



# PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST YOUR IMPACT

Annual Report 2020



Save the Children

Whatever it takes.  
Wherever the need.



For over 100 years, Save the Children has advanced children's rights in Canada and around the world. We do whatever it takes every day and in times of crisis – to give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. We strive to ensure children's unique needs are met and their voices are heard – transforming their lives and the future we share.

## OUR VISION

is a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.

## OUR MISSION

is to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

Cover photo: Jenn Gardella / Save the Children



15-year-old Jessica\* in Bolivia, participated in our programming which gave her the tools to pivot and accelerate her family's business during the pandemic. Jessica and her family produced mattresses for COVID-19 isolation centres. Jessica's future plans include having more capital for her business, a physical store and to be able to travel.

*"Save the Children has helped me a lot with the project, because they guided us from scratch. We have their constant support. Even when I finished the training, they bought us threads, the sewing machine, the fabrics and all the materials. Now we can sell and make new products."*



The first Save the Children organization was founded in London, England, in 1919 by Eglantyne Jebb and her sister Dorothy Buxton.



It was launched in response to the aftermath of WWI and the Russian Revolution. Jebb's work pioneered the United Nations' movement toward formal recognition of universal child rights.



# MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT/CEO AND BOARD CHAIR

## If one thing was certain in 2020, it was that COVID-19 knew no borders.

When the health crisis swept the world, we realized this needed an urgent and decisive response both at home and overseas. Thanks to the support of the Government of Canada and donors like you, Save the Children Canada took immediate action.

The effects of the pandemic hit young people hard. Lengthy school closures disrupted the education of more than 1.5 billion children. Lockdowns endangered their mental health and food security, and put children at increased risk of violence, forced labour, and early marriage – particularly girls. The long-term impacts of the pandemic will disproportionately affect those already living in crisis. Thousands have not seen the inside of a classroom in more than a year, and remote learning is not an option for many children in isolated or conflict-affected communities. The long-term impacts of the pandemic will disproportionately affect those already living in crisis.

Despite the immense challenges, we rapidly adapted our work to address the growing threats so we could continue to protect children, ensure their voices were heard and their unique needs were met. As a result, our COVID-19 response projects helped nearly 30 million people in 87 countries. We reached 11.8 million children directly affected by the pandemic – protecting their emotional and physical health, reducing the threat of violence, ensuring access to education, and guaranteeing financial resilience.

We achieved that – shifting our programming and working in new, safe ways – while upholding our core mission and vision: that every child should attain the right to survival, protection, development and participation. Save the Children Canada has three critical global goals that we aim to reach by 2030: no child should die from preventable causes before their fifth birthday; all children should receive a quality basic education; and we can no longer tolerate violence against children. These were ambitious targets before the pandemic; the health crisis has made them even more challenging. But we can achieve them with the loyal backing of you, our dedicated supporters.

These concerns for children are critical here in Canada, too. Indigenous children and young people told us they were worried about the impact of COVID-19 on their communities, where many live in overcrowded homes and lack access to quality health services. The challenges created by the pandemic only strengthened our resolve and commitment to reconciliation through an Indigenous-led and rights-based approach. We came together with our corporate and Indigenous partners to adapt our National Reconciliation Program (NRP) to meet the most pressing needs identified by those communities – the provision of personal protective equipment and mental health support.

Without a doubt, 2020 was a year we will all remember. Amidst the fear and the sadness, there were great moments of joy as Save the Children Canada and our community of supporters continued to do whatever it takes to advance the rights of children. Through our own programs and by working alongside partners, we reached millions of children.

But, in many ways, 2021 is proving to be even more challenging. The problems that surfaced in the early months of the pandemic have been extended and aggravated by the huge inequities in accessing COVID-19 vaccines. We need to redouble our efforts – and we hope our donors will do likewise. Your generosity and kindness lets children in crisis know they are not alone, that they have hope of a brighter future and the chance to fulfil their potential. Thank you for your continued support.

Danny Glenwright  
President and CEO

Richard Stursberg  
Chair of the  
Board of Directors



Credit: Save the Children



Credit: Save the Children

## 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# TOGETHER WE REACHED OVER **44.9 MILLION** CHILDREN IN **117 COUNTRIES**



## HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS

### CANADA

delivered over

**50,000**

face masks to Indigenous communities through our community partners

### SOMALIA

distributed over

**17,000**

radios to children to learn at home

### MEXICO

delivered over

**250,000**

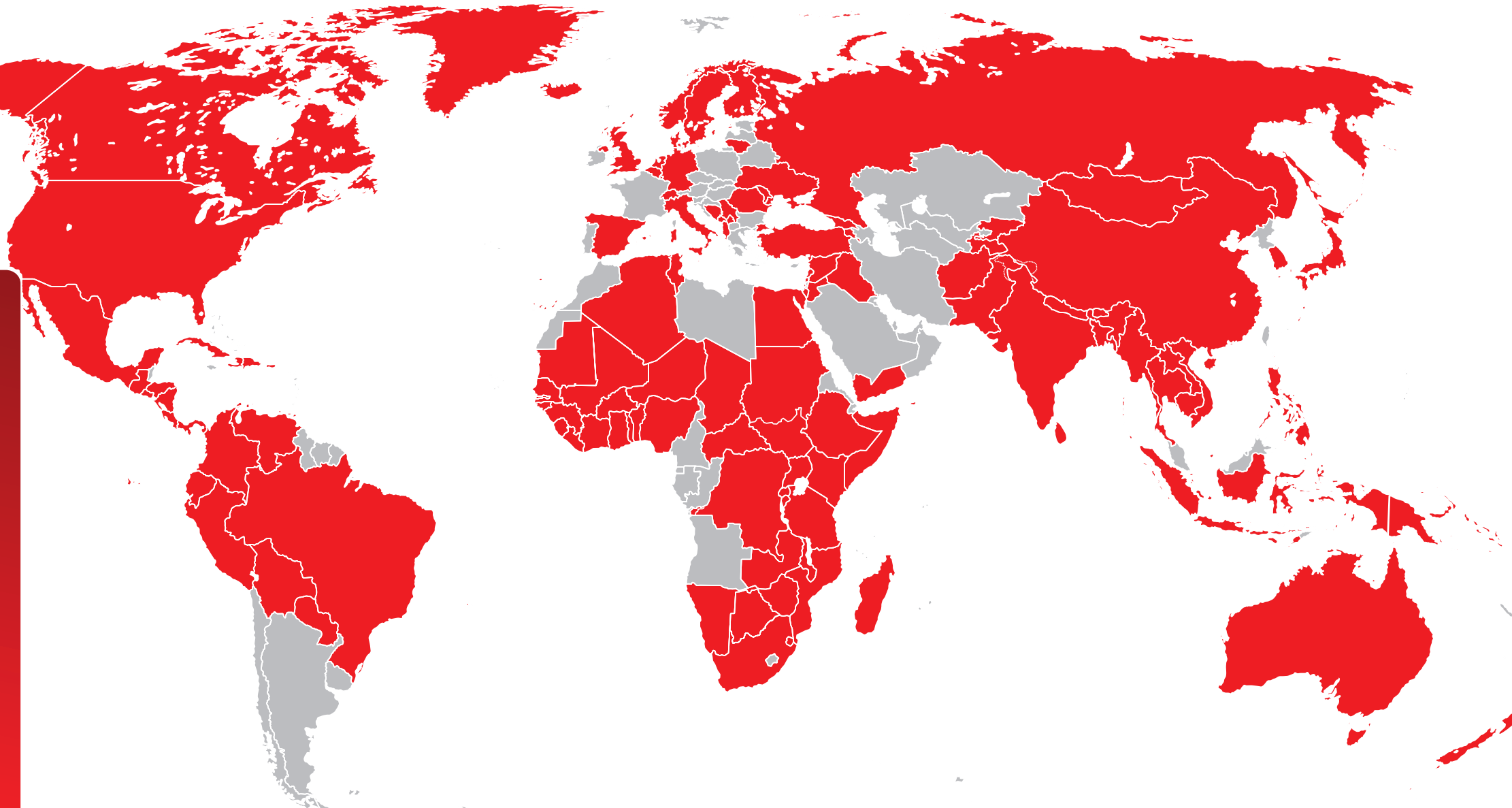
food packages

### INDIA

provided psychosocial support to over

**63,000**

people



OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE PROJECTS REACHED

**29.5m**

people, including

**11.8m**

children, across

**87**

countries.



### CHILD PROTECTION

**3.12m**

children kept safe from all forms of violence, abuse and neglect



### HEALTH AND NUTRITION

**27.95m**

children were helped through our health and nutrition programs



### CHILD POVERTY WE REACHED

**4.5m**

children living in extreme poverty



### CHILD RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE

**0.34m**

benefitted from Save the Children's work



### EDUCATION

**12.04m**

children reached through our education programs



### HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMMING

**18.5m**

CHILDREN IN CRISIS REACHED





## LOCAL PARTNERS AT THE CENTRE

**Our collaborations with partners in Canada and worldwide mean we can reach more children and have a greater impact on their lives.**

The pandemic led to unprecedented challenges around the world, especially in the ability to deliver and uphold services for communities in need. In Kenya, the Kibra vaccine depot opened during the peak of the pandemic to service 30 immunizing facilities from Kibra Sub-county. Unfortunately, the depot started with only two fridges and no freezer. Inadequate storage capacity quickly became a challenge. Proper storage and handling of vaccines is essential in preventing and eradicating common vaccine-preventable diseases. Poor storage and handling errors can reduce vaccine potency, resulting in inadequate immune responses in patients and insufficient protection against diseases.

Ann Boraya, the depot manager, took on the noble task of travelling several kilometres away every month to store and collect vaccines that require freezing. Though this consumed a lot of her time, it displayed her determination to provide her community with the best health care options.

Many of our local partners work to meet the needs of their communities and ensure that children can survive, learn, and be protected. We work alongside these local

partners to deliver life-saving services and to build networks within the communities we serve. We value our local partners since they are an extension of the work we do for children. We must create adequate space for these local partners for ownership and leadership of resources, program design, and implementation.

The Kibra vaccine depot received two freezers and four fridges, donated by Save the Children with funding from Pfizer Foundation. Now, Ann does not have to travel far to keep vaccines at the right temperature. "With my current storage capacity, I have had a lot of free time in my hands that I have dedicated to mentoring immunizing officers so as to build capacity of staff in the immunizing facilities in Kibra Sub-county."



Credit: Delfhin Mugo / Save the Children

## CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

**During the pandemic, Save the Children Canada's strategic partnerships were crucial in helping build and foster innovative programs centred around children's rights.** We are proud and grateful for the support of our longstanding corporate partners, who stepped up to respond to the detrimental effects of COVID-19. These organizations provided Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other support to Indigenous communities across Canada.

### GSK

International pharmaceutical leader GSK has supported national reconciliation programming since 2016. In response to the pandemic, the company donated 10,000 disposable masks that were delivered to communities in Manitoba through the province's First Nations Health and Social Secretariat. GSK staff and their families also assembled 2,000 pandemic kits, which included items to keep children healthy, safe and engaged during the pandemic.



