

Joining Forces for Africa (JOFA) Newsletter



JOINING FORCES  
For All Children



Co-funded by  
the European Union

# Bringing people together to strengthen child rights

March 2023

NEWSLETTER

Q9

# Strengthening disability inclusion

ChildFund  
Alliance



Save the Children

SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES  
INTERNATIONAL

Terre des Hommes  
International Federation

World Vision



# COME JOIN US IN THE NEW JOINING FORCES PROJECT!

The Joining Forces for Child Protection in Emergencies (JF-CPIE) project is a global consortium project bringing together six large child rights organisations in Germany to improve the protection of children and adolescents amongst refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) as well as their host communities in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Colombia, Ethiopia, and South Sudan.

**SIGN UP FOR THE JF-CPIE NEWSLETTER**



## JOFA Q9 Newsletter



### Inside this edition:

- Project Progress
- Strengthening disability inclusion

## About JOFA

**Joining Forces is an alliance formed in 2017 of the six largest child-focused international NGOs – ChildFund Alliance, Plan International, Save the Children International, SOS Children’s Villages International, Terre des Hommes International Federation, and World Vision International. Together, they are working with and for children to secure their rights and end violence against children.**

# Project Progress

## ON TRACK!

**In this quarter, good progress was made against output indicators across all four result areas and in all five countries, with most output targets either met or on track.**



Yet, the working context remained challenging: The economic impact of COVID-19 and the food and commodity crisis continued to impact all areas of work. In Uganda, schools remained closed for at least 3 weeks due to a national teacher's strike.

Furthermore, the Ebola outbreak caused minor disruption of project activities in the affected hotspots. In Ethiopia, the Mao Komo district has been affected by the internal conflict, leading to the total suspension of all activities planned for the district. The focus will shift now to implementing activities for the refugees who have been relocated from Mao Komo (Gure Shembolla refugee camp) to Tsore refugee camp.

Despite these challenges, good progress was made in strengthening national and local protection and response systems. In Mali and Kenya, referral pathways were reviewed, validated, and disseminated. In Ethiopia, the Standard Operation Procedures for identification, reporting and referral was reviewed. Government social welfare workers and child protection service providers received training on adapted identification, reporting and referral mechanisms in Uganda, Senegal, Mali, and Ethiopia. The project teams also conducted trainings on community-based psychosocial support activities and case management and provided material support to strengthen child protection service providers to cope with COVID-19 and related child protection issues.





Good progress was also made to improve protection in resilient families, communities, and institutions in the context of COVID-19 and during recovery phase. Communication content was disseminated in all five countries to increase awareness on child protection risks, amongst others through posters, radio, and social media. The “Parenting without Violence” approach was continued in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Mali and the “Celebrating Families” approach in Senegal. In all five countries, community-based child protection mechanisms were supported. In Uganda, Senegal and Kenya, teachers and school support staff were trained on psychological first aid and child protection issues.

In this quarter, the capacity and agency of children to prevent and respond to violence against them was further strengthened. Children participated in life skills and psychosocial support activities in Uganda, Senegal, Kenya, and Ethiopia. To increase the participation of children as active agents of change to end violence in their communities,

peer-based networks were strengthened in all five countries. Advocacy dialogues between children and policy makers were supported in Mali and Kenya. In Uganda, child-led campaigns and public mobilization continued. To increase the learning and sharing of knowledge and best practice related to child protection approaches, the project teams engaged with other sector actors in the different target areas. As part of the Technical Approaches learning series, all country teams implemented peer exchanges to review the common approaches, such as “Parenting without Violence” (Uganda, Ethiopia, Mali, and Kenya), “Child Friendly Accountability” (Uganda, Ethiopia, Mali and Kenya), “TeamUp” (Uganda and Ethiopia), “Celebrating Families” and “Peace Road” (Senegal).

To find out more about the different technical approaches take a look at the JOFA Learning Series by clicking on the following links: [TeamUp](#), [Child Friendly Accountability](#), [Parenting without Violence](#)



# Strengthening disability inclusion

## NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND

**In Q9, JOFA teams involved associations and organisations of people with disabilities at community and national level to identify children with disability, to strengthen their participation and to tailor the interventions to meet their specific needs.**

Children with disabilities have specific needs that need to be considered in all aspects of planning, implementation, and assessment of project activities. JOFA has adopted a variety of strategies to ensure the meaningful participation of children with disabilities in the project activities. In Uganda and Ethiopia, synergies were created with other projects and Non-Governmental Organisation to meaningfully and appropriately engage with children with disabilities within project activities, such as Team Up. In Uganda, the partners further engaged with academic institutions for children with disabilities to be involved in activity implementation.

In Mali and Kenya, the JOFA teams involved associations and organisations of people with disabilities at community and national level to identify children with disability, to strengthen their participation and to tailor the interventions to meet their specific needs. As a result, animation and awareness-raising sessions are planned in Bamako in the next quarter as part of the implementation of the action plan of the institutional network with the Association of the Deaf Mutes in collaboration with their translator. In Senegal, the teams have also established partnerships with association of people living with disabilities to respond to challenges in ensuring the participation of people with disabilities.







These approaches have strengthened the inclusive implementation of project activities: Community-based child protection mechanisms, social workers and other relevant stakeholders have been sensitized on the importance of inclusion in offering their services and received training on disability inclusive approaches.

This ensured the access of children with disabilities to psychosocial support sessions to strengthen their self-confidence and empower them.

Caregivers of children with disabilities are attending Parenting without Violence sessions to improve positive parenting skill. Children with disabilities also participate in Team Up sessions and attend Child Friendly Spaces that can help to enhance their psychosocial wellbeing and social interaction with their peers.

Through community awareness sensitization forums and communication activities, socio-cultural behaviors that contribute to the exclusion of people with disabilities have been addressed.

The parents and caregivers have increased awareness and uptake of services that promotes the wellbeing of the boys, girls, and youth with disabilities.

This change of negative attitudes and perceptions has helped to create an enabling environment for children living with disabilities.

## Support to district child protection bodies

For further information on the support to district child protection bodies within JOFA, please refer to the JOFA Project Thematic Review: **Joining Forces support to district child protection bodies**

July 2023  
LEARNING BRIEF

JOFA THEMATIC REVIEWS

JOFA Project Thematic Review:  
Joining Forces support to  
district child protection bodies

Joining Forces for Africa (JOFA)

JOINING FORCES  
For All Children

Co-funded by  
the European Union

Download in English

Download in French

ChildFund | PLAN | Save the Children | SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES | Terre des Hommes | World Vision



**JOINING FORCES**  
For All Children



Co-funded by  
the European Union

[Data privacy](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

[joining-forces.org](http://joining-forces.org)

ChildFund  
Alliance

PLAN  
INTERNATIONAL

Save the Children

SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES  
INTERNATIONAL

Terre des Hommes  
International Federation

World Vision