WORKING TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

**SAVE THE CHILDREN'S CHILD PROTECTION
2016–18 THEMATIC PLAN**

Save the Children

Save the Children is the world's leading independent organisation for children

Our vision

A world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation

Our mission

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

We will stay true to our values of Accountability, Ambition, Collaboration, Creativity and Integrity.

Children's quotes

Children's quotes throughout this report are taken from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children's synthesis report, developed together with Save the Children, based on 88 national consultations that took place with children on the Sustainable Development Goals during 2012 and 2013.

Cover photo: Syria: Fatima,* 3, sits on her mother's lap in the temporary shelter where they've been living since bombing forced them to leave their home town.
* Not her real name
Photo: Ahmad Baroudi/Save the Children

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VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN NUMBERS

EVERY 5 MINUTES
A CHILD DIES AS A RESULT OF VIOLENCE

85 MILLION
55 MILLION BOYS AND 30 MILLION GIRLS ARE INVOLVED IN HAZARDOUS WORK

UP TO 1.5 BILLION
CHILDREN EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE ANNUALLY

1 BILLION
CHILDREN LIVE IN COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES AFFECTED BY ARMED CONFLICT

20%
OF WOMEN AND 5–10% OF MEN SUFFERED SEXUAL ABUSE AS CHILDREN

3 OUT OF 4
CHILDREN EXPERIENCE VIOLENT DISCIPLINE AT HOME

12 MILLION
OF ALL FORCIBLY DISPLACED PEOPLE GLOBALLY ARE CHILDREN

1 IN 3
GIRLS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD ARE MARRIED BEFORE THE AGE OF 18

These figures are just an indication of the magnitude of the child protection crisis. The full scale of violence against children is unknown as it goes unreported due to shame, fear and inadequate reporting mechanisms.

Figures available at: http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/start/child-protection-post-2015/violence-against-children-numbers

ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

ABBREVIATIONS

CPWG Child Protection Working Group

ECCD Early childhood care and development

FGM/C Female genital mutilation/cutting

ICT Information and communications technology

PHP Physical and humiliating punishment

SDG Sustainable Development Goal

DEFINITIONS

Child protection Save the Children defines child protection as measures and structures to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence affecting children.

Child protection system A set of laws and policies that comply with the UNCRC; a central government coordination mechanism with a clear mandate to prevent and respond to child protection concerns, preventive and responsive child protection services, regulation and monitoring at all levels, a committed work force with competence and mandate, data collection and awareness-raising.

Children associated with armed forces or armed groups Any person below 18 years of age who is, or has been, recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity including, but not limited to, boys and girls used as fighters, cooks, porters, messengers, spies or for sexual purposes. It does not just refer to a child taking, or who has taken, a direct part in hostilities.

Children on the move Children moving for a variety of reasons, voluntarily or involuntarily, within or between countries, without their parents or other primary caregivers, and whose movement might place them at risk of inadequate care, economic or sexual exploitation, abuse, neglect and violence.

Children without appropriate care Children who are not receiving suitable, continuous and good-quality care, nurture and guidance at a physical, emotional, social and psychological level from either their families or other primary caregivers who are meant to replace the family environment and are responsible for the child's wellbeing and development.

Harmful work Work that causes physical, psychological or emotional harm that may influence a child's health, development and education.

Physical and humiliating punishment Corporal or physical punishment is any punishment in which physical force is used and intended to cause some degree of pain or discomfort, however light. Humiliating punishment includes any punishment that belittles, humiliates, denigrates, scapegoats, threatens, scares or ridicules the child.

Positive discipline An approach to parenting that teaches children and guides their behaviour, while respecting their right to healthy development, protection from violence and participation in their learning.

Sexual violence Sexual violence and abuse includes sexual harassment, rape, sexual exploitation, child abuse, and all forms of intrafamilial sexual abuse of children including incest, images, grooming for sexual purposes, trafficking for sexual exploitation, child marriage and FGM/C.

Violence against children Save the Children uses Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to define violence against children: 'States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of **physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse**.'

OPENING MESSAGE

We are at a historic moment. In September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calling for a world "which invests in its children and in which every child grows up free of violence and exploitation". Target 16.2 of the new Sustainable Development Goals and other related targets set out clear commitments to end violence against children.

Children have the right to live without violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect. Yet violence is a leading cause of injuries and death among children and its economic and social costs are estimated to amount to US$7 trillion per year. It's not surprising, therefore, that children cite ending violence against children as one of their key priorities and have told us that they would like to work with us to end it.

Save the Children is already making a huge difference through our work to protect children and by promoting safe family environments. And we have evidence that preventing violence is possible. The new development agenda provides a great opportunity to step up our work with governments and other partners to implement the new targets. We're taking an active part in the new Global Partnership to End Violence against Children[1] and have been instrumental in ensuring that violence against children is included in the post-2015 agenda.

Save the Children's three ambitious breakthroughs for 2030 include '**Violence against children is no longer tolerated**'. Ending violence is also crucial to achieving the other two breakthroughs – that 'no child dies from preventable causes before their fifth birthday' and that 'all children learn from a quality basic education'.

This paper sets out our three-year thematic plan for child protection, building and elaborating on our Save the Children global strategy 2016–18, and explaining our priorities, what will need to be scaled up and how we will measure success.

I call on everyone to speak out and take action to end violence against children – at an individual and organisational level, and in all contexts. Let's invest in child protection and work together with children, civil society organisations, the private sector, governments and UN agencies. Together we can make it happen. Together we can make the world safe for children.

Lena Karlsson

Lena Karlsson
Director, Child Protection Initiative

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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CHILDREN'S VIEWS ON TACKLING VIOLENCE

- Children consistently place tackling violence within their **top tier of priorities** for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Children living in societies with **high levels of violence give more priority** to the issue than others.
- Tackling violence tends to be of most importance to children who **are disadvantaged and marginalised, but not the poorest** of the poor.
- When talking about violence, children's focus tends to be **shaped by their local context**.
- **Girls are more focused** on tackling violence as a priority than boys.
- Children believe **world leaders should tackle violence** using legal frameworks and ending impunity for offenders, and by publicising issues.
- Children believe **they have an important part to play in ending violence** and that adults should enable this.[2]

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Unlike the Millennium Development Goals, which failed to address children's protection rights, the new comprehensive 2030 development agenda – 'Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development' – includes goals and targets to end violence against children. Over the course of the next few years, Save the Children will be strengthening our partnerships, scaling up our advocacy and increasing our cross-thematic work in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and contribute to **Save the Children's 2030 breakthroughs**:
- **No child dies from preventable causes before their fifth birthday**
- **All children learn from a quality basic education**
- **Violence against children is no longer tolerated**

We will seek to answer key learning questions and strengthen our evidence-based approaches around the following three **child protection priorities**:
- **Preventing violence in the home**
- **Ending violence in schools**
- **Preventing sexual violence** facilitated through information and communications technology.

We have agreed to focus our child protection work on four **sub-thematic areas**:
- **Protection of children from violence**
- **Appropriate care**
- **Protection of children from harmful work**
- **Child protection systems.**

This work will require a strong focus on changing social norms through awareness raising, campaigning and community mobilisation, and will include work with governments and other partners to develop strong child protection systems. Our 2016–18 thematic plan therefore has a strong focus on advocacy and evidence-based solutions. We will answer our learning questions and strengthen our approaches around preventing violence in the home and ending violence in schools, and we will initiate learning around preventing sexual violence through information and communications technology (ICT). We will also scale up and replicate our signature programs – Families First, around care reform in Indonesia, and Safer Homes and Communities, on preventing physical and humiliating punishment (PHP) in the Philippines – and develop more signature programs.

Under child protection's lead, Save the Children will take stock of our current children-on-the-move programs, including our response in Europe to the refugee crisis, and develop a cross-thematic strategy linking our programs in different countries. We will monitor the changing nature of conflict and enhance our focus on **strengthening resilience** by ensuring that:

- we are better prepared to respond to child protection shocks
- our Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and field-friendly guidelines are rolled out
- our child-friendly spaces are effectively responding to rights violations of children affected by humanitarian disasters
- our programs transition smoothly from emergencies to development settings
- we test which interventions are most suitable for urban contexts.

