



UGANDA

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



Save the Children



Who We Are

Save the Children is the world's leading independent organization for children. We strive to create impact for children by delivering our programmes through partnerships, by being innovative, by acting as the voice for and of children, and by achieving results at scale.

In Uganda, Save the Children implements programmes in the five thematic programme areas of Child Protection, Child Rights Governance, Educa-

tion, Child Poverty and Health and Nutrition in development and emergency contexts.

Our Vision

A world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.

Our Mission

To inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

Our Values

- **Accountability:** We take personal responsibility for using our resources efficiently, achieving measurable results, and being accountable to supporters, partners and most of all, children.
- **Collaboration:** We respect and value each other, thrive on our diversity, and work with partners to leverage our global strength in making a difference for children.
- **Integrity:** We aspire to live the highest standards of personal honesty and behavior; we never compromise our reputation and always act in the best interests of children.
- **Ambition:** We are demanding of ourselves and our colleagues, set high goals and are committed to improving the quality of everything we do for children.
- **Creativity:** We are open to new ideas, embrace change, and take disciplined risks to develop sustainable solutions for and with children.

Foreword

Children are the reason we wake up every day and go to work in an effort to do whatever it takes to make a difference in their lives. It is for this reason that we are excited to have been part of the team that advocated for the amendment of the Children's Act.

In our 2015 annual report, we celebrate the great progress for children in whose lives we intervened and reflect on the lessons learnt along the way.

In 2015, we continued to build our youth brand by bringing to speed existing youth programmes and pursuing new youth-focused opportunities in vocational education, education for youth empowerment, livelihoods and adolescent sexual and reproductive health. Over 8,000 youth benefited from various livelihood interventions that Save the Children carried out in 2015, compared to 7,000 in 2014.

Through our health programmes we improved mothers' and children's access to qualified, skilled health personnel. The motorcycle ambulances, transport vouchers and upgrading of health facilities in far-flung communities ensured that more expectant mothers were able to get attended to by a midwife or doctor than previously.

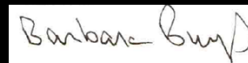
We are excited about the opportunity to test our commitment to urban programming with the new Sponsorship programme. In the past, we have not directly targeted children in urban and peri-urban communities, yet global and Uganda-specific evidence demonstrates that deprivation is equally, if not more alarmingly,

glaring in these settings.

Looking at the regional humanitarian crisis as well as the UN projections for both the end of 2014 and part of 2015, we maintained a strong presence in the areas hosting refugees, benefiting over 60,000 Southern Sudanese and Congolese refugees with programmes in child protection, education, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene.

As a result of our work, we directly reached 426,612 children, while 709,823 indirectly benefited from our programmes.

I would, therefore, like to extend our gratitude to the donors, partners and staff whose tremendous work throughout the year enabled Save the Children to transform the lives of vulnerable children, their families and the communities in which they live.



Barbara Burroughs
Country Director.






CONTENTS

Thematic Results

Child Rights Governance.....	6
Child Protection.....	7
Education.....	8
Child Poverty.....	10
Health and Nutrition	11
Building Resilience.....	13
Humanitarian Response.....	13
Financial Report.....	14



