

Community Child Protection Measures in Ethiopia, North Sudan and Rwanda:

A Synthesis Report

August 2010



Executive Summary

Save the Children Sweden in East and Central Africa commissioned three studies in order to learn more about existing child protection¹ structures and mechanisms in their region. Save the Children acknowledges the role of communities as important in ensuring that children are protected from violence and abuse at all levels and they conduct their work using a child rights perspective. Save the Children wanted to assess the child protection measures available at community level as perceived by children and families.

The objective of the study was to use views of children to assess the strengths and gaps in existing child protection systems at community level in selected areas of Ethiopia, North Sudan and Rwanda.

This report is a synthesis of the three country studies and compares and contrasts the results of the research. For more detailed information pertaining to each country, consult the three relevant country reports². Several indicators were used in the study to assess the child protection systems and the remainder of this report will focus on these indicators.

Overall across the three countries, **corporal and humiliating punishment** was mentioned by children as the most common type of abuse they face. This form of abuse particularly affects girls under 12 years. The other most commonly mentioned child protection issues include:

- sexual violence, abuse and harassment;
- child labour (especially amongst rural boys over 12 years old);
- child marriage;
- female genital mutilation (FGM).

Child trafficking was mentioned by children as an issue in Ethiopia and economic violence (lack of access to basic services) in Rwanda.

The main perpetrators of physical abuse and humiliating punishment include parents, care givers and teachers. Men and teenage boys are the main perpetrators of sexual violence and abuse against children.

Children's knowledge of existing laws to protect children against abuse and various reporting procedures is weak across all three countries included in the study. The main barriers being: the lack of relevant information on procedures and legislation; limited access to service providers and authorities, especially in rural areas and poorer communities; fear of perpetrators and social taboos. Children recommended stronger

¹ Save the Children Alliance defines child protection as: "Measures and structures to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence affecting children."

² **The three studies include:**

-A study of child protection mechanisms in Ethiopia (Child and Family Support Services) May 2010;
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-A study on child protection mechanisms in North Sudan (Nassrin Dafaalla El Hag Yousif) July 2010.

enforcement of legislation and heavier penalties for perpetrators, especially regarding the sexual abuse of children.

Very few children knew about child led groups within their communities, with the exception of Rwanda. Awareness of child led groups tends to be slightly higher among in-school than out-of-school children. Low levels of awareness are attributed to lack of information; lack of time to participate in activities and children being excluded by mental or physical disabilities. However, most respondents expressed an interest in joining such groups.

In contrast, in Rwanda up to 56% of children reported knowledge of child led groups within their community. In addition to this, 53% of children had participated in community or national consultations on child protection issues.

Children who were reported to be most vulnerable to discrimination included children infected or affected by HIV and AIDS (especially child headed households); children with disabilities; street children; refugee children and very poor children.

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Abbreviations

ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
AEJT	Enfants et Jeunes Travailleurs
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ANPPCAN	African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CPU	Child Protection Unit
CRI	Child Rights Institute
FCPU	Family and Child Protection Unit
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HoH	Head of Household
KFWC	Khartoum Family, Woman and Child Council
MIGEPROF	Ministry in charge of Family Affairs and Gender
MoWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
NCCW	National Council for Child Welfare
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PHP	Physical and Humiliating Punishments
PTA	Parent Teacher Association
SC	Save the Children
SCS	Save the Children Sweden
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
VAC	Violence Against Children
WHO	World Health Organization

1. Background

In order to promote the development of strategies by UN member states to effectively prevent and combat all forms of violence against children, a large study on violence against children was commissioned in 2003. One of its main recommendations was that all states develop a multi-faceted and systematic framework to respond to violence against children that is integrated into national planning processes.

Save the Children Sweden in East and Central Africa commissioned three studies in order to learn more about existing child protection³ structures and mechanisms in their region. Save the Children acknowledges the role of communities as important in ensuring that children are protected from violence and abuse at all levels and they conduct their work using a child rights perspective. Save the Children wanted to assess the child protection measures available at community level as perceived by children and families.

The objective of the study was to use views of children to assess the strengths and gaps in existing child protection systems at community level in selected areas of Ethiopia, North Sudan and Rwanda. A total of 376 boys and girls in urban, peri urban and rural areas within the three countries took part in the study between April and July 2010.

This report is a synthesis of the three country studies and compares and contrasts the results of the research. For more detailed information pertaining to each country, consult the three relevant country reports⁴. Several indicators were used in the study to assess the child protection systems and the remainder of this report will focus on these indicators.

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2) Introduction to the three countries

Introduction to the three countries selected for this study		
Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
<p>Despite recent economic growth and sorely needed rainfall, poverty and hunger remain widespread in Ethiopia. Millions continue to face chronic food insecurity and water shortages. Much of the population lacks access to clean water, health care and education. A lingering border dispute with Eritrea has threatened to escalate. Issues facing children in Ethiopia are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malnutrition is responsible for more than half of all deaths among children under age five. The number of chronically malnourished children has decreased since 1996, but remains alarmingly high; • Rates of access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation have been improving in recent years, helping reduce the number of deaths due to diarrhea that accounts for about 20% of under-five mortality; • Immunization rates for the major vaccine-preventable diseases are about 80-90%; • The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is 4.4% and the spread of the virus has slowed. About 1.5 million people are living with HIV, some 120,000 of them children; • There are 4 million orphans (12% of all children). More than half a million of these were orphaned as a result of AIDS. 	<p>Despite remarkable progress made for children in North Sudan since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005, there remain great challenges to development as the country continues to be affected by lack of infrastructure, limited capacity and the ongoing conflict in Darfur, where an estimated 1.8 million children have been affected by armed conflict. Many children have been exposed to brutal violence. Disease, malnutrition and disruptions in essential services like water and education are also leaving their mark. Issues facing children in North Sudan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% of the population does not have access to safe water, with nearly 70% not having access to adequate sanitation; • An estimated 10,000 children remain associated with armed forces and groups; • 36% of girls marry before the age of 18, while female genital mutilation and cutting affects 68% of women and girls - mostly in the north of North Sudan; • North Sudan has the highest number of internally displaced persons in the world - an estimated 4 million people are displaced, over 2 million of these in conflict-affected Darfur. 	<p>Rwanda is the most densely populated country in Africa, with over 300 people/km². Half of Rwanda's citizens are under the age of 18. Most of these children live on less than \$1 a day. Many are still recovering from the 1994 genocide and its aftermath. In spite of these factors, the country has achieved remarkable progress, particularly in accelerating child survival and primary school enrolment.</p>
(source:unicef.org, accessed on 26 July 2010)		

