

Children Believe

ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

CHAMPIONING LOCALLY-LED, HOLISTIC SOLUTIONS FOR LASTING CHILD DEVELOPMENT

OUR STORY AND NUMBERS 2026



ON THE COVER:
Three girls in Ethiopia embody the hope, resilience, and potential of the children and communities C supports.
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 Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Mali, Nicaragua and Paraguay, where we work alongside communities to create opportunities for children and families to thrive.

We are grateful for the trust they place in us and for the opportunity to work together to strengthen hope and create lasting, positive change.

We also deeply value our 32 local implementing partners and their strong connections to the communities they serve. Their dedicated front-line work and commitment to principled partnership often take place in challenging circumstances (see Annex II 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/ChorogUsan for Children, the European Union, Gildan, Global Affairs Canada, Generation Global, Health Partners International Canada, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Muller Family Foundation, Nestle, Peter Gilgan Foundation, Taiwan Fund for Children and Families (TFCF), the Taiwan Alliance in International Development (Taiwan AID), UNICEF, UNOCHA, WFP, and 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 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 of many individual teams across Children Believe. We extend our sincere gratitude to our monitoring and evaluation officers and managers, program managers, country directors, and communication teams; our local partners and their teams across our eight country programs; our Canada-based program and policy team; and our marketing and development team. Their commitment, expertise and collaboration helped make this report possible.

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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	Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PVTGs	Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups
PCMA	Prohibition of Child Marriage Act
ROPES	Rural Organization for Poverty Eradication Services
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SARDS	Social Activities for Rural Development Society
SC	Schedule Caste
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

Fiscal year 2026 was a tale of two opposing forces: ongoing challenges to meet our revenue goals, and deepening impact across almost every measure we track. We reached more than 1,881,000 children, families, and community members across eight challenging operating environments, proof that our locally-led, holistic model delivers strong results even as fundraising headwinds persist.

This work is made possible by the generosity of our supporters, with 75.5% of every donated dollar directed to program activities. Our impact is rooted in 32 local partners who understand their communities' realities to achieve success. Together, our work extended to 1,029 communities across Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Mali, Nicaragua, and Paraguay, backed by over $22.7 million invested directly where it's needed most.

Education reach grew 35.6% year-over-year to 861,643 children and young people — nearly double what we reached six years ago. More than 570,000 pregnant women, mothers, and young children gained access to essential maternal and child health services, and over 96,000 children gained birth registration, securing protection. In Ghana, positive-parenting training reached more than 100,000 caregivers, part of a broader effort engaging 471,000 women, girls, and men in advancing gender equality. Four of our eight countries have now reached gender parity in primary school enrollment.

That growth is all the more striking set against a fundraising environment that has declined, to $29 million, prompting a commensurate reduction in field spending. A more competitive funding landscape and shifting government priorities made this a harder year to raise the resources our work deserves. The clear takeaway: we did more with less. We are working diligently to diversify our revenue and have already begun investing toward that goal.

As we navigate this period of global policy shifts, the organization continues to benefit from dedicated staff, committed supporters, strong partnerships, and a long history of effective program delivery. These strengths give us confidence that Children Believe remains resilient, impactful, and well positioned for the future.

We hope you'll enjoy more storytelling in this year's Annual Report — singular journeys, like that of Bayamma in India, who nearly left school for early marriage before a local team intervened; she is now a college student. Multiply her story by the hundreds of thousands, and you begin to see what this year's numbers truly represent.

The road ahead will demand the same things that got us here: patient investment in local leadership, and partners — like you — willing to stay the course. None of this happens without you: our donors, partners, and staff, who keep believing in children when circumstances make that harder.

With gratitude,



Gabriel Ollivier
Interim Chief Executive Officer
Children Believe



Dr. Belinda Bennet
Chief International Programs Officer
Children Believe

2026
YEAR-IN-REVIEW

This report encompasses Children Believe's program and policy results for the 2026 fiscal year, from April 2025 to March 2026.

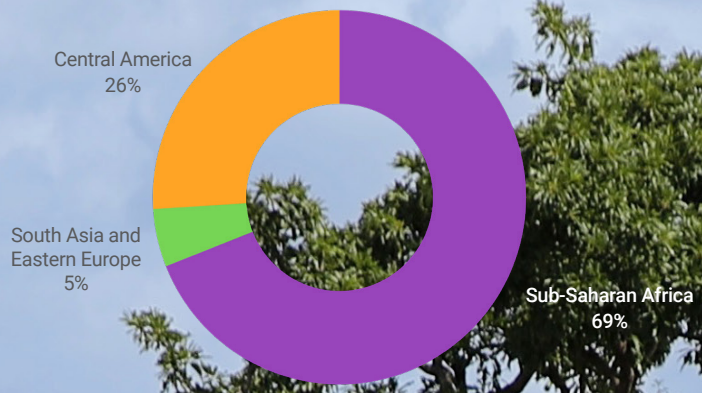
MORE THAN

1,881,000

children, families, and other vulnerable members of their communities were reached through our programs

69%

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



32

local partners in over

1,029

targeted community groups across our eight countries of operation

OVER

$22.7 million

invested in the countries we support

Children Believe

SNAPSHOT BY PROGRAM

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

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

861,643
boys and girls, teachers, caretakers and parents benefited from sustained access to inclusive education

103,253
children (under age 5) gained access to early childhood education and care services

302,534
girls and boys were enrolled in primary school education in the communities where we work

128,814
young women and men accessed vocational-life-skills training and appropriate employment opportunities

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

570,263
children, young women and mothers accessed maternal and child healthcare services

66,895
childbirths were attended by skilled health personnel and delivered in health facilities

61,490
healthcare workers were equipped to support mothers and girls with reproductive and postpartum care

19,581
girls were supported with hygiene kits and menstrual health education

CHILD PROTECTION

305,895
children, youth, women, parents and duty bearers benefited from efforts preventing violence and abuse

96,099
children (under age 5) gained access to birth registration, including many who were internally displaced or vulnerable

34,634
children and families were sponsored and directly benefited from our sponsorship program

104,396
parents and/or caregivers were trained on positive parenting and discipline

GENDER EQUALITY

471,248
girls, women and other community members benefited from support for gender justice work

113,116
women and girls assumed leadership roles and meaningfully participated in community decision-making

19,023
community members were trained on gender and gender-based violence

29,858
women participated in 1,127 Village Savings and Loan Associations in Burkina Faso

EMPLOYABILITY AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

105,096
young people accessed employment and livelihood opportunities

27,690
people affected by environmental crises received technical or material support

400kg
of catfish was produced in the first harvest by participants in Ghana, generating GHS 20,000 (about CAD $2,500)

295
youth in India received disaster-risk-reduction and emergency-preparedness training

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 CORE 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

Children Believe's 2026 fiscal year (April 2025 to March 2026) demonstrates significant, measurable progress across some of the world's most fragile, hard-to-reach, and rapidly changing contexts. Working with and through 32 strong, community-rooted civil society partners in more than 1,029 targeted communities, we advanced protection, resilience and opportunity for children and families facing conflict, displacement, environmental stress, and deep social exclusion.

Across eight countries, our programs remained grounded in a locally-led child-rights-based and community-driven approach, helping children, families and communities address challenges, build resilience and create opportunities to thrive.

Amid escalating insecurity and displacement in West Africa, particularly in Burkina Faso and Mali, our expanded operations reached communities whose lives and livelihoods have been profoundly disrupted. Together with local partners, we helped children and families navigate crisis by delivering protection services, strengthening family support systems, and advancing community-led efforts to keep children safe.

In regions affected by armed conflict and recurring climate shocks in Ethiopia, Children Believe provided critical support to children and families, helping them stay safe, continue learning, access psychosocial support, and begin rebuilding their lives.

1,881,800

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

Our program in Northern Ghana focused on environmentally vulnerable communities, advancing climate-resilient livelihoods, child protection, early childhood education, community-based health and nutrition and inclusive community development.

In India, we deepened our work with socially excluded groups, promoting inclusion, dignity and equitable access to essential services.

We initiated the official registration process in Honduras to launch new operations in the Dry Corridor, creating opportunities for youth and women facing chronic drought, food insecurity and limited economic prospects.

In Nicaragua, we continued working alongside local partners to expand economic opportunities for youth and women, despite a challenging operating environment.

In Paraguay, our community engagement and national advocacy efforts helped prevent domestic violence and strengthen local child protection systems, creating safer environments for children and families.

Overall, Children Believe worked hand-in-hand with local partners to help communities address challenges, create opportunities and build stronger futures for children and families.

Even in the most challenging circumstances, our collective efforts advanced protection, resilience and opportunity for more than 1,881,800 children and families.

Providing access to inclusive and quality education remained our top priority. We worked with education departments to strengthen teacher training and support education professionals while promoting gender equality and social inclusion in schools. As a result, girls' and boys' primary school enrollment rates remained nearly equal across the communities we serve in every country where we work. We also integrated child safeguarding into teacher training and skills development initiatives, while empowering children and communities to advocate for children's rights and hold decision-makers accountable.

Children need the right tools and opportunities to succeed in school. We recognize that, in a rapidly -changing world, the digital divide can limit access to education and future opportunities for marginalized children and their communities. To help address this challenge, we continued to explore new technologies and private-sector partnerships that improve educational opportunities, strengthen learning outcomes and expand pathways to employment, especially for girls and young women.

861,643

boys and girls, teachers, parents and caregivers benefited from our inclusive, high quality, education programs.

Healthy mothers and babies lead to healthy futures for everyone. In line with our commitment to reduce maternal and child mortality, and to improve nutrition, we supported:

570,263

children, young women, and mothers with improved maternal and child nutrition services in their communities.

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

305,895

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

Women and girls across our countries of operation continue to face discrimination due to unequal laws and practices. We worked with local partners, activists, and lawmakers to advance gender equality and eliminate discrimination against women and girls.

These efforts supported children's well-being through positive parenting, violence prevention, and gender equality, while helping end child marriage and other forms of gender-based violence and discrimination.

Crises can affect children for years. Children Believe supported internally displaced children, caregivers, and families in fragile contexts through community-based child protection services and birth registration. Together with local partners, we enabled:

50,494

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

Strong local organizations help communities navigate crises and build a more resilient future. As a catalyst for like-minded child-focused organizations, we strengthened six local partners working in disaster-prone and fragile areas of Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Mali. Together, we improved their ability to respond to humanitarian crises, promote peacebuilding and support long-term development. We also advanced climate solutions and helped communities build cleaner, greener and more sustainable futures.

471,248

girls, women and other community members benefited from gender justice work and took action against discriminatory norms.

As we close out FY26 and look ahead, we remain committed to advancing community-led change. Building on our progress, we will continue investing in locally-led, child-focused civil society partnerships that empower children, families and communities to shape their futures.

1 OUR STRATEGIC APPROACH



A classroom lesson brings children together to learn in Burkina Faso. 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.

HOW WE CREATE CHANGE

As we close out FY26 and look ahead, we are building on strong progress and advancing our long-term goals.

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.

Through the stories, insights and results that follow, we share the impact of our global programs and policy influence work in fiscal 2026 (April 2025 to March 2026) across the varied contexts in which we operate.

OUR PROGRAM APPROACHES

Child-Centred, Family-Focused, Integrated Community-Based Programming

Our program approach is guided by child ecosystem theory, which recognizes that children are shaped by the people, relationships and environments around them. Families, schools, community institutions and local systems all play a vital role in helping a child learn, grow and thrive.

Children Believe works alongside children, families and communities to address the challenges that stand in the way of a child's future. By strengthening family support systems and working with community institutions and local partners, we help create opportunities for children, youth and women to thrive and overcome the challenges that stand in the way of their goals.

Locally-led Development and Partnership

We believe that lasting change begins with the people who live it every day. Our commitment to locally-led development is rooted in a simple truth: communities know their children, their challenges, and their hopes better than anyone else. By working alongside child-focused, youth-led, and women-led groups, civil society partners, government institutions, and the private sector, we support local leadership and help communities shape solutions that reflect their realities and priorities.

We also collaborate with local researchers, universities, and other champions of change whose knowledge and lived experience bring valuable insight and perspective. When local leaders shape priorities, guide decisions, and own results, transformation becomes not just possible—but more likely to endure. This approach strengthens communities, builds trust and supports solutions that grow from the ground up. It is how we honour community wisdom, deepen trust, and ensure that every investment leads to real, human-centered impact.

Gender Transformative, Diversity and An Inclusive Approach

We are committed to creating opportunities for girls, women, and marginalized groups to thrive free from discrimination, exclusion and harmful social norms. Our gender-transformative approach addresses the challenges and inequalities that can limit people's choices and opportunities, helping to create safe, more inclusive communities where everyone is valued and respected. We place a strong emphasis on girls' education, supporting girls to transition to and complete secondary school while developing skills that help them build independent and fulfilling futures. By promoting dignity, equity, and inclusion, we help ensure that people who have historically been overlooked, have the opportunity to participate, lead and succeed in their communities.

Triple Nexus Approach

Some of the communities we work with in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and Mali are carrying the weight of conflict every day. They need support that reflects their realities and helps address both immediate needs and longer-term challenges. The Triple Nexus approach brings together humanitarian action, development, and peacebuilding to support communities in a coordinated way. This approach helps us respond to urgent needs while protecting progress and creating opportunities for children and families to build safer, more stable futures. By working with local partners and community leaders—those closest to the challenges and the solutions—we help address the factors that contribute to conflict while supporting communities as they recover and rebuild. The Triple Nexus approach guides us to deliver support that is responsive, locally led and rooted in community priorities, helping strengthen trust, create opportunity and lay the foundation for asting peace.

Digital Transformation

We invest in digital tools and technologies that help us work more efficiently, collaborate more effectively and respond more quickly to the needs of children, families and communities.

These tools help us streamline workflows, improve accountability, and build a paperless, eco-friendly environment, contributing to a more sustainable way of working. We also support digital transformation in education helping children, especially girls and marginalized learners, access learning opportunities and develop skills for the future. Digital learning platforms, virtual classrooms, and accessible technologies can help students continue learning during times of crises, build valuable skills, and access quality learning regardless where they live. When communities have access to digital tools and technology, they have greater opportunities to learn, connect and participate in shaping their own futures. By embracing digital transformation, we can work more effectively, extend our reach and help ensure children and young people have the tools they need to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

Learning Organization

We believe that the strongest organizations are those that listen, learn, and adapt. As a learning organization, we continuously reflect on our work, adapt with humility, and use those insights to improve how we support children, families, and communities. We integrate research, evidence, and knowledge sharing into our monitoring, evaluation, and policy work to strengthen decision-making and improve results. By learning from community experiences and program outcomes, we can refine our approaches, respond to emerging needs and build on what works. This culture of learning encourages innovation, supports continuous improvement and helps us create more effective programs that better serve children 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 alongside communities facing multiple, interconnected challenges, including extreme poverty, conflict, forced displacement, unsafe migration, climate change, and economic instability. Together, these challenges impacted the well-being, opportunities and livelihoods of children, their families, and communities.

Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso is home to approximately 24.7[1] million people representing more than 60 ethnic groups. About 34.5 percent of the population lives in urban areas, and life expectancy at birth is 61.9[2] years. Despite significant natural resources and economic potential, the country continues to face a complex and protracted humanitarian crisis driven by insecurity, displacement, food insecurity and recurring climate-related shocks. These interconnected challenges have left an estimated 4.5 million[3] people, including 2.9 million children, in need of humanitarian assistance, while disrupting access to essential services and opportunities.

Education remains one of the sectors most affected by the crisis. In 2025, approximately 1.9 million children required urgent educational support, including girls and children with disabilities. School closures, the relocation of learning facilities and overcrowded classrooms have created significant barriers to quality education and increased the risk of children falling behind.



A group of children gathered outside of a school in Burkina Faso. Photo: Children Believe



In response, Children Believe combines humanitarian and long-term development approaches to address immediate needs while strengthening community resilience. Our work focuses on Inclusive Education, Early Childhood Care and Development, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and Nutrition, Child Protection and Participation, psychosocial support, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, and Youth Economic Empowerment.

During the reporting year, we partnered with five local organizations and collaborated with government departments across the Gulmu, Tapoa, Sirba, Koulsé and Kadiogo regions, directly reaching more than 670,000 children, women and other socially vulnerable groups

[1] Burkina Faso, FY26 Annual Program and Policy Report, Unpublished Report
[2] RGPH 2019
[3] Humanitarian response plan 2026

* The current MELKS system and CBsoft is fully operational in the six country offices. Honduras and Mali are not yet fully incorporated as they pursue different operational modality using small project grants.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia, often referred to as the "land of 13 months of sunshine," is one of the world's oldest civilizations and the second most populous country in Africa, with an estimated population of 136 million. The country continues to demonstrate strong economic growth and a commitment to environmental sustainability. Despite this progress, Ethiopia faces a protracted humanitarian crisis driven by recurrent drought, flooding, armed conflict, displacement, disease outbreaks and economic instability (UNDP, 2026).

These interconnected challenges have increased food and nutrition insecurity, particularly among children and vulnerable families. Ongoing insecurity in the Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and Somali regions has disrupted livelihoods and left an estimated 10.1 million people in need of immediate food assistance. Malnutrition affects approximately 4.4 million children and pregnant and breastfeeding women, while more than 4.5 million people are internally displaced and over 4.4 million children are out of school (WFP, 2025).



A youth group in Ethiopia builds practical business skills and confidence to pursue new opportunities. Photo: Children Believe

Children Believe has worked in Ethiopia since 1987, partnering with local organizations, communities and government stakeholders to improve the well-being and rights of children and families. Combining humanitarian and development approaches, our work focuses on Early Childhood Care and Development, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and Nutrition, Child Protection and Participation, and Women and Youth Economic Empowerment.



Ghana

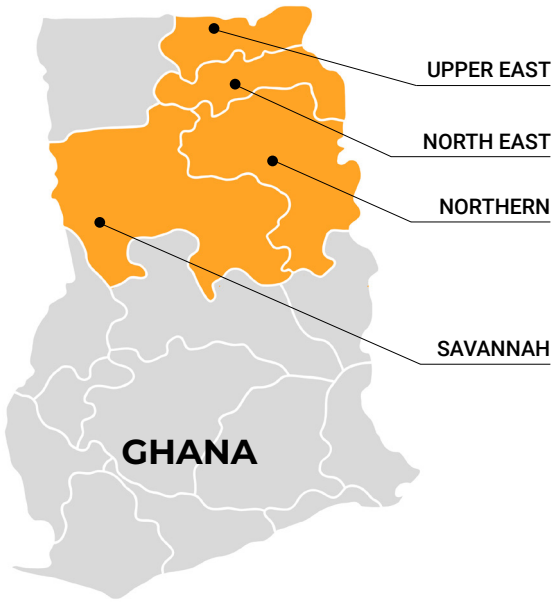
Ghana, renowned for its cocoa and gold production, is home to an estimated 35.7 million people (UNFPA, 2026). Widely regarded as one of West Africa's more stable economies, the country has made significant progress in strengthening democratic governance, judicial independence and press freedom. In 2026, Ghana's economy continued its strong recovery, with projected GDP growth of 6.4 percent and inflation easing significantly. Despite these gains, many communities continue to experience persistent inequalities driven by gender disparities, disability and rural-urban divides. Gaps in public investment also continue to place pressure on education, health and social protection services, particularly in underserved regions (World Bank, 2025; UNICEF, 2025).

Children remain disproportionately affected by these challenges. An estimated three in four children live in multidimensional poverty, neonatal deaths account for 43 percent of under-five mortality, and approximately 1.9 million young people are out of school or work, limiting opportunities for future economic participation (UNICEF, 2025).

Children Believe has worked in northern Ghana since 1996, where communities remain particularly vulnerable to the impacts of poverty and climate change due to their reliance on climate-affected agriculture. Through partnerships with communities, local organizations and government stakeholders, we support children,

families and communities to improve their well-being and resilience. Our work focuses on Education, Early Childhood Care and Development, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and Nutrition, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, and Youth Employability and Women's Economic Empowerment.

Children Believe currently operates across the Northern, North East, Savannah and Upper East regions, where severe child food poverty and climate-related challenges continue to affect children's well-being and opportunities.





Children in a Children Believe supported classroom in Ghana. Photo: Children Believe

Honduras

Honduras, known for its vibrant natural beauty and rich cultural heritage, has an estimated population of approximately 11 million people (UNFPA, 2025). Children account for 30.5 percent of the population, and nearly half live in poverty (World Bank, 2025).

The country faces interconnected challenges, including political and social conflict, inflation, climate change, forced displacement, unsafe migration, and persistently high rates of homicide and femicide. Changes to United States migration policies have also affected mixed migration flows and the number of migrants transiting through Honduras. Food insecurity remains a major concern, particularly in the Dry Corridor and Gracias a Dios, or La Mosquitia, where climate-related crop failures continue to undermine livelihoods and agricultural production. Approximately 1.6 million people required humanitarian assistance, while an estimated 500,000 children were affected by stunting (UNOCHA, 2024).

Children Believe is currently establishing its country presence in Honduras, building on its experience delivering child-centred programming in Latin America. Working alongside local organizations, communities and government stakeholders, our programming will focus on Education, Health and Nutrition, Child Protection and Participation, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, and Youth and Women's Economic Empowerment. Through locally led, community-driven approaches, we will help strengthen resilience, improve well-being and expand opportunities for children, youth and families.



India

India is renowned for its rich cultural heritage, diverse traditions, and growing economic and technological influence. A leading Information Technology and manufacturing hub, India is one of the world's fastest-growing large economies and a prominent member of the G20 and BRICS. With an estimated population of 1.476 billion people, it is the world's most populous nation (UNFPA, 2026).

Despite significant economic progress, deep social and regional inequalities persist. One in four people experiences multidimensional poverty, while the wealthiest 10 percent earn 20 times more than the bottom 50 percent. Children account for approximately half of those living in multidimensional poverty (UNDP, 2025).

India has made important gains in health outcomes. Maternal mortality rates have declined significantly and now stand at 87 deaths per 100,000 live births[4], while approximately 80 percent of women give birth in health facilities. However, major disparities remain. An estimated two million children are out of school, particularly in rural areas, informal settlements and low-income urban communities. Historically marginalized groups, including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, face overlapping barriers related to poverty, malnutrition, healthcare, child marriage, education, sanitation, hygiene and safe water (UNICEF, 2025). Children Believe has partnered with local organizations in India since 1972 and currently focuses its programming in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Through child-focused, community-led approaches, we work with communities and local stakeholders to expand access to education, health and nutrition, child protection, gender equality and social inclusion, and youth livelihood opportunities. By strengthening local systems and community resilience, we help children and families overcome barriers and build pathways toward lasting change.

Over the past year, we worked alongside communities facing multiple, interconnected challenges, including extreme poverty, conflict, forced displacement, unsafe migration, climate change, and economic instability



Mali

Mali, home to the historic city of Timbuktu and among the hottest countries in the world, is a landlocked nation in West Africa. Its population of 25.9 million is remarkably young, with a median age of just 15.9 years (UNFPA, 2026).

The country continues to face a complex humanitarian crisis driven by conflict, insecurity and climate-related shocks. Non-state armed groups continue to fuel insecurity in central and northern Mali, while violence has increasingly spread into parts of the south. Renewed military clashes, long-standing structural instability and socio-economic hardship have further intensified humanitarian needs.

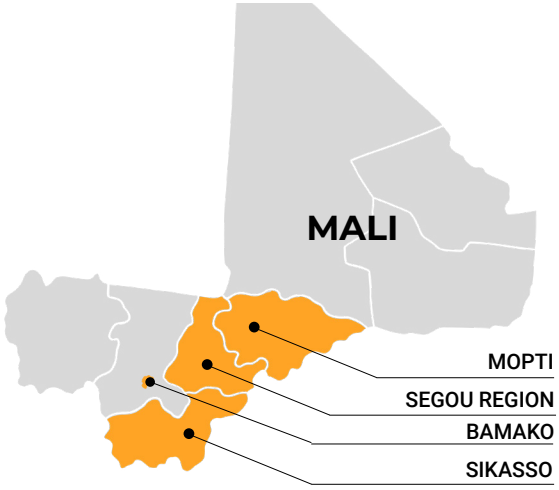


Women prepare school meals, helping more children attend and stay in school. Photo: Children Believe, Mali

[4] https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/public-health/articles/10.3389/

An estimated 5.1 million people require humanitarian assistance, 78 percent of whom are children and women. Needs are most severe in northern and central Mali, where conflict has displaced communities, deepened vulnerability and limited access to essential services, including education, healthcare and protection (UNOCHA, 2026).

