Priorities

To improve the protection of children in armed conflict through policy dialogue, crisis management missions/operations and financial assistance.

To strengthen the international child protection system and mechanisms (e.g. UNSG’s Special Representative on children and armed conflict).

To fight against impunity for grave violations against children and to promote justice for children in conflict zones.

Did you know?

The first EU external policy on children was dedicated to children affected by armed conflict: The EU Guidelines were adopted in the same year as the EU Security Strategy (2003).

The EU’s Children for Peace Initiative – a legacy of the EU’s Nobel Prize – was specially designed to provide education to children in emergencies.

Several EU crisis management operations (e.g. European Union Training Mission in Mali) help to train security personnel to promote human rights, humanitarian law as well as to protect children.

Country

Children affected by armed conflict remain among the top human rights priorities of the European Union, as stated in the 2012 Human Rights Strategy and its Action Plan. The main reason is that armed conflicts still affects a great number of children and pose serious threats to their survival, development and life opportunities.

The EU is applying its policy on children affected by armed conflict in the countries which are included in the annual report of the UN Secretary General on children and armed conflict: (e.g. Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Israel/Palestine, Lebanon, Myanmar, Philippines, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Uganda, Yemen).
Main links:

EU support to children affected by armed conflict:

Humanitarian aid and civil protection:
http://ec.europa.eu/echo/EU4children