

# LIVING OUR VALUES INSIDE AND OUT: STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-27



Save the Children



## OUR MISSION:

*To defend the rights of children is so critical in a world where the erosion of rights is an ever-present threat. We reaffirm our commitment to being a child rights organization and to transform inequitable power structures across all that we do.*



## OUR STRATEGIC VISION:

*Together, centering children's voices, we mobilize Canadians' influence and resources to courageously and equitably uphold and protect children's rights.*



## A GLOBAL AMBITION FOR CHILDREN

The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, represent an overarching global framework to pursue equitable and sustainable development in every country. Save the Children's global Ambition for 2030 articulates our contributions to the SDGs, which are represented as three breakthroughs for children – survive, learn, and be protected.

Since 2016, Save the Children Canada's strategic plans have contributed directly to these breakthroughs, with a focus on children most affected by discrimination and inequality – children in crisis; children facing gender inequality; and Indigenous children in Canada. Great strides have been made in all three areas. But in 2022, many of these great strides have been put at risk.



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# HOW ARE CHILDREN DOING IN 2022 AS WE EMBARK ON THIS BOLD STRATEGY?

## The Perfect Storm: CONFLICT, COVID-19 AND CLIMATE (THE 3CS)

The combined affects of devastating conflicts across the globe, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the rapid escalation of climate-driven crises has been devastating for children and families across the world – profoundly disrupting progress toward the SDGs.



In 2022:

Child malnutrition is up more than

**14%**

Children's learning loss is up more than

**10%**

Child marriage has increased by

**10%**

Child poverty is up more than

**15%**

The 3Cs have also triggered unprecedented levels of migration and displacement forcing children and their families to flee their homes.

## Our work at home in Canada

*In Canada, the historical effects of colonialism, inequality and discrimination on Indigenous children in Canada are devastating.*

Indigenous children continue to disproportionately bear the brunt of the climate crisis, there is a sustained over-representation of Indigenous children within the child welfare system, access to clean water remains out of reach for many First Nations communities and First Nations suicide rates are three times higher than non-Indigenous in Canada. And, tragically, in 2021 hundreds of mass graves of Indigenous children were discovered on residential school grounds.





# THE CHALLENGES ARE GREAT

Together with our partners in Canada and around the world, Save the Children Canada will take urgent action to address these growing challenges and to meet Save the Children's global *Ambition* for 2030, along with the accelerated progress needed to meet the SDGs.

*Living our Values: Inside and Out: Save the Children Canada's Six-Year Strategic Plan (2022-27)* has been built to be responsive to both the critical moment that we are in right now and the long-term global goals that we know we can realize for all children.

## HOW WE WILL WORK – CREATING A PARADIGM SHIFT WITH A NEW TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACH TO OUR WORK

For more than 100 years Save the Children has worked for a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development, and participation. However, during this time we have also operated within and through colonial and neocolonial structures that are fundamentally counter to our commitment to human rights because they create and sustain inequality.

As part of this strategy, we introduce a Theory of Transformation that moves us along a pathway away from centering ourselves toward centering children, communities, and partners. It will re-focus our value proposition as outlined in our Strategic Vision, and will be directly informed by our organizational values.

This transformative approach will bring about a paradigm shift based on the following four strategic elements:

**1** Organize and re-structure to support “critical consciousness” related to structural power and inequality.

**2** Engage in value- and principle-based partnerships that align with our organizational values.

**3** Transform and shift power through decolonization, anti-racism, anti-oppression, gender equality, and localization.

**4** Apply rights-based and child-centered approaches.

# FOUR STRATEGIC IMPACT AREAS:



## CHILDREN IN CRISIS

Children's rights and life-saving needs are realized through gender-responsive emergency action.



## INDIGENOUS CHILD RIGHTS

Indigenous children's rights are protected and promoted through Indigenous-led and transformative approaches.



## GENDER EQUALITY

Gender equality is advanced for children, resulting in more equal power relations and the realization of children's equal rights to survive, learn, and be protected.



## CLIMATE JUSTICE

Children's environmental rights are realized through increased resiliency and by addressing climate injustice for those most impacted by climate change.