

Chance for Childhood is an award-winning charity that believes that no child should have to fight for a safe, happy childhood. We specialise in ensuring access to inclusive education and safe spaces so that children in Africa can play, grow, learn and thrive. In 2021 we supported over 11,000 children in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.

Our unique approach of analysing intersectional barriers enables us to reach the most marginalised children and communities, both in terms of complex needs (e.g., children experiencing disabilities) and location (e.g., remote rural areas, informal settlements, and refugee settlements). Experiencing

Why Inclusive Education?

At the heart of our work is ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the children we support. We fully recognise that children experiencing disabilities and children with special education needs are highly at-risk of exploitation, stigmatisation, and abuse. We work to ensure that all our projects are centred around improving **access to inclusive early childhood and primary education** for children and young people from some of the most marginalised communities. We ensure that in all aspects of our work, children are better supported and protected and therefore **safer in their homes, schools, and communities**. With our focus on **capacity strengthening**, we work with parents and carers on positive parenting practices, enabling them to be better equipped to support their children. At organisational level, we collaborate with partners and other key stakeholders to strengthen Child Protection, embedding **safeguarding** across all systems and processes. We have honed our experience working with schools, NGOs and local government offices, building robust policies, procedures and referral pathways.

UGANDA

12 years of experience in supporting children at risk of offending in Northern Uganda

3000 Children in conflict with the law reached by Chance for Childhood through its diversion and inclusive rehabilitation services, achieving a **1%** reoffending rate

70 Staff from 7 NGOs trained by Chance for Childhood specialists on inclusive early childhood development

Technical Advisory

- Using our extensive expertise on inclusion to train and strengthen skills of service providers
- Leading on inclusive safeguarding

Programme Design & Implementation

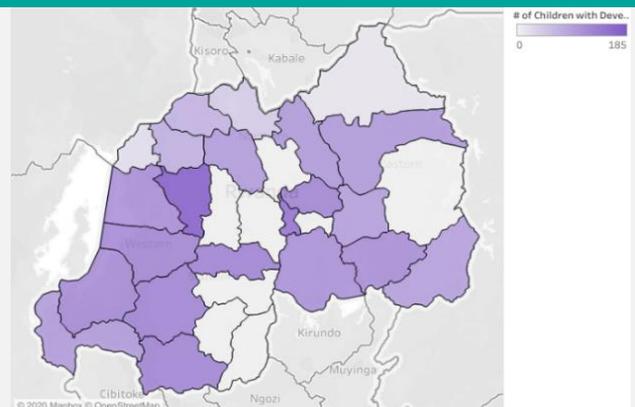
- Managing interventions at a variety of scales & contexts
- Evidence-based models of programme impact
- Experimenting with new innovative pathways to impact

Research & Mapping

- Designing validated screening tools for early identification of developmental delays or functional disabilities
- Collecting and analysing child disability data

 **Chance for Childhood has been implementing successful community-based structured diversion programmes for children in Northern Uganda since 2015**

“*After the training of AVSI capacity-building officers and caregivers by CFC, community mobilizations included “Inclusive early childhood development” in messaging. From then, 68 children (38 boys and 30 girls) were enrolled in early childhood development centres! This was a great achievement because most of them had never thought of attending any children’s space, or school, but now their parents have understood the importance of care services for children experiencing disability”* - AVSI Management Staff.



INCLUSIVE EDUCATION & SAFEGUARDING | EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK

Identification of children experiencing disabilities, data disaggregation and community mapping

- With a grant from the Vitol Foundation in 2019 and 2021, EQUAL sought to investigate the prevalence and circumstances of school children experiencing disabilities in the western Uganda refugee settlement of Kyaka II, Western Uganda. Through this needs assessment, we were able to generate first-time evidence of the educational needs of children experiencing disabilities and to inform future inclusive education programming design.
- In 2021, we screened over 1,000 children with our disability detection tool kit (nationally recognised in 4 countries and adapted from the Washington Consensus questions to identify children experiencing disabilities and special learning needs and support them to access inclusive education)

Community-level engagement and peer support to foster a community of inclusion

- We work closely with community-based partners, such as African Women and Youth Action for Development (AWYAD) and Embrace Kulture who are integral to the implementation of our projects due to their close relationship with the communities we work with and key stakeholders.
- On our EQUAL project (2021-2024), we are currently working with AWYAD to conduct community awareness events for over 700 community members and organise training across existing community structures and 30 district officials in inclusive safeguarding and referral mechanisms to ensure a sustainable conducive environment for out of school children (including girls and children experiencing disabilities).
- On our EU SUPREME project, we work with AWYAD to train leaders and community caseworkers of informal justice structures to champion peacebuilding, crisis prevention and conflict management advocacy efforts

Disability inclusion in education: early childhood centres (ECE) and primary education

- We are currently implementing the Ensuring Quality Education for All (EQUAL) project a 3-year project (2021 to 2024) to enable 1,100 out-of-school children (OOSC) including girls and children experiencing disabilities to access quality inclusive primary education. We give psychosocial support, and reintegration services and provide school supplies for children enrolled in school
- We have provided inclusivity training to teachers, NGO staff, frontline workers and government personnel involved in the delivery of early childhood development services using a 'Training of the Trainers' (ToT) methodology.
- Chance for Childhood has trained over 400 Learning Support Assistants, who promote social skills as part of learning while providing individualised physical and educational support. Learning support assistants are also trained to facilitate communication between children experiencing disabilities and their teachers and family members.

