



Throughout the continent, children are trafficked for slavery and forced labour and hazardous work, are forced to participate in armed conflict, used for prostitution, pornography or in illicit activities. Children are often exploited and abused by both domestic and external actors including family members, community leaders, state and non-state actors, foreign tourists and international criminal gangs who are engaged in the production of child pornography, sex trafficking and the illegal harvesting and sale of organs.

Significant efforts have been made to end the exploitation of children in Africa. The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, for example, has contributed to advancing efforts to end violence against children through its General Comments and its Days of General Discussion that focused on ending child marriage, sexual exploitation, and child labour, among other things. African governments have been investing more in policy reforms, social services which benefit children and are increasingly taking steps to prevent and respond to violence and exploitation.

Terre des Hommes Netherlands works with various stakeholders to accelerate actions against child exploitation. We work directly with the children affected, their families and communities, government institutions and structures including legislators, law enforcement officials, ministry officials, CSOs, NGOs and INGOs, media agencies, private sector companies and individuals to address systemic drivers of child exploitation, strengthening child protection systems and advocating for children's rights.

CHILDREN IN AFRICA

Poverty is a widespread issue across Africa. The number of people suffering from hunger continues to rise. The worsening state of food security and nutrition in Africa is spurred mainly by conflicts, climate change and economic slowdowns.

In sub-Saharan Africa, children between the ages of 5 and 17 years are involved in child labour instead of playing and going to school. They fight poverty for their families and are robbed of their childhood.

DEMOGRAPHICS



**Africa
Population**
1.55 Billion



**Children
(up to 18 years)**
400 Million

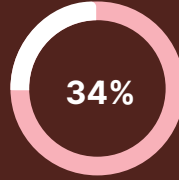


**Urban - rural
ratio**
44.7% - 55.3%

Social-economic data



Per capita income (GNI
per capita)



Living below the poverty line
(of \$1.90 per day)

2024 Budget

€ 4,948,529

OUR WORK IN AFRICA

◆ Sexual Exploitation of Children

Poverty, inequality and socio-economic shocks related to climate change, resource extraction, natural disasters, conflict and complex humanitarian emergencies render many children vulnerable to sexual exploitation at the hands of persons with power and resources, including smugglers, recruiters, traffickers or even humanitarian workers. Terre des Hommes Netherlands has developed the Sexual Exploitation of Children Thematic Programme, which envisions a world where “children, in all their diversity, are safe from all forms of sexual exploitation, enjoy their rights, and have influence”. Using a comprehensive co-creation process that included input from children, this programme is designed to prevent and respond to online and offline sexual exploitation through ecological, holistic and whole-of-society approaches that address risk and protective factors at multiple levels and in multiple protective environments, tailored for children most likely to be left behind with gender, intersectionality and evolving capacities in mind.

◆ Child Labour

Shockingly, 160 million children worldwide are involved in child labour with 79 million children working in the worst forms of child labour. Factors contributing to the rise in child labour include poverty, harmful social norms, weak governance and failing protection systems. Terre des Hommes Netherlands has developed the Child Labour Thematic Programme to address the multifaceted issue of exploitation of children in child labour, leveraging expertise and evidence-based solutions and shaped by the views and lived experiences of children themselves.

◆ Humanitarian Action

Children make up around half of the population needing humanitarian assistance. In 2022, more than two-thirds of the world's children were living in a conflict-ridden country. In the same year, approximately 468 million children (18.8% or more than one in six) were living in a conflict zone where the risk of child labour is three times the global average. Terre des Hommes Netherlands has developed the Humanitarian Action Thematic Programme with the overall goal of promoting the healthy development and well-being of children affected by humanitarian crises. Using a comprehensive co-creation process that included input from children, this programme is designed to protect children from exploitation in the context of humanitarian crises.

◆ Gender Equality

Gender Equality (GE) is a cross-cutting theme in our organisation. Through the She Leads and other programmes, we have been able to champion the course of Girls and Young Women (GYW) in Africa. Their agency and capacity have been strengthened, and are now able to participate and influence decisions. Furthermore, the negative social - cultural norms, including the rigid patriarchal systems that have long perpetrated different forms of gender-based violence have been resisted, while the positive practices have been promoted. The role of the media in setting the agenda and amplifying voices is key. We have engaged and collaborated with the media to set positive narratives about GYW in Africa. TdH NL is a member of the International Gender Champions. Intersectionality is a core approach to our work, where we pay keen attention to the marginalised, including the disabled and the minority groups in society. We embrace gender, inclusion and diversity in all our interventions.

References

- <https://data.un.org/Data.aspx?q=africa&d=PopDiv&f=variableID%3a12%3bcrID%3a1833%2c1834%2c710%2c903%2c910%2c911%2c912%2c913%2c914#PopDiv>
- <https://worldpopulationreview.com/continents>
- <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/africa-population/>
- https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Child-Labour-Report-1_24.pdf
- <https://www.prio.org/publications/13756>

OUR APPROACH

◆ Children at the centre

Children are at the centre of everything we do. We support them to get access to education and other skills development so they can eventually find jobs to earn better incomes to enhance their opportunities to live a decent and dignified life. We build their resilience and facilitate their empowerment. We help them amplify their voice, opening opportunities to

speaking up to those with the power to realise systemic change.

