

A photograph of three young girls standing on a dirt path in a rural setting. They are all wearing school uniforms consisting of light blue short-sleeved button-down shirts and dark blue pleated dresses. The girl in the center has her hair in two braids with green bows and is holding the hands of the girls on either side. The girls on the left and right have curly hair. All three are barefoot and carrying black backpacks. The background is filled with lush green trees and foliage.

ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

RIISING HOPE IN A CHALLENGING WORLD

OUR STORY AND NUMBERS 2025

ON THE COVER:

Children from a community in
India walking home from school.
Photo: Children Believe

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Children Believe deeply respects the nations and communities where we support children around the world.

In Canada, we work on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the current caretakers of the area now called Markham. We also recognize these lands where we live and work as being home and traditional territory to other ancestral Indigenous groups since time immemorial.

We are committed to continued learning and un-learning about the diversity of Indigenous Peoples and the past and present history of colonization and oppression. We reaffirm our commitment to reconciliation and to restoring relationships that are based on peace, friendship and trust.

We are grateful to live and work on these lands.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We express our deepest appreciation to the children, youth, families and community members in the areas where we work in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Mali, Nicaragua and Paraguay. We are grateful to be able to work with them to help restore hope, and build sustained and positive change in their communities.

We deeply value our 30 local implementing partners and their strong community connections in our countries of operation. Their successful front-line work and principled partnership is often carried out under difficult circumstances (see Annex I for a complete list of our implementing partners). We extend our thanks to our generous Canadian supporters and our development partners, including Australian Aid, ChildFund Korea, ChildFund Taiwan, the European Union, Gildan, Global Affairs Canada, Generation Global, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Muller Family Foundation, Nestle, the Taiwan Alliance in International Development (Taiwan AID), UNICEF, UNOCHA, WFP, Woord en Daad/AFAS Foundation. Our gratitude also goes to our global strategic partners and allies, including ChildFund Alliance Secretariat, ChildFund International, Cooperation Canada, EDUCO, WeWorld, and our Pan-African partner, the Africa Child Policy Forum.

We thank our Chief Executive Officer, Fred Witteveen, the executive leadership team, and the Board of Directors for their strategic guidance and leadership.

Our acknowledgement also goes to Dr. Belinda Bennet, Chief International Program Officer, for her strategic guidance and wealth of program and policy insights.

This report was made possible because of the contributions and collaboration of various individuals and cross-functional teams within Children Believe. We would like to express our gratitude and acknowledge the efforts of our monitoring and evaluation officers/managers, program managers, country directors, and communication teams, all our 'local partners' teams across our eight country program offices, our Canada-based program and policy team, and marketing and development team members.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CBO	Community-Based Organization
CFAM	Child-Friendly Accountability Mechanism
CLCS	Creative Learning Centers
CLPC	Children's Legal Protection Center
CoE	Centre of Excellence
CRC	Child Rights Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECCD	Early Childhood Care and Development
FGC/M	Female Genital Mutilation
FY	Fiscal Year
GAC	Global Affairs Canada
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
IRC	International Rescue Committee
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
LTP	Learning Through Play
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCSEA	Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PVTGs	Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups
PCMA	Prohibition of Child Marriage Act
ROPES	Rural Organization for Poverty Eradication Services
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SARDS	Social Activities for Rural Development Society
SC	Schedule Caste
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SMC	School Management Committee
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
VDC	Village Development Committee
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association

FOREWORD

This annual report marks a pivotal milestone as we reflect on our first year implementing our ambitious seven-year strategic plan. Fiscal year 2025 was transformational—for our organization and for the 1,712,000 children, families, and community members whose lives we touched across eight countries.

The challenges facing vulnerable children have never been more complex. Our eight countries of operation—Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Mali, Nicaragua, and Paraguay—each present unique challenges, from violent conflict and climate emergencies to economic instability and limited opportunities for grassroots stakeholders at the community level. Yet this diversity is precisely where our strength lies.

Our refreshed Theory of Change recognizes that while challenges vary dramatically, the fundamental principles of empowering children through education, health, protection, and community engagement remain universal. This framework allows us to adapt our holistic approach to each context while maintaining our child-centred, family-focused methodology.

We expanded our reach to include Honduras and strengthened our presence in Mali, working through 30 local partners across 934 communities to demonstrate that sustainable change is possible when we listen to communities and build on their strengths.

The impact speaks for itself: every minute, three children and families experienced positive change.

We achieved near gender parity in primary school enrollment, supported over 590,000 people to access essential health services, and trained more than 555,000 parents and community leaders to protect children and promote their rights.

Most significantly, we strengthened our commitment to locally-led development, channeling over 80 percent of program resources directly through local partners—ensuring sustainability while recognizing that the most effective solutions emerge from within communities

themselves.

Our global Theory of Change guides every intervention with a clear vision: when children have equal access to inclusive quality education, good health and nutrition, protected rights, and live in climate-resilient communities where girls and women have equality, they become capable of using their knowledge and skills to break cycles of poverty and injustice.

The stories within these pages illustrate the transformative power of investing in children's potential—from transformation stories in Ghana, Paraguay, and Burkina Faso that show how individual change creates community-wide impact.

As we look toward fiscal year 2026, we remain steadfast in our belief that education is the most powerful tool children can use to shape their futures. The path ahead requires continued innovation, deeper partnerships, and unwavering commitment to those who need us most.

To our supporters: **while poverty is complex, helping isn't.** Your generosity creates ripple effects that transform not just individual lives, but entire communities and future generations.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to our exceptional staff, inspiring local partners, courageous program participants, and generous supporters who make this vital work possible. Together, we are not just changing individual lives—we are restoring hope in a challenging world.



Fred Witteveen
Chief Executive Officer



Dr. Belinda Bennet
Chief International
Programs Officer
Children Believe

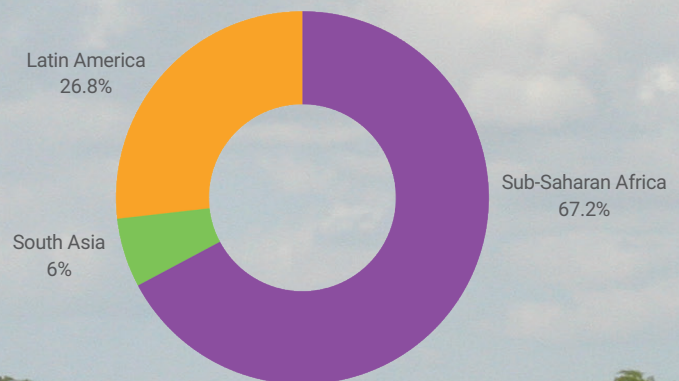
2025

YEAR-IN-REVIEW

This report encompasses Children Believe's program and policy results for the 2025 fiscal year, from April 2024 to March 2025.

MORE THAN
1,712,000
children, families, and other
vulnerable members of their
communities were reached
through our programs

67.2%
of our program investments
were allocated to sub-
Saharan Africa (Burkina Faso,
Ethiopia, Ghana and Mali)



30
local partners in over

934
targeted community groups
across our six countries of
operation

OVER
\$25 million
invested in the countries
we support

SNAPSHOT BY PROGRAM

This report showcases program results, key lessons, and challenges overcome in our efforts to support child poverty, injustice and inequality.

EDUCATION



634,922

boys and girls, teachers, caretakers and parents benefited from sustained access to inclusive and quality education

53,563

children (between 36 and 59 months) were enabled to access early childhood education and care services

73,544

young women and men accessed vocational-life- skills training and appropriate employment opportunities

7,101

teachers, parents and caregivers were trained in inclusive education and appropriate teaching methodologies, including LTP, and ECD

564

early childhood education centres were built, renovated, equipped or supported in targeted communities

HEALTH AND NUTRITION



590,602

children, young women, and mothers accessed maternal and child healthcare services

55,514

childbirths were attended by skilled health personnel and delivered in health facilities

44,533

healthcare personnel were trained to provide reproductive health and postpartum care services to mothers, young women and adolescent girls

11,990

girls were supported with hygiene kits and menstrual health education to address period poverty

26,244

women and men benefited from emergency food, child nutritional support or cash for relief assistance

CHILD PROTECTION



555,719

children, youth, women, parents, and duty-bearers from across our six countries of operation benefited from our work on the prevention of various forms of violence, neglect, and abuse

35,738

children and families were sponsored and directly benefited from our sponsorship program

3,588

CBO members, government office workers and other child protection actors were trained on how to advocate for children's rights, protections and participation

7,506

parents and/or caregivers were trained on positive parenting and discipline

GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION



447,594

girls, women and other community members benefited from support for gender justice work and acted against gender discriminatory norms and practices

156,601

community members were trained about gender and gender-based violence

42,423

women assumed leadership roles and meaningfully participated in community/public decision-making

5,590

women advanced their skills and opportunities through women-led entrepreneurship programs in our countries of operation

YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY AND WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



81,062

members of Youth/Village Savings and Loans Associations were trained to promote self-employment and business entrepreneurship

46,339

youth and other community members were trained on climate change adaptation and mitigation

5,534

women's economic collectives, including Village Savings and Loan Associations, were supported and strengthened

258,471

members of youth and village savings and loan associations received training in self-employment and entrepreneurship between FY22 and FY25

OUR MISSION, VISION AND CORE-VALUES

OUR VISION

We dream of a world where every child has a voice and the ability to achieve their full potential.

OUR MISSION

Children Believe creates a future of hope for children, families, and communities by helping them develop the skills and resources to overcome poverty and injustice. For 60+ years, we have followed the example of Christ by serving the poor regardless of their faith, cultural, and ethnic background.

Who we are: We're a diverse global team with big hearts and strong resolve, driven by the belief that education teaches children their small voices are not small at all. Our work is guided by core values that we embody through our words and actions.

OUR VALUES

- **Results** - With a global perspective, we take strategic action to positively transform the lives of children, families and communities.
- **Respect** - We champion the rights, dignity and value of all people. We treat others as we want them to treat us.
- **Dignity** - We are honest and trustworthy in all our actions. Our actions are consistent with our vision and mission.

- **Teamwork** - We combine diverse expertise and personal initiative, creating a powerful synergy to accomplish our shared goals.
- **Excellence** - We continually innovate and challenge ourselves to achieve the highest-quality results. We dream of a world where every child has a voice and the ability to achieve their full potential.

WHY WE COME TO WORK

- **Purpose** - We are part of a global community empowering children to raise their voices and create positive change.
- **Inspire** - We motivate our team to aim higher and be innovative.
- **Encourage** - We cooperate to achieve our goals and show appreciation of everyone's unique talents, insights and ideas.
- **Respect** - We genuinely respect and feel respected by our colleagues.
- **Team** - We share stories and laugh with our colleagues; collaboration is our distinction.
- **Believe** - We welcome people of all beliefs and cultures to join our global movement for change while honouring our Christian-faith heritage.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The details of this report encompasses Children Believe's program and policy results for the 2025 fiscal year, (April 2024 to March 2025). Children Believe has been working in some of the world's most challenging environments, including those with highly fragile contexts. Operations were extended to community members whose lives and livelihoods have been threatened by terrorism and displacement in Burkina Faso and Mali. In Ethiopia, efforts focused on communities affected by armed conflict and natural disasters. Our work has reached environmentally marginalized communities in North Ghana and socially excluded community groups in India. Our new program operation in Honduras opened opportunities for youth and women living in the dry corridor. In Nicaragua, principled partnerships and collaborative spirit sustained programming despite a context of vulnerability to natural disasters and climate-related hazards. Additionally, in Paraguay, our community actions and policy influence work helped prevent domestic violence and strengthen local protection systems. Across all the countries, in partnership with our local partners, we brought cross-sections of communities together, bridged divides, drove progress, and uplifted the human spirit. Even in difficult situations, we acted as a transformative force for restoring hope.

During this reporting period, we directly reached over 1,712,000 children, their families and other vulnerable community members through integrated child-centred, family-focused community development programs. To achieve these results, Children Believe worked with

and through 30 local partners, in over 934 targeted communities across our eight countries of operation (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Mali, Nicaragua, and Paraguay). **The impact: every minute, three children and their families experience positive change through the efforts of Children Believe and its partners.**

By embracing a locally led development approach and working with invaluable grassroots partners, we have facilitated positive change and supported lasting community transformation.

Providing access to an inclusive and quality education remains our top priority. We worked with education departments to build the capacity of teachers and education workers while promoting gender equality and social inclusion in schools. Thus, our efforts resulted in little to no disparity between girls' and boys' primary school enrollment across the communities we serve in every country where we work. Additionally, we helped to integrate child safeguarding into teacher training and skills development and we empowered children and communities to advocate for child rights

1,712,000

children, families, and other vulnerable members of their communities were reached through child-centred, family-focused community development programs.

634,922

boys and girls, teachers, parents and caregivers benefited from our inclusive, high quality, education-focused program interventions.

while demanding accountability from duty-bearers.

Children must be well-equipped to succeed in school. We recognize that in a fast-paced and ever-changing world, the digital divide in education threatens to leave marginalized children and their communities far behind. As such, we continued to explore new technologies and private-sector partnerships to improve educational opportunities, learning outcomes

and employment prospects, especially for girls and young women notably in Ghana, India and Nicaragua.

Healthy mothers and babies lead to healthy futures

590,602

children, young women, and mothers to access and benefit from improved essential maternal and child health nutrition services in their communities.

for everyone. In line with our commitment to reduce maternal and child mortality, and to improve nutrition, we supported:

555,719

parents, caregivers and community leaders to promote children's rights and keep them safe.

Ensuring child rights and protection is critical, particularly for girls and women. We conducted extensive awareness programs that empowered local community members, training:

Women and girls across all our countries of operation are subject to significant disadvantage as the result of discriminatory laws and practices. Gender inequality is highly prevalent and national pledges to eliminate discriminatory laws have not been fulfilled. We worked with local partners and women activists and law makers to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls. These efforts continue to foster favourable attitudes towards their children's well-being and upbringing, including positive parenting, violence prevention, and

gender equality. We continued to promote the rights of girls and women in order to stop child marriage and other forms of gender violence and discrimination.

Crises disrupt children's lives with consequences that can last a lifetime. Children Believe supported families, particularly internally displaced children in fragile contexts,

192,218

children and youth participate in key community decision-making platforms to meaningfully engage in dialogues that affect their futures.

to get support from community-based child protection systems and to access better birth registration. We enabled:

Helping to strengthen local capacity and expertise serves the greater good. As a catalyst for like-minded child-focused organizations, we continued to enhance the capacities of six local partners working in disaster-prone and fragile operating areas in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Mali. We helped them enhance their institutional capacity to respond to humanitarian crises while promoting peace

447,594

girls, women and other community members to benefited from support for gender justice work and acted against gender discriminatory norms and practices.

As we conclude the first year of implementing our FY25-31 strategic plan and celebrate the accomplishments of FY25, we reaffirm our commitment to supporting community-led initiatives and strengthening local partnerships with child-focused civil society organizations.

I OUR STRATEGIC APPROACH



Children in Paraguay learning together outdoors at school. Photo: Children Believe

Every context and community we work in has a unique combination of complexities and barriers. That is why we are collaborative and rigorous in adapting grassroots-based, innovative, and durable solutions to design programs that effectively meet the particular needs of partners and participants. In this way, we are able to generate a strong impact return on donor investments with every program.

By partnering with local organizations, we work to remove barriers to education. We provide access to inclusive, high-quality learning opportunities at every stage of life, from early childhood care and development to primary education, and continuing through technical, vocational, and higher education.

We prioritize and invest significantly in early childhood education to lay a solid foundation for cognitive, emotional, and social development of children at a young age. We champion the learning through play plus approach in early childhood education.

We facilitate an integrated and holistic approach to training, skills development, employability and entrepreneurship of youth, particularly young women

and hardest to reach youth, to facilitate their smooth transition to adulthood.

We believe in the power of partnerships with various stakeholders including the private sector, to ensure skills/Technical Vocational Education and Training programs align with job opportunities and entrepreneurship development for youth. We focus on providing digital and 21st-century skills, such as social and emotional competencies, and promoting environmentally-friendly vocational skills, including green and blue skills and climate-smart agriculture.

We inherently embrace the power of locally led, child-centred holistic community development initiatives, and partner with thriving communities to promote the rights of the child and protect them from all forms of violence, exploitation, and neglect.

We actively listen and work openly with local civil society organizations, including those led by children, youth, and women. We use innovative methods, such as child-friendly accountability practices, to ensure that children's voices are heard and their best interests are prioritized.

OUR ASPIRATION AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Fiscal year 2025 was the first step in our seven-year Strategic Plan FY25–31—a bold vision to double our Reach, Revenue, and Recognition. This year, we have stayed firmly on course and are building the momentum needed to turn aspiration into achievement.



Strategic Priority: Double Reach

To double the reach of Children Believe’s programs, Children Believe will expand its geographic reach through country expansion, enhance programming through grant funding and a strengthened humanitarian response, build stronger partnerships, and improve monitoring, evaluation, learning, and knowledge sharing.

Strategic Priority: Double Revenue

Funds are the fuel in our mission to create a future of hope for children. Through an integrated fundraising strategy, we will leverage the massive untapped potential within our existing donor base and supports across the Canadian landscape. We will both grow and diversify our revenue while increasing our unrestricted funds.



Strategic Priority: Double Recognition

Our new brand is just getting started. With clarity and consistency, we will fully embrace our refreshed approach across the organization, both internally and externally. Our goal is to become globally recognized for the transformative work we do, increasing brand awareness and fostering a culture of philanthropy.

Strategic Priority: Organizational Excellence

As Children Believe embarks on the pursuit of the Triple-Double strategic objectives, investments will be made to strengthen Children Believe as an organization. These strategic initiatives, tasks, and projects will improve efficiency and effectiveness, attract and retain top talent, and enhance organizational culture to focus on learning and performance.



This report highlights the program performance results, lessons learned, and challenges overcome as we support communities to address child poverty, injustice and inequality.



A close-knit community of women in Ghana. Photo: Children Believe

INTRODUCTION

This annual report marks a pivotal first year in the rollout of our new global strategy (FY25-31).

Driven by our refreshed global Theory of Change, every activity we undertake is guided by a clear vision for lasting impact:

IF children have **equal access** to inclusive, quality **education**, complete their education, reach age-appropriate learning outcomes, maintain **good health and nutrition** through adequate family income, **secure gainful employment** as youths and adults, have their **rights protected**, and live in climate-resilient communities where **gender equality** is upheld,

THEN all children and youth will be **empowered** to use their education, knowledge, and skills to **break the cycle of poverty and injustice**. This will enable them to realize their **full potential** and drive **positive change** in their societies.

Against this backdrop, this annual report presents the key outcomes and achievements of our global program and policy influence work in the 2025 fiscal year (April 2024 to March 2025). It begins by introducing our operational contexts and highlights key program results that have improved the well-being of children, families and communities.

Our Operational Context: The Challenges

Children Believe operates in eight countries: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Mali, Nicaragua, and Paraguay.

Over the past year, we worked to address multiple, overlapping crises driven by extreme poverty, conflict, forced displacement, unsafe migration, climate change, and economic instability. These factors negatively impacted the lives and livelihoods of children, their families, and communities.

Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso is home to over 60 ethnic groups, each contributing to the country's rich cultural heritage, traditional architecture and music. It has a population of 24,074,580. (UNFPA, 2025). An estimated 7.45 million children in Burkina Faso live in poverty, surviving on less than \$3.65 per day (2025). A total of 5.9 million people—approximately 25 percent of the total population—are in need of humanitarian assistance. Among them, 1.7 million people are internally displaced people (IDPs), of whom 60 percent are children and 23 percent are women.

The primary drivers of insecurity and the ongoing humanitarian crisis are armed confrontations and violent conflicts in Eastern, Central-Eastern, Northern and Sahel regions. Over 3,300 schools remained closed, critically interrupting children's education.



A student at school in Burkina Faso. Photo: Children Believe

Harmful traditional practices, such as child marriage and female genital cutting (FGC), continue to hinder the realization of the rights of the girl child and women's reproductive rights.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia, known as “the land of 13 months of Sunshine” and home of the origin of human species—Lucy, is the second most populous country in Africa with an estimated population of 135.3 million people (UNFPA, 2025). About 36 million children under 18 are multi-dimensionally poor. The country has suffered consecutive years of drought, floods, landslides, recurrent health emergencies, prolonged ethnic tensions,



A group of children waiting for a water delivery in a dry, rugged region of Ethiopia. Photo: Children Believe

armed conflicts, displacement, long-term economic underdevelopment and political marginalization. As a result, over 21 million people required humanitarian assistance, including 12 million children and 4.1 million women (UN, 2025). Of these, 4.5 million people were internally displaced (UNOCHA, 2024). Conflict and natural disasters, particularly in Afar, Amhara, Oromia, and Tigray, were the main drivers of displacement, damaged school, rendering many inaccessible, and creating unsafe learning environments. As a result, more than 4.4 million children were forced out of school. Gender Based Violence (GBV) including sexual assault, physical violence, abduction, rape, child marriage, and other harmful traditional practices, continue to be a concern in communities affected by conflict and climate shocks.



A classroom of children in Nanyeri Community in the North East Region of Ghana. Photo: Children Believe

Ghana

Ghana, a country renowned for its cocoa and gold production, has a population of 35,064,272 people (UNFPA, 2025). The country is comparably a more stable and less fragile country. It has made significant progress towards building a more democratic, multi-party system, supported by a stronger judiciary and greater freedom of the press. Despite these gains, Ghana remains vulnerable to high financial inflation, which stood at 21.2 percent in 2025. However, recent macroeconomic and fiscal measures aimed at stabilizing prices and improving fiscal management have begun to show results, with inflation declining, driven primarily by a moderation in both food and non-food prices. Nonetheless, the country's debt burdens have created a critical funding shortfall for the education system, particularly school infrastructure, social protection, and health services (World Bank; UNICEF, 2024). The child poverty rate in Ghana is about 38 percent, where 1.4 million children live in extreme poverty. Children Believe works in Northern Ghana where communities are being hardest hit and more reliant on climate-affected agriculture. Severe child food poverty remained widespread in the Savannah, Northern, Bono East, Western North, and Eastern regions, where Children Believe operates in part. These disparities highlight underlying inequities in access to nutritious food, nutrition services and economic opportunities.

Honduras

Honduras, a country with vibrant natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and a strong football culture, has

an estimated population of about 11 million people (UNFPA, 2025). Children make up 30.5 percent of the total population, and nearly half of them (47.7 percent) live in poverty (World Bank, 2025). The country faces growing vulnerabilities, including political and social conflicts, rising inflation, climate change, forced displacement and unsafe migration, as well as a high rate of homicide and femicide. Recent changes in the United States migration policy have significantly impacted mixed migration movements and the number of migrants transiting through Honduras. The country's Dry Corridor and Gracias a Dios (La Mosquitia) regions face severe food insecurity due to climate-induced crop failures. About 1.6 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance, and 500,000 children were stunted (UNOCHA, 2024).

India

India, a thriving global Information Technology (IT) hub and manufacturing powerhouse in south Asia, is the most populous country in the world, with an estimated 1.46 billion people (UNFPA, 2025). While it is one of the fastest-growing large economies in the world and an influential member of the G20, it faces both social and regional inequalities. One in four Indians is considered multi-dimensionally poor, with the top 10 percent of the population earning 20 times as much as the bottom 50 percent (UNDP, 2024). Five out of every six poor people belong to socially disadvantaged caste groups, which leads to further marginalization.



Children setting out on their long journey to school in India.
Photo: Children Believe

Furthermore, India is highly vulnerable to climate change and frequent extreme weather events, which disproportionately affect marginalized communities (International Dalit Solidarity Network, 2023; Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, 2023).



Children at play on a street in Nicaragua. Photo: Children Believe

Mali

Mali, the land of Timbuktu's cultural history and among the hottest countries in the world, has a population of 25.1 million people (UNFPA, 2025). Mali continues to face a complex and multifaceted humanitarian crisis, driven primarily by ongoing tensions, a political transition process, and its withdrawal from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Non-state armed groups are fueling insecurity in the central and northern regions, with violence increasingly spilling into the south. Renewed military clashes have further exacerbated instability in the north, while structural vulnerabilities and socio-economic hardships continue to compound the crisis. About 6.4 million people (78 percent are children and women) require humanitarian assistance. The most severe needs are concentrated in northern and central Mali, where conflict has caused displacement, deepened vulnerabilities and limited access to basic services (UNOCHA, 2025).



A teacher and children in an art class in Paraguay. Photo: Children Believe

Nicaragua

Nicaragua, known as the land of lakes and volcanoes, with large rain forest, has an estimated population of 7.1 million people (UNFPA, 2025). Of its 2.2 million children, about 19 percent live in extreme poverty (UNICEF, 2024/25), with higher rates in rural areas along the Atlantic coast. The country faces a multi-dimensional crisis, marked by recurring climate shocks such as hurricanes Eta, Iota and Julia, as well as the El Niño climate phenomenon. This, combined with global challenges including the rising costs of food, agricultural inputs and the fluctuation in global consumer goods markets, has created a need for social programs designed to address climate shocks.