Credit: Save the Children

### SPIN MASTER

Spin Master, a leading global children's entertainment company, pivoted their production to create face shields using materials from their popular Headbanz game. The company donated 40,000 face shields, as well as masks, to our National Reconciliation Program partners and Indigenous communities across Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario. In addition to the contribution of personal protective equipment (PPE), Spin Master donated 10,000 toys which provided support and comfort to children during lockdown.



Credit: Save the Children

### FERRERO CANADA

Ferrero Canada supports child development through the Kinder Joy of Moving project, an initiative focused on skills development through play. During the height of the pandemic, Ferrero also contributed close to 20,000 masks to communities in Manitoba, distributed through Indigenous partners.



Credit: Save the Children





Credit: Save the Children

## NATIONAL RECONCILIATION PROGRAM

**The National Reconciliation Program (NRP) at Save the Children Canada is deeply committed to reconciliation and to creating a nation of equity, respect and partnership. Indigenous children and young people have the right to a Canada where they can reclaim their identity and celebrate their culture.**

NRP focuses on reconciliation through a child-centred approach. It's why we will continue to advance our commitment to address Indigenous inequality and discrimination against children.

As the pandemic hit, the NRP mobilized quickly to respond to the urgent needs of Indigenous children, communities and nations.

We know that First Nations, Inuit and Metis children are amongst those least likely to have their rights recognized and upheld. Existing inequalities and discrimination are often heightened in times of crisis.

The NRP prioritized two areas of need informed by community partners: preventing and reducing the spread of the virus by PPE, and helping children, youth and parents cope with the social isolation caused by the pandemic.

Our diverse and dynamic partners quickly shifted to digital programming and adjusted their services to respond to these particularly challenging times.

Donations provided an opportunity to give “through” the National Reconciliation Program to community partners that contribute to reconciliation through an Indigenous-led and rights-based approach.

Through partnership with  
**45 INDIGENOUS**  
 organizations across  
**79 COMMUNITIES** in  
**6 PROVINCES/TERRITORIES**  
 the NRP has reached a total of  
**15,132**  
 Indigenous children, families  
 and caregivers.

### Kenora Chiefs Advisory – Treaty 3 of Northwestern Ontario

With the Kenora Chiefs Advisory (KCA), we supported the creation of locally-run isolation centres, deliver critical PPE supplies to frontline workers and support the mental health and education of First Nations children.

### De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre – Southern Ontario

The NRP worked closely with longstanding partners De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre to support 800 frontline workers and 3200 children through the distribution of PPE, books and toys.

### Four Arrows Regional Health Authority and Animikii – Manitoba

In collaboration with the Four Arrows Regional Health Authority and Animikii, we helped develop a mental health support app for children struggling with the effects of stress and isolation during lockdowns.

### Yellow Quill First Nation – Saskatchewan

In partnership with Scholastic Canada, we have continued to promote education and play through the distribution of books and toys to help alleviate the negative effects of social isolation.

### Reflecting on the impact of our partnership,

“... So when I say thank you for the books, I truly mean that in every sense of the word. **These gifts bring imagination, wonder, and new worlds right to the comforts of a child's home.** I say this with certainty because I was one of those children at one point in life.”

Larrisa Asapace, educator, mother and student of Yellow Quill First Nation



Credit: Nadine Ferrin / Save the Children

## Climate Change

The communities we work with are committed to understanding and responding to the impacts of climate change.

Kenora Chiefs Advisory engaged with more than 100 children to better understand how they believe climate change is impacting their health

Four Arrows Regional Health Authority helped develop programs to support mental health challenges arising from climate change

Maskwacis Cultural College trained frontline workers on the unique needs of children during extreme weather events



# BUILDING A MOVEMENT TO PROTECT A GENERATION

Save the Children Canada hosted *Tell My Leader*, a digital hangout event during which children from around the world had the opportunity to voice their demands, concerns and dreams for education to world leaders.



Two Canadian girls, Julia, 16, from Halifax and Zoe, 16, from Montreal spoke passionately about education. They were joined by children from Norway, the UK, Nigeria, Colombia, and refugee camps in Jordan.

**In 2020, for the first time ever, an entire generation of children had their education disrupted. However, before the pandemic, 258 million children were out of school, including 130 million girls. Sadly, even when children were at school, many were not learning as 53% of 10-year-olds in low- and middle-income countries were not able to read well, and in low-income countries this number increased to 80%.**

School is not only a place to learn but a safe space to receive meals and support for children living in crisis. COVID-19 changed that, keeping many children out of school and putting the poorest and most marginalized children at the greatest risk.

In response to this global education emergency, Save the Children Canada launched the Protect a Generation campaign to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure all children in Canada and around the world, including the most marginalized and deprived, were kept safe and thriving throughout the crisis and beyond.



**At the height of the pandemic, 1.6 billion children and young people were out of school – approximately 90% of the entire global student population.**

*“Society is built on education. It gives us our values; it shows us how to be a citizen. Where would we be without education?”*  
Zoe, 16

Canada’s Minister of International Development, Karina Gould, attended the digital hangout to hear from children. She said, “I am committed to making sure the voices of children and youth are heard and influence the way we respond to the education crisis caused by COVID-19.”

As part of advocacy efforts around this campaign, we also launched a global report, which provided evidence on the scale of the emergency and included recommendations for governments, including Canada, to take action. We called on world leaders to agree and implement a global COVID-19 education action plan that was adequately resourced and committed to increased funding for education.

In September 2020, we were pleased to see the Prime Minister commit to increasing Canada’s development funding levels. We remain dedicated to continuing to advocate for the importance of a robust response to the education emergency that is still unfolding.



