

CHANGING OUTLOOKS

Save the Children Sweden Annual Report 2004



Save the Children
Sweden



Save the Children works for a world:

- which respects and values each child
- which listens to children and learns
- where all children have hope and opportunity

SAVE THE CHILDREN SWEDEN IS NEEDED!

The fight for children's rights continues

The end of 2004 was marked by grief and destruction following the tsunami disaster which struck Asia on Boxing Day and afflicted hundreds of thousands of people around the world. Save the Children Sweden and our sister organisations in the International Save the Children Alliance had been present for many years in many of the worst-hit countries and were therefore able to mount a rapid relief effort. Our work in the region is long-term and ongoing. We will still be there when the media spotlight dims.

A new willingness in society to give children the support they need was visible in the tsunami's aftermath. The pri-

ority now is to ensure that this willingness extends to all children in difficult conditions – those living in war zones as well as those who fall victim to violence and abuse, in Sweden and all over the world.

Two countries in particular came under the spotlight in 2004 – Ivory Coast and Sudan. In Darfur in western Sudan we launched a wide-ranging programme of education and protection for children.

Efforts to curb violence against children continued both in Sweden and internationally. Our principal focus was on corporal punishment, physical and sexual abuse and armed violence among young people.

In 2004 we continued to highlight conditions for Palestinian children, lobbying for children not to be imprisoned and for the authorities to respect the rights of those children placed in detention. In Sweden, we are currently working hard on behalf of child asylum-seekers, particularly apathetic child refugees.

Our operational involvement in Save the Children Sweden's anti-child-pornography hotline was concluded during the year. This does not mean we are giving up our fight against child pornography on the Internet. On the contrary, we are now using the experience we have accumulated over five years to direct a more intense advocacy campaign at politicians, government agencies and the Internet industry.

Our income remained stable last year, while our costs for fundraising and administration decreased.

The year showed more clearly than ever the extent of the solidarity and willingness to act among people in Sweden and beyond. It was also gratifying that awareness of and confidence in

Save the Children Sweden as an organisation continues to grow.

It is our hope that the enormous support we receive from hundreds of thousands of people will enable us to become an even stronger international proponent of children's rights.



Charlotte Petri Gornitzka

Charlotte Petri Gornitzka
Secretary-General



Annika Åhnberg

Annika Åhnberg
Chair

Facts about the world's children in 2004

About half of the world's 2.2 billion children live in poverty.

Every day, 29,000 under-fives die from causes that could be easily prevented by better health care, safe water and adequate food.

Some 121 million children of primary-school age do not attend school.

An estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked every year.

Two million children are exploited by the commercial sex industry every year.

More than 300 million children are deprived of information and lack access to television, radio, phone or newspapers.

An ever-increasing number of children lose their parents to AIDS. By 2010, an estimated 18 million children in Africa will have lost one or both parents to the disease.

Four hundred million children do not have access to safe water.

Some 270 million children lack access to health services.

Currently, 180 million children are thought to be engaged in the worst forms of child labour.

Source: The State of the World's Children 2005, Unicef

ABOUT SAVE THE

Our history

Save the Children Sweden's roots date back to the UK in 1919. A trade embargo imposed by the Allies on the enemy at the end of World War I caused starvation among 3 million children. From her garret in Cambridge, Eglantyne Jebb mounted a campaign against the blockade, hosting meetings, raising petitions and distributing pamphlets to have the embargo lifted and help sent to the needy. She railed against the suffering of innocent children – on both sides of the lines.

On 19 May 1919 Jebb held a mass meeting at the Royal Albert Hall, an event that marked the birth of the first Save the Children organisation. She realised that society had to change if children's lives were to improve and was one of the first to coin the term "children's rights".

Only a matter of months later, on 19 November 1919, Save the Children Sweden was founded.

Our organisation

Save the Children Sweden is a democratic non-governmental organisation without political or religious affiliation. In Sweden we have 83,500 members across 269 local associations and our youth organisation. Close to 250,000 members, sponsors and donors support

our work. Our head office is in Stockholm and we also have a further 11 regional offices across Sweden and eight regional offices abroad.

Save the Children Sweden is a leading member of the International Save the Children Alliance, which is present in more than 100 countries and whose 27 member organisations comprise a powerful movement for children and children's rights all round the world.

[Read more about the Alliance on page 11.](#)

Our vision

Save the Children works for a world that respects and values each child, that learns and listens to children, and in which all children have hope and opportunity.

Our mission and approach

Save the Children fights for children's rights. We deliver immediate and lasting improvements to children's lives worldwide.

Our values are based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and on the conviction that all people are of equal worth, that children have special rights and that all human beings have a responsibility to make these rights a reality. We also believe that states

have special responsibilities to ensure that children's rights are respected, and we work with others in pursuit of this goal.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the United Nations on 20 November 1989. It is legally binding under international law and signatory countries guarantee that their legal frameworks and policies comply with its provisions. Signatories are also responsible for implementing the Convention's various articles and for ensuring that children and adults know about the Convention and what it stands for. Any country that refuses to acknowledge infringements of children's rights or that turns a blind eye to children's needs is in breach of the Convention. A total of 192 countries – virtually all the nations in the world – have signed the Convention.

Our objectives

Save the Children Sweden's work focuses primarily on children who live in the most difficult circumstances: those subjected to violence and abuse; children separated from, or receiving inadequate support from, their families; children who do not receive the education to which they are entitled; children in

Save the Children Sweden has been working for children's rights since 1919.



CHILDREN SWEDEN

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that all children and young people up to the age of 18 have equal rights: the right to live and develop; the right to grow up in a secure environment and be protected from abuse; and the right to respect for their thoughts and opinions. The convention's 54 articles are founded on four core principles that guide its interpretation and implementation:

All children are of equal worth and have the same rights. No child should be discriminated against.

The child's best interests should always come first.

Every child has a right to life and a right to develop.

All children have the right to express their opinion on all matters that concern them.

armed conflicts and emergencies; and children living in poverty.

Our primary objectives are: that children are not subjected to discrimination, exploitation, violence or other forms of abuse; that children can make their opinions heard and exert influence over their lives; and that children receive a secure and healthy upbringing and education that confers knowledge and self-esteem.