Paraguay

Paraguay, recognized for its rich cultural heritage, blend of Spanish and Guaraní influences, has an estimated population of 7 million people. It is one of the more stable and less fragile countries in the region. Paraguay has a very large population of children and young people with 45 percent under the age of 30. Although the country has made substantial progress in improving child well-being in recent years, especially in health coverage, access to education, and child protection, gaps remain. These gaps continue to impact the rights of children and families, specifically among the poorest, as well as those living in rural areas and indigenous communities.

Protecting choices amid challenges

We believe that every child and young person has the right to access safe, inclusive, and quality education and that education is the most powerful tool they have to transform their lives for the better. **Education means a lifetime of choices**, that's why it is at the heart of our mission to reduce suffering, eradicate poverty, fight injustice and promote sustainable development.

However, the road ahead remains challenging. Over 224 million children and youth worldwide (UNICEF, 2023) are deprived of their right to an education due to the systemic barriers that steal their choices. We must protect children and youth by defending them against all threats that steal their choices in life. These impediments include poverty, social injustice and devastating poly-crisis that are manifested through combinations of conflict, political instability, socio-cultural norms, gender inequality, social discrimination, economic deprivation, income inequality, and climate shock.

OUR OBJECTIVES

In September 2015, the 193 member states of the General Assembly of the United Nations, including Canada, unanimously adopted the resolution “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

Otherwise known as the 2030 Agenda, the resolution sets out 17 sustainable development goals, or SDGs, for achieving social, economic, and environmental sustainable development worldwide by 2030. The SDGs and their 169 associated targets aim to eradicate global poverty, achieve gender equality, foster economic growth, protect the environment, and build effective,

accountable, and transparent institutions, among other aims.

At Children Believe, we are deeply committed to contributing to the United Nations’ SDGs by aligning our programs with their goals to drive meaningful change. Our initiatives focus on critical areas such as poverty reduction, gender equality, and quality education, ensuring that our efforts contribute to a more just and sustainable world. By working within this global framework, we strengthen collaboration, amplify impact, and help create opportunities where every child can dream fearlessly, access education, and achieve their full potential.

Specifically, our program and policy work supports the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals*:



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.



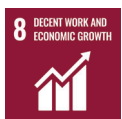
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.



Reduce inequality within and among countries.



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

* The content of this publication has not been approved by the United Nations and does not reflect the view of the United Nations or its officials or member States.

EVALUATING OUR APPROACH

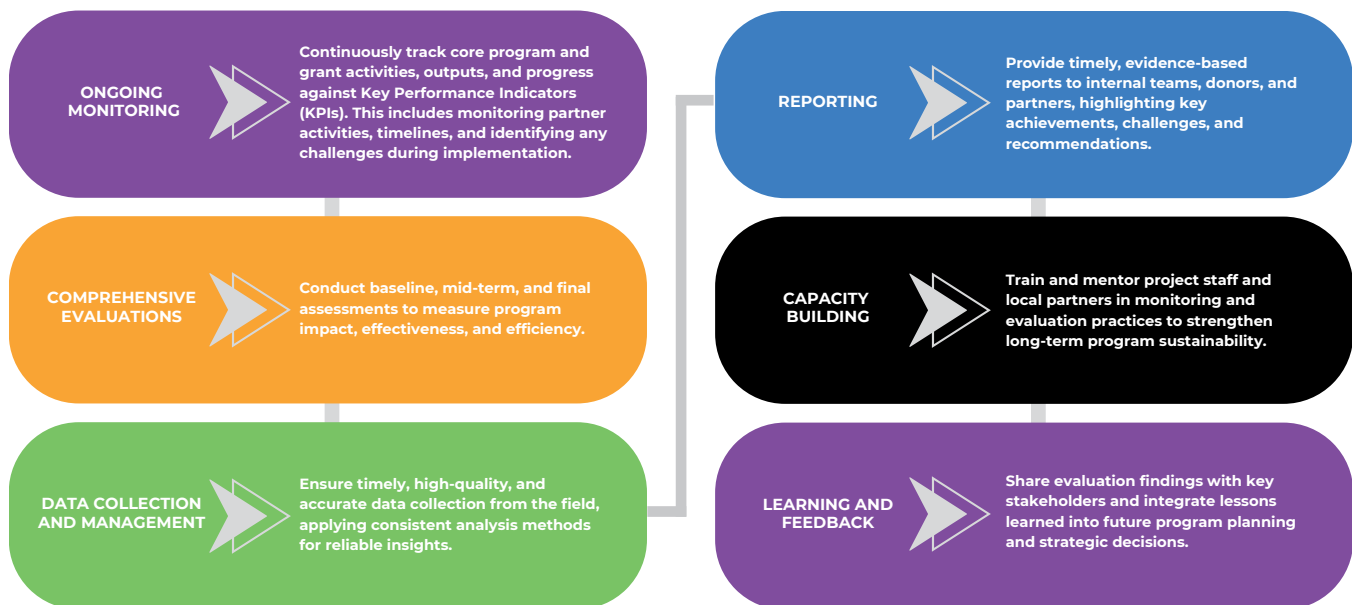
At Children Believe, transparency, accountability, and continuous learning are central to how we evaluate and improve our programs. Our Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning & Knowledge Sharing (MELKS) team plays a vital role in ensuring that our programs deliver measurable, lasting change in the lives of children, families, and communities.

The MELKS team provides technical expertise and oversight across our country offices and partner organizations, ensuring that every program is strategically planned, effectively implemented, rigorously monitored, and thoroughly evaluated. Their work ensures that we make data-driven decisions, adapt to emerging challenges, and remain accountable to donors and the communities we serve.

How we monitor and evaluate our programs

We monitor and evaluate our programs throughout their entire lifecycle to ensure we create lasting change in the communities where we operate. This process begins with baseline studies, continues with mid-term assessments, and concludes with a final evaluation to measure impact and sustainability.

We employ a structured approach to program evaluation, which includes:



Our participatory, inclusive, and mixed-method approach applies both quantitative and qualitative evaluation tools to ensure a comprehensive understanding of program effectiveness. By integrating these methods, we amplify the voices of those directly impacted and make data-driven decisions that strengthen our programs and maximize their impact.

We measure not just activities and outputs, but real, meaningful impact—ensuring that our programs lead to sustainable improvements in education, health, gender equality, and child protection.



A young child at a health check up in Burkina Faso. Photo: Children Believe

Maximizing the impact of donor investments

Commencing in FY24, Children Believe has integrated financial analysis with program performance tracking, aligning MELKS data with our annual financial reporting. This enables us to conduct cost-benefit and value-for-money analyses, ensuring that donor funds are used efficiently and equitably. By evaluating program cost-effectiveness in reaching children, families, and vulnerable populations, we can:

1. Assess the value of each investment per direct beneficiary.
2. Prioritize funding allocation by country, region, and program pathway.
3. Demonstrate the comparative advantage of investing in Children Believe programs.

This financial-program integration strengthens our ability to make informed decisions, optimize resources, and provide donors with a clear picture of how their contributions drive meaningful and sustainable change.

The power of effective programs

Through our MELKS system, we measure not just activities and outputs, but real, meaningful impact—ensuring that our programs lead to sustainable improvements in education, health, gender equality, and child protection. These insights allow us to refine our strategies, allocate resources efficiently, and scale interventions that drive positive change.

By upholding rigorous evaluation and knowledge-sharing practices, we strengthen our ability to transform lives, maintain transparency with our supporters, and advance our mission of empowering children to overcome barriers until every child grows up to live the life they choose.

II OUR WORK BY PROGRAM



Young girl with a baby in Ghana. Photo: Children Believe

At Children Believe, we recognize the unique challenges and opportunities in each country and community we serve. That's why we take a holistic approach, tailoring our programs to meet the specific needs of the people and places we support. While our five core program areas form the foundation of our work, we have identified fundamental cross-cutting themes that are pivotal in accelerating progress and assuring the quality of our programming.

KEY CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

We know that climate change and the need for environmental action are critical issues that must be integrated across all five pathways of change and addressed through multi-sectoral efforts.

■ Climate Change

We work to mitigate the impacts of climate change on children and communities by promoting climate-resilient livelihoods, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable practices that protect vulnerable populations from environmental shocks.

■ Environmental Actions

Through education and community-led initiatives, we encourage responsible resource management, reforestation, and eco-friendly practices that safeguard natural ecosystems and create healthier environments for children to thrive.

The following sections highlight the progress and impact we achieved across our five programs during fiscal year 2025.

EDUCATION



With your support, we enabled

45,223

more children, young women, and men to gain access to preschool, primary education, vocational and life managements skills, and development opportunities than in FY24.



REMOVING THE OBSTACLES TO EDUCATION



In a norther region of Nicaragua, the construction of three new classrooms enabled a girl to continue her education. Photo: Children Believe

At Children Believe, we believe that education is a fundamental human right and a powerful tool for children to reach their potential. To protect the choices of children and young people so they can fully unlock opportunities for their futures, it is important for them to be supported throughout their young lives. Working in partnership with local organizations, we remove the barriers to education and provide access to inclusive, high-quality learning opportunities at each life stage from early childhood care and development to primary education, followed by technical, vocational and/or higher education. Our focus on each life stage varies in each country where we work, according to where the need is greatest. We are also committed to ensuring that gender and intersectionality are considered at every level of education.

Chart 1 shows that in fiscal year 2025, we enabled 634,922 children, young women, and men to gain access to preschool, primary education, vocational

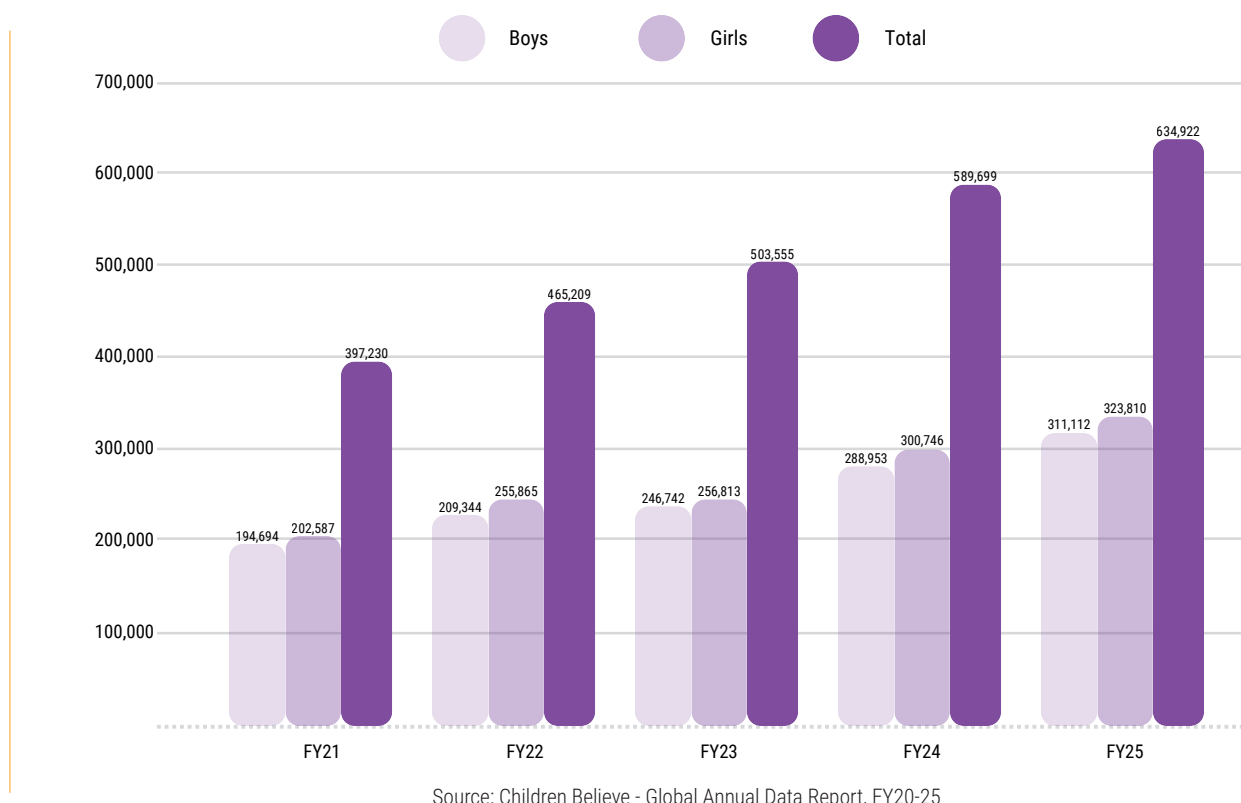
and life management skills and development opportunities, representing a 7.6 percent increase from FY25. This achievement reflects our sustained efforts to support children facing multiple barriers to education, including economic deprivation, social discrimination, conflict, displacement, and natural disasters.

634,922

children, young women, and men gained access to preschool, primary education, vocational and life management skills, and development opportunities.

5-YEAR TREND

CHART 1: Access to inclusive and quality education for boys and girls in Children Believe operational areas: FY20-25 trend analysis



Quality, inclusive early childhood care and development

The first few years of life are critical for brain development. Research has shown that 80 percent of brain development is completed by age three, and 90 percent, by age five. Early childhood is a critical window of time to lay a strong foundation for cognitive, emotional, and social development.

Our priority focus is on investing significantly in early education for children aged 3-5 years old and providing them with the greatest advantages that will contribute significantly to their social skills and emotional development later in life. Additionally, we endeavour to strengthen existing networks and institutions by sharing best practices and introducing new models for early childhood development at the local, country and regional levels where we work.

Our support for Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) is grounded in our commitment to uphold the right of every child to thrive and to promote social justice. We focus on supporting children and parents

in vulnerable situations or those suffering systemic discrimination. Our ECCD strategy utilizes a holistic approach that includes learning through play training, positive parenting, and maternal and child well-being support.



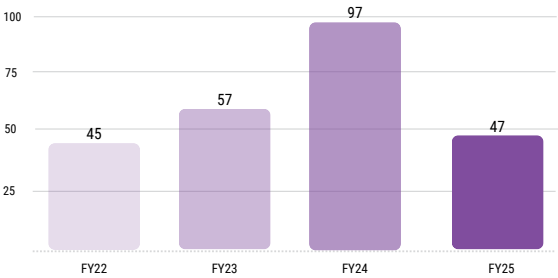
Children in an Early Childhood Care and Development Centre, Ghana.
Photo: Children Believe

PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

During the 2025 fiscal year, we built, renovated, equipped or supported 564 early childhood education centres. We also trained 7,101 teachers (2,573) and parents/caregivers (4,528) in inclusive education and appropriate teaching methodologies, including Learning Through Play (LTP), and Early Childhood Development (ECD) across the six countries.

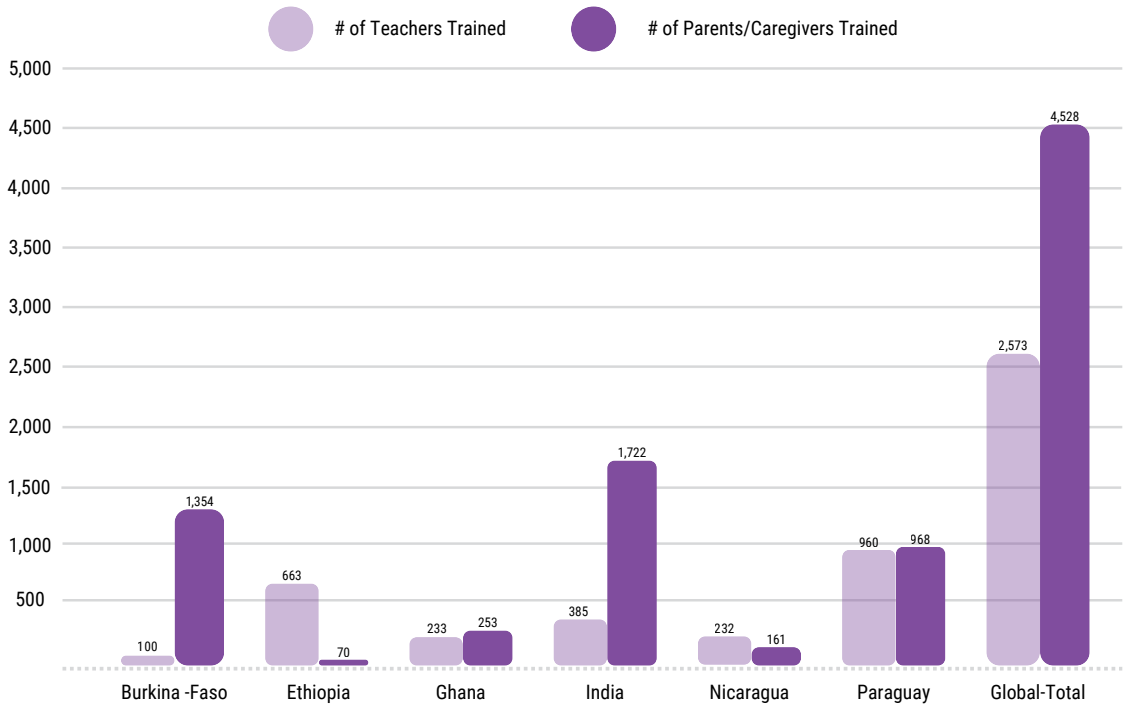
4-YEAR TREND

Number of educational facilities, classrooms and child-friendly spaces built or restored



In FY25, 47 educational facilities were built or restored. Though numbers vary from year to year as priorities shift across countries, the work consistently strengthens access to quality early learning environments.

CHART 2: Number of teachers and parents/caregivers trained in inclusive education and appropriate teaching methodologies, including LTP, and ECD by Country - FY25



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY25

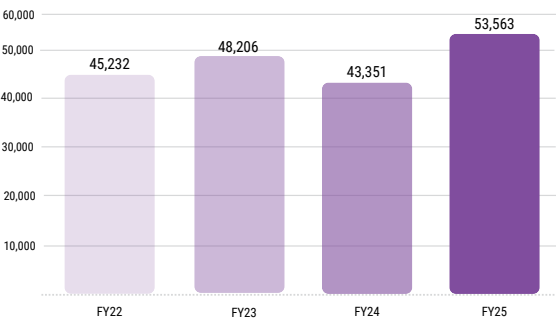
564
early childhood education centres were built, renovated,
equipped or supported in FY25.

Chart 3 shows that, in FY25, Children Believe and our partners collaborated to provide early childhood development opportunities for 53,563 children (including 26,628 girls).

The quality of early education provided by the ECCD centres in the communities where Children Believe serves is reflected in the positive outcomes of children who attended. During this reporting year, early childhood educators and other stakeholders across our operational areas have worked together to support community-based systems that prioritize the well-being of children by integrating healthcare, early care and education, and family support as part of a holistic approach to child well-being.

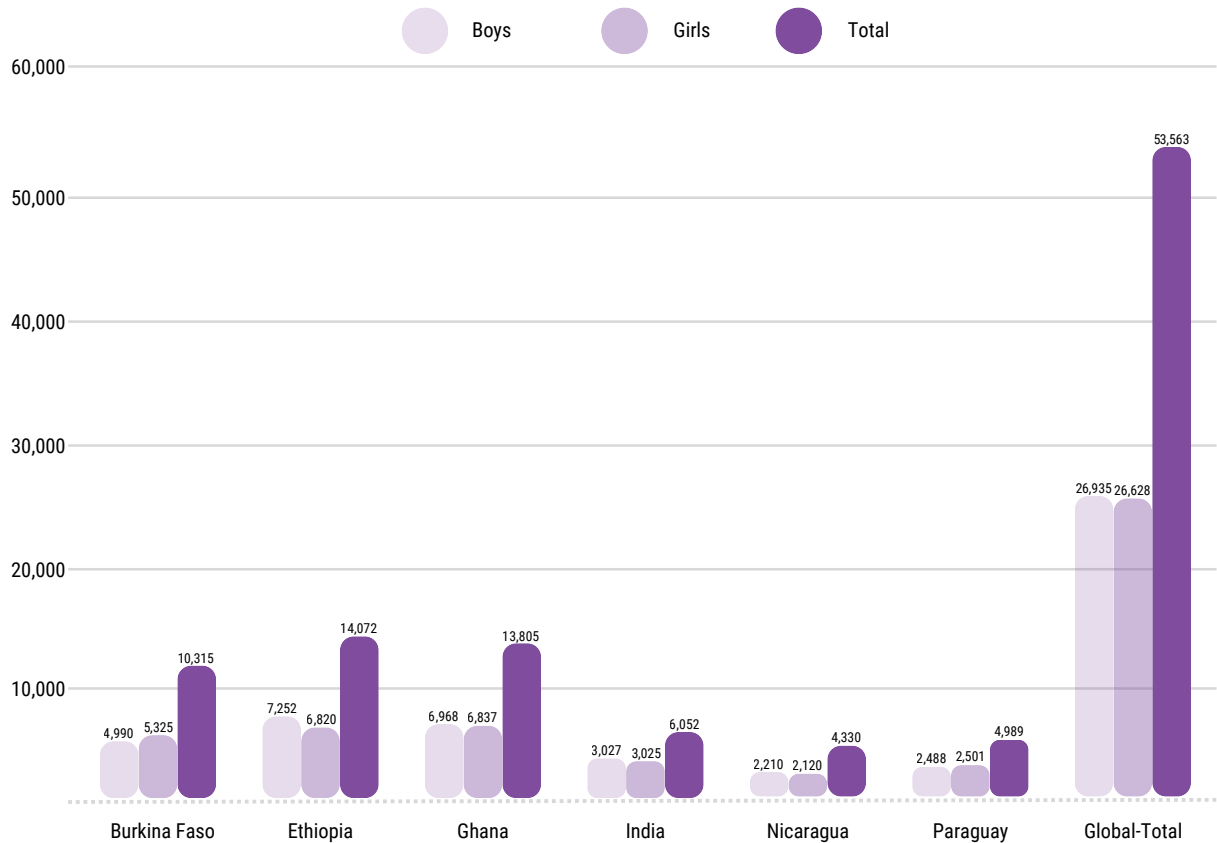
4-YEAR TREND

Number of boys and girls under age 5 with access to early childhood care



Between 2024 and 2025, access to early childhood care increased by nearly 24% for boys and girls—the largest rise across the four-year period. This progress stands as a testament to our continued commitment to expanding opportunities for every child.

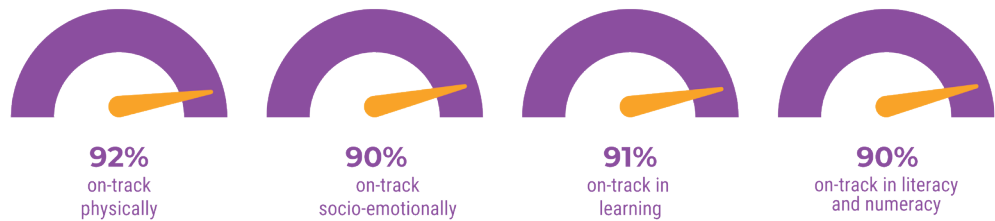
CHART 3: Number of boys and girls under age 5 with access to early childhood care and development in Children Believe-supported communities in the 2025 fiscal year



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY25

Chart 4 illustrates these positive outcomes. Approximately 92 percent of the children enrolled in the ECCD centres showed appropriate progress in their physical development, while they displayed positive socio-emotional development (90 percent), high proficiency in learning (91 percent), and literacy and numeracy skills (90 percent).

CHART 4: Developmental performance of children under 5 who attended early childhood care and development centres supported by Children Believe - FY25



Inclusive, equitable and quality primary education

Primary school education is crucial for the development of children, as it lays the foundation for their future academic and personal growth. Primary education provides a strong basis for children to become informed and responsible citizens, productive and skilled workers, and to protect themselves and their families against violence, disease and exploitation¹. However, children of primary school age across our operational countries face numerous barriers including poverty, child labour, abuse, disabilities, geographic isolation and social marginalization which prevents them from accessing quality education.

Children Believe and our implementing partners are committed to promoting inclusive, quality education by identifying and dismantling discriminatory barriers.

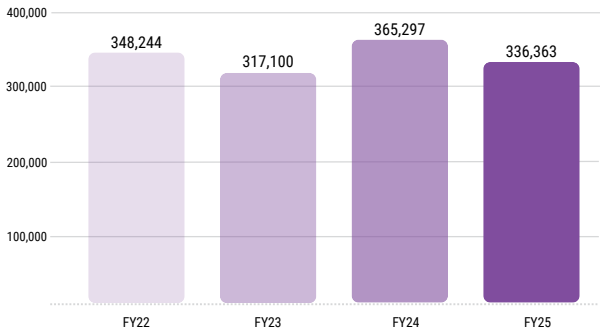
Our approach to inclusion is based both on equity as well as recognizing that each child has unique needs and requires different types of support and resources to realize their education rights. In FY25, we worked with education departments to build the capacity of teachers, integrate child safeguarding into teacher's training curriculum and promote gender and social inclusion in schools. We also supported children, their families, and their communities to advocate and demand greater accountability from state duty-bearers.

In addition, we promoted inclusive education systems for all children regardless of gender, caste, race and ability.