## Bangladesh: Keeping girls learning with text messages

While schools remained closed from March to September 2020, girls living in poverty did not receive proper nutrition and learning support at home, widening the learning gap. Many of them may never return once schools re-open. Caregivers may decide to keep them home due to COVID-19 safety, or some may fall prey to child labour or early marriage.

In response, Save the Children Canada shared information, via text and voice messages with parents and teachers in target communities about keeping safe during the pandemic, supporting children’s mental wellbeing and the importance of girls getting back to learning once schools reopened.

We reinforced these awareness-raising messages on the right to education and protection for girls by providing them with remote and face-to-face learning opportunities. This included learning over the phone and outdoors lessons with teachers or instructors wearing PPE.

Our efforts kept learning alive for poor and vulnerable girls, despite the economic and gender barriers, that COVID-19 exacerbated.



# HOW YOU'RE HELPING MAKE A DIFFERENCE



## GENDER EQUALITY

Gender equality is central to achieving our vision of a world in which all children of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions exercise their rights and realize their full potential. Gender equality is embedded across all of our programs, which aim to transform the social norms that contribute to gender inequality and power imbalances. Our work prevents and responds to gender-based violence, supports the empowerment of women and girls, and promotes positive and diverse expressions of masculinity.



## CHILD RIGHTS

The vision of our founder Eglantyne Jebb, that children have rights, had a significant influence in the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. More than 100 years later, child rights are still at the centre of everything we do. We work with children, their caregivers, their communities and all levels of government towards the realization of every child's rights. We advocate for children's rights to be the priority and for children to be recognized as active citizens.



## CHILD PROTECTION

Too many girls and boys around the world still face violence, abuse and neglect. Save the Children Canada works and advocates to prevent all forms of violence against children within their families, relationships, schools and communities. We protect children in humanitarian crises, supporting them to recover from trauma and to reunite with family. We also amplify the voices of children and youth to advocate for themselves, including for the right to protection.



## HEALTH

Save the Children Canada improves the health and nutrition of children and youth worldwide – with a special focus on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and maternal, newborn and child health. Our programs strengthen health service delivery, generate demand for services within communities and contribute to national and global research and advocacy.



## RESEARCH AND LEARNING

Save the Children Canada evaluates the impact of our programs to understand the changes we are making in children's lives. We embed data collection throughout our programs and raise the diverse voices of children, adolescents, their caregivers and communities. Our research and learning initiatives ensure we continually improve our programs and contribute to global knowledge on the fulfilment of children's rights.



## CHILD POVERTY & SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Children living in extreme poverty face a multitude of rights violations. We work with families to strengthen their food security and income and ensure their children have access to education and health services, even in times of crisis. To break the cycle of poverty, we also build young people's skills, resources and opportunities to assist their transition into decent, safe and sustainable work.



## EDUCATION

Millions of children were already out of school before the pandemic and school closures caused many to fall even further behind in their learning. Save the Children Canada is working with parents, teachers, community leaders and education ministries to help children recover lost learning and to return safely to school as they reopen.



Credit: Tom Merillon/Save The Children



# GENDER EQUALITY

## Gender and the pandemic

Save the Children Canada’s programming challenges harmful behaviours that discriminate against women, girls and children of diverse sexual orientations. Working with the Government of Canada and other international and local partners, our organization manages a global portfolio of gender transformative programs.

Our programs focus on combating child, early and forced marriage (CEFM), promoting girls’ access to education and increasing adolescent girls’ and boys’ access to quality sexual and reproductive health services. We also focus specifically on the empowerment of girls and young women (including economic empowerment).

Girls around the world face many barriers to exercise their rights equally. In order to overcome this, men and boys must be engaged and involved.

In 2020, our programming pivoted to respond to the impacts of the pandemic that put, and continue to put women and girls at risk of increased rates of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), intimate partner violence, adolescent pregnancy and CEFM. These increased risks, also known as the “Shadow Pandemic”, stem from school closures, lockdowns where women and children are confined and isolated with abusers, and the socio-economic impacts and stresses of the pandemic.

We implemented specific measures and adaptations to protect women and discouraged sexual violence and child marriage. Our programs had to find innovative methods to reach

adolescent girls and boys with comprehensive sexual education. This included home visits and radio messaging to announce which services or care facilities were still open, available and safe to use.

*“My dream is to own a tailoring mart and a shop selling tailoring machines and equipment as well as cloth. I want to become the biggest and famous businesswomen and a designer.” – Subira\**

Life almost drastically changed for 16-year-old Subira in Tanzania when her parents accepted a marriage proposal from a wealthy man three times her age. However, she used the knowledge and skills gained at a centre run by Save the Children to stand firm and refuse the proposal to focus on her goals:

*“I was given two days to get ready before the man would come to pick me up... when I arrived at the learning center I approached the teacher who had taught us about harmful traditional practices such as early and forced child marriage and its impacts, Female Genital Mutilation just to mention a few. So, I was aware of the risks and difficulties I would put myself through if I accepted the marriage.” Subira\**



In addition, our programs addressed the supply-chain disruption to contraceptive access to ensure essential commodities remain available throughout the pandemic.

