

# BHUTAN ANNUAL REVIEW 2023



Save the Children









## ABOUT SAVE THE CHILDREN

Save the Children is a worldwide international organization that works for the children's rights and wellbeing. It was founded in 1919 in the United Kingdom by Eglantyne Jebb who pioneered the idea of children's rights.

Save the Children was established in Bhutan in 1982. Over the last 40 years, Save the Children has been working in partnership with the government and local CSOs in the key areas of Education, Child Protection and Child Health, to serve the most vulnerable and marginalized children and their families. Our work is guided by the global Ambition 2030 goals, country strategic plans, and the government's five-year plan priorities.

In 2023, our programs directly benefitted 77,208 children of the total 218,106<sup>1</sup> children population in Bhutan.

Save the Children Bhutan (SC Bhutan) is thankful to the Royal Government of Bhutan, the Civil Society Organizations (CSO), and other stakeholders for the opportunity to collaborate and partner on priorities and areas concerning children in Bhutan.

<sup>1</sup> Projected children population age 0-17; National Statistics Bureau of Bhutan, 2023



## OUR PARTNERS

Thank you to our implementing partners for your continued support, trust, and confidence in SC Bhutan and for efficient implementation of the programs to benefit our children.

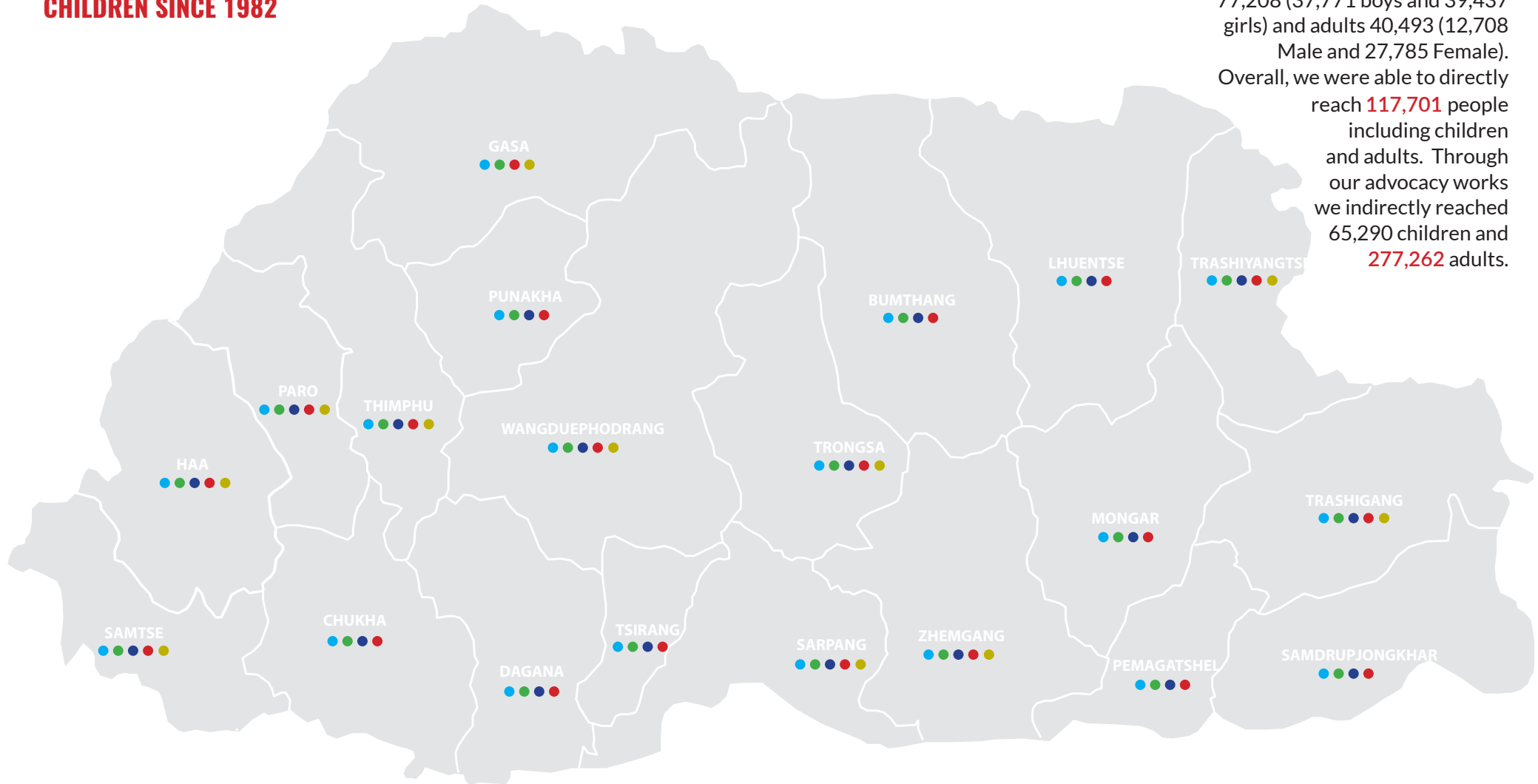
- Ministry Of Education and Skills Development (MoESD), Royal Government of Bhutan
- Ministry of Health (MoH), Royal Government of Bhutan
- Special Educational Needs Division (SEN), MoESD
- School Health and Wellbeing Division, Department of Education Program, MoESD
- Department of School Education (DSE), MOESD
- Women and Children Division ( Secretariate to National Commission for Women and Children), Department of Education Programs, MoESD
- Scouts and Sports Division, Department of Education Programs, MOESD
- Career Education and Counseling Division (CECD), DYS, MoESD
- The PEMA Secretariat
- Royal Bhutan Police (RBP)
- Royal Education Council
- Bhutan Council for School Examinations and Assessment (BCSEA)
- Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan (KGUMSB)
- Faculty of Nursing and Public Health (FNPH), KGUMSB
- Youth Development and Rehabilitation Centre (YDRC)



