



National Launches

of the Committee on the Rights of the Child's
General Comment 19, in Latin America and the Caribbean



Save the Children

CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE
JUNE 2017

N

323.352

P984 CRG Country Focal Points

National Launches of the Committee on the
Rights of the Child's General Comment 19 in
Latin America and the Caribbean.

- 1st ed. - Managua: Save the Children, 2017
24 p.i. cabbage.

ISBN 978-99924-70-68-8

1. RIGHTS OF THE CHILD 2. PARTICIPATION
3. PUBLIC INVESTMENTS 4. NETWORKS
INFORMATION

Credits

Authors

Save the Children's Child Rights Governance (CRG) focal persons in Latin America and the Caribbean

Editors

Pedro Hurtado Vega and Teresa Carpio

Front Cover

Jennifer from Honduras during the launch of GC 19 in Tegucigalpa.

Publication Manager

Roberto Alvarez Torres

Design

Oficina Editorial con Enfoque Social
cDiseña Nicaragua - c-dise@hotmail.com

Print run in Spanish

160 copies
Managua, Nicaragua

This publication is a Save the Children-CRG issue.
It may be partially reproduced as long as the source is duly cited.

SALE OF THIS PUBLICATION IS PROHIBITED

June 2017

PRESENTATION

As the first UN document providing detailed guidance to states on their legal obligation to invest in children, the UNCRC General Comment No. 19 on Public Budgeting for the Realization of Children's Rights provides Save the Children with a great opportunity to take our Every Last Child campaign guarantees on fair finance and accountability forward and to influence governments to invest more and better in every last child.

Save the Children has been instrumental in the development of the General Comment. We have organized regional consultations, facilitated for children to make recommendations and provided input to the drafting of the document. The 27 launches of the General Comment - organized globally in collaboration between the CRG GT, the Every Last Child campaign team and regional, country, member and advocacy offices - helped establish the General Comment as the blueprint for governments when making decisions on resource mobilization, budget allocation and spending on children without discrimination.

The regional and country offices in Latin America and the Caribbean have been crucial to the successful adoption and launch of this General Comment. The commitment to and knowledge on investment in children across the region helped shape the content of the General Comment. The regional and national launches in Latin America and the Caribbean contributed to improved awareness, partnerships, children's voices and commitments by decision-makers to investment in every last child. You have ensured that children from the region have meaningful opportunities to have their views and recommendations heard and with UNICEF and the Latin American and Caribbean Movement for Children brought governments in the region together on a joint agenda for investment in children. The partnership with the Latin American and Caribbean Network for the Defense of the Rights of the Child and Adolescent (REDLAMYC) have been invaluable in the process of developing the General Comment.

In 2017 and the following years, we need to build on these achievements and continue to use the General Comment in our advocacy and campaigning to ensure investment in every last child.

Ulrika Cilliers
Head of Advocacy
CRG Global Theme

Jorge Freyre
Regional Advocacy Director
Latin America and the Caribbean

INTRODUCTION

Save the Children in Latin America and the Caribbean has a long history of researching, promoting, and influencing compliance with Article 4 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC): “State Parties shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative, and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Convention.”

On June 3, 2016, the Committee on the Rights of the Child adopted General Comment 19, based on Article 4 of the CRC, entitled “Public budgeting for the realization of children’s rights.”

Much water had flowed under the bridge before then, allowing this step to occur. The entire process began nine years ago, in September 2007, when the Committee on the Rights of the Child organized a Debate Day dedicated to Article 4 of the CRC. On this occasion, Latin America was represented by colleagues from Save the Children in Nicaragua and Peru, by Redlamyc and coalitions from El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua. In 2014, the Child Rights Connect working group on Investment in Children, led by Save the Children and Redlamyc, proposed a renewed effort to the Child Rights Committee, which unanimously decided to initiate a participatory process aimed at insuring General Observation of this theme. A number of organizations—including Save the Children, Redlamyc, Plan and UNICEF—worked together to structure a document and write its first drafts. Independent experts were consulted, whose opinions were incorporated, and consultations were organized with children and adolescents worldwide and in LAC in El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru. A total of 2,700 children and adolescents expressed their viewpoints. This entire process enriched the proposal, which was then discussed by the Committee.

