



Save the Children

# TYPHOON HAIYAN RESPONSE

*Two years on*

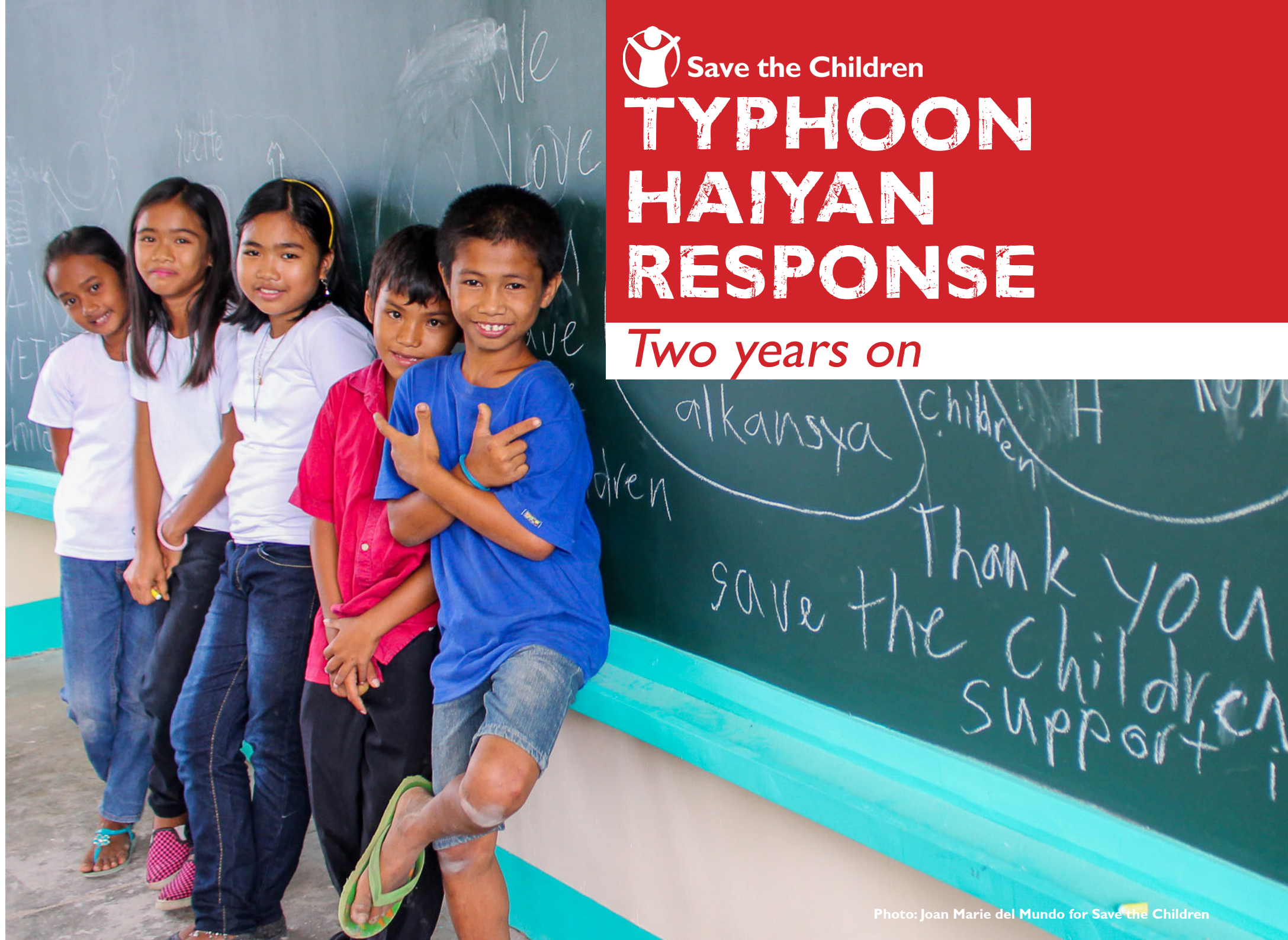


Photo: Joan Marie del Mundo for Save the Children



Two years after, Typhoon Haiyan still stands as the ultimate milestone in disaster response. No media coverage or textual account can fully describe what happened on the ground. Our team in the Philippines, along with generous international support, has put in tremendous effort to ensure that families and their children will be able to regain hope and live a dignified life again.

So far into the response, these efforts have resulted to much learning and strong partnership among the staff and communities we have worked with. Save the Children reached almost 900,000 individuals with around 500,000 children--a number that has gone beyond the original target for the three year response plan. Such number would not have been possible without the full cooperation of local governments, civil society organizations, and our other partners and stakeholders.

