



Save the Children

JUKWAA LETU

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MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

YVONNE ARUNGA, COUNTRY DIRECTOR,
KENYA AND MADAGASCAR



As we mark the end of the year and of our Country Strategic Plan 2019-2021, I appreciate our staff, partners, government colleagues and donors for their immense support during such a turbulent period when children's rights to survive, learn and be protected have come under serious pressure from the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The year has been a challenging one for Kenya & Madagascar; a deadly combination of COVID-19, economic recession, failed rainfall and locust invasion that have pushed hunger levels to a record high.

In Northern Kenya, most children have to contend with a single daily meal. Women and girls are traveling longer to fetch water for domestic use while increased migration of livestock, in search of pasture, has resulted in little or no milk for children in the communities.

The nutrition situation is looking bad with an estimated 652,960 children aged 6-59 months and 96,450 pregnant or breastfeeding women requiring urgent treatment for acute malnutrition. Overall, 2.1 million people are facing acute food insecurity and are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

The situation is similar in Southern Madagascar which is facing a deepening hunger crisis. The climate crisis which has manifested itself in three straight years of drought, coupled with sandstorms, caterpillars and locust invasion have resulted in farming production failure and extreme reduction in food access.

The last IPC Analysis conducted in June 2021 indicated that 1.31 million out of 2.7 million people living in the Great South of Madagascar are severely food insecure and likely to face high level of acute malnutrition between October and December 2021. Additionally, 14,000 people have exhausted their coping mechanisms and are facing famine-like conditions.

Message from the Country Director

The situation is getting worse for children. It has been reported that 565,174 children under five will likely suffer acute malnutrition through April 2022. Of these, 110,000 are already severely malnourished and need urgent care.

The district of Ambovombe, where Save the Children has set up a response, was declared at risk of famine from September to December 2021. Here, 86% of communes are in a phase of nutrition emergency with the high level of admissions of children in outpatient therapeutic programme (OTP) and target supplementary feeding programme (STP).

There is no doubt that the need is great and the situation is dire. Save the Children has been on the frontline responding to these humanitarian needs in Kenya and Madagascar. In Kenya, we are providing 3,574 households (29,728 people) with cash transfers and have so far reached 16,803 people with water trucking services.

Our nutrition outreach programme served at least 113 hard-to reach sites every month between June and December 2021, where we have managed to identify and refer for treatment 5,254 children and 1,728 expectant and breastfeeding women with malnutrition. These outreaches together with our other humanitarian interventions are ongoing with financial support from USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance and the Humanitarian Fund.

In Madagascar, Save the Children is providing 1,587 households (or 8,320 beneficiaries) with cash assistance (\$30) every month. This support will continue until January 2022 and we intend to scale this support to cover additional 1,000 households by the end of December 2021.

We are also reaching tens of thousands of beneficiaries with child protection and infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices messaging through community radios and forums in both countries as part of our nutrition programming.

Despite our heightened activities, we have barely managed to scratch the surface as the need is great and is growing each day. Our ambition in Kenya, for instance, is to provide effective and timely humanitarian assistance and build resilience of 236,000 most vulnerable people, including 131,600 children by August 2022 with a budget of \$11



The nutrition situation is looking bad with an estimated **652,960 children aged 6-59 months requiring urgent treatment for acute malnutrition**

million. Out of this, we have only managed to raise \$4,850,000 for the response that has so far reached 23,721 adults (23% of target) and 28,993 children (22% of target).

In Madagascar, our ambition is to raise \$2,000,000 to enable us provide immediate lifesaving assistance to 30,000 beneficiaries, including 18,000 children through a local partner-led response in Ambovombe District by May 2022. We have however only managed to secure \$929,743. Our response has thus only reached 2,848 adults (24% of target) and 5,328 children (30% of target) every month.

In food crises like these, children are always the most vulnerable. Without enough to eat and the right nutritional balance, children cannot develop as they should and are at high risk of acute malnutrition. Malnutrition can cause stunting, impede mental and physical development, increase the risk of developing other illnesses, and ultimately cause death. It remains one of the biggest killers of children under five around the world.

We have an opportunity to stop this if we act now and act fast. The clarion call to our staff, partners, donors, government stakeholders and the international community, is to put our efforts together and help safeguard the lives of children and our future generations.



A JOURNEY FROM CRIME TO SELF-EMPLOYMENT

As a child, 27-year-old Francis Ombima dreamt of becoming an electronics technician. But as fate would have it, Ombima became an orphan living with his grandmother in Luanda, a rural area of Vihiga County in Western Kenya. He struggled to survive and barely received an education or training.

In an attempt to improve their livelihood, Ombima moved to Mathare informal settlement in Nairobi, Kenya. The residents of the slum live in one-roomed tin or wooden houses that serve as a living room, kitchen, and bedroom. And in like any other informal settlement, security is also a major issue in Mathare slums.