We will strengthen our **cross-thematic work**, with a specific focus on:

- working with the education thematic area to end violence in and around schools and strengthening our evidence base
- scaling up our work around mental health and psychosocial support with the health and nutrition thematic area
- developing and testing methodologies for tracking child protection in governments' budgets with the child rights governance thematic area

- building evidence around joint programs to tackle harmful child work, child marriage and family separation with the child poverty thematic area.

Our focus on **gender** will become stronger and our programs more **inclusive** by:

- working with boys and men
- ensuring that all our programs are, at a minimum, gender sensitive
- strengthening the active and meaningful participation of girls and boys in all our programs
- doing all we can to ensure that our programs are inclusive towards the most deprived and marginalised children, such as those with disabilities.

Save the Children will co-lead the Child Protection Working Group (CPWG), the global-level forum for coordination and collaboration on child protection in humanitarian settings. We will play a key role in a number of interagency networks, as well as in the new Global Partnership to End Violence against Children. We will continue to professionalise and develop our internal child protection workforce and strengthen our profile vis-à-vis UNICEF and other child protection actors by having strong evidence-based cross-thematic programs that involve children and other members of civil society in preventing violence against children.

PHOTO: AUBREY WADE/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Liberia: Since seven-year-old Annie's mother and sisters died from Ebola, she's been living with her 18-year-old sister, Griffith.

❚ THE CHANGING CONTEXT AND THE POTENTIAL FOR CHANGE

"Without the threat of violence, girls and boys are free to develop their talents and skills to their full potential and shape their future. The potential for positive change is enormous, but for now, violence remains a pervasive phenomenon that blights the life of millions of children, haunts entire communities and stifles the prospects for sustainable development and social progress."

Message from United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, for the Global Survey on Violence against Children, 17 October 2013

The world is changing rapidly – for children, and for our organisation. Political instability, conflict and climate change expose children and their families in many places to hugely increased levels of violence and protection risks. Violence against children happens everywhere – in communities, schools and homes, in rich and poor countries and across borders, during the chaos of an emergency, online and through mobile phones. It can be physical, sexual, psychological or emotional. Inequity and child poverty, gender and other forms of discrimination, unequal power relations between children and adults, situations of rapid urbanisation, disasters, climate change, conflict and fragility make children more vulnerable.

In recent decades, conflicts have become more intractable and are increasingly likely to target civilians – including children – with extreme forms of violence. As the UN Secretary-General reported in the most recent report on children in armed conflict,[3] "Children have been disproportionately affected and were often the direct targets of acts of violence intended to inflict maximum casualties, terrorise entire communities and provoke worldwide outrage."[4]

Inequality has risen in many countries, leaving many children behind in terms of protection, particularly in urban slums and emergency contexts where extended family and community-based protection mechanisms are fragile or undermined.

Rapid urbanisation, community violence, humanitarian disasters and the scarcity of resources, mean that migration is increasingly becoming one of the most rational survival strategies for children and their families. Migration opens opportunities but also puts children at risk, including those who are left behind by their migrating parents. Transnational crimes, such as online sexual abuse and exploitation and cyber bullying, are also increasing.

Despite progress in developing national child protection laws and plans of action, children's equal rights to be heard and protected are seldom respected and taken seriously.

THE IMPACT OF VIOLENCE, NEGLECT AND DISTRESS ON CHILDREN AND SOCIETY

Experience of violence, neglect or long-term distress caused, for example, by separation can have a dramatic and lifelong impact on a child's healthy development. It prevents children realising their full potential and contributing to society, and is a barrier to achieving Save the Children's breakthroughs.

Children who experience violence are more likely to:
* become violent or end up in violent relationships
* experience health issues, including HIV and psychosocial distress.

Children who are protected from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect are more likely to:
* attend and remain in school
* perform better in the classroom
* experience better physical growth, safer pregnancy and childbirth, and improved earning potential.

Countries that fail to address violence against children lose significant amounts of money.

Physical, psychological and sexual violence against children worldwide may cost governments up to US$7 trillion per year (8% of global GDP).[5] Ensuring that all children have the opportunity to achieve their full potential is the foundation of stable societies and a critical element for sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN BY 2030 – A NEW AGENDA

Unlike the Millennium Development Goals, which failed to address children's protection rights, the new comprehensive 2030 development agenda – 'Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development' – includes goals and targets to end violence against children. This creates a historic opportunity to protect all children from all forms of violence. To achieve these targets, governments, the private sector, civil society, faith-based organisations and academia need to come together and demonstrate results for children. The new Global Partnership to End Violence against Children has been set up under the leadership of UNICEF to make the prevention of violence a policy priority and to support implementation of the violence targets. Save the Children will continue to play a leading role in influencing and supporting the partnership. We are also framing our 2016–18 child protection thematic plan around the 2030 development agenda, building on the growing evidence showing that ending violence against children is possible.

SAVE THE CHILDREN – CONTINUING OUR LEAD IN CHILD PROTECTION

Save the Children will continue as a global leader in child protection and in ending physical and humiliating punishment (PHP). We will work with the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children.

We will co-lead the CPWG (within the global protection cluster). And we are leading interagency development and roll-out of the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.[6]

We will continue to lead at international level on appropriate care issues and work closely with key actors, such as the Better Care Network and the global Child Protection Working Group on alternative care in emergency settings.

We will scale up our work to protect children from violence (PHP, sexual violence and violence in conflict situations) and strengthen child protection systems. We will test and invest in interventions to protect children from harmful work. As sexual violence is increasingly facilitated through communication technologies, we will strengthen our capacity to prevent those crimes, building on our experience from our domestic programs. We will also frame which interventions are most suitable for urban contexts.

LEARNING FROM OUR 2013–15 STRATEGY[7]

In developing our 2016–18 child protection thematic plan, we agreed on five lessons we had learned from our 2013–15 strategy:
1. Prevention is more effective than response.
2. We need a solid evidence base and strong partnerships.
3. Children who are empowered with information and knowledge are effective partners.
4. We need to increase our focus on child protection in humanitarian crises.
5. Cross-thematic programs are more effective.

1. PREVENTION IS MORE EFFECTIVE THAN RESPONSE

Experience shows that, as well as protecting children, preventing violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect is more cost effective than merely responding to it. We need to further address social norms that perpetuate violence against children and challenge the social acceptance of violence in all contexts. Evaluations continue to underline the importance of strengthening child protection systems in both emergency and non-emergency situations, and in formal and informal settings. We will therefore:
- shift our programs to focus more on prevention
- increase our focus on the home, and on strengthening families and promoting family-based care
- provide new opportunities for children and young people in countries and areas of origin to protect them from unsafe migration
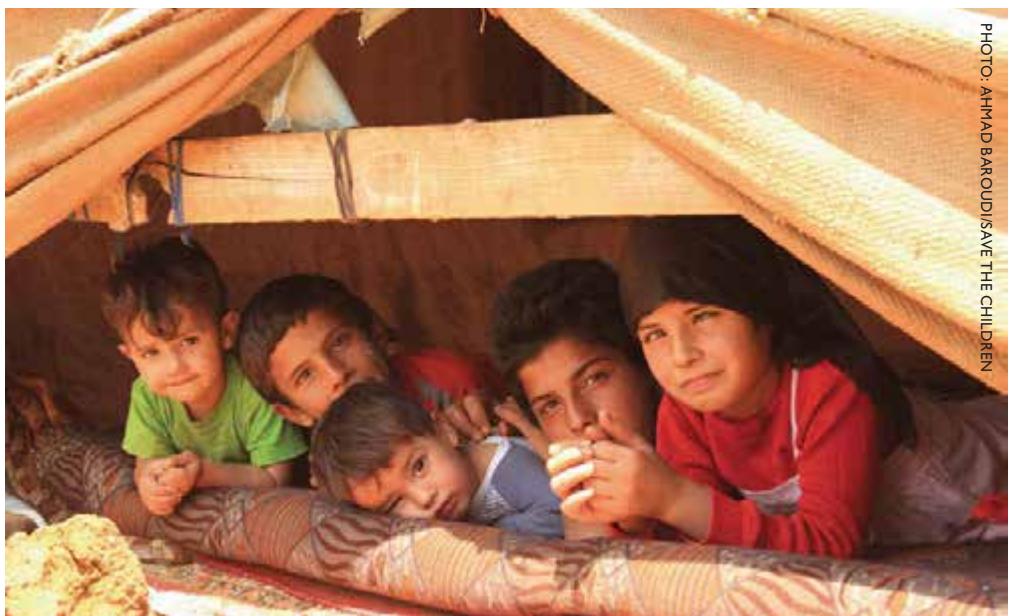
Thirteen-year-old Salem (second right) from Syria has had to work to support his family since arriving in Lebanon, where he lives in a temporary shelter with his younger siblings.

