

We contribute to:



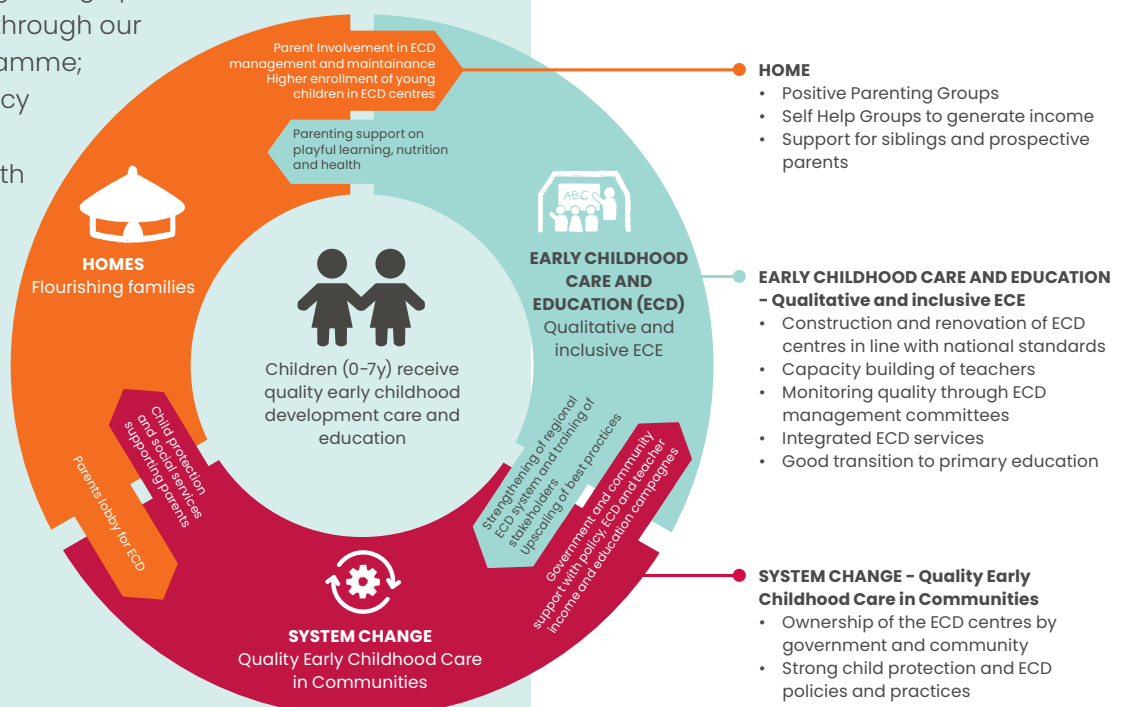
Early Childhood Development

To provide a good start for all children, Help a Child has set Early Childhood Development (ECD) as one of its thematic focus areas. In low-income countries, just one in five children has access to preschool.

In 2024, Help a Child continued to scale up children's access to quality ECD services to address this inequality, break the cycle of poverty, and improve outcomes later in life. Help a Child uses proven interventions to build a strong foundation for young children in poor rural communities.

We do this by:

- Strengthening parents through the Parenting Challenge and PIPPA (Participatory Integrated (farm) Planning & Peace in the house approach);
- Establishing and strengthening model ECD centres and community-based ECD centres;
- Addressing the need for psychosocial support for young children growing up in stressful circumstances through our My Friend programme;
- Lobby & Advocacy and close collaboration with government, local, and national stakeholders to realize a system change.



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Key statistics:



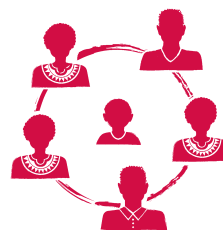
80,054

young children (0-7 years)
in development
programmes supported



454

ECD centres supported



9,054

parents involved
in parenting and
awareness sessions



SOUTH SUDAN IMPACT STORY: ECD **priority** in future education

Early Childhood Education (ECD) and care are receiving growing attention in South Sudan, thanks to the current role of Help a Child South Sudan as a lead and Board Chair of the National Education Coalition. However, most young children have no access to proper education because of a lack of ECD centres.

With the privately funded Kids@Risk project, combined with UNICEF funding, Help a Child is a key player in expanding ECD services across South Sudan and one of the main organizations investing in ECD in South Sudan.

Activities focus on the establishment of ECD centres, integrating

Early Childhood Education, Child Protection activities, and food provision through tree planting and vegetable gardening around the ECD centres, fostering education, nutrition, and sustainability for a brighter future for South Sudan's children.

The establishment of four high-quality ECD facilities, caregiver training, and ECD child enrolment sharpened our focus and is expected to influence our future in the years to come.

Donors such as UNICEF and local authorities in underserved areas like GPAA were drawn to the proposed convergence of ECD, Parenting, and Child Protection.

The high calibre of the pilot work earned us a solid reputation and made us the standard with regard to the importance of an inclusive approach to ECD.



6 ECD centres
constructed /
supported

2,325 children
1,119 boys | 1,206 girls
enrolled in supported
EDC centres



UGANDA IMPACT STORY: **Bridging the gap**

Help a Child works with high-quality ECD model centres that offer integrated Early Childhood services to pre-primary school children and their parents. In addition, the centres act as knowledge and training 'hubs' for surrounding local ECD centres, thereby also raising the quality of these centres.

