World Childhood Foundation

ACTIVITY REPORT 2016
This is Childhood

Childhood is a children’s rights organization with a big impact on a burning issue — every child's right to a childhood free from violence and sexual abuse.

World Childhood Foundation promotes the right of every child to a safe and loving childhood, free from violence and sexual abuse. Children are exposed to violence and sexual exploitation in all cultures, in all countries and in all classes of society. However, certain factors mean that some children are more vulnerable than others and, therefore, our efforts focus on those children most at risk of violence and abuse, such as:

- children who live in families where the parents are unable to keep their children safe,
- children who are unable to live with their parents,
- children who have already been exposed to violence and abuse in some form and who run a higher risk of being victimized again, and
- children who live on the street.

Childhood wants to give these children the possibility of growing up to become strong, secure and responsible people. Our objective is to ensure that no children find themselves in a violent and risky living environment, and for all children to have a safe childhood.

How Childhood works

In a world where so many children live under terrible circumstances, one can easily get discouraged. But at Childhood, we are hopeful, because we know what a big difference even small actions can make. We also know that it is easier to empower children than it is to mend broken adults. We focus on prevention since it generates the greatest long-term effect. Childhood’s work focuses on ensuring that children are not sexually abused and exploited, and instead enjoy a safe childhood.

Childhood initiates and supports different types of interventions to address and prevent child abuse and exploitation:

Project support forms the basis of what Childhood does. This means acting as an incubator for local initiatives to prevent and address abuse and exploitation of children. The projects we support are run by local organizations in 16 different countries. The project organizations remain in place for the long term and have the best knowledge and understanding of the problems in the region.

The experience gained through direct project support, gives Childhood the opportunity and a moral obligation to share and spread the lessons learned. This can be achieved by targeting people who come into contact with the child at risk and by positively influencing their behavior, for example, through communication and educational initiatives by Childhood as well as together with or through partners.

The expertise gained should also be shared to influence policy at various levels, be it corporate, local, national or international. Such advocacy can be conducted by Childhood directly or by our partners whose voice we support.

Our focus areas

Childhood has four separate focus areas. We have selected these based on the areas where children are particularly vulnerable, where our efforts are most needed and where we as an organization can make the greatest difference:

- A protective family environment,
- child safe traveling and tourism,
- child safety online, and
- child friendly social and legal response.

Read more about how we work at childhood.org

Facts about Childhood

Childhood acts to prevent violence and sexual abuse of children. We were founded in 1999 by H. M. Queen Silvia of Sweden.

Childhood’s efforts are based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the organization has no religious or political affiliation.

Childhood has offices in Sweden, Brazil, Germany and the US. The Secretary General is based in Sweden.
One year — together for children

One year with Childhood entailed both major challenges and rewarding successes. Whether celebrating success or tackling challenges, we work together with our partners. If you are reading this, you are probably one of them. This is because it is through partnerships that we create sustainable change.

So when I reflect on 2016, what stands out for me are the many memories of extraordinary meetings with people. These people have one thing in common - they make this a better world for children. These are people who invest their energy, care and faith to provide children with security and love, and to prevent violence and abuse. They are positive forces, we call them pioneers, and they form the cornerstone of our work. We believe that all positive change stems from people who are close to the children.

When I look back on 2016, I can see a colorful band of these Childhood pioneers, who I have been privileged to meet and work with during the year:

- **Paul**, the inspiring business leader who spoke at Childhood’s UN summit on how he had made the protection of children part of the company’s DNA. All employees and guests at his hotels receive information on how to prevent children becoming exposed to sexual abuse.

- **Mother of eight, Ellen**, who exudes vivacity and warmth, showed me her tiny shack in Lavender Hill where she offers a safe and loving refuge for children in crisis who have been exposed to violence. Lavender Hill is a township outside of Cape Town with high crime rates and where the police and social services seldom venture.

- **Sooi in Stockholm**, who meets and builds up trust to be able to help unaccompanied refugee boys from North Africa. The boys live in extremely high-risk environments and often flee from adult contact. In collaboration with Childhood, the Police and other agencies, Sooi forms a link between the boys and society.

- **And last but not least, our founder, H. M. Queen Silvia of Sweden**, who once again champions the children, even when it comes to raising distressing issues. “You cannot change something unless you are prepared to talk about it,” she said in an important interview last year.