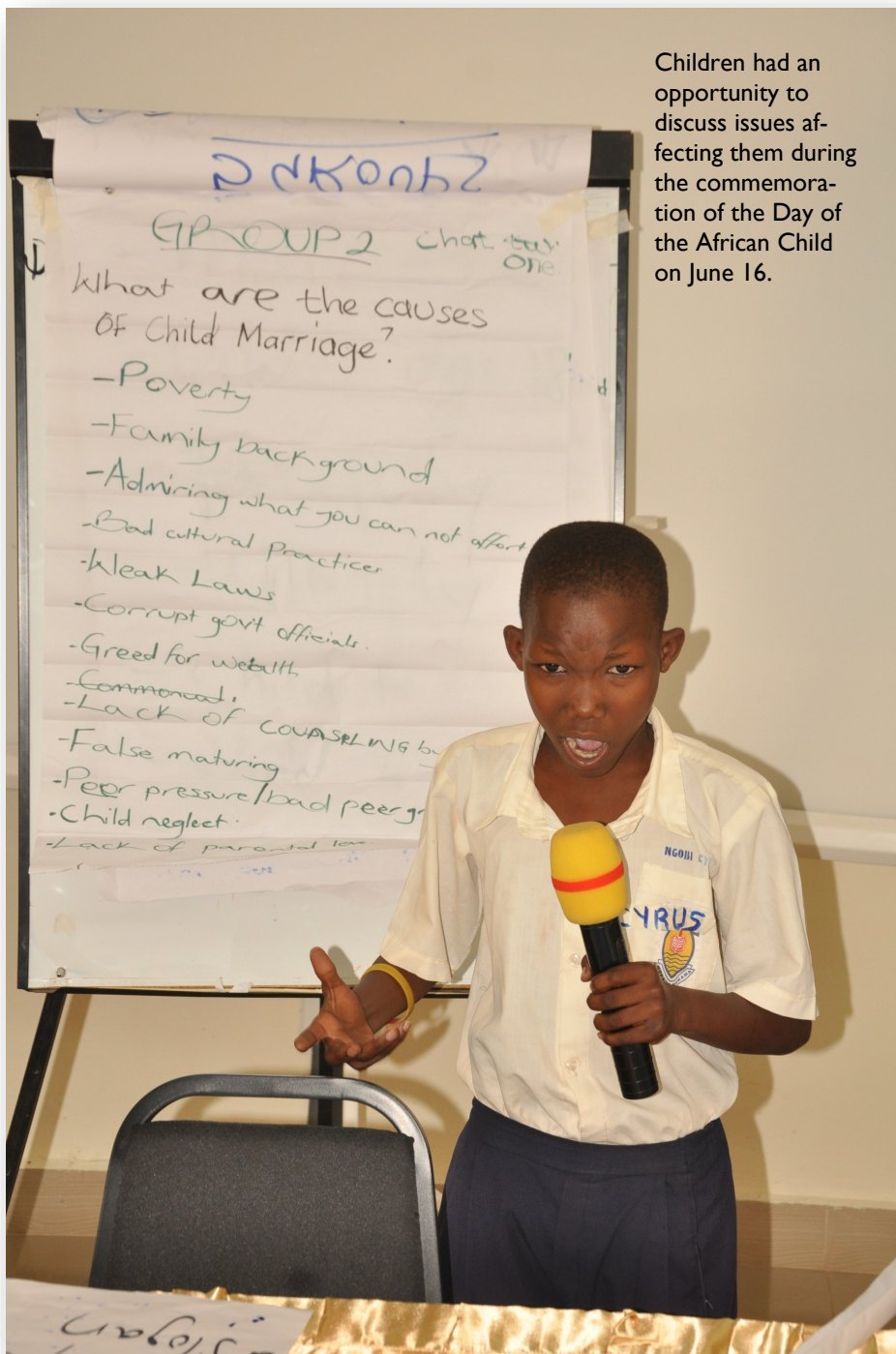
Thematic Results

217,861
Children reached through
Save the Children's
health programmes

8,186
Number of youth who
benefited from livelihood
programmes

1,002
Refugee children
reunited with their
families

64
Reading
clubs set up



Children had an opportunity to discuss issues affecting them during the commemoration of the Day of the African Child on June 16.

Child Rights Governance (CRG)

We work to ensure that all children benefit from greater public investment and better use of society's resources continues to guide implementation.

In 2015, child-focused organizations under the umbrella Uganda Child Rights NGO Network started developing the alternative report to the second Government of Uganda Periodic Report on the progress of implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols. This is important in monitoring the country's progress towards the laws and conventions it ratified.

In collaboration with the National Council for Children the Ministry of Local Government and other stakeholders, Save the Children developed and refined child rights indicators aimed at ensuring that structures, policies and processes in local governments are responsive to children and therefore promote and protect their rights. The indicators were included in the Local Government Assessment Tool, a framework through which implementation progress is assessed annually.

