



# EXPERIENCES ON CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN 2016-2017



**Save the Children**

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AND THE CARIBBEAN  
2016-2017**



**Save the Children**





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## PRESENTATION

Child Rights Governance (CRG) is one of the five thematic areas established as a global theme for the implementation of Save the Children's strategy for 2030.

Child Rights Governance work seeks to help build societies where accountable, responsive and inclusive governance assures the rights of every child and where every child can have a voice in decisions that affect them. It is a strategy to support states to implement effectively the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other child rights-related obligations. And it is about supporting an active civil society, including children to monitor the child rights situation in their country and push children's issues higher up the political agenda. By getting children's rights embedded in laws, policies and budgets, it is an effective strategy for achieving systemic and therefore lasting positive changes in the lives of children now and in the future.

To put it in another way, CRG work stimulates the emergence or strengthening of a set of conditions, mechanisms, systems, processes and structures that help translate the rights of children into practical action such as ensuring provision of basic services to ALL children, having data on children to inform policies and programmes, making sure children get a fair share of societies resources and have formalised opportunities for children to speak out.

In Latin American and the Caribbean, as in other regions of the world, Save the Children and a wide variety of civil society and academic partners have different experiences about how governance can be organised in such a way that it promotes, respects and fulfils children's rights. Save the Children wants to be an organization that learns from its own practices and those of others in order to improve its actions in favour of children.

This publication is a product of that aim. It is the result of the collective production of the CRG focal points in Latin America and the Caribbean and of the ingenuity of partner organizations, allies and groups of children from Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru and the Dominican Republic. This document includes a range of specific CRG-related experiences that Save the Children has supported in the region over the last two years. They are diverse experiences whose common denominator is the search for sustainable, long-term solutions to problems facing children in the region.

Our intention in presenting them together is to contribute to collective learning and improvement of our practices to honour our global commitment to a world in which each child has the right to Survive, Learn and Be Protected from Violence.

We therefore invite you to read this short document and share its contents.

October 2017

**Lene Steffen**  
**CRG Director**

**Victoria Ward**  
**Regional Director for LAC**

## Introduction

**No child dies  
from preventable  
causes before  
their fifth  
birthday**

**All children learn  
from a quality  
basic education**

**Violence against  
children is no  
longer tolerated**

CRG programs and action in LAC – under a Child Rights focus and our Theory of Change - are committed to support the three breakthroughs Save the Children has proposed for 2030: To Survive – To Learn – Be Protected. So it is no wonder that the 10 diverse experiences presented here without exception reinforce and contribute directly to children's enjoyment and exercise of their rights.

Nor is it strange that all those experiences from 10 different countries are reflecting and nourish the “Every Last Child” Global Campaign, putting our grain of sand to realize the three global guarantees to children: Accountability – Fair financing – Equal Treatment.

At the same time these different experiences coming from the countries in the region where Save the Children has direct presence, enrich and put into practice the CRG Common Approaches: Child Informed Reporting and Advocacy (CIRA-approved), Investment in Children (IiC- in the pipeline) and Child Centered Social Accountability (CCSA- in the pipeline).

I hope this brief material will be useful to make our work more effective and with greater impact. It carries the energy and hopes of millions of children from Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Pedro Hurtado Vega**  
**LAC CRG Regional advisor**



## CRG LAC experiences and its relation with Breakthroughs, ELC's Global Guarantees and CRG Common Approaches

Experience	SC's Breakthroughs			ELC's Global Guarantees			CRG Common Approaches*			
	Survive	Learn	Be protected	Accountability	Fair Financing	Equal Treatment	CIRA	liC	CCSA	CDM
<b>Bolivia</b> Greater direct municipal investment for the most vulnerable children.	X	X	X		X			X		X
<b>Colombia</b> Municipal Round Tables for Child Participation.	X	X	X	X		X				X
<b>El Salvador</b> The participation of civil society in consolidating the Local Comprehensive Protection System.	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X
<b>Guatemala</b> The Observatory of Child Rights.	X	X	X	X			X			
<b>Haiti</b> Working group for Comprehensive Child Protection of Dessalines District.	X		X			X				X
<b>Honduras</b> Participation of children and youth in developing the Municipal Policy on Children, Adolescents and Youth in the Masaguara Municipality.	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X
<b>México</b> SCMx as a representative in the Comprehensive Protection System for Children and Adolescents.	X	X	X	X						X
<b>Nicaragua</b> Social auditing to State institutions by the Ombudsman Office.	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
<b>Perú</b> Participation of girls as representatives of child organizations at local and international level.	X	X	X	X		X		X		X
<b>República Dominicana</b> Constructing a Methodological Guide for analysing Municipal investment in Children.	X	X	X	X	X			X		

\*CRG Common Approaches: CIRA: *Child Informed Reporting and Advocacy* (approved); liC: *Investment in Children*; CCSA: *Child Centered Social Accountability*; CDM: *Children in Decision Making*.