3) Demographic information

Demographic information			
	Ethiopia	Sudan	Rwanda
Total population	80,713,000	41,348,000	9,721,000
Children 1<18 years (% of total population)	41,018,000 (50.8%)	19,098,000 (46.2%)	4,757,000 (48.9%)
<5 mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	109	109	112
<1 Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	69	70	72
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	41	27	48
# children, under 17, orphaned due to all causes	5,000,000	1,800,000	860,000
Primary school net enrolment/attendance (% of eligible children)	45	54	86
Male primary school enrolment ratio (gross) (% of eligible children)	97	71	146
Female primary school enrolment ratio (gross) (% of eligible children)	85	61	148
Male secondary school enrolment ratio (gross) (% of eligible children)	37	35	19
Female secondary school enrolment ratio (gross) (% of eligible children)	24	32	17
% of children (5–14 years) involved in child labour activities	53%	13%	35%
% of boys (5–14 years) involved in child labour activities	59%	14%	36%
% of girls (5–14 years) involved in child labour activities	46%	12%	35%
% of urban children (5–14 years) married	27%	24%	9%
% of rural children (5–14 years) married	55%	40%	14%
% of women aged 15-49 with at least one mutilated or cut daughter	38%	43%	-
(source:unicef.org, accessed on 26 July 2010)			

4) Study locations and participating children

Study location and participating children			
	Ethiopia		Rwanda
Sites Chosen	Addis Ababa city and Woldiya town were selected	North Sudan The study was conducted in urban and semi-urban areas in Khartoum State in the towns of Omdurman, Khartoum North (aka Bahry) and Khartoum.	The study took place in the urban/semi-urban and rural areas of Rubaya, Byumba, Mutete, Mageragere, Nyamirambo and Kacyiru sectors in the districts of Gicumbi, Nyirugenge and Gasabo.
Total number of children participating in the study	65	184	127
# & % urban children	35 (54%)	184 (100%)	66 (52%)
# & % rural children (or semi-urban children)	30 (46%)	0 (0%)	61 (48%)
# & % total boys	34 (52%)	113 (61%)	69 (54%)
# & % total girls	31 (48%)	71 (39%)	58 (46%)
# & % of marginalized children (e.g. refugees, street children, etc.)	-	154 (84%)	35 (28%)

5) Child protection legislative framework

Child protection legislative framework		
Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethiopia has ratified the major human rights instruments including the UNCRC (1992) and the ACRWC (2000), incorporated child rights into their constitution, and taken measures to harmonize domestic legislation; Ethiopia is not yet a party or signatory to other child rights instruments such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The two Optional Protocols to UNCRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography, and on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict; - The UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children supplementing the UN Convention against Trans- national Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol); - The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Inter-country Adoption; The 1995 constitution has provisions that make international agreements ratified by Ethiopia part of the law of the land as well as making international human rights instruments, including the UNCRC and ACRWC, standards for the interpretation of the Constitution in matters related to fundamental human rights; Article 36 of Chapter 3 of the constitution specifically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sudan ratified the ACRWC in 2008 and the government is currently working on its initial report; UNCRC ratified in 1990. Efforts have been made to improve the legislative framework and harmonize it with the international standards and develop child protection mechanisms to create a protective environment that resulted in Child Act being endorsed in 2010; Geneva Convention (1951) – re status of refugees & 1967 Protocol; National Asylum Act (1974); Child Act deals with a wide range of child protection issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vagrancy (i.e. street children) no longer deemed an offence; - Banning recruitment of children to armed forces, military groups, etc. Demobilized child soldiers shall receive proper psychological, physical and mental rehabilitation and to be socially and economically reintegrated. It worth noting that the Military Forces Act 2007, prohibited the recruitment of children into armed forces; - Several provisions re children in conflict with the law such as establishment of a specialized police to be called “Family and Child Protection Unit” (FCPU) to prevent and protect children from all forms of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACRWC ratified in 2001 and UNCRC in 1991; Ratified Optional Protocols on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict in 2002 and 2003; Ratified the Convention on the Rights and Dignity of Persons with disability in 2008; Ministry in charge of Family Affairs and Gender (MIGEPROF) was created in 2003 with the mandate to ensure coordination in the promotion and protection of children's rights with other Ministries, International Organisations and NGOs to install and coordinate implementation of policies and programs and to ensure protection of rights for all children; Integrated Child Policy under development; A child rights perspective shaped the formulation of key policies including the National Policy on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (2003), National Plan of Action (2006-2011) which guides the implementation of the National Policy on OVCs, law # 27/2001 on the prohibition of violence against children and # 22/1999 on property and inheritance; In 2009 several child-focused policies and guidelines were adopted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (of the OVC Strategic Plan) guides monitoring of

