

# CAPACITY STATEMENT: CHILD PROTECTION

## OVERVIEW

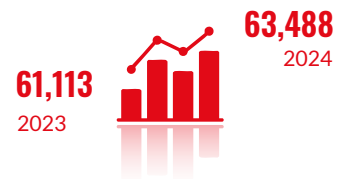
Violence against children is a global problem with devastating effects on the physical, psychological and social well-being of millions of children. **More than half of the world's one billion children have experienced some form of violence, and at least one child dies from it every five minutes.**

In Latin America and the Caribbean, it is estimated that 2 out of every 3 children are victims of verbal, physical or sexual violence. Violence is so serious that it can occur in homes, schools and communities, and can be inflicted by parents or caregivers, peers, partners and third parties.

In Peru and the region, multiple factors converge to increase the risk of exposure to violence: conflict, state fragility, forced migration, humanitarian crises and the impact of climate change. Thousands of children are highly vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and neglect. Without urgent intervention, these numbers will continue to grow.

### OVERVIEW IN PERU

In Peru, the situation is also worrying. In 2024 alone, according to national government data, 63,488 cases of violence against children and adolescents were recorded, up from 61,113 cases in 2023.



Source: UNICEF, 2021.

More than a third corresponds to cases of sexual violence.

## SAVE THE CHILDREN: GLOBAL SUPPORT

Founded more than 100 years ago, Save the Children is the leading child protection organization. Its experience working in 120 countries has enabled it to strengthen protection systems, ensure specialized care for those who have suffered violence and promote safe environments by counteracting harmful social and gender norms. Through programs and advocacy, it promotes innovative and sustainable policies and solutions in partnership with governments, civil society and communities. Whether in development or humanitarian contexts, Save the Children works to ensure that girls, boys and adolescents live and grow up free from violence.

## INSTITUTIONAL EXPERIENCE

Save the Children's global experience working for children brings unique and specific value to current efforts to eradicate violence. In Peru and around the world, its programs follow these principles:

RIGHTS-BASED FOCUS ON CHILDREN

SURVIVOR-CENTERED APPROACH

COLLABORATION

HOLISTIC AND GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE

INTERSECTIONALITY

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE RISK MITIGATION

Save the Children uses proven best practices, resources and strategies from around the world to prioritize action on the following issues:

### CHILDREN AT THE CENTER OF HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The organization ensures that humanitarian actions consider the **sensitivity of children to conflict**, their protection needs and the response to violence in emergencies. Save the Children leverages its leadership in inter-agency spaces to protect children's rights in Peru and the region.

### PROTECTING CHILDREN IN DIVERSE ENVIRONMENTS

Builds child protection capacities at the local level, strengthening protection systems, **improving social protection services and developing case management by coordinating multi-sectoral services to support the diverse needs of children and their families**. These efforts focus on empowering girls, boys and communities, training and accrediting volunteers, and enhancing the competencies of community protection systems.

### PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Connects and coordinates systems and services to **prevent and respond to VSG in all contexts**, especially in conflict, crisis and displacement, with a special focus on girls and adolescents. Save the Children addresses the root causes of these violences through gender transformative approaches, child participatory practices and community dialogue to break the cycle of violence.

### MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Save the Children focuses on improving mental health care and **specialized psychosocial support for girls and boys, especially in contexts of complex emergencies and migration crises**. The organization strengthens the capacities of technical and frontline staff, as well as national and local actors, by developing programmatic frameworks and guidance to improve the quality of programming, advocacy and research.

### ENDING CHILD, EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGES

Child marriage and unions are a form of violence against girls and boys. Save the Children works on programming and advocacy **strategies to prevent and respond to these issues**, promoting campaigns and transforming laws and policies.

### NON-VIOLENT PARENTING ACCELERATOR

**Articulates positive parenting strategies** with building food security and economic empowerment as a “developmental accelerator” of child well-being.

### ONLINE SAFETY AND SECURITY

With more than 20 years of experience in child protection in online environments, Save the Children works with technology companies to **support protection efforts and conduct research** to better understand the dynamics and risks to children in the digital world.

