

Save the Children

The impact of COVID-19 on children in Europe





Agenda

- **Our Work:** For children's rights worldwide
- **Key Findings of Report:** The Impact of COVID-19 on children in Europe
- **Questions and Answers**

Save the Children is one of the world's leading independent organisations for children. We work to save children's lives and are committed to helping children fulfil their potential. The fight to secure children's rights is the foundation of all our work

100 YEARS OF IMPACT

THE CHILD must be educated, must be nurtured, the delinquent child must be reformed and the orphan and the weak must be sheltered and sustained.

II. THE CHILD must be the first to receive relief in times of distress.

V. THE CHILD must be put in a position of honor when he is in need.

Geneva



1919

EGLANTYNE JEBB STANDS UP FOR CHILDREN AFTER WORLD WAR I

After seeing how children in Austria and Germany were starving in the aftermath of the First World War, our founder, Eglantyne Jebb, launched the Save the Children Fund to raise money to help them.

1930s

SUPPORTING FAMILIES THROUGH THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Save the Children was set up in the US in the wake of the Great Depression. We provided children with clothes, shoes, books and toys. In schools, we served hot lunches and built playgrounds.

1952

PROVIDING SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN IN MALAYSIA AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR

We opened the Serendah Boys School in Malaya (now Malaysia), which gave boys orphaned by World War II an education and a safe place to live.

1970

RESPONDING TO THE BHOLA CYCLONE IN BANGLADESH

We provided emergency food and medical relief for children and their families in the aftermath of the Bhola cyclone in Bangladesh and India.

1989

UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ADOPTED

Building on Eglantyne Jebb's vision for children, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the UN General Assembly, making it the most universally accepted human rights treaty in history.

2000s

CONTRIBUTING TO THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Save the Children joined the global effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, with ambitious targets including cutting child mortality by two-thirds, halving extreme poverty and hunger and that all children should be in school by 2015.

2014

RESPONDING TO THE EBOLA OUTBREAK IN WEST AFRICA

During the worst ever outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus, we reached 4.6 million people across Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia. Our teams trained almost 2,000 community health workers, provided healthcare services and ran a treatment centre which increased the country's bed capacity for patients by 20%.

2019

STOP THE WAR ON CHILDREN CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

One in five children are living in a conflict zone. Our Stop the War on Children campaign aimed to ensure all children living in conflict zones stay safe, have justice and receive the practical help they need to recover from injuries and trauma.



1924

DECLARATION FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IS ADOPTED

The Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which was originally drafted by Eglantyne Jebb, was adopted by the League of Nations.

1940s

SUPPORTING WORLD WAR II SURVIVORS, DISPLACED FAMILIES AND REFUGEES

Throughout the 1940s, our work expanded to include education and farming programmes to support survivors in France, Holland, Italy, West Germany, Austria, Finland, Greece, Lebanon and South Korea.

1969

EXPANDING OUR WORK TO AFRICA

In 1969, we opened our first African field office in Tanzania.

1984

HELPING MALNOURISHED CHILDREN DURING THE ETHIOPIAN FAMINE

Our staff and partners were among the first to raise the alarm about the impending famine in Ethiopia. In response, we shipped out grain, milk powder, sugar and oil to our centres, which fed 7,000 malnourished children every day.

1994

REUNITING FAMILIES AFTER THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE

After the Rwandan genocide, we helped set up a family tracing and reunification programme to help the large number of unaccompanied children reunite with their parents and families.