At Childhood, we are often asked whether it is dispiriting to work with such difficult issues as violence and abuse directed at children. My answer is always the same. It’s actually quite the opposite — it inspires hope and can be heartwarming. We are not alone in seeing the problems, violence and abuse directed at children is often far more visible than the solutions. But at Childhood,
South Africa, Cambodia, Nepal, Ukraine are the countries where Childhood has been most active in supporting projects in 2016.

South Africa has one of the highest reported levels of child sexual abuse of any country in the world. Childhood’s project partners in South Africa work using a long-term and preventive approach on these issues, for example, by providing practical and emotional support to parents in vulnerable situations to enable them to provide their children with a safe start in life — free from violence and abuse. We also help children who have already been subjected to abuse: By providing counselling and support to children and parents, they are given the opportunity to process what has happened. For example, parents receive help to ensure the children are protected from any more abuse, and children who are going to testify are given preparatory support and information. This enables them to give reliable testimony, which increases the likelihood of justice being served.

In Cambodia and Nepal, Childhood focuses on providing vulnerable families with support. Many poor families live on the street or risk finding themselves living there, and there is considerable risk of children being exposed to violence and sexual
exploitation. Our project partners work with helping these families support themselves. This means that the children can go to school and the risk of exploitation decreases.

One major problem in Nepal and Cambodia is also that children are taken into care and placed in orphanages even though the parents are alive. The reason cited is most often poverty: Put simply, the parents cannot afford to allow the children to go to school. Childhood’s support means these families do not need to choose between their children’s schooling and food, or allowing them to stay at home, they can afford both.

Ukraine continues to suffer greatly due to the conflict with Russia. Childhood’s partner in Ukraine works with children and families that have fled the fighting in East Ukraine and often lost everything they owned. We also work with Romani families and their children — preschool and school support provides Romani children with opportunities for a brighter future, a future where they do not need to beg to make a living.

In Sweden, we support projects that complement the efforts of the responsible government agencies. Particular focus is given to identifying and supporting groups of children and young people who, for various reasons, have fallen between the cracks and are not receiving the help they are entitled to. Several projects also relate to refugee children and their experiences of abuse, trauma and separation. In spring 2017, we gave our support to two book projects: one covering the work with traumatized children and the other about children’s right to determine over their own bodies.

In Brazil, Childhood acts proactively to engage the private sector in shouldering its responsibility to prevent the sexual exploitation of children. Efforts focus on the tourism, construction and transportation industries, where the commercial sexual exploitation of children has been relatively widespread, but where companies are now adopting a stance to protect children. Childhood Brazil also promotes the introduction of the Children’s Advocacy Centers model and that children who are the victims of violence and sexual abuse should be questioned by officers specially trained to conduct interviews with children.

In Germany, just as in Sweden, we support projects that complement the efforts of the responsible government agencies. Childhood supports 13 projects in Germany, half of which support traumatized children and adolescent refugees as well as provide support to recently arrived parents. Childhood also works in Germany with information aimed at preventing the sexual abuse of children and young people as well as support for particularly vulnerable target groups.

Germany’s first “Children’s Advancement House” is in the process of being established with support from Childhood Germany.

Childhood USA collaborates with a number of Children’s Advocacy Centers to strengthen their youth programs and preventative efforts. Several projects endeavor to strengthen particularly vulnerable children and young people and their networks. Childhood USA is also accredited with the UN and organizes annual high-level meetings at the UN aimed at mobilizing more organizations and companies to shoulder their responsibility for preventing sexual abuse, not least through the use of new technology.
In Ukraine, when a parent unexpectedly dies or enters treatment for addiction, or when a child is abandoned at a birthing center, the standard solution has been to place the child in institutional care. But when a child is most in need of feeling safe and secure, the last thing the child needs is to be placed in a faceless orphanage.

Childhood’s project partner in Ukraine, Partnership for Every Child, has with our support developed a pilot project for the emergency placement of children within families, while their parents are being assessed by the social services and a long-term placement decision is being taken.

In February 2016, the Ukraine parliament adopted a new law governing emergency short-term placements within families based on experience gained through the project. The new law means that the work will continue with public funding and the model is being expanded across Ukraine.
Supporting mothers and children rescued from trafficking

Nepal is one of the South Asian countries where trafficking is most commonplace. Moreover, the trafficking of girls and women from Nepal to work in brothels in India is probably the most extensive slave trafficking of its type worldwide. With Childhood’s support, the Asha Nepal organization in Kathmandu has developed a long-term help program for children and mothers rescued from trafficking and who return to Nepal, often highly traumatized. Asha Nepal supports them by providing education, job-training, therapy, employment and school for the children as well as by reuniting families. While many other organizations working with trafficking survivors in Nepal only offer the mothers and children separate places at institutions — entailing great risk that the family will permanently disintegrate — Asha Nepal applies another approach: The children and their mothers are kept together. Asha Nepal also works actively with friends and family, who often treat trafficking survivors very poorly when they return to their village. Our Project Manager Joel Borgström relates a meeting with a family supported by Asha Nepal below.

