

Impact **report**

2024

**More
impact
for more
children**

Help  a
CHILD





A bright horizon for the children of Murwi

A narrow, slippery road leads to houses scattered over hills. They are made of orange bricks and surrounded by tall banana trees. This is Murwi, an area in Northern Burundi where Help a Child started a CCCD-project in 2024. Together with the community, we want to provide a hopeful future for children. From the start, parents enthusiastically set to work, and after one year, we are already seeing results: Self-Help groups are saving together and investing in agriculture, food and education. We built an Early Childhood Development centre, and most importantly, children are laughing again!

Read more about Burundi on page 44.

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More impact for more children

That was the main goal of our 2021-2024 strategic plan. In this Impact Report, we want to reflect not only on our impact in 2024, but also on our achievements for the whole strategic plan period.

Our work is very often two steps forward, one step back. Developments are rapid and situations change, and very often previously made plans have to be adapted. In addition, there is always more to do, more needs to be addressed. This can quickly lead to a sense of inadequacy for an organization like Help a Child. Looking back over a longer period than one year helps to see the changes that have been made.

We hope that when you read this report you will agree that progress has indeed been made, if we look at the three main goals we set ourselves:

- **More quality and impact:** We are CHS-certified, the highest quality level attainable, and we are well underway in addressing the impact-eroding effects of climate change. Most importantly, we reached more than three times as many children in 2024 at the end of this strategic period compared to 2020, just before this strategic period.
- **Strategic innovation and scaling:** We moved from ad hoc innovation to strategic innovation, and we were able to successfully scale both internally and externally by making focused choices.
- **Strong positioning and collaboration for more resources:** We have been successful in increasing and diversifying our funding, we have made bold choices in introducing an alternative to our sponsorship model, and we have taken steps to join forces with strategic partners.

On the next pages, you will learn more about our achievements over the past strategic period.

Looking back, we are grateful to see that we could indeed make a difference. At the same time, we remain determined to help more children in need despite the challenges we face daily. And we are grateful that we do not have to do it alone. We are thankful that our Lord is in charge of this world. We are grateful for the many blessings we received in the past four years. We trust that He will continue to bless our efforts.

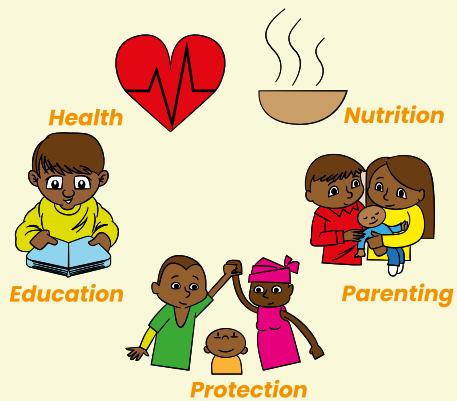
Andries Schuttinga
CEO



**We are Help a Child, a christian constituency
based organisation for children in need**



**Engage
constituency**



**Holistic
care**



**Empower
people**



**Promising
future**

**Sustainable
impact**



Our motivation



**Help a
CHILD**

This is Help a Child

Our vision

As a Christian non-profit organization Help a Child wants every child – regardless of their social, political, religious, ethnic, or economic background – to have a life in dignity, with love and with a promising future.

Our mission

Help a Child provides a future for children in need, their family, and their entire community.

Our guiding principles

Sustainable impact

Help a Child creates sustainable impact for children. We want to support children living in poverty and crises to have a better future. We achieve this by empowering our target groups, enabling them to independently enhance their living conditions and increase their resilience and coping mechanisms to deal with the crises they face.

Empower people

As a Christian organization, we believe that every human being and every child is uniquely created in the image of God. All our efforts need to result in people who have the strength and perspective to improve their own situation and the confidence to develop within their own context.

Holistic care

Help a Child understands that poverty and crisis are multidimensional, therefore we believe in holistic approaches. Providing children with a better future is a comprehensive goal, encompassing multiple domains. We support children to be Healthy & Strong, Educated

for Life, Social & Emotionally Developed and living with Hope & Dignity. As an organization, we focus on what we do best and cooperate with other actors to achieve the rest.

Engage our constituency

Our reason to exist is children in need, our right to exist is our constituency. To engage people in the Netherlands in our work is crucial in a world in which we are connected as brothers and sisters. As an organization we feel the obligation, due to our shared values of compassion and love, to create awareness and to function as a bridge between the families in the Netherlands and families in need worldwide.

Our motivation

We believe that the motivation with which we do our work makes a difference. As Help a Child colleagues we are inspired to love, called to justice, moved to mercy, invited to reconciliation, motivated to stewardship and dependent on God. These Christian principles inspire us to give our best in all circumstances.

Looking back over four years of strategy

In this chapter we want to look back in more detail on our achievements during the strategic period that ended in 2024. It was not an easy time to work in with the world in turmoil, first because of the COVID-19 pandemic and later with the Ukraine war breaking out. But Help a Child proved to be a resilient and creative organization.

Even with some temporary setbacks, we can look back on a strategic period in which we were able to make great progress and indeed realize more impact for more children. Let us look again at our main goals for this strategic period.

More quality and impact

CHS certification

In 2022, we set out to perform a CHS self-evaluation, which we followed up with a CHS independent verification audit in 2023. The results of that audit were very positive, so we were able to obtain CHS certification. This is the highest quality level attainable, and it shows that we take the quality of our work very seriously.

Being climate-smart in our programmes

Being climate-smart in our programmes was a focus of attention in this strategic period, but in the first few years our approach was more ad hoc than strategic. Programmes were adapted, more intensely in some countries and with less attention in others. What was lacking was a coordinated effort. In order to remedy

this in 2024, we commissioned a quick scan for all our project locations to sit down with communities and discuss their priority needs. This quick scan will form the basis for a concerted effort to mitigate the effects of climate change from 2025 onwards.

Clear-cut thematic choices

During this strategic period, we made clear-cut thematic choices. We focused specifically on ECD, Parenting, Child Protection, and Integrated farming interventions. This both helped us to focus on the quality of our interventions and raised our profile with potential donors. Through that effort, for example, we are now implementing ECD centres in countries such as DRC and South Sudan.

Integrity

Working with integrity is one of our core values. In this period, we reviewed, adjusted, and intensified our integrity policy. In addition, we invested in knowledge and awareness raising around this subject in all our offices through e-learning modules on integrity but also through integrity dilemma discussions. Introducing community-based complaints and feedback mechanisms in our project locations also enables us to hear from our beneficiaries on this issue.

Strategic innovation and scale-up

From ad hoc to strategic innovation

We have successfully grown from ad hoc innovation to strategic innovation over these four years: we completed an innovation challenge with 96 ideas and six winning projects, had two innovation grants that boosted our work on child participation, digitalized PMEAL, Community Protection, SGBV prevention, and cash transfers in humanitarian projects, which led to innovation becoming more part and parcel of our daily work and operations.

New fundraising models

During this strategic period, we developed a funding model for disaster response countries called Kids@Risk, which we have now introduced in DRC and South Sudan. We also developed an alternative funding basis for our sponsorship model. This took us one and a half years to develop as both a programmatic and funding model. We launched this model, under the name of Turakura, on 1 January 2025 in Rwanda, after successfully persuading 2,000 sponsors to take this exciting new step with us.

Internal and external scaling

The pilots we started on Integrated farming (PIP), ECD centres, My Friend, and the Parenting Challenge all graduated from the pilot phase and were integrated into all our country programmes. My Friend and the Parenting Challenge have been successfully scaled externally in countries such as Egypt, Ukraine, India, Albania, Romania, Moldova, Ethiopia, and Tanzania.

Strong positioning and collaboration

Charity shops

Even though we had to pause our ambitions during COVID times, and were therefore unable to grow to the planned ten shops, we are very grateful to now have seven second-hand shops operating. Not only did the contribution grow from €0 in 2020 to €575,000 in 2024, which is excellent, but we now also have hundreds of volunteers putting their time and love into our charity shops.

Focus and diversified funding

By focusing and packaging our products (ECD, Parenting, PIP, etc.) we have been able to be more successful in fundraising in our core expertise areas (from €250,000 in 2020 to €3.5 million in 2024) and in diversifying our institutional income sources (for example by reducing our dependency on the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 50% in 2020 to 30% in 2024 and by adding other strategic donors).

Our organization

During this strategic period we also needed to work on our organization. These were the main issues we worked on:

ICT cooperation

During this four-year strategic period, we merged our ICT department with the ICT department of Dorcas, a fellow NGO in the Netherlands. As a result of this cooperation, we were able to do much more in ICT than we could have done by ourselves. We implemented Windows365 in all our country offices, we implemented Salesforce, which has given our Fundraising department the means to expand its work, and, overall, we professionalized our ICT capacity. Furthermore, we moved to a new financial system and generally made significant improvements to our financial processes.

Restructuring

After seven years of decentralization, we evaluated our organizational set-up and started a restructuring project focused on devoting more attention to our core processes, a better span of control for our managers by creating an extra MT position, and appointing team leads and creating an overall matrix organization that allows us to bring together expertise from both the global office and the country offices in a more effective way.

HR-related issues

We started a process to professionalize our HR activities. On many fronts, we made improvements both in the global office and in the country offices. The move to a new office combined with a green commuting policy has resulted in a reduction of 56% in car travel, which translates to a CO2 reduction of 7,3% of the total CO2 footprint of 329 ton CO2 footprint of the global office over 2024.

CHAP. 1



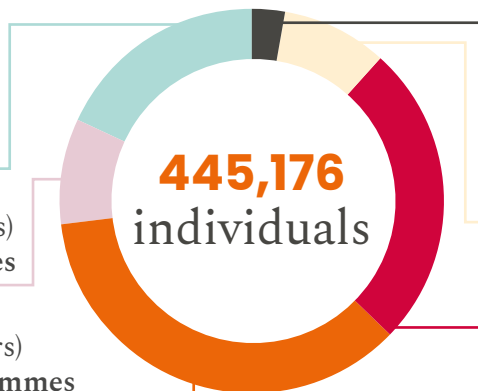
Key statistics 2024

Help a Child supported:

80,054 young children (0-7 years) in development programmes

39,360 children (8-17 years) in development programmes

159,568 children (< 18 years) in disaster response programmes



12,689 youth (18-35 years) in development programmes

39,660 adults (> 35 years) in development programmes

113,845 adults (> 18 years) in disaster response programmes

Help a Child established and/or strengthened:



632
Children Groups



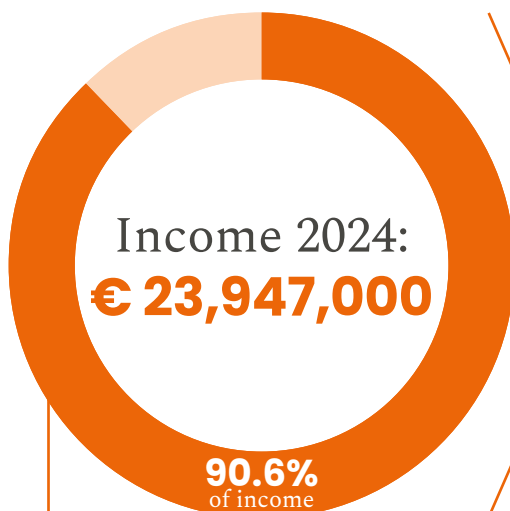
510
Youth and Farmer Groups



1,696
Self-Help Groups



133
Cluster Level Associations



Income from individuals: **€ 6,742,000**

Income from businesses: **€ 733,000**

Income from government subsidies: **€ 13,506,000**

Income from related non-profit organizations: **€ 576,000**

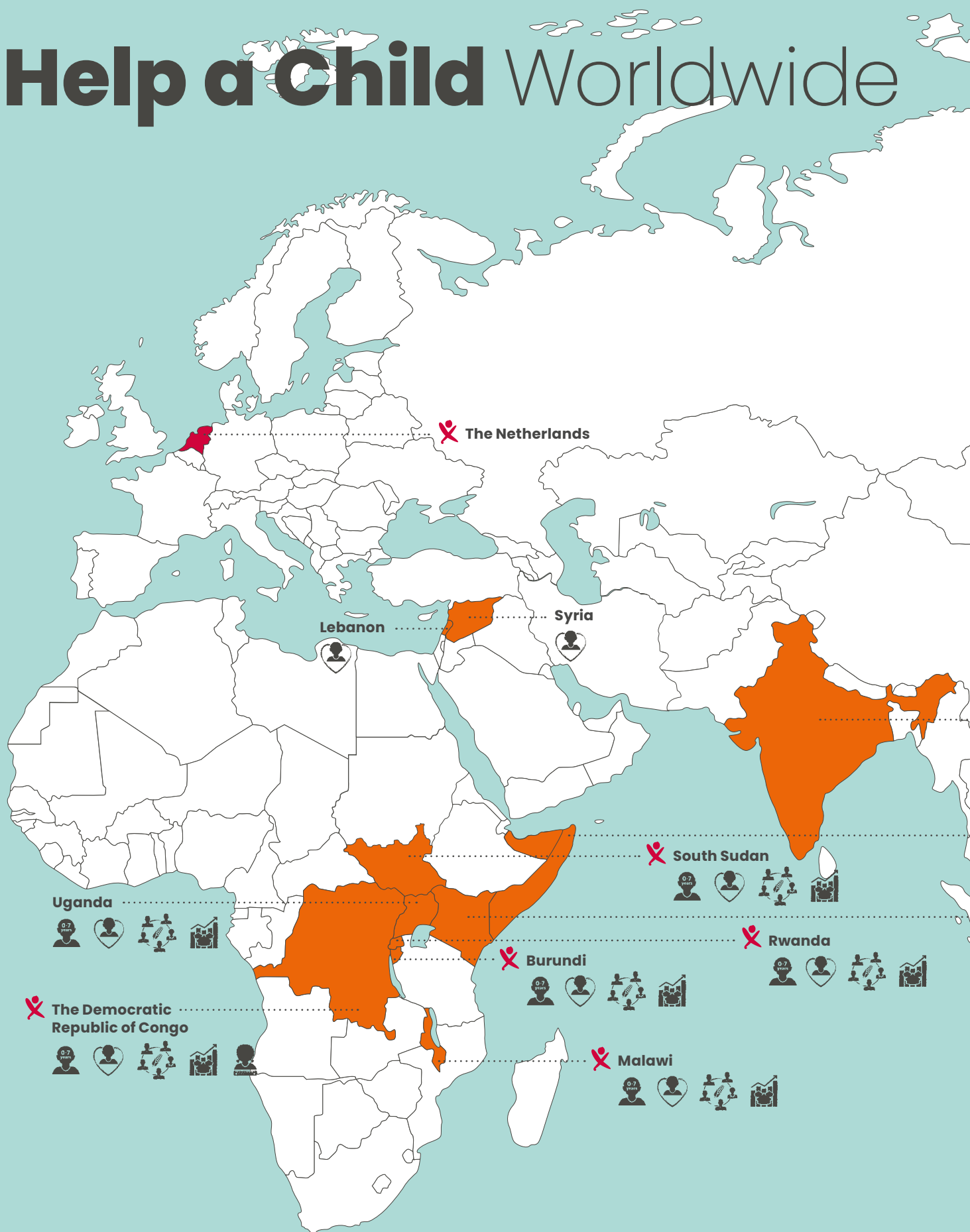
Income from other non-profit organizations: **€ 2,100,000**