Lasting improvements

Save the Children Sweden works to achieve lasting improvements for children living in difficult conditions. Our work is founded on a child rights approach that

involves our activities and those of our partners being based on the basic principles that all children have equal worth and equal rights, that children and young people have a right to participate on their own terms, and that governments and policymakers have duties and responsibilities to safeguard children's rights.

Four approaches

We include four different approaches to achieve lasting progress. We gather information, listen to children and analyse their everyday reality. We disperse our knowledge and experience to those with influence over children's conditions. We also conduct advocacy work and lobby

decision-makers – from municipalities to the UN – to make children's rights a reality.

We work closely with international bodies and local and national organisations, basing our activities on individuals' own desire to influence and change the conditions in which they live. Building the capacity of our partners makes them better equipped to promote child rights and thereby produces lasting improvements in children's lives.



CHANGING OUT

In 2004, Save the Children Sweden's operations spanned 269 projects in Sweden and eight international regions where we worked together with local, national and international partners. We gathered and distributed knowledge about children's conditions, offered direct support to children, campaigned actively for child rights and lobbied policymakers to work in children's best interests.

All our efforts are geared to achieving lasting improvements on behalf of children. Listed below are some of the many projects that changed the outlook for children in 2004.



Internet dialogue with children in Sweden
In 2004, Save the Children Sweden carried on a dialogue with 2,000 children and young people on issues such as racism, equality and exerting influence via our Effekt website for young people. A joint venture with Lunarstorm, a Swedish friendship website, generated hundreds of thousands of responses from children and young people to the questions we asked. Many teenagers said they had first-hand experience of racism among police officers. As a result, the Swedish National Police Academy resolved to include this issue in its basic police officer training programme.



Curbs on illicit transfer of boys from Sudan

In Sudan, boys as young as five are being taken from their homes to countries in the Persian Gulf to serve as camel-racing jockeys. Once there, they receive no schooling, are underfed and often suffer abuse. In the past, the authorities showed little interest in this problem and indeed denied its existence. Save the Children Sweden has supported research into the issue and campaigned to bring it to the government's attention. Sudan's leading state agency for child issues recently admitted there is a problem and is now working actively to stamp it out.



Child rights in the Peruvian and Brazilian parliament

It is vital that politicians are well informed about child rights. Via its partner organisations, Save the Children Sweden was active in the Peruvian and Brazilian parliaments in 2004. Parliamentary delegates received booklets and training in how to safeguard children's interests when drafting parliamentary motions and legislation. Civil servants were the main target group for this initiative since they generally remain in their jobs longer than elected politicians.



Vietnamese children protest against corporal punishment

Corporal punishment is common in Vietnam's schools and pupils get little opportunity to express their views on this or other issues. It was therefore a momentous day when children at Dinh Tien Hoang School in Vietnam staged a forum entitled "Children's voices on corporal punishment" in November 2004. This was the very first time that children at this school had been able to arrange an event of their own and to engage in a dialogue with adults on topics of their choosing. Parents, teachers and pupils all declared the event a success. The school management accepted the children's wishes and promised closer contact with pupils to create further improvements going forward.



Training to combat trafficking of children in West Africa

Extensive trafficking of children occurs in West Africa, with children often being sold for prostitution or for work as household maids or servants. Save the Children Sweden has arranged training courses in child rights and protection for police and customs officers, social workers and court judges in eight West African countries. A total of 200 people involved in the fight against child trafficking have now received training and have in turn begun training their colleagues



Children and parents demand free schooling in Angola

Almost half of all children in Angola do not attend school. Angolan law states that primary education should be free of charge, but many schools nevertheless demand fees for enrolment, examinations and textbooks. With Save the Children Sweden's support, an NGO alliance is running a pilot project to promote the right to free education and children's participation in the way schools are run. This is the first time that children in Angola have been informed of their right to free education, and they are now spreading this information among parents and local societies through radio debates, theatre plays, dance, music and poetry.

LOOKS IN 2004



Zambian children learn about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Since most children in Zambia have never heard of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, one of

Save the Children Sweden's partner organisations started child rights clubs in schools across the country. The clubs organise trips, debates and discourse on issues important to children and also promote child rights. There are now about 300 clubs around the country and thousands of children are members. The clubs have made a strong contribution to increasing awareness of child rights, in particular the right to influence decisions taken in their regard, among children, teachers and parents.



Greater influence for young people in the Middle East

Children and young people in the Middle East have only a limited ability to influence decisions taken in their regard. Their views are either ignored or else considered only in

isolated cases. Save the Children Sweden has helped children and young people to start their own organisation and has also helped to make them more aware of the way municipal authorities work and how they can influence decisions on issues relating, for instance, to the environment or social policy prior to municipal elections.



Ban on corporal punishment in India

Corporal punishment was banned in schools in the state of Orissa in southern India after children mounted a campaign that featured direct representations to delegates of the state legislature.



Afghan children write national manifesto

Children from all parts of Afghanistan attended a two-day meeting in December 2004 to discuss issues of importance to them. At this event, the children wrote a manifesto which they presented to the

country's president. They demanded the government give priority to children and work harder to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Afghanistan. They asked the government to listen to their concerns and ideas on how to improve conditions for children. Following this, the president has requested that regular national consultations be held with children.



Improved reception of unaccompanied child asylum-seekers in Sweden

In December 2004, the Swedish parliament adopted a motion on reception procedures for unaccompanied child asylum-seekers. The motion, endorsed by members of five political parties on the

cross-party parliamentary children's committee and initiated by Save the Children Sweden, made clear that Sweden's municipalities have the primary responsibility for these children and instructed the government to draw up a bill on reception procedures.



Children in Vietnam examine media coverage

For the first time in Vietnam, children were invited to be part of the jury that awards the country's annual prize to

journalists who write about and for children. The jury is appointed by Vietnam's national school of journalism and the Vietnamese press association, with support from Save the Children Sweden. A group of 18 girls and 12 boys received training in journalism and children's rights, and together with the adult jury members assessed all the articles submitted for the prize. This marked a significant step in towards children being able to assess and comment on the way they are portrayed in the media.



Day-care centre in Lithuania supports children and parents

For more than a decade, Save the Children Sweden has supported a child rights organisation in Lithuania, and in 2004 Save the Children Lithuania became a full member of the International Save the Children Alliance. One of

the organisation's activities is running day-care centres for children aged seven to 16. Attendees live at home with their families but receive inadequate support due to social factors such as drug abuse and unemployment. At the centre, the children learn social codes of conduct, receive help with their homework and are taught how to cook. In 2004, Save the Children Lithuania began a largely successful effort to encourage local authorities to take over the running of the centres.