Kathmandu, Dhapasi Heights

In a small apartment furnished with one bed, a hot plate in the corner, a colorful throw and walls dressed with posters of pop stars and actors, we find three sisters (aged 14, 16 and 18) sitting on the bed, shyly talking about their schooling, work training and future dreams. They are laughing cautiously and are clearly happy to be able to be together.

But they are laden with a burdensome past that started when their father died and the family was split. One of their father’s friends looked after the two eldest daughters and forced them to work as prostitutes in southern Nepal and India. Every three months, they were moved to a new location. The mother was in Kathmandu working for a family as a cleaner, and the brother and the youngest sister were placed in an orphanage.

In the end, the sisters were able to raise the alarm and be rescued. They ended up in temporary accommodation in Kathmandu and received support with processing their traumas. But instead of remaining at this accommodation or being placed in an orphanage, with Asha Nepal’s support, they were able to find their own apartment where they can live together. The eldest sister has learnt to sew, the middle sister wants to work in an office and the youngest dreams of becoming a nurse. The now regularly meet their mother and little brother, and dream of living together in the future. When I visited them, they proudly showed me their little store: Sister’s Stitch. They earn their own money and Asha only needs to provide limited support with occasional follow-up.

Joel Borgström
Children who are the victims of sexual abuse are often passed around between various hospitals, the police and social services. Very often, they find themselves having to repeat their stories multiple times — a deeply upsetting experience for an already traumatized child. A Children’s Advocacy Center is somewhere where the child can instead receive support, protection and treatment at one single location, and where the process is tailored to their needs, not those of adults. With the support of Childhood Germany, Leipzig is now opening its first center, named “Childhood Haus”.

Together with the Clinic for Children and Adolescents at the Leipzig University Hospital (Klinik und Poliklinik für Kinder- und Jugendmedizin am Universitätsklinikum Leipzig), Childhood Germany will break ground on Germany’s first Children’s Advocacy Center (Childhood Haus) in 2018. The project application was announced at a congress held in Leipzig in October 2016, which was attended by Childhood’s founder H. M. Queen Silvia of Sweden.

“As in many other places around the world, in Germany, children who are the suspected victims of sexual abuse meet a judicial system that is not adapted to their needs. The aim of our Childhood Haus is to improve their situation and avoid them suffering further trauma,” says Andrea Möhringer, who heads up Childhood’s German operations. “The focus is on the child feeling as comfortable as possible in a sensitive situation, and on not exposing the child to any unnecessary pressure.”

Childhood Haus in Leipzig is a pilot project and the plan is to establish more of its kind in Germany over the next few years.

What is a Children’s Advocacy Center

• The center is open to children who have been harmed, who have been the victims of crimes such as violence or sexual abuse and for whom an investigation will be conducted. Many different groups of professionals and government agencies will become involved and the Children’s Advocacy Center exists to ensure the child is not passed between the different agencies and to reduce the risk of the child falling between the cracks.

• The house itself is designed to make the child feel welcome. The interior is well-thought-out, and uses colors and furniture that generate harmony.

• At the Children’s Advocacy Center, the police investigators work together with the prosecutor, social services, child and adolescent psychiatrists, and child health and medical care/forensic medicine services under one and the same roof. By gathering everyone in one place to listen to the child at the same time, misunderstanding between agencies can be avoided. Every individual who meets the children is specially trained for that purpose.

• Childhood provided financial support for founding the first Children’s Advocacy Center in Sweden and is working with projects based on this model in Brazil, South Africa, Germany, Poland, Moldova, the Republic of Belarus and the US.

“The aim of our Childhood Haus is to improve their situation and avoid them suffering further trauma”

– Andrea Möhringer, Childhood Germany
Barnrättsbyrån and Skåne stadsmission provide practical and legal support when refugee children fall between the cracks of government agencies. With support from Childhood, the Swedish Refugee Advice Centre has strengthened its expertise regarding children, young people and trauma. Many refugee children have been separated from their parents. They have been subjected to violence and bear traumatic experiences within them. Following a difficult journey to Sweden, when they do finally arrive here, they often live in uncertainty. For these reasons, there is a substantial need for knowledge and understanding on treating trauma. Childhood has therefore given funding toward a practical manual for providing support to traumatized children.