The GC 19 is the first UN document that provides States with a detailed guide about their legal obligation to invest in children. It presents recommendations about how States must insure that sufficient, equitable and effective resources are mobilized, allocated and implemented, in order to provide health, nutrition, education, and protective services to all children and adolescents, to create an institutional framework for guaranteeing children’s rights, and to help insure other rights that are stipulated in the CRC.

The GC 19 was launched globally on Thursday, September 22, 2016, in Geneva, Switzerland, and was coordinated by Dr. Jorge Cardona, a Spanish member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Save the Children proposed organizing regional and national launches worldwide, to publicize the good news that the GC 19 represents for child rights, to empower children, adolescents and civil society organizations in relation to this topic, and to influence governments.

We have developed a user-friendly version of the GC 19 document and a short video to support this work. Both of these have been reproduced in different countries, and have proven useful tools in our outreach and political advocacy work.

The launch in the LAC region took place in Mexico City during the week of October 24th, in the context of a regional seminar on Investment in Children, convened by UNICEF. Participants included Jorge Cardona, from the Child Rights Committee, and representatives of UNICEF and the Redlamyc.

A total of 28 regional and national launches were organized worldwide, and 11 of these were in the LAC region, representing one third of the total. Nine of these reports are presented here.

Pedro Hurtado Vega
CRG Regional Advisor in LAC

LAC countries with GC19 launches



BRIEF INTRODUCCION FOR EACH LAUNCH

Regional

In September, Redlamyc, in coordination with UNICEF and Save the Children, organized the Regional Launch of the GC 19 in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Mexico City. It was done in the framework of a regional meeting on Investment in Children summoned by UNICEF and aimed at public officials from countries related to the budgeting process. We had the presence of Dr. Jorge Cardona, member of the Child Rights Committee.



Regional launch of the GC19

Colombia

Save the Children Colombia organized the launch campaign for the GC 19, together with the national coalition, “Alliance for Children,” a member of Redlamyc. Others participating in the Alliance include Plan International, World Vision, Aldeas Infantiles SOS, and national organizations.

Attendees included NGOs, governmental organizations, oversight organizations such as the Ombudsman’s Office, the Child/Adolescent Police Units, the Office of the Attorney General, and United Nations organizations such as UNICEF and UNFPA. We had also the presence of Dr. Cardona, member of the Child Rights committee.

Ecuador

The GC19 National Launch in Ecuador was done 20 of December, 2016. The organizers were Movimiento Social por la Defensa de los Derechos de la Niñez y Adolescencia, Save the Children, Centro de Políticas Públicas y Derechos Humanos – Perú Equidad, and Voces Ciudadanas.

El Salvador

The national launch in El Salvador was done 1st of

December, in the framework of a workshop about liC. Were present national authorities related to children, CSO and children. Was organized by Save the Children along with the National Coalition for Children (RIA). Participated 65 people (40 adults and 25 adolescents- 14 girls and 11 boys).

Guatemala

The national launch in Guatemala was done 19 of October. The launch was organized by Save the Children Guatemala, along with two national coalitions (CIPRODENI and the Network Child to Child).

Participated government officials and civil society representatives.

Main speakers were: Sara Oviedo from the CRC; Jonathan Menkos, Director of the Central American Institute for Fiscal Studies; Walter Felix, congressman and President of the Commission for Children and Family; Tania Ibáñez, adolescent and Roberto Cabrera, Director of SC Guatemala. The GC 19 video was presented and a written copy of the friendly version was handed to participants.

Honduras

The national launch in Honduras was done Friday 4 of November in the framework of a meeting with 900 teachers from different educative centers. Participated national and district authorities from the Ministry of Education.

Nicaragua

The national launch in Nicaragua was done at the Central American University on Wednesday 16 of November. It was organized by the World Movement for Children- Nicaraguan Chapter.

Participated approximately 150 people. During the launch the National Directors from Plan International and UNICEF welcomed and closed; a couple of adolescents presented the importance of liC and the CRG Program Coordinator from Save the Children presented the GC19 along with 5 children. Two videos were presented: the one prepared for the HRC at the beginning of 2015 and the video about the GC19. We distributed printed copies of the friendly version in Spanish (we printed 1,500).



Honduras launch of the GC19

Peru

The national launch in Peru was done 19 of October. The launch was organized by Save the Children, the Round Table for the Fight against Poverty and UNICEF. Participated government officials and civil society representatives.

Dominican Republic

The national launch in Dominican Republic was done 1, 2 and 4 of November in the framework of a workshop on liC. The launch was organized by Save the Children Dominican Republic.