Child protection legislative framework		
Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
<p>provides for the rights of children as it recognizes several rights of the child: rights to life, name and nationality, to know and be cared for by parents or legal guardians, to be protected from labor exploitation and not to be forced to undertake work that may harm their education, health and well-being, to be free from harsh or inhuman punishment in schools or child care institutions. It also incorporates the principle of the best interest of the child;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of a comprehensive law reform program, a number of key legislations relevant to the realization of child rights has been revised: Revised Family Code (2000), Criminal Code (2005) and Labor Code (2003). Ongoing reviews of the Criminal Justice Policy and Criminal Procedure Code should integrate child protection; Ethiopia has yet to have a single comprehensive policy dealing with the rights of children. Child rights are addressed in various policy documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developmental and Social Welfare Policy (1996) implements international standards relating to the welfare of children; The cultural policy addresses the issue of eradicating harmful traditional practices affecting children; National Youth Policy (2004) and the National Education Policy (1994) deal with issues of direct relevance to children's rights; National Action Plans relevant to the promotion and protection of rights of children include the Children and Women (1996-2000), Orphans and Vulnerable Children (2004-06), Children (2003-10) 	<p>violence. Its functions include investigating offences related to children, looking for missing children, coordinating to provide social and psychological treatment and support to child victims, and conduct research and surveys re delinquency and violations that affect children;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of social services offices within the FCPU that are responsible for preparing the social and psychological report of the child, recommending the appropriate measure to be taken against the child and visiting children in waiting homes and reformatories/remand homes; Ministry of Interior responsible for setting up waiting homes for children awaiting investigation or trial. Children's prosecutors and children's courts are to be established and prosecutors and judges to receive special training in child rights, sociology and psychology; Certain measures for children vulnerable to delinquency can be placed with an NGO working in the field of child care; Reform measures for children in conflict with the law include reprimand, warning, placement under social supervision, placement at reformatory/remand home and performing community service; The National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) was set up in 1991 ratification of the UNCRC to plan, coordinate and follow up all issues related to children rights. It is a policy-making making and advisory body that coordinates with the other government departments. Comprises the President 	<p>interventions aimed at OVCs impact on children's rights and their well-being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines for setting up of Community-based Committees to fight GBV and protect Children's Rights, the International Adoption Regulations; Guidelines on the minimum package for OVCs re standards for the improvement of the quality of services in favor of OVCs; National Gender Policy provides guidance integrating gender issues on sectoral programmes and policies; More needs to be done to prevent, respond and follow-up cases of abuse and violence against children and provide the necessary support to violence survivors. MIGEPROF lacks resources to build the capacity of service providers in providing services to children through referral pathways and case management; Pilot programmes such as the Children Forums, Nkundabana (mentors for child-headed households) and Child Protection and GBV Committees have proven to be effective re child rights and protection issues. They have been included in governmental policies and guidelines, but have not yet been scaled-up nationally due to financial constraints.

Child protection legislative framework		
Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
<p>and Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (2006-10);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other National Action Plans being developed that have relevance to child rights are Child Labor, and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems; - 2 guidelines developed and published by MoWA on alternative care for children deprived of family environment and quality standards for OVC care and support are also important. 	<p>(chair), relevant ministers, a representative from Southern Sudan, governors of States and 5 NGOs. Drafted National Plan on Violence against Children in response to the recommendations of the UN Study on Violence Against Children The general objectives of the plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish comprehensive multi-faceted national system re violence against children; - Implement international and national standards protecting children from all types of violence and negligence; - Develop legislative and legal framework to protect children from all types of violence; - Raise community awareness re child protection and role in protecting children from abuse and exploitation; - Care for children victims of violence and provide them with treatment, psychological rehabilitation and reintegration in the society; - Enhancing institutional capacity of government departments and NGOs working in child protection. 	

6) Child protection risks

Child protection risks as identified by child respondents by country and topic			
	Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
Physical & psychological violence, & humiliating punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical violence, and insult and name calling were experienced by urban children older than 12 years old; Physical punishment was reported by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban children younger than 12 years old; rural children younger than 12 years old; Physical punishment, exposure to bad habits and behavior, and verbal harassment and humiliating remarks were reported by rural children older than 12 years old. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported by 22% of children as a protection risk (14% was corporal punishment and 8% were other forms of humiliating punishment); Corporal punishment considered by many North Sudanese as an acceptable and appropriate approach for disciplining and bringing up children; Mainly found in schools and homes; Main perpetrators are teachers and parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 49% of all children reported physical and psychological violence as the most common abuse; Girls < 12 who live in rural areas are most affected; Corporal punishment is often accompanied by insulting; Major perpetrators are: parents, foster-parents and grandparents (69%), neighbours (10%), teachers (13%) and police (6%); Corporal punishment is often used to educate and discipline children (although it is sometimes used for no specific reason); Children head of households are frequently exposed to verbal violence, often by adults as they do not have anyone to defend them.
Sexual abuse & harassment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual harassment, rape, sexual exploitation and trafficking were reported by urban children older than 12 years old; Rape was reported by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban children younger than 12 years old; rural children younger than 12 years old; Sexual abuse was reported by rural children older than 12 years old. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raised awareness by children due to recent increase media attention; Main perpetrators of sexual abuse are male adults and teenagers; Recent spread of porn video watching shops. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18% reported the issue of sexual violence as one of the most common abuses; The main perpetrators were “sugar daddies and mummies” (44%), parents and foster parents (28%), male adults (21%) and police (7%); Children belonging to historically marginalized groups (especially girls) reported that they suffered from sexual violence more than others, especially by the police; Especially prevalent in girls >12 living urban

Child protection risks as identified by child respondents by country and topic			
	Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
Child labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child labour exploitation was reported by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urban children older than 12 years old; - Urban children younger than 12 years old. Putting pressure on children to drop out of school was reported by rural children older than 12 years old; Forced to live insecurely (living on street, robbery, etc. was reported by rural children older than 12 years old; Hard work in the house was reported by rural children younger than 12 years old. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many girls work selling tea and coffee, and boys work in cafeterias; They are faced with greater risk of abuse and results in many of them dropping out of school. 	<p>areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most children reported that the house is where the most sexual abuse occurs (some doubt whether it is the house of the perpetrators or their own home). 40% of targeted children reported child labour; Overall, girls seem to be slightly more affected than boys; Especially prevalent in boys >12 in rural areas; More than 95% of children who reported child labour as an abuse, identified parents (67%) and foster-parents (29%) as the biggest perpetrators as children are exploited to provide a better income for the family. Children complained about the heaviness and excessiveness of the work; Some child heads of households feel they are 'self-exploited' as they have nobody who looks after them and they are forced work hard to cover basic needs.
Harmful traditional practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FGM was reported by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urban children younger than 12 years old; - rural children younger than 12 years old; Early marriage was reported by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rural children older than 12 years old; - rural children younger than 12 years old. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early marriage of girls. Main perpetrators are parents, family, community and older men and youth; FGM mainly affects girls. Main perpetrators are the family and community who support this tradition. 	
Discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discrimination was reported by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rural children older than 12 years old; - Rural children younger than 12 years old. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Found in children with disabilities, children refugees, street children and poor children; Main perpetrators are family and society. 	

