



ERIKS Development Partner

A Global Overview

Susan, Kenya

ERIKS
Development Partner



Nirob, Bangladesh

Who We Are

ERIKS Development Partner (ERIKS) is a Swedish child rights organisation and foundation, with a non-profit second hand-business. ERIKS' work and commitment to the fulfilment of the rights of the child is guided by our identity and values: the spirit of Erik Nilsson (the founder of ERIKS), Christian values, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

ERIKS currently supports projects in 16 countries in East and West Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, as well as in Sweden. Partnerships with local civil society actors is the entry point in all our work. Local partners have the advantage of knowing the culture and context where they work, which promotes sustainability and efficiency. To support our partners, ERIKS has established regional offices in Asia, East Africa, West Africa, and Eastern Europe.

Vision

For the children. And the world they dream of.

Mission

To combat poverty and vulnerability by promoting and realising children's rights.

Our History

ERIKS Development Partner was founded by Erik Nilsson, who was born 1929 in Småland, Sweden. Suffering from haemophilia, Erik was hospitalised during reoccurring long periods of his childhood. When Erik was hospitalised, he realised that there were many



other children who also suffered from serious diseases and who had to spend long periods of time in hospitals, far away from family and friends. Therefore, as a show of support, he started sending other sick children letter greetings and small gifts. Erik received names and addresses for children who were hospitalised through a national radio programme called "Children's postbox". In order to be able to record as many names as possible, Erik wrote to the programme host Sven Jerring, asking if he could read a little bit slower. When the radio profile read the letter, he assumed that the writer was an old man and therefore named the young boy Uncle Erik. When he later turned out to be a teenager, the nickname Uncle Erik had already stuck.

By 1946, when Erik was seventeen years old, his charity work was already established. A couple of years later, Erik was interviewed on national radio and his work became known to the public. Gifts started to pour in from people around the country. Erik, known as Uncle Erik, died in 1966, only 37 years old. But the work he started lives on. A year after his death, ERIKS Development Partner (ERIKS) was founded. Even today, we work for a changed world, where children's dreams come to life. All thanks to the boy Erik and his courage to turn his dream into reality.

ERIKS Second Hand

ERIKS has around 50 second hand-shops in Sweden and Norway. The surplus from the second hand-business contributes to ERIKS' efforts to ensure that children can go to school, be healthy and feel safe. The second hand-shops further provide an arena for on-the-job training, in cooperation with ERIKS FutureLabs, and gives children with parents who remain outside the labour market, hope for the future. The circular sale further provides environmental hope for future generations and a way for ERIKS to meet today's need for sustainable development.

Sustainable Development – in all ERIKS’ work

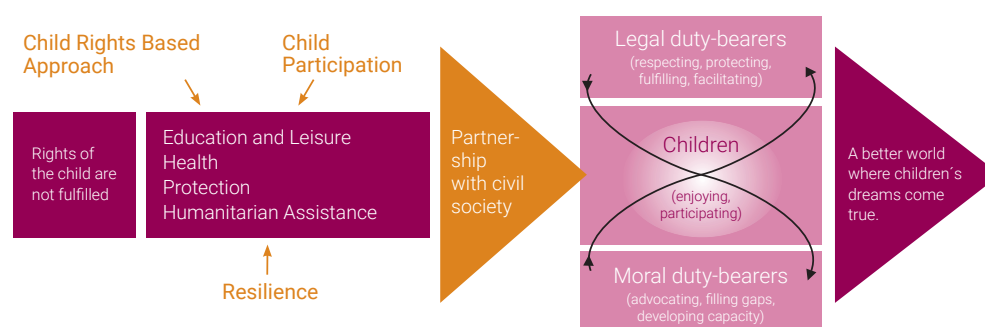
Sustainable development is development that meets today’s needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. Working with sustainability as part of ERIKS’ vision is fundamental, as it affects both children’s and their families’ opportunities for a long-term future. With children’s and their families’ opportunities in focus, ERIKS works actively with three perspectives of sustainability: environmental, social, and economical.

As a child rights organisation guided by its vision and mission, ERIKS contributes to most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There is no specific goal for children’s rights, but the child rights perspective is included in all areas of sustainability and is relevant for all ERIKS’ work.

Examples of the SDGs particularly important in relation to our work are:



Theory of Change



The above illustration aims to describe ERIKS’ Theory of Change. It illustrates the rationale behind ERIKS’ mission and vision. The process of change is complex, and therefore it is important to note that the theory is a simplified picture of reality, where the process is not linear, but characterised by dynamic interactions between different actors and by different strategic approaches.

At the starting point are situations where **the rights of the child are not fulfilled**, something that motivates change. Violations of children’s rights are closely connected to situations of poverty and vulnerability. As further explained in the next section, ERIKS works within four thematic areas; **Education and Leisure, Health, Protection, and Humanitarian Assistance**. In its work to promote positive change, ERIKS believes that working through and together with the civil society

actors is strategically important. A vibrant civil society is essential for a peaceful and democratic societal development. Therefore, **partnership with local civil society actors** is the entry point for ERIKS in its child rights work, and the reason for its shape and position in the illustration. Through its partner organisations, ERIKS collaborates with a wide range of key actors and change agents surrounding the child, **moral duty-bearers and legal duty-bearers**, who all have the possibility to contribute to the fulfilment of the rights of the child. Progress towards ERIKS’ vision is made when change agents take on their roles and responsibilities. This requires that they be provided with the possibilities, capacities, and tools needed to act and promote the best interest of the child. ERIKS’ work is summarised in a number of strategic approaches, which are highlighted in yellow in the illustration; **Child Right-Based Approach, Child Participation, and Resilience**.

