

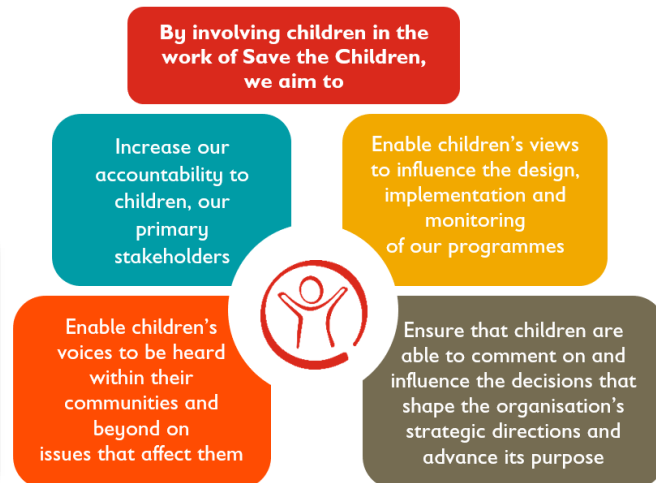
MAPPING OF CHILD PARTICIPATION FACTSHEET

WORKING WITH CHILDREN IN SOMALIA

BACKGROUND

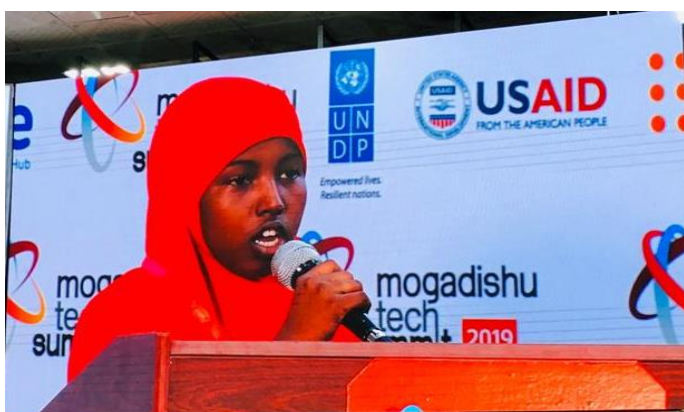
Children's participation is an informed and willing involvement of all children, including the most marginalised and those of different ages and abilities in any matter concerning them either directly or indirectly. Children's participation is a way of working and an essential principle that cuts across all programmes and takes place in all arenas – from homes to government, from local to international levels.¹ Save the Children (SC) has a long history of facilitating children's participation across diverse spheres from local to global, and their meaningful participation in SC programming, advocacy and humanitarian work.

Save the Children recognizes the child's right to be heard and the need to invest in structures, capabilities and systems for meaningful participation and effective voice of children. Children's participation helps increase their involvement in society, and is a way to build and strengthen democracy and active participation in a society.



ACHIEVEMENTS & SUCCESSES TO DATE

Child-led Advocacy and Campaigns: SC conducted a mapping of different existing child groups involved in our programs (a process that started at the end of 2019) and identified children (aged 12-16yrs) that have the potential to become involved in our advocacy and campaign agenda. SC established a network of 30 children (10 from each area), in collaboration with Child Protection (CP) & Child Rights Governance (CRG) team, to be child rights champions. Since then, SC has been engaging these children in a number of initiatives: COVID-19 radio talk show with Radio Ergo for child-focused shows; Online child rights advocacy dialogue series; UNCRC Committee pre-session on alternative report in Geneva in February where SC facilitated a dialogue session between the committee and children in Mogadishu and providing capacity building to the children as part of our ambition for them to eventually be part of national, regional and even global conversations. This started with children in Baidoa and Mogadishu, training for children in Somaliland and Puntland is also happening continuously.



Child Rights Clubs: SC has a number of child rights clubs under CP&CRG programs who are champions in their communities. SC support them with training and to implement child-led initiatives, such as peer-to-peer awareness raising, events and engaging these children in events like International Day of the Child. Also, children involved in Child Friendly Spaces, Child Resilience Programs, and Parenting Without Violence are engaged to provide feedback to improve quality of our programs.

COVID19 Assessment: SC conducted phone-based interviews with 456 children (aged 11-17 years) as part of multi-sector assessment on impact of COVID-19 on children and families which was conducted in July. SC finalized the reports and factsheets and disseminated the findings widely.