SAVE THE CHILDREN SWE

Save the Children Sweden operates in Sweden and eight regions around the world. Through our participation in the International Save the Children Alliance we have a presence in more than 100 countries. Our mission is to ensure that states live up to their responsibilities on children's rights, that children's voices are heard and that no children suffer discrimination.

In these efforts, we provide support to national and regional networks. Internationally, we strengthen our partner organisations in helping children to realise their rights. Strong organisations and networks with a clear rights perspective that operate within and across national borders provide the best means of improving conditions for children around the world.

Sweden

Compared to many others Sweden is a good country to grow up in. But there are many exceptions and also worrying signs of a growing gap between the haves and have-nots.

Save the Children Sweden's children's index, which measures financial, health and educational provision for children at municipal level, reveals a growing divide between children from poor and affluent families as well as between Swedish children and those with immigrant backgrounds.

The marginalisation of young people is rooted partly in inadequate power and influence. Sweden has legislation and regulations that guarantee children the right of influence in schools, in the asylum process and in the judicial system. But things are often very different in reality. Powerlessness is often greatest among the most vulnerable children, while those who have suffered violence and abuse often feel that social services and judicial authorities do not listen to them.

In 2004, we focused our efforts on discrimination and children's participation and gained valuable insight from work conducted at our Centre for Children and Young People in Crisis. We launched a youth website in collaboration with Lunarstorm (a Swedish website) to initiate a dialogue and this brought us into contact with hundreds of thousands of young people on issues such as racism, equality

and power and influence.

During the year we also extended our dialogue with social services and the judicial system. This yielded a number of important successes, including new legislation on sexual offences and initiatives to improve support to children in the judicial process.

Europe

The enlargement of the European Union to include ten new member states in 2004 was an important milestone for European integration and for democracy in Eastern and Central Europe. Save the Children Sweden's partners in the new member states, in EU applicant countries and in nations that remain outside the union used the enlargement process to propel children's rights onto the political agenda.

In Europe, the trafficking of children has attracted huge attention in the media and at national and regional level politically. Together with our partners, we strive to combat trafficking while at the same time seeking to broaden the issue and address the underlying reasons why children move between countries without proper identity papers or adequate safety. Reasons include poverty, deficient support to families and ineffective social services.

Our support to day-care centres for street children resulted last year in many children resuming school and being reunited with their families. We also helped children in institu-

tions, tackled ethnic discrimination of children and families and worked to ensure that children with disabilities enjoy the same rights as other children.

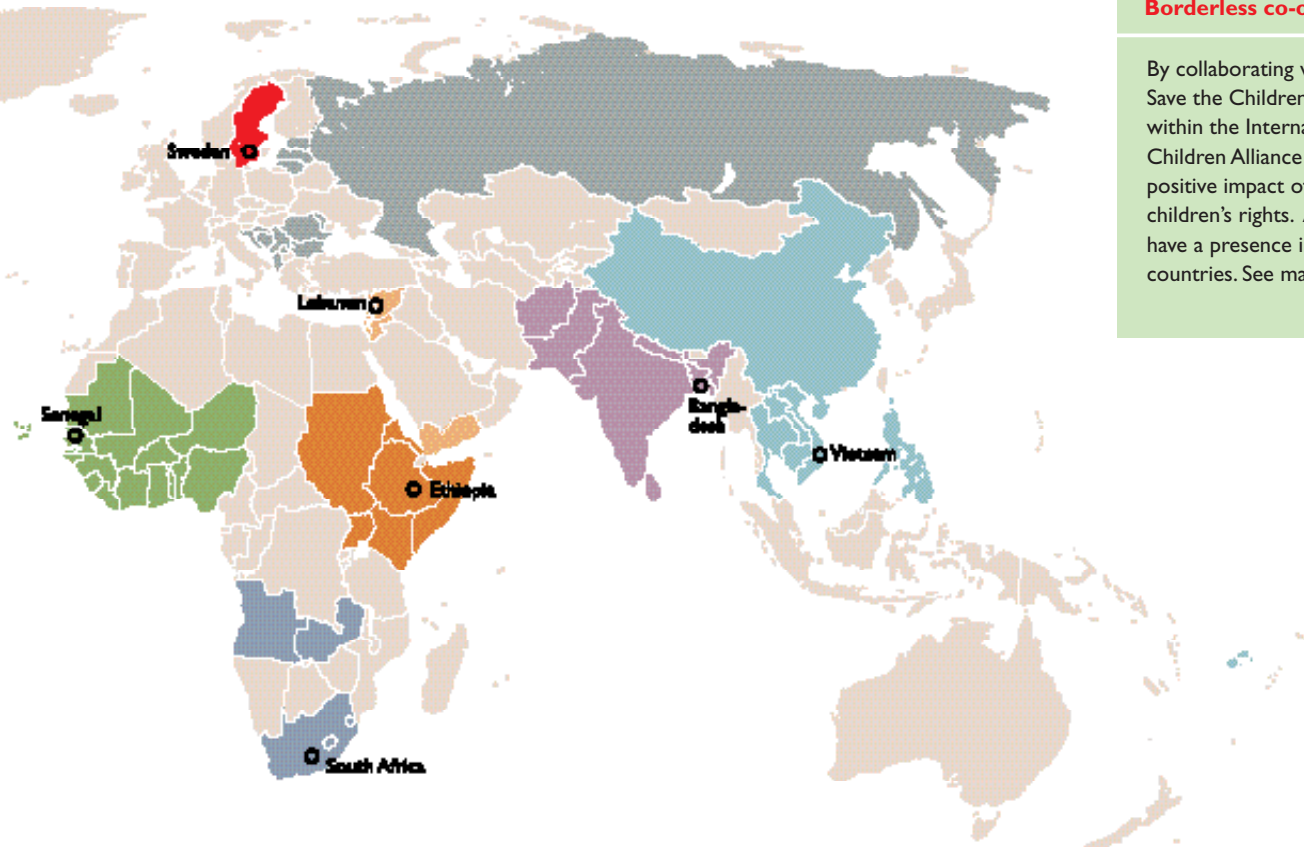
Middle East

Political instability in the Middle East leads to many infringements of children's rights. Political violence has increased in Palestine and Save the Children Sweden has campaigned in Sweden and internationally to persuade the Israeli government to desist from detaining and imprisoning children. If children are detained, their rights must be respected.

