



RIGHT TO PLAY  
PROTECT. EDUCATE. EMPOWER.

# TOWARDS 2025



# We Can't Give Up On Their Futures

The world's most vulnerable children are struggling to rise above adversity and **claim their rights**.

## LOSING THEIR CHANCE TO LEARN



Globally, **258 million** school-age children and youth are not in school.

## STRUGGLING WITH DISPLACEMENT



**33 million** children are refugees with elevated risks of mental health issues and dropping out of school.

## FACING GENDER DISCRIMINATION



An estimated **12 million girls** are married each year **before age 18**, limiting their agency and their futures.



Now is the time to chart a vision for how education can emerge stronger from this global crisis than ever before.



– Emiliana Vegas and Rebecca Winthrop  
Brookings Institution

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# Empowering the Next Generation To Rise

**Every child deserves a bright future.**

But everywhere we look, children are challenged: to attend and finish school, to protect their rights against abuse and exploitation, to have their voices heard and respected. This cannot continue.

For 20 years, Right To Play has protected, educated, and empowered children to rise above the challenges holding them back using the power of play. Now, it's time for the next generation to rise.

Right To Play is the only global development organization focused on harnessing the power of play to transform children's lives.

We work in some of the most dangerous and difficult places on earth to **protect, educate, and empower** children.

Our goal is to empower **100 million children by 2030** with the education, skills, and opportunities they need to rise above adversity and create a more peaceful and equitable world.







## How We Empower Children

### Our Methods

#### Leverage the Power of Play-Based Learning

Train teachers, coaches, and parents to use play-based methods that unlock children's abilities.

#### Strengthen Services, Policies, and Systems

Provide technical assistance to governments and other stakeholders to create environments for children to thrive in.

## Foundational Skills



Children develop holistic skills that enhance their agency and empower them to learn.

## Impact Areas

### Quality Education

Improve access to and quality of early childhood and basic education.

### Girls' Empowerment

Change harmful gender stereotypes and help girls realize their potential.

### Child Protection

Reduce violence, exploitation, and abuse of children.

### Health & Well-Being

Improve children's mental and physical health and prevent disease.

## How We Play

### Games



Ignite a passion for learning by making it active, engaging, and fun.

### Sports



Inspire and instill teamwork skills and healthy behaviour.

### Creative Play



Enables self-expression and creativity using art, music, and tinkering.

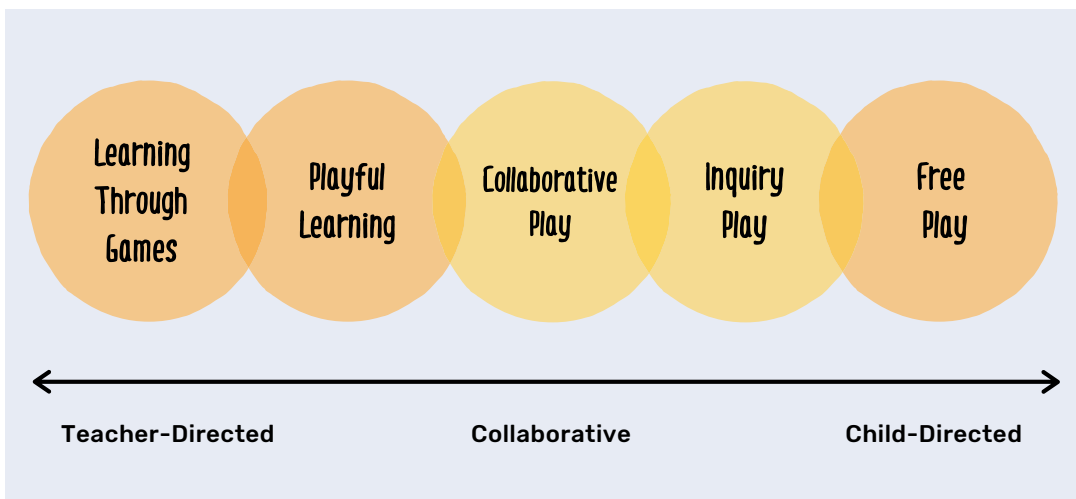
### Free Play



Unlocks the benefits of child-led, self-directed, and collaborative play.

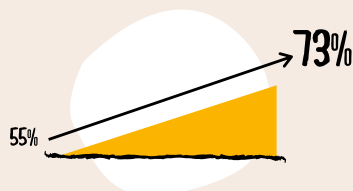
## Using New Kinds of Play

Guided play experiences like inquiry-based play and collaborative play are some of the most effective means of promoting holistic life skills and academic development in children. We will expand their presence across all of our activities and programs over the next five years.



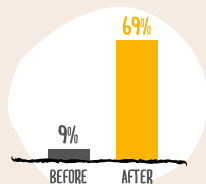
# The Impact on Children's Lives

## CHILDREN MISS FEWER SCHOOL DAYS



In Tanzania, school attendance improved from **55%** to **73%** in Right To Play-supported districts.