For Ombima, however, moving to Mathare seemed like the only path to success, but without formal education or training, he could not find employment. Like many youths in the slum, he started abusing drugs and engaging in petty crime to survive.

"I used to make a living by stealing from people in Mathare. It is quite scary because you never know if you're going to get caught," recalls Ombima, "I have had many struggles in my life and I would not wish my children to go through the same."

Fast forward, Ombima is a married, electronics technician and a father of one thanks to the Enterprise Based Technical Vocational Education Training (EBTVET) project by Save the Children. The programme, being implemented in Mathare informal settlement and Turkana County, empowers young with market-driven vocational skills. The young people selected are placed under mentors over a period of five months for apprenticeship training, networking and business mentorship.

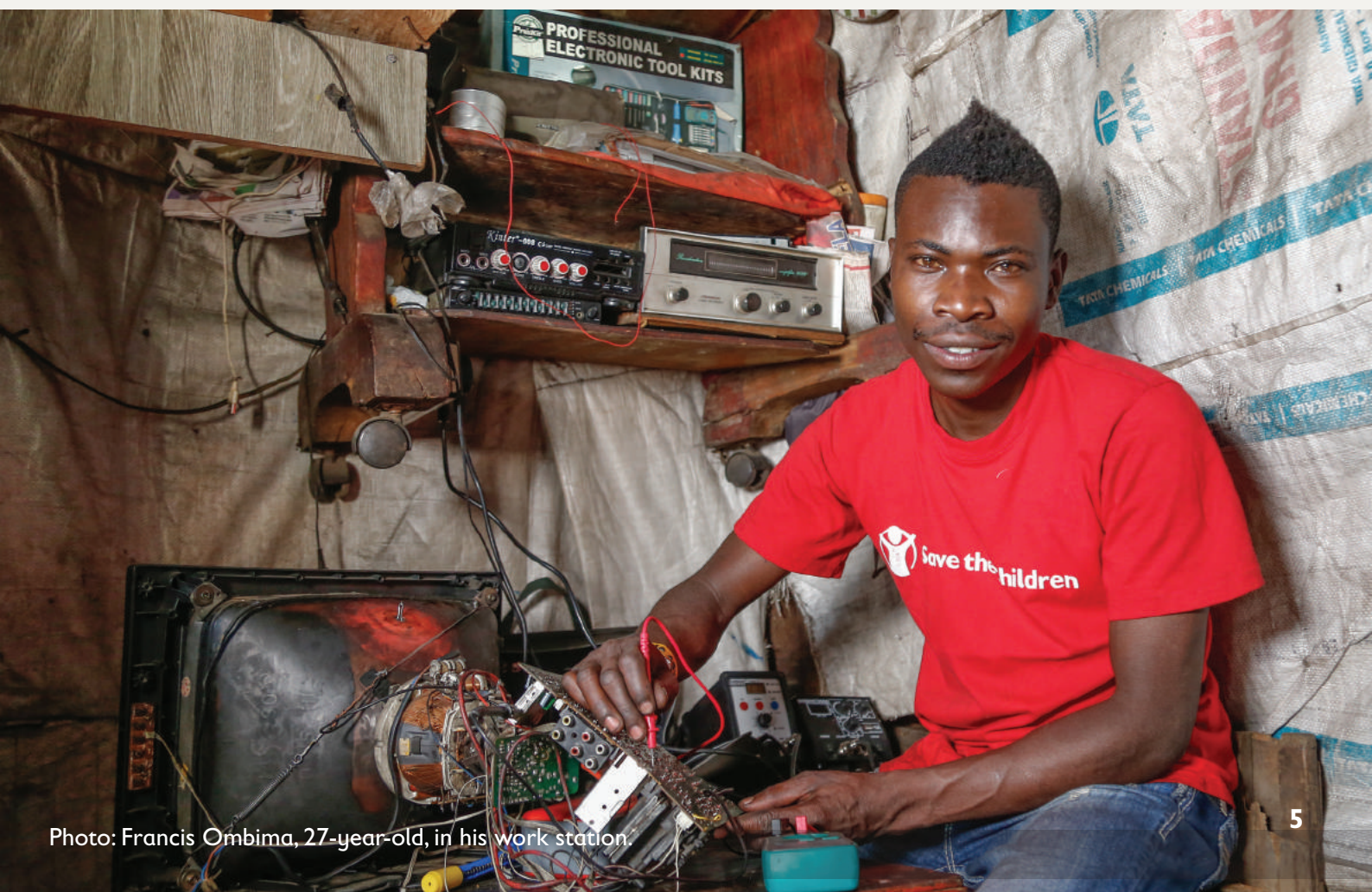


Photo: Francis Ombima, 27-year-old, in his work station.

The youth are also equipped with Life Skills for Success (LS4S) and Entrepreneurship skills to enable them to effectively navigate their environment, identify opportunities and exploit them by initiating income generating activities.

“The main objective of the project is to empower the youth with skills that they can apply and make a living while serving their local communities,” explains James Kabau, TVET Coordinator, Save the Children.

