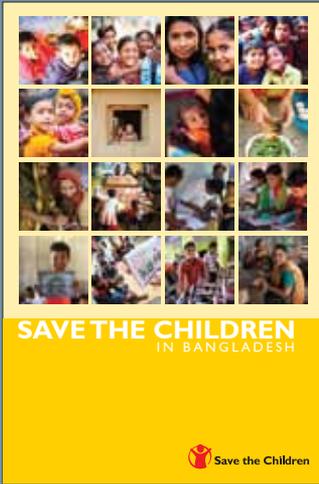


# SAVE THE CHILDREN

IN BANGLADESH



Save the Children



Planning and Editing:  
Communications & Resource Mobilization Dept.

Design & Concept  
Tanvir Ahmed

Publication Year:  
2013

Photography:  
Tanvir Ahmed  
Jeff Holt  
Arib Abdullah

House CWN (A) 35, Road 43, Gulshan - I  
Dhaka, 1213, Bangladesh  
Tel: +880 2 123456789  
Fax: +880 2 123456789  
[www.bangladesh.savethechildren.net](http://www.bangladesh.savethechildren.net)  
[www.facebook.com/savethechildreninbangladesh](https://www.facebook.com/savethechildreninbangladesh)  
[www.twitter.com/SCinBD](https://www.twitter.com/SCinBD)

Copyright:  
Save the Children in Bangladesh

# BRIEF

Save the Children in Bangladesh has been working to assist the children of the country since 1970. The programme works across seven thematic sectors: Child Protection, Health and Nutrition, Livelihoods and Food Security, HIV/AIDS, Humanitarian and Emergency response, Education and Child Rights Governance. With the support provided by our donors, SC Global Members and implementing partners, both in government and civil society organizations, we are making progress towards maximizing impact for children who are most in need of our support, including those affected by HIV/AIDS, ethnic minority groups, street and working children, refugee children, and others; vulnerable and socially excluded. As Save the Children is a dual mandate organization, we respond to disasters; and in ensuring the survival, protection and development of affected children.

Save the Children in Bangladesh is currently moving forward to strengthen monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning [MEAL] aspects of its work, in ensuring programme quality. In simple terms, it is about reinforcing our programme learning in a way that brings lessons learned into the programme design and management decision making, leading to continual improvements over time.

Save the Children in Bangladesh directly reaches more than 12 million children and adults in Bangladesh through implementation of over 90 projects in all 64 districts of Bangladesh. Our 800+ highly skilled staff and over 65 partner organizations are instrumental in ensuring delivery of high quality programs that address the needs and rights of children and their communities. Save the Children member organizations with their internal resources and those of their governments, foundations and corporations further enhance our capacity to achieve more for the children of Bangladesh.

**Vision:** All children in Bangladesh realise their rights and grow to their full potential as active, respected citizens.

**Mission:** Save the Children in Bangladesh is the leading child rights organisation with innovative, quality programmes and advocacy, including during emergencies. To maximise impact for children, we will use resources efficiently and act with courage, ambition and integrity.

**Members Support:** Currently Save the Children in Bangladesh is supported by 10 Save the Children Member organizations out of 30 members across the world; Australia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Korea, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and US. New partnerships with the support of Save the Children Canada, Norway, Italy and Netherlands are under discussion, with proposals for new initiatives in development.

**Major Donors:** The major donors of the Bangladesh programme include USAID, DFID/UKAID, UNICEF, the Global Fund, the European Commission, DANIDA, JHPIEGO, Dubai Cares, SIDA and ECHO. These donors have committed funds to support our programs through 2015, whilst new opportunities for future funding will also be sought during this period.