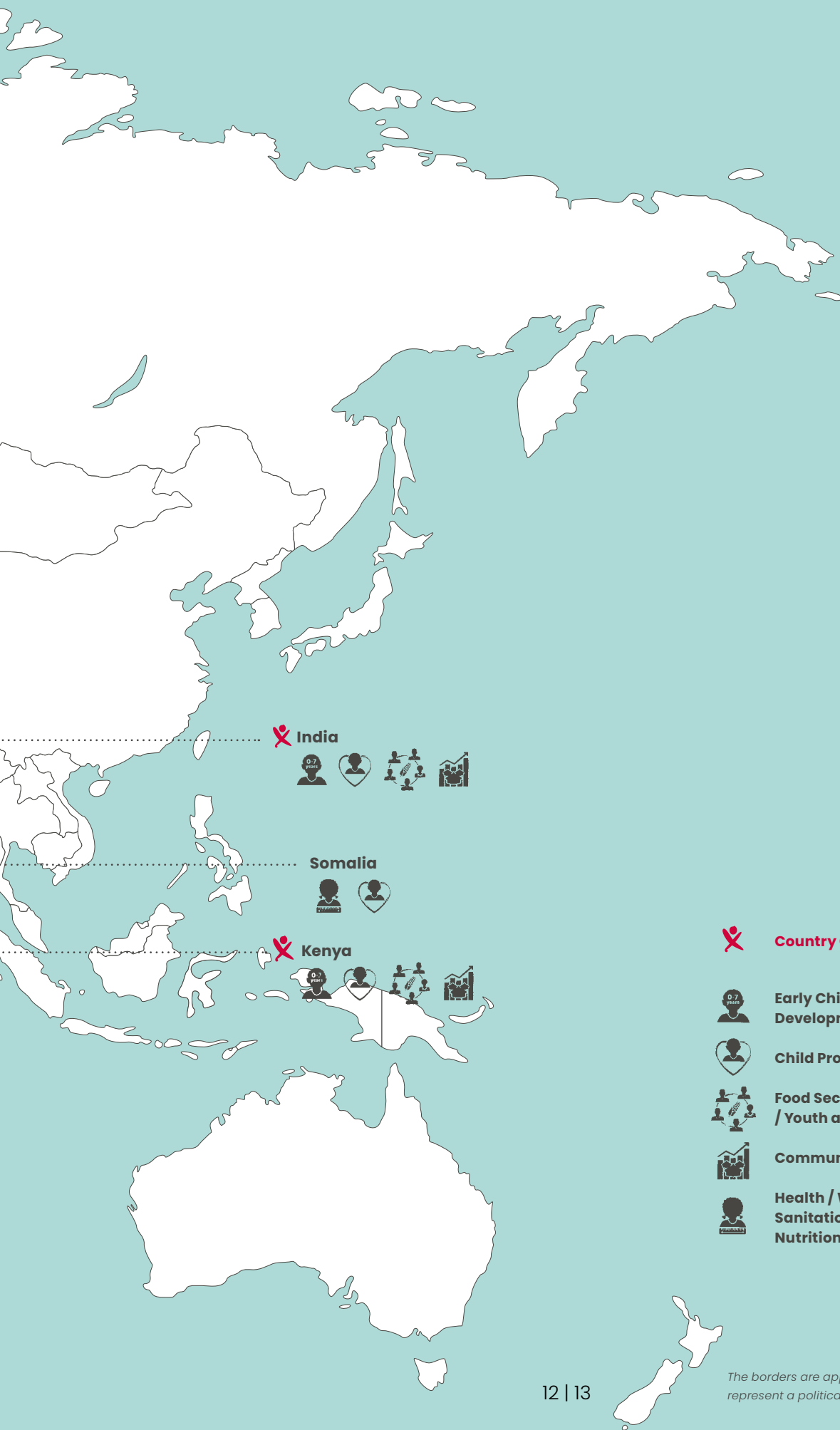
Other income: **€ 290,000**

Expenditure on objectives: **€ 21,693,000**



Help a Child Worldwide





India



Somalia



Kenya



Country Office



Early Childhood Development



Child Protection



Food Security and Livelihood / Youth and Work



Community Empowerment



Health / WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) / Nutrition

Help a Child Burundi



Help a Child Burundi is an expert in Early Childhood Development (ECD), working closely with the government and facilitating collaboration among all actors.

RUNNING PROGRAMMES:

- **Child Centered Community Development (CCCD) Programme** in Murwi, 2023–2030, € 1.47 million
- **Child Centered Community Development (CCCD) Programme** in Butaganzwa, 2023–2030, € 1.52 million
- **Child Centered Community Development (CCCD) Programme** in Kibago, 2023–2030, € 1.83 million
- **Hembura I–IV**, 2021–2024, € 64,000
- **Tubashigikire Programme**, FSL for IDP and Refugees camps (Kinama, Musasa and Kavumu Refugee Camps), 2024– 2025, € 392,000
- **Muhuta, Flood response with Cash and Non-Food Items support (Intango Nshasha)**, FSL and Protection, 2024, € 278,000
- **Muhuta, Flood response with Cash**, FSL and Protection, 2024, € 41,000
- **Merankabandi Programme, refugee resilience support**, 2024–2025, € 164,000
- **Rêves des enfants**, ECD, 2024–2026, € 679,000

➤ **For information about our projects in Burundi, please refer to page 42.**



FOCUS:



Early Childhood Development (ECD)



Child Protection

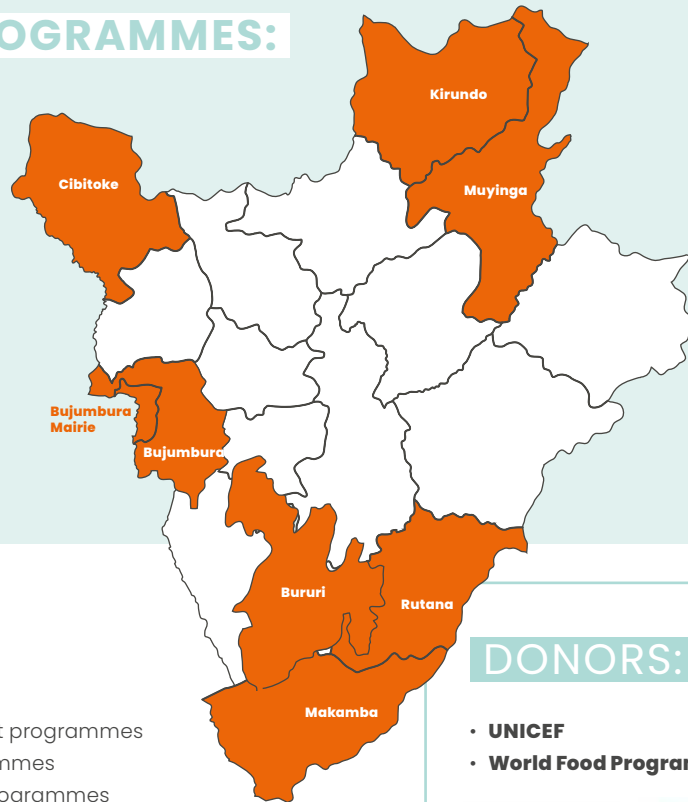


Food Security and Livelihood / Youth and Work



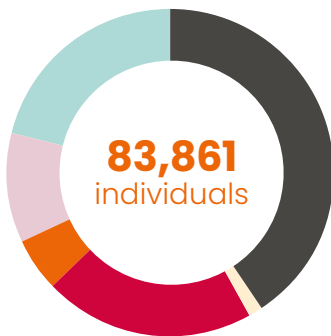
Community Empowerment

PROGRAMMES:



Supported in 2024:

- **34,068 young children** (0-7 years) in development programmes
- **1,140 children** (8-17 years) in development programmes
- **17,458 children** (< 18 years) in disaster response programmes
- **4,572 youth** (18-35 years) in development programmes
- **9,100 adults** (> 35 years) in development programmes
- **17,523 adults** (> 18 years) in disaster response programmes



32
Parenting Groups

263
Self-Help Groups

3 ECD centres supported

26 children with disability reached

90 children enrolled/ supported in ECD centres

DONORS:

- **UNICEF**
- **World Food Programme (WFP)**



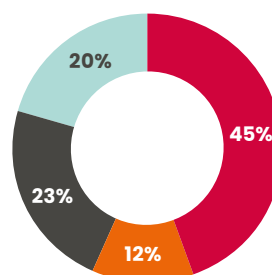
IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

- **FEACABU** (Fraternité Évangélique du Christ en Afrique au Burundi)
- **Help Channel Burundi**
- **RCBIF** (Réseau des Confessions Religieuses pour la Promotion de la Santé et le Bien Être Intégral de la Famille)
- **SAD** (Social Action for Development)



Expenditure per expertise area in 2024:

- Child Development & Protection
- Youth & Work
- Community Resilience
- Food Security and Livelihoods
- Health, Wash & Nutrition



Help a Child DRC



Help a Child DRC has a strong position in Child Protection and Early Childhood Development (ECD). Our ambition is to become a lead in Child Protection, ECD and SGBV for North and South Kivu.

RUNNING PROGRAMMES:

- **Joint Response**, WASH, FSL and Protection, 2024-2026, € 3.52 million
- **Kids@Risk**, Protection, 2024-2026, € 512,000
- **Tunafasi**, Disability Prevention and Community Based Rehabilitation Interventions, 2022-2024. € 104,000
- **Emergency Response Eastern DRC**, E2P and Child protection, 2023-2024, €978,000
- **Emergency Response Eastern DRC**, E2P and Child protection, 2024-2025, € 1,24 million
- **Integrated Emergency Response**, E2P and Child protection, 2024, € 1.13 million
- **Facilitation of inclusive education**, 2023-2025, € 875,000

We make impact with:

- Child Protection and Child Friendly Spaces
- Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV)
- ECD in emergencies
- Food Security & Livelihoods as a fundamental element for ECD

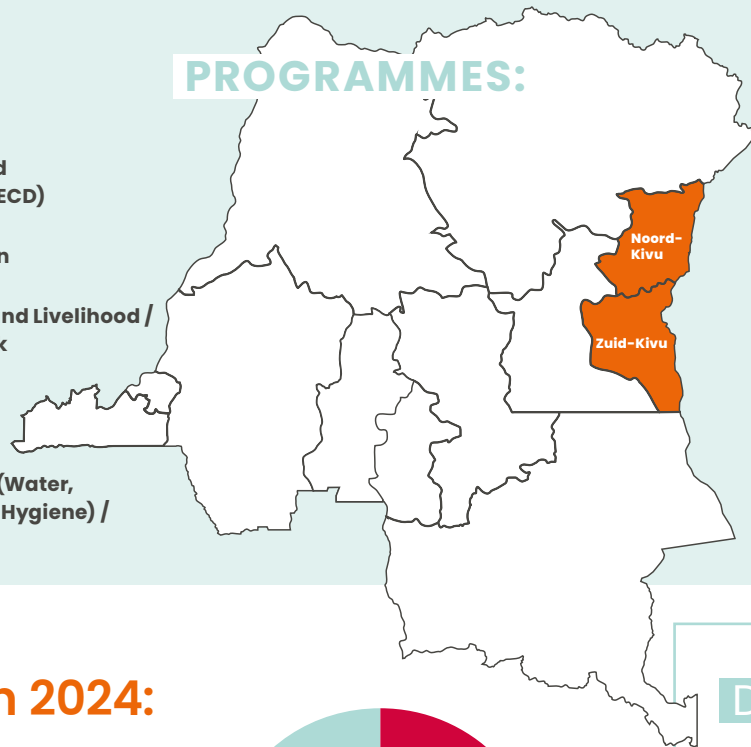
➤ **For information about our projects in DRC, please refer to pages 43, 44, 45 and 60.**





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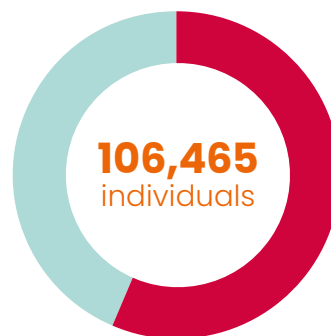
-  **Early Childhood Development (ECD)**
-  **Child Protection**
-  **Food Security and Livelihood / Youth and Work**
-  **Community Empowerment**
-  **Health / WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) / Nutrition**

PROGRAMMES:



Supported in 2024:

-  **60,093 children** (< 18 years)
in disaster response programmes
-  **46,372 adults** (> 18 years)
in disaster response programmes



4,024 children
that received support
specific to their needs

524 children with
disability reached





5,891 people reached with
FSL interventions

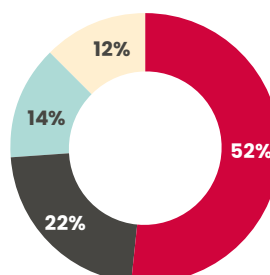
13,386
people reached
with Education
interventions

72,428
people reached
with Protection
interventions

31,781
people reached
with WASH
interventions

Expenditure per expertise area in 2024:

-  Child Development & Protection
-  Youth & Work
-  Community Resilience
-  Food Security and Livelihoods
-  Health, Wash & Nutrition



DONORS:

- Dutch ministry of Foreign Affairs – Dutch Relief Alliance
- ECHO
- USAID-BHA with Medair
- UNICEF
- Impaction

 DUTCH RELIEF ALLIANCE



 MEDAIR

 USAID

 UNICEF

 IMPACTION

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

- **ADED** (Appui au Développement de l'Enfant en Détresse)
- **Help Channel Congo**
- **FECONDE** (Femme Congolaise pour le Développement)



Help a Child India



Founded in India, Help a Child brings over 55 years of expertise in empowering vulnerable children and families across the country. Help a Child India has a strong position in Child Centered Development Programmes (CCCD) and community mobilization and empowerment.

