



Save the Children

LET'S CHANGE THE FUTURE. NOW.

Save the Children's Mozambique Strategy 2022-2024



Together we can transform the future of Mozambique's children

Save the Children believes in a world where every child is healthy, safe and educated – playing, learning and looking forward to a future full of hope and opportunity. However, the impact of COVID-19, armed conflict, and the climate crisis have increased the vulnerability of many children in Mozambique in recent years. The world has never been wealthier, yet half of the children in Mozambique are deprived of their most fundamental rights, such as access to quality education, health care, good nutrition, and growing up in a safe environment.

Save the Children is the world's first and largest independent child rights organization with over 100 years of experience.

Save the Children started in Mozambique in 1986 at the height of the civil war with a focus on tracing the families of children who were separated during the conflict. Since then, we have dedicated our efforts on uplifting the country's most deprived children and their families, directly reaching more than 1.8 million Mozambicans annually through our development and humanitarian efforts.

We work - with and for children and child-focused organisations - and communities in Cabo Delgado, Gaza, Manica, Maputo, Niassa, Nampula, Tete and Zambezia provinces. We adopt a community and system strengthening approach, partnering with the Government of Mozambique, civil society, and private sector actors.

We do whatever it takes for children – every day and in times of crisis – transforming their lives and the future we share.

“I dream about a better Mozambique that protects children and supports our development”

– A Young MP, 14 years, from the Nampula Child Parliament

What we are building off

Building on our 30+ years' of experience in the country, under our last strategy 2019-21 despite the unprecedented challenges that hit the country, such as the devastating Idai and Kenneth cyclones, conflict in the north, and COVID-19, together with our partners and government, we gave children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn, and protection from harm. We directly supported 2.3 million children (51% girls) and 1.6 million adults (50% female) at community level and influenced national systemic policy changes, including on child marriage. Now is the time for us to launch from this.



Photo: Bruno Pedro / Save the Children



Every day, 320 children under-five are lost to preventable and treatable diseases, such as malaria, respiratory infections and diarrhoea.



Nearly one-in-ten girls experience sexual violence before the age of 18.



Children are not learning. 1.2 million children are out of school. Six-out-of-ten girls never finish primary school.



Mozambique is the third most vulnerable country to disaster risks in Africa.



One-in-two girls are married before the age of 18 and 14% before 15. Most have had their first baby by the age of 19.



Total Population
31.26M



Child Population
16.12M (52%)



Human Dev. Index
0.456 [Rank 181/189]

Our Goals for 2022-2024

1. HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Under-five child morbidity and mortality from preventable diseases reduced

- Maternal, infant, young child nutrition
- Child health
- Girls' sexual and reproductive health rights

2. EDUCATION

Vulnerable and crisis affected girls and boys access better quality early learning and basic education

- Early childhood care and development
- Basic education
- Inclusive education
- Safe Schools
- Education Cluster coordination

3. CHILD PROTECTION

Child protection system prevents and responds to all forms of violence against girls and boys

- Child protection system strengthening
- Protection from violence
- Tackling child marriage

4. CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE

Children and CSOs influence the government to monitor and report on the delivery of Child Rights commitments

- Monitoring and demanding child rights
- Public investment in children
- Good governance

5. CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RISK REDUCTION

Climate adaptation and risk reduction is community-driven and child centered

- Child sensitive social protection
- Food security and livelihoods
- School disaster risk management
- Early action protocols

1. HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Under-five child morbidity and mortality from preventable diseases reduced

Save the Children focuses on **maternal, infant and young child health**, and **nutrition**, as well as **adolescent sexual reproductive health and rights (ASRHR)**.

A healthy start in life is critical to ensure that children can grow up to be productive members of society – and healthy beginnings are rooted in homes and communities. In partnership with the government, Save the Children focuses on strengthening health information and services in communities. This includes capacitating community health workers, the provision of mobile health services, and the training of Community Health Committees to manage their own response to health concerns and monitoring the quality and inclusiveness of services provided by the national health system.

Save the Children supports the training of community health workers in **Integrated Community Case Management (iCCM)** to ensure the effective diagnosis and treatment of malaria, diarrheal diseases, pneumonia, and acute malnutrition in children under five. We also support mobile health brigades (which includes SRH) to provide more comprehensive services in remote communities and in emergency settings, as well as strengthening the services at health facilities through the training of clinicians, particularly maternal child health nurses, who are critical for providing prevention and treatment services for women and children. To ensure disability-inclusion, we coordinate organisations of persons with disabilities and other key disability actors to build the capacities of health care providers on disability inclusive practices.

For nutrition, we take a life stages approach to tackle underlying causes of intergenerational child malnutrition, with a focus on improving the nutrition women of child-bearing age, pregnant women, children under-two. Interventions include promotion of **Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF)** and **optimal WASH practices**, and the improved health and nutrition of adolescent girls.