**Corporate Funding:** The IKEA Foundation, Unilever, Reckitt Benckiser, American Standard and Chevron are among our largest global corporate donors. We have been partners with Chevron and IKEA for our education program. IKEA's Soft Toys for Education campaign has benefited children over the years. In 2012 Unilever made commitment to support "EVERY ONE", our global campaign to end child mortality in addition to our Comprehensive Nutrition Program. The partnership will help us deliver high-impact health and nutrition programmes and bring us a step closer to ensure that a health worker is within reach of every child and provide a platform to catalyse a movement for a global breakthrough on child survival. Our partnership with Reckitt Benckiser (RB) has helped us to start clinic construction in northern Bangladesh and further support to expand our health and hygiene programmes for rural communities in the region.

# WHERE WE WORK



Field office's across the country:  
 Barisal, Meherpur, Barguna, Bhola, Patuakhali, Sylhet, Hobiganj, Noakhali, Laksmipur, Khulna, Chuknagar, Cox's-Bazar and Bandarban.

# OUR PROGRAMS

- ✔ Established in 1970
- ✔ Total annual spend in 2012, over US \$50mn
- ✔ 800+ staff
- ✔ Work in 64 Districts
- ✔ 90+ Grants
- ✔ 65+ Partners

EDUCATION

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

CHILD PROTECTION

HEALTH & NUTRITION

FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOOD

HIV / AIDS

CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE

# EDUCATION



Save the Children works with teachers, parents and communities to help all children in Bangladesh learn and develop to their full potential, to contribute positively in the changing world and be life-long learners. To this end, we work to improve access to educational opportunities for those children who remain out of school; we train and consult with governments, NGOs, communities, parents, and other partners to provide better quality education services; we innovate scalable models of teaching and school management that improve learning outcomes for all children and we advocate for improved national policies and programs for education.

# EDUCATION

## Background:

The Education Sector is Save the Children in Bangladesh's largest sector, with 22 active grants forming a robust portfolio that supports children's learning and development from childhood to adolescence. In 2012, education program directly reach over 965,498 children with Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), Basic Education (BE), and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs in 43 districts of the country.

## Objective:

**Early Childhood Care & Development:** A strong start in life is the best predictor of long-term success in school. Parent education from the earliest weeks of life and appropriate care and services for children as young as 3 years helps develop crucial cognitive, language, and social skills children need for that strong start.

**Pre-Primary Education:** Save the Children equips local schools and communities to provide quality pre-primary education, and develops innovative models of pre-primary delivery to ensure that all children start strong in school.

**Basic Education:** Save the Children works with government and non-governmental schools to improve the quality of education and promote improved learning outcomes, while innovating and implementing creative solutions for out-of-school children to access basic education.

**Education for Youth Empowerment:** For many young people, life circumstances have placed mainstream education out of reach. Therefore, Save the Children provide quality technical training and education to help working youth obtain decent employment and brighter futures.

## Program Portfolio:

**Education for Refugee Children (ERC)** provides quality basic education for refugee children in southern Bangladesh.

**Education for Youth Empowerment** prepares young working children with technical and life skills for better employment and a better future.

**PROTEEVA** supports non-formal and formal pre-primary and primary schools with high-quality education strategies.

**Shikhon** provides quality non-formal education to out-of-school children in hard-to-reach areas.

**Multi-Lingual Education** helps children from linguistic minorities to get a strong start in school and develop skills in their mother tongue as well as Bengali.

**Shishuder Jonno** offers life-cycle based comprehensive interventions in Meherpur District through sponsorship funded programs.

**TVET** (Technical and Vocational Education & Training) provides young people with the opportunity to complete their education and acquire a trade skill for decent job placement higher income possibilities.

# HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



Disaster preparedness and risk reduction play a major role in preventing the loss of lives and livelihoods during disasters. Implementing directly and through partners, Save the Children has been preparing northern, coastal and water logged vulnerable communities for natural disasters since 2005 and continues working with government, communities and children to build capacity on disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and effective humanitarian response. We have mounted major responses since 1970's cyclone to the recent cyclone Mahasen and maintain the capacity to respond to any disaster which puts children and their communities at risk. By co-leading the education cluster and leading Emergency Capacity Building consortium, Save the Children continues to play a vital role in advocating disaster management policies and education in emergencies for affected children.

# HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

## **Background:**

Bangladesh being an alluvial deltaic plain is divided into three zones, namely hills, terraces and flood plain. Due to the geographical location, the country frequently suffers from devastating natural hazards of which, floods, cyclones with accompanying storm surges, tornadoes, river-bank erosion, drought and earthquakes are the most disastrous to mention. Bangladesh being in close proximity with the Himalayas has a long history of seismic tremors. Floods are annual phenomena with the most severe occurring during the months of July and August. Regular river floods affect 20% of the country increasing up to 68% in extreme years. Annually, the country loses about 8,700 hectares of land due to river erosion, displacing around 180,000-200,000 people each year. The colossal losses of lives and properties caused by natural disasters with repeated frequency in short intervals place Bangladesh as one of the most disaster prone countries in the world.

Climate change adds a new dimension of risks and vulnerability for the community. Although the magnitude of these changes may appear to be small, they could substantially increase the frequency and intensity of existing climatic events (floods, droughts, cyclones etc). Current indications are that not only will floods and cyclones become more severe; they will also start to occur outside of their "established seasons".

Save the Children as the dual mandated organization, is committed to reducing children's vulnerability to humanitarian crisis, ensuring their right to survival and development after an emergency and providing the support they and their families need to recover and re-establish their lives, dignity and livelihoods.

## **Objective:**

To mitigate the impact of disasters for 25% or more of affected children and at least 20% of the affected population by ensuring that effective and timely humanitarian assistance, especially the more vulnerable and destitute sections, and to facilitate early recovery, risk reduction and climate adaptation initiatives.

## **Sub Sectors:**

- Emergency Response, Early Recovery & Rehabilitation
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
- Education in Emergencies
- Emergency Capacity Building (ECB) Project
- Advocacy

Major institutional donors of humanitarian sector are AusAID, SIDA, ECHO, Bill and Melinda Foundation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Finland (MOFA), DEC, CBHA, UNICEF, INEE etc.

# CHILD PROTECTION



All children thrive in a safe family environment and no child is placed in harmful institutions. Child Protection sector works in 27 districts of Bangladesh to strengthen the legal and social mechanisms which protect children from abuse, exploitation, trafficking, child marriage and other forms of violence. Child Protection sector works in line with the overall goals of Save the Children. We focus on prevention through behavioral change and awareness-raising, often led by children. For survivors, we provide rescue, repatriation and psychosocial support services and promote quality institutional and community-based care. We provide learning opportunities for working children; work with employers for improved working conditions. We work together with government, parliamentary bodies, local administration and elected bodies, media, communities and network to establish the Child Protection mechanisms. We also work with line ministries and departments, civil society forum to ensure children are protected during and after natural disasters.

## Background:

Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, with an estimated population of 158,570,535 in July 2011. Significant progress has been made towards meeting the MDGs, particularly in the areas of health and education. Despite this, children face a range of difficult issues that prevent the full realization of their rights. The key issues facing children and youth in Bangladesh include: vulnerability to violence, abuse and early marriage, widespread child labor in the informal sector; accessing early education, quality basic education and vocational opportunities later in adolescence; living in poverty with chronic food insecurity; a lack of access to quality health care; difficulties being heard and lack of a comprehensive governance structure within which duty bearers can be held to account. The well being of children without shelter and care in urban areas and of those residing in disaster prone and climate change affected areas is of growing concern.

## Objective:

**Child Protection Systems building and strengthening:** By 2015, Save the Children in Bangladesh is positioned to play a key role in national child protection systems building and strengthening while continuing to be a leader in strengthening community-based child protection systems that reach out to the national child protection system.

**Appropriate care and protection in family and community:** Design, pilot and implement effective models that support parents/caregivers and communities to provide appropriate care for children, especially those who are living under circumstances that make them extremely vulnerable to all forms of abuse and exploitation including children with disabilities, children of sex workers, child survivors of sexual abuse and exploitation and children affected by HIV/AIDS.