# BOLIVIA

## Greater direct municipal investment in Bolivia's most vulnerable adolescents



**Save the Children**

### Justification for the experience:

Although a very complete regulatory context aimed at benefiting children, adolescents and youth exists in the country, which includes the obligation to allocate more and better resources for this purpose, the lack of knowledge about such laws and regulations and a complex social and political context have resulted in a low level of implementation. This directly affects compliance with young people's rights, limiting the possibility for more and better opportunities. Partners in this experience have been the Multi-Service Education Center, the Center on Educational Research and the Departmental Network for Children.

### Description of the experience:

The program "Adolescents as Protagonists in Development," financed by Bulgari, has been implemented by SCI Bolivia since January 2016.

One of the program's objectives is allocating more and better resources to adolescents, thereby contributing comprehensively to the three Save the Children breakthroughs. Our strategy has included direct advocacy actions at the national and local levels, while simultaneously strengthening and empowering adolescents and youth, as well as members of their own family circles (their parents and guardians). This last strategy is aimed at promoting participation and impact at the community level.

Direct involvement and participation was based on designing a joint work plan with the General Directorate on Youth <sup>1</sup>. A key strategy involved publicizing the Youth Law (16-28 years of age) at many levels, and developing a Multinational Youth Plan, a legislative proposal on Entrepreneurship and Job Placement for Youth, and support for creating seven Departmental Platforms for the Pluri-National Plan on Preventing Adolescent Pregnancy.

The program signed cooperation agreements with municipal governments, developing work plans that committed local resources for implementation. Support was also provided to formulating municipal laws on youth and their regulations, as well as creating municipal councils. Local implementation of the law has been strategic, since it has promoted an institutional framework

<sup>1</sup> Under the auspices of the Vice-Ministry on Equal Opportunities, which is in charge of all social issues nationwide.

and the obligation to generate more investments for adolescents and youth, in this way becoming part of the Common Approach of Investment in Children.

At the same time, direct work was undertaken with adolescents and young people through implementing a comprehensive model <sup>2</sup>. -that has reached almost 4,000 adolescents and young people- empowering leaders, supporting adolescent/youth groups, promoting community mobilization and generating educational initiatives for this population and their family circles (including Family Schools). The purpose of these activities was to generate a social demand for greater allocation of direct resources.

Another part of the work strategy has included strengthening the capacities of municipal authorities through sharing experiences with national-level actors. One such activity was the organization of the first meeting, “With the Face of Youth”. National authorities as well as 45 public officials involved with social issues in 14 municipal governments took part in this meeting.

### Main results achieved:

- ☺ Increased budget allocations by seven municipal governments for activities aimed at adolescents and youth: El Torno, Montero, Challapata, Yamparaez, Yotala, Trinidad and El Alto.
- ☺ Transfer of the comprehensive model to 328 people from 57 public and private institutions, and 20 cooperation agreements signed.
- ☺ 25 large-scale events supported in 2016, with direct participation of 3,772 adolescents and young people, and 451 adults.



March against child exploitation in Montero.

**Contact in Bolivia: Fidel Alvarez (fidel.alvarez@savethechildren.org).**

<sup>2</sup> The Comprehensive Adolescent Development Model, developed in Bolivia and adapted by SCI to work with adolescents and youth.

# COLOMBIA

## Municipal Round Tables Involving Children And Adolescents



Save the Children

### Justification for the experience:

The National Family Welfare System, created by the Child and Adolescent Code in 2006, is a framework of existing coordination groups that work to insure the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents, and to strengthen families in national, departmental, district and municipal spheres.

As part of this system Child and Adolescent Participatory Round Tables were created at the municipal and departmental levels. These groups are a key component in promoting and maintaining direct contact between children and adolescents of a given territory with their elected officials, and facilitating better monitoring of actions carried out by territorial institutions to improve urban environments for children.