Childhood supports grassroots organizations that work with immigrants, thereby building a bridge to mainstream society. One example is ASOV, which works with children and young people of African origin in southern Stockholm. The young people organize meetings with other young people to discuss sex and relationships, norms, setting boundaries, domestic violence, etc.

In March 2016, a government inquiry presented its report on making the Convention on the Rights of the Child part of Swedish law. This report mentions Barnrättsbyrån as a practical role model for working with children’s rights and recommends its expansion to cover all of Sweden. In February 2017, Barnrättsbyrån expanded its operations and opened an office in Umeå.
PROJECT TRAVEL COURAGE

Report what you saw: Childhood and Travel Courage

Each year, hundreds of thousands of children are subjected to sexual exploitation in connection with travel and tourism. Only one in ten Swedes knows what to do when on holiday if one sees or suspects that a child is being abused, and that Swedish citizens who commit such offences abroad can be tried and punished in Sweden.

Therefore, Childhood in partnership with the County Administrative Board and the Swedish Police initiated the Resekurage (Travel Courage) campaign in 2014. The campaign was reactivated ahead of the Christmas holidays in 2016. Famous Swedes, such as Maria Montazami, Elaine Eksvärd, Christer Fuglesang and Tommy Myllimäki were recruited as ambassadors for Resekurage and spread the message about civil courage when travelling through their social media channels. We will continue this important work in 2017, the year designated by the UN as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.
Mamelani is a small organization in Cape Town that helps young people moving out of an orphanage and who need help with the transition to an independent adult life. With the help of Childhood, Mamelani has developed a step-by-step model to help these young people to build their own social networks and develop an inner security that readies them for independence. Mamelani’s guidelines have been spread to other orphanages in the province and the organization has also achieved a change in the national legislation on issues regarding children: Clearer requirements are now placed on institutions to develop separate programs for children and young people covering the transitional periods for young people leaving care. Results: Fewer young people end up on the streets, suffering from addiction or become involved in crime, and more are able to continue their studies, get jobs and have positive relationships.
September 17, 2016 was a memorable day for Childhood USA. We convened a groundbreaking high-level meeting at the United Nations to discuss local and global efforts to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for children by 2030.

The same day, Childhood USA also launched the first of its kind mobile app for child protection and held the annual Childhood ThankYou Gala bestowing ThankYou awards on extraordinary leaders who have through their work demonstrated their long-standing commitment to children.

These awardees in 2016 were Paul Polman, CEO of Unilever, Forest Whitaker, Actor and Founder, Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative and Maestro Andrea Bocelli, Founder of Andrea Bocelli Foundation.

Solutions to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Children high-level meeting at the UN, was hosted in partnership with the Swedish and Italian Missions to the UN and the Andrea Bocelli Foundation. It illustrated how partnerships and concerted actions can unify in the fight against violence, abuse and exploitation of children. The meeting also stressed the importance of inter-dependence of the SDGs and the integrated, holistic approach for the wellbeing of children, and discussed how the UN system, governments, civil society, academia, and multi-stakeholder partnerships can use the SDGs framework to make their actions more effective.

“The Millennium Development Goals demonstrated that when we set time bound specific goals and invest in their achievement, every year, millions of children could be saved from dying of preventable causes. We now need global leadership and collective action to protect children from all forms of violence, so that they can also thrive. Child sexual abuse is a public health crisis facing millions of children. With the Sustainable Development

“Children are one third of the global population. It is only by investing in their wellbeing, education and protection that will ensure we generate the best returns for society at large and a more peaceful and sustainable future.”

– H.R.H. Princess Madeleine of Sweden
Goals, world leaders cannot longer close their eyes to violence against children. Our partnership with Ericsson and Darkness to Light illustrates how public private sector partnerships create new solutions that can help to keep children safe,” said Dr. Joanna Rubinstein, President and CEO of Childhood USA.

The diverse group of speakers included UN and government officials, corporate and civil society leaders and experts, as well as champions of children’s rights, Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi, actor/activist Forest Whitaker, Maestro Andrea Bocelli and Childhood’s own H.R.H. Princess Madeleine and Dr. Joanna Rubinstein.

