

ANNUAL REPORT



2023

Our impact

PART ONE



Foreword

2023 was my first full year working with Terre des Hommes Netherlands and looking back, I can honestly say that I am impressed by the work of 'my' organisation. I had the chance to meet Tasha in Kenya. Having lost both her parents as a child, sexual exploitation was a way to earn some money to survive on. With support from our partner she has now become an experienced dressmaker and has her own sewing machine. With a big smile she told me that she is totally capable of taking care of herself and her family now. It was obvious that she regained her dignity, which was very encouraging for me to see.

Unfortunately however, the global context in 2023 remained very challenging for too many children. While the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has prioritised the strong commitment of states to secure a bright future for the world's children, progress is lagging behind. Millions of children still find themselves in exploitative situations and need support to regain their power.

With the implementation of our new Listen Up! strategy in 2023, Terre des Hommes Netherlands seeks to accelerate progress on ending child exploitation by building coalitions, expanding knowledge and influencing systemic change. As always, children are central to our work. They led and participated in many advocacy events, and were central to the co-creation of three thematic programmes through workshops across Africa and Asia last year. We could only organise this and do our work in 2023 thanks to intensive cooperation with governments, local partners, all donors, our loyal volunteers and of course our dedicated staff. A big thank you to all of you!

During the year, we made the decision to say goodbye to our beautiful building in the Netherlands, which we have owned since 1999. After thorough analysis and discussions, we came to the conclusion



Tasha, 23 years old, using a sewing machine in her workplace at the dress making shop. Photo credit: Terre des Hommes

that the upkeep and renovation costs outweighed the benefits of ownership. We could gain much efficiency by downsizing our office space and modifying to flexible and new ways of working. The sale of the building will close in 2024 and we look forward to moving to an exciting new location in the summer. The proceeds from the sale of the building will be invested into our programmes and improving our ICT systems.

I expect 2024 to be a challenging year in terms of new developments in areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), which places children at increasing and unknown risks to exploitation. The new political climate in our country may hamper our development cooperation. At the same time I am confident that Terre des Hommes Netherlands - with a solid strategy in place and impactful programmes - with updated policies, our new ambitious resource mobilisation strategy, our integrity framework and ethical content policy, will be able to empower many more children. So that those who have been exploited and those at risk, now and in the future, do not suffer the same violations of their rights.

Julie Verhaar

CEO Terre des Hommes Netherlands



Photo credit: Quintin van der Blonk

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Caption picture on cover: Youth leaders from the Philippines are empowered to advocate for a safe online environment as part of Project CONEC (creating a safer ONLine Environment for every Child). Photo credit: Terre des Hommes



For privacy reasons, we do not use the children's real names throughout our Annual Report



This is part one of Terre des Hommes Netherlands' 2023 Annual Report. Part two, which contains the management report, information about fundraising and communication and the full financial statements is available as a PDF on our website.



A child from Asia vulnerable to exploitation expresses her will to be free, and spread her wings to realise her potential beyond boundaries. Photo credit: Terre des Hommes

VISION, MISSION AND CORE PRINCIPLES

Our vision

Children can flourish in a world free of all forms of exploitation.

Our mission

To protect children by preventing and stopping child exploitation. And by empowering children to make their voices count.

Our core principles

We identified five core principles that are at the foundation of our organisation. Every plan we make, and action we take, should uphold our core principles, which are equally important and interdependent.

- Children at the centre
- Safety and wellbeing
- Intersectionality and power awareness
- Meaningful and strategic partnerships
- Sustainability

NEW STRATEGY

LISTEN UP!

2023 was the first year of implementation for Terre des Hommes' new eight-year strategy 'Listen Up!'.

This strategy was developed in the course of 2022 in an inclusive process that incorporated the voices of children and young people. Together with the new Theory of Change, it lays the foundation for the future of our organisation as we seek to stop child labour, (online) sexual exploitation of children and the exploitation of children in humanitarian crises.



Children playing a game called 'Pery' in a school where the FAMAHA project is implemented in Madagascar. Photo credit: Arie Kievit

Children at the centre

When we asked children to rank a series of characteristics of a children's rights organisation during the development of the strategy, two out of every three children said that 'listening to children' is the most important quality. Listening to children and co-creating with them are therefore central elements of our strategy.

With Listen Up!, we seek to address the root causes of exploitation by using research to better understand the problem, creating evidence-based solutions with local partners, and influencing systemic change from community to global level. We do this by empowering children and their communities, connecting them with those who have power to enact change, and utilising our knowledge and expertise to co-create solutions with those who best understand the problem. It is only by creating real sustainable changes that we can ensure a safe future for children.



Strategic goals

Our strategy is focused on the realisation of eight goals that together ensure we can deliver meaningful change in the lives of children:

- 1. Accountable partnerships:** Terre des Hommes engages in meaningful partnerships that always remain accountable to children and communities.
- 2. Valuing our people:** Terre des Hommes is an inclusive place where passionate people love to contribute.
- 3. Child participation:** Children are empowered to participate in building and sharing knowledge on child exploitation.
- 4. New insight:** Terre des Hommes uses an intersectional approach to generate new insight into what works to prevent or stop child exploitation.
- 5. Influential expertise:** Terre des Hommes is an influential expert organisation that expands knowledge on child exploitation, how to prevent and respond to it.
- 6. Sustainable action:** Terre des Hommes supports the implementation of evidence-based, scalable and sustainable programmes to stop child exploitation in a systemic way.
- 7. Advocacy:** Terre des Hommes engages in evidence-based advocacy with and for children at local, national, regional and international levels to prevent and stop child exploitation.
- 8. Resource mobilisation:** Terre des Hommes has sustainable financing and is able to deliver our work in line with strategic ambitions through a healthy and diversified funding portfolio.

If you would like to know more of our strategy, please visit [our website](#) and watch the short animation video about our strategy or read the full text.

What is systemic change?

Systemic change takes a holistic view of a societal issue by addressing the root causes, rather than the symptoms. Systemic change generally requires adjustment or transformation of the policies, practices, power dynamics, social norms or mindsets that underlie the societal issue at stake. For example: if we take one child or a group of children out of an exploitative labour situation, we can perhaps change the future for these particular children, but it will not change the world. If we manage to change the system however, for instance by cooperating with the government to establish an appropriate and operational child protection system and a fair labour wages system for parents, this will have a positive and sustainable impact on the lives of many more children. Systemic change often involves the collaboration of a diverse set of actors and can take place on a local, national or international level¹.

