

LOCALIZATION POLICY

Save the Children Germany

As a member of Save the Children, we actively contribute to the global vision¹ and strategy of shifting power dynamics and strengthening local governance. As a German organization, our strongest contribution within the context of international humanitarian aid and development cooperation does not lie in direct collaboration with local actors – which is led by Save the Children’s country offices in the respective contexts –, but rather in the German context and in serving as a bridge to actors on the ground. In doing so, we are aware of existing power structures both within and outside the organization.

Our self-conception is based on a deep respect for local communities and the recognition that they are best placed to know and assess their realities and needs. We see localization as a process that not only enhances the effectiveness of our work, but also promotes the self-determination and empowerment of local actors.

Therefore, we continuously and actively advocate for raising awareness of the importance of the localization approach and the role of local actors—both within Save the Children Germany and in the German and European political landscape. Our goal is to work together with Save the Children country offices and national offices to make our partners more visible in various forums and to amplify their voices in as many phases of project implementation as possible, as well as in conceptual and strategic processes.

Strategy and vision

Our aim is to work together with our local partners to achieve development and humanitarian objectives that improve people’s lives, especially those of children, and strengthen their livelihoods. In doing so, we align our efforts with the needs and priorities of the affected communities.

While collaboration on the ground primarily takes place through Save the Children’s country offices and national offices, we as Save the Children Germany support our partners at both national and international levels. A particularly important aspect is the **shift of decision-making power to the local level to ensure that local communities have control over the design and implementation** of initiatives that directly affect them.

Localization, as a strategy for realizing children's rights worldwide, is a dynamic and collaborative process that requires the involvement of local communities and organizations, the

¹ Save the Children International (2023): [Localization Ambition: Local to Global for Impact](#); Save the Children's Localization Policy (2020): [Save the Children's Localization Policy](#)

adaptation of programs to local contexts, and a strong foundation within these communities. Only through such a holistic approach can we ensure that all children, regardless of their background or origin, have the opportunity to grow up safely, healthily and protected, and to reaching their full potential.

Overall, we see localization not only as an effective strategy to achieve shared goals, but also as an ethical imperative. **We firmly believe that a locally-grounded approach enhances the effectiveness and sustainability of our work** while respecting the dignity and autonomy of the people we support.

Role and self-conception of Save the Children Germany

We align with the localization principles of Save the Children International and take on a multifaceted role:



Externally, we advocate at the **political level** for the implementation of localization principles and critically examine donor guidelines. We aim to raise awareness among the donor community about the importance of closely involving local partners and to enhance the visibility of our partners in German politics, media, and our own communication channels.



Internally, we act as a **multiplier and interface**, facilitating collaboration **across different levels of the organization**. Our aim is to promote a better understanding within Save the Children regarding effective cooperation with local partners.



We strive to strengthen representation and visibility where it is meaningful and desired. We want to serve as a **"translator" for the needs of our local partners**, promote the exchange of best practices, and offer technical support and resources.



We support the **exchange of knowledge and resources** between the German context and local actors, acknowledging existing power dynamics and actively working to shift these in favor of local actors.

Together with our local partners, we aspire to create a world in which every individual, especially children, can develop their full potential and lead a dignified life. **Our collaboration is built on genuine partnership, mutual respect, trust and shared responsibility.**