We have also sought to combat rising discrimination against girls in conservative West Bank towns. This discrimination is rooted in political instability and traditional social values. Our role involves supporting girls, school personnel and families to enable girls to con-



SWEDEN AROUND THE WORLD



Save the Children Sweden is working within Sweden and eight regions abroad:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ■ Europe | ■ Southern Africa |
| ■ Middle East | ■ Latin America |
| ■ East and Central Africa | ■ Southeast Asia and the Pacific |
| ■ West Africa | ■ South and Central Asia |

○ Countries in which Save the Children Sweden has a regional office.

continue their studies and freely choose how they want to lead their lives.

We have also addressed the problem of child rights abuses in Lebanon. We launched a pilot project in several schools in rural and urban areas, as well as among Palestinian refugees, to counteract violence. Together with 12 parents' associations, organisations for people with disabilities and university and United Nations experts, we are campaigning to change attitudes towards children with disabilities. All children must be allowed a role in society, while the legal rights of those with disabilities need to be enforced. We have taken several initiatives to boost children's participation, including giving support to a group of children and young people who founded their own organisation.

East and Central Africa

East and Central Africa is one of the world's poorest regions and beset by armed conflicts that lead to constant and serious abuse of children's rights. Many children in the region do not attend school, lack sufficient food, suffer exploitation and suffer abuse. Many do not even reach the age of five. In spite of this bleak picture, a number of governments are making progress towards genuine democracy and many people and organisations are enthusiastic about learning how to safeguard and support their children better.

Our work in the region prioritises children caught up in armed conflicts and emergencies. We tackle the discrimination of girls, children with disabilities and those with HIV, provide support to young offenders and focus on edu-

cation, child rights and female genital mutilation.

In 2004, Save the Children Sweden helped to launch an initiative to provide shelter and education to children in the Darfur region in Sudan, and we also worked to ensure that children are not forgotten in the peace process between southern and northern Sudan. In Ethiopia, we campaigned for the implementation of legislation and regulations relating to children and for policymakers and others with influence, to prioritise children's interests.

West Africa

West Africa is the continent's most war-torn area and also one of the world's poorest regions. Most West African countries have a long way to go before achieving true democracy

Borderless co-operation

By collaborating with 26 other Save the Children organisations within the International Save the Children Alliance we increase the positive impact of our work for children's rights. Altogether, we have a presence in more than 100 countries. See map at page 11.

and respect for children's rights. However, some positive signs can be seen: a fairly strong and dynamic network of NGOs and other organisations; a relatively independent press; some democratic progress; and openness and interest among some state agencies in learning about and promoting child rights.

In 2004, we prioritised the protection of children in armed conflicts and also supported working children. We campaigned for an end to child trafficking and worked to counteract female genital mutilation. An important mechanism was the provision of support to national and regional networks and partners to enable them to promote children's rights.

Southern Africa

Child-related violence and abuse, poverty and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS are all major problems in Southern Africa. Save the Children Sweden cooperates with organisations that monitor children's conditions, perform surveys, support children in difficult conditions and lobby policymakers to get children's issues onto the political agenda.

Together with our partners we work to prevent child abuse and fight against corporal punishment. We monitor the treatment of children who immigrate to South Africa and through training and advocacy ensure that civil servants, social workers and legislators act to improve conditions for these children. We try to prevent the spread of HIV among children and young people and campaign for special support for children who are affected by the disease in different ways. We help children to exercise influence at local and national level, and we promote improved legal protection for children in local society and within the family.

In the long run, we can improve the lives of millions of children in poverty by advocating extended social welfare, better government financial planning and economic strategies targeted at children. As a way to improve public attitudes towards and treatment of children, we



support newspapers, radio and television in upholding high ethical standards in their coverage of child-related issues. Children and young people contribute to this process by following and influencing media reporting and by using media channels themselves.

Latin America

The main problems that face children growing up in Latin America are violence, discrimination and exploitation. A wide gulf exists between rich and poor.

In 2004, we focused on all these problems, aiming initiatives at violence within the family and uncontrolled trade in firearms. We worked to promote a society that is open to all (including e.g. children with disabilities), and tackled the sexual exploitation, trafficking of children and finding children who have disappeared.

The various campaigns we supported all demand that governments allocate reasonable spending to children in difficult conditions. In emergency-related work we aim to strengthen local capacity to conduct preventive measures, act and provide special support to children.

We operate through local organisations and endeavour to support them in becoming strong defenders of children's rights. Particular measures include encouraging girls and boys to pursue change themselves and make their voices heard. Achievements in 2004 included a mapping exercise of how the trade in children is organised, initiatives to combat sex tourism, proposed legislation to tackle violence and child abuse, provision of support to former child soldiers in Colombia, a Web-based system to track down children who had disappeared and six emergency actions.

Southeast Asia and the Pacific

Violence and abuse aimed at children continues to be a major problem and Save the Children Sweden has responded by intensifying its measures to prevent such violence. Meanwhile, we are trying to advance children's rights and ensure children are listened to. The problems are often rooted in a lack of awareness of children's special rights and needs and we are addressing this through research into children's conditions, provision of training to adults in relevant occupations and by seeking to influence decision-makers.

Most of our work is in Vietnam, where we have stepped up our efforts to influence teachers at the schools in which we operate and also lobbied policymakers at various levels to change their attitude towards the corporal and psychological punishment of children. At the same time, we have continued to press for more child-friendly schools, in other words those that welcome enrolment of children regardless of background and where teaching is based on pupils' active participation.

We also supported training courses for journalists in child rights and how to interview



and portray children in difficult conditions in an appropriate manner. Judges, prosecutors and lawyers received training in the hope of encouraging Vietnam's nascent legal aid system to give professional and free-of-charge legal support to children and young people (whether offenders or crime victims) in connection with police investigations and court proceedings.

South and Central Asia

A number of factors conspire to result in a failure to respect child rights in South and Central Asia. Decision-makers are not held accountable, resources are unevenly distributed and patriarchal structures control society. Children are discriminated against, violence is accepted as the way of solving conflicts and adults oppose the notion of children expressing their opinions.

However, many governments are striving to uphold children's rights and progress is being made in education and health. Many bilateral, national and international organisations now take a more rights-based approach and some state agencies and international organisations have begun to ask children what they think before drawing up plans and guidelines.