Children Believe officially registered and began operations in Mali in 2025, building on decades of experience delivering child-centred programming across the Sahel. Working with local organizations, community leaders and government stakeholders, we combine humanitarian and development approaches to address immediate needs while strengthening local systems, community resilience and opportunities for children and families.



Nicaragua

Nicaragua is a country of striking natural beauty and remarkable resilience, shaped by its lakes, volcanoes and expansive rainforests. With a population of approximately 7.1 million people (UNFPA, 2026), the country has continued a trajectory of economic growth while maintaining significant public investment in social services. Health and education account for more than one-third of national expenditure, reflecting a commitment to supporting children, families and communities (World Bank, 2025).

Despite this progress, significant challenges persist. Nearly one in ten children and adolescents live in extreme poverty, with the greatest deprivations concentrated in rural areas and Atlantic coastal communities (UNICEF, 2025/Nicaraguan Central Bank/ National Institute of Statistics). These inequalities are compounded by recurring climate-related shocks, including hurricanes Eta, Iota and Julia, as well as the intensifying effects of El Niño. Together, these pressures continue to affect livelihoods, infrastructure and community stability, while increasing risks for children and their families.

Children Believe has worked in Nicaragua since 1994 and remains one of its strategic countries of operation in Central America. Through partnerships with communities and local stakeholders, we strengthen local systems and support efforts to improve education, preventive healthcare, child protection, gender equality, social inclusion, youth employability and community resilience. Our integrated, rights-based approach helps children, adolescents and youth build the skills, confidence and opportunities they need to overcome barriers and contribute to positive change in their communities.

Despite a dynamic operating environment that requires ongoing adaptation and strong collaboration across sectors, communities continue to demonstrate extraordinary determination in protecting and advancing the well-being of children.



Paraguay

Paraguay, recognized for its rich cultural heritage and unique blend of Spanish and Guaraní influences, has an estimated population of 7.1 million people (UNFPA, 2026). Widely regarded as one of the more stable and less fragile countries in Latin America, Paraguay has a notably young population, with 45 percent of its citizens under the age of 30. This demographic profile presents both an opportunity and a critical need to invest in child development, education, child rights and youth employment.

While Paraguay has made progress in expanding healthcare coverage, improving access to education and strengthening child protection systems, significant gaps persist. Children and families living in poverty, rural communities and Indigenous populations continue to experience inequalities in accessing essential services, safe environments and pathways to economic participation. These disparities affect children's well-being, learning outcomes and future opportunities.

Children Believe has worked in Paraguay since 1995, partnering with communities, government institutions and local organizations to advance the rights and well-being of children, youth and families. Through locally led, community-driven programming, we work to strengthen education, health and nutrition, child protection and participation, gender equality and social inclusion, and youth employability. By strengthening local systems and fostering long-term partnerships, we support sustainable pathways toward a more inclusive, equitable and opportunity-rich future for children and young people.



A student learning in a classroom in Paraguay . Photo: Children Believe



We partner with communities to create opportunities for children, strengthen local systems and support lasting, locally-led change.

OUR OBJECTIVES

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015 marked an unprecedented global commitment. All 193 United Nations (UN) Member States, including Canada, endorsed a shared vision for a more peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world. Anchored in 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, the Agenda provides a universal blueprint for ending extreme poverty, advancing gender equality, expanding inclusive economic opportunities, safeguarding the planet, and strengthening institutions that uphold human rights and dignity for all.

At Children Believe, our mission aligns closely with these global goals. We design and deliver programs that contribute to sustainable, community-driven change, with a focus on reducing poverty, advancing gender equality, improving learning outcomes, and protecting children's rights. Through this work, we support children and young people, especially girls and those facing multiple forms of vulnerability, so they can grow, learn, and thrive.

Aligning our work with the SDGs also strengthens partnership with governments, UN agencies, civil society organizations, and local communities. Together we advance evidence-based solutions that improve well-being, strengthen resilience and expand opportunities for children, families and communities. Through these collective efforts, we are helping shape a future where every child can thrive and no one is left behind.

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

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Eradicate extreme poverty (defined as surviving on less than $2.15 per person per day) for all people, everywhere, by 2030.



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

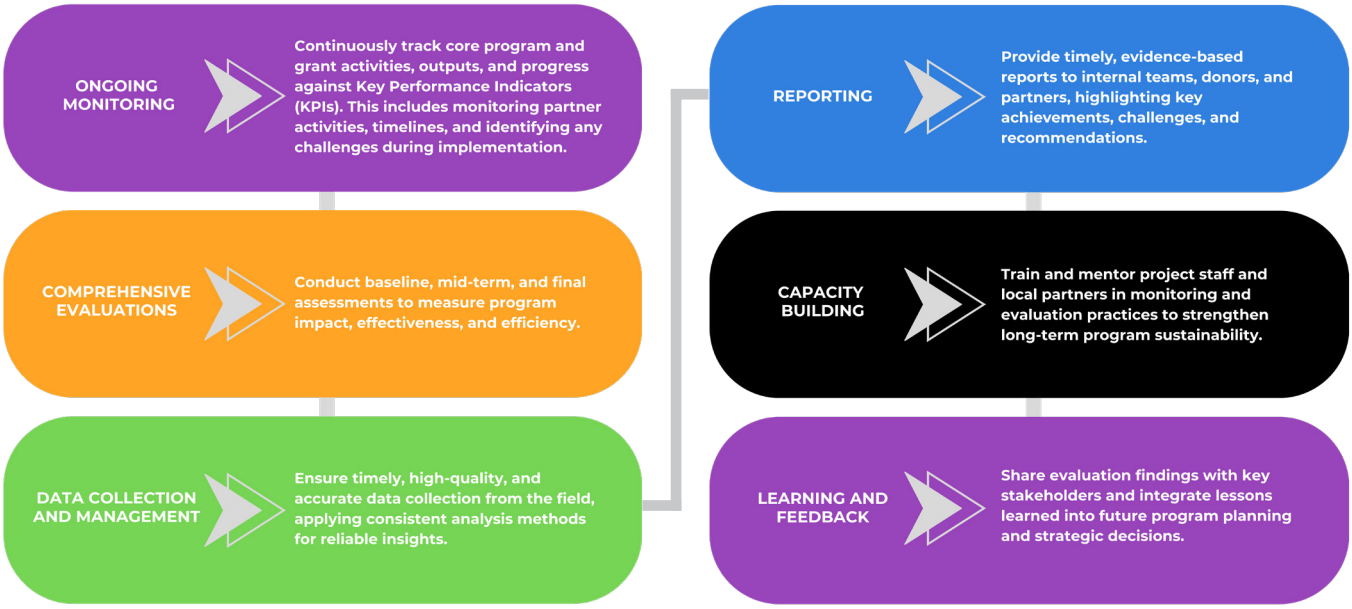
At Children Believe, transparency, accountability, and continuous learning are central to how we evaluate and improve our programs. Our Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning & Knowledge Sharing (MELKS) team plays a vital role in ensuring that our programs deliver measurable, lasting change in the lives of 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 in Paraguay receives a health check-up to support their health, well-being and development. 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



Access to school-based WASH facilities helps children stay healthy, attend classes regularly and focus on learning.
Photo: Children Believe

At Children Believe, we understand that every country, every community, and every child carries a distinct story—one shaped by local realities, cultural strengths, and unique challenges. This is why we work alongside children, families and communities to understand what stands in the way of opportunity and what is needed to create lasting change.

Our work is rooted in five core program areas, but we also recognize that the obstacles children face are rarely isolated. Challenges related to gender equality, child protection, climate resilience, and inclusive governance, often intersect and influence many aspects of a child's life. By addressing these cross-cutting themes across our programs, we help remove obstacles, amplify community leadership, and create more inclusive conditions for children and young people to learn, grow and thrive.

KEY CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

We know that gender equality, climate change and environmental challenges are connected to many of the obstacles that children face. Integrating these priorities across all five pathways of change helps ensure our work responds to the complex realities shaping children's lives.

Climate Change

Climate change is one of the interconnected challenges affecting children's lives. By supporting climate-resilient livelihoods, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable practices, we help communities adapt to changing conditions and better withstand environmental shocks.

Environmental Actions

Healthy environments are essential for children and communities to thrive. Through education and community-led initiatives, we encourage responsible resource management, reforestation, and eco-friendly practices that help protect natural ecosystems for future generations.

Gender Equality and Intersectionality

Gender inequality and discrimination can limit children's opportunities and influence their futures. We work to address structural barriers and harmful gender norms, empowering girls, women and disadvantaged people from diverse social backgrounds to participate fully in their communities and access opportunities. A key focus of our work is helping girls enroll in, transition to, and complete secondary education while developing the skills they need to thrive.

The following sections highlight the progress and impact we achieved across our five programs during fiscal year 2026.



Children Believe

EDUCATION

With your support

861,643

children and young people accessed education opportunities in FY26, nearly double FY20, helping more learners gain the knowledge and skills they need to thrive.

1 NO POVERTY
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
5 GENDER EQUALITY
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



WORKING TOGETHER TO REMOVE THE OBSTACLES TO EDUCATION

Students in Burkina Faso engage in classroom learning, building knowledge and new opportunities. Photo: Children Believe

At Children Believe, education is more than a program area. It is a pathway to opportunity, confidence and choice. We believe every child has the right to learn and develop their potential, regardless of the obstacles they face. By supporting access to quality education, we help children and young people build the knowledge, skills and resilience they need to shape their own path forward.

Across all our countries of operation, we work with trusted local partners to support children and young people at every stage of their development. From early childhood care and development, to primary, secondary, technical, vocational, and higher education, we help remove the obstacles that prevent children, especially girls and those in marginalized groups, from accessing quality learning opportunities. Our life-stage approach is intentionally adaptive, allowing each country to prioritize the areas where children face the greatest challenge and direct resources where they are needed most.

We also embed gender equity and intersectionality across all education initiatives. This means recognizing how gender, disability, physical geography, displacement, and social exclusion intersect to shape a child's learning journey—and designing solutions that respond to these realities with nuance and care.

35.6% ↑
YEAR-OVER-YEAR

In FY26, 861,643 children, young women, and men accessed preschool, primary, vocational, and life-skills opportunities — a 35.6% increase year-over-year.

OUR PROGRAM APPROACH

Our purpose is clear: to remove the obstacles that keep children from learning. By partnering with communities, educators, and local institutions, we create inclusive learning environments that keep children in school and empower them to build the knowledge and skills they need for lifelong success.

01 Early Childhood Care & Development (ECCD)

The early years shape a child's future—80 percent of brain growth occurs by age three, 90 percent by five. Our holistic approach combines Learning Through Play, positive parenting, and maternal and child well-being to give children the strongest possible start.

- **528** ECCD centres built, renovated, equipped or supported.
- **176,037** trained in inclusive education and teaching methods, including LTP and ECD (19,810 teachers; 151,227 parents/caregivers).
- **103,253** children gained access to early childhood care and development opportunities (52,659 were girls).

02 Inclusive, Equitable Primary Education

Primary education builds lifelong learning and protects children from exploitation. Yet poverty, child labour, abuse, and geographic isolation keep many out of school. We work to remove these obstacles so every child can thrive.

- **302,534** students enrolled (48.6% girls) in **956** Children Believe-supported primary schools.
- **Gender parity progress to close that gap**, with the goal of enhancing attendance of girls: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, India and Paraguay achieved equality (1.01-1.18), and Nicaragua (0.99), and North Ghana (0.91) slightly favoured boys.

03 Vocational and Higher Education Pathways

Technical, vocational, and higher education give youth (15–24) skills for jobs, entrepreneurship, and leadership. Yet challenges like cost, gender bias, and the digital divide limit access. Children Believe partners locally to help young people gain knowledge and confidence to build brighter futures.

- **128,814** youth (54.1 percent girls and young women) from low-income and Indigenous families gained skills for employment or entrepreneurship.
- **30X+** as many youth participated in vocational and life-skills programming in FY26 compared to FY21.
- **Participation among both boys and girls has risen sharply since FY23,** reflecting broader program reach and growing demand for vocational and life-skills opportunities.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS:

REACH AND COVERAGE

861,643

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

103,253

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

302,534

boys and girls were enrolled in primary school education in the communities where we work.

128,814

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

BOX 1

Kudumula Bayamma: Escaping an early marriage, returning to college

By Children Believe, India



Women's collectives, police engagement, and mobile outreach vans unite in a community campaign to prevent child marriage. Photo: Children Believe, India

Sixteen-year-old Kudumula Bayamma grew up in a Scheduled Tribe settlement in Prakasam district, Andhra Pradesh, India, where girls' education is not always prioritized. As a tribal girl, her experiences have been shaped by both her gender and tribal identity. Her family relies on seasonal, daily-wage work, and with an income that fluctuates with the seasons, difficult decisions about household expenses are a constant reality. Despite these challenges, Bayamma accomplished something few in her family or community had done before: she completed Class 10 and is determined to continue her education.

As Bayamma reached adolescence, pressure to marry began to mount. Relatives questioned whether continuing her education was worth the cost, given her family's financial struggles. Like many first-generation girls, she faced expectations that an early marriage would secure her future. For many girls, these expectations can lead to the end of their educational journey, limiting future opportunities and their ability to make decisions about their own futures. Bayamma's future seemed headed in the same direction.

What changed the course of Bayamma's life was not a dramatic intervention, but a coordinated effort that reached her before any marriage was arranged. A field team and a local learning centre had identified girls at risk of leaving school and acted promptly. They spoke with Bayamma's parents, not to criticize their decision-making, but to understand their concerns about finances and her future. Together, they explored scholarships and residential support for which Bayamma was eligible for and helped the family access these resources. They also showed that continuing her education was both possible and worthwhile, assuring the family that the learning centre would support Bayamma in staying engaged with her studies during uncertain times.

As a result, her marriage was postponed. Bayamma resumed her studies and enrolled in a higher-secondary college, where the principal, moved by her circumstances, waived her fees so that financial challenges would not prevent her from continuing her education. A girl who was once on the brink of leaving school and getting married is now a college student, an achievement few in her family or community have reached. Her success has become a source of inspiration in her community, showing other parents of tribal and Dalit girls what is possible when daughters are supported to continue their education. Just a year ago, many believed Bayamma's path had already been decided. Today, she is making choices about her own future.

"I thought my studies were over after Class 10, and that marriage would happen soon. After they spoke to me and my parents, I realized that I still have a future. Now I want to finish Plus-Two first and be independent," she says.

Bayamma's story shows how a girl's opportunities are often shaped by a combination of social, economic and cultural realities rather than her abilities or aspirations. As a member of a Scheduled Tribe community, she faced challenges experienced by first-generation learners. What made the difference was consistent support: a conversation with her family, access to available resources, and a safe place to continue learning. Her story also highlights the importance of acting early. Supporting girls before they leave school and working alongside families to address their concerns, can help ensure they have the opportunity to continue their education and pursue the future they choose for themselves.

Chart 1 illustrates the reach of our education programming. In fiscal year 2026, over 861,640 children, youth, women, and men accessed education, essential life-management skills and employment development opportunities, a 35.6 percent increase over FY25, and nearly double the number reached in FY20. Behind these numbers are more children accessing inclusive learning environments, more girls continuing their education, and more young people gaining the skills and confidence to pursue their goals in a changing world.

These results reflect the contributions of integrated programming, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and targeted investments in foundational learning, gender equality, and youth skills. They also show that when children and young people receive consistent, holistic support, they are better able to navigate conflict, displacement, economic hardship, and climate-related disasters while pursuing their goals.

Children Believe remains committed to strengthening local leadership and helping remove the obstacles that stand in the way of learning. Together with communities, we are working to ensure every child, regardless of circumstance, has the chance to learn, grow, and lead.

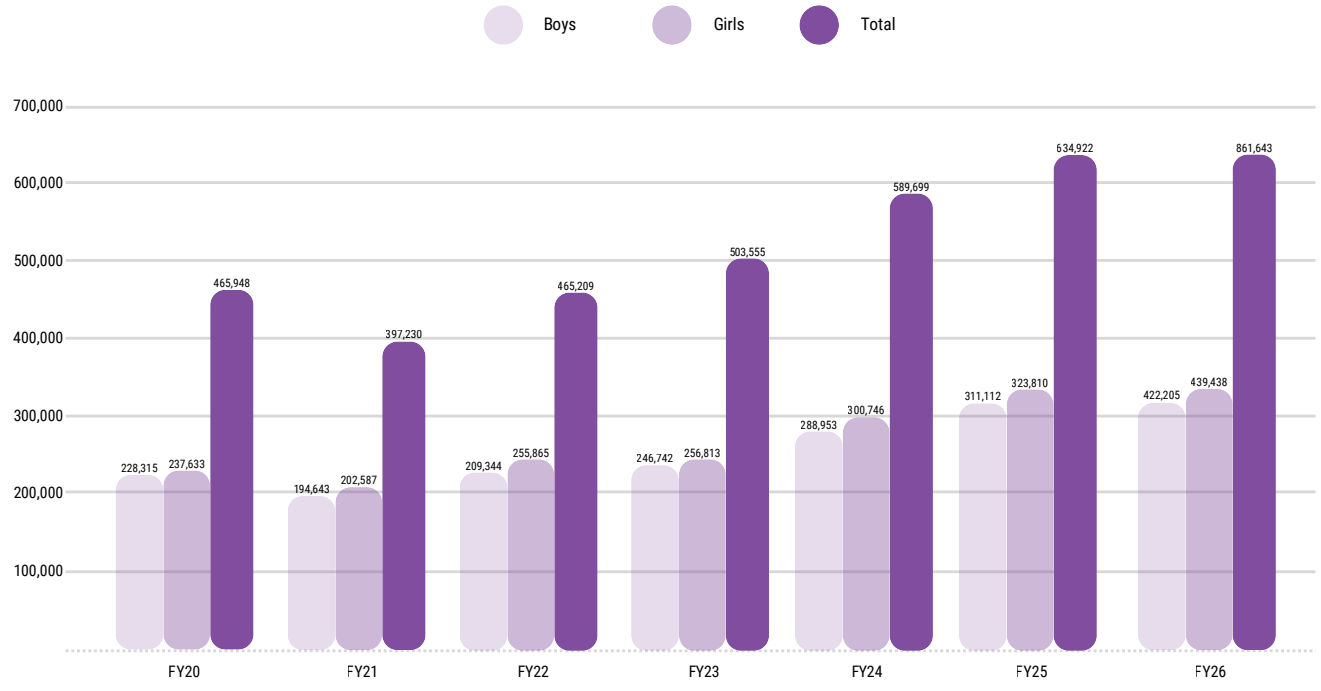
nearly

2x

as many people accessed **education, life-management skills and employment development opportunities** compared to **FY20.**

7-YEAR TREND

CHART 1: Access to inclusive and quality education for boys and girls in Children Believe operational areas: FY20-26 trend analysis



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY20-26

Quality, inclusive early childhood care and development

Early childhood is the most powerful period of human development. More than 80 percent of brain development occurs by age three and 90 percent by age five, laying the foundation for lifelong learning, health and well-being. For Children Believe, supporting children during these early years is where our commitment to equity, dignity, and opportunity begins.

We invest in early learning for children aged 3–5, helping them build a strong foundation for cognitive, emotional, and social development. Our approach strengthens both children and the systems around them, by partnering with local organizations to expand proven models, share best practices, and introduce innovative early childhood development approaches at community, national, and regional levels.

Our Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) work is grounded in the belief that every child deserves the opportunity to flourish. We prioritize families facing vulnerability or systemic discrimination, helping create nurturing environments and providing the support children need during their earliest years. Through a holistic model that integrates learning through play, positive parenting, and maternal and child well-being, we help children build the skills, confidence, and resilience that shape lifelong learning and development.

This early investment helps children start life with a strong foundation, equipping them with the tools they need to grow, learn, and reach their full potential.



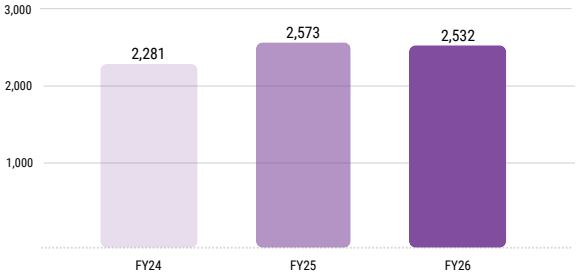
Children in an Early Childhood Care and Development Centre with Feleke Tadele, Director-Global Program Impact, Burkina Faso. Photo: Children Believe Burkina Faso

PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

During the 2026 fiscal year, we built, renovated, equipped or supported 528 early childhood education centres. Across our six core program countries, we also trained 19,810 teachers and 151,227 parents and caregivers in inclusive education and appropriate teaching methodologies, including Learning Through Play (LTP), and Early Childhood Development (ECD), helping create stronger foundations for children's learning and development.

3-YEAR TREND

Number of teachers trained in inclusive education, and appropriate teaching methodologies, including LTP and ECD



Teacher training in inclusive education grew by 13% between FY24 and FY25, before leveling off in FY26, indicating sustained investment in inclusive education capacity-building.

528

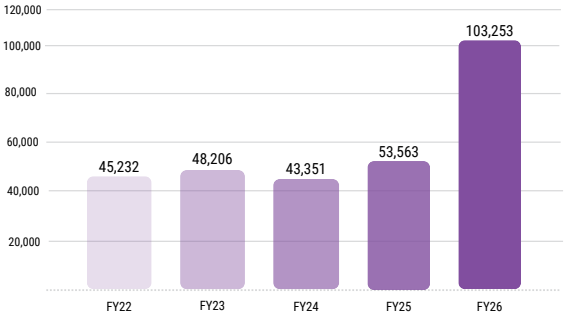
early childhood education centres were built, renovated, equipped or supported in FY26.

Chart 2 shows that in FY26, Children Believe and our partners collaborated to provide early childhood development opportunities for 103,253 children (including 52,659 girls).

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

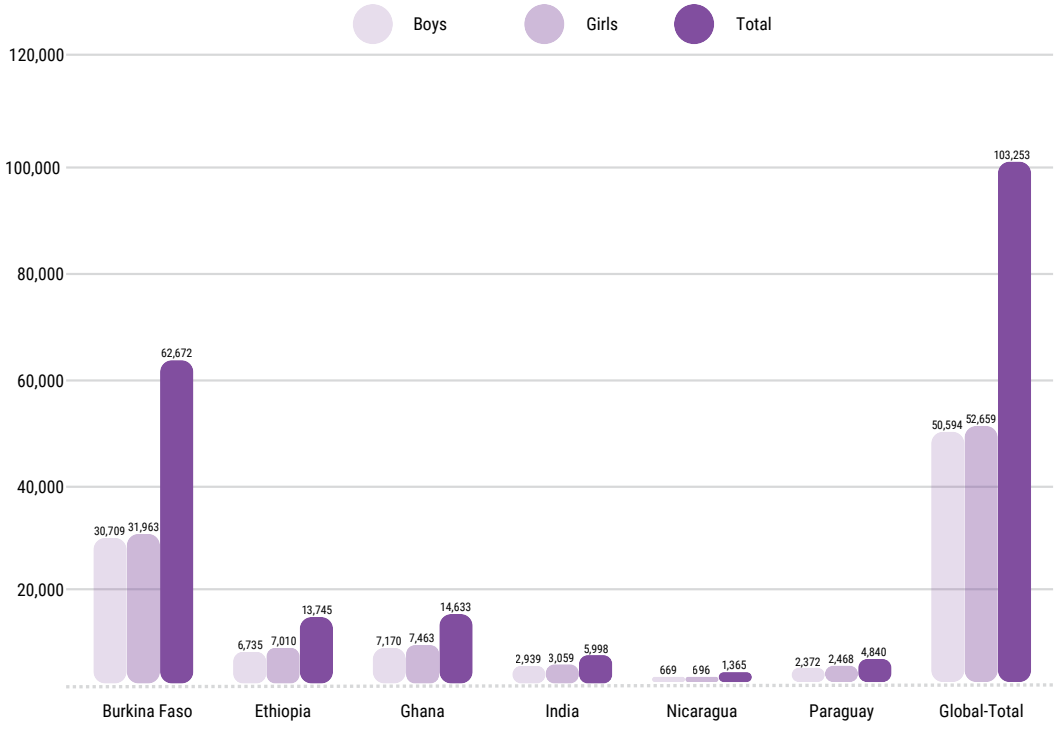
5-YEAR TREND

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



Between 2025 and 2026, access to early childhood care increased by nearly 93% for boys and girls—the largest rise across the five-year period. This progress stands as a testament to our continued commitment to expanding opportunities for every child.

