

We contribute to:

Food Security & Livelihoods, Youth and Work

Within the Food Security & Livelihoods sector, Help a Child's focus in 2024 was on more impact for children through better performance of Income Generating Activities within the Self-Help Group approach. More emphasis was placed on financial literacy in general and group performance when it comes to savings and loans.

Since 2024 was also the final year of our 2021-2024 strategic period, the decision was taken to make Food Security & Livelihoods and its approaches a supportive sector for our two main sector focus areas: Early Childhood Development and Child Protection. Help a Child's Youth & Work expertise area will be phased out at the end of 2025, which will create more focus on the young child. Agriculture and Climate adaptation teamed up more than ever before in 2024.

With the use of the PIP approach, which in itself promotes sustainable land and water management, many farm households and communities worked to create a sustainable environment for their children, their families, and their entire community. More cooperation and advocacy has been organized to work closely with agriculture-related ministries and extension workers in order to strive jointly for a better community environment.

2 ZERO HUNGER



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Key statistics:



510

youth and farmer groups supported

6,032

number of youth supported in youth groups

44% male | 56% female



9,941

people received agricultural inputs



KENYA IMPACT STORY:

Improved wellbeing thanks to the Self-Help Group

In Kenya, Help a Child works with Self-Help Groups (SHGs). These groups exist to support each other. Together, they are able to save money and issue loans to group members. In this way, opportunities arise for themselves and their families to start a (small) business, pay medical bills, or pay for education.

In 2024, the team of Help a Child Kenya supported the on-site strengthening of the Self-Help Groups to ensure their smooth functioning and addressed their challenges in running the groups.

72 SHGs were sensitized on financial literacy, goal setting, and income generating activities. This led to an improvement in SHG capital from KES 6,237,829 (€ 41,586) in 2023 to KES 9,732,957 (€ 64,887) in October

2024. The group members' involvement in savings and loan uptake and the initiation of individual Income Generating Activities (IGAs) has improved the care of children and the provision of their children's needs.

The programme also facilitated refresher training for 158 SHG leaders on record keeping, conflict management, and goal setting. This has helped enhance their record-keeping skills and the development of smart goals amongst SHGs.



230 SHG's supported





MALAWI IMPACT STORY: Scaling up PIP

The programmes in Malawi made huge wins in scaling up PIP in 2024. The PIP approach contributes to the improvement of children's wellbeing in rural areas where agriculture remains the most important form of livelihood. The benefits of PIP translate not only into improved basic nutritional needs but also into improved steady income, environmental stewardship, and sustainable change.

In CCCD Mwalweni, 12 village vision plans were drawn up, with increased acreage of farmland under sustainable land management. In CCCD Zilakoma,



there is an 88% adoption rate of PIP technologies. A total of 97.6 acres of farmland has been conserved with marker ridges fortified by vetiver, mulching, and organic manure applications. The accumulation of small livestock such as chickens and goats has also been remarkable. The majority (80%) of farmers concentrated on local Mbeya fertilizer, as it enables farmlands to regain fertility and directly addresses the problem of rising fertilizer prices in Malawi.

Help a Child Malawi expanded environmental conservation efforts through the green business initiative to help CCCD communities become more resilient to climate shocks. This initiative focused on promoting energy-saving technologies and encouraging forest conservation practices through climate-resilient livelihoods.

The programme was also implemented to improve livelihood options for youth through agribusiness. With climate-smart programming, CCCD programmes in Malawi accelerated clean cooking through the introduction of energy-saving stoves in all the CCCD catchment areas. A total of 1,095 households use these stoves.