RUNNING PROGRAMMES:

- **Child Centered Development Programme** in Nabrangpur, Odisha, 2017-2027, € 668,000
- **Child Centered Development Programme** in Gajapathi, Odisha, 2019-2027, € 1.08 million
- **Child Centered Development Programme** in Purnea, Bihar, 2019-2027, € 1.09 million
- **Child Centered Development Programme** in Rania, Jarkhand, 2020-2028, € 1.08 million
- **Child Centered Development Programme** in Assam, Cachar, 2021-2028, € 1.13 million
- **Rurban Child Development Project** in Kulberia, Kolkata, 2024-2029, € 300,000



For information about our projects in India, please refer to pages 38, 39, 44, 45 and 55.



FOCUS:



Early Childhood Development (ECD)



Child Protection



Food Security and Livelihood / Youth and Work



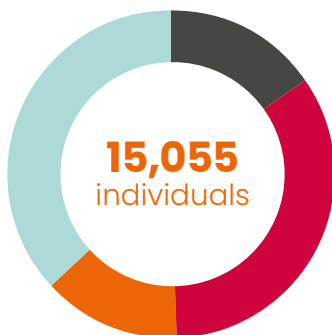
Community Empowerment

PROGRAMMES:



Supported in 2024:

- **2,328 young children** (0-7 years) in development programmes
- **5,127 children** (8-17 years) in development programmes
- **2,042 youth** (18-35 years) in development programmes
- **5,558 adults** (>35 years) in development programmes



51 **Parenting Groups**

70 **Self-Help Groups**

51 **PIP Groups**

61 children
with disability reached



43 **ECD centres supported**

1,350 children enrolled/
supported in ECD centres

DONORS:

- **Enza zaden**

ENZA ZADEN



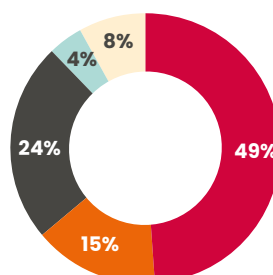
IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

- **Gramodaya**
- **Help a Child and Woman of India**
- **RPC NEI** (Reformed Presbyterian Church North East India)



Expenditure per expertise area in 2024:

- Child Development & Protection
- Youth & Work
- Community Resilience
- Food Security and Livelihoods
- Health, Wash & Nutrition



Help a Child Kenya



In Kenya, Help a Child Africa has a strong position in partnering with vulnerable communities to build their social and economic resilience with the ultimate objective of improving the well-being of children and their families.

RUNNING PROGRAMMES:

- **Child Centered Community Development (CCCD) Programme** in Busia, 2021–2028, € 3.3 million
- **Child Centered Community Development (CCCD) Programme** in Kitui, 2020–2028, € 1.71 million
- **Child Centered Community Development (CCCD) Programme** in Bomet, 2020–2028, € 1.93 million
- **Water project** in Kitui, 2024–2027, € 446,000
- **Kenya Disability Inclusive Program**, 2022–2024, € 153,000
- **Innovation project Child-led research**, 2023–2024, € 26,000
- **Innovation project Gamification of Parenting**, 2023–2024, € 26,000

Our strategic areas of focus:

- Early Childhood Development
- Inclusion and Community Empowerment
- Partner capacity building
- Parenting and PIP
- Developing new child participatory tools

➤ For information about our projects in Kenya, please refer to pages 49, 53 and 61.



FOCUS:



Early Childhood Development (ECD)



Child Protection



Food Security and Livelihood / Youth and Work



Community Empowerment

PROGRAMMES:



Supported in 2024:

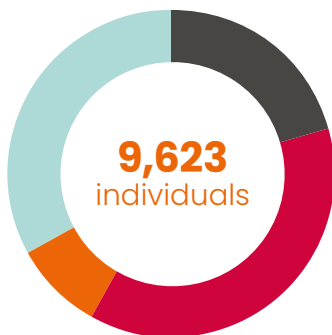
- **2,000 young children** (0-7 years) in development programmes
- **3,610 children** (8-17 years) in development programmes
- **833 youth** (18-35 years) in development programmes
- **3,180 adults** (>35 years) in development programmes

DONORS:

- **Growth Partners**
- **KYOS**
- **Stichting Universitas**

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

- **ADS South Rift** (Anglican Development Services South Rift)
- **AICCAD** (Africa Inland Church Child and Community Development)
- **NCCK** (National Council of Churches of Kenya)
- **Light for the World**



43 **Parenting Groups**

230 **Self-Help Groups**

27 **PIP Groups**

134 children
with disability reached

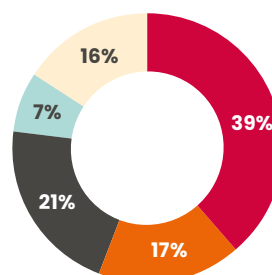


33 **ECD centres supported**

1,902 **children enrolled/ supported in ECD centres**

Expenditure per expertise area in 2024:

- **Child Development & Protection**
- **Youth & Work**
- **Community Resilience**
- **Food Security and Livelihoods**
- **Health, Wash & Nutrition**



Help a Child Malawi



Active in Malawi since 2010, Help a Child Malawi partners with communities to deliver impactful programmes focused on Early Childhood Development, education, child rights, youth empowerment, and economic growth, working to strengthen families and create a sustainable future for children.

RUNNING PROGRAMMES:

- **Child Centered Community Development (CCCD) Programme** in Zilakoma, 2016–2025, € 2.15 million
- **Child Centered Community Development (CCCD) Programme** in Mwansambo, 2023–2030, € 1.68 million
- **Child Centered Community Development (CCCD) Programme** in Mwalweni, 2021–2028, € 1.95 million
- **Revolving Fund**, 2021–2024, € 33,000 (loan)
- **A warm home, a bright future**, ECD, 2024–2025, € 75,800

Our strategic areas of focus:

- Early Childhood Development, including Parenting
- Incorporating Food Security & Livelihoods and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Developing sustainable and green ECD centers
- Climate Resilience and ecosystem restoration

➤ **For information about our projects in Malawi, please refer to pages 47 and 54.**



FOCUS:



Early Childhood Development (ECD)



Child Protection

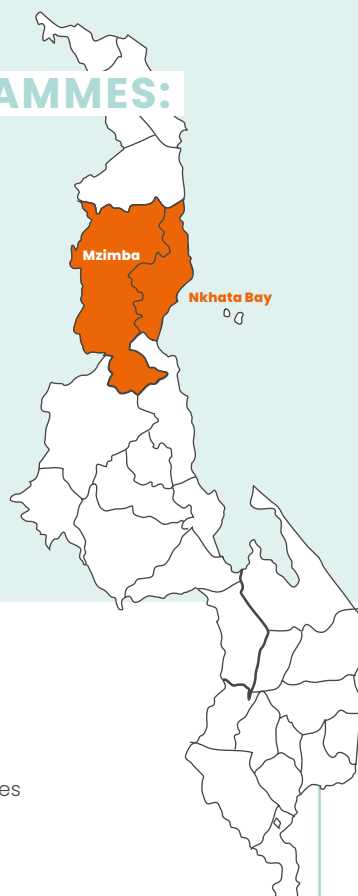


Food Security and Livelihood / Youth and Work



Community Empowerment

PROGRAMMES:



Supported in 2024:

- **3,479 young children** (0-7 years) in development programmes
- **4,243 children** (8-17 years) in development programmes
- **1,641 youth** (18-35 years) in development programmes
- **2,268 adults** (> 35 years) in development programmes



108
Parenting Groups

182
Self-Help Groups

55 ^{PIP}
Groups

108 children
with disability reached



60 **ECD centres supported**

3,099 **children enrolled/ supported in ECD centres**

DONORS:

- **EU**
- **EO Metterdaad**
- **Cascade foundation**



IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

- **LISAP** (Livingstonia Synod Aids Programme; Church of Central Africa Presbyterian)
- **WACRAD** (Word Alive Commission for Relief and Development)

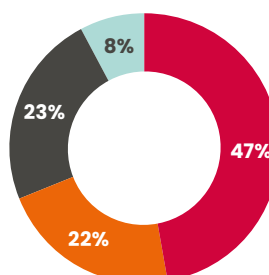


REVOLVING FUND PARTNER:

- **Solinica**

Expenditure per expertise area in 2024:

- **Child Development & Protection**
- **Youth & Work**
- **Community Resilience**
- **Food Security and Livelihoods**
- **Health, Wash & Nutrition**



Help a Child Rwanda



Help a Child Rwanda has a leading position in delivering quality Early Childhood Development care and pre-primary education for young children aged 0–7 years. We are skilled in improving access to integrated, high-quality ECD services for both young children and their families. We excel in ECD, parenting education for parents and prospective parents, the Self-Help Group (SHG) approach, and the PIPPA. We offer a holistic program that targets children, their families, and the wider community. Our community-based approach focuses on young children, youth, and prospective parents to create lasting impact in vulnerable communities.

RUNNING PROGRAMMES:

- **Child Centered Community Development (CCCD) Programme** in Bugesera, 2016–2024, € 2.3 million
- **Child Centered Community Development (CCCD) Programme** in Rusizi, 2016–2024, € 2.21 million
- **Child Centered Community Development (CCCD) Programme** in Rwamagana, 2016–2024, € 2.31 million
- **ECD research**, 2022–2024, € 18,000
- **Workforce readiness**, 2022–2024, € 94,000
- **Revolving fund**, 2021–2024, € 42,000 (loan)
- **Turakura Kids Rwanda**, ECD, 2024–2028, € 6.6 million
- **Small steps, big dreams**, ECD, 2024–2026, € 798,000
- **Play based learning**, ECD, 2024–2025, € 73,000

> For information about our projects in Rwanda, please refer to page 37.



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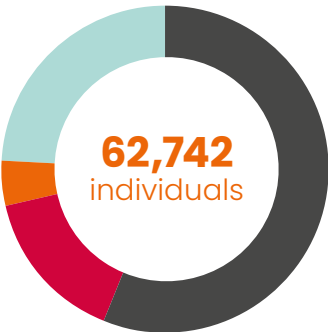
-  Early Childhood Development (ECD)
-  Child Protection
-  Food Security and Livelihood / Youth and Work
-  Community Empowerment

PROGRAMMES:



Supported in 2024:

- 35,300 young children (0-7 years) in development programmes
- 9,509 children (8-17 years) in development programmes
- 2,892 youth (18-35 years) in development programmes
- 15,041 adults (> 35 years) in development programmes



DONORS:

- UNICEF
- Stichting Pharus
- Stichting Rehoboth
- Ready 4 Schools Rwanda



IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

- AEE (African Evangelistic Enterprise)
- EPR (Église Presbytérienne au Rwanda)

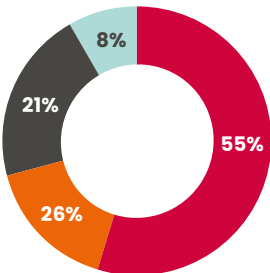


REVOLVING FUND PARTNER:

- Sangwa Sacco

Expenditure per expertise area in 2024:

- Child Development & Protection
- Youth & Work
- Community Resilience
- Food Security and Livelihoods
- Health, Wash & Nutrition



Help a Child South Sudan



Help a Child South Sudan is a key organization advancing Early Childhood Development (ECD) in the country. We establish ECD centres that integrate education, child protection, and food security. As part of the Dutch Relief Alliance Joint Response, we focus on a holistic approach that strengthens food security, livelihoods, and child protection for vulnerable communities.