In 2004 we continued to promote children's rights in all our activities. We were successful in raising children's participation in research, planning and work processes and helped combat violence against children, particularly physical and psychological punishment and sexual abuse. We also lobbied the legal aid system on behalf of children and young people and engaged in initiatives against child trafficking, especially in relation to children being transported from South Asia to the Persian Gulf to work as camel jockeys. We strengthened our ties with our partners and sister organisations in the International Save the Children Alliance, thereby increasing the effectiveness of our efforts on behalf of children.

The International Save the Children Alliance

Save the Children Sweden is a member of the International Save the Children Alliance, the world's leading child rights organisation. The Alliance has 27 members, is headquartered in London and operates in more than 100 countries. Save the Children Sweden is one of four members organisations represented on the Alliance board. Alliance activities range from live-saving assistance in emergencies to seeking long-term improvements in conditions for children.

New member organisations

At the UN Children's Summit in New York in 2002, the world's nations adopted a new action plan to improve conditions for children and young people – a step towards putting into practice the vision of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Alliance members were behind an initiative to allow children to participate at the meeting and to speak about the issues most important to them.

In the last three years, the Alliance has assisted in the formation of Save the Children organisations in Italy and Australia. Larger and more well established member organisations have supported the smaller ones. Save the Children Sweden has given particular support to Save the Children Lithuania, which became a full Alliance member in 2004.

New five-year plan

Membership growth and an increasingly diverse range of operations in different countries have gradually diluted the

Alliance's focus. The organisation responded in 2004 by launching its Alliance Strategy 2020 document and a strategic plan for 2005-2010. These initiatives are intended to generate clear results, a strong profile, more effective organisational structure and long-term financial stability.

Alliance members are now adjusting to the new five-year targets. Save the Children Sweden is assisting with children's education in most of the conflict zones that the Alliance is spotlighting, for example in southern Sudan, Afghanistan, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. We will also be investing in new and stronger sister organisations, while in 2005 we will lead the Alliance's work in providing access to education for children in Ivory Coast.

Asian tsunami disaster

On 26 December 2004 a devastating tsunami hit the beaches and coastal communities of South-east Asia. Thanks to the long-term presence of Save the Children

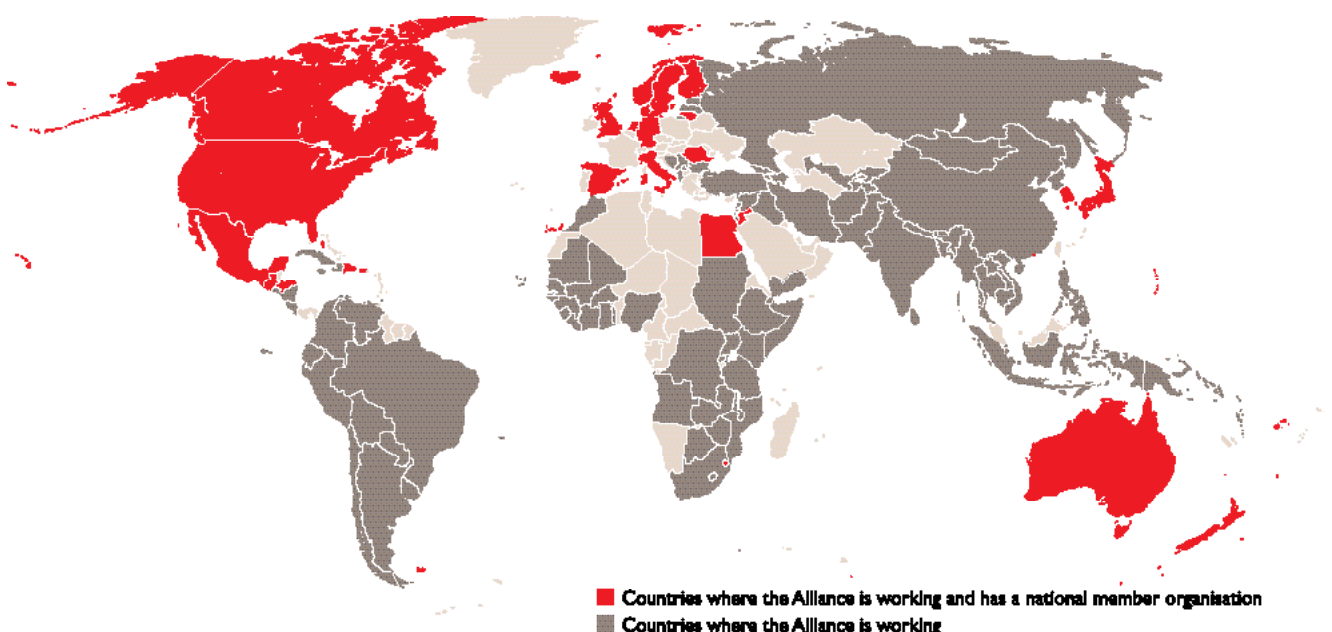
Sweden and a number of other Alliance members in the region, we were able to mount a rapid relief response in Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Indonesia.

By March 2005, Save the Children Sweden had received donations totalling SEK 120 million from the public and business sectors. This money will be used to guarantee the best interests of children during reconstruction efforts. Following the end of the immediate relief effort, efforts are now centred on arranging safe and secure environments for children who survived the disaster, reuniting separated children with relatives and ensuring that children can resume their schooling.

Three five-year targets

1. Education for children in emergencies is to receive priority. Three million children caught up in armed conflicts will receive basic schooling and 5 million will gain an improved quality of life.
2. Increased number of strong member organisations.
3. Effective and efficient coordination of activities in countries in which more than one Alliance member is active on behalf of children in difficult conditions.

See www.rb.se or www.savethechildren.net/alliance for more information about Save the Children Sweden's international activities.



COMBATING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, VIOLENCE AND OPPRESSIVE TREATMENT

Save the Children Sweden is tackling all forms of violence against children, including physical, psychological and sexual abuse. Our campaigns against child pornography on the Web have led to the closure of several thousand child pornography websites, the conviction of paedophiles and the identification of and provision of help to child victims. In 2004, girls who have suffered violence and oppressive treatment from their relatives received counselling.