Child Researcher's Initiative: Phase 1 is complete – about 24 children involved across 5 districts (supported by 12 monitors/supervisors). SC finalized data analysis developed a report on findings and lessons learnt to inform Phase 2. The dashboard is ready to use and will be launched after ensuring all data protection measures are in place.

DANIDA Lot Civil Society in Somaliland: In this project, SC is working with local partner SONYO (umbrella national youth organization) and 8-10 youth clubs/networks/associations by supporting with capacity building and engaging them on different advocacy issues, in particular youth violence, participation and youth employment (e.g. youth employment conference, and interface meetings between youth and duty bearers).

¹ Save the Children's definition of Child Participation, Onenet Site, Child Participation https://savethechildren1.sharepoint.com/what/child_participation/

Meeting with Stakeholders: Children champions requested SC to link them up with key stakeholders (mayors, ministers, president etc) to present their messages. First meeting between mayor of Mogadishu and children happened last year during the universal day of children on 20 November. Similar meetings are also scheduled for this year.

Meeting with SC Senior Management Team (SMT): SC organized a meeting between Children and SC SMT where children shared key issues of concern for them - issues they raised include: increased GBV and child rights violations,

recognition of child ambassadors within the governance structures, school safety among other issues.

Back to School Campaign: Child clubs also joined the Community Education Committees (CEC) to participate in the campaign by participating in the radio talk shows and urging parents to send all children back to school after schools reopened. Child clubs also supported the teachers in the distribution of Teaching Learning materials, and hygiene promotion activities (COVID-19 hygiene activities) within the schools, especially after schools just reopened.


WHAT'S IN THE PIPELINE

Child Researchers Phase 2: SC is currently developing a plan/road map based on the lessons learnt from Phase 1. SC will increase number of children and locations and train children on data analysis and also how to feedback findings back to their communities. The dashboard will also be available soon to help with tracking.

New BMZ Youth Project: The project has identified new youth network (SOYDEN) in Southern States that SC will be working with on youth participation. The project includes a child sensitive social accountability model where SC will be working with children and youth to assess quality of services and provide feedback to service providers, as well as advocacy at higher level to highlight gaps. 5,000 youth will be trained on Life Skills for Success which will provide an entry point to identify youth champions. SC will be conducting a youth aspiration study with youth (16-24yr) to identify aspirations, hopes, challenges, barriers, and a gender sensitive labour market assessment –both will actively engage youth in identifying needs/gaps.

AskKids: Based on child protection quality assessment tools which includes feedback from children on service providers, SC Somalia has been working with SC Finland to develop the AskKids tool (App). Testing has been completed in Somaliland which informed the refining of the tool, e.g. issues related to disability has been incorporated. The 2nd round of testing and roll out will be planned for 2021.

OPPORTUNITIES

	<p>1</p> <p>Youth Policy in Somaliland: Need to better understand what it entails and how SC can support.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Quality Benchmarks (QBMs): Monitoring team and the technical team are undertaking a review of the QBMs. This is an opportunity to include standards on child participation.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Accountability: Accountability team conducted a self-assessment on our Accountability mechanisms, the results of which informed the improvement plan including on child participation.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Staff Training: SC can link with regional efforts in rolling the training on child participation in humanitarian response.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Youth Networks: Leverage partnerships with youth networks to scale, need to do mapping of other networks.</p>
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AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Develop a common **vision and strategy** for child participation with some key indicators to measure impact
- Better **profile** what SC is already doing and successes
- Develop **child friendly tools** and materials
- **Sustain the engagement** with children over time beyond the life of the project
- Make working with children under almost all of our programs more **systematic** and harmonized to avoid parallel groups
- Strengthen child participation in **child survival and child poverty** programs
- Develop a checklist on child participation throughout the project cycle to ensure it is **mainstreamed**
- Improve **capacity building** for the children as it is currently one off and ad-hoc resulting in duplication/overlap or gaps
- Leverage the use of **technology** and social media to engage and provide opportunities to connect with children and youth
- Identify, roll out, sensitize and use child and youth participation **guidelines, standards and best practices**
- Understand the **communities' perception** of child participation as this can often be a barrier
- Use participatory approaches with children to **inform project design** and proposal development.