



e. **Safe.** Safe. Safe. Safe.
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The Network Model



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Who is in the network

The network is made up of the leading African organisations who share a common vision of a **'world in which no child with a disability is left behind.'**

The network is for organisations who were **founded** in and **based in** Africa, and who work specifically on **improving the lives of children with disabilities.**



What the network does

We **protect**, **educate** and **amplify** the voices of children and young people with disabilities, so they are able to thrive.

We do this by:



Delivering high-quality programmes, generating evidence of what works and building best practice in inclusive programming for children with disabilities.

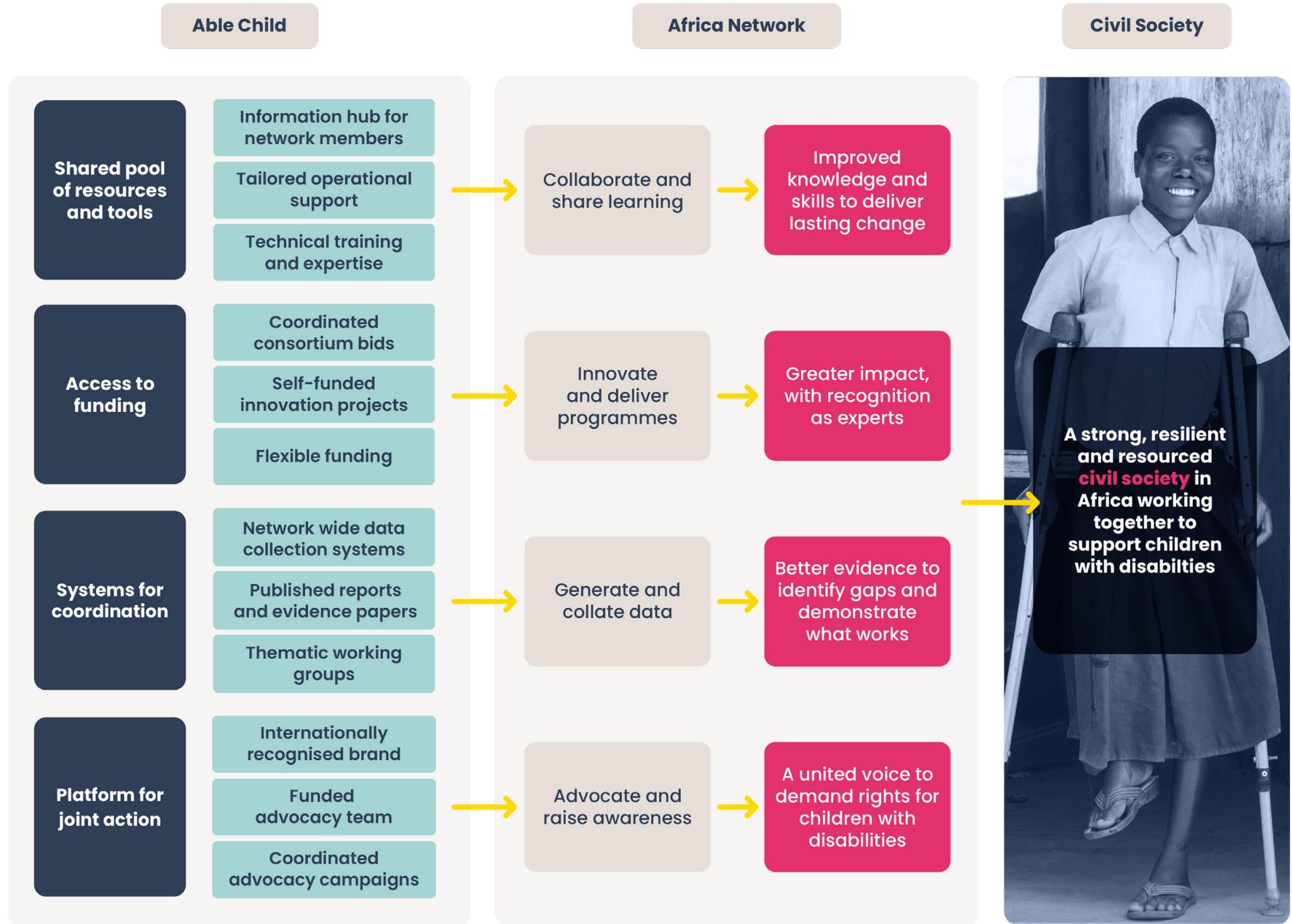


Standing up for the rights of children with disabilities, amplifying their voices and creating change by influencing governments and other international allies.