Child protection risks as identified by child respondents by country and topic			
	Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
Kidnapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abduction and migration were reported by rural children younger than 12 years old. Parents resistance to change was reported by rural children older than 12 years old. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raised awareness by children due to recent increase media attention. Mentioned by refugee and displaced children; Mainly children left alone or in the care of other children face several risks such as falling down, fire, etc. 	
Child neglect & lack of parental nurturing			
Violation of the right to survival and development			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported by 31% of targeted children. In particular mentioned by boys above 12 living in rural areas. 28% of children reported that they suffer from lack of food. Orphans in particular are the most exposed to such issue. 51% of children highlighted the lack of money for school fees and uniforms. 21% of children also reported the lack of health care, clothing and shelter.
Substance abuse		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only mentioned by street children. Many street children chew or sniff a petroleum based glue used for repairing tyres. 	
Denial of the right to play			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8% of children reported this as a violation

7) Reporting of child protection issues

Reporting of child protection issues – what children said			
	Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
Reporting abuse, neglect, exploitation or violence against children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children feel that the components of the existing formal child protection system (such as the police) are not working effectively and they are more likely to use the informal system of protection in their communities; Most children in rural and urban areas don't usually report cases of abuse or exploitation, especially to authorities; In the few instances where children report incidents of abuse and exploitation, it is to their friends and peers; Less than half of children over 12 years received information as to where to go and the reporting procedures when they face abuse and exploitation; All the children under 12 years and the majority of children over 12 years said they haven't received information and they are not familiar with the procedure in reporting cases of abuse and exploitation; Some children in Addis Ababa noted the relatively better treatment of children by the CPU police. However they said that they don't believe they will receive proper support and treatment if they report incidents to the authorities; Fear of the perpetrator results in a child not 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most children know the police emergency number (999), but few know 9696 the child helpline of the FCPU; Street children know the procedure for reporting abuse, but think that police wouldn't believe them unless they have a witness. Others fear to be beaten up by the police; Some children mentioned that they can not report abuse because they are young; Other protection risks mentioned by children that are unreported include FGM, early marriage, negligence, child labour and corporal punishment; Some children don't report corporal punishment fearing name calling. 	<p>Corporal and Verbal Punishment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8% of children reported that there were no protection structures for children; Although most of the children know the reporting mechanism, few refer the abuse to the leaders or the police, especially if it is perpetrated by school teachers; Children over 12 years have less confidence and trust in the effectiveness of local authorities than the younger children; Child-headed households are frequently exposed to verbal violence as they are orphans and do not access to adult support. 100% of girls and 50% of boys reported that they do not have anybody to refer to and ask support when they are subjected to these insults. <p>Child Labour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children do not seem to know what reporting procedures they have to follow when approaching the local leader for help; 10% of children reported that they do not have anybody whom to refer to and they would prefer running away. In Rwanda, many children run away from their homes to the

Reporting of child protection issues – what children said			
	Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
	<p>reporting incidents (especially if they are a family member, close relative or neighbor);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social taboos and shame hinder the reporting of cases of sexual abuse; • Children in Woldiya noted that discriminated children are called by different names depending on the alleged causes for their discrimination. The children expressed that these children are discriminated against mainly due to lack of awareness and attitudinal problem among community members; • All children emphasized that discrimination against children based on their physical, health, social or economic status is not proper. When children were asked whether they had ever faced discrimination or exclusion, just over 50% stated that they have faced discrimination in one way or another. 		<p>major cities or head across the border (mostly to Uganda).</p> <p>Violation of the right to survival & development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% of children head of households reported that they have nobody who can help them to overcome this abuse (a few children reported a family member as somebody they can trust).
Strategies children adopt if they can't report abuse, neglect, exploitation or violence against children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migrating or running away from the place where the abuse has taken place is the main strategy used to deal with problems relating to abuse and the resulting shame on them and their families; • In rural areas, community members are approached to resolve family disputes • The use of drama in children's groups (especially in the over 12s) is a popular method of protecting children from risk; • Children's clubs serve as channels for information and reporting as well as enabling development of skills. 		<p>Violation of the right to survival & development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% of children head of households reported that the only redress is to receive direct support by organisations via sponsorships and to be involved in child-led groups that can help them to develop micro-credit projects. Others reported children must be supported by foster-parents.

Reporting of child protection issues – what children said

	Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
To whom do children report abuse, neglect, exploitation or violence against children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical and psychological violence: 48% of children felt they should refer this abuse to the local leader and the police so that they can sensitize and/or punish the perpetrators; • Child labour: 60% reported the local leader as the focal person whom they can go to so that the problem could be peacefully settled or the perpetrators be punished. Child-focus organisations and child-led groups are used to report problems to and provide support. Child-led groups can be used to mediate between the parties with sensitization activities and by addressing the case to the local leader; • Violation of the right to survival & development: Local leaders and CSOs are regarded as the go to structures when help is needed. However, most of the children reported that they have not been targeted by CSOs and they go to local leaders instead; • Sexual violence: The most reported perpetrators are “sugar daddies and mummies”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 73% said they would refer problems in this area to local leaders or the police to punish the perpetrators and prevent a reoccurrence; - Children may also refer these cases to their parents (especially mothers); - A few children (especially girls older than 12 in urban areas) reported cases to the health centre and medical doctors as structures to be referred to when a child has experienced such abuse; - Health care support is considered important in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most children know they can report protection issues to their families (particularly mothers) who will then report to the police; • Street children report physical violence and other abuse to social workers and police. They seek the support of doctors and hospitals in dealing with problems related to <i>silasion</i> sniffing; • Children have a general idea about the procedures involved in reporting cases of abuse, but they are not familiar with the exact steps in the process; • Some cases of corporal punishment in school have been reported to the police – usually only when the victim is severely injured and needs medical treatment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporal Punishment: From the children’s responses, the protection structures for children were: local leaders (48%), police (16%), relatives and friends (16%), child focus organisations (8%) and parents (4%); • Corporal Punishment: The children with disabilities used neighbours, local leaders and headmasters as their support people; • Verbal Violence: 50% of boy head of households felt confident in being able to report to their local leader and the ‘Nkundabana’, adult volunteers who mentor children living without adult support; • Child Labour: From the children’s responses, the protection structures for children were: local leaders (60%), child focus organisations (13%), police (8%), religious leaders and god (7%), relatives (2%); • Child Labour: 60% of children reported the local leader as the focal person. 13% of children use a child-led organization for support (especially if they are members). Some children named the police as a referral structure so that perpetrators can be punished. Several children use religious structures to receive comfort; • Violation of the right to survival & development: 70% identified community leaders as the go to person regarding this problem; • Sexual violence: From the children’s

