

Matrix for using the Quality Elements for Investment in Children and Adolescents as a compliance Checklist

The purpose of completing this matrix is to provide information on the quality of investment in children and adolescents in a specific environment, be it national, regional, municipal or local, and promoted by the central and municipal governments, public institutions, NGOs or cooperation agencies.

The resulting information may serve as groundwork or a starting point to set forth specific goals for improvement, which contribute to enhance the quality of investment. The matrix may also be used at fixed intervals, concurrently with work evaluation and planning periods, thus allowing for appreciating the progress made and assessing the tendencies that over time follow investment in children and adolescents.

One single box should be marked in each of the 41 rows (horizontal) to then count the points scored in each of the six columns (vertical) and finish by adding the points in all columns and obtaining a grand total.

Key

0= it has not been considered.

1, 2, 3 and 4= compliance, from the lowest to the highest degree.

5= total compliance, conscious and permanent.

Quality element	Content	Compliance					
		0	1	2	3	4	5
1.- Clear intent to protect the best interest of children and adolescents.	Investment is planned to foster:						
	● Compliance with their rights.						
	● Direct and comprehensive well-being of children and adolescents.						
	● Creation of appropriate conditions for their comprehensive development (i.e. physical and psychological development).						
	● Contributing to poverty reduction.						
	All proposals to invest in children and adolescents must be explicit and verifiable.						
2.- Oriented by public policy.	It is governed by the Constitution, the Children 's Code, national policies and legislation, and international Conventions on human rights (CRC).						
	Investment in children and adolescents is included is a public and municipal policy, and goes beyond governments.						
	This is public policy that materialises through equitable budget allocations.						
3.- Linked to the national context.	It is part of the mainstream in national and municipal investment. It is not an appendix.						
	It is expressed in national, institutional and municipal plans, strategies, budgets, programmes and projects.						
	Integrated management: local and national governments, civil society, the private sector (national and foreign) and external cooperation plan and work together.						
	Fulfils appropriate criteria for decentralisation of resources and decisions, which means:						
	● that resources actually reach the territories where children and adolescents live and fulfil their needs and aspirations.						
	● The territories have real influence on the decisions made for allocation of resources.						
	It is a crosscutting and specific issue, which means that:						
	● National, municipal and institutional plans aimed to the population at large define direct investment actions in children and adolescents that reflect their interests and needs of protection and development.						
	● The country has at the same time specific plans to invest in children (i.e: the 2002-2011 National Plan of Action for Children and Adolescents)						
4.- Reflects the situation and aspirations of children and adolescents.	Investment reflects the requirements, demands, needs, priorities and aspirations of children and adolescents. It does not rest on unilateral or desk decisions made by adults.						
	Reflects in an equitable manner the national diversity of children and adolescents. such as children and adolescents, rural/urban, ethnic and indigenous cultural characteristics, the Caribbean / Pacific Coast / central region, and special needs among others).						
	● Deals with the most urgent problems such as children and adolescents who require special protection (i.e. they are economically exploited, sexually abused, are victims of violence and maltreatment, and live in conditions of neglect, as well as in other situations that require special protection).						
5.- It is transparent.	The decision-making process is of public knowledge.						
	The results and evaluation of national and international, governmental and non-governmental, investment are made public, nothing is hidden.						

Quality element	Content	Compliance					
		0	1	2	3	4	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorities and public officials at both national and municipal levels are to publicly and periodically account for the way the budget is spent. 						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The information pertaining to the entire investment process is truthful and transmitted in an appropriate manner, so that it is easily understandable by the various sectors, children and adolescents in particular. 						
	Civil society implements social audits.						
6.- It is monitored, measured, evaluated and required.	Investment goals are measurable and results are periodically evaluated.						
	The information produced is recorded and systematised; it is not lost and is accessible to the population at large.						
	Institutions and organisations assign staff with capacity to monitor investment in children.						
	Children and adolescents are trained and participate in monitoring and evaluation processes.						
7.- It is part of the exercise of citizenship by children and adolescents.	Civil society, children and adolescents participate in the whole cycle of investment planning.						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and adolescents are assured that their opinions are listened to and have due weight in decision-making. 						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public institutions and civil society organisations strengthen consensus-building settings in the national and municipal sphere; promote and support mechanisms, as well as various forms for children and adolescents to express their opinions, proposals and demands (i.e: consultation processes, surveys, suggestion boxes, mural paintings, role-playing, TV and radio programmes, art expressions, meetings, municipal council meetings, councils and commissions, among others). 						
8.- It is sustainable and has long-term vision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It rests primarily on national efforts by Nicaraguans, and is mainly based on their own resources and their development. 						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment requires appropriate income to finance it, clear rules of the game, social responsibility, institutional austerity and absolute honesty on the part of authorities and officials. 						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The state assumes the main responsibility and works in coordination with international cooperation, which plays an active supporting role and contributes to create conditions of sustainability. 						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment is reflected in short and long-term planning tools, at national, institutional, provincial, municipal levels, and that of the autonomous regions. 						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment is used to build individual, sectoral and institutional capacities for sustainable development. 						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continues, despite changes in governments and officials. It is not temporary. 						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gives priority to prevention and attention to the causes instead of focusing on the effects and consequences. 						
9.- It is significant and timely.	Amounts and actions of investment in children and adolescents are tangible, first order, and substantive part of national, provincial and municipal efforts, as well as that of the autonomous regions.						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an upward investment tendency in both quantity and quality. 						
	It generates real, small and big changes that have a positive impact on the lives of children and adolescents.						
	Investment management is expedite and dynamic, and reaches children and adolescents in a timely manner.						
	Grand total						

Score

0-40: We are not well. Investment in children and adolescents has not started or it is just being considered. The greatest shortage is in awareness of adult responsibility.

41-81: **Average.** Investment aimed to children is being considered. Progress has been made but in practice it still is not enough. Information on how to invest in children may be required.

82-122: Good. Actual implementation of investment actions with responsibility has begun. However, there may be lack of planning and systematicity. In some aspects we are still weak. How are we doing as regards child participation?

123-163: Very good! Ownership has been taken of responsibility toward compliance with children's rights. Investment in children and adolescents has been incorporated into our planning and daily activities. It may be necessary to carry out these actions in some areas and sustain them as an ongoing and long-term effort.

164-205: Excellent! Sustained efforts over time have begun to bear fruit. Investment in children and adolescents has become a norm and envisages many aspects (sustainability, participation, transparency, evaluation, and so forth). It is planned and implemented in a conscious manner. The necessary resources are provided and their actual impact is evaluated. Steps are taken to continue improving so as not to rest on one's laurels.