Our approach has empowered our supported schools to cultivate environments of fairness and justice, replacing discriminatory attitudes. These schools play pivotal roles in promoting equality by reshaping children's perspectives and transforming the way children think, learn, and behave. As a result, our supported schools now provide access to all children, including those with disabilities, those from excluded social caste/ethnic minority groups, and those in difficult circumstances.

4-YEAR TREND

Total enrollment in primary school education for girls and boys in the communities we support



Primary school enrollment peaked in FY24 before adjusting in FY25, but remains higher than FY23, showing overall progress despite fluctuations.

¹ <https://data.unicef.org/topic/education/primary-education/>

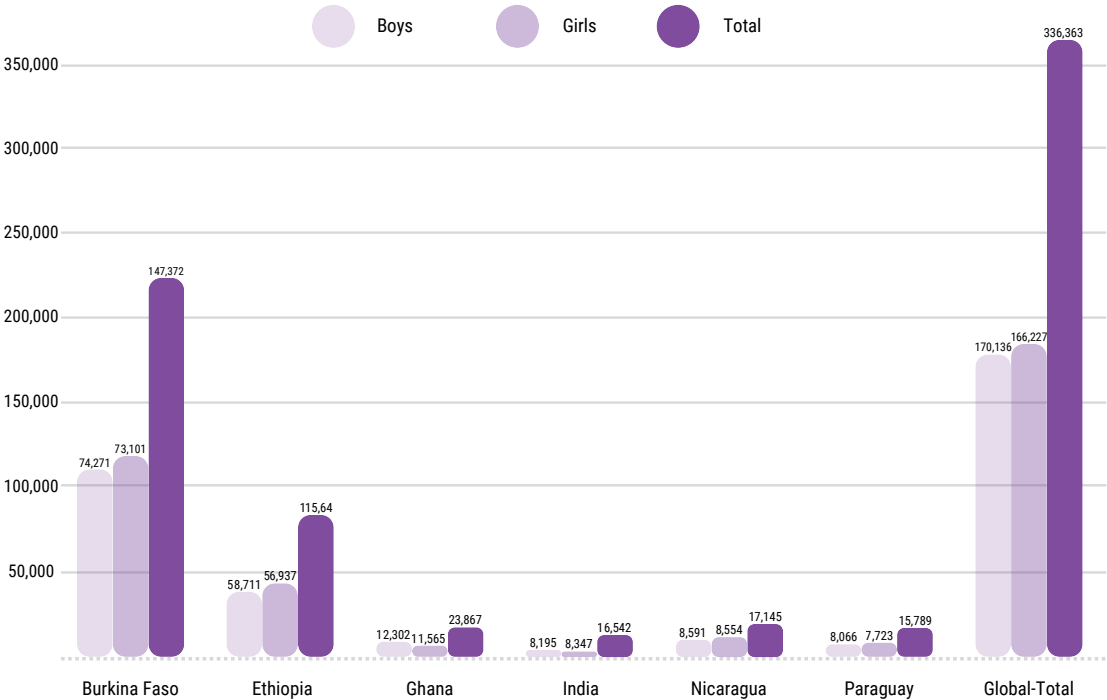


A classroom in Burkina Faso, where education sparks hope and dreams for the future. Photo: Children Believe

PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

As shown in Chart 5, a total of 336,363 students (166,227 girls) were enrolled in 494 Children Believe-supported primary schools during the 2024/25 academic year.

CHART 5: Enrollment in primary school education for girls and boys in Children Believe-supported communities, disaggregated by country - (2024/2025 academic year)



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY25

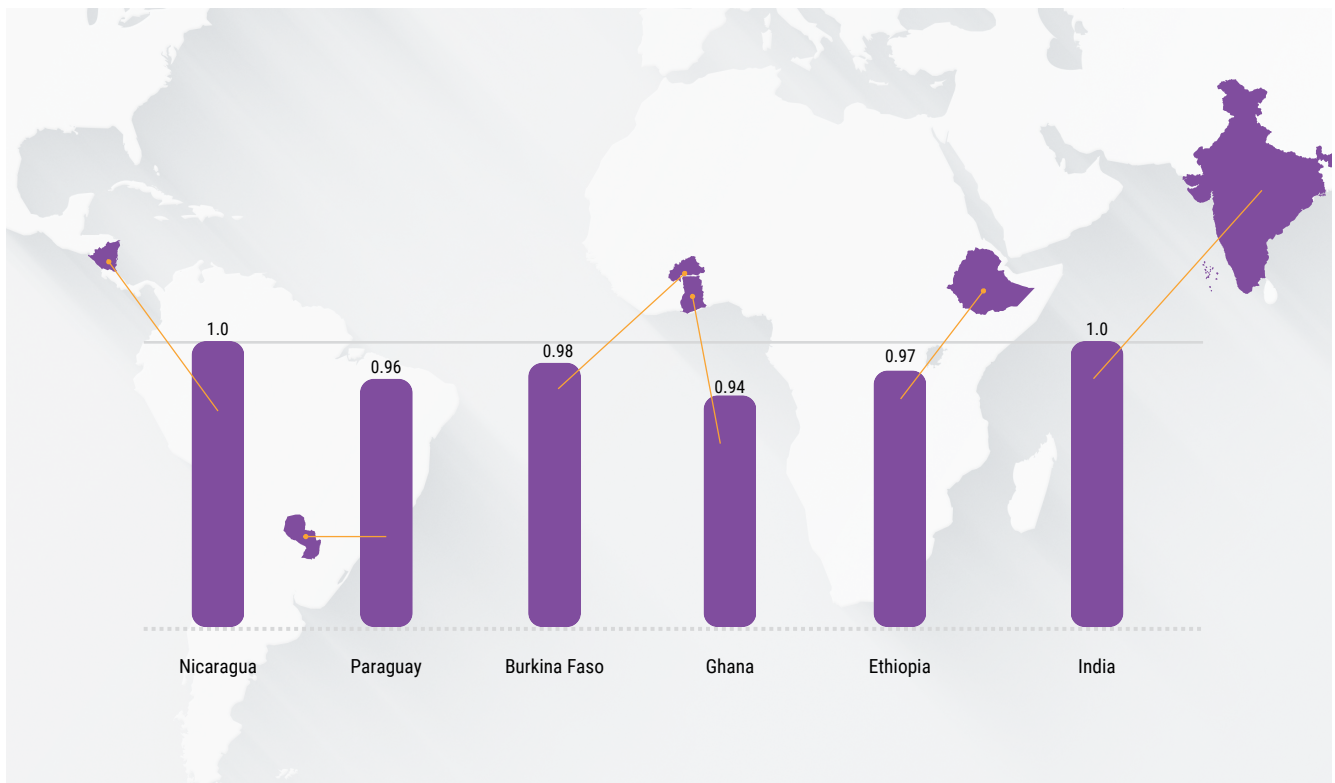
In the 2024/2025 academic year, Children Believe and our partners worked actively to close the gap in gender parity in the communities where our programs are implemented.

This gap reflects the ratio of boys to girls enrolled at the primary school level. Our efforts yielded positive outcomes, enhancing the attendance of girls in schools (Chart 6). This year, gender parity at the primary education level in Children Believe's operational areas showed favourable outcomes overall. Two countries, India and Nicaragua, achieved equality with a girl-to-boy ratio of 1.0. In Burkina Faso (0.98), Ethiopia (0.97), Paraguay (0.96) and North Ghana (0.94), the ratio slightly favours boys.



Students in a classroom in a Children Believe-supported school in Nicaragua. Photo: Children Believe

CHART 6: Gender parity index for primary school enrollment in Children Believe-supported communities, disaggregated by country²



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY25

² Gender parity index for primary school enrollment is calculated based on primary source.

BOX 1

Standing Strong: Sneha's Fight Against Early Marriage and Her Journey to Education

By Children Believe



Sneha, a 15-year-old girl from the Scheduled Caste community, in Kodalamadugu village India.
Photo: Children Believe

Sneha, a 15-year-old girl from the Scheduled Caste (SC) community, lives in Kodalamadugu village, India, with her family. Her parents are labourers who work tirelessly to support their family. When Sneha celebrated her 15th birthday, her parents made the difficult decision to arrange her marriage, believing it would secure her future.

She was deeply troubled by her parents' plans, fearing it would mean the end of her schooling and dreams. "I want to become a teacher. If I get married now, everything will be lost," she said. Sneha, therefore, stood firm and was determined to continue her education. She refused her parents' decision with courage and resilience.

Understanding the importance of education, she relied on the support of a few friends, who were members of the Child-Friendly Accountability Mechanism (CFAM) interest group, implemented by Children Believe's local partner, ROPES.

Sneha's friends, committed to preventing child marriage, reached out to the Village Development Committee (VDC) and her school teacher, who had always supported Sneha's academic journey. Together, they approached the village Sachivalayam (local council) to raise concerns about Sneha's impending marriage.

The VDC members and the teacher informed the School Management Committee (SMC) and reached out to local

authorities—including the Mahila police, village elders, and the child protection unit—to address the issue. A meeting with Sneha's parents was quickly arranged to discuss the potential consequences of child marriage, including early pregnancy, health complications, and the loss of education.

The teacher personally spoke to her parents, saying, "Sneha is a talented student. She deserves to complete her education and pursue her dreams. Marriage can wait—her future education cannot."

The team also explained the legal implications of child marriage and its negative impact on young girls' health and development. After thoughtful discussions and counselling, Sneha's parents realized the importance of her education. They agreed to cancel the marriage and support her education.

Now, Sneha has returned to school and is thriving academically alongside her friends. Her confidence has grown, and she has become a strong voice in her CFAM group. She regularly encourages other girls in the village to speak up and stay in school. "I'm not just studying for myself anymore—I want to help others say no to early marriage," she shared proudly.

Her teacher noted, "Sneha has become a role model. Other girls look up to her, and parents are also beginning to think differently."

In the past year alone, six child marriages have been prevented in Kodalamadugu and neighbouring villages through CFAM-led interventions. These outcomes were possible because of the collaboration between children, teachers, the VDC, SMC, and supportive community members.

Sneha expressed her heartfelt gratitude to ROPES/Children Believe and the community team for their support. "They stood by my side when I felt powerless," she said. "Now I feel strong enough to stand by others."

Sneha's journey proves that with courage, support, and education, girls can overcome harmful traditions and create lasting change—not just for themselves, but for generations to come.

Affordable, quality and inclusive technical, vocational, and higher education

Vocational and higher education equips young adults with advanced knowledge and skills in various fields, preparing them for leadership positions, and broadening their career prospects. Equitable access to vocational and higher education for adolescents fosters personal and societal development, and promotes economic growth and innovation. Unfortunately, many adolescents and young adults face barriers to education and employability such as skills gap, digital divide, financial constraints, gender bias, economic barriers, and high unemployment rates.

At Children Believe, we believe that providing access to technical and vocational training for adolescents and young adults (ages 15-24) creates opportunities for skill development, entrepreneurship, and economic empowerment and it also allows them to fully participate in their development and to contribute to their communities and economies. It not only prepares them for employment, but also empowers them to become financially and socially stable, active contributors to their communities and enhances

their overall well-being. We work with and through key stakeholders, including local governments and vocational and technical training centres, to build technical skills and upgrade facilities, and to develop online platforms for vocational and soft skills training.

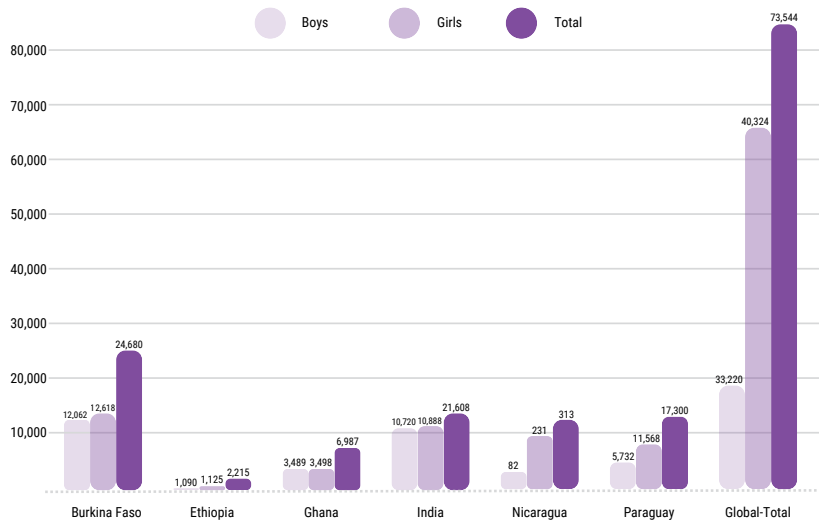


Above, Azize (15) and Rosemonde (18), receive vocational training to learn skills such as motorcycle repair, sewing, dyeing and weaving, plumbing and more. Photo: Children Believe, Burkina Faso

PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

In the 2025 fiscal year, we collaborated with local and international organizations, and the technical departments of host governments to empower 73,544 young people (about 55 percent girls and young women) aged 15 to 24, from low-income and indigenous families with the necessary skills to find paid employment or self-employment (Chart 7).

CHART 7: Number of young women and men who received vocational/life skills management training and had access to employment opportunities, disaggregated by countries of operation - FY25

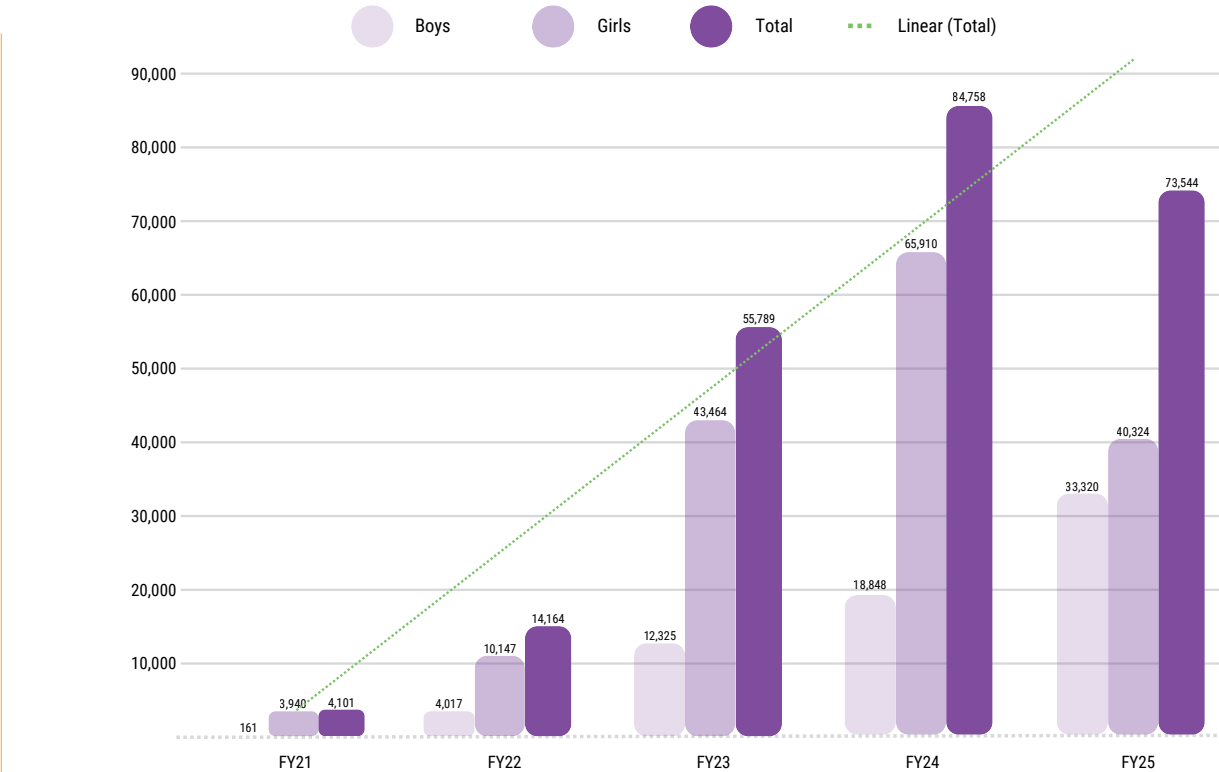


Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY25

Our commitment to promoting vocational and 21st century life management skills (including financial literacy, business communication, teamwork and problem-solving) significantly enhanced the employability of young women and men (aged 15 to 24 years). Over the past four years, the number of youth trained grew from 4,101 in FY21 to 84,758 in FY24, and 73,544 in FY25. The reduction in FY25 is attributed to the phasing out of a large EMPUJE project in Nicaragua (Chart 8).

5-YEAR TREND

CHART 8: Number of young women and men who received vocational/life skills training and had access to employment opportunities, disaggregated by year (FY21-25)



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY21-25

Building on the success of the GAC-funded EMPUJE project, which was phased out in 2023, and in partnerships with institutions like INATEC and NESTLÉ, hundreds of youth—especially young women—gained access to vocational training, life skills development, and job opportunities in Nicaragua. We scaled up the use of digital platforms, such as Krezco Learning, Khan Academy, Mente Lista, and Generation Global, to provide children, youth, teachers, and caregivers with resources that strengthen both soft and vocational skills.

In Honduras, Children Believe’s partner replicated the best practices of the EMPUJE project’s virtual learning platform, originally developed in Nicaragua, to advance human capital development through innovative skill-building approaches. It engaged strategic collaborators, including the Municipal Mayor’s Office and the National Institute of Vocational Training (INFOP), to ensure contextual relevance and sustainability. A total of 27

youth and women have completed life and professional skills training using Children Believe’s Virtual Campus – Krezco Learn.

Likewise, our Village/Youth Savings and Loans Association (V/YSLA) support programs in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana and India have fostered a self-sustaining



Young women learning to sew in an entrepreneurship program in Nicaragua. Photo: Children Believe



Life skills training for adolescent girls in India. Photo: Children Believe, Burkina Faso

microfinance model, providing inclusive, community-driven financial facilities. We provided disadvantaged communities and economically active poor individuals—who were excluded from conventional banking—with startup resources to access credit for their income-generating activities.

The VSLA/YSLA continues to be a critical vehicle for resourcing small businesses and enterprises at the grassroots level, especially where access to credit facilities are limited. Children Believe and its partners have facilitated the registration of these informal groups under the Municipal/District Assemblies, granting them official recognition to access credit, technical assistance, and material support.

Furthermore, in India, Children Believe and our partners engaged 1,267 adolescent and youth (ages 15–24) as catalysts for change, focusing on civic participation, markets skills development, and leadership—especially among marginalized groups such as Dalit and rural youth, differently abled individuals, and out-of-school youth. Through inclusive, gender-balanced platforms, we nurtured their voice, agency, and access to vocational and entrepreneurial pathways. Within eight weeks, 830 graduates (64 percent women) transitioned into paid work, apprenticeships, or self-employment. Aligned with national frameworks and grounded in intersectional inclusion, this approach has proven to create a generation of confident, capable youth equipped to lead transformative change in their communities.

BOX 2

Janigda Arauz: Economic Empowerment and Personal Transformation

By Children Believe Nicaragua



Janigda Arauz, a 20-year-old young women from Nicaragua.
Photo: Children Believe

Janigda Arauz, a 20-year-old young woman from a community in Estelí, Nicaragua, is a living example of how education, empowerment, and access to opportunities can transform lives. From a young age, she faced significant economic challenges alongside her family. At the age of 10, when her parents separated, she took on the responsibility of caring for her younger sibling while her mother worked tirelessly as the sole breadwinner for the family.

“

Janigda began participating in the entrepreneurship development program supported by Children Believe and its partners at a crucial time when she was searching for a new job.

She was drawn to the safe space groups, where she could learn and connect with other youth. These gatherings not only strengthened her self-esteem but also sparked her interest in entrepreneurship.

Inspired by the program's activities and motivated by her desire to change her work life, Janigda began envisioning her own business.

The Youth Entrepreneurs Network in her community provided her with the necessary tools to strengthen her business skills, and achieve her vision of becoming economically self-reliant.

Today, her business, Jani Nails, offers beauty services and generates enough income to support her family and finance her university studies in a clinical laboratory. Janigda is not just a young entrepreneur, but also a businesswoman who combines her passion for beauty with a strong commitment to giving back to her community.

Janigda aspires to be a role model for other young women, proving that dreams can come true with effort and perseverance. Janigda's story reflects how access to skills development and entrepreneurship support programs can break the cycle of poverty and empower young women to achieve their dreams.

She sends a clear message:

“

Don't let adversity defeat you. Stay consistent and committed to yourself. Thanks to the youth employment support program funded by Children Believe, I have learned to believe in myself and fight for my future.



Education



Increased completion by girls, boys, women, and men of inclusive, equitable, and accessible early childhood development programs, pre-primary, primary and secondary education, as well as post-secondary education, and technical and vocational training programs in target communities.

HEALTH, WASH, AND NUTRITION



With your support, we helped

15%

more pregnant women, lactating
mothers, newborn children, and infants
gain access to maternity and healthcare
services than in FY24.



IMPROVING MATERNAL, CHILD HEALTH AND NUTRITION



In Ethiopia, women care for cabbage crops that bring nutritious meals to their families and vitality to their communities. Photo: Children Believe

Healthy mothers and babies lead to healthy futures for everyone. Children Believe promotes maternal and child health and nutrition programs informed by human rights approaches and principles. We give special emphasis to the first 1,000 days³ of a child's life, starting from conception and lasting until they are two years old, as they are absolutely critical for their well-being. What happens during this period not only determines whether the child will survive, but also his or her ability to grow, learn, and strive to reach their potential.

590,602
pregnant women, lactating mothers, newborn children, and infants gained access to essential maternity and basic healthcare services.

³ The first 1,000 days of life - the time spanning roughly between conception and a child's second birthday - is a unique period of opportunity when the foundations of optimum health, growth, and neurodevelopment across the lifespan are established ([UNICEF](#))

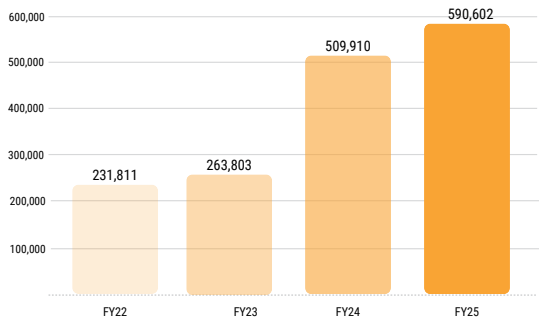
PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Children Believe worked with regional and district level health departments as well as local government administrative bodies to implement integrated, holistic healthcare approaches, primarily targeting mothers, pregnant women, newborns, and children under age five. We enhanced the institutional capacities of our local partners and government health departments to help them develop comprehensive strategies that strengthen health system and reduce maternal and child mortality rates.

Chart 9 shows that across our six countries of operation, we directly reached 590,602 people, primarily pregnant women, lactating mothers, newborn children, and infants, providing them with access to essential maternity and basic healthcare services.

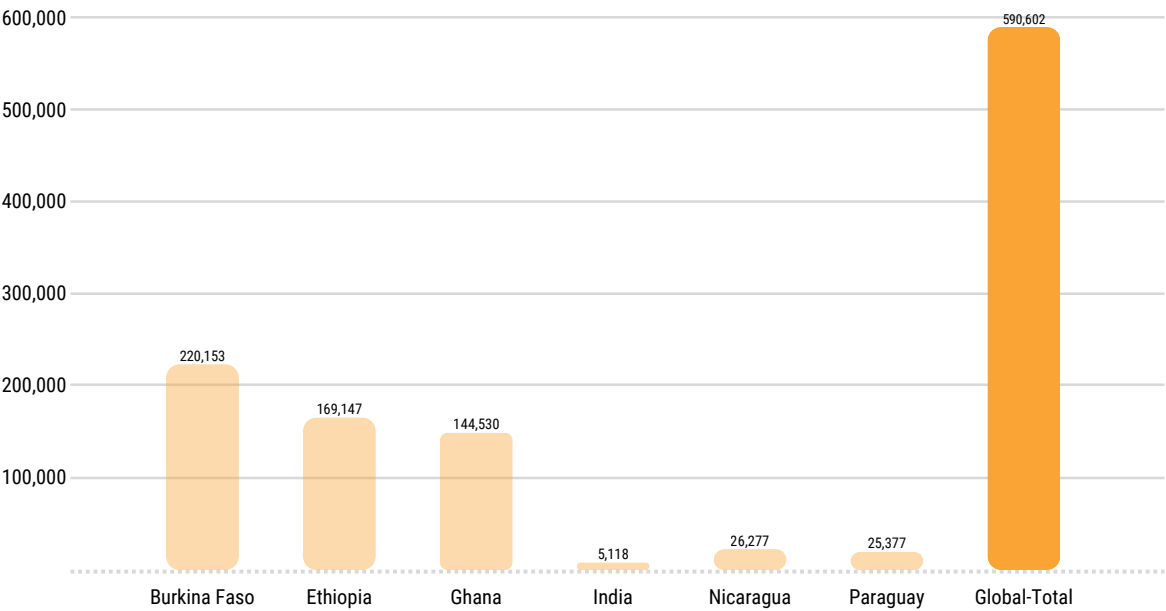
4-YEAR TREND

Number of pregnant women, lactating mothers, newborn children, and infants who gained access to maternity and healthcare services



Over the past four years, access to maternal and healthcare services has steadily expanded. In FY25, 590,602 people were reached—an increase of 80,692 from FY24—reflecting our continued efforts to make essential care more widely available.

