

## COMMON APPROACH PACKAGE:

### CHILD RIGHTS REPORTING

Original submission: November, 2016  
 Revised version submitted: January, 2017  
 Updated 4. version, November 2021

FOR INTERNAL USE

<b>Common Approach:</b>	Child Rights Reporting (CRR)
<b>Thematic Area:</b>	Child Rights Governance
<b>Sub-Thematic Area:</b>	Monitoring and Demanding Children’s Rights, with Children
<b>Level of Evidence:</b>	Proven
<b>Context:</b>	Development and Humanitarian
<b>In One Sentence:</b>	Working together with children and partners to report and advocate for the implementation of children’s rights to survival, learning, protection, and social protection using established international and regional accountability mechanisms.
<b><u>Common Approaches Learning Programme</u></b>	<b><u>Bronze course on LMS (2018)</u></b> available for all SC Staff
	<b><u>Silver Course</u></b> Targeting practitioners and implementing staff
<b>Additional Introduction to CA’s</b>	<b><u>CRR Spotlight presentation</u></b> (2021)
<b>Onenet</b>	For more information and translated materials access <b><u>Child Rights Reporting on Onenet</u></b>

## Content

1. Introduction.....	4
2. Description of the CRR Common Approach.....	5
a) Key international and regional human rights accountability mechanisms .....	5
b) <i>Additional international and regional human rights accountability mechanisms</i> .....	7
c) <i>Child Rights Reporting and the link to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> .....	8
d) Data collection and monitoring, applying critical interpretation.....	8
e) Engaging with the whole cycle in a long term approach.....	9
f) Main stages of the process.....	10
3. CRR’s core values.....	12
a) Child Informed and child led engagement:.....	12
b) Children most impacted by discrimination and inequalities and reduced access and enjoyment of their rights and children most at risk of rights violations.....	13
4. Key activities.....	13
a) Conduct a risk assessment.....	14
b) Map partners and build capacities .....	14
c) Plan timetable for reporting.....	14
d) Build cohesive coalitions of child-focused organizations.....	14
e) Advocacy.....	15
f) Strengthen capacity within Save the Children .....	16
5. Evidence of effectiveness of the Common Approach.....	17
a) Influencing recommendations issued by human rights accountability mechanisms.....	18
b) Influencing Government action on children’s rights.....	18
c) A catalyst for strengthening national and regional coalitions of child-focused organizations .....	18
d) Enhanced agency and voice for children.....	19
e) Benefits for Save the Children and its credibility as a child rights organization .....	19
f) Benefits for cross-thematic programming.....	20
g) Stronger analytical capacity amongst Save the Children staff, partners and children .....	21
How does this Common Approach drive impact for the Save the Children Thematic Issues? .....	21
A closer look at the evidence and impact of CRR.....	22
Internal Evidence.....	22
External evidence .....	23
Impact and Cost effectiveness of CRR .....	23
6. Guidance on adaptation to different contexts .....	25
a) Humanitarian context.....	27
a) Conflict context.....	27
b) The global Covid-19 pandemic .....	28
8. Indicators of quality.....	29
a) The process is meaningful, equitable and safe for the children involved.....	29

b)	Children most affected by inequality and discrimination are actively engaged.....	29
c)	Sufficient time and resources are allocated.....	29
d)	Child-informed and child led supplementary reports and submissions are independent.....	30
e)	Strong, Inclusive and sustainable civil society coalitions.....	30
f)	Accurate, robust and reliable information is included in reporting and advocacy.....	30
g)	Capacity to support the State; the National Human Rights Commission and UN reporting.....	30
9.	CRR in the Global Results Framework, Indicators and Benchmarks .....	30
a)	Outcomes and Indicators .....	32
b)	Quality benchmarks.....	33
c)	CRR Learning Agenda.....	35
d)	Fidelity of implementation .....	35
10.	Crosscutting aspects in CRR.....	36
a)	Gender Equality.....	36
b)	Resilience to Climate Change and Environmental Degradation .....	37
c)	Disability and inclusion.....	38
11.	Evidence references.....	40
12.	Tools and resources.....	40
	Annex A: UNCRC – UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its 3 optional Protocols.....	44
	Annex B: Factsheets for other international human rights mechanisms.....	45
	Annex C: Child Rights Reporting (CRR) Common Approach - Internal and external review of evidence (2021).51	

## 1. Introduction

Millions of children<sup>1</sup> around the world do not have what they need to survive, learn and thrive because governments and other powerful actors do not prioritize them, do not listen to them and are not held accountable when they fail them. Together with children and partners, Save the Children has used international and regional reporting mechanisms to hold governments to account for their actions and to demand change for children, as the government is the prime duty bearer to respect, protect and fulfil children's rights in all circumstances. The programming approach “Child Rights Reporting” or “CRR,” is a proven methodology for engaging children in reporting cycles and facilitating constructive dialogue between states, civil society, National Human Rights UN agencies and the established monitoring bodies so that we create space and momentum within which real change for children can happen.

CRR is central to any child rights organization and Save the Children has been engaged in this for the past 30 years and is regarded as a global leader. CRR is currently used in the large majority of its country and member offices on a cyclical basis.<sup>2</sup> We have always considered child rights reporting to be a part of our core business, but it is only since 2011 we have collected data on the reports we have submitted. In 2015, for example we supported 100% of the civil society reports to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and 80% of the Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR) to the Human Rights Council. It is worth noting that the UPR is not confidential which acts as a deterrent to some country offices while reports and inputs to the UNCRC can be confidential if requested.<sup>3</sup>

The CRR approach is focusing on facilitating the monitoring and reporting of rights and follow up through advocacy by civil society and children. To achieve results it is key to build capacity of both civil society and state to ensure that states report as required and that we establish close relationships with government authorities to ensure they understand and are dedicated to implement all children's rights. Monitoring and reporting using disaggregated data will enable the identification of gaps and inequalities from a rights perspective and should be promoted both in the state and in civil society reporting in both development and humanitarian context.

### **Child Rights Reporting – a strategic focus to deliver our Breakthroughs in a holistic way**

It is our aspiration to ensure that CRR is implemented in all countries and by members<sup>4</sup> as this Common Approach looks across all child rights holistically and helps us ensure that our child rights situational analysis on which we base all of our programming is informed by state and civil society assessment of the level of legal child rights implementation in a given country. The CRR approach clearly speaks to all of the elements of our Theory of Change (see box below) and contributes to the realization of the Breakthroughs by enabling children – especially those most affected by discrimination and inequality - and civil society to speak out on violations of children's rights to survival, learning, protection and social protection. In turn, States are pressured by human rights mechanisms and by civil society to respond to violations of children's rights to survival, learning and protection from violence.

Therefore we encourage that CRR is a Common Approach that is applied in a long term perspective towards our 2030 ambition and beyond. This means that CRR needs to be situated clearly in the country and member strategic plans to deliver on goals around accountable state institutions and systems strengthening including on public budgets, and localization approaches that aim to empower local communities and children themselves to claim change from the state for more sustainable development work.

---

<sup>1</sup> Children for the purposes of this document includes girls, boys and non-binary individuals between 0-17 years old.

<sup>2</sup> Save the Children's engagement with CRC reporting began when reporting was launched in the early 1990s, with the UPR when it began its first cycle in 2008 and with the ACERWC when reporting began in earnest in 2008. Save the Children has also contributed to reporting under the Optional Protocol of the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and the Optional Protocol of the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts since they came into force. The Optional Protocol 3 entered into force in April 2014, and some cases have been decided in favor of addressing specific child rights violations.

<sup>3</sup> In 2015, Save the Children supported ten CRC child-informed civil society submissions, covering 100 per cent of the countries with SC country office or member presence where supplementary reports were due in that year. SC also supported 12 out of 15 of the written submissions to the UPR due in 2015 (Sudan, Swaziland and Somalia did not submit UPR reports due in 2015 owing to capacity or political instability issues). Eighty four per cent of these supplementary reports and submissions were child-informed meaning that children were actively engaged in their preparation. Ref: Child Rights Governance Global Theme, M&E Annual Report (2015).

<sup>4</sup> [See map of where we are implementing CRR as per 2021](#)



## CRR and the Theory of Change

**Voice:** Children are actively engaged in the reporting and advocacy process, including collection analysis of data on rights violations at national and community level, and we create space for them to advocate and negotiate as agents of change.

**Partnership:** We work closely with a wide range of different partners to hold governments to account, including civil society organisations, children, INGOs, National Human Rights Institutions, the media and governments. CRR frequently results in the formation of strong coalitions of child focused organisations at national and sub-national levels, including gender equality and disability-rights focused organisations. These partnerships ensure ownership is deeply rooted in local communities applying local knowledge and approaches and strongly contributes to the achievement of localization goals. Working with local and diversified partners further enables us to legitimately link the community and national levels to the international level. For example, promoting the active participation of organisations of persons with disabilities and children with disabilities or girls' active participation enhances legitimacy and credibility on issues raised internationally.

**Results at scale:** The CRR Common Approach pushes governments towards strengthened implementation of children's rights at the country level by introducing long-term, institutionalized changes in law, policy, budgets and services. As such, it generates significant impact at scale.

**Innovation:** CRR brings together knowledge and experience from a wide range of partners, including children themselves, to find creative solutions for violations of children's rights and it can be adapted and used in a range of different contexts.

## 2. Description of the CRR Common Approach

### a) Key international and regional human rights accountability mechanisms

The CRR Common Approach specifically focuses on three human rights accountability mechanisms: the UNCRC, the ACERWC and the UPR. However, there are additional international and regional human rights accountability mechanisms, which will be discussed below under b).

#### UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

As with other core international human rights instruments, implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its three Optional Protocols is overseen by a committee: The Committee on the Rights of the Child, as established by article 43 of the treaty. Every government that has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)<sup>5</sup> must report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child regularly every five years. States present their reports to the Committee in Geneva. Each reporting process includes a thorough review of the State report as well as of supplementary reports prepared by civil society, which provide additional information and where necessary critique the government's report. The Committee then makes recommendations to the State in the form of Concluding Observations that must be made public. The State needs to take actions to attend to the recommendations, and civil society is following up with the State to ensure they abide by the recommendations and get implementation going until the next report is due 5 years later. Engaging with the three Optional Protocols to the UNCRC is also a way to report and advocate more in-depth on issues around child sexual exploitation and children in armed conflict where a particular need is identified. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> Optional Protocol, we can support children to complain about child rights violations to the Committee when their rights have been violated or are in danger of being violated<sup>6</sup>.

See also Factsheet for the UNCRC and the 3 Optional Protocols in Annex A.

The UNCRC Committee develops General Comments<sup>7</sup> which serve to clarify on the normative content of specific rights under the UNCRC or on particular themes of relevance to the Convention and offers guidance on practical

---

<sup>5</sup> [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, OHCHR website](#)

<sup>6</sup> [CR Connect has build a database of complaint decisions by the CRC Committee. By 2021 26 decisions were adopted primarily in Europe](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Find all the UNCRC General Comments here](#)

measures of implementation. Save the Children, alongside partners, has influenced several of the General Comments, such as General Comment no. 12 on the right to be heard, in 2009, the General Comment no 19 on Public budgeting for the realization of children’s rights in 2016<sup>8</sup> and the General Comment no 25 on children’s right in relation to the digital environment in 2021. Ideally, we want to reference these General Comments in our reporting and have them inform our work and dialogue with the government.