1. WHAT WERE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE LAUNCH?

Regional

- Raise awareness among public authorities about the new instrument (GC 19), adopted by the CRC to support government efforts to invest more and better resources in children.
- Generate commitments from public authorities, civil society organizations and the media about the importance of allocating more public resources to children.
- Emphasize the importance of incorporating civil society organizations, including children themselves, into the development of public budgets, as part of public policy.

Colombia

- Raise awareness about the GC 19 among public authorities.
- Generate commitments from public authorities, civil society organizations and the media about the importance of allocating more public resources for children.
- Share the views of children and adolescents about the importance of their participation in defining public budgets.

Ecuador

- To present the GC19 as a tool to guide the State on how to improve investment in children so that the rights of children become a reality.
- To relate the GC19 with compliance with the CRC, regarding the preparation of the official report of the Ecuadorian State and the alternative report of Ecuadorian civil society, including organizations of children and adolescents.

El Salvador

The main objective was for key actors to know the GC19, mainly the public sector, social organizations and children in order to contribute for a better investment in children

Guatemala

To visibilize the GC19.

Honduras

To visibilize the GC19.

Nicaragua

The launch was part of a plan steered by the Group on liC of the WMC Nic Chapter, chaired by Save the Children. The plan consisted in:

- a) Seminar with journalist about liC- done Tuesday 23 of August
- b) Workshop on GC 19 with WMC's organizations- done Thursday 6 Oct.
- c) Workshop on GC 19 with children- done Saturday 29 Oct.
- d) National launch- done Wednesday 16 November

The specific objective of the national launch was “to present the GC19 to government officials, civil society organizations and children”. At the same time the GC19 national launch was done under the liC Strategy of the WMC-Nic Chapter, whose general objective is: “For 2021 to have contributed to the investment in children, in quantity and in quality from the government, to go forward fulfilling children rights in the framework of the SDGs, the Human Rights Council's Resolution and the GC19, both related to liC”.



Colombia launch of the GC19

Peru

- To present the GC19 as an instrument guiding the States on how to improve the investment in children to make children's right come true.
- To relate the CG19 with the “No Budget- No Rights” National Campaign, promoted by the Interinstitutional Collective for the Rights of Children and Adolescents, with the objective of advocating a budget increase and a better implementation of the 2012-2021 National Plan of Action for Children and Adolescents.

Dominican Republic

Inniciate the diffusion of OG19 among civil society, public institutions, boys, girls, and teenagers in order to gradually turn it into an advocacy tool.

2. WHAT WAS ACHIEVED AND WHY WAS IT IMPORTANT?

Regional

300 public authorities and officials from the LAC region participated in the launch. They were informed about the adoption of the GC 19, and many made public commitments to developing public budgets that are more responsive to children.

Moreover, national and regional authorities also recognized and publicly expressed the importance of improving investments in children and adolescents.

Colombia

120 people attended the launch, including high-level officials from public institutions, regional and local authorities from Child/Adolescent Police Units, representatives from United Nations organizations such as UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA, local and international NGOs working on child rights issues, and the media.

35 people from governmental institutions, oversight organizations, and NGOS participated in a workshop on public investment in children, facilitated by the civil society organizations Equidad from Peru.

25 children and adolescents took part in a workshop about GC19 with Equidad. In response to the comments of participants and the adolescents themselves, public authorities made a commitment to improve the public budget information system, make it easier to understand, and to include civil society organizations in the process of discussing public budgets.

SC Colombia issued a declaration about the priorities for investment in children in this country. This was broadcast by different media outlets, and was also placed on the SC Colombia web page. SC Colombia utilized technological tools and social networks to publicize the launch. Many social networks were mobilized in this outreach process.

Ecuador

The highlight of the importance of allocating a larger budget to ensure the rights of children and adolescents, especially those less respected and presented by civil society in the alternative report on the implementation of the CRC was achieved.

El Salvador

The GC19 was made public. We had the participation of several organizations who work for the wellbeing of children, furthermore civil society organizations which work for education and technical training. It was important because those organization committed themselves for liC.

On the other hand, we printed one hundred copies in the friendly version in order to visibilize the GC19 and that children know about it. It was important, because children should know all their rights and guarantees their participation.

Guatemala

We called the attention from government, NGOs and mass media.

Honduras

We called the attention from teachers from lots of schools and from Education authorities.



