



**Save the Children**



## **SAVE THE CHILDREN SOUTH AFRICA**

**Strategy 2025 – 2027**

*Until every child can be a child*

## Who We Are

SCSA was established in 2013 as a locally registered and locally governed child rights organisation. We are a member of the global Save the Children Association that was established in 1919.

- **Our Vision**

is a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development, and participation.

- **Our Mission**

to contribute positively to the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

- **Our Values**

Creativity, Accountability, Integrity, Collaboration, Ambition, Learning, Passion, and Ubuntu.

We remain committed to meeting our Ambition for Children and working towards meeting the sustainable development goals.

Our ambition: A world where		Our reality: In South Africa
Survive	No child dies from preventable causes before their fifth birthday.	1 in 25 children born in South Africa will not survive to celebrate their 5 <sup>th</sup> birthday <sup>1</sup>
Learn	All children learn from a quality basic education	4 in 5 grade 4 learners cannot read for meaning
Be protected	Violence against children is no longer tolerated.	1 in 3 children has been harmed by a parent or caregiver

We are not on track to meet this ambition.

<sup>1</sup> Child Gauge 2024

## The World We Live In

In 2024, SCSA conducted a child rights situational analysis (CRSA) sourcing information from existing secondary data including selected child indicators as well as internal and partner consultations with children, CSOs and government. The Child Rights Situational Analysis (CRSA) provides an overview of the child rights situation in South Africa. This analysis highlighted the continued and persistent challenges impacting on the children of South Africa as

Unemployment

Poverty

Inequality

Increasingly, the effects of climate change add to that.

The effects of these root issues can be seen in

- persistent high levels of violence against children and increased mental health and psycho-social defects;
- continued and consistent under performance in global education benchmarks related to reading and numeracy outcomes;
- stunting due to chronic malnutrition;
- limited access to services as a result of non documentation and inadequate child rights and governance;
- the effects of teenage pregnancy and a rise in HIV prevalence;
- children not successfully transitioning into meaningful work or training.

Children are telling us that they want to see a world that steps up to these challenges and holds adults, government, business and institutions accountable. They want to be empowered to contribute to the change they want to see in their communities.

Save the Children South Africa must meet this moment.

## SCSA In The Future / 2030+

SCSA's vision for the future is designed to address the realities children face in a changing world.

- **SCSA will generate impact and add value**  
To the child rights ecosystem in South Africa through influencing and community-led programming by 1. Convening purposeful partnership networks with government, CSOs and business to build capacity in child rights and support shared outcomes. 2. Co-creating evidence-based innovations with communities to advance child rights. 3. Advocating for and with children, amplifying their agency to influence resilient childhoods and sustainable futures
- **Our main characteristics will be**  
A locally registered, governed and recognised organisation with global links engaging in equitable partnerships championing child rights in Southern Africa and beyond. SCSA is a key role player in advancing the right of the child on the African continent. Children are actively participating in our governance structures and decision-making.
- **The resources that will sustain our vision are**  
Unrestricted, diverse sources with a focus on funding from individual and corporate supporters that respond to local needs. We have strong public support through elevating impact made in the lives of children in communication efforts.

## Performance Against SCSA 2021 - 2024 Strategy

In 2020, SCSA approved a 4-year strategy focused on five goals and a set of important organisational enablers. Despite a challenging economic context and shifts in the social and political landscape, we are proud of our performance against the strategy. Working with our partners:

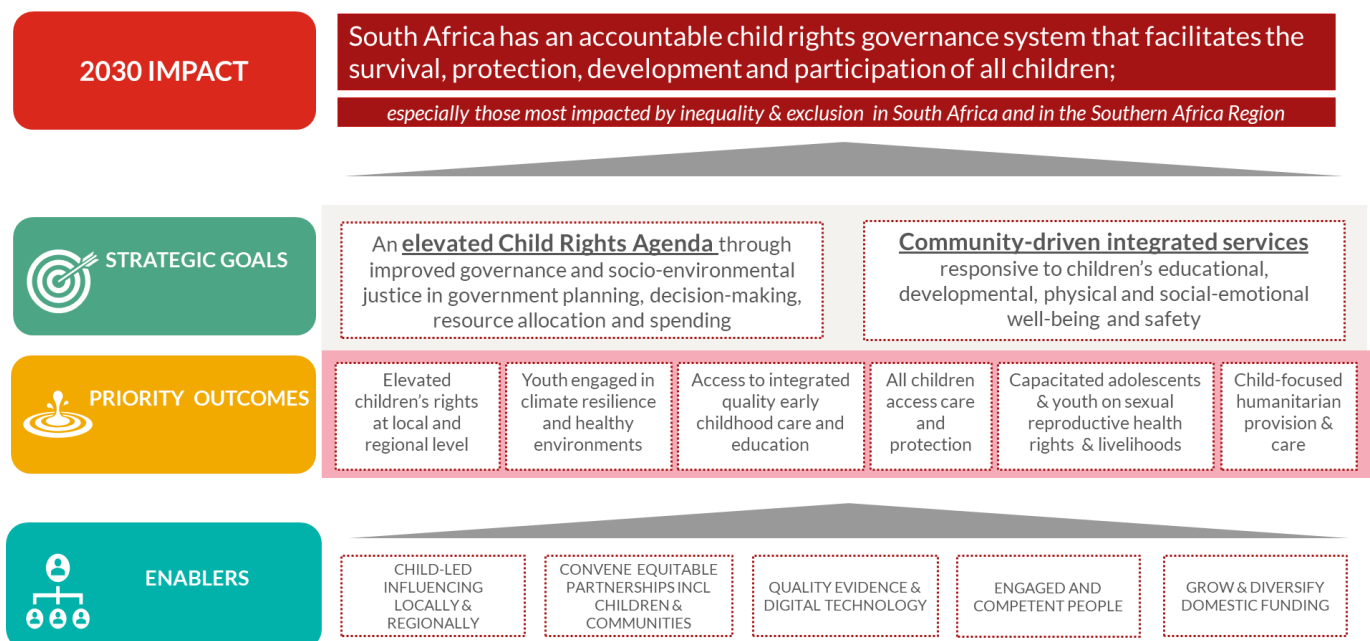
- We reached almost 500,000 people including 300,000 children.
- We successfully influenced system changes to advance children’s rights in education, migration and displacement and child rights governance.
- We scaled up our partnerships at local, national and regional levels, working across 5 provinces and within the SADC community.
- We raised R260million to drive the strategy.

## Strategy 2025- 2027

The Strategic Choices for SCSA for the 3-year period 2025 - 2027 shows how we will focus our efforts and capabilities to achieve results for children. The strategy guides our work in all contexts, including humanitarian and development contexts. It is supported by strategic plans and scorecards for programmes, advocacy and resource mobilisation.

Impact for and with children remains front and centre of our strategy. The strategy embraces our definition of impact, being those changes that are achieved in partnership that realise children’s rights at scale, improve equality and support children’s power.

### Strategy overview



## Our Target Groups

We are committed to protecting, promoting, and **realising the rights of every child** in South Africa and Southern Africa as outlined in global and national frameworks such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) and the Constitution of Republic of South Africa (RSA).

We particularly focus on children impacted by inequality and exclusion.

We strive to ensure that children enjoy the rights and opportunities they deserve, empowering them to lead fulfilling, dignified lives.

## Delivering Against Our Goals

In 2025-27, we will bring our unique child rights approach to deliver on two goals for and with children:

**GOAL 1: An elevated Child Rights Agenda through improved governance, and socio-environmental justice in government planning, decision-making, resource allocation and spending.**

SCSA will focus on the following objectives to reach our goals:

1. Convening stakeholders representing CSO sector, government, communities and children to elevate children's rights at local and regional level
2. Convening children and their communities to influence and lead change for climate resilience and healthy environments, while prioritizing climate justice and addressing economic injustice to secure a sustainable and safe future free of extreme poverty for all children.

**GOAL 2: Facilitate a community-driven integrated service delivery package for vulnerable children and youth that is responsive to their educational, physical and social-emotional well-being and safety.**

SCSA will focus on the following objectives to reach our goals:

3. Increasing access to integrated, quality care and education for disadvantaged children, focusing on early care and learning development and educational outcomes by capacitating educators, practitioners, health care workers and caregivers
4. Convening communities, CSO and government to provide a child protection system that supports appropriate child care and protection from violence for all children in South Africa
5. Implementing interventions to capacitate adolescents and youth with the necessary skills to promote health, socio-emotional well-being and support access to livelihood opportunities closing the inequality gap
6. Providing rapid and sustained response to humanitarian crises by analysing community need in partnership with local civil society organisations and disaster management committees (government led) and designing an integrated response focused on children that addresses protection, safety, education and health needs

**We will systematically use our Theory of Change to achieve impact for and with children towards these goals by:**

- Building partnerships: Collaborate with children, civil society organisations, communities, government and corporates to share knowledge, influence others and build capacity for child rights.
- Being the innovator: Develop and provide evidence-based replicable solutions.
- Being the voice: Advocate and campaign for better practices, laws, policies, budgets, systems and structures to fulfil children's rights and ensure children's voices are heard.
- Achieving results at scale: Support effective implementation of best practices, programs and policies for children, at scale.