## IMPROVED MENTAL HEALTH



**69%** of refugee youth in Thailand demonstrated the ability to manage their emotions after coaching, vs. just **9%** beforehand.

## GIRLS STOP MISSING CLASSES



**68%** of girls stopped missing classes because of menstruation in Uganda after teachers were trained on gender-inclusive classroom management.



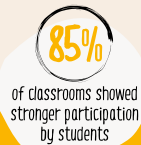
# Standing Up for Children's Futures

An important part of our work is making the places where children grow up more responsive to their needs. We stand up for children's right to a **more equitable, more inclusive, and more supportive** world by creating environments where they can learn and grow. Some of our recent successes include:



## Ethiopia (2015)

Created an accessible curriculum for children with physical, learning, and sensory disabilities.



## Tanzania (2017)

Worked with the Tanzania Institute of Education to make classrooms nationwide safer and more inclusive.



## Mozambique (2019)

Helped successfully repeal a law in Mozambique that forced pregnant girls out of school.



## Mali (2016)

Convened a children's parliament to propose legal changes to protect girls' and boys' rights against exploitation.



## Rwanda (2018)

Launched gender-responsive training for primary school teachers to better support girls' education.



## Ghana (2019)

Collaborated with the government to redesign the pre-primary curriculum to boost academic achievement.



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## Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals are a blueprint for peace and prosperity. But reaching them requires a world where children's abilities are respected and encouraged.



Enhancing children's knowledge of how to protect themselves from diseases and improving their mental health.



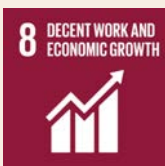
Improving the quality of educational opportunities and making them more accessible to children.



Empowering girls to challenge gender norms, resist child marriage and early pregnancies, and succeed academically.



Expanding sanitation facilities, access to safe water, and menstrual health management at schools.



Protecting children from the worst forms of labour and empowering them to seek better jobs once they graduate.



Bolstering children's voices and participation in their societies and supporting them to challenge racism and discrimination.

## Where We Work Today



**2.5 million**

**teachers, coaches, parents,**  
and **caregivers** trained and  
engaged to support  
children's growth in 2020.



**51%** of the  
children and youth in  
our programs are **girls**.

**11.2 million**

children reached in 2020  
through **partnerships, remote**  
**platforms, and systemic transformation.**



We work in **92 refugee camps**  
in **Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon, the Palestinian**  
**Territories, Tanzania, Thailand, and Uganda.**

# Strategic Priorities 2021–2025

Our focus over the next five years will be to create the greatest impact for the world's most vulnerable children. Our priorities combine a commitment to children's development even in the toughest conditions with systemic improvements that drive positive outcomes in their lives.



## Focus on the Most Vulnerable Children

Centre our work on transforming the lives of children in the world's most difficult and challenging situations.



## Deliver Impact in Four Key Outcome Areas

Drive to improve children's access to quality education, gender equality, child protection, and health and well-being.



## Leverage Our Unique Expertise in Play

Lead the way in advancing and championing how play-based methods can unlock children's potential for success.



## Multiply Our Impact Using Technology

Create digital tools and resources that reach across borders to train and support more educators.



## Integrate at a Global Scale

Increase Right To Play's ability to swiftly transfer innovations, lessons, and resources from region to region.



## Expand Through Collaboration and Engagement

Become a partner of choice and engage a worldwide base of supporters to help children achieve their full potential.

## Expanding Our Footprint Sustainably

To expand and sustain our operations, we will leverage the multiplier effects of partnerships and digital technology to create systemic change.

### Training the Trainers

Upgrade the standards of training for existing and new teachers and organize them into self-sustaining learning communities that continue to develop their skills.

### E-Certification

Develop online certification that will allow educators around the world to practice our methods with the same standards of quality as where we are actively operating.

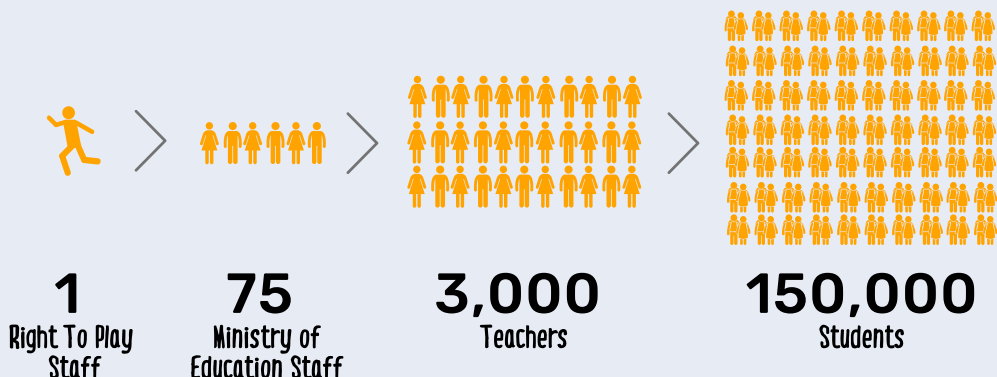
### Open-Access Digital Resources

Create and share digital training tools that minimize the costs of expanding while helping partners adopt our active and experiential methods.