¹ Ashoka, Catalyst 2030, Echoing Green, Schwab Foundation and the Skoll Foundation, 2021



RESEARCH, EXPERTISE AND INFLUENCING

Our global Research, Expertise and Influencing team was established in early 2023 in order to be better equipped to implement our strategy.

The team consists of technical experts across five locations, in Bangkok, Brussels, Nairobi, New Delhi and The Hague. During the year, several milestones were achieved:

Research

The 'Place of Intersection' study was the first multi-country research conducted by Terre des Hommes to reflect on how some standardised approaches, promoted among partners between 2017 and 2022, worked in practice. The research shone a spotlight on excellent practices to be expanded and shared (through training described below).

In 2023, Terre des Hommes consciously incorporated intersectionality as one of the five core principles. Intersectionality is a theoretical framework that helps us think about overlapping or 'intersecting' factors that can be empowering or oppressive. Over the past three decades the concept of intersectionality has broadened from considering the compounded oppression of gender and race to a limitless set of factors, including socioeconomic class, age, sexual orientation and disability. For example, research shows that girls who have a disability and have been put into an institution instead of living at home are at much higher risk of being trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Their gender, disability and parental care status combines to make them especially at risk.

Some innovative research methods were developed for this study. This is important so that we safely engage children, without asking them to disclose or re-live their own traumatic experiences. An example method was to ask



Children in Bangladesh created the avatar of Sima, an indigenous girl who was forced to marry by the age of 12, and works in the house of her 'husband' while others go to school (illustration by Srishti Sarawagi).

children to design fictional characters, or avatars, through which to share their perspectives on child exploitation. Deciding on their characters' backstories is a way to help children talk about the difficult circumstances faced by themselves and those around them.

Building expertise

Using the findings of the Place of Intersection study and our Listen Up! strategy, we developed and rolled out a Terre des Hommes Principles of Practice curriculum to train staff, partners and children on key concepts related to child exploitation. By the end of the year 54 trainers were prepared to implement the course materials following in-depth training workshops that took place across all regions Terre des Hommes works in.

Influencing the European Parliament

In addition to generating and sharing knowledge internally, we also took strides to draw the attention of decision-makers to the urgent and systemic action needed to stop child exploitation. For example, Terre des Hommes played a leading role in coordinating child rights organisations and survivors to advocate for the European Parliament to pass proposed legislation to make the internet safe for children. We want strong laws that stop big tech companies, like social media and gaming platforms, from putting profits before the protection and safety of children. Campaigning included days of action in front of the European Parliament in April and September, and the launch of the Behind the Screens research report in November, accompanied by a successful online advocacy campaign.



Team members campaigning in front of the European Parliament in Brussels, urging the EU to pass laws to clean up the internet.
Photo credit: Terre des Hommes



Messi, 16 years old, drawing what child exploitation is in their context, at school during the art event held in October 2023 in Madagascar. Photo credit: Aelle Studio

“Education is very important to me because I learn so many things at school”

Messi talks about school with a smile. For a 16-year-old he is rather enthusiastic about going to school. Anyone who knows his background, however, will understand why. Messi lives with his family in a house made of mud in Benato, Madagascar. Their house has two rooms: a kitchen and a bedroom for the whole family of 11 persons. The family worked as farmers until drought destroyed their crops. Messi's parents had no choice but to work in a local mica mine.

Mica is a lustrous mineral used in many of our everyday products. Its extraction is associated with serious exploitation and child labour. Messi's parents did not earn enough to support their family, which is why Messi, only ten years old, also had to go to work. He worked long hours in the mica mine, often without breakfast. He coughed because of the dust and was often very tired. His health continued to deteriorate, to the point that he was no longer even growing. “It was difficult, but I couldn't do anything else, my parents needed me,” he says.

After years of suffering in the mica mines, Messi's life changed when he was identified by a field staff of FAFABI, a partner of Terre des Hommes in our mica programme in Madagascar. Through their

support, Messi was able to return to school. He received educational materials and lunch every day at school as part of our project which supports 167 children. To ensure that Messi is able to remain in school and far from the dangers of the mine, his family income and food security had to increase. His parents received training and now grow vegetables and keep chickens. Messi now eats three meals a day. He no longer coughs and his health is improving.

Messi knows exactly what he wants to achieve in his promising future. “I really like to play football. I want to be like the football star Messi. He's so skilled!” he says joyfully. “When I finish my studies, I will open a retail shop so I can provide for my many younger siblings and my mother.”

The background features a repeating pattern of stylized, rounded shapes in two shades of orange and light pink. The shapes are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and movement, with some shapes appearing to overlap others. The overall effect is a vibrant, modern, and abstract design.

2023 IN NUMBERS



1,700+
committed volunteers



43
Terre des Hommes shops



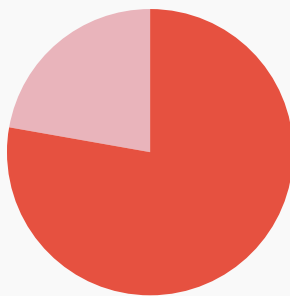
68,459
individual donors



47
active partner organisations



158
employees in Europe, Africa and Asia



76%
of our income spent
towards realising our
projects and programmes



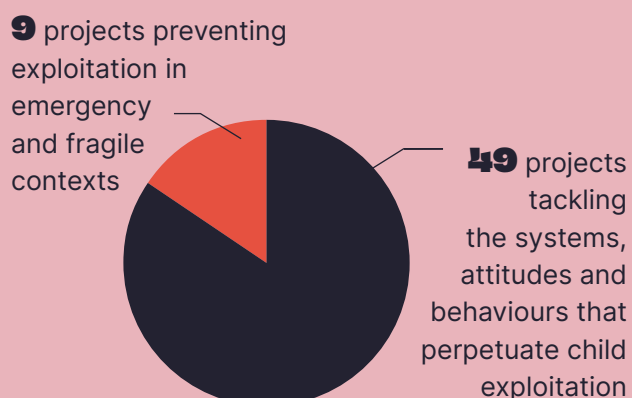
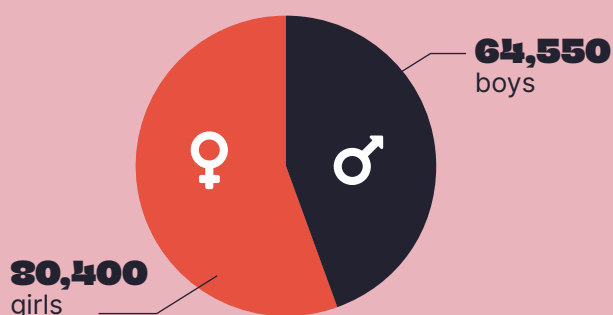
8.1
is the overall satisfaction
score of our donors with
Terre des Hommes

