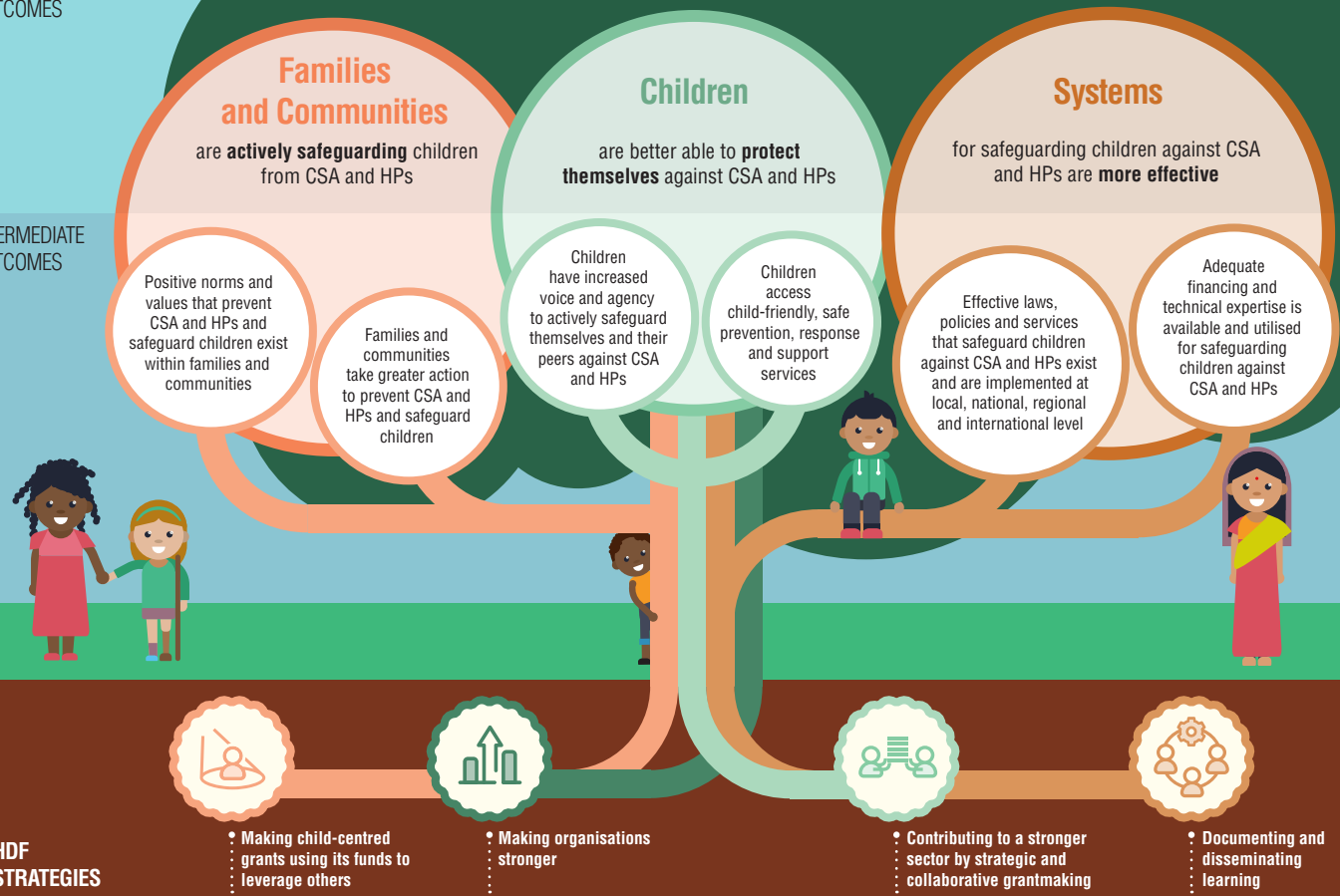


Children *grow up* safe from Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) and Harmful Practices (HPs)



Guided by:

- Founder's wishes
- HDF's values
- Children's voices
- Art. 19 of Convention on the Rights of the Child
- INSPIRE (WHO) – evidence based strategies to end VAC
- Sustainable Development Goals – 5, 16 & 17



The Problem

The Solutions

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN OVERALL

- Every five minutes, a child dies as a result of violence
- Toxic stress of violence undermines the healthy development of children's bodies and brains
- Survivors of violence are more likely to engage in abusive and risky behaviour
- VAC costs up to 8% of global GDP (US\$7tn)
- Children who are exposed to one type of violence are at far greater risk of experiencing other types of violence; different forms of violence share common consequences, risk and protective factors

- All VAC is preventable – the cost of prevention is far less than the cost of inaction
- Child safety and prevention efforts that focus on the broad spectrum of child violence, rather than one type of violence over another, are more effective
- Parental Care and Family Relationships are critical factors influencing vulnerability or protection for all children, regardless of sex

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (CSA)

- 18% of girls and 8% of boys experience sexual violence in their lifetime
- Family members, relatives or those known and trusted by the child, typically perpetrate abuse
- Less than 50% of all sexual assaults on children are reported to the police
- The average time between abuse and coming out is 22 years
- Almost 2m children are exploited in commercial sex globally
- 75-80% of online child sexual exploitation images are of pre-pubescent children

- Build protective factors and reduce the risk factors at all levels - individual, family, community and societal
- Parenting interventions break the cycle of abuse
- Empowered children break the cycle of abuse - they say no, tell someone, seek help, prosecute
- Supportive laws and policies are required to prevent CSA, protect children and improve prosecution of offenders

HARMFUL PRACTICES (HPs)

- At least 200m girls and women have undergone FGM/C in 30 countries
- In most of the countries the majority of girls were cut before reaching their 5th birthdays
- Every year, 15m girls are married before 18 years
- Child marriage (CEFM) is fuelled by gender inequality, poverty, traditions and insecurity
- Child brides are at greater risk of experiencing dangerous complications in pregnancy and childbirth, contracting HIV/AIDS and suffering domestic violence
- FGM/C increases the risk of infertility, miscarriage, obstructed labour, child and maternal mortality

- Solutions need to be built on human rights and gender equality, not judgement and coercion
- Girls need to be empowered with information, skills and support networks
- Parents and community members including key decision makers need to be educated and empowered to take action
- High-quality education and alternative opportunities for girls are essential in tackling CEFM
- Supportive laws and policies are required to prevent HPs