### **The Simplified Reporting Procedure to the UNCRC**

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has adopted a Simplified Reporting Procedure<sup>9</sup> (SRP) to facilitate the preparation of States’ reports and the interactive dialogue on the implementation of their treaty obligations. The SRP is being piloted on a voluntary basis and has been made available to States parties whose periodic reports were due from 1 September 2019 onwards through quarterly invitations. If a State declines the invitation, it will report to the Committee using the existing procedure. Under the SRP, the Committee sends the State a request for specific information, known as List of Issues Prior to Reporting (LOIPR) containing up to 30 questions. The LOIPR is a public list of limited issues that the Committee adopts based on a document review, including reports prepared by UN entities, NGOs, NHRIs, and other stakeholders. The State’s reply to the LOIPR constitute the State’s report to the Committee. It should be read together with the Common Core Document, which is a document describing the general human rights situation in a country and used by all UN human rights treaty bodies.

This means that, under the LOIPR, States are no longer required to submit both a State Party report and written replies to a list of issues, thus reducing the two reporting steps to one. This new process will also change how Save the Children, children and civil society partners engage. Civil society can submit written information to influence what questions the Committee include in the LOIPR and then consequently they can submit a supplementary report in response to the State’s report responding to the Committee’s list of issues and provide recommendations for the State<sup>10</sup>.

### **African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)**

States that have ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child have an obligation to submit a state report every three years to the Committee of Experts in Addis Ababa (ACERWC) on the progress in implementation of the ACRWC pursuant to Article 43 of the Charter. Pursuant to article 44 civil society can also submit supplementary reports. The African Charter is a regional African mechanism with many similarities to the CRC and reporting to the ACERWC puts a particular emphasis on issues specific to the African context such as early and forced marriage or the use of child soldiers, particularly important if countries have not ratified the CRC Optional Protocol on Children and Armed Conflict and is experiencing conflicts.<sup>11</sup> The reporting procedure to the ACERWC is similar to that of the CRC where the Committee review state and supplementary civil society reports, hold pre-sessions and country reviews and then issue Concluding Observations, which the state will then have to start implementing. Civil society can in addition engage in the CSO Forum<sup>12</sup> which is mandated by the ACERWC to contribute to the effective implementation and proper monitoring of the Charter. The CSO Forum builds networks, consult and engage children and provide training<sup>13</sup>. An added value of the Charter is that it has a built-in communications procedure and the Committee goes on investigative missions to follow up on communications<sup>14</sup>. Similarly to the UNCRC procedures, the Committee develops General Comments to guide implementation of the articles in the Charter. The General Comments are key tools for interpretation of the articles and should be used for reporting and advocacy purposes in CRR. In 2020 Save the Children contributed to the development of General Comment no 22 on Children in Situations of Conflict<sup>15</sup>

---

<sup>8</sup> [Learn more here about UNCRC General Comment no 19](#)

<sup>9</sup> <https://csrcreporting.childrightsconnect.org/the-uncrc-simplified-reporting-procedure-srp/>

<sup>10</sup> [See more guidance here on how to report under this new procedure](#)

<sup>11</sup> For more on the differences and complementarities of the CRC and ACERWC reporting mechanisms see: [Advancing children's rights: A Guide for Civil Society Organisations on how to engage with the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Third edition](#) Save the Children Sweden/ Plan International (2018), section 2.2.

<sup>12</sup> [African Child CSO forum to the ACERWC](#)

<sup>13</sup> [See this SC report based on a webinar training on development of NGO complementary reports for the ACERWC for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ACRWC](#)

<sup>14</sup> [ACERWC mission report from Sudan visit in 2021](#)

<sup>15</sup> [General Comment no 22 of the ACRWC: Children in situations of conflict, 2020](#)

## **UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

The UPR was established in 2006<sup>16</sup> by the UN General Assembly Resolution 60/251 and is a unique human rights accountability mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council whereby the human rights situation in all UN member states is peer reviewed by other governments every 4,5 years with a mid-term review of progress every two and a half years and civil society is invited to send supplementary reports. While, the UPR addresses all human rights obligations for all population groups Save the Children and partners have proved successful in getting child rights questions and recommendations raised by other states to the state under review. The UPR is therefore a strong political tool to raise the profile of children's rights at the national level through pressure from other governments and to ensure that children's rights are prioritized in legislation, policy and budgets. Unlike the UNCRC or ACERWC supplementary reports, UPR submissions by NGOs are always made public. Despite the public nature of submissions, there are opportunities to influence government missions nationally and in Geneva with advocacy briefs and highlight more sensitive issues in a confidential manner bilaterally with specific missions.

The UPR process is highly political and can be used to push children's rights rapidly up political agendas whilst CRC reporting is more specific and gives a more detailed and holistic roadmap of child rights recommendations to governments. Governments can reject recommendations from the UPR process but cannot do so with the CRC and ACERWC recommendations so it can be strategic to focus on the CRC and ACERWC for certain issues and the UPR for others.

### ***b) Additional international and regional human rights accountability mechanisms***

The scope of Child Rights Reporting is centered around the 3 above mechanisms but in addition we can rely on a much broader suite of human Rights mechanisms to engage with and cross-reference, which we encourage CRG staff to explore further and consider into CRR work and across thematic programming. Some of these mechanisms can be important arenas for our child rights work, including the [UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women](#) (CEDAW) and the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW) among other instruments on gender rights aspects. Strengthening a child rights perspective and the voices of girls in norms, policies and standards related to gender equality, including in the implementation and monitoring of existing treaties and policy commitments such as the SDG5, the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) as well as gender equality agenda items of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council could be really important tools for our work. In addition, specific UN resolutions can be used as arguments to improve protection for girls like the [UN resolution 1325](#) on women, peace and security and [Resolution 1820](#) (SCR 1820), on sexual violence as a weapon of war. Both these resolutions are adopted in the conflict situation. Another key instrument to work with is the [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (CRPD) as the major international framework to address the specific rights of persons and children with disabilities. Working more broadly with this Convention will help us ensure that the rights of children with disabilities are adhered to and considered in implementation of overall and specific national child rights action plans and policies. When the issues of children with disabilities have been effectively monitored and documented, they can then be included in reports, when these are due to the UN CRPD Committee.

Additionally a key instrument to consider reporting on, is the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) (CESCR) that assess how states are enforcing and protecting economic, social and cultural rights of citizens, among them children, which can add another layer to intersecting discriminatory factors for children to be able to access all their rights at their fullest potential.

Furthermore, we encourage countries to engage with established regional mechanisms like the [Inter-American Commission on Human Rights](#) with a specific child rights rapporteur and the [Inter-American Court of Human Rights](#), and the [European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms](#) as well as the [European Court of Human Rights](#), and other regional instruments. We have developed annexes that give a brief introduction to some of the above mentioned additional mechanism to strengthen child rights in your programming and advocacy in Annex B.

Finally, we can also build strong arguments for our child rights reporting work using humanitarian law linked to the Geneva Conventions as well as specific mechanism for armed conflict situations like the MRM/CAAC<sup>17</sup> and the

---

<sup>16</sup> [UPR timeline](#)

<sup>17</sup> [Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on Children and Armed Conflict](#)

UN Special Procedures<sup>18</sup> and Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council that have thematic and country mandates, which we can engage with and cross reference in reporting and advocacy.

### **c) Child Rights Reporting and the link to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

In 2015, world leaders from 193 countries came together and set out the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to agree on a blueprint to create a more peaceful, prosperous, just, inclusive and sustainable future for children and future generations. It represents a commitment by all countries to end poverty, reduce inequality and address climate change by 2030. This landmark framework, of which the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (the SDGs) form the backbone, are underpinned by the same principles represented in the UNCRC, ACERWC and the UPR including universality, indivisibility, interconnectedness, non-discrimination and the principle to Leave No One Behind and to reach the furthest behind first. The SDGs and their targets can be directly linked to over 90% of human rights indicators<sup>19</sup>. We will not achieve the SDGs if children's rights are not realized – and the other way around. For example, SDG 1 (No Poverty) will not be achieved without governments investing in improving social services for all, especially for those most impacted by inequality and discrimination. Similarly, progress on SDG 5 on Gender Equality is a prerequisite for the full and equal realization of children's rights.<sup>20</sup> Given its political currency, timebound nature and the global attention it receives, SDG monitoring and accountability processes at the local, regional and global levels are important vehicles to drive the realization of children's rights, to spotlight inequalities as a policy agenda across Save the Children's breakthroughs to ensure that all children have the right to survive, learn and be protected. Engaging in advocacy and influencing on the SDGs represents an opportunity to mainstream child rights into national development planning and budgeting processes. From 2016 to 2021, almost 150 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) – which are national progress reports presented to the UN on the implementation of the SDGs have been delivered with governments. Throughout the Decade of Action and Delivery (2020-2030), Save the Children can play an important role in pushing for children's rights to be at the heart of SDG implementation, in recognition of their role as “agents of change”.

### **d) Data collection and monitoring, applying critical interpretation**

Data collection is key for doing evidence based CRR, but data is not collected for the sake of data collection and the purpose of reporting is not just provision of information and data. The objective is to identify root causes and build evidence on the barriers that prevent children from enjoying their rights in an equitable manner, to inform policy makers for them to take actions to address these barriers, and accordingly hold decision-makers to account. In that sense, the use of sex, and age disaggregated data is a minimum requirement, in order to detect gender gaps in children's access to their rights and for our programming to be gender sensitive towards children across different age groups. Data should as far as possible also be disaggregated by disability, and it is also encouraged to look at other contextual factors like racial discrimination, ethnicity, religion, indigenous and tribal identities, caste, where appropriate and relevant and analysed to understand the intersectional factors of inequalities and discrimination faced by respective groups. For the data analysis, taking the context into consideration, data usage and interpretation are equally important. Are we talking about real progress or real deterioration within a specific time, or is change in data a matter of improved reporting for example? A quantitative number by itself, might give us a false positive or false negative indicator. For example, an increase in the mortality rate could be interpreted as a deterioration in the health situation. But a more in-depth analysis of the data, show that the surveillance and reporting mechanism in this particular context was improved as the cases did not increase, but rather the reporting itself improved. On the other hand, considering that the methodology used was the same as in previous data collection or previous years, a low number could be interpreted falsely as improved health situation, but further digging could show that some institutions hid information, or the system could not capture all cases and hence there was under reporting. So, a thorough analysis of the numbers, enriching the quantitative information with qualitative information, context and trend analysis is key to get the right picture of child rights situation in the country, where, when, why, by whom and against whom violations take place.