Reach

144,950 **58**


children directly benefited
from our projects

live projects in
25 countries



MAP OF COUNTRIES WHERE WE WORK





OUR FOCUS

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child² is the legal framework for the protection of children's rights worldwide. States party to the Convention must ensure that children are protected from all forms of exploitation. Despite the fact that 196 states have ratified the UNCRC, child exploitation remains a widespread issue.

In 2015, 193 world leaders agreed to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) prioritising the strong commitment of states to secure a bright future for the world's children. The SDGs include ending violence, exploitation and abuse of children, achieving gender equality, addressing childhood poverty, and providing an education for all³. Part of this is fulfilling children's rights by placing prerequisites on reaching those who are most disadvantaged. However, progress on achieving the 2030 agenda is lagging behind.

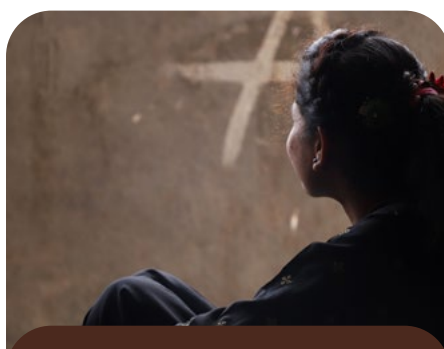
The COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc on children's well-being and has set progress back by years, possibly decades. The work of Terre des Hommes contributes to the achievement of the SDGs, in particular Goals 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

In order to make the best use of our resources to influence systemic change to stop child exploitation, Terre des Hommes needed focus. This is the reason that we, with the Listen Up! strategy, have moved towards a thematic programme model to fulfil our mission. From 2023, we focus on three programmatic themes: child labour, (online) sexual exploitation of children and humanitarian action. These have been carefully defined through a co-creation process in which children from 12 countries were engaged using innovative participation methods.

In this chapter we highlight a few projects per theme to illustrate our work in 2023.



CHILD LABOUR



**SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION
OF CHILDREN**



**HUMANITARIAN
ACTION**

² UNCRC, 1989
³ UN, 2015



A boy working in mica mines with his family, holding mica, in the district of Amboasary, in Madagascar. Photo credit: Arie Kievit

Child labour

According to global estimates, 160 million children worldwide - roughly 63 million girls and 97 million boys - are being exploited for labour. Out of these, over 79 million are involved in hazardous work, an increasing number of whom are young children aged 5 - 11 years⁴. Terre des Hommes aims to stop child labour by addressing its root causes and the systems that enable it. In 2023, Terre des Hommes implemented 14 projects across Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Madagascar and the Philippines to stop exploitative child labour.

PROJECT

Elimination of child labour in mica mines in Madagascar

In the Anosy region in Madagascar, children involved in mica mining communities are exposed to substantial risks to their health and well-being, and are insufficiently protected by their families, communities or government. The project aims to remove children from the mica mines so they are free from abuse and exploitation. To realise that, Terre des Hommes and partners focus on ensuring parents and communities protect their children from child labour. At the same time we work to ensure supply chain actors, including the government, take their responsibility for a fair and responsible mica supply chain in Madagascar.

Challenges

Child labour was not seen as an issue in the Anosy region. Cultural practices and extreme economic vulnerability normalised it. We brought local authorities and community leaders together

in a roundtable to discuss the issue. This not only opened their eyes; they became allies in our battle against child labour.

Systemic changes

Parents and community leaders have become aware of the issue of child labour in the mica mines. Moreover, we convinced several government Ministries of the importance of tackling child labour in the mica industry and as a result Local Committees Against Child Labour have so far already been established in three locations in the region.

PROJECT

Strengthening protection systems in the Philippines

The Western Visayas and Central Visayas regions in the Philippines have the highest prevalence of child labour in the country. Girls recruited for domestic work are especially vulnerable to sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation. To combat this issue, Terre des Hommes, together with partners, works to strengthen community-based child protection systems.

Challenge

The biggest challenge of 2023 laid in the lack of a strong system to effectively respond to child labour. The project was able to tackle this by building the capacities of government agencies, service providers and other stakeholders in developing and implementing a comprehensive child-centred protection plan.

Systemic changes

The project achieved noteworthy milestones in initiating systemic changes for addressing child labour. A remarkable step was the passage of a resolution to integrate the Regional Council Against Child Labour (RCACL) into the Inter-Agency Committee for Women and Children in the Western Visayas Region. Through this resolution, the RCACL has a wider platform to address child labour-related concerns among partner agencies in Western Visayas, fostering more cohesive efforts and interventions.



A teenage girl from a socio-economically disadvantaged Devadasi community from North Karnataka, India, where harmful norms force most adolescent girls into sexual exploitation. Through the Children GOOD (Getting Out of the Devadasi System) project, the girl was introduced to a children's club where she and other members raise their voices against the injustice to children from their community, and even stop cases of exploitation. Photo credit: Terre des Hommes

Sexual exploitation of children

Globally, one in five girls and one in thirteen boys have been victims of sexual exploitation or abuse before reaching the age of eighteen⁵. In the face of rapid technological advances and digitalisation, new generations of children are growing up in an online environment where they face new risks. A global survey found that 54% of youth reported having experienced online sexual harms, such as being asked something sexually explicit or sent sexually explicit content, when they were under 18⁶. In 2023, Terre des Hommes implemented 35 projects to prevent and stop sexual exploitation of children on- and offline in 13 countries, including at EU, Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and pan-Africa levels.