**Children on the Move:** Develop and pilot models as well as implement existing models at scale to respond to care and protection issues faced by children who are on the move, with or without their family (including children vulnerable to and survivors of trafficking, children living or working on the streets, child migration, especially children affected by natural disaster and climate change).

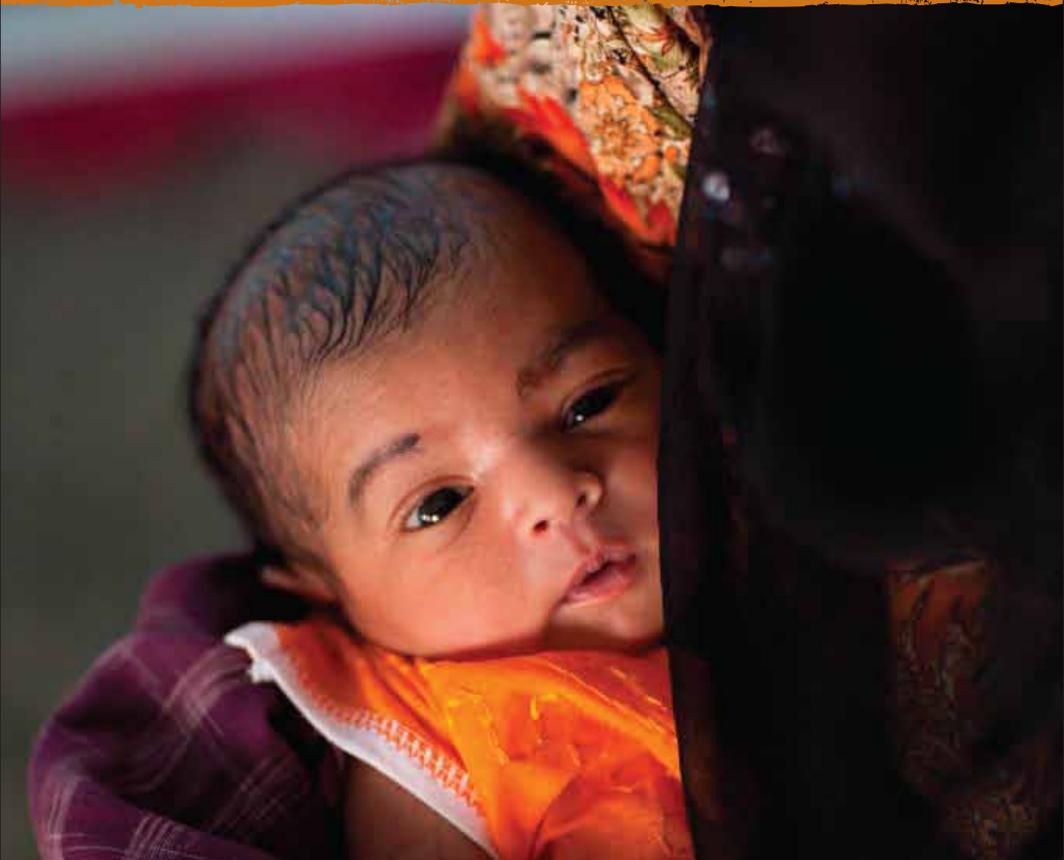
**SGBV and PHP:** Design, pilot and implement context sensitive, effective, and scalable child protection systems to, prevent and respond to physical and humiliating punishment, sexual abuse and exploitation, and gender based violence and sexual harassment - in home, community, school and work settings.

**Child Marriage:** Design, pilot and implement programs at scale that address the socio-cultural and economic reasons that make children vulnerable to child marriage.

**Preventing Harmful Child Labor - Ensuring Rights of Working Children:** Develop, pilot and scale-up a comprehensive program model that empowers children, families, communities and authorities to, challenge the traditions and beliefs that create social acceptance for child labor, prevent child labor, especially the worst forms of child labor, and to address and create accountability for care, protection and service needs of working children.