Ombima is among a group of 200 young people who have benefitted from the programme. And just like the others, Ombima has a job and is now using the skills he acquired during his training to do what he loves.

“Francis had great passion to learn more about electronics. I gave him the opportunity and he did well. He is a go getter, has a lot of potential and he will be able to conquer the market,” says Naftali Ogana, a successful electronics technician in Mathare slums who hosted and trained Francis.

Upon successful completion of the training, Save the Children offered Ombima a startup kit that comprises essential tools that have helped him to start off his electronics technician career.

With a steady source of income, Ombima hopes to get a better education for his son, improve the welfare of his family, and share the skills acquired with fellow youth for free. He is strongly guided by his personal mantra – forward ever backward never.

“With this kind of training by organizations like Save the Children, we can be sure the youth will be able to employ themselves, generate their own income and there will be less crime in the slums since all will be busy,” concludes Naftali.

OPERATIONALIZATION OF NON-FUNCTIONAL HEALTH FACILITIES IMPROVES IMMUNIZATION ACCESS IN MANDERA COUNTY

Iresteno village is one of the biggest and oldest settlements in Mandera West Sub-County of Mandera County, Kenya. It is among several other villages in Mandera, lacking fully functional health facilities, making it difficult for area residents to not only get health services, but for their children to get basic immunization services.

That was the case, until Save the Children, with funding from Pfizer Foundation, supported the operationalization of Iresteno Dispensary and other health facilities in the area. Mzee Mohamed, who is a community elder in the village and also a Community Health Volunteer (CHV) says this initiative has helped the communities get the much-needed health services.



Photo: Packs of cold chain equipment being donated by SCI to Mandera County Department of Health

“It has been very difficult for our children to get immunized against childhood diseases such as measles, polio and other vaccine-preventable diseases. We had to rely on the monthly integrated health outreach programmes that were supported by Save the Children,” says Mohamed. “On those days when there were no outreaches, we had to ferry our children and mothers to Dandu Health Centre which is 40 kilometers away, or cross to the Ethiopian town of Qadaduma to seek health services. We did this using motorbikes, which are not safe”.

According to government statistics, immunization coverage in Mandera dropped from 76% pre-Covid-19 period to now 56%. This has been attributed by among others, lack of fully functional health centers offering immunization services in the county.

“I am a trained CHV, and I understand the importance of healthcare services and especially immunization for young children. But this had been hindered by the lack of having health facilities offering these services in the area,” says Mzee Mohamed.

Other than Iresteno Dispensary, the project by Save the Children and Pfizer Foundation has supported the operationalization of 16 new and old immunization health facilities with renovation works and donation of furniture and immunization cold chain equipment in Mandera North, Mandera West and Mandera South Sub-Counties. With our support, the 16 health facilities are now supporting their own hard-to-reach catchment population through Save the Children’s monthly health outreaches.

So far the outreaches have been in 42 villages, reaching more than 700 children with immunization services and 1500 children for treatment of minor illness.



Photo: Mohamed speaking to Save the Children after a delivery of cold chain equipment at the Iresteno Dispensary

“Now that the government, with the support of Save the Children and Pfizer Foundation have made our dispensaries fully functional, our primary maternal and child health worry is a thing of the past. It is my hope that the government will consistently support the health center with medical supplies and health personnel to enable the facility continue with its operations,” says an optimistic Mzee Mohamed

HOW WE ARE ENSURING CHILDREN THRIVE THROUGH OUR ECD PROGRAMMES

The place is Mathare North, one of Kenya’s largest informal settlements situated in Nairobi. We find a group of people gathered inside a church for an important community meeting.

A majority of those gathered here are men. The discussions center around positive parenting and its impact on young children.

All the participants, including the facilitators, are parents. At the end of the training, the facilitators can be seen engaging each and every parent, asking them what it is they have done differently since the last time they were together and the results yielded.

“These days my children talk to me, it really feels good to come home from a day’s hard work to be greeted by your children and discuss how the day was for them in school. That wasn’t the case back then,” one of the parents says.

“I wish my children were younger. I would do parenting quite differently. Now I am sensitizing younger parents on alternative discipline for their children who are my grandchildren,” an elderly participant adds.



The parents are being taken through one of Save the Children’s programmes that focuses on, positive parenting, inclusive education, child protection and safeguarding, and positive discipline to ensure that all ECD children, regardless of their vulnerabilities, learn in safe and protective environments. The trainings target parents, teachers and members of Boards of Management of select schools.

The programme is being implemented in three ECD centers in Mathare informal settlements namely Kiboro ECD Center, Valley Bridge ECD Center and Mathare North ECD Center. The programme is in line with Save the Children’s 2030 ambition which is to create a world in which all children survive, learn and are protected.



Margaret Nzuki, a positive parenting facilitator of the programme, tells us how it has been since the project started in September, 2020, and the positive results it has generated to date.