## CHILD PROTECTION WORK METHODOLOGIES

Save the Children's evidence-based methodologies, known as Common Approaches, address specific issues affecting children, adapting to different contexts and ensuring a strategic approach to reaching vulnerable populations.

#### Safe Families



A preventive program that reduces physical and humiliating punishment, promoting communication and respect in families and communities, as well as the recognition of children as subjects of rights.

#### Steps to Protect



Case management model that articulates multisectoral services (education, health, nutrition and legal support) to provide timely attention to children with complex needs.

#### Safe Schools



Comprehensive strategy that involves the entire educational community to create safe school environments conducive to learning.

# SAVE THE CHILDREN IN PERU AND LATIN AMERICA

Child protection is one of Save the Children in Peru's four strategic and a cross-cutting theme in its interventions in health, education and food security. The organization connects global and local agendas by collaborating with governments, communities and key actors to strengthen protection systems and empower children and their families.

In 2020, we produced the National Comprehensive Protection System Report, assessing protection policies in Latin America. **Through the Joining Forces global alliance, we promote changes in public policies and the defense of children's rights.**

In human mobility and migration, we participate in the Protection Subgroup of the Working Group for Refugees and Migrants (GTRM), coordinating responses for Venezuelan population. In addition, **we promote climate adaptation and risk management initiatives, prioritizing child protection in emergencies.**

In Peru, Save the Children has a solid presence implementing programs or advocacy actions in various regions of the country, such as:



- Callao
- Huancavelica
- Junín
- La Libertad
- Lambayeque
- Lima
- Loreto
- Madre de Dios
- Piura
- San Martín
- Tumbes
- Ucayali.

## CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAM

Save the Children in Peru prevents violence and strengthens child protection systems, working with children, families, caregivers, governments and communities. Its actions include policy development, changing social norms and promoting child participation. Aligned with its strategic objectives, **the program ensures that children and adolescents grow up in safe environments, with access to comprehensive and resilient services in the face of climate, humanitarian and mobility crises.**

### THEORY OF CHANGE

To reduce child violence by 2030, Save the Children promotes:



**Empowered  
Childhood**

Participation in safe environments with access to comprehensive protection.



**Quality  
care**

Families and caregivers strengthened in positive parenting.



**Committed  
governments**

Adapted policies and actions with social control mechanisms.



**Protective  
Communities**

Local strategies to prevent and respond to violence.

### PROJECTS

#### **BOLIVAR Project**

Protection and integration of Venezuelan migrant and refugee families, strengthening prevention from a community approach.

#### **STOP Project**

Reduction of violence in Villa El Salvador and Villa María del Triunfo, promoting access to the national protection system.

#### **Emergency response**

Education and protection for children affected by floods in Lambayeque and Piura.

#### **Migrant Protection and Integration**

Improved protection and socioeconomic inclusion of Venezuelan migrant families in Tumbes, Chiclayo and Lima.

*These projects reinforce Save the Children's commitment to child protection in Peru.*

## IMPACT AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Advocacy and governmental capacities

- **1,169 officials trained** in disaster risk reduction (RRD) with a focus on protection, gender and inclusion.
- **7 policy change processes** that include proposals made by Save the Children and its partners to fulfill children's right to education, welfare and early childhood development.

### Innovation in Protection

- Development of a child protection and gender-based violence (VBG) protocol.
- Integration of cash transfers for survivors of violence.



### Child Welfare

- **2,518** children and adolescents whose caregivers participated in violence-free parenting programs.
- **1,193** children received support through protection case management.
- **6,325** individuals (children, adolescents, families) received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).
- **2,196** children and adolescents who received assistance for violence prevention and psychoemotional support through the Friendly Spaces and Calm Rooms.

## DONORS

In the last 5 years Save the Children's work in Peru has been supported by:

- AECID
- USAID (BHA)
- BPRM
- COSUDE
- ECW
- GIZ
- OIM
- Start Network
- UNICEF
- Atlas Copco
- Bezos Family Foundation
- Chloe
- Cummins
- Google
- The Charities of the Church of Latter-day Saints
- LACT
- and others.



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