

STATE OF THE WORLD

If we do not take the time to pause and consider the state of the world today, we won't be best placed to help the world's children. Understanding the context we will work in helps us prepare and plan solutions to the problems children face.

We believe these are the major global trends that will create challenges and opportunities for our mission.



THE POTENTIAL OF THE GROWING MIDDLE

By 2020, Brazil, Mexico, Pakistan and Indonesia could all have middle classes larger than 100 million people, followed by Egypt, Nigeria and Vietnam a few years later. This growing middle class means these countries will increasingly have the resources to address their own development and humanitarian needs.

Our opportunity

Save the Children must ensure that governments put children and children's rights at the heart of their agenda and their budgets, as these resources become more readily available.

RISING POPULISM



Recent political events point towards a backlash against international cooperation. Britain's decision to exit the European Union, and the election of populist candidates – Donald Trump in the USA and Rodrigo Duterte in the Philippines – demonstrate that voters believe that the status quo has not delivered for them. For a global organisation like ours, whose very foundation is built on strong global partnerships, this represents a real challenge.

Our opportunity

Donor governments may be less willing to invest in international causes not directly linked to their own domestic security and resistance to collective action may also hinder global commitments for children's rights. Children have no electoral voice, so our role is to ensure their interests are faithfully and powerfully represented.

PROLONGED AND COMPLEX CRISES



More and more of the crises that we respond to today are man-made and long-lasting. Conflict and violence has driven millions of families from their homes – many to other countries.

Our opportunity

Aside from life-saving urgent needs like food, water and shelter, children caught up in conflict need protection – physical and emotional – and continued education so that they don't become a lost generation. We need to provide an integrated response to their needs: immediate humanitarian relief, long-term solutions and continued campaigning for an end to conflicts.

CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND FROM PROGRESS



Since 1990, the number of children dying before their fifth birthday has halved, and 40 million more children are enrolled in primary school than in 2000. However, progress has been uneven and we continue to see girls, refugees, children from disadvantaged areas, minority groups or with disabilities left behind from progress.

Our opportunity

2016 was the start of a 15-year commitment to global goals that promise a future in which all children are free from malnutrition and violence, with access to quality healthcare and education. We have started to see countries designing and implementing their plans to meet these goals. The intention and enthusiasm is there, but we must help governments and societies stay focused on reaching those who are furthest behind – first.

A GROWING DISPLACEMENT AND MIGRATION CRISIS



The number of people fleeing their homes is at its highest since the end of World War II. While some are forced to flee due to conflict, others leave due to poverty or climate change. The debate around displacement and migration is fast-moving, complex and politically charged.

The opportunity

Children are unfairly caught up in this crisis. We must ensure that all refugees, migrants and internally displaced people under the age of 18 are seen first and foremost as children and that policies and programmes are in place to protect their fundamental rights.