The role for data

Evidence underpins all of our work. We work together to collate data on the barriers children with disabilities experience and generate evidence for what works in inclusive programming. We then use this information to deepen our impact for children with disabilities and to influence governments and other international allies.

The network model





How we work

We believe we are **stronger together**.

Members will gain access to a wealth of knowledge, both technical and operational, from like-minded organisations that will build expertise and resilience across the network.

The network members will then be equipped to play a leading role supporting movements and other organisations of persons with disabilities in their respective countries, working to improve services, hold their governments to account and deliver lasting change for children with disabilities.

Network members will

- Share expertise, learning and evidence on best practice.
- Participate in joint-funded projects and consortium-based delivery.
- Contribute to coordinated systems of data collection to identify gaps and prove models of success.
- Develop joint campaigns and advocacy messaging to uphold the rights of children with disabilities globally.

Who we influence

As a network our **voice is louder**.

This creates an opportunity to get the attention of powerful global allies and influence change. We plan to use our joint voice to influence, petition and inspire the following groups:

Broader civil society

We will persuade and inform local civil society to strengthen the inclusion of children with disabilities in the programmes that they deliver.

Local government

We will co-design disability-inclusive policies with local government and hold them to account on financing for children with disabilities.

Donors

We will demand disability-inclusive and targeted funding specifically for organisations working for children with disabilities.

International allies

We will ensure children with disabilities are not left behind by international INGOs, UN agencies or other global influencers.