CHART 2: Number of teachers and parents/caregivers trained in inclusive education and appropriate teaching methodologies, including LTP, and ECD by Country - FY26



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY26

Chart 3 illustrates the positive outcomes of improved quality of early childhood education, care and development. 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 3: Developmental performance of children under 5 who attended early childhood care and development centres supported by Children Believe - FY26



Inclusive, equitable and quality primary education

Primary education is another educational level where possibility begins. It is a time when children first discover their voices, build confidence, and develop the skills that help them shape their future. For Children Believe, this is more than a developmental milestone. It is an opportunity to support children while contributing to more inclusive, safer, and more hopeful communities.

Across our countries of operation, too many children still face obstacles such as poverty, child labour, discrimination, disability, conflict, and geographic isolation. These challenges can limit access to education and opportunities to learn and grow. Yet, year after year, we see what is possible when children receive the support they need to overcome these obstacles and pursue their goals.

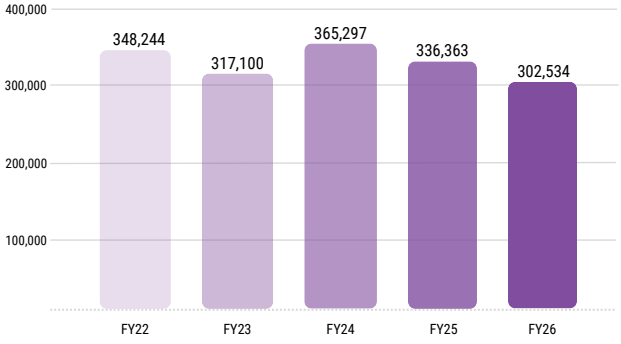
With our local implementing partners and schools, we champion inclusive, high quality primary education that welcomes every child, including girls and boys, children with disabilities, children from excluded caste and ethnic groups, and those living in fragile or crisis affected contexts. Our supported schools help create environments where children feel safe, respected and included, where children learn not only to read and write, but to think critically, act confidently, and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

In FY26, we also deepened our commitment to equity by working with education departments to strengthen teacher capacity, embed child safeguarding into teacher training, and promote gender equality and social inclusion in classrooms. At the community level, we supported children and families to advocate for their rights and hold duty bearers accountable, helping ensure education systems are responsive to the needs of all children.

Today, schools in Children Believe-supported communities are safer, more inclusive, and more responsive to children's needs. Children who may have once been excluded are learning in classrooms where they feel seen, valued, and supported. Teachers are better equipped to nurture diverse learners and communities are more confident in advocating for quality education. Together, these efforts are helping education systems become more inclusive and responsive for every child.

5-YEAR TREND

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



Following its FY24 peak, primary school enrolment declined for the second year, falling from 365,297 to 302,534 students by FY26.

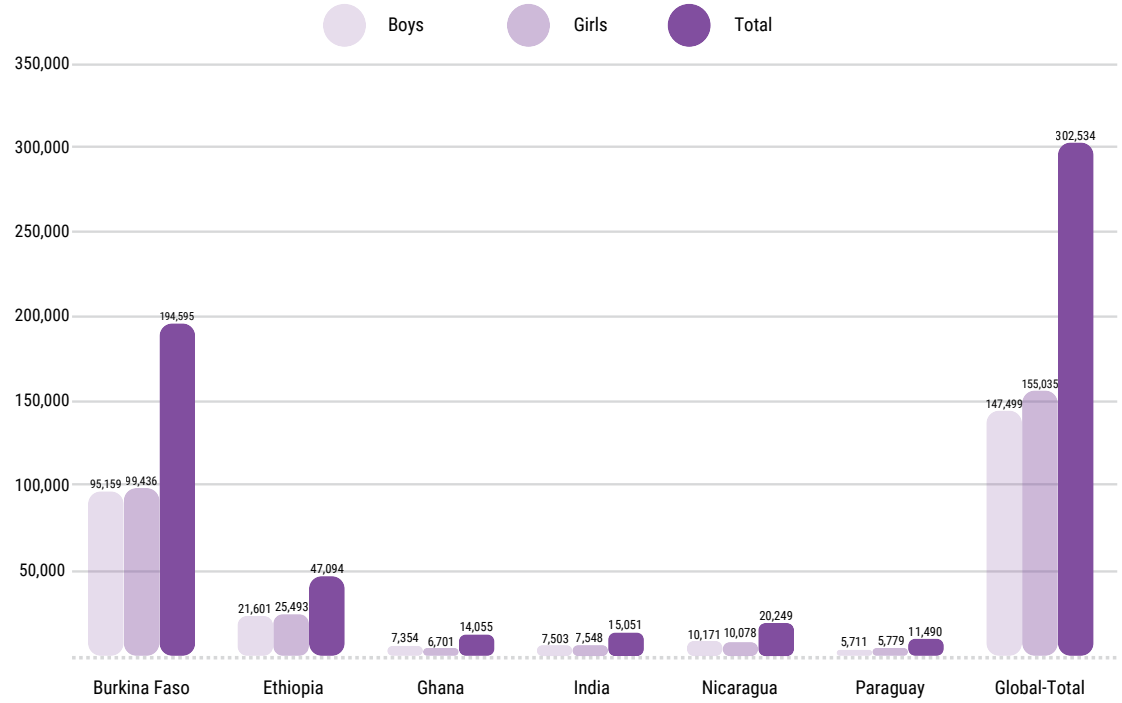


A technology-enabled Learning Centre in India, where education sparks hope and dreams for the future. Photo: Children Believe

PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

As shown in Chart 4, we created access to inclusive and quality primary education for 302,534 children (48.6 percent girls) through supporting 956 primary schools during the 2025/26 academic year.

CHART 4: Enrollment in primary school education for girls and boys in Children Believe-supported communities, disaggregated by country - (2025/2026 academic year)



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY26

In the 2025/2026 academic year, Children Believe and our partners worked actively to close the gap in gender parity in the communities where our programs are implemented.

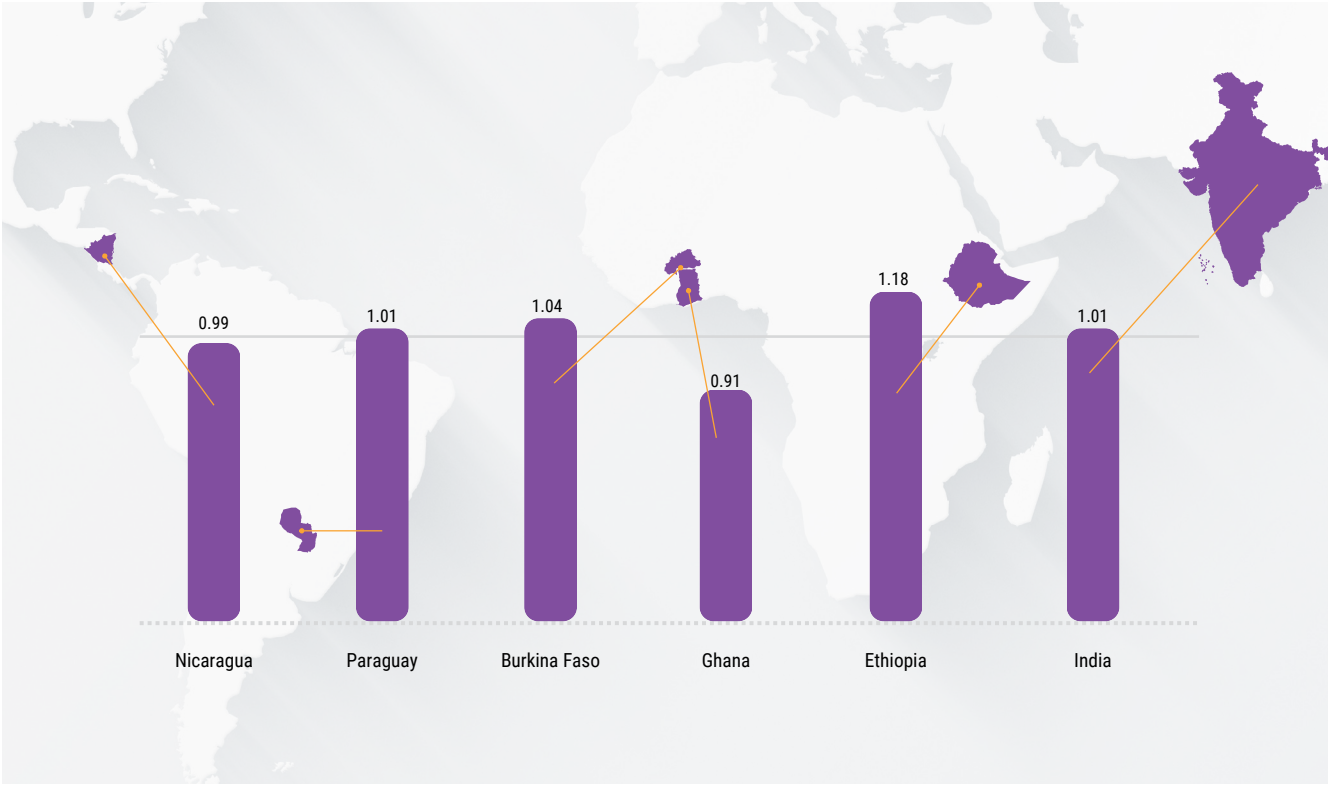
This gap reflects the ratio of boys to girls enrolled at the primary school level. As a result of our efforts, more girls attended school, helping to narrow this gap (Chart 5).

This year, gender parity at the primary education level in Children Believe's operational areas showed favourable outcomes overall. Four countries, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, India, and Paraguay targeted communities achieved equality with a girl-to-boy ratio of 1.01-1.18. In Nicaragua (0.99) and North Ghana (0.91), the ratio very slightly favours boys.



Children enjoy painting together during an early childhood education activity in Nicaragua. Photo: Children Believe

CHART 5: Gender parity index for primary school enrollment in Children Believe-supported communities, disaggregated by country[5]



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY26

[5] Gender parity index for primary school enrollment is calculated based on primary source.

Affordable, quality and inclusive technical and vocational education for youth employment

Vocational and higher education are important pathways to opportunity for young people across our program countries. As labour markets evolve and digital transformation accelerates, adolescents and young adults need relevant skills, adaptable mindsets, and equitable access to learning opportunities that can help them pursue meaningful work. Yet many continue to face persistent challenges, including skills gaps, limited access to technology, financial constraints, gender inequality, and high rates of youth unemployment.

In FY26, Children Believe expanded technical and vocational training for young people aged 15–24. Our programs focused on market driven skills, digital literacy, entrepreneurship, and support for the transition to employment. By helping young people develop skills and the confidence needed to navigate a changing economy, we are creating opportunities for them to contribute to their communities and shape their own future.

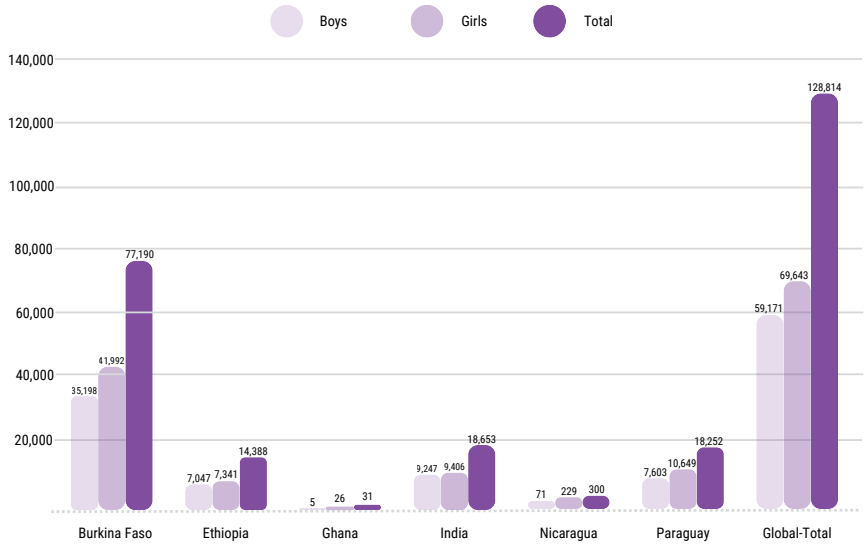


Mavalow Christelle, Children Believe's Regional Director for West Africa, and Canadian Ambassador to Burkina Faso Tina Guthrie meet with youth skills-development trainees. Photo: Children Believe, Burkina Faso

PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

In the 2026 fiscal year, we collaborated with local and international organizations, and the technical departments of host governments to empower 128,814 young people (about 54.1 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 6).

CHART 6: Number of young women and men who received vocational/life skills management training and had access to employment opportunities, disaggregated by countries of operation - FY26



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY26

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).

Chart 7 further shows a dramatic and consistent rise in youth participation in vocational and life skills programming from FY21 to FY26, with total engagement increasing more than thirty fold over six years. Growth is especially pronounced from FY23 onward, where both boys and girls show steep upward trajectories, culminating in FY26 with more than 128,814 young people reached. This trend reflects expanding program reach, stronger partnerships, and heightened demand for employability pathways among adolescents and young adults.

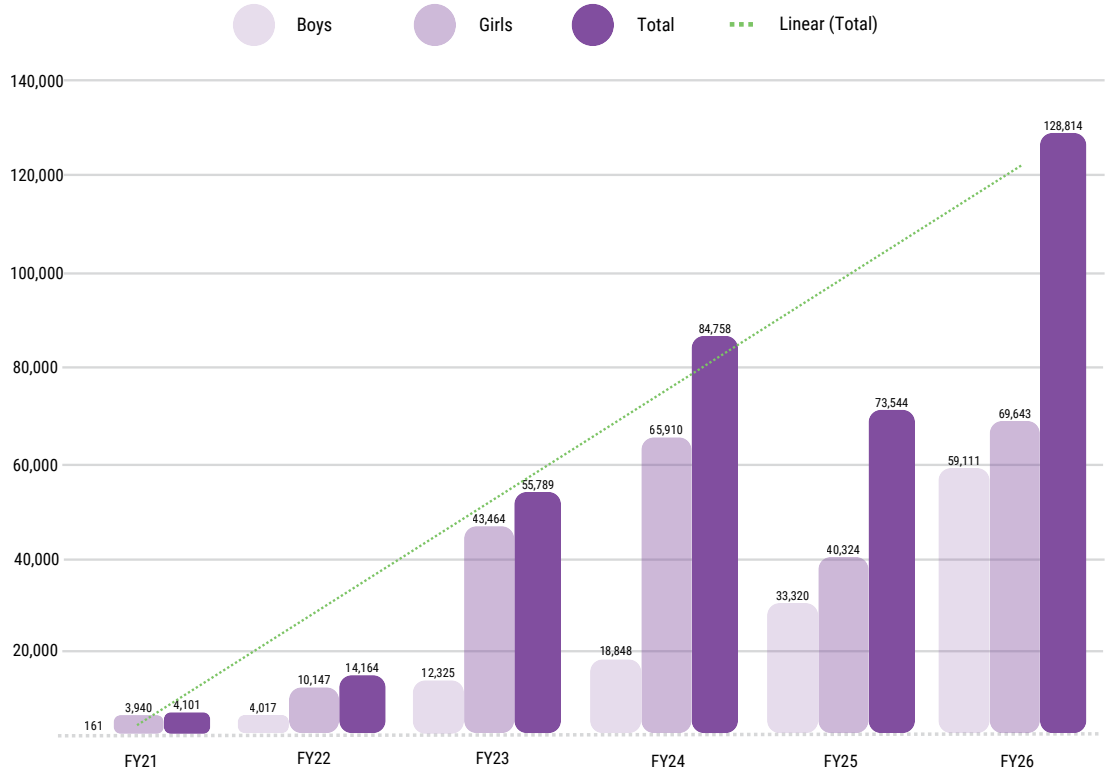


Children Believe and partner ROPES provide job-oriented tailoring training for young women in India. Photo: Children Believe

Vocational training and life management skills play an important role in helping young people prepare for employment. They build market relevant competencies, digital readiness, problem solving abilities, and the confidence needed to navigate real world economic challenges. These skills can improve job prospects, strengthen resilience, support entrepreneurship, and enable youth to participate meaningfully in local economies, helping create a more capable, future ready workforce.

6-YEAR TREND

CHART 7: Number of young women and men who received vocational/life skills training and had access to employment opportunities, disaggregated by year, FY21-26



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY21-26

BOX 2

Agere Beza: A path towards a nutritionally fit and an economically better household in Ethiopia

By Children Believe Ethiopia



Agere Beza and her family from North Wello, Ethiopia.
Photo: Children Believe

Agere Beza, a mother of four from the tight-knit community of Kebele 03 in Gidan District, North Wello, in Ethiopia's Amhara Region, spent years struggling to meet her family's most basic needs. With a limited income, providing adequate food, school supplies, and necessary healthcare for her children was a constant challenge. Like many of the women in her community, Agere had little say over household decisions and few opportunities to improve her family's economic situation. These constraints affected not only her family's well-being, but also her self-confidence and sense of control over her own destiny.

Everything began to shift when Agere became involved in the CHANGE Project. Through this she received vegetable seeds, including cabbage, carrot, beetroot, and lettuce, along with training to strengthen her farming knowledge and skills. She started cultivating a garden right outside her home, turning a once barren patch of land into a reliable source of fresh, nutritious food for her family. Selling the surplus produce at the local market provided an additional source of income, and through her hard work and the support of the project, Agere earned ETB 52,000. This income helped her to better support her children and reinvest in her farming endeavors. Reflecting on her journey, she shared, "Before the project supported me, I struggled to provide enough food, school materials, and healthcare for my children. Now, these challenges have greatly reduced, and I have gained valuable knowledge."

> **"Before the project supported me, I struggled to provide enough food, school materials, and healthcare for my children. Now, these challenges have greatly reduced, and I have gained valuable knowledge.**

The effects of Agere's success extended beyond her income. At home, she saw positive changes in family dynamics, with her husband sharing responsibilities more equitably and becoming more involved in decision-making. Inspired by her journey, Agere brought together 21 women in her community to form a savings group, which has collectively saved ETB 25,000, and helped members build greater financial resilience. Improved income, reduced workloads through energy-saving technologies, and a surge in confidence have given Agere new opportunities to support her family and contribute to her community.

Her story shows how integrated support and access to opportunities can strengthen families, support women's leadership and help communities build a more secure 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.



Children Believe

HEALTH, WASH, AND NUTRITION

With your support, we reached

2.4x

as many people in FY26 as in FY22, providing 570,263 people with essential health and nutrition services.

1 NO POVERTY
2 ZERO HUNGER
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
5 GENDER EQUALITY
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

HEALTHY MOTHERS AND BABIES LEAD TO HEALTHY FUTURES



Mothers in Ghana access health and nutrition check-ups to support their children's healthy growth and development. Photo: Children Believe

Healthy mothers and babies lead to healthy futures for everyone. Children Believe supports maternal and child health and nutrition programs grounded in human rights approaches and principles. We place special emphasis on the **first 1,000 days[6] of a child's life**, from conception to their second birthday, because this period is critical for their development and well-being. What happens during these early years not only determines whether the child will survive, but also their ability **to grow, learn, and succeed in school and beyond.**

570,263

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

20.6% **more childbirths were attended by skilled health personnel in health facilities, supporting safer deliveries and better outcomes for mothers and newborns.**

[6] 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)

OUR PROGRAM APPROACH

Children Believe's maternal, child health, and nutrition work is grounded in human rights principles and an integrated holistic approach that tackles the interconnected obstacles to health and well-being. We strengthen local health systems, empower communities, and work alongside governments to ensure mothers and children can access the quality care, nutrition, and support they need to thrive. Much of this work takes place in highly fragile and crisis affected contexts, including Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and Mali, where tailored humanitarian and health strategies ensure our interventions remain timely, context sensitive, and sustainable.

01 Expanding Access to Quality Maternal and Child Healthcare

We improve delivery and use of essential healthcare services by ensuring skilled care before, during, and after childbirth.

- **66,895** childbirths attended by trained professionals in FY26.
- **61,490** healthcare workers provided reproductive and postpartum services for mothers and adolescent girls.

02 Enhancing Maternal and Child Nutrition

Nutrition is central to health, learning, and development.

- **5,580** (83.9% women) Integrated Nutrition Team (INT) members, were trained under the GAC-funded CHANGE initiative to improve household food production, expand nutrition access, and address harmful norms.
- **14,163** marginalized individuals received capacity-strengthening to enhance food security and nutrition.

03 Addressing Period Poverty

We promote menstrual health and dignity so girls can continue their education.

- **19,581** girls received hygiene kits and menstrual health education to help end period poverty.

04 Ensuring Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in Health Facilities

We integrate WASH in our health work to improve infection control and the quality of care.

- **6,860+** people in Ghana gained reliable access to water, reducing collection time from 2 hours to just 30 minutes.
- In India, **8,000+** people across 13 schools and 2 communities benefited from new water and sanitation facilities and hygiene training.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS:

REACH AND COVERAGE

570,263

children, young women and mothers accessed maternal and child health-care services.

66,895

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

61,490

healthcare workers were equipped to support mothers and girls with reproductive and postpartum care.

19,581

girls were supported with hygiene kits and menstrual health education.

05 Building Resilience and Responding to Emergencies

We help communities prepare for and respond to crises that threaten maternal and child health.

- **80,805** emergency food kits, nutrition supports, and cash relief packages were provided to families in crisis, specifically in **Burkina Faso, Ethiopia,** and **Mali.**
- **1,027 children and students** in Mali received educational, remedial, medical or mobility support.

> **Before, my children hardly ate vegetables. Now they eat greens every day. They are healthier and get sick less often.**
>
> **~ Murijana, Parent, Ghana**

BOX 3

When Women Lead, Families Thrive: Murijana's Story of Nutrition and Gender Equality in Northern Ghana

By Children Believe Ghana-CHANGE Project

In the heart of Ghana's Northern Region lives Murijana, a devoted mother of five, whose story shows how community-driven support can create impactful and lasting change.

Before becoming involved in the Championing Nutrition and Gender Equality (CHANGE) Project, Murijana's family often struggled to access a variety of nutritious foods. Markets were far from home and the cost of fresh produce was often out of reach. Gathering wild greens that could enhance her children's diet also posed risks. As a result, her children frequently lacked access to vital vitamins and minerals essential for their growth and well-being. The CHANGE Project brought hope. Through its innovative nutrition-sensitive gardening and poultry initiative, Murijana received seeds, essential farming tools, and improved breeds of chickens. She also took part in practical training on climate-resilient food production and household nutrition. With this support, she transformed her backyard into a vibrant garden filled with kontomire, alefu, and ayoyo, nutritious leafy vegetables that now play a vital role in her family's diet.

"Before, my children hardly ate vegetables. Now they eat greens every day. They are healthier and get sick less often," Murijana proudly shares, her eyes lighting up with the joy of seeing her children thrive.

With just one growing season, Murijana began seeing the benefits of her hard work. Her family had daily access to nutritious vegetables, helping improve their nutrition and food security. Before long, her garden was producing more than her family needed, enabling her to share the surplus vegetables with neighbouring families, especially women who could not afford market prices. In doing so, she helped improve access to nutritious food for others while strengthening the sense of support and connection across the village.

The CHANGE Project's "pass-on" model helped extend the impact even further. As Murijana's poultry flock grew, she



Murijana, a CHANGE participant in northern Ghana, builds skills to improve household nutrition. Photo: Children Believe

shared four hens with two other women in her village. This gave them access to eggs, potential to earn income, and the skills needed to raise their own poultry. The women committed to continuing this cycle, ensuring that the benefits of the project would extend far beyond its initial scope, redefining the community's approach to food and sustainability.

"I wanted other women to feel the same hope I felt," Murijana expresses passionately, embodying the spirit of empowerment that the CHANGE Project aims to cultivate.

Looking ahead, Murijana hopes to sell surplus vegetables and poultry products to generate income for her children's education, including the pivotal senior high school years. For her, investing in their education is about creating more opportunities for their future and helping them build a more secure life.

Murijana's story reflects the broader impact of the CHANGE Project across northern Ghana. Participating households report more diverse diets, reduced vulnerability to malnutrition, and an inspiring increase in women's leadership in decisions about food production and household income. Her experience shows how investing in women with practical skills, resources and opportunities can transform families and contribute to healthier, more resilient communities.