Reporting of child protection issues – what children said			
	Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
	preventing health consequences after sexual violence.		<p>responses, the protection structures were: local leader and police (73%), parents (20%), health centre (4%), child focused organisations (3%);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual violence: 73% of children would refer these cases to the local leaders and to police, in order to punish the perpetrators and prevent the abuse from happening again. Parents (especially mothers) are also the people they would ask for support. Some children also report to health centres and medical doctors.
How do children think child protection issues should be addressed			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporal punishment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 55% of children who identified this protection issue reported that an 'exemplary punishment' (ie. beating the perpetrators) is the best way to prevent this violence from reoccurring; - 30% of children reported the best method is sensitizing the perpetrators through the promotion of children's rights and through reconciliation; - 10% felt that children should respect their parents/foster parents more and avoid any mistakes so that they would not be punished again; • Child Labour: 30% of children reported that they would like to see the perpetrators punished so that children will not be exposed to such exploitation again. A child-led group has the capacity to mediate between the parties with sensitization activities and by bringing the case to a local leader. 70% of children reported

Reporting of child protection issues – what children said			
	Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
			<p>that the best way to prevent and address this issue is to sensitize children so that they can better protect themselves and the perpetrators. Some children said that they should change their behaviour and show more respect towards their parents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violation of the right to survival & development: 50% of children who are part of AEJT, a child-led organization, reported that the issues of school drop-out and lack and denial of proper health care could be addressed by sensitizing parents in family planning and in the importance of appropriate health care assistance; • Sexual Abuse: 50% of children reported that punishment measures have to be exacted to avoid sexual violence from happening again. Most children in urban areas reported imprisonment of perpetrators and exemplary punishments as the only way to defend children from these abusers. 24% of children felt that to prevent sexual abuse, children should avoid the perpetrators, refusing gifts and avoid wearing provocative clothes. 10% recommend sensitizing the community to prevent sexual violence.

8) Children's awareness of child protection laws and policies

Children's awareness of child protection laws and policies		
Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children who attended the workshops showed a remarkable understanding of the protection issues that affect children. However, they are not aware of the situation of certain groups of children who are in their communities. For example, the situations of children who are under the 'care' of traditional healers and children who work as domestic workers are not understood clearly by the children when compared to their understanding of issues faced by others (such as children with disabilities); The lack of information about domestic workers is highly surprising because some of the children live closely in the same household or in the same neighborhood with children engaged in domestic labor; It is important to broaden the perspectives of children in these respects to get understanding of protection to cover all children living in their communities and not only the situation of specific and visible groups of children; There is a large difference between the opinions of the project staff concerning the effectiveness of the police and CPUs in receiving complaints from children in a friendly manner, and supporting children who are at risk; There is also a similarly large difference between the urban and rural children. The urban children (where 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child parliament and child forum members know about some of the laws related to children, in particular the new Child Act 2010; Other groups such as refugee children, displaced children, children with disabilities have no knowledge of any laws; Some street children know some of the laws; None of the children in this study were consulted in the development of laws or policies related to children; Members of the child parliament and child forum participated in advocacy activities for the law; Most children think that laws are important for protecting children and could be improved by government commitment to their application. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45% of children reported that they do not know any laws or policies in place to protect children from violence; 40% of children reported that they are aware of some laws or policies, but were not able to report the name and the details of the laws; Most of targeted children reported they would like to participate in the development of laws and play a role in administration structures that protect children; They shared some ideas on how to reinforce existing laws and policies and in developing new ones.

Children's awareness of child protection laws and policies		
Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
<p>SCS and its partners have been active) express more positive opinions about the role of the police and its practical implementation of protecting children. The rural working children in Woldiya (who are most at risk) indicated various instances where their complaints were ignored by the police and they had to resort to their own friends to solve problems (except in cases of sexual abuse of boys by older boys and men where the police act immediately);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children do not have adequate knowledge about the procedures to be followed in order to report different risks; • Serious abuses may not be reported by children if they feel that their reporting will not be accepted or could worsen their own situation and the situation of their families; • There is confusion over the reporting mechanisms between traditional values and modern structures. Children need to be better educated on methods of reporting that are practical and acceptable rather than letting the children try and work out where and how they report from the adult centered and adult led practices in communities. 		

9) Discrimination against children

Discrimination against children		
Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Categories of children who are discriminated against in urban areas are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children who live with HIV/AIDS; Children with disabilities (children with mental retardation, children affected by leprosy, etc.); Street children; Children who are victims of sexual abuse; Children who lost parents to AIDS; Children from poor families; Categories of children who are discriminated against in rural areas are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children who live with HIV/AIDS; Children with disabilities; Children who do not have parents or those whose parents are sick with HIV/AIDS; Children who live on the streets; Children who work as domestic workers in farms or as housemaids; Displaced children; Girls who are engaged in commercial sex work; Children who are in conflict with the law; Discriminated children are called by different names depending on the alleged causes for their discrimination and that they are discriminated against mainly due to lack of awareness and attitudinal problem among community members; All children emphasized that such discriminations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children reported that there are certain groups of children who face discrimination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Street children; Children with disabilities; Poor children; Discrimination against refugee children were mentioned only by themselves. They face discrimination from children of the host community. They are not allowed to play in the local football field. The children feel sad and helpless; Street children are discriminated against because of their dirty appearance. They are not allowed in public transport. Other children do not play with them and call them <i>shumavei</i>; Children with disabilities believe they are excluded because of their disability. A recent study in one area found out that the community in general has a negative perception of children with disabilities; Some families consider children with disability a liability and a disgrace to the family and cannot play a positive role in the society; Street girls mentioned that social workers in institutions sometimes do not treat children equally. They tend to favour some girls. This creates jealousy among the group who tend to harm the favoured girl. The girls want to be treated equally; Displaced children feel they are discriminated against 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95% of children reported that there are specific groups of children who suffer discrimination more than others; Children head of households reported they feel discriminated due to their life condition and excluded from any type of support, in particular those from families considered responsible of having perpetrated the genocide; Children with disabilities, orphans, street children and very poor children are also among the most excluded.

