



SYSTEMATIZATION OF EXPERIENCE

EVERY LAST CHILD IN NICARAGUA

January – December 2017

Goal: Poor rural children have more opportunities, skills and abilities to survive, develop and be protected from violence, in the context of increased investment and quality of basic services.

Objective 1: By 2018, local governments have revised and increased investment to improve the quality of social protection and basic services in rural areas, especially the relevance and quality of education, health and child protection services.

Objective 2: By 2018, the causes of social exclusion and violence against poor rural children are part of the media, institutional and social agendas, within the framework of the implementation of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the National Human Development Plan 2012-2016.

Objective 3: By 2018, 50% of children in Save the Children projects are involved in the campaign and participate in accountability processes on the quality of basic services for poor rural children at local and national level.

Systematization of experience

Every Last Child in Nicaragua



National Campaign Plan 2017

60 children, adolescents and young people (57% women) from 6 municipalities (El Tuma-La Dalia, Rancho Grande, Jinotega, El Cuá, Granada, Ciudad Sandino and Managua) that make up the consultative and mobilizer groups promoted by Save the Children and partners, designed their local action plans. These are meant to promote different topics related to prevention of violence, access to education, child participation and the environment within the framework of the Every Last Child global campaign. Prioritized activities included conversations between peers, cine-forums, sports leagues and radio programs.

At the national level, these groups identified several strategic dates for positioning children and adolescents' rights in the public agenda:

- **First anniversary of the global campaign – 26th April in Managua:** this date was commemorated through a press conference led by Emely, Ruth, Yeskania, Carlos, José Daniel and Alexis, spokespeople of the consultative and mobilizer groups from Managua and El Tuma La Dalia. Journalists from 17 media outlets were present and wrote about the event and the campaign, helping to raise the voices of the participating children and adolescents.
- **Children's Week – 6th June:** A community activity was carried out as part of the third municipal children's festival, promoted by the municipal government of El Tuma-La Dalia, Matagalpa. This activity was organised in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the organizations that make up the Municipal Commission of Children (including Save the Children). It aimed to promote the participation of children and adolescents in playful spaces and local decision-making processes.

More than 500 children and adolescents filled the Municipal Sports Centre in La Dalia during this event.

- **Launch of the "Stolen Childhoods" report – 9th June in Managua:** attended by 9 partner organizations, 4 allies and with the participation of Anielka, Ruth and José Daniel, spokespeople of the consultative and mobilizer groups. Although it was not a public event, 5 media outlets picked up the activity.
- **Discussion with journalists on investment in children – 30th August in Managua:** Emely and Maria Fernanda, spokespeople of the consultative and mobilizer groups, shared with twenty journalists their experience in participating in the elaboration of public budgets and decision-making. Basic concepts on investment in children and focus on child rights were discussed and clarified.
- **International Day of the Girl – 11th October in Managua:** Anielka, Yeskania, Ninoska and Maridelia, adolescents from rural areas who are spokespeople of the consultative and mobilizer groups, shared their experience with journalists, government representatives and partner organizations. Journalists from 33 media outlets reported on the event and included statements from the adolescents through their offline and online channels. In addition, we launched the "Monitoring of girls and adolescents' presence in the Nicaraguan media", an analysis that showed that only 2.86% of the news are on girls, and 56.67% of which are related to violence.



Systematization of experience

Every Last Child in Nicaragua



Expansion of the Consultative and Mobilizer Groups

Part of the actions proposed for 2017 were related to expanding the Every Last Child campaign to the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua. In the second semester of 2017, two groups were formed in the Autonomous Region of the North Caribbean Coast, one based in Siuna, with children, adolescents and young people from Siuna and Rosita; and the other in Alamikangban (Prinzapolka) with children and adolescents of this municipality. These groups have a total of 45 participants (52% female) including Miskito children (local indigenous group, 44%).

Throughout 2017, the 60 children, adolescents and young people (57% female) who are part of the consultative and mobilizer groups in Managua and La Dalia received training on investment in children, communication for advocacy, creativity, monitoring and evaluation. The groups in Siuna and Prinzapolka received two workshops on children's rights and the Every Last Child campaign. The groups identified as priority themes for their 2018 work the prevention of violence and the right to recreation.

Other events

Meeting with Norway Ambassador – 9th May in Managua: Emely, Ruth, Yeskania, Carlos, José Daniel and Alexis, representatives of consultative and mobilizer groups, discussed the work of Save the Children and the Every Last Child campaign with Merethe Nergaard, Norway Ambassador to Central America.

Regional Launch of “Stolen Childhoods” report with children – 1st June in Panama: Anielka, an adolescent from rural Nicaragua and spokesperson for the La Dalia consultative and mobilizer group, represented children and adolescents from Latin America and the Caribbean at this event. She met with Victoria Ward, Save the Children's Regional Director, Marita Perceval, UNICEF's Regional Director and Esmeralda Arocemena de Troitiño of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. 8 Nicaraguan media echoed statements from participants on the importance of including children and adolescents' voices in decision making and on the importance of investing in children and preventing violence.

Day of Americas' children and adolescents – 9th June in Managua: 6 children and adolescents, including Maria Fernanda and Carlos, members of National Movement of Adolescents and Youth and of the consultative and mobilizer groups, came together "for a better future" to represent the interests of Nicaraguan children. They called on authorities to learn about the problems that affect the development of children and adolescents and to promote child rights and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.