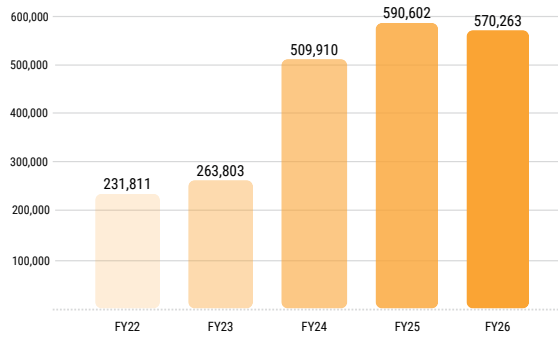
PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

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 systems and reduce maternal and child mortality rates.

Chart 8 shows that across our six countries of operation, we directly reached 570,263 people, primarily pregnant women, lactating mothers, newborn children, and infants, providing them with access to essential maternity and basic healthcare services.

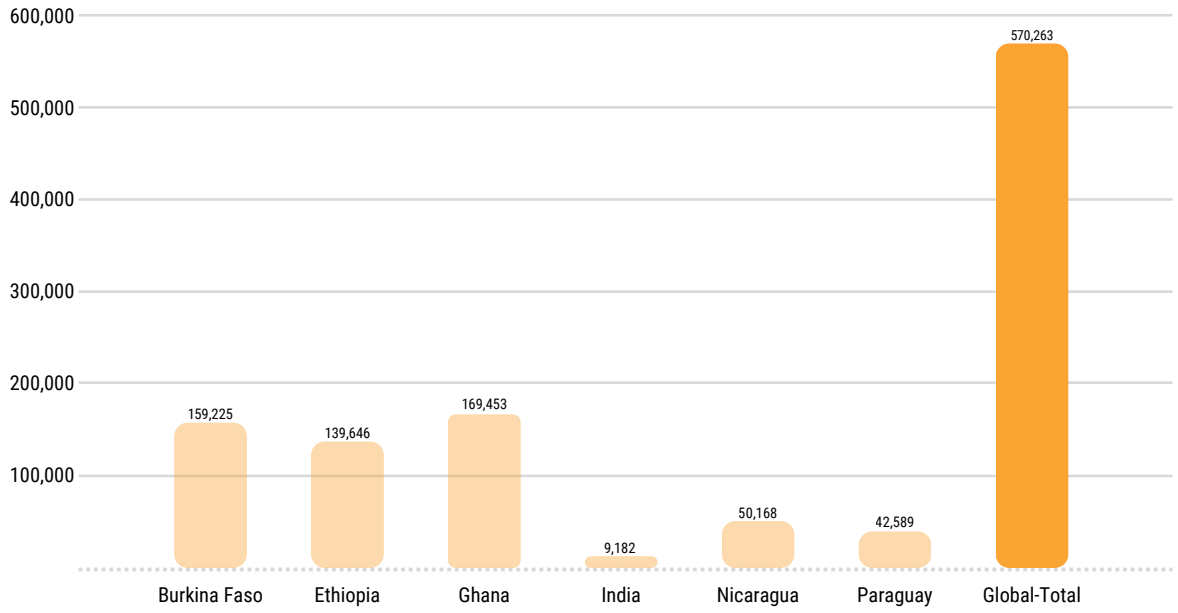
5-YEAR TREND

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



Access to maternal and child health services grew 2.4X over five years, reaching 570,263 people in FY26.

CHART 8: Distribution of pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children served by improved healthcare services in Children Believe operational communities by country - FY26



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY26

Improved delivery and use of essential maternal and child healthcare services

Many maternal and child health complications can be prevented or managed when families have access to quality healthcare facilities with life-saving medicines, resources, and trained health personnel. Having skilled health personnel present during delivery helps reduce risks, ensures timely and appropriate medical care, and improves health outcomes for mothers and their babies. Yet many rural health facilities remain in poor condition, lack essential equipment and supplies, and face shortages of adequately trained personnel.

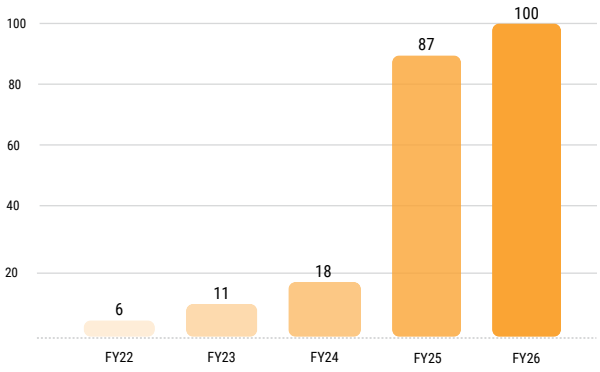
PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

During this reporting period, Children Believe renovated and equipped 100 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 66,895 in FY26 (see chart 9).

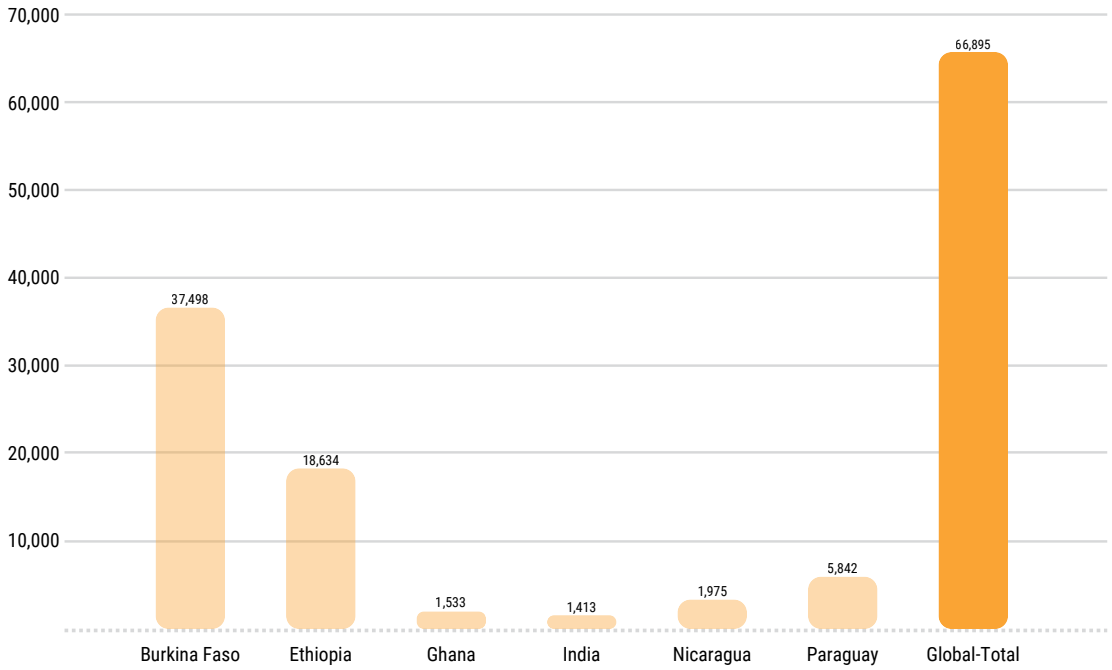
5-YEAR TREND

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



From just six facilities renovated and equipped in FY22 to 100 in FY26, this rapid growth reflects our commitment to strengthening healthcare access for underserved communities.

CHART 9: Number of childbirths attended by skilled health personnel - FY26

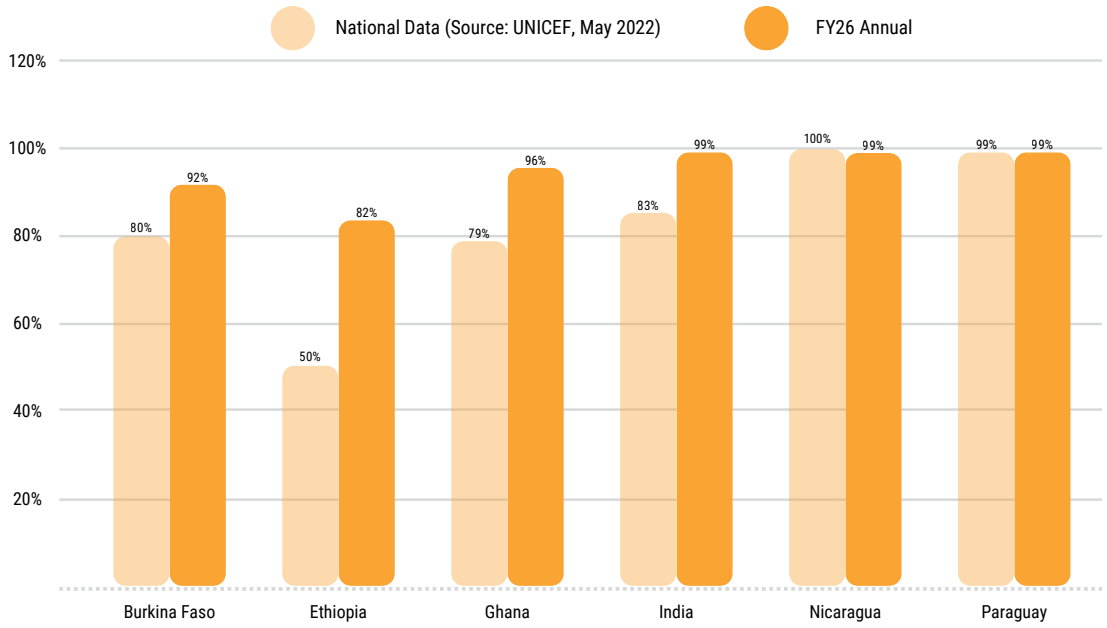


Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY26

66,895 childbirths were attended by a skilled health professional in FY26

The impact of our support for community-based healthcare services is evident in Chart 10. In FY26, 99 percent of childbirths in Children Believe-supported areas of India, Nicaragua, and Paraguay were attended by skilled personnel, matching or surpassing national rates of 83 percent, 100 percent, and 99 percent, respectively. Our health programs in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and northern Ghana also achieved significant gains, with skilled personnel attending 92 percent, 82 percent and 96 percent of childbirths, respectively, surpassing national averages in each country.

CHART 10: Percentage of childbirths attended by skilled health personnel in Children Believe-supported communities in FY26 compared to the national data, disaggregated by country.



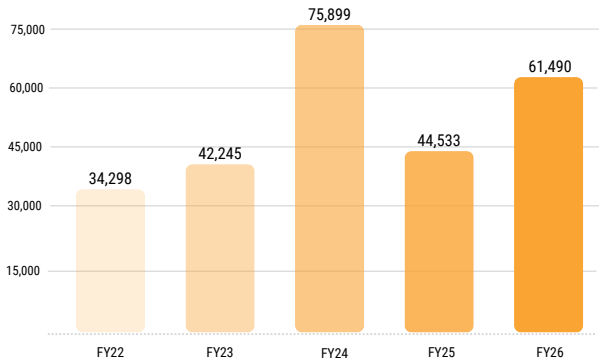
Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY26



In Ethiopia, a healthcare professional provides essential care to mothers and babies at a local health facility. Photo: Children Believe

5-YEAR TREND

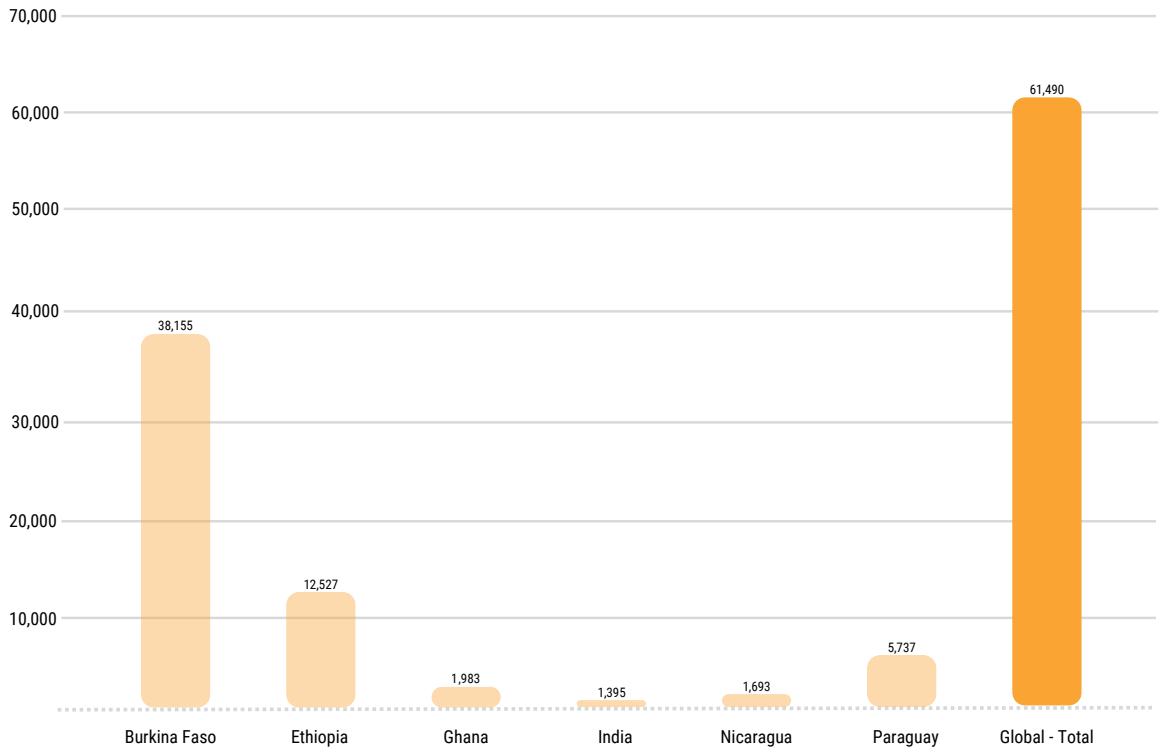
Number of healthcare personnel who provided reproductive and postpartum care services to mothers, young women and adolescent girls



Healthcare personnel providing reproductive and postpartum care increased in FY26 but remained below the FY24 peak. Our commitment to equipping providers to deliver care where it is most needed remains strong.

The number of women who have benefited from reproductive and postpartum care in Children Believe-supported communities underscores the effectiveness of our collaboration with local partners and government stakeholders. As shown in Chart 11, a total of 61,490 mothers benefited from these services in FY26. Support remained especially important in highly fragile contexts where primary healthcare services had been interrupted or damaged particularly in Burkina Faso and Ethiopia. Access to reproductive and postpartum care programs plays a critical role in reducing mortality rates among both women and newborns.

CHART 11: Number of women who received reproductive health and postpartum care in Children Believe-supported communities in FY26, compared to the baseline (2019), disaggregated by country



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY26



A mother and baby in Nicaragua attend a health check-up at a local health centre. Photo: Children Believe

Enhancing maternal and child nutrition

Nutrition is essential for healthy growth and development. It contributes to improved health for infants, children and mothers, supports safer pregnancies and childbirth, and helps lower the risk of disease. Children who have access to nutritious food are more likely to do better at school, and live healthier lives.

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



A group of children in Ethiopia receive a healthy meal at a daycare centre. Photo: Children Believe

CHAMPIONING NUTRITION AND GENDER EQUALITY INITIATIVE

In FY26, Children Believe successfully implemented the Championing Nutrition and Gender Equality (CHANGE) initiative funded by Global Affairs Canada in Ethiopia and Ghana. The program advanced community-led nutrition governance, strengthened women's economic empowerment, and expanded climate-smart food production, demonstrating both broad reach and meaningful impact. Through the initiative, 5,580 (83.9 percent women) members of Community Based Integrated Nutrition Teams gained practical skills to help households produce nutritious foods, access quality nutrition services, and challenge harmful social norms that restrict women's and children's food choices. These nutrition teams became trusted local champions, promoting equitable food distribution and culturally sensitive behaviour change. The program also helped 14,163 marginalized households, most of them led by women, adopt climate smart production techniques, increase their consumption of nutrient rich foods, and improve sustainable storage systems that reduce post-harvest loss. As a result, households experienced greater food security and more dietary diversity. By actively engaging men and expanding women's control over productive assets, the program also helped strengthen women's roles in household decision-making, enabling women to lead food production, manage income from harvests, and influence nutrition choices.

The initiative also delivered nutrition demonstrations that helped community members put knowledge into practice. Participants learned how to prepare balanced meals, diversify diets, and use locally available crops to meet children's nutritional needs — reinforcing Children Believe's commitment to sustainable, community-led solutions. In Ghana, 2,839 women gained technical expertise in cultivating high nutrient crops such as amaranth, hibiscus, okra, mango trees, soybeans, and groundnuts.

These crops not only enhance dietary diversity but also create new income streams for women farmers. In Ethiopia, 1,566 women also strengthened their capacity to produce nutrient dense foods, manage small-scale climate-smart farms, and take a more active role in community nutrition decisions. Together, the CHANGE project has helped improve food security, strengthen livelihoods, and increase women's participation in decisions that affect their families and communities. It reflects Children Believe's commitment to advancing nutrition, gender equality, climate resilience, and community driven solutions, particularly in fragile and underserved contexts.

14,163

marginalized households, most led by women, adopted climate-smart practices to improve nutrition and reduce food loss.

In this reporting period, **Children Believe successfully implemented the Championing Nutrition and Gender Equality (CHANGE) initiative (Year 3)** funded by Global Affairs Canada **in Ethiopia and Ghana.** We trained **approximately**

5,580 members (83.9% women)

of Community Based-Integrated Nutrition Teams (INTs) **to support household production of foods** and **access quality nutrition services.**



Through the CHANGE project, the Kpilo women's cooperative received a roasting machine to process shea nuts and groundnuts more efficiently. Photo: Children Believe

Addressing period poverty

Children Believe recognizes that period poverty, a lack of access to menstrual products, education and adequate hygiene facilities, can make it difficult for girls and young women to attend school regularly in the communities where we work. For many girls, period poverty can mean missing valuable opportunities one week each month.

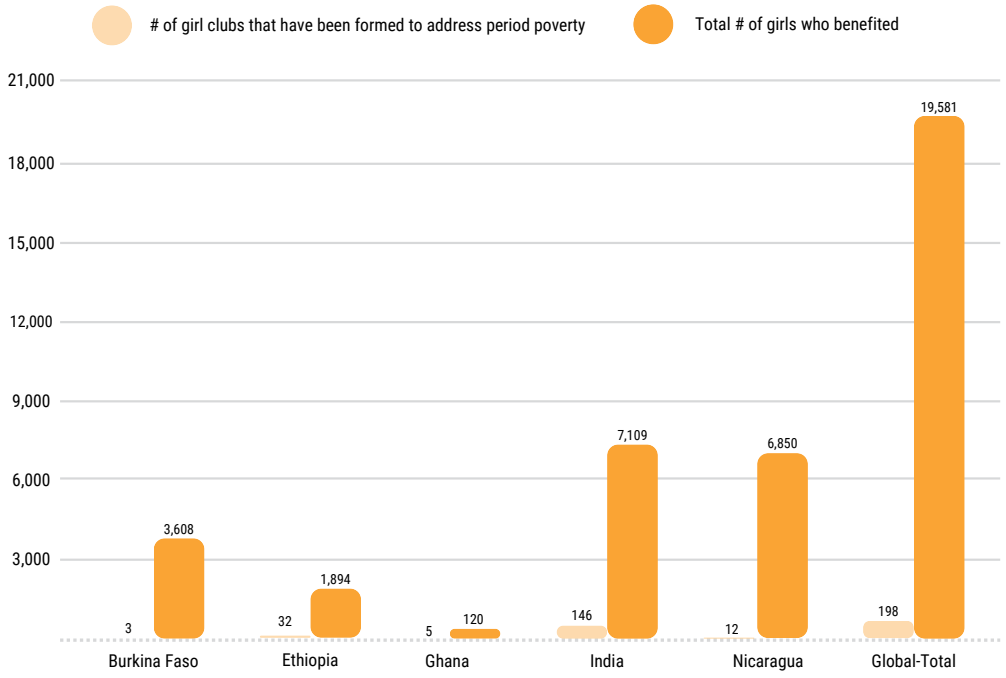
PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Our programs addressed menstrual health in two ways: by improving menstrual health education and increasing access to sanitary pads. In FY26, we supported 19,581 girls through 198 girls' clubs and by working with key stakeholders to distribute menstrual hygiene kits in India, followed by Nicaragua and Burkina Faso. (Chart 12).

Feedback from 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 greater confidence and dignity. In Burkina Faso, Children Believe and its local partner, CADI, supported 200 internally displaced adolescent girls by distributing dignity kits filled with vital items such as sanitary pads, soap, and a variety of hygiene products. For many girls, these kits helped restore their health and significantly boosted their self-confidence. The impact was immediate for girls like Minamba Tankoano, who said: "these kits changed my life. I felt clean, protected, and confident. I could go to school even during my period without fear." Alongside the distribution of these kits, girls also participated in sexual and reproductive health awareness sessions. Together, these supports empowered girls to take control of their health, and continue their education in challenging circumstances.

In India, conversations about reproductive health expanded beyond their traditional focus on married women to include adolescent girls for the first time. Through these conversations more than 1,500 people were reached, including 521 Chenchu girls who received menstrual hygiene kits. In collaboration with Children Believe, partner organization CRAF conducted comprehensive training sessions at the Mandal level, selecting two girls from each village to become peer trainers in their communities. This program covered menstrual hygiene management, the physical and emotional changes of adolescence, and the importance of self-care. It also raised awareness about breast and cervical cancer, helping participants better understand their health and the importance of early detection.

CHART 12: Distribution of girls' clubs and girls/young women, who benefited from our action against period poverty - FY26



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY26

By equipping young girls with knowledge, skills and access to essential resources, the initiative fostered a sense of self-dignity, encouraged early detection of health issues, and promoted the overall quality of life in their communities.



Adolescent girls in Ghana receive dignity kits to support their health, well-being and continued participation in school. Photo: Children Believe

Water, sanitation and health (WASH) in health facilities

WASH in health facilities is crucial for preventing infections, protecting patients and healthcare workers, and supporting quality care. Reliable access to clean water, sanitation and handwashing facilities directly impacts patient safety, reduces healthcare-associated infections (HAIs), and supports better health outcomes for mothers and newborns.

In Burkina Faso, 120 health facilities received improved access to basic water supply systems, sanitation facilities and functional handwashing stations with Children Believe's support.

In Ethiopia, 42 health facilities were equipped with drinking water systems and sanitation facilities.

In Ghana, two boreholes were constructed in Nanyire and Sankpala communities in FY26, serving more than 6,860 people (3,517 females and 3,343 males) providing access to a reliable water source. As result, the average time spent fetching water decreased from two hours to just 30 minutes.

In India, new water and single-sex sanitation facilities were built in 13 schools and two communities, supported by hygiene training for more than 8,000 children, teachers and community members. These WASH investments have strengthened trust in public health services and directly contributed to the functionality and delivery of better healthcare services.



A woman collects clean water from a newly installed community water system in Ghana. Photo: Children Believe

In Paraguay, two schools were equipped with water tanks, pipes, and an electric pump to provide a reliable water supply for students and teachers. These improvements supported hygiene promotion activities and helped reduce health risks for children.

Strengthening resilience and capacity for humanitarian action



A boy with his livestock in Ethiopia, where Children Believe works with communities to strengthen livelihoods and build resilience to climate shocks and humanitarian crises. Photo: Children Believe

Children Believe is committed to responding to humanitarian crises caused by violent conflict, natural disasters, and displacement in the communities where we work and beyond. Working alongside local and international partners, we help protect vulnerable children by promoting emergency education programs that help restore learning and stability during times of crisis. We recognize that crises do more than disrupt children's learning. They can reverse years of progress and limit children's access to the skills they need for the future. Education also provides a sense of routine, safety and support, helping children heal by addressing their emotional, social, and developmental needs that often accompany crisis situations. In Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Mali and other crisis-affected communities, Children Believe and its partners work to address learning disruptions and support foundational learning at both primary and secondary school levels.

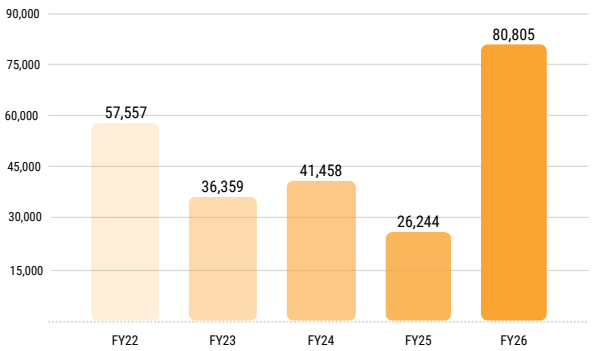
PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

In FY26, Children Believe provided emergency food assistance, child nutrition support, or cash for relief assistance to 80,805 malnourished children and their families as well as other food vulnerable households affected by disaster in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Mali. We also supported families affected by localized malnutrition in Paraguay.