Discrimination against children		
Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
<p>against children based on their physical, health, social or economic status is not proper;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When children were asked whether they have ever faced discrimination or exclusion, just over 50% stated that they have faced discrimination in one way or another. 	<p>when they compare the areas they are living in with other areas. They want their areas to be planned and to have running water, electricity, school and a Quranic school;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discrimination based on gender was not mentioned by any of the children. 	

10) Awareness and participation in child led groups

Extent and perception of children's awareness of and participation in child led groups		
Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While majority of children were aware of school-based child led groups, very few were identified; The school-based child led groups that were identified included: child rights clubs, student's clubs, civic and ethical education club, know your country club, sport club, language development club, girls club, gender club and anti-AIDS club; Children over 12 years in Addis Ababa identified some of the school-based child led groups in their communities: Raeye Ethiopia and Shama (Arada sub-city), Forum Youth Association (Addis Ketema sub-city), Felege Tibib Theatre Club (Yeka sub-city); Participation in school-based, child led groups are skewed towards the school attending children; All children were aware of the benefits of participation in child led groups; All children who were not participating in child led groups expressed an interest in participating in the them in the future; Barriers to participation in child led groups include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Absence of child led groups in their area; - Lack of adequate information on child led groups; - Inability to spend extra time required for participation; - Disability issues. Most children reported having participated in activities related to the rights of the child and other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child led groups are not common in North Sudan and the study confirmed this as most children do not know about any child led groups, except those who are members of the child forum or the parliament; Child participation in North Sudan is hindered by the society's perception of children as ignorant, immature and irresponsible, and by the adults' and children's ignorance of children rights. Hence children are not listened to or given the opportunity to express themselves; Children forum and child parliament members know about child led groups, especially those they are part of; Displaced children, refugee children, street children and children with disability didn't know about any child led groups; Children would like to be part of child led groups. For instance some of hearing impaired children would like to be part of farming and painting groups and they want to be members but they don't want to take a leading role. The reason given by them is that the responsibility is very difficult and not all people understand their sign language. The other children of the hearing impaired group do not want to be part of the group as studying and household chores take all their time; Visually impaired children would like to be part of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 56% of children reported knowledge of a child-led group in their community; Children over 12 years in urban and rural areas of Kigali are more knowledgeable of the existence of child-led groups in their community. Most named AEJT, a local child-led group; Child-led groups established by Save the Children were also reported; Few of the children from the historically marginalized group were aware of child-led groups in their community. Only 30% of them knew of 'URUKUNDO' (Love) (they organize football matches, dances and drama). 30% of children under 12 reported the child-led organization 'AMAHORO' (Peace) (a children's association established by orphans affected by HIV-AIDS in Kigali). Children from semi-urban areas seemed to be more exposed to child-led groups than their peers in rural areas. In general, 75% of children above 12 living in the semi-urban area reported to know more child-led groups than children below 12 (25%) living in the same area.

Extent and perception of children's awareness of and participation in child led groups		
Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
<p>events;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of participation in research on relevant issues were low and their roles were mainly reported with reference to presentation of messages to the public, and usually came about via support of local CSOs/NGOs while organizing the events; • School-based clubs are normally initiated by the school administration and a coordinating teacher is assigned. A notice is posted inviting students to choose the clubs they want to join and there is usually a limit on numbers of members as well as a limit on the number of clubs a student can belong to; • The effectiveness of the clubs varies. The CRC club was regarded as the most effective and has accomplished the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The club coordinator is approached by children who listens to what they report and then reports to the formal structures available (i.e. police, Bureau of Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice, etc.). Clubs can be important in providing legal protection for children; - Club activities ensure that further incidences of abuses are prevented; - Club members may involve parents in providing solutions to the children's problems in their communities; • Children's clubs in schools are required by the Ministry of Education; • The leadership of the clubs is held by teachers and students play a supportive and implementation role rather than leadership; • Children who have attended clubs were more likely to 	<p>group but under the leadership of an adult to make sure the group is on the right track;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displaced girls older than 12 years mentioned that they want to be part of a group provided that all the members are of the same age so as to be able to discuss issues of concern without embarrassment. This is very important especially when working in conservative communities where separation between males and females is strictly adhered to; • Most of the children are interested in joining child led groups believing that it will provide a forum for them to reflect their ideas and give them space to freely do their own things; • The Child Forum was started due to a need for child participation and is part of the Friends of Family and Child Association which is a local NGO based in Tuti Island. The forum has 45 members (25 girls and 20 boys) in different parts of Khartoum State. Any child between 9-18 years can join the forum. It was formed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote children participation in the issues that concern them; - Raise their awareness on international and regional conventions as well as national laws related to children; - Build their capacities and empower them to know their rights and responsibilities; - Raise awareness on the challenges and threats to children's protection. • The Child Parliament is initiated by the Khartoum Family, Woman and Child Council (KFWC) and is 	

Extent and perception of children's awareness of and participation in child led groups		
Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
<p>express ideas using complex words and logic in a more coherent manner than those who do not attend clubs;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The clubs present opportunities for children to exhibit their potential in other areas (such as drama, creative writings, etc) that do not get attention in the formal educational system; • The strength of child led groups in the schools is perceived by the children as being dependent on the strength and popularity of the teacher who is leading the group and the academic performance of the members of the group; • Working children in rural areas do not have access to child led groups. Future projects may look into the possibility of engaging children who are not attending schools; • There are no child led groups for rural children who do not have the opportunity to attend schools, while in Addis, there are child led groups outside the school setup. 	<p>formed from children representing the 7 localities of Khartoum State. Each school elects its own parliament and each locality has a parliament that is made up from representatives of the schools' parliaments in their area. Each locality elects 10 members from its parliament to the State Parliament. In addition to the 70 members representing the different localities, there are 50 children representing different groups of children including children with disabilities, displaced children and street children. Khartoum State Parliament has the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Train children to practice consultation and dialogue in addressing issues of concern to them; - Train children on constructive dialogue and accepting different point of views; - Know children's views on the services provided to them at the state level; - Know children's opinion of how to participate in protecting their environment; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parliament has several activities targeting protection issues such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raising children's awareness on their rights and drawing the attentions of decision-makers to the challenges and problems facing children; - Discussing issues of violence against children (e.g. recruitment of child soldiers). 	