2009

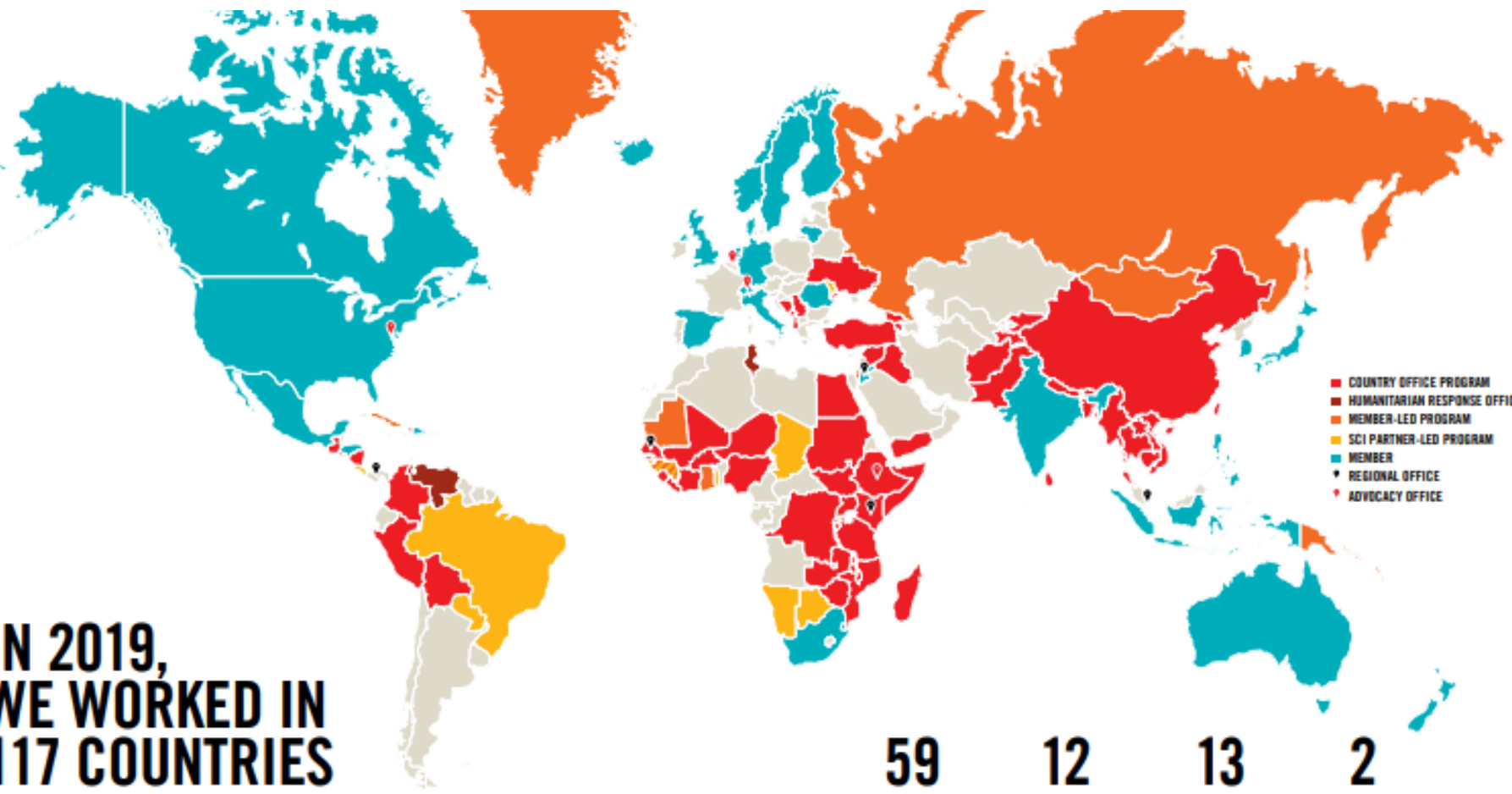
EVERY ONE CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

We launched our EVERY ONE campaign, which raised awareness of the number of child deaths globally and helped save millions of children's lives through vaccinations, nutrition and newborn health work.

2016

RESPONDING TO THE GROWING MIGRATION CRISIS

In response to the growing migration crisis, we launched a search and rescue vessel and established our Children on the Move programme work.