- Nazhoen Lamtoen (platform for youth engagement in entrepreneurship)
- Pride Bhutan (a community that works for the LGBTIQ and sex workers)
- Queer Voices of Bhutan (a SOGIESC/ LGBTIQ+ Advocacy Platform)
- Chithuen Phendey Association of Bhutan (a CSO works towards addressing drug and alcohol issues)
- Lhak-Sam (Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS)
- RENEW (Respect Empower Nurture Educate Women)
- Zhemgang Dzongkhag (District) Administration
- Bhutan Broadcasting Service (BBS)
- Phensem (a support group for parents of children with disability)
- World Wildlife Fund Bhutan (WWF)
- VAST (Volunteer Artists Studio Thimphu)
- Bhutan Youth Development Fund
- YPEER Bhutan (a network of youth that advocate on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights)



**SAVE THE CHILDREN IN BHUTAN BENEFITTING BHUTANESE CHILDREN SINCE 1982**



In 2023, we reached children 77,208 (37,771 boys and 39,437 girls) and adults 40,493 (12,708 Male and 27,785 Female). Overall, we were able to directly reach **117,701** people including children and adults. Through our advocacy works we indirectly reached 65,290 children and **277,262** adults.

ECCD: Early Childhood Care and Development  
 P2P: Prescription to Play  
 SKPA: Sustainability of Key Populations in Asia

- ECCD
- P2P
- Health Programs/SKPA
- Child Protection
- Inclusive Education





If you or your child is in immediate danger, know where to find help. Call 1098.



**VISION**

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



**MISSION**

To inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

**THEMATIC AREAS**

- Education
- Child Protection
- Health
- Sponsorship and Social Inclusion Program

**THREE BREAKTHROUGHS**



**SURVIVE**

No child dies from preventable causes before their fifth birthday.



**LEARN**

All children learn from quality basic education.



**BE PROTECTED**

Violence against children is no longer tolerated.

## INTRODUCING TARA CHETTRY AS THE NEW COUNTRY DIRECTOR FOR SAVE THE CHILDREN - NEPAL AND BHUTAN COUNTRY OFFICE

We are thrilled to announce the appointment of Tara Chettry (she/her), as the Country Director for Save the Children in Nepal and Bhutan. Tara brings with her a distinguished career spanning more than 20 years, characterized by a strategic approach to organizational development, adept project management, and successful fundraising endeavors. Previously, she served as the Deputy Country Director at Save the Children Nepal and Bhutan CO, overseeing comprehensive operations, humanitarian management, and strategic engagement with government and CSOs.

Tara's journey with Save the Children began in 2000 when she led HIV programming initiatives, alongside accountability and governance-informed research and audits. With a profound understanding of public health and social development, particularly in HIV, TB, and Malaria programming, she held roles such as Senior Chief of Party (CoP) for Global Fund Grants in Nepal and regional multi-country grant management. Her track record includes spearheading action research delving into intricate socio-economic links that drive progress in child rights, HIV, and key affected populations. Demonstrating expertise in navigating migration, violence, and challenges faced by at-risk populations, she showcases a deep understanding of intersectionality.

