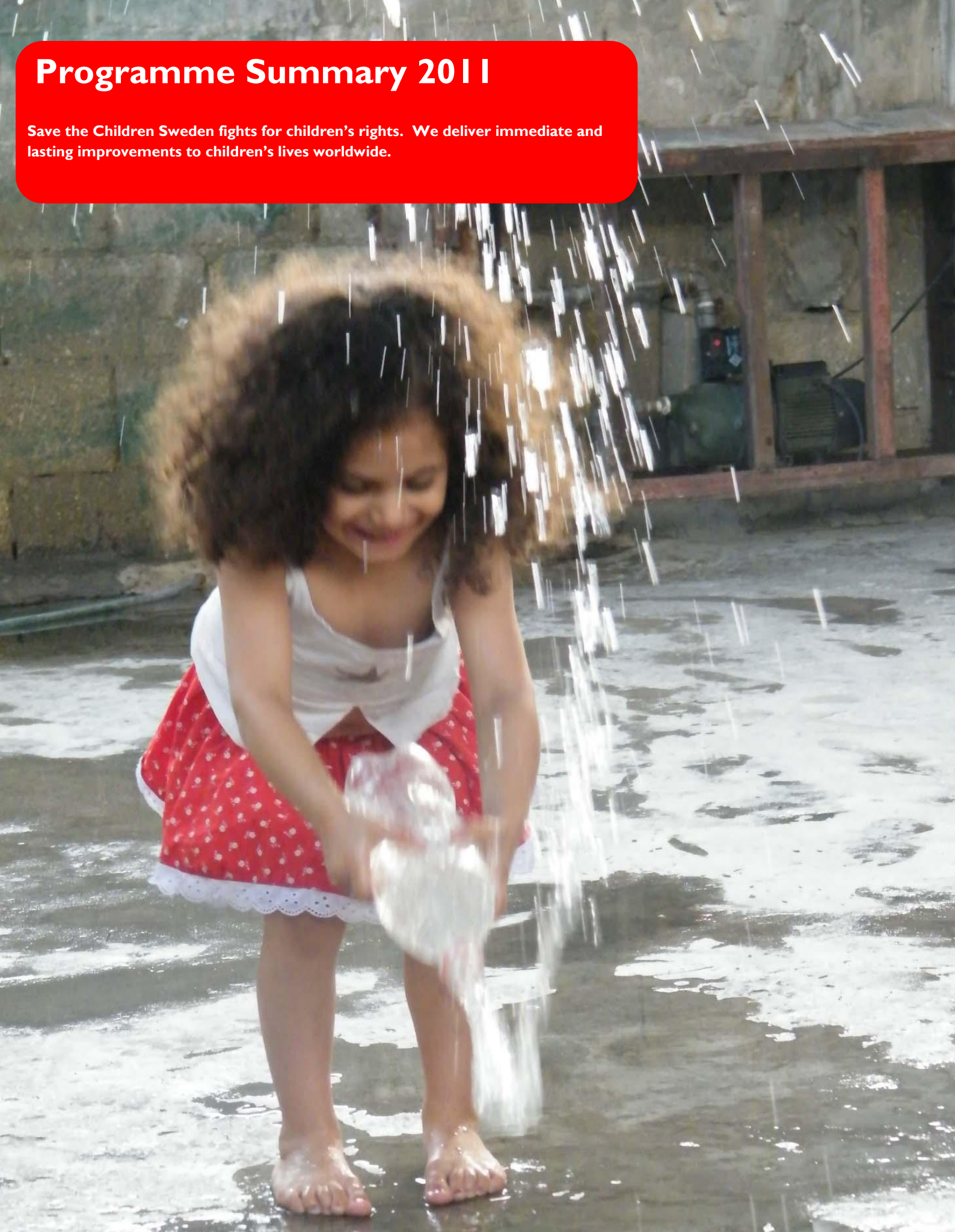


Programme Summary 2011

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



Save the Children
Sweden



Introduction

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

Save the Children Sweden (SCS) has been working in the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA) since 1963 and runs projects across the region. In the Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt) SCS works with local partners on providing quality education and protection for children at risk and those whose rights are most infringed, and on strengthening the capacities of civil society organizations that are active actors for child rights issues.



In the oPt children remain vulnerable due to the unsafe environment they live in. They are denied the enjoyment of many of their basic rights and are subjected to a number of violations of their rights on a daily basis, including killing, maiming, torture, arbitrary arrest and detention, home demolitions, discrimination, harassment and restrictions of movement and people and goods. They are also vulnerable to violence in their community, homes and schools.