# NIGERIA – THE REACH PROGRAM

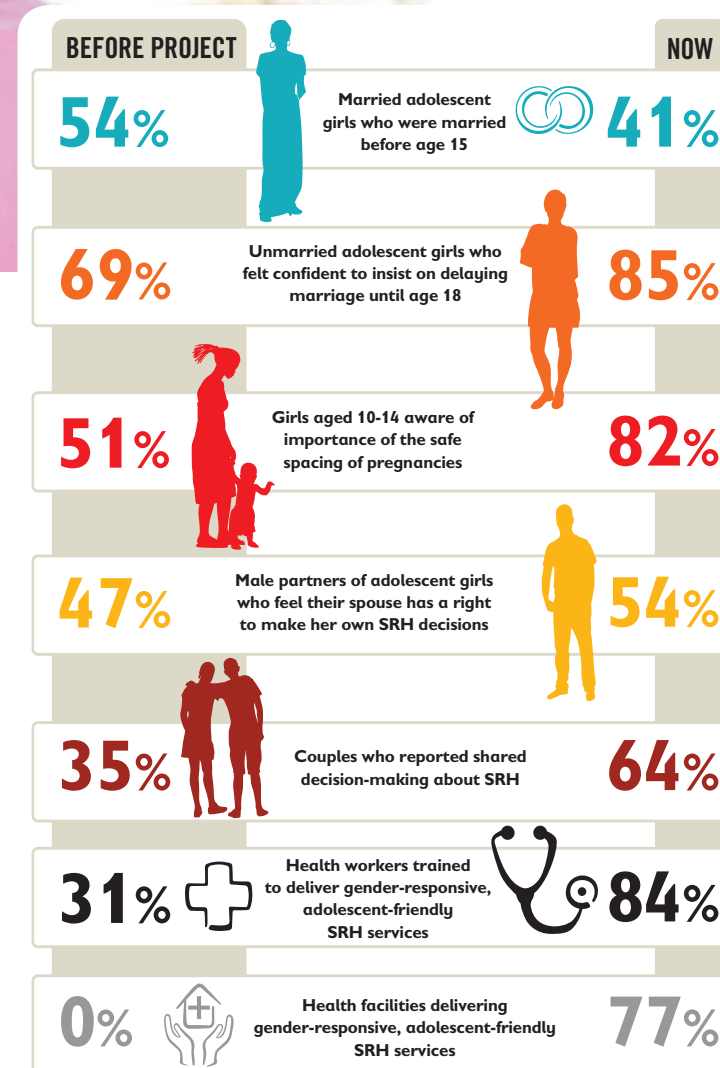
Reaching and Empowering Adolescents to make informed Choices for their Health (REACH) is a three-and-a-half-year project working with communities in three northern Nigerian states – Gombe, Katsina and Zamfara – to improve adolescent sexual and reproductive health.

Nigeria has a remarkably young population – 22% are aged between 10 and 19 – who face multiple barriers when it comes to their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Some of the barriers include availability and affordability of health facilities, limiting social and gender norms, and pervasive stigma around sexuality. The REACH project targets rural and hard-to-reach communities with high rates of child early and forced marriage (CEFM), early childbearing and lack of access to education. Discriminatory social and gender norms affect the ability for adolescent girls and boys to make decisions and access services to protect and improve their sexual and reproductive health (SRH).



The REACH program has significantly contributed to the lives of adolescents by empowering them to make informed decisions. The program also helped to change the views of parents, to put the needs and goals of their daughters first. 16-year-old Amina’s\* father was formerly a proponent of early child marriage. However, after noticing positive changes in her behaviour since being enrolled in REACH, he changed his mind.

*“The life of my daughter has changed positively, and this changed my perception in terms of early marriage.”*





# THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

**The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is facing one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters, as conflict continues to rage after more than two decades.**

Children in the DRC are paying the heaviest price, with more than 1.3 million under the age of five affected by severe acute malnutrition and outbreaks of diseases such as cholera and measles. Human rights violations are widespread, with sexual violence used as a weapon of war.

Save the Children Canada has been delivering multi-sectoral development and humanitarian interventions across the DRC since 1994. Upholding the rights of children remains at the core of our work.

With more than two decades of experience, we have developed a comprehensive understanding of the local

context – with experienced and skilled local staff in place to implement established and effective projects across the country.

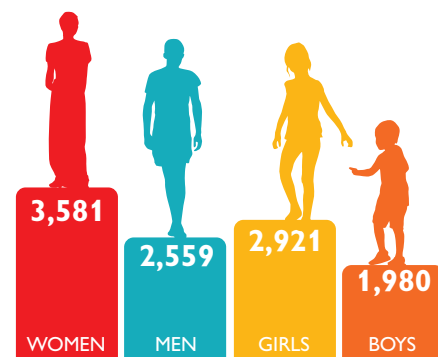
This includes support for unaccompanied and separated children, including case management and placement in alternative care arrangements; establishment of safe, child-friendly spaces where children receive mental health and psychosocial support to cope with distress; and training for community members and social workers on child protection topics.

Save the Children Canada has also delivered essential medical supplies and equipment to remote and underserved health posts; coordinated and undertaken screening activities to ensure early referral and management of cases of acute malnutrition; and provided vitamin supplementation for girls, boys and pregnant and lactating women.

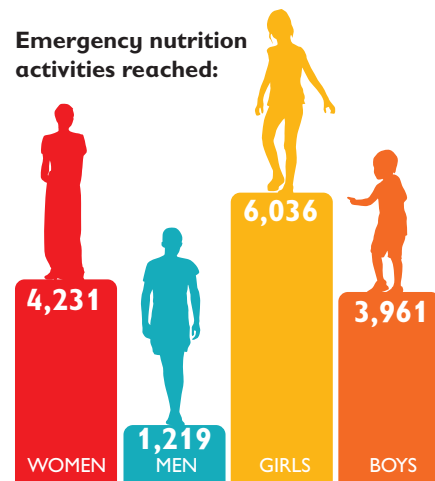


With support from Global Affairs Canada's International Humanitarian Assistance branch, Save the Children Canada has supported communities in the Ituri province of the DRC:

Critical protection activities reached:



Emergency nutrition activities reached:



## HUMANITARIAN AND EMERGENCIES

**The pandemic disrupted the movement of people and goods, which was detrimental to meeting the basic needs of those living in crisis. Under-resourced response plans, social crowding, food shortages and challenges to maintaining health, education and sanitation services were already major humanitarian crises that were further compounded by the pandemic.**

While interventions in some places were able to shift into virtual spaces, restrictions on the use of and access to technology put some of the world's most vulnerable people at further risk.

