



Save the Children

Save the Children Netherlands (SCNL) is a member of the International Save the Children Alliance, which consists of 29 national Save the Children organizations. Save the Children is the world's largest independent organization for children, making a difference to children's lives in over 120 countries. Combating HIV and AIDS is one of the Alliance's key issues. SCNL has a number of programs at present in South Africa and a multi-year program which has recently ended in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia

Somali National Regional State, Jigjiga Town

Memory work is a tool that breaks through the barriers of communication among children, family members and the wider community. It is an entry point to open up discussions around tackling stigma and discrimination.

Memory work enables children to cope with the impact of HIV/AIDS and manage the possible loss and separation from their parents and other relatives. It empowers children to participate in the planning for their future. The project focuses on four main pillars which include:

- Ø Improving communication between parents and other family members living with HIV and their children
- Ø Supporting parents to disclose their HIV status
- Ø Succession planning ,including will writing and choice of guardians for children
- Ø Documenting important family history and information in a memory book

South Africa

Free State

SCNL has 3 programs in the Free State based on the Caring School model. Due to the rapid increase in the numbers of children that require urgent and long term support, new approaches are needed. One approach is to maximize the use of available infrastructure for children – particularly schools. The South African Government has introduced a number of policies since the advent of democracy in 1994 that support the role of schools in providing care for vulnerable children. There is therefore a comprehensive policy framework in which to base the concept of a Caring School.

A caring school has been defined as building on a foundation of child participation with the nurturing of strong relationships at its heart. Through these schools vulnerable children receive comprehensive and sustainable care and nurture through schools that have close linkages to other government and community services and programmes for schools.

The aspects that make up a Caring School are: Good Leadership and Governance, Human and Child Rights, Inter-Sectoral Partnerships, Effective and Creative Teaching and Learning, Wellness and Safety (health) and Infrastructure and Services.

The structure of the caring school programme in the school is having a Site Based Support Team, a School Governing Body, Youth Facilitators and a Children's Team.

In 2005 Save the Children convened the Caring Schools Network or CASNET to draw together as many organizations that are involved in supporting schools to provide care and protection for vulnerable children as possible. CASNET continues to be active.

www.savethechildren.nl