---

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.humanrights.dk/learning-hub/sustainable-development-goals-sdgs>

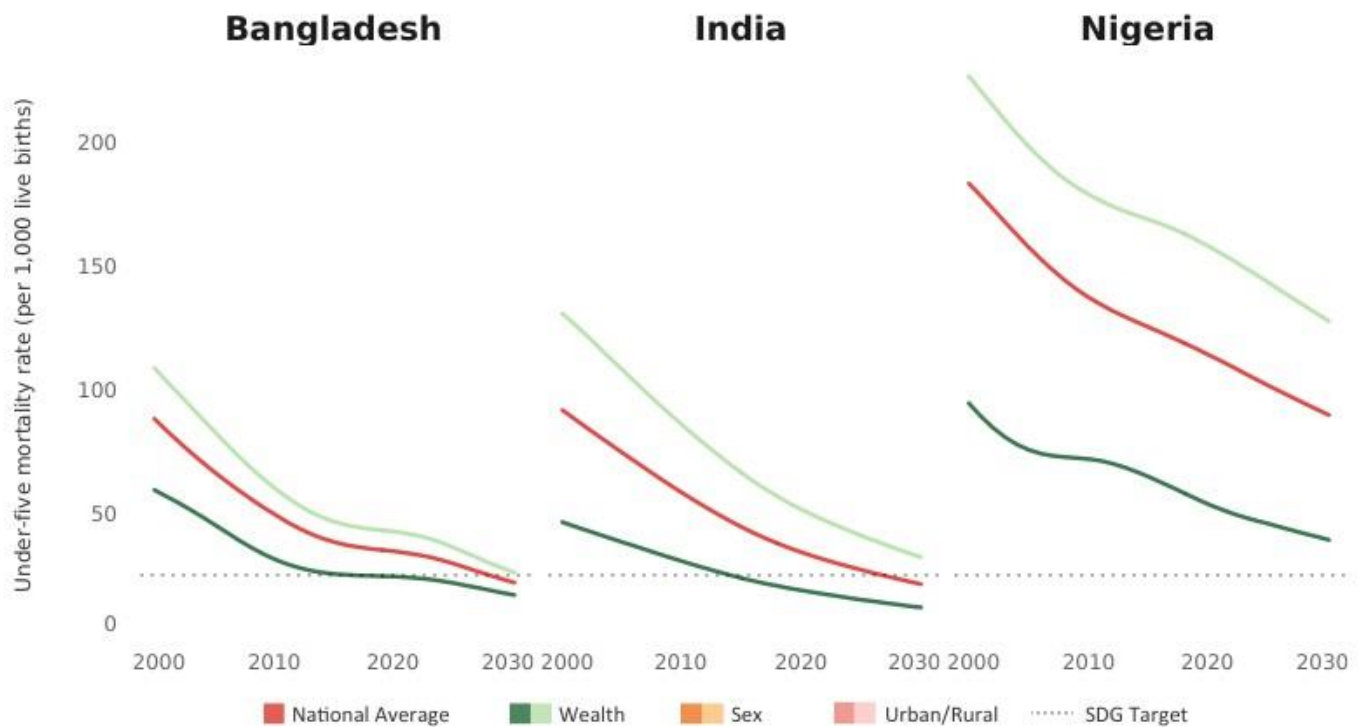
<sup>20</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/sdgs#sdg1>



Taking into consideration the validity of the data collection method, and clarity of the indicator definition is therefore key when we collect data for CRR reports and follow up monitoring systems as well.

Save the Children's data tools such as the Child Inequality Tracker (GRID)<sup>21</sup>, can be used to highlight critical gaps in progress of the fulfillment of children's rights and the SDGs through civil society reports as well as advocacy with governments.

### Save the Children's Child Inequality Tracker



Data from GRID: Despite progress in reducing under-five mortality (Article 6 of the UNCRC and SDG target 3.2) in Bangladesh, India and Nigeria over the past twenty years, large gaps persist between different socioeconomic groups of children in these countries, with the poorest children lagging behind the national average. In Bangladesh, the gaps between various socioeconomic groups of children have been narrowing over time. However, in the case of Nigeria, large inequalities exist and are not projected to close by 2030<sup>22</sup>.

#### e) Engaging with the whole cycle in a long term approach

Engaging with human rights accountability mechanisms is an on-going and continual process and not a one-off, discrete activity. It involves working closely with partner civil society organizations (CSOs), coalitions of different specific areas of expertise and children to:

- 1) prepare and strengthen children and partners/ coalition for the activities involved in the reporting process such as data collection and analysis, review of previous recommendations and legal analysis, and consulting with government stakeholders to ensure state reporting happens on schedule.
- 2) develop a child informed or child led supplementary report based on data collection, consultations and analysis;
- 3) engage in the review process according to the respective procedure, including to prepare for and attend pre-sessions, reflect upon list of issues, submit additional information for the CRC and ACRWC and to advocate for missions and embassies to use our recommendations for the UPR; and
- 4) systematically support children and the partners/coalition to follow up on the implementation of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and regularly monitor children's rights to document levels of implementation by the state.

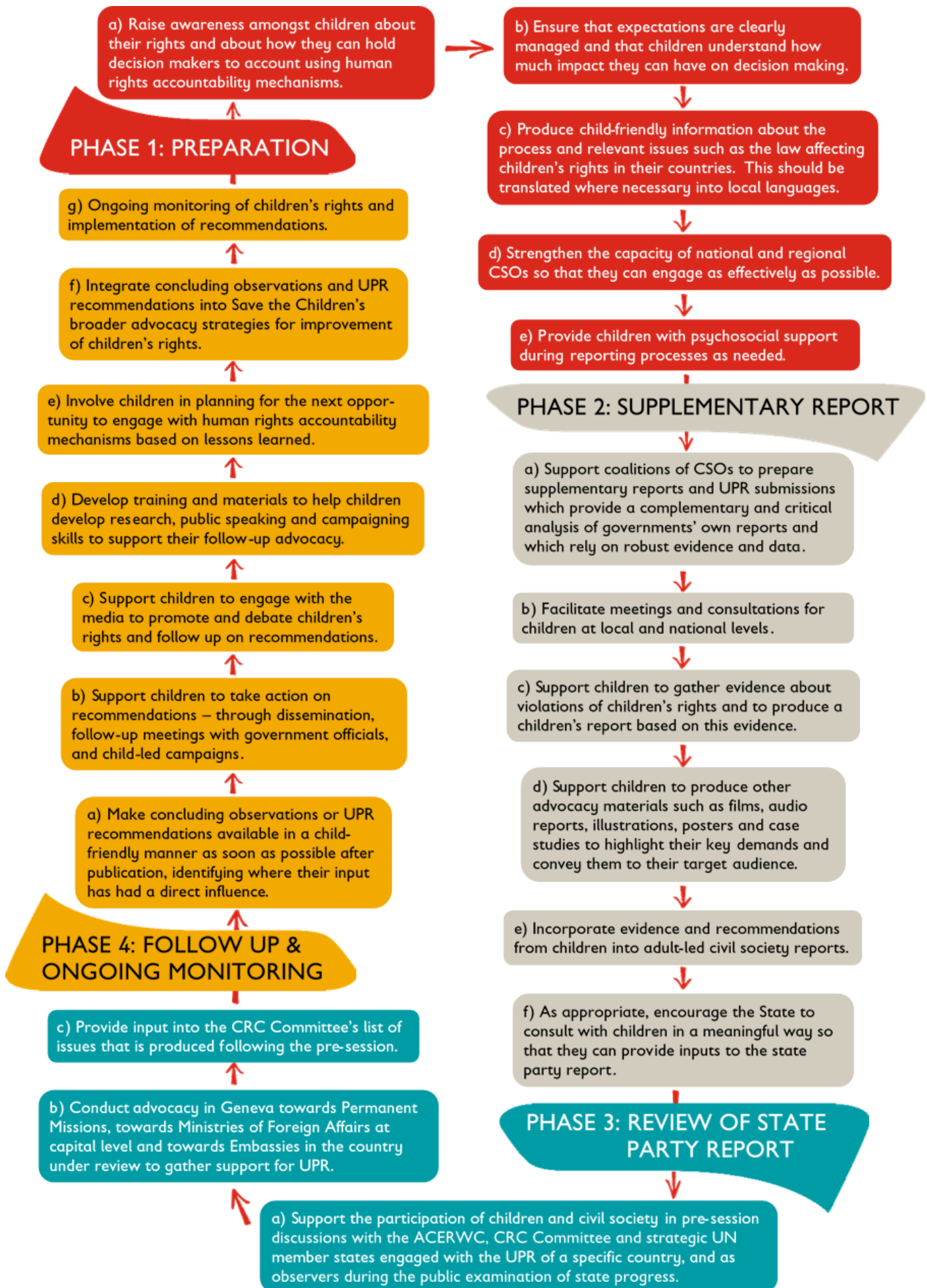
<sup>21</sup> <https://www.savethechildren.net/grid>

<sup>22</sup> Data snapshot as of 2021

It is essential to engage with the whole cycle of the approach and while engaging on the first three steps, 1) preparations, 2) reporting and 3) the review process as well as the fourth step on follow up related to advocacy opportunities to keep a persistent and sustained pressure on governments to meet their obligations. This means that we need to continuously support coalitions and children in developing and implementing strong follow-up action plans to monitor and hold states to account for implementation of the review recommendations. It is important to link this follow-up as much as possible with the policy and planning cycle of government, for example, with the budget making process and annual planning process. It is also helpful to highlight linkages and commonalities between the recommendations from different human rights mechanisms and use all of them collectively to push for change and to lobby and work with media to raise issues of concern in media to put further pressure on the government. Results and recommendations relating to children with disabilities, specifically mentioned in UN CRPD reporting cycles should also be included in advocacy efforts on child rights in general.

#### **f) Main stages of the process**

Save the Children engages with all stages of the reporting cycles as set out in the below diagramme centered around the abovementioned four main phases of CRR and provides examples of timing of steps and activities in each of these phases.



### 3. CRR's core values

#### a) Child Informed and child led engagement:

A core value of this common approach is that reporting and advocacy is child-informed meaning that girls and boys, as well as children with non-binary gender are meaningfully and equitably engaged with the human rights accountability mechanisms in an inclusive and gender<sup>23</sup> sensitive, or transformative, manner. As stated by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in its General Comment No. 12<sup>24</sup> 'The Committee welcomes written reports and additional oral information submitted by child organizations and children's representatives in the monitoring process of child rights implementation by States parties, and encourages States parties and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to support children to present their views to the Committee'. At a minimum, children's involvement must comply with the nine basic requirements for the implementation of the right of the child to be heard that are set out in the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's General Comment No. 12.<sup>25</sup> This states that children's participation must always be: **transparent and informative; voluntary; respectful; relevant; child-friendly; inclusive; supported by training (of adults and children); safe and sensitive to risk; and is accountable to children.** We should always ensure that we adhere to Save the Children's child safeguarding policy/standards when supporting children to engage with child rights reporting.<sup>26</sup>

Preparation is needed for children in terms of knowledge acquisition on rights, challenging the children's own biases, understanding the human rights mechanisms to engage with its methodology and government accountability, and children should be equipped with skills in data collection, analysis and monitoring, advocacy, lobbying, communication, etc. to successfully engage in Child Rights Reporting work. Various groups of children, including children with disabilities or other groups experiencing less fulfilment of their rights should be included active participants in the CRR cycle.

As far as possible, Save the Children and partners should actively involve children throughout the entire process, whilst continuously assessing and responding to risks, safety to participate, and barriers and obstacles to engage meaningfully. There can be different degrees of engagement by children in the process ranging from organizing consultations or interviews with a small number of children to comprehensive child-led processes where children take the lead in planning, researching, structuring and writing a report, engaging in advocacy and following-up with different actors. The level of engagement of children will depend on our ambition to prepare, involve and safeguard children and the resources and time we dedicate to deliver that ambition.

To support child-led engagement, it is useful to explore how to support children to shape their own agenda and not only mirror the NGO agendas and priorities ensuring that the starting point is children's own agenda. Examples of child-led submissions could be that children choose to write a report or case studies, do a video or inform through drawings and photos. These can focus on thematic clusters concerns or priorities as most adult reports do, but children can also choose priorities based on consultations with a broad and diverse range of children, or they can include views of certain groups, including children with disabilities, girls, children with non-binary gender identities or other groups of children. As part of this, children can also be trained and supported to monitor and gather their own evidence and information to inform submissions. Ideally, we want children to be empowered and supported to write their own reports, but adults can also support writing up children's findings without influencing the content in adult language as needed. Children should be supported to ensure inclusion and representation of different groups of children; based upon sex/gender, different types of disabilities, geographic locations, socioeconomic background, children without appropriate care, etc in their submissions. And adults working with the children should be trained on inclusion considerations, child safeguarding principles and the code of conduct.

---

<sup>23</sup> Considering also the particular needs of children with other gender identities.

