

Introduction to Save the Children Talk Outline

What Save the Children has been doing: Our breakthroughs

Background to Save the Children:

At the beginning of the 20th century, two sisters had a vision to achieve and protect the rights of children. Their vision has survived into the 21st century. In 2009, we'll be celebrating our 90th anniversary

AFTER SCHOOL children had nowhere to go WE introduced the idea of playgroups

- During World War II we developed play centres to stop children playing in bombsites.
- After the war we developed this idea into playgroups, now adopted for children worldwide.

THEY expected the poorest children to last whole day on thin air

WE campaigned for free dinners and milk in schools

- Our 1933 research report Unemployment and the Child: An Enquiry showed that mass unemployment affects children's nutrition.
- We campaigned for child rights to adequate nutrition and got the law changed, resulting in the Education Act of 1944, which provided school meals and milk throughout the UK.

THOUSANDS of children are separated from their families in conflicts and disasters every year

WE found new, safer ways to reunite them

The problem:

- Conflict and disaster can result in children becoming separated from their families and many children ended up in institutional care, permanently cut off from their families.

What Save the Children did:

- In the 1980s and 90s we pioneered family tracing work, reuniting children with their families, who had been separated by conflict or other emergencies.
- We hold public reunions of children with their families in order to encourage the rest of the local community to feel involved in a child's future and welfare.

- We have developed systems to standardise and match information gathered on thousands of children and families.
- Other agencies have now adopted our approaches, and our guides on family tracing are widely used.
- Ethiopia: 2,500 children were left on their own in feeding centres with no idea where their families were. Staff tracked down extended families and reunited 90% of children.
- Rwanda: We expanded on that success and reunited 45,000 children with their families during the Rwanda crisis.

THEY thought disabled children couldn't learn in mainstream schools

WE knew they could and should

The problem:

- Up to the mid-1990s the prevailing view on disabled children was that they couldn't be educated in mainstream schools.
- Save the Children was outraged by the neglect of disabled children.

Save the Children's action:

- In the 1990s Save the Children became a leader in the field of inclusive education. In a number of countries we piloted programmes where disabled children were taught alongside their non-disabled peers. These programmes challenged traditional attitudes towards disabled children.
- Teachers were trained in how to deliver lessons to a range of children's abilities.
- We help changed world opinion on inclusive education and worked closely with governments across the world to pioneer and practise inclusive education.

TODAY, WE'RE WORKING WORLDWIDE in 56 countries, including hard-to-get-into, dangerous ones like Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Afghanistan

WE'RE WORKING IN THE UK TOO

Did you know that one in ten children in the UK lives in severe poverty? We're campaigning to get rid of child poverty in the UK by 2020

What Save the Children will do next

NEARLY 10 MILLION children won't live to see their 5th birthday this year

YOU help us stop this. We know the solutions, like vaccinations, mosquito nets and enough food.

We just need the world to see how easy it is.

What Save the Children are doing:

- We have launched a three year campaign is to save millions of children's lives every year
- We will empower families to take simple but powerful actions that really can save children's lives
- It's simple to save a life. A simple action today can save a child's life. Vaccinations, mosquito nets and clean water are just some of the simple things that can keep a child alive.
- We want 10 million people to take action by 2010 for 10 million children who die every year.

80p can buy one day's supply of a micronutrient peanut butter that helps keep malnourished children alive

£3 means we could give a child at risk of malaria a mosquito net

£5.50 could buy 50 sachets of salts to rehydrate very weak children

£7 can provide plastic sheeting which a family can use for temporary shelter

£10 can provide winter clothing for a child in Pakistan

£18 could pay for a water filter to provide families in Afghanistan with clean water

HAVING A BABY in Liberia is scary. And it costs up to 1500 Liberian Dollars to deliver. Trouble is, that's a month's salary.

YOU make governments realise that healthcare fees don't work

The problem

- In some countries – Sierra Leone, Niger, Angola – one in four children die before their fifth birthday.
- The most common cause of death in young children are pneumonia, diarrhoea, measles and malaria.

Save the Children are working in developing countries to:

- Advise health managers
- Train health workers
- Provide equipment and transport
- Build health facilities
- Ensure free healthcare for the poorest communities

- Ensure children have the right to basic health care e.g:
 - Vaccinations – prevention against measles
 - Mosquito nets – prevention against malaria
 - Clean water – prevention against diarrhoea
 - Food – to combat malnourishment

WE WANT TO PROTECT CHILDREN with knowledge, not guns

YOU help us replace fighting with learning

Rewrite the Future

In 2006 Save the Children launched Rewrite the Future, a campaign in more than 40 countries to help the 39 million children caught up in conflict and emergencies who are not going to school.

2 years on we have improved the education of 5.7 million children including getting 815,000 children into school which is equivalent to opening two schools every day.

WE know there's no time to waste when disaster strikes

YOUR DONATIONS help us stay ready to act quickly

The problem:

Over 60 million children are affected by natural and man-made disasters every year. Whenever a disaster strikes, children are particularly vulnerable. In an instant they may lose their home, their community, their security and everything they have. They face multiple threats from violence, disease, malnutrition, trauma, lack of shelter, water, food and education.

What Save the Children do:

Save the Children works to protect families' rights to basic services (like water and sanitation) and to make sure those children can get an education wherever they are. We also work to limit the effects of conflict on children and their families.

Children's Emergency Fund

The Children's Emergency Fund (CEF) is a fund that enables Save the Children to rapidly respond to an emergency anywhere in the world, at any time. By having the money in place before an emergency strikes, Save the Children can respond as soon as the need is identified, rather than having to wait to secure public or institutional help.

Props Box

Introduction to Save the Children leaflet

Emergencies, protection and family tracing posters

CEF DVD

Plumpy Nut