Safeguarding the good health of the next generation requires a dedicated effort to ensure that adolescent are empowered and resourced to take good decisions their health, education and general welfare. In this regard, Save the Children focuses on the **reduction adolescent pregnancies** and the **promotion of empowerment**, including the provision of quality SRH and life skills information through community and school-based activities such as sports and clubs. In partnership with the government and community organisations, we support the training health care

SUCCESS MEASURES 2022-24

1. A reduction of chronic and acute malnutrition in children under five.
2. A reduction of deaths in children under five from diarrhoea, malaria and pneumonia.
3. An increase in the number of adolescent girls who access ASRHR information and services.
4. An increase in the number of communities, parents and caregivers committed to protecting girls' rights, including rejecting child marriage, retaining girls in school, and encouraging girls to access inclusive ASRHR information and services.

providers in adolescent and youth-friendly approaches, and implementing mobile SRH services in communities and schools. To ensure girls have a supportive environment, we implement inclusive **social behavior change communication (SBCC)** campaigns which target the most marginalised and hard-to-reach communities, engaging parents, initiation rites providers, community and religious leaders, and others, challenging harmful taboos and myths and promoting girls rights.



Photo: Elizabeth Naifa / Save the Children

2. EDUCATION

Vulnerable and crisis affected girls and boys access better quality early learning and basic education

Save the Children's education priorities are first, to have more children enrolled in **pre-primary, early childhood care and development (ECCD)** and **basic education** programmes, and second, once enrolled, ensure that they have access to resources and a supportive environment to facilitate their learning. Additionally, we focus on **improving the training, resourcing and management of teachers** so that children can enjoy safe and accessible schools and receive quality education, including those children with disabilities.

School access is often impeded by social and economic barriers, especially for those children who are marginalised. As such, we focus our efforts on increasing the involvement of parents' and caregivers' in their children's education, using role models and change agents to ensure parents and caregivers remain engaged and dedicated to their children's learning. For our ECCD interventions, we integrate health, nutrition, child protection and positive parenting techniques, which together, contribute to positive outcomes for young learners and provide them with a head start when they transition into primary school. We are **strong advocates for the prioritisation and resourcing of ECCD programming** within the national education system, particularly in rural areas where children and parents / caregivers have limited exposure and access to resources.

Throughout a young learner's education, we heavily invest in age-appropriate teaching and learning materials which have been carefully designed to **help children gain solid functional literacy and numeracy skills**. We also support the professional development of teachers so that they have the skills and resources to work with all types of learners, and train community

SUCCESS MEASURES 2022-24

1. A greater proportion of children who are participating in ECCD and basic education programmes that show progress in learning.
2. An increase in marginalised children supported to overcome barriers to access learning and wellbeing opportunities within basic education and ECCD.
3. Girls and boys, especially those from vulnerable groups, demonstrate literacy and numeracy skills that are commensurate with their grade levels.
4. A reduction in school days that schools are closed (due to hazards, violence, etc).
5. Resources invested in the education sector are more efficiently managed through the stronger collaboration and coordination of stakeholders, especially in emergencies.

In partnership with the government and disability inclusion organisations, we develop inclusive practices and provide support to ensure the access and utilisation of assistive learning technologies. We also work with schools to improve their leadership and management to help tackle issues such as teacher absenteeism, as well as to encourage the active engagement of communities in school management and oversight.

Save the Children has a global all-hazard *Safe Schools Approach*, which promotes the wellbeing of children and ensures schools and learning facilities are physically and emotionally safe learning environments and fully inclusive of children with disabilities. We also support the development of **school disaster preparedness and response plans** to ensure children remain safe in the face of natural disasters. **In emergency settings, we rehabilitate**

or upgrade damaged school structures or provide temporary learning spaces, and ensure that children who are affected by conflict or disasters can resume their education as quickly as possible. We ensure that children are protected in schools, and we provide referrals or direct support for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) for children at risk or recovering from distressful and violent situations.

Save the Children is a co-coordinator of the national education cluster and Cabo Delgado education sub-cluster. We share our expertise and technical support to ensure well-organised, data-driven and accountable responses to education during emergencies in the country.



Photo: Rui Mutemba / Save the Children

3. CHILD PROTECTION

Child protection system prevents and responds to all forms of violence against girls and boys

The protection of children from all forms of violence is at the heart of our all our work. This includes extensive awareness raising and the **strengthening the formal and informal child protection networks at all levels** and ensuring the availability care, including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). We work with communities to help them understand and support girls' rights and encourage them to reject the harmful practices, particularly Child and Early Forced Marriage and Unions (CEFMU), which affects nearly half of children in Mozambique.