RUNNING PROGRAMMES:

- **Joint Response**, FSL, Education, Protection, 2024–2026, € 2.92 million
- **Joint Response Lead**, 2024–2026, € 19.84 million
- **Temporary Learning Spaces**, 2023–2024, € 216,000
- **Education**, 2024–2025, € 696,000
- **Kids@Risk**, 204–2026, € 349,000
- **A good start, a loving family**, 2024–2025, € 460,000
- **Acute Crisis – Floods Upper Nile**, 2024–2025, € 800,000

➤ **For information about our projects in South Sudan, please refer to pages 35 and 48.**



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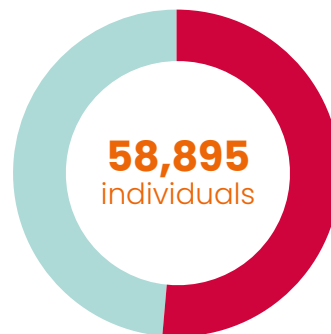


PROGRAMMES:



Supported in 2024:

- 30,321 children** (< 18 years) in disaster response programmes
- 28,574 adults** (> 18 years) in disaster response programmes



372 children
that received support
specific to their needs

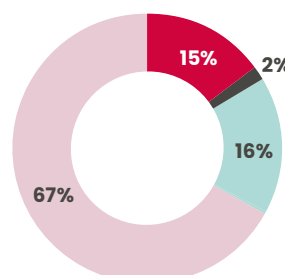
11,280 people reached with
FSL interventions

10,581
people reached
with Education
interventions

29,957 people reached with
Protection interventions

Expenditure per expertise area in 2024:

- Child Development & Protection
- Youth & Work
- Community Resilience
- Food Security and Livelihoods
- Health, Wash & Nutrition
- Contribution to consortium members



DONORS:

- Dutch ministry of Foreign Affairs – Dutch Relief Alliance
- Stichting Pharus
- UNICEF

DUTCH RELIEF ALLIANCE



IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

- Across



CONSORTIUM PARTNERS:

- CARE
- Dorcac Aid International
- Plan International
- Save the Children
- Tearfund
- War Child



Help a Child Uganda



Help a Child Uganda has a strong position in CCCD programmes with a focus on Early Childhood Development and Child Protection in Northern Uganda and Western Uganda. For the coming years, our focus will be on combining humanitarian interventions with sustainable development programmes.

RUNNING PROGRAMMES:

- **Child Centered Community Development (CCCD) Programme** in Karamoja – Abim, 2017–2025, € 2.89 million
 - **Child Centered Community Development (CCCD) Programme** in Arua – Arivu, 2017–2025, € 2.72 million
 - **Child Centered Community Development (CCCD) Programme** in Terego – Bileafe, 2021–2028, € 2.25 million
 - **Innovation project Mobile Village Bank**, 2023–2024, € 27,000
 - **Revolving fund**, 2021–2024, € 70,000 (loan).
- **For information about our projects in Uganda, please refer to pages 36 and 41.**



FOCUS:



Early Childhood Development (ECD)



Child Protection

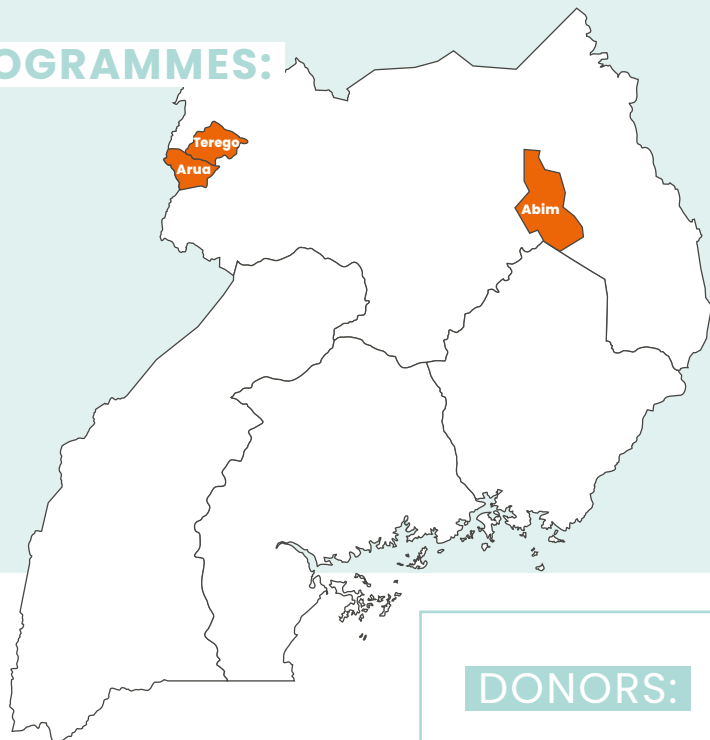


Food Security and Livelihood / Youth and Work



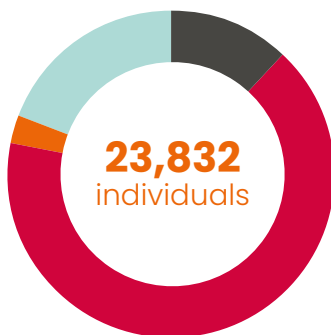
Community Empowerment

PROGRAMMES:



Supported in 2024:

- **2,879 young children** (0-7 years) in development programmes
- **15,731 children** (8-17 years) in development programmes
- **709 youth** (18-35 years) in development programmes
- **4,513 adults** (>35 years) in development programmes



24 **Parenting Groups**

119 **Self-Help Groups**

56 ^{PIP} **Groups**

35 **children**
with disability reached



25 **ECD centres**
supported

2,877 **children enrolled/**
supported in ECD centres

DONORS:

- **Kruitbosch Zwolle BV**
- **Rijk Zwaan**
- **Stichting Wees een Kans**

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

- **AEE** (African Evangelistic Enterprise)
- **SAO** (Share an Opportunity)

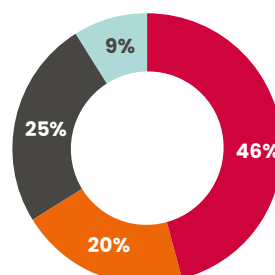


REVOLVING FUND PARTNER:

- **Postbank**

Expenditure per expertise area in 2024:

- **Child Development & Protection**
- **Youth & Work**
- **Community Resilience**
- **Food Security and Livelihoods**
- **Health, Wash & Nutrition**



CHAP. 2



Programmes

Global humanitarian needs remained at record levels in 2024. The reasons also remain the same: conflicts, environmental threats, resource scarcity, and much more. These crises continue to hit the most vulnerable hardest, with communities – and especially children – paying an unacceptable price. Meanwhile, in many Western countries, support for development cooperation and international solidarity is declining. Despite these challenges, we have continued to grow and adapt. In this chapter, we share our results for 2024 and how we navigated another demanding year.

Enhancing quality and impact in 2024

We remain committed to strengthening the quality, effectiveness, and impact of our humanitarian and development programmes. Our focus is on designing, implementing, and scaling interventions that are needs-driven, contextually relevant, and aligned with international humanitarian and development standards. This chapter outlines key initiatives undertaken to achieve these goals, followed by concrete examples of how these efforts are making a difference in the countries where we operate.

Expertise areas and scaling

Under the 2020–2024 strategic framework, Help a Child has

identified three main areas of expertise: Early Childhood Development (ECD), Child Protection, and Youth & Work, all relevant in both disaster response and development settings. Help a Child combines lifesaving humanitarian aid with long-term resilience and sustainability activities.

In these three main areas of expertise, the Help a Child principles of empowerment, holistic impact, and sustainable results are the key drivers. Currently, our strongest evidence-based interventions focus on Parenting, Participatory Integrated Planning for farmer families (PIP), Early Childhood Development through centre-based care (ECD centres), and mental health for young children in humanitarian crises.

We have also been preparing for a new strategic period in which we want to focus even more on

Early Childhood Development and Child Protection. This focus has been chosen to deepen our expertise and impact, increase our relevance, and enable us to have larger-scale programmes. For example, in Rwanda, we redesigned our programme for the coming five years to be even more ECD-focused, combining different funding sources that prioritize ECD to create a multiplier effect and impact more young children and their families.

Disaster Response

In South Sudan, Somalia, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Malawi, Help a Child has been actively responding to acute humanitarian needs while fostering long-term, sustainable change in protracted crises. Alongside lifesaving support, we prioritized equipping children and their families with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to overcome repeated shocks and increase resilience.

With funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA), we have been able to address protracted needs in DRC, Somalia, and South Sudan, but also to address acute short-term needs after the flooding in Somalia at the end of 2023 and floods in South Sudan at the end of 2024. With funding from WFP, ECHO, USAID, and UNICEF, we have been able to address Food Security, Protection, Child Protection, and Emergency Education needs. With private funding from our Dutch constituency, Help a Child continued the Kids@Risk project in DRC and South Sudan.

Humanitarian response is an increasingly significant component of Help a Child's portfolio, with humanitarian projects now comprising approximately 50% of our interventions. Our ambition is to expand our efforts to meet growing global needs while striving to implement sustainable solutions in both acute emergencies and protracted crises.

SSJR lead

In 2024, Help a Child South Sudan became the consortium lead for the South Sudan Joint Response (SSJR) of the Dutch Relief Alliance. Help a Child is leading the joint efforts of seven Dutch INGOs and their local partners to address the lifesaving needs of the most vulnerable families affected by the crisis in South Sudan.

Development

Help a Child is a highly experienced organization in long-term community and child development. Our flagship approach, Child-Centred Community Development (CCCD), is implemented in

India, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda. This holistic model integrates key thematic areas, including Early Childhood Development (ECD), positive parenting, community empowerment through Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and Integrated Farm Planning (PIP). By addressing these interconnected areas, CCCD fosters sustainable improvements in child wellbeing. Help a Child remains committed to continuous research and refinement of this approach to enhance its impact.

While CCCD projects are primarily funded through the Community Ambassador Model (CAM) supported by our Dutch private constituency, Help a Child has made significant progress in diversifying its funding portfolio within programme countries. Notably, in 2024, we experienced growth in institutional funding, particularly from UNICEF. With UNICEF we implemented projects in South Sudan, DRC, Burundi, and Rwanda.

Disaster risk reduction

In more stable settings such as Kenya, Rwanda, and India, the emphasis lies on reducing disaster risks and enhancing community preparedness. By training local groups, mapping hazards, and guiding families on effective disaster response planning, we ensure that potential crises do not undermine the progress communities have worked hard to achieve.

Introduction to this chapter

This chapter provides an overview of our key humanitarian and development outcomes in 2024 across our core areas of intervention. We have identified three main areas of expertise, Early

Childhood Development (ECD), Child Protection and Youth & Work, for which we want to be known. Besides these 3 main areas of expertise, we also contributed to Community Empowerment, Food Security & Livelihoods, Health WASH & Nutrition and Climate resilience.

Through these integrated programmes and in close collaboration with our partners, Help a Child has made significant contributions towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), strengthening the resilience and wellbeing of vulnerable children, families, and communities.





We contribute to:



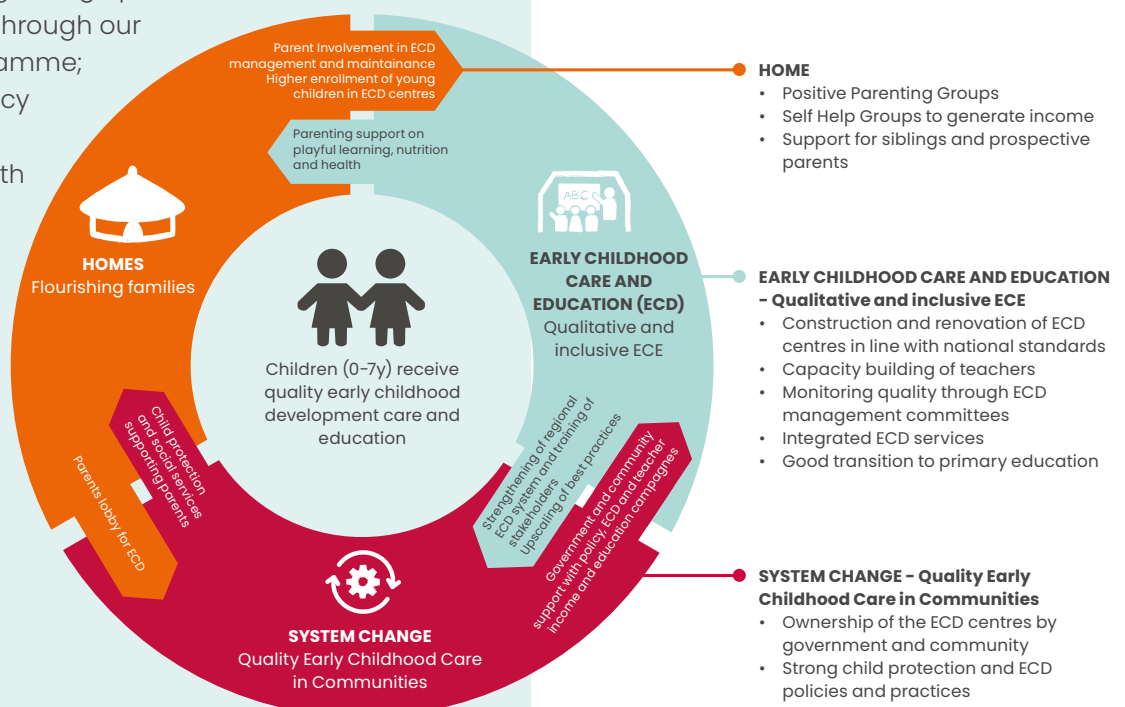
Early Childhood Development

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.

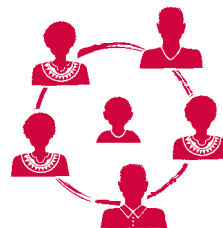
Key statistics:



80,054
young children (0-7 years)
in development
programmes supported



454
ECD centres supported



9,054
parents involved
in parenting and
awareness sessions



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 ECD 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

PROJECT NAME	No. of Villages	No. of Meetings	No. of Parents		No. of Children	No. of EDCs/Village Volunteers trained
			Fathers	Mothers		
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

We contribute to:



Child Protection

Children are the future. That is true. But how do we make sure they have a future? When growing up, children learn more and more, including about what is good and what is bad. But in the meantime they are vulnerable: a lot of things can happen to them and they are too young to fully protect themselves. And if something does happen to them, the impact can be high and their future can be at stake.