Girls receive help at Save the Children Sweden's crisis centre

There are no figures on the number of girls in Sweden who are subjected to so-called honour-related intimidation and maltreatment from their parents, but several hundred sought help during 2004 from women's crisis centres and the police.

"What we see is just the tip of the iceberg," says Sevil Bremer, one of three psychotherapists who treat such girls at Save the Children Sweden's Centre for Children and Young People in Crisis. "Many girls don't tell anyone about how hard things are for them at home."

In 2002, the Crisis Centre opened a unit to provide psychotherapeutic treatment to girls who have endured threats, violence or oppressive treatment. Fifteen girls, most of whom have had to leave their families and are living under an assumed identity with special protection, received counselling in 2004.

"There is great demand for our services because access to counselling is very limited elsewhere," says Bremer. "People who meet these girls as part of their work in social services, at schools and in youth centres also need more information about their needs and situation."

Providing support online

The Centre for Children and Young People in Crisis also offers email support via its website at www.flicka.nu. Around 30 girls received such assistance in 2004.

"Through email we come into contact with girls from different backgrounds from those who visit the centre. They live at home but aren't allowed to go out with their friends and have no one to talk to about the problems in their families," says Sevil Bremer.

» I've become stronger and more self-confident. I have stood up and fought for what I believe in. It's been very difficult, but I've managed to move on with my life. I know now that I can handle anything. «

A girl who attended counselling at Save the Children's Centre for Children and Young People in Crisis.

Internet child pornography must be stamped out

Children's vulnerability on the Internet has grown alarmingly in recent years. The Web has become the primary forum for paedophiles and one in which they can buy and sell images of children being subjected to sexual abuse yet run little risk of being caught. Paedophiles also attempt to contact young people via Internet chat rooms.

Save the Children Sweden began campaigning in the mid-1990s to make possession of child pornography illegal and our efforts bore fruit when a legal ban was

introduced in 1999. In January 2000, we launched a child pornography hotline. "We wanted to stop and disrupt child pornography traffic on the Internet and we wanted to learn more about the problem," says Per-Erik Åström, one of the hotline founders.

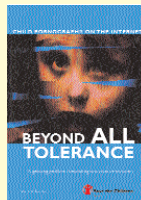
Police cooperation

The hotline has received more than 25,000 tip-offs from the public in the past five years, enabling the closure of several thousand websites offering child pornography and the tracking down and conviction of a substantial number of paedophiles. Several hundred child pornography victims from Sweden and other countries have been identified and have received support and redress. Hotline staff have worked closely with the Swedish police force's child pornography unit and also shared information with social services, parents, teachers and Internet service providers.

The hotline was closed in February 2005, but this does not mean Save the Children Sweden is ending its fight against child pornography on the Internet. "On the contrary, we are using our experience to intensify our campaign and to influence politicians, government agencies and the Internet industry," says Per-Erik Åström. "But the time had come to put the hotline on a permanent footing and hand over responsibility for it to the authorities."

With new legislation on child pornography being planned by the Swedish government, a current priority is to conduct lobbying to ensure it includes children's rights to protection, rehabilitation and damages.

"When possession of child pornography was made a criminal offence in 1999, no one realised just how big a problem it was," Per-Erik Åström says.



The "Beyond All Tolerance" report contains recommendations for tackling child pornography and how children abused by the pornography trade can receive the support to which they are entitled.

POSITIVE EXAMPLES FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE

In 2004, Save the Children Sweden continued its efforts to prevent violence against children, both in Sweden and abroad. On this and the following two pages you can read how we have helped change the outlooks for children in Lebanon and Darfur.



Children in Lebanon.

Changed attitudes towards corporal punishment in Lebanon

Since 2003, Save the Children Sweden has been working with a national Lebanese organisation to propel violence against children onto the political agenda. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child criticised the Lebanese government in 2002 for the continued occurrence of corporal punishment in schools, in spite of a directive issued by the former education minister banning the practice. The committee urged Lebanon to pass legislation clearly prohibiting all forms of physical and psychological violence against children, including corporal punishment and sexual abuse, in schools and in the home.

Smacking as a form of parenting

Lebanon has a young population, with about half of its 4.5 million inhabitants

aged under 24. It is also a highly segregated society in which there are deep divisions between different ethnic groups. The civil war between 1975 and 1990 deepened these rifts but the ensuing peace has allowed people to try to bridge their differences.

According to a Lebanese university field study of children aged between eight and 12, corporal punishment is common and widespread throughout all strata of society and is used both on boys and girls.

“Children are seen as blank pages in a book that need to be shaped in order to become good citizens, and corporal punishment is seen as a valid form of parenting,” says Elisabet Sundström, coordinator of Save the Children Sweden’s efforts to curb violence against children in Lebanon.

Education to counter violence

Save the Children Sweden’s strategic partner in Lebanon is the Training Centre for Community Development, staffed by teachers and social workers. Since we teamed up with the centre, it has trained a large number of teachers, school managers, university students and more than 1,000 children from various ethnic, religious and social groups. Courses were held in state and private schools as well as schools run by the UN for Palestinian children.

Violence has decreased and there is a much calmer atmosphere in the schools concerned. Teachers have also noted a marked improvement in pupils’ perfor-

» In the past we didn't understand what violence could lead to. Now we want to stop violence.«

Child aged 12

mance in class. This has opened doors and made it possible for the organisation to meet parents and discuss how to raise children without resorting to corporal punishment.

Legislation review

The positive results of the training initiatives have benefited our advocacy work. In 2004, a review of Lebanon’s legislation on violence against children commissioned by Save the Children Sweden attracted extensive media coverage and was received in positive terms when presented at the presidential palace.

“The review made ministers realise the need to reform legislation to protect children from violence and abuse,” Elisabet Sundström observes.

» I wasn't comfortable in my role as a teacher but after the course I'm more aware of my own abilities and am less nervous.«

Teacher

Children in Darfur attend school despite war

Civilians in Darfur have suffered greatly as a result of the armed conflict that started in early 2003. Last year, the UN described Darfur as the world's greatest humanitarian disaster. Systematic abuses, including murder and rape, have been committed and almost 2 million people have been driven from their homes – more than half of them children. Save the Children Sweden is engaged in strengthening protection for children and giving them the opportunity to attend pre-school and school.

Education a low priority

“There have been many abuses carried out against children and human rights in Darfur as a result of the current conflict,” says Amin El Fadil, head of Save the Children Sweden's Sudan office. “Save the Children Sweden is working to provide children with protection and aid their development in a variety of ways including education.”