### Description of the experience:

Despite having formally created this structure, its implementation by municipal and departmental public administrations has been slow. For this reason, strengthening the National Family Welfare System, and creating, strengthening and consolidating Child and Adolescent Participatory Working Groups have been designated key objectives in the Cooperation Agreement signed by Save the Children and the Colombian Welfare Institute.

This resulted in the clear definition of the route for creating and strengthening these Child and Adolescent Participatory Round Tables.

Similarly, a methodology was designed for including and validating the proposals and ideas of children in development plans, including working with ethnic groups, thereby contributing to the Every Last Child guarantee on equal treatment.

The process sought ways of leaving stronger capacities in place, so that the dynamic of these Working Groups would be sustainable over time. With this end in mind, coordination meetings were held between Child and Adolescent Round Tables and other participatory entities, such as the Council on Social Policy and the Municipal Governments.

A total of 102 meetings and workshops were organized in ten municipalities and four departments, with the participation of 3,797 children, adolescents and adults.

Many of the initiatives proposed by children and adolescents is linked to one of the breakthroughs proposed by Save the Children (Survive – Learn – Be protected):

Municipality	Initiatives
Manaure	- Preventing early-age pregnancies.
Uribía	- Improving reading rooms.
Páez	- Constructing a peace tree.
	- Living together, recreation, and healthy habits.
	- Radio program: “Voices that Change”.
Inzá	- Constructing a park.
	- Promoting non-use of disposable plates.
Guapi	- The environment and waste management.
Puerto Guzmán	- Peace and the armed conflict.
Villa Garzón	- Preventing early-age pregnancies.
Ciénaga de Oro	- Campaign to prevent abuse.
	- Constructing a school food kitchen.
Guática	- Environmental project to recover and protect zones nearby water sources.
Risaralda	-
Caldas	- Parks and recreational areas.

### Main results achieved:

- ☆ 14 proposals developed by children and adolescents were received. These were presented to the municipal cabinets and some are already in the process of being implemented: one radio program in the Inzá municipality, and obtaining playground equipment for a park in the Risaralda municipality.
- ☆ The route for strengthening child participation in 14 municipalities was defined.
- ☆ The methodological phases for strengthening children’s participation in 14 municipalities were also defined.



Voices that transform

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# EL SALVADOR

## The participation of civil society in the Local Comprehensive Protection System



**Save the Children**

### Justification for the experience:

Since 2012, efforts have been underway to set up Local Rights Committees, which are part of the Comprehensive Local Protection System for Children and Adolescents in El Salvador. This has been a slow process, due to a low level of political commitment demonstrated by municipal governments. The formation of Local Rights Committees is mandated by the Law on Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents (LEPINA, Article 155): “these are municipal administrative structures whose primary function is developing local policies and plans related to child and adolescent rights, and insuring the collective rights of all children and adolescents.”

### Description of the experience:

In May 2016, the National Council on Children and Adolescence (CONNA), the Pestalozzi Foundation, the Silencio Foundation, UNICEF and Save the Children organized and jointly supported the National Working Group on Strengthening the Local Child and Adolescent Rights System. A plan of action was designed that would consolidate the interventions of the Working Group’s members. Save the Children worked to train and raise greater awareness among 54 people (34 women and 20 men), all personnel of CONNA, about the importance of children’s participation and investing in children. Three forums were prioritized, financed and developed. The first included members of 52 Local Rights Committees from around the country, the second involved child and adolescent representatives organized in the Consultative Council of Children and Adolescents, and the third involved local governments from 262 municipalities, mayors, and Municipal Councils. The situation of children and adolescents was analyzed at these forums, with a focus on three priority topics: early childhood, migrant children, and the prevention of violence and building a culture of peace. All were analyzed in the framework of investing in children, contributing to the Common Approach on this issue.



**Main results achieved:**

- ✎ The entire process has generated a better dialogue with municipal governments, which are key to setting up Local Rights Committees. By May 30, 2017, 87 local committees had been set up, representing 35% of the 262 municipalities.
- ✎ Nationwide, a child and adolescent rights approach has been incorporated into strategic planning and budgetary processes.
- ✎ The National System to Protect and Promote Child and Adolescent Rights has been strengthened at the local level, contributing to Save the Children's breakthroughs. In 2017, more organizations have joined the National Working Group on Strengthening the Local Child and Adolescent Rights System.