SCS works with local partner organizations in OPT to ensure that the rights of children are upheld, with a focus on the right to protection from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation and the right to education. We currently have 16 staff members across the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem.

SCS' work is guided by the fundamental values expressed in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and is founded on the conviction that all children and adults are of equal value, children have special rights and everyone has a responsibility to respect and promote the rights of children, but States have particular obligations. SCS follows four working methods to achieve sustainable improvements in children's lives, and encourage societies to respect, protect and realise children's rights:

- *Research and analysis:* SCS' work is based on active monitoring and analysis of developments, in addition to current research on practical experience.
- *Direct support:* SCS implements projects for children at risk in order to increase awareness and knowledge of certain issues, or in connection with disasters
- *Knowledge dissemination and capacity-building:* SCS supports key players through capacity building in areas related to children's rights, development, legislation, policy, methods and approaches to work.
- *Advocacy and awareness raising:* SCS' role is to influence attitudes and perceptions in society in addition to economic and political decisions as regards children's rights.



Save the Children Sweden's Strategic intent

SCS has extensive experience in projects working on child protection and the promotion and protection of children's rights in the oPt. Given the difficult social, political and economic environment of the oPt and the absence of protection mechanisms for the most vulnerable segments of society, namely women and children, SCS has ensured that child protection is not only mainstreamed into the overall structures of projects, but also becomes an integral part of project activities. SCS' added value through its work with local partner organizations is as follows:



- ✓ Ensure that child rights principles are considered in the planning and implementation of projects
- ✓ Introduce child protection through training of partners' staff to ensure that child protection is incorporated and promoted through all activities
- ✓ Mainstream child protection protocol and child protection policy throughout partners implementation strategies
- ✓ Ensure child protection measures exist and are up to standard among partners
- ✓ Introduce child protection on the community level through awareness raising campaigns
- ✓ Ensure child participation throughout the design and implementation of projects
- ✓ Networking and coordination amongst partners
- ✓ Introduce tool kits, manuals and technical resources in child protection
- ✓ Dissemination of information and raise awareness through visibility and advocacy efforts, including awareness toolkits, brochures, banners, and campaigns.
- ✓ Supporting the establishment of community based protection mechanisms and referral systems
- ✓ Contributing to building a national protection system

Save the Children Sweden's Work Approach

Save the Children Sweden cannot affect the changes in children's conditions for which it strives by itself. International bodies, the State and its authorities at various levels, business, media and non-governmental organizations all play a role in upholding the rights of the child. The family often plays the primary role. Save the Children Sweden focuses on influencing all these institutions, as well as the children and adults who are part of them.

This is achieved through a community based approach by empowering community based initiatives through capacity building and creating networks nationally to work and lobby towards improving the lives of women and children to a standard that they are entitled to by right. In

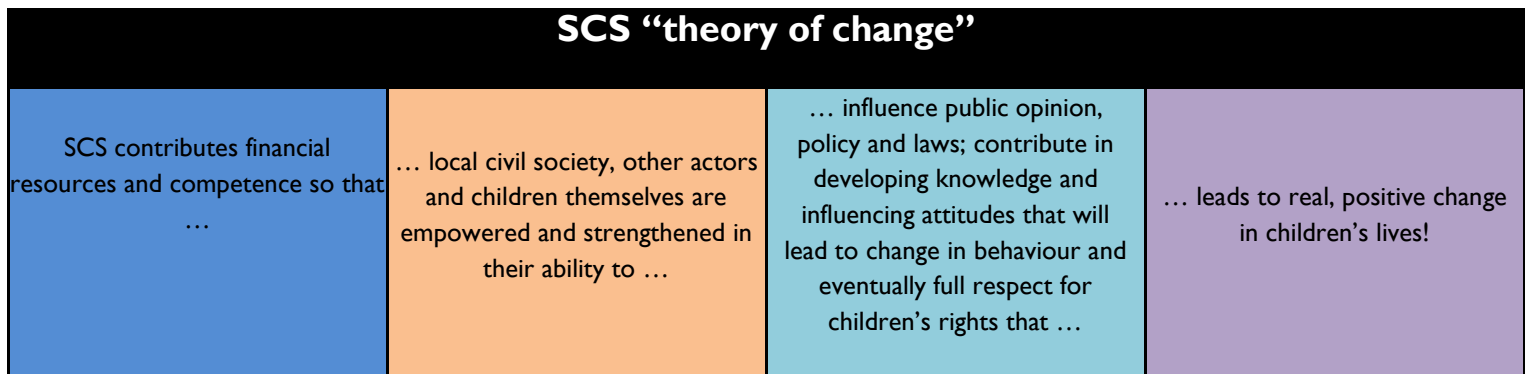
turn, they will create the link with the rights holders and empower them to claim their rights through for example raising their awareness concerning their rights and about the obligations duty bearers have to respect those rights.