⁵ United Nations Children's Fund (2021) Ending online child sexual exploitation and abuse: Lessons learned and promising practices in low- and middle-income countries, UNICEF, New York

⁶ Economist Impact & We Protect Global Alliance, 2022

PROJECT **Empowering for GOOD in India**

In socio-economically disadvantaged Devadasi communities from North Karnataka, harmful norms force adolescent girls into sexual exploitation. Young girls from the community are isolated, face stigma and drop out of school. Generations of women in the same family undergo these challenges: the daughter of a mother in the Devadasi-system often faces the same fate. The GOOD (Getting Out Of Devadasi system) project tackles the issue by empowering children from the community as change agents, where they undergo sensitisation on child protection and life skill training, giving them platforms to advocate for their rights. Community awareness, capacity building of concerned authorities, media sensitisation, access to education and vocational training are the other components of the project.

Challenge

A major challenge faced was the mandatory requirement for Devadasi children to fill in their father's name in application forms which created barriers for children as many of them don't know

their father's identity. This meant that Devadasi children could not go to school. We tackled this by organising conversations with the state Minister of Women and Child & Social Welfare Department. This resulted in a government decision to make father's name optional on school application forms which enabled children to complete school.

Systemic changes

The team has been successful in improving government relations, specifically with respect to building ties with high-ranking officials. This relationship building has led to a positive and noticeable shift in the response of government authorities as in the case of making the father's name optional. They are more proactive in reporting cases and initiating action against issues faced by children from the Devadasi community.

PROJECT **Training for children who are survivors or at risk of sexual exploitation in Kenya**

In Naivasha, Kenya, many households live in poverty due to limited income-earning opportunities, low level of education and entrepreneurial capabilities within the family. At the same time, there is a low level of awareness in the community of the vulnerabilities of children to sexual exploitation. Above all, protection systems are weak. With this project, Terre des Hommes aims to expand the economic opportunities of children and young people aged 16-24 years who are survivors or at risk of sexual exploitation.

Challenges

When the project took off, there were many communication barriers between the children and their parents/guardians because of a lack of understanding with parents about the lives of their children. To bridge this intergenerational gap, Terre des Hommes' partner organised training on positive parenting for the parents. On the other hand, children and young people themselves lacked information and knowledge on sexuality and reproductive health. They never sought services out of fear of being judged by the service providers. After a training on sexual and reproductive health and available health facilities providing youth

friendly services, an increased uptake of services was reported. Survivors also hardly reported cases with the police due to the tone officers used while gathering information from them and dismissal of cases in the courts due to lack of evidence. In order to change this, police were trained in communication skills and ways to preserve evidence.

Sustainable changes

Close collaboration and networking with like-minded organisations and key stakeholders such as the Children Advisory Councils facilitated effective training for various target groups such as Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) service providers and police who have changed their way of working. Provision of post-traumatic stress services to children and youth have improved their mental wellbeing while equipping them with skills on self-appreciation, stress management and resilience in blocking distressing thoughts. The vocational skills training, provision of business starter kits and linkages to businesspeople for mentorship have created a pathway to decent employment for children and youth.



Terre des Hommes Netherlands currently works with Terre des Hommes Italy and the local organisation Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS) to provide specialized primary healthcare. Photo credit: PMRS

Humanitarian action

Every year, events such as armed conflict, drought, flooding and earthquakes trigger humanitarian crises in different parts of the world, exposing thousands of children to all forms of exploitation. Approximately 300 million people currently need humanitarian assistance, almost half of whom are children⁷. Climate change continues to severely impact children. More than one billion children (half of the world's children) live in areas with extremely high risk for climate-related impacts⁸.

⁷ ReliefWeb. (2024, January). Global Humanitarian Overview 2024: January Update Snapshot

⁸ UNICEF. (2021). One billion children at extremely high risk of impacts of climate crisis

PROJECT

Aid to children affected by storm in Libya

Storm Daniel hit the coast of North-eastern Libya in September 2023, causing devastating human and infrastructure damage. After the disaster, there was no regular access to drinking water and many families were forced to leave their houses. In order to respond to people's most urgent needs and reduce children's vulnerability to exploitation, Terre des Hommes provided individual protection and psychosocial support to children and distributed safe drinking water.

Challenges

While the damaged infrastructure and displacement of large groups of people in this crisis challenged our work, we successfully initiated rapid emergency

response activities. This is thanks to our long and stable relationships with partners in the country, as well as our presence in national networks.

Sustainable changes

We provide psychosocial support, which helps children and their families to cope better with traumas caused by the disaster and improve their wellbeing.

PROJECT

Diverse support for children in Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, ongoing violent internal conflict, desert locust invasion, and recurrent floods and drought as a result of climate change, as well as the socio-economic impact of the pandemic, have been the key drivers of internal displacement, unemployment and humanitarian needs. Together with our local partner, we delivered protection services to vulnerable children and their families, awareness-raising on child protection and child rights in communities and training to key stakeholders on how to make child protection an integral part of their work. We also distributed dignity kits and provided cash assistance to vulnerable households.

Challenge

The major challenge tackled during this project was the security risk. The project locations were affected by conflict, and access to the children and their families was blocked. Terre des Hommes had to suspend the project and evacuate the team. Once the situation stabilised the project resumed.

Sustainable changes

We used a community-based approach to reach the most vulnerable conflict-affected children and their families. As a result, the communities themselves established committees for child protection and prevention of gender-based violence and as such, improved their own structures.



Lemlem reading her exercise book in her home in Ethiopia.
Photo credit: Terre des Hommes



HIGH- LIGHTS PER COUNTRY

Terre des Hommes fights against the exploitation of children in four regions: Asia, Africa, Europe and the Middle East.

We were only able to achieve results through working with our amazing partner organisations around the world.⁹ Our partners and our national staff are experts in their contexts, enabling us to understand and appropriately prevent and stop child exploitation, and address the systems that enable it.

Some highlights in 2023 per country:

⁹ See the appendices of part two of the Annual Report 2023.

Asia

Afghanistan

- Project participants **were able to generate income**, reducing reliance on negative coping mechanisms like child labour and child early and forced marriage.
- Fixed health centres ensured **access to essential healthcare services** for pregnant and lactating women, addressing cultural barriers and providing a safe space for women's healthcare needs.

