



How to make the program child focused?

September 2015





To contribute towards the well-being of the most vulnerable children Red een Kind works together with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in selected countries. In this chapter we describe the Red een Kind Guidelines (minimum requirements) of a program.

3.1 Child-Centered

Improvement the wellbeing of vulnerable children is at the heart of what Red een Kind wants to achieve.

- a. *Impact on the child:* This means programs supported by Red een Kind are primarily focused on impacting the well-being of children.
- b. *Child participation:* This implies that children are active participants in the program and are consulted in regards to the content of the program (see [annex 24 guidelines on child participation](#) & [Participatory Toolbox manual](#)).
- c. *Child Rights:* Besides the right of participation, programs also contribute towards upholding the other rights as described in the Convention of the Rights of the Child (see [annex 23 guiding steps and principles for addressing child rights](#)).
- d. *Holistic needs:* Programs are focused on addressing the holistic needs of the children. This involves integrated assessments and programming (see [annex 21 Description Program cycle management](#) paragraph 4 & [annex 26 Guidelines Spiritual Development Programming](#))
- e. *Development stages:* The programs consider the developmental needs of children in different stages of development (ages 0-7, 8-12 and 13-18), as well as age-appropriate participation in the programs.

3.2 Vulnerable children

Red een Kind's mission is to reach out to vulnerable children in the selected countries. Vulnerable children are children who are more exposed to risks than their peers. The abbreviation OVC (Orphans and Vulnerable Children) is commonly used to describe this group. OVCs are defined as groups of children that experience negative outcomes such as the loss of their education, morbidity, and malnutrition, at higher rates than do their peers.¹ Partner organization are therefore expected to justify the selection of their target area/group based on collected primary and secondary information on the extent of vulnerability of the group (see Participatory toolbox manual for the collection of primary information).

3.3 Child Protection Policy

Red een Kind believes that all forms of abuse and exploitation suffered by children are unacceptable. Working for vulnerable children, Red een Kind considers child protection the heart of our mandate. We are motivated and inspired by the Biblical mandate shown through the life and ministry of Jesus regarding the value of children (see Matthew 18).

¹ Worldbank.org/e-tools



From a Biblical perspective Red een Kind strives to make the signs of God's coming Kingdom visible in this world, and recognizes that we live in a broken world full of poverty and injustice. This means that children need to be protected from harm and supported in an enabling environment in which they can develop holistically. We believe all children have equal rights to be protected including those who are disabled, who are from minority ethnic/faith groups, and regardless of gender, sexuality, culture.

Next to our biblical motivation, we acknowledge the protection of children is a human right's issue. This policy is therefore based on the UN Convention on the rights of the child. To align with internationally recognized standards and good practice Red een Kind has become an associate member of the Keeping Children Safe Alliance and is committed to meet Keeping Children Safe standards for child protection (www.keepingchildrensafe.org.uk).

Protection of children, preventing them from harm, and responding adequately in case abuse does happen, will be done via 3 different strategies:

1. Child Protection Policy of Red een Kind, whereby Red een Kind is trying everything possible to prevent that staff, volunteers, interns, consultants or others working in the name of Red een Kind, will harm a child. The policy is available in Dutch and English at the Red een Kind office.
In case any child protection issue or suspicion comes up, the child protection officer of Red een Kind needs to be informed: childprotection@redeekind.nl
2. Child Protection Policy of the partner organisation Red een Kind is working with, whereby Red een Kind will check if the partner organisation takes this seriously. Minimum requirements for the partner are:
 - Having a written policy, known by all staff, including clear procedures for recruitment, checking child protection, reporting procedures in case a child protection concern is raised, and clear information for community members in general and children specifically.
 - Provision of staff training in child protection
 - Clear Code of Conduct, signed by all staff, including behavioral guidelines and guidelines for communication with and about children.
3. Community child protection whereby systems will be put in place or will be strengthened within the community, to prevent harm done to children by people within the communities or by authorities, and to make sure in case of harm done, there is adequate response to support the child and to investigate and to prosecute the perpetrator if proven guilty.