- scale up our work with MenEngage and the MenCare campaign to strengthen our work with fathers and male caregivers and further explore collaboration with women's rights organisations to end gender-based violence
- learn how to use new technologies to prevent sexual violence and to communicate preventive messages.

2. WE NEED A SOLID EVIDENCE BASE AND STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

The weakness and paucity of data on violence against children is a barrier to stronger programmatic interventions, to communicating about and fundraising for it, and to providing evidence of what works at scale. We will therefore:

- create stronger evidence against which we can measure violence against children for the SDG violence against children targets and the Save the Children global 2030 breakthrough, 'Violence against children is no longer tolerated'
- focus on achieving high-quality programming that can be taken to scale, targeting the most deprived and marginalised children
- strengthen partnerships and support governments to adopt common approaches to ending violence against children and strengthen child protection systems

- develop evidence-based approaches and signature programs that have proved effective in addressing violence against children and which have been taken to scale by governments and other actors and replicated and contextualised in many countries.

3. CHILDREN WHO ARE EMPOWERED WITH INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE ARE EFFECTIVE PARTNERS

"[Children and young people] want to be an active part of finding solutions and promoting violence prevention through their active participation in civil life. Children and young people identify their inclusion, and having their voices heard, as a means of addressing and preventing violence." [8]

Children have proved to be effective partners in preventing violence. In the post-2015 consultations that took place with children in 88 countries, 'stopping violence against children' was voted the second-highest priority. Children who are empowered with information and knowledge are more likely to be able to protect themselves and their peers from violence (including online). Strengthening children's resilience and participation is therefore extremely important.

As the key independent actor on child protection, with long experience and a strong reputation for consulting with and involving children in our programs, we will therefore:

- build on our experience, step up and become the leader in involving children in child protection.

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Save the Children's review of our response to the Ebola crisis in west Africa underlined three critical aspects for child protection:

1. the importance of strengthening child protection systems before, during and after a crisis
2. the importance of integrating child protection into all our first-line responses irrespective of the thematic focus
3. the need to further strengthen our humanitarian capability in child protection.

4. WE NEED TO INCREASE OUR FOCUS ON CHILD PROTECTION IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES

Children – who make up more than 50% of the population in most emergencies – are particularly at risk of being separated from their families, recruited into armed forces and armed groups, sexual exploitation and gender-based violence, physical harm and psychosocial distress. We will therefore:

- scale up our advocacy so that all humanitarian organisations have an enhanced focus on children and funding for child protection in humanitarian contexts is increased
- roll out and implement the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Actions[9] and the field-friendly guidelines
- scale up our work on case management, family tracing and reunification, psychosocial support and interventions to support resilience
- address sexual violence and the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups
- ensure that our child-friendly spaces are effective
- promote the mainstreaming of child protection in other sectors.

5. CROSS-THEMATIC PROGRAMS ARE MORE EFFECTIVE

We have learned that, due to the multidimensional nature of child protection, cross-thematic programs are more effective than programs operating in silos. We will therefore:

- make collaboration with all Save the Children's other thematic areas – child poverty, health and nutrition, education and child rights governance – a key factor in our work to prevent and respond to violence against children (see Chapter 2)
- collaborate with the livelihoods and education sectors and work in a more coordinated way in areas of origin, transit and destination for the protection of children on the move
- link our programs in different countries, building on our current response to the refugee crisis in Europe and our children on the move programs in various parts of the world.

PHOTO: CJ CLARKE/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Indonesia: Eleven-year-old Febi and her brother were sent to an orphanage when their parents lost their income. A social worker is trying to help the family so that Febi and her brother can return home.

2 ACHIEVING SAVE THE CHILDREN'S AMBITION FOR 2030

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OUR THREE BREAKTHROUGHS FOR 2030

SURVIVE
NO CHILD DIES FROM PREVENTABLE CAUSES BEFORE THEIR FIFTH BIRTHDAY

LEARN
ALL CHILDREN LEARN FROM A QUALITY BASIC **EDUCATION**

BE PROTECTED
VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IS **NO LONGER TOLERATED**

BREAKTHROUGH: a remarkable and sustainable shift from the current trend in the way the world treats children

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Save the Children has committed to do whatever it takes to ensure that by 2030 all children survive, learn and are protected. These are our three global breakthroughs for children. In order to achieve all three breakthroughs it is imperative for child protection and all other thematic areas (education, health and nutrition, child poverty and child rights governance) to work together.

Three areas have been identified as having potential for cross-thematic work to advance our breakthroughs:

1. Providing a strong platform for **early childhood care and development** (ECCD). Children who benefit from effective ECCD programs are healthier, have better-developed cognitive skills, and are less likely to experience violence than those who do not.

2. It is important in itself that **adolescent girls** are educated, healthy, and free from violence such as early marriage, sexual violence, female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and harmful work. Disadvantaged adolescent girls must also be empowered to make their own sexual and reproductive choices and to navigate situations where they are at risk of violence and exploitation, and must have good-quality educational and vocational opportunities. At the same time, efforts need to be made to engage boys and men as partners to end discrimination and violence against girls and women. These investments directly affect the chances of children surviving, learning and living free from violence.

3. **Poverty** is a major reason why children do not survive or learn, and why they face violence. We will significantly improve our social protection and livelihood activities to reduce the effects of poverty on children and measure their education, survival and protection outcomes.

We will also prioritise the following areas for cross-thematic work:

SURVIVE We will work with **health and nutrition** colleagues to ensure that sexual and reproductive health and rights programs have a focus on preventing sexual violence – including FGM/C and child marriage.

LEARN We will work together with others to create a **cross-thematic** early years initiative on ECCD. This will include exploring how ECCD can be used as an entry point for violence prevention, peace building and social cohesion.

Our priority (2016–18) for collaboration with our **education** colleagues is developing evidence-based models of violence-free schools to eliminate PHP, bullying and sexual violence. This will help us achieve both the Learn and the Be Protected breakthroughs.

BE PROTECTED We will work across sectors and teams to protect children from violence and advocate for others to do the same.

Together with **child poverty** colleagues we will pilot and build an evidence-based program approach that effectively tackles harmful child work and child marriage and prevents family separation through a combination of economic strengthening and child protection approaches. We will also use the learning from our Family First program in Indonesia on how cash transfers can support the successful reintegration of children with their families after separation.

With **child rights governance** colleagues we will develop and test methodologies for tracking governments' budgets and spending on strengthening child protection systems. Our collaboration will also focus on advocacy for free and accessible birth registration with a civil authority for all children.

Lastly, with **health and nutrition** colleagues a priority will be to strengthen and scale up our mental health and psychosocial interventions. We will align our strategic approaches, and make them more coherent and evidence-based. We will explore how the Psychological First Aid Toolkit can become compulsory introductory training for our staff.

We will also collaborate to make health systems more responsive to violence by strengthening the capacity of health workers to both detect and respond to violence (especially sexual violence).

PHOTO: EMMANUEL KENYI/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Majak,* 77, was reunited with his grandchild by Save the Children's Family Tracing and Reunification program after they had been separated during fighting in South Sudan. * Not his real name

3 SAVE THE CHILDREN'S CHILD PROTECTION PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES

"Violence against children should be strictly condemned because a violence-free childhood is the right of every child."

16-year-old girl, Uganda

Children and young people have a clear vision of a world without violence against children. They have told us that what they most want to end is:
- physical and humiliating punishment in homes, schools, care institutions and other settings
- sexual violence and abuse in homes, schools, care institutions and other settings
- harmful child work
- child marriage, trafficking and other harmful practices.

In order to achieve the organisational breakthrough 'violence is no longer tolerated', we have adopted the following child protection priorities and advocacy objectives for 2016–18.