Bangladesh

- Children trained as change makers **have successfully identified cases of sexual exploitation** of children, obtaining positive responses from government authorities for their actions.
- **Online reporting mechanisms were developed** and are connected with national hotlines which has significantly increased reporting on trafficking.

Cambodia

- Through our new partnership with the Ministry of Telecommunications, Terre des Hommes actively contributed to the **integration of child online protection industry guidelines**.

India

- Establishment of **children-led advocacy platforms** presenting problems of children related to securing their rights and getting the rightful solution by authorities.
- The Government of Karnataka State passed an order to **make the father's name optional**, which enabled the enrolment of children of Devadasis in school.

Nepal

- Terre des Hommes contributed to the Government of Nepal amending a law **to establish trial courts** in all the 77 districts which have the jurisdiction to hear cases of cybercrime within the respective district.

Thailand

- Children and **youth-initiated partnerships with stakeholders**, such as their schools and even private sector actors like TikTok, to report and prevent online sexual exploitation of children.

Philippines

- Two municipalities in Cebu Province **amended their children's codes** to integrate the national laws on protection of sexual exploitation of children.
- As part of our economic inclusion initiative we **strengthened partnerships with private sectors to open doors for marginalised youth** by providing employment opportunities.



A young girl from a Child Protection Forum in Bangladesh pledges for and works towards enabling mechanisms to protect children vulnerable to exploitation in garment factories. Photo credit: Terre des Hommes

Africa

Ethiopia

- **Gaps regarding issues for girls and young women in the national youth policy are identified** by the She Leads network and included in a revised version, which is waiting for endorsement by the parliament.

Kenya

- Working with local media and radio offered a unique opportunity for the SCROL-project (Safety for Children and their Rights OnLine) to **raise awareness of sexual exploitation of children in several local languages**.
- During the national Diversity & Inclusion Awards & Recognition (DIAR) Awards Ceremony in March, our team received the award for **'Best Human Rights NGO'** for the second year in a row.



The Terre des Hommes Netherlands Regional and Kenya Country team receiving the DIAR award during the DIAR Awards Kenya Ceremony held in March 2023. Photo credit: Daima Trust Limited

Libya

- Following the devastating floods in Libya, Terre des Hommes has addressed the **immediate humanitarian and protection needs** of 3,993 children and their caregivers.

Madagascar

- Terre des Hommes has become well known for its **expertise on child labour** and as a result, now plays a significant role in supporting the National Task Force Against Child Labour,

working closely with the Ministry of Labour and Social Law.

- At local and sub-national level **Committees Against Child Labour** have been established, showing ownership by the Government.

Mali

- The Mali She Leads network contributed to the **improvement of the implementation of the 2025 electoral law** by training and raising awareness of women in political parties on the importance of the participation of women and girls in politics.

Uganda

- Girls and Young women are empowered, **taking up leadership roles** during national events, for instance at the National Symposium to End Teenage Pregnancies and Child Marriages organised by the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development.

Tanzania

- As part of a project to give **a voice to exploited children with disabilities** (GIVE - Give a Voice to Exploited Children), 16 out of the 26 wards (administrative divisions) in the Tarime District have already **developed bylaws that include children with disabilities**.



Bhoke, 16 years old, walking and talking to the ATFGM social worker in Tanzania. Photo credit: Terre des Hommes

Europe

Moldova

- In Moldova we created **youth forums** where participants learned about advocacy and participation of children and young people at community and national level.

Romania

- In Romania, together with our partner we **established a children's centre** that is used for amongst others, the personal psychosocial photography project 'Children telling Stories'. The centre will be used to continue supporting vulnerable children after the project ends.

Slovakia and Hungary

- In Slovakia and Hungary, we funded **Child Helplines** which supported **204 and 123 children**, respectively.

Poland

- In Poland we reached 21 million people with a **campaign on Violence Against Children**.

Ukraine

- Terre des Hommes supported **rehabilitation works** in eight schools in Ukraine (which serve to continue education for children and are also being used as a shelter).



Children taking part in a creative therapy workshop in Romania.
Photo credit: Terre des Hommes

Middle East and North Africa

Gaza, Palestine

- Even though there are so many ongoing challenges in this context, we were able to respond to the **needs of affected people**, by providing primary maternal and child health care. We continue to engage with partners **to advocate for permanent cease fire** and humanitarian corridors for better access to deliver more aid and the release of the hostages.

Jordan

- Several girls' and young women's rights activists **participated in high level (inter)national meetings and discussions**.

Lebanon

- As a result of its awareness-raising and capacity-strengthening activities, the Lebanon network of She Leads **has been able to create space** for demands and positions on women's voice, agency, leadership, and representative participation at ten subnational and seven national decision-making processes.

Syria

- In Syria **we successfully finalised the earthquake response**, reaching 8,545 people with psychological first aid, distribution of kits with diapers, cream, blankets etcetera for children, dignity kits for women and men and unconditional multi-purpose cash.



Bina Dahal, a Community Police officer in Nepal distributes pamphlets on online safety awareness at a school as part of the Safety for Children and their Rights OnLine (SCROL) programme. Photo credit: WYESHR, Nepal

“Children have begun to report cases”

“The Community Police is a unit of the Nepal Police. Our work is to control crime and ensure peace and protection at the community level”, said Bina Dahal who has been a Community Police Officer since 2018. Bina represents Ward 31 of Kathmandu in the Bagmati province of Nepal.

Speaking on emerging issues affecting children, she said “I was not aware that so many children are being abused online. I did not know anything about online risks.”

Bina was introduced to the issue of Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OCSE) through Terre des Hommes’ Safety for Children and their Rights OnLine (SCROL) project in Nepal.

“I learnt how concerning the issue of OCSE was. It was then that I started to observe this in the community. Children as young as three were using mobile phones without being monitored, while reports of sharing of online sexual abuse material were present”, she said.

Thus, Bina started on a new mission - to end OCSE in her ward. Bina conducted 45-minute sensitisation sessions on OCSE in both private and public schools in close coordination with SCROL. These sessions focused on spreading awareness of online dangers and key safe online practices to follow.

So far, Bina has covered 25 of the 29 schools in her ward reaching out to children from the age group of 12-19 years. She has begun to see changes in the behaviour of the children after her sessions. “Children have started opening up to me about their online activity. I have also seen that many children have begun using the 1098 helpline number to report cases”, she said.

