



GIVE EVERY CHILD A BETTER FUTURE

At this very moment, Masia is standing at a street corner, begging. And Filine is being beaten. Sulule is longing for a wheelchair to be able to move about. Phillip does not have a home to go to.

Each day, 40 000 children die from malnutrition and disease.

Each year, 500 000 young women die from causes related to childbirth.

Presently, 100 million children are without basic schooling.

CHILD CARE



NOT WAR FARE

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At the World Summit for Children in September last year, political leaders from all over the world (including our President) have come together and agreed to do everything in their power to change the situation described above - to give every child a better future. They agreed on a 10-point programme to protect the rights of children and to improve their lives. A prerequisite for the achievement of the set goals is the dissemination of information on children's rights.

The starting point of children's rights is the responsible planning of family size and child spacing. Mothers must be given all the medical care and attention they need to carry and deliver their babies safely. (Every clinic in Namibia should provide you with the relevant information in this regard.)

Our planet has enough resources to feed every single child. The world's scientists have enough knowledge to prevent the most common child diseases such as polio, measles or tuberculosis. It is therefore not impossible to see to it that children's basic needs are met: that all the children of the world are healthy, and have clean water, good and sufficient food, as well as basic sanitary facilities.

Blind, deaf or otherwise disabled children have the right to special attention, care and support.

It is the duty of every citizen to protect our environment so that all children can enjoy a safer and healthier future.

Besides the basic human needs mentioned above, children have a right to caring and supportive parents (or "caretakers"), to love and security. They also need praise and recognition.

Every child has the right to basic schooling and literacy. In this regard it is important that girls are given equal treatment and opportunities from the very beginning. Schools must promote individual growth and fulfilment, and give children the chance to learn at their own pace.

The list of children's needs and rights could fill a few pages. The following paragraph, taken from the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children sums them all up:

"The children of the world are innocent, vulnerable and dependent. They are also curious, active and full of hope. Their time should be one of joy and peace, of playing, learning and growing. Their future should be shaped in harmony and co-operation. Their lives should mature, as they broaden their perspectives and gain new experiences."



OUR RIGHTS =

OUR FUTURE