“The programme has been really helpful especially to the children,” she says. “We visit schools, we talk to pupils and the feedback we get is really positive. Children love the changes they see at home and in school.”

“The program has also had an impact on how teachers relate with the children. Performance in schools has improved in most of the children; their confidence levels have seen a tremendous change; many can now ask questions in class without fear and even relate better with their teachers,” she adds.

The program started at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, at a time when most families were going through difficulties. Most parents were at home – and without jobs – something that made organizing trainings an uphill task for the coordinators, as Margaret explains:

“You would try talking to a parent about parent-child relationship, but then they are thinking about what they will put on the table for the family at the end of the day. Building relationships at that time was not easy.”

“But by keeping them closer to us, sharing the same experiences as part of the community, and helping them correct the relationship within the family and with their children, they started embracing us and they loved the results.”

Margaret could not finish her conversation before telling us about Musa who was so reluctant to join the program and how far he has come from the time he joined.

“Before we introduced Musa to the male engagement program, he swore he would never serve his wife food, be involved in the kitchen or change his child’s diaper,” said Margaret. “According to him, it was a taboo to do all that. But today as we speak, Musa is the one advocating for male involvement in raising children,” she concludes smiling.

The Drought Crisis: Voices of Children

Madagascar is currently facing its worst drought in 40 years, caused by years of failed rains, and intensified by a series of sandstorms and locust attacks. One in six children under five are now suffering from acute malnutrition, with numbers rising to one in four children in the six most affected districts.

In Kenya, an estimated two million people are facing food shortages with the arid counties of Turkana, Garissa, Wajir and Marsabit worst affected. The number increased from about 1.4 million reported earlier in February.

The crisis is worsening by the day in both countries and is majorly affecting children. We spoke to children in some of the areas worst hit by drought and this is what they had to say:



"In this season there is a lot of drought and our fathers are pastoralists who depend on animals. Our animals are dying, there's no milk to drink nor food to eat that's why we sleep hungry. We want the government to help us with food and water." **Abdia, 14, Wajir.**



"I come to school while hungry. Our livestock at home are weak and some are dead. It takes us so much time to look for water to drink and for the animals. When we don't get enough food sometimes we drink water to alleviate the hunger. We also have to share the little food that is available with our neighbours and friends." **Amina, 12, Wajir.**



"Due to the unreliable livelihood sources of my uncle we often miss meals especially supper. The drought has worsened the situation since our animals moved (away from home) and (we) no longer get milk and other support we used to receive from my parents when they were closer to us during rainy seasons."

Feisal, 12, from Wajir, who lives with his uncle after the parents left with animals in search of water and pasture.



"My father has moved our animals to search for better grazing areas and has left us under the care of our mother who feels overwhelmed between the daily household chores and the additional responsibility to look for our family's daily bread." **Abdihakim, 11, Wajir.**

The Drought Crisis: Voices of Children



“There are teachers who teach us and we pay the money through individual contribution; now since drought has started not everyone can afford to pay hence we (are) asking for help through the government. Also we have hospital which was built back in 2017 but not operating due to lack of drugs and health officers, we really pleading for these. We got farms around but there is no sufficient water that can irrigate the farm, we really need aid on these and to also help us with farm tools.” **Ibrahim, 17, Garissa.**



“The drought has adverse effect on us since we are pastoralists whose main source of income is livestock. The drought is taking them away. This has led to loss of family income. The drought has also led to drying up of water sources and livestock pasture is no more. We share the little food we have with livestock and we no longer have 3 meals per day like before. I am mostly worried about my educational journey. Now (that) the drought has taken away our livestock, which is our only source of income, I am worried about who is going to pay my school fees. Hunger causes dizziness and loss of attention in class, to distract myself from thinking about it sometimes I drink water or even sleep until the next meal.” **Feisal, 14, Mandera**



“We didn’t adapt to the situation at first, but now we are adapting to it with time. We are currently adapting to it because even if there is hunger within we can go without eating food. It’s like we getting used to it. Sometime we do not get anything to eat at all. The humanitarian community is really addressing our problems. What they do is, when they come to our community there are children who are enrolled in their programs. They bring children biscuits and started sending our families money. They also gave us bunsha (feed supplement to pastoralist)” **Halima, 15, Garissa.**



“The drought has killed our livestock. Since we get our daily bread from these livestock, our daily meal is distracted. We cannot afford three meals a day. We do not have enough water for our domestic uses. I am worried about our lives after this drought. I am also worried about where we will get our income from. I eat two meals a day, before I used to eat three or four meals a day. Today I drunk strong tea and two pieces of bread and lunch time I ate rice and beans. This is what I eat every day. It feels bad when you are starving, I might even have a stomach ache. I distract myself from hunger by drinking a glass of water, or sleeping or visiting friends.” **Winnie, 15, Mandera**

What I fear the most during the famine is when I feel sick when I've eaten nothing. I feel quite dizzy, and sometimes I am afraid to die. If my mother finds some money, we have one meal a day. Sometimes we eat red cactus fruit that we collect or buy. My mother does not have money. She borrows money everywhere, but most of the time there is no one to give so, we eat nothing and go to bed with an empty stomach. **Sambeanake, 6, Madagascar**



New Program Portfolio



USAID ADVANCING NUTRITION KENYA

In August 2020, USAID Kenya provided USAID Advancing Nutrition with a scope of work spanning two years. USAID Advancing Nutrition is the Agency's flagship multi-sectoral nutrition project led by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI), and a diverse group of experienced partners. In Kenya, the programme is being implemented by Save the Children.