A moving performance by the “Voices of Haiti” Children’s Choir opened the high-level meeting that was moderated by the CNN anchor Robyn Curnow. Other noteworthy speakers included: Irina Bokova, Director General, UNESCO; late Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin of UNFPA; Ahmad Alhendawi, UN Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth, Dr. Susan Bissell, Director, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children; Father Rick Frechette, St. Luke Foundation for Haiti; Dr. Lyndon Haviland, CEO (check title in the program), Darkness To Light; Olov Kjorven, Director of Public Partnerships, UNICEF; Kees Kruythoff, CEO, Unilever North America; Dr. James F. Leckman, of Yale University; Jeffrey D. Sachs, SDG Advocate of the UN Secretary General; Mats Pellbäck Scharp, Ericsson, and Paul Sistare, Chairman, Atlantica Hotels International, Brazil.

The 2016 Childhood ThankYou Gala recognized the work of our grantees and of champions of children’s rights.

The Stewards of Children (SOC) Prevention Toolkit mobile app was launched the same day and is a direct response to H.M. Queen Silvia’s challenge posed to the CEO of Ericsson, at the Childhood led meeting at the UN in 2015. Developed in partnership with Darkness to Light, a US-based NGO that has trained 1.3 million adults on the prevention of child sexual abuse, Childhood USA and Ericsson, the app is part of Childhood USA’s #EyesWideOpen advocacy campaign and provides the users with tools to learn:

- Facts about the sexual abuse of children (symptoms, statistics, etc.)
- How to minimize the risks of sexual abuse
- How to check the safety of institutions entrusted with the care of children
- How to talk to and educate children
- How to report sexual abuse and seek help when a disclosure has been made

www.socapp.org

Did you know 1 in 10 children experience sexual violence?

Every child deserves a happy and safe childhood. Download the app to end child sexual abuse.

Stewards of Children Prevention Toolkit app available to download at:

www.socapp.org
The tourism industry is booming. Today, travel to distant countries is cheaper and easier than ever before. The world has become smaller and we can now visit places that would have been unthinkable destinations only one generation earlier. Travel has more than doubled over the last 20 years and, in line with this, the number of children who become exposed to abuse in connection with travel and tourism has also dramatically increased. Many indications point to risks increasing of children being exposed to abuse and exploitation in conjunction with major international sporting events.

However, it is not just the stream of foreign tourists coming to sporting events that can lead to children becoming more exposed; the efforts entailed in organizing the actual event can also result in increased risk for the host country. Childhood Brazil has helped to promote a study on this issue in Brazil, Brunel University’s Child Exploitation and the FIFA World Cup: A review of risks and protective interventions. The report is the first international study conducted on the subject and lists a number of factors that lead to increased risk for children in the host countries (see fact box).

With two such major sporting events as the 2014 FIFA World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games on its home turf, over the last few years, Childhood Brazil has worked intensively with increasing child protection before, during and following major sporting events. These efforts intensified ahead of the Olympic Games in Rio, when the Rio 2016 Organizing Committee invited civil society organizations to look at putting on a more sustainable Games by adding child rights protection to the Games’ sustainability management plan.

A partnership was established when the Organizing Committee invited Childhood Brazil to coordinate efforts with organizing the various national bodies that work to prevent and fight violence and against children. Childhood Brazil together with Childhood’s founder H. M. Queen Silvia of Sweden presented a proposal to the IOC’s President Thomas Bach at the Rio Olympic Games in August 2016, which included guidelines for the protection of children to be applied for future major sporting events. Experience and recommendations to key stakeholders were addressed in a report submitted to the IOC in May 2017.

“We believe that child protection should be an essential part of the organization of the Olympic Games, or any other major sporting event for that matter, beginning with the selection of the host country. This is the only way of guaranteeing the development and implementation of effective actions to reduce child rights violations. To put it simply, protecting children should be part of the Olympic spirit,” says Ana Maria Drumond, Board advisor for Childhood’s operations in Brazil.

Factors that can lead to increased risk for children in the host countries of major sporting events:

- Accelerated pace of construction with the arrival of large numbers of men who have been separated from their families, which may result in sexual exploitation;
- High demand for temporary jobs;
- Migration of male workers to infrastructure projects such as construction, renovations, and expansions;
- Displacement of children from their homes to temporary and previously unknown locations;
- Extension of school holidays or suspension of school days — due to the sporting event — where children are unsupervised or have no set schedule;
- Forcing children into illegal activities, such as selling drugs and theft;
- High levels of sexual and physical abuse due to an increased number of festive activities; and
- Negative effects on children’s physical and mental health caused by communicable diseases if abused or forced to use drugs.