



CHILDREN'S EMPOWERMENT AND PROTECTION

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GOAL's CEP sector focuses on high vulnerability populations of children, often in the most extreme of situations (e.g. street children, child prostitutes and child migrant labourers). These are children who often fall through the cracks of even the most enlightened national policies on children and youth.

To bring sustainable change, we acknowledge, investigate and challenge complex, stark and sometimes difficult to comprehend cultural, social, political and economic realities and practices that bind children, their families and communities to repeated cycles of vulnerability.

Change focuses on children's reintegration, healthcare, education, livelihoods and protection. As building blocks, GOAL and its implementing partners use knowledge and understanding of how children and their families experience

vulnerability, but are also resilient, and we explore how they might further develop existing or new strategies to mitigate vulnerability.

Change happens through direct work with children and their families, but also by exploring and challenging barriers to change with communities, service institutions and national policy makers. All our CEP programmes strengthen national child protection systems and institutions, but in 2013 we have been key informants in Kenya for the Ministry of Social Welfare on the National Plan of Action for Children; we have developed pragmatic guidelines for child protection in and around schools with the Ministry of Education; and we have developed after-care guidelines within the Juvenile Justice System.

In Sierra Leone, we are contributing core expertise on child labour and referral mechanisms to a new child welfare policy for children in need of care and protection. On the National Youth Policy and Youth Employment Action Plan, GOAL is a key informant to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and to the Ministry of Health on the Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Strategic Action Plan.

Reuniting...

In **Ethiopia**, GOAL reunified 246 street-living children and youth with their



Members of GOAL's ChildSPACE project in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The children, previously living and/or working on the streets, have the opportunity to get a job and earn money by taking part in leatherwork training

families, and provided financial support to 66 of these families, for whom economic issues were identified as the key reason why their children left home for a life on the streets. With our partners, we reunified another 577 vulnerable street children with their families in **Sierra Leone**. We also helped rehabilitate and reintegrate 385 street-living children back into their communities.

Training...

In **Ethiopia**, we provided vocational skills trainings to 109 rehabilitated street living children in trades such as leather works, hair-dressing, catering, motorbike maintenance and construction finishing works; and facilitated job placement by collaborating with a network of

local businesses. Additionally, we helped 114 children generate an income by supporting them to set-up and run a small business.

We provided training to 136 extremely vulnerable children in **India** on tailoring, beauty therapy, driving and tie-die design, while we provided similar entrepreneurial and vocational training to 155 youths in **Sierra Leone**.

Also in **Sierra Leone**, we provided start-up capital and training for 1,030 vulnerable adults to help them start up small-scale businesses as a means to support their children's education.

Educating...

In **India**, we provided formal education support to 1,021 children aged six to 14 years and functional literacy support to 221 extremely vulnerable children and youth.

We implemented a 'child-friendly school framework' that focuses on improving infrastructure and standards in child protection, life skills and school management, in 39 schools in **Kenya**, reaching a total of 15,740 students, teachers and school management committees.

In **Sierra Leone**, we provided non-formal education for 1,481 children aged seven to 17 years; and enabled 1,335 children to access formal education. Seventy-two per cent of all those who enrolled in non-formal education attended over 50 per cent of the sessions, with 97 per cent of those children subsequently enrolling in formal education.



"I like the drop-in centre; they cook for us, help put us in school, and give us fine classes. I feel good now that I have left the street. I would like to say thank you to GOAL for helping me off the street."

Fourteen year-old Musa, a member of GOAL's programme for disadvantaged children in Freetown, Sierra Leone.



Protecting...

In **Kenya**, we reached out to 23,894 beneficiaries with child rights' messages during celebrations for Day of the African Child (June 16) and Universal Children's Day (November 20). In addition, 823 peer educators were trained on children's rights and other protection topics, and subsequently reached out to 4,000 of their peers with what they had learned.

We rescued 17 girls from two red-light districts in **India**, and formed 23 peer groups to take forward the protection mechanism within the community and liaise with the child protection formal institutions.

By providing equipment and supplies for child protection units at four police stations in Nairobi, as well as training 38 police officers in child-friendly approaches, our team in **Kenya** helped the police force strengthen their capacity to prevent and respond to cases of child violence.

In **Ethiopia**, we trained 30 senior police officials and 53 community police members on 'streetism' (complex and necessary patterns of children's social, cultural, economic and protective engagement in urban spaces), child protection and child rights.



Eleven year-old Zainab pictured with a GOAL social worker. After living on the streets of Freetown, Sierra Leone for two years, Zainab attended GOAL's drop-in centre in the capital, where, among many things, she started to learn how to read and write. Now, she wants to be a lawyer.



"I was greeted warmly. I could shower there and wash my clothes. I also received counselling and the staff helped me identify what I wanted to do with my life and how to get off the street."

Genet (18), a member of GOAL's ChildSPACE programme in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