**Children in Emergency:** In close collaboration with the Emergency sector, identify, adapt and develop culture and context sensitive CPIE tools and programme options to use in different emergency settings; build capacity of Save the Children staff, partner civil society organizations as well as communities, reduce disaster risks, provide appropriate care and protection for children affected by emergencies, and support emergency response efforts.

# HEALTH & NUTRITION



Save the Children's health and nutrition programs are developing and implementing strategies to save the lives of newborns, children and mothers in the most remote, resource-poor settings. From pregnancy through adolescence, our programs focus on improving practices and knowledge and ensuring access to quality care, strengthening delivery of health services through government and other partners. We are promoting good nutrition and delivering nutrition interventions, as well as combating pneumonia, diarrhea and other childhood diseases at the community level. We are also working at the national level to influence health and nutrition policies, support strategy development and provide technical assistance to large-scale health and nutrition service delivery platforms. Save the Children is also conducting practical research in partnership with national and international institutions on key newborn and child health and nutrition issues to inform and strengthen programs.

## Background:

Save the Children's health and nutrition programs are developing and implementing strategies to save the lives of newborns, children and mothers in the most remote, resource-poor settings. From pregnancy through adolescence, our programs focus on improving practices and knowledge and ensuring access to quality care, strengthening delivery of health services through government and other partners. We are promoting good nutrition and delivering nutrition interventions, as well as combating pneumonia, diarrhea and other childhood diseases at the community level.

Our thematic focus areas are maternal and newborn health and nutrition, child health and nutrition, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, emergency health and nutrition and other health interventions.

## Objective:

Strengthen health systems at national and implementation levels, through the provision of technical assistance, advocacy and implementation support/trouble shooting.

Increase utilization of key health & nutrition services and practices in projects focused on service delivery and programme learning for under-served areas and vulnerable groups. Engage in strategic programme learning and documentation to demonstrate more effective programme approaches and modes, focusing on: expansion of behavior change communication to include changes in societal norms (from BCC to SBCC); engagement with informal providers; and testing low-tech, effective quality assurance and accountability mechanisms.

Build consensus and momentum around critical health & nutrition issues and solutions, advocate in support of implementation of the Government's 5 year health sector plan (HPNSDP), emphasizing scale up of community accessible interventions for maternal and newborn health, 'mainstreaming' nutrition, integrated CCM. Achieve this by: maintaining strategic advocacy partnerships with professional bodies, research organizations and champions; engaging in national public health events (e.g. world pneumonia day, world breastfeeding week, national immunization day, etc); and becoming a stronger voice and supportive partner in the nutrition community.



## Everyone Campaign

Objective: By 2015, reduce under 5 child mortality by two thirds

# HIV/AIDS



Save the Children is a key stakeholder in HIV/AIDS response in Bangladesh. Save the Children HIV/AIDS Sector, working directly and with input of 23 implementing partners/sub-recipients is fighting AIDS by reducing HIV transmission and harm reduction for Key Affected Populations (KAPs) in Bangladesh. Other key interventions include Behavioral Change Communication campaigns, building public awareness, primarily targeting the children/youth of reproductive age and KAPs. HIV/AIDS education section was endorsed by Ministry of Education and is now included in the national curriculum. Thousands of religious leaders, school teachers and trainers are mobilized to act for the prevention of AIDS and for the protection of HIV affected people. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFATM) is the key international financial institution supporting the HIV Prevention Program in Bangladesh, with over USD 108 million disbursed to agencies operating GFATM projects in Bangladesh as of 2013.