Forum of the CONNA..



Forum of the CONNA.

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# GUATEMALA

## OBSERVATORY OF CHILD RIGHTS



**Save the Children**

### Justification for the experience:

With support from Save the Children, the Guatemalan partner organization CIPRODENI (Institutional Coordinator to Promote Child Rights) created an Observatory of Child Rights. The Observatory's objective is to provide systematic information about Child and Adolescent Rights, and linking efforts that compile and/or produce information about this topic. This is an important objective, since both qualitative and quantitative information on children in Guatemala is insufficient and/or dispersed.

### Description of the experience:

One of the main activities carried out by the Observatory is monitoring the mass media and alternative media outlets, to capture news and trends in reporting on children. In addition, it monitors child rights indicators through compiling and systematizing official information, in order to analyze progress, setbacks or the obstruction of these indicators, particularly those related to malnutrition, health, education, violence against children and adolescents (deaths, mistreatment, sexual abuse), child migration and poverty. In this way, the data directly relates to the breakthroughs of Save the Children for the year 2030.

The compiled information is organized, analyzed and made public through social networks, informational bulletins and emails. The Observatory has made significant progress in building a database that is periodically updated with information useful for analyzing the situation of children, and as the foundation for advocating with duty bearers. The main users of information provided by the Observatory include civil society organizations, social researchers, students, parents, and children and adolescents.

Although the Observatory is a reference for information related to child rights, it still faces important challenges, particularly with respect to monitoring child indicators.



**Main results achieved:**

A database is available with up to date information about child and adolescent rights in Guatemala, which is accessible and available to any organization or individual. This information serves as an important input for producing supplementary reports, using the Child Informed Reporting and Advocacy common approach.



Advocacy actions to demand that child and adolescent rights are guaranteed have been promoted with information produced by the Observatory .



Active participation in the evaluation of the Comprehensive Protection Policy for Children and Adolescence, and in formulating the legislative initiative for the Comprehensive Protection System for Children and Adolescents, as well as in other consultative processes related to children and adolescents.



Presentation Initiative Law System Protection.



Relaunch of the Observatory on the Rights of Children.

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# HAITI

## Working group for Comprehensive Child Protection of the District of Dessalines.



**Save the Children**

### Justification for the experience:

Save the Children has made efforts with partner schools in Dessalines, but the situation of respect for children's rights at the community level remains worrying. It is true that the vast majority of children in Dessalines go to school, but it must be recognized that there are many who do not have a birth certificate, and many who are mistreated day by day by their parents at home.

In order to mobilize community actors on the protection issues faced by children outside partner schools, Save the Children, together with the Institute of Social Welfare and Research, launched the Working Group for Comprehensive Child Protection of Dessalines.

### Description of the experience:

On 15 December 2016, the Town Council of the commune of Dessalines, the Vice-Delegation of the Arrondissement of Dessalines in collaboration with the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (IBESR), the Protection Brigade for Minors, Save the Children, the Dessalines Health Unit and other organized civil society structures, launched the Dessalines Subgroup on the Protection of Children. This structure offers the opportunity to initiate a movement throughout the municipality whose purpose is to promote the rights of children and to ensure that through the municipality that children are protected, valued and respected, declared the Mayor Of Dessalines. This initiative, he continues, testifies the desire of local authorities in Dessalines to put the main needs of children first. This experience provides a space for meetings, dialogue and exchanges between state actors and civil society actors on the problems of child protection in the commune of Dessalines. It aims to contribute to two breakthroughs: Survive and Be Protected.

**Main results achieved:**

- ☺ Local authorities and members of civil society organizations are trained and sensitized on rights, protection of children and minimum standards in child protection.
- ☺ For the year 2017, the subgroup, together with Dessalines Civil Status Officer, is planning a major campaign for the distribution of birth certificates and awareness-raising on the right to identity of children in the commune of Dessalines. In the run-up to the end of June 2017, the subgroup aims to deliver 2000 birth certificates and sensitize 2000 adults.
- ☺ Local authorities are now informed about the norms and laws related to Child Rights and specifically to sexual abuse on children.



Launch of the Working Group.



Launch of the Working Group.

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# HONDURAS

## Participation of children and youth in developing the Municipal Policy on Children, Adolescents and Youth in the Masaguara Municipality.