Save the Children supported the Children's Act Amendment, which was successfully brought to the floor of Parliament, with proposals for the establishment of the National Children's Authority to coordinate aspects like adoption and guardianship, child protection and violence against children. We await Parliament's decision on the amendment.

Together with Vision Group, a printing and publishing company, we supported the process of deepening the public's understanding of children's rights. We used *The New Vision* newspaper's platform, Newspapers in Education, to actively engage children in developing, publishing and disseminating child (and adult)-friendly information about child rights in Uganda. We worked closely with children and enabled them to lead on key advocacy initiatives. In all the four regions where we operate, children were facilitat-

ed to influence policy and decision-making in public institutions mandated to address those aspects that impinge on their (children's) lives. Youth platforms and children councils, for example, promoted effective and efficient feedback to address issues affecting children and youth as presented in their interface meetings.

The promotion of social accountability through strengthened structures and systems for better governance systems has increased transparency and accountability. This has resulted in greater benefits for children from poorer families as communities have engaged duty-bearers and influenced the planning and budgeting process to favour youth/children-related activities.

Child Protection

All children thrive in a safe family environment and no child is placed in harmful institutions.

700

Child abuse cases handled

35

Community Development, probation and welfare officers trained

75

Justice, law and order sector stakeholders trained

Through our Child Protection programmes, we worked with schools and communities to identify, report and respond to child rights violations through the District Probation and Social Welfare Officers, District Community Development Officers and teachers. This resulted into increased access to services by children who have suffered abuse and violation.

We not only worked with local governments but ministries, too. In collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and local councils, we mapped formal and non-formal child protection structures in communities in Luwero, Nakaseke, Nakasongola, Moroto, Napak, Kotido and Nakapiripirit districts. The mapping report has been used to strengthen linkages and improve coordination among the formal and informal structures, resulting into better response and management of child protection cases and issues.

To boost the capacity of social workers in child protection, we trained 35 District Community Development, probation and welfare officers. This enhanced their capacity in dealing with child protection issues as well as offering capacity support supervision to the community child protection structures.

Due to advocacy carried out through children and youth councils, Rwebisen-go sub-county in Ntoroko district increased resource allocation from UGX4,000,000 in the financial year 2014/15 to UGX10,000,000 in the 2015/16 financial year.

In Ndugutu sub-county, the youth platform advocated for Butama Health Centre II to be upgraded to a Health Centre III. This was accepted and through the Government capitation grant, a maternity ward is being constructed, enabling the health centre to carry out deliveries of babies, as a health centre III should.

As a result, several vulnerable children received direct child protection, legal support, care, psycho-social support and referrals for other social services within the government system. In addition, over 700 cases of reported child abuse were handled by trained government officers.

Through the programme Save the Children contributed to improving and strengthening a restorative and child-friendly justice system in Uganda. We did this by developing a friendly Restorative and Child Justice manual and training 75 Justice, Law and Order Sector stakeholders in Northern Uganda.

The trainees were equipped with skills in legal aspects relating to children's rights as well as principles and procedures relevant to the expeditious and successful disposal of juvenile cases.

We promoted safe school environments in 46 schools with child protection policies, rules and regulations that were developed jointly by teachers and in consultation with children. We also set up letter link boxes in schools – a mechanism through which children write their issues/concerns and drop them in a box – enabling schools to respond to children's concerns.

Through our responses to children caught up in the refugee crisis, we registered 3,151 separated and unaccompanied children. Of these, 1,002 were reunited with their families through our work with the Uganda Red Cross Society.

Through exchange visits we enabled teachers across different regions of the country to share experiences and learn from the best practices taking place in other schools. Forty seven school management committee members as well as members of Parents and Teachers' Association members PTAs from 16 formal schools in Karamoja visited schools in Luwero district.

Education

Our education programme is aimed towards securing quality basic education for all children.