IN 2019, WE WORKED IN 117 COUNTRIES

We are a global membership organisation made up of Save the Children International (SCI) and 30 national members. We share one name, one strategy and one ambition.

59 SCI COUNTRY PROGRAMMES	12 MEMBER-LED INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES	13 SCI PARTNER-LED PROGRAMMES	2 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE OFFICES
30 MEMBERS	5 REGIONAL OFFICES	4 ADVOCACY OFFICES	

These numbers add up to more than 117 because in some cases our regional offices or advocacy offices are located in countries where we have programmes. We have 58 country programmes but 51 country offices, since some offices are joined or deliver activities directly in other countries. Partner-led programmes relate to the work we do in countries through our partners.

OUR GLOBAL AMBITIONS 2030

We will focus on reaching the **most deprived and marginalised children**. We will do whatever it takes to ensure we leave no child behind.

Founded in 1919, our **VISION** is a world in which every last child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.



No child dies from preventable causes.



All children learn from a quality basic education.

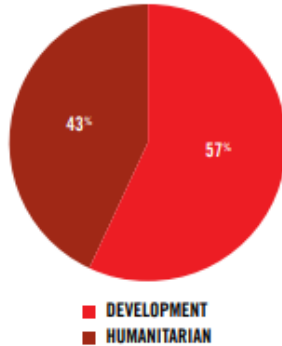


Violence against children is no longer tolerated.

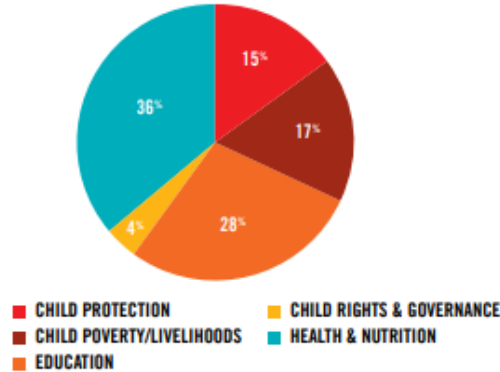
Overview

Thematic Areas, Regions and Donors

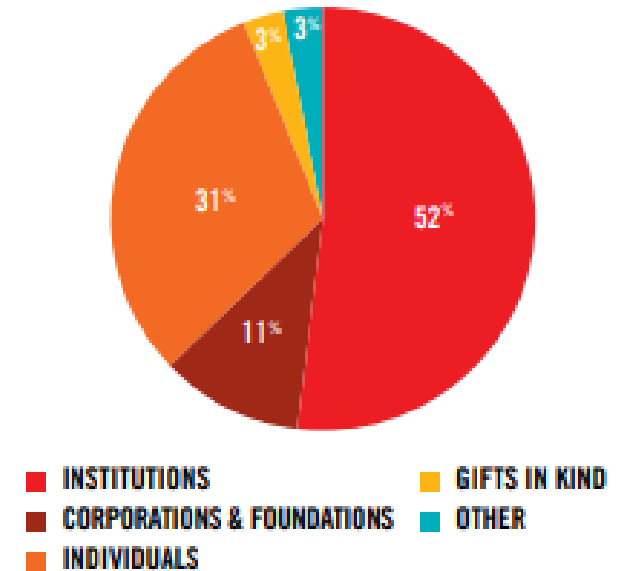
PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE BY CONTEXT



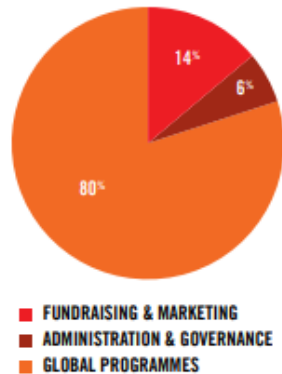
PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE BY THEMATIC AREA