The project's multi-sectoral approach draws together global nutrition experience to design, implement and evaluate programs that address the root causes of malnutrition. Committed to using a systems approach, USAID Advancing Nutrition strives to sustain positive outcomes by building local capacity,

supporting behavior change and strengthening the enabling environment to save lives, improve health, build resilience, increase economic productivity and advance development.

The project is being implemented in Kakamega, Kisumu and Kitui Counties, and providing technical assistance (TA) at the national level to the Ministries of Health (MOH) and Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives (MOALFC).

The main objectives of the project in Kenya include improved multi-sectoral nutrition resource allocation, planning for nutrition and government-led multi-sectoral nutrition coordination platforms at the national and county levels



Novartis Pharma AG

Save the Children in collaboration with Novartis Pharma AG is implementing a health project in Nairobi with an aim of improving the management of diseases and training of healthcare workers in Kibra and Mathare informal settlements.

The 8-month project's goal is to deliver lifesaving curative interventions closer home for common childhood illness including pneumonia, malaria, diarrhea, fever and malnutrition, for the Kibra and Mathare residents. The joint project shall expand the coverage of support for the community health units in the two settlements to functionality through training of community health volunteers, strengthening commodity supply chains for Integrated Community Case Management (iCCM) and community health information systems.

The programme also seeks to contribute to the evidence generation and learning around antimicrobial resistance to influence policy and practice especially at the primary health care level and to further conduct a formative study to explore the gaps in the public health systems around health education, screening, diagnosis, and treatment of Sickle Cell Disease.

Save the Children has a long presence in Kibra and Mathare informal settlements and a deep understanding of the community context and will ensure project elements build upon recent or ongoing activities in the target locations while promoting resilience and sustainability after phase-out of the project.



The goal of the 8-month health project is to deliver lifesaving curative interventions closer home for common childhood illness including pneumonia, malaria, diarrhea, fever and malnutrition.

Life-Skills Project Saves Life of a Girl Mother in Daadab

16-year old Rahma became a mother at the age of 14 years. This is after her parents forcefully married her off to an older man when she was only 15 years. That, was unfortunately, the end of her education, dreams for her future and her right to be a child.



Photo: Rahma in her house where she works as a tailor, a business she started with support from Save the Children and Unicef, to support herself and family.

Rahma's case is one of many witnessed at the Daadad Refugee Camp. Other than forced child marriages, children at the camp are exposed to multiple protection threats, violence, abuse and exploitation. While the old challenges and protection abuses such as over-crowding, sexual and gender-based violence, and family separation have remained, new worrying trends of protection threats are being witnessed affecting children and families.

42% of school-aged children in Dadaab are out of school. Girls' access to education is especially a challenge due to social and economic factors coupled with social norms and traditions such as forced early childhood marriages that disadvantage them.

It is for these reasons that Save the Children in partnership with UNICEF have been supporting child mothers in Daadab Refugee Camp through support group programmes and life skills training. Rahma was identified by our team of frontline case workers who conduct home visits within the camp.

Other than life skills training, the girls are also given start-up kits to enable them use the skills learnt to do businesses and support themselves and their children.

"I am very grateful to Save the Children and UNICEF. The counselling and training I received enabled me to start my own business and I can comfortably support my family," said a delighted Rahma.

Building a Future With Young People, for Young People

STAFF PROFILE – AINA RAZANAMAHEFA, YOUTH EMPOWERMENT COORDINATOR



29-year old Aina Razabanafefa is a Youth Empowerment Coordinator for Save the Children in Madagascar. Today, he is going to Befingotra Village, about 37 km from Save the Children's Madagascar office in Andapa, to support a youth association that the organization has helped create.

Smiling and full of enthusiasm, Aina straddles his motorbike. The road to the village is impassable by car so one has to either walk or use a motorbike. Aina has always had a love for young people and always desires to offer them a helping hand if this will enable them take a step closer to achieving their dreams.

“Ever since I was a teenager I always liked to be involved in community life. Being a scout when I was much younger allowed me to have a number of skills and get more involved in a number of projects that supported communities around me,” says Aina.

Aina completed his studies in Social Communication, Management and Economics and participated in several youth international conferences before joining Save the Children as a Youth Coordinator in Madagascar.



