



- In 2015, up to 1 billion children endured violence. This is more than half of the world's children.¹
- 168 million children worldwide are engaged in child labor.²
- Each year, 15 million girls are married before the age of 18.³

In the lead-up to the formulation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ChildFund Alliance asked more than 16,000 children and youth in 50 countries about the problems that concern them most. The primary response was abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. As a result of the efforts of ChildFund Alliance and other child-focused organizations, the SDGs directly address the issue of child protection through the inclusion of target 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS RELATED TO VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

- **TARGET 16.2: END ABUSE, EXPLOITATION, TRAFFICKING AND ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST AND TORTURE OF CHILDREN.**
- Target 4.1: Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.
- Target 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
- Target 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
- Target 8.7: Eliminate forced labor, modern slavery, human trafficking and the worst forms of child labor.

TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO VIOLENCE

To protect children, ChildFund creates and fortifies mechanisms of support for every stage of childhood and adolescence. We strengthen the capacity of children, parents, educators, social workers and health care providers. Simultaneously, we advocate for policy changes at the local, national and international levels, calling upon leaders to make protecting children a priority.

Children

We support children in understanding their rights, so they can become change agents who transform their lives and communities.

Families and Communities

We strengthen the capacity and financial stability of families to protect and care for children and support skilled and engaged youth. We work with parent-teacher associations, child protection committees, social services and other groups to build community resources.

Local and National Systems

We bring the perspectives of children and youth to local and national platforms and advocate for protective policies. We ensure that strong policies are appropriately implemented and funded.

Global Institutions

We work with decision-makers and influencers — including governments — who drive the policy and funding priorities for children, youth and communities globally.

Child protection is a key aspect of ChildFund's work. We define child protection as measures and structures to prevent and respond to harm against children — abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence.

While agreement on the child protection targets in the SDGs was a tremendous step toward eliminating all forms of harm against children, the work is far from over. Governments and other actors in all countries — low-, middle- and high-income alike — must continue to take action to meet these targets for all children, everywhere.

The global community must support the implementation of these goals, monitor their progress over time and ensure that successes lead to meaningful and lasting protection for children.

Circles of Support



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