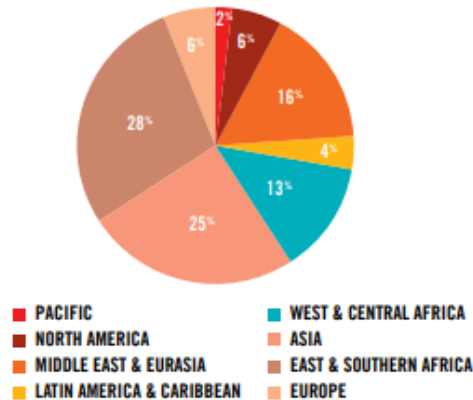
WHERE OUR MONEY COMES FROM



EXPENDITURE BY SECTOR



PROGRAM EXPENDITURE BY REGION



Global Emergency Partner



Helping Children when they need it most

- We deliver life-saving support for children and their families
- We provide immediate humanitarian relief in case of emergencies (conflicts, natural disasters and Covid-19 response)
- We partner with local organisations wherever possible to ensure our responses are locally driven

2019 at a Glance

WE REACHED¹

38.7 MILLION

CHILDREN THROUGH OUR WORK, INCLUDING:

26.8M

IN HEALTH & NUTRITION

10.6M

IN EMERGENCIES

7.7M

IN EDUCATION

3.4M

IN CHILD PROTECTION

2.9M

IN CHILD POVERTY

0.6M

UPHOLDING CHILD RIGHTS

\$2.2B

COMBINED INCOME

117

COUNTRIES
WHERE WE WORK

130

EMERGENCIES ACROSS
64 COUNTRIES

80

POLICY OR LEGISLATION
CHANGES FOR
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



Key Findings of the Report

The Impact of Covid-19 on Children in Europe



Background Information

Report

- Issued by Save the Children Europe in beginning of 2020
- Reason: Child poverty in Europe was already unacceptably high before the COVID-19 virus outbreak. Crisis has had devastating consequences for people across the continent and the **evidence from this paper shows that children and their families have been further disadvantaged during the pandemic.**
- Contributions from different Save the Children Members (Sweden, Finland, Norway, Romania, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Germany, Iceland, Albania, Kosovo, and the North West Balkans)
- Paper is divided into two parts **(1)** evidence from the ground and recommendation for national governments across Europe **(2)** recommendations to the EU institutions
- **Note: PPT includes selected country examples (more country-specific findings to be found in the report)**

Findings – Overview

Evidence from the ground

- The **COVID-19 pandemic** and the policy responses across Europe have had and still have a **particular impact on families and children**
- **Period of lockdown** had (has) a financial impact on workers across Europe, particularly in the services sector
- Closure of services and move to **online provision of education** has **increased the existing educational inequality**
 - poorer families lack adequate digital devices or appropriate study spaces are less able to study remotely
- **Children in migration have also been disproportionately affected** by these factors given their existing vulnerabilities
- **Particularly migrant families** living in reception and accommodation centers have found it difficult or impossible to socially distance in crowded communal facilities

Findings

Increased financial pressure on families

- Families with children have been particularly affected by the economic impact of the necessary measures taken
- Families who were already struggling financially are now placed under greater pressure by the crisis (loss of employment or cut down of hours)

Findings from Romania

- The risk of poverty or social exclusion among children is expected to rise
- Between March and May 2020, more than **1 million employment contracts were suspended** (595,672) or terminated (429,585)
- Analysis from SC Romania on vulnerable families indicated that:
 - **66% of the respondents** reported that at least one member of the household was affected professionally.
 - **27%** stated that they can no longer find occasional employment opportunities
 - **17%** have had their employment contract temporarily suspended

Findings

Increased financial pressure on families

Findings from Italy

- Due to crisis, pre-existing poverty has increased, and families have found themselves in economic difficulty
- It is estimated that an additional 1 million children are at risk of falling into absolute poverty (adding to pre-existing 1.2 million children)
- Leads to raise in percentage of children living in absolute poverty from the 12% to 20%