In Burkina Faso, with continued support from UNICEF, we provided teacher training on child protection and education in emergencies.

5-YEAR TREND

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



Results continued to reflect changing humanitarian needs, rising sharply to 80,805 people in FY26 from 26,244 in FY25. This marks the highest reach in five years and reflects the fluctuating scale of emergency response from year to year.

Recognizing the increasing vulnerability of communities to climate-induced shocks, conflict, and displacement, Children Believe also supported community-based resilience and disaster risk management initiatives in Arsi-Negele (Oromia region), Sodo (Southern Ethiopia) and North Wollo (Amhara region). Livelihood support, including the provision of small ruminants and drought resistant seeds, helped communities diversify small-scale agricultural production, preserve seeds for future planting, and make efficient use of scarce water resources for food crop production. These efforts strengthened communities' ability to maintain food production and better withstand future shocks.

In Mali, Children Believe and its local partner supported 553 vulnerable children with school fee payments, school kits and learning materials, helping them continue their education. In addition, 451 national exam-year students received remedial learning support, contributing to their improved academic performance. We also provided medical and mobility support to 23 children with disabilities, helping them participate fully in school. To strengthen inclusive learning environments,16 teachers were trained in inclusive and gender-sensitive teaching practices.

Children Believe also partnered with Health Partners International of Canada to provide medicines and medical supplies to vulnerable communities affected by emergencies, both in the countries where we work and beyond. In FY26, we delivered approximately CAN $4.03 million worth of medicines and medical supplies to Mali and emergency-affected countries such as Palestine/ Gaza, Haiti, Lebanon, Libya, Malawi, and Ukraine. More than 400,000 people, including war-affected and displaced children, pregnant women, men and other vulnerable persons benefited from this support.

Children Believe recognizes that many communities face multiple crises at the same time, compounding the challenges faced by children and families. Progress to build resilience are often affected by ongoing conflict, political instability, and climate disasters than can occur simultaneously. Addressing these challenges requires coordinated action that responds to immediate needs while supporting long-term needs. We believe that the most effective approach in these contexts brings together humanitarian, development, and peace building efforts. To strengthen this work, Children Believe developed a new humanitarian strategy focused on the highly fragile contexts of Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Mali. The strategy helps identify emerging local needs and ensures our humanitarian response remains timely, relevant and sustainable.



After being referred for treatment and fitted with a prosthetic leg, Fatoumata regained her mobility and confidence and now walks to class independently. Photo: Children Believe

Children Believe continued to promote its commitment to localization by strengthening the capacity of five local partners in Burkina Faso and Ethiopia through a community of practice platform focused on education in emergencies and child protection in humanitarian actions. Through this platform, twenty-five local staff exchanged experiences and promoted best practices that strengthen humanitarian responses in their communities

80,805

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



Children Believe

CHILD RIGHTS AND PROTECTION

Through our child protection programs

7.4%

of FY26 program spending directly benefited 305,895+ children, youth and women.

1 NO POVERTY
5 GENDER EQUALITY
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



EVERY CHILD DESERVES TO GROW UP SAFE, SUPPORTED, AND HEARD.

Children and adolescents from Burkina Faso attend the 10th International Conference on the Policies for the African Child in Ethiopia.
Photo: Children Believe

Children Believe's work this year reflects a simple, powerful truth: when children and young people are trusted, equipped, and heard, they can drive lasting change. Grounded in a child-rights approach, our programs nurture children's confidence, leadership, and agency, enabling them not only to participate in community initiatives, but also to help shape them. Across our countries of operation, children and youth stepped forward as planners, advocates, and decision-makers, demonstrating that meaningful participation is both possible and transformative.

Children Believe worked closely with young people to ensure they play an active role at every stage of the program cycle, from identifying priorities to designing solutions and monitoring progress. This approach strengthens their ability to lead social change and reinforces their right to influence decisions that affect their lives.

Our programs also intentionally break down social barriers so that all children, especially those who are vulnerable, marginalized, or excluded—can participate without discrimination. Together with our partners, we strengthened the institutional, technical, and financial capacities of child- and youth-focused agencies, ensuring they are equipped to champion children's rights and sustain progress well into the future.

96,000+ | **In FY26, 96,099 children gained access to birth registration, securing a legal identity and the rights and protections it provides**

OUR PROGRAM APPROACH

Children Believe's child-protection programming brings together four complementary areas of work that reinforce one another to create safer environments for children. These approaches elevate children's voices, prevent harm, ensure access to essential protections, and support those facing the greatest obstacles. Together, they strengthen the systems, supports, and opportunities that help children grow up safe and confident.

01 Child and Youth Participation

We encourage children and young people to take active roles in shaping their communities by creating opportunities for them to build leadership skills and voice their ideas confidently.

- **50,494 children and youth** participated in programs that supported their meaningful participation in community or public decision-making.
- **Strengthened groups and clubs** that nurture leadership, advocacy, and civic participation.

02 Child Protection

We work alongside families, community leaders, service providers, and institutions to reduce risks, reinforce protective environments, and improve access to support.

- **Strengthened** community-based protection mechanisms and response pathways.
- Promoted practices that **prevent violence, exploitation, trafficking, and harmful social practices** such as early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM).

03 Promoting Birth Registration Practices

Legal identity opens access to vital services and protections. We work to expand birth registration for young children in remote or disadvantaged areas and in crisis or fragile contexts, helping them access essential services and safety during emergencies. We enabled:

- **96,000+ children** under age five to gain access to birth registration.
- **1,436** previously undocumented children in India to gain a legal identity and greater access to their rights and protections.

04 Supporting Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children

Children without stable family support require special care and attention. We work with partners to ensure they receive the services, protection, and emotional support they need to thrive.

- Together with **25 local partners**, we supported 34,634 sponsored children across **625 communities** in six countries.
- **Facilitated access to education**, psychosocial support, and essential services.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS:

REACH AND COVERAGE

305,895

children, youth, women, parents, and duty bearers benefited from efforts preventing violence and abuse.

34,634

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

96,099

children (under age 5) births were registered with the relevant authority.

104,386

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

BOX 4

Mirlei and friends – Sparking Change in Paraguay's Schools

By Children Believe Paraguay-Fundación Alda

In communities where violence against children is often ingrained in everyday life, understanding their rights can be transformative.

In Limpio Sur, Paraguay, young people like Mirlei, Angely and Jeremías are learning to speak up, seek help and support their peers through the Limpio Sur Program, led by Children Believe with local partner Fundación Alda.

Mirlei joined the program's Lila Agents initiative at age 12. Through workshops on children's rights, violence prevention, equality and protection, she began to see her community differently. She says:

> **"What I enjoy most is learning about my rights and being able to assist children and adolescents in need.**

Previously, many young people had no safe space to discuss violence, bullying or discrimination. Physical punishment, verbal mistreatment and humiliation were often accepted as part of everyday life. Children did not always know where to turn, and adolescents often lacked the confidence to intervene.

Mirlei learned that discipline should never be confused with abuse. "My mother has the right to guide and discipline me, but I also have the undeniable right not to be mistreated or subjected to violence," she explains.

That knowledge led to action. Mirlei identified two cases of violence against children. She helped one child connect with trusted adults. When another child experiencing abuse at home was too afraid to seek help, and nearby adults did not respond, Mirlei called 147, Paraguay's child protection helpline. Today, that child is thriving with a new family in a safer environment. Other participants have experienced equally meaningful change. Angely, 14, overcame



Mirlei, a student and Lila Agent, from Paraguay.
Photo: Children Believe

shyness and the effects of racial discrimination. She has built her confidence and now supports other young people facing difficult situations. Jeremías, 15, was once quiet and hesitant to ask for help. Today, he participates actively in meetings and training. "Now I am different. I communicate more and engage actively with people," he says.

The Lila Agents initiative has since evolved into formal school-based Rights Committees, developed with the Ministry of Education. These committees empower students to address bullying, prevent violence and advocate for children's rights.

Chosen as her class delegate, Mirlei now views leadership as a responsibility.

> **"If I see my classmates bullying someone, I have to step in, not just to tell them it's wrong, but to help them understand why.**

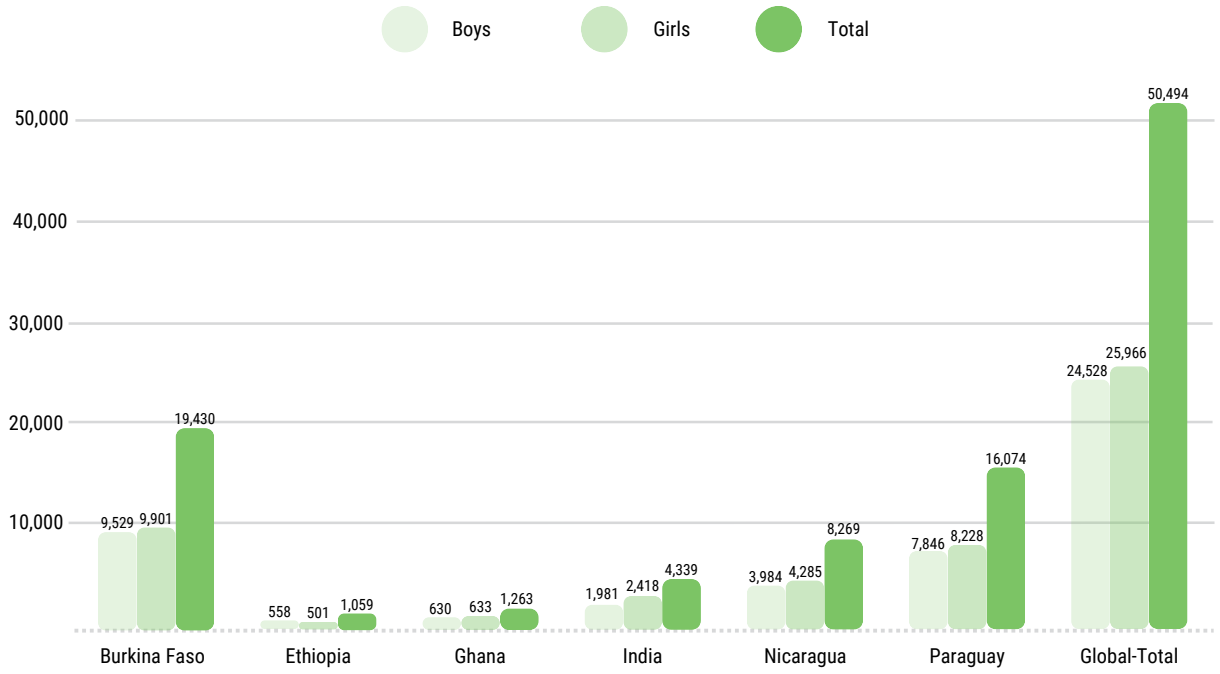
When children are informed, heard and trusted, they can help create safer schools, stronger communities and brighter futures.

Child and youth participation

Throughout the reporting period, Children Believe continued to advocate for stronger social and legal systems that uphold and protect children's rights. A key achievement was supporting the rollout of the Child-Friendly Accountability Methodology, which empowers children and youth to monitor whether their rights are being respected and to speak up when they are not. This methodology creates safe, structured spaces for young people to raise concerns, influence decision-makers, and help build communities where their voices matter.

As shown in chart 13, a total of 50,494 children and youth from our operational communities participated in programs that supported their meaningful participation in community or public decision-making. These programs included children's parliaments, issues-based youth clubs focused on climate change and violence prevention, and youth scout groups. Together, these platforms helped amplify young people's voices and enabled them to represent their interests in local, provincial, or national public platforms.

CHART 13: 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 - FY26



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY26

Children Believe's work this year reflects a simple, powerful truth: when children and young people are trusted, equipped, and heard, they can drive lasting change.

Child protection

Children Believe remains committed to ensuring that every child grows up safe, protected, and free from violence. Violence against children continues to be a significant obstacle to learning, well-being and opportunity. This year our child-protection programming focused on addressing the factors that place children at risk, while strengthening the systems that help keep them safe.

Grounded in a child-rights approach, our teams worked to prevent all forms of abuse, including sexual and gender-based violence, exploitation, neglect, and harmful practices such as early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation. We prioritized listening to children, both boys and girls, and integrating their lived experiences into program design to help ensure our interventions respond to the realities they face.

We worked with governments, civil-society partners, and community leaders to strengthen laws and policies that protect children, raise awareness of children's rights, and support community-driven protection systems. These efforts strengthened the capacity of child- and youth-focused organizations to respond more effectively to violence and help uphold children's rights.

During the reporting period, communities played an active role in identifying and enrolling orphans and other vulnerable children into our sponsorship program. Through this support, children gained greater access to education, healthcare, and opportunities to improve their future well-being. This helped ensure that children facing discrimination due to caste, gender, ethnicity, disability, displacement, or homelessness were not left behind.

In FY26, we continued to strengthen community-based protection mechanisms that help keep children and women safe from violence in their homes and communities. Many reported cases were linked to early marriage, early pregnancy, and sexual or labour exploitation, often involving individuals known to the family. Strengthening these mechanisms is helping communities prevent violence, report concerns, and respond more effectively when harm occurs.

We also implemented targeted community education programs on gender-based violence prevention, equipping leaders, caregivers, and children to recognize risks, challenge harmful norms, and take action when violence occurs.

Together with our partners, Children Believe is building safer communities where children's rights are protected, their voices are heard, and their futures are secured.



Youth aged 12 to 17 discuss their rights and how collective action can create change in their communities.
Photo: Children Believe, Paraguay

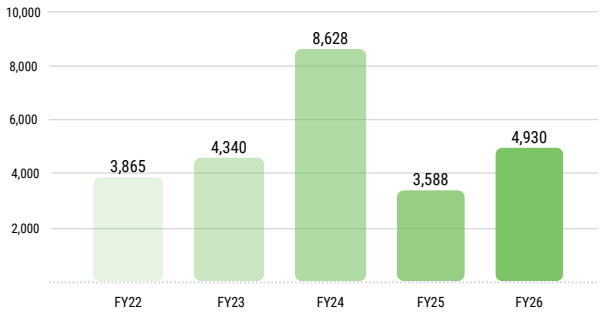
PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

During the reporting period, more than 305,895 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 (Chart 14).

We strengthened the technical and institutional capacities of local partners and youth- and women-led community-based organizations (CBOs), helping them to work with government counterparts to support the 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 states that "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."

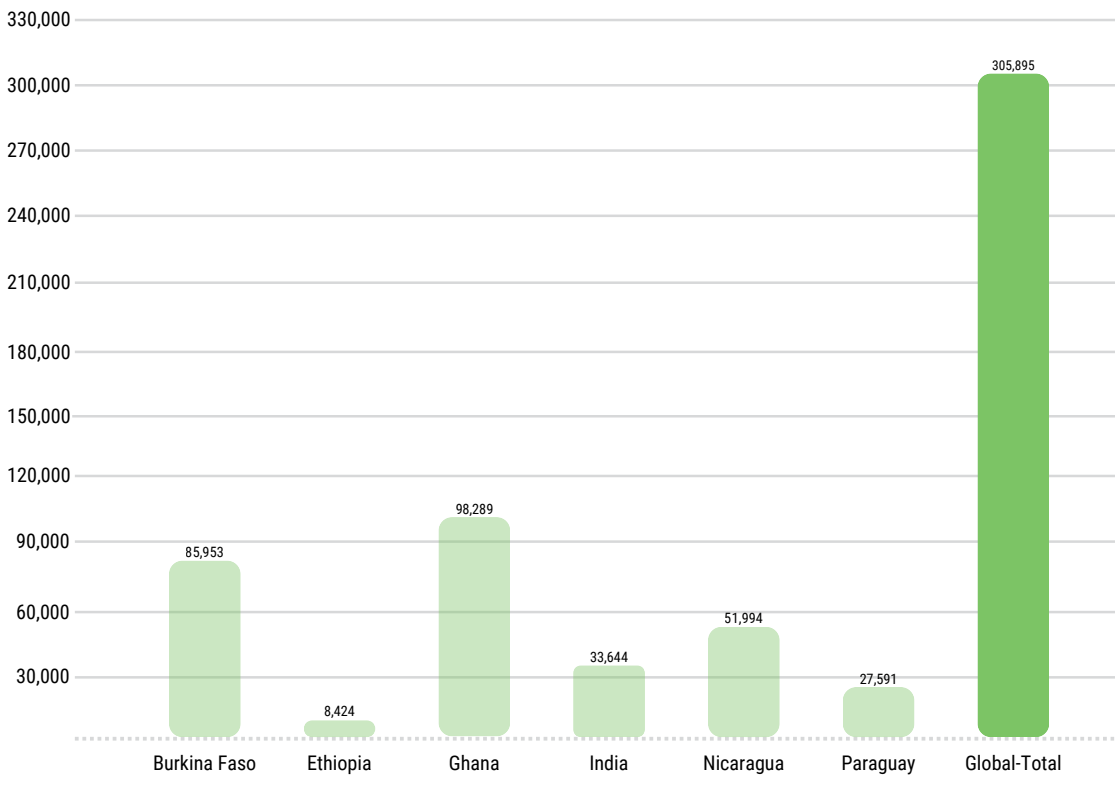
5-YEAR TREND

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



We continued to scale up training in FY26, reaching 4,930 participants, up from 3,588 in FY25, but below the FY24 high.

CHART 14: 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 - FY26



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY26

Our local partners and CBOs in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana and India advocated against child marriage and promoted its recognition as a violation of the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Ghana, we worked with stakeholders to establish technical expertise and human resource capacity to support child protection efforts.

Through our partnership with the African Child Policy Forum, we also strengthened the Children's Legal Protection Centre (CLPC) in Burkina Faso. The CLPC helps children and young people, whether victims, witnesses, or alleged offenders, access justice, legal aid and legal representation and representation by a lawyer.

These enhanced capacities have been essential 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.

305,895 **children, youth, women, parents, and duty-bearers benefited from our work on the prevention of various forms of violence, neglect and abuse.**

Promoting birth registration practices

Children Believe and its partners remain firmly committed to advancing the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)—particularly Article 7.1, which affirms every child's right to immediate birth registration, a name, nationality, and parental care. Birth registration is more than an administrative process; it is a fundamental human right and the gateway to all other rights. It provides legal recognition of a child's existence and identity, and it is essential for ensuring access to healthcare, education, social protection, justice, and long-term safety.

When a child's birth is not registered, they can become invisible to the systems designed to protect and support them. Without legal identity, children may be excluded from national statistics, overlooked in planning and budgeting, and denied access to essential services. This can increase their vulnerability to violence, exploitation, child marriage, trafficking, and denial of citizenship, particularly for girls, children with disabilities, and those living in rural or marginalized communities.

Globally, one in four children under the age of five remains unregistered, and rates are even higher in several of the countries where we work, including Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Mali. In many rural communities, birth registration is still a relatively new practice, despite its profound implications for protecting children's rights and supporting their long-term well-being.

Across our program countries, the birth of a child is celebrated with joy, cultural rituals, and religious customs. Yet these important traditions often do not translate into formal, legal recognition through birth registration. Without legal protection, children can be unprotected and excluded from the systems and services designed to safeguard their rights.

This gap reflects deeper structural barriers:

- Limited access to civil registration offices
- Administrative fees and documentation requirements
- Low awareness of the importance of legal identity
- Gender norms that restrict women's mobility and decision-making power
- Crisis, displacement, isolation and weak vital statistics systems

These challenges often have the greatest impact on girls, children affected by conflict, and children born outside health facilities, reinforcing existing inequality.

To address these challenges, Children Believe and its partners are working to increase access to birth registration through rights-based, gender-responsive, and community-led approaches.

Our efforts include:

- Partnering with district administration offices to strengthen civil registration systems
- Raising community awareness about the importance of birth registration for protection, citizenship, and access to services
- Supporting families—especially mothers—to navigate registration processes
- Advocating for reduced or waived administrative fees to ensure equitable access
- Integrating birth registration promotion into maternal, newborn, and child health services
- Engaging local leaders, midwives, and community health workers as trusted messengers

These actions align with broader global priorities for sustainable development by ensuring that birth registration is embedded into initiatives that advance gender equality, child protection, and inclusive governance.

more than

96,000

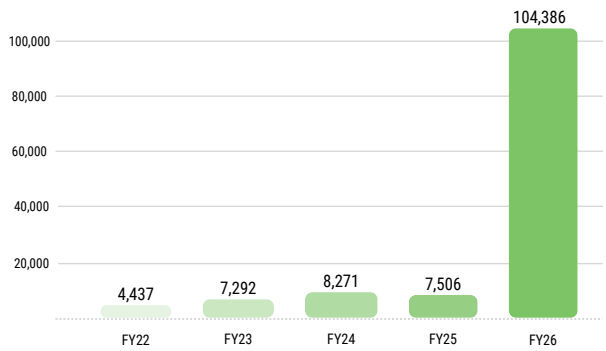
children under the age of five in our operational communities gained access to birth registration, including many who were internally displaced or socially vulnerable.

PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Chart 15 highlights a remarkable achievement in FY26: more than 96,000 children gained access to birth registration, including many who were internally displaced or facing other types of vulnerability. Burkina Faso (55,151 children), Nicaragua (12,109 children) and Paraguay (11,517 children) recorded the highest numbers of registrations. In India, a birth certificate provides a critical first level of protection, giving children legal identity, access to services and greater protection from risks such as early marriage and trafficking. During the reporting period, 1,436 previously undocumented children under the age of five were officially registered, including children who received certificates in their mother's name after a father had abandoned the family, and children from Chenchu communities. Together, these efforts represent a significant step toward ensuring that every child has a legal identity and the rights and protections that come with it.

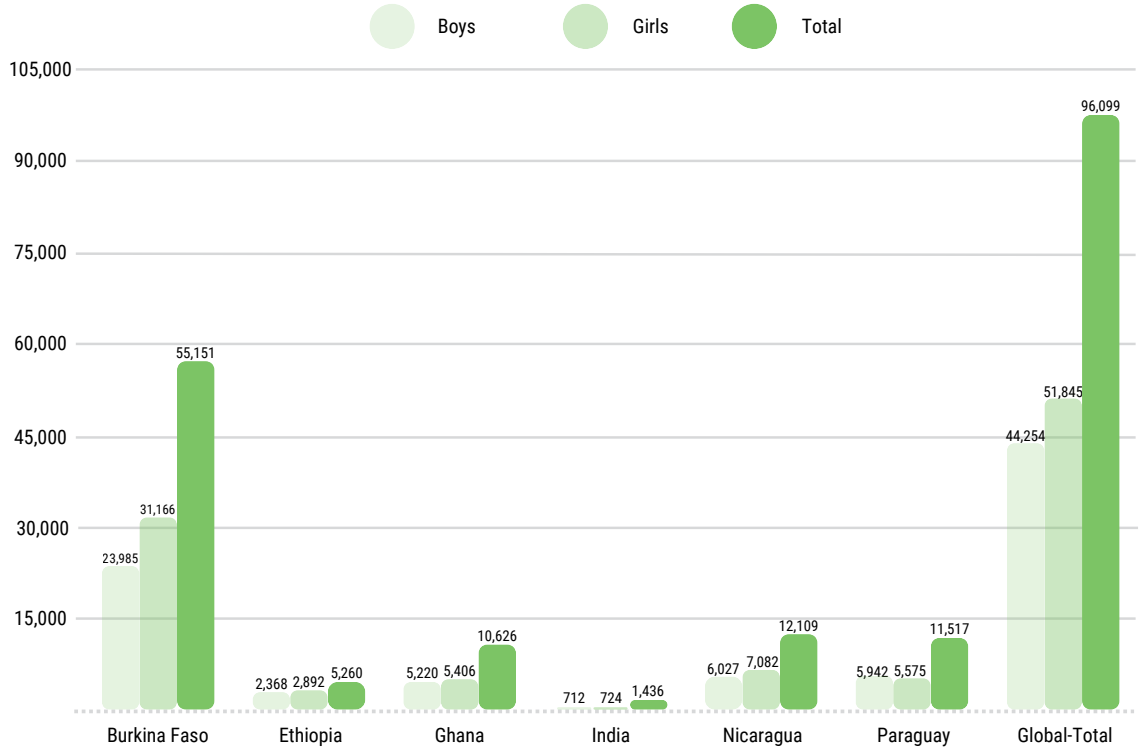
5-YEAR TREND

Number of parents or caregivers trained in positive parenting and discipline



The number of parents and caregivers trained in positive parenting and discipline rose sharply in FY26, driven largely by an expanded focus in Ghana, where more than 100,000 participants were reached.

