

ERIKS is a Swedish child rights organisation founded in 1967

We are a foundation with headquarters in Sweden and regional offices in Eastern Africa, Western Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe. The identity of the organisation rests on three pillars:

ERIKS' spirit

Our founder Erik Nilsson had a warm heart and cared for others despite his lifelong suffering from haemophilia. As an organisation, we strive to protect Erik's legacy of commitment and Christian faith, and to apply what characterised Erik – empathy, creativeness, and a focus on opportunities. We are deeply committed to managing our donors' and costumers' gifts and funds responsibly – just like Erik did.



Christian view of mankind

ERIKS' values are based on a Christian view of humanity, with particular emphasis on the following principles:

- All people are loved by God and have equal value.
- All people have the right to a dignified and fulfilling life.
- All people have a shared responsibility for the earth, to use but not misuse.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child

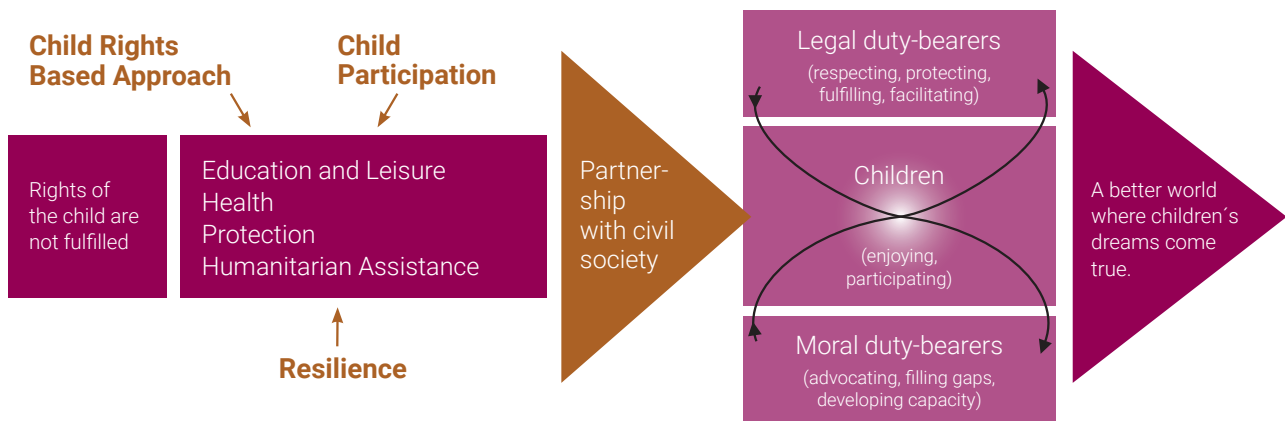
The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) outlines the universal conditions under which children have the right to live. These are conditions that ERIKS strives to promote and include, amongst other things respect for the equal and unique value of all individuals, irrespective of gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and religion.

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.

Main Objectives and Theory of Change

ERIKS' theory of change illustrates the rationale behind ERIKS' mission and vision. ERIKS' vision is **for the children. And the world they dream of.** Our mission is to **combat poverty and vulnerability by promoting and realising children's rights.** ERIKS' theory of change is not to be understood as a linear process, but rather as a dynamic interaction between different actors and target groups (children, moral, and/or legal duty-bearers). Moreover, the following strategic approaches form the basis of all ERIKS' programmes and has their starting point in ERIKS' vision and mission.



Child Rights-Based Approach

ERIKS plans and implements all its programmes and supported interventions using a child rights-based approach (CRBA), with particular emphasis placed on children's perspectives. Applying a CRBA involves looking beyond the effects of poverty and child rights violations to identify and address their root causes.

Child Participation

Children's right to participate in decisions that affect their lives is a core principle in the UNCRC and challenges the perception of children as passive recipients of support. ERIKS is committed to promoting child participation in all stages of the project cycle. Child participation should not be limited to ad-hoc activities, and we believe in children's own ability to be involved and contribute to changing their own situation. Our aim is, therefore, to mainstream child participation in all ERIKS' programmes and supported interventions.

Resilience

ERIKS' theory of change has a holistic and child focused perspective on development. An important aspect of that is to strengthen the resilience of families, caregivers, and communities. This includes strengthening the abilities of children, households, communities, and systems to anticipate, prevent, withstand, manage, and overcome cumulative stresses and shocks in ways which advance and ensure the rights of every child. ERIKS' approach to resilience includes both humanitarian and development programmes and interventions – where, for instance, livelihood interventions are an important strategy that ERIKS applies, in order to build resilience in local communities.

Partnership with civil society

ERIKS recognises the strategic importance of working in partnership with civil society to bring about lasting change for children. ERIKS' believes that working together with a strong civil society ensures and strengthens the sustainability and relevance of programmes and interventions. Additionally, a vibrant civil society is essential for peaceful and democratic development, and the possibility for people to organise themselves is further an important prerequisite for an inclusive and healthy society.

Reach

ERIKS' programmes currently run in the following 16 countries: Sweden, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia.

ERIKS' thematic priorities

Each country programme has its specific country strategy, that includes ERIKS' results framework and strategic direction, which guides ERIKS' programmes and supported interventions, that are to be carried out through partnerships with civil society actors. The results framework is based on ERIKS' global objectives, which cover the following thematic areas:

- Education and leisure – Children are enjoying their right to education and leisure. Education and leisure associates naturally with SDG 4 - Inclusive and equitable quality education and SDG 5 – Gender equality.
- Health – Children are enjoying their right to the highest attainable standards of health. The thematic area of health associates with SDG 3 – Good health and well-being and SDG 2 – Zero hunger.