**Save the Children**

### Justification for the experience:

In 2015, children and youth from the Municipal Commission on Youth and the “Presión” Youth Network, with support from Save the Children Honduras, Plan International and municipal managers demanded that the Mayor develop a policy aimed at guaranteeing the rights of children and youth in the municipality.

The Mayor and the municipal corporation gave their approval to initiating this process, but recommended that the young people spearheading this effort consider the topics that had recently been approved as part of the agenda on children and youth.

### Description of the experience:

A commission was organized with representatives from different municipal sectors, including young people. After various meetings, they decided that the central themes of the public policy should include: Education, Culture, Recreation, Health, Economics, Gender, and Child Participation. The implementation of the policy contributes to the three Save the Children breakthroughs for children: Survival, Learning, and Being Protected.

Later, a writing commission was organized whose members include six young people and four adults. When the proposal was concluded, its contents were shared with other youth, whose opinions and suggestions were incorporated.

The young people organized an open town hall to present the Municipal Policy on Children, Adolescence and Youth. Members of youth organizations made requests to municipal authorities in relation to each of the key issues. Some 150 young people and adults took part in the town meeting process.

They made the decision to conduct outreach in schools in the municipality, to share the public policy and insure that children, adolescents and youth would know about its contents. The Policy was approved in December 2015. One pending task is developing a detailed plan for compliance with the policy and its incorporation into the municipal investment plan.

**Main results achieved:**

- ☆ In 2016, municipal authorities began responding to some of the points outlined in the policy: expanding other levels of education such as high school degrees, since it did not exist in the municipality and if young people wanted to conclude their secondary education, they had to move to another municipality or simply not continue; the introduction of English classes and the allocation of resources (linked to the Common Approach Investment in Children).
- ☆ In 2017, the first open municipal town hall was organized to learn about the impact of the public policy and monitor compliance. At this session, authorities approved the organization of two town meetings per year, which are viewed as spaces promoting community participation and government accountability.
- ☆ A recreational and cultural project was approved having being presented by the “Presión” Youth Network.



Discussing the Municipal Policy.



Youth meeting.

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# MEXICO

## Save the Children Mexico (SCMx), as a representative in the Comprehensive Protection System for Children and Adolescents



**Save the Children**

### Justification for the experience:

In December 2014, the General Law on Protecting Children and Adolescents was passed. This law and its corresponding regulations propose the creation of a National Protection System, which is mandated to include key actors in defining and operationalizing policies that guarantee child and adolescent rights, and also has the power to allocate budgets for comprehensively protecting these rights.

In this context, SCMx felt it was essential to participate in this process, to better position ourselves in relation to our advocacy efforts, and our institutional mandates and strategic priorities. Save the Children's incorporation into the System has become increasingly important, given the conditions of violence, non-governance, and impunity that predominate in Mexico today, which has led civil society to close ranks in response to specific situations and cases.

At the invitation of SIPINNA's executive secretariat, Save the Children—represented by Maripina Menéndez (CEO)—applied to join the System and was selected together with representatives from seven other organizations, out of a pool of more than 120 applicants.

SCMx's participation has been supported by the National Front for Child and Adolescent Rights, which is an umbrella group representing around 60 civil society organizations.

### Description of the experience:

Since the creation of the SIPINNA, SCMx has played a very dynamic role, participating in promoting and activating different work commissions, and helping guide the role that the System plays in responding to the problems faced by children in Mexico.

This has helped strengthen our links with the organizations participating in the System, with the organizations that are members of the Front, and the international organizations whose main work focuses on children. As part of this process, we have identified common positions, shared work platforms, and have issued joint statements to government institutions and the public about issues such as early childhood development, adolescent marriage and pregnancy, and strategies



for ending violence against children and adolescents. Our participation in commissions and work groups has been geared toward connecting perspectives and actions, thereby strengthening children's voices in the System.

Our goal has been promoting a public policy that links different sectors, with the common aim of undertaking actions that favor children. Our belief is that the System contributes to children Surviving, Learning and Being Protected in Mexico.

### Main results achieved:

- 👍 SCMx's actions have been geared toward promoting, creating and consolidating work commissions, influencing the actions of these commissions, monitoring agreements and demanding responses to the dire situations being faced by children.
- 👍 The SIPINNA has created 13 commissions, and SCMx has actively participated in those supporting the System's general operations. Key at this level is the Commission of Executive Secretariats, which includes the President of the Republic and the active participation of children and adolescents from some of our projects.
- 👍 In addition, we have worked directly to define the work plans of the Commission on Early Childhood Development, and the Commission to End All Forms of Violence Against Children and Adolescents, the national organizational structure through which the Mexican Government has operationalized its work as a pioneering nation in the Global Alliance to End Violence Against Children and Adolescents.