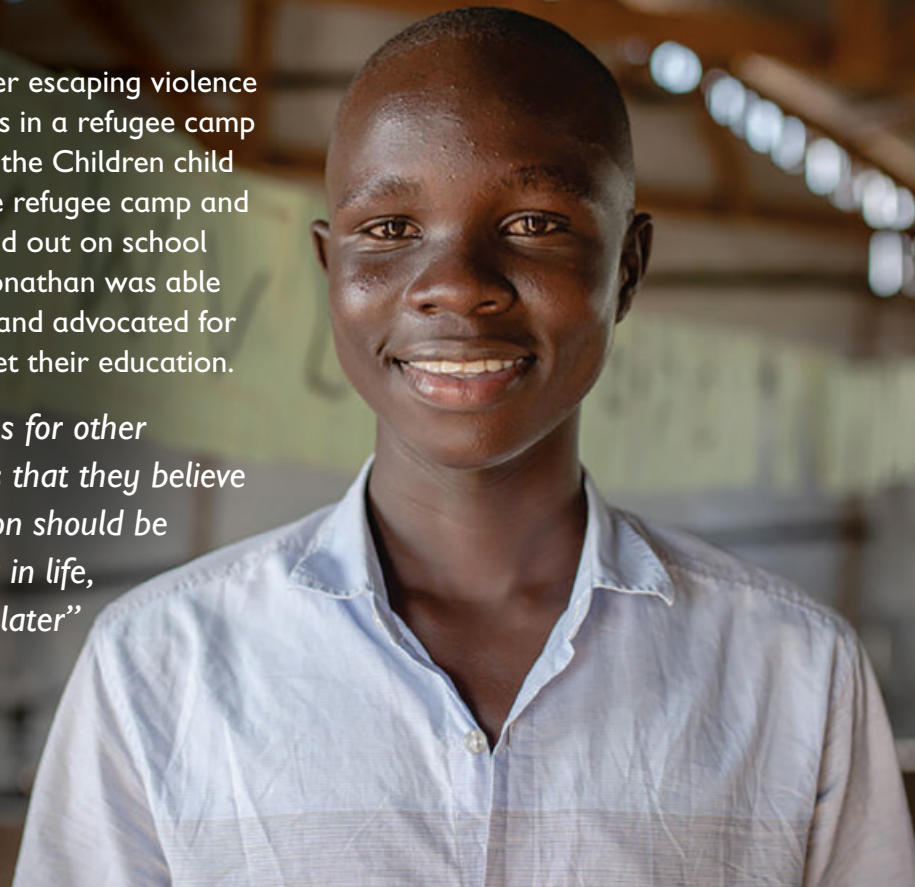
Save the Children Canada confronted the challenges that came with the pandemic head on, delivering life-saving services to children living in the worst humanitarian crises. We emphasized collaboration with local communities, who displayed incredible strength and resilience despite suffering the brunt of the crisis.



## Jonathan's story

Jonathan\* is 15 and, after escaping violence in South Sudan, now lives in a refugee camp in Uganda. He is a Save the Children child rights campaigner in the refugee camp and like many children missed out on school due to the pandemic. Jonathan was able to get back to learning and advocated for other children to also get their education.

*“My hopes and dreams for other children of the world is that they believe in themselves. Education should be the first thing they put in life, other things will come later”*



Credit: Save the Children/Esther Ruth Mbabazi

# SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV) AND COVID-19

**A month after the declaration of the pandemic, we saw an increase in incidents involving sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Lockdowns and stay-at-home orders restricting movement left perpetrators and survivors of violence in the same location for extended periods. Protection and psychosocial support activities had to be delivered through virtual or remote mechanisms.**

In Nigeria, we adapted programming to be in the home, resulting in more girls and caregivers participating.

In Yemen, supported health facilities were provided with COVID-19 hygiene kits and staff were trained on how to disinfect properly.

- As a result of the economic impact of COVID-19, an additional 2.5 million girls are predicted to be at risk of child marriage by 2025.
- COVID-19 is expected to increase child marriage and risks related to trafficking and exploitation.
- Save the Children estimated that 500,000 girls would be at risk of child marriage in 2020.
- COVID-19 is expected to have caused a “one-third reduction in progress toward ending GBV by 2030”.



Credit: Save the Children

*“COVID-19 is everywhere – the radio, TV, and newspaper. I miss going out, playing with my friends. But most importantly, I miss going to school,” says nine-year-old Arati\* from Nepal. Like most children, she missed being around her friends at school. In Nepal, 40% of children under 18 were home, as schools closed to slow the spread of COVID-19.*

*Save the Children and local partner Ratauli Youth Club provides self-learning books from early learning to grade three. These learning packs address the educational gap due to the pandemic and supports parents to continue learning and teaching at home. “These learning packs also came with pencils, notebook, eraser, sharpener, and colours,” expresses Arati. “I love to colour, and these colouring books that came with the learning packs keep me engaged.”*

\*Names changed to protect identity

## EDUCATION AND COVID-19

**The economic crisis caused by COVID-19 could set back more than a decade of progress in reducing child poverty and a reversal of children's rights. Increases in poverty also place children at greater risk of child labour and expose them to harmful work. Studies predict that for every 1% rise in poverty, child labour rates will rise at 0.7%.**

Save the Children Canada's education response to COVID 19 included interventions such as:

- Supporting remote learning and children's well-being in the home and community, with a focus on low or no-tech approaches.
- Training and supporting teachers and other education staff to adapt their teaching to remote modalities and to identify child protection risks.
- Providing cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to the most vulnerable families to offset the opportunity cost of sending children to work and pay for all expenses associated with schooling.



