OUR VISION

A world where no child is forgotten.

WHAT MAKES US SPECIAL

Chance for Childhood works with and strengthens the capacity of African visionary community leaders to implement effective, locally-relevant projects. This enables us to focus on ‘hard to reach’ children, both in terms of their complex needs (e.g. street children with learning difficulties) and location (e.g. urban violent slums or remote rural areas).

Together we make ideas and impact both sustainable and scalable to protect, educate and empower even more of the world’s most disadvantaged children.

OUR VALUES

- **Integrity** - Treat all children, partners, supporters and staff with fairness and respect.
- **Authenticity** - Be transparent at all levels from our donors to our partners and achieve the highest degree of accountability through robust monitoring, evaluation and learning strategies.
- **Efficiency** - Use our resources efficiently to maximise value for money and the impact on every child and community we support.
- **Creativity** - Work innovatively and creatively to take considered risks to develop more efficient and sustainable solutions to problems faced by vulnerable children.
- **Sustainability & Collaboration** - Generate sustainable change through genuine partnerships with organisations and advocates whose core values are aligned with our own.
## WHO WE HELP

### STREET CHILDREN

Life on the streets is dirty, violent and short. Street children are the target of human trafficking, child labour and physical, sexual and psychological abuse. These young people are often seen as a burden to society - not as children deprived of their basic human needs and needing protection and care.

**What we do:**
- Provide safe places to meet most urgent needs.
- Reunite children with their families or find foster families as a temporary solution.
- Run Early Childhood Development centres.
- Provide vocational training and catch up lessons in literacy and maths.
- Offer psychological support & support groups.
- Enable families to start income-generating activities to lift themselves out of poverty.

### CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Children with disabilities, especially girls, are three times more likely to be victims of sexual abuse. Deep-rooted traditions of acceptance towards gender-based violence, stigma and negative attitudes lead to these children being excluded, often considered cursed or ‘dumb’.

**What we do:**
- Identify disabled children hidden in their homes.
- Ensure their access to school by training teachers and providing Learning Support Assistants.
- Develop individual education plans for each child.
- Help parents accept and support their children.
- Promote their inclusion within their communities.
- Support national governments to adopt inclusive education training manuals.
- Empower children with disabilities through participation in school clubs.

### NO CHILD FORGOTTEN

### CHILDREN AFFECTED BY CONFLICT

The global migration crisis is heavily affecting Eastern Africa with thousands of refugees arriving in Uganda and Rwanda and internally displaced people in DRC. Children are particularly at risk – they can get separated from their families. Many witness, and under duress commit, horrific acts of violence. They often experience severe trauma and integrating them back in society can be hard. Girls are also very vulnerable to sexual violence.

**What we do:**
- Provide counselling to former child soldiers, vulnerable children and victims of sexual violence to tackle deep rooted issues of self-esteem and self-worth.
- Offer accelerated learning programmes, including vocational training.
- Deliver inclusive education to children affected by violence and conflict.

### CHILDREN BEHIND BARS

Extreme poverty, conflict and loss of support networks can lead to children breaking the law. They steal food to survive, or get into a fight for a spot to sleep at night on the streets. Once arrested, children stay in overcrowded adult prisons, at risk of abuse, malnutrition and brutality. 83% of girls and women in jail in DRC have experienced some sort of physical abuse.

**What we do:**
- Provide legal aid to ensure a fair and appropriate representation.
- Provide education and vocational training to vulnerable young offenders.
- Ensure that child protection and justice systems are inclusive to safeguard those who need it the most.
- Deliver basic counselling, mediation and support to children and their families through peer educators.
Our strategic priorities

Impact
By 2021, we will triple our reach and support 50,000 children and young people to reclaim their childhood and realise their potential to live a fulfilling life.

Where we will work
To maximise our impact and make effective use of our resources, we will scale up our work across the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, five countries facing extreme poverty, inequality, conflict and forced displacement.

Our areas of expertise

Inclusive Education
- Designing innovative solutions and trainings to support teachers working to ensure that children with special educational needs are not left behind.
- Piloted the first Learning Support Assistant in East Africa, demonstrating the impact of our low-cost solution to improve enrolment, performance and retention of children with special learning needs in mainstream education.
- Since 2013, our project in Rwanda has trained 417 teachers and 36 Learning Support Assistants, in turn supporting 4,219 disabled children in schools.

Justice for Children
- Safeguarding children in contact with justice systems, whether as victims or alleged offenders, ensuring their rights to fair treatment and protection.
- ‘Zero tolerance’ for children being held in adult jails.
- Spearheading unique juvenile justice programmes such as our award-winning Right2Change programme.
- First organisation in Uganda to pilot a structured diversion programme achieving a 1% recidivism rate for over 800 children.