Child protection is about prevention and response: how can harm be avoided and what needs to be done by whom in case harm does occur? Protecting children is important in areas of conflict, of course, but also in other areas, where, for instance, poverty is causing a lot of problems. But even in the Netherlands, children need to be protected against harm. That is why, in all the projects of Help a Child and its partners, child protection plays an important role.

There are different ways it needs to be done, different layers, different groups of people responsible for protection:

- **Children** themselves: what can they do to protect themselves?
- **Parents/family**: as primary caretakers they are primarily responsible;
- **Community**: think about the school, the neighbourhood, the church, what can they do?
- **Society & norms**: what kind of policies, procedures, and laws are there? Think about the police, community services, health, but also the legal system.

Help a Child focuses mainly on the first three mentioned. Where possible, we do try to influence national government systems.

Child abuse happens everywhere. The main place for protection is at home, but home may be precisely where the abuse happens, often out of frustration on the part of the parents.



End poverty in all its forms everywhere

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

Key statistics:



632

children groups supported

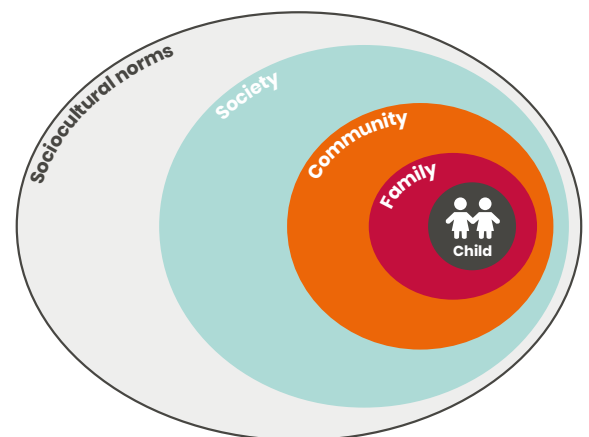
11,064

children supported through child protection activities in disaster response programmes



21,007

people reached through 'End child marriage' campaigns



Four levels of the child protection socio-ecological model, The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, 2019



In Uganda, 85% of children experience violent punishment by parents or caregivers. Beating or caning is what parents do when children do not listen, and this beating can be disproportionate.

AEE Uganda started an intervention, the Parenting Challenge, designed by Help a Child. To include fathers, they started a training course for couples: four half-days for both mothers and fathers and for single parents. The changes in the homes are tremendous: both parents and

children report far less violence in the house (towards children but also between parents themselves), better listening, and more working together. Children are supported to go to school. As parents themselves mentioned, there was no Harmony in the House.

Utrecht University is conducting research on this subject. Four students, under the supervision of Professor Maria de Haan and Assistant Professor Tjitske de Groot, have conducted phase 1 and phase

2 of the research. In 2025, the final phase will take place. The results will be published in 2025.

At the end of 2024, preparations were started to make a documentary about this Parenting Challenge, which will be completed in the first quarter of 2025.



**documentary
Parenting
Challenge**



493

290 women
203 men

**parents trained in the
Parenting Challenge**



**parenting
groups
trained**





BURUNDI IMPACT STORY:

Like father, like family

In Burundi, the Parenting Challenge is also an important intervention for reducing violence and increasing the proper care of children. Here it is combined with PIP, an innovative approach for farmers, where the whole household is involved in improving their farm and thus in improving their own nutrition and income.

One of the fathers in Ruyigi, Burundi, shared that he was always drunk, not able to take care of all the needs of his wife and children and, therefore, dodged going home and went drinking with his friends instead. This resulted in him coming

home late, shouting at his wife and children, and even beating them up. His farm was doing badly, since all the money was spent on alcohol. When he joined the Parenting Challenge group, he realized he had to change. He stopped drinking and stopped beating his wife and children. Instead, he is now supporting them in school. He also followed the PIP training, and together with his wife and children they made a plan for their farm. His farm looks very good, with several crops, fruits and animals. He even managed to buy more land, and his children are attending school. And, most importantly, no more beating and neglect!



780 parents

314 men | 466 women

**trained in the
Parenting Challenge**

113

**PIP farmers
trained / supported**

67 men | 46 women





The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is facing many problems. Because of the mineral-rich soil, there are many countries interested in this part of Africa. And that causes ongoing conflicts, with many armed groups fighting each other, resulting in many problems for the population.



One of those problems is the registration of newborn children. Normally, children are registered when they are born in the hospital or at home. This registration, although a simple act in itself, is vital during the rest of a child's life. It provides an identity, but also a document that is necessary to be able to register for school, obtain identity papers, and register for a job. According to data collected by UNICEF, only 40% of children have their birth registered.

Because of the decades-long conflict, this birth registration is not always possible, for various reasons: people have to flee, papers get lost, or the hospital



lacks the supplies or personnel needed for registration.

The Help a Child team in DRC decided, together with the local authorities, to help children to register, even when they are already somewhat older. This includes an investigation to check facts provided by the children and their caregivers, but after that they get this important document: the birth registration!



310 birth certificates

have been rendered



Safe places for children

Children also have a role to play in their own protection. By knowing where to go and where not to go, they learn about safe and risky places. And by knowing what to do if something happens, they know where to go.

Home and school may be safe places for children, although there too things can happen to them at the hands of adults or peers. In some countries a safe space is created where children can play with others, where interventions such as What's Up Children and My Friend can take place within psychosocial support groups, or where children can talk to trained facilitators.

In Rania, **India**, five Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) have been created.

The community was involved right from the beginning. In fact, it was the community that requested such a place, so that parents, when they are at work, know their children are in a safe place. Buildings were selected and transformed into places where children like to be: with bright colours, play materials, and trained facilitators. Children participate in recreational activities, but also in life skills lessons, and in discussions about their rights and responsibilities. They can share

with each other and if they want to talk about their own issues, there are trained counsellors to listen and guide them. The centre is also used for community activities and sessions for the parents to help them support themselves and their children.

Also in India, we have created child-friendly spaces in all villages, providing a safe environment for children to study, play, and learn. In 2024, we are working on establishing small, environmentally

Children forget their problems through creative and recreational activities at Rusayo Camp, Nyiragongo in Goma DRC.

friendly **gardens**. Additionally, we are introducing value education to address issues of gender and caste discrimination. The children are very happy with our centres and eagerly participate in the activities.

In **DRC**, Child-Friendly Spaces are very important. Because of the ongoing conflicts, children do not feel safe anywhere. In the CFS they can feel safe, play with other children, and, if needed, talk to one of the counsellors. Play in times of conflict is very important. Children can forget about their problems for a while, release tension, and be with their friends. Just be a child again. These moments of normalcy are very valuable.



However, because of the insecurity, people are constantly on the move. The Help a Child team in DRC decided to follow the people. They therefore started with **Mobile Child-Friendly Spaces**. If people have moved and settled for a short time in a place, the team organizes activities in the open fields, slightly outside the new camp. In that way children can still enjoy playing with friends. A new danger, however, is that these activities will attract not only children but also armed groups who want to 'recruit' children as new soldiers. For the team, this means constant checking of what is possible and what is too dangerous.

In **Somalia**, the Child-Friendly Spaces are near the health clinics.

When mothers have to go for medical services, the children can stay in the space next to the hospital, where they are safe and where they can play. There are trained CFS facilitators organizing activities. It is nice for the children to play while waiting for their mothers, and for the mothers it is nice to know their children are safe. However, this set-up made it difficult for the facilitators to organize ongoing group activities and to put agetmates together. They decided to have group activities in the afternoon, after school (when the clinics are no longer that busy). There are also group activities for parents, mainly mothers, where they share and learn about skills they need as a parent.



Thanks to What's Up sessions, Maria is now better equipped to nurture her children's well-being and foster a loving and supportive home environment.

One of the mothers, Maria*, shared her story. Her teenage son skipped school. Normally she would have beaten him, but due to the parent sessions she decided to sit with him and talk, finding out the reason for skipping school. It turned out he had difficulties with science and maths and nobody helped him, so he dodged the lessons. Maria talked with the school about this and organized extra lessons for her son to catch up. He is now a happier boy.

**fictitious name*



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:

1,696

Self-help groups supported

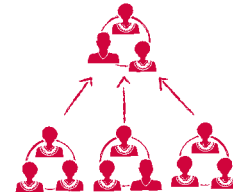


29,602

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

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.



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



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.



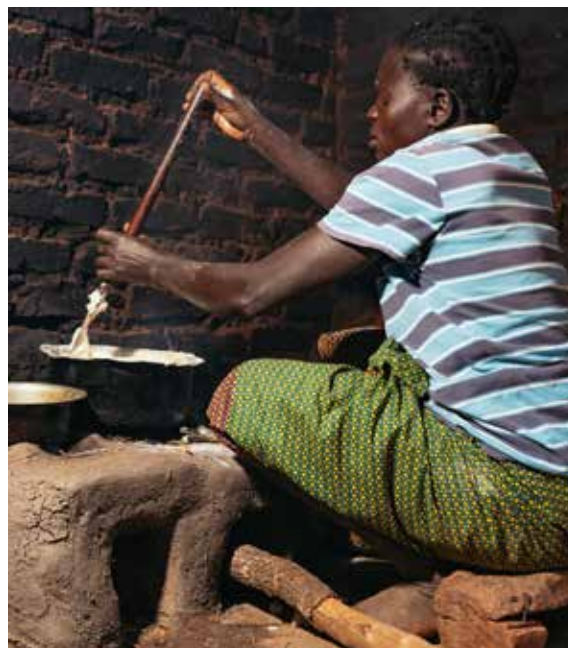
The youth group members take great pride in their energy-efficient, climate-smart stove they built.

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



We contribute to:



Health, WASH and Nutrition

In 2024, Help a Child continued working on the provision of clean water, healthcare, nutrition, and sanitation, as these basic services are critical in crisis situations, as well as preconditions for sustainable development and resilience amongst vulnerable children and their families.

In the protracted crisis in DRC, Help a Child constructed essential WASH facilities such as toilets, showers, and water points in schools. This not only provided a safer learning environment for children but also improved fundamental hygiene practices that protect their health in a context of ongoing instability.

In Somalia, Help a Child collaborated with Medair and three local partners on an integrated Health, WASH, and Nutrition programme. Together, we delivered lifesaving support to malnourished children, launched community health education initiatives, and secured access to clean water to combat waterborne diseases. We also supported the establishment of Child-Friendly Spaces and focused on identifying and treating survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, ensuring that vulnerable children and families receive comprehensive care and protection.

In our Child-Centred Community Development approach, we integrate Health, WASH, and Nutrition in the projects. This includes strengthening local organizations, running awareness campaigns, and advocating for policy changes. Early Childhood Development Centres play a crucial role in this effort, especially in detecting and addressing malnutrition amongst young children.



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



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



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Key statistics:

 **29,734**
people supported through clean water supply

Soap distributed to
27,759 people 

 **82,141**
people have been reached with hygiene promotion messages

13,276
young children received treatment for malnutrition 



SOMALIA IMPACT STORY:

Lifesaving flood response

MEDAIR

each life matters

In 2024, Help a Child and Medair brought lifesaving Health and WASH services to flood-affected communities in Baardheere and Kismayo in Somalia. Over 33,700 people received essential support, including maternal and child healthcare, immunizations, antenatal services, malnutrition referrals, and improved hygiene and shelter assistance.



Health workers trained in integrated childhood illness protocols operated three mobile clinics that reached remote villages cut off by floodwaters. Three flood-damaged health facilities were repaired to bolster local healthcare capacity. A new Postnatal Care ward was constructed in Shaqalaha, and an additional room was added at Abdalla Birole to handle the growing patient load triggered by the influx of IDPs.

To combat cholera, a new treatment unit and three oral rehydration points were established, serving nearly 1,800 patients and keeping fatalities below 0.2%. In parallel, 3,000 hygiene kits were distributed, reaching 20,360 individuals, while 2,000 IDP households received shelter kits, benefiting 13,340

people. Community health workers, supported with training and incentives, played a key role in raising awareness of cholera prevention, safe water use, and sanitation. Gender and protection concerns were integrated, focusing on women-headed households and training staff in basic protection guidelines. The holistic approach of combining mobile outreach, facility rehabilitation, and WASH measures has strengthened resilience in Somalia's hardest-hit regions.

Through this collective effort, Help a Child and Medair ensured that families facing displacement and ongoing floods could access the vital support needed for recovery.





DRC IMPACT STORY:

Access to clean water

Nemba and Sebele are villages in the areas of Baraka/Fizi and South Kivu in DRC, which have difficulty accessing clean water. In response to this problem, the programme put in place wells to provide relief for the inhabitants.

A photovoltaic well system consists of an electric motor pump under a system of solar panels producing energy that turns the motor to bring water up from eight metres underground to the reserve tank, where it is piped to the two standpipes that provide access to clean water in the community.

"This well is of great importance to us. Before, we suffered constantly from stomach aches thinking that we consumed poison, but it was due to the dirty water from the rivers from which we could get water. Now we have access to clean water," testifies Rachid, president of the water committee of Nemba.



The reserve tank with solar panels on top.



7,740 people
were supported, including
4,799 children



Munyonge Rachid, President of the Water Committee of Nemba, demonstrates the newly constructed well. "Before we put this well in place, the people used to get water from this same place; however, it was an open hole and very risky."

Climate Resilience

In 2024, there was notably more emphasis on climate-related interventions in our regular programming. This was mainly boosted by the Climate Quick Scan that was carried out in all our current project locations.