In order to create sustainability and take matters through other spheres in life, rights holders are empowered to be involved in advocacy and lobbying within their own communities and on the national level, enabling them to achieve more control over their own lives and create positive change in the lives of others. Once the legal framework is in place, a lot still has to be done to change traditional values and perceptions, and public opinion in most contexts is often the most difficult part of the process of social change. This is especially the case in countries with weak state structures, policies and practices, along with a weak security force system in place. It is therefore crucial to support civil society organizations, as they constitute one of the most important pillars of democratic societies.

SCS' over arching governing documents, primarily the Compass, provide a basis for describing SCS' theory of change and chain of occurrences, like this:



SCS' work in oPt

Child-focus

All SCS projects are centred on children who are vulnerable and suffering from neglect, exploitation, violence or abuse. SCS is focused on two priority areas, which are **children without appropriate care** (including child refugees, abused children etc.) and **child protection in emergencies** (including sexual violence, children associated with armed forces and groups and family separation). While some projects will target the community in general, they will be specifically tied to a child-focused objective. The base of our belief considers children to be strong agents of change in their own communities. Hence, we enforce children to acquire relevant skills and knowledge to help them to actively participate on a public level.



Principles

Save the Children Sweden strongly commits to its values and approaches that are mainly based on the CRC. Our projects therefore go hand in hand with our theoretical background. The main focus lies on three pillars, which aim to improve and simplify the life of children suffering from difficult conditions due to the Israeli occupation and instable political environments. These pillars can be named as *protection*, *education* and *Child Rights Governance*.



Protection

In order to **protect vulnerable children and youth from sexual abuse, physical and humiliating punishment or other violence**, SCS contributes to building protection systems and child protection mechanisms. This is being achieved through building protective capacities at multiple levels, such as family, community, and national levels, but also through a community based approach which aims at supporting the capacity of civil society actors such as community based organizations (CBOs), as they are a main factor regarding implementation and mainstreaming of child rights into society. Strategically, SCS focuses its work on the community level mechanisms to respond to, mitigate, and prevent risks to children's protection. These mechanisms can be implemented through Child Protection Committees (CPC), which are useful in interconnecting the different levels of national child protection systems. In addition, these mechanisms contribute to the improvement of the quality of children's lives and to enabling them to develop to their full potential and participate in community life and nation-building.

Early interventions and effective prevention methods are essential for SCS' strategic protection goals. The latter, prevention, concentrates on three main areas which are 1) awareness raising and advocacy, 2) direct support to abused children and 3) the capacity building of involved parties (abused children, parents, community members etc.) which aims to contribute to the respect, protection and promotion of children's rights and child participation as well as, to transfer the knowledge and expertise to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). SCS' focus in the oPt lies on marginalized children and those not reached by governmental bodies and CSOs, children in conflict with the law under Palestinian jurisdiction and children detained under the Israeli military system.



Child members of the CPC organizing and leading an awareness meeting about the CRC - Ajyal Association, eastern Gaza.



In cooperation with local and international partners, SCS is providing legal representation to these children and teens and supporting them with psychosocial and self-empowerment measures. Through its **“Post-trauma Rehabilitation of Ex-detainee Children in the West Bank Programme”**, SCS addresses children and young adults who went through a mentally and emotionally demanding process of detention and supports them by providing psychosocial support, remedial education and vocational training.