<sup>24</sup> [General Comment no 12, paragraph 131](#)

<sup>25</sup> [UN Committee on the Rights of the Child \(CRC\), General comment No. 12 \(2009\): The right of the child to be heard, 20 July 2009, CRC/C/GC/12 Para 134.](#) Further guidance on implementation of these nine basic requirements can be found in [Every Child's Right to be Heard, A Resource Guide on the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment No 12, Save the Children UK \(2011\)](#)

<sup>26</sup> [The Nine Basic Requirements for meaningful and ethical children's participation](#)



There are many examples of Save the Children supporting child-led reporting work, such as in [Nepal](#), [Mozambique](#), [South Sudan](#), [Somalia](#), [Albania](#), [Guatemala](#), [Bangladesh](#), [Lebanon](#), [Malawi](#), [Niger](#), [Philippines](#), [Sweden](#), [New Zealand](#) and [Palestine \(oPt\)](#). Whether informed or child-led, the optimal degree of children’s involvement in the process should be assessed and selected in collaboration with children.

SC Philippines has done long term investments in child led structures through the Child Talk to Children or C2C. [Watch this video to learn more about C2C](#)

In 2021, the Save the Children Geneva Advocacy Office did a research piece<sup>27</sup> to assess the levels of child participation in 7 UN bodies and mechanisms and consulted more than 200 children across 9 countries and found that promising practices have emerged in UN spaces in shaping global discussions on children’s rights, yet most UN processes involve children on an ad-hoc basis, relying on the commitment of civil society, or individual UN or state representatives. The UNCRC is one of the more open and accessible mechanisms to children and have adopted procedures and frameworks that institutionalise child participation. The UPR has also enabled the creation of informal spaces of dialogue between states and civil society with an intent to open up for child participation in pre-sessions for instance. Save the Children has a large role to play to support children as part of civil society to collect data and report to these mechanisms, and also to facilitate dialogue through pre-sessions, reviews and follow up meetings with states and governments.

### **b) Children most impacted by discrimination and inequalities and reduced access and enjoyment of their rights and children most at risk of rights violations.**

This approach seeks to hold governments accountable for implementation of all children’s rights for all children in its jurisdiction but another core value of CRR is that it focuses attention on those who are the most impacted by discrimination and inequalities:

- The reporting process involves the collection and analysis of data to determine the immediate, underlying and structural causes for why children have differing levels of access to their rights. In addition, reporting is addressing human and child rights principles and the CRC highlights key issues like non-discrimination, the best interests of the child, gender equality using explicit language for males and females and disability inclusion and special protective measures as part of the official reporting guidelines. This inevitably highlights core issues affecting children who are most at risk in a country.
- This information is raised in supplementary reports and placed before governments and human rights accountability mechanisms. This combined with advocacy can result in positive governmental action to close gaps on inequalities of enjoyment of rights.
- The most at-risk children with the least access to their rights within a country or community should be directly involved in reporting and advocacy so that their views and specific requirements are well represented in the process in an equitable and meaningful way. Ensuring that a broad diversity of children, and their equally diverse demands, are engaged and represented is fundamental. This may require adopting affirmative actions, such as quotas, or adapting outreach, schedules, venues and meeting techniques to respond to the different requirements or barriers experienced by different groups of children, such as girls, children with disabilities, children from ethnic minorities, LGBTQI children or other groups of children that are at structural disadvantage in a particular context.

[SC Sudan supported a deaf girl to engage in the UPR to report on and advocate for child protection issues for children with disabilities. See her video using sign language.](#)

## **4. Key activities**

The key programme activities are outlined with more detail in the quality benchmarks at a later stage to help us define what inputs are needed to ensure a successful engagement and outcomes of CRR.

---

<sup>27</sup> [Together we Decide – Strengthening child participation in UN processes](#)

### **a) Conduct a risk assessment**

Save the Children is in a unique position to advocate for children's rights due to our global standing and reputation, our collaboration with governments, embassies and donors and our strong relationship in many countries with child-led and child-focused organizations and networks. At the same time, engaging with human rights accountability mechanisms can create political risks for Save the Children and its partners including risks of personal reprisals. There are also risks of not engaging in reporting processes in terms of the organization's reputation as a global advocate for children's rights. Additionally, as with any work where children are directly engaged or where confidential data is gathered and held, there are risks around child safeguarding that need to be taken in to account. In countries where civic space is shrinking and human rights defenders are at risk, we have the option to submit confidential reports to the CRC and ACERWC to reduce risks while still engaging with the mechanisms. However, all of these risks will need to be assessed and managed when working on reporting and advocacy processes (please see section on adaptation below for more information). Risks may be compounded for certain groups of children, due to structural inequalities based on sex/gender, race, ethnicity, disability and other factors.

### **b) Map partners and build capacities**

In some contexts, Save the Children will be the only International NGO in a country supporting these processes or be the lead organisation that coalitions turn to and without our support, supplementary reports may not be developed at all (this may also be the case where Save the Children Member's are part of national civil society). In most contexts, Save the Children will aim to establish or support existing national coalitions or networks, including children's groups, to take the lead for Child Rights Reporting since they are better positioned to have ownership of that role. What is essential is that Save the Children supports and positively influences these processes in order to achieve real change for children. A key activity to achieve this is to map out potential partners, networks and stakeholders, both national and international, as well as mainstream and issues focused partners, and to consider their capacity and the role that Save the Children is best placed to play. It is often important to collaborate with UNICEF throughout the reporting cycle and National Human Rights Institutions are useful allies as well. With regards to the UPR, it is also important to engage with national human rights CSOs to ensure that children's rights are mainstreamed within broader human rights discussions, including on fundamental rights issues such as gender equality, disability inclusion and non-discrimination. It is also important to build the capacities of the different stakeholders to ensure localization, sustainability and institutionalization of the process.

### **c) Plan timetable for reporting**

The three key human rights mechanisms operate under very different timetables. The UPR takes place every 4,5 years and States cannot delay the review by neglecting to submit their report, meaning that work can be planned in advance with some certainty.<sup>28</sup> Reporting should take place every three years to the ACERWC and every five years to the CRC Committee. In practice, there are often delays in submission of the state party report to the treaty bodies, and this delays civil society reporting as supplementary report should not be submitted before the submission of the state party report. As a result, we see a backlog in consideration of reports. This means that planning is needed to ensure that data for reports is not collected too early and becomes out-of-date too quickly and it is important to have a close dialogue with the government to know when they are submitting their report. Planning can also help to avoid duplication of effort for different accountability mechanisms and ensure that sufficient time is given for what can be a lengthy and rigorous process and at the same time we recommend planning for using and cross referencing data and outcomes when reporting to the different mechanisms. Ideally this planning should be done in close coordination with partners and coalitions; in **Nicaragua**, for example, Save the Children has worked with a coalition of child-focused organizations called CODENI and together they include reporting processes into their five year strategic plans.

### **d) Build cohesive coalitions of child-focused organizations**

In 2016, Save the Children conducted an evaluation of its support to the CRC, ACRWC and UPR reporting processes between 2010 and 2015. In total, 44 Country and Member offices contributed to this evaluation. One of

---

<sup>28</sup> For a calendar for the fourth cycle of UPR reviews from 2022 to 2027 please see [https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/general-document/pdf/upr\\_4th\\_cycle.pdf](https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/general-document/pdf/upr_4th_cycle.pdf). In 2020, during the Covid pandemic, some UPR sessions were postponed because of the unprecedented scenarios of travel bans and overall crisis globally.

the key findings was that working in coalition with partners was overwhelmingly the ‘most productive and fruitful way of carrying out this work, reaping the benefits of a strong unifying voice, a shared workload, strengthened networks and improved working relationships.’<sup>29</sup> The reporting process can be a catalyst for building coalitions by bringing together organizations with a focused mandate to monitor children’s rights and to report to human rights accountability mechanisms. The process itself also builds the capacity of individual national organizations and coalitions on how to research and advocate for children’s rights and CRR is a strong vehicle for localisation. The strength of coalitions can, in turn, increase the credibility, legitimacy and quality of child rights reporting and maximize the complementary strengths and expertise of international, national, and local civil society. For example, in 2014, Save the Children in **Nepal** supported a coalition of seven different networks, representing 750 civil society organizations as well as children’s clubs representing 400,000 children, to prepare and submit reports to the CRC Committee. The coalition included organizations working on a wide range of issues including child participation, education, street children, and conflict and peace.

Save the Children has historically played an important role in developing and strengthening child-focused CSO coalitions through:

- fostering good co-ordination and leadership and managing expectations;
- training on how to engage with human rights mechanisms including on child participation and child safeguarding;
- training on gender equality sensitivity in the reporting process
- awareness raising and sensitization on disability rights and inclusion to overcome barriers
- technical support in drafting reports;
- convening and facilitating consultations;
- translating and disseminating relevant documents;
- supporting collection and analysis of data;
- financial support, including for additional costs of inclusion of children, persons with disabilities, indigenous groups or other minorities.

**TIP:** It is very helpful to set out a clear understanding of respective roles and responsibilities between Save the Children and partners in a Memorandum of Understanding.

## e) Advocacy

**TIP:** Advocacy priorities raised during the reporting cycle should be closely integrated with Save the Children’s advocacy priorities in-country.

Advocacy is a central activity for influencing these processes and ensuring that civil society’s priority messages are reflected in the concluding observations and recommendations of the CRC Committee, ACERWC and UPR and are subsequently implemented by governments. There should be **consistent messaging and cross-referencing** when working with different human rights accountability mechanisms as this can help to build synergies between all three processes.<sup>30</sup> In **Kenya**, for example, three years of sustained advocacy using both the UPR and ACERWC was instrumental in compelling the government to develop a National Plan of Action for Children.<sup>31</sup>

When advocating for implementation of recommendations, it is important to reach out to stakeholders who might not have been involved in the reporting process itself such as parliamentarians, religious leaders, human rights organizations and organizations that provide services for children and whom are also engaged at the policy level. The media is an important ally in promoting advocacy priorities and Save the Children can train partners on how to approach them, produce suitable documentation to share, and encourage the media to disseminate the conclusions and recommendations from human rights accountability mechanisms.

Opportunities such as national elections, the development of new constitutions or children’s acts and the budget process should be leveraged to mobilize action on recommendations. In **Armenia**, for example, UPR

<sup>29</sup> [Save the Children \(2016\) Internal evaluation of Save the Children’s child rights monitoring and advocacy using international and regional child rights and human rights monitoring mechanisms, notably the UPR, CRC Committee and ACERWC, to hold governments to account on their commitments to children \(forthcoming\) Volume 1 p12](#)

<sup>30</sup> See the illustrative case study on Bangladesh in the Common Approach on page 16 for a good example of using UPR and CRC reporting processes to push for the same issues.

<sup>31</sup> Save the Children Kenya Country Annual Review 2015

recommendations were used as part of a successful advocacy campaign to include children's rights within a new constitution in 2015.<sup>32</sup> Another important advocacy activity is to invite a member of the CRC Committee or ACERWC to a specific country to discuss recommendations made with different national actors, including the government. In Swaziland, Save the Children invited a member of the CRC Committee to visit and this proved crucial in moving children's rights further up the political agenda in the country.<sup>33</sup> In Senegal, members of the ACERWC visited in 2015 to monitor implementation of its recommendations which also proved to be a catalyst for government action.