CHART 15: Number of children under age 5 whose births are registered with the relevant authority - Children Believe operational communities' FY26.



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY26

Supporting orphans and other vulnerable children

Education and health services are provided free of charge in most of the countries where Children Believe operates. However, the quality of these services is not always adequate, and access can be difficult for families living in rural communities. Many children, especially those in remote villages in Africa and marginalized communities in Central America and South Asia, are unable to attend school because their families cannot afford basic school supplies such as books and uniforms. Some children go to school hungry, while others are forced to drop out of school to support their families through paid work, household chores or farming. Girls often face additional obstacles that affect their ability to stay in school. These include limited access to separate sanitation facilities in schools, inadequate menstrual hygiene supplies, and expectations to take on time-consuming domestic tasks such as fetching water and preparing meals. Together, these challenges prevent many children from accessing a quality education, with the greatest impact often felt by orphans and other vulnerable children.

PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

To address these challenges, Children Believe, guided by the ecological model of child development, implemented a child sponsorship program that places vulnerable children at the centre, while also supporting families, schools, and other community institutions responsible for their upbringing. We do this by connecting Canadian donors and children in need, working in partnership with local CSOs, school administrations, and community leaders.

In FY26, our core-program was delivered in partnership with 25 local CSOs across 625 communities in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Nicaragua, and Paraguay. Through this program, 34,634 sponsored children, particularly those facing the greatest challenges and in need of child-centred, family-focused community support, benefited from sponsorship activities (Chart 16).

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

CHART 16: Number of enrolled sponsored children who benefited from Children Believe's child-focused, holistic, community-based development programs, disaggregated by country - FY26

Country	Enrolled Sponsored Children
Burkina Faso	5,620
Ethiopia	6,090
Ghana	6,304
India	3,569
Nicaragua	6,473
Paraguay	6,578
TOTAL	34,634

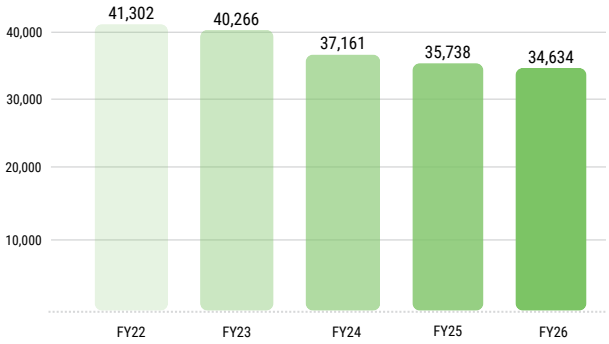
Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report (as of March 31, 2026)

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 benefit from 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 give them the space and time needed to play.

5-YEAR TREND

Number of enrolled sponsored children who benefited from our programs, FY22-FY26



The number of sponsored children continued to gradually decline in FY26, reflecting children graduating from programs and ongoing challenges in securing new long-term sponsorship commitments.

My mother has the right to guide and discipline me, but I also have the undeniable right not to be mistreated or subjected to violence.

~ Mirlei, Student from Paraguay

BOX 5

Tapsoba Fati's Journey to Economic Self-Reliance

By Children Believe Burkina Faso

Tapsoba Fati, a determined mother of six, lives in a polygamous household that includes three other wives. For years, she endured harsh economic realities that made daily life a challenge. Limited household resources, meant that each wife was often responsible for meeting the needs of her own children. As Fati explains, "each woman mainly had to take care of her own children because our husband could not meet all the family's needs," illustrating the heavy burden she and her co-wives faced.

Before joining the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA), Fati had no formal way to save money and limited access to credit. This made it difficult to stabilize her household income or plan for the future. Five years ago, however, Fati made a pivotal decision to join the VSLA, a step that would significantly change her life.

> **"Thanks to the group, my business has grown. During festive periods, I sell a lot of fabrics and shoes. Now I can pay for my children's school fees and take better care of them. I am truly happy.**

Through regular savings and small loans accessed through the group, Fati gradually built a flourishing business. Today, she runs a vibrant shop in Zorgho that sells fabrics and shoes. Sales increase during festive periods, when demand is especially high. Through her hard work and determination, she has established a successful business that is well known in her neighborhood. Reflecting on her progress, she shares, "Thanks to the group, my business has grown. During festive periods, I sell a lot of fabrics and shoes. Now, I can pay my children's school fees and take better care of them. I am truly happy."

Increased financial stability has done more than just boost Fati's income; it has also strengthened her confidence and independence. She now actively participates in key decisions regarding her children's education and welfare and has a stronger voice within her household. Her journey also strengthened her influence in the community, where she encourages other women seeking similar paths. Without the support of the VSLA program, it would have been far more difficult for Fati to build her business, support her children's education and build a more stable future for her family.



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

Today, Fati's journey demonstrates the impact of inclusive financial systems and community solidarity. It shows how access to savings and credit can uplift women's economic security while strengthening their ability to contribute to decisions in their households and community. Reflecting on her experience, she concludes, "I sincerely thank Children Believe/CREDO and its partner for creating this group in our neighborhood. It has changed my life and that of my children."

VSLA programs provide opportunities for women like Fati to achieve financial independence, strengthen their leadership skills, and improve their families' well-being.



Children Believe

GENDER EQUALITY & INCLUSION

In FY26, more than

471,200

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

1 NO POVERTY
5 GENDER EQUALITY
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



ADVANCING EQUALITY, INCLUSION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

Women leaders in Paraguay gather to strengthen efforts to prevent violence against women and children. Photo: Children Believe

Gender equality is not only a human right, it is essential to sustainable development, peace, and resilience. When women, men, girls, and boys participate fully and equally in society, communities are healthier, better educated, and more economically secure. Children Believe advances this vision by promoting equitable access to resources, opportunities, decision-making, and protection for all people, regardless of gender, age, disability, ethnicity, or socio-economic status.

Our programs apply a gender-transformative and intersectional approach, recognizing that gender inequality is shaped by interconnected factors such as poverty, geography, disability, harmful social norms, and unequal power dynamics. This approach helps ensure that interventions respond to the distinct needs, experiences and opportunities of women, men, girls, and boys, particularly adolescent girls, who often face the most severe and persistent challenges.

When the rights of girls and women are upheld, communities experience measurable improvements in health, education, income, and long-term resilience. These gains extend across generations, strengthening families, institutions, and national development.

5.3%↑
YEAR-OVER-YEAR

In FY26, 471,248 women, girls and men benefited from programs promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

OUR PROGRAM APPROACH

Children Believe advances gender equality through interconnected approaches that strengthen leadership, increase economic opportunity, address harmful social norms, and support more inclusive decision-making. Together, these efforts help create communities where women and girls have greater opportunities to participate, lead, and succeed.

01 Advancing Women's Leadership and Participation

Women and girls play a critical role in community development and decision-making. We help expand opportunities for leadership and participation at household, community and public levels.

- **Supported** women and girls to participate in community forums and institutions.
- **Enabled 113,116 women and girls** to actively engage in community decision-making processes.

02 Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment

Economic independence is a powerful driver of gender equality. We support women to strengthen income-generating activities, build financial resilience, and increase control over economic resources.

- Supported women through **self-help groups, savings groups, and cooperatives.**
- Strengthened **access to financial services** and **entrepreneurship opportunities.**

03 Transforming Harmful Social Norms

We engage communities to challenge harmful norms and promote equitable relationships and shared responsibilities.

- **Conducted dialogue sessions** on gender equality and women's leadership.
- **Engaged men and boys** as allies for change.
- Promoted awareness of women's rights and participation.

04 Advancing Gender-Responsive Policies and Accountability

Strong policies help protect rights in practice. We work with governments and civil society partners to strengthen gender-responsive laws and policies.

- **Promoted accountability** for gender-based violence prevention and response.
- **Strengthened collaboration** between community organizations and government bodies

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS:

REACH AND COVERAGE

471,248

women, girls, and men benefited from gender-equality initiatives.

113,116

women and girls actively participated in community forums and institutions.

19,023

community members were trained on gender and gender-based violence.

29,858

women participated in 1,127 Village Savings and Loan Associations in Burkina Faso.

BOX 6

From Isolation to Independence: Dhanalakshmi's Journey to Business Ownership

By Children Believe India

In Velagapuram, in India's Tiruvallur district, 40-year-old Dhanalakshmi is raising her son while navigating the overlapping challenges of gender inequality and disability. These barriers can limit women's independence, participation in community life, and access to essential services. Through its work with Dalit, tribal, and minority communities, the Integrated Rural Community Development Society (IRCDS) helps women like Dhanalakshmi overcome these challenges.

After her husband left and married another woman, Dhanalakshmi became isolated. Anxiety and sleepless nights caused her to withdraw from her community. With limited knowledge of welfare programs, difficulty navigating government processes, and little financial independence, she felt trapped and unsure where to seek help.



Dhanalakshmi in her home-based shop in Velagapuram, one of two businesses she now operates with support from Children Believe and local partners. Photo: Children Believe India

Her life began to change through a series of supportive actions. With help from IRCDS, Dhanalakshmi accessed psychosocial counselling, giving her a safe space to heal and rebuild her confidence. She was then introduced to her Village Development Committee, where meetings offered hope and opportunities to learn about her rights and welfare programs. Committee members accompanied her to government offices and helped her navigate intimidating processes independently. Dhanalakshmi joined the Female-Headed Household group and participated in vocational training through the Dream India program. As a member of the Vasantham Federation, she developed skills in bicycle repair, a trade in high demand locally. Today, she runs a thriving bicycle repair business from her home alongside a small shop she had previously opened.

Earning her own income has strengthened Dhanalakshmi's independence and confidence, while increasing her ability to support herself and her son. In a society where women with disabilities are often marginalized, she has built a stable livelihood and become an active community participant. She is recognized as a business owner, engages with customers, contributes to her federation, and confidently navigates government offices to assert her rights.

> **"Now I earn on my own and move forward confidently.**

Dhanalakshmi's journey shows how different forms of support can work together to overcome multiple challenges. Psychosocial care, group membership, knowledge of rights and entitlements, locally relevant vocational training, and business support all contributed to her progress.

Her story shows what genuine inclusion can look like. The continued presence of the Village Development Committee, Female-Headed Household group, and Vasantham Federation makes this locally-led approach sustainable, helping other women facing similar challenges access the right support at the right time. Today, Dhanalakshmi runs her business, supports her family, and participates actively in her community, demonstrating how local systems can create lasting change.

To address these challenges, Children Believe's programs are intentionally designed to address and transform the structural factors that contribute to gender inequality, including:

- Cultural norms and gender stereotypes that privilege boys over girls.
- Unequal control over productive resources, including land, finances, and technology.
- Obstacles to girls' education, such as early marriage, unpaid care burdens, and safety concerns.
- Limited participation of women and girls in community leadership and decision-making.
- Intersecting vulnerabilities affecting girls with disabilities, girls living in rural areas, and marginalized ethnic groups.

These challenges restrict girls' ability to learn, lead, and thrive, making it harder for them to access opportunities, exercise their rights and shape their future.

Children Believe works with government partners, community leaders, civil society organizations, youth networks, as well as men and boys to address the social norms and institutional practices that contribute to gender inequality. Our gender-transformative approach includes:

- Engaging men and boys as allies in promoting respectful relationships and shared responsibilities.
- Strengthening community accountability mechanisms to prevent gender-based violence.
- Supporting women's leadership in local governance and crisis-response structures.
- Ensuring safe, inclusive learning environments for girls and boys.
- Integrating gender equality across all program cycles, from design to monitoring.

This approach aligns with global commitments such as the Beijing Platform for Action, CEDAW, and UN Women's gender-transformative programming standards.

Children Believe also undertakes innovative, evidence-driven policy and advocacy work to close the gap between policy commitments and people's lived experiences. We work with national and local authorities to:

- Strengthen the implementation of gender-responsive laws and policies.
- Promote accountability for gender-based violence prevention and response.
- Ensure girl's and women's voices shape policy dialogue and program design.
- Collect and use information about the experiences of girls, boys, women and men to guide decisions.

Our policy influence efforts promote inclusive, rights-based systems that uphold gender equality and support sustainable development.



Participants in India learn about gender equality and respectful relationships through inclusive programming.
Photo: Children Believe

Our programs contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls. In particular, they support Target 5.3, which aims to end harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation, as well as Target 5.5, which promotes women's full participation and equal opportunities for leadership and decision-making.

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

These are to:

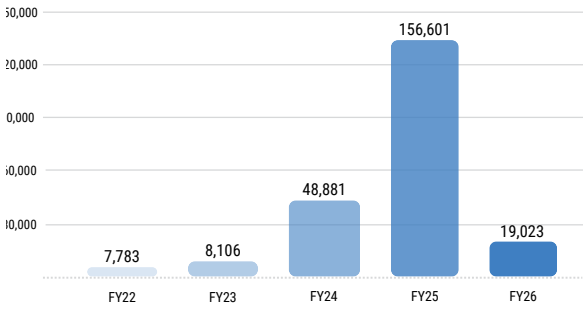
1. Enhance the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls.
2. Increase the participation of women and girls in equal decision-making; and
3. Give women and girls control over the resources they need to secure economic and social equality.

Promoting gender equality and the rights of women and girls

During FY26, our capacity-building initiatives reached and benefited 471,248 women, girls, and men. These initiatives included awareness campaigns, training, and support for the adoption and implementation of gender-sensitive policies, strategies and actions that promote equal rights for women and girls including economic resources, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources. Over the past six years, Children Believe and our partners have taken deliberate actions to challenge the social norms and structures that perpetuate gender inequality in many communities (See Chart 17).

5-YEAR TREND

Number of community members trained about gender and gender based violence



After an exceptional increase in FY25, driven largely by expanded training in Ghana, reach declined to 19,023 community members in FY26. While below FY24 levels, it remained more than twice the FY23 result.

Building on the foundations established through our programs in previous years across our eight countries of operation, we continued to provide technical and financial support to women and adolescent girls participating in self-help groups, savings and credit groups or credit cooperatives. We recognize that investing in women's income-generating activities creates lasting benefits, not only for women themselves, but also for their families and communities.

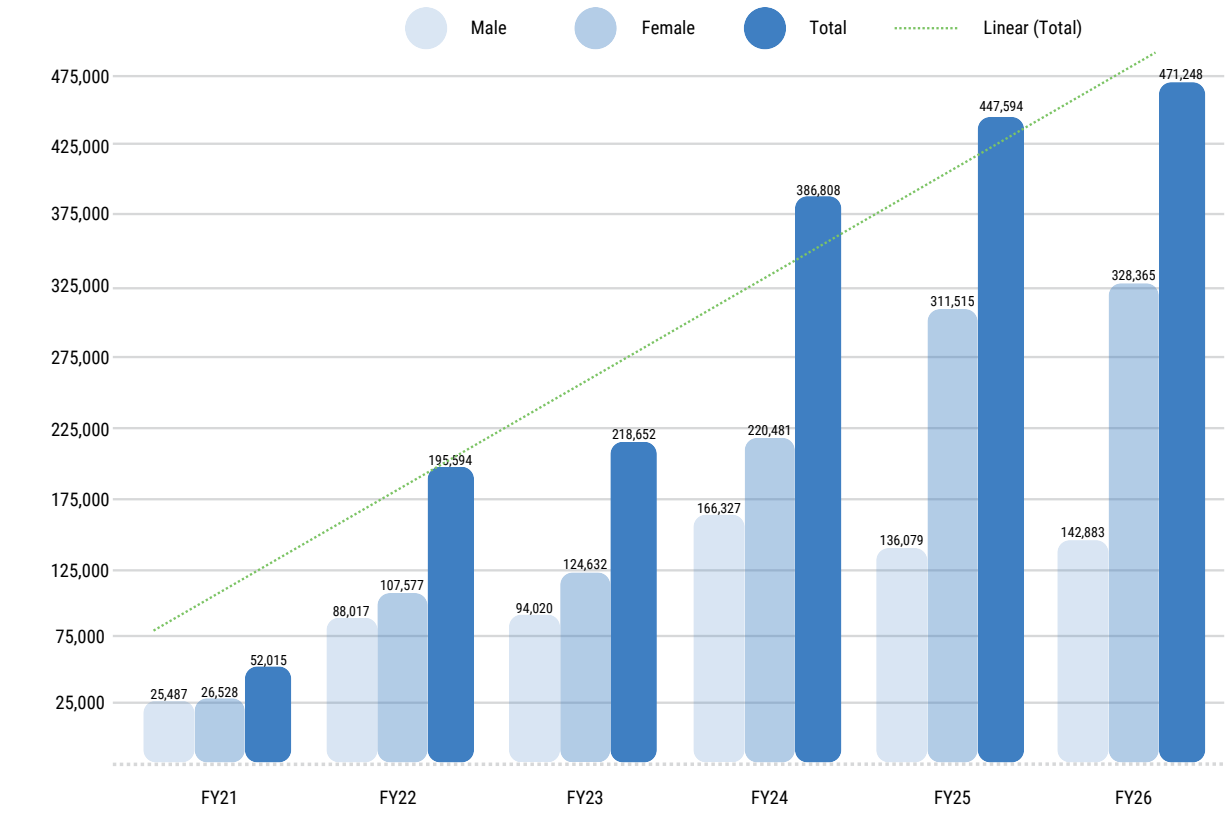
During this reporting period

471,248

women, girls and engaged men benefited from our capacity-building initiatives

6-YEAR TREND

CHART 17: Number of girls, women and men who benefited from capacity-building support in favour of gender equality in Children Believe communities - FY21-26 trend analysis.



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY21-26

By expanding women's and girls' access to leadership, economic opportunities, and decision-making, we are helping shift power, advance equality, and build stronger, more resilient communities.

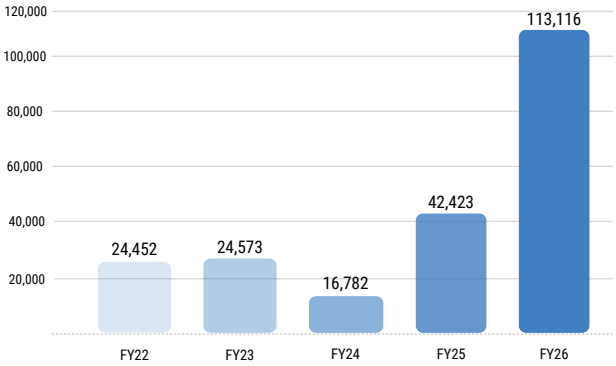
PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

During FY26, more women participated in activities organized by Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), both as members and leaders. This trend created a richer environment for women to exercise their social, economic and political rights. To support this progress, Children Believe collaborated with local NGO partners and government departments to develop and implement new gender-friendly laws and guidelines. These initiatives helped dismantle obstacles to participation and expand leadership opportunities for female members and executives within these organizations.

As a result of these collective endeavours, an impressive 113,116 (See chart 18) women and young girls actively engaged in community forums and institutions, stepping into their leadership roles with confidence. Through their involvement, they contributed to community discussions and decision-making processes on issues that affect their lives, families and communities. These spaces help create more opportunities for women and girls to participate, take on leadership roles and influence decisions at the community level.

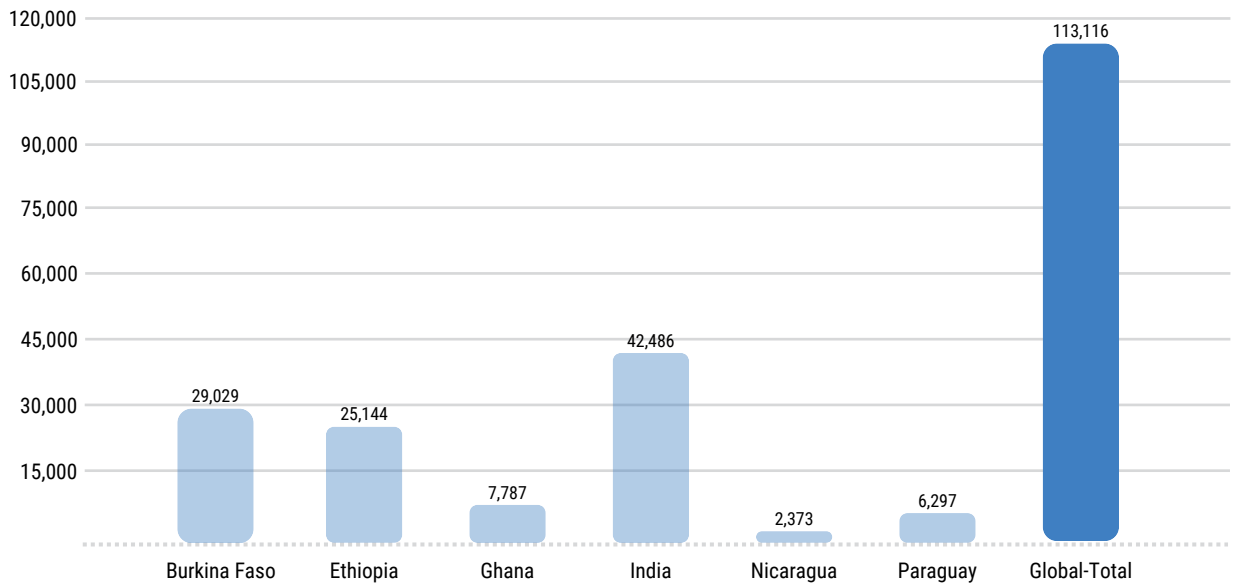
5-YEAR TREND

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



Following a decline in FY24, participation rebounded strongly in FY25 and nearly tripled in FY26, reflecting expanded opportunities for women to take on leadership roles and engage in community and public decision-making.

CHART 18: Number of women and young girls involved in various community groups, organizations and institutions, disaggregated by country - FY26.



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY26

A key driver of progress in gender equality in many of the countries where we operate has been the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) approach. This method has not only strengthened women's economic capabilities, but has also increased their participation in leadership and decision-making at the household, community, and public levels. For example, in Burkina Faso during FY26, 29,858 women formed 1,127 VSLA groups across 259 communities and mobilized over $6.5 million CAD in savings. This increased financial empowerment has resulted in greater agency, with more women being consulted and actively participating in community and public decisions regarding gender equality. Additionally, 102 microenterprises were created and managed by VSLA members, generating sustained income and enhancing financial independence. The establishment of 70 cooperatives further strengthened women's collective leadership by improving access to financial services and institutional support, positioning them as key economic players in their local communities.

Under the CHANGE project, Children Believe and Norsaac in North Ghana provided refresher training on leadership and gender equality to all 2,700 Integrated Nutrition Team (INT) members, 61 percent (1,647) of whom were female. The training equipped participants with the knowledge and confidence to facilitate community dialogue sessions on women's leadership and their role in household decision-making. Following the training, INT members conducted dialogue sessions in their communities, reaching a total of 7,601 participants (4,972 females and 2,629 males). These discussions helped increase awareness of gender issues and contributed to gradual shifts in social norms across our target communities. As a result, communities reported tangible improvements in women's access to productive resources and enhanced opportunities for leadership.

Village Savings and Loan Associations have strengthened women's economic capabilities and increased their participation in decision-making at the household, community and public levels.



Gender Equality

Improved realization by girls and women of their rights to equality, health, safety, gender justice and self-determination in our targeted communities.

Children Believe



Alima, 17, is learning to sew to provide for herself and become independent.
Photo: Children Believe Ghana

EMPLOYABILITY AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN

Thanks to your support, more than

105,096

youth and women have benefited from economic empowerment programs in FY26.

1 NO POVERTY · 5 GENDER EQUALITY · 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE · 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES · 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES · SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



WHEN YOUNG PEOPLE SUCCEED, COMMUNITIES PROSPER.

A young person in Nicaragua develops practical sewing skills to pursue employment and self-employment opportunities. Photo: Children Believe

Youth unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young women aged 15 to 24, continues to affect young people across our countries of operation. These challenges have profound implications for economic stability, social cohesion, and long-term development. Global labour trends underscore the urgency of the issue. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2025), young people, particularly those in low-income countries, continue to face insecure work, limited earnings, and restricted access to productive sectors.

These challenges are intensified by climate-related shocks, geopolitical tensions, and constrained fiscal environments.

Across the countries where we work, young people encounter persistent obstacles to earning a sustainable income and building secure livelihoods. Many lack access to market-relevant skills, financial services, technology, and professional networks needed to find formal employment or viable self-employment. Rural youth, young women, and those with limited education face the greatest obstacles, often relying on informal or subsistence-based work with little opportunity for advancement.

105,000+

In FY26, 105,096 young people accessed employment and livelihood opportunities, with young women representing 89% of participants.