CHART 9: Distribution of pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children served by improved healthcare services in Children Believe operational communities by country - FY25



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY25

Improved delivery and use of essential maternal and child healthcare services

Many maternal and child health complications can be prevented or managed with access to proper and functional healthcare facilities, equipped with life-saving medicines, resources, and trained personnel. Having skilled health personnel present during delivery reduces the risks associated with childbirth, ensures timely

and appropriate medical interventions, and contributes to better overall health outcomes for mothers and their babies. Yet in many rural areas, most health facilities are dilapidated, poorly equipped, and lack adequately trained personnel.

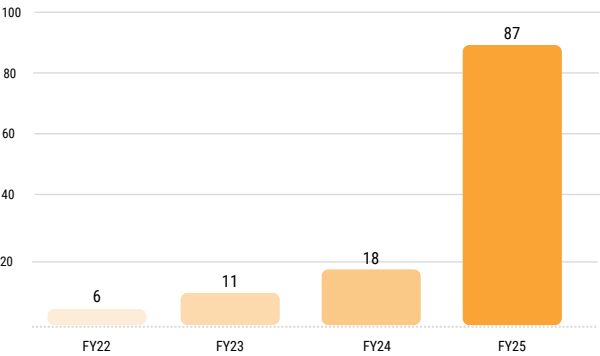
PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

During this reporting period, Children Believe renovated and equipped over 87 existing health facilities in underserved areas with medicines and essential equipment to strengthen their capacities to deliver regular health services. We also built the capacity of 13,273 healthcare workers, through training and orientations, equipping them to provide quality preventative and/or curative healthcare services in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Nicaragua, and Paraguay.

As a result of our efforts, the number of childbirths attended by trained health workers across our operational communities reached 55,514 in FY25 (see Chart 10). Notably, the highest numbers of skilled childbirth attendance were recorded in Burkina Faso (27,722), followed by Ethiopia (12,212), Paraguay (5,827), and Ghana (5,542).

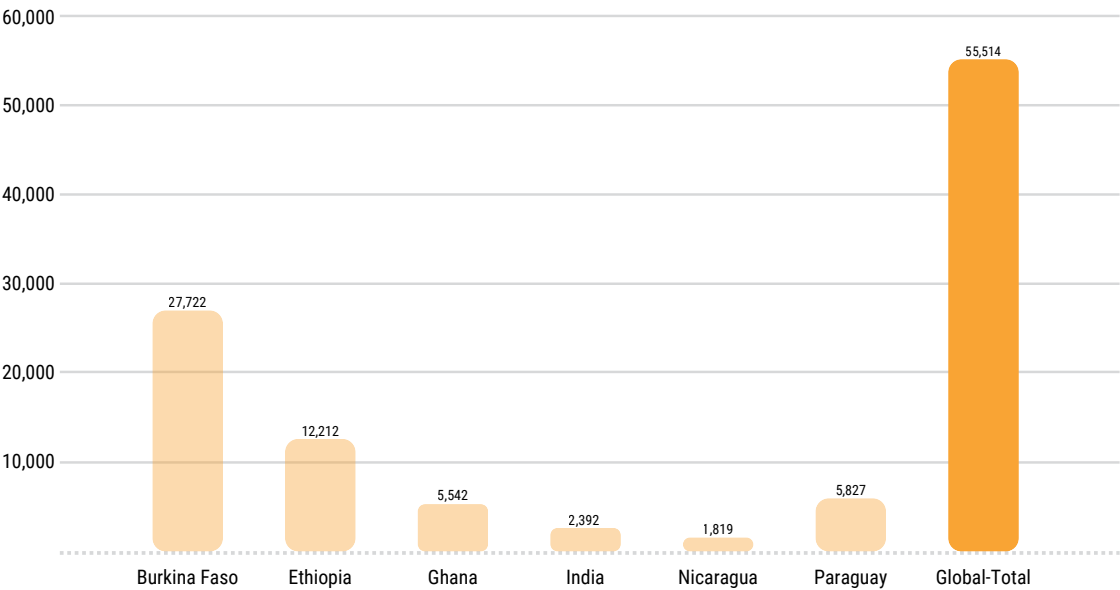
4-YEAR TREND

Number of health facilities renovated and equipped in underserved areas with medicines and essential equipment



From just five facilities renovated and equipped in FY22 to 87 in FY25, this rapid growth reflects our commitment to strengthening healthcare access for underserved communities.

CHART 10: Number of childbirths attended by skilled health personnel - FY25



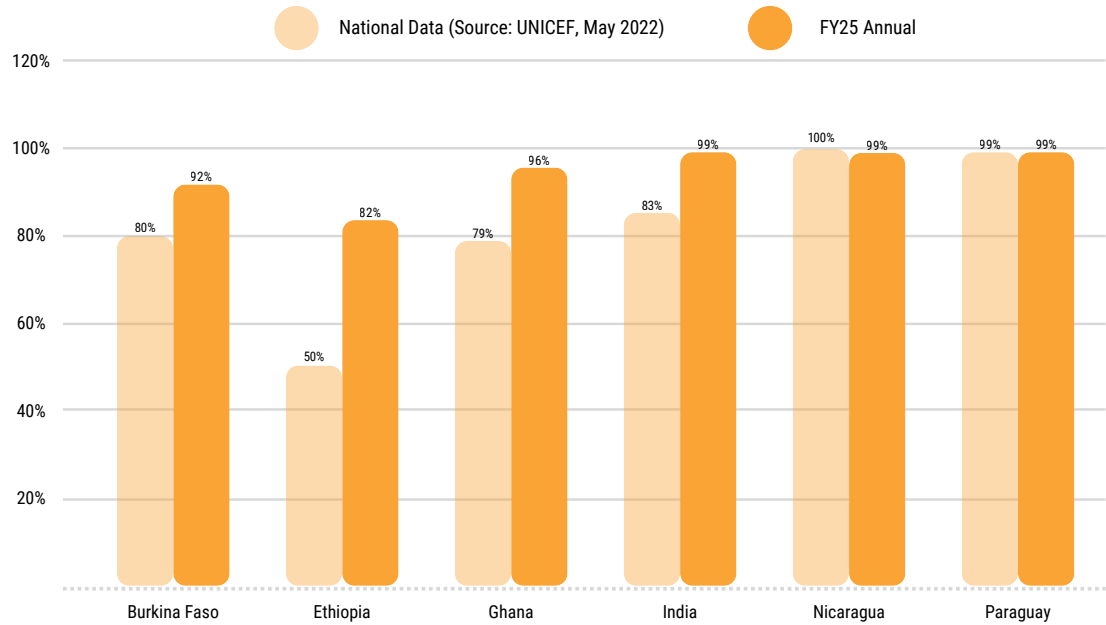
Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY25

55,514

childbirths were attended by a skilled health professional in FY25

The impact of our support to community-based healthcare services is evident from Chart 11, which indicates that 99 percent of childbirths in our supported areas were attended by skilled personnel in India, Nicaragua, and Paraguay, surpassing their national coverage of 83 percent, 100 percent, and 99 percent respectively in FY25. Additionally, our health programs in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and northern Ghana achieved significant gains, with 92 percent, 82 percent and 96 percent of childbirths respectively attended by skilled personnel—figures well above the national averages in each country.

CHART 11: Percentage of childbirths attended by skilled health personnel in Children Believe-supported communities in FY25 compared to the national data, disaggregated by country.



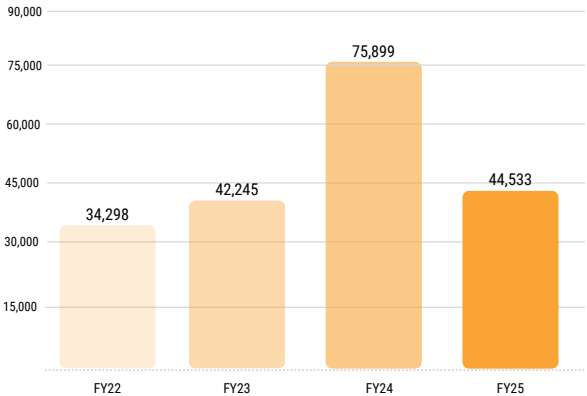
Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY25

The proportion of women who have benefited from reproductive health and postpartum care within Children Believe’s operational communities underscores the effectiveness of our healthcare support through our local partners and government stakeholders. As shown in Chart 12, in FY25, our support for reproductive and postpartum care programs resulted in 99 percent coverage in India, 98 percent in Nicaragua, and 94 percent in Paraguay. This increase plays a critical role in reducing mortality rates among both women and newborns.

In Ethiopia, our contributions were equally significant, with 74 percent of women in our operational communities receiving reproductive health and postpartum care in this reporting period, compared to the 60 percent baseline in 2019 (an average increase of 14 percent). Likewise, In North Ghana, our efforts resulted in a 93 percent outcome in this fiscal year, compared to the baseline of 84 percent in 2019 (a 9

4-YEAR TREND

Number of healthcare personnel who provided reproductive and postpartum care services to mothers, young women and adolescent girls

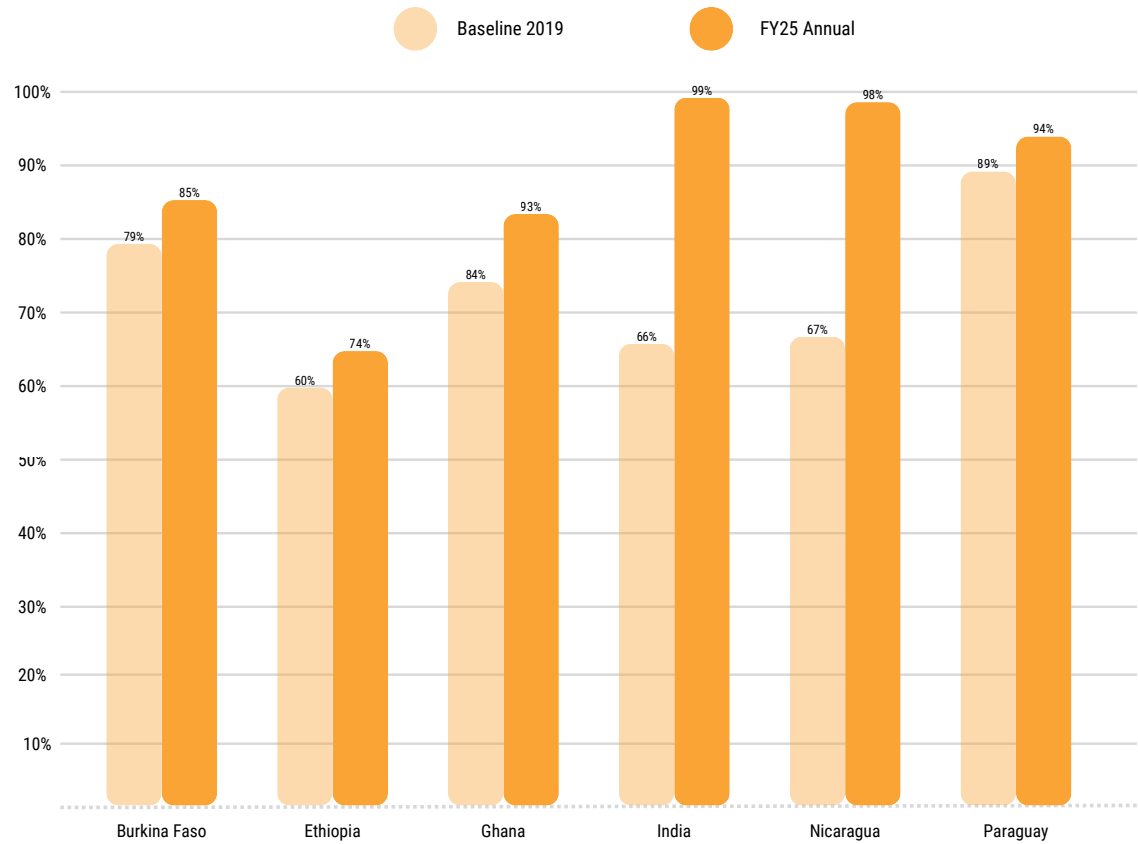


While the number of healthcare professionals trained in FY25 was lower than in FY24, year-to-year variations are normal. What remains consistent is our focus on equipping providers with the skills and knowledge to deliver care where it is most needed.

percent increase). However, the percentages show no notable change compared to last year.

The percentage of women accessing postpartum care in Burkina Faso also showed an upward trend, with our contribution helping to reach 85 percent in FY25, compared to the past bench mark and national average of 79 percent in 2019.

CHART 12: Percentage of women who received reproductive health and postpartum care in Children Believe-supported communities in FY25, compared to the baseline (2019), disaggregated by country



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY25



A child in Burkina Faso is assessed by a health professional. Photo: Children Believe

Enhancing maternal and child nutrition-

Nutrition is an essential part of life and development, and it is linked to improved infant, child and maternal health, safer pregnancy and childbirth, and a lower risk of diseases. On average, children who consume nutritious food perform better at school, and live healthier lives.

At Children Believe, we recognize the critical role of nutrition in the well-being of children and their families, hence, our programs work to increase access to healthy diets and improve nutritional practices that prevent stunting, wasting, and other consequences of child malnutrition.

CHAMPIONING NUTRITION AND GENDER EQUALITY INITIATIVE

In the reporting period, Children Believe successfully implemented the Championing Nutrition and Gender Equality (CHANGE) initiative funded by Global Affairs Canada in Ethiopia and Ghana. We trained approximately 5,560 members of Community Based- Integrated Nutrition Teams (INTs) to support households produce nutritious foods and access quality nutrition services. These teams also worked to challenge harmful norms and cultural taboos related to production, distribution and consumption of food. In addition, we provided capacity-building support to more than 71,460 of the poorest and most marginalized individuals, 75 percent of whom were women, helping



A group of mothers wait in line with their babies at a nutrition clinic in Burkina Faso. Photo: Children Believe

them adopt climate-smart food production techniques, improve nutrient-rich food consumption habits, and maintain sustainable storage systems.

We prioritized engaging men and increasing women's control over productive assets to strengthen household food security and improve dietary diversity. The initiative also promoted hands-on nutrition demonstrations, equipping community members with the skills to adopt healthy nutrition practices. In Ghana, 2,700 women gained technical knowledge in cultivating high-nutrient crops such as amaranth, hibiscus, okra, mango trees, soybeans, and groundnuts. In Ethiopia, 2,275 women

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were trained to grow high-nutrient vegetables and wheat seedlings, as well as to operate and maintain water pumps.

In Ghana, 55 health facilities have received 63,300 packs of Weanimix (150g and 75g) and 2,258 boxes of Koko Plus to support the treatment and rehabilitation of 1,262 children under five years suffering from malnutrition. Additionally, over 5,000 lactating mothers were registered for the National Health Insurance Services, ensuring they can access care for their children under five. Similarly, in Ethiopia, 12 health facilities were equipped with motorbikes, medical equipment, health registers, and printing materials to strengthen service delivery.

In India we moved beyond awareness-raising to promote community-owned nutrition practices. Working with our partner SARDS, Children Believe enabled over 300 Chenchu tribal families to establish nutri-gardens using locally adapted seeds, composting, and water-saving techniques. More than 1,740 households received training, with 98 percent reporting successful harvests and 85 percent increasing vegetable consumption by at least two servings per week—demonstrating real behaviour change. Local Anganwadi workers have reported reductions in anemia and undernutrition among children. This home-grown approach has diversified diets, strengthened food security, and empowered mothers as nutrition champions—many of whom now follow the mantra, “Avoid unhealthy foods and consume nutritious meals.” The model demonstrates how local knowledge and leadership can drive sustainable change in dietary practices.

In Burkina Faso, we conducted two “training of trainers” sessions in Diapaga on preparing enriched porridge using local ingredients, reaching 100 women. These women then shared their knowledge with over 250 peers, positively impacting the feeding practices of 13,543 children. In addition, 4,392 women from early childhood education learning groups received nutrition education and support, benefiting the nutritional status of 31,620 children and community members.

Similarly, in Paraguay, we partnered with local organizations and government Health Centers and Family Health Units (USF) to raise awareness about breastfeeding, newborn nutrition, and maternal care during and after pregnancy. The alliance with USF was critical, as it provided access to the Integral Nutritional Food Program (PANI) under the Ministry of Public Health and Welfare (MSPyBS) standard, which offers complementary foods for children aged 0 to 5 years. In addition, sponsor support through the Child Designated Gift (CDG) program helped deliver grocery baskets to sponsored families, significantly improving nutrition. In total, more than 1,890 children and community members received food or nutritional support, while over 2,800 children and parents participated in healthy eating training. Among them, 150 children and mothers also learned and applied vegetable gardening at home and in schools, boosting both household nutrition and livelihoods.



Fueling young minds: Students in India share a nutritious meal at school, acknowledging the linkage between healthy food and education.
Photo: Children Believe

Addressing period poverty

Children Believe recognizes how period poverty, the lack of access to menstrual products, education and hygiene facilities, have become barriers to many girls and young women to regularly attend school in our operational countries. Period poverty deprives many girls of the chance to access their education one week each month.

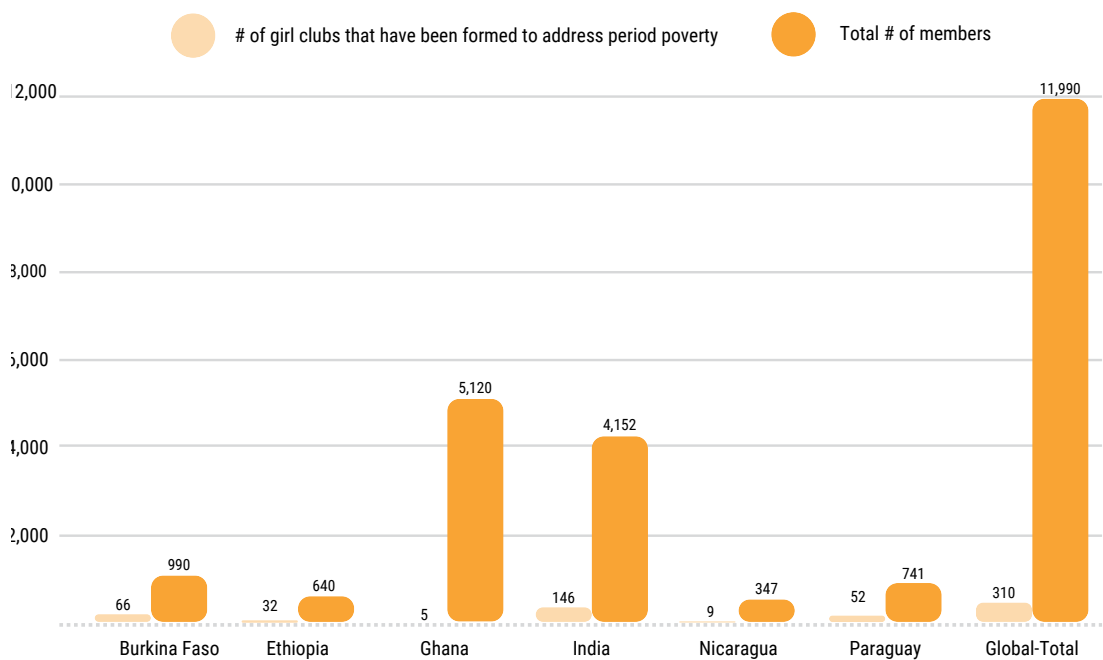
PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Our programs tackled menstrual health on two fronts: promotion of menstrual health education and increasing accessibility to sanitary pads. We supported 11,990 girls by facilitating the formation of 310 girls' clubs and integration of pads kit distribution with key stakeholders, primarily in Ghana and India, followed by Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Nicaragua and Paraguay (Chart 13).

Our focus group discussions revealed a significant improvement in both awareness of menstrual health and access to menstrual health kits, empowering girls to manage their health with dignity. For instance, Children Believe Ghana promoted the government's free sanitary pad distribution program by organizing

girls' clubs and providing targeted support to 210 young women. In coordination with relevant government departments, we advocated for and facilitated access to sanitary pads for over 5,000 girls, while raising awareness to break the stigma surrounding menstruation. Similarly, Children Believe India and its partners advanced gender-responsive SRHR education, reaching over 3,700 adolescents, primarily from tribal and Dalit communities. Our partners- IRCDS and ROPES, trained 152 peer educators and girls on menstrual hygiene, reproductive health, and personal safety, who in turn reached over 2,800 peers through village sessions. SARDS delivered additional community-based SRHR awareness to 272 tribal youth, while 500 reusable pad kits were distributed to address menstrual hygiene barriers. SRHR messages were also integrated into health camps across ten villages, benefiting 1,200 young women with basic screenings and child-focused preventive care. This intersectional, peer-led model empowered girls to manage their reproductive health with confidence and dignity, ensuring continued access to education.

CHART 13: Distribution of girls' clubs and girls/young women, who benefited from our action against period poverty - FY25



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY25

Water, sanitation and health (WASH) in health facilities

WASH in health facilities is crucial for preventing infections, protecting patients and staff, and ensuring quality healthcare. It directly impacts patient safety, reduces healthcare-associated infections (HAIs), and supports broader health goals like ending preventable maternal and new born deaths. In FY25, Children Believe India improved gender-sensitive and inclusive WASH infrastructure across health facilities and checkpoints, addressing critical access gaps for Dalit and tribal communities. Our local partner, CRAF, restored 52 sanitation units; IRCDS facilitated the mobilization of cash contributions to support water pipeline installations and the construction of toilets and SARDS built school sanitation blocks and secured safe drinking-water facilities. Collaborating with local health departments, Children Believe India upgraded clinics with water storage tanks, functional toilets, and hand-washing stations in 16 centres. To sustain these efforts, 154 custodians were trained in maintenance, and 61 student ambassadors led hygiene campaigns. These upgrades led to increased maternal health visits, higher institutional deliveries, and stronger trust in public health services. As a tribal mother mentioned; “I can now come for my check-ups without worrying about where to go to the bathroom.” These equity-focused WASH investments have strengthened trust in public health services and directly contributed directly to higher institutional deliveries and maternal health services in underserved communities.

Similarly, Children Believe in Ghana benefited over 5,230 people (51percent women) by constructing three water schemes—a hand pump borehole and two mechanized boreholes—in the Tolon and East Mumprusi districts. The District Director of Health Services, Tolon, shared his excitement about how the impacts of the facilities have improved healthcare delivery. ‘If a woman delivers, we need water, if a child is running a temperature and visits the health facility, we need water. If we want to clean our medical tools and the facility, we need water. With the provision of this water facility, the worries of women will be



A girl fetching clean water from a recently installed water tank.
Photo: Children Believe

reduced because they are not required to carry water anytime they visit the health facility.”

In Burkina Faso, we collaborated with Living Water to construct or rehabilitate four water points in health centres, ensuring access to clean water for children, pregnant women, and healthcare workers. Handwashing stations were also installed to promote hygiene practices and help reduce the incidence of diarrheal diseases.

BOX 3

Seeds of Strength: Empowering Tribal Mothers Through Nutrition

By Children Believe India

Bhuvana Anjamma, a 32-year-old widow, lives in a forest-fringed hamlet of the Chenchu tribal community in Pullalacheruvu mandal, Prakasam district, Andhra Pradesh. Her two daughters—one in Grade 2 and the other at the local Anganwadi—are her pride. As a member of one of India's Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), she has long struggled with poverty, isolation, and food insecurity.

"In our community, no one grows food. We live off the forest. That's how it has always been," she said. Families depend on seasonal forest produce or irregular market purchases. Meals are usually boiled rice, tubers, or wild greens, with vegetables and pulses rarely included. Malnutrition is common, especially among children. Anjamma's younger daughter often cried through the night with stomach pain and weakness. "I didn't know how to help her. I thought this was just how life is," she recalled.

Last year, Children Believe and its partner SARDS introduced a community nutrition initiative to promote household nutri-gardens and awareness about balanced diets. At first, the idea of growing vegetables at home seemed impossible. "I have no land or experience. I thought farming was for others," Anjamma said.

But awareness sessions and cooking demonstrations helped her connect her children's illnesses with their diet. With hands-on training, she learned composting, seed planting, and simple organic methods. Families received seed kits with spinach, tomatoes, lady's finger, beans, and bitter melon. Encouraged, Anjamma cleared a small patch near her hut and started her own garden. Her daughters watered the plants daily, and soon their backyard turned green.

"The first time I picked fresh spinach from my own garden, I felt something change in me. I felt capable," she shared. Within two months, her children were eating at least two or three vegetables daily. Her younger daughter's digestion improved and she became more active. "She doesn't get sick like before. Now she plays with other kids and eats with interest," Anjamma said.

The village Anganwadi teacher also noticed the shift: "Earlier, most children were weak and often missed



In their community, Bhuvana's family prepares a meal using food they cultivated. Photo: Children Believe

the centre due to sickness. Since the nutri-gardens started, children look healthier, more active, and regular."