CHILD PROTECTION PRIORITIES

We will seek to answer key learning questions and strengthen our evidence-based approaches around the following three priority areas:
- **Preventing violence in the home**
- **Ending violence in schools**
- **Preventing sexual violence** facilitated through information communications technology.

CHILD PROTECTION ADVOCACY OBJECTIVES

In order to advance the child protection priorities the following child protection advocacy objectives have been prioritised and agreed for 2016–18:
1. Governments implement Sustainable Development Goal 16.2 and related targets to end violence against children
2. States prohibit and eliminate physical and humiliating punishment in all settings, including the home
3. Ministries of education adopt policies and implement them to end violence in schools.

SUB-THEMATIC AREAS

Our child protection work will be focused on four sub-thematic areas. For each of these areas we have agreed results to be achieved by 2030 and results to be achieved by 2018.
- **Protection of children from violence**
- **Appropriate care**
- **Protection of children from harmful work**
- **Child protection systems**

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM VIOLENCE

"Governments should make children's protection from violence a priority in the post-2015 development agenda and back their commitments with proper funding."

Joint statement by UN children's rights experts, 20 November 2013[10]

2030 RESULTS

- **Children are protected from physical and humiliating punishment in the home and in school**
- **Children are protected from sexual violence**
- **Children are protected from violence in conflict situations**

2018 RESULTS

- **Countries have robust legal frameworks to protect children against violence**
- **Parents and teachers use (or have improved their use of) positive discipline methods as an alternative to PHP in the home and at school**
- **Save the Children's capacity is strengthened to adequately respond to and prevent sexual violence**
- **Children at risk of being associated with harmful gangs and armed forces or groups can access prevention and response programs**

2016–18 ADVOCACY OBJECTIVES

- **Governments implement Sustainable Development Goal 16.2 and related targets to end violence**
- **States prohibit and eliminate physical and humiliating punishment in all settings, including the home**
- **States prohibit and eliminate sexual violence and other harmful practices in all settings**

- Ministries of education adopt policies and implement them to end violence in schools
- International mechanisms to prevent/end grave violations against children take into account the new dynamics of armed conflicts, are more effective and accountable to children, and address the impunity of perpetrators

BUILDING ON OUR EXPERIENCE

"I will feel free when there is no more corporal punishment."

11-year-old girl, Senegal

PHYSICAL AND HUMILIATING PUNISHMENT

Violent discipline by parents and other adults is the most common form of violence against children.

By 2015, only 48 States had prohibited the hitting of children in all settings, including in the home. Of those countries that have banned all corporal punishment, this has in many cases been due to advocacy pursued directly or indirectly by Save the Children. A large majority of children are still living in countries with no law prohibiting corporal punishment in the home. In humanitarian crises – due to the increased stress on families, separation and the breakdown of formal and informal safety nets – children are more at risk of physical and humiliating punishment.

Save the Children is already a leader working towards eliminating all forms of physical and humiliating punishment of children in the home, in schools and in all other settings. This work is done through advocating for legal reform and adequate policies and supporting awareness-raising initiatives – including among faith-based organisations and through the media – leading to changes in attitudes and practices. We also promote positive parenting for both male and female caregivers, and provide education and positive discipline programs targeting caregivers, teachers and other people working with children. We have a strong focus on promoting child participation in all aspects of programming and increasingly involve boys and men in stopping violence against children. We promote a broad family-strengthening approach to support children's development. This work will be scaled up in the coming years.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Save the Children has experience and knowledge of preventing, protecting and responding to sexual violence against girls and boys, including addressing child marriage and FGM/C. The latter is one of the worst violations of children's rights, and can lead to death and irreversible social, physical and psychological damage. In most societies, the sexual abuse and exploitation of children is rarely reported. When it is, its effects on the child are often denied or minimised. Save the Children will continue to challenge the secrecy, taboos and sense of inevitability that surrounds sexual abuse and exploitation.

The most common perpetrators of sexual violence are people the child knows – someone from their community, a family member, a teacher or another child. Gender discrimination, perceptions of masculinity and unequal power relations between adults and children make girls and boys more vulnerable to sexual violence, FGM/C and child marriage. Addressing root causes and changing social norms is therefore crucial.

Sexual violence against children will continue to be a priority in all contexts where we work, including emergencies. We will address gaps in programming, in national laws and strategies, and among existing national and local service providers.

Save the Children will influence and support authorities to meet their obligations to prevent the sexual abuse and exploitation of girls and boys and to assist abused children through well-functioning child protection systems (linking up with the education and health sectors).

Awareness raising and advocacy at different levels will contribute to changing behaviours and attitudes that perpetuate sexual violence, and to supporting parents and caregivers to protect their children and support those who have experienced it. We will also focus on building girls' and boys' capacity to protect themselves through life skills, gender-sensitive sexual and reproductive health and rights education, and specific welfare support.

> *"We do not feel free at school when teachers demand sex in exchange for good grades."*
>
> Girl, Liberia

> *"Some of the big men take little boys in a corner and have sex with them."*
>
> 15-year-old boy in residential care, Guyana

VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS

Children are extremely vulnerable to violence during conflict situations. In the UN Secretary-General's 2015 Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict,[11] recruitment and the use of children in armed conflict is the most common violation listed. Particular challenges are emerging in relation to the recruitment methods used by armed groups, and the use of an increasing number of children to participate in and perpetrate extreme violence.

> *"A child using a firearm makes me so angry and insecure."*
>
> 9-year-old boy, Brazil

Those most at risk of recruitment, being killed or maimed and detained on suspicion of association with armed forces and armed groups are boys aged 12 or 13 and upwards. Girls of this age are more likely (than younger girls) to be killed and maimed by explosive weaponry, abducted and subjected to sexual violence, taken out of school and kept at home or married early to 'protect' them. However, alarmingly, younger children are increasingly at risk, with girls as young as six being raped, boys as young as ten carrying arms, and infants less than one year old being tortured.

Save the Children has experience in assisting with the release and sustainable reintegration of children associated with armed forces and groups, including organised crime. We also work with governments and armed forces and groups to prevent child recruitment and violence against and exploitation of children by military forces and peacekeepers during emergencies. We advocate for more protective legal frameworks and practices in collaboration with other agencies and interagency groups, and support an effective monitoring and reporting mechanism on grave violations committed by parties to the conflict, including the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups.

In response to the changing dynamics of conflict, Save the Children recognises the opportunity for a revised approach that gives more attention to linking contextual analysis with strategic development, bridging emergency and development approaches, strengthening field-level partnerships, and sharpening the expertise needed to adapt our programs to the changing realities in conflict situations.

MAIN INTERVENTIONS

To achieve the 2018 result 'countries have robust legal and policy frameworks to protect children against violence', we will:

- Undertake national and local campaigning and advocacy to ensure that a **ban on physical and humiliating punishment in both homes and schools** is kept on the political agenda along with the development of appropriate policies, building on the priorities and participation of children.
- Advocate with others for **national laws and policies** to end sexual violence against girls and boys, including for raising the age of marriage to 18 and outlawing FGM/C.
- Advocate for adequate **financial resources to put in place high-quality and sustainable programs to support children who have directly or indirectly been affected by violence**.

To achieve the 2018 result 'parents and teachers use (or have improved their use of) positive discipline methods as an alternative to PHP in the home and at school', we will:

- **Challenge existing social norms around PHP** through awareness-raising campaigns and continue to support children, community members, men and boys as 'change agents' in preventing family violence.
- Provide an innovative approach to violence prevention such as the practice of **Positive Discipline (in Everyday Parenting[12] and in Everyday Teaching[13])**, an effective behaviour change program, **and integrate it** into national positive parenting programs and other government programs such as cash transfers, family planning and teacher training. Increasingly target fathers and male caregivers.
- Pilot a monitoring tool for tracking changing attitudes and/or behaviour to PHP using innovative solutions and ICT.
- **Integrate PHP into Save the Children's child safeguarding work** as well as with the other sub-thematic areas, our **psychosocial work, health and nutrition programs** as well as our **humanitarian work and Emergency Preparedness Planning**.

To achieve the 2018 result 'Save the Children's capacity is strengthened to adequately respond to and prevent sexual violence', we will:

- Strengthen our efforts to end sexual violence and **challenge gender discrimination and norms perpetuating sexual and gender-based violence against children**, including child marriage and FGM/C by working with boys and men.
- Advocate for age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, integrated sexual violence **preparedness and response services for girls and boys**.
- **Mainstream the prevention of and response to sexual violence** against girls and boys and ensure that there are **minimum standards** in legal, health, child protection, education and social welfare systems.
- **Strengthen** our work to address sexual violence in **digital media and online** by tackling online violence, cyber bullying and grooming.

