

CCCD

Pilot phase guidelines



2025

Help  a
CHILD

Partner criteria and selection

Help a Child implements CCCD projects through strategic implementing partners. The criteria and process for selection of partners are explained in this chapter. It is important to note that partner selection and area selection go together, as not all partners can implement projects in all geographical locations.

Partner criteria

In line with Help a Child's partnership requirements, strategic partners of Help a Child should have:

- A Christian identity and work from Biblical values;
- A mission and motivation to support marginalized children (especially young children), their families and communities;
- The ability and willingness to implement one or more sponsorship models: Child Ambassador Model (CAM), Family Ambassador Model (FAM).
- A clear match with Help a Child's guiding principles
- The proven ability as an organization to implement high quality projects of similar scope, size, and geography, or the potential to develop to this level;
- The ability to implement Help a Child's Theory of Change (ToC) or crucial parts of it to deliver integrated programs that target marginalized children, families and communities;
- The commitment and/or ability to adhere to the compliance standards for quality as mentioned under the Core Humanitarian Standards, including the Help a Child Integrity & Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment policy.
- The ability to link and work together with external stakeholders;
- An in-country registration as a Non-Governmental Organization;
- A clear governance structure of the organization and internal controls;
- The strategic partner sees added value in the cooperation with Help a Child.

Partner selection process

Help a Child takes the following steps to recruit and identify new strategic partners:

1. An open tender with an advertisement for expression of interest is published.
2. Initial screening of these organizations is done based on the partner selection criteria. This will result in a shortlist of preferably 5 organizations.
3. Pre-selected organizations are subjected to an **Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA)** tool, carried out by a team of at least 2 Help a Child staff members. The results of this assessment of all organizations are gathered in one overview for decision making.
4. At least 3 organizations are selected for personal meetings at the office to better get to know each other and reflect on possible further collaboration.
5. **Milestone:** the Country Office that conducted the above steps, writes a memo to the Management Team of Help a Child Global Office that thereafter approves and contracts the selected strategic partner.

Pilot phase

After selection of a strategic partner, we will run a pilot to monitor and evaluate our project implementation capacity and partnership. A pilot phase has a duration of 6-12 months and needs to take place in the area selected for CCCD. The budget for a pilot project is 20,000 – 40,000 euro.

Other pilot criteria are:

- The pilot is not a stand-alone project but needs to be conducted in the area selected for CCCD. The pilot prepares the community for further CCCD programming.
- The pilot can contain the full preparation phase and the first blocks of the community challenge phase.
- Staff and involved communities have a good understanding and embrace the project objectives and applied CCCD approach.
- Activities consist of community awareness, capacity building, prioritization and planning, mobilisation and setting up key structures such as project management committees and self-help groups.
- Basic data are collected (based on participatory tools) to allow the design of a comprehensive Multi Annual Project Plan

(MAPP).

- Potential local community facilitators are identified.

Pilot process

The pilot needs to be designed in line with the criteria above. The pilot starts with the partner receiving green light from Help a Child on their pilot plans. During the pilot phase, relevant activities of the preparation phase and the community challenge phase are started, but no children are yet linked to private sponsors in the Netherlands (no CAM selection yet).

Milestone: After the first 6–12 months of the pilot, a go/no-go decision is made. A pilot report is written as memo to the Country Office and the Management Team of Help a Child Global Office. Based on this report both MT and Country office decide if the pilot can change into a full project. If the answer is 'Yes', the partner can continue with the Community Challenge phase. If the answer is 'No', the partner will finalize the pilot project. On the other hand, also a community themselves can decide to withdraw from a full development intervention when they do not see the relevance of our cooperation.

Note: Only after approval of the Country Office and Management Team Global Office on starting the CCCD project, child ambassadors can be linked with private sponsors in the Netherlands.

Go/No-Go criteria:

- The partner shows it fits very well to all Help a Child's partner selection criteria;
- The partner has implemented the pilot well and shown good quality and knowledge on CCCD project implementation;

- The new partner is accepted by the community;
- The new partner shows commitment and is communicating well with all relevant stakeholders;
- The new partners are accountable regarding finance and in the way they reach out to the community.