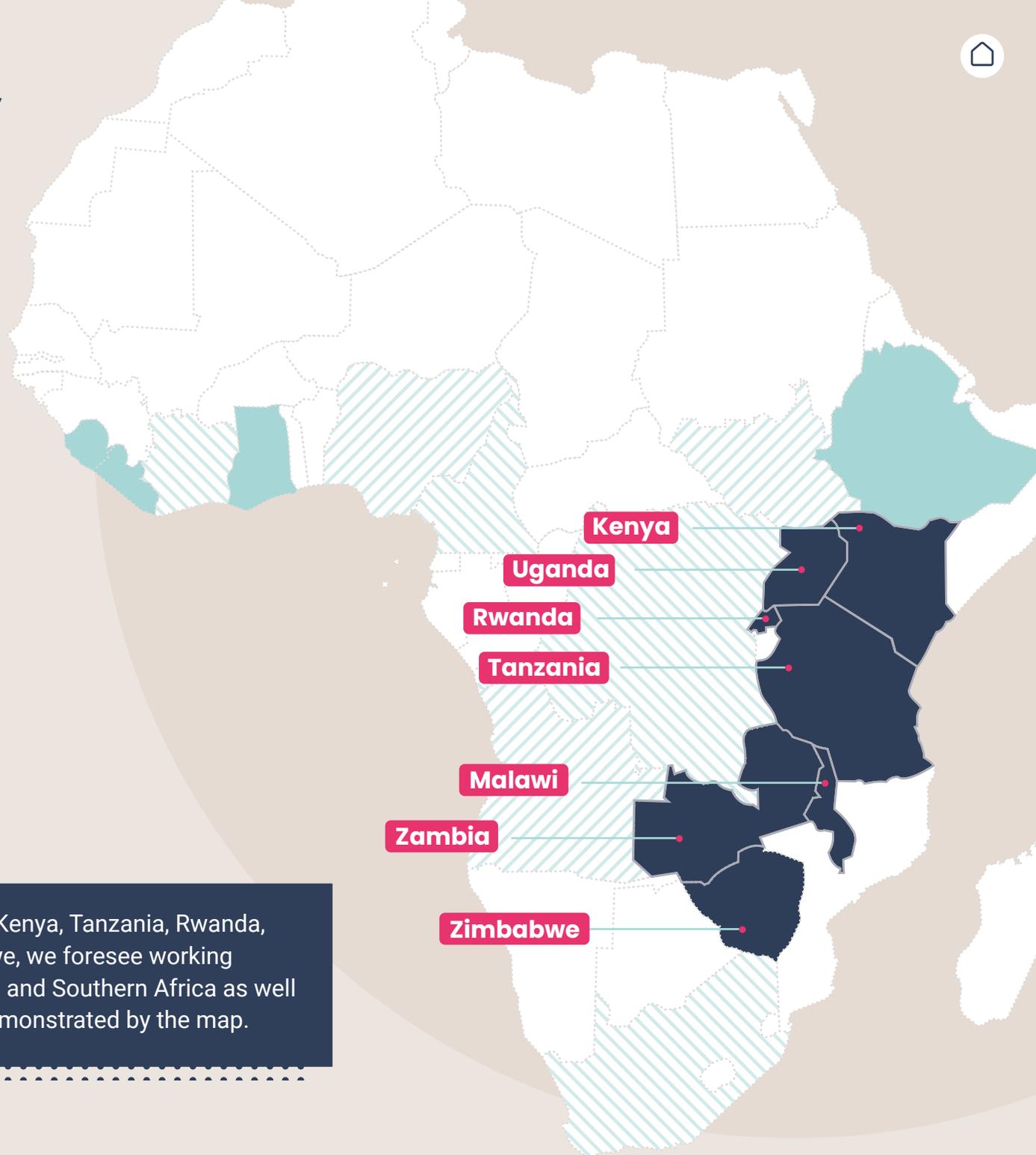
The **network** journey

Where the network will operate

We want to work **across** Africa. In order to be a fully representative African network, we need to broaden our reach. By 2030 we are looking to have active members in **at least three regions** on the continent, growing our presence in Southern Africa, alongside an expansion to West Africa.

This growth will be led by the network themselves, who will choose how and where we grow. Our priority will always be focused on working with African organisations who work for children with disabilities and see value in joining the network.

Currently working in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, we foresee working across more countries in East and Southern Africa as well as West Africa by 2030, as demonstrated by the map.





Governance

Our governance structure will transition power over to network members.

The aim is for an autonomous body made up of representatives from network members that will convene regularly to determine network priorities, strategy, and spending. It will feed into our current Board structures, ensuring they are more representative of the network members and ensure that the members have power within this structure to determine organisational direction.

The network itself will play an important role in determining what exactly the governance setup will be. This shift will be phased to ensure we create something that works in practice, rather than looks good on paper. We are also mindful of not overburdening the members or jeopardising the stability of the network during this transition.

Steps to 2030

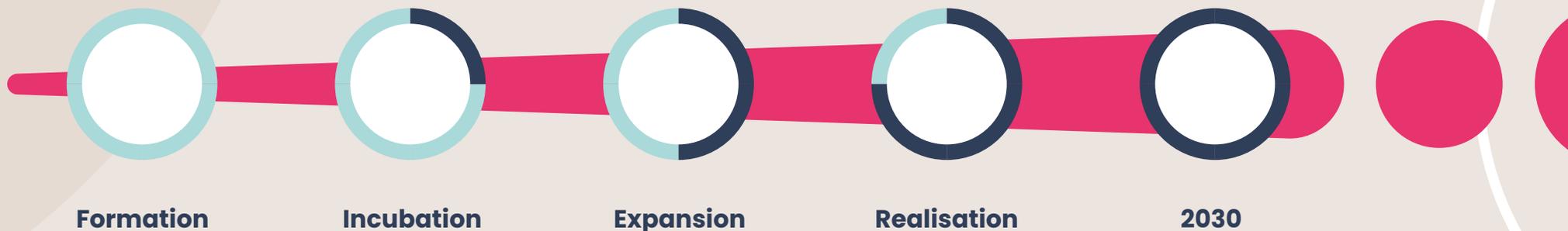
The development and realisation of the network will be a journey. One that is not prescribed but will be led by the network themselves. We see four primary steps in this process from the formation through to 2030.

Formation Creation of the network and its key decision-making structures.

Incubation Delivery of the first activities with support from Able Child.

Expansion Expansion of the network into new regions across Africa.

Realisation International recognition of an autonomous network.



A well-respected network delivering change for children with disabilities across Africa.

Safe. Thriving. Heard.

Safe.