11) Children's participation

Children's participation		
Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children have participated in various events such as the Day of the African Child, Day of Protection of Children from Abuse, Day of Nation, Nationality and Peoples and Women's Day; The roles of children in the above events were mainly in the presentation of dramas, write-ups, speeches and jokes. All had educational messages related to promotion of children's rights and their protection from violence and harmful traditional practices; Children in Addis Ababa commented that they would have liked to be given a greater role in organizing the events; 5 children in Addis Ababa and 6 in Woldiya (all over 12 years) reported participating in research related to children. Their participation was limited to providing information and they did not get any feedback on the outcome of their participation; Several parents thought that the participation of their children in events and clubs will affect their education and discourage or prohibit them from participating. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 57% of all children had participated in community and national events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 25% of street children in institutions (boys and girls >12 years); - 30% of child Groups (boys and girls > 12 years); - 15% were displaced children (boys and girls < 12 years); - 14% were Eritrean refugee children (boys and girls < 12 years); Children participated in their community as well as at national events. For example, displaced children, street children in institutions, child forum members and parliament members participated in celebrations of the Day of the African Child, the Day of the Arab Child and Mother's Day as well as SC Day of Action to end VAC. Other mentioned events such as art exhibitions organized in cultural centres; 33% of refugee children mentioned participation in Christmas and school celebrations. The remainder did not know about or participate in any events. Older displaced boys believe that those who participate in events usually have a "connection" (i.e. a relative or an acquaintance who aids with participation); Children often think that they are excluded from participation in events because adults don't inform them or they are too busy to take them to these events; Refugee children said that taking part in these events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 53% of targeted children participated at least once in a community or national event or were consulted on child protection; The event most reported by children was the Day of African Child; Only few of the children belonging to the historically marginalized group reported their participation in an event or consultation on child protection. In Kigali city, the majority of children who participate in child-led groups reported their attendance in consultations and events that happened in their community. In particular, children above 12 years reported their participation in workshops and meetings organized by the child-led group AEJT in collaboration with other organizations about child protection and child rights.

Children's participation		
Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
	<p>entails paying money and adults don't want to pay it;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure future participation, children wanted to be informed about events and to be involved in planning and early stages of organizing events; • The hearing impaired children mentioned that they would like to participate in activities with a condition that they are to be trained on the activities to ensure that the audience will not make fun of them. 	

12) Knowledge and participation in civil society organisations

Knowledge and participation of children in civil society organisations		
Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children have limited knowledge of the functions of CSOs; Rural children perceived the role of CSOs as being only engaged in adult related issues. This is despite the fact that, for instance, Idirs (traditional funeral associations) in both urban and rural areas have recently started supporting child headed households in their communities by ensuring that the children are provided with food, clothing, etc. and ensuring that the children continue with their education; Children probably don't know about the changing role of the Idirs and other CSOs because they don't publicise their activities which restricts their capacity to help; Children have participated in various events such as the Day of the African Child, Day of Protection of Children from Abuse, the National Day, Nationality and Peoples and Women's Day; The role of children in various events is to communicate messages to other children. The children complained that after having spent a lot of time in preparing plays and other activities they are often not be allowed to present. Sometimes they are asked to present something in a hurry without adequate preparations (especially for visitors). This causes frustration among the children; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the children in the study mentioned that they know of CSOs (both national and international); The international organizations were: UNICEF, SCS, Warchild Holland, USAID, WHO, Cheshire Home and Africa International Organization; The national organizations were: Sabah, Amal, Friends of Family and Child Association, CRI, and Yanboua; The children mentioned that these organizations do the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build children capacities and give information on children rights; - Determine international conventions and laws to protect children; - They provide chairs, copybooks, pens and pencils; - Protect children and provide their needs; - Invite children to participate in their activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of all children in all areas reported knowledge of CSOs working on child protection in their areas; Although they are not aware of child protection issues that the organizations cover, they have a broad idea on the types of interventions these organizations are implementing in their communities; The older children are slightly more informed of CSOs than their younger counterparts. Overall, 25% of targeted children mentioned Save the Children. This was reported mostly by children living in areas where Save the Children and/or its partners are operating. Other civil societies organizations reported by children are: 17% UNICEF, 16% Caritas, 14% AEJT, 12.5% Plan Rwanda, 8% Champ Project, 7% Red Cross, 5% Amahoro, 4% World Vision, 3% EER Anglican Episcopal Church, 2.5% SOS Village, 8.5% Other. Most of the organizations mentioned by children are those working on child protection issues in the targeted areas; in particular, they are providing service delivery or material support (pay the school fees, provide health support), youth empowerment, advocacy on child rights, health care provision, education, water and sanitation and livelihood programmes.

Knowledge and participation of children in civil society organisations		
Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children in Addis Ababa identified and listed the following NGOs working on child protection issues within their communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forum on Street Children: Provision of care and support, correction of children in conflict with the law, access to justice to abused children; - ANPPCAN: Operates a child centre promoting child participation, education of parents on child rights and educational support; - Shama: Community conversations on children issues at coffee ceremonies; - OPPRIFS: Assists trafficked and abused girls by providing shelter and family reunion services; - CCF: Provides educational and social support and educates on violence against children; - Beza Lehiwot: Supports street children by providing educational and legal services; - Amrif: Provides legal services to child victims of rape and trafficking and provides shelter to OVCs; - Ananyia: Runs a school and provides education and shelter services to street children; - Felege Tibib: Has peer education and conversations; - Hiwot HIV: provides care and support; Children expressed a positive attitude towards the activities and contribution of CSOs re assisting children and addressing child protection issues. But, their understanding of the traditional CSOs and their tasks were limited; Most children wanted CSOs to increase engagement of children in the implementation of their programmes to effectively address child protection issues. 		