Honduras launch of the GC19

Nicaragua

We placed the GC19 in the media agenda and in the agenda of the Nicaraguan movement for child rights. It's important because it was a step in the process of presenting the relevance of liC as a must for child rights and as a way for integral development.

Even though Save the Children has been leading most of the liC initiatives in Nicaragua since long time ago, with the GC19 launch we strengthened the alliance of the WMC in this country.

Peru

The Interinstitutional Collective for the Rights of Children submitted a proposal to the Congress to increase the budget addressed at children in 2017.

As a result, the 2017 Public Budget Act was passed, including the following proposal:

“To authorise financial transfers in favour of the Multi sector Plan to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. Additionally, transfers to Local Governments for promotional preventive health activities, for the provision of services under the programs of Maternal and Neonatal Health and Articulated Nutrition Program, and for the implementation of the District Nominal Register in children under 6 years of age and the operation of Centres for the Promotion and Communal Surveillance of Comprehensive Care for Mother and Children”.



Nicaragua launch of the GC19

Dominican Republic

GC19 was launched for civil society and public institutions during a workshop on November 1st and 2nd. The main topic was investment in children and the GC19.

It was launched on November 4th for girls, boys and adolescents. They were given a friendly version and worked on the investment in their municipalities and GC19. Several videos about public investment were shown and also about GC19.

3. WHICH STAKEHOLDERS DID YOU ENGAGE AND WHY WAS THEIR ENGAGEMENT IMPORTANT?

Regional

- Highest-level public officials from more than 20 LAC nations publicly voiced their desire to improve the quality of investments in children to Jorge Cardona, the representative of the Child Rights Committee.
- Authorities from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior and the National System for the Comprehensive Development of Mexican Families made a range of commitments to publicize and implement the GC 19.
- To Senator Martha Elena García Gómez, the president of the Mexican Senate's Commission on the Rights of the Child.
- To representatives from the Association of Municipalities of the State of Mexico.
- The Executive Secretary of Redlamyc and Jorge Cardona visited different Mexican ministries and public institutions following the launch, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Executive Secretariat of the National System for the Protection of Child Rights, and the Ministry of the Interior.

Colombia

- Authorities from the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), which is the institution mandated to protect children's rights, the National Office on Planning, municipal representatives from the health and education sectors, and from the National Police.
- Representatives of the United Nations System.
- Media representatives.

Ecuador

- Representatives of the government participated, such as Marisol Peñafiel, President of the Parliamentary Group for the Rights of Children, Adolescents and Youth. Also attending were representatives of the Ministry of Economy and Finance..
- On the other hand, participated Sara Oviedo, Vice-president of the Committee of the Rights of the Child of the United Nations 2013 - 2017.
- Finally, representatives of the Children's Rights Movement from Ecuador, youth representatives, Universidad Andina, Peru's NGO Equidad, and representatives of Unicef and Save the Children CO from Peru-Ecuador Binational Program.

El Salvador

- There were present direct contributors to the process of change. The stakeholders were governmental institutions (Salvadoran Institute for Children and Adolescents, National Council for Children and Adolescents, Ministry of Education).
- Also children and young people (Network for Children and Adolescents)
- People from communities and civil society organizations
- And a research institution (Central American Institute for Fiscal Studies).

Guatemala

- Participated 113 people, including members of Congress, members of the Central American Parliament, the Ombudsman, representatives from the Ministries of Education. Health,



Dominican Republic launch of the GC19

Development, Culture and Sports.

- Also Unicef, Pan-American Health Organization, the University of San Carlos, British Embassy, NGOs and children from children's movements.

Honduras

- National and district authorities from the Ministry of Education.

Nicaragua

- No government officials showed up, even though they were invited by the representatives from UNICEF, Plan International and Save the Children. We will continue doing our best efforts.

Peru

- We had the participation of governmental representatives, such as Javier Abugattás, President of the National Centre for Strategic Planning, attached to the Presidency of the Council of Ministries. Representatives of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, the governing body of children, and the Congress of the country also participated. Additionally, representatives of the Ombudsman, the autonomous constitutional body in charge of supervising the services provided by the State, participated.
- On the other hand, Jorge Cardona, member of the Committee for the Right of Children participated via Skype.
- Finally, representatives of organizations that make up the Interinstitutional Collective for the Rights of Children and Adolescents, including girls, boys and adolescents, participated as indicated in point 5.