A Rwandan consultant conducted research in cooperation with partners and community structures to produce an inventory of climate change impacts the communities. After the inventory, they made a list of possible climate mitigation measures. Communities worked on community awareness and education. They conducted sensitization meetings. Since climate resilience has close links with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), community members worked on disaster preparedness and focused on early warning systems, emergency response plans, and risk mitigation strategies.

Environmental kids' clubs

Children were also involved in Disaster Risk Reduction by learning how to stay safe during emergencies such as floods and storms. Kids' clubs and young farmers' clubs were involved in climate-smart agriculture practices in the school kitchen gardens. We saw environmental kids' clubs receiving a boost in 2024. A notable addition and a fine example was the avocado project in Bomet County, Kenya.

Expertise sharing

Another positive observation is that greater cooperation was achieved in 2024 in close collaboration with other organizations and local government bodies on climate-related regional topics. Expertise was shared on water harvesting, drought-resistant crops, and common strategies for environmental conservation, as part of joint efforts to advocate for better protection of vulnerable and degraded landscapes. A true win-win situation.

School greening initiatives

Help a Child Rwanda started its own initiative to offset carbon emissions from its own activities, including ECD construction work, vehicle and motorbike emissions in field monitoring, and international travel. To regenerate nature, Help a Child Rwanda initiated tree planting at ECD centres and surrounding communities and schools, with 5,000 trees planted in Rwamagana and Bugesera. These tree-planting efforts are part of the Climate SMART Agriculture and Sustainable School Greening initiatives, which are being integrated into the Rwanda PIP approach.

KENYA

Avocado trees near schools

In the spring of 2024, 500 avocado bushes were planted at seven schools in Bomet, Kenya. These produce more avocados and are of better quality than trees. It is a beautiful project in which schools and the community work together. Children learn how to plant and take care of an avocado tree.

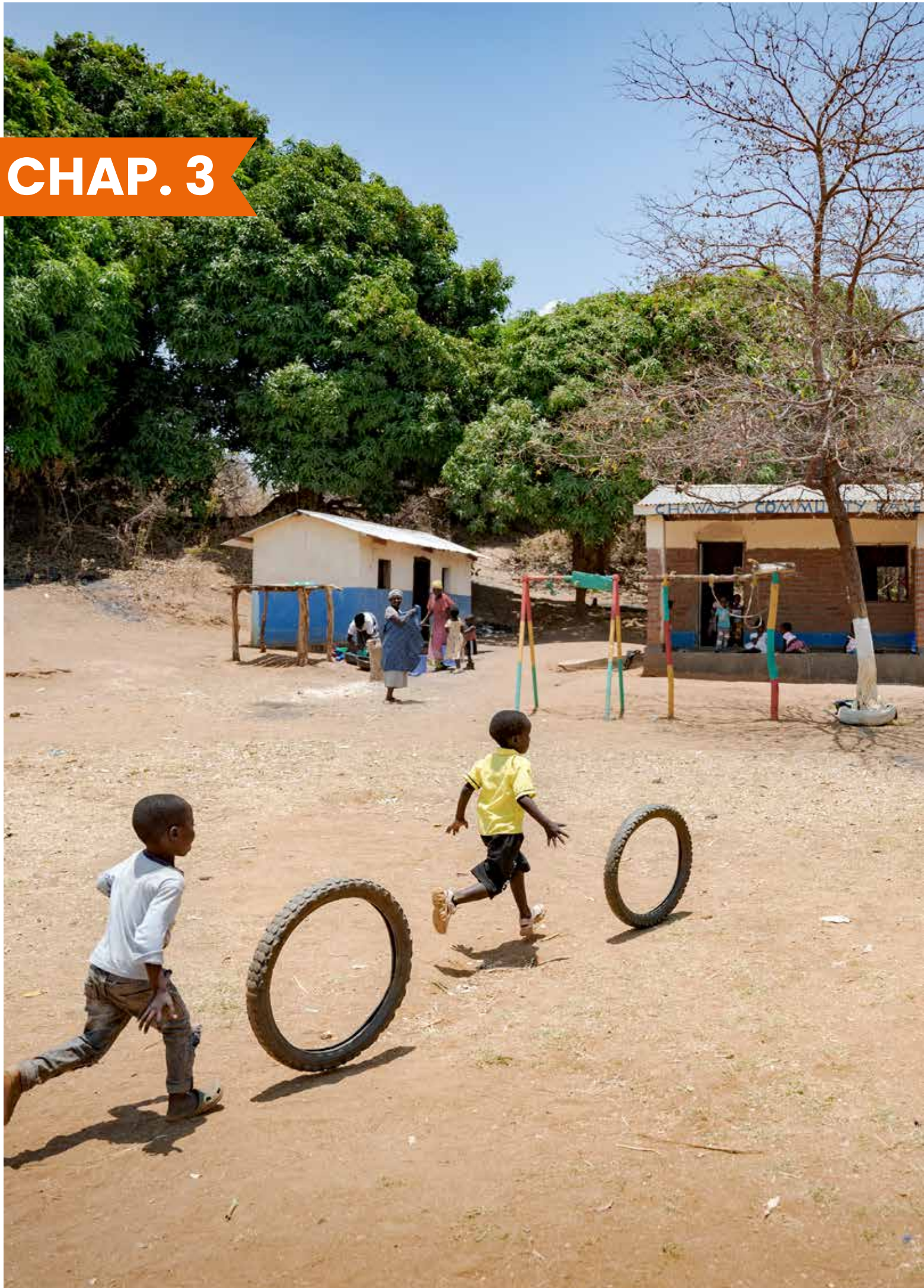
This avocado project is implemented to promote climate-resilient agriculture

and incorporate climate-smart strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change. By promoting the use of drought-resistant crops, agroforestry, and conservation agriculture, the project targets environmental kids' clubs in primary schools and local farmers to enhance food security and reduce environmental degradation. The project also supported tree-planting initiatives and environmental conservation projects by engaging both

youth and SHGs to promote reforestation through the establishment of tree nurseries and tree planting.



CHAP. 3



Organization

To develop and implement quality programmes, we need a strong organization. In this chapter, we illustrate how we have structured ourselves to deliver impactful outcomes through our programmes.

Governance

Management

In 2024, the Board of Directors of Help a Child consisted solely of the CEO, Andries Schuttinga. He manages the organization in accordance with a set of regulations covering matters such as avoiding conflicts of interest and the adequate separation of duties. The Board of Directors is responsible for the organization's policy and its implementation. The policy is formulated and monitored by the Board of Directors in conjunction with the departmental managers. They jointly make up the Management Team (MT), which, in principle, meets once every two weeks. Input from Country Directors is provided at strategic consultation meetings with the MT held four times a year. The Board of Directors ensures that the Supervisory Board is furnished promptly with all necessary information for the effective fulfilment of its stewardship role.

Supervisory Board

The Supervisory Board consisted of five members in 2024. They also work in compliance with a set of regulations. These outline their relationship with the Board

of Directors, whilst also containing provisions to avoid conflicts of interest and ensure the separation of duties. The Supervisory Board meets with the Board of Directors four times a year, and has one study day a year during which a self-evaluation is carried out.

Various advisory committees provide the Supervisory Board with information on specific policy areas, such as fundraising, programmes, and finance. In 2024, the development of a so-called ten-year strategic compass document and, subsequently, the 2025–2028 strategic plan received a lot of attention from the Supervisory Board. Research into a strategic merger was also an important agenda item in 2024. We expect a decision on this subject in 2025.

Human Resources

In 2024, we took significant steps to strengthen our HR processes and enhance the employee experience, ensuring that our staff are well equipped, engaged, and motivated to create a lasting impact.

A major focus was the restructuring of the organization. After seven years of growth and decentralization, we faced organizational challenges and growing pains. To address these, a new organizational structure was introduced, improving efficiency and enabling further growth. This restructuring resulted in a shift in roles and responsibilities within country offices and the global office in the Netherlands. In the Netherlands, an additional MT member was appointed to enhance strategic capacity and distribute leadership responsibilities more effectively.

We also focused on employee engagement and wellbeing in 2024. We implemented a comprehensive method to measure employee engagement, providing valuable insights into staff satisfaction and areas for improvement. The results were encouraging, with an eNPS score of 55 in the Netherlands, reflecting a high level of employee commitment and recommendation. Additionally, a new absence and wellbeing policy was introduced, emphasizing work-life balance and long-term employee vitality.

To enhance our ability to attract and retain talent, we focused on professionalizing our recruitment and onboarding processes. One HR colleague completed a specialized training on recruitment and labour market communication, strengthening our expertise in employer branding. This ensures that we attract and retain high-quality professionals. Additionally, we hosted our first 'New Employees Day', an inspiring introduction event designed to immerse new colleagues in Help a Child's culture, workflows, and systems. We also initiated the digitalization of our preboarding process, ensuring that new employees feel informed and connected even before their first working day. To ensure a future-proof organization, we also updated several other HR policies and workflows. This included a review of job descriptions, a job overview, and an updated employee handbook.

Security

Fortunately, all our staff worldwide were able to do their work safely in 2024, and no major incidents or security issues occurred. Our office in Goma (DRC) had some tense weeks during the months of February to May, when the M23 rebel group was advancing towards Goma city. After seven relatively calm months, the reality is now that Goma has fallen into the hands of M23. In June, we had to evacuate some Dutch and Kenyan staff from the field in Kenya due to the protests in Nairobi. Their project visit was cut short, and the Dutch visitors went home early. Some policy documents that needed revision were adjusted and updated according to plan.

Quality Management

Quality Management System

Help a Child has a Quality Management System (QMS) that describes the procedures, responsibilities, and templates used in the entire Help a Child organization. Help a Child has a quality policy that outlines the purpose and scope of our QMS. We have a database of points for improvement that we identify in, for example, external and internal audits, or in internal consultations. This database is regularly updated and provides reports on outstanding points for improvement, with progress being discussed with the management team on a quarterly basis. Our QMS is compliant with both ISO9001:2015 and Partos 9001:2015. Help a Child performed internal audits in 2024 and the Management Team conducted an annual review of the QMS to evaluate the design and execution of this system. An external auditor also assessed our QMS without any major findings.

Commitment to the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS)

Help a Child is committed to upholding the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) to ensure accountability, quality, and effectiveness in our humanitarian and development programming. Our first CHS self-assessment was conducted in 2019, leading to significant improvements between 2020 and 2022. In January 2022, we became a full member of the CHS Alliance and completed another self-assessment.

In 2023, an external audit by the Humanitarian Quality Assurance Initiative (HQA) yielded positive results, and in January 2024 Help a

Child was officially certified as a CHS-compliant organization.

As part of our ongoing commitment to quality and accountability, a maintenance audit was conducted by HQAI in 2024. The findings confirm that we are making steady progress in implementing our 2024–2026 CHS improvement plan, which was developed on the basis of the outcomes of the 2023 audit.



Integrity & Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH)

The text of our Integrity & PSEAH policy, including the Code of Conduct, Reporting Procedure, Whistleblowing policy, and Confidential Counselling information, has been revised. The new policy is in line with the international standards of the Core Humanitarian Standard, Keeping Children Safe, and donors such as the DRA, the UN, and ECHO. The new policy has been shared with all staff and has been published on the Dutch and international websites.

In June 2024, an Integrity Coordinator was appointed for four hours per week. The country offices have Integrity Focal Persons. One global meeting took place, and individual country meetings were organized to assess what has been done so far and design an action plan for each country.

A PSEAH training was developed, and staff in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, and South Sudan have been trained. The other teams will be trained in 2025.

The E-course Integrity and Code of Conduct was revised and will be rolled out in 2025.



Child Safeguarding

Help a Child is committed to protecting children from harm and abuse. Our Child Safeguarding Policy, which is part of our Integrity Policy, describes our procedures to minimize risks and respond to child protection concerns within our organization. In the Netherlands office, three child safeguarding trainings took place in total for 15 new staff. Each training consisted of games and a quiz, to make it interactive.

Child safeguarding is something to internalize; it is good to discuss how to relate to children and how to prevent, for instance, unintended situations that people may perceive as possible abuse.

Since 2021, Help a Child has been a full member of the Keeping Children Safe (KCS) network and we adhere to its internationally recognized child safeguarding standards. Keeping Children Safe held its annual summit. The senior Child Protection Advisor, who is also responsible for child safeguarding, attended several sessions online.

Community-Based Complaints and Feedback Mechanism

As part of our commitment to accountability and participation under the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS), Help a Child continues to strengthen community engagement by ensuring that project participants have accessible and safe channels to provide feedback and raise concerns. A key initiative in this effort has been the development of the Community-Based Complaints and Feedback Mechanism (CBCFM) Guide, which is designed to support implementing partners in establishing and improving their feedback systems.



To enhance transparency and learning, Help a Child maintains a global database that consolidates all feedback, enabling analysis and response at global, country, and project levels. As of 2024, the database had been successfully rolled out in nine countries. In 2024, we registered 978 feedback and complaint cases, ranging from positive feedback and information requests to major programmatic concerns. This data informs continuous improvements in our programming, ensuring that affected communities remain at the centre of our humanitarian and development efforts.

Lobbying and advocacy

In the Netherlands

Help a Child invests in maintaining relations with Dutch politicians and government officials. We share our knowledge and expertise so that Dutch development and humanitarian policy is as effective and child-friendly as it can be. This is done in collaboration with many other organizations and as part of broader networks. In 2024, we organized expert meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with members of parliament from various political parties. We

also raised awareness on issues related to children's rights and development in print and online media.