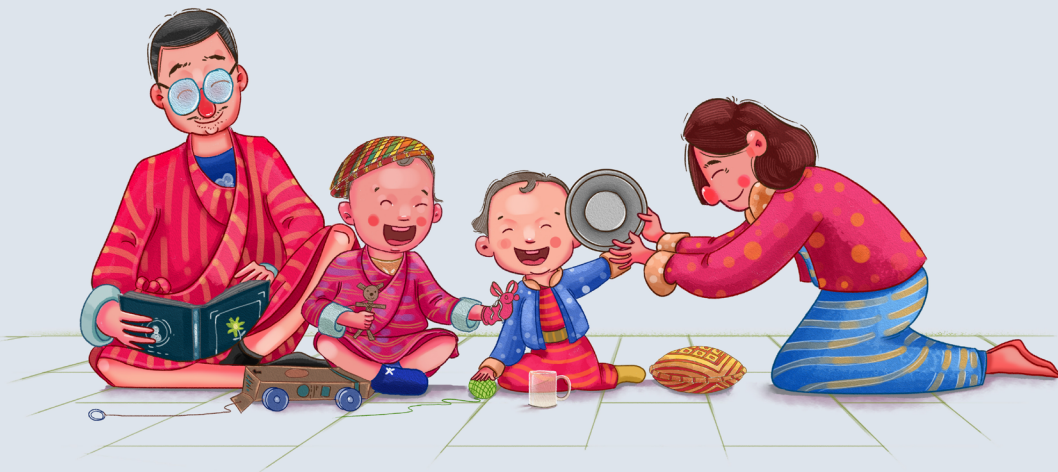
Tara has worked in high-pressure, conflict-affected regions, leading high-performing teams and enhancing thought leadership in her operational areas. Additionally, she is an avid reader with a keen interest in historical novels.







You don't need money to play;  
You are your baby's favourite playmate.



## EDUCATION PROGRAM

### SHORT HISTORY

Save the Children Bhutan Office has been supporting activities around education interventions in partnership with the MOESD since the early 2000. Early on the focus of support was on increasing access to quality primary education and adolescent development. Interventions such as construction of community primary schools, short-term attachment program in Australia for teachers at multigrade schools, life-skills education, school-based parenting education program, training of teacher counsellors and student peer-counsellors, and operationalization of youth centers were supported both technically and financially. In 2008, we began focusing on increasing access to quality Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) center program for 3-5-year-old children in partnership with the ECCD & Special Education Needs (ECCD & SEN) Division of the MOESD. After supporting the MOESD in scaling-up the ECCD center program, from 2018 onwards we have moved onto supporting the optimal development of 0-3-year-old children and partnered with the MoH to deliver playful parenting group sessions for caregivers as well as provide child development screening and referral services in all public health centers and out-reach clinics across the country.

### ONGOING PROJECTS

#### GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION-EDUCATION SECTOR PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

Save the Children Bhutan successfully carried out the Education Sector Program Implementation Grant (ESPIG), supported by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). The primary aspiration of this grant which concluded on 31st July 2023, was to significantly boost access for Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) aged children, elevating

the percentage from 21.8% in 2018 to 38% by the grant's conclusion. This objective was set to be achieved through the establishment of ECCD centers, coupled with a dedicated focus on enhancing the quality of ECCD programming. The project's efforts extended to empowering and building capacities of ECCD facilitators and officials from the Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD) at both district and national levels. The other objective of the grant was to enhance the national assessment system in Bhutan through the development of the first National Education Assessment Framework and by supporting the first National Education Assessment for grade three leading to a more robust national assessment system in Bhutan. This comprehensive approach was aimed at creating an environment that markedly enhances learning outcomes for the children we serve.

### Objectives

- Component 1: Improve access to and quality of ECCD
- Component 2: Enhance national assessment system to improve learning outcomes.

### Target Group

Children (aged 3-5 for Component 1 and 5-9 for Component 2),  
ECCD facilitators

Caregivers, community members and Parent schools

Primary Schools with grade three

District Education Officials (DEOs)

MoESD Officials

### Partners

Component 1: ECCD and SEN Division

Component 2: BCSEA

### Key Achievement 2023:

In 2023, upon successful completion of the grant targets, and to wind-up the ESPIG project, the savings from the grant were used to identify priority activities for the MoESD which contributed to the achievements of the ESPIG objectives.

The project therefore supported the provision of ECCD materials to model ECCD centers. 24 centers were identified by the MoESD, one each from 20 districts and four thromdes. The centers were provided with:

1. Age-appropriate books to 24 model ECCD centers. Each center was provided with more than 30 titles of a diverse range of books each.
2. The model centers were also provided with 100 wooden block box sets which were made by local vendors. Each center was allocated block box sets based on the number of children in the centers.
3. Finally, each model center was provided with equipment for material development to enable them to make their own toys for the center; and with IT and communication resources to enable interactive learning for children.