Facilitating financial support to parents and caregivers of children we work with

We are currently implementing the Ensuring Quality Education for All (EQUAL) project to enable 1,100 out-of-school children (OOSC) to access quality inclusive primary education. To make accessibility more sustainable, we are empowering parents and caregivers, providing them with start-up grants, training them on business management and setting up village savings and loans associations

- With funding from GOAC, we implemented a multi-year livelihoods project that empowered 300 child-headed households in Agago District in northern Uganda, increasing their well-being through the provision of livestock and seeds, shelter, mentorship, business management training, counselling, and healthcare. As a result of the training, the percentage of CYP employed has increased from 6% at baseline to 83% at end line.

IDENTIFICATION
& SCREENING

COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

Access to
Inclusive
Education

LIVELIHOODS

Rehabilitation and legal aid for children in prisons/remand homes, ex-offenders and at-risk children (street-connected children)

- Since 2008, we have been supporting children in conflict with the law through counselling at prison facilities, facilitating their resettlement at home and providing ongoing family mediation and psychosocial support.
- In 2012, we received an official recommendation from UNICEF for the pilot of a structured diversion programme in partnership with the grassroots organization, Passion for Community. This programme provided holistic rehabilitation support to children in conflict with the law in Agago, Kitgum, Lamwo and Pader districts in Uganda
- The Right to Change project (2015 to 2019) was able to provide access to legal aid services to 341 (226M, 115F) youths that had been arrested or in prison, awarded 2,469 certificates accredited by the Ugandan Ministry of Education and Sport (MoES) in literacy or vocational skills to children in conflict with the law in Agago district; successfully reintegrated 138 children into mainstream school and trained fieldworkers on how to deliver and monitor structured diversion programmes. Through this project, we reached over 3,000 CiCL with diversion and rehabilitation programmes, achieving a 1% reoffending rate.

Asides from Uganda, we have established a sound-track record in Ghana, DRC, Kenya and Rwanda.

- **Screening children experiencing disabilities**
 - We have developed three screening and early detection tools that enable non-medical personnel to identify children experiencing disabilities. The tools measure a child's level of functioning against their hearing, vision, communication/comprehension, learning, mobility and emotions, and can generate disaggregated data for robust monitoring.
 - Our early detection and disability identification tools have been validated by affiliated government education and welfare protection ministries in Ghana, Rwanda, and Kenya
- **Social Projection**
 - In partnership with Street Child, we are currently implementing the Education Outcome Fund project in Ghana. This multi-year, multi-million-pound project aims to provide access to street-connected children in rural and urban regions
 - We currently have a multi-year project (2021-2023) with UNICEF Rwanda to conduct a mapping exercise and provide support to communities and families to enable smoother rehabilitation and fostering of children experiencing disabilities.
 - In Kenya and Ghana, we aided the renovation of our family strengthening programme 'Streets Ahead' has so far provided start-up business loans to over 130 families. Our support ranges from providing safe temporary care to pregnant young mothers to coaching girls into villages and savings groups
 - In Ghana, we supported the renovation of the Young Mothers Support Centre in 2019 in partnership with Street Girls Aid, which provides refuge and vocational skills to over 100 street-connected girls, teen mothers, and pregnant girls annually
- **Inclusive Education (Early Childhood Education and Primary schools)**
 - In Ghana, our Best Start Project (2021 to 2023) funded by BFSS and in partnership with the Ghana Education Service provides access to inclusive early childhood education for 600 children in 10 schools, and individualised learning support to children identified with having a disability or special learning needs
 - Chance for Childhood signed an agreement with UNICEF Rwanda in 2018 to implement a 2-year inclusive Early Childhood Development (iECD) project that has scaled up our mapping activity of children with disabilities to 20 districts and built the capacity of staff from 7 national NGOs on inclusion and disability awareness.
 - Since 2016, a multi-year grant from Comic Relief and Theirworld has enabled us to implement the LEAP I & II (Learning, Educating and Protecting) project specifically addressing the special educational needs and communication disabilities of children with street-connections.

**REHABILITATION
& JUSTICE FOR
CHILDREN**

**OUR GLOBAL
TRACK RECORD**

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WE FIGHT FOR EVERY CHILD