When we started our operations in Darfur in autumn 2004 many organisations were already present and providing relief by way of food, water, shelters and health care. Education was seen as a low priority.

“Education is a right that must be continually provided for, both in peace and during war,” says El Fadil. “It ought to be a key ingredient in humanitarian efforts. The core principles of the UN

Convention on the Rights of the Child do not just concern the right to survival but also the right to development, non-discrimination and children's participation. They should receive equal priority in humanitarian efforts.”

Education provides security

Save the Children Sweden has built and renovated classrooms and provided pre-schools and schools with textbooks, bags



Amin El Fadil (to the right).

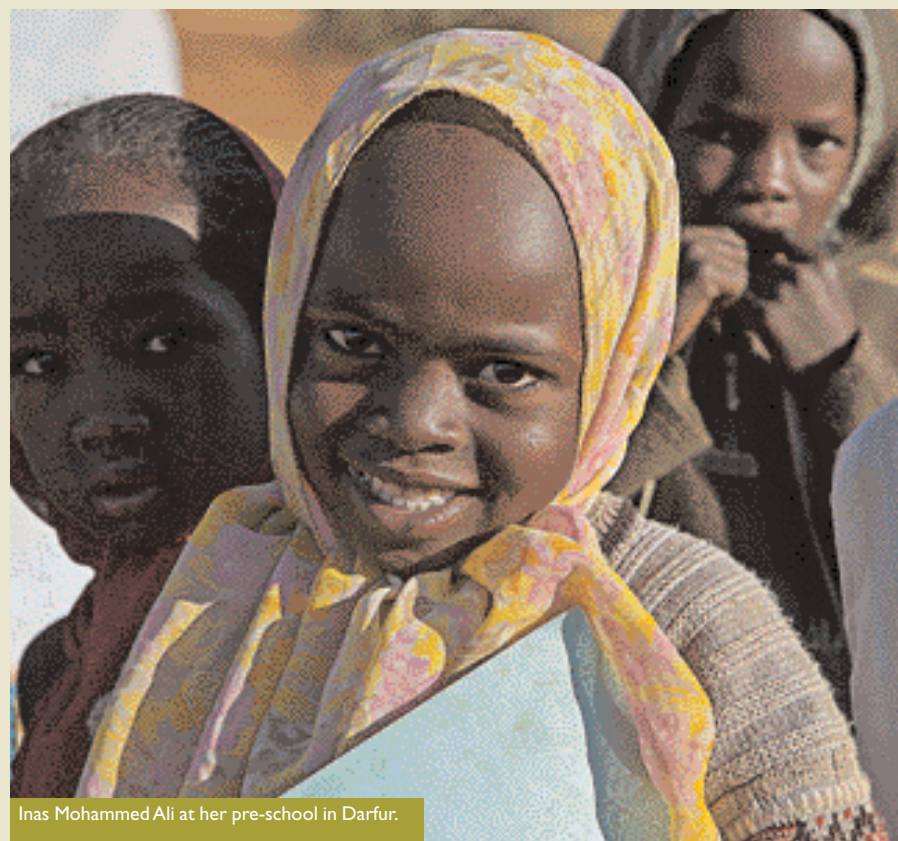
and other materials. Our efforts have enabled some 11,000 children in Darfur to attend school in spite of the war.

Attending school also offers a form of sanctuary in an environment that has been largely destroyed and can help to safeguard children from abuse.

“The children in Darfur are highly

» I cannot forget, except when I'm with my friends at school and when the teacher comes into the classroom. When I get home the memories come back. When I see a man approaching I remember my father; when I see a boy I remember my brothers. «

Moztora, 17, who lost her father and two brothers in an attack on his village.



Inas Mohammed Ali at her pre-school in Darfur.

vulnerable,” says El Fadil. “Education can protect them from being recruited as child soldiers, being abducted or targeted for sexual abuse. Schools make it easier to spot abuses and give parents and other adults a chance to keep an eye on the children.”

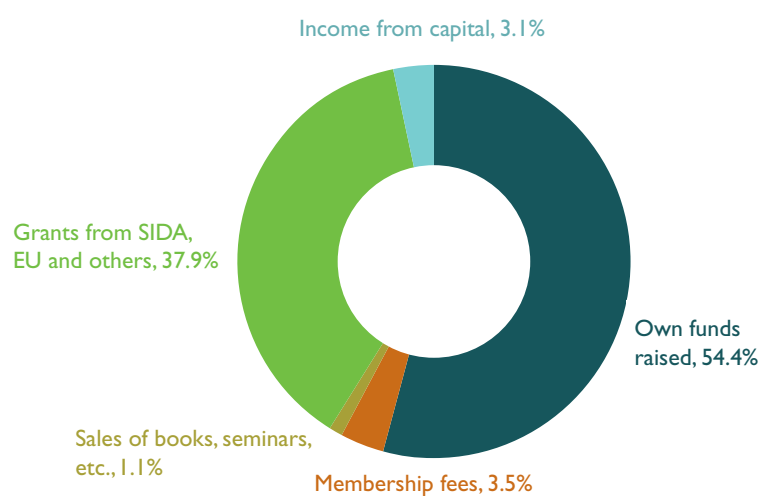
Limited awareness

Save the Children Sweden has also arranged seminars and workshops on children's rights and protection for social workers, teachers, police officers and judicial system employees.