Our Thematic Priorities



Education and Leisure

Education and leisure are key to combatting poverty, both at individual and structural levels. ERIKS' work includes the promotion of access to, and the assurance of quality of, education through awareness raising, improvement of learning environments, supporting families so their children can attend school, capacity development of teachers, and advocacy towards duty-bearers. Education and leisure associates naturally with SDG 4 – Inclusive and equitable quality education, but also with SDG 5 – Gender equality, as much of the work that ERIKS' supports focuses on girls who, in many societies may not, or cannot, go to school.



Health

Health is more than the absence of disease, and involves a physical, mental, and social well-being. ERIKS promotes children's rights to health through preventive measures, such as access to safe water, hygiene, nutritious food, and awareness on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and facilitating access to health care. The thematic area of health associates with SDG 3 – Good health and well-being, but also to SDG 2 – Zero hunger.

Protection

Abuse and exploitation of children takes place in all countries and societies, and across all social groups. ERIKS strives to protect children from all kinds of violence and abuse, through sensitisation on the rights of the child, capacity development, advocacy, and by strengthening



networking between different institutions, authorities, and organisations involved in child protection. The thematic area of child protection covers many of the SDGs, for instance SDG 16 – Peaceful and inclusive societies. Abuse and exploitation of children takes place in all countries and societies, and across all social groups. ERIKS strives to protect children from all kinds of violence and abuse, through sensitisation on the rights of the child, capacity development, advocacy, and by strengthening networking between different institutions, authorities, and organisations involved in child protection. The thematic area of child protection covers many of the SDGs, for instance SDG 16 – Peaceful and inclusive societies.

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Risk Reduction

ERIKS responds to crises together with local partners. The objective is to save lives, alleviate human suffering, and support people's right to a life in dignity. ERIKS' humanitarian interventions focus on child-



ren's rights to protection and assistance. Additionally, ERIKS supports partners in their work on resilience and disaster risk reduction (DRR), in order to contribute to people's and communities' ability to deal with change that is due to climate change. ERIKS' humanitarian efforts associate with SDG 1 – No poverty, but as with the thematic area of protection, ERIKS' humanitarian efforts relate to many of the other SDGs as well, for instance health and education.



Where we work

Asia

ERIKS works in five countries in Asia; India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia, and has a regional office in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and country representation in Bangladesh. Examples of interventions are education in remote areas prone to flooding, strengthening of child and maternal health systems, family re-integration of children in institutions, and combatting trafficking.

West Africa

ERIKS works in three countries in West Africa; Mali, Burkina Faso, and Benin, and has a regional office in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso and country representation in Mali and Benin. Examples of interventions include accelerated learning programmes for school dropouts, combating female genital mutilation, and strengthening of local child protection systems.

East Africa

ERIKS works in four countries in East Africa; Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda, and Kenya, and has a regional office in Kampala, Uganda and country representation in Kenya and South Sudan. Examples of interventions include education for girls in pastoralist communities, strengthening of child and maternal health systems, and protection of street children.

Eastern Europe

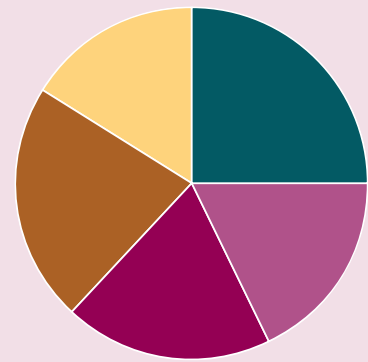
ERIKS works in three countries in Eastern Europe; Romania, Moldova, and Ukraine, and has a regional office in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Examples of interventions include facilitating access to inclusive education for children with disabilities and children in Roma communities, strengthening of child protection systems, sexual and reproductive health and rights education for young people, supporting children to advocate for their rights, as well as humanitarian support for children and families affected by the war in Ukraine.

Sweden

ERIKS' work in Sweden is focused on counteracting children's social exclusion and isolation in socioeconomically underprivileged areas, by working on long-term solutions so that more children can grow up under equal conditions. In response to existing needs, ERIKS FutureLabs was started in 2019, a directly implemented programme where the aim is to support children and youth in investing in their schooling, hobbies, participation in their communities and in civil society, and by ensuring their participation in decisions affecting their lives. Today, there are six FutureLabs established across the country. The work is rights based and carried out in cooperation with civil society actors and in cooperation with ERIKS' second hand-shops, in order to create an arena for social efforts in targeted communities, both for children and their parents.

Funding

ERIKS is well-known to the public in Sweden, both as a fundraising organisation and as a leading second hand-brand. This is reflected in the presentation of sources of income of the organisation. The total income for the year 2023 was 153 MSEK. About 41% of the organisation's total income comes from different institutional donors (including foundations and trusts), of which the biggest are Radio Aid, the Swedish Postcode Lottery, and governmental funds channelled through the Swedish Mission Council. Other sources of funding include individual supporters of the organisation, enterprises and companies, profits from ERIKS second hand-shops, and last wills and testaments, among others.



- Donations 25 %
- Second Hand 18 %
- Swedish Mission Council 19 %
- Postcode Lottery, Children of the World Campaign, Music Aid Campaign (Radio Aid) etc 22 %
- Other income 16 %

* Numbers from 2023





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And the world they dream of.**

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