## SCSA Value Proposition

SCSA adopts a comprehensive approach to child rights, addressing health, education, protection, and participation. We advocate for integrating children's rights into all levels of policy-making, ensuring decisions prioritize their best interests. Collaborating with governments, CSOs, and activists, SCSA works to achieve sustainable child rights outcomes.

We promote meaningful child participation, empowering children to actively influence decisions affecting their lives. Our community-led initiatives foster inclusive partnerships, addressing inequalities and ensuring solutions are locally driven and sustainable.

SCSA strengthens safeguarding across the child protection sector by providing technical expertise, capacity building, and specialized training. We enhance awareness and embed safeguarding in all child-focused interventions.

Through research and evidence generation, SCSA drives policy reforms and develops innovative, community-tested models, ensuring best practices improve children's well-being at a systemic level.

## Strengthening Our Organisation

We have six strategic enablers for 2025 – 2027 to shift how we deliver outcomes for and with children and strengthen our organisation into the future.

- 1. Child-led influencing locally and regionally:** We will conduct evidence-informed influencing with children at the centre locally and within the region applying integrated and well-resourced advocacy. Children will be at the centre of influencing, empowered to drive change and to form child activist movements. We will mobilise public & private institutions & civil society using data driven evidence and documented outcomes.
- 2. Convene equitable partnerships including children & communities:** We will convene equitable partnerships, and co-create child rights responses in collaboration with children and communities. We will create opportunities to identify, plan and implement child rights responses with children, communities and civil society promoting equitable partnerships. We will co-create child rights responses developed to mainstream an equitable approach, valuing local capacity. We will build child rights capacity through collaboration with children, civil society organisations, communities, governments and the private sector. We will promote local leadership, expertise and actions across all dimensions of localisation.
- 3. Quality evidence and digital technologies:** We will develop quality evidence and use digital technology in improving our effectiveness and efficiency across the organisation. We will improve the quality of evidence we use and generate through relevant partnerships and to positively influence others. We will increase the use of digital technology and use data and artificial intelligence to support more data driven decision making, to automate manual work, and focus on what drives the most impact for children.
- 4. Engaged and competent people:** We will foster an inclusive culture and leadership that promote commitment and accountability. We will attract, retain and develop competent staff to deliver on our mission for children. We will also become a more cost-effective organisation with leaner support structures and ways of working, and where cost ratios and efficiency measures improve consistently.
- 5. Grow & Diversify funding:** We will grow and diversify our funding with a focus on unrestricted and flexible funding through consistent engagement with partners and supporters, using diversified income streams and utilising data driven approaches. We will invest in securing sustainable and impactful funding partnerships and develop good-quality concepts and proposals, aligned to SCSA's vision and strategic goals.

## Measuring The Strategy

We will consistently and systematically track our progress and impact for both accountability, data driven decision-making, evidence-based advocacy, learning and positioning SC SA as an adaptive and change-seeking organization.

In 2025-27, we will track and monitor the results of our work through a set of outcome indicators that move beyond outputs and reach of children and adults. We will work with communities and children to identify the best measures and ways of reporting to understand the issues for children and shifts we want to see in communities. We will focus in on identifying, documenting and sharing stories of impact – both at individual and systems levels.

## Accountability For Delivering On Our Strategy

In delivering this strategy, we are accountable to:

- Children and communities
- Our partners including civil society
- Government
- Our donors
- Our staff

The SCSA Board including the Children's Advisory Board plays an important role in upholding this accountability. We will deliver quarterly reports to the Board on our progress in delivering on the strategy and the steps we are taking to ensure we stay on track to meet our goals.

We will continue to publicly share updates on progress towards our strategy through our Annual Integrated Report. We continue to look at ways to further strengthen our transparency and accountability when it comes to our strategy performance, with a focus on supporting ways for children and their communities to hold us to account.