#### **f) Strengthen capacity within Save the Children**

Save the Children has the benefit of extensive experience of engagement with human rights accountability mechanisms over the past 30 years that it can share with children, partners, government officials and new members of staff. To ensure that this knowledge and learning is institutionalized within the organization, **at least one staff member within country and member offices should have the capacity to support other colleagues and civil society partners to engage with these mechanisms.**

At a global level the CRG Global Team, in collaboration with the Advocacy Offices in Geneva and Addis Ababa, the Monitoring and Demanding Child Rights Technical Working Group<sup>34</sup> and relevant members, can support staff with CRR through the Common Approach Learning Programme Bronze and Silver courses, webinars, development of tools and sharing of experiences and lessons learnt. The online Child Rights Programming<sup>35</sup> training is also an important tool for staff across the organization to strengthen their understanding of these human rights mechanisms and to apply child rights based programming. The Gender Equality<sup>36</sup> and the Disability Inclusion<sup>37</sup> Technical Working Groups have other key resources for tools and training. CRG teams in country and regional offices and Thematic Advisors, with support from the Advocacy Office in Addis Ababa for ACERWC reporting and with the Advocacy Office in Geneva for the UPR, provide country and member offices with technical support to develop child-informed and child led supplementary reports and to engage in related advocacy.

Child Rights Connect is a key partner and plays an important role in supporting national engagement with the CRC Committee – through direct support to national coalitions and thereby also to our country and member offices to develop supplementary reports, engage in pre-sessions and observe state party examinations in Geneva. We also encourage staff to engage with UPR Info as another important partner for the UPR process as they manage pre-session support and trainings in selected countries. Save the Children has supported staff within the Movement to engage in SDG advocacy and reporting at the national, regional and global levels and to link their work on child rights reporting with SDG accountability, including supporting child participation in these processes.

**TIP:** Documenting the process can help to share learning. The Save the Children Albania country office, for example, created a [short film](#) in 2014 explaining the work they did with children for the UPR process that has been shown to many internal and external audiences.

## **CASE**

---

<sup>32</sup> [2016 evaluation Vol 1 p7](#)

<sup>33</sup> For more information see [A case study on advocacy by Save the Children based on Concluding Observations from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, CRGI \(2011\)](#)

<sup>34</sup> [Save the Children Child Rights Reporting Onenet page](#)

<sup>35</sup> [Save the Children Child Rights Programming Onenet page](#)

<sup>36</sup> [Save the Children Gender Equality Onenet page](#)

<sup>37</sup> [Save the Children Disability and Inclusion Onenet page](#)



## **BANGLADESH CASE STUDY: OUTCOMES OF CIVIL SOCIETY COALITIONS BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING**

Under the leadership of Save the Children, the Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh (CRAC, B) was formed consisting of six INGOs, three child rights networks and a national human rights organization in 2013 and the number of civil society networks engaged has been growing since then. The Coalition works very closely to create a vibrant civil society force to influence the government to deliver their commitment towards children. The Coalition crafted an MoU for its members setting out roles and responsibilities and has an organized structure for their work. Following the CRC and UPR reviews, the coalition has carried out a series of joint advocacy initiatives to hold State actors to account for the implementation of commitments made at the international level. The coalition produce and publish an annual state of children report to follow up on the progress of the implementation that government made and share the findings with the responsible ministries. From 2017 these reports focused on a specific national area, Child Marriage in 2017, Violence against Children in 2018 and Education in 2019, and Special Measures of Protection in COVID 19 in 2020. In addition, CRC and UPR recommendations were translated into Bangla and shared with children, the media and civil society to raise awareness. Follow-up meetings with the government take place regularly, and the coalition is engaged in key moments for advocacy such as the celebrations for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CRC in 2014 and for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CRC in 2019.

The Coalition also developed a child rights monitoring and reporting framework to collect data and information from its network organizations at the local level to monitor the child rights situation based on the concluding observations of CRC and recommendations of the UPR. It then developed a national level data collection matrix to collect information on the policy, acts, budget and administrative actions that the government had taken based on the concluding observations and recommendations. Based on the findings, the coalition identifies the most under-addressed recommendations to follow up with the government and to feed into the next reporting cycle.

The coalition has become one of the most vibrant coalitions in Bangladesh and is a respected partner to the various Ministries responsible for implementing the CRC and UPR recommendations for children.

### **KEY OUTCOMES**

- The 5<sup>th</sup> CRC Alternative report was submitted jointly in 2014 and more than 75% of the coalition's recommendations to the CRC Committee were reflected in the CRC's Concluding Observations in 2015
- A Stakeholder's submission of UPR on Child Rights was submitted in 2017
- Since 2015 the coalition is doing the annual state of children report "Children in Bangladesh Progress towards Commitments"
- As a result of persistent advocacy by the coalition, a national child budget was introduced by the government in 2015 and the Government agreed to establish a separate child directorate in Bangladesh.
- As a result of the UPR, the coalition has been brought in contact with the wider human rights landscape in Bangladesh, including with several of the diplomatic missions and donors in Dhaka
- In 2017 the coalition mobilized for the repeal of Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 and as a result government formed the rules of the act within a short time.
- The coalition took part in the UPR pre-session in 2018 in Geneva and made a presentation on child rights
- The Child Rights Monitoring and Reporting Framework developed in 2014 was revised in 2016 and 2018 based on the last concluding observations of UNCRC and UPR.
- In 2019 the coalition did a 1<sup>st</sup> year assessment of the government implementation of the UPR recommendations and in 2020 they were working on the Mid-Term Assessment preparation.

## **5. Evidence of effectiveness of the Common Approach**

The overall outcome for CRR programming and advocacy is improved government accountability for realizing children's rights, meaning efficient policy change for the benefit of children. An underlying key outcome is the development of strong civil society coalitions including child led organisations that have knowledge, capacity and space to influence the government accountability. We have reliable evidence of effectiveness of this approach from the 2016 evaluation of Save the Children programmes to the reporting process for UPR, ACERWC and UNCRC as well as many cases of successful child rights reporting programming.

### a) Influencing recommendations issued by human rights accountability mechanisms

CRC and ACERWC Concluding Observations and UPR recommendations can be used as powerful advocacy instruments to influence governments and to hold them to account on their commitments to children across many different areas. They can also be used to promote Save the Children's Breakthroughs, the SDG accountability process and Global Advocacy and Campaign objectives. There is good evidence that Save the Children has had a direct influence on the content of these recommendations. Respondents to the 2016 evaluation stated that between 75 and 100% of their specific recommendations were included in outcome documents from all three accountability mechanisms.<sup>38</sup> In 2015, Save the Children's Geneva office analyzed written submissions to the UPR process that had been supported by Save the Children through programming and advocacy at both national and global levels for ten priority countries. It found that 89% of the issues raised as a priority by Save the Children were reflected in UPR recommendations.

**TIP:** Direct advocacy by children with human rights bodies and States can have a powerful impact on outcome documents.

### b) Influencing Government action on children's rights

The 2016 evaluation found clear evidence that engaging with human rights accountability mechanisms can result in strengthened implementation of children's rights at the country level. In **Peru**, corporal punishment was made illegal and the Third Optional Protocol to the CRC was ratified immediately before the State was due to be reviewed by the CRC in January 2016 – both issues had been raised as key concerns in reports and advocated for by Save the Children.<sup>39</sup> In 2014, the **Palestinian** Government accessed the CRC and not less than 30 other treaties, protocols and conventions. Since 2012, it has embarked on amending the Palestinian Child Law, developing child rights-based indicators and policies in education, health, participation, disability and other areas, in addition to producing periodic child rights reality reports, to ensure greater protection measures for children. These measures as well as the establishment of a National Child Council can be directly attributed to recommendations in the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) Implementation report in the oPt (2010)<sup>40</sup>, and the different efforts by CSOs/child rights organizations and independent structures.

An analysis of Save the Children's involvement in the UPR process also provides evidence of a clear impact on law and policy. In **Spain**, advocacy around the UPR contributed to the establishment of a new child rights impact assessment mechanism for all proposed legislative reforms.<sup>41</sup> In **Yemen**, after the UPR process of 2014, there was no official government with whom to carry out follow up activities yet advocacy with the *de facto* government resulted in an oral commitment not to involve children in armed activities.<sup>42</sup> The reporting process can also influence the capacity of governments to monitor children's rights and to engage with children themselves. In **Palestine** (oPt) for example they have supported the government successfully to develop national child rights indicators and supported government agencies to collect disaggregated data and prepare annual reports on child rights.

### c) A catalyst for strengthening national and regional coalitions of child-focused organizations

Another key finding of the 2016 evaluation was that CRR can lead to the development of strong, diverse and unified coalitions of child-focused organizations, some quite large: reporting coalitions consisted of 90 organizations in Italy and 50 organizations in **Kenya**. These coalitions have the capacity to collect evidence, monitor progress and influence policy and practice for children across different streams of work. In **Nepal** and **oPt**, for example, the creation of new and sustainable networks was a really important outcome of engaging with the CRC reporting process and both coalitions have continued to press for implementation of children's rights after completion of the reporting process. SC has supported the setup on several coalitions for CRR and continues to work to main strong and on-going coalitions that engages throughout the entire CRR CA cycle.

---

<sup>38</sup> 2016 evaluation, Vol. 1 p8

<sup>39</sup> 2016 evaluation, Vol. 1 p8

<sup>40</sup> 2016 evaluation, Vol. 2 p31

<sup>41</sup> Save the Children (2014) Universal Periodic Review: Successful examples of child rights advocacy, p8

<sup>42</sup> 2016 evaluation, Vol. 2 p20

#### d) Enhanced agency and voice for children

Engaging with human rights accountability processes can help strengthen children's civic engagement.

The 2016 evaluation<sup>43</sup> found that an important impact of CRR was an **increased acceptance by governments of the right of children to participate in governance**. By putting their civil rights and freedoms into practice, children themselves of various backgrounds, gender and disabilities learn valuable skills such as public speaking, organization building and representation of children, accessing public information, conducting research, advocacy, lobbying, accountability and democratic values. They gain confidence in their ability to influence power structures and overall there is an increased awareness of children's rights within society. This can be particularly important for children who are deprived and historically have lacked opportunities to participate. During the UPR process in **Pakistan** for example, a girl representative from a minority group who took part in the children's consultation was able to raise her concerns and those of her community in bilateral meetings with embassies in Pakistan.<sup>44</sup> In **Senegal** children acquired the necessary skills to advocate for their rights and developed a working methodology adapted to their age and consequently they elaborated and submitted their own report to the ACERWC in 2018<sup>45</sup>. In **Palestine** (oPt) children also participated actively in the state reports and in reviewing the strategic plans of ministries of education and social development. Children of the child –led monitoring groups which have been in place since 2013 are advisory to some of the main ministries, Commission of detainees and ex-detainees, and the Attorney General Office and all Governorates. They participate in planning for the CRC reporting, and the Council of Children hold regular accountability sessions with duty bearers; ministries, local councils and municipalities since 2014. The groups are gender balanced, inclusive to children with different disabilities and age groups, and represent children from different socioeconomic backgrounds, situations and locations. As an example, from a regional human rights mechanism a 16-year-old girl and daughter of migrant parents participated as a child rights' network representative in a 2020 event organized by Save the Children to dialogue with the Inter American Commission on Human Rights Rapporteurship on the Rights of the Child, expressing dire concerns about migration in the context of Covid-19 in **México**.

#### e) Benefits for Save the Children and its credibility as a child rights organization

##### **Improved relationships between Save the Children and other stakeholders**

Several respondents to the 2016 evaluation, for example **Armenia** and **Zimbabwe**, reported that engaging in reporting processes had improved their relationship with their governments who saw them as credible and trustworthy partners across a range of different issues. This stronger relationship in turn has strengthened advocacy efforts across many other areas relating to children's rights.