Social Protection
- In DRC we support children affected by conflict to rebuild positive futures, and champion peace in their communities.
- In Ghana we annually enable 250 street mothers to access Early Childhood Development centres for their children.
- In Uganda we have supported 1,606 adolescents and youth to start up their own agri-businesses, 90% of whom have found employment within six months.
- In Kenya our start up business loan have enabled over 100 families to keep their children in school.
**Strategic objectives**

**Inclusive education**
- Deliver inclusive Early Childhood Development (ECD) interventions across all countries of operation through the Training of the Trainers methodology to ensure that 5,000 pre-primary aged children have access to equality inclusive ECD services.
- Be recognised as a specialist in delivering community-based interventions supporting 1,000 children with communication disabilities and their families. Partner with at least three African national training and research institutions to develop a cadre of local specialists.
- Expand the accessibility and affordability of our Learning Support Assistant (LSA) scheme to enable over 1,000 children and their families to access and perform in mainstream quality education, through a sustainable business model in Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya, piloting and testing complementary income generation for LSAs and subsidised tutoring schemes.
- Explore the gaps in child-centred inclusive education services in refugee camps in Uganda, Rwanda and DRC.

**Justice for children**
- Deliver our Justice for Children ‘Right2Change’ flagship programme in DRC, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, reaching 4,800 children in contact and in conflict with the law.
- Establish and generate revenue from the Right2Change social franchise established in Uganda and, with investment secured, open an additional franchise in Kenya, ensuring standardised high-quality diversion and crime prevention services.
- Be recognised as an expert on inclusion (both gender and disability) and justice, delivering training to other organisations in Africa, producing research and evidence and creating toolkits and manuals for the sector.
- Respond to the global migration crisis by exploring the gaps in child-centred justice and legal services in refugee camps, specifically focusing on Uganda and Rwanda.
Social protection

- Consolidate our inclusion and justice work by addressing the exclusion of children with disabilities, poor mental health and/or special learning needs with due consideration to their family context and economic instability.
- Continue to ensure access to education, training and start-up capital to promote sustainable livelihoods as essential component of our community-based diversion, rehabilitation and education reintegration work.
- Work with a network of partners to ensure that we deliver the highest quality training and can link our young entrepreneurs and families with appropriate local finance.

Who we will work with

- Our strong ethos of partnership and collaboration will continue to be the driver of achieving impact at scale.
- We will enhance the level of child participation at all stages of our work.
- We will build on our partnerships with academia and aim to start at least one new research programme within the next three years.
- We will strengthen and scale up our work by building a portfolio of multiple programmatic partnerships in each country. We will engage with organisations across all sectors, building on the success of our multi-sector approach in Patongo, Uganda.
- We will identify innovative ideas to solve challenges facing vulnerable children, building on our Challenge Fund to attract social entrepreneurs and early stage ventures.

How we will measure our success

- Launch our Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) strategy which will focus on cross-partner learning and include key targets for disseminating our learning.
- Seek feedback from our partners and beneficiaries to ensure that our impact and support is as effective as possible.
- Develop strong country-level advocacy objectives to achieve long-term change.
- Promote a culture of innovation and earmark funds to test and pilot new ideas to respond to existing and emerging needs.
- Maintain a strong focus on impact to the lives of our beneficiaries, both in terms of the number of children supported and the depth of reach (i.e. the extent of the change to every child’s life).

At just 13, Becky was abandoned by her mother. This changed her life – she became aggressive and violent and would often get into fights. She dropped out of school and was forced to steal to survive. Luckily, she was referred to our local partner in Uganda. After enrolling in a tailoring class, she became a motivated and hardworking student. Today, Becky has her own shop in Patongo where she creates and mends clothes!
How we will sustain our work

Fundraising and communication

- Have a sustainable and diversified fundraising programme, ensuring that no one major source of income or funder represents more than 35% of our current budget.
- Ensure a donor-centred approach that puts our supporters and beneficiaries at the centre of the story, with a range of communications that suits their needs.
- Promote an innovative and agile fundraising approach.
- Provide a first-class experience to our donors and supporters.
- Thrive to make all our communications as accessible as possible (e.g. plain English).
- Increase media relations and create further opportunities through our Patrons.
- Continue to test new business models (such as social enterprise and social franchising) to explore quasi-equity financing solutions as a means to scale our impact, create self-sustainable services at country level and in the short term diversifying our income.

Transparency

- Ensure the highest level of accountability to the children we support through transparent communication with our partners and participatory programme design.
- Maintain our membership within the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI).
- Build on the recommendations of our Bond’s Transparency Review and improve the availability of information about our strategy, activities and results.

Staff and operations

- Ensure our staff feel positive about their working environment, promoting opportunities for personal and professional development and consolidating a supportive culture of integrity, sharing and learning.
- Continue to decentralize operations to our regional hub in Rwanda to strengthen our African-led programme team.
- Maximise our systems through audits to enhance efficiency and effectiveness and ensure compliance with legislations such as General Data Protection Regulation.

Alice, 8, was born deaf in Rwanda to a teenage mum. She lives with her grandmother, after her mum abandoned her. When Alice tried to go school, she was rejected – the school said they couldn’t teach a ‘dumb’ child. Alice was enrolled at the Nyabihu School for Deaf Children, the only school of its kind in the district.

The teachers and pupils welcomed her with open arms and Alice is now learning to communicate using sign language. She is happy, clean, well fed and full of promise—a very different child to the sad, lonely girl we first met.