Indigenous children are part of the consultative and mobilizer groups in Siuna and Prinzapolka.

Discussion on the safe use of the Internet – 12th July in Managua: Within the framework of the Safe Internet Use Working Group, a workshop on child participation was organized to encourage the inclusion of voices of children and adolescents on this matter. Maridelia and Abiud, spokespeople of the La Dalia consultative and mobilizer group participated in this discussion.

Meeting with PARLACEN to resume the relationship in Nicaragua – 8th September in Managua: Ruth and José Daniel, from the consultative and mobilizing groups, attended a meeting with Albertina Urbina Zelaya, Administrative Director of the Central American Parliament's office in Managua, alongside Save the Children staff. The meeting served to resume the relationship with this institution and to propose a common approach to prevention of violence for 2018.

5k Race of the Girls Power Movement – 22nd October: Save the Children joined this movement in favour of the prevention of violence against girls and adolescents, by supporting the organization and dissemination of the 5k race in Managua.

Mural painting in Bluefields – 31st October: 40 children from the school Nuestra Señora del Rosario in Bluefields, an autonomous region of the South Caribbean Coast, painted a mural on the facade of the House of the Regional Government, in celebration of the XXX Anniversary of the autonomy of the regions of the Caribbean Coast.

Regional Advocacy and Campaign Workshop - 8th to 10th November in Panama: Carlos, a spokesperson for the Managua consultative and mobilizer group, attended the meeting to talk about the campaign progress throughout 2017. He was accompanied by Alexis, a youth spokesperson of the same group, who attended as an advisor on the theme of childhood and adolescence with disabilities.

The **consultative and mobilizer groups** are a model of child participation promoted by Save the Children and partners to ensure that children, adolescents and young people are involved and consulted in decisions that affect them, receive training on relevant topics, take part in project design and evaluation processes and promote the Every Last Child campaign at the local level.

Systematization of experience

Every Last Child in Nicaragua



Launch of the "Stolen Childhoods" report in Managua. From left to right: José Daniel, Anielka, Iván Yero (UNICEF Representative), Argentina Martínez (Save the Children Nicaragua Country Director), Matthew Carlson (Plan International Country Director), and Ruth.

Communication to reach Every Last Child

At the beginning of 2017, we disseminated a friendly version of the "Study on the Social Exclusion of Children and Adolescents in Nicaragua", a research piece around the situation of rural children and the barriers that prevent them from surviving, learning, developing and being protected from all types of violence.

We also conducted a baseline study on "Recognition of Save the Children's contribution to policy solutions that address social exclusion and violence against rural children". Findings showed that we are a reference on issues related to improving children's lives and the elimination of violence. We also learned that we must increase our visibility and brand awareness on specific issues and with key audiences.

The findings of this study informed the 2017-2018 brand positioning plan that is currently being implemented. The friendly version of this study is available on our website.

In addition, in order to raise awareness to the situation of girls and adolescents in rural areas, at the International Day of the Girl event in Nicaragua we launched the report "What it means to be a girl in rural Nicaragua".

At the end of 2017, we produced a video titled "How do indigenous children of Alamikangban live?". The video will be published on 26th April 2018 for the 2nd anniversary of the Every Last Child campaign and will be used to raise awareness to the situation of indigenous children throughout the year.

Municipal investment in children

The Child Rights Governance programme strengthened their relationships with six municipal governments: El Tuma-La Dalia, Santa María de Pantasma, Rancho Grande, San Jose de los Remates and on the North Caribbean Coast, Siuna and Prinzapolka. The purpose of these partnerships is to promote the focus on children's rights in municipal investment and strengthen child participation.

In 2017, municipal governments allocated budget to the development of projects selected by children and adolescents, to which Save the Children contributed with a total of \$30,000. These projects included providing educational materials for 10 schools as well as constructing and equipping playgrounds. This process supported accountability for municipal governments and promoted dialogue between children and adolescents and local governments, benefiting a total of 8,090 children and adolescents.

Interim review of the campaign plan

In July of 2017, we carried out the mid-term review of the Every Last Child campaign monitoring and evaluation plan. We revised the first objective, increasing the focus on municipal investment and rural children in general (rather than "poor rural children" in particular).

We made progress towards our objectives. Among other achievements, 6 projects have been formulated jointly with children and implemented by local governments, and 271 municipal officials have been trained on investment in children.

Investment in the campaign

The Every Last Child campaign has been integrated in all the different Save the Children Nicaragua programmes and projects, all of which aim at ensuring that rural children have greater opportunities, abilities and capacities to survive, develop and be protected from violence, within the framework of greater investment and quality of basic services. As a result of this integration, the investment in the campaign in 2017 amounted to a total of US\$285,656 provided by Save the Children Norway, Save the Children US and other donors.

Despite having a limited budget, we are determined to implement the 2018 national campaign plan, as well as the local action plans developed by children and adolescents from the consultative and mobilizer groups.

Budget Gap: US\$ 47,300.00

Your strategic and generous support will ensure that we achieve the results planned for 2018.

nicaragua.savethechildren.net

Más información: marta.garcia@savethechildren.org

