

Save the Children Sweden

Save the Children Sweden started working in East and Central Africa in 1965. It has offices in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; El Fasher, North Darfur; Nairobi, Kenya; Juba 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 East 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 the refugee camps of western Ethiopia.

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 education and children affected by conflict, abuse, discrimination and exploitation. Save the Children Sweden's focus also includes HIV/AIDS, child participation and good governance in the best interest of the child.



Southern Sudan



Working to secure the rights of children

Save the Children Sweden has been working with the children of southern Sudan since the late 1980's. It started from the refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya where many children had fled southern Sudan, ending up as unaccompanied minors. A programme office was set up in Nairobi in 1992. In 1994 it was realised that children left southern Sudan to receive education, leaving their families behind. The organisation therefore decided to provide education inside southern Sudan even though the war was ongoing.

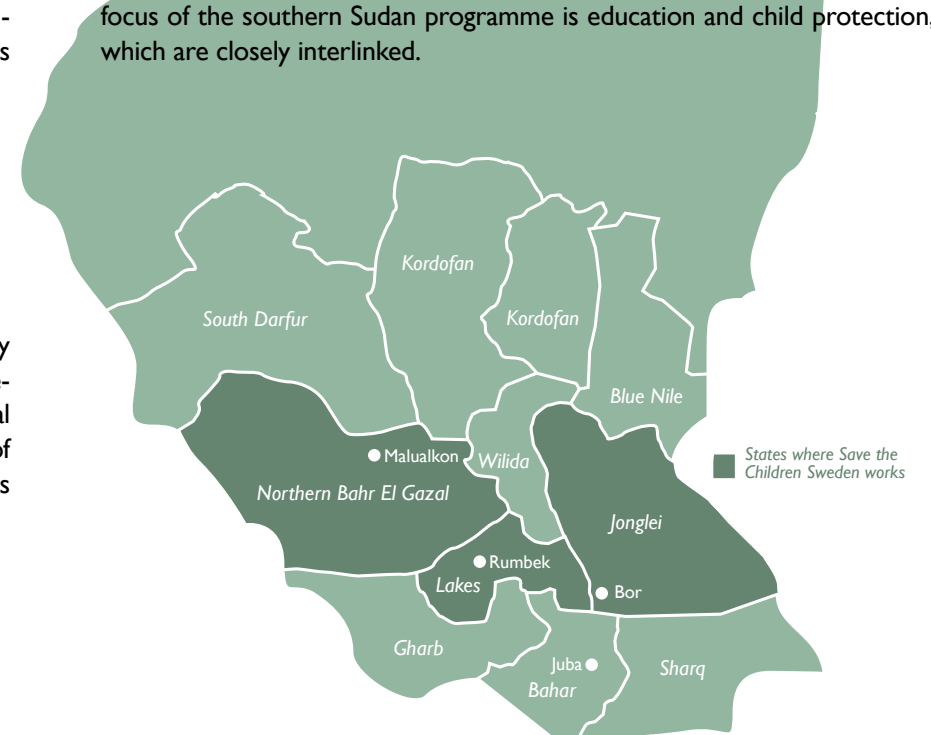
Up to that point Save the Children Sweden's focus had been on education and psychosocial support, but from the mid 1990's the organisation started putting greater emphasis on children with disabilities, the girl child (non-discrimination issues), child soldiers and abolition of harmful traditional practices, including early marriages (protection issues). Education has been a mean in itself – to provide education to all girls and boys – but also a vehicle to promote protection and raise other issues like non-discrimination. Today Save the Children Sweden has a well integrated programme.

In January 2005 the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed between the SPLM/A and the Government of the Sudan. This has had large implications for a country that has been in civil war most of the time since independence in 1956, except during the 11 years of peace. This is an enormous

transition, both mentally and physically. People's minds and attitudes are changing from that of war, organised in a military way, to that of building a lasting democracy (even without having had a democratic history) and a government structure from local to national level. This creates good opportunities to bring up and put forward issues that will help in the realisation of children's rights.

For a long time, there was no formal government in place in southern Sudan and up to now there are very few local NGOs. Therefore, Save the Children Sweden has been implementing its programme both directly and through partners. It has adopted a community based approach throughout and has close cooperation with local communities and authorities (traditional chiefs, SPLM etc). Hence, good relationships have been built over the years and local partners' capacities on child rights have been built to take over the work in future.

Save the Children Sweden works in three areas (states) of southern Sudan: Northern Bahr El Gazal, Jonglei and Lakes. Since Juba is the capital of southern Sudan, we have set up an office there to assist us in our advocacy and co-operation with the Government, partners and other stakeholders. The overall focus of the southern Sudan programme is education and child protection, which are closely interlinked.