Quality Learning Environment (QLE)

We continued to support learning institutions to become quality learning environments for learners through interventions that improve the teaching and learning processes – making them learner-centered and more participatory; making learning environments safe for learners and in limited ways improving infrastructure.

Our Early Childhood Care and Development programmes contributed to an increase in the proportion of 3-6 year-olds accessing education. In the Central region, for example, the net enrolment of children in school increased to 18% (2,078 pupils) from our set target of 10%.

Another achievement we celebrate was the Government's recognition of 26 non-formal education centres (CHANCE) in Central region. Although they do not have code centres yet, the Government has posted teachers in these centres and they are on the Government payroll.

This has lessened the burden on the communities that have been struggling to contribute towards the teachers' welfare. It also means that the children in those CHANCE centres now enjoy the services of qualified professional teachers capable of utilizing child-centred methodology in the teaching/learning process.

To combat the low literacy rates among primary school children in our programme areas in Central, Northern and Eastern Uganda, we introduced the Literacy Boost model as an integral part of the education programme. As a result, 29 community reading camps/clubs were established in central region, 30 in Karamoja and five in Gulu under the 'I'm Learning!' project. 'I'm Learning!' is supported by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, NORAD.

All camp/club mentors have been trained and the reading clubs are fully operational. Records in Gulu indicate that there are more children making use of the community reading clubs outside the Save the Children project intervention. This is not only testimony to the great need for reading but also the importance of enabling children access reading materials outside school.

To enhance children's literacy levels, the 'I'm Learning!' project went further and supported

the development of seven story books, one per grade. The stories were written and illustrated by children, published and shared with the schools. Schools in Karamoja also produced story books for all age grades, which stories were written by children and teachers.

Training school children in Gulu in the making of re-usable sanitary pads (RUMPs) improved girls' attendance in school. All the girls in the schools supported by Save the Children who

registered for the Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) in 2015 took them, unlike in the past. In addition, schools outside the project are also embracing this training on request after recognising its benefits.

In the organisation's humanitarian response, a total of 7,073 South Sudanese refugee children (3,702 girls and 3,371 boys) and 4,859 Congolese refugee children (2,531 girls and 2,328 boys) benefited from the education programmes in the various refugee camps.

Partnership

Establishing and maintaining partnerships with local governments has improved the quality and scale of our programming. For instance, Gulu District Local Government took up the role of support supervision jointly with the 'I'm Learning!' project team and continues to take lead in compiling the supervision and monitoring reports.

The Local Government also supported Save the Children to acquire the teachers' code of conduct which they, together with Save the Children and master trainers, oriented the teachers in. Each teacher now has a copy of the teachers' code of conduct.

Gulu District Local Government has adapted Save the Children's Quality Learning Environment tools which they are using to supervise and monitor all primary schools in the district. This is testimony of their need and commitment to improve the quality of the learning environments as a central feature of their education programming.



Through starting non-formal schools in areas that are hard to reach, Save the Children has enabled more children to access basic education.



Happy Emmanuel used his start-up capital from the Youth in Action project to set up a fish business.

Child Poverty

Save the Children works to ensure that adolescent girls and boys who are out of school have the opportunity to build the skills, networks and self-esteem they need to make the transition to safe and decent livelihoods.

A total of 8,186 youths benefited from various livelihood interventions in 2015 – up by 1,186 in 2014.

Youth in Action (YiA)

Supported by the MasterCard Foundation and implemented in Bundibugyo, Ntoroko and Kasese districts in Western Uganda, the YiA project has reached 4,192 (1,992 males and 2,200 females) young people so far. To-date, 1,285 youth have graduated and are either employed or engaged in micro enterprises at community level.

The Youth Empowerment Support (YES) project in Western Uganda, funded by Danida (with support from Save the Children Denmark), equipped 456 youth with employability skills through the vocational training program in 2015. The project has also improved youth communication, reading and writing skills for 499 youths (249 females, 250 males) through the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP).

The Youth Support Empowerment Project (YSEP) trained 242 youth in various trades that include carpentry and joinery, hairdressing, knitting, leather works, motorcycle mechanics, tailoring and welding. Some youth were also facilitated with start-up kits to enable them establish profitable and viable businesses after graduation.