El Fadil says: “Raising awareness about children's rights is important to create a protective environment for children. This awareness is limited in Darfur, even though the Sudanese government has signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.” ■

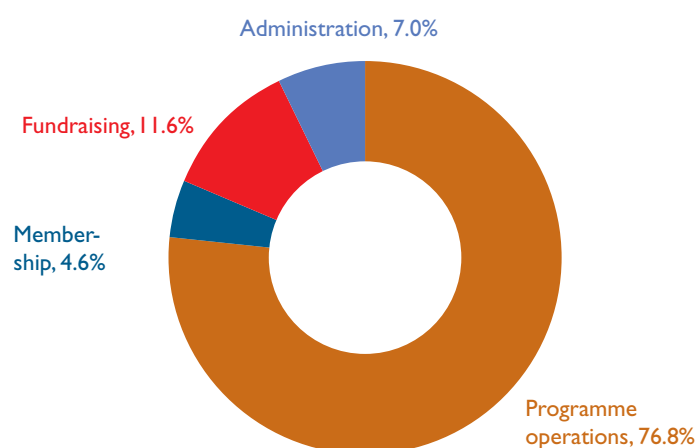
Financial summary

INCOME 2004



INCOME (Swedish crowns)	2004	2003
Own funds raised	219,4	221,0
Membership fees	14,1	14,6
Sales of books, seminars, etc.	4,5	6,3
Grants from Sida, EU and others	152,9	142,9
Income from capital	12,6	22,5
Total	403,5	407,3

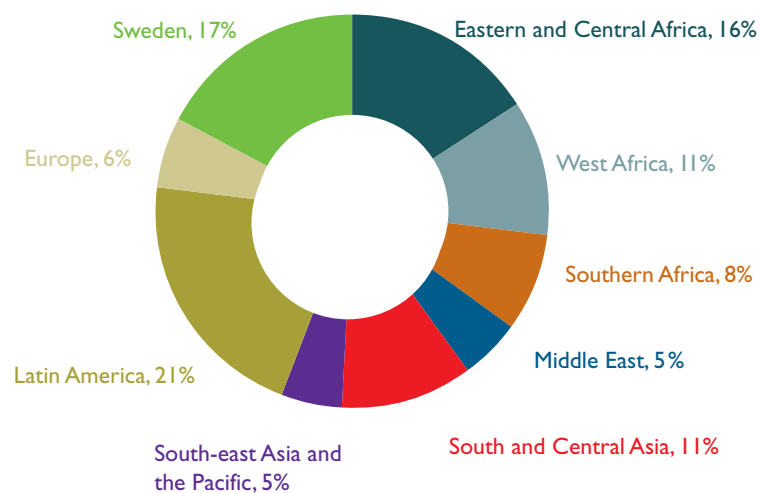
EXPENSES 2004



EXPENSES (Swedish crowns)	2004	2003
Programme operations	338,4	316,9
Membership	20,1	23,1
Fundraising	51,3	57,9
Administration	30,7	32,6
Total	440,5	430,5

Expenses for fundraising and administration accounted for 20% of total income.

BREAKDOWN OF DIRECT COSTS PER REGION IN 2004



Head office

Save the Children Sweden
SE-107 88 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 698 90 00
Facsimile: +46 8 68 90 10
E-mail: info@rb.se
www.rb.se

Regional offices abroad

East and Central Africa

Save the Children Sweden
P.O. Box 3457, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Phone: + 251 121 09 60
E-mail: addis.office@swedsave-et.org

Save the Children Sweden
P.O. Box 19423, Nairobi, Kenya
Phone: +254 20 27 11 282
E-mail: office@swedsave-ke.org

Save the Children Sweden
P.O. Box 3134, Khartoum, Sudan
Phone: +249 183 25 64 15/16
E-mail: rbsudan@sudanmail.net.sd

West Africa

Save the Children Sweden
BP 25934, Dakar-Fann, Senegal
Phone: + 221 869 18 00
E-mail: savedakar@sento.sn

Save the Children Sweden
16 BP 123, Abidjan 16, Ivory Coast
Phone: +225 22 41 53 82
E-mail: savechildren@aviso.ci

Save the Children Sweden
Villa située à la Cité Stab, Quartier Lycée Municipal
Lot 166, Bouaké, Ivory Coast
Phone: +225 31 65 56 89
E-mail: savebke@aviso.ci

Southern Africa

Save the Children Sweden
P.O. Box 40788, Arcadia, 0007 Pretoria, South Africa
Phone: + 27 12 341 11 66
E-mail: postmaster@za.rb.se

Save the Children Sweden, Norway and US
Post.Net Box 487, Private Bag E 891, Plot 4902, Los
Angeles Blvd, Longacres, Lusaka, Zambia
Phone: +260 1 250 106
E-mail: petronellam@za.rb.se

Middle East

Save the Children Sweden
P.O. Box 113-7167, Beirut, Lebanon
Phone: + 961 1 738 654
E-mail: info@scsmena.org

Save the Children Sweden
P.O. Box 18117, 911 00 Jerusalem, Israel
Phone: +972 2 656 19 36
E-mail: rb.meast@palnet.com

Save the Children Sweden
P.O. Box 11391, Sana'a, Yemen
Phone: +967 1 417 899
E-mail: rbyemen@y.net.ye

Save the Children Sweden
P.O. Box 476 Crater, Aden, Yemen
Phone: +967 223 16 02
E-mail: rbyemen@y.net.ye

South and Central Asia

Save the Children Sweden
P.O. Box 9047, Banani, Dhaka 1213, Bangladesh
Phone: + 880 2 881 49 85
E-mail: scsweden@scsdhaka.org

Save the Children Sweden
Lalithpur, Kathmandu, Nepal
Phone: + 977 1 5531 928

Save the Children Sweden
P.O. Box 1424, Peshawar, NWFP, Pakistan
Phone: +92 91 570 09 87
E-mail: radda@brain.net.pk

Save the Children Sweden
House No. 2127, Street A, Kart-e-Seh, D.6,
Kabul, Afghanistan
Mobile office: +93 702 244 35
E-mail: scskab@psh.paknet.com.pk

Southeast Asia and the Pacific

Save the Children Sweden
6 Ton That Thiep Street, Ba Dinh District,
Hanoi, Vietnam
Phone: + 84 48 23 23 93
E-mail: scs@scsweden.org.vn

Save the Children Sweden
26 Dang Tat, Distr. Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Phone: +84 8 848 04 05
E-mail: rbhcmc@hcmc.netnam.vn

Latin America

Save the Children Suécia
Apartado 14-0393, Lima 14, Peru
Phone: + 51 1 422 92 92
E-mail: postmaster@scslat.org

Save the Children Suécia
R. Santa Luzia, 651-17 andar, Centro
Rio de Janeiro, CEP: 20030-041, Brazil
Phone: +55 21 2139-2586
E-mail: postmaster.br@scslat.org

Save the Children Suécia
Apartado Postal 851, 1150 San José, Costa Rica
Phone: +506 296 2107
E-mail: postmaster.cr@scslat.org

Europe

Save the Children Sweden Europe Office
SE-107 88 Stockholm, Sweden
Phone: + 46 8 698 90 00
E-mail: postmaster@rb.se

International Save the Children Alliance
www.savethechildren.net/alliance

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