Cross cutting issues

In order to guarantee a child rights based approach, Save the Children Sweden strives to ensure that the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are included in its work. We therefore put a special emphasis on including in all our programmes:

- **Good governance** The government is responsible for ensuring that children's rights are identified, respected and fulfilled. We work with the government at county, state and national level to ensure that children's rights are addressed.
- **Children's participation** Save the Children Sweden is not a child rights organisation if children are not listened to and get involved. It is a goal in itself to involve children in all matters that affect them. It is also a means to ensure that whatever adults do to improve the situation of girls and boys is done from the children's perspective.
- **Civil society** Different actors in the civil society have crucial roles to play to ensure that children's rights are fulfilled; parents, NGOs, community support groups and parents and teachers associations. With a developing government in place the role of the civil society becomes even more important in ensuring and sustaining the fulfilment of children's rights.
- **Non-discrimination** In whatever action we take, we strive to ensure that it is accessible and adjusted so that it fits all children.

Education and Child Protection

In southern Sudan most children, especially girls, do not have access to primary education. SCS works with other Save the Children Alliance members, specifically Save the Children UK and Save the Children US in realising the global campaign on education called Rewrite the Future (RtF), with the overall goal of improving access, protection and quality of primary education for boys and girls in southern Sudan. The objectives are:

- to contribute to the MoEST's (Ministry of Education Science and Technology) objective of increasing enrolment rates of children.
- to improve teaching, learning and participation outcomes in schools supported by Save the Children.
- to ensure that protection mechanisms for girls and boys by government, schools and communities are in place.
- to contribute to increased education financing in southern Sudan towards achieving Education for All.

Save the Children aims to improve physical and psychosocial protection for children in southern Sudan. In order to reach this goal three objectives have been identified:

- Incidences of sexual abuse and exploitation are reduced, identified and reported and girls and boys who have been sexually abused have access

to treatment and psychosocial support.

- Incidences of physical and emotional abuse and risks are reduced, identified and reported and those severely affected have access to treatment and psychosocial support.
- Incidences of separation of children are reduced, identified and reported and separated children are reunified and reintegrated into families and/or communities.



Engaging communities

Save the Children Sweden, as a Child Rights organisation, trains teachers, its staff, social workers and leaders in the community on how to listen to children and involve children them in decision making. To effectively do this in southern Sudan, we use Community Support Groups (CSGs) comprised of volunteers from the community. These CSGs assist in forming and training social workers, military personal and children in various school clubs on children's rights.

Since southern Sudan has for along time been in civil war, the issue of using children as soldiers has been in the front line. This is one of the many violations of children's right that the organisation works against. We therefore advocate against recruitment of child soldiers. We work hand in hand with the military to demobilise children already in armed forces and ensure that they are reintegrated into their families and respective communities.

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.

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

Save the Children works for a world:

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

Southern Sudan Programme

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The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, *in brief*



Article 1 Definition of a Child

A child is recognized as a person under 18, unless national laws recognize the age of majority earlier.

Article 2 Non-Discrimination

All rights apply to all children without exception. It is the State's obligation to protect children from any form of discrimination and to take positive action to promote their rights.

Article 3 Best interests of the child

All actions concerning the child shall take full account of his or her best interests. The State shall provide the child with adequate care when parents, or others charged with that responsibility, fail to do so.

Article 4 Implementation of rights

The State must do all it can to implement the rights contained in the Convention.

Article 5 Parental guidance and the child's evolving capacities

The State must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents and the extended family to provide guidance for which is appropriate to his or her evolving capacities.

Article 6 Survival and development

Every child has the inherent right to life, and the State has an obligation to ensure the child's survival and development.

Article 7 Name and nationality

The child has the right to a name at birth. The child also has the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, to know his or her parents and be cared for by them.

Article 8 Preservation of identity

The State has an obligation to protect, and if necessary, re-establish basic aspects of the child's identity. This includes name, nationality and family ties.

Article 9 Separation from parents

The child has a right to live with his or her parents unless this is deemed to be incompatible with the child's best interests. The child also has the right to maintain contact with both parents if separated from one or both.

Article 10 Family reunification

Children and their parents have the right to leave any country and to enter their own for purposes of reunion or the maintenance of the child-parent relationship.

Article 11 Illicit transfer and non-return

The State has an obligation to prevent and remedy the kidnapping or retention of children abroad by a parent or third party.

Article 12 The child's opinion

The child has the right to express his or her opinion freely and to have that opinion taken into account in any matter or procedure affecting the child.

Article 13 Freedom of expression

The child has the right to express his or her views, obtain information, make ideas or information known, regardless of frontiers.

Article 14 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

The State shall respect the child's right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, subject to appropriate parental guidance.

Article 15 Freedom of association

Children have a right to meet with others, and to join or form associations.

Article 16 Protection of privacy

Children have the right to protection from interference with privacy, family, home and correspondence, and from libel or slander.

Article 17 Access to appropriate information

The State shall ensure the accessibility to children of information and material from a diversity of sources, and it shall encourage the mass media to disseminate information which is of social and cultural benefit to the child, and take steps to protect him or her from harmful materials.

Article 18 Parental responsibilities

Parents have joint primary responsibility for raising the child, and the State shall support them in this. The State shall provide appropriate assistance to parents in child-raising.

Article 19 Protection from abuse and neglect

The State shall protect the child from all forms of maltreatment by parents or others responsible for the care of the child and establish appropriate programmes for the prevention of abuse and the treatment of victims.