OUR PROGRAM APPROACH

Children Believe supports young people and women to build sustainable livelihoods by strengthening skills, expanding economic opportunities, increasing financial inclusion, and promoting resilience. Together, these efforts provide the resources and experience needed to participate fully in local economies.

01 Skills Development for Employment

Young people need practical, market-relevant skills to secure decent work and adapt to changing labour markets.

- Delivered **vocational and technical skills training.**
- **Expanded digital-literacy** and employability training.
- **Integrated life skills** and financial education.
- **Strengthened pathways into paid employment** and self-employment.

02 Entrepreneurship and Business Development

Entrepreneurship provides an important pathway for economic independence, particularly where formal employment opportunities are limited.

- Supported **small-business creation** and growth.
- **Provided startup capital** and business-management training.
- **Connected entrepreneurs to markets** and local networks.
- **Supported youth-led enterprises** across multiple sectors.

03 Financial Inclusion and Economic Empowerment

Access to savings, credit, and financial services helps people invest in their futures and build long-term economic resilience.

- **Strengthened savings** and loan groups.
- **Supported cooperatives** and income-generating initiatives.
- **Increased access to financial services** and business financing.
- Promoted **economic participation among women** and young people.

04 Mentorship and Leadership Development

Skills alone are not enough. Young people also benefit from guidance, networks, and opportunities to build confidence and leadership capacity.

- **Connected participants with local entrepreneurs** and mentors.
- Supported coaching and **peer-learning opportunities**.
- Strengthened leadership and **advocacy skills.**

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS:

REACH AND COVERAGE

105,096

young people accessed employment and livelihood opportunities.

400KG

of catfish was produced in the first harvest by participants in Ghana, generating GHS 20,000, (about CAD $2,500).

27,690

people affected by environmental crises received technical or material support.

295

youth in India received disaster-risk-reduction and emergency-preparedness training.

BOX 7

Ivania, A Young Mom and an Emerging Entrepreneur from Nicaragua

By Children Believe

My name is Ivania Adelina Navarrete Zamora. I am a proud 31-year-old mother of two wonderful children.

My journey with Children Believe and the CAPRI initiative began when I learned about the power of community participation and what we can achieve when we work together. I became interested in the possibilities, so I attended neighbourhood assemblies and training sessions to learn and grow. Shortly afterward, my youngest son was accepted into the program. This became an important turning point for our family.

I wanted to create opportunities for myself rather than wait for them, so I became a community leader. Through CAPRI, I received a scholarship for a technical marketing course, which opened doors I had not expected. After completing the course, I received seed capital, including a freezer, tables, chairs, and a cone holder. With these tools, I started my own ice cream business. Through hard work and dedication, I was able to run the business successfully for three years.

In 2024, I continued learning by completing the YOCUTA program, sponsored by Children Believe and Nestlé. The program taught me about managing costs, understanding portion sizes, and making nutritious food choices. What I learned helped me with my business and also changed the way my family eats, improving our overall health.

However, the most significant impact on my life has been through the Savings and Credit Groups.

> **“This program has been nothing short of a blessing, helping me build confidence in myself as a woman and as head of my household.**

The habit of saving has given me something very important: emotional and financial independence.

By saving regularly, I achieved something that once seemed impossible. In 2025, I was able to make a down payment on a social housing unit. Without the support of my savings group, I would not have been able to save the money I needed to take this important step toward having a stable home for my family.



With support from Children Believe and local partner CAPRI, Ivania is building the skills and confidence to grow her small business. Photo: Children Believe

Today, I feel proud of what I have achieved and more confident in myself. I believe saving is important for women because it allows us to make our own decisions, invest in our goals, and prepare for unexpected difficulties.

My advice to anyone on a similar journey is to set clear and achievable goals. Having a purpose helps you stay motivated and makes saving more meaningful.

My savings goal for 2026 is to begin building a perimeter wall around my home. Although I now live in a new neighbourhood, I remain committed to serving as a community leader and participating actively in my savings group.

Employment for youth and women

Children Believe and its local partners are helping young people develop the skills, confidence and connections they need to access economic opportunities, and move into meaningful and sustainable work.

In FY26, our youth and women's economic-empowerment initiatives focused on:

1. Leadership and advocacy training to elevate youth voices in economic-policy dialogue.
2. Entrepreneurship and self-employment pathways, including business development, financial literacy, and market linkage support.
3. Skills upgrading in digital literacy, vocational trades, agribusiness, and service-sector roles.
4. Mentorship and coaching from local entrepreneurs and industry practitioners.



A group of youth strengthen their digital literacy, building skills for employment and future opportunities. Photo: Children Believe, Paraguay

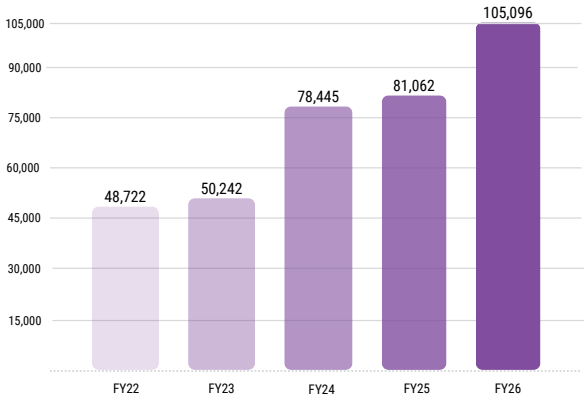
PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

These efforts contribute to global priorities of increasing access to decent work, strengthening youth livelihoods, and creating more inclusive economic opportunities. By helping young people build the skills, confidence, and networks they need to thrive, Children Believe and its local partners are helping shape a future where youth are active contributors to resilient, growing economies.

In FY26, Children Believe and it's local partners, worked to address issues affecting unemployment by conducting training that combined market-relevant skills, life skills and financial education. The training helped prepare young people for paid or self-employment opportunities.

5-YEAR TREND

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

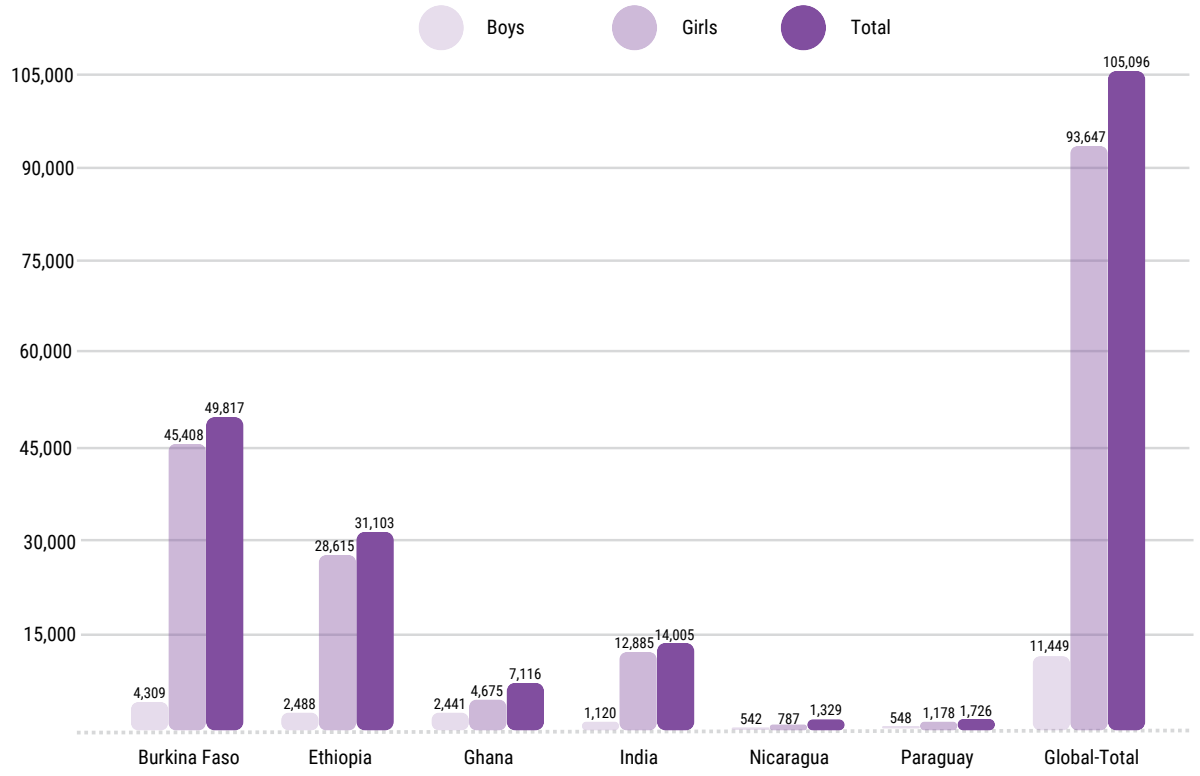


After remaining steady from FY24 to FY25, participation increased by 29.6% in FY26, reaching 105,096 youth and women through self-employment and entrepreneurship training.

Children Believe and its local partners are helping young people develop the skills, confidence and connections they need to access economic opportunities, and move into meaningful and sustainable work.

As indicated in Chart 19, we facilitated the creation of youth employment opportunities for over 105,000 youth (89 percent young women) across Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Nicaragua, and Paraguay.

CHART 19: Distribution of youth and women who benefited from employment opportunity programs - FY26



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, FY26

Burkina Faso

In Burkina Faso, the primary focus was on promoting entrepreneurship and self-employment. During this reporting period, vocational cooperatives were established and supported in Bankui, Sourou and Guiriko. These cooperatives provided young people with a structured and collaborative space to work together, start and grow income-generating activities, share resources and risks, and strengthen their economic resilience.

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, new youth-led businesses were established through the provision of startup capital and training in small business management, including hairdressing, retail trade, food processing, and various service enterprises.

Ghana

In Ghana, Children Believe and its partner, PARDA, supported young women in the Kassena Nankana West District by providing training and startup kits for catfish farming using plastic tanks and tarpaulin ponds. The first harvest yielded 400 kg of catfish, generating GHS 20,000 (approximately CAD 2,500). The group reinvested the proceeds to expand production, strengthening their aquaculture skills, improving household nutrition, and increasing women's decision-making power. One beneficiary remarked, *"Before this project, I had no skills or support. Now I can contribute to my family's needs and make decisions at home. Our first harvest gave us hope that we can build a better future for our children."* This initiative demonstrates how aquaculture can create sustainable livelihoods, reduce vulnerability, and empower women. It also offers a scalable and replicable model that can be adapted in other communities.

India

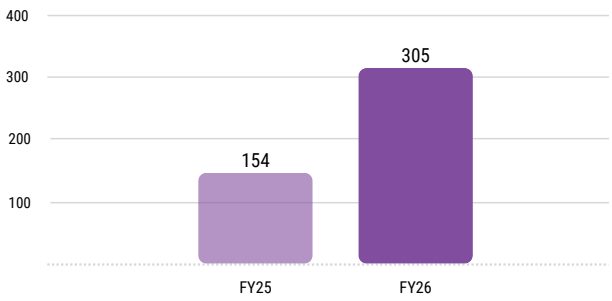
In India, new business enterprises were organized and supported across 13 types of businesses, including tailoring, petty shops, livestock rearing, computer services, income-generating activities linked to federations of Dalit and tribal women, and a bicycle repair unit run by a young woman with a disability.

Nicaragua

In Nicaragua, young people aged 15 and over, 76 percent of whom are women, improved their employability through skills training. This initiative was supported by the integration of the Krezco platform and the Life Skills online course, which serve as key tools for vocational education and youth employment. As a result, participants strengthened their life and employability skills through the Krezco Learning platform. This demonstrates the effectiveness of scalable digital solutions in expanding access to quality training and empowering young people, particularly young women, to improve their opportunities for decent work and economic participation.

2-YEAR TREND

Number of participants connected to employment opportunities or financial support



In FY26, 306 linkages to employment opportunities or financial assistance were created, nearly twice the number recorded in FY25.

Youth and climate change

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing this generation. The world is nearing a 1.5ºC increase in global temperatures, exacerbating the frequency and severity of climate-related disasters that adversely affect the lives and livelihoods of millions of people.

In the global south where Children Believe works, individuals have contributed the least to the climate crisis, yet often bear the greatest impacts. In 2025, approximately 3.6 billion people globally were impacted by heatwaves, droughts, wildfires, floods, and other climate-related events (UN, 2025).

Despite these challenges, we acknowledge the potential of young people and the vital role they play in shaping a more sustainable future. In partnership with local organizations, we have mobilized youth and community members to actively and responsibly engage in policies and actions that influence climate and sustainability outcomes.

During FY26, Children Believe responded to the ramifications of climate change, including droughts and conflict-induced hardships in Burkina Faso and Ethiopia, hurricanes in Nicaragua and Paraguay, and floods, landslides, and cyclones in India. We provided technical and material support to more than 27,690 people affected by these environmental crises.

Burkina Faso

In Burkina Faso, we educated young people about the significance of green job opportunities and the value of environmentally sustainable production systems, such as organic agriculture and solar energy. This initiative helped young people develop green skills and build more sustainable livelihoods.

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, rural youth in and around the Langano operational area, who previously relied on inconsistent rainfall and were vulnerable to recurring droughts and failed harvests, organized themselves into small-scale irrigation groups. With support from Children Believe and its partners, they gained access to a water-pump and improved agricultural inputs, enabling them to diversify their crops and enhance productivity, primarily in the cultivation of tomatoes, cabbage, and onions. This transition helped them combat hunger, protect their environment, and improve their income.

India

In India, initiatives promoting climate justice, which seeks to ensure that communities most affected by climate change have a voice in local solutions, engaged youth and local communities in strengthening climate resilience. We trained 295 Chenchu and Dalit youth and adolescents in disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness, including the development of safety plans and the establishment of greener Anganwadi centres. This training proved particularly beneficial when Yanadi families successfully evacuated ahead of the flooding in Krishna Delta, allowing them to preserve vital documents and reduce the impacts of disaster on their education and livelihoods.



Community members in India take part in a discussion on climate resilience, disaster preparedness, and locally-led action. Photo: Children Believe

Paraguay

In Paraguay, the Nueva Esperanza community, which has been chronically affected by flooding, initiated a Community Risk Management Plan in collaboration with the Paraguayan Red Cross. The process included identifying structural flood risks, such as clogged drainage channels and waste accumulation, as well as establishing a Community Risk Management Committee with a concrete action plan. Eleven schools received refills for fire extinguishers. In Caazapá and Remansito, 18 schools and five non-formal educational spaces received disaster risk reduction support, including first-aid kits and fire extinguishers, benefiting approximately 7,500 children. Environmental care groups in Caazapá received training on climate change, and 122 children in four community centres participated in environmental art projects using recycled materials to explore issues such as deforestation and waste pollution. In addition, Children Believe-partner, Crecer, provided support to 25 institutional risk management committees in partner schools through first-aid training and the provision of biosecurity supplies.

Young people have a vital role in shaping a more sustainable future. By building green skills and strengthening climate resilience, they are protecting livelihoods and leading change in their communities.

BOX 8

Dita Guta, Rising Out of Drought: A Journey to Climate-Smart Agricultural Livelihoods

By Children Believe Ethiopia

In Gorbi Areba Kebele of Negele Arsi Woreda, rural families once depended entirely on unreliable rainfall, leaving them vulnerable to recurring drought and failed harvests. For members of the Ropi Lephis Small-Scale Irrigation Group, this often meant food shortages, lost income, and difficult choices between children's education, nutrition, and healthcare. "Before joining the group, supporting my family was very difficult," recalls group leader Dita Guta, reflecting the shared struggle of families living with constant uncertainty.

> **"Before joining the group, supporting my family was very difficult.**

This began to change when the group received irrigation support, including a water-pumping generator, agricultural inputs, and practical training in irrigated farming. With this support, the group shifted to year-round vegetable production, growing tomatoes, cabbage, and onions. The transition reduced their dependence on seasonal rainfall and helped them build a more stable and productive livelihood.

The results have been transformative. Regular income from vegetable sales has improved household food security, enabled families to invest in their children's education, and strengthened overall living conditions. Some members have built homes, while others have expanded into small businesses.

> **"Today, irrigation has become a reliable source of livelihood, and we can plan for our future with confidence.**



Dita stands among crops nearing harvest after irrigation support and practical training helped the group shift to year-round vegetable production. Photo: Children Believe

Income levels among group members have improved significantly, with some farmers earning consistent seasonal income and reinvesting in their livelihoods. For example, the group leader used his increased earnings to establish a vegetable retail business valued at ETB 150,000, (about CAN $1,500). His success demonstrates how irrigation can help families not only to meet their basic needs, but also to build sustainable economic opportunities and mitigate their vulnerability to drought.



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

A young person in Burkina Faso builds practical carpentry skills through vocational training.
Photo: Children Believe

III CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE



Women in Ghana gather for a community Village Savings and Loan Association meeting. Photo: Children Believe

In FY26, Children Believe continued to strengthen and expand its Centres of Excellence (CoE) initiatives. Based in our six operational countries, these centres bring people and ideas together to drive innovation, share knowledge, promote networking, and advance thought leadership in key areas critical to our work.

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

During the reporting period, Burkina Faso and Ghana programs jointly led Children Believe's Centres of Excellence (CoE) for Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD). Together, they promoted and shared best practices through the implementation of Learning Through Play[7] (LTP), an evidence-based approach that supports young children's learning, development and well-being.

The Ghana Country Office CoE initiative on Early Childhood Development achieved significant progress in FY26. At the national level, Children Believe contributed to the revision of Ghana's Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Policy, a contribution acknowledged by the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection. The Country Office provided both financial and technical support throughout the policy's development, including drafting key sections of the policy and supporting pilot testing through five Regional ECCD Committees. These committees continue to play an important role in coordinating early childhood care and development efforts across sectors. Children Believe was also appointed by the Ghana Education Service, under the Ministry of Education, to the National Early Childhood Education Technical Group. Through this role, our organization participated in national education policy review dialogues, helping shape improvements to foundational learning and middle-tier leadership. These efforts support stronger learning outcomes for children from kindergarten through Basic 3 of primary education.

In Burkina Faso, Children Believe and its local partners have enhanced the early childhood development (ECD) ecosystem by building partnerships with government agencies and local stakeholders. These collaborations help ensure that community-based interventions contribute to broader, long-term systemic change. Children Believe also supported the integration of early childhood care and development (ECCD) components into local government planning processes, helping to strengthen local ownership and sustainability. A key milestone in FY26 was the launch of the national advocacy campaign, "My First School: Education Starts in the Family, Protection Starts at Home." The campaign marked a new chapter in community-based advocacy for ECD, highlighting the vital role families play in supporting young children's learning, development and well-being.

Education and child protection in humanitarian actions

In Ethiopia, Children Believe successfully implemented a comprehensive Education in Emergency model that integrates school-based learning with community-level child protection and psychosocial support for children and families. In FY26, this approach helped ensure the continued delivery of Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) and primary education services across all operational sites, despite persistent conflicts and significant disruptions to learning. This model also strengthened community-based child protection systems by fostering collaboration among stakeholders, including government partners and peer organizations. Furthermore, more than 1,100 community members received specialized training in education, climate change mitigation strategies, emergency preparedness, and disaster risk reduction (DRR) practices, helping communities prepare for and respond effectively to challenging situations.

more than

1,110

community members gained skills to prepare for and respond to emergencies, climate-related challenges and disaster risks.

[7] 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

Children Believe India leads the Centre of Excellence on Gender, Intersectionality and Social Inclusion (GISI). This year efforts focused on embedding a GISI lens across programs and ensuring inclusion was considered from the beginning of program design and implementation. This approach is integrated across various initiatives, including inclusive infrastructure, educational parity, reproductive health for adolescent girls, child marriage prevention, and women's economic empowerment. A key initiative, Bangaru Balyam ('Golden Childhood'), promoted early childhood development and was expanded across the district with support from SARDS and Children Believe India. The program helped young Chenchu, Yanadi, and Dalit children access trusted public Anganwadi services, while continuing to support children and families from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups. The use of standardized participatory GISI tools, such as Violence Mapping and Happiness Mapping, were used in five Dalit and tribal villages to better understand the experiences of women, girls and children. Using consistent methodology helped ensure that community perspectives informed program planning. In addition, Children Believe and its partners have conducted 'Redefining Positive Masculinity' training for civil society leaders, fostering a gender-transformative perspective that engaged men and boys in creating change. As part of this training, a toolkit was developed and field tested to support a consistent approach across partner organizations.



A community campaign brings together women's collectives, police and mobile outreach teams to help prevent child marriage. Photo: Children Believe

Children Believe also conducted a review of its Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) practices across five country programs. The assessment focused on four key aspects: Access, Participation, Empowerment and Norm Change, and Systems, Capacity and Accountability. The review explored how programs approach diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in their work. It examined who is included in programs, how fairly individuals are treated, whether children can genuinely participate in decisions that affect them, and the extent to which a child feels recognized, connected, and valued within their communities.

In addition to this self-review, each participating program identified ways to transition from being merely aware of who is excluded to actively promoting transformative practices. This involves altering norms and power dynamics that contribute to exclusion while fostering diversity.

This year, efforts focused on embedding a GISI (Gender Inclusion and Social Inclusion) lens across programs and ensuring inclusion was considered from the beginning of program design and implementation.

Youth employability and women's economic empowerment



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

Nicaragua continued to lead and advance the Centre of Excellence initiative on youth employability and women's economic empowerment. This initiative uses education and skills training to help young people build the knowledge and experience needed for learning and employment opportunities. Through targeted programs with a strong emphasis on technology and entrepreneurship, participants gained critical skills to support their future careers and businesses. The Krezco Learning digital platform provides young people with flexible, relevant learning content that helps them develop skills for in-demand competencies. During the year, a new Culture of Saving module was introduced to encourage positive saving habits among emerging youth entrepreneurs. Orientation sessions on the module were delivered to strategic partners as well as 30 staff members from UNICEF and WFP. During the reporting period, 300 individuals registered on the Krezco Learning platform and received training in life skills management, with women accounting for 76 percent of the participants. In partnership with private sector organizations, including NESTLE and BAGSA, Children Believe also delivered a workshop on youth employability for 50 young people, 80 percent of whom were women.

Child rights and participation

In Paraguay, the Centre of Excellence on Child Rights and Participation brought together partners and communities to promote child leadership across 128 operational communities. The initiative reinforces the role of girls and boys in community councils, protection networks, and public awareness campaigns such as "Lazo Verde" (Green Ribbon). In FY26, the Centre launched its flagship initiative, the Todos Somos Responsables ("We Are All Responsible") a national campaign developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Children and Adolescents (MINNA) and co-initiated by Children Believe. The campaign brought together national institutions, local authorities, civil society organizations, and communities to help prevent sexual violence against children, and encourage safer reporting mechanisms for those affected.

The campaign garnered significant media attention and reached more than 53,170 people in Children Believe's operational areas, half of whom were women. Moreover, a framework agreement with Paraguay's Ministry of Education and Sciences (MEC), enabled child protection and participation programming to be implemented in 275 schools nationwide. This collaborative approach not only increased awareness of child protection issues at the national level, but also improved local response systems. It demonstrated how advocacy, community engagement and institutional alignment can work together to advance the protection of children's rights. Significant progress was also achieved through the implementation of the national Hambre Cero school feeding law (Law No. 65/2024), which provides nutritious meals in public schools, and the establishment of the National Program for Prevention and Comprehensive Care for Children and Adolescents Victims of Sexual Abuse.

IV STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND POLICY INFLUENCE



Community leaders, partners, and stakeholders gather at a Children Believe child protection meeting in Paraguay. Photo: Children Believe

During the reporting period, Children Believe continued to strengthen its strategic collaborations and partnerships with national, continental, and global organizations to advance its mission and expand its policy development and advocacy efforts.

In Burkina Faso, Children Believe organized high-level engagements, including the "My First School, My Home" initiative, which promotes positive parenting and greater involvement of fathers in children's early development. The organization also facilitated dialogues on children's exposure to digital risks. These efforts helped raise awareness among decision-makers, with government authorities publicly endorsing Children Believe's key messages on the importance of early childhood education and family engagement.

In Ethiopia, Children Believe, in collaboration with Barnfonden (ChildFund Sweden), ChildFund Deutschland, and ChildFund International, hosted a side event during the Africa Climate Summit (ACS 2), held from September 8–10, 2026, at the Addis International Convention Center (AICC) in Addis Ababa. This event showcased the importance of child-centered climate action and strengthened collaboration and knowledge sharing among partners working across countries.