- Protection – Children are enjoying their right to 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 – Lives are saved, human suffering is alleviated, and the right to life with dignity is supported. 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.



ERIKS' added value

ERIKS' main added value in partnerships and consortia is its broad experience and knowledge within the area of child rights programming. More specifically, ERIKS contributes with, for instance, expertise on child participation and anti-trafficking and has solid partnerships with local grassroots organisations and networks in 16 countries across four regions. More specifically, ERIKS has expertise in:

- Human/child rights-based approach
- Child participation in planning, implementation, and evaluation
- Child empowerment structures (child parliament, child rights clubs, etc.)
- Children's perspectives in/on emergencies
- Community empowerment/advocacy
- Empowerment/capacity building of moral/legal duty-bearers
- Anti-trafficking (case support/advocacy)
- Anti-Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) (awareness and behaviour change)

Child participation

ERIKS has long experience of practicing and including child participation in all stages of the project cycle. Children's voices can be expressed by including them in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of ERIKS' interventions and through the planning and formation of children's rights clubs, child parliaments, and youth councils in target schools and communities.

Anti-trafficking

ERIKS' programmes in Asia have, during the last eight years, held a focus on anti-trafficking. ERIKS works together with grassroots partner organisations that specialise in anti-trafficking, in liaison with local governments and international actors, to combat the trafficking of children.

Strong partnerships with grassroots organisations

ERIKS works alongside local grassroots organisations that have the capacity to operate and advocate within local, national, and regional child rights networks. ERIKS is committed to building long-term partnerships and invests in building the capacity of local partners and networks.

Innovations

Lifting up school buildings

In Cambodia, the provinces located along the Tonle Sap River, experience both flooding and drought during the same year. ERIKS is partnering with a local organisation to install large balloons under school buildings in the area, to lift them up above expected water levels during flood season. This ensures that school buildings remain standing, and that the construction remains safe for students throughout the year.

Spacerpad

ERIKS is currently working together with a Swedish university to test a new type of reusable sanitary pad that has been developed for use in humanitarian and development settings. ERIKS supports Spacerpad by working to strengthen the public's knowledge on menstrual health and its correlation to child rights, as well as carries out fundraising efforts for the promotion of girls' right to their menstrual health.

Research on anti-trafficking

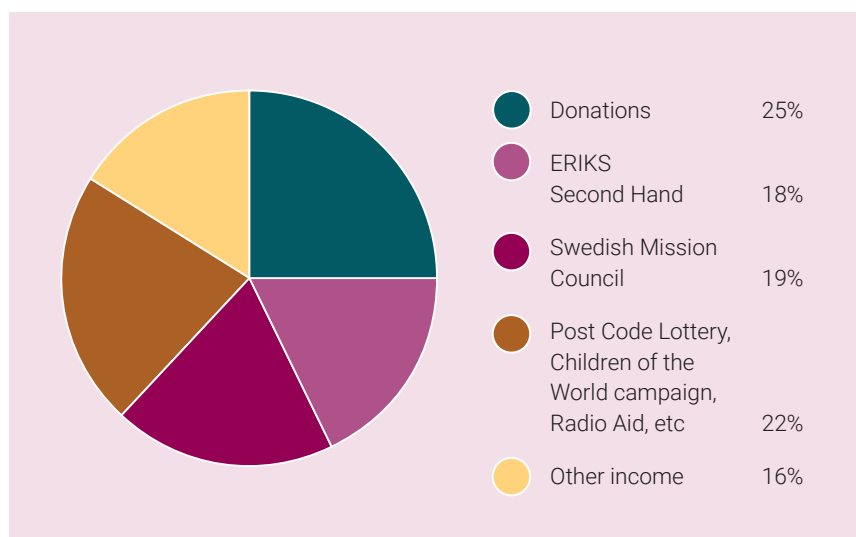
ERIKS has during the last five years been engaged in a research project on anti-trafficking, together with the Swedish organisation InterAct and Umeå University. The research project has focused on faith-based organisations' strategies to counter trafficking of children in Thailand and Cambodia. The findings will inform and contribute to the design and implementation of ERIKS' programmes to safeguard children and combat trafficking together with local faith-based organisations.

Portable schools

ERIKS is partnering with local organisations in Bangladesh to provide portable schools for children residing on remote and inaccessible river chars. As a result, children can continue studying in times of monsoon rains and flooding thanks to innovative portable constructions, solar panels, online teaching methods, and training on crisis management, both for adults and for children.

Funding

ERIKS Development Partner is well-known to the general public in Sweden, both as a fundraising organisation, as well as a leading second hand-brand. This is reflected in the below presentation of ERIKS' sources of funding. About 40-50% of the organisation's total income consists of funds raised from private donors and of revenue from ERIKS' 52 second hand-shops in Sweden and Norway. The other part of the organisation's funds base derives from institutional donors, where a major share is government funding channelled through the Swedish Mission Council (SMC). Other major institutional donors with whom ERIKS have long-term contracts are The Swedish Postcode Lottery and the Swedish public service's Radio Aid.



Total annual funding

Annual funding 2023

152 932 070 SEK/
13 015 495 Euro

Annual funding 2022

194 508 881 SEK/
16 553 947 Euro

Annual funding 2021

162 678 000 SEK/
13 844 936 Euro

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