### Scale Partnerships Nationally

Roll out redesigned educational curricula across entire education systems by tapping into the power of governments and major civil society partners.

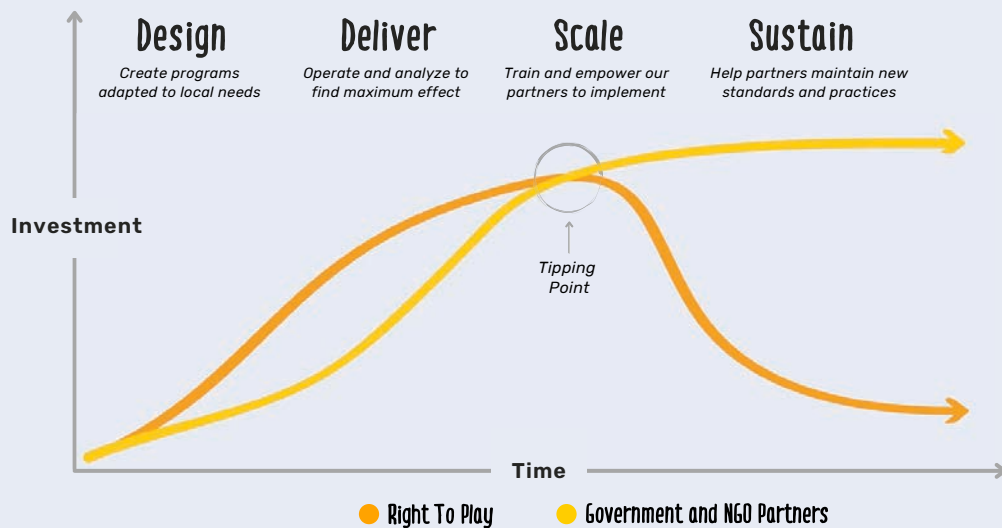
## Our Model for National-Scale Change



We help education systems make sustainable, scalable, improvements



# Partnering for Sustainability



## Measuring Impact

Evidence and measurement is at the core of our work. Improving our impact measurement means being able to more rapidly adapt and scale our work while retaining its effectiveness.



### Test and Build on Success

Use revised global and contextual indicators that allow us to test new approaches within and between countries, and then scale up successes.

### Maximize Return on Investment

Rigorously analyze cost-effectiveness to identify the interventions with the highest return on investment and sustainability.

### Respond to Changing Needs Rapidly

Collect data digitally on-site to monitor programs and make decisions in real-time to adapt to children's evolving needs.

## Preventing Violence Against Girls in Pakistan

A brighter future for girls in Pakistan means challenging patriarchal gender norms at home and at school. Girls are subject to domestic violence, discrimination, and peer violence when they stand up for themselves or excel academically. Those experiences make them more likely to suffer severe depression and more likely to drop out of school.

The Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls program helped challenge those norms, and empowered girls to stand up for their rights in 40 schools in Hyderabad between 2015 and 2018. Teachers helped both girls and boys to dismantle stereotypes, stop bullying, and reduce violence at home.

Participants said the program helped them gain confidence, develop more gender-equitable attitudes, and improve their mental health. Researchers from Aga Khan University and the South African Medical Research Council conducted a randomized control trial to determine how effective the intervention was, and the results were clear: Schools saw a 59% decrease in peer violence against girls and a decrease in the number of girls exhibiting signs of depression from 18% to 5%.

The success of the program led to the World Health Organization highlighting it as one of its top three interventions for preventing violence against women in a recent manual. Its methods and results have been the basis of ten academic papers dealing with violence against girls and women.

These lessons have been critical in shaping how we use the power of play to challenge gender inequality and create safe spaces for girls.



Fewer girls suffer from depression when we create **safe places** for them to learn



## Transforming Ghana's Educational System

In rural northern Ghana, only 51% of girls and 55% of boys attend school regularly. Even when students do remain in school, they struggle to meet basic International literacy standards. One study showed that only 13.4% of third-grade students were able to read at the minimum proficiency level for their grade.

Raising Ghana's attendance rate and boosting Ghanaians' educational outcomes means strengthening the quality of education that students receive.

Since 2020, Right To Play Is supporting the Ghanaian Ministry of Education through a collaborative national project, Partners In Play, that uses play-based learning to improve the quality of education for more than 3 million learners from kindergarten to 6th grade.

Partners In Play is Right To Play's first national-scale project in Ghana, built on past successful collaborations with the Government of Ghana dating back to 2001, and is funded by the LEGO Foundation.

Partners In Play will empower a new generation of students in Ghana to create a brighter future for themselves, their families, and their communities.

More than  
**3 million**

students in Ghana  
will **learn through play**  
in the classroom





## Right To Play Switzerland

Seefeldstrasse 162, CH-8008 Zurich  
info@righttoplay.ch, +41 44 552 04 88  
**righttoplay.ch**