Abroad

Local and national governments and other decision-makers are vital to support and sustain the impact of our programmes for the wellbeing of children and communities. Government agencies and multilateral institutions such as the UN also play a crucial role in the scaling of concepts. By means of lobbying, advocacy, and maintaining good relationships, we aim to ensure the sustainability of our programmes in the different countries where we work. Some of the advocacy-related activities conducted in 2024 include:

- A visit to The Hague by our Country Directors from South Sudan and the DRC, during which they spoke to policymakers and parliamentarians to discuss Dutch humanitarian policy.
- The publication of an advocacy paper and training of various stakeholders on Early Childhood Development in Rwanda.
- The handover of research on the importance of investing in children in development policy to Dutch parliamentarians.



Innovation

In 2024, the innovation trajectory initiated by Help a Child in 2022 was successfully completed. This means we have finished six innovative projects and gained concrete learning experiences to strengthen our innovation competence. To build on this momentum and continue strengthening our impact for children, we hired a Strategic Innovation Coordinator, who started at the end of 2024. This allows us to take a more strategic approach to innovation with increased focus and capacity. We are in the process of launching new initiatives to drive innovation in our strategic themes (climate, urbanization, digitalization), adopt new funding models (e.g. results-based), and make our overhead more efficient, scalable, and agile. Key examples include:

- PIPPA, an evolution of PIP (climate-resilient farming) and Parenting, enhancing child-focus and effectiveness;
- Expansion of Child-led Research, improving community wellbeing;
- Turakura, a renewed supporters model modernizing child sponsorship;
- Salesforce implementation to enhance supporter engagement.

Scale-up

The scale-up of our core interventions received a lot of attention in 2024. We worked hard to build the right climate for scaling by developing new processes, tools, and evidence. This resulted in a number of successful scale-up projects, including our new Turakura programme and a new large-scale project that includes impact-based funding. In addition, our efforts in scaling the My Friend approach led to our first external scaling successes.

My Friend is a psychosocial support programme for pre-primary schoolchildren with a parallel programme for parents providing ways to cope with emotions and stress as a consequence of adverse experiences or trauma. The programme aroused the interest of other NGOs, which resulted in a Training of Trainers for the Salvation Army in India and partner organizations of Terre des Hommes in Moldova and Ukraine. The implementation of the My Friend programme in Moldova and Ukraine also showed the effectiveness of the programme in the European context.

Co-creation

Help a Child continued the journey of co-creation with donors and international NGOs in 2024. In Rwanda, our current long-term development has reached the final stage. We invited donors and international NGOs to envision the next steps together. This resulted in a new long-term development programme focusing on Early Childhood Development, the implementation of which will start in 2025. Since the countries' development programmes are at different stages of their long-term duration, we will embrace co-creation when opportunities arise. So far, it has helped us to reflect on our added value and our willingness to achieve impact together.

Knowledge management and learning

In 2024, we updated several manuals and e-learning modules. We are working on strengthening our internal processes so that

anyone who creates knowledge products knows how to tailor them to their audience. The Communities of Practice, which were set up in 2023 to discuss learnings and train our international experts, are working well. We plan to include partner organizations in 2025. We organized meetings with several partner organizations and discussed how we could align our knowledge needs.

Environmental, Social, and Governance

Environmental

2024 was the first full year in our new global office located close to Zwolle railway station. Together with the green travel policy, it encouraged employees to make greater use of public transport. At the end of 2024, we were able to conclude that having an office closer to the railway station, combined with the green travel policy, reduced employees' car use by 54%. On the other hand, the CO2 emissions for air travel per FTE for the Help a Child global office in the Netherlands rose by 20% in 2024 compared to 2023. Reflecting on the increased use of flights, we conclude that our monitoring of flight use needs to be improved for 2025. We also conclude that the increase in flights has to do with catching up with project and programme visits after the Covid period and the design of the new Turakura funding model in Rwanda.

In 2024, a Climate Quick Scan was commissioned for 20 project locations to understand the local climate consequences. Focus group discussions were organized to sit with local stakeholders and map out a local understanding of climate-related problems and their root causes. After gaining a clear understanding of the situation,

the community discussed how to mitigate their climate challenges. Together with local partner organizations, a plan for 2025 onwards will be drawn up to mainstream climate-related issues in the current project portfolio.

Since 2024 was the final year of our strategic period, a new ESG policy was developed during the last months of 2024 to prepare for the new 2025–2028 strategic period. To better monitor our CO2 footprint in the new strategic period, we asked the independent research organization Climate Stewards to calculate the footprint of the offices in the Netherlands and Kenya. In the spring of 2025, we expect a baseline report with recommendations for the coming strategic period.

Social

At the end of 2024, we underwent a maintenance audit by HQAI, a certified audit organization for the Core Humanitarian Standard. The points identified as requiring attention in the previous year were addressed successfully. At Help a Child, we believe that adhering to the Core Humanitarian Standard will help to create a good social environment for all stakeholders involved.

With the new global office in the Netherlands, some modifications were made to foster a good working environment for the employees. Also in 2024, the HR department started to monitor work stress, work happiness, and vitality of employees in order to respond appropriately. A risk analysis was carried out last year for the Dutch office. As a result of this, a BHV/emergency response team was formed in order to assist the team effectively during emergencies.

Governance

For Help a Child, a safe environment for all involved is very important. In 2024, we improved the Integrity Policy and whistleblowing procedures. In practice, it turned out that although the Integrity Policy was in place, it was not fully understood by the communities. Furthermore, some communities were unsure how to report or flag an issue.

Towards the end of 2024, it was decided that a Works Council would be established within Help a Child Netherlands. Preparations for setting up a Works Council started in November, and it will be operational in the course of 2025. A Works Council was also established at Help a Child Rwanda in 2024.



CHAP. 4



Fundraising, Communication and Finance

As an organization we value our donors and our network. They provide us with the means to do our work. Fundraising plays an important role, as we work with several stakeholders. At the same time, we need communication to tell the stories and share the results we have achieved. This makes our organization transparent and honest. Although there were challenges in our sector last year, Help a Child is fortunate in having a strong constituency and a diverse Fundraising portfolio, including the private market, churches, businesses, schools, foundations, and institutional donors. Together, they make our work possible.

Institutional relations

The institutional relations portfolio (IF) is diverse, and various donors are associated with a number of projects. These range from larger donors such as ECHO, the UN, and UNICEF to smaller foundations such as Pharos and Wees een Kans. Every donor has special requirements, and we work as a team to achieve the best results.

In 2024, the IF team merged with the Fundraising & Awareness

department, becoming part of the larger Fundraising team. This includes the Dutch markets together with churches, businesses, and legacies. As our portfolio grows, we are focusing more on our gaps and our own contributions. In the Fundraising team, we determine which market could be the best fit for a project. Several two-pagers were developed to reach donors with our concepts. In 2024, 34 calls were submitted, 19 were approved, and one is still pending. This amounts to a success rate of 55.8%.

We were able to conduct several fundraising visits to provide training, follow up on donor leads, and make strategic plans. This resulted in a fast-growing IF portfolio with increasing attention devoted to the quality of donor deliverables and reports.

We gained fundraising experience with different types of donors; most notably, we had major success in securing Impact funds and Impact investors who want to approach development in a different way. Their key driver is not the activity

plan and budget but the impact achieved (measured by a pre-agreed framework). This approach to programming and fundraising has challenged our whole conception of project development and programme management and has increased the quality of our proposals in terms of the presented evidence of impact, cost-efficient and effective budgeting, and monitoring frameworks.

The Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA) remains our biggest donor, especially with Help a Child in the lead position in South Sudan. This requires particular attention from the country office, the programme and fundraising department, and the communication team, and opens new opportunities to reach out to children in need.

Dutch constituency

We are grateful to the members of our constituency who give faithfully, stay engaged, and make our work possible. Thanks to the generous donations of so many people, we can continue our mission and be there for those who need it most. It is truly encouraging to see how many people support Help a Child, especially at a time when public support for development cooperation seems to be declining.

Child sponsorship

2024 was a year of important choices. As an organization, we extensively discussed the various dilemmas pertaining to child sponsorship. For example, is it not strange that we display children looking for sponsors on our website, almost as if they were 'put in the shop window'? How would we feel if our own children were presented online in this way? Are we doing enough to protect these children?

We took a crucial decision: as of January 2025, potential sponsors will no longer be able to select a child on the basis of a photo or personal information on our website. Sponsors will still have the option to support a child in a specific country, but we will no longer feature child ambassadors in this way. The personal connection with Dutch sponsors will remain, because child sponsorship is a wonderful way to build a bridge between two completely different worlds. It fosters empathy, engagement, and learning from one another.

New sponsor model

Additionally, we decided to transition to a new way of working in Rwanda with the Turakura Kids Rwanda programme. Turakura means 'we grow and learn together'. This pilot programme in Rwanda is a five-year investment in the future of 25,000 children, bringing the world of the Turakura Kids much closer to our supporters. We are moving away from traditional child sponsorship, instead providing updates through videos and personal stories from the Turakura Kids. This enables supporters to learn about life in rural Rwanda and stay directly informed about the impact of our programmes.

Emergency Fund

The Help a Child Emergency Fund finances our aid to children in fragile countries. In these countries, a village programme is impossible because the situation is too unstable and dangerous. There may be violence, war, or children growing up in refugee camps. Nevertheless, these are the areas where needs are the greatest and where it is most dangerous for children to grow up

In 2024, the Emergency Fund financed projects in DRC and South

Sudan. Both countries are plagued by famine and violence. Help a Child is committed to providing sustainable aid in this context to the most vulnerable group: children.

In DRC, a country where millions of people have been displaced, the situation is chaotic and dangerous. Violence flares up regularly, and the population suffers the most – especially children, who are extremely vulnerable. They are kidnapped by militias and forced to become child soldiers, fall victim to sexual violence, or lose their parents. Many children survive on the streets with little access to food, healthcare, or education.

Help a Child sets up Child-Friendly Spaces: safe and welcoming places for children. Here, they receive hygiene education, a meal, and trauma-processing training or assistance in finding their parents and family members. Additionally, we provide birth certificates to ensure that children born in a war situation have legal recognition.

In South Sudan, we are investing in the construction of a preschool so that the youngest children have a safe place to go, receive education, and get a daily meal. Together with the village community, we work to ensure that children are safe and can continue learning. We also invest in girls' rights through the local sport Boruboru. In this extremely poor country, girls have few rights and forced marriages are common. Many girls are also denied access to education.

The Help a Child Emergency Fund raised €254,000 in 2024 to support these projects. We collaborate with other donors, such as the Dutch Relief Alliance and the Christelijk Noodhulp Cluster in the Netherlands.

	2024		2023	
	Donors	Average donation	Donors	Average donation
Individuals	20,287	307	21,657	276
Churches	535	1,102	525	1,057
Schools	85	669	83	1,125
Companies	249	3,124	223	2,877
Charitable foundations	56	36,727	62	27,021
Bequestors	29	14,712	24	23,758
	21,241	457	22,574	415

Churches, schools, and business

Churches

In 2024, 521 churches (57 of them newly affiliated) partnered with Help a Child. Thanks to their generosity and commitment, we raised €610,000 for our projects. We had to cancel the deacons’ trip to Rwanda due to an outbreak of Marburg virus. The health and safety of our participants remains our top priority, and after consulting with our local partners we decided not to travel to Rwanda.

Schools

22 Christian primary schools, including a number of after-school childcare locations, raised money for children’s rights in Malawi and other African countries in 2024. Almost 4,000 pupils collected money, and schools received action packages that included a poster and teaching materials for lower, middle, and upper grades. Thanks to the children’s efforts, the saving campaign raised €25,850.

Business

In 2024, we developed a strategic marketing plan. Our goal is to be more visible online through LinkedIn and advertisements in newspapers and magazines. We aim to

expand our business network by attracting new entrepreneurs and engaging more millennials who own businesses. In 2024, we raised €835,000 amongst entrepreneurs. In September, we organized a successful business event with Ben Tiggelaar. €42,500 was raised for the Revolving Fund in Bomet and the village programme in Kitui, Kenya, and four entrepreneurs chose to become Grow Partners. We now have a network of 57 Grow Partners.



Ambassadors

In January 2024, we welcomed Tim Schouten as a new ambassador for Help a Child in the Netherlands. Tim is a theatre maker, best known for his role in the EO broadcast programme Checkpoint. In 2024, Tim contributed to the savings campaign for primary schools. Singer-songwriter Reyer is also an ambassador for Help a Child in the Netherlands.

Charity shops

The second-hand charity shops, called ‘kringloopwinkels’ in Dutch, had a successful year in 2024. There was significant growth, with new expansions and significant milestones. In January, the sixth store in Kampen opened its doors and in November the seventh store opened in Enschede. Both locations are now fully operational, with an enthusiastic team of volunteers and an increasing number of visitors.

The store in Groningen benefited in 2024 from the move and renovation that took place in the previous year. The new location has resulted in a significant increase in sales, which is a well-deserved reward for all the hard work in 2023. The thrift store in Amersfoort celebrated its fifth anniversary in April – a special moment for the volunteers who worked diligently to establish this store as an integral part of the city.

In 2024, a special Gift Card was launched, which customers can use to make payments in all the stores.

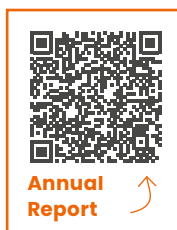
A total of 679,567 products were sold in 2024 thanks to contributions from more than 500 volunteers. It was a successful year with impressive growth and expanded reach in terms of reuse and sustainability.



Finance

This paragraph provides a summary of our financial statements for 2024.

The audited financial statements for 2024 are published in the 2024 Annual report.



In 2023, the value of our intangible fixed assets increased, mainly as a result of the investment in our new CRM system Salesforce. Tangible fixed assets decreased by more than € 350,000 which was mainly caused by the sale of our office premise in Zwolle, the Netherlands. Late 2023 we moved our office to a new rental location. Due to the sale of our office, cash increased by almost € 0.5 million.