Active presence in inter-institutional spaces.

**Contact in Mexico:** Nancy Ramírez (Nancy.Ramirez@savethechildren.org)

# NICARAGUA



## Social auditing to State institutions by the Ombudsman Office.



**Save the Children**

### Justification for the experience:

The State is the main guarantor of Children's Rights. The Ombudsman Office (PDDH) is the Nicaraguan governmental institution responsible for promoting, defending and protecting Human Rights, and ensuring compliance with such rights by different public authorities. To achieve this, it may supervise the actions of authorities to ensure that no human rights are violated, either by intention or neglect, and informing the public about any such findings.

### Description of the experience:

Save the Children began cooperating with the PDDH eighteen years ago, shortly after the National Assembly named the first Ombudsman, and then named the first Special Ombudsman for Children. During all of these years, the PDDH has developed different ways of promoting and defending human rights. One key approach has been oversight of public institutions.

This work has consisted of carrying out studies about specific situations related to children and adolescents, or the situation of one or various public institutions responsible for a particular child right. These social audits have included interviewing authorities, conducting surveys and focus groups discussions, document reviews, and other similar actions conducted to compile up to date and pertinent information. Using these resources, reports have been produced along with recommendations that have been presented to the authorities of social audited institutions.

Over the years, there has been a need for follow up social audits (monitoring), to determine progress or ongoing obstacles in relation to the initial investigation. To strengthen compliance with some of the most significant recommendations, the PDDH—with support from Save the Children—has developed plans of action during the past three years. These have focused on 2-3 recommendations per year, which has fostered more harmonious coordination with social audited institutions.

From 2010 to 2017, seven investigations and nine follow up investigations have been conducted, all using a child rights approach. Some of the issues examined have included the right to an inclusive education for children and adolescents with disabilities, child trafficking, the right to



receive education in decent buildings and environment (particularly with access to potable water and bathrooms), access to free and good quality health care services for children and adolescents, and the right of children and adolescents to be cared for by their parents. These social audits have contributed to the three Save the Children breakthroughs: Survival, Learning and Being Protected. Moreover, various recommendations made by the PDDH are related to the Common Approach on Investment in Children. Save the Children has proposed that the PDDH document these cooperation experiences, and analyze the lessons learned. The corresponding document is expected to be ready at the end of 2017.

### Main results achieved:



Because of compliance with PDDH recommendations, some 45,641 children and adolescents benefitted from child support from their parents in 2016.



242,855 children and adolescents benefitted from infrastructure improvements to their schools, which have prioritized the provision of potable water and bathrooms.



11,570 disabled children and adolescents were incorporated into the regular school system.



Rodolfo with teacher.



Drinking water in Granada school.

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# PERU

## Participation of girls as representatives of child organizations at local and international level in the framework of the campaign “Speak for the Girls.”



*Paz y  
Esperanza*



**Save the Children**

### Justification for the experience:

An increase in the number of pregnancies among girls and adolescents resulting from sexual violence: 15 of every 100 adolescents are pregnant, and 60% of these cases are the product of sexual violence (MINSA, 2015). Eight of every ten pregnant adolescents drop out of school. Public policies for children and adolescents do not recognize this reality, nor are adequate resources allocated for reverting this situation. Only 0.05% of the total budget allocated to issues related to children and adolescents is destined to reduce adolescent pregnancies.

### Description of the experience:




During the 2016-2018 period, Peru's national campaign “Speak for the Girls” was implemented, as part of the Global Campaign “Every Last Child.” The national campaign's objectives are aimed at bringing the situation of inequity and inequality faced by pregnant girls and adolescents and child and adolescent mothers to the public agenda. It works to implement the law that promotes reinserting child and adolescent mothers into the schools system, and increasing the public budget allocated to preventing child and adolescent pregnancies, and attending to and protecting child and adolescent mothers.