Across two tribal mandals, over 300 Chenchu families have now adopted nutri-gardens. Women, especially mothers, are leading the change—sharing seeds, recipes, and small harvests. Children too are learning to water, weed, and harvest.

"We used to wait for the forest to give us food. Now we grow it ourselves," said Anjamma. Beyond healthier meals, families report reduced market dependency, better meal planning, and greater confidence among women.

"In our forest community, malnutrition was like a shadow we couldn't escape," Anjamma reflected.

“

But now, our children eat better, fall sick less, and laugh more. The garden has given us more than food—it has given us hope.

What began as a small intervention has become a quiet revolution in Chenchu villages—growing not just vegetables, but dignity, resilience, and the power to choose a healthier future.

Strengthening resilience and capacities for humanitarian actions



Members of a women-led Villages Saving and Loan Association in Burkina Faso. Photo: Children Believe

Children Believe is always ready to respond to humanitarian crises caused by violent conflict, natural disasters, and displacement in our operational areas. Working alongside local and international partners, we help protect vulnerable children by promoting emergency education to help get childhoods back on track. We recognize that crises not only disrupt children's learning, but can also reverse previous development gains. Access to education preserves their future potential and also helps children heal by addressing their emotional, social, and developmental needs.

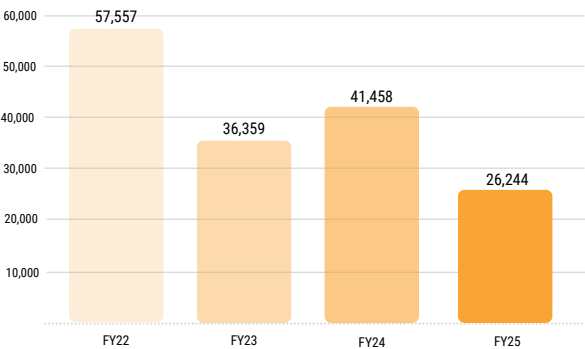
PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

In FY25, Children Believe has extended emergency food kits, child nutritional support, or cash for relief assistance to 26,244 malnourished children and their families in countries affected by disaster, namely, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Mali. We also supported targeted families affected by localized malnutrition in Paraguay. In Burkina Faso, with the continued support from UNICEF and UNOCHA, we provided teacher training on education in emergencies, focusing on safe schools and psychosocial care to ensure the continuity of children's education. We also provided psycho-social support to over 56,000 internally displaced persons. In Ethiopia,

recognizing the increasing vulnerability of communities to climate-induced shocks, conflict, and displacement, we supported community-based resilience and disaster risk management initiatives in Arsi-Negele (Oromia region),

4-YEAR TREND

Number of emergency food kits, child nutritional support, or cash for relief assistance provided in countries affected by disaster



Our results mirror shifts in emergency response needs. Numbers spiked in FY22 with large-scale food aid tied to the COVID-19 pandemic in India and Paraguay. They fell back in FY23 and again in FY25 as urgent crises subsided, then rebounded in FY24 as investments in long-term programming took hold.



Families are supported by livestock and in the building of household assets. Photo: Children Believe

Sodo (Southern Ethiopia) and North Wollo (Amhara region). These initiatives helped communities diversify small-scale agricultural production, preserve seeds, and make efficient use of scarce water resources for food crop production. In Mali's Segou region, we provided school kits for the 700 most vulnerable children and supplied adaptive equipment to 35 children with disabilities, ensuring the continuity of education in crisis situations.

Furthermore, Children Believe partnered with Health Partners International of Canada to provide medicines and medical supplies to vulnerable communities in our operational countries and other non-Children Believe operational countries affected by emergencies. We provided CAN\$5.1 million worth of medicines and medical supplies to Mail and non-Children Believe operating countries such as Palestine/Gaza, Haiti, Lebanon, Libya, Malawi, and Ukraine. Over 510,000 war affected and displaced children, pregnant women, men and other vulnerable populations have benefited from this medical assistance.

Children Believe recognizes that communities often have to contend with multiple crises at the same time, which compounds the negative impacts on affected people. Progress towards resilience against community shocks is often hindered by the simultaneous challenges of political instability, and climate disasters. Complex problems require complex solutions. We believe that the most effective approach in these difficult environments can be found at the intersection

of humanitarian, development, and peace-building efforts. We also developed a new humanitarian strategy targeting the highly fragile contexts of Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Mali. The strategy responds to the current global humanitarian reset, declining humanitarian aid levels and emerging localization trends, ensuring our interventions remain timely, context-sensitive and sustainable.

Children Believe has continued to promote 'localization' and has enhanced the capabilities of five local partners from Burkina Faso and Ethiopia through a community of practice platform focused on education in emergencies and child protection in humanitarian actions. Twenty-five local staff actively contributed by exchanging experiences and championing of best practices in humanitarian action.

26,244
malnourished children
and their families received
emergency food kits, child
nutritional support or cash for
relief assistance in countries
affected by disaster.



Health & Nutrition



Children, young women, and mothers in targeted communities have increased access to and benefit from maternal and newborn professional healthcare services, improved livelihoods, and better nutritional intakes.

CHILD RIGHTS AND PROTECTION



Between FY24 and FY25, there
has been a

33%

increase in the number of people
who have directly benefited from
our protection services.



CHILD AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION



Children and adolescents from the Association for the Defense of Children and Adolescents (ADDNA) in Paraguay. Photo: Children Believe

Grounded in a child rights approach, Children Believe-supported programs help children and young leaders develop the capacity to lead social change and implement community-driven actions towards a more just world. We work with children and youth to proactively contribute to community-led programs and serve their best interests by empowering them to take an active role in every stage of the program cycle.

In addition, Children Believe's programs strive to break down social barriers and reach all children without discrimination. As appropriate, we make specific considerations and seek to include vulnerable and marginalized children. With our partners, we also support child- and youth-focused agencies to have the necessary institutional, technical, and financial capacities to influence the change that they want to see in their future and to promote sustainability.

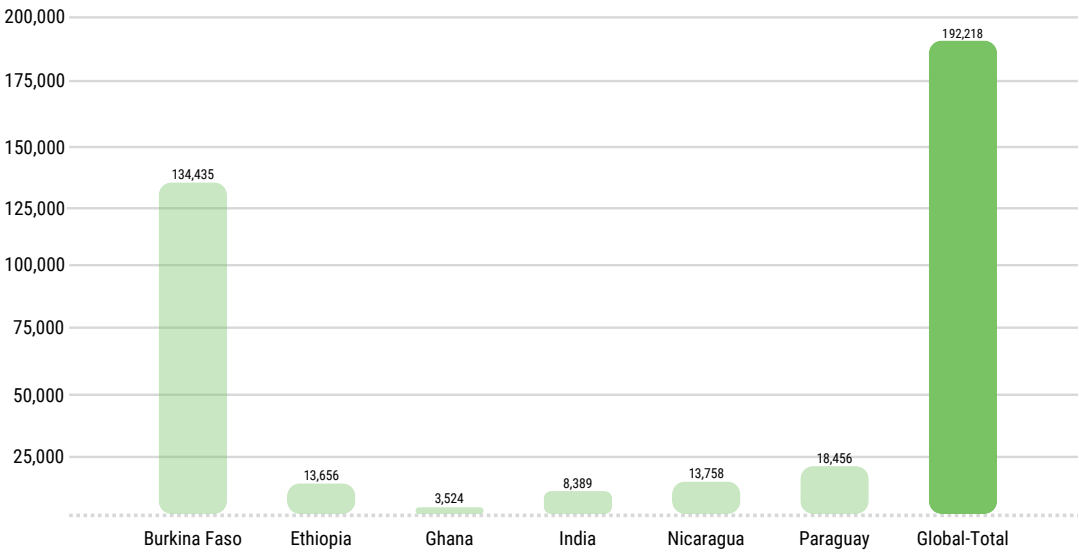
During this reporting period, we continued to advocate for improved social and legislative structures to promote child rights. This included supporting the implementation of the Child-Friendly Accountability Methodology to increase children's and youth's participation in protecting their rights and create favourable conditions for their voices to be heard.

Chart 14 shows that a total of 192,218 children and youth from our operational communities engaged in various programs that promoted their meaningful participation in community or public decision-making. The programs comprised children's parliaments, issues-based youth clubs (climate change, prevention of violence), and youth scouts to amplify their voices and represent their best interests in local, provisional, or national public platforms.

192,218

children and youth from our operational communities took part in programs designed to amplify their voices and ensure their meaningful participation in community and public decision-making.

CHART 14: Number of children and youth organized and involved in groups, clubs or associations that promote their meaningful participation in public decision-making in Children Believe-supported communities - FY25



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY25

Grounded in a child rights approach, **Children Believe-supported programs** help children and young leaders develop the capacity to **lead social change and implement community-driven actions towards a more just world.**

BOX 4

The Voice of Fiorella and her Journey as a Young Leader in Remansito, Paraguay

By Children Believe Paraguay

Fiorella Aramí is a 15-year-old bursting with energy and a strong desire to become a leader in her community. She lives in Remansito with her mother, brother, and their two dogs.

For the past three years, Fiorella has been an active member of CORORE (Rohayhu Remansito Committee), a group of organized children and adolescents supported by the Community Development Program of Children Believe's local partner, Global Infancia. She has been engaged in various community activities such as forums, talent festivals, youth safaris, and workshops. This year, she has taken on a more active role by joining organizing committees and assisting with coordination. Her responsibilities have included welcoming participants, managing social media, serving as master of ceremonies, and other tasks.

She has also stepped into an advocacy working group, participating in key public events like the signing of the mayor of Villa Hayes' commitment to children, and joining the Villa Hayes Youth Environment Committee. She currently manages CORORE's social media and serves as the president of its youth savings group.

In April, Fiorella represented her peers from CORORE at a public hearing on climate change held at the Paraguayan National Congress.

“

I liked this experience; I felt comfortable and was able to express myself freely. We talked about the impact of heat waves on how heat or global warming can affect children, adolescents, and people at high risk.

Looking to the future, Fiorella hopes to become a psychologist. She enjoys listening to people and offering advice, a reflection of her deep empathy and desire to support others.



Fiorella, a 15-year-old student from Paraguay. Photo: Children Believe

“Being part of CORORE has opened so many opportunities for me. It allows me to meet new people, learn about my rights, and understand that I don't have to keep silent,” Fiorella says. “Thanks to CORORE, I'm recognized for representing and supporting my community. It's something I'm passionate about.”

Verónica Samudio, a former sponsor who now works with the program and supports the CORORE group, sees Fiorella as a powerful role model for others. “Through her example, Fiorella is helping drive change. She shares the tools and knowledge she's gained with her peers. You can see her personal growth in the way she expresses herself and inspires others. Her commitment to the group and to the children and adolescents of Remansito fills me with pride.”

For Verónica, the impact of youth leadership programs like CORORE goes far beyond individual achievements. “Thanks to the work we do with both adolescents and their families, lives are changing. The trust between parents and children is stronger. There's more dialogue, more respect, and we're actively working on preventing violence and shifting mindsets.”

Fiorella's journey shows that when young people are given the opportunity to lead, they can uplift not only themselves, but their entire generation and community.

Child protection

Violence against children steals childhoods and is a major barrier to education. Children Believe works to prevent all forms of abuse and violence against children, including child abuse and neglect. We prioritize protecting children from sexual and gender-based violence⁴, which manifests as sexual abuse and harassment, verbal abuse, deprivation of resources, human trafficking, and harmful social practices, such as early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM). Our approach to child protection focuses on listening to both boys and girls about their lived experience and applying that knowledge by working with them to improve their safety and well-being. We also work with school systems to establish safe and violence-free environments for all children.

Our teams collaborate with governments and community partners to implement progressive laws and policies, raise public awareness, and foster community-driven child protection systems.

We worked with local partners and government bodies to strengthen protection systems and increase their capacities. Our ultimate goal is to reduce the vulnerabilities of children facing discrimination, due to caste, gender, ethnic identity, disability, forced migration displacement, or other difficult circumstances, like homelessness.

Throughout this reporting period, communities actively helped us identify and enroll orphans and vulnerable children into our sponsorship program, enabling them to access quality and inclusive education, basic healthcare services, and livelihood support.

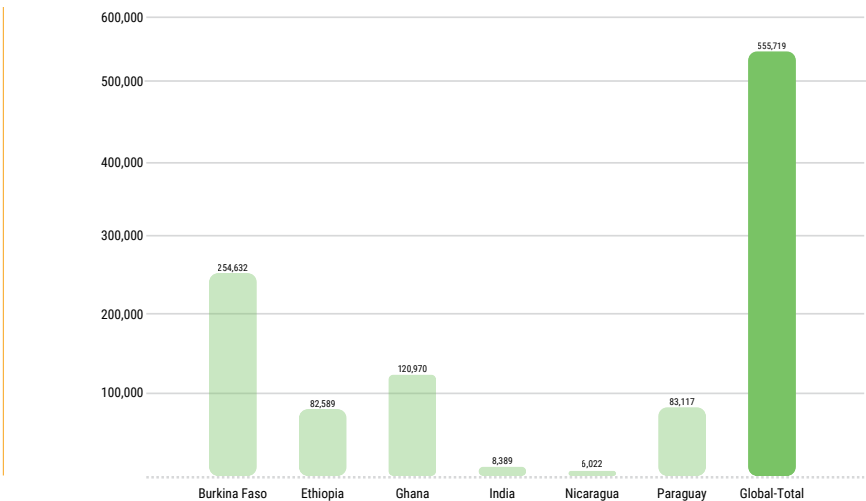
In FY25, we continued to activate and strengthen community-based protection mechanisms. These mechanisms are designed to safeguard children and women from violence within the home and community, because most of the reported incidents of violence occurred in early marriage, and early pregnancy, and sexual and labour exploitation were often perpetrated by family members or individuals known to the families.

We implemented community education programs on gender-based violence (GBV) prevention to equip community leaders, caregivers and children to prevent and report GBV.

PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

In this reporting period, over 555,719 children, youth, women, parents, and duty-bearers from across our six countries of operation, benefited from our work on the prevention of various forms of violence, neglect, and abuse (Table 15).

CHART 15: Number of children, youth, women and parents who directly benefited from our work on the protection of children and women from violence in Children Believe communities - FY25



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY25

⁴ Sexual and gender-based violence refers to any act that is perpetrated against a person's will and is based on gender norms and unequal power relationships. Gender-based violence (GBV) is considered to be any harmful act directed against individuals or groups of individuals based on their gender. It may include sexual violence, domestic violence, trafficking, forced/early marriage and harmful traditional practices. It encompasses threats of violence and coercion. It can be physical, emotional, psychological or sexual in nature, and can take the form of a denial of resources or access to services. It inflicts harm on women, girls, men and boys. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, retrieved August 28, 2020 from https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/WRGS/OnePagers/Sexual_and_gender-based_violence.pdf

We strengthened the technical and institutional capacities of our local partners and other community-based organizations (CBOs) led by youth and women, preparing them to work with their government counterparts to enforce the full implementation of key international conventions and agreements. This includes Article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which specifically states, “the betrothal and the marriage of a child shall have no legal effect, and all necessary action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage.”

Our local partners and CBOs in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana and India strongly advocated against child marriage, and advanced the recognition of it as a violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We worked with stakeholders in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and Ghana focusing to establish robust technical and human resource capacities. These enhanced capabilities have been instrumental in enforcing the implementation of some international and continental legal instruments, including:

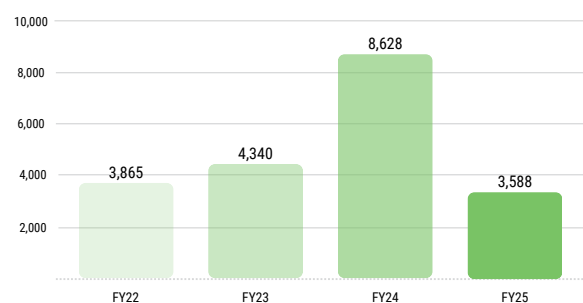
- The Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages.
- The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.
- The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights and the Rights of Women.

Our partnership with the African Child Policy Forum was instrumental in strengthening the Children’s Legal Protection Centre (CLPC) in Burkina Faso, which provides children and young people, whether victims, witnesses, or alleged offenders, with access to justice, legal aid, and representation by a lawyer.

During the reporting period, the CLPC has reached over 200 child victims of violence and 300 child offenders through its legal and psychosocial services. It raised awareness among 2,700 children, religious and community leaders, teachers, and care providers. It also provided child-friendly training to 200 government and court officials, police officers, prosecutors, judges, and prison administration staff across Burkina Faso.

4-YEAR TREND

Number of CBO members, government workers or other child protection actors trained to advocate for children’s rights, protections and participation



From strong growth between FY23 and FY24, the trend shifted downward in FY25 as changing needs and priorities in Burkina Faso and Ghana shaped the results.

555,719

children, youth, women, parents, and duty-bearers benefited from our work on the prevention of various forms of violence, neglect and abuse.

BOX 5

Souraya: From a Victim of Exploitation to a Hopeful Young Entrepreneur

By Children Believe Burkina Faso

In Burkina Faso's conflict-affected Centre-North region, Souraya's village was devastated by conflict. "Many houses were burned down, our belongings were looted, and some villagers were injured. We had no choice but to flee to other locations to save our lives," she recalls, her voice heavy with emotion.

She and her family walked several kilometers to reach Kaya, where they initially were received by a temporary shelter worker. They were later relocated to another more 'permanent' site, but under extremely poor living conditions.

Day after day, the family struggled without the resources for even a basic decent life. Eventually, they made the difficult decision to send Souraya to Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso's capital, to serve as a domestic worker and earn some income. But life in Ouagadougou did not bring the relief they had hoped for. Instead, Souraya faced severe exploitation. She said,

“

I worked day and night, with no rest and no pay. I often went to bed hungry. I was beaten for the slightest mistake in household chores, at any time. I was alone, sad, and exhausted.

After several months, she managed to escape and return back to Kaya. Around this time, Souraya's situation had caught the attention of a Children Believe social worker. During a community-based psycho-social support visit, her case was assessed, and she was enrolled in comprehensive support services run by Children Believe and funded by the AFAS Foundation and Woord en Daad. While the primary goal of the support was to prevent

child labour exploitation, Souraya also received psychosocial counselling, training in soap-making, and a start-up kit to help her launch her own business. "I learned how to make liquid soap and Kabacourou (local soap). Today, I sell my products at the market. I can buy what I need and even help my family a little," she says, her eyes shining with pride.

In just a few months, Souraya turned her pain into strength. From a silent victim, she has become a dynamic young entrepreneur, supported by a



Souraya during a sharing session with a social worker, Fanta Konde, from the Centre-North office. Photo: Children Believe

program that believes in the ability of children to rebuild their lives with dignity. Her story illustrates the impact of targeted and concrete support: training, protection, equipment, and restored confidence.

It also highlights the remarkable resilience of young girls, even in the harshest conditions. Today, Souraya is not just a survivor—she is an agent of change in her own community and a source of inspiration for other girls at risk. "I thank all those who helped and protected me from domestic work. They gave me an opportunity to build a better future," she concludes, determined to continue on the path to success.

Promoting birth registration practices

Children Believe and its partners remain committed to upholding the Convention on the Rights of the Child, specifically Article 7.1, which emphasizes the importance of registering a child immediately after birth and ensuring their right to a name, nationality, and care by their parents. We understand that official birth registration is the first step in recognizing and legally acknowledging a child's existence and identity and is absolutely critical for a child's lifelong protection and access to social services. When children's births remain unregistered, they are, in essence, unrecognized as legal entities. This lack of recognition jeopardizes their access to fundamental rights and freedom because they are not included in statistical information and thus are not accounted for in the provision of basic amenities.

It is concerning that globally, one in four children under the age of five has not been officially registered, and this situation is even worse in some of the countries where we operate, like Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana and Mali. Birth registration is still a relatively new practice in some rural communities in these countries, despite its long-term significance for children. While the birth of a child is traditionally recognized with

joyous celebration and religious customs, formal registration of births is not commonly practiced.

To improve this situation, Children Believe and its partners have been working with local vital statistics or district administration offices to create awareness of the importance of birth registration, facilitate birth registration systems, and ease the administrative fees for issuing birth certificates.

PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

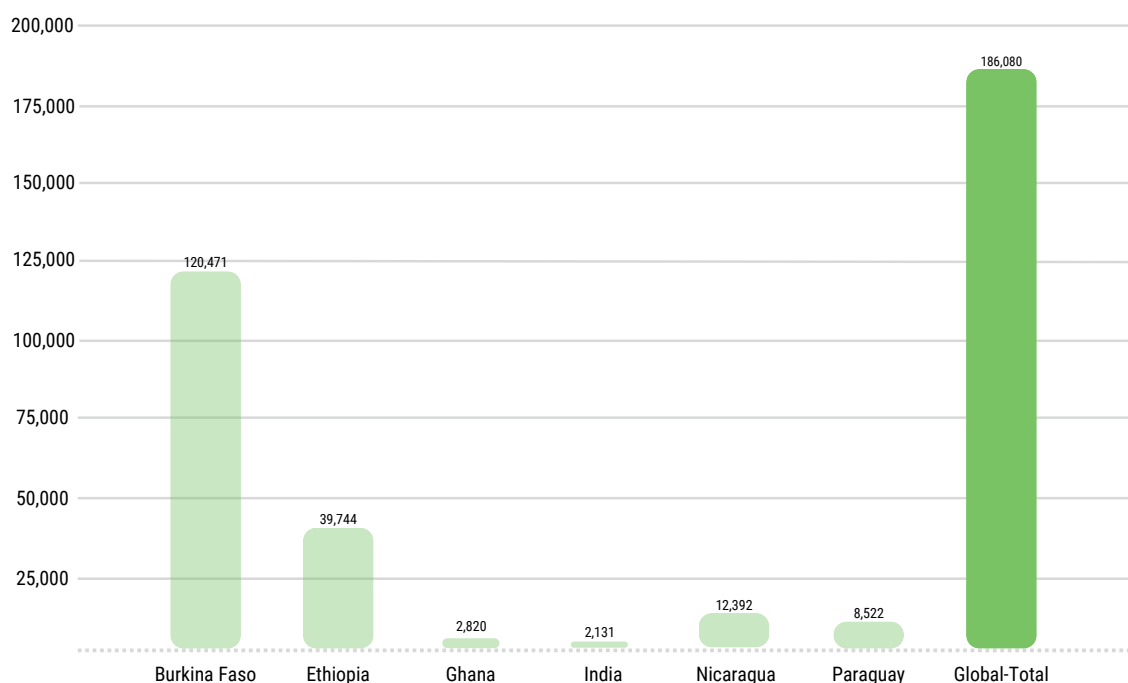
Chart 16 highlights a remarkable achievement in FY25—over 186,000 children gained access to birth registration, including many who were internally displaced or socially vulnerable. Burkina Faso (120,471 children) and Ethiopia (39,744 children) accounted for the largest share of success, far surpassing national averages where typically fewer than five percent of the children under five are registered. These efforts mark a significant step toward securing every child's legal identity and the rights that come with it.



A child is being examined by a midwife at a clinic in Burkina Faso.
Photo: Children Believe

more than
186,000
children under the age of five
in our operational communities
gained access to birth
registration, including many
who were internally displaced or
socially vulnerable.

CHART 16: Number of children under age 5 whose births are registered with the relevant authority - Children Believe operational communities' FY25.



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY25

Supporting orphans and other vulnerable children

Education and health services from the government are free in most of the countries where Children Believe works, however, they are not always of the required quality or near families in rural communities. Thousands of poor and socially excluded children, especially in many remote African villages and marginalized communities in Central America or South Asia, are unable to attend school because their families cannot afford the minimum costs for school supplies, books, and uniforms. Some children go to school hungry and are gradually forced to drop out to earn money for the family, or help around the house or farm. Girls often face even greater obstacles that impact their attendance, including the lack of separate sanitation facilities in schools, the lack of feminine hygiene supplies, and the expectations to help with time-consuming domestic chores, such as fetching water and cooking. These barriers prevent many children from going to school. The situation of orphans and vulnerable children is even worse.

PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

To address these challenges, Children Believe—guided by the ecological model of child development—designed a child sponsorship program that places orphans and vulnerable children at the centre, while also supporting families, schools, and other community institutions responsible for their upbringing. We do this by bringing together individual Canadian donors and children in need, working in partnership with local CSOs, school administrations, and community leaders. In FY25, in partnership with 29 local CSOs across 726 communities in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Nicaragua, and Paraguay, 35,738 sponsored children directly enrolled and benefited from our sponsorship program (Chart 17), particularly those in greatest need of child-centred and family-focused community development interventions.

Sponsorship programs enable families to cover the basic costs of attending school, like school supplies and uniforms.