The background of the entire page is a vibrant red. On the left side, a large, stylized white hand is shown from the wrist up, with fingers slightly curled. On the right side, a large, stylized orange hand is shown from the wrist up, with fingers slightly curled. The two hands are positioned as if they are holding a large, glowing white sphere, which represents the Earth or a globe. The word "ALLIANCES" is written in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font across the middle of the image, partially overlapping the white hand and the orange hand.

ALLIANCES

Bringing about systemic change is a team effort. Terre des Hommes is proud of the work we do with partners in our consortia and alliances that enable us to jointly create lasting positive change in the lives of children.

Collectively, our voices are louder and our actions stronger as we seek to transform systems to protect children. In 2023, Terre des Hommes was part of the Down to Zero, She Leads, Joining Forces and Dutch Relief Alliances as well as the Dutch Kinderrechtencollectief and Giro555.

Down to Zero

The 'Step Up the Fight Against Sexual Exploitation of Children' programme funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a three-year programme (2023 - 2026) implemented by the 'Down to Zero' Alliance. The Alliance is led by Terre des Hommes and includes five other Alliance Members (Plan International NL, Defence for Children - ECPAT, Free a Girl, Child Rights Coalition Asia and Conexión), working in 12 countries across Asia and Latin America. The programme focuses on safeguarding children from sexual exploitation, including online exploitation.

The VOICE research, a project from the Down to Zero Alliance, aims to strengthen children's digital rights and online safety. Using a mixed-method approach across 15 countries, the VOICE partners consulted a total of 316 children through focus groups discussions and surveyed 6,618 caregivers. In Brussels, together with our partners ECPAT International and Eurochild, Terre des Hommes launched the early findings of the VOICE research in November 2023. One of the insights is that parents and caregivers experience challenges in talking with children about online sexual abuse. The final report will launch in 2024.



Behavioural change

In line with the programmes' focus on children, child participation was effectively applied in four countries during the baseline process in 2023. Children and youth were engaged through tailored training and support provided by mentors. The mentors built trust and guided the children to develop tools, collect and analyse data and create a final country-specific baseline product providing a profound idea of the context these children and youth are living in. This experience resulted in a significant impact on the children who participated. For many children, it enhanced their self-efficacy, and in particular, how they perceived their own agency, power and influence. The process was very motivating and encouraging and the Alliance is considering further expanding this approach to additional countries for the end-line evaluation.

Countries

Down to Zero works in Asia in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Laos and in Latin America in Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Dominican Republic and Guatemala.

She Leads

She Leads is a five-year (2021-2025) programme, for and by girls and young women. She Leads is a collaboration between Plan International Netherlands, Defence for Children - ECPAT The Netherlands, the African Women's Development and Communication Network and Terre des Hommes, in partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Together we fight for the rights, leadership and agency of girls and young women. As one of the activities in 2023, the consortium collaborated with the media to disseminate new positive narratives around girls and young women. It was then that the programme realised that the media strategies used tended to focus too much on increasing reach and visibility, instead of targeting the groups and key policy actors whose values, attitudes and behaviours the programme aims to change. In order to address this, the programme will strengthen efforts in the upcoming two years to ensure media advocacy is used to its full-influencing potential to produce systemic change.

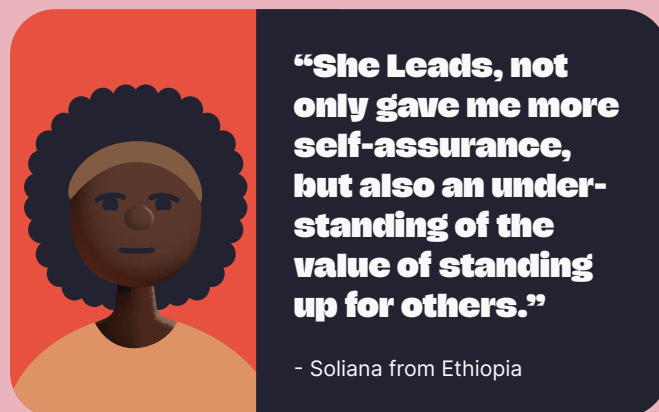
Systemic change

She Leads influenced the enactment of relevant laws. In 2023 for instance, in Kenya, the Protection Against Domestic Violence (PADV) Rules were

launched as a collaborative effort by She Leads and the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action. In Uganda, girls and young women contributed to the National Employment Policy, highlighting issues like inadequate breastfeeding spaces at the workplace and low wages for non-formal employment. Their recommendations were incorporated into the Final Draft policy document that was submitted to parliament for review and approval.

Countries

The consortium works together with local partners in Lebanon, Jordan, Mali, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, and on regional and global levels.



Joining Forces

The Joining Forces Alliance was established in 2017 by the six largest child-focused international NGOs, namely: ChildFund Alliance, Plan International, Save the Children International, SOS Children's Villages International, the Terre des Hommes International Federation and World Vision International. The Joining Forces Alliance aims to use its collective power to accelerate change to secure children's rights and end violence against them.

Systemic change

A critical lesson the Alliance learned in 2023 was the power of strategic partnerships. Without a

strong voice, it was hard to reach governments. However, bringing together the expertise and lobby capabilities of different organisations in a more harmonious manner ensured that duty bearers opened doors to listen to and act upon child protection issues. A success story from Kenya served as a compelling example of this: through sustained lobbying and advocacy efforts, the Alliance engaged in lengthy dialogues with the national government, ultimately resulting in the enactment of the new Children's Act, a progressive, comprehensive law protecting children.

Countries

In Africa, Terre des Hommes is part of the Joining Forces Alliance initiatives in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Madagascar and also operates at the regional level under the Joining Forces Alliance for East and Southern Africa. In Asia, Terre des Hommes Netherlands actively contributes to Joining Forces in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India and the Philippines. The International Terre des Hommes Federation is active in the Joining Forces Alliance in many more countries.



“Besides the support that enabled me to go back to school, I have learnt about my rights and responsibilities as a child.”

- Mary from Kenya

Dutch Relief Alliance

We are a member of the Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA)¹⁰, a coalition of fourteen Dutch aid and humanitarian organisations in partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The structural set up of DRA enables its members to respond promptly and effectively to major international crises. In November it was announced that the Dutch Relief Alliance has confirmed its three-year protracted joint responses in Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Syria.

