



Save the Children

2025 Impact Report



In 2025, Save the Children South Africa (SCSA) **reached 39,510** of the country's most vulnerable children with direct support. Across **five provinces** and **13 local municipalities**, we worked alongside communities, government, donors and local partners to help children grow up safer, healthier, better nourished and better prepared for the future. Through this work, we kept children safe from violence, helped young people access sexual and reproductive health services, prepared them for education, livelihoods and employment, supported parents and caregivers to prevent malnutrition and strengthened local systems so that children at risk received timely, quality care.

For early childhood care, 6,475 children aged 0–5 years received improved access to quality early childhood care and development in Limpopo and the Northern Cape. Within this group, **970 children in 25 ECD centres** received more than **107,000 nutritious meals**, gained access to **clean water and sanitation** and **benefitted from food gardens**, **removing barriers** to learning, creating healthier learning environments and improving children's readiness to learn.

In communities struggling with hunger, **5,422 children under five** were screened for acute malnutrition, enabling early identification and referral for treatment before conditions became life-threatening. At the same time, **4,473 caregivers** strengthened their knowledge of infant and young child feeding, equipping families with practical skills to improve child nutrition and long-term health outcomes.

Young people were supported to make informed decisions about their health and future. In 2025, **30,173 youth** received comprehensive and accurate information on sexual health to prevent HIV transmission and unintended pregnancies. Of the **3,994 referred for services**, **2,351 (59%)** successfully accessed essential care, including HIV testing and family planning, demonstrating improved access to health services for vulnerable adolescents and young people. SCSA also invested in young people's economic futures.

In 2025, **19,996 youth developed employability** and life skills to improve their pathways to education and work. As a result, **2,535 out-of-school youth returned to education** or training, while **3,054 secured employment**, contributing to increased household resilience and improved opportunities for long-term economic independence.

When children are protected from violence, well nourished, supported to learn and equipped with opportunities to thrive, they are more likely to become healthy, productive and engaged members of society. This is why investing in children remains one of the most powerful investments any nation can make.

Beyond direct service delivery, SCSA worked to strengthen the policies, systems and institutions that shape children's lives. Through the support of **donors, government departments, community organisations, corporate partners, local partners, caregivers** and **young people** themselves, SCSA joined or led **33 national and local** advocacy platforms advancing children's rights.

Together with partners, we contributed to **eight major policy and budget changes** that will benefit children nationwide, helping to ensure that public policies, services and investments better reflect children's rights, voices and lived realities.

Save the Children South Africa

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