Findings from Kosovo

- Country has one of the highest poverty levels in South Eastern Europe (20.7% child poverty rate)
- The impacts of COVID-19 on poverty are likely to be substantial, as economic activity in Kosovo has been brought to a standstill and remittances decreased
- More than half of people falling into poverty do not benefit from any current social programme

Recommendations

Increased financial pressure on families

Recommendations to national governments:

- Invest in data collection on vulnerable groups of children so that it becomes clear which children need extra help. Data should be collected in line with GDPR.
- Provide clear, child friendly information to children and young people about the virus, and about its impact on their lives.
- Provide emergency financial support and material provision to families experiencing increased financial difficulty during the crisis and improve the adequacy and coverage of family benefit systems for children in poverty.
- Ensure that the best interests of the child are considered in any debt proceedings arising from the crisis.
- Direct unspent European Social Fund, European Regional Development Fund, Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived (as per Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative and Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative +) as well as unspent Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance II¹¹ to strengthen social and child protection systems to respond to the needs of those already in poverty and those affected by the COVID19 crisis.
- Ensure that the SURE Programme supports access to employment for the whole population with an increased attention to the most vulnerable.
- Direct the REACT-EU to those in vulnerable situations, ensuring that parents are supported to take good care of their children.

Findings

The impact of closure of services on children's lives

- The closure of services during the pandemic has had a significant impact on the lives of children. Many families have reduced access to healthcare (a.o. psychiatric treatment) as primary care centers are prioritizing the COVID-19 response and have reduced the provision of other social services

Romania

- All public hospitals **reduced scheduled admissions by 50-80%** and numerous public hospitals were closed, including emergency rooms and maternity wards
- Limitations in accessing to primary health care since many family doctors do not have access to personal protective equipment and are forced to severely decrease the number of consultations:
 - **23%** of vulnerable families were unable to purchase medicines for their children
 - **15%** mention that they did not have access to a physician during the confinement period

Germany

- Support networks and social services have been reduced due to fears of spreading the COVID-19 virus
- The gap in services becomes more pronounced for the group of children in most vulnerable situations when schools and kindergartens are closed

Recommendations

The impact of closure of services on children's lives

Recommendations to national governments:

- Develop strategies on how to provide social services remotely or to reinstate them safely as soon as possible while respecting social distancing.
- Secure sufficient livelihood and social security for families. Extended exceptional circumstances cause strain especially for families with low or sudden stopped income, and with parents in most vulnerable situations.
- Ensure that there are sufficient services for children and families in municipalities and that they are flexibly available and take into account families' different needs.
- Ensure that schools' student welfare services and mental health services targeted to children and youth are sufficient and easy to reach.
- Ensure that civil society organisations are meaningfully consulted in the design of the programmes for the next funding period and on the re-allocation of unused funding from the 2014-2020 EU funding period.
- As per enabling condition 4.3 of the Common Provisions Regulation, ensure that civil society organisations participate in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national strategies on poverty reduction and social inclusion.
- Deliver capacity building to civil society organisations on accessing EU funding. As service providers to the most vulnerable, CSOs should be supported to access EU funding to continue running their much-needed services.

Findings

The impact of school closure and online education inequality

- The closure of schools led to education being interrupted, and not all children have an equal ability to participate in online education
- Many poor families do not have proper internet access or digital devices (Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Kosovo and North Western Balkans report a lack of equipment which prevents children from accessing online education)
- The level of digital literacy varies greatly across families and not all parents are equally able to support their children with remote education
- No meals at school and poorer families find themselves without this supply of daily nutrition

Findings from Romania

Ministry of Education estimates that **250,000 pupils** don't have access to internet and technology and therefore could not benefit of online education but an independent assessment (Romanian Institute of Evaluation and Strategy – IRES) points to a much more severe situation with **900,000 students** not having individual access to a proper device for online education