Child and adolescent representatives are actively participating in this Campaign. In Lima, Daniela Meza (18 years old) has been the spokesperson for the campaign, representing the Network of School Municipalities of Southern Lima, and the Consultative Council of Girls and Adolescents from Metropolitan Lima. In Huánuco, Zila Vela (17 years old) has represented the organization “I also have something to say.” Daniela, Zila and other young people have taken part in workshops about their rights, and have analyzed their rights and those of their peers with ongoing support from Action for Children and Peace and Hope.

They have also traveled to other areas of Peru to share their experiences with their peers. This learning process has strengthened their personal development and also that of their organizations. They have spoken with authorities from district and regional municipalities, and have expressed the problems that affect them. They have formulated public policy proposals aimed at preventing and responding to children and adolescents confronting situations of sexual violence and teenage

pregnancy, and have publicized their rights through the media. At the international level, Daniela and Zila represented their peers at the International Seminar “Children of the South, it’s time! End violence against children and adolescents by 2030” in Uruguay, and at the Global Adolescent Health Conference, “Unleashing the power of a generation,” in Canada. From Save the Children’s perspective, this experience contributes to children and adolescents Surviving, Learning and Being Protected. The content of these proposals places them firmly within the framework of the Common Approach to Investing in Children.

### Main results achieved:

-  Greater visibility has been given to problems linked to adolescent pregnancy, as expressed by girls and adolescents from organizations representing a range of children and adolescents living in different conditions in Peru.
-  Help has been provided to incorporating the need to allocate more budgetary resources to ensure the rights of pregnant girls and adolescents, and young mothers, into the public agenda.
-  Experiences about their organizations’ participation in advocacy efforts at the local and national levels has been shared with adolescents from other countries.



Daniela Meza at the launch of the campaign.



Vela at an event in Huánuco.

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# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



## Methodological Guide for Analyzing Municipal Investment in Children



**Save the Children**

### Justification for the experience:

Two key aspects were incorporated into the Dominican Republic's legislation, Law 176-07 and Law 170-07 (Laws of the National District and Municipalities) that favor and promote municipal investments in children, and children's participation in decision-making arenas. The first law specifies the budget distribution, in various disbursements, received by local governments, 5% of which must be invested in health, children and gender. The second law contains different mechanisms to ensure citizen participation, including open town halls and participatory budgets. Nonetheless, little progress in implementing these laws has been made at the municipal level, failing to impact the budgetary allocations to children or children's participation in defining budgets.

### Description of the experience:

Since 2016, SCDR has worked jointly with a team of economists to develop a guide, in order to produce quantitative and qualitative tools that facilitate investments and financial implementation directly benefiting children and adolescents at the municipal level. With this Guide, we hope to be able to identify progress and ongoing challenges, and work in a more coordinated fashion with local governments to develop budgets for children based on the needs identified in each zone, by the children themselves. The Guide contains markers for identifying important socio-economic indicators, which will be jointly analyzed along with municipal investments in children and adolescents. In this way, we will be contributing to Save the Children's breakthroughs on Survival, Learning, and Being Protected. The experience is part of the Common Approach of Investment in Children.

To insure children's participation, questionnaires have been developed for use with focus groups. The testimonies and opinions obtained from these groups are then compared with data about municipal investments, to determine priority areas of investment. Thus, the goal is to determine trends and make recommendations about challenges and opportunities for investing in children and adolescents, and address these jointly with municipal teams from local governments.

The Guide is currently being pilot tested in two local governments of San Pedro de Macorís and the communities they administer. Since it is still in its pilot phase, it has not yet been shared with

other partners, although progress to date has been presented to the NGO Coalition on Children. It is hoped that this Guide will be used by all organizations working with children in the territories where they are operating.

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### Main results achieved:

- ③ Development of the Guide and its instruments for compiling both qualitative and quantitative information on investment in children.
- ③ The pilot test underway in the local government of San Pedro de Macorís.
- ③ Strengthened relations with local governments.



Group of children.



Presenting proposals.

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**Contact in Dominican Republic: Paulette De Moya ([paulette.demoya@savethechildren.org](mailto:paulette.demoya@savethechildren.org))**





Children participating in cultural activity in Nicaragua.





Participants in Regional CRG Seminar. September 2016, Mexico City. (accompanied by mariachis).

# CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE

For 2030 Save the Children has 3 breakthroughs. All our work must contribute to:

**No child dies from preventable causes  
before their fifth birthday**

**All children learn from a quality  
basic education**

**Violence against children is no  
longer tolerated**



**Save the Children**

[www.savethechildren.org](http://www.savethechildren.org)