Reserves and funds remained relatively stable at € 3.9 million. The book profit of the sale of the office was added to the continuity reserve. Both the special purposes reserves and special purposes funds decreased slightly in 2024 as a number of relatively small projects were financed from these reserves and funds during the year.

In 2024, our income significantly increased from € 14.8 million (2023) to € 23.9 million (2024). Main reason for this is the income we received from the Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA) because of our lead role for the the South Sudan Joint Response programme 2024-2026. Our income and expenditures includes € 6.4 million which is directly distributed to our consortium members in South Sudan.

On top of the growth of DRA funding, we also increased our funding from other government subsidies with almost € 1 million.

Our income from individuals fell a bit behind due to lower income from bequests and because we received relatively little income from emergency relief campaigns. In 2023, we also received a major incidental donation which inflated the income of 2023. Income from non-profit organizations increased in 2024, partly because the income from charity shops increased with nearly € 350,000.

Because of the lead position in the Joint Response consortium, we increased our budget in South Sudan to more than € 9 million. Partly because of this, our

Balance sheet as at December 31, 2024

	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2022	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2020
(amounts in €1,000)					
ASSETS					
Intangible fixed assets	407	109	103	75	70
Tangible fixed assets	370	723	656	651	644
Financial fixed assets	525	587	319	228	507
Receivables and accrued items	1,471	1,843	1,133	1,680	1,722
Cash and cash equivalents	2,988	2,460	3,439	3,715	3,969
Total assets	5,761	5,722	5,650	6,349	6,912
LIABILITIES					
Continuity reserve	2,131	2,025	1,787	1,991	2,416
Special purpose reserves	98	150	510	611	358
Special purpose funds	1,648	1,731	1,577	1,625	1,257
Total reserves and funds	3,877	3,906	3,875	4,227	4,031
Long-term liabilities	-	-	4	8	285
Short-term liabilities	1,884	1,816	1,771	2,114	2,596
Total liabilities	5,761	5,722	5,650	6,349	6,912

expenditures to objectives increased significantly.

The expenditure on objectives as a percentage of our total income was 90.6% in 2024 (2024 budget: 89.0%; 2023 actuals: 84.7%); as a percentage of our total expenses, the expenditure on objectives was 89.9% in 2024 (2024 budget: 89.8%; 2023 actuals: 84.8%).

Our expenses in 2024 did not have a big variance compared to the budget of 2024. We only spent slightly more on our objectives which caused a relatively high percentage for expenditure on objectives.

The costs of raising income as a percentage of raised income were 6.9% in 2024 (2024 budget: 7.0%; 2023 actuals: 10.2%).

Costs of management and administration as a percentage of total expenditure were 3.2% in 2024 (2024 budget: 3.2%; 2023 actuals: 5.0%).

In 2025, we expect to budget for a relatively stable income compared to 2024. Most of our government subsidies will be more or less continued in 2025. For private donations, we expect to budget for a moderate increase in income from individuals and businesses.

Statement of income and expenditures 2024

(amounts in €1,000)	2024	budget 2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
INCOME						
Income from individuals	6,742	7,360	6,904	6,736	6,557	6,551
Income from businesses	733	874	591	719	605	556
Income from government subsidies	13,506	13,350	5,341	5,205	5,821	6,416
Income from non-profit organizations	2,676	2,166	1,972	2,146	1,642	1,327
Other income	290	245	26	35	-3	6
Total income	23,947	23,995	14,834	14,841	14,622	14,856
EXPENDITURE						
Expenditure on objectives	21,693	21,360	12,558	13,034	12,511	12,885
Costs raising income	1,643	1,666	1,515	1,346	1,319	1,114
Management and administration costs	781	766	740	745	638	573
Total expenditure	24,117	23,793	14,813	15,125	14,468	14,572
Balance	-170	202	21	-284	154	284
Net financial income and expenditure	110	40	47	-9	9	32
Net income and expenses	-60	242	68	-293	163	316

ANNEXES



Our Theory of Change

How Help a Child makes a difference



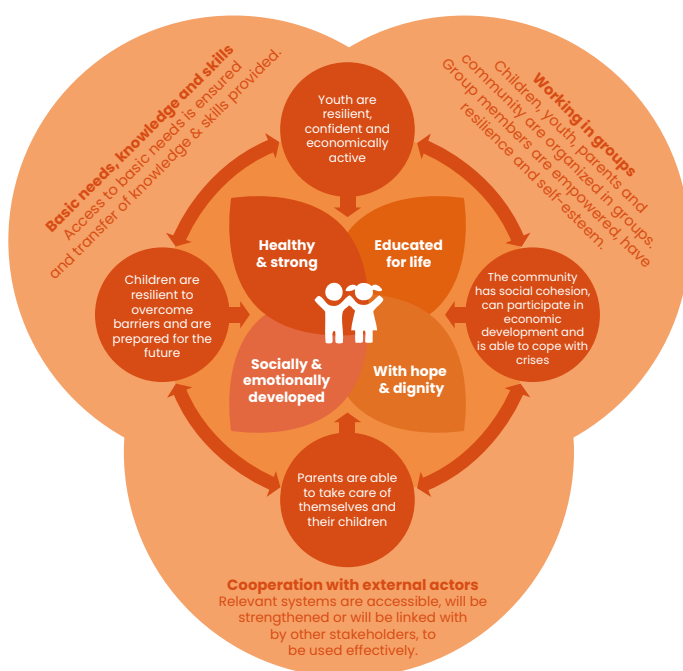
Step 1: overall objective

Central to our Theory of Change is our overall objective: to improve the well-being of children in need so that they can live their lives in dignity and to the fullest.



Step 2: holistic child development

Holistic child development is the core principle in our Theory of Change. It means that we consider all four dimensions of a child's wellbeing: physical, mental, emotional and spiritual.



Step 4: our main strategies

Help a Child uses three main strategies to achieve the impact we envision: we set up and facilitate groups, we arrange access to basic needs together with the transfer of knowledge and skills and we partner with external actors as much as possible.



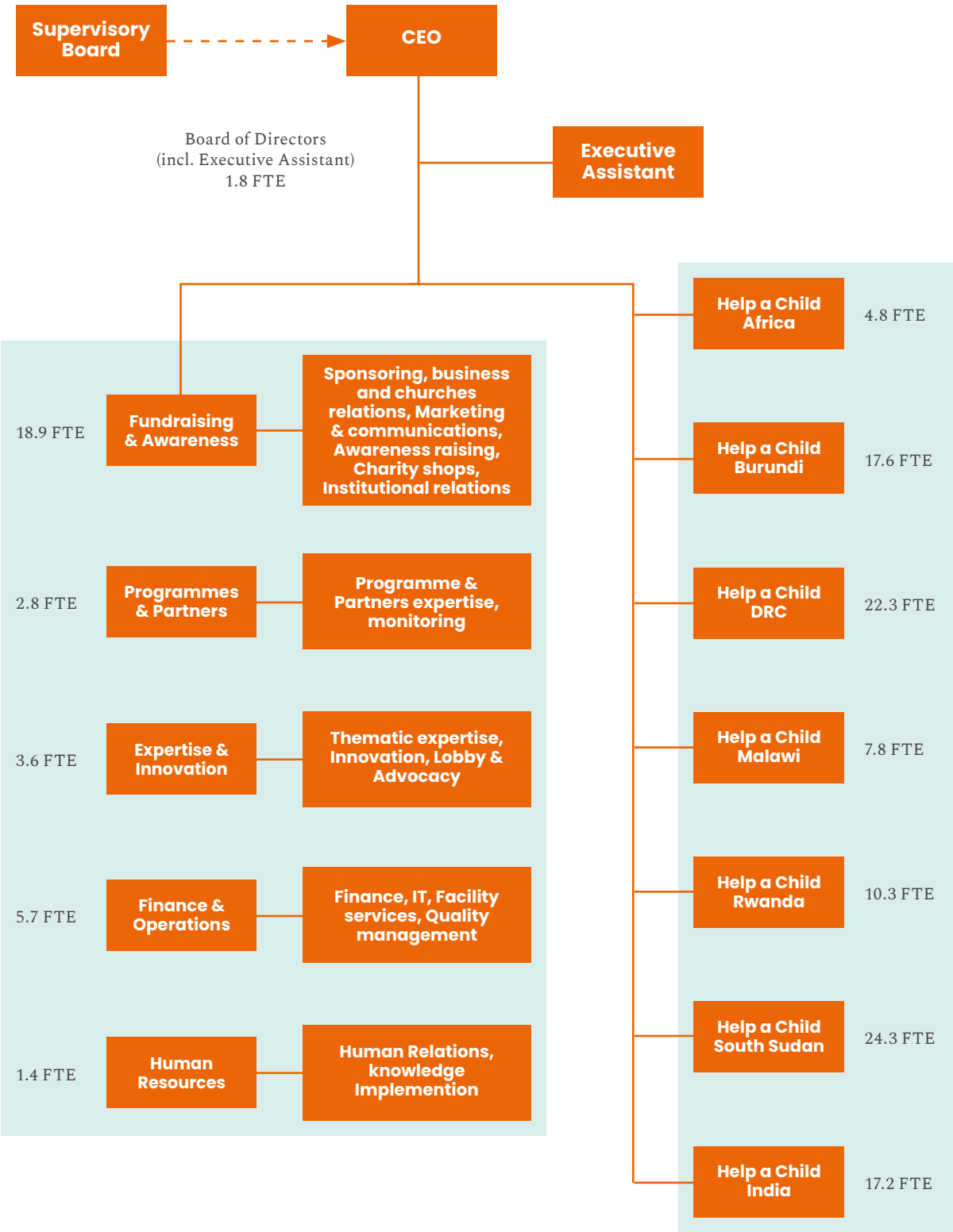
Step 3: intended results

Specific results in four areas contribute towards holistic child development: children themselves, youth, parents and the wider community.



Organizational chart

(average fte in 2024)



Our partners and donors

BURUNDI

Implementing partners:

- FECABU (Fraternité Évangélique du Christ en Afrique au Burundi)
- Help Channel Burundi
- RCBIF (Réseau des Confessions Religieuses pour la Promotion de la Santé et le Bien Être Intégral de la Famille)
- SAD (Social Action for Development)

Donors:

- UNICEF
- World Food Programme (WFP)

DRC

Implementing partners:

- ADED (Appui au Développement de l'Enfant en Détresse)
- Help Channel Congo
- FECONDE (Femme Congolaise pour le Développement)

Donors:

- Dutch ministry of Foreign Affairs – Dutch Relief Alliance
- ECHO
- USAID-BHA with Medair
- UNICEF
- Impaction
- Other foundations and businesses

INDIA

Implementing partners:

- Gramodaya
- Help a Child and Woman of India
- RPC NEI (Reformed Presbyterian Church North East India)

Donors:

- Enza zaden
- Other foundations and businesses

KENYA

Implementing partners:

- ADS (Anglican Development Services)
- AICCAD (Africa Inland Church Child and Community Development)
- NCCK (National Council of Churches of Kenya)
- Light for the World

Donors:

- Growth Partners
- KYOS
- Stichting Universitas
- Other foundation and businesses

LEBANON

Implementing partner:

- Dorcas Aid International

MALAWI

Implementing partners:

- LISAP (Livingstonia Synod Aids Programme; Church of Central Africa Presbyterian)
- WACRAD (Word Alive Commission for Relief and Development)

Revolving fund partner:

- Solinica

Donors:

- EU
- EO Metterdaad
- Cascade foundation
- Other foundations and businesses

RWANDA

Implementing partners:

- AEE (African Evangelistic Enterprise)
- EPR (Église Presbytérienne au Rwanda)

Revolving fund partner:

- Sangwa Sacco

Donors:

- UNICEF
- Stichting Pharos
- Stichting Rehoboth
- Ready 4 Schools Rwanda
- World Servants
- Other foundations and businesses

SOMALIA

Implementing partner:

- Medair

Donors:

- Dutch ministry of Foreign Affairs – Dutch Relief Alliance

SOUTH SUDAN

Consortium partners:

- CARE
- Dorcas Aid International
- Plan International
- Save the Children
- Tearfund
- War Child

Implementing partner:

- Across

Donors:

- Dutch ministry of Foreign Affairs – Dutch Relief Alliance
- Stichting Pharos
- UNICEF

SYRIA

Implementing partner:

- Dorcas Aid International

UGANDA

Implementing partners:

- AEE (African Evangelistic Enterprise)
- SAO (Share an Opportunity)

Revolving fund partner:

- Postbank

Donor:

- Kruitbosch Zwolle BV
- Rijk Zwaan
- Stichting Wees een Kans
- Other foundations and businesses

A big 'thank you' to all private donors in the Netherlands and other countries!

Other partners and networks

- Better Care Network Nederland
- CARE Nederland
- Cordaid
- Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) Alliance
- Dorcas Aid International
- Dutch Relief Alliance
- EO Metterdaad
- EU Cord
- Humanitarian Quality Assurance Initiative (HQA)
- Forth Global
- Global Campaign for Education Nederland
- Global initiative to support parents: call to action (ECDAN)
- Invi
- Keeping Children Safe
- Light for the World
- Medair
- Micha Nederland
- Oxfam Novib
- Partos
- Plan International
- Prisma
- Save the Children
- SOS Kinderdorpen
- Stichting KLIMREK
- Stichting Vluchteling
- Tearfund
- Terre des Hommes
- UNHCR
- University of Utrecht (UU)
- Wageningen University & Research (WUR)
- War Child
- Woord en Daad
- World Servants
- World Vision
- ZOA

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Help a Child is certified according to the
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K-0214907/1

The final and approved version
of this impact report, together
with the financial statements and
auditor's report, can be found here:
**www.helpachild.org/
annual-report**



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'Help a Child' is the international name for Red een Kind, an NGO registered in the Netherlands with affiliates in Africa and India.

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