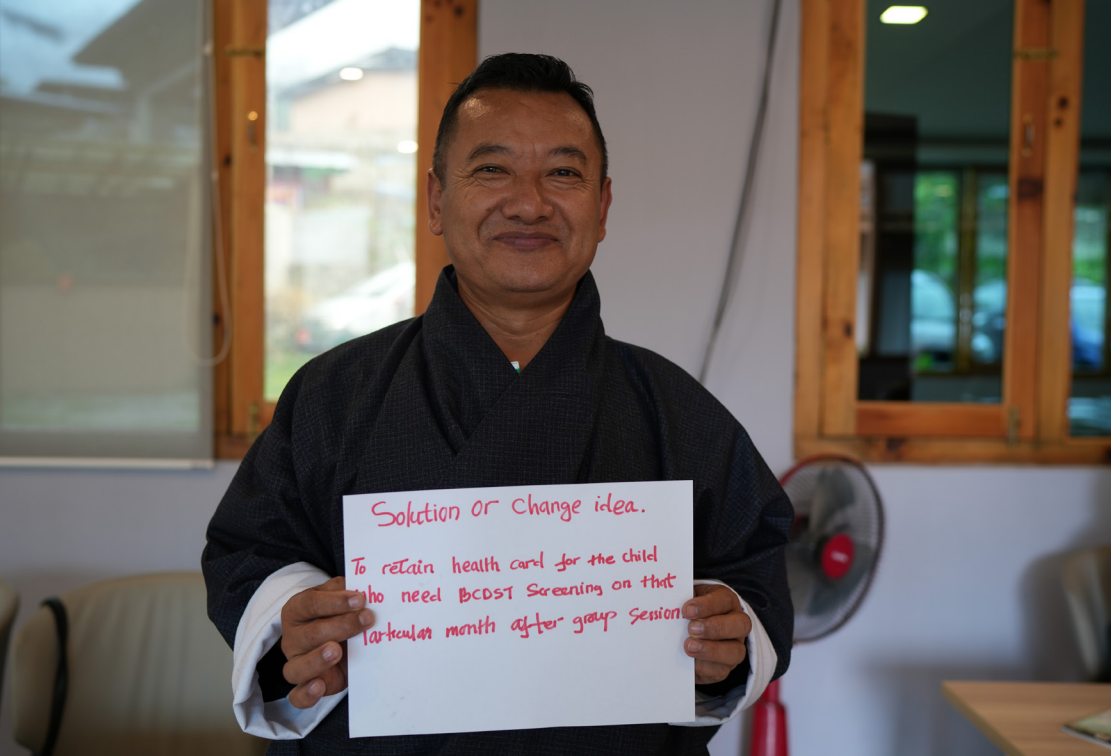
## PRESCRIPTION TO PLAY

SC Bhutan is implementing a project called Prescription to Play (P2P): A Framework to Integrate, Scale-up, and Sustain Playful Parenting in Health Systems in partnership with the MOH and the KGUMSB with support from LEGO Foundation. The P2P project's monthly group/individual sessions are delivered by the Health Assistants (HA) at the Public Health Centers in urban and rural areas and outreach clinics in the remote areas with focus on playful parenting, responsive care, health, safety, positive discipline and screen children for developmental delays. The Prescription to Play (P2P) program aimed to scale up and sustain the evidence-based Building Brains Common Approach nationally through the MoH.

- The Prescription to Play (P2P) program encourages playful parenting, responsive care, and opportunities for early learning among caregivers.
- P2P group and individual sessions, including child development screening, are offered through Bhutan's national health system-available at clinics and health centres around the country.

### Objective

1. Improve playful interactions between primary caregivers and their children (aged birth to three).
2. Improve practice among the workforce to promote playful interaction between primary caregivers and their children (aged birth to three).
3. Buy in from government to sustain the evidence based playful parenting interventions.



### Target Group

- Children (0-3),
- Caregivers,
- In-service HAs,
- District Health Officials (DHOs) and Village health workers,
- MoH Officials,
- District sector heads,
- Local leaders,
- Faculty of Nursing and Public Health (FNPH), KGUMSB
- Policymakers

### Partners

Department of Public Health; MoH,

FNPH, KGUMSB

Respect Empower Nurture Educate Women (RENEW)

### Key Achievements in 2023:

- In this phase, the project achieved nation-wide coverage of P2P by expanding to the remaining 15 districts, while strengthening implementation of phase one services in the first five districts.
- A major step towards sustaining the program happened through the integration of P2P component in the pre-service curriculum for diploma in community health training program at Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan (KGUMSB). The in-service HAs curriculum was revisited and the P2P component was added into two modules, namely “Reproductive Health, Immunization and Mother and Child Health” (MCH) (MID304) and “Communicable Disease and Child Health” (CDC 301). The 11-day training was redesigned into 10 hours of lectures in MID304 and 15 hours of lectures in CDC301.
- The extension of the project at the MCH in the “Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck Mother and Child Hospital” is an additional achievement and an innovation for the project team. As hospitals have a different structure to Outreach Clinics (ORC)s and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and have a high fluctuation of caregivers and children coming for services each day, it was necessary to design a different approach to delivering P2P services. The project team engaged the head of department of MCH and National Medical Services (NMS) in designing the pilot project. Save the Children supported MCH in creating Playful Parenting unit by providing technical support and procurement of play materials.





