

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.



5 GENDER EQUALITY



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



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:

1,696

Self-help groups supported

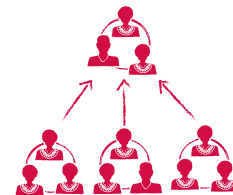


29,602

members supported in Self-help groups  
16% male | 84% female

133

Cluster Level Associations supported



### Topics of community dialogues

facilitated by Help a Child in 2024 included:

#### Diversification

of food **Health Insurance**

Income generating activities

Impact of **Finance**

climate change importance of Education

**child participation** **Safe**

Child **Relationships**  
development

**Prevention of disasters**

Emotional support **Advocacy**

## MALAWI IMPACT STORY:

# Integration of economic empowerment **and** environmental conservation

**In 2024, many youth groups ventured into the beekeeping business, which not only boosted their economic muscle but also enabled them to become good stewards of their forests. The availability of thick forests is key to the success of beekeeping, which means forests will be safeguarded.**

With this project, young Malawians earn money, gain knowledge, change their attitude, and work to protect and sustainably utilize natural resources. Forest resources are sustainably managed to contribute to climate-resilient livelihoods. Projects like these divert people away from environmentally detrimental practices such as charcoal burning.

In Zilakoma, for example, 207 young parents from six youth clubs ventured into honey production. The project provided them with materials and trained them in beehive making, beekeeping, and management. In 2024, more youth groups ventured into the beekeeping business, which not only boosted their economic muscle but also enabled them to become good stewards of their forests. By December 2024, they generated MWK 390,000 (€ 195) after selling 30 litres of honey harvested from nine beehives, which they packaged and branded. They have a readily available market for their produce. The group expects to harvest honey from all their 106 beehives in 2025.

They are projecting a brighter future of earning millions when all the 106 beehives are colonized. They cannot wait to provide the desired future for their families.







## SOUTH SUDAN IMPACT STORY:

# Creating a **difference**

**Mathuoch Kongkong Yaya is a passionate member of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) in Pibor, South Sudan. Her story is a testament to the strength of community empowerment and the impact one person can have on the lives of many. She participated in the PTA training offered by Help a Child.**

From the start, Mathuoch Kongkong Yaya was determined to bridge the gap between parents, teachers, and students, fostering a collaborative environment through participation in school programmes, including construction projects.

She is always spotted sweeping classrooms, especially ECD classes, fetching water for teachers, and actively engaging in organizing school events. Mathuoch Kongkong Yaya participated in block laying for the construction of latrines in the Pibor Girls primary school, where Help a Child supports an Early Childhood Development centre.

"I'm so motivated to support learning in school because I did not have the opportunity to learn due to a lack of awareness of the importance of education among my parents. Now it is my time to create a difference," says Mathuoch Kongkong Yaya (43).

Her story is a reminder that when individuals come together with a shared vision, they can create lasting change and build a brighter future for all.



**8** ECD centres constructed / supported

**2,587 children** enrolled in supported EDC centres



*Mathuoch contributes to the building of an ECD center, showcasing the strength and impact of a supportive community.*

## KENYA IMPACT STORY:

# Overcoming disability and rebuilding hope

**Brian, a five-year-old boy with cerebral palsy and autism from a humble background, faced early challenges, unable to walk or sit without support, relying entirely on his mother for daily care, while she was the sole breadwinner.**

Due to the myths and stigma associated with disability in their community, Brian was often hidden away and denied access to basic healthcare. His mother recalls: "As a parent, I struggled with the daily difficulty of carrying him everywhere, which added significant stress to my life."

It was during this difficult period that Brian's mother, member of the Help a Child Self-Help Group (SHG),

was made aware of a disability programme and encouraged to join the *Kiangu Wendo PWD (People with Disabilities) Group*. Through this group, she gained access to valuable training in savings, loans, beadwork, and income-generating activities.

With the programme's support and regular therapy, Brian made remarkable progress, gaining the ability to walk unaided, which has greatly eased his mother's caregiving burden and brought her immense joy.

The programme connected Brian's mother to the *National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD)* cash transfer programme,



**134** children  
with disability  
reached

providing her with KES 4,000 monthly (around € 30), which has been a vital support, helping her to meet the children's basic needs and bringing stability to the family.







# Revolving Fund: endlessly investing in opportunities

In the countries where Help a Child operates, it is not always easy for (young) parents to have access to financial resources. However, they want to invest in their future. After completing agricultural vocational training, for example, they are ready to start their own business. What they often lack is the capital to get started, and loans from Self-Help Groups are often insufficient for bigger investments. This is why Help a Child started this fund.



## How does it work?

The Revolving Fund is a flexible fund that is placed with a local financial institution. From this fund, young people can borrow money, either individually or in groups. They must submit a solid business plan and repay the loan within one year. The money then becomes available again for others.

- Size of the fund: € 25,000 – € 50,000 per village programme
- Repayment: in previous pilots, such as in Rwanda, 98% of loans were repaid on time
- Sustainability: the fund remains active even if Help a Child leaves the area. After seven years, it is refunded and reinvested.

Our goal is for the area to flourish economically due to increased business activity. This will prevent young people migrating en masse to the city to work as day labourers. With more income, there is more money for healthy food, housing, education, and healthcare for the children. They benefit as well, which is the ultimate goal of Help a Child.

“Making a sustainable impact, even beyond my own business, that’s what I do with the Revolving Fund of Help a Child,” says Arjan Jonker, an entrepreneur from Zeewolde, the Netherlands.



### Empowering families: Josephine's journey

In the Rwamagana district of Rwanda, Josephine transformed her family's future. First, she joined a Self-Help Group, which provided her with business training and access to credit. She invested her first loan of €350 in farming and land purchases. The profits allowed her to expand, securing an additional €1,000 loan under a development scheme of revolving funds to buy a motorbike for her son's transport business.

“Our farming activities and motorbike business help us to repay the loan and meet the family's needs. My family is happy today because medical insurance, food, and children's school materials are no longer challenging.”



“Making a sustainable impact, even beyond my own business, that’s what I do with the Revolving Fund of Help a Child”

Arjan Jonker