Dominican Republic

- Participated representatives from the Department of Special Programs from the Presidency, General Direction of Budgets,

Dominican Federation of Municipalities. All three are of high importance since they are key actors in the design of public policy and budgets both nationally and by municipality.

4. DID YOU GATHER ANY COMMITMENTS FROM DECISION MAKERS OR OTHER IMPORTANT STAKEHOLDERS?

Regional

- The Mexican government set up a Multi-Sector Commission for monitoring recommendations made by the CRC, and Jorge Cardona was invited to participate in a public ceremony.
- Different ministerial authorities suggested that guaranteeing the rights of children requires mutual participation and cooperation between civil society organizations, children and adolescents, international cooperation agencies and the government.
- The Mayor of the City of Guadalupe, representing the Mexican Network of Cities and Municipalities for Children, publicly recommended that all local budgets should focus on children.
- The Global Movement for Children (GMC-LAC) is working to develop indicators that can be used to monitor public investments by countries in the region, in the framework of the GC 19. In this respect, Mexico's authorities have made a commitment to develop a Roadmap for Monitoring Public Investment.

Colombia

- The representative of the National Office on Planning indicated that the Office would improve its public information system, to make it more accessible.
- Representatives from the ICBF indicated that they will include civil society organizations in discussions about public budgets, and strengthen such participation in the National Roundtable on Public Spending for Children, which involves different government institutions.
- The Alliance for Children decided to prioritize this issue within its operational and strategic plans.

socialize the GC19 with other State institutions and to develop an activity along with networks to spread the knowledge about it and advance towards a better liC.

Guatemala

- From the President of the Congressional Commission for Children: a) to lobby the plenary of Congress to improve liC. b) He will present the video to Congress.
- We consider the launch as part of the actions in support of the advocacy efforts with the Guatemalan Congress.

Ecuador

N/R

El Salvador

- Public institutions committed to do a better job in order to improve liC.
- The ISNA (Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo Integral de la Niñez y la Adolescencia/ Salvadorean Institute for Children and Adolescents) committed to



Guatemala launch of the GC19

Honduras

- Authorities from the Ministry of Education said they considered valid a review of the national budget to try to increase allocations to improve school infrastructure, to have computer labs, English classes, to support professionalization of teachers and schools for parents.

Nicaragua

See answer to last question.

Peru

- At the end of the launch, the participants signed the mural “No Budget No Rights”, as an act of commitment to contribute from their role to the proper allocation of the budget.

Dominican Republic

N/R

5. DID YOU ENGAGE CHILDREN IN YOUR LAUNCH?

Regional

No

Colombia

An adolescent representing children and adolescents presented a Declaration outlining their demands and proposals for improving and increasing investments in children.

In addition, a workshop about the GC 19 was organized with representatives from the Councils on Child Participation, which agreed to continue working on this issue within their organizations, and thereby influence local governments budgets.



Honduras launch of the GC19

Ecuador

During the launching of GC19, representatives of Children's Rights Movement from Ecuador participated in various advocacy actions for the exercise of children's rights and recently produced a report on the implementation of the CRC. Also participating were youths representatives involved in advocacy actions in their local governments. This space fostered the exchange of experiences among children, adolescents and young people.

El Salvador

We wanted a successful launch, so we involved children and their voices were heard. We invited the National Network of Children and Adolescent from El Salvador (Red Nacional de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes de El Salvador).

- “Our voices are important (through videos, success stories)”
- “People must know our problems”
- “We are part of the solutions”
- “We are the present and also the future”
- “I want to share this issues with my family”
- “Every person is different and has different problems”
- “We know how the government works”.
- “It is necessary to involve new children”.

Guatemala

Participated adolescents from the Network “Planetary system”. The adolescent Gerardo Méndez presented the GC19 video. The participation from children was relevant and their messages were very well assimilated by people.

Honduras

Young people from the Press Youth Network (Red Juvenil Presión) were the main presenters in the launch. They presented an ideal situation where government invest in health, education and protection of children. They highlighted the importance of an adequate investment in children. They advocated to have a present and a future with purpose, with educational opportunities, with education for life and to have a decent job. Tania Velásquez, a girl representative from Press Youth Network, said *“the adequate investment in health, education and protection of children are a must for children’s rights to become a reality in Honduras. We want transparency, accountability and fair financing”*.

