

We contribute to:



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

How can we give ownership to the community members of the projects of Help a Child? How can we guarantee that voices are heard from even the most marginalized? How can we work in such a way that results are lasting and continue even after the projects have been phased out? These questions are crucial to us.

Community Empowerment is therefore a core principle in our work. We strongly believe that development is about enabling people to regain control of their own lives. This is not an easy or a quick-fix solution; it often takes time and there are setbacks. But we see the results in the lives of children: if the community and parents are strong enough to take care of the children themselves, it will benefit the children in a sustainable way.

Through the Child-Centred Community Development projects, we work towards this community empowerment. People are involved in the design and monitoring of the projects, and even children are involved. Community dialogues with all involved people in the community (men, women, youth, children, people with disabilities, and community leaders) are the pathway to change.



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

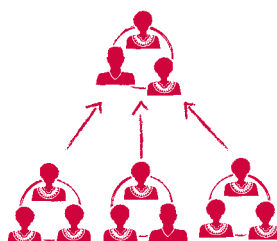


Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Key statistics:

2,032

Self-help groups supported



126

Cluster Level Associations supported

Topics of community dialogues

facilitated by Help a Child in 2023 included:

child rights child marriage

peacebuilding **conflict**

personal safety **resolution**

inclusion of people with a disability sexual and gender based **violence**

girls **healthy environment**

rights child protection

positive parenting



KENYA

From playground to solutions: child-led research

As a child-focused organization, we consider the participation of children to be essential. Who else knows what they need better than children themselves? Therefore, Help a Child conducted a pilot on child-led research in 2023 in Kitui, Bomet, and Busia in Kenya.

In these three projects, children were trained in data collection and reporting. By engaging children as active participants, these projects seek to tap into their creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities. The child-led research project places children at the centre, encouraging



Children entering manually collected data into the computers.

them to investigate and identify challenges within their respective communities. By actively involving children, they become catalysts for positive change, offering valuable insights and proposing practical solutions to community challenges.

Number of children involved

Busia:	45 children
Bomet:	40 children
Kitui:	20 children





MALAWI

The value of saving

James is an active member of a self-help group (SHG) and is a well-known face in Zilakoma, Malawi, as an ironsmith. He explains what his main insight has been since the community development programme started in Zilakoma nearly seven years ago: the value of saving.

'I make knives for harvesting cassava. People from all over Zilakoma come to buy my knives. The self-help group is very useful to me. What have I learnt? The value of saving! I used to spend my money right away and live day by day. Now I know how to look ahead. Even now that the village programme is being completed, we will certainly continue, with government support.'

James is also a member of a support group for people with disabilities: 'I have a hand bike myself because I cannot walk properly. In Zilakoma there are many children with disabilities who need help. Think of wheelchairs, medicines, glasses. I visit these



36 SHG's in Zilakoma supported

including **535 members** of which **5 persons** with a disability



children and talk to the parents. Together we look at the possibilities for better care and make contact with service providers.'



James making knives by slowly heating iron on a fire and then shaping it with a hammer

INDIA

From risks to resilience



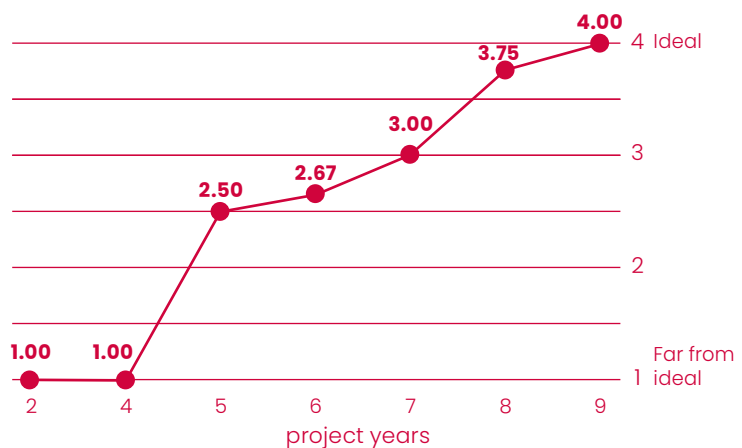
Development efforts over many years can be destroyed in seconds when disaster strikes. By embedding disaster risk reduction elements, the CCCD programme aims to boost the resilience of communities and make them disaster-smart and risk-informed. With disaster risk reduction, we aim to prevent new risks, to reduce existing disaster risks and to manage risks.

