

Theory of Change: CEE Program "A Good Life for Our Children"

Vision: Ultimately, we want for children to grow up to be happy, fulfilled adults who achieve their full potential in life. We want them to have the courage to strive for their dreams, and if they come up short, the resilience to try again

Three Pathways to Success: Program participants grow and develop along three pathways - Grow&Achieve, Love&Support, and Impact&Sustain. The program builds around the belief that children Grow&Achieve in a stimulating environment that takes into consideration their individual needs and potential, and allows for a space to express dreams, needs, opinions; at the same time children need a supportive environment where parents, caregivers and teachers have the ability to Love&Support while improving their skills to interact with children in an encouraging and positive way; finally, organizations participating in the program and implementing children-targeted projects increase their capacity to Impact&Sustain, and to achieve long-term impacts through sustainable interventions.

Building a Strong Foundation: The three pathways want to establish an environment devoted to children's healthy development that begins in their families and extends to care givers, teachers, adults in the community and peers. Existing interventions by national organizations show positive results but they are limited in their possibility to achieve the long-term sustainable goal of full-personal development of children. Children who are at risk of the poorest outcomes in learning, health and behavior, are children who experience a cumulative burden of risk factors: poverty, neglect, violence, abuse, drug-abuse, etc. This burden is more than what any child can take and overcome alone. Thus, focusing on children solely gives only partial outcomes. The organizations involved in the CEE program asked themselves "What could we be doing to strengthen the capacity of everyone who interacts with children?" Skill-building is at the heart of it and shall target children, parents, caregivers, teachers as well as the national organizations that provide services for children.

Grow & Achieve Pathway:

Children establish a sense of self-worth and resilience to grow and blossom as human beings. Innovative tools and technology are used to stimulate creativity and to improve children's ability to find solutions; self-paced and personalized approach to learning allows students to adjust and progress while respecting their own specific needs; active participation in social and civic life allows children to become engaged community members and active citizens.

Love & Support Pathway:

Parents, caregivers and teachers increase their capacities to better-focus on children-development. By introducing innovative methodologies to interact with children and to support them in achieving educational and personal goals, parents, caregivers and teachers improve their skills to address the multiple needs of children and to play a positive role in their growth.

Impact & Sustain Pathway:

Implementing organizations are agents of change and by improving their capacity to lobby and advocate and mobilize civil society, they can create environments conducive for children's development. Also, by introducing innovative methodologies and by showcasing quality in their projects, organizations increase their leverage vis-á-vis of governments and donors.



What is the problem you are trying to solve?

- Targeted children have limited access to environments and resources that allow them to grow and blossom
- 2) Families, caregivers lack skills to encourage children in a stimulating way
- School systems and children services are not focused on the needs of the individuals
- 4) Local organizations implementing projects for children have different levels of capacities and achieve limited long-term impact

Who is your key audience?

- Children and youth
- Parents, caregivers and teachers
- 3) Local implementing non-government organizations

What is your entry point to reach your audience?

- by local NGOs: after-school centers, youth clubs, local community initiatives
- 2) Local schools
- State social service providers
- Local NGOs: key staff responsible for advocacy, lobbying, and management of children's projects

What steps are needed to bring about change?

- Engagement of children, youth and their families/commun ities (holistic approach that takes into consideration the multipleneeds of children)
- Engagement of organizations in sharing best practices, lessons learnt and in joining forces on a country or multicountry level to advocate for systemic changes

Measurable effects of your work

- 1.1) Children and youth achieve educational and personal goals and improve performance;
- 1.2) Children and youth become active members of the community
- 2.1) Parenting skills are improved;
- 2.2) Teachers and caregivers learn and apply innovative methodologies for children
- 3.1) Organizations develop advocacy and fundraising strategies
- 3.2) Organizations increase their capacities and knowledge in the fields of Education, Psychosocial Support and Child Protection

What are the wider benefits of your work?

Children have access to environments conducive to their growth and their personal fulfillment

Parents and communities are capable of creating environments conducive for full personal development of children

Organizations become agents of change and increase their long term impact on communities and governments

What is the long term change you see as your goal?

Ultimately, we want for children to grow up to be happy, fulfilled adults who achieve their full potential in life and as members of their community. We want them to have the courage to strive for their dreams, and if they come up short, the resilience to try again.



Goal: Children in Ukraine, Rep. of Moldova and Romania grow up to be happy, fulfilled adults who achieve their full potential in life

Objective 1: Children's sense of selfworth and resilience are establish and allow them to grow and blossom as human beings

Output 1.1:
Children and youth
achieve
educational and
personal goals and
improve
performance

Output 1.2: Children and youth become active members of the community



By working through after school centers and daycare centers introduction of DARE package (Dream Achieve Realize Express): combinations of innovative methodologies and best practices like SOLE-sessions, khanacademy, peer-to-peer support, art therapy

Activities Cluster 1.2

By working through youth clubs, introduction of DARE packages in particular Children's Parliament in cooperation with local administrations, minigrants for projects designed and implemented by youth, peer to peer support, exchange visits and travels abroad assigned as prizes on competitive projects

Objective 2: Capacities of parents, caregivers and teachers to achieve better outcomes for childrendevelopment are increased

Output 2.1
Parenting skills are improved





Parents of children engaged in the program are offered mentoring and coaching on parenting skills, case management for employment Activities Cluster 2.2

Training of Trainers in schools and state social service providers for children on DARE package and its tools; involvement of pilot schools for introduction of DARE methodologies

Objective 3: organizations' expertise in children programs and capacities to advocate and fundraise are improved

Output 3.1
Organizations
develop advocacy
and fundraising
strategies

Output 3.2
Organizations
increase their
capacities and
knowledge in the
fields of Education,
Psychosocial Support
and Child Protection



Assessment of capacities and definition of baseline

Country-based sessions on capacity building targeting organizations' advocacy and fundraising gaps Activities Cluster 3.2

Assessment of capacities and definition of baseline

Multi-country annual meetings hosting workshops for organizations on topics related to CP, PSS, Edu including innovative methods in involving parents and communities