An evaluation of the project at the end of 2015 highlights that at least 45% of the supported youths were gainfully employed and/or had established viable businesses. Some of them had even created more employment opportunities for other vulnerable youths as shown in this report.

Through the European Union-funded **YIELD** project, Save the Children established and strengthened 40 youth groups (with a total number of 1,008 members). The cumulative number of groups is now 100, with a total membership of 4,050 members. All the established youth groups have been supported and guided in selection of enterprises.

The project's midterm evaluation report shows that 60% of the youth have been formally employed by various private sector actors. The 40% of youth not in formal employment are engaged in farming with the aim of acquiring start-up tools and capital to start their own enterprises.

The Dutch Consortium for Rehabilitation (DCR) - Pamoja Project.

The increased agricultural production facilitated by the project made a positive impact on livelihoods since it enabled more food and income security for the targeted households. The Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) methodology, in particular, enabled households to meet their consumption needs such as school fees, food and health care where government facilities were not in position to support.

Other businesses have evolved as a result of the enterprise/business trainings offered by the project. Many youth are engaged in diversified enterprises such as sale of clothes, farming, *boda boda* (motorcycle transport services), sale of agricultural products, phone charging and hair-dressing.

Health and Nutrition

The organisation aims at ensuring that no child under five years of age dies from preventable causes and to register an increase in the proportion of very young adolescents who are better informed about their sexual and reproductive health and rights and are able to make healthier choices regarding their sexuality.

Through the health and nutrition program we reached 217,861 children (120,570 girls and 97,291 boys) and 130,424 adults (108,948 women and 21,476 men) in 2015.

Through three maternal, newborn and child health projects in Western Uganda – the Korea Innovative Maternal and Child Health Initiative in Ntoroko, MNCH Italy in Kasese and Baby Caps in Bundibugyo – we contributed to an increase in the number of mothers accessing skilled health care as well as newborn health services in the three districts. The graph shows changes in numbers of mothers attending various maternal health services in Ntoroko district.

The projects have also supported the use of motorcycle ambulances to improve access to emergency care for very sick mothers and newborns in these communities and the use of transport vouchers to address transport-related barriers to accessing MNCH services. In addition, they have trained close to 200 frontline health workers across the three districts and improved available infrastructure for childbirth.

Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health

In 2015, the Keep it Real project funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs through Save the Children Netherlands came to an end. The three-year project aimed to increase the proportion of very young adolescents (10-14) and youth (15-24) living in North Uganda and Kampala that were better informed about their sexual and reproductive health and rights and able to make healthier choices regarding their sexuality.

Through this project, we were able to reach a total of over 45,000 youths and 56% and 21% of primary and secondary schools respectively with comprehensive sexuality education in Kampala District; 83% and 50% of primary and secondary schools respectively in Nwoya District and 28% of both primary and secondary schools in Agago District.

The objective of the **Responsible, Engaged and Loving (REAL) Fathers Initiative** pilot project was to develop and test a set of interventions to reduce intimate partner violence and harsh punishment of children among young fathers (ages 16-25) in post-conflict Northern Uganda. An evaluation of the approach in one district in Northern Uganda showed that the intervention supported men's transition to more



A husband uses a motorcycle ambulance to take his expectant wife to hospital in Rwebisengo, Ntoroko district.

gender equitable norms, increased non-violent parenting and improved partner relations with their wives.

Through the three MNCH projects, we are supporting the districts to roll out pregnancy surveillance, postnatal care for mother-baby pairs

and integrated community case management (ICCM) through village health teams (VHTs). We trained 700 VHTs in both community maternal and newborn care and ICCM. The projects have also supported training of frontline health workers at lower level health facilities in the revised IMCI. As a result, a combined total

of over 8,000 children have been treated by VHTs in program areas.