His work consists of building the resilience and capacity of young people in the Sava region, in the North of Madagascar, so that they can build a better tomorrow. The youth programme covers 77 villages, in 3 districts (Andapa, Sambava, Antalaha). It supports 78 youth associations through capacity building, to enable young people discover and exploit their potential, both individually and as a team. The project also works with Madagascar's Ministry of Public Health to support adolescent and youth reproductive health interventions.

“I was 25 years old when I took this job. Many people thought I was too young to be a project coordinator. This pushed me to work harder to assert myself quickly in my position,” says Aina. “I worked tirelessly, read a lot of books to understand this field, learn more and master what needed to be done. I also got a coach/mentor to walk with me.”

The achievements, big and small, make Aina proud of the young people he walks with in the youth empowerment programme in Madagascar.

“It makes me happy to see these young people succeed. There's a young girl, for example, who joined a youth association that we have been supporting in her village. She worked very hard and has now been selected to be a trainer in a similar project,” says a proud Aina.

The Youth Empowerment Coordinator is equally proud of two other youth who were able to attend summits in Antananarivo, the Capital of Madagascar.

“They have never been outside the village, but thanks to all the support activities initiated by Save the Children, they were able to go to the capital and discover new horizons. I am really proud of these achievements,” says Aina delightedly.

“Young people are the future and my motivation is that through my work, I can do my part so that they have a minimum of baggage to build that future. I have faith in the future, both ours and theirs,” he concludes.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY

Save the Children Engages Children to Mark World Children's Day, 2021

Save the Children Board Members and staff in Kenya and Madagascar this year marked World Children's Day by hosting a virtual engagement session with children, to discuss issues and challenges they face in their day to day lives. The Country Office also used the opportunity to share the organization's Country Strategic Plan, 2022-2024, to get input from the children before its adoption.

This year's World Children's Day theme was '**A Better Future for Every Child**'.

During the event, the children from Nairobi, Bungoma, Lodwar, Wajir, Dadaab, Mandera, Samburu, Mombasa and Madagascar boldly shared the issues they are facing and even gave some recommendations for consideration.

Some of the issues raised by the children include rise in teenage pregnancies, corporal punishment, child labor and neglect by caregivers, insecurity, primitive cultural practices such as forced early marriages and Female Genital Mutilation, gender based violence, drought which is being experienced in Northern Kenya and Madagascar, increased rape cases among others.

Children with disability informed the Board Members and staff that they experienced challenges in mobility due to lack of assistive devices and requested that buildings, including schools, be disability friendly; and for increased classrooms which can house children with special needs. The children further asked that awareness on disability be raised within communities

so as to demystify the myths misconceptions that disability was associated with curses and witchcraft.

The children, in one voice, urged government, Save the Children and partners to ensure that their concerns were addressed and their rights protected to enable them have quality life and achieve their full potential.

Speaking during the event, Yvonne Arunga, Save the Children Kenya and Madagascar Country Director said that the children's requests were among the things that have been addressed in the Country Strategic Plan.

"We are just asking that when children are born they survive, live a healthy life, have access to enough good food that will help them develop to their full capacity," said Yvonne during the session. "We want children protected, we want the girl child to stay in school and not living in fear of forced marriage or teenage pregnancy; we want children to be allowed to participate in things that affect them."

Save the Children Kenya and Madagascar's Country Strategic Plan 2022-2024 focuses on 4 goals: children under 5 thrive; improved well-being for youth and adolescent girls and boys; strengthened child sensitive shock-responsive social protection systems for vulnerable communities and access to safe & quality education.

World Children's Day was established first in 1954 and is celebrated on the 20th of November, each year, in honor of children and to deliberate on how to improve their welfare.

Male Baraza Sessions in Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities Positively Influencing Acceptance of Child Spacing



Abass Abdi Ibrahim, a beneficiary of the male barazas

Male involvement in family planning (FP) cannot be gainsaid. Their engagement is especially important in the nomadic and semi-nomadic communities of Wajir and Mandera where the topic is almost a taboo.

Save the Children recognizes the importance of male involvement in addressing maternal and new-born health issues, particularly child spacing, which is a form of family planning. It is for this reason that we have partnered with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the Centre for Behavior Change Communication (CBCC) to implement a family planning programme called the Nomadic Health Project in Northern Kenya.

With funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, we aim to dispel myths and misconceptions about contraceptives in the nomadic and semi-nomadic communities, get men more involved in family planning matters and increase uptake of quality FP services among the above-mentioned communities in Kenya.

One of the ways we are implementing the project is through the male engagement barazas which aim to bring together men within the community to discuss important maternal and new-born health issues including: child spacing, pregnancy care, childcare, nutrition and hygiene.

Abass Abdi Ibrahim, 61, a semi nomadic pastoralist living in Jaijai village is one of the area residents who attends the barazas. He tells us that he goes for the male barazas twice every month although sometimes he misses the sessions because he is away herding his animals.

“So far I have attended four barazas since they began. I have learnt a lot from these sessions especially about child spacing. I encourage my fellow men to discuss family planning with their spouses and plan their families,” he says through a translator.