## CHAMPIONING PLAY

The Championing Play project build capacities necessary for supporting caregivers (both male and female) of 0-3- year-old children in four pilot districts to make and maintain homemade toys and use these for engaging with their children in quality play. Additionally, it mobilized male caregivers to attend the Daddy and Me playful parenting session of the on-going P2P project implemented by the MoH.

### Objective

1. Increased engagement of male caregivers in playful and positive parenting, and responsive caregiving practices.
2. Increased knowledge and skills of health workers to support caregivers in using homemade play materials for quality play.
3. Increased use of safe homemade play materials in quality by caregivers of 0-3-year-old children in four districts.

### Target Group

- Communities served by health centers in 4 selected districts Zhemgang, Tsirang, Sarpang and Paro
- Both male and female caregivers of children 0-3 in the four selected districts
- Children aged 0-3
- Health workers in the four districts

### Partners

Communicable Diseases Division, MOH  
RENEW





### Key Achievements in 2023:

- 3200 material kits were successfully delivered to households in four Championing Play Districts. RENEW facilitators used the kits to conduct sessions on creating homemade toys during the community sensitization. The outcome for the distribution of the kits was to foster creativity among adults, promoting the use of readily available materials for sustainable toy-making, encouraging caregivers to be resourceful, and highlighting the cost-effectiveness of crafting toys at home with minimal or no expense.
- 600 discovery bags were developed and distributed for use by Health Assistants during group sessions. Of this, 510 were distributed to Primary Health Centres in all 20 districts and 4 municipalities. While the remaining were given to the households in Tsirang where the baseline and endline were conducted, some were given to the Gyaltshen Jetsun Pema Mother and Child Hospital, and a few to the Faculty of Nursing and Public Health. These discovery bags were developed and distributed to encourage home-made toys at all levels but especially at home. The discovery bags will also be used by the HAs while implementing group sessions to engage children.
- Successfully developed and widely disseminated instructional videos in four languages on crafting five homemade toys, as well as a video on daddy and me sessions. The videos, broadcasted on national TV and shared on various platforms, aimed to support education through play, promote engagement and bonding, and emphasize the significance of play over the material value of toys. The content encouraged families and communities to engage in toy-making activities, fostering social bonds and a sense of belonging. The videos provided instructions on customization, promoting individuality and pride in creations, with an emphasis on reducing waste. To ensure inclusivity, the instructional videos were translated into Dzongkha, English, Tshanglakha, and Lhosamkha, with English subtitles, eliminating language barriers for wider accessibility.







Peaceful connections to address violence against children.



## CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAM

### SHORT HISTORY

Bhutan signed and ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1999, in the same year, Save the Children began our work for juvenile children at Youth Development & Rehabilitation Centre, in partnership with the Royal Bhutan Police (RBP). SC Bhutan was the first international agency to partner with the RBP to work for children coming in conflict and contact with the law.

SC Bhutan implemented a project from 2014 to 2019 in partnership with National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC), the Royal Bhutan Police (RBP), and a local Civil Society organization - Nazhoen Lamtoen and for the first time it brought together a host of child justice actors and institutions, which includes the Judiciary – Royal Court of Justice, Bhutan National Legal Institute (BNLI), the Prosecution – Office of the Attorney General (OAG), Law Enforcement – RBP, the apex competent authority for women and children – the NCWC, and relevant CSOs – Bhutan Youth Development Fund (YDF); RENEW; and Nazhoen Lamtoen. As a result, the First Child Court in the country (called Family & Child Bench) was established in Thimphu; Child Court Procedures were developed, and key staffs were trained; Child friendly prosecution guidelines and diversion guidelines were developed by the OAG and key staff trained; Standard Operating Procedures for police dealing with Children in Conflict with the Law and Children in Difficult Circumstances were developed and key police officers trained.

SC Bhutan, NCWC, and the RBP later partnered again in 2018 to build a social protection system for children in Bhutan and as a result, the first National Child Helpline 1098, and a transitional shelter home to provide a safe space, counselling, reformation, and reintegration support for children who suffer abuse and neglect was established.

Currently, in collaboration with the Women and Children's Division, Scouts and Sports Division, MoESD, Nazhoen Lamtoen and the Pema Secretariat, the project, "Empowering Communities to Address Violence Against Children in Bhutan" is ongoing.

## PARENTING WITHOUT VIOLENCE (SAFE FAMILIES)

Child Protection team works in close collaboration with the MoESD, and CSO Nazhoen Lamoten on the project, “Empowering Communities to Address Violence Against Children in Bhutan”. The core component of the project is Parenting without Violence (PwV), a universal prevention program for use in development and humanitarian contexts to prevent physical and humiliating punishment of children and to improve the positive parenting capacities of fathers, mothers, and caregivers of girls and boys of all ages.

### Objectives

- Reduce physical and humiliating punishment of children in the home.
- Improve the caregiver’s capacity to practice positive parenting.
- Improve the quality of caregiver-child relationships.
- Increase children’s resilience and confidence to express their views and feelings in their home and to seek support when they feel unsafe.
- Strengthen social norms and gender and power dynamics that support equal responsibility for positive, non-discriminatory parenting.