In partnership with the Makerere School of Public Health, Save the Children's Saving Newborn Lives (SNL) program set up a Centre of Excellence for Maternal and Newborn Health. In 2015, the centre organised the first ever national conference on maternal and newborn health. The proceedings of the conference have been used to inform discussions to derive priority focus areas for the newborn research agenda. In addition the centre developed two courses – Advanced Newborn Skills course and an academic program course on the Lives Saved Tool (LiST) as part of initial steps to integrating it into a pre-service training program.

Nutrition

We are implementing nutrition interventions as part of our emer-

gency response to refugees from South Sudan who are based in Adjumani, Arua and Kiryandongo districts. Our activities here have involved screening and referral for malnutrition, forming breastfeeding support groups and health education. The activities serve two camps (in Adjumani and Arua) with an estimated population of about 55,000 each and reached about 10,000 children in 2015.

Building Resilience

Disaster risk reduction and resilience building have been incorporated into the Country Strategic Plan as well as ongoing development and emergency programmes to increase communities' abilities to anticipate, plan for and deal with shocks and disasters.

Save the Children is a consortium member organization of the Africa Climate Change Resilience Alliance (ACCRA). Through financial support to the Government, Save the Children supported the Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) in disseminating weather forecasts and strengthening the utilization of weather information by farmers and other end users, which were translated into major regional languages.

Through our disaster risk reduction projects, we facilitated children to present disaster risk reduction petitions to the district councils in Nakasogola and Nakaseke districts.

In Kasese, we established 18 Village Disaster Management Committees (VDMCs) that are able to respond in case of any disasters.

Eight child-centered DRR clubs were established in all target schools (20 pupils each) and these are used to pass on life skills in the event of disasters.

Humanitarian Response

During the reporting period, Save the Children directly reached over 37,541 children (94% of the target population) and 14,900 adults affected by the South Sudanese refugee influx in the districts of Adjumani, Arua and Kiryandongo, with a multi-sectoral package of interventions.

In 2015, we supported 7,073 children to access

early childhood care and development (ECCD) in a safe and secure environment. This was through the 20 ECCD centers we set up in the various locations hosting refugees from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In addition, we reached 20,525 children through child protection activities comprising the establishment of child-friendly spaces; identification and registration of separated children using Rapid Family Tracing and Reunification, and estab-



Children attending class in a centre run by Save the Children in Adjumani district.

lishment of foster care arrangements for unaccompanied minors. Through its family reunification processes, Save the Children managed to reunite 66 children with their families/guardians in 2015.

Our Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) interventions in refugee camps reached 18,404 children. These interventions took the form of sanitation and hygiene education, including through community theatre and drama, and the provision of hygiene kits. During the year, we distributed 3,598 hygiene kits (including soap and sanitary towels), which benefited 2,428 households.

Nutrition: Save the Children implemented an Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) intervention in Adjumani and Arua districts to prevent malnutrition among children affected by the refugee influx aged below five years. This intervention was intended to complement other ongoing programs on malnutrition which are focused on the curative approach to dealing with this issue. A total of 10,209 children and 1,289 adults benefited from this intervention.



Assessing a child in Nyumanzi, Adjumani, for malnutrition. Nyumanzi is one of the settlements where refugees from South Sudan have been resettled by UNHCR and the Office of the Prime Minister.

Financial Report

The expenditure in 2015 totaled USD15,044,516.

An analysis of expenditure by thematic area/programme.

Thematic Area	Expenditure	Percentage
Education	5,145,350	34%
Cross-Thematic	980,371	7%
Health	4,463,916	30%
Nutrition	0	0%
Child rights governance	491,809	3%
Child protection	165,389	1%
Emergencies	1,693,552	11%
HIV / AIDS	2,164	0%
Livelihoods	117,156	1%
Non-Thematic	1,984,810	13%
Total	15,044,516	100%



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Field Offices: North: Adjumani, Amuru, Arua, Gulu and Kiryandongo.

East: Kotido, Moroto and Nakapiripirit.

West: Bundibugyo, Fort Portal, Hoima, Kamwenge and Kasese.

Central: Kampala, Luwero, Nakaseke, Nakasongola and Wakiso.