In **Palestine** (oPt), in 2016, Save the Children was the only INGO that was allowed to support CRC and CRPD state reporting. This was based on the previous experience back in 2010, when SC with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics issued a CRC implementation report in oPt, in cooperation with governmental institutions, CSOs and academics. Save the Children, UNICEF, OHCHR worked in close cooperation and collaboration together with Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Social Development, to enhance the national technical capacities in State CRC and CRPD reporting<sup>46</sup> during 2016-2018 and in 2020. This experience further strengthened the existing relationship of Save the Children with these organizations, and the image of SC as a rights-based organization in the country. The CRC report was submitted in September 2018, and the CRPD report in June 2019.

In **Pakistan**, the support that Save the Children gave and continues to offer the Child Rights Movement, a large child rights coalition, and to specific partners over a number of years through CRR work has boosted the acknowledgement of our partners and as a result they are now seen as child rights experts by the Government ministries responsible for child issues, and they are invited to government consultation meetings as key experts to inform policy and national plans for children<sup>47</sup>.

---

<sup>43</sup> 2016 evaluation, Vol 1 p10

<sup>44</sup> Save the Children (2014). *Universal Periodic Review: Successful examples of child rights advocacy*, p12

<sup>45</sup> *Child Rights Reporting Cases Studies from around the world, 2018*

<sup>46</sup> read the initial Palestine CRPD state report here with references to Save the Children collaboration

<sup>47</sup> *Pakistan Cost Impact Case study, 2017-2020 assessment of CRG programme*

## ALBANIA CASE STUDY: CHILD-LED REPORTING AND ADVOCACY

*'I consider this report one of the most important acts in my life so it would be a pleasure to be part of the UPR process once again. I have encouraged and I will continue to encourage other children to do it because in this way the future generations would have a brighter childhood and they would consider themselves 'leaders of the children.'*

Child participant, Albania

### WHAT THE CHILDREN OF ALBANIA, SUPPORTED BY SAVE THE CHILDREN AND WORLD VISION DID

Save the Children and World Vision supported the children of the organisation "Zeri 16+" (Voice 16+) to engage with the UPR in 2014 and in 2018. The CRG team, PDQ team and communications officer were all involved. Below are some highlights and outcomes from the first process.

- Children and peer educators participated in trainings to understand the purpose of the UPR, the stages of the process, the value of their contribution and how to structure their submission.
- 24 children from six regions interviewed a total of 100 children from a broad range of backgrounds and they then spent four months drafting a [UPR report](#) based on their findings of how the CRC had been implemented in their locations. The main concerns raised were about the lack of quality education, exposure to violence, lack of access to health services, use of narcotic substances, discrimination, and lack of meaningful child participation in decision-making.
- Further training on both the CRC and UPR was provided by visiting Geneva staff, and the children elected three representatives from their group to participate in pre-sessional advocacy in Geneva.
- The representatives presented the children's concerns and recommendations to diplomatic missions in Geneva.
- Children were supported in follow-up advocacy with the media and government.

### KEY OUTCOMES

- 100% of the recommendations relating to children that were made in the 2014 UPR report were accepted by the Government of Albania. All of these related to thematic priorities of Save the Children, and 70% of these focused on thematic priorities identified by children themselves through their engagement with the UPR process.
- The first ever UPR recommendation for child participation was made during the review of Albania.
- The government has since taken action on strengthening and promoting child protection mechanisms - situations where children experience violence are now being identified and referred to the responsible structures, and measures are being taken to stop violence, especially in schools and within families.
- Measures have been taken to ensure that teachers are adequately qualified, that bribery of teachers by parents seeking better grades for their children is eliminated, and that children are protected from exposure to drugs in school.

Learn more about Save the Children Albania's UPR work with the Child Led group in the third UPR cycle in 2018/2019 and the Impact of the work

- [UPR supplementary report by the Child led group, 2018](#)
- [UPR Pre-session statement](#)
- [UPR Pre-session presentation, 2019](#)
- [UPR video with Erka and Leo speaking about their UPR engagement](#)
- [UPR Albania Cost Impact case Study, covering 2016-2020](#)

### f) Benefits for cross-thematic programming

Although engagement with human rights accountability mechanisms is often led by CRG staff at both national and regional levels, it is almost always conducted in close collaboration with colleagues from other thematic areas who contribute vitally needed networks, data and information to inform reporting and advocacy. As such it represents an excellent opportunity to strengthen cross-thematic programming and advocacy. It can be a catalyst to develop the staff team by providing opportunities for learning, sharing experience, questioning existing ways of working, and deepening understanding of other thematic areas.

**TIP:** Integrate the monitoring and research done during the reporting process, incl on gender discrimination with research to update the Country Office's child rights situational analysis and related country strategic planning processes.



## g) Stronger analytical capacity amongst Save the Children staff, partners and children

The process of reporting and monitoring children's rights almost always involves creating new data and information about children's rights as well as consolidating and analyzing existing data. This helps us to better understand not only which child rights are being violated, but also who the children most impacted by inequality and discrimination are, and what specific support these girls and boys, as well as children with non-binary gender<sup>48</sup>, and coalitions need to claim child rights and tackle the implementation gaps identified in the data analysis. It is also an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the diversity of issues faced by children with disabilities intersecting for example with gender norms or inequalities resulting from location and socio-economic background. This can be a vital contribution to country office knowledge management and can inform ongoing and future programming across different thematic areas. It can bring staff up to date on current thinking and research on different aspects of child rights. It is an opportunity to strengthen analytical capacity in key areas such as child rights oriented disaggregated data gathering and analysis, gender equality, inclusion, resilience and child participation – these skills can be usefully deployed in programming in different contexts and settings. CRR will also inform our own SC child rights situation analysis (CRSA<sup>49</sup>), while the CRSAs can also help inform the CRR.

### How does this Common Approach drive impact for the Save the Children Thematic Issues?

**CRR impacts child rights from a multi thematic perspective – below are some examples:**

**Yemen:** [UNCRC](#) and [UPR](#) report recommendations and 15 years of advocacy culminated in the issuance and adoption of regulations for alternative disciplinary measures instead of juvenile detention of children in conflict with the law in 2020 (Sida 2020 reporting). Prior to that, in 2017 during the UPR data collection, participants from government, INGOs and local partners formed a rapid response to pending cases of children in prisons waiting for capital punishment and successfully advocated to save 8 children from capital sentences ([Child Rights Reporting case studies](#), 2018).

**Philippines:** The bill to Increase the Age to Determine Statutory Rape (IASR) from 12 to 16 years old was passed on third and final reading in the House of Representatives (HoR) in November 2020 after the Child rights network and partners intensively lobbied and informed legislators from a child rights perspective (source Sida 2020 reporting).

**Bangladesh:** Based on [UNCRC reporting](#) and advocacy for increased budget allocations to children, children were consulted and achieved that the government increased its [Child Budget allocations](#) for social safety nets for disabled children by 3,3 % and overall size of the child budget increased by 17,4 % from 2018 – 2019 (Bangladesh 100 year report on CRG).

**Nicaragua:** During the UPR of 2014, recommendations made by the [CODENI child rights coalition report](#), supported by Save the Children, were accepted by the Government of Nicaragua, including those relating to the Family Code and the age of marriage. Following extensive advocacy, in April 2015, the Family Code entered into force, which **increased the minimum age for marriage for both boys and girls to 18.** ([Child Rights Reporting case studies](#), 2018)

**Zambia:** [The children's coalition UPR report recommendations](#) on the health budget helped to reinforce national-level advocacy efforts carried out by Save the Children and its partners, leading to an **increase in the national budget for the health sector** from 9.3% in 2012 to 11.3% in 2013.

**Senegal:** Joined up messaging and continuous engagement with the ACERWC, [UPR](#) and CRC since 2010 has enabled the child rights coalition CONAFE, supported by Save the Children, to successfully advocate for and with children for improved services. Outcomes include **adoption of a National Child Protection Policy** in December 2013 and **free and universal health coverage for children under five** was declared by the President in October 2013. **Children are consulted** by local municipal authorities in their budget planning and access to basic services, such as quality and safe education, protection, and health are now prioritized in these processes. ([SC country annual reporting 2014](#))

**Pakistan:** Save the Children worked with a large coalition of partners called the Child Rights Movement to bring out children's voices and the longstanding experiences of CRM members into the [UPR](#) process. This acted as a catalyst and contributed to speeding up national policy and legislative initiatives that have been pending for years, for example, one month after the UPR session, [the ICT Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2012](#) was passed by the National Assembly, guaranteeing free education to all children aged five to sixteen years.

<sup>48</sup> Considering also the particular needs of children with other gender identities

<sup>49</sup> [Save the Children Child Rights Situational Analysis \(CRSA\) Onenet page](#)

## A closer look at the evidence and impact of CRR

When assessing the evidence base for CRR we know that the outcomes of this work can be difficult to quantify since they concern large-scale shifts in law, policy and budgetary allocations as well as less tangible outcomes relating to the empowerment that comes from influencing governance by children and civil society. There are challenges with measuring the extent to which outcomes can be attributed to Save the Children's work rather than that of other actors engaged in reporting, and advocacy, and evidence from the UN also shows that UN agencies like Unicef play an important role in the impact alongside other partners, INGOs and National Human Rights Institutions. The Common Approach seeks to strengthen the capacities of children and civil society as child right defenders, which has proven to be a smart investment because it has a positive return on advocating for legal change that will impact millions of children once implemented.

The major contribution Save the Children has offered to these processes is the mobilization and empowerment of civil society and children to influence the reporting reviews and thereby influencing internationally recognised evidence for implementation gaps on children's rights at a first stance and consequently impacting the actual changes for children provided by Governments as the duty bearers.

In 2021 we took a closer look at the evidence and resources of CRR as a global methodology and the evidence confirms that civil society has a key role to play in ensuring governments adhere to their child rights obligations and that there is a strong impact on those civil society and child actors that are involved in this programming work and on legal changes to ensure impact for children.

### Internal Evidence

The CRR Common Approach was developed on the back of the evidence from the SC 2016 internal evaluation<sup>50</sup>, which assessed the work and achievements from across country and regional offices and members. For the UPR, Save the Children's support increased from 31 countries during the first (2008-2011) cycle to 60 countries during the second (2012-2016) UPR cycle. From this engagement, respondents identified that between 75% and 100% of their UPR recommendations were raised in the country reviews. As for impact on children, specific areas of impact were identified and several staff stated that they see changes occurring but acknowledge that these changes take time and a long term commitment is needed alongside a patient process of continuous follow-up advocacy to ensure the outcomes will be achieved. Staff considered CRR to be at the heart of CRG work and there has been an increasing level of child participation over the years of engagement and children views and engagement have had a positive impact on the reviews and on children's lives.

In the below section on Impact and Cost Effectiveness, we have developed 6 cost impact case studies based on SC CRR programming covering the later years up to 2021 to provide more recent internal documentation of impact.

Previously, other Save the Children reports and evaluations also assessed evidence and impact of CRR work, for instance an SCS regional evaluation<sup>51</sup> from South Asia from 2010 shows how reporting was happening more increasingly by Governments, and reporting is recognised as an accountability process and that the reporting work has significantly influenced legislation and implementing structures of governments making them more child centred, with some examples being, raising of criminal responsibility age, withdrawing treaty reservations, establishing child focused ministries or agencies, and independent national human rights institutions.