### Target Group

Children both boys and girls  
 Parents (mother, father, and other caregivers)  
 Community members of three districts of Thimphu, Dagana and Zhemgang

### Project Partners

- Nazhoen Lamtoen
- Women and Children Division, MoESD
- Scouts and Sports Division, MoESD
- School Health and Wellbeing Division, MoESD
- The PEMA Secretariat

## Key Achievements in 2023:

### Parenting Without Violence Sessions

The Parenting without Violence initiative has been launched in Thimphu across 34 schools in Thimphu, Dagana, and Zhemgang. The core component of the project is Parenting Without Violence (PwV), a universal prevention program for use in development and humanitarian contexts to prevent physical and humiliating punishment of children and to improve the positive parenting capacities of fathers, mothers, and caregivers of girls and boys of all ages.

The sessions are facilitated by dedicated trained team facilitators and community mentors offering guidance and resources to parents and caregivers.



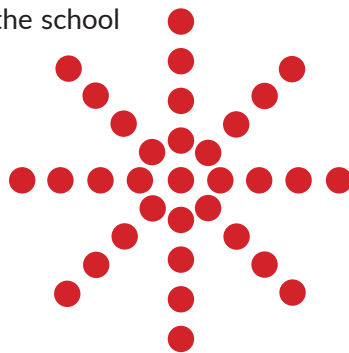




### School-based child protection committees

34 SCPCs were established in Thimphu, Dagana, and Zhemgang, ensuring standardized childcare and protection services. A committee structure, including the principal, teachers, parents, and students, was defined, and orientations ensured transparency in member selection.

The School-Based Child Protection Committee will support in addressing related issues and enhance prompt service delivery to prevent and respond to violence against children, their vulnerabilities, rights, and alternate child development practices amongst the teachers, family, community care providers, and stakeholders within the school and communities.



### Community-based Child Protection Committees

Three CPCCs were formed in Thimphu Thromde with a Chairperson overseeing operations in respective wards, promoting coordinated local child protection efforts.

13 Community-based Child Protection Committees (CPCCs) were established in three pilot districts to promote, support, and protect the well-being of children, whereby a community-based approach not only raises awareness of violence against children but empowers communities to undertake preventive measures.





Get tested regularly for HIV/STIs  
at your nearest health center.



We got tested for HIV/STIs.  
Did you?



## HEALTH

### BACKGROUND

Bhutan's national response to HIV is geared to end the HIV epidemic by 2030 with targets to increase the proportion of persons living with HIV (PLHIV) who are diagnosed to more than 95%, the proportion of those diagnosed on treatment to 100%, and the proportion with sustained viral suppression to more than 95%.

The engagement of key populations (KPs) in HIV response and KP-targeted programming is still in its nascent stages, with most programs funded through non-domestic sources. Key populations face an increased burden and are at a greater risk of acquiring HIV due to several behavioral, socioeconomic, structural, and legal factors. The HIV epidemic is driven by key populations in many parts of the world. Recent data indicates a similar trend for Bhutan.

### SKPA 2

Save the Children Bhutan successfully implemented the Global Fund-funded Sustainability of HIV Services for Key Populations in South-East Asia Program (SKPA-1) from 2019 to 2023 in collaboration with the National HIV/Hepatitis & STIs Control Program of the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Key Population Organizations. Building upon the achievements of SKPA-1, Bhutan is currently implementing the SKPA-2 which commenced in July 2023.

The Health Equity Matters (previously the Australian Federation of AIDS Organization) is the principal recipient of the grant and Save the Children Bhutan is the sub-recipient in the country. The WHO, UNAIDS, Burnet Institute in Australia, Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health (APCOM), and the International Community of Women Living with HIV - Asia Pacific (ICWAP) are the technical and regional partners of the program.



### Objectives

- Accelerating financial sustainability,
- Improve strategic information availability and use,
- Maximizing programmatic sustainability, and
- Removing human rights and gender-related barriers to accessing services

### Target Group

- Gay and other men who have sex with men
- Transgender people
- Sex workers
- People who use and/or inject drugs
- People living with HIV

### Project Partners

- National HIV/Hepatitis & STIs Control Program, MoH
- KGUMSB
- Lhak-Sam
- Chithuen Phendhey Association
- Pride Bhutan
- Queer Voices of Bhutan

The WHO, UNAIDS, Burnet Institute in Australia, Action for Health Initiatives (ACHIEVE) in the Philippines, Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health (APCOM), and the Community of Women Living with HIV Asia Pacific (ICWAP) are the technical and regional partners of the program.