In Ghana, Children Believe facilitated a visit by the High Commissioner to Ghana and members of Global Affairs Canada (GAC). The visit provided insights into Children Believe's programs and illustrated how GAC's investments are contributing to improved nutrition, health, and gender outcomes for vulnerable children, adolescents, and women in Ghana.



Ghana's Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection meets with Children's Parliament representatives and the Children Believe Ghana Country Director. Photo: Children

In India, Children Believe partnered with the University of Madras in Tamil Nadu, as well as Mahila University and Nagarjuna University in Andhra Pradesh, to conduct a joint study on the role of education in preventing and addressing child marriage. This collaboration is still in its early stages, with Children Believe India working toward formal Memorandums of Understanding with the universities. As the partnership evolves, the study design and methodology are being refined, with results anticipated in FY27. The importance of this research is already clear. It aims to create an independent evidence base on how access to education, school retention, and re-entry into the education system can influence child marriage practices. This evidence will enhance the credibility of child-marriage-free certification efforts and strengthen advocacy through robust, peer-reviewed research.

In Mali, Children Believe partnered with ChildFund Alliance members Educo and WeWorld to develop a joint flash update, helping to ensure the continued delivery of critical humanitarian assistance in the country.

In Nicaragua, Children Believe collaborated with Nestlé, BAGSA, and local partner CAPRI to deliver a learning event titled "Sowing a Future with Flavour." The initiative responded to the demand for financial education, savings, employability, and entrepreneurship skills among youth and women.

In Paraguay, Children Believe strengthened partnerships with TFCF/MOFA and ChorogUsan for Children/KOICA to expand early childhood and literacy programs. These collaborations supported innovation, expanded program reach in underserved communities, and generated evidence to inform national-level policy and scale-up efforts.

In Canada, Children Believe maintained active engagement with key 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).

During International Development Week, Children Believe's CEO participated in Cooperation Canada's "Day on the Hill" events in Ottawa, meeting with Members of Parliament to discuss priorities in international development and the organization's work. These discussions helped strengthen relationships with key policymakers and raise awareness of Children Believe's contributions and opportunities for future collaboration. Children Believe also participated in discussions with Cooperation Canada regarding Official Development Assistance (ODA) investments, blended finance, and the outcomes of Global Affairs Canada's development policy initiatives over previous periods.

As a member of the Canadian International Education Policy Working Group (CIEPWG), Children Believe attended a meeting with the Minister for International Development, who emphasized Canada's commitment to global education. We also held two strategic dialogues focusing on foundational learning, as well as youth skills development and employability pathways. These dialogues involved over 10 Global Affairs Canada (GAC) officials working on education across various thematic and geographic branches, providing an important opportunity to share knowledge and strengthen collaboration on key education priorities.

Additionally, as a member of the Nutrition Working Group (NWG), we continued to advocate for improved nutrition and food security, recognizing their critical role in supporting the global health and well-being of children and communities.



Young people in Nicaragua proudly showcase plants they have nurtured from seedlings while developing skills in entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods. Photo: Children Believe

Through ChildFund Alliance's new strategy, which is guided by three committees, Eradicating All Violence Against Children (EVAC), Child-Sensitive Humanitarian Action, and Child Rights in a Changing Climate, Children Believe continued to implement their respective work plans and contribute to the Alliance's ongoing coordination, learning and strategic initiatives.

During the reporting period, Children Believe continued to strengthen its strategic collaborations and partnerships with national, continental, and global organizations to advance its mission and expand its policy development and advocacy efforts.

V MEET THE BOARD

At Children Believe, our Board of Directors is more than a governing body. They are dedicated leaders who help guide our mission with wisdom, care and accountability. Each member brings not only expertise, but a deep personal commitment to supporting children, families and communities as they work toward lasting change and opportunity.

They volunteer their time, wisdom, and passion because they believe that lasting change begins with communities. Their leadership helps shape our path forward and their dedication strengthens our impact around the world.

Through their strategic oversight and heartfelt belief in our work, they help ensure we remain focused on creating meaningful and lasting impact where it matters most.

Our Board of Directors



Aklilu Mulat
Chair



Gabriel Ollivier
Past Chair



Karen Fonseth-Schlossberg
Interim Vice-Chair
(departed June 2025)



Anthony Ruffolo
Secretary



Michael Ruthard
Treasurer



Vafa Akhavan
Director



Derin Bello
Director



Judith D'Souza-Soares
Director



Mary Kosta-Cadas
Director



Mona Mitchell
Director
(departed June 2025)



Jason Wilson
Director



Winston Wu
Director

VI PROGRAM SPENDING AND EFFECTIVENESS



Children and families in Nanyeri, Ghana, benefit from a community borehole established through Children Believe and its supporters, providing easier access to safe water. Photo: Children Believe

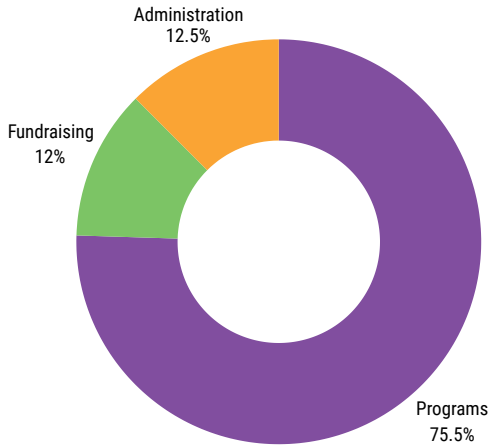
Behind every success story is a community of supporters who believe in the power of collective action. The generosity of our donors and partners helps create opportunities, expand access to education, and support locally-led change.

We recognize the responsibility that comes with every contribution entrusted to us. That is why we are committed to strong financial stewardship, transparency and accountability in everything we do. By carefully managing resources and making strategic investments, we maximize our impact and strengthen the effectiveness of our programs, helping to create sustainable change and lasting benefits for the communities we serve.

When you give, 75.5 percent of your donation goes directly to program activities that support children in the communities where we work.

On the other hand, 12 percent helps raise the resources needed to sustain these programs, while 12.5 percent ensures Children Believe operates efficiently and transparently (chart 20).

CHART 20: Spending Allocations



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

Summarized Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

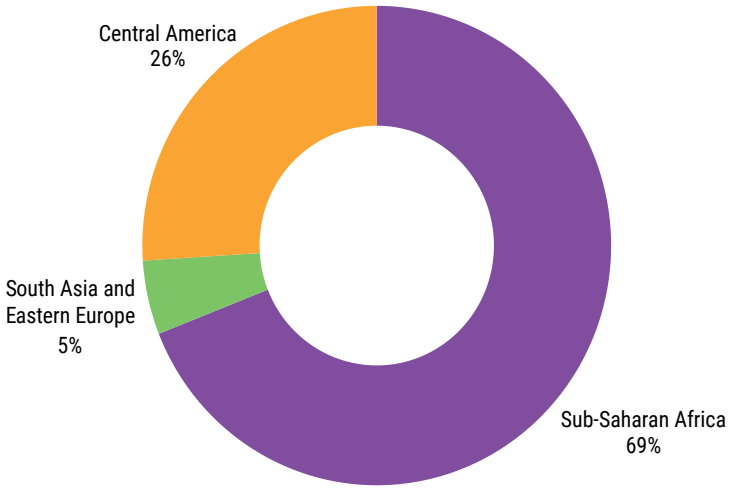
Year ended March 31, 2026
(in thousands of dollars)

Revenue	**2026**	**2025**
Cash Donations	17,902	19,484
Grants	6,641	7,631
Gifts-in-Kind	4,032	5,067
Investment and Other Income	447	1,406
TOTAL REVENUE	29,022	33,588

Expenditures	**2026**	**2025**
Programs:		
• Education	8,977	9,094
• Health, Wash and Nutrition	9,343	11,626
• Cross-Cutting Themes	637	1,323
• Child Protection	1,682	1,578
• Partnering with Children and Youth for Change	564	1,072
• Gender Equality	1,228	501
• Emergency Response and Disaster Risk Management	321	470
Total Programs	22,752	25,664
Fundraising	3,633	4,614
Administration	3,770	3,876
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**30,155**	**34,154**
Excess (Deficit) of Revenue over Expenditures	**(1,133)**	**(566)**

Children Believe promotes locally-led, child-centred, family-focused and integrated community programs. It believes in the power of locally-led development, and over 80 percent of its program resources in FY26 were channeled through 32 inspiring local civil society partners in over 1,029 highly vulnerable communities found in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Mali, Nicaragua, and Paraguay. We directly reached over 1,881,800 children, their families and other vulnerable members, and effectively invested $12.1 per direct beneficiary to bring positive impact.

CHART 21: Spending by Program Region in FY26



During the reporting period (chart 21), 69 percent of our program investments were allocated to sub-Saharan Africa (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana and Mali), followed by 26 percent in Central America (Honduras, Nicaragua and Paraguay), and 5 percent in South Asia (India) and Eastern Europe (Ukraine)*.

In FY26, Children Believe's largest program portfolio was Health, Nutrition and WASH, representing 41 percent of program spending (chart 22). Investment in this area focused on improving access to healthcare and nutritional services, while helping to prevent waterborne diseases for children, pregnant women, lactating mothers and other vulnerable people. Through these investments, more than 570,260 children, pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls gained access to primary level healthcare, nutrition services and clean, safe drinking water. This was achieved with an investment of $16.40 per beneficiary.

Education was the second largest investment in FY26, focused on increasing access to quality and inclusive education and skills development. Through these investments, more than 861,640 children, young women, and men gained increased access to preschool and primary education, as well as vocational and life management skills development. This was achieved at an investment of $10.42 per beneficiary.

Child protection programs represented 7.4 percent of program spending in FY26 and directly benefited over 305,895 children, youth and women. These programs were highly cost-effective, requiring

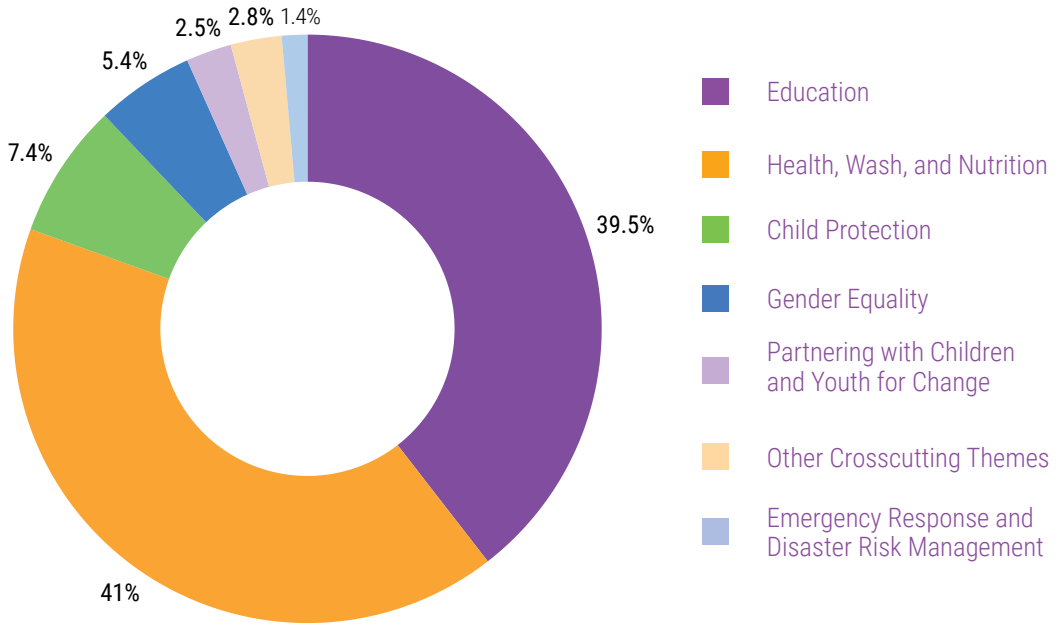
* Children Believe supported WeWorld to implement a cluster of humanitarian response interventions in Ukraine with a small emergency grant.

an investment of just $5.50 per beneficiary. Through these investments, we strengthened child protection systems within communities, provided psychosocial support, and helped ensure access to birth certificates, improving the lives of children and families in the communities we serve.

Gender equality initiatives accounted for 5.4 percent of total program spending in FY26, reaching 471,248 young women and mothers at an investment of $2.60 per beneficiary. These investments helped strengthen leadership skills, increase participation in societal decision-making, and amplify the voices of women and girls. By creating opportunities for engagement and advocacy, these programs supported more inclusive, community-driven development that reflects the specific needs of women and girls.

Employment and livelihoods initiatives accounted for about three percent of program spending in FY26, directly benefiting 105,096 youth, particularly unemployed youth and economically vulnerable young women. At an investment of $5.36 per beneficiary, these programs provided skills training aligned with labour market demands, with a strong emphasis on technology, entrepreneurship and green jobs.

CHART 22: Spending by Program Thematic Focus/Pathways of Change - FY26



Source: Children Believe - Global Annual Data Report, (as of March 31, 2026)

VII LOOKING FORWARD

Looking ahead, Children Believe is entering FY27 with a renewed focus on impact, innovation and sustainable growth. As we navigate a period of leadership transition and program consolidation, we remain committed to working alongside communities to strengthen locally-led development and expand opportunities for children and young people. Guided by evidence, and powered by principled partnership, we will continue advancing meaningful and lasting change.

During the next fiscal year, we will focus on implementing the following priority areas:

- We will support all Country Offices in reflecting on and responding to emerging global trends and local contexts. This process of reflective and adaptive planning will strengthen each country's capacity to achieve measurable and meaningful outcomes for children while proactively addressing both emerging risks and opportunities.
- We will support the implementation of 'graduation' plans that help communities build resilience, strengthen local ownership, and sustain the progress achieved through core program initiatives over the long term.
- We will strengthen our humanitarian capacity by integrating emergency response, long-term development and community-based peace building. As fragility and uncertainty continue to grow in several of our operating contexts, we will invest in rapid response systems, conflict-sensitive approaches, and stronger protection mechanisms for girls and boys.
- We will enhance implementation of the CHANGE Project as it enters its fourth year. Building on lessons learned in Ethiopia and Ghana, we will continue to advance nutrition, gender equality, and positive cultural transformation through financially sound, conflict-sensitive practices.
- We will build on new phases of partnership with ChorogUsan for Children and the Taiwan Fund for Children and Families (TFCF) to expand access to quality, inclusive early childhood education in Ghana and Paraguay. These valued partnerships remain central in extending our global reach and strengthening our collective impact.
- To amplify our influence and diversify institutional funding, we will refresh and develop clear and accessible program materials that articulate the strengths of our unique programming models. These knowledge products, ranging from evidence briefs to impact-focused donor materials, will strengthen our visibility with donors, governments and global partners.
- We will continue to diversify and grow our institutional grant opportunities, including gifts-in-kind, across all countries to strengthen and sustain our revenue base.
- We will collaborate with Canadian civil society networks, including Cooperation Canada/ Humanitarian Response Network, CIEPWG, and CanWaCH, to advance education, health and the rights and well-being of women and children worldwide.

In FY27, Children Believe will focus on sharpening program priorities, strengthening partnerships, diversifying revenue streams and deepening our impact. With the dedication of our teams, the trust of our donors, and the commitment of our local partners, we will continue to work alongside communities to advance sustainable change and create opportunities for children and young people to shape their own futures.

VIII APPENDICES



Children participating in a Children Believe-supported program in India. 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)
	CADI - Charity in Action for Holistic Development (formerly 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)
	ASSOCIATION TIE (Guiriko Region)
	Association SALAKI (Bankui Region)
	Catholic Organization for Development and Solidarity (OCADES-Banfora) and (Tannounyan Region)
	Association ASAF (Nakambe Region)
Ethiopia	Bole Bible Baptist Church Child Care and Community Development (BBBC)
	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 (SEA)
India	Child Rights Advocacy Foundation (CRAF)
	Integrated Rural Community Development Society (IRCDS)
	Rural Organization for Poverty Eradication Services (ROPES)
	Social Activities for Rural Development Society (SARDS)
Mali	The Gentle Land of Africa / in French « Terre Douce d'Afrique » (TDA)
Nicaragua	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
	FortaleSer – Spanish for a name that means Strengthen but also plays with words of Fortitude (Fortalecer) and Being (Ser)

ANNEX III: Key Program Result Indicators by Countries of Operation, FY26*

EDUCATION	BFA	ETH	GHA	IND	NIC	PAR	Total
# of educational facilities, classrooms, and child-friendly spaces built/restored	1	6	5	3	-	30	45
Built	1	3	5	-	-	-	9
Renovated / Restored	-	3	-	3	-	30	36
# of children receiving educational materials	235	9,865	345	500	4,237	13,621	28,803
0 to 5	-	1,349	-	92	567	2,457	4,465
6 to 14	205	6,123	295	408	2,670	9,357	19,058
15 to 24	30	2,393	50	-	1,000	1,807	5,280
# of schools who receive teaching aid materials/ supplies (books, chalks, charts, maps, audio/video aids, flipcharts)	18	66	1	-	48	56	189
ECCD/E schools	-	41	1	-	27	43	112
Primary schools	-	-	-	-	29	42	71
Secondary schools	-	25	-	-	2	3	30
# of schools received fixed assets (furniture, computers, white /black boards, shelves,)	18	79	8	57	-	11	173
ECCD/E schools	9	23	5	-	-	11	48
Primary schools	9	56	2	6	-	11	84
Secondary schools	-	-	1	51	-	-	52
# of teachers trained in inclusive education and appropriate teaching methodologies, including LTP, and ECD	-	1,305	125	186	370	546	2,532
Male	-	648	76	18	48	143	933
female	-	657	49	168	322	403	1,599
# of children and youth participated in extra/co-curricular activities	206	2,751	2,146	3,848	1,070	11,800	21,821
6 to 14	111	1,718	1,744	1,024	1,055	11,028	16,680
15 to 24	95	1,033	402	2,824	15	772	5,141
# of parents/community members trained in inclusive education and ECCD /E, better parenting, and the importance of education	1,546	570	358	288	193	481	3,436
Male	189	283	103	144	13	96	828
female	1,357	287	255	144	180	385	2,608
# of youth/women trained in market-focused inclusive technical or vocational training for self/employment or IGA	-	210	31	1,783	300	590	2,914
Male	-	47	18	111	71	106	353
female	-	163	13	1,672	229	484	2,561

* The current MELKS system and CBsoft is fully operational in the six country offices. Honduras and Mali are not yet fully incorporated as they pursue different operational modality using small project grants.

# of parents/community members trained on systemic barriers to education	250	7,160	572	1,821	-	180	9,983
Male	-	1,260	69	683	-	40	2,052
female	250	5,900	503	1,138	-	140	7,931
# of parents/community members, trained to advocate with government and other relevant actors for appropriate educational services for children/youth	-	615	65	3,422	-	82	4,184
Male	-	10	30	1,199	-	18	1,257
female	-	605	35	2,223	-	64	2,927
HEALTH, NUTRITION AND WASH	**BFA**	**ETH**	**GHA**	**IND**	**NIC**	**PAR**	**Total**
# of children/community members received nutritional support (food or supplements)	854	1,576	-	2,042	2,424	2,870	9,766
0 to 5	854	484	-	1,410	220	295	3,263
6 to 14	-	821	-	381	1,375	1,142	3,719
15 to 24	-	176	-	251	825	599	1,851
25 and above	-	95	-	-	4	834	933
# of children and parents who participated in healthy eating habits (nutrition) training	1,198	565	26,901	1,244	2,656	170	32,734
6 to 14	701	25	6,835	899	-	100	8,560
15 to 24	-	160	12,202	184	58	20	12,624
25 and above	497	380	7,864	161	2,598	50	11,550
# of people trained on ANC/NC services	497	360	-	302	30	32	1,221
Male	-	91	-	15	-	2	108
female	497	269	-	287	30	30	1,113
# of children trained and practicing in producing vegetables and fruits for consumption or business	-	215	-	1,578	32	200	2,025
Male	-	50	-	267	5	80	402
female	-	165	-	1,311	27	120	1,623
# of mother clubs established to support health, nutrition, breastfeeding and other practices	9	410	20	199	-	-	638
# of people including adolescents that received reproductive health or HIV/AIDS counselling or training	1,043	493	17,202	1,532	900	1,601	22,771
male	145	70	8,185	576	365	693	10,034
female	898	423	9,017	956	535	908	12,737
# of children receiving annual health care assessment, including growth monitoring	127	1,745	1,828	10,333	5,200	4,926	24,159
0 to 5	34	884	863	6,609	1,332	380	10,102
6 to 14	50	640	3	3,087	2,849	4,029	10,658
15 to 24	43	221	962	637	1,019	517	3,399

# of community members including children, school teachers trained on sanitation, water use and hygiene	-	6,640	300	7,215	2,517	-	16,672
0 to 5	-	800	250	-	971	-	2,021
6 to 14	-	1,026	-	2,514	644	-	4,184
15 to 24	-	2,264	50	2,124	416	-	4,854
25 and above	-	2,550	-	2,577	486	-	5,613
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	12	1,176	123	591	2,406	622	4,930
male	-	268	86	205	1,070	139	1,768
female	12	908	37	386	1,336	483	3,162
# of community members trained on climate change mitigation, DRR and EPP including children during emergency	-	1,088	15,142	4,101	7,103	334	27,768
male	-	740	7,487	1,282	2,590	117	12,216
female	-	348	7,655	2,819	4,513	217	15,552
# Parents or caregivers trained in positive parenting and discipline	500	1,500	100,050	566	1,210	560	104,386
male	-	1,500	48,024	280	353	40	50,197
female	500	-	52,026	286	857	520	54,189
# of community-based groups or committees established and actively providing services for children and women to address abuse, exploitation, trafficking, early marriage or FGM	20	499	-	28,524	12	-	29,055
# of participants trained on harmful traditional practices including, early pregnancy, early marriage or FGM in schools	-	290	-	5,784	-	-	6,074
6 to 14	-	100	-	1,992	-	-	2,092
15 to 24	-	65	-	2,547	-	-	2,612
25 and above	-	125	-	1,245	-	-	1,370
# of youth groups formed for after school activities or promote their active /meaningful participation in decision that concern them	5	-	33	170	105	31	344

# of Children involved in youth groups or clubs for after school activities or promote their participation in decision that concern them	156	8	900	8,073	8,269	635	18,041
6 to 14	68	8	220	5,160	7,730	546	13,732
15 to 24	88	-	680	2,913	539	89	4,309
# of joint sessions/workshops conducted between adults and children to understand and solve current issues related to children	4	-	4	75	72	52	207
# of participants on joint sessions/ workshops conducted between adults and children to understand and solve current issues related to children	474	90	839	3,140	1,432	3,640	9,615
6 to 14	122	16	105	2,012	910	2,443	5,608
15 to 24	316	24	370	898	432	709	2,749
25 and above	36	50	364	230	90	488	1,258
GENDER EQUALITY	**BFA**	**ETH**	**GHA**	**IND**	**NIC**	**PAR**	**Total**
# of community members trained about gender and gender-based violence	-	73	87	11,202	1,666	5,995	19,023
male	-	45	45	1,053	828	3,093	5,064
female	-	28	42	10,149	838	2,902	13,959
# of people trained on women's decision making, civic participation and leadership at school, community or national level	221	325	2,969	3,897	537	-	7,949
male	94	65	1,713	1,193	-	-	3,065
female	127	260	1,256	2,704	537	-	4,884
YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY AND WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	**BFA**	**ETH**	**GHA**	**IND**	**NIC**	**PAR**	**Total**
# of children trained in life skills and resilience to protect themselves	91	118	36	7,092	248	39	7,624
6 to 14	50	55	0	3,578	242	32	3,957
15 to 24	41	63	36	3,514	6	7	3,667
# of linkages created for equal employment opportunities or financial assistance	91	25	9	179	1	-	305
# of women referred for employment or other business start-up opportunities using an existing linkage schemes	243	5	5	757	100	-	1,110

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

Children Believe works alongside communities through local partners, empowering them to remove the obstacles that get in the way of children going to, staying in, and finishing school, so nothing stands in the way of their futures. Community by community, Children Believe is working towards a better future for children, full of choices. Poverty is complex, that's true, but helping isn't.

For over 65 years, we've brought together: Children and families, local partners and communities, and supporters around the world. We work in 1,025+ communities, 8 countries, through 32 local partners. Children Believe is a proud member of the ChildFund Alliance — a global network of 11 child-focused organizations working in over 70 countries.

Together, we support over 36 million children and their families to overcome poverty, end violence against children and improve conditions for children to thrive.

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