



ERIKS Development Partner

A Global Overview





Who We Are

ERIKS Development Partner (ERIKS) is a Swedish NGO and foundation, promoting the rights of the child. 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 Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, as well as in Sweden. Partnership 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 South East Asia, East Africa, West Africa and Eastern Europe.

Vision

A better world where children's dreams come true.



Mission

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

Our History

ERIKS Development Partner was founded in 1967, but the history of the organisation started far earlier. The founder of the organisation, Erik Nilsson, was born 1929 in the region of Småland. Suffering from haemophilia since birth, Erik was bedridden and hospitalized during reoccurring long periods of his childhood. When Erik was hospitalized he realized that he was not alone, there were many other children who also suffered from serious diseases and had to spend long periods at hospital far away from family and friends. Instead of feeling pity for himself, he started to encourage other sick children through letter greetings and small gifts. Erik received names and addresses for children who were in hospital and in need of encouragement 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 it later turned out to be a

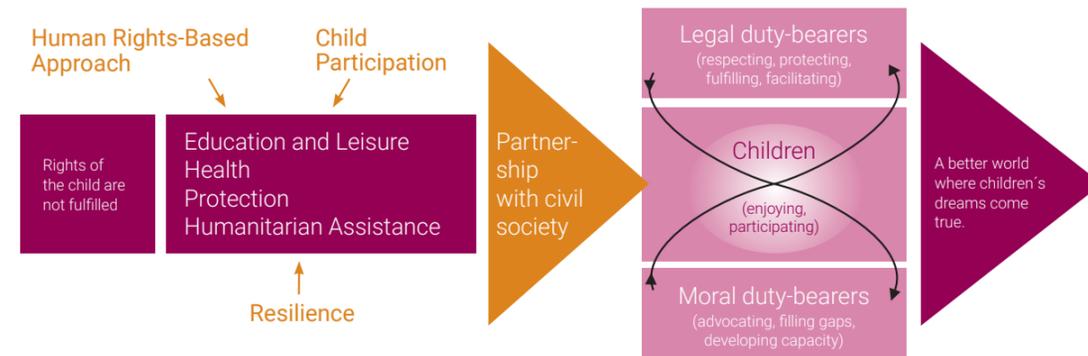
teenager, the nickname Uncle Erik had already stuck. By 1946, when Erik was seventeen years old, his charity work was already established. A couple of years later, Eriks was interviewed in national radio and his work became known to the public. Gifts started to pour in from people around the country of Sweden. Erik, known as Uncle Erik, died in 1966 only 37 years old. But the work he started continues and today thousands of vulnerable children and families around the world are given an opportunity for education and livelihood and are able to shape their own future.

The Sustainable Development Goals

Guided by its vision and mission, ERIKS contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Examples of the SDGs that we identify as particularly important in relation to our work:

 <p>• Goal 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p>	 <p>• Goal 4 Quality education for all</p>
 <p>• Goal 2 Zero hunger</p>	 <p>• Goal 5 Gender equality</p>
 <p>• Goal 3 Good health and well-being</p>	 <p>• Goal 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions</p>

Theory of Change



Above illustration aims to describe ERIKS Theory of Change. 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 interactions between different actors and the use of different strategic approaches.

At the starting point are situations where **the rights of the child are not fulfilled**, which is motivating 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 identifies working through and together with the civil society as strategically important. A vibrant civil society is essential for

a peaceful and democratic 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, **moral duty-bearers and legal duty-bearers**, surrounding the child, who all have the possibilities to contribute to the fulfilment of the rights of the child. Progress towards ERIKS' vision will be made when the change agents take on their roles and responsibilities. This requires that they are given the possibilities and capacities, courage and tools to interact and promote the best interest of the child. ERIKS' has summaries our work on this in a number of strategic approaches, highlighted in yellow in the illustration; **Human Right-Based Approach, Child Participation and Resilience**.

Our Thematic Priorities



Education

Education is key to combatting poverty, both at individual and structural level. ERIKS' work includes promoting access to, and quality of, education through awareness raising, improvement of learning environments, support to families to send their children to school, capacity development of teachers and advocacy towards duty-bearers.



Protection

Abuse and exploitation of children takes place in every country and society and across all social groups. ERIKS strives to protect children from all kinds of violence and abuse, through sensitization on the rights of the child, capacity development, advocacy and networking between different institutions, authorities and organisations involved in child protection.



Health

Health is more than the absence of disease, involving 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 (SRHR), as well as through facilitating access to health care.



Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Risk Reduction

ERIKS responds to crises together with local partners. The objective is to save life, alleviate human suffering and support people's right to a life in dignity. The humanitarian interventions focus on children's rights to protection and assistance. ERIKS also supports partners to work with resilience and disaster risk reduction (DRR) to contribute to people's and communities' ability to deal with change, mostly due to climate change.



Where we work

Asia

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

West Africa

ERIKS is working in three countries; Mali, Burkina Faso and Benin, with a regional office located in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Examples of interventions include accelerated learning programmes for school dropouts, combating female genital mutilation, and strengthening of local child protection structures.

East Africa

ERIKS is working in four countries; Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda and Kenya, with a regional office located in Kampala, Uganda. Examples of interventions include education for girls in pastoralist communities,

strengthening of children and maternal health systems, and protection of children living in the streets.

Europe

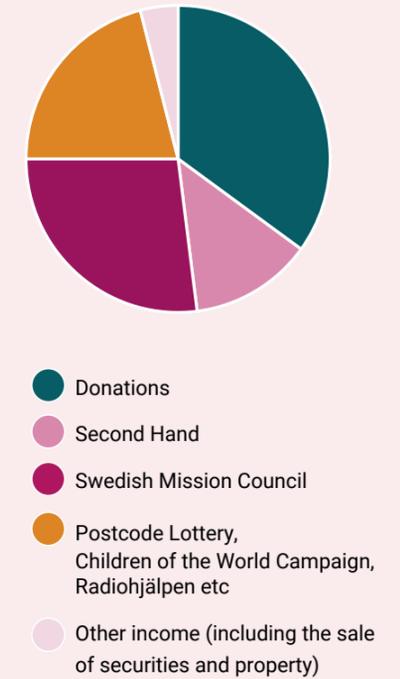
ERIKS is working in three countries; Belarus, Romania and Moldova, with a regional office located in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Examples of interventions include facilitating access to inclusive education for children with disabilities and in Roma communities, strengthening child protection systems, sexual and reproductive health and rights education for young people, supporting children to advocate for their rights.

Sweden

In Sweden, ERIKS is both working in partnership with other organisations as well as implementing its own projects. Examples of interventions include production of educational material on children's rights, support to children and families where one family member is in prison and projects implemented in particularly challenging localities where the aim is to provide children equal opportunities.

Funding

ERIKS Development Partner (Erikshjälpen in Swedish) 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. About 50% of the total income of the organisation consists of proper funds raised from individual supporters of the organisation, or from the profits of the 60 second hand shops in Sweden and Norway. The other half of the organisation's total income comes from different institutional donors, where a major share is Government funds channelled via the Swedish Mission Council.





A better world where children's dreams come true

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