



Save the Children

# CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE – MAKING CHILDREN’S RIGHTS A REALITY

## DATA

COMPARED TO OTHER REGIONS, CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN LAC ARE MORE EMPOWERED TO EXERCISE THEIR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RIGHTS.

COUNTRIES IN THE REGION APPROVE LAWS, PLANS AND POLICIES, BUT SHOW DEFICIENCIES IN IMPLEMENTING THEM.

NEARLY 3 MILLION CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF FIVE ARE UNREGISTERED.

BUDGETS ARE UNEQUALLY DISTRIBUTED, THUS REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS LACK FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO CARE FOR EXCLUDED CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS.

## 2016-2018: OUR PRIORITIES OF ACTION IN LAC

### MONITORING CHILDREN’S RIGHTS WITH CHILDREN

All members of Save the Children in LAC (4) and all country offices (7) incorporated actions in their strategic plans related to this sub-theme. Some priority actions are:

- Support the drafting of alternative reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti and Nicaragua) and Universal Periodic Review (Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti and Peru).
- Follow up the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and Human Rights Council (all).
- Strengthen observatories on the rights of the child (Guatemala, Nicaragua and Peru).
- Strengthen national coalitions and networks on the rights of the child (all).
- Support the organisation and expression of children and adolescents (all).
- Work with the private enterprise, academia, media and other sectors.
- Strengthen the capacity of our partners and our own capacity on children’s rights.

### GOOD GOVERNANCE DELIVERING CHILDREN’S RIGHTS

Nine countries in the region have expected results and actions in this sub-theme. Priority actions are:

- Support national strategies or systems on children’s rights (Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Dominican Republic).
- Legislation and policies on children’s rights (Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru and Dominican Republic).
- Strengthen capacity of public officials in child rights (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Dominican Republic).
- Support independent child rights institutions- Ombudsperson (Bolivia, Honduras and Nicaragua).

### PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN

Ten countries in LAC have proposed national and/or local actions related to investment in children. Our actions include regional, national and local spheres, focusing on budget monitoring and analysis, supporting participation of children and adolescents, and advocating for more and better investment in children.

## “EVERY LAST CHILD” CAMPAIGN

- The three global guarantees of the child campaign are closely linked to the three CRG subthemes: Accountability and Monitoring, Fair Finance and Public Investment, and Equal Treatment and Good Governance.
- CRG advocacy actions are complementary and serve as a basis for expanding our campaign messages. This should be integrated into CRG actions and planning.

## REGIONAL CRG NETWORK: A LEARNING COMMUNITY

- Formed in October 2012, the Regional CRG Network holds a meeting every year (Granada in 2013, Lima in 2014, Antigua Guatemala in 2015 and Mexico City in 2016). Each meeting has strengthened us and we have produced materials in both Spanish and English for regional and local dissemination. This network is also a learning community conceived as a resource for sharing, learning and improving actions. Regular communications and horizontal relations have proven to be a good basis for development of potentials.
- Some countries have bilaterally shared documents and methodologies on specific themes and have even shared experiences through ‘CRG internships’, good practices, issues and shortcomings have been analysed. In 2014, internships began with the participation of El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. An internship between Peru and Nicaragua will take place in April 2017.



Photo: Karina Méndez/Save the Children

## SOME CRG RESULTS IN LAC (2015 AND 2016)

- **Consultations with children and adolescents:** In 2015, children and adolescents of El Salvador, Haiti, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru contributed opinions that enriched the Human Rights Council Resolution and the General Comment 19, both on budgeting for child rights. In 2016, they contributed inputs for a global study on the exercise of political and social rights. In LAC, 130 girls and boys from 10 countries contributed opinions through an online survey and focus groups in Nicaragua and Peru.
- **Launch of GC19 “Public Budgeting for the Realization of Children’s Rights”:** In LAC, we actively participated in writing the GC19. In the second half of 2016, as part of our global ELC campaign, in addition to the regional launch in Mexico, there were national launches in Guatemala, Peru, Colombia, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic and Ecuador.
- **Bolivia:** A complementary report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child was prepared in coordination with the Bolivian coalition for rights of children and adolescents. In coordination with the Ombudsman, we supported the creation of the first Multinational Consultative Council where children and adolescents are able to submit their problems and demands to the authorities.
- **Colombia:** Through the participation and communication strategies applied in Tumaco and Cali, we supported participation of children and adolescents in decision-making spaces and advocacy work with the mayors. In 2016, work related to CRG started again.
- **El Salvador:** Started working on CRG in 2015 and completed the Situation Analysis on Children’s Rights. Actively supported the campaign for the 6% of the GDP for Education. Strengthened the capacity of the municipalities to invest in children and reinforced actions with the National Childhood and Adolescence Council.
- **Guatemala:** The Human Rights Observatory of the National Coalition CIPRODENI produced and presented updated information on the situation of children rights. They have already drafted the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> CRC Alternative Report.
- **Haiti:** Work related to CRG has greatly improved. Haiti completed its first Child Right Situation Analysis, including opinions from children and adolescents through focus groups and individual interviews. Supported the preparation and remission of the CRC Alternative Report.
- **Honduras:** The Press Youth Network expanded its work and influence in local and national levels. Honduras sponsored a Central American seminar on child participation experiences in municipal investment in children.
- **Mexico:** Supported the establishment of an Integral Child Rights Protection System. SC Mexico was selected to participate in its council. Municipal governments were trained in protection and culture of peace.
- **Nicaragua:** Four municipal policies on children’s rights were approved with the participation of children and adolescents and eight projects proposed by children were implemented. Twenty years of experience in municipal investment in children was documented and published and the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Alternative Report was drafted with contributions by more than 500 children.
- **Peru:** A strategic achievement was the enactment of a law declaring of national interest the prioritization of children and the allocation of funds for the National Plan of Action for Children and Adolescents.
- **Dominican Republic:** Agreement was reached with the National Private Enterprise Council on the implementation of children’s rights and business principles.

Resources & tools are available here:

The CRG Resource Centre: <http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se>

Onenet: <https://onenet.savethechildren.net/whatwedo/crg/Pages/default.aspx>

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