### Key Achievements in 2023:

#### Legal Literacy Training for Key Population

One key highlight of 2023 was the legal literacy training that equipped 40 key population members with knowledge of their fundamental and human rights against the backdrop of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008. The program took a deep dive into specific areas such as police protocols and international human rights treaties, sparking dialogues on prevalent issues notably stigma and discrimination and other barriers faced by community members. The two batches of training not only resulted in a substantial increase in awareness but also provided an avenue for forging a stronger bond of legal empowerment among the community members.







### Training of Peer Outreach Workers

Additionally, a collaborative effort with the Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan ensued in the development of a comprehensive training package for key population peer outreach workers. The training program is designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to deliver essential HIV services to community members. This was followed by the training of more than 35 members from key populations in two batches certifying them as peer outreach workers, ready to take services to their community members.

### Mobile Application to Enhance Service Access

With a stroke of innovation, the team facilitated the development of an interactive mobile application. The online digital platform enables users to initiate risk assessment, HIV counseling, and book HIV testing appointments in addition to providing information on HIV prevention. Complementing the ongoing efforts of providing comprehensive services to key populations, the digital platform can serve as an additional entry point for high-risk and key populations to easily access HIV and related services.







## SPONSORSHIP AND SOCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAM

### SHORT HISTORY

Sponsorship funding is a strategic resource for SC Bhutan programming and has been crucial in piloting critical innovations and supporting essential services to the most vulnerable and marginalized children and youth in Bhutan.

The Sponsorship Fund has enabled the piloting of key common approaches in ECCD, Basic Education, Adolescent Development, and Child Protection, and supported scale up and implementation in partnership with government and CSOs. In the impact area, sponsorship programming has supported the local government and CSO partners to reach the most marginalized and vulnerable children, such as children living in difficult circumstances, children with disabilities and children living and affected by HIV; and in providing need-based and high-value programs in partnership with the children, youth, families, and communities towards achieving the three Breakthroughs.

### SOCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAM

The Social Inclusion Program was initiated by SC Bhutan in 2023. The Social Inclusion Program has provided Teaching Learning Materials and other school supplies to many of Bhutan's 39 SEN schools. The subsequent objective of the Country Strategic Plan is to combat inequality and discrimination through a focus on inclusion. Children with disabilities have been identified as the demographic group most affected by inequality and discrimination due to their circumstances and lack of awareness. SC Bhutan will work with and strengthen our partnership with the Ministry of Education and Skills Development, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working to support marginalized groups, and other stakeholders to identify gaps and address issues affecting marginalized groups, and to emphasize inclusion in all our program endeavors.

### Objective

- Innovate and implement a social-inclusion initiative to support digitally enhanced Special Education Needs (SEN) classrooms in approximately 39 government schools in the country.
- Facilitate the establishment of resource centers in SEN schools.
- Access to online and remote learning for Children with disabilities, their teachers, primary caregivers, and parents

### Target Group

Children with disabilities

Children living with HIV

Children living in poverty

### Project Partners

MoESD

Phensem

Lhak-Sam

Nazhoen Lamtoen

Zhemgang Dzongkhag Administration

### Key Achievements in 2023:

- The Sponsorship Program concluded the Social Inclusion and Gender Power Analysis (SIGPA), which designates children with disabilities as the demographic most adversely affected by discrimination and inequality. Furthermore, in a groundbreaking alliance, the Sponsorship program brought together a coalition of disability sector organizations, rallying key stakeholders in a powerful synergy for a unified, inclusive action – a resounding chorus echoing the spirit of the International Day of Persons with disabilities 2023, where empowerment and collaboration take center stage. National celebrations of the event transpired in various parts of Bhutan, including Wangdiphodrang, Zhemgang, Paro and Thimphu.
- With support from the Sponsorship Program, Phensem parent support group network embarked on a dynamic journey, fueled by compassion and determination, as they push the boundaries to amplify their impact and create lasting change for children with disabilities. The CSO garnered extensive recognition and support on a national scale for their initiative to empower and enable guardians of children with disabilities. With our support, the Phensem Chapter successfully delivered extensive assistance and provisions to parents of children with disabilities who were residing in the Paro, Gelephu, and Phuntsholing regions during this year.
- In our unwavering commitment to empower children and families living with HIV, our Sponsorship Program efforts this year focused on bolstering education and implementing comprehensive case management programs, all aimed at fortifying the foundations of resilient and thriving families.







## ADVOCACY, CAMPAIGNS, COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

### SHORT HISTORY

In 2023 SC Bhutan formally initiated establishment of the Advocacy, Campaigns, Communications and Media (ACCM) function in the Bhutan office, with the aspiration to create and launch ACCM activities to compliment and amplify program impact and to achieve advocacy and communication goals planned in the Country Strategic Plan (2022-2024).

ACCM is a cross thematic area and therefore shares common objectives and partners as to those of different programs in SC Bhutan.