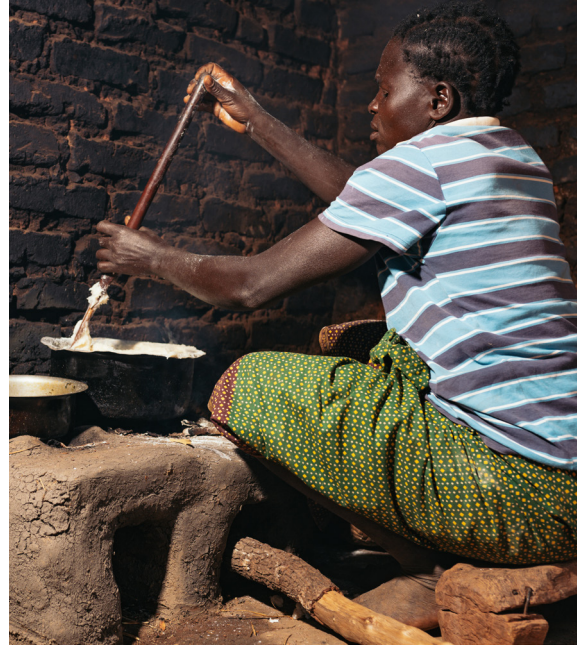
The youth group members take great pride in their energy-efficient, climate-smart stove they built.

Woodlot establishments and forest-based enterprises are examples of interventions that were implemented to ensure that forest resources are sustainably managed to contribute to climate-resilient livelihoods in 2024. In 2024, 850 young people received guidance on woodlot establishment and management and a total of 193,000 trees were planted through this initiative.

55 PIP groups supported

801 PIP farmers trained

265 men | 536 women



INDIA IMPACT STORY:

From farmer group to own fish farm

Mr Mandal Hembram, a farmer from the village of Bandoga in India, is a dedicated member of a farmer group formed with the support of Help a Child. Through collaboration with the District Fishery Department, Mandal participated in specialized training in fish farming, equipping him with the skills and knowledge needed to begin fish cultivation.

Motivated by the training, Mandal applied for a government loan scheme initiative supporting fish farmers. His application was approved in November 2024. The scheme requires a one-acre pond for fish farming, with total expenses amounting to

INR 8,16,000 (€ 9,379), including pond deepening, safety net installation, and the purchase of fish seeds and feed. In this scheme, a 70% subsidy was received, amounting to INR 5,71,200 (€ 6,565).

With one quintal of fish seed, Mandal Hembram launched his fish cultivation journey. So far, he has sold over 100 quintals of fish at INR 20,000 per quintal, generating substantial income (€ 20,000).

This new source of revenue is improving Mandal's financial position, and he is investing for his family's wellbeing. The additional income has enhanced

his children's education and supported their overall development.

Mandal Hembram's journey exemplifies the transformative impact of skill-building initiatives for community people and government support schemes.





PIP helps farming families

Over the last strategic period of Help a Child, the PIP approach was fully rolled out as the main agricultural and income-securing approach in the development setting for rural farmer households to improve their food security and income. The PIP approach stands for Participatory Integrated Plan and has been developed and tested by Wageningen University & Research (WUR) in the Netherlands. All family members are included in this bottom-up approach that engages people in environmental stewardship and sustainable change.



In Africa and India, PIP has motivated thousands of farmers to tackle land degradation and invest in their land. Based on their households' 'Participatory Integrated Plan', these farmer families become actors of change, determined to make their vision a reality: a more resilient farm as the foundation for a more sustainable future.

New mindset

The PIP plan is a blueprint or vision for a better future, which, together with an action plan, motivates families to act and transform their lives. Creating a PIP plan changes mindsets: from short- to long-term visions, from passive to engaged, from seeing problems to seeing opportunities. Farmer families learn sustainable land conservation techniques and climate-smart farming techniques. Figures and testimonies showed that farm families were now able to produce healthier food for their children and, with the revenues from sales,

better ensure the wellbeing of their children, as they were able to afford things like school fees and better housing and clothing.

Commonly shared family vision plan

An unexpected result reflected in the feedback from PIP farmer families is that collaboration and equal decision-making at the household level is improving, since parents are communicating better as a couple and with their children, as a result of having a common family vision and action plan.

Observations from project visits in Burundi revealed a significant difference between PIP and non-PIP farms, sparking curiosity among neighbouring farmers. As a result, many are now eager to join the second generation of PIP farmers.

In Malawi, more than 100 hectares of land is under sustainable land management practices in our catchment areas.

PIP farmers reached in 2024

Burundi:	113 PIP farmers
DRC:	20 PIP farmers
Kenya:	641 PIP farmers
Uganda:	748 PIP farmers
Rwanda:	1,640 PIP farmers
Malawi:	801 PIP farmers
India:	1,091 PIP farmers
Total:	5,054 PIP farmers