As we move from rehabilitation to development programming, we have built more on capacity building activities and sustainability plans. We have strengthened our activities on advocacy, using them as the primary platform to engage the participation of the public to influence local policy decision makers in supporting child-centered initiatives such as the Children in Emergencies Bill, that when passed into law, will improve the care and protection of children affected by disasters.

Save the Children has been able to rise to the challenge of Haiyan, with the support of our partner communities. We were able to expand the programs to reach the most affected and vulnerable, especially the children. In the middle of all these, we were

# FOREWORD

*from the Country Director  
Save the Children Philippines*

also able to respond to other humanitarian crises - a cholera outbreak in Mindanao, Typhoon Rammasun, Typhoon Hagupit, and most recently, Typhoon Koppu.

Disasters and other crises will evidently happen. Much so that we will continue building our preparedness and response capacity for such. As we were one of the first agencies to respond, and still remains as one of the largest aid agencies on the ground, this impact would not have been possible without your support. In behalf of our teams, partner communities and the children of the Visayas, thank you.



**Ned Olney**  
Country Director  
Save the Children Philippines



Hit by 20 typhoons a year and located within the Pacific Ring of Fire, the Philippines has had its fair share of disasters with Typhoon Haiyan being the most striking.

Typhoon Haiyan made first landfall in the early morning of 8 November 2013 in Guiuan, in the province of Eastern Samar. It made subsequent landfalls in the south of Tacloban City, Leyte Province, Daanbantayan and Bantayan Island, Cebu Province, Conception, Iloilo Province and Busuanga, Palawan Province.

Over 14 million individuals with estimates of more than 5.4 million children have been affected by the typhoon across nine regions. Over 500,000 homes were completely destroyed. Typhoon Haiyan killed 6,201 people, and 1,785 have not been found.

Twenty four months into the response, many aid agencies have closed down operations on the ground. And those few organizations, including Save the Children, working on the continuous rehabilitation of the affected communities that remained are now transitioning to development programming.

Currently, Save the Children continues to focus its programs in two main locations: Leyte Province in Eastern Visayas, and Panay Province in Western Visayas. Throughout the response, Save the Children collaborated with relevant partners

and stakeholders, and delivered assistance directly to the affected families. With program integration imbibed in the strategy, Save the Children also created platforms for capacity building and traineeship to have better deliveries of health, education and child protection services. This includes better capacitated community health centers, functional day care centers and active Barangay Child Protection Committees (BCPCs).

Our 3-year strategy set out an aim to reach 835,230 of the affected population, a number we went beyond from—as our current reach stands at 873,919 individuals, including 463,727 children.

Right now, two years into our response, our remaining interventions are mainly focused on disaster risk reduction, promotion of inclusive

# OVERVIEW OF THE RESPONSE

*24 Months into the response*



Photo: Lorenz Gabunada for Save the Children

education, and livelihood programs that promotes child sensitivity among families participating in the Philippine government's social safety net project called Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).



# SUCCESSSES & CHALLENGES

## *Key highlights*

Quick decentralization to the field offices enabled Save the Children Philippines to make the right decisions closest to point of impact. This led to more efficient allocation of resources, faster decision-making and the response going at scale.

Results of the evaluation of humanitarian action (EHA) for Typhoon Haiyan showed that the response has been so far, effective, with significant coverage and provided timely and appropriate support for children and their families. Save the Children has reached beyond the initially targeted beneficiaries before the end of its planned 3-year response.

Though there was significant progress against benchmarks set out in the strategy, reality has it that there were also few challenges we had to face.

The teams opted to integrate activities and opportunities for stronger impact and more holistic programming. Inputs from children's consultations were integrated in planning and implementation stages of the programs to

determine the immediate needs and design an appropriate response. Feedback from majority of the children interviewed were quite positive, reporting that activities supported by Save the Children effectively achieved their purpose. They spoke of “positive change” and “positive results” across all interventions. They were even able to articulate the positive impact the programs have made in their lives.

Coordination with other actors remains to be a strong element of the response. This will support systems and establish structures that will better enable communities to respond to future disasters.

Even after the 3-year strategy, the Children in Emergencies Bill, when passed into law, will be the legacy of this response. This bill will enable children to be protected from disasters today and in the future.





To ensure that children's voices were heard and positively responded to, child-centered organizations Save the Children, World Vision and Plan International, with the support of UNICEF, developed an assessment methodology that enabled girls and boys to voice their needs and opinions using appropriate methods to their ages and capabilities.