To achieve the 2018 result 'children at risk of being associated with harmful gangs and armed forces or groups can access prevention and response programs', we will:

- Advocate that all forms of violence against children in conflict situations are considered unacceptable and **scale up our international, regional and national evidence-based advocacy**.
- Collaborate closely with the UN and the African Union on children's rights and **child protection training to change the attitudes and behaviour of the military, peacekeepers and police** to end child protection violations.
- **Provide high-quality prevention and response services to children at risk of recruitment into, or associated with or released from, armed forces or groups and gangs** and support their reintegration into families and communities.
- Work with boys and men, and other community members, to prevent the recruitment of boys and girls into criminal organisations and gangs and the exposure of children to extreme violence.
- Ensure that we carry out **inclusive and cross-sectoral contextual analysis** at regional and country level during the design and implementation phase of child protection interventions.

- Develop and define comprehensive interventions targeting **adolescents and young people** in conflict settings to tackle the root causes that put this group at risk.
- Better link child protection responses in armed conflict with **other sectors** to ensure a holistic cross-sectoral response.
- Invest in deepening organisational understanding of the impact of **radicalisation and other conflict drivers on violence against children**.

During emergencies our work protecting children from violence is guided by the Global Protection Cluster's Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, in particular by the principles on strengthening child protection systems and child resilience in humanitarian action, Standard 8 on physical violence and other harmful practices, Standard 9 on sexual violence, Standard 10 on psychosocial distress and mental disorders, Standard 11 on children associated with armed forces or armed groups, and Standard 15 on case management as well as the mainstreaming standards (19 to 26).

PHOTO: SANDY MAROUN/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Nepal: Six-year-old girls playing at a temporary learning centre built by Save the Children after their school collapsed in an earthquake.

APPROPRIATE CARE

2030 RESULT

- **All children, including those on the move and in emergencies, have appropriate care from either their own families or community-based alternatives**

2018 RESULT

- **Children, including those on the move, have (improved) access to appropriate family-based support, protection and care**

2016–18 ADVOCACY OBJECTIVES

- **The international Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children[14] are domesticated, implemented and used during emergency responses with high levels of family separation**
- **World leaders adopt a long-term global strategy and a systemic approach to migration and human mobility, including asylum seekers and refugees, based on the respect of human rights and on the protection of the most vulnerable, including children**

BUILDING ON OUR EXPERIENCE

"Everybody wants to go home to live with their parents so they can give you love and attention."

10-year-old girl living in residential care, Guyana

Millions of children are without appropriate care due, for example, to violence and abuse, poverty, conflict, parental illness, HIV and AIDS, disability and humanitarian disasters. These children live in many different circumstances – on the street, on the move, in extended families, in institutions, or unsafely in their own families due to the family's situation or poor parenting skills.

Save the Children has extensive experience in working with governments and other organisations to reform care systems away from institutional care towards family-based care. We support the development and implementation of family and community-based prevention and alternative care models and advocate for reform strategies or policy frameworks in line with the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children.[15]

Save the Children has led the debate on the care of children on the move in development and emergency settings, including in the European Union. We support programs and influence changes to national policies to ensure that children at risk of unsafe migration benefit from high-quality care and support in their families or, when necessary, in family and community-based alternatives, and that they have access to protection services. We also advocate for changes in policies and service provision to ensure that children in transit and at their destination receive adequate and coordinated support. In addition, we advocate for coordination and coherence across asylum, migration and trafficking policies that are based on the best interests of the child, so that States provide services that at least meet the minimum standards of quality care. Save the Children is the Chair of the Inter-Agency Group on Children on the Move. As children on the move are becoming a priority for the entire organisation, the child protection sector will lead cross-thematic inputs to the new structure set up across Save the Children for Children on the Move, linking international with domestic programs.

We work with governments, UNICEF, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other NGOs to identify and register vulnerable children, including separated and unaccompanied children, and provide protective services, including tracing and reuniting children with their families during emergencies and, when this is not possible, supporting alternative care arrangements. During 2016–17 we will be chairing the Interagency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children. We also participate in the Steering Committee for the Interagency Child Protection Information Management System with the International Rescue Committee and UNICEF. We provide psychosocial support and advocate for children's right to birth registration and support government efforts to develop information management systems. We have been involved in

developing interagency guidelines and tools for family tracing and reunification and the inter-agency Alternative Care in Emergencies Toolkit.[16]

We are a steering group member of MenCare and a partner in the MenCare campaign, and we will scale up our work to engage fathers as caregivers following up on the *State of the World's Fathers* report (2015).[17]

MAIN INTERVENTIONS

Our main interventions during 2016–18 will be to:

- Raise awareness and promote reforms to care systems away from institutional towards family-based care, including through laws and policies that are in line with the *International Guidelines on Alternative Care*
- Develop and implement **family and community-based prevention and alternative care models** to demonstrate the feasibility and impact of high-quality care provision, including a greater focus on the promotion of fathers/male care givers in the care of children
- Promote a **case management** approach to all our work with children, ensuring that we are identifying and addressing the range of protection risks and vulnerabilities experienced by them
- Strengthen our focus on **cross-border family tracing and reunification**
- **Develop an evidence base** on the nature and scale of separation in emergencies in order to raise funding and target programming
- Promote community and family-based care and support for children affected by **HIV and AIDS and more recently by Ebola**, and respond to all cases of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) with alternative care options, supported by system-strengthening approaches that will provide (alternative) caregivers with adequate support to meet their needs and those of the children
- Promote and strengthen the evidence base for the **Essential Package**, a comprehensive set of tools and guides for policy makers, program managers and service providers to address the unique needs and competencies of young children, particularly those affected by or infected with HIV and AIDS in an integrated and holistic way

- Promote models of intervention to demonstrate how by supporting families and young people to access better opportunities at home they are less exposed to **unsafe forms of migration**
- Focus on **temporary care standards for children on the move**, including an increased focus on advocacy and programmatic solutions against the detention of migrant children
- Develop models of coordination mechanisms between **countries of origin, transit and destination**, including through innovating technology-based and data-driven approaches that enhance the protection of children on the move across borders
- Lead our **children on the move** work in all contexts, across Save the Children, in order to improve children's protection and care, promote their access to basic rights and services, ensure they are treated with dignity and respect, and prevent unsafe migration
- Strengthen our portfolio of work in **urban settings** with a focus on children affected by rural to urban migration
- Promote **gender sensitivity** and the **role of fathers as caregivers** in all our programs and strengthen the evidence base on their impact
- Promote and roll out the **Child Resilience Toolkit** and the **Psychological First Aid Training Manual for Child Practitioners (PFA)** to facilitate training in psychological first aid with a focus on children. The training targets Save the Children staff, partners, professionals such as teachers, health and social workers, etc, and volunteers working directly with children in emergencies or in the aftermath of conflicts, natural disasters and critical events.

During emergencies our work on appropriate care is guided by the Child Protection Minimum Standards, in particular by Standard 13 on Unaccompanied and Separated Children and Standard 15 on Case Management.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARMFUL WORK

"I feel unsafe where I work. It is an environment controlled by people who do not take me and my opinion into account, surrounded by corruption."

15-year-old boy, Mexico

2030 RESULT

- **Boys and girls are protected from harmful child work**

2018 RESULT

- **Children and families access integrated programs that prevent and respond to children's engagement in harmful work**

It is estimated that there are currently 85 million girls and boys engaged in harmful work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and which interferes with their education by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school or limits their attendance due to excessively long hours and heavy work. Some of the children who are engaged in harmful work experience its worst forms – including slavery, forced and bonded work, child trafficking, illicit activities, and involvement in armed conflict and sexual exploitation (including online).

BUILDING ON OUR EXPERIENCE

Save the Children has been working to protect children from harmful work for two decades. Our work has focused on advocating and mobilising at the policy and practice levels to strengthen protection systems, implement protection programs and create positive environments for children to learn in. This has enabled us to build partnerships with working children's organisations/movements and child rights clubs as well as with governments and the private sector.