In a SCUUK review<sup>52</sup> of several CRR country programmes from 2003 looking at the first decade of reporting to the UNCRC, they found that many governments have taken steps to increase the protection of children's rights such as legal review, structural reforms, Juvenile justice reviews etc. It was found that the process constituted a major learning and change process for the stakeholders involved, NGO and governments as they benefitted from improved skills and knowledge on children's rights, data collection, reporting and advocacy, and coalition building

---

<sup>50</sup> [Internal Evaluation of UPR, CRC, ACERWC Part 1 summary](#)

<sup>51</sup> [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: Monitoring and Reporting. An overview of South Asia, 2010](#)

<sup>52</sup> [A Tool for Change? – Reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2003](#)

among NGOs alongside a closer cooperation with the Government. The review indicated that an increased impact from the reporting could be gained by focusing on increased ownership by civil society beyond reporting that would facilitate a more sustained focus on follow up monitoring and advocacy.

In countries where legislation has become stronger and more compliant with the UNCRC as a result of the reporting processes, gaps often lie in the actual implementation of laws and policies. The next steps are then to use reporting, monitoring and advocacy with civil society and children alongside capacity building of government to push for increased spending on children and adequate implementation of existing laws and policies.

### **External evidence**

In an UNICEF and Universal Rights Group assessment from 2020<sup>53</sup>, the report sets out to assess the impact of the UN Human Rights system on the enjoyment of children's rights looking at the implementation of child rights recommendations from the UPR, the treaty bodies and the special procedures mechanisms in 6 selected countries. The UN entities have the opportunity, similar to that of civil society and children, to submit alternative reports assessing countries' level of compliance with the human rights standards, as well as to inform the policy recommendations to improve compliance. The report agrees that there are challenges when it comes to implementation of recommendations via systematic follow up on the human rights mechanisms by states. Since 2018 more has been done to follow up with states to encourage the use of 'National Mechanisms For Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up' (NMIRF's)<sup>54</sup> creating the basis for tracking progress of the recommendations and the human rights impact via political reforms in a more systematic way in some countries. Overall, the 2020 report<sup>55</sup> concludes that the UN system has neglected to systematically measure the full impact of the UN system. With the case illustrations they document where UNICEF has played an important role in pushing for implementation of some of their recommendations. The report also recognises that in many cases the UN (and the State) reports are also influenced by civil society and acknowledges the importance of additional civil society independent reports to influence the review process. They also give attention to change coming from capacity building, and awareness raising campaigns building up an incremental path for change over time. This is an aspect where civil society has a central role to play when we engage with States (and UN and National Human Rights Institutions) and support, advice or build capacity with government officials or become acknowledged as child rights experts.

*We have annexed the above referenced and additional reports, evaluations and resources in Annex C for a closer review on the impact of CRR. Some of the resources are solely focused on assessing the CRR work, while others take a more holistic CRG programming approach and addresses how the work has had an impact on the implementation of the UNCRC more broadly and as part of a broader CRG programming approach.*

### **Impact and Cost effectiveness of CRR**

It can be challenging to evaluate the cost effectiveness of this approach as there has traditionally been few methodological models to draw upon. However, it is possible to state that the investment by Save the Children in human rights accountability mechanisms, in terms of staff time, support to partners and other resources, is relatively low compared to the proven sustainable and long-term impact this work has made on civil society engagement, governments and many different aspects of children's lives.

In 2021, we have finalised cost impact cases of the CRR work covering 4-5 year programmes in 6 countries and in some cases we have elaborated on the previous and continued programmes to show the long term engagement that is needed. This compilation of cases demonstrates the legislative impact of our CRR programmes, with little cost applied.

---


<sup>53</sup> [Realising rights, changing lives: The impact of the United Nations Human Rights system on the enjoyment of children's rights, 2020](#)

<sup>54</sup> [Learn more about NMIRF through this UN Development Group study from 2017](#)

<sup>55</sup> [Realising rights, changing lives: The impact of the United Nations Human Rights system on the enjoyment of children's rights, 2020](#)


## Link to cases

These snapshots show policy impact of CRR work. We highly encourage you to read the cases in full to learn about civil society and child empowerment impact too! **Please click on the country names or outlines!**

**AFGHANISTAN** 


**Cost:** \$1.3m USD  
**Impact:** 1 Landmark National legislative change

- Passing of the Law on Protection of Child Rights, (Child Act), 2019

**ALBANIA** 


**Cost:** \$650,000 USD  
**Impact:** 2 National legislative and policy changes

- Approval of the General Children’s Participation Criteria, including on the right to be heard in the National Agenda on Child Rights, and other government strategic documents, 2020
- The Parliament appointed the First Commissioner of the Child Rights Protection and Promotion Section, 2018

**PHILIPPINES** 


**Cost:** \$1.2m USD  
**Impact:** 3 National legislative changes

- The passage of the First 1000 days law (on malnutrition), 2018
- Adoption of the Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children, 2018
- Achieving that the Government did not lower the minimum age criminal responsibility to 9 years, 2019

**PAKISTAN** 


**Cost:** \$1.2m USD  
**Impact:** 3 National legislative changes:

- Passing of the National Commission on the Rights of the Child Act 2017
- Child Domestic Labour Act, 2019
- Juvenile Justice Act, 2018

**NEPAL** 

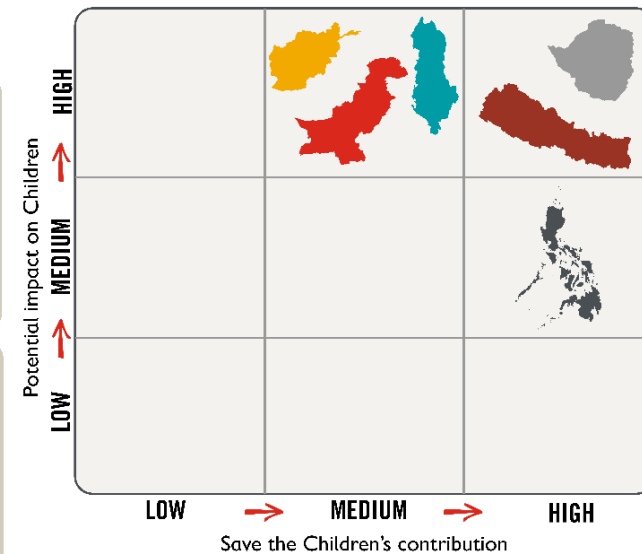
**Cost:** \$850,000 USD  
**Impact:** 3 National legislative changes

- Child Act relating to Children, banning all corporal punishment to children, 2018
- Compulsory and Free Education Act, 2018
- The Public Health Service Act, highlighting the right to free vaccination, 2018

**ZIMBABWE** 

**Cost:** \$250,000 USD  
**Impact:** 4 National legislative and policy changes

- Passing of Public Health Act, (guarantees the right to education, health care services, nutrition, and shelter), 2018
- Development of Children’s Rights Bill, based on realignment advocacy of the Child Act in the Constitution.
- Development of the Marriage Bill and realignment of the Bill within the Constitution
- Development of the Justice Bill



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1 SC drives forward coalitions’ and children’s empowerment and this in turn ensures that CRR has local and national civil society ownership and legitimacy. Coalitions have greater power!
- 2 Child Rights data collection and monitoring are constant enablers for evidence based and successful advocacy!
- 3 Legal and policy changes are for all children but the children who has the least access to their rights are prioritised in policy aims according to our collected evidence-based data.
- 4 Long-term engagement is needed to ensure persistent data collection for on-going monitoring and follow up until we achieve the results we are advocating for.
- 5 Close cooperation with the government is key – we are particular successful in influencing government policy when partners are recognized as child rights experts!
- 6 CRR makes children feel meaningful when participating and influencing International accountability mechanisms and decision-makers on their rights and needs – and changes their mindset!

“I was not aware of my rights and how I can raise my voice and influence and sensitise the duty bearers on children rights. Save the Children made me member of child club formed at my school and engaged me and my class fellow in different activities which enabled me to know my rights as declared in UNCRC. Save the Children also provided me the platform to directly interact with parliamentarians and policy maker and media so that I can highlight the issues faced by children in our communities and what can be the proposed solutions. I feel more empowered and capacitated than before.”

- Ayaz, 16 year old boy

From these impact studies, we want to highlight the case of **Nepal** where Save the Children supported reporting throughout the 3 UPR cycles since 2010 and reporting for the UNCRC since 1995 which has resulted in a number of legal achievements.

### **Nepal – more than a decade of CRR engagement led to national policy changes**

#### **Children’s Rights as a fundamental constitutional right**

Save the Children and the UPR reporting coalitions have been continuously advocating for the rights of children as per the UNCRC principles through UPR Stakeholders report as well. As a result, the Constitution of Nepal 2015 has specified children’s rights as a fundamental right (Article 39) that includes children’s right to health, education, protection and participation. In addition, the former Children’s Act 1992 was amended in 2018 with a shift from welfare model towards a rights-based.

#### **Corporal Punishment is banned in all settings**

Save the Children had raised a concern to ban corporal punishment in the first cycle UPR Stakeholders report in 2011 and following up, the same issue was suggested in the second cycle report as well in 2016. The Government of Nepal accepted the recommendations of different peer reviewing states to develop a legal framework on combating violence against children. As a result, Children’s Act 2018 banned corporal punishment in all settings considering it as a criminal offence and an act subjected to penalty of fifty thousand rupees and one year of imprisonment to the offenders.

#### **Free and Compulsory Education Act is enacted**

Save the Children and the UPR reporting coalitions had suggested the provision of free and compulsory education in the first and second cycle of UPR. The Government of Nepal accepted the recommendations to enact a legislation to enforce free and compulsory education. In 2018, the Free and Compulsory Education Act was endorsed, and the Education Act 1972 was amended for the ninth time to enforce children’s right to get free basic education. Now, it is compulsory for children to go to school.

#### **Palermo Protocol is ratified**

The ratification of Palermo Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children has been a longstanding issue on the advocacy agenda of the civil society organizations. Save the Children had highlighted it in the first cycle UPR report as well and there were a number of recommendations from the peer reviewing states. Finally, the Government of Nepal ratified the protocol in June 2020 with a reservation on Article 15.2 on the provision of Settlement of Disputes which considers that the dispute may be taken to the International Court of Justice if any state parties do not agree on the organization of arbitration.

#### **Extend Universal Vaccination Coverage**

The Government of Nepal had accepted the recommendation on taking effective measures to increase universal vaccination coverage. As a result, Nepal has endorsed Public Health Service Act 2018 and ensures to scale up the vaccination coverage throughout the country.