13) Save the Children's child protection initiatives

Save the Children's child protection initiatives		
Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
<p>(1) Promoting Positive Disciplining and Abolishment of Physical and Humiliating Punishments (PHP).</p> <p>Implemented by ANPPCAN with the goal of prohibition and elimination of PHP of children in Ethiopia by 2012 and involves children in urban centres and rural communities. It includes the public and adults organized in different social groups such as Idirs and women and youth associations and professionals such as teachers and those working law enforcing agencies. The main activities of the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising and direct support in report cases to police stations, ANPPCAN-Ethiopia child helpline, schools and local administrators in Addis Ababa and Amhara Regional State; • Using the "Day of the African Child" and the "Day of Action against Child Violence" to create public awareness on child protection issues. Establishment and strengthening of children's parliaments and collaborating with government structures and child protection clubs re raising awareness of children and parents on PHP issues; • Raising awareness of the public, law enforcement bodies, school communities, community workers, Idir 	<p>(1) Access of Marginalized Children to NCPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The objective of the study is to assess strengths and gaps in existing child protection systems/structures at community level in selected areas in North Sudan based on the views of children on three main themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extent and perception of protection issues; - Extent and perception of participation; - Extent and perception of discrimination; • CSO partners are the CRI and SABAH Association for Child Care and Development. Both partners work with community based groups such as child protection committees, PTAs, children's clubs and youth and women groups. 	<p>(1) Gicumbi District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save the Children has been involved since 2006 and has established Community-based Child Protection Networks in all 21 sectors. Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nkundabana (mentors for child-headed households); - Children's Corners (child-friendly spaces organized by community volunteers); - Child Protection Committees (child advocates in the communities); - Children's Forums (child-led groups); • Child Protection Committees work on a voluntary basis and membership includes respected individuals such as village leaders, teachers, representatives of local authorities, women's associations, youth leaders and children representatives. Their roles and responsibilities are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifying vulnerable children and children survivors of abuse and violence; - Linking to referral services and providing follow up and mobilizing community efforts to protect children from sexual violence, exploitation and abuse; • Children's Forums are peer-elected committees of 5 children under 16 years old whose role is to provide training to their peers on children's rights and to

Save the Children's child protection initiatives		
Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> members and local association members, women and youth associations on child protection and banning of PHP in schools, child care institutions and in homes will be done through training and the mass media; Compile previous studies on laws and policy gaps pertaining to PHP in Ethiopia and create CP system; Disseminate UN study on violence against children with the National Committee on Abuse and Exploitation; Support SCS partner organizations, religious leaders, Idirs and traditional leaders to organize public forums on child protection and PHP; Establish and support task forces to monitor and follow up reporting of child abuse and actions. <p>(2) Integrated Child Protection System in Arada, Kirkos and Nifas Silk Lafto. Implemented by Forum for Sustainable Child Empowerment (FSCE) with the goal of to establish National Child Protection Systems in Ethiopia by 2012. The main activities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of children's centres at the head and project offices and a website so as to increase participation of children in the planning and implementation of the child protection project; Establishment and strengthening of child led groups and providing technical support to the existing child parliaments; Replicating and strengthening CPU, CBCPU, CBCC, child help lines and child friendly court facilities; 		<p>initiate activities to improve the protection of children in their communities. This includes reporting child abuse and violations of children's rights. Children's Forums also collect the views of vulnerable children on the issues they face, explore possible solutions and provide recommendations to the authorities for follow-up. Save the Children in Rwanda has provided 3,805 members of the Children's Forums with training on child rights and protection, life-skills and peer-education;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2009, Save the Children's Child Protection Programme in Gicumbi District directly reached 18,658 children and 9,050 adults. Indirectly they reached 23,001 children and 20,400 adults; The concept of Community-based Protection structures have been incorporated as part of the establishment of a Child Protection System into MIGEPROF's National Plan of Action for OVC and the development of Guidelines of Committees for Child Protection and Against GBV. <p>(2) Mageragere and Nyamirambo Sectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Save the Children partnered with child-led organization Association des Enfants et Jeunes Travailleurs (AEJiT) (Association of Working Children and Youth) which works to prevent children from exploitation and abuse; They sensitize children on their right to education, health, freedom of expression and dignity in work; AEJiT has been established in Rwanda in 2001 and it is part of the African Movement of Working Children

Save the Children's child protection initiatives		
Ethiopia	North Sudan	Rwanda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide appropriate child protection services such as counseling and other psychosocial support to abused and other disadvantaged children; • Establishment and strengthening of child protection community committees, and working in collaboration with police, civil and social affair bureaus, courts, etc. in project planning, review and implementation processes; • Capacity building of community based child protection structures and child led initiatives; • Increasing capacity of duty bearers such as BOLSA, Police/CPU, women affairs bureaus, administration, community courts, child friendly courts, etc. to provide child protection services in effective and efficient way; • Establishment of strong partnerships and linkages by providing technical support and establishment of formal and strong networks and referral systems; • Conduct research on gaps in services of disadvantaged children and disseminating the findings to relevant stakeholders to influence them on the protection of disadvantaged children. 		<p>(based in Senegal);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rwandan movement is composed of one National Coordination Office based in Kigali and local associations and grassroots groups; • AEJT members organize recreational activities (football tournaments, sports, songs and drama) and use these opportunities to sensitize children on child rights and protection issues; • They also conduct home visits to sensitize the parents of the children about children's rights and child protection.

14) Conclusion

Overall across the three countries, physical and humiliating punishment was mentioned by children as the most common type of abuse they face. This form of abuse particularly affects girls under 12 years. Other most commonly mentioned child protection issues include:

- sexual violence, abuse and harassment;
- child labour (especially amongst rural boys over 12 years old);
- child marriage;
- FGM.

Child trafficking was mentioned by children as an issue in Ethiopia and economic violence (lack of access to basic services) in Rwanda.

The main perpetrators of physical abuse and humiliating punishment include parents, care givers and teachers. Man and teenage boys are the main perpetrators of sexual violence and abuse against children.

Children's knowledge of existing laws to protect children against abuse and various reporting procedures is weak across all three countries included in the study. The main barriers being: the lack of relevant information on procedures and legislation; limited access to service providers and authorities, especially in rural areas and poorer communities; fear of perpetrators and social taboos. Children recommended stronger enforcement of legislation and heavier penalties for perpetrators, especially regarding the sexual abuse of children.

Very few children knew about child led groups within their communities, with the exception of Rwanda. Awareness of child led groups tends to be slightly higher among in-school than out-of-school children. Low levels of awareness are attributed to lack of information; lack of time to participate in activities and children being excluded by mental or physical disabilities. However, most respondents expressed an interest in joining such groups.

In contrast, in Rwanda up to 56% of children reported knowledge of child led groups within their community. In addition to this, 53% of children had participated in community or national consultations on child protection issues.

Children who were reported to be most vulnerable to discrimination included children infected or affected by HIV and AIDS (especially child headed households); children with disabilities; street children; refugee children and very poor children.