“I lost my husband, my home and all my personal items due to the earthquake. My two-year-old daughter had to go to hospital because of her injuries. I was happy to receive a dignity care kit from Terre des Hommes. This is one of the very few good things that happened to me during these bad days.”

- Rama from Syria

Systemic change

Together with our partner we reached out to the children and families that were most affected by the conflict in Ethiopia in 2023. In order to accomplish a positive and sustainable change for these children, we carried out awareness raising activities on child protection and children's rights among communities and local actors. A child protection response committee was established to regularly follow the project at a grassroots level. This way, both the communities and local stakeholders are able to protect vulnerable children even after the project ends.

Countries

In 2023, Terre des Hommes responded to three protracted crises in Ethiopia, Syria and Afghanistan and three acute crises: the earthquakes in Syria and in Afghanistan, the floods in Libya and the conflict in Gaza.

10 It's members are: CARE Nederland, Cordaid, Dorcas, Oxfam Novib, Plan International, Help a Child, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages, Stichting Vluchteling, Tearfund, Terre des Hommes, War Child, World Vision Nederland and ZOA.

Kinderrechtencollectief

Terre des Hommes is a founding member of 'het Kinderrechtencollectief' (the Children's Rights Collective), a collective of around 20 Dutch children's rights organisations. The collective stimulates knowledge exchange, advocates, lobbies and strives for a broad application of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Systemic change

The Children's Rights Collective in 2023 launched 'Kinderrechten in Beweging' (Child Rights in Motion). Terre des Hommes was part of the kickstart of this annual process designed to focus the attention of stakeholders like Dutch Ministries, policy makers, children and experts on recommendations made to the Kingdom of the Netherlands by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2022. The ambition is to keep children's rights on the agenda, rather than waiting five years for the next UN evaluation. Early in the year, data were collected on the status of the problems raised and

what policy reforms had been put in place by the Dutch government. Later, following participatory sessions with children and experts, the collective hosted a Children's Rights Dialogue, to discuss findings and progress with influential Ministries. Terre des Hommes hosted the child abuse and sexual exploitation table.

Countries

The Children's Rights Collective is active in the Netherlands.



Colleague Hilde Neels, senior technical advisor on sexual exploitation of children, during the Kinderrechten in Beweging event. Photo credit: Terre des Hommes

Giro555

Terre des Hommes is part of the Dutch Cooperating Aid Organisations Alliance, also known as Giro555, which comes into action in exceptional disasters. Our partnership with Giro555 responding to the needs of children and their families affected by the war in Ukraine has continued throughout 2023.

Systemic change

Security conditions in Ukraine challenged Terre des Hommes' work in 2023. Despite the constantly evolving context, our work brought positive changes in the lives of children affected by the war. Psychosocial support helped children and their families improve their general wellbeing and deal with fear, stress and anxiety. Through our activities which focused on child protection awareness raising as well as capacity strengthening, we increased knowledge within communities as well as building national stakeholders' capacities to respond and better protect children. One of Terre

des Hommes' partners in Poland advocated for and influenced national policy changes, to protect children in the hospitality and sports sectors.

Countries

With funds raised during the national campaign 'Together in action for Ukraine', Terre des Hommes implemented projects in Ukraine, Poland, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Moldova.

"The regular sounds of the air-raid siren were emotionally exhausting, and moving to shelters and providing lessons in the bomb shelter was physically exhausting. We are very grateful for the provided materials for the psychological stabilisation of children and will never forget your help!"

- A Director of a school that was supported with mental health and psychosocial support in Ukraine

SHOPS AND VOLUNTEERS

Throughout the Netherlands, 43 Terre des Hommes' shops, run by more than 1,700 active volunteers, substantially contribute to the work of Terre des Hommes.

This is the great heritage from the early eighties when working groups of volunteers set up thrift shops, donating their profits to Terre des Hommes. We are extremely grateful for their very valuable contribution and support to the visibility of our organisation.



Fashion show in Amersfoort in October 2023.
Photo credit: Terre des Hommes

On trend

As reflected in the results of the growth curve of revenues of the Terre des Hommes' shops, it is clear that pre-loved items are becoming more and more popular! The circular economy discussions have found a broad base in our society at large and consumers are more conscious about where and from whom they purchase.

"I would like to thank the store for the amazing wedding dress! When I was looking for a dress, I found my dream dress online and was pleasantly surprised to discover that it was sold by our fellow Terre des Hommes store in Alphen aan den Rijn."

-Akkelien Huizinga from Leeuwarden, core member of the shop team. Photo credit: Terre des Hommes



In 40 years, a few million euros have been raised for Terre des Hommes by the shop in Pijnacker. Julie Verhaar receives a symbolic cheque.
Photo credit: Terre des Hommes

Milestones

Apart from new shop openings in Goes and Nijmegen, many events took place in 2023, including fashion shows, our shops selling their wares at eight markets, 11 shop anniversaries, 250 volunteer jubilees and two volunteers receiving a royal decoration. A special mention goes out to our shop in Pijnacker, celebrating their 40th anniversary in 2023. To mark this occasion, they organised a week filled with events. The shop has contributed enormously to Terre des Hommes' programmes during its 40 years of operation. The new store in Nijmegen is also a success. It is impressive to see what great donations were given so soon after the shop opened its doors. The implementation of the new store concept in this store was well received.



Hil Steneker-Zonderland and her husband Joop are loyal donors. Photo credit: Terre des Hommes

DONORS

In 2023, Terre des Hommes could again count on the support of many different donors. Individuals, communities, foundations, businesses and institutional donors generously supported our work.

Nearly 70,000 individual donors donated to Terre des Hommes in 2023. As they form our loyal and committed donor base, we are extremely thankful for their support. Other people worked together and collectively organised actions to raise money to stop child exploitation. In the Dutch province of Zeeland for instance, a group of volunteers organised a cycle tour which was such a success that they are dedicated to holding it annually.

The support of several companies, trusts and foundations further enabled us to protect children from exploitation in various countries in Africa and Asia; both through projects aiming for structural change as well as in humanitarian action in crisis situations. We would like to mention the Dutch Postcode Lottery in particular, as we have already been partners for more than 25 years. Their generous and unrestricted donation of €2.2 million is invaluable to helping children flourish.