Credit: Apsatou Bagaya / Save the Children



# SYRIA

**2020 marked the ninth year of the conflict in Syria and was characterized by great risks to children's safety and well-being across the country. Along with the active conflict, children and families in Syria faced staggering economic difficulties and limited access to food, clean water and basic services including health and nutrition.**

In addition, more than one million people were forced to leave their homes due to violence. The pandemic added to the turmoil and specifically affected children and communities already in vulnerable circumstances.

Save the Children Canada quickly scaled up response efforts by expanding the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) response, while ensuring the most marginalized had access to life-saving services including cash, food, non-food items and nutrition assistance. Our operations also reached new communities and Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps through extensive WASH interventions including access to drinkable water, awareness-raising and hygiene promotion.

Through our education-related programs in Syria, we have reached:

**63,000**  
individuals, including  
**56,000**  
children

Through child protection interventions, we provided support to:

**95,000**  
individuals, including approximately  
**42,000**  
children, half of them girls

# YEMEN



Credit: Abdo Al Dhawi / Save the Children

**Yemen remains one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.**

For the past five years, a lack of funding to respond to increasing needs and a fuel shortage has contributed to the country's deterioration.

According to analysis from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP), Yemen is one of 20 countries facing acute food insecurity resulting from ongoing conflict, access constraints and economic crisis.

Years of fighting, economic collapse, disease outbreaks and close to non-existing public institutions and services has left more than 24 million people relying on humanitarian assistance – half of them children (UNFPA, 2020).

The situation grew worse in 2020 as Yemen saw significant constraints of humanitarian access and severe cuts in humanitarian funding.

Save the Children Canada has been operating in Yemen since 1963 as the largest humanitarian organization in the country.

Since the beginning of the conflict, our staff has been delivering lifesaving health, nutrition and protection services, as well as supporting affected populations by providing access to water and hygiene supplies. This became particularly critical during disease outbreaks, including COVID-19.

Our team in Yemen has been implementing programming in Taiz governorate, one of the most impacted areas. Water shortages remain one of the biggest challenges for the community. Women and children are responsible for water collection and have to wait for hours, often returning empty-handed when the water pumping system runs out of fuel. Even when they are able to collect water, it is not safe to drink.

In collaboration with local community members, our teams have installed a solar-powered water pump and constructed a water tank to support the community, allowing access to water and reducing the time required for water collection.



Credit: Syria Relief



# KEEPING FAMILIES ENGAGED THROUGHOUT LOCKDOWN

The **COVID-19** pandemic created a lot of change for children across the world. It threatened their rights, halted their learning and severely affected their mental health and well-being.

As countries went into lockdown and schools closed, families scrambled to find ways to keep their children engaged and entertained. Our response included launching the “Kids Hub” – a one-stop online space for engaging content to foster imagination and promote, safety, fun and learning in children.

With the help of high-profile Canadians, we shared stories, cooking demonstrations, arts and crafts, wellness and mindfulness activities, games and tips for parents on how to talk to children about topics such as COVID-19, racism and social justice.



One popular element of our “Kids Hub” was *Save with Stories*, where celebrities read children’s stories and raised awareness about the long-term impacts of COVID-19 on children in the most vulnerable communities.

## Roger Mooking

Roger Mooking, celebrity chef and long-standing supporter, shared his famous focaccia recipe for families to cook together.



## Taes Levitt

Taes Levitt, co-founder of the popular children’s entertainment duo Splash and Boots, shared mindfulness activities to help children manage their emotions around the pandemic, including fear, anxiety and anger.



## Alessia Cara

Award-winning Canadian singer-songwriter Alessia Cara joined *Save with Stories* through song, by singing classic nursery rhymes.



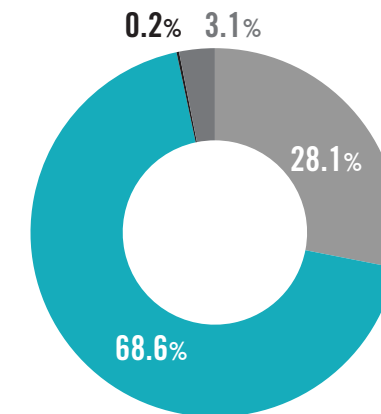
## Cobie Smulders

Actor Cobie Smulders joined in by reading a story, adding to her efforts to support our work for kids and families in vulnerable conditions in the U.S., Canada and around the world.