The report, "After Yolanda: What Children Think, Need and Recommend," provided a unique evidence base for consideration in

# CHILDREN'S CONSULTATIONS

*Listening to the voices of children*

response planning to ensure the specific needs of children were met. The success of the report, in addition to continued advocacy led by Save the Children, contributed to the Government of the Philippines drafting

a Children's Emergency Bill including the necessity of consulting children about their specific needs in all future disasters.



Photo: Jerome Balinton for Save the Children





*"We could not afford the type of materials to make this kind of house."  
~Rhea with her children (Ormoc, Leyte)*

# SHELTER

*Ensuring that children and their families have a safer home*

During the first months after Typhoon Haiyan hit, thousands of houses were flattened and families were left homeless. Save the Children immediately provided emergency shelter assistance that included tarpaulins as temporary roofing, shelter tool kits, and household kits.

Homes of more than 7,800 families or almost 30,000 individuals were reconstructed with "build back better" components. Another 25,000 individuals received house repair tool kits for them to be able to do their own minor house repairs.

Food aid, through staple rice rations, were distributed to more than 110,000 individuals with almost 52,000 children.

Moving forward, Save the Children invested on disaster risk reduction for preparedness of communities. Around 12,000 families were

provided shelter materials and training on disaster risk reduction (DRR) techniques on housing. We also trained carpenters in the community, who were able to build homes of over 1,000 families.

Many adults considered shelter assistance as the most helpful form of assistance. They were able to seek employment to earn and feed their families without having to worry about the place their family will sleep in.

When children detailed their shelter needs immediately after the typhoon, they described sleeping in wet and uncomfortable evacuation centers. The positive impact on shelter improvements clearly applied to all groups. They spoke of increased levels of comfort. It became easier for them to "stay well" and "healthy."

Typhoon Haiyan brought the destruction of homes, schools and communities. This included damages on toilets and sanitation facilities.

Save the Children's intervention on WASH focused on rebuilding and improving accessibility of clean water sources, promoting proper hygiene and ending open defecation.

Water networks were built in 31 communities in Ormoc, Leyte, providing more than 70,000 individuals access to clean water. A big water reservoir and treatment facility was repaired in the municipality of Sara, Iloilo, reaching 5,600 families. We also constructed household water connections and four communal tap stands in Tacloban, Leyte.

We were able to build more than 6,500 latrines, 165 communal latrines, and provided over 300 latrine subsidy vouchers and handwashing facilities in schools and community health stations that reached an estimated 50,000 individuals.

A campaign to end open defecation encouraged communities in the Haiyan-affected areas to stop defecating in public areas, and opt for latrines instead.

Many children voiced out that having latrines in their homes removed the "embarrassment" of having to openly defecate. They felt pleased that they can use the latrines anytime they like. Save the Children conducted hygiene promotion

# WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

*Ensuring access to safe water sources  
and promoting proper hygiene*



sessions for children to practice proper sanitation and hygiene. Consultations with children revealed that children's engagement in the creative sessions that included singing and dancing about proper hygiene played a big part in helping them overcome stress and trauma.

*"Since we've had a toilet, we have been trying to using it properly. We are aware of proper hygiene and we would like to practice it, especially now that we have the means to do so."*

*~Ivy, 28 years old, (Carles, Iloilo)*



We aimed to ensure that all child protection issues are addressed in our areas of operation. The establishment of Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) provided immediate psychosocial support for children through safe spaces for play, recreation and socialization with other children, thereby helping them regain a sense of normalcy in traumatic times and build on their innate sense of resilience. Structured play through the CFS helped children regain confidence because they “are not bored anymore” and “can now play without worrying about the debris.”

Our CFS with psychosocial sessions reached nearly 48,000 individuals, with more than half being children, wherein the field office in Panay used motorized boats to reach the children in the island communities. This also included capacity building for adult facilitators, barangay council for the protection of children committee members and parents to strengthen local child protection systems in their communities. CFS facilitators reported that “children have slowly overcome their trauma and depression after Typhoon Haiyan.”

We also focused on obtaining support from policy makers for the passage of a new and strengthened national legislation to improve the care and protection of children affected by disasters – and to build on best practices and lessons learned during recent emergency responses.

# CHILD PROTECTION

*Ensuring children have a safe place to learn and play*



Photo: Denvie Balidoy for Save the Children

*“I am glad to share the learnings I had from the trainings I have attended. I was made aware of what exploitation, violence and neglect are.”*

*~Willinda, 41 years old, CFS facilitator (Tacloban, Leyte)*



Save the Children's intervention on education ensured children's uninterrupted access to school immediately after a disaster.

Education continues to be our integration point for our programs, usually implemented with programs on health and nutrition, WASH, child protection, and risk reduction and resilience. We created a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Education (DepEd) for mutual support on programs for early childhood care and development, basic education and school repairs and improvement.