Nicaragua

Of course children were involved. They had participated in a workshop about the GC19 three weeks before the national launch. An important group of them had also participated in the global consultation about liC at the beginning of last year and also participated in this process. A pair of adolescents from the Movement of Adolescents and Young People conducted the launch and

presented their opinions about what liC means to them. Also we had a screen mural about it, which was color painted by children, expressing their views. It was product of the launch.

Peru

In the launch, children and adolescents, representing organizations that make up the Interinstitutional Collective for the Rights of Children and Adolescents took part.

The representatives from these organizations had several spaces to be prepared on the GC19. Most of them had participated in the workshop “No Budget No Rights. Girls, boys and adolescents come first.” This workshop was conducted to generate a space for dialog on the GG19 and the gaps in the investment on children and adolescents in Peru.

During the launch, Milagros Flores and Tomas Peña, representatives of children and adolescents organizations from Lima and Junin, shared their experiences on their participation in the consultation process to prepare the GC19.

Dominican Republic

80 teenagers, boys and girls of different ages attend a workshop centered around GC19, they participated actively describing the investments in children in their municipalities and the challenges they face. As a next step they will present GC19 in schools, neighborhoods and municipal mayors.



Nicaragua launch of the GC19

6. WHAT DID YOU ACHIEVE ON MEDIA?

Regional

- The media covered the launch of GC 19, emphasizing two key messages: “the demand for allocating a greater portion of public budgets to children,” and the need for “municipalities to focus their budgets on children.”
- Media interviews were conducted with Jorge Cardona, Juan Martín Pérez, the executive secretary of REDLAMYC, and Marcelo Ventos, from the civil society international working group supporting the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- Ten different media outlets covered the press conference of the GC 19 launch event.

Colombia

- Media interviews were conducted with Jorge Cardona, the Director of SC Colombia, with SCC’s director of Advocacy, Campaigns, CRG and Communications; with SC’s thematic advisors; and with adolescents.
- In the following days, the media continued publicizing the launch and the declarations issued by SC representatives and Jorge Cardona.

Ecuador

- A press release was prepared by the person in charge of communications in Ecuador of the Peru-Ecuador Binational Program of Save the Children.

El Salvador

- In social networks the video on GC 19 was posted

and messages were also placed on the importance of investing in children and adolescents, who quickly got many “I like”.

- Two radio transmitted live (Radio Nacional and Radio UPA 90.9 FM).

Guatemala

- The launch was covered by mass media (Tv and radios. We achieved attention to the liC situation in Guatemala and to the GC19.)

Honduras

- We wrote a press release. The day of the launch young people gave interviews to radio and Tv. Reporters were informed about the GC19 and the proposals from children.
- We are working on a short video where boys and girls express their views and proposal about liC in Honduras.



Dominican Republic launch of the GC19



Peru launch of the GC19

Nicaragua

- Mass media participated in the launch. There were 4 newspapers, 4 radio programs, 1 Tv station and 1 digital media.

- In previous days we had distributed a press note about the GC19 and the national launch.
- During the launch we were interviewed by media. Two and a half months ago we had had a seminar with journalist where we talked about the importance of liC, which somewhat paved the way.

Peru

- Press releases were published after the launch. Later, there was a presence in the media to present arguments on the importance of investing in children, especially on programs for the prevention and attention of violence and teenage pregnancy.

Dominican Republic

N/R

7. IF YOU HAD A CAMPAIGN ACTION OR MOBILISATION - HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE YOU ABLE TO MOBILISE AND TO WHAT EFFECT?



El Salvador launch of the GC19

Regional, Colombia y Ecuador

N/R

El Salvador

One agreement of the workshop was to have a planning workshop in January 2017 in order to develop mobilization actions for liC.

Guatemala

That launch was presented as part of the ELC global campaign. We expect participants to be messengers of liC to their institutions and organizations.

Honduras

900 teachers were mobilized from different educative centers.

Nicaragua

The room was full. In the launch participated 150 people (children and adults). Hundreds of students from the Central American University saw the activity from outside the auditorium.

Peru and Dominican Republic

N/R

8. WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM THIS EXPERIENCE THAT WILL IMPACT YOUR FUTURE WORK ON FAIR FINANCING FOR CHILDREN?