## Background:

Bangladesh is one of 4 countries in the Asia Pacific Region where the HIV infection rate has increased by over 25% between 2001 and 2012. Demographically, Bangladesh is a conservative Muslim country, and is also one of the poorest and most densely populated countries in the world. It is estimated that 31.5% live below the poverty line with GDP per capita of only US\$747. Bangladesh's population is 158,570,535 in July 2011; making it the 9th most populous country in the world. These demographic factors present a significant barrier to accurate HIV surveillance and effective service delivery; with antiretroviral therapy (ART) estimates ranging from 3,100 to 53,000 in 2013. Compounding the existing demographic factors are various epidemiological and economic factors. Between 2008-2012, Bangladesh had a (reported) net migration average of 2,040,559; which is significant because 30% of newly reported HIV infections were associated with returning migrants in 2011. Health care quality and availability in Bangladesh is also low with Health expenditure just 3.7% of GDP (2011), which equates to US\$27 annually per person. Physician density is also very low at 0.356/1,000 people. Education levels are low with just 57% of people over the age of 15 classified as literate. Summarily, Bangladesh continues to be at high risk of a HIV epidemic. HIV could spread from the current scenario of a concentrated epidemic, within Key Affected Populations (KAPs) / Most at Risk Populations (MARPs), to a generalized epidemic within the general population.

## Objective:

Increase the scale of programs for people who inject drugs (PWID), female sex workers (FSWs), and Hijras (transgendered) & men who have Sex with men (MSM)

Build capacity of partners to scale up national response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

## Strategies:

Expanding coverage, quality & comprehensiveness of interventions for vulnerable populations at the highest risk of HIV in Bangladesh

Expanding the coverage & quality of interventions for young people through building on previous Global Fund supported program activities

Continuing care, treatment and support for people living with HIV (PLHIV)

Building the capacity of government & NGOs at national and district levels to scale up Standardized, high-quality interventions, to monitor and improve coverage and quality, and to improve coordination.



# FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOOD



In a nation where a staggering number of children and their families are living in poverty, are food insecure and malnourished, Save the Children's Food Security and Livelihoods Sector works to lift families out poverty through a series of integrated interventions. Our core strategy supports households to tackle the economic barriers to a nutritious diet through climate resilient income generating activities linked to the market and capacity building in diversified homestead production for consumption. In parallel, we link households to social protection systems. Activities include the production of nutritious vegetables, fruit, aquaculture, poultry and small livestock and promotion of off-farm income generating activities to generate and increase income. This work is supported by activities to ensure carer's knowledge, skills and power to promote nutrition is enhanced through a range of behavioral change communication work targeting different members of the family, community and youth. We are also improving conditions for rural adolescent girls and urban working/street children, protecting them from economic exploitation through empowerment, advocacy and strengthening their professional skills. Our programs focus on southern Bangladesh, including south-west coastal zone (currently in Khulna and Bagerhat districts) targeting the most food-insecure districts and households.

# FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOOD

## **Background:**

With the proportion of people living below the poverty line falling from 49% in 2000 to 31.5% in 2010, recent estimates suggest that Bangladesh is on track to halving 'extreme' poverty by 2015. Significant progress has also been made in improving infant mortality, maternal health and gender parity in primary school enrolment. Despite these gains, persistent challenges exist in increasing human development. Low levels of food security and chronic malnutrition are exacerbated by low income, high population density and frequent vulnerability to natural disasters. Gender inequality, particularly how this impacts upon decision making in the household is known to have negative impacts upon nutrition related behavior. Moreover, knowledge and awareness on issues of health and nutrition remain inadequate and limited, and food safety nets have consistently low outreach. Whilst there have been some improvement in overall nutrition indicators from 2004 to 2011, they are still dangerously below appropriate thresholds. Latest figures show that 41% of children under 5 are stunted (low height-for-age in Bangladesh) (BDHS, 2011). This is above the global stunting prevalence of 25% (UNICEF, WHO, World Bank) and symptomatic of poor socio-economic conditions, poor maternal nutrition and feeding practices, low quality of food and increased vulnerability disease and infection. The human and economic cost of malnutrition is huge. Left unchecked, it can result in a 2-3 % loss in national income due to its long term impact on productivity; chronic malnutrition during childhood may lead to late enrolment in school, and the missed education means that such children may earn 20% less than children with complete education. Malnutrition in Bangladesh is estimated to cost approximately US\$1 billion a year in lost economic productivity.