◆ Strengthening child protection

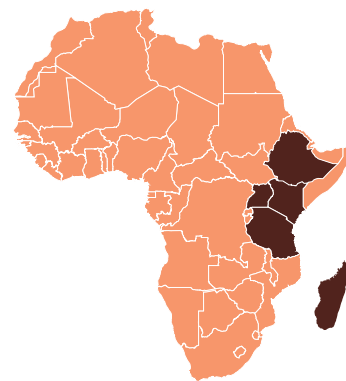
We educate parents and communities. We build the capacity of local structures to effectively prevent, detect, report and respond to child exploitation. We collaborate with other actors to influence strengthening of the legal and policy environment for better promotion and protection of children's rights.

OUR PROJECTS

Project location

For over 50 years, Terre des Hommes Netherlands has worked in Africa, both in structural aid and in humanitarian assistance. Providing emergency support in humanitarian crises such as drought, floods and disease outbreaks all over the continent.

Our development work is concentrated in Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Tanzania, Uganda.



Current projects

- ◆ Sexual Exploitation of Children- 14 projects
- ◆ Humanitarian Action - 4 projects
- ◆ Child Labour- 4 projects

2023 REACH



ACHIEVEMENTS

Lobby and Advocacy

- ◆ We interfaced with the ACERWC during the ordinary sessions by making both oral and written statements, and attending some of the sessions, especially those that are relevant and open to CSOs.
- ◆ We contributed to the joint communiques of the CSO Forums that were presented to the Committee on the first day of the ordinary sessions.
- ◆ Through the Joining Forces Alliance for East and Southern Africa, we enhanced the participation of children in decision-making across the region. Children were engaged in lobby activities through major celebrations such as the Day of the Africa Child (DAC) and the Africa Children's Summit. Through these initiatives, children's voices and agency have expanded, and governments are increasingly recognising their role in development.
- ◆ Africa Disrupt CSW 68: under the theme Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening situations and financing with gender, TdH NL and the Horn of Africa Youth Network contributed to drafting of an Open letter to Vice-Chair designate, African States Group in the CSW68 bureau in Yaounde Cameroon during the Africa Disrupt CSW68 summit.
- ◆ The African Youth Colloquium: we supported 3 girls and young women to participate and contribute to the African Youth Colloquium on the sidelines of the 37th African Union Heads of State and Government Summit, held in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. The Youth Colloquium served as a forum for lively conversations around robust discussions on youth empowerment, Harmonisation and standardisation of education, employment, African development Nexus, decolonizing educations, Educate an African fit for the 21st Century.
- ◆ Celebration of International / Continental Days; for example, during the International Women's Day, we continued to strengthen our engagements with key stakeholders including the African Union's Women, Gender and Youth Directorate, and member states. Our Girls and young women were able to contribute to the discussions and call on the AU to finance more international collaboration and interventions as well as digital inclusion of girls and young women in Africa.

“Child labour and poverty are inevitably bound together and if you continue to use the labour of children as the treatment for the social disease of poverty, you will have both poverty and child labour.”

**David Momanyi,
Executive Director, HOAYN.**

“Child exploitation deprives children of their rights and their future. Let’s join together to stop every form of exploitation.”

**Raphael Kariuki,
Regional Director, Terre des Hommes**

PARTNERSHIPS

Terre des Hommes Netherlands is a member of:

- Joining Forces for Children, an alliance of the six largest child-focused international NGOs (ChildFund, Plan, Save the Children, SOS Children’s Villages, Terre des Hommes, World Vision).
- She Leads, a five-year strategic partnership between the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and four consortium organisations - Terre des Hommes Netherlands, Plan Netherlands, DCI-ECPAT Netherlands and the African Women’s Development and Communication Network (FEMNET).
- Terre des Hommes International Federation (TDHIF), a network of eight national organisations working for the rights of children and to promote equitable development without racial, religious, political, cultural or gender-based discrimination.
- In Africa, we collaborate with several other member organisations, in particular Terre des Hommes Foundation (Lausanne, Switzerland), Terre des Hommes Germany and Terre des Hommes Italy.

- In Madagascar, we partner with UNICEF and the Responsible Mica Initiative (RMI) to end child labour practices in the mica mining sector.

FUNDING PARTNERS

Our work in Africa is made possible through the generous support of our donors;

- Stichting 10 September
- European Commission
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
- Global Fund to End Modern Slavery (GFEMS)
- European Commission Humanitarian Aid (ECHO)
- Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA)
- Nespresso
- Dutch Enterprise Agency (RVO)
- Volkswagen Employees Foundation
- Volkswagen Works Council
- National Postcode Lottery of the Netherlands
- Own resources (raised by the 45 Terre des Hommes shops and by numerous individual donors, volunteers and other well-wishers in the Netherlands)

About Terre des Hommes Netherlands

Terre des Hommes Netherlands (TdH NL) is an international child rights organisation committed to stopping child exploitation. Our mission is to protect children by preventing and stopping child exploitation, and by empowering children to make their voices count. Our vision is that ‘children can flourish in a world free of all forms of exploitation.

CONTACT US

Terre des Hommes Netherlands, Regional Office East Africa Riverside Lane West | Nairobi

P.O. Box 76340 | 00508 Nairobi

+254 722 209 581 | east.africa@tdh.nl | www.terredeshommes.nl | @tdhnl_africa

@TdHNLStopsChildExploitation | Terre des Hommes Netherlands in Africa

Terre des Hommes Netherlands in Africa