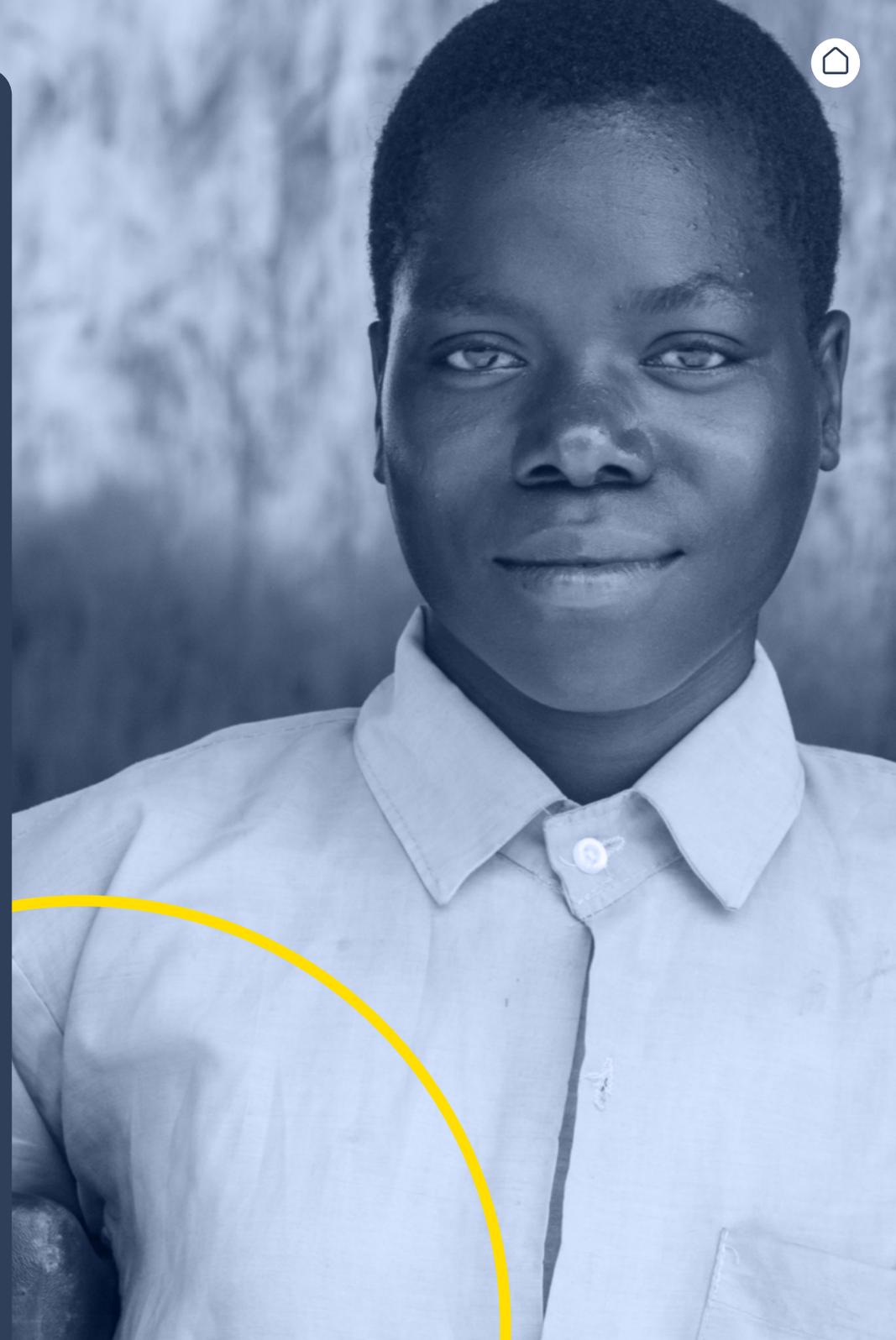
We stand up for the rights of children and young people with disabilities to ensure they are protected and included in their communities.

Thriving.

We ensure that children and young people with disabilities have access to an education and the services they need to succeed.