Save the Children's *Steps to Protect* case management approach is a foundation of our work. It involves training case workers to support children at risk or facing violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect, helping them to coordinate referrals and provide direct psychoeducation, and **mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)**. Their work includes family tracing and reunification, particularly in emergency situations. We strengthen the coordination between formal and informal systems, including supporting community child protection committees (CCPCs) to identify, refer, prevent, and respond to cases of violence against children in partnership with district reference groups. We facilitate access to child-friendly reporting mechanisms such as *Linha Fala Crianca*, which Save the Children co-founded in 2009, and ensure that protection services are inclusive of children with disabilities. We also support the training of the district government reference services so that their staff can respond to cases sensitively and safely, while holding perpetrators to account.

With teachers and students, we use a **psychosocial approach that aims to support healing** through education and art (HEART), and expressive, descriptive and communicative activities which are fully inclusive and implemented in and outside school. We also use *TeamUp*, which is a body movement approach that helps crisis-affected children recover from distressful experiences through their engagement in structured, physical activities.

We are actively engaged in the activities and discussions around child rights violations related to the armed conflict in northern Mozambique, and **advocate for the activation of a formal Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) to ensure official reporting of grave violations.**

Save the Children campaigned for changes in the national legislation to make child marriage illegal (signed into law in October, 2019) and we continue to **advocate for the eradication of CEFMU**. We support the government to reinforce the implementation of the law at provincial, district and community levels, and raise awareness about the law in communities, particularly among parents and

SUCCESS MEASURES 2022-24

1. An increase in communities establishing systems through which they recognise, report and refer violence against children.
2. An increase in children, adolescents, family members, or caregivers participating in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) programmes who demonstrate improved mental health and/or psychosocial wellbeing.
3. Many more caregivers and community members who demonstrate improved knowledge, attitude and practice toward gender equality and/or protection of children from violence.
4. A growing movement of young people, including children affected by child marriage, uniting and standing up to reject the practice.
5. Save the Children has fully implemented its Centrality of Protection policy, including monitoring and reporting on grave and other serious violations of children's rights across the country.

caregivers. We facilitate girls' access to protection and care services (education, sexual and reproductive health, legal and social protection, amongst others), and aim to address the root causes of child marriages including reforming the harmful gender norms perpetuated in communities and during initiation rites. We amplify the voices and efforts of children, especially girls, in championing their rights and rejecting the practice of child marriage.



Photo: Rui Mutemba / Save the Children

4. CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE

Children and CSOs influence the government to monitor and report on the delivery of Child Rights commitments

Save the Children has a long history of working with children, CSO partners and duty bearers at all levels, advocating for the fulfilment of the fundamental Child Rights (CR) for all children. Children play a key role in this process, not as passive beneficiaries of these rights but as empowered agents to influence the government and society to deliver on child rights commitments. Together with children, the Child Parliaments (from national to sub-district levels), and child focused organisations and networks, **we facilitate children's efforts to mobilise and speak out clearly and with power**, so that the government and other influential actors understand their obligation to address the children's concerns in legislation, strategies, policies and budgets, and fulfil their roles as duty bearers.

Together with child led organisations and CR networks (such as the 3R Platform) our three main focus areas are as follows:

1. **Monitoring and demanding children's rights:** Based on our research and experience, we have gained a strong understanding on where, how and why CR are violated, and the key barriers that prevent children from enjoying their rights. Through individual and joint coordinated CR advocacy, we press for the delivery on CR commitments, including the CR-related Human Rights Accountability Mechanism recommendations from UNCRC, ACRWC, CRPD, and UPR, as well as the tracking and monitoring of CR-related budget allocations and expenditures.
2. **Public investment in children:** At national, provincial and district level, we support CR organisations and children themselves to advocate for the prioritization of children's concerns in the allocation of public resources, especially when it comes to health, learning, and protection. Greater transparency in governments' budget allocation and spending remains a key issue.
3. **Good governance:** We help build inclusive and accountable government systems that are capable of delivering on CR priorities. We support data collection and analysis, and promote policy changes and legal reform, whereby strengthening the supply side of child rights' accountability and ensuring that laws, policies and resources are focused on children. Good governance also includes the establishment of relevant coordination bodies and a children's ombudsman who convene on a regular basis with children, CBO, CR CSO and duty bearers and can also to speak out on behalf of children.

SUCCESS MEASURES 2022-24

1. An increase in essential CR services improved by relevant authorities, based on issues raised by children.
2. An increase in the proportion of CR Accountability Mechanism recommendations from UNCRC, ACRWC, CRPD and UPR that have been achieved by government influenced by children and Save the Children with our partners.
3. CR supplementary reports and child annual reports submitted by children and CSOs.
4. More CSO advocacy initiatives tracking CR public budget allocation and spending.
5. Children with disabilities involved in monitoring Mozambique government commitments to the Global Disability Summit.



5. CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RISK REDUCTION

Climate adaptation and risk reduction is community-driven and child centered

The current generation of children were born into a climate crisis. Climate change is one of the greatest threat to children's survival, learning and protection both globally and in Mozambique. Although children have contributed the least to climate change, they are the ones that will suffer the most with its impacts, especially those living in poverty, and most in need of social protection. Mozambique is already one of the world's most vulnerable countries to climate change, so we must act now.

Save the Children is committed to ensuring that climate change adaptation and risk reduction efforts are community driven and child-centered, and that children are empowered to assume leadership roles around climate actions and debates. In partnership with government and local partners, we support the establishment of environmental clubs in schools and communities, helping children to understand key issues around climate change so they can develop practical plans for local action. More broadly we support children to elevate their voices, be part of the solution, and influence decisions by leaders and policy-influencers at local, national and international levels to tackle climate change.

Also at the community level, we work with older adolescents and youths to help them plan for livelihood alternatives, particularly in areas that suffer from prolonged drought. We train on core skills for employment opportunities and small business development initiatives. For small holder households, **we promote diversified production systems for improved food security**, including climate-smart agriculture techniques using appropriate cultivars and technologies, and improved animal husbandry practices.

SUCCESS MEASURES 2022-24

1. The national government social protection system is more shock responsive, child-sensitive, and focused on the most deprived and most climate vulnerable children.
2. Many more children are reached by programs supporting government services (education, protection, health, social protection) to withstand climatic shocks and minimise service disruption.
3. More girls and boys who understand how to prevent and respond to risks related to the climate and environment.
4. An increase in children and their families are supported to improve and protect their livelihoods especially those affected by climate change.
5. To build a youth and children climate action movement to engage in the national, regional and international climate dialogues.

We assist the climate resilience of local communities by strengthening their capacity to **develop and implement locally-led adaptation actions** (through Local Adaptation Plans), with participation of key stakeholders. Additionally, we link climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and social protection, including the **promotion of cash + programmes, to ensure protection of the most vulnerable populations**. In primary schools we help the administration and children to develop risk exposure assessments and emergency preparedness plans (PEBE).

In close coordination with INGD, we contribute to development of **district early action protocols and plans**, which are preparedness instruments to inform local government planning and management and increase the resilience capacity of communities, as well as ensuring the plans have budget allocations. The action plans include seasonal INAM climate forecasts and build on local needs and capacities assessments.



Photo: Rui Mutemba / Save the Children

Our CSP Enabling Goals – how we will do this



Champion children and local actors, elevate their voices and make decisions together

We work to amplify children's own voices and build platforms so they are more widely heard by public, policy-makers and policy-implementers; and to promote child-led analysis and solutions. **We support children to lead, run and participate in campaigns that aim to create change for children.** As much as possible we are **shifting power to local actors and children** themselves to advocate, with Save the Children taking more of a back-seat technical, convening and financially supportive role.



Leading-edge emergency preparedness and response

Save the Children will leverage its position within the longstanding, well-regarded COSACA Humanitarian consortium (together with CARE International and Oxfam) to continue to **provide rapid, high quality and appropriate emergency preparedness, prepositioning and response to any emergency** in the country. We also ensure that local organisations are well capacitated and play a critical strategic and operational role in our responses.



Use digital solutions, evidence and data to accelerate impact

Our programming and advocacy work is **evidence-based** and built on **real-time data, insights and learning** generated by our programmes and partners. We are continuing to invest in national and international communities of practice across different thematic areas, helping to share and expand best practices, evidence and expertise. We are also **investing in technology for development (T4D) and digital solutions** to not only improve our own internal processes, but most importantly, to ensure faster, more expansive, and more economical interventions that deliver real change for children.



Advance child-sensitive social protection, including cash and voucher programming

There is potential and need in Mozambique for more child-sensitive and shock responsive social protection systems. We work in close coordination with the government and build on Save the Children's global expertise to promote the implementation of **Cash & Voucher Assistance (CVA)**, integrated with complementary interventions (*'Cash Plus'*) to maximise outcomes for children, wherever appropriate, safe, cost-efficient, and feasible.



Foster local, creative and strategic partnerships to change public opinions, policies and laws

We work with our strategic partnerships and alliances to strengthen and leverage child-focused expertise, and develop creative initiatives to educate the public and advocate for changes in policies and laws that benefit children. We will continue to strengthen our linkages the private sector, religious and cultural leaders, and celebrities, as well as the next generation of influencers such as child-led groups, child parliamentarians and other change agents to encourage broad engagement on critical issues. **Together, we can deliver change.**

Photo: Guy Hubbard / Save the Children