Further information on the Rehabilitation Programme:

http://mena.savethechildren.se/Middle_East_and_North_Africa/What-we-do/Protection/Occupied-Palestinian-Territories/Post-trauma-Rehabilitation-of-Palestinian-Ex-detainee-Children-in-the-West-Bank/

Education

In an ongoing conflict it is especially important to protect schools and ensure education as a factor of maintaining as much normality of everyday life as possible. The **access to** and the **quality of** education present two main targets in SCS' educational approach. In the oPt however, education remains a difficult topic: due to the Separation Wall, curfews and checkpoints imposed by the Israeli military, physical obstacles in receiving educational services do not remain an exception. But also the learning environment in schools is far from being conducive. Therefore, SCS promotes new active learning methods and value building education as well as the empowerment of child participation structures. This is being achieved by both community and school based approaches, which means the training of schools and teachers on inclusive education and active school management as



well as the capacity building of local structures to complete the role of formal education. Furthermore, many of our projects in the oPt have an educational component such as vocational training, career counselling and remedial education for children and young adults to ensure employability, mental recovery and economic stability in the future. Furthermore, SCS is helping to **increase democratic education among Palestinian Youth** to encourage them in taking part in the **Jerusalem Youth Parliament** in order to provide children with (self-expression) skills so that they can take an active part in their community development.



Child Rights Governance

Our rights perspective means that we emphasize that States have the overall responsibility, but that all people can contribute to children having their rights fulfilled. We believe that children themselves can also fight for their rights, if they are given the chance to do so and if they receive support and encouragement. **Child Rights Governance** aims at creating national child rights systems delivering and monitoring all political, economic, social and cultural rights for children. This also requires strengthening already existing community mechanisms in order to achieve the implementation and compliance of Child Rights within a society. SCS' projects therefore include profound cooperation with civil



“ I am participating in this Focus Group Discussion in order to highlight our, the children’s main concerns that we want the adults to pay more attention to, such as, child labour”- Aya, 12 years old

society organizations in order to support them and contribute to influencing duty bearers and public opinion.

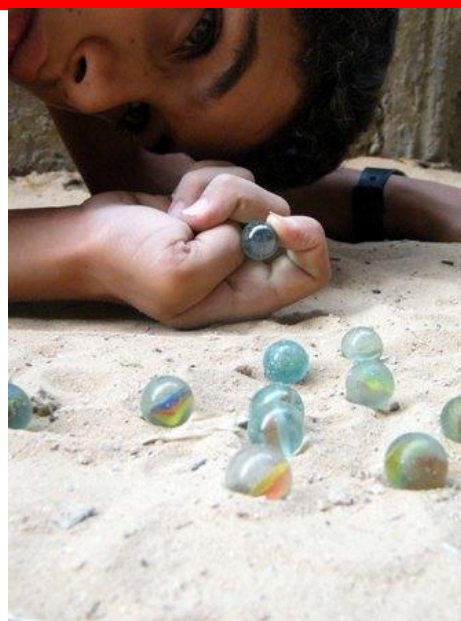
Emergencies

Children in the oPt experience exposure to protection risks daily, such as physical harm, psychosocial distress, involvement in armed groups, family separation. The Gaza Strip in particular, has witnessed military incursions, targeted assassinations, internal fights, siege and man-made natural disasters.

Therefore, the need to develop a strategy to ensure protection and care to all children during emergency is very high. SCS is developing national Emergency Preparedness Plans to ensure immediate and quality response to children's needs focusing on immediate relief, protection and education during the first phase of emergency and early recovery as well as the communities' preparedness for emergencies.

Future plans

SCS will continue working in the fields of protection, education and child rights governance, with a focus on the building of a national child protection system and mechanisms in the oPt. SCS intends to expand its work in protecting children who are in conflict with the law in the West Bank, which includes legal representation, psychosocial support and remedial education. The re-integration of young ex-detainees in the West Bank will also remain one of our major projects. Furthermore, we will pursue the enhancement of a legal framework and child legal referral mechanisms as well as the enhancement of youth and children in democratic participation through the child parliament.



In the face of enduring tensions and concerning conditions for the physical and emotional well-being of minors and young adults in East-Jerusalem, SCS will support the quality of education in 15 schools in different parts of the city with a focus on Silwan Area and the Old City. This will help to position schools as protective environments for children and to support children's resilience in general. SCS also intends to expand its work in child and family centres in Gaza, to ensure that children from the most vulnerable communities have access to quality childhood care and education. In Gaza, SCS will continue to consolidate community based child referral mechanisms. In order to enhance the protection of children and adolescents from gender based violence, SCS will continue promoting the right to sexual and reproductive health through improving access to information and services on reproductive and sexual health for children and adolescents in the oPt. SCS will also continue monitoring and reporting cases of detention, killing, injuries, ill-treatment and other violations against children's rights in oPt as part of its commitment to the I612 Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism.

For further information, contact:

Save the Children Sweden

Jerusalem

Tel: +972 (2) 297 3631

Fax: +972 (2) 297 3635

Info.wbg@mena.savethechildren.se



Save the Children

Sweden