



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

COMMEMORATION OF THE DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD 2025

JUNE 16TH 2025 | WEBINAR

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

The IGAD Secretariat, in collaboration with Save the Children hosted the first-ever IGAD-wide commemoration of the Day of the African Child (DAC), on June 16th, 2025, in a virtual webinar event.

This milestone follows the adoption of the IGAD Child Policy Framework by IGAD member States in December 2024, offering a timely opportunity to highlight the region's commitment to advancing child rights.

Objectives of the DAC Celebrations

- Raise awareness of the challenges children are facing in the IGAD region;
- Advocate for children rights and well-being in alignment with member states' international, continental and regional commitments;
- Provide more visibility of child rights within IGAD's work and emphasize the importance of mainstreaming child perspectives and participation in policies and programs.

Children and member states and IGAD Secretariat representatives formulated the following recommendations to ensure effective implementation of the IGAD Child Policy Framework and reinforce institutional commitment to child rights across the region.

Summary Recommendations

Recommendations for Member States

1. Guarantee Access to Education:

Ensure all children have access to inclusive, quality education, and address poverty as a key barrier to accessing and staying in school.



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2. Operationalize the IGAD Child Policy:

Develop clear national action plans, allocate dedicated budgets, and establish monitoring systems to move from promises to action.

3. Prioritize Budget Allocations for Child Rights:

Embed child rights in national budgets to reflect long-term commitment across sectors.

4. Institutionalize Child Participation:

Create spaces such as national child parliaments/councils to engage children in decision-making.

5. Empower Children as Advocates and Leaders:

Support initiatives that allow children to spearhead advocacy, lead peer dialogue, and shape national and regional processes.

Recommendations for IGAD

1. Policy Dissemination and Advocacy:

Invest in popularizing and disseminating the Child Policy across all member states, especially targeting high-level political leadership, to prevent it from “remaining on the shelves.”

2. Child Rights Integration into Strategic Frameworks:

Integrate child rights and protection in IGAD’s upcoming regional strategy, sectoral policies, and peace and security frameworks.

3. Build Internal Capacity on Child Rights:

Strengthen IGAD’s internal structures and human resources to ensure in-house expertise on child protection and rights-based programming.

4. Promote Child-Centered Resilience:

Scale up programs that address the impacts of climate change through shock-responsive social protection, learning and innovation.

5. Establish a Regional Children’s Parliament or Council

Create a platform for regional child-led dialogue and representation, enabling children to participate meaningfully at the IGAD level.



Save the Children



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



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6. Enhance Early Warning Systems:

Implement child-sensitive early warning and response systems and indicators

7. Strengthen Migration and Displacement Programming:

Ensure children on the move are protected across borders through stronger case management, reintegration, and service access.

8. Mainstream Child Rights leveraging AU Inter-REC Platforms:

As IGAD chairs the AU Inter-REC platform, use this role to scale up child rights programming regionally.

9. Establish Cross-Border Child Committees

Involve children in cross-border committees and focus on activities that improve their wellbeing and protection.

10. Promote Accountability and Safe Services

Advocate for dedicated budgets within IGAD and stronger accountability mechanisms to address rights violations and promote safe schools and inclusive services.

Recommendations for All Stakeholders

1. Invest in Key Child-Focused Sectors:

Increase investment in education, child protection, mental health, and child participation, particularly for children on the move.

2. Involve Children in Policy Cycles:

Ensure that children are actively involved not only in policy development, but also in implementation, monitoring, and evaluation across all sectors.

3. Bridge the Digital Divide:

Make the Child Policy accessible through alternative, child-friendly communication methods beyond digital platforms

4. Align Partner Support:

Call on partners to align investments with IGAD Child Policy priorities, especially in contexts of emergency response, such as the crisis in Sudan.