Recommendations

The impact of school closure and online education inequality

Recommendations to national governments:

- Provide disadvantaged schools and pupils with catch-up programmes and extra resources to support those who have fallen behind while out of school and reduce the learning gap. Educational and recreational opportunities should be offered during the summer to compensate for the lost time in school.
- Support poorer families to participate equally in online education through the provision of digital devices such as laptops and secure WIFI connection.
- Support schools in providing social-emotional support and guidance for students as well as their parents.
- Provide free school meals for all children in poverty, including during the summer period. Unspent FEAD should be directed to families in need of daily meals and for nutrition support.

Findings

The impact on migrant and refugee children & their families

- Migrant families have been especially impacted by the COVID-19 crisis
- Migrant workers are disproportionately employed in the services sector
- Families living in crowded accommodation have been impacted > hard or impossible to socially distance
- Undocumented children and families in migration are among the most vulnerable groups > many already have underlying medical conditions and many fear seeking medical attention due to their migration status

Germany

In Germany, one reception centre tested the residents and found that **280 out of 560 inhabitants** were infected by COVID-19. At the same time, social workers in Berlin have reported that some adolescent refugees and their families were afraid to talk about the virus as they feared that they might be deported if they tested positive.

Findings

The impact on migrant and refugee children & their families

“ Residents in reception centres across Europe are more likely to be infected by the COVID-19, as they live in overcrowded facilities, they are not always well informed or do not understand the protection measures

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Finland and Spain

Undocumented migrant families are in especially vulnerable situation as medical care for undocumented people is not provided free of charge and undocumented migrants fear being returned to their country of origin if they access healthcare.

Prolonged stay in reception centres and uncertain prospects for the future and fears of the COVID-19 pandemic have had a deteriorating effect on refugees and migrants' mental health, and on children's development.

Recommendations

The impact on migrant and refugee children & their families

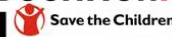
Recommendations to national governments:

- Provide clear, child friendly information to children and young people about the virus, the measures taken to keep them safe, and the impact of COVID-19 on their lives.
- Ensure that social distancing is possible in reception and accommodation centres in order to prevent mass transmission of the virus and protect migrant and refugee families.
- Identify specific challenges for migrant and refugee families and adapt policies to ensure that these families can access education and healthcare. Ensure that all migrant children can access all social services including healthcare and education regardless of their residence status.
- Ensure that the Youth Guarantee can assist migrant adolescents who are approaching adulthood.
- Use the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), the ESF and ERDF to improve reception and accommodation facilities as well as to develop family and community-based services/accommodation for unaccompanied and children with their families

Recommendations towards EU Institutions



**EVERY CHILD
SHOULD LEARN
FROM A QUALITY
BASIC EDUCATION.**



“

**The coming months will be
decisive as to how the EU
champions the rights of children
in most vulnerable situations**

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- ❖ **Adopt an ambitious EU budget** that will support EU Member States and preaccession countries in strengthening social and child protection systems
- ❖ **Adopt a Europe 2030 Strategy** that will set an ambitious target to tackle poverty and child poverty in the EU and beyond
- ❖ **Adopt a comprehensive Child Rights Strategy** that will have child poverty reduction in its core and that will apply in both EU Member States and in external action
- ❖ **Adopt a Child Guarantee Council Recommendation** that will take a comprehensive approach in tackling child poverty

Contact and further information

Ann-Christin Solas

Institutional Partnerships Manger

Save the Children Germany

ann-christin.solas@savethechildren.de

Katerina Nanou

Senior Advocacy Advisor - Child Poverty & Children in Alternative Care

Save the Children Europe

katerina.nanou@savethechildren.org

Further information on our work worldwide:

[Save the Children International](#)

[Annual Report 2019](#)

Further information on our work in Germany (in German):

[Save the Children Germany](#)

THANK YOU



Save the Children