Dille & Kamille deserve a special mention as well. In 2023 alone 20 pallets with samples and goods with a little stain or scratch, that are no longer sold in the

Dille & Kamille stores were donated to the Terre des Hommes shops. We are proud of the partnership with Dille & Kamille that already exists since 2015.

In 2023 we were delighted to start new partnerships and continue with various institutional donors. With the EU for instance we signed new contracts for projects in the Philippines and Madagascar. And with the support of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency we started a new project in India to address child labour in the waste collection community.

We are very grateful to all of our donors for the partnership and trust they have in us. It is really heart-warming to know that we stand together in our mission to protect children and prevent and stop child exploitation.

To conclude, 2023 was also the year that we worked hard on the development of a multiyear resource mobilisation strategy which will guide all fundraising efforts from our resource mobilisation functions.



Eldana, a 9 year old girl, having a discussion with a social worker during the Ethiopia Joint response project field visit in Ethiopia. Photo credit: Terre des Hommes

“My dream is to become a medical doctor and help disadvantaged and needy people”

Eldana, nine years old, lives with her mother and two younger sisters in a one-room rental house in the Amhara Region of Ethiopia. During the invasion of the Tigray People's Liberation Front in April 2021, Eldana and her family ran away from the conflict area for safety.

Sadly, Eldana was caught in the crossfire, and was in desperate need of immediate medical treatment. She could not get access to any medical attention in time and ended up losing one of her eyes, causing her severe pain and anguish. The family returned home after the conflict, only to find their property stolen and healthcare facilities destroyed. Despite efforts to raise funds for Eldana's treatment, her father absconded with the money collected.

Terre des Hommes supported Eldana to get medical treatment. Additionally, regular home-based psychosocial support activities improved the family's wellbeing and increased Eldana's

resilience. Eldana started to regain her confidence, went back to school and slowly developed a positive mindset, learning to live with her disability. We provided her mother with some extra financial support which helped her to cover transport and purchase school materials for her daughter. Eldana received glasses and a prosthetic eye to replace the injured one, helping her regain her eyesight.

Eldana is now back in school in the third grade after nine months of absence. She has developed a positive mentality and is empowered to be more resilient.



Children doing the word cloud activity, which included writing and drawing the types of child exploitation they know in their context, during the co-creation workshop held in September 2023 in Madagascar. Photo credit: Terre des Hommes

MEET TERRE DES HOMMES

Terre des Hommes Netherlands is an international non-governmental organisation committed to stopping child exploitation. Since 1966, we have built up a strong track record in supporting vulnerable children, families and communities, and a network of committed partners globally who have joined us in the fight against child exploitation.

Over the years we have evolved from a purely humanitarian organisation focused on immediate needs, to one addressing root causes of exploitation, using evidence and knowledge to influence and create sustainable change. In accordance with children's views, we prioritise 'putting children at the centre' through child empowerment and child participation.

International Federation

Terre des Hommes Netherlands is a member of the Terre des Hommes International Federation, a network of nine organisations (in Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Lausanne, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland) working for the rights of children and to promote equitable development. The Terre des Hommes International Federation holds a consultative status with the

United Nations, International Labour Organisation and the Council of Europe.

One global team

While 2023 was the first year of the implementation of the Listen up! strategy, we spent most of the year building an evidence base upon which to co-create three thematic programmes. These are supported by the development of an ambitious resource mobilisation strategy for which we have made a multiyear forecast in line with the Listen Up! strategy. In 2023, we also made changes to our structure and implemented a global HR system and are working as one global team, which provides us the opportunity to work along the same standards, share expertise and learn in a more integrated manner.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE

Income

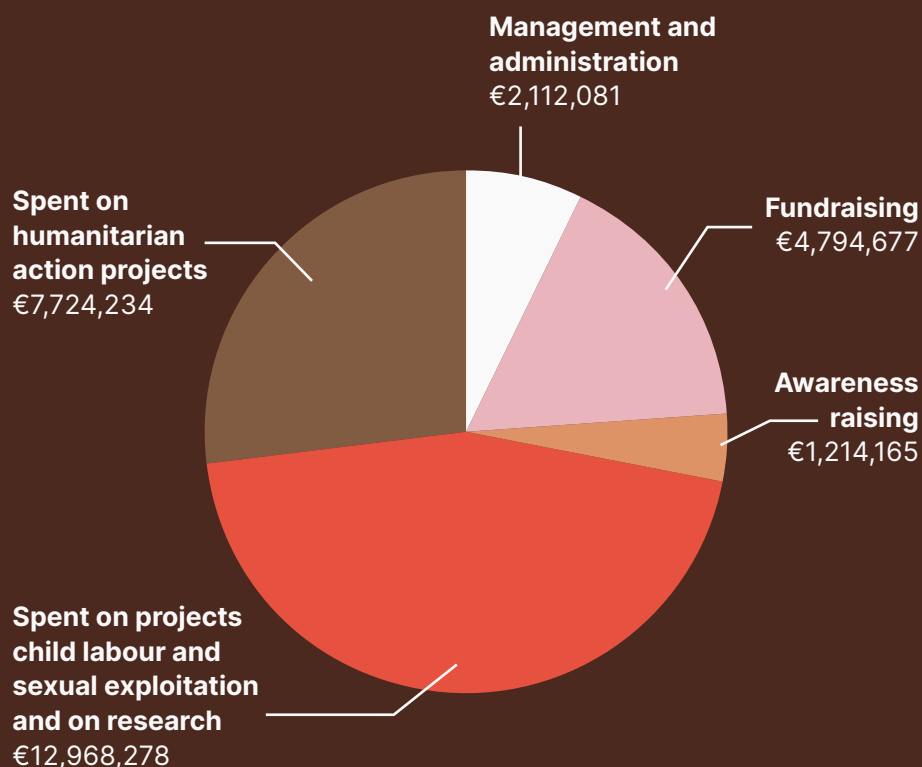
€ 27,970,311

Expenditure

€ 28,813,435

The year 2023 showed a negative balance of income and expenses of €1 million, which was planned for as we launched our new Listen Up! strategy and implemented a number of organisational changes.

The implementation of some of these changes and the filling of new positions took longer than expected.



For more details read our complete financial report including the auditor's approved statements in part two of the Annual Report 2023.

[Download part 2](#)