Regional

- Working in partnership with different actors: civil society organizations, international cooperation agencies, government authorities and the media.
- Produce regional outreach materials to promote application of the GC among public authorities, civil society organizations and the media.
- Produce regionally oriented, user-friendly materials that allow globally relevant tools to be shared with children and adolescents.
- It is very important to include children and their viewpoints in activities.
- Organize regional and national events about progress in overall observation, which includes sharing successful experiences in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Colombia

- Working in coordination and partnerships generated positive outcomes: work with different civil society actors, international cooperation agencies, public authorities and the media.
- Having a national position on the issue generated positive public opinion and raised the profile of investments in children, and its importance to the nation's development.
- Producing global, regional and local outreach materials, to promote the application of the GC among public authorities, civil society organizations and the media.
- Producing user-friendly materials that allow globally relevant tools to be shared with children and adolescents.
- It is very important to include children and their viewpoints in activities. This includes training processes, providing suitable opportunities for children to express their opinions about issues, as well as raising awareness among stakeholders about the importance of including children in discussions about financing.

Ecuador

- To continue promoting investment in children in partnership with UNICEF and



Colombia launch of the GC19

other organizations, highlighting concrete instruments on which to improve investment, and to be periodically monitored to present it as evidence, along with reports, to the Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding the implementation of the CRC.

El Salvador

- Every proposal that has as a core goal to fight for children rights, must be done with children. Thus, it is important to sensitize children about their rights and their right to participate. Governmental institutions must know their obligation to improve the life of children. For that reason, the sensitization of them is also important.



Ecuador launch of the GC19

- A lesson learned is that it is necessary to know and use the international instruments that guarantee Child Rights, like the GC19.
- The empowerment of people (children, NGOs and civil society) about liC and its importance is a key factor for social mobilization and advocacy.

Guatemala

- We have ratified the importance of joining inter-institutional efforts in favor of liC.
- The launch was set that date taking into account Sara Oviedo, Vice president of the CRC was to be in Guatemala.

Honduras

- To take advantage of other planned activities in order to articulate our efforts and show strength.

Nicaragua

We relearned three things:

- The activities of this kind organized under the WMC in Nic. have more impact compared to going us alone. We are convinced that together we are stronger and have better opportunities.

- If government officials doesn't show up there no need to panic. Always have a plan B and continue doing the work with strategic stance and practical sense. Don't dismay!.

Peru

- To continue the promotion of investment in children in partnership with various organizations, making concrete instruments visible on which to improve investment and be subject to periodic monitoring, such as the plans on infancy that are implemented at all levels of government.

Dominican Republic

- That it is indispensable to involve children and teenagers since they are the voice that can better be heard between their peers and can represent them at town hall meetings.

9. HOW DO YOU PLAN TO CAPITALIZE ON THE MOMENTUM OF THE LAUNCH AND FOLLOW UP ON THE COMMITMENTS MADE?. WHAT SUPPORT WILL YOU NEED (IF ANY)?

Regional

- Redlamyc and Save the Children maintain a close and cooperative relationship, and have worked jointly on different events, including the regional launch in Lima of “Save Every Last Girl,” in November 2016.
- Investment in Children is part of Redlamyc and SC regional strategies. For this reason, both organizations continue working together, promoting liC as a crosscutting component of other thematic areas, especially in relation to protecting children against violence.
- Redlamyc and SC are part of the Global Movement for Children at regional level (known as MMI-LAC in Spanish), and part of the MMI-LAC’s regional strategy involves promoting liC and publicizing the GC 19.
- Others participating in this joint effort include UNICEF and Plan International. We have worked together to develop materials and a video, which raise awareness and publicize the GC 19 among public authorities, civil society organizations, children’s organizations, and the media.

Colombia

- Save the Children Colombia will continue working as an active member of the Colombian Alliance for Children, and continue spreading the word about the GC 19 through developing and implementing a National Observatory on Child Rights, and monitoring the government’s compliance with its investment commitments in this respect.
- SC, together with the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), will continue working to strengthen implementation of the National Family Welfare System, and the development of special projects for children supported by specific investments in high-priority municipalities, through the Save the Children-ICBF-UNICEF-CIPI Cooperation Agreement.
- We will continue working with child and adolescent organizations supported by SC, such as PACO and JEP, to generate greater knowledge and capacities for using tools that permit more active involvement in monitoring children’s budgets in their municipalities.

Ecuador

- It is planned to carry out in alliance with Unicef an event aimed at the new governmental authorities to implement GC19.