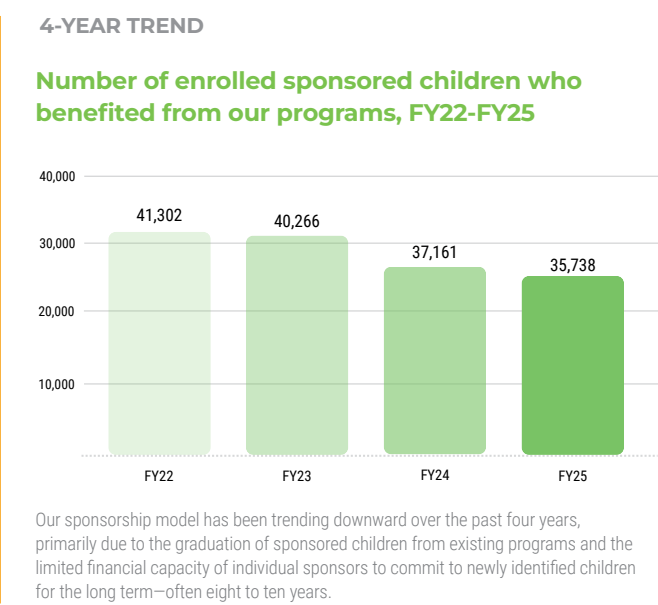
CHART 17: Number of enrolled sponsored children who benefited from Children Believe’s child-focused, holistic, community-based development programs, disaggregated by county - FY25

Country	Enrolled Sponsored Children
Burkina Faso	5,703
Ethiopia	6,248
Ghana	6,649
India	4,330
Nicaragua	6,628
Paraguay	6,380
TOTAL	35,738

Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, (as of March 31, 2025)

The sponsorship model also funds wider community development, including improved education and health facilities, adequate water and sanitation infrastructure, and income-generating opportunities for their families.

Most of the children in our sponsorship program also experience regular health check-ups, participation in after-school activities, attending Creative Learning Centres, and receiving assisted study time to finish their homework or prepare for exams. After-school programs also help children develop life skills and gave them the space and time needed to play.



Promoting online safety for children



Children are given the tools to recognize and avoid dangers online through the WEB Safe & Wise initiative, Paraguay.
Photo: Children Believe

During FY25, Children Believe promoted the “WEB Safe & Wise” campaign, which was an initiative that focused on addressing the emerging risks young people face online, while also supporting them to become effective digital citizens. Accordingly, Children Believe joined and participated in the ChildFund Alliance members’ unified campaign: WEB Safe & Wise: Creating a better digital world with children. The aim of the campaign was to safeguard children from online threats, including sexual exploitation and abuse, while equipping them to safely navigate the digital space.

In Ethiopia, India, and Paraguay, Children Believe actively contributed to the “WEB Safe & Wise” awareness campaign, recognizing the significance of online safety. Children Believe’s WEB Safe & Wise campaign in India, operates in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh,

empowering children to become responsible and confident digital citizens. This initiative is part of our broader mission to create environments where children can thrive, with a strong focus on education, child protection, and active participation. The campaign delivered educational programs and awareness initiatives to children, parents, teachers, and community members, successfully raising awareness about internet safety and cyberbullying. The initiative has reached over 47,170 individuals, including 8,389 children. Its capacity-building efforts focused on preventing online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA), training 62 teachers, 112 committee members, and 452 youth advocates. Children's understanding of safe and wise online behaviour has improved significantly. In a survey, the proportion of children able to recall three or more e-safety rules rose from 28 percent to 71 percent. Additionally, eight cases of cyberbullying were identified and resolved. "After the training, I know how to block strangers and report if anyone threatens me online," says Anjali, 13, a program participant. These efforts empowered children to become responsible and confident digital citizens, with adults and stakeholders actively supporting and protecting their online safety.

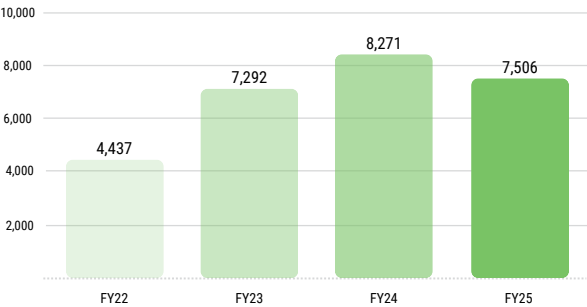
Similarly, Paraguay's "WEB Safe & Wise" campaign increased online protection awareness across regions including Limpio, Villeta, Caaguazu, Villarrica, Coronel Oviedo, and Remansito. Targeting children aged 6-18 and local authorities, the initiative used social media, youth forums, and interactive educational campaigns to

reach nearly 10,000 participants, improving knowledge of online risks and promoting responsible digital citizenship.

Beyond training and education, the "WEB Safe & Wise" campaign actively fostered open dialogue and addresses concerns related to children's online activities, encouraging parents to actively participate in their digital lives. A parent from India shared "I used to worry so much about my child being online, but now I feel more informed and equipped to guide them through potential dangers".

4-YEAR TREND

Number of parents or caregivers trained in positive parenting and discipline



Our reach grew steadily between FY22 and FY24, before dipping in FY25—a natural fluctuation shaped by evolving programming and country-level priorities.



I used to worry so much about my child being online, but now I feel more informed and equipped to guide them through potential dangers.

~ Parent, India

GENDER EQUALITY & INCLUSION



In FY25, more than

447,000

women and girls gained capacity-
building support, advancing gender
equality in the communities
we serve.



GENDER EQUALITY & INCLUSION



A group of women in a training program for women-led households. Photo: Children Believe Ethiopia

Gender equality is a fundamental human right and it is critical to advancing all areas of a healthy society, from poverty reduction to promoting the health, education, protection, and well-being of girls and boys. Children Believe works to ensure that women, men, girls, and boys enjoy the same rights, and equal access to resources, opportunities, and protections regardless of gender. Our programs identify opportunities and respond to the different needs and abilities of all stakeholders, particularly young girls and boys. When women's and girl's rights are respected, they are healthier, better educated, and better paid, which has a positive ripple effect that benefits everyone. Children thrive and so do communities, organizations, and societies, creating lasting change for generations to come.

Our programs are designed to address gender inequalities, such as a cultural preference for

boys, stereotypes about gender roles, and control over productive resources that create barriers to girls' education. Such barriers deny girls the same opportunities available to boys, and prevent them from contributing to and benefiting from sustainable development in their communities and countries.

Children Believe strives for transformative change, working with key stakeholders we identify to address the root causes of gender inequality in each local context. We address the social norms and institutions that reinforce and perpetuate gender inequalities. Likewise, we undertake innovative policy influence work to challenge the status quo, and enforce the implementation of legislation and policies that promote gender equality while addressing the gaps between policies and their implementations through evidence-based advocacy.

Gender equality strategies are implemented across all our programs, and we disaggregate and monitor data by gender. Thus, our programs contribute to Goal 5 of the SDGs (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), with particular focus on Target 5.3 (eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation) and Target 5.5 (ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life.)

Our projects are also aligned with all three objectives of Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy.

These are to:

1. Enhance the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls.
2. Increase the participation of women and girls' in equal decision-making; and
3. Give women and girls control over the resources they need to secure economic and social equality.

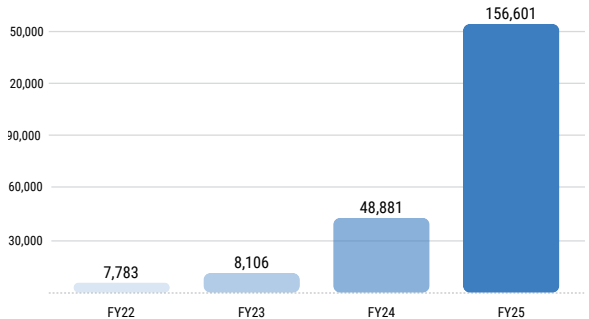
Promoting gender equality and the rights of women and girls

During this reporting period, our capacity-building initiatives directly reached and benefited 447,594 women, young girls, and engaged men. These initiatives comprised awareness creation campaigns, training, improved adoption, and enforcement of gender-sensitive policies, legislations, strategies, and actions that promote equal rights for women and girls regarding economic resources, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources. Over the past six years, Children Believe and our partners have taken accelerated actions to challenge the status quo of norms and structures that perpetuate gender inequality across many communities (See Chart 18).

Building on the foundations laid in our programs from previous years across our eight operating countries, we continued to provide technical and financial support to women and adolescent girls who formed and organized self-help groups, savings and credit groups or credit cooperatives. We recognize that investing in income-generating activities for women provides long-term returns and economic freedom for not just the women, but their families and communities as well.

4-YEAR TREND

Number of community members trained about gender and gender based violence



Between FY24 and FY25, trainings on gender and gender-based violence expanded considerably, with a total of 156,601 community members reached. Ghana accounted for most of this growth, reflecting a strategic focus on this area during the year.

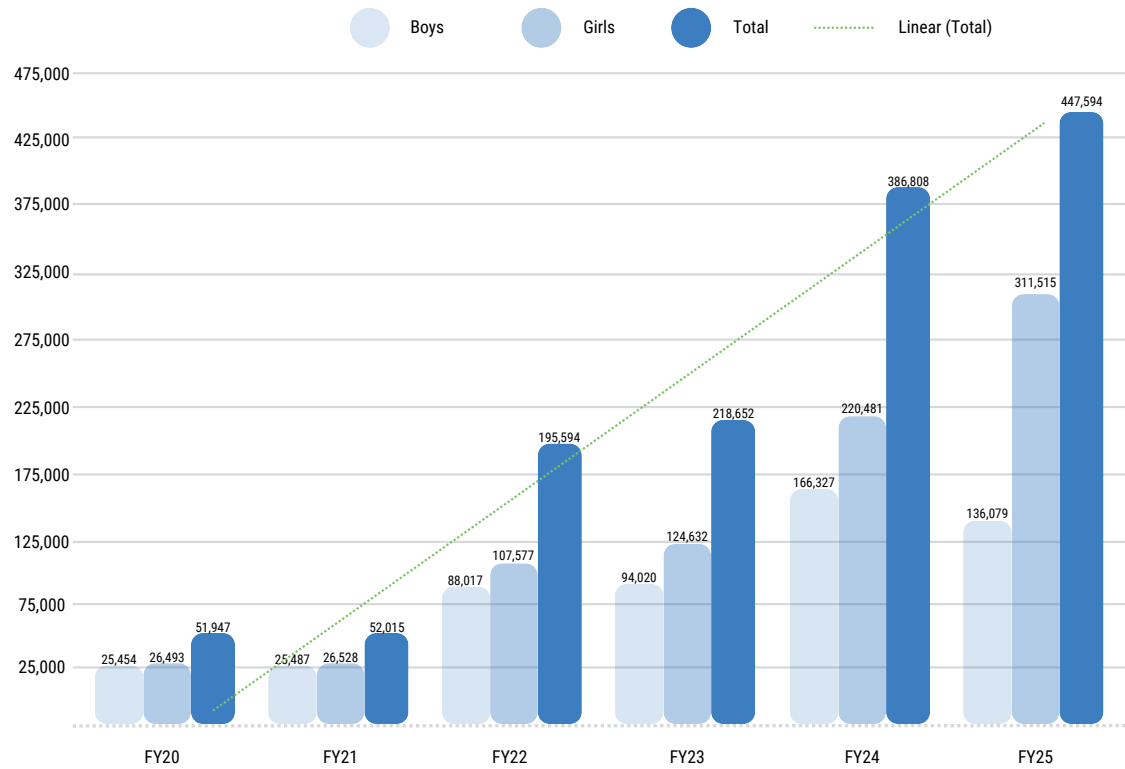
During this reporting period, our capacity-building initiatives directly reached and benefited

447,594

women, young girls, and engaged men

6-YEAR TREND

CHART 18: Number of women and girls who benefited from capacity-building support in favour of gender equality in Children Believe communities - FY20-25 trend analysis.



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY20-25

Children Believe works to ensure that **women, men, girls, and boys enjoy the same rights**, and equal access to resources, opportunities, and protections **regardless of gender**.

BOX 6

From a Bride-to-Be to an Active Student in a Classroom: Rukaya's Story

By Children Believe Ghana

Early and forced marriages remain a major barrier to girls' education and development in Northern Ghana. This is the story of a 16-year-old girl, Rukaya Mohammed, a bright girl with dreams of becoming a nurse. Last year, while she was still in Primary 6, Rukaya's parents began arranging her marriage, believing it was the best path for her future.

However, a powerful intervention changed the course of Rukaya's life. Her aunt, who had participated in one of Children Believe-supported community campaigns on child protection, learned about the dangers and long-term consequences of child marriage. Motivated by this understanding, she took a bold step and engaged other family members. This sparked a series of family discussions, during which she firmly advocated for Rukaya's right to continue her education.

Government child protection officials were brought in to follow up with Rukaya's parents, which led them to rescind their decision. The officials cautioned her parents and urged them to provide the basic needs necessary for her to remain in school. When our partner team followed up, Rukaya said,

“

I am happy that I am still in school. I do not plan to get married now, but rather to complete my school and become a nurse.



Rukaya Mohammed, in a class at Wundua Junior Highschool. Photo: Children Believe Ghana

Her parents now support her aspirations, ensuring she has what she needs to succeed.

Rukaya is now in Junior High School (grade 7), learning confidently alongside her peers. Her story is not just about a girl who was saved from early marriage, it demonstrates how awareness, community dialogue, and strong linkages with schools and state institutions can transform the lives of children like Rukaya.

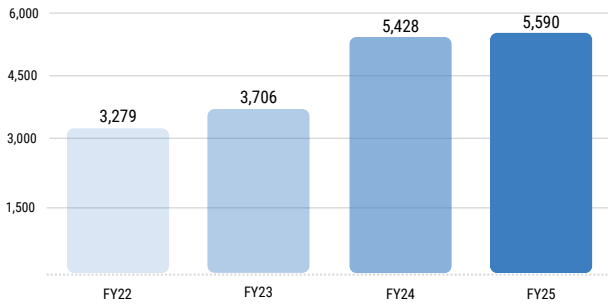
PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

During this fiscal year, a growing number of women participated in Community-Based Organization (CBO) activities as both members and leaders, creating increased space for women to exercise their social, economic, and political rights. Children Believe proactively collaborated with some local NGO partners and government technical departments to develop or enforce new gender-friendly laws and guidelines that allow equal participation of female members and executives.

Through these efforts, 42,423 young women and mothers (Chart 19) actively participated in community forums or institutions as members and leaders, exercising their leadership roles and ensuring they have a say in community decision-making processes. These spaces continue to inspire more women to become strong advocates for community-driven, and participatory development programs.

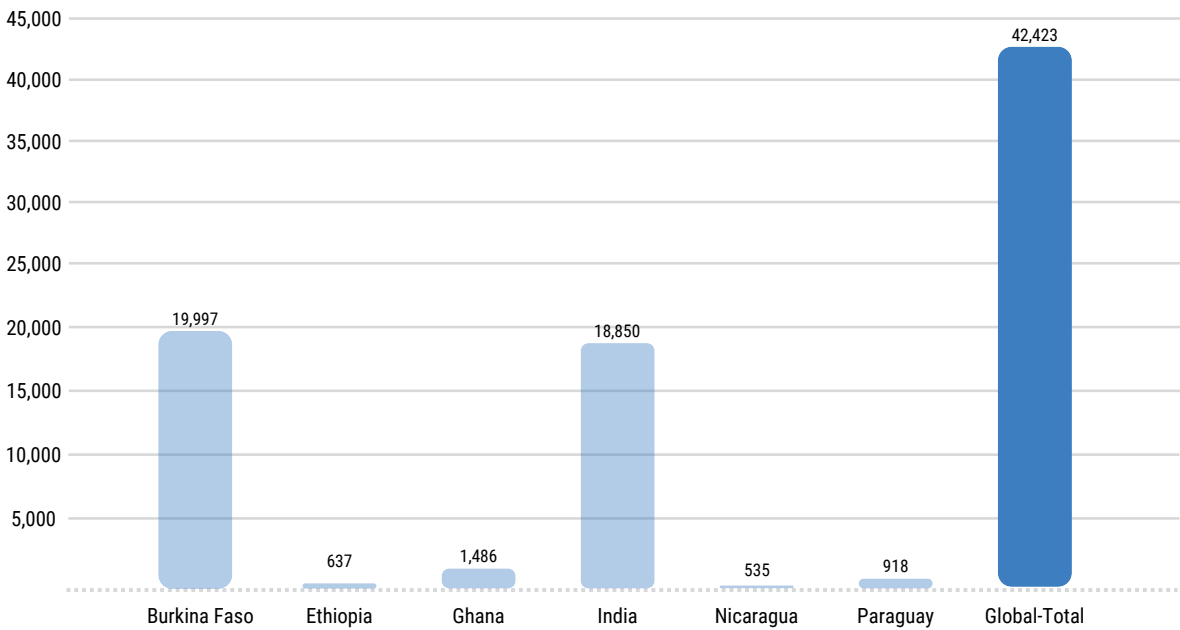
4-YEAR TREND

Number of women engaged in women-led entrepreneurship programs



Participation in FY25 held steady at 5,590, a slight increase from 5,428 in FY24. This consistency demonstrates both our continued commitment to these programs and the enduring importance women attach to these trainings as a source of positive change.

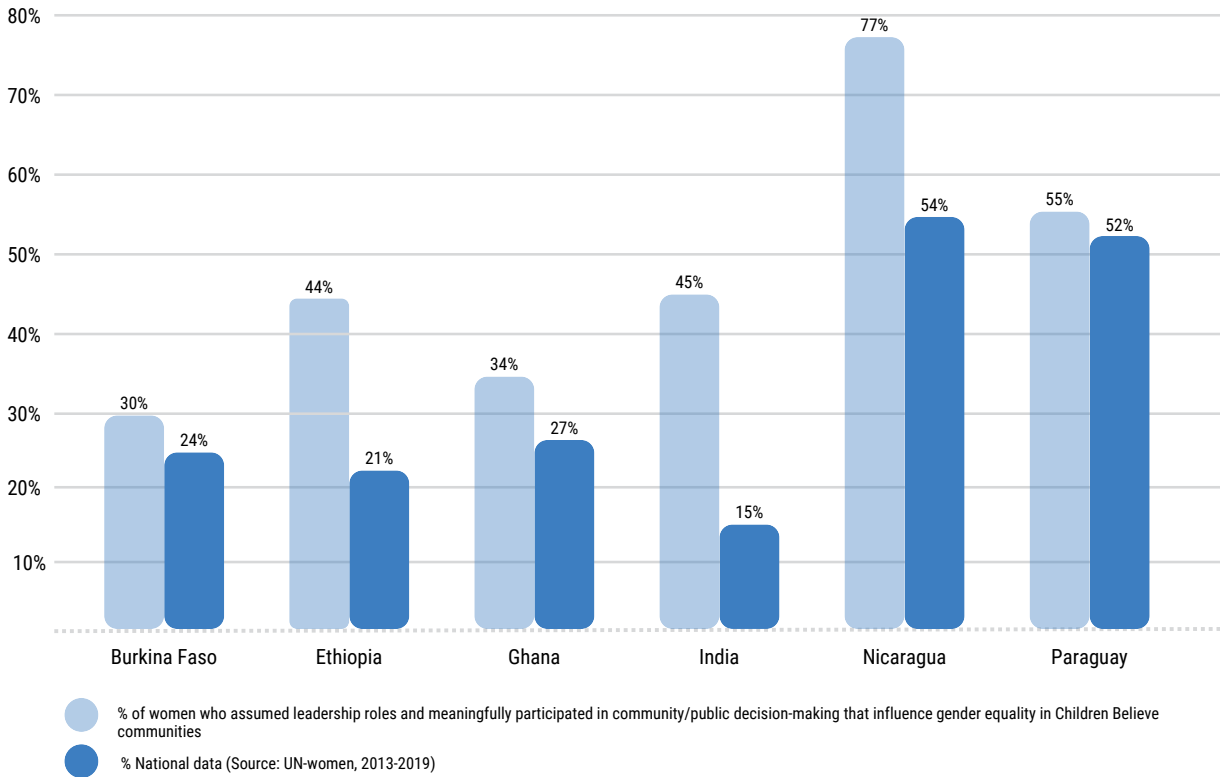
CHART 19: Number of women who assumed leadership roles and meaningfully participated in community/public decision-making in Children Believe-supported communities, disaggregated by country - FY25.



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY25

Chart 20 illustrates the proportion of women within Children Believe’s operational areas who assumed leadership positions and engaged in decision-making within the community and public spheres, in comparison to national averages. Notably, there was a significant increase in the proportion of women who actively participate in community decision-making—30 percent above the national average in India, followed by Nicaragua (23 percent) and Ethiopia (23 percent), both of which have also registered impressive gains.

CHART 20: Percentage of women who assumed roles and meaningfully participated in community/public decision-making in Children Believe-supported communities compared to the national average, disaggregated by country - FY25.



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY25

The observed increases reflect the positive impact of our program interventions to promote gender equality and women’s participation at the grassroots level, particularly in India, Ethiopia and Nicaragua. Transformative changes took place in countries such as India, where in FY25 Children Believe and its local partners took deliberate steps to redefine masculinity, positioning men and boys not merely as participants, but as co-leaders in gender justice. Across all operational districts, programs challenged rigid norms, promoted emotional literacy, and reframed caregiving and equity as strengths rather than exceptions. A program impact assessment across our intervention

areas in India revealed notable shifts: **more boys took on routine domestic work, over 300 fathers actively intervened to postpone early marriages, and about 70 percent of couples reported making joint financial decisions.** These changes signal a generational shift—where fathers, sons, and brothers are moving from bystanders to champions of gender equality, anchoring transformative change not just in policy, but in daily practice.

EMPLOYABILITY AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN



Thanks to your support, more than

81,000

youth and women have benefited
from economic empowerment
programs in FY25.

EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN



A young father and his children working in a field in Ethiopia. Panel Photo: Children Believe

Youth unemployment (ages 15-24) remains a complex issue with deep individual and societal impacts. According to the ILO report (2024; 2025), youth unemployment rates are critically high in sub-Saharan Africa, where nearly three in four working young adults are in insecure forms of work; one in three paid workers earned less than the median wage; and more than half of working youth rely on the subsistence agricultural sector to survive. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the average youth unemployment rate stands at 16 percent, further compounded by the prevalence of informal employment, affecting about 60 percent of young workers, trapping many in structural labour market barriers. In 2025, the economic and social outlook remains highly uncertain, shaped by geopolitical frictions, rising climate-related costs, and unresolved sovereign debt risks. The ILO warns that low-income countries appear to be particularly vulnerable, with the slowest progress in creating decent work opportunities, leaving the resilience of labour markets under sustained pressure.

Similarly, generating viable employment for young people remains an acute problem across our countries of operation and communities. Many young people do not have access to quality and reliable economic opportunities, either through self or formal employment. The challenges of youth unemployment and underemployment are multifaceted and require comprehensive efforts at multiple levels that encompass education reform, skill development, job creation, policy changes, and fostering an enabling economic environment for youth to thrive.

Children Believe and our partners implement interventions that support skills development in young people to create better economic opportunities and prospects through gainful employment. In FY25, our youth and women's economic-empowerment programs continued to build the skills of young women and men in leadership and advocacy, self-employment, and entrepreneurship.

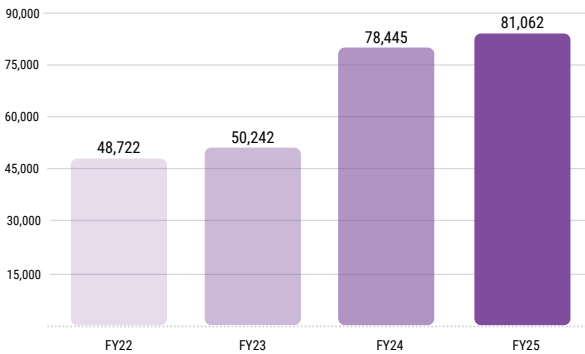
PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

In FY25, we sought to address other underlying issues affecting unemployment by conducting training programs that offer a combination of market-relevant skills, fundamental life skills, and financial education to proper participants for paid or self-employment opportunities.

As indicated in Chart 21, we supported the formation or strengthening of 5,534 women economic collectives including Village Savings and Loans Associations that constitute 81,062 economically disadvantaged young people (over 92 percent women) to improve their economic agency and start self-employment or micro-economic development opportunities across Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Nicaragua, and Paraguay. Notably, the women’s self-help economic support movement and cooperative membership initiatives thrived, with 34,790 members in India and 27,200 in Burkina Faso during this reporting period.

