating against FGM all over Sudan. SUNAFT mainly focuses on sensitization, awareness raising and advocacy for legislation and policies contributing to the social change against FGM.

Sudanese Red Crescent (SRC)

Northern Sudanese NGO and part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Implementing projects under situation of conflicts and disasters.

Teacher First Organization (ALLAM)

Northern Sudanese NGO, member of SUNAF which is a network of national NGOs, universities and research centres working to abolish FGM/C practice in Sudan.

Tesfa Tsion Dirijt

Ethiopian NGO focusing on children's rights and abolition of harmful traditional practices.

Tigray Regional Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs

Local governance, child rights implementation with REST.

Youth for Children (YFC)

Northern Sudanese youth organisation, highlighting problems for Sudanese children and help overcome them.



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Save the Children Sweden in Eastern and Central Africa

Save the Children Sweden started working in Eastern and Central Africa in 1965. Today, the organisation has offices in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Nairobi, Kenya; and Khartoum, Sudan. Save the Children Sweden has long-term child-rights based development programmes in Ethiopia and Sudan, and it supports local partners in Kenya, Eritrea, Somaliland and Uganda.

The organisation focuses on building the capacity of local people, community-based structures and organisations. In Eastern and Central Africa, it works with more than forty different non-governmental organisations and government bodies. In addition, it has adopted a direct implementation approach in southern Sudan and in the refugee camps of western Ethiopia and North Darfur.

All of the work in the region focuses on children's rights, and tackles issues that affect marginalised children. The core of the work focuses on children affected by conflict, discrimination, abuse, exploitation, and HIV/AIDS. Save the Children Sweden's focus also includes education, child participation and good governance in the best interest of the child.

The major task facing child rights advocates today is making the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child a reality for all children. The exchange of experience and know-how are proactive ways to work towards this goal, which is why Save the Children Sweden makes its books and reports available for the world. Welcome to visit our child rights bookshop on the internet, www.rb.se/bookshop

Save the Children Sweden is a non-governmental organisation. It is an active member of the International Save the Children Alliance – a global movement for children's rights.

Through 18 offices around the world, the organisation contributes ideas, experience and funds to 500 projects in more than 60 countries. Welcome to visit the Save the Children website, www.savethechildren.net

Save the Children Sweden fights for children's rights. We deliver immediate and lasting improvements to children's lives worldwide.

Save the Children Sweden works for a world:

- which respects and values each child
- which listens to children and learns
- where all children have hope and opportunity

More information about Save the Children Sweden and our projects worldwide can be obtained from our head office.

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