In our programs we address the complexity of children and work by combining our experience and expertise in child protection, economic strengthening, health and education.

Our work will continue to have a strong focus on addressing harmful work and economic exploitation, bringing sustainable alternatives to children involved in or at risk of harmful work. These include education and livelihood opportunities, child participation, strengthening child protection systems and collaborating with governments to implement protective policies, as well as working with communities, especially families, to changes attitudes regarding harmful work. We will work closely with the other Save the Children thematic areas, especially child poverty, and focus on child domestic workers, on children working in the agricultural sector and on implementing the Children's Rights and Business Principles.[18]

MAIN INTERVENTIONS

Our main interventions in 2016–18 will be to:
- Develop joint programming with child poverty colleagues through developing **livelihood opportunities and social protection** to (i) create economically secure environments that prevent children engaging in **harmful domestic work** and (ii) support those involved in harmful domestic work to reduce the risk factors
- Strengthen **collaboration with education programs** to (i) promote the educational structures, systems and programs needed for children involved in or removed from harmful domestic work and (ii) ensure that children involved in or at risk of entering harmful work in agriculture are able to access relevant, flexible and good-quality education and vocational training that improves their employment capabilities
- Advocate for legal policies, regulations and child protection systems that protect domestic child workers and address agricultural work hazards for children
- Work with communities, employers and families to raise awareness of the risks of domestic work and **children's right to education and protection** from agricultural work hazards
- Support children, and specifically working children, to influence programs, their situation, their organisations and their environments

- Engage with **private sector actors**[19] around children's rights and business principles so that they apply them in their own business practices and policies, as well as within their supply chains
- Promote **reintegration programs in emergencies** that protect children from harmful work and exploitation, and work with the child protection in emergencies tool towards implementing the minimum standards on child labour
- Pilot **gender-sensitive and integrated programs** that protect children from harmful work by providing alternatives in terms of basic education, social protection and successful transition for young people.

During emergencies our work on protecting children from harmful work is guided by the Child Protection Minimum Standards, in particular by Standard 12 on child labour.

PHOTO: MARK KAYE/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Ten-year-old Hazim and his five-year-old brother, Fuad, at a child-friendly space in Yemen where Save the Children is supporting children who have experienced or witnessed violence.

CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS

2030 RESULT

- **All children are protected through a strong child protection system, integrating both formal and informal components**

2018 RESULT

- **Community and national child protection systems are strengthened, in particular to meet the needs of the most deprived children and to respond effectively to emergencies and other shocks**

ADVOCACY OBJECTIVE 2016–18

- **Global and national investments in child protection systems are being tracked and show rising levels in investments**

BUILDING ON OUR EXPERIENCE

Child protection systems provide the basic 'infrastructure' that can deliver a range of protection outcomes for children. This infrastructure includes the people, laws, money and data that can make protection real. It includes key approaches to working with vulnerable children, such as case management. Crucially, it stresses the importance of prevention and care reform, and providing the capacity to protect children in both emergency and non-emergency situations.

Since child protection systems include both formal and informal mechanisms, they can be developed and strengthened in fragile states where the state may be weak. In better-off countries the reform of existing child protection systems – often based on colonial or historic models – can offer the opportunity to fundamentally improve children's protection. We therefore consider it strategic to support national child protection systems to be resilient and respond effectively to emergencies in a way that builds on existing positive and protective structures.

PHOTO: LISBETH MICHELSEN/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Young people take a selfie in Norway, where every year teenagers donate their earnings from a day's work to a good cause – in this case Save the Children's programs.

Our work on child protection systems represents a scalable approach to the protection of all children from all forms of violence – an approach that is complementary to the focus on specific forms of violence such as PHP and sexual violence. It entails working across the entire system spanning both formal and informal structures and practices. It also includes work to address gender and other forms of discrimination and transform social norms. This means awareness-raising, social and community mobilisation, public education and ending impunity for perpetrators.

Coordination across agencies is a critical part of building effective child protection systems. To achieve this we will partner with governments, local NGOs, faith-based organisations, civil society organisations and others working in child protection to develop locally owned interventions and services, to improve coordination, to share learning, and to maximise our collective impact. Children will be among our key partners. In particular, we will advocate for protection systems that are inclusive of children with disabilities and other marginalised groups, and which are resilient to emergencies and shocks.

MAIN INTERVENTIONS

Our main interventions during 2016–18 will be to:
- Advocate with governments and the international community for **legislative, policy and budgetary reform in child protection** that is compliant with children's rights, international standards and best practice

- Support **coordination** among child protection actors at national, sub-national and local levels, including in emergencies
- Support governments to provide: **good-quality accessible, child and gender-sensitive preventive and responsive services**, including reporting and referral mechanisms as part of a case management system; recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration programs; family-strengthening programs; access to child-friendly justice services; and, community-based child protection systems to address the service needs and systems gaps during emergencies
- Build and strengthen the **capacity of social and other workers** to address child protection issues in humanitarian crises and to use the para social work approach
- Strengthen the use of ICT and other evidence-building tools/methods to support **improved data collection**, accountability and programming in national child protection systems
- Support the inclusion of **child safeguarding** and the development of **professional social work training, qualification and accreditation schemes**, and build on the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.

During emergencies our work on child protection systems is guided by the Child Protection Minimum Standards, in particular by Standard 16 on community-based mechanisms.

4 PUTTING THE RIGHTS OF THE MOST DEPRIVED AND MARGINALISED CHILDREN FIRST

- The poorest girls are three times more likely to get married before the age of 18 than the richest girls.
- Children from stigmatised groups are more vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse and to the harmful impact of institutionalisation.
- Children with disabilities are more at risk of sexual violence.
- Children deprived of family care in child-headed households, in institutions or on the street very often suffer abuse, exploitation and neglect and struggle to meet their basic needs.[20]

We will work to achieve the rights of all children, but we will put the most deprived and marginalised children first in our own work and advocate for others to do the same.

We recognise that violence affects all groups of children in all contexts, both girls and boys, and we will therefore work for all children's rights to be protected but with increased efforts to reach those who are at higher risk of violence. Children who are deprived or discriminated against because of their gender, sexuality, income, class, ethnicity, religion, disability or migrant status are most likely to experience violence.

Save the Children works to address the multiple deprivations children suffer, particularly in low-income (including fragile and conflict-affected) settings, but also in high- and middle-income countries with major inequality and significant numbers of children living in poverty or without adequate family care.

During 2016–18, we will therefore focus on:
- Children who grow up in inappropriate settings or without care, including families made vulnerable by poverty, discrimination, conflict and disaster
- Children who grow up in urban slums and in communities affected by gangs and criminal violence
- Children affected by extreme violence in armed conflicts
- Children on the move and children at risk of forced migration and of being trafficked
- Children who experience gender and other forms of discrimination.

5 STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE, PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY, PROTECTING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND CHILD SAFEGUARDING

STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE

Save the Children's Child Resilience Program aims to increase children's confidence, their ability to handle stress, and their capacity to interact with their peers. The program is used in emergencies, protracted crises, fragile and failed states and settings with a high prevalence of psychosocial and protection issues. It is appropriate for a wide range of children as well as for particularly vulnerable groups, for example children with disabilities. The work involves working with parents and other duty bearers to address violence in the family and wider community, and to strengthen links to the child protection system. We will continue to extend our work in this area in 2016–18 and build our evidence around this program approach.

Many of the protection risks children face in an emergency stem from disruption in the protective environment immediately around them in their family or community – ie, their environments are no longer resilient enough to protect them. The lack of preventive and responsive services and an appropriate framework through which to provide protection in emergency situations can also make children more vulnerable. Applying a resilience-building lens as part of a systems-building approach can prevent protection problems arising and reduce the number, severity and complexity of protection cases. It also enables child protection work in emergencies to be aligned with, and contribute to, existing structures, especially in making them more resilient to future disasters.

During 2016–18, we will:
- **Empower children, enhance protective factors** and minimise factors that put children at risk, so that children know their rights and can participate and respond to violence against themselves and their peers. This includes providing psychosocial support in every humanitarian response.
- Advocate and **support governments and mobilise communities** to ensure that national and community-based child protection systems are resilient and able to prevent and respond to all forms of violence, despite significant challenges that may threaten their stability or effectiveness. This includes developing child protection plans as part of emergency preparedness planning.
- Improve our understanding of the **impact of climate change and conflict on children and families**. For example, coping mechanisms in emergencies can lead to children and families choosing harmful work, child marriage and other harmful practices.

PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

Promoting gender equality is central to ensuring that children are protected. For girls and boys to have an equal opportunity to survive, learn, participate, play and develop, child protection programming must be informed by, and challenge, restrictive gender norms and discrimination that result in gender inequality in all contexts. Save the Children's Principles for Gender Equality and our Gender Quality Program Guidance and Toolkit are important tools to support this work.

During 2016–18, we will:

- **Advocate and mobilise** at local, national and international levels to address violence against children and discrimination on the basis of gender. We will work with key stakeholders to transform the root causes of gender inequality in order to stop sexual violence, FGM/C and child marriage, and on the provision of adequate prevention and response services for both boys and girls affected by sexual violence
- **Engage boys and men**, alongside girls and women, to address gender discrimination and violence against women, girls and boys, and to play an active role in fostering gender equality. This will include, for example, promoting fathers' involvement in positive discipline and parenting and supporting boys in advocating against child marriage and sexual harassment
- Use the *State of the World's Fathers* report as a tool to advocate for governments and the private sector to develop gender-sensitive policies promoting fathers as caregivers
- Work cross thematically to promote gender-sensitive **life skills education for adolescent girls and boys**, taking advantage of existing curricula
- Advocate for the **media** to promote non-violent and non-gender stereotypical messages
- Promote values of gender equality and non-violence among **religious leaders, other community leaders and families**
- Advocate for **governments** to adopt a zero tolerance approach to gender-based violence and make it a part of their constitution, laws and policies
- Improve our understanding of how violence affects both boys and girls – physically, psychologically and socially – by addressing violence from a rights-based lifecycle approach informed by **gender and power analysis**
- Ensure all our programs are **gender sensitive** and that by 2030 10% are gender transformative.

PROTECTING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

We know that **children with disabilities** are three to four times more at risk of violence.

During 2016–18, we will:
- Promote inclusive **programs** for children with disabilities
- Assess Save the Children's and partners' programs to protect children with disabilities from violence, and **build the capacity of staff** to address barriers and include children with disabilities in our programs.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING

Save the Children's **Child Safeguarding Policy: Rules for Keeping Children Safe** is binding for all Save the Children staff. These rules describe a positive approach to work with children and also provide details of conduct that is deemed inappropriate and unacceptable.

During 2016–18, we will do everything we can to ensure that children (and their families) are safe, and that our program design and implementation are safe for children. Using our Child Protection Quality of Services assessment tool, we will conduct child safeguarding risk assessments when designing programs or activities and in order to review programs from a safeguarding perspective.

6 INSPIRING AND ACHIEVING BREAKTHROUGHS IN CHILD PROTECTION

"For countries to achieve social and economic transformation, growth and prosperity, they must invest in children and address protection."

Monrovia Declaration on Children by children and young people

SAVE THE CHILDREN'S THEORY OF CHANGE

Save the Children's Theory of Change is our model for inspiring breakthroughs for children. We will work in partnership to ensure that no girl or boy suffers from violence. We will create more spaces for children to become actors in their own and their peers' protection. We will use evidence to advocate for national legislation and policies that prevent and respond to violence against children.

ADVOCACY

We will call on States to adopt legislation and child protection systems that **protect children from violence and ensure that their voices are always taken into account**, especially those of the most deprived and marginalised children. (For details of our advocacy objectives, see Chapter 3.)

RESULTS AT SCALE

We will promote **solutions that have been proven to work** within countries (such as our three signature programs) and approaches that have been used successfully across the organisation, **replicate them, and take them to scale**.

WE WILL...

...BE THE VOICE
Advocate and campaign for better practices and policies to fulfil children's rights and to ensure their voices are heard (particularly most marginalised or those living in poverty).

...BE THE INNOVATOR
Develop and prove evidence-based, replicable breakthrough solutions for problems facing children.

BUILD PARTNERSHIPS
Collaborate with children, civil society organisations, communities, governments and the private sector to share knowledge, influence others and build capacity to ensure children's rights are met.

...ACHIEVE RESULTS AT SCALE
Support effective implementation of best practices, programmes and policies for children, leveraging our knowledge to ensure sustainable impact at scale.

Save the Children's Theory of Change

Signature programs

1. We will continue to scale up **Families First** in Indonesia, which demonstrates key strategic elements of government care system reform, including: moving from institutional to family-based care; the adoption of national guidelines on care; regulation of institutions; diversion of government finances from institutions to family-based care; an effective social worker training scheme; and a home visitation model. In 2016–18, the national standards of care will be rolled out in an additional 18 provinces.

2. **Safer homes and communities** in the Philippines demonstrates an effective model by scaling up training on positive discipline while advocating for legal reform and mobilising the public. Save the Children, in collaboration with the University of Manitoba, has developed and field-tested positive discipline training for teachers and parents, which is now being scaled up to be incorporated into teacher training and family support modules run by the government. A law against corporal punishment is now sitting in the Senate. The positive discipline training will be taken to scale globally in 2016–18.

3. **The essential package** is a tool to improve the access of very vulnerable young children (including those affected by HIV and AIDS) to critical supports that enable them to reach their developmental potential free from violence. We will continue to gather evidence on use of the package, with a view to scaling it up in multiple settings.

During 2016–18, we will build on existing good practice and innovation, both internal and external, to develop, pilot, build evidence for and take to scale signature programs on the following:

*   **The prevention of and response to sexual violence**
*   **One-stop centre/strengthening child protection systems**
*   **Building resilience of children with disabilities**
*   **Programming for children on the move that joins up our multi-thematic programming in countries of origin, transit and destination**
*   **A model for violence-free schools**

Key approaches and quality standards

As part of Save the Children's drive to improve the thematic focus and quality of our work, we will agree on a set number of thematic approaches (both child

protection and integrated approaches) that will help us deliver on all Save the Children's breakthroughs.

The approaches we identify will address our three child protection priorities for 2016–18: preventing violence in the home; ending violence in schools; and preventing sexual violence. Guidelines to ensure the quality of each approach will be developed and disseminated. Our ambition is to further encourage take-up and adaptation of these priority approaches across our programs and in different contexts.

In 2016–18, we will:

*   Scale up those approaches which we have strong practical experience of and evidence for preventing violence in the home and ending violence in schools and encourage replication in other countries. We will also continue to build our evidence base
*   Develop and pilot new approaches, and start to build the evidence base, in new areas (such as the prevention of sexual violence) in which we currently do not have either strong practice or robust evidence
*   Develop programmatic guidance for each of our priority thematic approaches with accompanying quality standards
*   Engage with external parties to develop new quality standards and, where possible, build on existing standards.

INNOVATION

We will test and pilot innovative evidence-based solutions that prevent and respond to violence against children. Our focus in this period will be on integrating our child protection work with other thematic areas and measuring child protection outcomes (such as promoting positive discipline, training health workers and teachers in preventing physical and humiliating punishment and in responding to sexual violence, and integrating child protection components into cash for care or livelihoods). We will experiment with new technologies in child protection monitoring and evaluation, and provide preventive messages in different contexts.

PARTNERSHIPS

We will continue to build local, national and global partnerships to prevent and respond to violence against children. Our partnerships help ensure accountability to children and the stronger voice of both children and civil society, including NGOs and communities, in ending violence against children.

Save the Children, together with other child-focused agencies, is engaging with the new Global Partnership to End Violence against Children. This is an initiative led by UNICEF to accelerate implementation of SDG target 16.2 on eliminating all forms of violence against children. The Partnership offers the potential for governments, the UN, civil society, faith leaders, the private sector, philanthropists and foundations, researchers and academics, and children themselves to work together to confront the unacceptable levels of violence faced by children worldwide.

OUR RESULTS FRAMEWORK: WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

The child protection results framework has been developed as part of Save the Children's results architecture and feeds into our global priorities. It aims to lay out our intent for generating a new evidence base, as well as strengthening our capacity to make better use of the available internal and external evidence in the new strategic period.

The child protection results framework consists of three levels:
1. Global (external evidence)
2. Global and country (internal and external evidence)
3. Country (internal and external evidence).

