



Save the Children



FROM WORDS TO ACTION

A decade fighting child trafficking in Mozambique

WORKING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE SYSTEM CHANGE

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To understand why civil society actors sometimes succeed in influencing systemic change and at other times fail, we must understand the overall political, social and economic context. Alteration of social practices, attitudes, institution, and policies takes time and will not raise from one organization alone.

The civil society actor's ability to be a social influencer depends on internal skillsets, commitment from the senior management, the organizations reputation, relationships with and attraction from the media, convening power and strategic value of partnerships. The complexity of the issue at hand will further impact the civil society actor's ability to influence lasting change. In other words, sustainable change is a complex process demanding persistence and determination. Sustainability in this study has been addressed by looking at the continued benefits of an activity/intervention after the funding has phased out. Learning from successful projects can be helpful to become wiser and better prepared for future projects. The elements and practical considerations contributing to sustainable results in the anti- trafficking project can be summarized as follows;

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Long term perspective is needed for system change. At the initial stage, the project team should formulate assumptions of how to reach the goal. These assumptions can guide the formulation of realistic intermediate results and benchmarks, that will be helpful to keep track of the progress made.

A theory of change can be formulated based on assumptions of how change can be achieved. The development of a theory of change should be a collaborative effort in the team, and with partners to guide where, when and how to invest time, money and human resources. As the project proceeds the realities on the ground and political context might evolve, which requires for project staff to revisit the assumptions of how to achieve the project goal.

Partnerships with local civil society and governmental counterparts are critical. Ensure that activities are carried out in partnerships and that the achieved goals are rooted in local structures. This approach is likely to build local commitment, knowhow and promote local ownership of the

process. The long-term goal must be for local partners to hold their governments to account and for government to step up to their responsibilities as duty bearers.

The duty bearer, the government, should be in the driving seat of the policy and systemic change. It will be easier to ensure sustainability if initiatives build on existing structures and the government is allowed to brand the activities with their logos. This tactic encourages ownership and a sense of commitment, which is needed for governmental to allocate budget lines to implement laws and policies.

Advocacy goals should aim at removing systemic barrier and injustice, so children can enjoy their rights. The advocacy goals should be an integrated part of the project planning rather than a standalone initiative. The knowledge of the field realities gives credibility to the arguments in a policy process; it is, therefore, important for advocacy messages to build on research and on systematic documentation of the civil society actors results and experiences. To work

SHORT PROJECT OUTLINE

The project successfully contributed to change in policy and practice. The Anti-Trafficking Act 06/2008 has been a landmark in this process.

The establishment and continued work of the protection system has been another major achievement speaking to implementation of the Anti-Trafficking Act.

The main task of the protection system has been to provide children affected by trafficking assistance and hold the perpetrators accountable for their crimes.



with other actors will strengthen the force of the arguments and ability to reach the key targets. The best results will be achieved with combining multiple strategies tailored for the specific context.

Avoid duplications and the development of parallel systems to those established by the government. Even if the government is not willing or able to follow up on your collaboration, spend time building the relationship and offer technical support to gain their trust. The government is responsible for delivering services to children, and their ownership should be secured. International Organizations and civil society actors should support and contribute to the wellbeing of children in collaboration with the government.

Realistic cost of the models presented to the governments will increase the chances for the government to integrate these models into national standards and programmes. Investment in children should be a key priority, at the same time as civil society organizations must be mindful that

governments have competing priorities and budgets are constrained. Consider the economy of the context and sector you operate in - and promote realistic policy changes.

Documentation and communication of results is important to gain support from a range of stakeholders and donors. Make sure that the results achieved at each stage of the process are documented in line with donor requirements and standards. Ensure that the organisation dedicates time to communicate these results and what they have meant for the target group. The communication should contain elements of before and after situations, facts and human-interest stories. To communicate the results and learning may trigger new investments opportunities.

Trust and relationships should never be underestimated. It is, therefore, worth retaining project staff to ensure the continuation of relationships over time. Staff retention is typically affected by funding gaps and management priorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTINUED PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Save the Children should:

- Continue working for approval and implementation of the national action plan, and for the government to provide the funding necessary to implement the protection and prevention provisions of the 2008 Anti-Trafficking Act.
- Continue providing information and capacity building to the police – and expand this to Mozambique's other borders, which will require new donor funding.
- Provide capacity strengthening initiatives to increase efforts to prosecute and convict suspected trafficking offenders.
- Support initiatives to enhance capacity of the police anti-trafficking unit, the labour inspectorate, and the Women and Children's Victim Assistance Units to investigate trafficking cases and provide short-term protection to victims.
- Strengthen coordination between civil society organization and the government.
- Continue advocacy towards the donors and the government to expand the availability of protective services for victims via increased funding to relevant partners in the national, and district referral groups to protect children and combat trafficking in persons.
- With its partners, utilise an issue-based approach where different sectors collectively support vulnerable communities with income-generating activities, education, nutrition and child protection. To prevent the worst forms of child labour and trafficking, families and communities must be better supported.
- Continue working with child protection committees at community level to identify vulnerable children who tend to be more exposed to trafficking.
- Advocate for the government to monitor the reported growth in commercial sex and train officials to investigate and prosecute those facilitating child or forced prostitution.

Every child has the right to a future.

Save the Children works around the world to give children a healthy start in life, and the chance to learn and to be safe.

We do whatever it takes to get children the things they need – every day and in times of crisis.

Cover photo: Isidro Afonso, Maguaza Transit Center.

Joana,*16, was trafficked to South Africa by her uncle when she was 14. Once there, she was forced to look after his children and sexually abused. After a neighbour reported her situation to social services, a social worker brought her to the Amazing Grace reintegration centre, where she received medical help and counselling. After six months at the centre she was reunited with her family in Mozambique and her abuser was sentenced to six years in prison.

*Not her real name

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