El Salvador

- Support is needed to hold events with mayors and municipal councils. Also to socialize it with children and adolescents and the local committees of rights.
- We take the opportunity to request the support of Pedro Hurtado Vega, CRG regional TA for the development of a workshop on investment in children in May 2017.



Guatemala launch of the GC19

Guatemala

- The president of the Commission for Children and Family from Congress shared the commitments to legislate for more and better liC. To keep that offer alive we will maintain communication with him and other legislators.
- We will continue using the materials (video and printed friendly version in Spanish).

Honduras

- The next step is the *Megamantatón* (Super banner), which will be held in Tegucigalpa's Central Park. Its purpose is to call the attention of media and authorities and to sensitize the general public. The Megamantatón will be an activity where a big horizontal banner will be displayed and where people will be asked to sign supporting children in their advocacy for a better investment in children. The activity will be called by the Press Youth Network (Red Juvenil Presión) and the GC19 materials will be used again. There is a media plan for it.

Nicaragua

- The launch was an activity which is part of a more general plan whose purpose is to empower people about liC (children, media, NGOs and allies) and to influence government in relation to liC.
- The launch was videoed. Besides a full video, we did a 3 minutes video aimed at the general public and another short video, a more elaborated one, which we are going to use for capacity building and advocacy.
- We will continue distributing and using the printed copies of the GC19 friendly version in Spanish and the video.
- The Group of liC of the GMC-Nic- chaired by Save the Children- will continue the liC work next year and ourselves from SC also will continue having fair financing/liC as a one of our main programmatic motivations.

Peru

- It was possible to link the GC19 to the National Campaign "No Budget No Rights", which is implemented in the 2016-2021 period, within the framework of the goals of the National Plan of Action for Children and Adolescents to 2021.
- To continue the efforts to improve investment, particularly in results 9 and 20 of the mentioned Plan, regarding the reduction of teenage pregnancy rates and protecting the rights of children and adolescents most vulnerable to violence, within the framework of the global campaign that is implemented in Peru: "Speak out for them."

Dominican Republic

- We will capitalize the experience and all activities during 2017 will be done in the framework of the GC19 and GC20. We will develop incidence actions in the communities and in the municipalities, concentrating in on the most vulnerable in the community.



Peru launch of the GC19



El Salvador launch of the GC19

CONCLUSIVE ELEMENTS

The National Launches of the GC19 in LAC were successful. Besides the regional activity done in Mexico, there were launches—in chronological order—in Guatemala, Peru, Colombia, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Dominican Republic and Ecuador. Haiti was focused on the humanitarian response and colleagues from Bolivia and México have said they were going to organize their national launches in the first semester of 2017.

Some relevant elements we have shared between colleagues from countries and at the region are:

- The National Launches were not isolated activities, but part of more general plans and/or strategies to move ahead Children's Rights and advocate for investment in children.
- The National Launches were not designed as an end in themselves, but as means to contribute to Children's Rights and in a particular way to the promotion of investment in children.
- Directly or indirectly, the Launches were done in the framework of the "Every Last Child" global Campaign. The need for fair financing for children was projected in our work of communication and advocacy.
- We are stronger acting together, as part of alliances (such as the GMC and round tables) and along with national coalitions. This joint effort reinforce our voice in favour Children's Rights and make it stronger.
- Children must always be key actors in everything we do. Their perspective was in the foreground in the National Launches.
- Human resources were well capitalized, same as financial resources. There was rationalization of actions. In some cases the Launches were done taking advantage of other activities already planned.
- Countries produced and/or reproduced communication material. In all cases activities has a coverage of social media and mass media.
- In LAC we have three good conditions: a) An active CRG regional Network, for sharing and learning for a better action on Children's Rights; b) The definition of Investment in Children as one of Save the Children's regional priorities and also a priority in many of our countries, and c) An effective articulation between colleagues from CRG, Advocacy, Communication and Campaign, who in some cases are the same persons.

Finally we want to emphasize the importance of incorporating concrete follow-up actions into our work plans, both in relation to the proposals of participating children, and in relation to the commitments made by representatives of governmental institutions.

Investment in children, in quantity and quality, is a privileged tool for the fulfillment of the Rights of Children. Let's keep promoting it!

**Investment in children, in quantity and quality,
is a privileged tool for the fulfillment of the
Rights of Children.**

LET'S KEEP PROMOTING IT!



Workshop previous to the launch of GC 19 in Nicaragua.



Save the Children

www.savethechildren.org