# OUR FINANCES

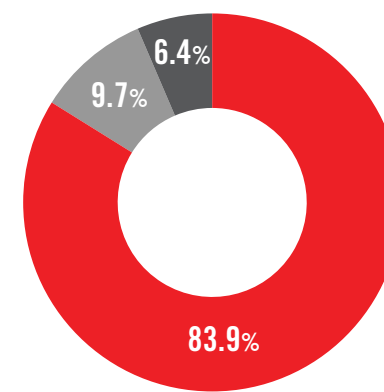
## Where our money comes from



- 28.1% Donations
- 68.6% Grants
- 0.2% Interest and other income
- 3.1% Bequests

Chart is based on a three-year average

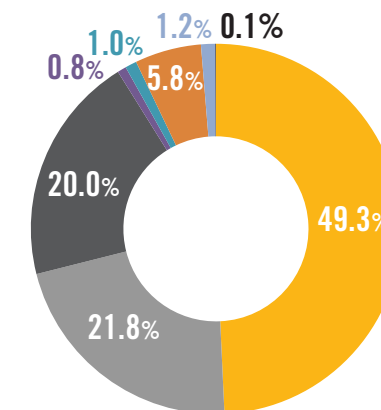
## Where our money goes



- 83.9% Developing and delivering programs
- 9.7% Raising funds to help more children
- 6.4% Management and general

Chart is based on a three-year average

## International programs



- 49.3% West Africa
- 21.8% East Africa
- 20.0% Middle East
- 0.8% India/Asia
- 1.0% Southern Africa
- 5.8% South America
- 1.2% Central America
- 0.1% North America





Credit: Sacha Myers / Save the Children

# REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## To the Members of Save the Children Canada

### Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at December 31, 2020, and the summary statements of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended, and related note, are derived from the audited financial statements of Save the Children Canada (the "Organization") for the year ended December 31, 2020.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements, on the basis described in the Note to the summary financial statements.

### Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for

not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the Organization's audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

### The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated May 14, 2021.

### Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements on the basis described in the Note to the summary financial statements.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

*Deloitte LLP*

Chartered Professional Accountants  
Licensed Public Accountants  
May 14, 2021

## Summary statement of financial position

|  | 2020              | 2019              |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                            |                   |                   |
| Current assets                           | \$                | \$                |
| Cash                                     | 17,986,812        | 8,109,387         |
| Marketable securities                    | 2,283,160         | 2,175,253         |
| Accounts receivable                      | 543,348           | 526,637           |
| Advances to partners                     | 4,629,969         | 5,968,827         |
| Prepaid expenses                         | 91,108            | 141,499           |
|  | <b>25,534,397</b> | <b>16,921,603</b> |
| Capital assets                           | 775,529           | 895,791           |
|  | <b>26,309,926</b> | <b>17,817,394</b> |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                       |                   |                   |
| Current liabilities                      |                   |                   |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 846,688           | 982,198           |
| Deferred revenue                         | 19,549,556        | 12,900,834        |
| Deferred lease inducement                | 66,750            | —                 |
|  | <b>20,462,994</b> | <b>13,883,032</b> |
| <b>Net assets</b>                        |                   |                   |
| General Fund                             | 2,023,132         | 760,562           |
| Reserve Fund                             | 3,023,800         | 2,973,800         |
| Strategic Initiatives Fund               | 800,000           | 200,000           |
|  | <b>5,846,932</b>  | <b>3,934,362</b>  |
|  | <b>26,309,926</b> | <b>17,817,394</b> |

## Summary statement of operations and changes in net assets

|   | 2020              | 2019              |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>  | \$                | \$                |
| Contributions   | 11,714,315        | 11,352,023        |
| Global Affairs Canada   | 24,763,517        | 30,104,411        |
| International grants  | 1,317,228         | 3,448,120         |
| Interest and other income   | 54,465            | 89,812            |
| Unrealized capital gains  | 62,885            | 22,375            |
| Bequests  | 1,697,915         | 632,166           |
| Government subsidies  | 1,026,025         | —                 |
|   | <b>40,636,350</b> | <b>45,648,907</b> |
| <b>Program expenses</b>   |                   |                   |
| International   | 30,324,437        | 38,281,806        |
| Canadian  | 1,478,319         | 1,012,191         |
|   | <b>31,802,756</b> | <b>39,293,997</b> |
| <b>Operating and other expenses</b>   |                   |                   |
| Fundraising   | 4,322,890         | 4,765,456         |
| Communication   | 397,059           | 479,044           |
| General administration  | 2,076,171         | 2,245,102         |
| Amortization  | 163,506           | 176,667           |
|   | <b>6,959,626</b>  | <b>7,666,269</b>  |
|   | <b>38,762,382</b> | <b>46,960,266</b> |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year before the undernoted | 1,873,968         | (1,311,359)       |
| Foreign exchange (loss) gain  | 38,602            | (23,188)          |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year                       | 1,912,570         | (1,334,547)       |
| Net assets, beginning of year   | 3,934,362         | 5,268,909         |
| <b>Net assets, end of year</b>  | <b>5,846,932</b>  | <b>3,934,362</b>  |

The accompanying note is an integral part of the summary financial statements.

Basis of presentation, Save the Children Canada (the "Organization") has prepared these summary financial statements to be included in its annual report. These summary financial statements present an aggregated view of the same information as contained in the audited financial statements, except for the statement of cash flows and the notes to the audited financial statements. The audited financial statements can be obtained from the Organization, on request.



13-year-old Kibrom\* witnessed horrific events after fleeing the violence in the Tigray Region of Ethiopia, leaving him with vivid nightmares and anxiety. With the help from Ruhus\*, a social worker from the Save the Children Emergency Health Unit, Kibrom receives regular psychosocial support and his sleep has improved.



Credit: Sacha Myers / Save the Children

*“I feel good. I no longer feel like I am falling into a hole and seeing armed men”* Kibrom

\*Names changed to protect identity

For more information and to find out how you can get involved, please contact us:

Save the Children  
4141 Yonge St, Suite 300  
Toronto, ON  
M2P 2A8  
Tel.: 416-221-5501  
Toll Free: 1-800-668-5036  
Fax: 416-221-8214

[www.savethechildren.ca](http://www.savethechildren.ca)

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Whatever it takes.  
Wherever the need.