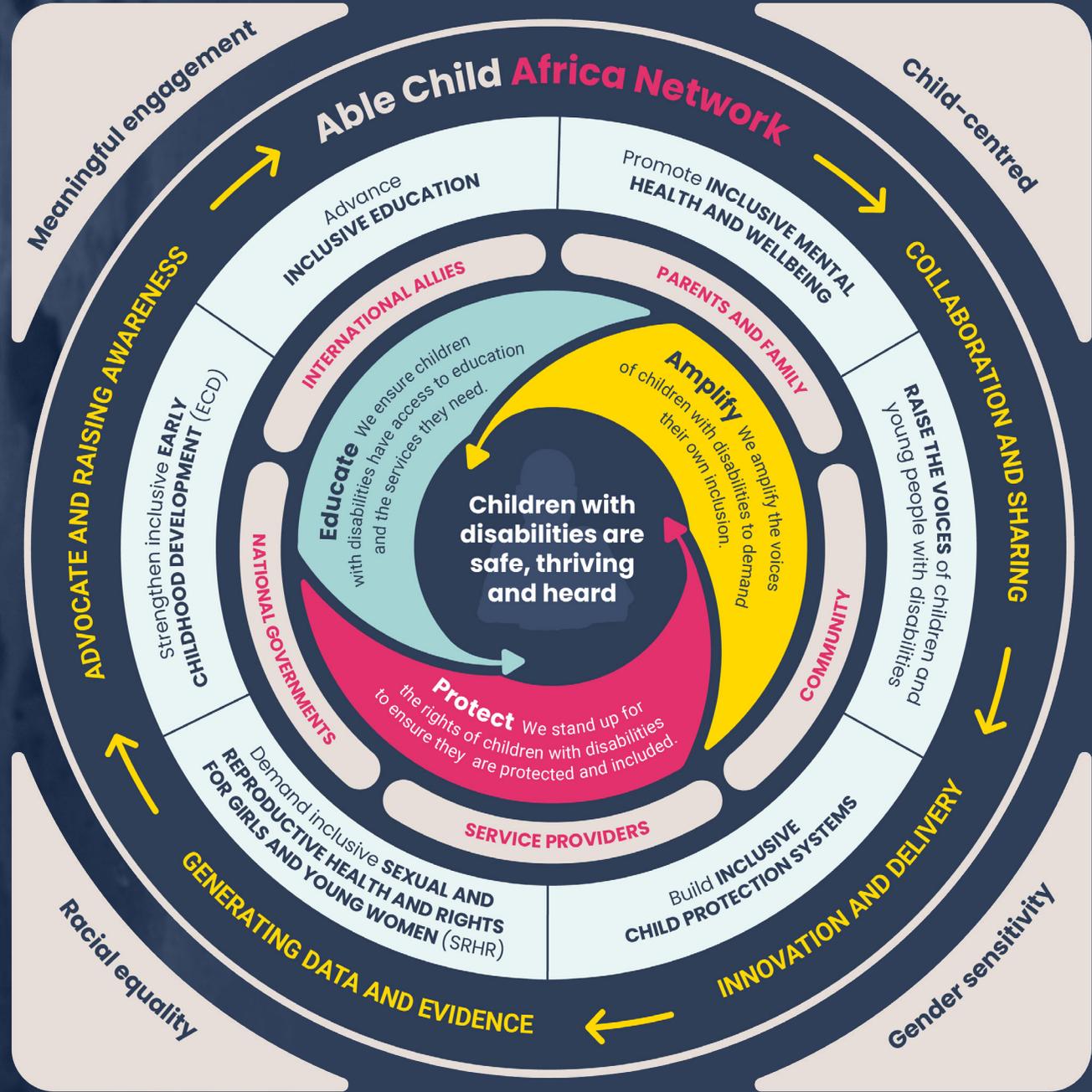
Heard.

We support children and young people with disabilities to be confident and resilient, amplifying their voices to demand their own inclusion.





Theory of change





The full **strategic framework** is detailed below.

Goal	Action	Rights Focus	Thematic Focus	Activities
SAFE: Children and young people with disabilities are protected and included by communities.	PROTECT: We stand up for the rights of children and young people with disabilities to ensure they are protected and included in their communities.	The right to feel safe.	Build inclusive child protection systems.	Design effective safeguarding practices for children with disabilities.
				Facilitate greater access to justice for children with disabilities.
			Demand inclusive sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for girls and young women.	Overcome barriers to SRHR experienced by girls and young women with disabilities.
				Increase access to inclusive water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services for girls with disabilities.
THRIVING: Children and young people with disabilities have the services and support they need to succeed.	EDUCATE: We ensure that children and young people with disabilities have access to an education and the services they need to succeed.	The right to an education.	Strengthen inclusive Early Childhood Development (ECD).	Improve early identification of children with disabilities.
				Upskill service providers to include children with disabilities in early years support.
			Advance inclusive education.	Support a successful transition from primary to secondary school for children with disabilities.
				Equip young people with disabilities with the tools they need to enter employment.
HEARD: Children and young people with disabilities feel confident and resilient, and are able to demand their own inclusion.	AMPLIFY: We support children and young people with disabilities to be confident and resilient, amplifying their voices to demand their own inclusion.	The right to be heard.	Promote inclusive mental health and wellbeing.	Champion mental health resilience for children and young people with disabilities.
				Inspire children and young people with disabilities to become powerful self-advocates.
			Raise the voices of children and young people with disabilities.	Call for the inclusion of children and young people with disabilities in climate justice.
				Ensure children and young people with disabilities' representation in the post-2030 agenda.



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