He adds that child spacing is important because it is not fair to have so many children without a proper source of income.

“A family unit is the most important part of any man, therefore, as the head of the household he should be able to provide a quality life for them. Children deserve proper food and health care, and proper child spacing achieves that,” he says.

46-year-old Sadek Baa is a Community Health Volunteer (CHV) working in Wajir County’s Jaijai Village. He has been a CHV for 8 years, attending to 15 households in Jaijai providing services like household visits, referral services, provision of health education, reproductive health services and family planning, as well as supporting immunization campaigns and supporting community dialogue days.

“The community dialogue sessions have been very essential especially in educating the men in matters concerning child spacing and general health education. The community members have been able to get more clarity on child spacing from these sessions,” he explained.

According to Baa, they are also working with religious leaders within these communities to provide a religious aspect on matters child spacing and general health education. Baa notes that the sessions have helped improve the health of children in the village because their parents have better health education.

ADVOCACY

The Children Bill 2021: A journey towards promoting and protecting child rights in Kenya

Kenya ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 30th July, 1990 and nine years later the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child on 29th November, 1999. Ratifying the crucial instruments signalled the country's intention to promote and protect the rights of children.

In 2001, Parliament enacted the Children Act to give effect to the principles contained in the two instruments besides consolidating provisions on children, which were scattered in several pieces of legislations. The Act makes provisions for parental responsibility, fostering, adoption, custody, maintenance, guardianship, care and protection of children; and administration of children institutions.

Several gaps were identified in the Children Act, and by the year 2005, the process of reviewing the Act began. This process has dragged for years, culminating with the publication of the Children Bill 2021 in October this year. The Bill is currently before Parliament awaiting approval.

Save the Children has been involved in the review process in several ways, including being a member of the National Steering Committee, which has been instrumental in drafting the Bill. As a member of the Committee, we have tapped into our global experience and made several recommendations most of which have been incorporated in the resultant draft.

Together with the Joining Forces Alliance, we have also mobilised children across the country to give their views, which have been very useful in the drafting process. Save the Children further supported the process of engaging the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2016, where the Committee expressly recommended to the Government that it should *“expedite the completion of the harmonization of national legislation and regulations with the Convention, including by adopting new legislation to replace the Children Act (2001), and to ensure the active and meaningful participation of children and civil society organizations in elaborating the new legislation”*.

Finally, we have supported several child rights organisations including target county child rights networks to present memoranda on the proposals contained in the Children Bill.

The Bill is a great improvement to the current Act in several regards.

First, several new definitions have been included to address emerging issues including radicalization, online abuse, female genital mutilation, forced circumcision for the boy child, child trafficking among others. The Bill also recognises vulnerable children and provides for how best to address their concerns.

Secondly, the Bill proposes provision of social security to children through an elaborate Child Welfare Fund, which is to be funded through the national exchequer under the aegis of the Public Finance Management Act. The Bill expressly mandates County Governments to establish child welfare schemes and child care facilities in their respective counties besides taking charge of pre-primary education.

The Bill further makes provision of diversion, which essentially means that children who commit minor offences should not be directly taken through the criminal justice system but would be dealt with through community based support systems. It also proposes to raise the age of criminal responsibility from eight to twelve years and makes it mandatory for children in conflict with the law, and those in the legal process to have legal aid. Other than that, the Bill makes it mandatory for police stations to have child protection units to ensure that children are not detained in the same facilities as adults.

On adoption, the Bill has proposed a new concept referred to as “kinship adoption”, allowing a relative wishing to adopt a child to do so using a procedure that is simpler, cheaper and expeditious. The current Act subjects all prospective adoption parents to a similar procedure, greatly impeding kinship adoptions due to the expensive and laborious process. Muslims who wish to take care of children through the Kafallah system, have also been availed this option. Kafallah, is the equivalent of adoption in tandem with Islamic religious practices.

The Bill is progressive and will go a long way in supporting the promotion and protection of child rights in the country. An elaborate advocacy plan has been developed by Save the Children, the Joining Forces Alliance and the National Steering Committee to ensure that the Bill is enacted into law, and eventually implemented for the benefit of all children in the country.

Child Safeguarding

Youth in Mathare use their skills to raise awareness on child safeguarding

Save the Children in partnership with youth in Mathare informal settlements put up graffiti within the informal settlement, to educate locals in the area about the importance of protecting children.

The youth, who are also in our Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) Programme in Mathare, are also part of the wider team that assisted in pre-testing the safeguarding messages to ensure they were understandable to the target audience in Mathare.

Safeguarding the children that we come into contact with throughout our work is a key priority for Save the Children. We believe that it is our individual and collective responsibility to ensure all children are protected from deliberate or unintentional acts that lead to the risk of, or actual, harm, at all times.