In Rania, India, for example, disaster mitigation training was given to communities on the risks of flooding and fire accidents, but also of elephant corridors. Elephants are a serious threat to the safety of the community. The community developed an early warning system and is now using powerful torches as flashlights to keep the community safe from wild elephants.



Kolkata (Empowerment Score Card)

Average score of 'Resilience' given by project participants in Kolkata, India in the various project years.





KENYA

Empowering youth with disabilities

Kenya has a population of 47,564,296, with 918,270 (2.2%) of the population listed as having various forms of disabilities. For too long, children and youth with disability have been forgotten, hidden and systematically left behind. Help a Child Africa and Light for the World, together with our local implementing partners NCKK, ADS, and AICCAD, and target communities in Kitui, Bomet, and Busia counties, have partnered to implement 'children and youth with disability-led advocacy for disability awareness and stigma reduction'.

In 2023, several activities were undertaken, including disability Self-Help Groups that established savings and loan schemes and set up various income-generating activities such as basket-making,

poultry-keeping, and farming. There were also awareness campaigns and access to health and education services was provided for people living with a disability.



SOUTH SUDAN

Creative ways to end child marriage

In 2023, as part of the South Sudan Joint Response project (SSJR), Help a Child organized a child-led campaign in Tonj North, Warrap State. Led by children and using the sport of Boruboru, the campaign's objectives were to combat child marriage and foster social togetherness.

Boruboru is a traditional girls' dodgeball that was revived in South Sudan and is being used by Help a Child to empower children, particularly girls, to establish community-driven platforms for advocating against harmful community practices like child marriage. Additionally, it aims to promote community engagement, mend broken intercommunity relationships, and reinforce social

cohesion. Over 10,000 people were reached through this extensive child-led campaign in Tonj North. Additionally, this initiative aimed to decrease the occurrence of underage marriage, reduce violence, and increase community-free interactions. The campaign received considerable appreciation from parents, community leaders, local government officials, and NGO representatives.

> 10,000 people reached
through 'End child marriage' campaigns



The same campaign was conducted in Wau.



A letter from Burundi

2023 marks the last year of the CCCD project in Kirundo, Burundi. Jean Pierre, Project Manager, wrote a letter to the supporters of this project and reflected on the results of the programme:

Dear supporter,

Greetings from the community programme in Kirundo, Burundi. It is a big and heartfelt joy to let you know that your support has greatly contributed to improving the well-being of children and families in the Kirundo communities all these years. Now, the programme is being phased out and the community is well prepared for this. In fact, various strong community structures were established and strengthened by the programme, which means it can keep running after phase-out.

Through the programme, children enjoyed the company of other children in our children's groups, where they are given opportunities to discuss different topics. In the groups, children also play, sing, dance, and learn different crafts such as making baskets and toys. They were supported in developing their entrepreneurial skills like beekeeping or breeding small livestock such as rabbits and chickens. Being in the programme encouraged children to stay in school. In their families and communities, they participated in making farming plans for their families, in planting trees and in watering vegetable kitchen gardens and plants. Through the support of the programme, a large number of self-help groups were established. Then, parents got loans and started businesses, bought plot of lands and they are breeding some large and small cattle to produce meat, milk, manure, and income.

In addition, farmers were trained in modern farming skills that enabled families to produce enough food for themselves and for sale. Now, parents are able to provide and cover their children's needs. The programme joined forces with the communities to build classrooms and early childhood development (ECD) centres to deliver quality services such as nutrition, care, playing, learning, protection, and health care to children. Today, they do not have to walk long distances to school. Cluster level associations (CLAs), as community structures, strengthened their collaboration with local government and communities. They own sustainable initiatives, which enable them to ensure the continuation of the programme achievements. Beyond that, they are networking with other community structures such as Child Protection Committees, ECD centre management committees, Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs), and local administration to sustain the programme achievements. The programme is being phased out to move to another area. For this reason, all ambassadors including your beloved sponsored child will be leaving.

We are very grateful for your support and prayers for your sponsored child all these years. We humbly request that you continue your support for Red een Kind so that other children of other communities may live with the hope of a bright future in dignity. We sincerely pray that the Lord of all grace may abundantly bless you, your family, and your children.

Thanking you with best regards,

Jean Pierre Masumbuko
Programme Manager FECABU