School children described how their school materials were destroyed and washed out after Typhoon Haiyan. They worried of what to use when classes were to resume again. Save the Children understood the value of loss these materials have for the children and provided back-to-school kits to more than 35,500 school children. The kit included daily school materials, as well as rain boots and a rain coat. More than 1,700 teachers received teaching kits; and 130 schools were provided kits for recreation and play, this included board games and ball game equipment.

We also developed and provided learning and age-appropriate materials and promoted mother-tongue based multi-lingual education.

Save the Children also repaired and furnished 250 classrooms for children to have a safe and conducive learning environment.

# EDUCATION

*Ensuring children's uninterrupted access to education*



Photo: Denvie Balidoy for Save the Children

We also trained almost 500 teachers and school officials and day care workers on disaster risk reduction; and another 5,200 school officials for the Front Line Responders' Training.

In terms of advocacy activities, we are pushing for budget allocations and local policies on education to ensure that the started initiatives will be sustained in the communities.

*"When our classes resumed, we returned back to how we were before the typhoon came. Good thing that there were many people who helped us." ~Marvin, 11 years old (Tacloban, Leyte)*



Health and nutrition interventions in Typhoon Haiyan-affected areas focused on augmenting gaps through reconstruction of health facilities, provision of medical supplies and equipment, conduct of mobile health clinics, building the capacity of local health workers, and promoting health and nutrition messages.

In Ormoc, Leyte, 100 elementary schools were reached with campaign messages on dengue. Adolescent sexual and reproductive health, and maternal and child health discussions reached 3,000 individuals in Estancia, Iloilo. More than 600 women became part of support groups for pregnant and lactating women. Save the Children also prioritized the repair of health clinics, rehabilitating 30 structures.

In Tacloban, 32 rural health medical missions were conducted. We rebuilt three birthing facilities, and provided equipment and supplies to 19 rural health units and eight hospitals.

We also conducted screening of pregnant and lactating women, who were then supported with ready-to-use supplementary food rations. Quality nutrition programs to promote and support optimal infant and young child feeding reached an estimate of 30,000 children. During a

consultation, they relayed that the high energy biscuits they received gave them noticeable weight gain, demonstrating awareness among children about the need for good nutrition after an emergency.

# HEALTH & NUTRITION

*Ensuring children and their families have access to basic health and nutrition services*



Photo: Joan Marie del Mundo for Save the Children

*"We are excited...because we have new supplies. We intend to allocate and distribute them to all our barangay (community) health stations." ~Paulo, 28 years old, nurse at the rural health station (Carles, Iloilo)*



For Haiyan-affected areas, we focused on the expansion and diversification of livelihood strategies and to build the resilience of communities. Through our cash transfer program, we reached almost 29,000 families and 34 community associations.

Immediately after the typhoon hit, more than 27,000 families received financial support for basic needs and recovery. Nearly 5,000 families were provided support for food through distribution of vouchers. Another 9,000 families received financial support for the repair of their livelihood asset repair and diversification. A specialized tool kit for boat repairs were provided to 200 individuals.

Over 600 market traders and vendors received support to recover their capital. A total of 1,600 individuals were provided grants as part of their irrigator association for canal clearing to resume rice production.

More than 5,000 individuals were trained with skills for livelihoods, and another 4,600 beneficiaries completed livelihoods training with a component of disaster risk reduction.

As some families started to recover, positive feedback from children included the feeling of happiness that they “no longer starve because

[they] get to eat food more often.” A review of the cash transfer program revealed that the transfers were an effective way to address the immediate and most pressing needs of vulnerable households.

# FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

*Ensuring children and their families have access to food and sustainable sources of livelihood*



Photo: Lorenz Gabunada for Save the Children

*“The help extended to us was a big boost in restarting our lives. I am so thrilled because my lifelong aspiration was to own a water buffalo, which would assist me in farming.”  
~Felipe, 35 years old (Ormoc, Leyte)*





Working in the Philippines for more than 30 years, Save the Children provides long-term support for children to fulfill their potential and ensure that their voices are heard. Located within the Pacific Ring of Fire and annually threatened by an average of 20 typhoons, Filipino children are among the most vulnerable in the world.

Save the Children works with the government, partners and communities in addressing the critical needs of Filipino children through capacity and resilience building, and better accessibility and delivery of social services in both development and humanitarian contexts. We also advocate policy formulation and reforms as well as for programs and policies for children and their families to have access to quality services. In addition, Save the Children provides capacity building activities and needed support for sustainability and strengthened systems of child-centered services. We work for children and their families to improve their health and accessibility to education, reduce malnutrition rate, address and prevent child abuse and exploitation.



**Save the Children**



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Photo: Jacob Maentz