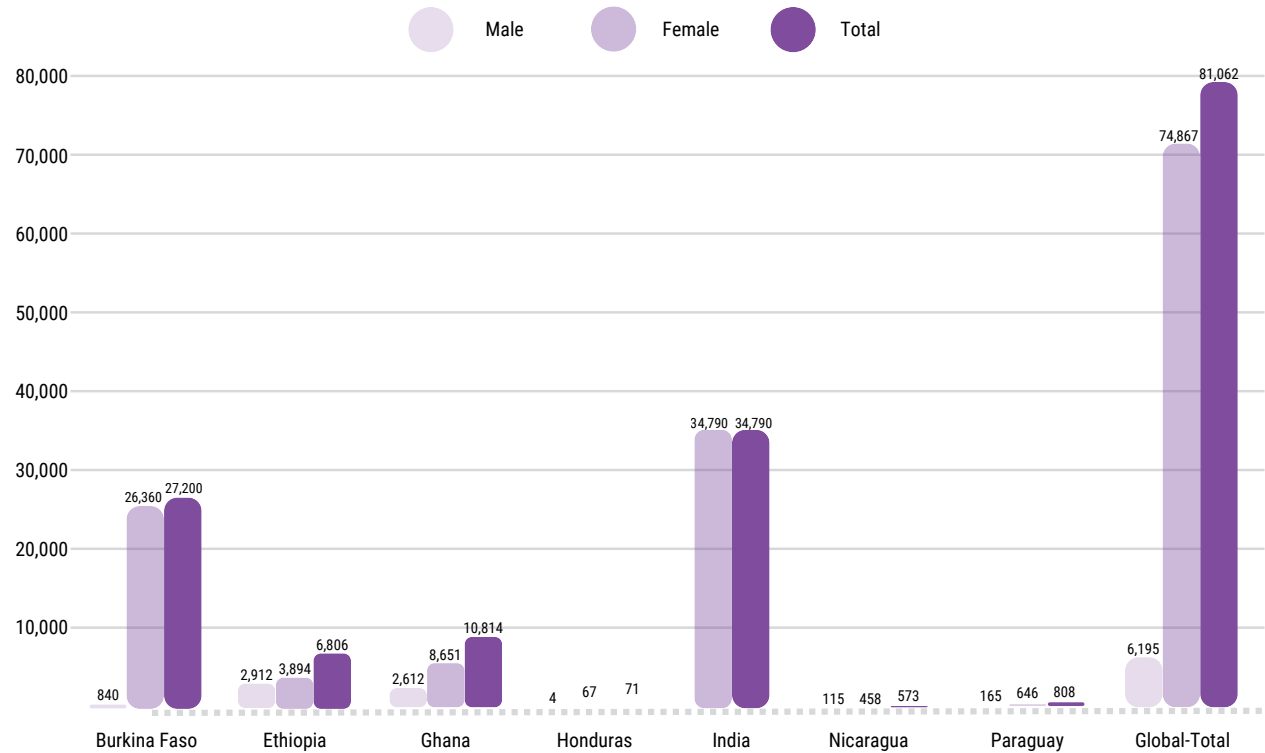
4-YEAR TREND

The number of youth and women who benefited from training programs to improve paid or self-employment opportunities



Participation held steady from FY24 to FY25, with 81,062 youth and women engaged in training programs on self-employment and entrepreneurship—evidence of the ongoing relevance and value of these opportunities.

CHART 21: Distribution of youth and women who benefited from economic empowerment programs - FY25



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY25

BOX 7

Judy, A Promising Young Woman Entrepreneur from Honduras

By Children Believe Honduras

Judy, a 19-year-old entrepreneur, lives in San Marcos de Colón, Honduras. She joined the “Promoting the Socio-economic Entrepreneurship of Youth and Women” project, supported by Children Believe and our local partner Sur en Acción. This opened the door for her to attend an intensive training on business planning, financial literacy, and product development. Judy describes,

“

I always had the ambition, but this program gave me the tools, the structure, and the confidence to take my ideas further.

Judy went on to develop a new, innovative business idea—handcrafted souvenirs inspired by San Marcos de Colón’s identity as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Her business concept stood out, earning her one of the project’s competitive seed capital grants. Today, she is bringing that idea to life, designing cultural and ecological keepsakes that reflect the soul of her community and attract visitors from near and far.

With heartfelt gratitude, Judy reflects: “Supporting entrepreneurs like me has always been a challenge

in this municipality. I feel incredibly fortunate to have had this opportunity. It has transformed how I see my business—and my future.”

Judy’s journey is far more than a personal triumph. It’s a powerful reminder of what can happen when young women are given the chance to dream, the tools to build, and the support to lead. In the heart of rural Honduras, Judy is not only building a business—she’s creating a legacy of inspiration, inclusion, and amazing possibility.



Judy, 19, is building her own business with support from Children Believe and its partner Sur en Acción.
Photo: Children Believe

81,062

economically disadvantaged young people (over 92 percent women) were empowered to improve their economic agency.

Youth and climate change

Climate change poses an extreme threat to today's generation. The world is hazardously close to exceeding 1.5°C warming, and the climate crisis is increasing the frequency and severity of disasters, devastating the lives and livelihoods of millions. People in the global south, where Children Believe works, have contributed the least to the problem, but are paying the highest price. Globally, about 3.6 billion people are affected by heatwaves, droughts, wildfires, floods, and other climate-related events (UN, 2025).

Despite these adversities, we recognize the incredible potential of young people and their role in shaping our collective future, hence, in collaboration with our local partners, we mobilized youth and other community members to engage proactively and responsibly in policies and actions that influence climate and sustainability outcomes.

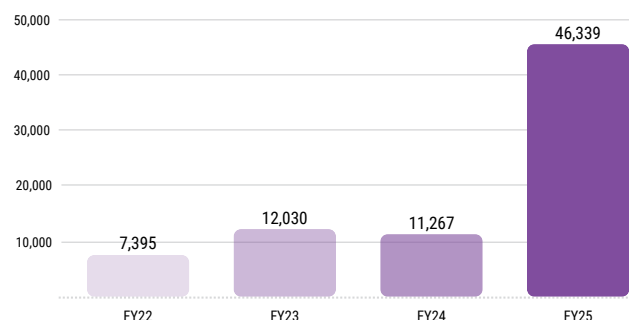
During the reporting period, Children Believe responded to the climate change effects of droughts and human-induced conflict in Burkina Faso and Ethiopia; hurricanes in Nicaragua and Paraguay; and floods, landslides, and cyclones in India.

Notable progress was made in youth-led green jobs and self-employment initiatives in Paraguay. Over 4,115 youth and adults participated in training programs on green jobs and employability—72 percent of whom were women—with an impressive 90 percent of youth going on to launch small businesses in environmentally sustainable sectors. These programs specifically addressed the needs of marginalized youth, offering dignified and sustainable alternatives to exploitative or hazardous labour. By equipping participants with practical skills and fostering inclusive opportunities, the programs strengthened economic resilience while promoting environmental sustainability.

Similarly, in India, initiatives promoting climate justice and community-based climate resilience engaged youth and local communities. Over 3,586 community members, primarily youth, participated

4-YEAR TREND

Number of community members trained in climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies



FY25 saw 46,339 community members trained in climate change adaptation and mitigation. The increase is linked to Ghana's shifting priorities, with greater focus placed on equipping communities to strengthen their climate resilience..

in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) trainings, while 8,086 children and adolescents completed life-skills and resilience workshops. Participants led the desilting of eight ponds and installed 125 climate-resilient WASH assets, contributing to a seven percent reduction in diarrhoeal illness and a drop in open defecation to nine percent. Environmental action included planting 4,500 saplings by 745 youth, organizing plastic-free sports meets, and upcycling e-waste into school RO units for auction. "Chenchu Spring Guardians" monitored water sources through WhatsApp alerts. These actions positioned youth as first responders, innovators, and climate leaders, embedding them at the heart of community preparedness, adaptation, and environmental stewardship.

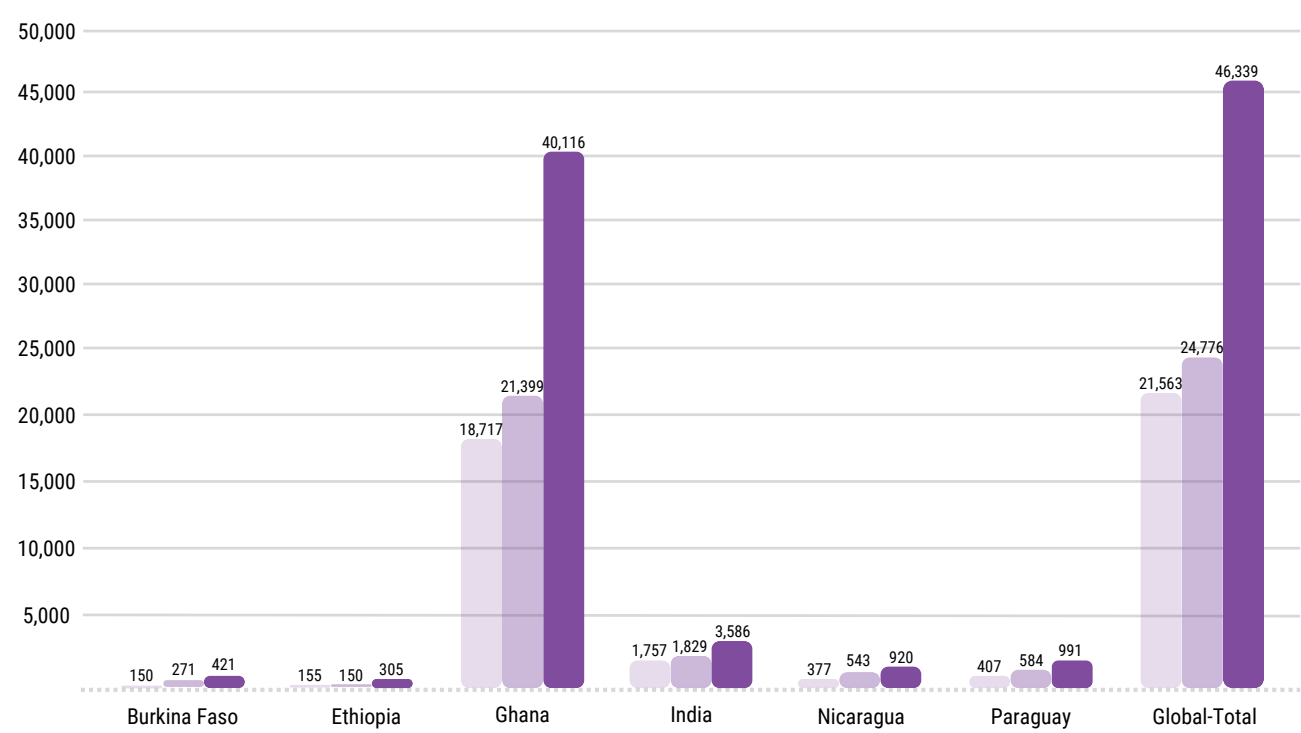
PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

In the 2025 fiscal year, over 46,339 young people (53.4 percent women) across our communities of operation in Ghana, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Paraguay, India, and Nicaragua (Chart 22) were mobilized, trained and took the initiative to advocate against unfair and misguided environmental practices that harm their communities. They also engaged in various eco-friendly community development projects. In addition, these young people have been actively mobilizing saplings and seeds and planting trees in schools and in communities. The tree plantation initiatives have yielded substantial results in improving the groundwater tables, enhancing soil fertility, and boosting biodiversity across the targeted communities.



Youth in Paraguay planting saplings to grow a greener, more resilient future. Photo: Children Believe

CHART 22: Distribution of youth and women who benefited from economic empowerment programs - FY25



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY25

BOX 8

Rising for Change: Sathana's Journey to Climate Justice

By Children Believe India

In a quiet farming village in Tamil Nadu, where opportunities are limited and the voices of young girls often go unheard, 18-year-old Sathana has emerged as a powerful advocate for climate justice.

Growing up in a low-income household, Sathana's life was closely tied to agriculture. Her parents worked as farm labourers, and their income depended on seasonal crops. But as erratic rainfall, rising temperatures, and long droughts became common, farming became increasingly unreliable. For families like hers, climate change wasn't a distant threat—it was a daily struggle. Even basic needs like water and electricity were scarce. Sathana recalls,

“
There were days when we had to choose between using water for the crops or for our home.

As the eldest of three children, she often missed school to help with chores or care for her siblings. Many girls in her village dropped out before high school, pressured to marry early or stay home.

“Some of my friends left school because their parents said there was no use—there were no jobs for us anyway.” Poverty, gender inequality, and environmental decline combined to steal their choices and silence their dreams.

Children Believe, in partnership with IRCDS, launched a youth-focused climate resilience program in Sathana's village. The initiative helped young people—especially girls—understand climate change, build leadership skills, and take action. Sathana joined a youth club formed through the program and quickly stood out for her ideas, energy, and ability to rally others.

One of her first proposals was to create a small green space to fight air pollution and encourage community connection. With help from fellow youth members, local volunteers, and support from Children Believe and IRCDS, the idea came to life as “Oxy Park”—a micro-forest planted with native trees and flowering plants. The park became more than a green patch: it was a source of pride, a place to gather, learn, and reflect.

Encouraged by the community's response, Sathana expanded her efforts. She led awareness drives, organized school visits, and helped implement waste management and water conservation campaigns. She says,

“
I saw how something small—just planting trees—could grow into something that brings people together and gives hope.

Last year, Sathana's leadership was recognized internationally. She was selected to represent Children Believe India at a side event of the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York. Standing before global leaders, she spoke about the connection between climate change, child safety, and the rights of girls in rural India. “Climate change is not just an environmental issue—it is a child rights issue. It affects our education, our health, and our future.”

Later that year, she was one of just 27 youth leaders globally invited to contribute to the pre-COP29 dialogue. Her recommendations—particularly those highlighting the vulnerabilities of girls—were included in the youth declaration submitted to COP29.

Back home, Sathana continues to lead with purpose. She mentors younger girls, encourages them to stay in school, and involves them in environmental initiatives. Her family, once hesitant, is now proud of her role as a changemaker. “I never imagined I'd speak in New York. But I also know that real change begins here, in my village,” she says.

Sathana's story is a powerful reminder of what's possible when children are seen as agents of change. With the right support, even those from under-resourced communities can rise to become global voices. Her journey speaks to the value of investing in young people, especially girls, to build more resilient, inclusive, and hopeful futures.



Employability and Youth Empowerment



Increased 21st century skilling, employment readiness and employability for youth and improved access to green economic development opportunities in targeted communities

Trees are critical in Burkina Faso. Here, a child is learning to care for this important resource.
Photo: Children Believe

CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE



Young people in a Children Believe-supported classroom, Ghana. Photo: Children Believe Ghana

In FY25, Children Believe continued to consolidate, revisit or scale up its Centres of Excellence (CoE) initiatives. These centres in our six operational countries serve as hubs to leverage innovation, share knowledge, promote networking, and advance thought leadership in various key areas of expertise.

Children Believe Centres of Excellence Initiatives:

- Early childhood care and development (co-led by Burkina Faso and Ghana)
- Education and child protection in humanitarian actions (led by Ethiopia)
- Gender, intersectionality, and social inclusion (led by India)
- Youth employability and women economic empowerment (led by Nicaragua)
- Child participation and protection (led by Paraguay)

Early childhood care and development

Burkina Faso and Ghana co-hosted the Centres of Excellence (CoE) initiatives on early childhood care and development, enhancing the promotion of best practices through the implementation of Learning Through Play⁵ (LTP) for Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD).

The Ghana country office CoE initiative on Early Childhood Development achieved significant progress in FY25. Its investment aligned with the nurturing care framework focusing on: 1) promoting health and nutrition during the first 1,000 days of life; 2) providing early learning opportunities for children, 3) promoting responsive caregiving and 4) ensuring safety and security for children. These efforts strengthened our recognition as a trusted partner across multiple government ministries. Key achievements in FY25 included the launch of the Education Upfront research, support to ECCD committees in engaging stakeholders, and invitation from the Ministry of Education for Children Believe to participate in ongoing discussions on reforming Ghana's education system and priorities.

In Burkina Faso, over 200 mothers benefited from the integrated, participatory, and culturally sensitive LTP approach. Displaced families received support to help children cope with emotional, psychological, and learning challenges. As Malpoa, a displaced mother, reflects; "I realized that playing is not a waste of time—it's a way to teach, to reassure, and to build a strong relationship," She went on explaining that before joining the LTP program, "I thought a good parent had to control everything. Now, I play games and talk more with my children. Even their father, who used to be distant, has started joining in games and spending meaningful time with them. This new practice has brought us closer together as a family."

“

I thought a good parent had to control everything. Now, I play games and talk more with my children.

~ Malpoa, a mother in Burkina Faso

Education and child protection in humanitarian actions

The Ethiopia programme, as part of the Centre of Excellence initiative on education and child protection in humanitarian actions, has strengthened climate smart agricultural practices and disaster risk reduction across multiple regions. In Oromia, Negle-Arsi district, local child protection workers received targeted training to safeguard children from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence during emergencies. In Amhara Region, North Wollo zone, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation have been embedded into community development and education initiatives. More than 51,830 community members have gained knowledge and practical support in disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation, and environmental protection enhancing reliance at the community level.

over

51,830

community members in drought prone areas benefited from disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation support programs in Ethiopia.

⁵ This innovative methodology was first developed by SickKids Centre for Community Mental Health (formerly The Hincks- Dellcrest Centre) and the City of Toronto Public Health Department. It was piloted and implemented by Children Believe since 2014 to deliver early childhood care, education and cognitive development, which are instrumental for healthy brains and lives, and lay the foundation for positive change in the lives of young children.

Gender, intersectionality, and social inclusion

In India, the **Centre of Excellence on Gender, Intersectionality and Social Inclusion (GISI)**, was initiated to catalyze innovation and systemic change. During the reporting period, it has strengthened this commitment by bridging grassroots realities with policy influence and organizational learning. Guided by GISI, our teams have integrated intersectionality across all stages of program design and delivery, resulting in more inclusive outreach, greater responsiveness to layered vulnerabilities, and increased leadership opportunities for women, girls, and marginalized communities.

Children Believe India, in partnership with SARDS, co-developed a digital child vulnerability mapping tool using KOBO Toolbox, specifically for the marginalized Chenchu tribal community. Now adopted by the Prakasam District Collector, the tool underscores how inclusive data and technology can shape evidence-led child protection policies, demonstrating GISI's growing influence on systems and governance. By prioritizing the voices of adolescent girls from marginalized communities, the implementation of the Child-Friendly



Children in India face many hardships due to child labour and harmful traditional practices. Photo: Children Believe

Accountability Mechanism (CFAM), enabled them to influence local accountability systems through a rights-based lens. This practice was recently recognized by the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) as a global best practice, featured in its report: From Advocacy to Action.

Youth employability and women economic empowerment



Graduates of a catering training program in Nicaragua celebrate their achievement. Photo: Children Believe

Nicaragua hosted the Centre of Excellence initiative on youth employability and women's economic empowerment, leveraging education and skills training to meet the growing demand for learning and job-readiness among youth. By investing in targeted programs with a strong emphasis on technology and entrepreneurship, the initiative helped close critical skills gaps. Through the Krezco Learning digital platform, young people gained access to flexible, relevant content designed to build in-demand competencies. A strong emphasis on gender inclusion, ensuring equal access for young women and men to opportunities in emerging sectors. Two new training courses—Safe Use of Networks and Savings with Purpose—were added to Krezco, further enhancing employability and driving greater youth participation, particularly among young women in the digital economy and entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Child rights and participation

The Centre of Excellence on child participation and protection was convened by the Paraguay country programme and promoted child leadership across 128 operational communities, reinforcing the role of girls and boys in community councils, protection networks, and public campaigns such as “Lazo Verde” (Green Ribbon in English). Three local partners reported the active participation of girls and youth in local decision-making processes on violence prevention and child protection. In total, 21,501 children and youth aged 10 to 17 took part in organized groups—such as “Lilac Agents” and the “Red de Defensores/as de Derechos de la Niñez” (Children’s Rights Defenders Network in English)—to advocate for their rights. These groups led campaigns on cyberbullying, child labour prevention, and youth political inclusion. They also engaged in eight public advocacy events, presenting proposals to municipal councils and education authorities; and participated in Latin American regional networks, expanding their influence beyond Paraguay.

In FY25, 52 child-led groups and five municipal youth councils amplified youth voices in local decision-making advancing inclusive policymaking and ensuring accountability to children’s needs. A total of 70 joint sessions and workshops brought together adults and children to understand and address child-related issues, engaging 378 participants in collaborative problem-solving.

Building on our community-based efforts, collaboration with the Ministry of Childhood and Adolescence (MINNA) has been pivotal in advancing awareness campaigns and initiatives to end all types of violence against girls, boys, and adolescents. Child protection activities, designed in the metaphor of Safaris and Dialogue Forum and active listening spaces in the field, provide platforms for ongoing discussions on child protection issues.

To strengthen local capacity for safeguarding children, 799 CBO members, government staff and other child protection actors received training on how to advocate for children’s rights, protections, and participation.

The “We Are All Responsible” (Todos Somos Responsables) campaign promoted shared responsibility in protecting and caring for children and adolescents across Paraguay. By engaging in diverse sectors of society and leveraging both digital and mainstream media, the initiative raised awareness and mobilized collective action on child protection. Its significant visibility and engagement at the national level set a strong foundation for future initiatives.

In FY25, a total of 70 joint sessions and workshops brought together adults and children to understand and address child-related issues, engaging 378 participants in collaborative problem-solving in Paraguay.

IV STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND POLICY INFLUENCE



Children Believe CEO with CIEPWG CEO's Delegation, at a press conference in Ottawa. Photo: Children Believe

During the reporting period, Children Believe has continued to strengthen its strategic collaboration and partnerships with national, continental, and global organizations in pursuit of advancing its mission and broadening its spheres of policy influence.

In Burkina Faso, Children Believe bolstered its strategic partnerships with the Institut de Formation et de Recherche Intégrées en Sciences de Santé et de l'Éducation (IFRISSE) and the École Normale Supérieure de Koudougou, as well as international academic institutions such as the Catholic University of Italy. These collaborations strengthened knowledge management and learning within the framework of the Centre of Excellence in early childhood education, fostering an ecosystem that supports pedagogical innovation and applied research in early learning.

In Ethiopia, Children Believe collaborated with key government ministries, including the Ministry and Bureau of Women and Social Affairs, Ministry and Bureau of Education, Ministry of Labour and Skills, and regional Bureau of Finance as well as Addis Ababa University. We have continued to actively participate in UN cluster groups, various INGO task forces and networks.

In Ghana, we partnered with the University for Development Studies (UDS) to promote excellence in early childhood education and remained an active member of the Early Childhood Network of Ghana (ECNG), a coalition dedicated to advancing early childhood education and development (ECED). The Ghana programme strengthened its partnership with the Toni Blair Institute's Generation Global Initiative to

equip young people with the requisite knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to become active, open-minded, global citizens. Through this initiative, children and youth are building knowledge, skills and attitudes to reflect critically on their experiences, think analytically, ask meaningful questions and actively listen to others—strengthening their agency to navigate and shape the future. Furthermore, Children Believe Ghana country office was selected by the Canada High Commission to host a meeting with CSOs, NGOs and INGOs on Conflict Sensitive Programming. Chaired by the High Commissioner of Canada to Ghana, Togo, and Sierra



Women's Village Savings and Loan Group in Kaya, Burkina Faso. Photo: Children Believe

Leone, alongside the Head of Cooperation for Ghana, the meeting was held at Children Believe's Ghana's resource centre.

Children Believe in Ghana has also maintained strong collaboration and funding partnerships with ChildFund Korea and KOICA. Similarly, we continued our partnership with the Australian High Commission in Ghana through the Direct Aid Program (DAP), which included jointly providing beekeeping equipment to five women's groups in Yendi Municipality.

In India, we led the scaling up of the Generation Global program of the Tony Blair Institute and International Baccalaureate (IB) to enable young people, especially girls and digitally excluded youth, to build global citizenship skills and engage in cross-cultural dialogue. Children Believe India also led its rollout in West Africa and Latin America, reinforcing our global positioning in youth engagement.

Children Believe India's partnership with Balamandir Research Foundation (BMRF) advanced inclusive early

childhood care, particularly for Chenchu tribal children, through the development of a culturally grounded curriculum. The India Programme also remained active in the ChildFund Alliance Working Group on Climate Change, where our recommendations for a Global Youth Network were adopted at the alliance level—highlighting our leadership in advancing climate justice for children. At the national level, collaborations with Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Sri Ramachandra University strengthened the scientific base of our climate and nutrition work, while our partnership with Visthar ensured consistent integration of intersectionality in program design.

In Mali, Children Believe completed its registration and involved key stakeholders in the development of its new country strategy document (FY25-31).

In Nicaragua, Children Believe has strengthened its strategic alliance with private organizations such as NESTLE and co-led the graduation of youth from a local partner organization's Youth Culinary Talent certified courses.

In Paraguay, we strengthened our strategic alliances with key private sector and civil society actors to broaden our reach and deepen our impact. A flagship initiative, in this regard, was the 7th round national campaign on child protection called "Todos Somos Responsables", and it has reached over 3.5 million people. This campaign was coordinated with multiple sectors, mobilized national media, engaged government institutions, and activated community platforms.

Our Paraguay office enhanced its partnership with the Taiwan Fund for Children and Families (TFCF) and replicated the implementation of the Learning Through Play (LTP) approach in early childhood education. Similarly, our partnership with Child Fund Korea has significantly increased educational outreach and strengthened our endeavours to create a violence free school environment in Paraguay.

In Canada, we maintained active engagement with sector networks, including the Humanitarian Response Network/Cooperation Canada (HRN/CC), the Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health (CanWaCH), and the Canadian International Education Policy Working Group (CIEPWG), a coalition of over 20 international development, humanitarian, and advocacy organizations committed to advancing Canada's role in global education. We actively participated in and



Children in a classroom at an ECCD centre in Ghana. Photo: Children Believe

contributed to the G7 Education, Peace, and Security Initiative along with Right To Play International, Results Canada and many others, leveraging Canada's G7 Presidency. Our coalition launched the #YESfor12 campaign, calling on Canada to support the principle that every child should receive a minimum of 12 years of quality education.