### Key Achievements in 2023:

1. SHIFT a campaign accelerator program was introduced in Bhutan in 2024 where 4 active youth groups were selected for SHIFT through a hackathon process. The four youth groups are YPEER Bhutan, Y-VIA Bhutan, VAST Bhutan and Queer Voices of Bhutan. All 4 campaigns reached a vast range of audience.
2. 24 emotion-based illustrations were created where 12 were dedicated to 12 key messages derived from the baseline and formative studies of the Parenting without Violence project and the remaining 12 were 3 key messages of each thematic group.
3. Children's content (motion graphic animation) on co-parenting, anti-bullying, and brushing were created with the perspective of children. The song for antibullying animation came out as a part of the Anti-Bullying rap that we held in July 2023 as a part of the Parenting without Violence advocacy.





## MONITORING, EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEARNING (MEAL)

### SHORT HISTORY

SC Bhutan office maintains a small team of MEAL professionals dedicated to upholding Evidence and Learning standards and procedures in our Quality Framework. The MEAL team provides technical support in designing, implementing, tracking quality programs that aims to influence our three breakthroughs. It ensures continuous oversight function of tracking quality of activities and outputs to ensure that they align with the project MEAL plan and gathering of real-time information on project progress, allowing for timely identification of challenges and course correction if need be. Additionally, the team provides technical support in designing and implementing periodic assessment of project's outcomes and impact to examine the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, and sustainability of our projects. In addition, MEAL team facilitate Learning from experience, providing insights into what works and what doesn't, facilitating organizational learning, which is used in making informed decisions, improving future projects, and demonstrating accountability to stakeholders.

MEAL is a cross thematic area and therefore shares common objectives and partners as to those of different programs in SC Bhutan.





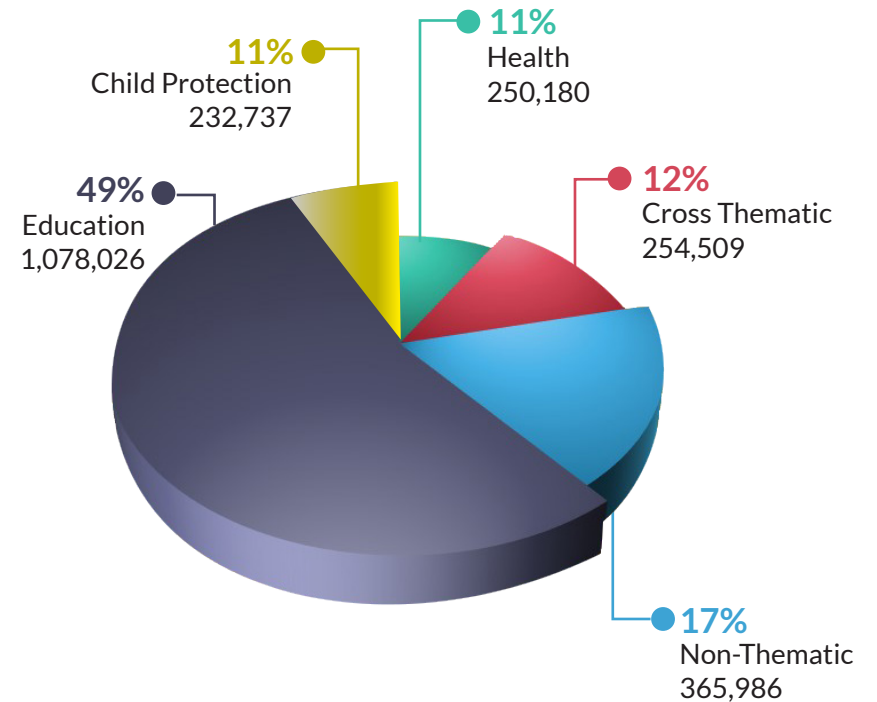
**Key Achievements in 2023:**

1. Developed Power BI dashboards for Quality Benchmarks (QBs) and Feedback Response Mechanism (FRM) to facilitate harmonized and cohesive approach to data collection and monitoring, fostering informed decision making, accountability, timely reporting, and continuous learning.
2. Reviewed the accountability system of a Project (Empowering Communities to Address Violence Against Children by customizing and adapting the Accountability System Review (ASR) tool. The review exercise was critical in identifying strengths, weaknesses, and improvement areas for accountability components of the project.
3. Increased our efforts to capture voices of children through systematic child participation in project implementation. Built MEAL and program capacity in ethically consulting children during project implementation using various participatory tools.



**BUDGET OVERVIEW**

Actual spending by theme in USD in 2023 2,181,438



## DONORS

Thank you to all our Donors and SCI Members for enabling us to innovate, implement, and scale-up our programs and transform children's lives.

Save the Children International

Save the Children US

Global Partnership for Education (GPE)

Save the Children Hongkong

GFATM (The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria)

Tony Luun

LEGO Foundation

Save the Children Denmark



Designed and Printed at Bhutan Printing Solutions

Developed by Deepika Adhikari, Advocacy,  
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Coordinator





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