In 2024, a model ECD centre was built in Aojapiro, Uganda, for approximately 3,360 children. The aim of this model centre is to bridge the gap before primary education and reduce the high dropout rates in primary schools in the district. Currently, only about 15 out of every 40 children who enrol in nursery school

transition to primary education due to inadequate teaching facilities and caregivers. The new centre aims to create a stable and supportive learning environment to improve these statistics.

The initiative for the ECD centre was taken by the community, with each household contributing 50,000 UGX (Ugandan shilling) to purchase the land for the school. That reflects the dedication of the community and symbolizes the impact of community unity and a shared vision for the future, illuminating the path towards a future where every child can dream, learn, and thrive.



Rachel Kigame, the Country Director of Help a Child Africa, highlighted the importance of educational access: "Education is the pathway to equality and opportunity. Every child, regardless of their background, deserves access to quality education".



RWANDA IMPACT STORY: ECD teacher training

Help a Child Rwanda strongly supports the Rwandan government's priorities in enhancing access to quality Early Childhood Development (ECD) services for children and families. Recognizing the need to increase ECD access, Help a Child plays a key role in reinforcing ECD services as vital community spaces, complementing homes and health facilities.

Considering the limited capacity of both parents and caregivers to deliver quality ECD services, Help a Child Rwanda focuses on equipping ECD caregivers with the skills and knowledge to provide high-quality services. A core element of the training is ensuring that ECD teachers and caregivers are empowered to maintain ECD environments that are playful, safe, and clean, fostering an ideal learning atmosphere for children.

In 2024, Help a Child Rwanda successfully trained 589 ECD teachers. The training emphasized playful learning, inclusive teaching practices, and care methodologies. It also aligned these approaches with Rwanda's ECD curriculum, ensuring a more cohesive and effective teaching strategy.

589 ECD teachers trained

The 2024 training was noteworthy for its collaboration between ECD teachers and the parents of the children they serve. This partnership was enriched by the involvement of parents in ECD activities, including toy-making, creating a holistic approach to early childhood education that benefits both children and families.

Through this initiative, Help a Child Rwanda continues to build sustainable, high-quality ECD practices, supporting the development of both teachers and the children in their care.



The Parenting Challenge in India

From awareness to action: Elevating parenting skills in rural villages

Parents (or caregivers) are the most essential key players in improving the wellbeing of children. However, the ability to offer safety and security to their children can be undermined by stress, poverty, hardship, and lack of knowledge.

In these difficult circumstances, it is helpful for parents to meet other parents. Therefore, Help a Child developed the Parenting Challenge. Here, parents can discuss their struggles whilst also learning about the development of children and their own attitudes and practices as a couple.

Help a Child India addressed the gap in parenting education in rural areas through the implementation of the Parenting Challenge. The contextualization of

the programme took place under the guidance of a local expert in collaboration with working groups comprising parents and children from several rural communities. Additionally, specialized children's modules were developed to strengthen the parent-child relationship, adding a distinctive element to the overall parenting module.

The Parenting Initiative, launched in 2024, has successfully reached 38 villages across six Indian

states. Through the sessions, and additional interactive activities organized by the children's groups, parents gained more understanding of generational differences in childhood experiences and the importance of their role as a parent.

Behavioural change

In addition to the parental training programme, interactive activities have been developed to promote positive parenting principles and mutual respect among children

through 38 children's groups. A significant component of the initiative is the training of Early Childhood Development (ECD) and village volunteers. These volunteers are equipped with parenting education materials to provide localized support, ensuring the programme's sustainability beyond the formal training sessions. By embedding these resources within the community, the initiative aims to create a scalable model for behavioural change and reinforce positive parenting practices.

Sustainable change

The Parenting Programme has made significant strides in empowering rural families by imparting essential parenting skills and promoting positive childhood development. By reaching hundreds of parents and children and establishing a sustainable support system, this programme sets a precedent for future interventions, building a stronger, more resilient society for generations to come.

Transforming together

Rabindra's journey is one of profound transformation. The parenting programme opened his eyes to the responsibilities of being a parent and the impact of his actions on his family.

"I struggled with alcohol addiction, which led to frequent conflicts at home. My wife left multiple times, and I was terrified of how my son would grow up without his mother's care," Rabindra recalls with a heavy heart.

Everything changed when Rabindra joined the Parenting Programme in his village. The programme opened his eyes to the responsibilities of being a parent and the impact of his actions on his family. Through the support and guidance he received, Rabindra began to turn his life around.

One of the most significant changes came when he and his wife started working together in their new kitchen garden. This simple activity brought them closer, filling their home with warmth and love. "Our home is now a place of peace and joy," Rabindra shares with a smile. "The Parenting Programme didn't just transform me, it transformed our entire family!"



A Comprehensive Statistics of Parenting Programmes done in 2024	No. of Villages	No. of Meetings	No. of Parents		No. of Children	No. of EDCs/Village Volunteers trained
			Fathers	Mothers		
PROJECT NAME						
Rania	9	140	76	304	326	35
Purnea	8	49	48	210	227	32
Nabrangpur	6	37	275	275	280	34
Gajapati	8	49	160	160	280	30
Kolkotta		7			70	8
Rurban	2		0	100		
Cachar	5	16	95	231	250	13
Total	38	298	654	1,280	1,433	152