During the reporting period, Children Believe has continued to strengthen its strategic collaboration and partnerships with national, continental, and global organizations in pursuit of advancing its mission and broadening its spheres of policy influence.

V MEET THE BOARD

At Children Believe, our Board of Directors play a vital role in shaping our vision and ensuring strong governance. As dedicated volunteers, they bring diverse expertise and deep commitment to our mission—helping children around the world overcome barriers to education and unlock their full

potential. Their leadership, strategic oversight, and passion for making a difference guide our organization forward, ensuring transparency, accountability, and lasting impact in the communities we serve.

Our Board of Directors

(as of July 1, 2025)



Aklilu Mulat
Chair



Gabriel Ollivier
Past Chair



Anthony Ruffolo
Secretary



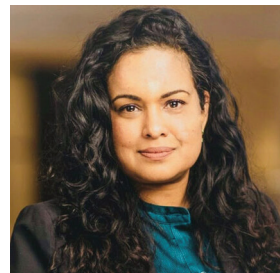
Michael Ruthard
Treasurer



Vafa Akhavan
Director



Derin Bello
Director



Judith D'Souza-Soares
Director



Mary Kosta-Cadas
Director



Jason Wilson
Director



Winston Wu
Director

VI PROGRAM SPENDING AND EFFECTIVENESS



Young students in an Ethiopian classroom, where we are working to address overcrowding and improve learning opportunities.
Photo: Children Believe

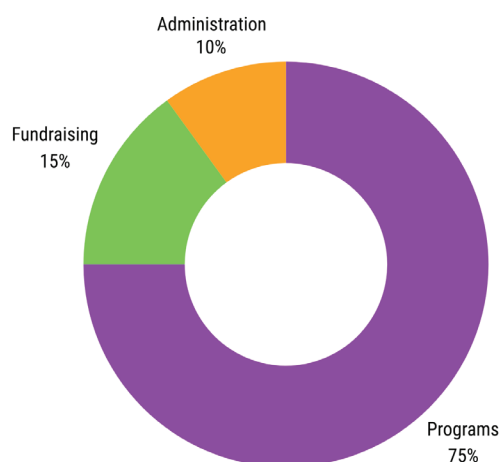
At Children Believe, we are deeply grateful for the generosity and trust of our donors and partners. Your support allows us to break down barriers to education, creating opportunities for children, families, and communities to dream fearlessly, make their own choices, and shape their futures. We believe that with the right support, every child can stand up for what they believe in and be heard.

With this responsibility comes our commitment to financial transparency and accountability. We take great care to manage every donation with integrity, ensuring funds are used effectively to achieve the greatest possible impact. By investing wisely and strategically, we maximize the reach of our programs, driving sustainable change and delivering lasting results for the communities we serve.

When you give, 75 percent of your donation goes directly to program activities that support children in the communities where we work. An additional

15 percent helps raise the resources needed to sustain these programs, while 10 percent ensures Children Believe operates efficiently and transparently (chart 23).

CHART 23: Spending Allocations



This chart is based on a five year average of our annual expenditures.

Summarized Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

Year ended March 31, 2025
(in thousands of dollars)

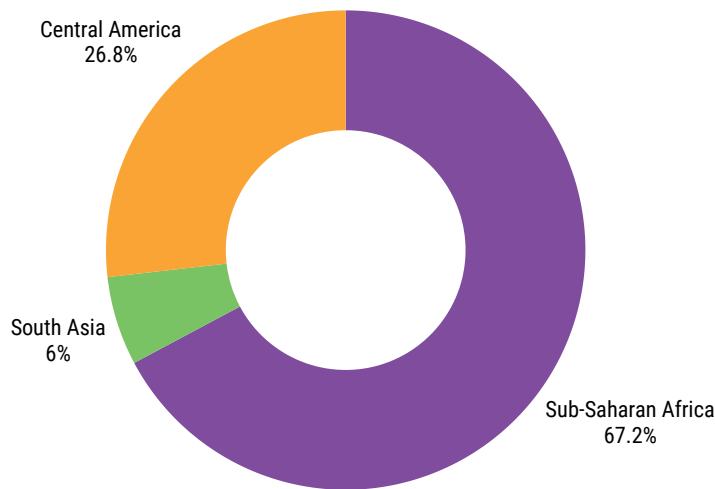
Revenue	2025	2024
Cash Donations	19,484	21,130
Grants	7,631	6,074
Gifts-in-Kind	5,067	3,595
Investment and Other Income	1,406	741
TOTAL REVENUE	33,588	31,540

Expenditures	2025	2024
Programs:		
• Education	9,094	11,580
• Health, Wash and Nutrition	11,626	5,862
• Cross-Cutting Themes	1,323	2,656
• Child Protection	1,578	1,631
• Partnering with Children and Youth for Change	1,072	1,181
• Gender Equality	501	656
• Emergency Response and Disaster Risk Management	470	252
Total Programs	25,664	23,818
Fundraising	4,614	5,198
Administration	3,874	3,850
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	34,153	32,866
Excess (Deficit) of Revenue over Expenditures	(566)	(1,326)

Children Believe promotes child-oriented, family-focused and integrated community led programs. It believes in the power of local-led development, and over 80 percent of its program resources in FY25 were channeled through 30 inspiring local civil society partners in over 934 highly vulnerable communities found in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras,

India, Mali, Nicaragua, and Paraguay. We directly reached over 1,712,000 children, their families and other vulnerable members, and effectively invested \$15 per direct beneficiary to bring positive impact.

CHART 24: Spending by Program Region in FY25



During the reporting period (chart 24), **67.2 percent** of our program investments were allocated to **sub-Saharan Africa** (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana and Mali), followed by **26.8 percent in central America** (Honduras, Nicaragua and Paraguay), and **6 percent in South-East Asia** (India).

Children Believe's largest portfolio, accounting for 45 percent of program spending (chart 25) is on health, nutrition and WASH to 590,602 children, lactating mothers, pregnant women and other vulnerable people. This accounted for \$19.68 investment per beneficiary (excluding the gift-in-kind medical assistance).

Next, our investment on education constituted 36 percent of our direct program investment cost, and our primary aim is to remove the barriers to education and increase access to quality and inclusive education and skills development. Through this focus, we enabled over 634,922 children,

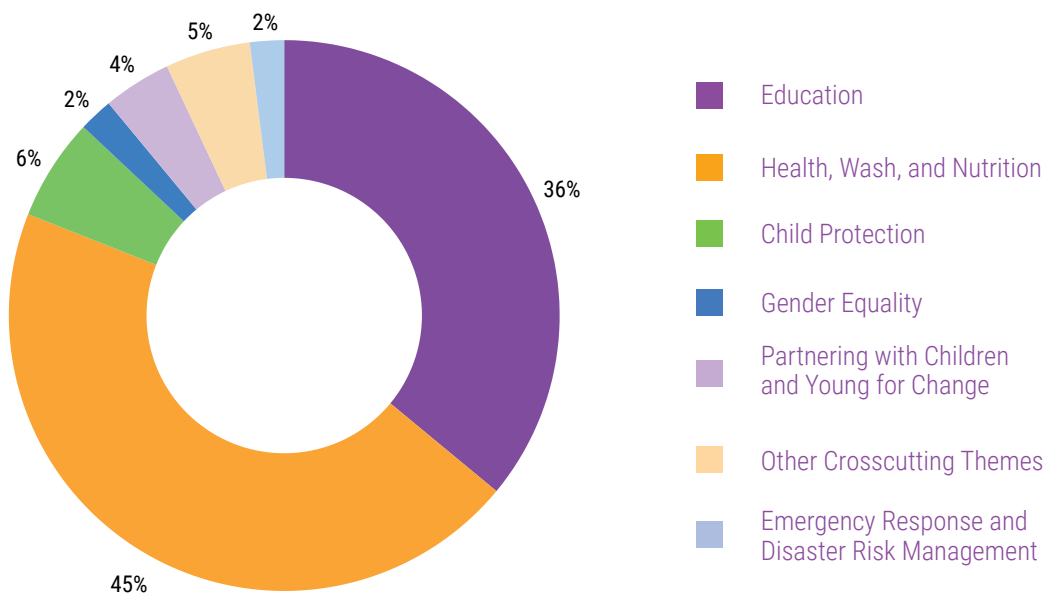
young women, and men to have increased access to preschool and primary education, as well as vocational and life management skills development, at an investment of \$14.32 per beneficiary.

Child protection programs directly benefited over 555,719 children, youth and women, representing six percent of program spending. These programs were highly cost-effective, requiring just \$2.84 per beneficiary. They improved children's lives in targeted communities by establishing community-based child protection systems, providing psychosocial support, and ensuring access to birth certificates.

Furthermore, two percent of total program costs—\$11.80 per beneficiary—was invested to promote gender equality for 42,423 young women and mothers. This investment strengthened their leadership roles and ensured their voices are included in societal decision-making processes. These spaces continue to inspire women to advocate for community-driven, participatory development programs that meet their specific needs.

Similarly, four percent of program spending directly benefited 46,339 unemployed youth and economically poor women. We invested \$23.10 per beneficiary to provide education and skills training, addressing growing skill demands with a strong emphasis on technology, entrepreneurship and green jobs.

CHART 25: Spending by Program Thematic Focus/Pathways of Change - FY25



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, (as of March 31, 2025)

VII LOOKING FORWARD

Throughout the 2025 fiscal year, Children Believe has facilitated positive change for children, their families, and their communities. Our integrated, child-centred, family-focused community development programs directly reached over 1,712,000 children, youth, women and men—clear evidence of the effectiveness of our approach, and the dedication of our team and partners.

We continued to evolve to remain relevant, resilient, and impactful by staying locally rooted, globally connected, and focused on delivering results. In FY25, we successfully completed the first year of our seven-year strategic plan (FY25-31), which renews our commitment to serving children and advancing humanity. This plan charts our course toward doubling our reach, revenue and brand recognition, ensuring even greater impact in the years ahead. We expanded our operations and strengthened our new presence in Honduras and Mali. Our Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Knowledge Sharing (MELKS) Framework was refreshed to enhance effectiveness and accountability. We developed a new humanitarian strategy to strengthen our response in Child Protection and Education in Emergencies, focusing on capacity building and establishing a community of practice with staff and partners in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and Mali.

We deepened our academic, research, and technical partnerships, and scaled up our Centres of Excellence initiatives, using them as knowledge hubs for mutual learning with both internal and external partners. Within the ChildFund Alliance, we developed strong and effective partnerships, implementing jointly funded projects with our Korea and Taiwan affiliates.

Looking ahead, we recognize that children will continue to face an intensifying era of crisis—driven by climate change, economic instability, conflict and digital inequality—within a world marked by shifting power dynamics and rising geopolitical tensions. These challenges may disproportionately impact those already marginalized by systemic inequities and discriminatory norms, including children, women, indigenous communities and social caste groups. We see every challenge as an opportunity to deepen

our impact, guided by our unwavering belief that all children— regardless of who they are, where they live or the circumstances they face—deserve access to education and the chance to thrive.

With a steadfast commitment to children's rights and well-being, we remain committed to the following priority actions in FY26:

-
- Deliver programmes that directly reach over 1.8 million people, where the need is greatest, with excellence, across eight countries of operation.
 - Advance the third year of the Championing Nutrition & Gender Equality (CHANGE) initiative in Ethiopia and Ghana, sharing best practices to address the inherent link between nutrition, culture and gender norms.
 - Strengthen the implementation of our new humanitarian strategy, promoting education and child protection programs in high fragility contexts— Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Mali. We will work to help crisis-affected girls and boys realize their dreams through safe, inclusive, quality education and community-led child protection mechanisms.
 - Enhance our learning practices by revisiting health and nutrition initiatives through gender and cultural lenses, assessing the impact of skills development on youth and women's employability, and reviewing how education contributes to ending child marriage.
 - Diversify and increase institutional grant opportunities in pursuit of doubling our revenues.
 - Engage with CIEPWG and the G7 Working Group to influence the G7 countries to increase investments in education, peace and security.
-

VIII APPENDICES



Children in a classroom at an Early Childhood Education Centre in Ghana. Photo: Children Believe

ANNEX I: Key Partners



At Children Believe, we hold ourselves to the highest standards of accountability and transparency. As a proud member of the **ChildFund Alliance**, we collaborate with child-focused organizations worldwide, sharing knowledge and best practices to expand our reach and maximize our impact.

Our commitment to integrity is recognized by independent accreditors, including:

- **Imagine Canada**, evaluating governance, financial accountability, and transparency.
- **Charity Intelligence Canada**, ranking us for transparency, cost efficiency, and social impact.

We also work alongside local, national, and global partners in education, government,

and civil society to drive meaningful change. Our partnerships with organizations such as the African Child Policy Forum, the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, the European Union, UNICEF and UNOCHA help us create sustainable solutions for children and communities worldwide.

Together, we can do so much more.



ANNEX II: Children Believe's Implementing Partners

Country of operation	Local implementing partners
Burkina Faso	Christian Organization for Relief and Development (formerly AOG) Christian Relief and Development Organization (CREDO) Evangelical Church of the International Missionary Society (EE/SIM) Catholic Organization for Development and Solidarity (OCADES) – FADA, East Region, KOUPELA, Centre-East Region The Africa Child Policy Forum (ACPF)- (A Pan-African Organization & a joint project holder)
Ethiopia	Bole Bible Baptist Church Child Care and Community Development (BBBC) Emmanuel Development Association (EDA) Professional Alliance for Development (PADet) Ratson – Women, Youth and Children Development Program Vision for Ethiopia Association (VEA)⁶ WKHC – Terepeza Development Association (TDA)
Ghana	AG Care Baptist Relief and Development Agency (BREDA) Markaz Al Bishara Northern Sector Action on Awareness Centre (NORSAAC) Participatory Action for Rural Development Alternatives (PARDA)
Honduras	Sur en Acción
India	Child Rights Advocacy Foundation (CRAF)
	Integrated Rural Community Development Society (IRCDS) Rural Organization for Poverty Eradication Services (ROPES) Society for People's Education and Economic Change (SPEECH) Social Activities for Rural Development Society (SARDS)
Mali	Association of Women for the Initiative of Development in Kati (AFIDK)
Nicaragua	Instituto de Promocin Humana Managua-Masaya (INPRHU Managua-Masaya) - Spanish for Institute for Human Promotion Managua-Masaya; and Instituto de Promoción Humana Estelí (INPRHU Estelí) – Spanish for Institute for Human Promotion Estelí Centro de Apoyo a Programas y Proyectos (CAPRI) – Spanish for Program and Project Support Centre Movimiento infantil “Luis Alfonso Velásquez Flores” (MILAVF) – Spanish for Children's Movement “Luis Alfonso Velásquez Flores” Instituto de Formación Permanente (INSFOP) – Spanish for Institute of Permanent Training
Paraguay	Fundación Alda – Spanish for Alda Foundation Organizacion No Gubernamental Crecer – Spanish for NGO, Crecer Global Infancia – Spanish for Global Childhood

⁶ This partner was under a selection and pre-qualification stage. No budget was allocated to it.

ANNEX III: Key Program Result Indicators by Countries of Operation, FY25

EDUCATION	BFA	ETH	GHA	HON	IND	NIC	MAL	PAR	Total
# of educational facilities, classrooms, and child-friendly spaces built/restored	-	1	4		5	-	-	37	47
Built	-	1	4	-	2	-	-	-	7
Renovated / Restored	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	37	40
# of children receiving educational materials	2,343	5,019	7,791	-	-	5,520	553	6,738	27,964
0 to 5	403	374	3,225	-	-	697	-	1,517	6,216
6 to 14	1,650	2,726	3,984	-	-	3,065	553	5,221	17,199
15 to 24	290	1,919	582	-	-	1,758	-	-	4,549
# of schools who receive teaching aid materials/supplies (books, chalks, charts, maps, audio/video aids, flipcharts)	11	111	36	-	45	56	-	64	323
ECCD/E schools	10	95	34	-	-	32	-	-	171
Primary schools	1	16	-	-	45	22	-	64	148
Secondary schools	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	4
# of schools received fixed assets (furniture, computers, white /black boards, shelves,)	1	16	32	-	25	-	-	14	88
ECCD/E schools	-	2	17	-	-	-	-	-	19
Primary schools	1	14	14	-	25	-	-	14	68
Secondary schools	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
# of teachers trained in inclusive education and appropriate teaching methodologies, including LTP, and ECD	100	663	233	-	385	232	-	960	2,573
Male	46	336	111	-	54	24	-	224	795
female	54	342	122	-	331	208	-	736	1,793
# of children and youth participated in extra/co-curricular activities	158	7,850	7,834	-	6,487	2,056	-	14,869	39,254
6 to 14	80	5,719	4,060	-	3,833	1,885	-	13,712	29,289
15 to 24	78	2,131	3,774	-	2,654	171	-	1,157	9,965
# of parents/community members trained in inclusive education and ECCD /E, better parenting, and the importance of education	1,354	70	253	-	1,722	161	-	968	4,528
Male	189	-	132	-	515	8	-	61	905
female	1,165	70	121	-	1,207	153	-	907	3,623
# of youth/women trained in market-focused inclusive technical or vocational training for self/employment or IGA	237	190	213	254	1,267	313	-	735	3,209
Male	28	57	32	35	168	74	-	154	548
female	209	133	181	219	1,099	239	-	581	2,661

# of parents/community members trained on systemic barriers to education	1,406	6,620	52	-	1,474	-	-	309	9,861
Male	545	2,910	25	-	382	-	-	64	3,926
female	861	3,710	27	-	1,092	-	-	245	5,935
# of parents/community members, trained to advocate with government and other relevant actors for appropriate educational services for children/youth	283	76	-	-	279	-	-	1,064	1,702
Male	5	39	-	-	73	-	-	433	550
female	278	37	-	-	206	-	-	631	1,152
HEALTH & NUTRITION	BFA	ETH	GHA		IND	NIC		PAR	Total
# of children/community members received nutritional support (food or supplements)	3,338	1,196	-	-	159	1,411	-	1,894	7,998
0 to 5	2,404	350	-	-	159	174	-	304	3,391
6 to 14	303	843	-	-	-	730	-	1,016	2,892
15 to 24	216	3	-	-	-	212	-	321	752
25 and above	415	-	-	-	-	295	-	253	963
# of children and parents who participated in healthy eating habits (nutrition) training	1,137	75	2,450	-	3,282	1,689	-	2,805	11,438
6 to 14	2-	-	-	-	1,478	-	-	802	2,280
15 to 24	-	19	450	-	1,027	2216	-	159	1,871
25 and above	1,137	56	2,000	-	777	1,473	-	1,844	7,287
# of people trained on ANC/NC services	1,208	431	11,102	-	473	30	-	31	13,275
Male	5	31	5,170	-	35	-	-	9	5,250
female	1,203	400	5,932	-	438	30	-	22	8,025
# of children trained and practicing in producing vegetables and fruits for consumption or business	200	210	-	-	1,744	33	-	150	2,337
Male	96	60	-	-	673	21	-	70	920
female	104	151	-	-	892	12	-	80	1,239
# of mother clubs established to support health, nutrition, breastfeeding and other practices	16	5	70	-	199	1	-	24	315
# of people including adolescents received reproductive health or HIV/AIDS counselling or training	252	105	37,741	-	3,428	274	-	1,608	43,408
male	10	52	17,896	-	188	145	-	689	18,949
female	242	53	19,876	-	3,240	129	-	919	24,459
# of children receiving annual health care assessment, including growth monitoring	2,165	1,731	15	-	8,852	6,700	-	6,216	25,679
0 to 5	2,065	932	-	-	55,16	1,331	-	591	10,435
6 to 14	63	566	13	-	2,831	3,482	-	4,418	11,373
15 to 24	37	233	2	-	505	1,887	-	1,207	3,871

# of water facilities built/restored/ supported at school	1	-	1	-	4	60	1	-	67
Built	1	-	1	-	4	-	1	-	7
Renovated/Restored/Supported	-	-	-	-	-	60	-	-	60
# of community members including children, school teachers trained on sanitation, water use and hygiene	683	-	259	-	1,061	3,113	-	-	5,116
0 to 5	-	-	-	-	-	572	-	-	572
6 to 14	200	-	244	-	1,058	729	-	-	2,231
15 to 24	-	-	-	-	3	603	-	-	606
25 and above	483	-	15	-	-	1,209	-	-	1,707
CHILD RIGHTS & PROTECTION	BFA	ETH	GHA		IND	NIC		PAR	Total
# of CBO members, government office workers or other child protection actors trained on how to advocate for children's rights, protections, participation	112	427	283	-	771	1,196	-	799	3,588
male	63	349	173	-	244	162	-	167	1,158
female	49	78	110	-	527	1,034	-	632	2,430
# of community members trained on Climate change mitigation, DRR and EPP including children during emergency	421	305	40,116	-	3,586	920	-	991	46,339
male	150	155	18,717	-	1,757	377	-	407	21,563
female	271	150	21,399	-	1,829	543	-	584	24,776
# Parents or caregivers trained in positive parenting and discipline	4,298	25	55	-	44	2,130	-	954	7,506
male	1,867	-	27	-	44	637	-	121	2,696
female	2,431	25	28	-	-	1,493	-	833	4,810
# of community-based groups or committees established and actively providing services for children and women to address abuse, exploitation, trafficking, early marriage or FGM	350	1	16	-	270	9	-	-	646
# of participants trained on harmful traditional practices including, early pregnancy, early marriage or female gentile mutilation in schools	1,182	1,320	41,400	-	3,168	306	-	-	47,376
6 to 14	126	350	16,660	-	385	143	-	-	17,604
15 to 24	393	650	24,800	-	469	163	-	-	26,475
25 and above	663	320	-	-	2,314	-	-	-	3,297
# of youth groups formed for after school activities or promote their active /meaningful participation in decision that concern them	25	29	191	-	294	80	-	52	701
# Community members trained about gender and gender-based violence	1,325	2,290	38,664		2,518	592		3,492	48,881
male	371	510	18,027		862	183		1,621	21,574
female	954	1,780	20,637		1,656	409		1,871	27,307

# of Children involved in youth groups or clubs for after school activities or promote their participation in decision that concern them	1,185	399	4,645	-	6,420	7,035	-	1,200	20,884
6 to 14	562	286	2,295	-	2,589	6,021	-	805	12,558
15 to 24	623	113	2,350	-	3,831	1,014	-	395	8,326
# of joint session /workshop conducted between adults and children to understand and solve current issues related to children	9	2	31	-	27	51	-	70	190
# of participants on joint session / workshop conducted between adults and children to understand and solve current issues related to children	5,297	60	4,809	-	546	1,661	-	378	12,751
6 to 14	1,107	-	847	-	146	908	-	135	3,143
15 to 24	2,612	25	1,834	-	284	345	-	90	5,190
25 and above	1,578	35	2,128	-	116	408	-	153	4,418
GENDER EQUALITY	BFA	ETH	GHA	HON	IND	NIC	MAL	PAR	Total
# of community members trained about gender and gender based violence	638	517	148,861	-	2,111	1,138	-	3,336	156,601
male	198	148	65,051	-	625	418	-	1,553	67,983
female	440	369	83,810	-	1,496	720	-	1,783	88,618
# of people trained on women decision making civic participation and leadership at school, community or national level	398	348	30,614	100	109	-	-	-	31,569
male	27	161	14,020	5	20	-	-	-	14,233
female	371	187	16,594	95	89	-	-	-	17,336
YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY AND WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	BFA	ETH	GHA	HON	IND	NIC	MAL	PAR	Total
# of children trained in life skills and resilience to protect themselves	76	59	1,171	-	8,086	1,886	-	525	11,803
6 to 14	8	22	15	-	4,231	1,046	-	213	5,535
15 to 24	68	37	1,156	-	3,855	840	-	312	6,268
# of linkages created for equal employment opportunities or financial assistance	88	-	-	-	65	1	-	-	154
# of women referred for employment or other business start-up opportunities using an existing linkage schemes	4,158	-	3	67	720	106	-	-	5,054

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Because of your support, Children Believe comes alongside communities to remove the obstacles that keep children from going to, staying in, and finishing school. Together, we are ensuring that nothing stands in the way of their futures. Poverty is complex, but helping isn't—and your belief makes all the difference. Thank you.

~ Children Believe



Children Believe works globally to empower children to dream fearlessly, stand up for what they believe in — and be heard. For 60+ years, we've brought together brave young dreamers, caring supporters and partners, and unabashed idealists. Together, we're driven by a common belief: creating access to education — inside and outside of classrooms — is the most powerful tool children can use to change their world.

Children Believe is a member of ChildFund Alliance, a global network of 11 child-focused development organizations working to create opportunities for children and youth, their families and communities.

ChildFund helps nearly 36 million children and their families in 66 countries overcome poverty and underlying conditions that prevent children from achieving their full potential. We work to end violence against children; provide expertise in emergencies and disasters to ease the harmful impact on children and their communities; and engage children and youth to create lasting change and elevate their voices in decisions that affect their lives.

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