At the global level, we will focus our monitoring efforts on collating and consolidating available evidence and data, mainly from Demographic and Health Surveys and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, on areas that are directly linked to the violence breakthrough. This will help us to understand the global trends in particular issues related to violence against children, and inform our programming and advocacy. We may conduct global surveys in selected countries, and partner with UNICEF and relevant donors, governments and NGOs to support their implementation. In some countries where we have strong child protection programs, and if funding and opportunities are available, we may take a leadership role in generating such evidence and in developing monitoring mechanisms, such as producing score cards on violence against children.

Together with the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, the Child Protection Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group and others, we aim to strengthen resources, mechanisms and capacity for data collection and evidence building on violence against children and ensure that children's voices contribute to the global evidence and are considered in global debates.

At the second level – global and country – we will collect simple data from our programs, such as total reach, spend and beneficiary participation/ satisfaction, to reflect on the scale and coverage of our child protection programs.

In addition, at this level we will focus our evidence-building efforts on a number of learning questions that have been identified in consultation with country and regional offices. Rigorous studies, evaluations, programmatic surveys and other mechanisms will be used to answer the learning questions and study Save the Children's contribution towards achieving the violence breakthrough.

The various pockets of evidence collected and collated from internal and external sources will feed directly into our national, regional and global advocacy, and become a strong foundation for our research and evaluation work identified as part of our learning agenda.

OUR LEARNING, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

"We have something to contribute. We are full of energy waiting to be transformed into action."

Young people, Middle East and eastern Europe

The following potential learning questions will guide our evidence building and help us demonstrate the extent to which our specific programs in different contexts and countries are contributing towards violence against children being no longer tolerated. Through our various academic and government partnerships, we aim to demonstrate what evidence around these learning questions shows and also offer a set of working models that can be replicated and scaled up.

During 2016–18, the majority of our research and development efforts will be focused around these priority questions, the answers to which will build evidence for our approaches and our signature programs, and will also be used to monitor and evaluate the results in our strategic framework for each of our sub-thematic priorities and for the violence breakthrough.

2016–18 learning questions will contribute to:

- **The development of evidence-based approaches**
  a) How do we best support parents to bring up children safely and without violence?
  b) How do we prevent all forms of violence in and around schools?
  c) How can we prevent girls and boys from being sexually abused and exploited?

- **Foundational child protection work**
  a) How does violence against children drive exclusion and how do excluded children/ deprived children experience violence? What are the barriers that prevent them accessing child protection services?
  b) What are the essential child protection services that effectively prevent and respond to violence against children?

- **Advocacy work**
  a) How do children from diverse backgrounds perceive their environments (in terms of safety) and how do they believe that violence can be prevented (with a focus on their empowerment)?
  b) How can children be involved in the implementation and monitoring of violence targets in the SDGs?

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The capacity and skills of our child protection workers at different levels throughout the organisation are a critical factor in enabling Save the Children to achieve our breakthroughs and our child protection priorities and objectives. We need to strengthen our child protection workforce and support staff so that they can develop their careers and progress in the sector.

During 2016–18, we will therefore implement a **capacity-building strategy** that will include:

- The development of core technical competencies for all child protection staff, drawing on our work in emergencies, and ensuring that all competencies are matched with relevant training.
- Expanding our training and accreditation work in child protection to ensure that we are building

capacity in all the core technical competency areas. We will build partnerships to take this training to scale and potentially adapt it for government and community social workers within different national contexts.

- Building on the successful accreditation of some child protection in emergencies training courses, we will endeavour to increase capacity sector-wide, and raise immediate response capability. To further strengthen our capability to respond to child protection in emergencies, we will aim to replicate the east Africa regional child protection in emergencies talent pool and training scheme in other regions and/or integrate it into other initiatives.

Based on capacity mappings and through the review of Country Strategic Plans and Member Plans for 2016–18, the following areas have been prioritised for capacity building, including mentoring, self-learning and practice:

- Strengthen our **advocacy, campaigning and mobilisation capacity**
- Build our capacity to conduct a **gender analysis** in order to address the root causes of gender inequality and transform social norms
- Ensure that basic knowledge of **child development theory**, research and practice is included in our capacity building, training and programming
- Strengthen our practice of **consulting and involving children** as partners in child protection programs
- **Strengthen our monitoring, evaluation and learning to build the evidence base** and scale up interventions and approaches
- **Build our capability for integrated and holistic programming across the thematic areas**, to integrate resilience and gender and work full-spectrum in both long-term development projects and emergency interventions
- Roll out **child safeguarding training and capacity building** in all child protection programming
- Strengthen our overall capacity, building on a solid base of work, in **specific technical areas** related to the sub-thematic priorities.

APPENDIX: SDG TARGETS TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Target 4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

Target 5.2 End all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

Target 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Target 8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, eradicate forced labour and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms, including recruitment and use of child soldiers.

Target 11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

Target 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related deaths everywhere.

Target 16.2 **End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children.**

Target 16.9 By 2030 provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.

ENDNOTES

[1] Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, http://www.end-violence.org/

[2] Global Partnership to End Violence against Children (2015) *Children's Voices: An Overview Review of evidence for children's engagement and participation in the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children*

[3] The 1996 Report of the Expert of the Secretary-General, Graça Machel, on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children led to the adoption of the General Assembly's Resolution 51/77, which recommended that the Secretary-General appoint a Special Representative on the impact of armed conflict on children and requested annual reports on the situation of children affected by armed conflict to be presented to the UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council.

[4] United Nations (2015) *Children and Armed Conflict, Report of the Secretary-General, General Assembly, Security Council, 69th Session, A/69/926–S/2015/409*, 15 June 2015. See also Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and UNICEF (2009) *Machel Study, Ten Year Strategic Review: Children and Conflict in a Changing World*

[5] Child Fund & ODI (2014) *The costs and economic impact of violence against children*, http://www.odi.org/publications/8845-violence-against-children-youth-child-rights-development-childfund-alliance

[6] Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, http://www.unicef.org/iran/Minimum_standards_for_child_protection_in_humanitarian_action.pdf

[7] *Save the Children's Child Protection Strategy 2013–2015: Making the world a safe place for children*, http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/library/save-childrens-child-protection-strategy-2013-2015-making-world-safe-place-children

[8] Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children's synthesis report, developed together with Save the Children, based on 88 national consultations that took place with children on the Sustainable Development Goals during 2012 and 2013

[9] See note 6.

[10] Joint statement by UN children's rights experts: Kirsten Sandberg, Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child; Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children; Leila Zerrougui, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict; Najat Maalla M'jid, UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography; and Susan Bissell, UNICEF's Chief of Child Protection New York and Geneva, 20 November 2013

[11] *Children and armed conflict. Report of the Secretary-General* (2015), http://watchlist.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/080615-SG-report-on-Children-and-armed-conflict-revised.pdf

[12] Save the Children (2013) *Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting* (Third edition), http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/library/positive-discipline-everyday-parenting-third-edition

[13] Save the Children *Positive Discipline in Everyday Teaching*, http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/library/what-positive-discipline-positive-discipline-everyday-teaching

[14] National standards of care, legislation to support family-based alternatives, increased budget allocations for family-based care, etc

[15] *Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children*, http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/library/united-nations-guidelines-alternative-care-children

[16] Interagency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children (2013) *Alternative Care in Emergencies Toolkit*, http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/library/interagency-working-group-unaccompanied-and-separated-children-2013-alternative-care

[17] MenCare (2015) *State of the World's Fathers Report*, http://sowf.men-care.org/

[18] *Children's Rights and Business Principles* (CRBP) (2012), http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/library/childrens-rights-and-business-principles-crbp

[19] Engaging with the private sector is defined as engaging with actors within the sector to eliminate harmful work and economic exploitation of all children. Engagement may be in the form of policy or practice to empower and build the capacity of the sector to support the protection of all children.

[20] Save the Children (2014) Ending violence against children as a cornerstone for a post-2015 sustainable development framework, http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/library/ending-violence-against-children-cornerstone-post-2015-sustainable-development-framework

WORKING TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

SAVE THE CHILDREN'S CHILD PROTECTION 2016–18 THEMATIC PLAN

A huge thank you to everyone who works for or with Save the Children – staff, donors, partners and friends.

Together we will work to end violence against children.

Save the Children