Article 20 Protection of a child without family

The State is obliged to provide special protection for a child deprived of the family environment and to ensure that appropriate alternative family care or institutional placement is available in such cases. Efforts to meet this obligation shall pay due regard to the child's cultural background.

Article 21 Adoption

In countries where adoption is recognized and/or allowed, it shall only be carried out in the best interests of the child, and only with the authorization of competent authorities, and safeguards for the child.

Article 22 Refugee children

Special protection shall be granted to a refugee child or to a child seeking refugee status. It is the State's obligation to co-operate with competent organizations which provide such protection and assistance.

Article 23 Disabled children

A disabled child has the right to special care, education and training to help him or her enjoy a full and decent life in dignity and achieve the greatest degree of self-reliance and social integration possible.

Article 24 Health and health services

The child has a right to the highest standard of health and medical care attainable. States shall place special emphasis on the provision of primary and preventive health care, public health education and the reduction of infant mortality. They shall encourage international co-operation in this regard and strive to see that no child is deprived of access to effective health services.

Article 25 Periodic review of placement

A child who is placed by the State for reasons of care, protection or treatment is entitled to have that placement evaluated regularly.

Article 26 Social security

The child has the right to benefit from social security including social insurance.

Article 27 Standard of living

Every child has the right to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. Parents have the primary responsibility to ensure that the child has adequate standard of living. The State's duty is to ensure that this responsibility can be fulfilled, and is. State responsibility can include material assistance to parents and their children.

Article 28 Education

The child has a right to education, and the State's duty is to ensure that primary education is free and compulsory, to encourage different forms of secondary education accessible to every child and to make higher education available to all on the basis of capacity. School discipline shall be consistent with the child's right and dignity. The State shall engage in international co-operation to implement this right.

Article 29 Aims of education

Education shall aim at developing the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to the fullest extent. Education shall prepare the child for an active adult life in a free society and foster respect for the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, and for the cultural background and values of others.

Article 30 Children of minorities or indigenous populations

Children of minority communities and indigenous populations have the right to enjoy their own culture and to practise their own religion and language.

Article 31 Leisure, recreation and cultural activities

The child has the right to leisure, play and participation in cultural and artistic activities.

Article 32 Child labour

The child has the right to be protected from work that threatens his or her health, education or development. The State shall set minimum ages for employment and regulate working conditions.

Article 33 Drug abuse

Children have the right to protection from the use of narcotic and psychotropic drugs, and from being involved in their production or distribution.

Article 34 Sexual exploitation

The State shall protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse, including prostitution and involvement in pornography.

Article 35 Sale, trafficking and abduction

It is the State's obligation to make every effort to prevent the sale, trafficking and abduction of children.

Article 36 Other forms of exploitation

The child has the right to protection from all forms of exploitation to any aspects of the child's welfare not covered in articles 32, 33, 34 and 35.

Article 37 Torture and deprivation of liberty

No child shall be subjected to torture, cruel treatment or punishment, unlawful arrest or deprivation of liberty. Both capital punishment and life imprisonment without the possibility of release are prohibited for offences committed by persons below 18 years. Any child deprived of liberty shall be separated from adults unless it is considered in the child's best interests not to do so. A child who is detained shall have legal and other assistance as well as contact with the family.

Article 38 Armed conflicts

States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that children below 15 years of age have no direct part in hostilities. No child below 15 shall be recruited into the armed forces. States shall also ensure the protection and care of children who are affected by armed conflict as described in relevant international law.

Article 39 Rehabilitative care

The State has an obligation to ensure that child victims of armed conflicts, torture, neglect, maltreatment or exploitation receive appropriate treatment for their recovery and social re-integration.

Article 40 Administration of juvenile justice

A child in conflict with the law has the right to treatment which promotes the child's sense of dignity and worth, takes the child's age into account and aims at his or her re-integration into society. The child is entitled to basic guarantees as well as legal or other assistance for his or her defence. Judicial proceedings and institutional placements shall be avoided wherever possible.

Article 41 Respect for existing standards

Wherever standards set in applicable national and international law relevant to the rights of the child are higher than those in this Convention, the higher standard shall always apply.

Article 42-54 Implementation and entry into force

The provisions of articles 42-54 notably foresee;

– the State's obligation to make the rights contained in this Convention widely known to both adults and children.

– the setting up of a Committee on the Rights of the child composed of ten experts, which will consider reports that States Parties to the Convention are to submit two years after ratification and every five years thereafter. The Convention enters into force - and the Committee would therefore be set up – once 20 countries have ratified it.

– States Parties are to make their reports widely available to the general public.

– the Committee may propose that special studies be undertaken on specific issues relating to the rights of the child, and may make its evaluations known to each State Party concerned as well as to the un General Assembly.

– in order to “foster the effective implementation of the Convention and to encourage international co-operation”, the specialized agencies of the un (such as ILO, WHO and UNESCO) and UNICEF would be able to attend the meetings of the Committee. Together with any other body recognized as “competent”, including NGOs in consultative status with the un and un organs such as UNHCR, they can submit pertinent information to the Committee and be asked to advise on the optimal implementation of the Convention.

– a reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the present Convention shall not be permitted.

Would you like a complete version of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, please visit www.rb.se/eng

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