Safeguarding Activities Undertaken by the Team

FOUR WAYS TO REPORT YOUR CHILD SAFEGUARDING CONCERN

- A disclosure of abuse can be made in any form
- Call on the 0800 720 216 or 0800 123 456 78 90 10 11
- Drop your concerns or concerns to our CRM box
- Email your concerns to: info@save-the-children.org

It is your duty to report if a child tells you s/he is being abused, exploited or is injured during a Save the Children activity or you generally have a concern about a child

Report a concern within 24 hours

Worried about reporting a child safeguarding concern? Don't be

Call us on our Toll-Free Number 0800 720 216

SAVE THE CHILDREN KENYA
P.O. Box 27679-00506
Nairobi, Kenya

ANAMBA NAKKEUNET NGIPITESINEI DAANG ABOLIARO

Save the Children

A SAFE ORGANIZATION FOR CHILDREN

Say NO to Child Abuse!

Emunoi Ikoku daang!

Ikoku daang kiyoiki agogongu kadaang anaepedor alosuben angieyece kori aluibatun ka naesubasi na epedorete aki-wakin nasarae akitadallare, anako ekiner, awana ka ng'imeny lukoce

Arai etic a Save the Children aweikin daang na esubasi aloprogramia iricakinit ikoku

Kipoto eemut tomaa ngasaa

Aniboa kitimit iyong akiyeun eemut kidiama aboliaro?

Kikeu adiit na pas

0800 720 216

SAVE THE CHILDREN KENYA
P.O. Box 27679-00506
Nairobi, Kenya

Save the Children

ATUKOT NAKAPATAN ALODE

Tama EMAM aboliaro angide

hwaragat ang'akuro tenoyek yok anaiyok ngide

Material creation: on the right is the first ever safeguarding brochure translated in the **Turkana language**. This was facilitated by **Miriam Atonia**, the Turkana Child Safeguarding Focal Point. This will ensure the message is well received by the wider Turkana community.



Safeguarding in construction: Assessments in Garissa and Wajir under the BHA Project to ensure risks are identified and mitigated against in every phase of the constructions.



Patrick Namerio
DRIVER

STAFF EXCELLENCE

Samburu driver feted for his excellent service!

Our Samburu driver Patrick Namerio emerged second best for the Alepha Mpunga Driver of the Year Award, 2021.

The award, which honours the late Alepha Mpunga, a driver who has worked with Save the Children from September 2015 to January 2021 before succumbing to COVID-19, recognizes drivers for excellence in professionalism, taking care of passengers and vehicles, being proactive on road safety and supporting their environment and community. The award also seeks to honor the important role drivers play in our work.

Out of a total of 67 nominees from across the globe, Patrick was among the finalists who made it to the top five and eventually, top two.

While presenting the award to him, Save the Children International CEO Inger Ashing lauded Patrick for always seeking to improve himself and his work and his personal initiative to work in the community in which he is based.

Congratulations to Patrick for his service excellence!

Beneficiary Reach



RESPONSE OT SUMMARY TABLE:		KENYA						
Summary By Disaggregation		Beneficiary Reach To date by Sector (individuals)						
		Type	Child Protection	Education	Health	Nutrition	WASH	FSL
Children Kenya	Boys		0	0	4821	4464	5135	8766
	Girls		0	0	4579	4236	5243	8093
	Total		0	0	9400	8700	10378	16859
Adults Kenya	Male		0	0	3856	0	5635	6692
	Female		0	0	4243	2441	5633	6177
	Total		0	0	8099	2441	11268	12869
Sectoral total reach			0	0	17499	11141	21646	29728
Children reached (without double counting)		39595						
Grand total reached (Individuals without double count)		80014						

RESPONSE OT SUMMARY TABLE:		Madagascar						
Summary By Disaggregation		Beneficiary Reach To date by Sector (individuals)						
		Type	Child Protection	Education	Health	Nutrition	WASH	FSL
Children Madagascar	Boys		0	0	0	29	0	2861
	Girls		0	0	0	33	0	2647
	Total		0	0	0	62	0	5508
Adults Madagascar	Male		115	0	0	0	0	1095
	Female		536	0	0	0	0	1753
	Total		651	0	0	0	0	2848
Sectoral total reach			651	0	0	62	0	8356
Children reached (without double counting)		5508						
Grand total reached (Individuals without double count)		8471						

Summary By Disaggregation		Beneficiary Reach To date by Sector (individuals)						
		Type	Child Protection	Education	Health	Nutrition	WASH	FSL
Children KENYA & MADAGASCAR	Boys		0	0	4821	4493	5135	11627
	Girls		0	0	4579	4269	5243	10740
	Total		0	0	9400	8762	10378	22367
Adults KENYA & MADAGASCAR	Male		115	0	3856	0	5635	7787
	Female		536	0	4243	2441	5633	7930
	Total		651	0	8099	2441	11268	15717
Sectoral total reach			651	0	17499	11203	21646	38084
Children reached (without double counting)		45103						
Grand total reached (Individuals without double count)		88485						



Save the Children

JUKWAA LETU

JULY - DECEMBER 2021

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