## **Objective:**

To enhance capacity of the extreme poor households in the coastal areas of Bangladesh to graduate out of extreme poverty through improved access to safety nets, enhanced productive asset base and livelihoods options including climate resilient livelihoods.

To reduce the prevalence of chronic malnutrition (stunting) amongst under two children through integrated food security and nutrition interventions during the critical period (1000 days) from conception to 2 years of age.

To pilot a number of nutrition governance and multi sectoral coordination interventions at different levels to feed into strategies to promote multi-sectoral coordination on nutrition.

# CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE



The Government of Bangladesh signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990 with the promise of creating a child-rights-enabling environment. Save the Children works with government, communities and civil society, to realize this vision. Through a National Children's Task Force, Child Protection Movement, Child Parliament, Child Rights Governance Assembly and grassroots children's organizations, we involve people of all ages in promoting children's rights. Our policy work to protect children includes advocacy around the Children Act and Child Policy. We also lead child-rights analyses of the national budget and shadow reporting on the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child.

# CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE

## Background:

The Government of Bangladesh signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990 with the promise of creating a child-rights-enabling environment. Save the Children works with government, communities and civil society, to realize this vision. Through a National Children's Task Force, Child Protection Movement, Child Parliament, Child Rights Governance Assembly and grassroots children's organizations we involve people of all ages in promoting children's rights. Our policy work to protect children includes advocacy around the Children Act and Child Policy. We also lead child-rights analyses of the national budget and shadow reporting on the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child.

## Objective:

Child Rights Governance aims to support and if necessary put pressure on states to put in place a system necessary to make rights realities and facilitate a vibrant civil society (including children) able to hold them accountable when they fail to do so.

We aim to raise the issue and status of children in all societies to ensure that they are treated as the citizens of today not just tomorrow and in doing so push children and their rights up the political agenda.

Strengthen state institutions and mechanisms for the implementation and monitoring of children's rights

Increased awareness and capacity among civil society and children to promote children's rights and hold duty bearers to account

Civil society including children's networks has the capacity and space to monitor fulfillment of children's rights and advocate changes in policy and practice for children.

Increase visibility and resource allocation for children by local and national Government and donors and effects of corruption on children monitored and mitigated.

Improve priority and capacity at national Government level to promote and implement CRC and promote children's citizenship.

Local Government and other key stakeholders in localities promote and protect CRC actively benefiting children.

Increase awareness and capacity among key civil society actors including children and youth (child rights actors, media, private sector, religious leaders and academia) to promote children's rights and improved capacity in Government institutions to protect children's rights.

**WE ARE** the world's leading independent organisation for children.

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

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

## OUR VALUES

**ACCOUNTABILITY:** We take personal responsibility for using our resources efficiently, achieving measurable results, and being accountable to supporters, partners and, most of all, children.

**AMBITION:** We are demanding of ourselves and our colleagues, set high goals and are committed to improving the quality of everything we do for children.

**COLLABORATION:** We respect and value each other; thrive on our diversity, and work with partners to leverage our global strength in making a difference for children.

**CREATIVITY:** We are open to new ideas, embrace change, and take disciplined risks to develop sustainable solutions for and with children.

**INTEGRITY:** We aspire to live to the highest standards of personal honesty and behaviour; we never compromise our reputation and always act in the best interests of children.

# বাংলাদেশে সেভ দ্য চিলড্রেন

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SAVETHECHILDRENINBANGLADESH](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SAVETHECHILDRENINBANGLADESH)

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @SCinBD

[WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/SCINBD](http://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/SCINBD)



**Save the Children**

House CWN (A) 35, Road 43, Gulshan 2,  
Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh  
Tel +88-02-986 1690-1 | Fax: +88-02-9886372

For more information, please visit  
[bangladesh.savethechildren.net](http://bangladesh.savethechildren.net)