## **6. Guidance on adaptation to different contexts**

The CRR approach can be implemented in all contexts although there can be particular challenges in fragile and restrictive operating environments. In many contexts, there are **growing restrictions on the space within which civil society can operate**, particularly when it comes to work that is explicitly human rights focused such as reporting to international and regional human rights mechanisms.<sup>56</sup> This can result in personal, reputational and political risks for Save the Children and partners, including children. Save the Children’s approach is always to manage existing risks and ensure that they are kept within acceptable levels using the following approaches:

---

<sup>56</sup> For more information see [Speaking Out: Safeguarding Civil Society Space for Children, Policy Brief, Save the Children \(2015\)](#)



- Assessments can identify the reputational, operational, implementation and physical risks of engaging with human rights accountability mechanisms and highlight how they can be mitigated. **It is paramount that we don't limit our risk analysis to Save the Children, but also include partners and children.** It is also important to take into account that due to structural inequalities and power relations, some groups of children can be exposed to particular risks. For instance, girls who speak up and defend their rights may be the target of gender-based violence and can be discouraged from expressing their views in families, schools, communities or public decision-making processes. In **South Sudan**, partners were initially reluctant to engage in monitoring and reporting for CRR because of the lack of trust generated by anti-NGO legislation. Training from Save the Children helped to successfully alert partners to potential risks and how to avoid them. As part of the risk assessment, children should also be supported to identify risks and protect themselves from significant risks that they may face as a result of their participation in human rights reporting processes. This includes considering the potential impact on the mental health and wellbeing of the participating children especially those most at risk of facing negative stereotypes (girls with or without disabilities, children with albinism in some parts of the world, or different disability groups and other groups affected by inequalities and discrimination) whilst not branding these risks as a pretext to exclude these most vulnerable groups from participating. For more guidance on empowerment and safety for child participation on human rights, please review the implementation guide on Children as Human Rights Defenders stemming from the UNCRC Day of General Discussion in 2018<sup>57</sup>
- There can be **strength in numbers** and working as part of a broad coalition can be a good strategy. In **Yemen**, Save the Children worked with a coalition of 43 civil society organizations to mitigate the risk of individual organizations being targeted for their involvement with the UPR. Although it was a significant challenge to ensure the safety of children living in conflict areas to participate in the UPR consultations, their involvement was deemed to be essential and careful planning limited the risks they faced.
- Even where the risks of engagement are considerable, it can still be possible to work with the government to support and **influence development of the state party report**. In **Laos**, it was decided that preparing a supplementary report for the CRC Committee would not have been well received by Government partners and jeopardize critical relationships. Instead, Save the Children, working closely with other INGOs and local civil society partners, facilitated children's participation so that their voices could be heard in the state party report. This was not without its challenges but dialogue with donors and regular situation analysis of the political context helped to ensure the process was managed effectively.
- Where civil society is weak and civic space is very restricted Save the Children can and has taken the decision to submit alone as Save the Children but even in those cases it has used the drafting process as an opportunity to capacity build local civil society on child rights and advocacy. The idea being that next time a civil society coalition can be built to submit a collective report depending on the domestic context and risk assessment at that time.
- Even if, civic space is very restrictive or certain issues are more difficult to address, **civil society reports to the CRC Committee and the ACERWC can be submitted as confidential reports**, and this should be made explicit when submitting the report to the Committees and on the report itself. One example of this is from **Mauretania** where Save the Children supported a confidential thematic report on child protection for children on the move and did a public report with civil society and with UNICEF inputs which was more general on child rights to the UNCRC in 2018. On the contrary, the UPR process is different, and reports submitted by civil society are always made public and are subject to widespread public scrutiny. If a risk assessment concludes that a public submission to the UPR is not possible then Save the Children, partners and coalitions should still engage through **quiet, behind-the-scenes diplomacy and advocacy** instead of through public statements and reports and has done so effectively for instance in **Ethiopia**.
- Sometimes **not engaging** with human rights mechanisms is the optimal course of action— although it should be noted that this is rare. For instance, In **China** in 2020 it was decided not to complete and submit the draft civil society report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) due to political considerations and to protect Save the Children ability to deliver programmes. Another reason was also lack of funding to continue the CRR programming that had been running for some years. In another example, a decision was taken to stop engagement with a UPR process owing to concerns about government interference with a coalition member which called in to question the coalition's independence.

---

<sup>57</sup> [The Rights of Child Human Rights Defenders – Implementation Guide, 2020](#), Child Rights Connect

- In some situations, we see that governments adopt restrictive legislation that severely reduce civil society space to engage in human rights reporting, as the risk of engaging is too extensive. In these cases, it is necessary to focus first on repealing this legislation and likely doing so by addressing broader democracy issues in a given situation. For instance, in **Ethiopia**, Save the Children was unable to engage in human rights reporting since restrictive civil society legislation was introduced in 2009, which ushered in a decade of severe crackdowns on human rights organizations in the country. But in 2019 a new revised Civil Society Proclamation repealed this repressive piece of legislation, which represented an important breakthrough for civil society organisations in Ethiopia, and has allowed for Ethiopia to re-engage reporting to the UNCRC in 2021.

### a) Humanitarian context

In **humanitarian settings**, the urgency of the situation often makes it difficult to engage with human rights accountability mechanisms that work within long term cycles, fixed calendars and long intervals between reporting periods. The follow up work of CRR can however always be applied looking at previous outcome recommendations and contextualized to the humanitarian context history and monitoring, while considering the new humanitarian situation. In terms of risk, there can be apparent contradictions between humanitarian principles of neutrality and impartiality and the more politically-laden stand imposed by CRR. However, if a country faced with a crisis or in conflict is up for review in front of the CRC<sup>58</sup>, UPR or ACERWC, this is **an important opportunity to link humanitarian and child rights advocacy** and to develop key advocacy messages that highlight:

- data and information about violations of children's rights leading up to, during and/or after a crisis or in protracted crises
- gaps in child-centered, inclusive and gender-sensitive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) or preparedness plans; and gaps in addressing climate change and the impact this has on the environment<sup>59</sup>.gaps in fulfilling children's rights by governments in reconstruction and/or peace building processes.

Gaps in ensuring child protection and the fulfilment of children's rights in situations of pandemics such as Covid-19 CRR in humanitarian settings can be linked with other mechanisms such as reporting to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and to the monitoring and reporting mechanism on grave violations of children's rights during armed conflict (MRM) established by Security Council Resolution 1612 (2005)- today also referred to as Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CAAC)<sup>60</sup>. It is vital that there is **close collaboration with humanitarian, thematic and general advocacy staff** in preparing reporting and advocacy on these issues.

### a) Conflict context

In **conflict situations**, we aim to establish close collaboration with Child Protection on CRR and Save the Children's work on **Protecting Children in Conflict**<sup>61</sup> and **Centrality of Protection**<sup>62</sup>, meaning that particular countries where grave and serious child rights violations occur to children, we have a strong focus on ensuring that CRR reporting and follow up is addressing these violations. Please learn more here about the linkages from this *Centrality of Protection Guidance for Country Offices to Access Accountability Mechanisms for Child Rights in Humanitarian Crises*<sup>63</sup> It is fundamental to highlight that the UNCRC still applies in a situation of conflict and especially and immediate concerns of child protection are key! In addition, we also want to still identify root causes to instability and conflict in reporting and follow up for governments to take preventive measures that can ensure that a country overcomes a conflict and, in this regard, re-establishing peace will facilitate the re-establishment of the social contract between governments and citizens. The UNCRC, also has an Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict, which we should ideally report to on grave violations in those countries where there is a particular need (PCIC countries in particular), either as integrated in reporting to UNCRC or as separate reporting to the Optional Protocol review. In addition, there are other key UN security council

<sup>58</sup> While some human rights can be derogated from during times of extreme crisis, most human rights are non-derogable, such as the right to life or the right to be free from torture. One of the greatest strengths of the CRC is that it contains no provision for derogation of any of its provisions – the realisation of children's rights is to be considered a priority at all times and they are as applicable in humanitarian as in development settings.

<sup>59</sup> we will address this aspect under the cross cutting section under resilience

<sup>60</sup> [Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on Children and Armed Conflict Dashboard](#)

<sup>61</sup> [Save the Children Protecting Children in Conflict Onenet page](#)

<sup>62</sup> [Centrality of Protection – what does it mean for Save the Children, Onenet page](#)

<sup>63</sup> [Centrality of Protection – guidance for Country offices on accessing accountability mechanisms for child rights in humanitarian crises](#)

resolutions on gender such as Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security<sup>64</sup>, and 1820 on sexual violence as a weapon of war<sup>65</sup>, that is particularly pertinent to include considerations on in our reporting, monitoring and follow up.

We have many examples of data collection and monitoring on violations to children around recruitment of children into armed forces, killings and maiming of children, attacks on schools, sexual violence, etc that is being addressed in reporting and follow up work. Some Save the Children countries that have highlighted this type of child rights violations in CRR work are [South Sudan](#), [Sudan](#), [Somalia](#), [Colombia](#), [Yemen](#), [Myanmar](#), [Afghanistan](#), [Ukraine](#) and [Palestine](#) (oPt).

As an example, in Save the Children [Yemen](#)'s country office, staff and partners have been actively engaged in preparation for the mid-term UPR report during ongoing conflict in 2016 and have also collected evidence and monitored violations for the MRM/CAAC. It was able to do this because it had strong structures and networks to rely on that pre-dated the onset of the conflict such as the NGO child rights coalition and the Children's Parliament<sup>66</sup>. This highlights the importance of CRR as an ongoing and continual process for country offices that can become even more essential during times of crises. As another example, from a protracted crisis situation, the below examples from [Palestine](#) (oPt) demonstrates efficient integration of CRR work into other thematic and humanitarian work. As a state of concern due to the military occupation, Save the Children supported data collection and validation on education related violations and attacks on schools by the occupation power, to feed into the CAAC reporting mechanism led by UNICEF, to submit to the Security Council. As part of capacity development and strengthening national systems, Save the Children also supported the MoE to establish an electronic portal for incident reporting at the school and directorate levels. Later Save the Children supported funding data collectors from a CSO partner (DCI). Based on these efforts, the Education Cluster (Co-led by SC and UNICEF) is leading a national response mechanism with the data collectors, that also do data verification. This is being done since 2017 in cooperation with OCHA that supports a database development at the cluster level to feed into OCHA database for protection of civilians. In [Myanmar](#) in 2021 the military coup, prompted adapted CRR work and further engagement with regional mechanisms and Special Representatives and UN Working Groups.

The UPR is a high-level political process and as such is an opportunity to exert political pressure to influence national agendas even during periods of instability as **the UPR mandate specifically includes international humanitarian law**. For example, the UPR for [Mali](#) in 2013 took place during a humanitarian crisis. Both the UPR and the Human Rights Council were used in parallel by Save the Children as platforms to voice child-specific concerns linked to the humanitarian crisis, including child protection and education, but also to address structural issues regarding investment in children's health and nutrition. As a result, several UPR recommendations relating to the involvement of children in armed conflict, child labor and trafficking were all accepted by the Malian government.<sup>67</sup>

## **b) The global Covid-19 pandemic**

The Covid-19 virus which became a global pandemic in 2020 represents an unprecedented global crisis impacting decades of positive change. As a response, in 2020 Save the Children did global research on the Covid-19 impact on children's rights<sup>68</sup> and put forward a number of key recommendations to government to ensure children's rights were being met or at least not sent backwards in the wake of this crisis. We also developed adaptation guidance and held training sessions in 2020<sup>69</sup>. In this process, many Save the Children countries have consulted children to document the consequences and impact of the pandemic on children and will be using this documentation for reporting to human rights mechanisms as well as informing programming. As an example, Save the Children in [Nepal](#) which has for many years supported the child rights coalition in country, supported the child rights coalition in 2020 to report to the UPR and in their report they highlighted the lack of equal access to online education in light of the Covid related lockdown among other child rights affected by Covid. In the context of

---

<sup>64</sup> [UN Security Council Resolution 1325](#)

<sup>65</sup> [UN Security Council Resolution 1820](#)

<sup>66</sup> [Yemeni child rights coalition UPR mid term report](#), UPR second cycle

<sup>67</sup> [Universal Periodic Review: Successful examples of child rights advocacy Save the Children \(2014\) p.22](#)

<sup>68</sup> [Save the Children: the Hidden Impact of Covid-19 on child rights](#)

<sup>69</sup> [Save the Children Covid adaptation guidance for child participation and CRG, incl for CRR and CRR Covid Webinars](#) held in 2020



Covid it is particularly relevant to highlight the evidence of how children and youth with disabilities have been proportionally more affected by the immediate and potentially long term impacts of COVID and are more likely to lose access to basic needs and rights<sup>70</sup>.

## 8. Indicators of quality

### a) The process is meaningful, equitable and safe for the children involved

As a minimum, the process should comply with the nine basic requirements<sup>71</sup> for the implementation of the right of the child to be heard that are set out in the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's General Comment No. 12.<sup>72</sup> There is a need to ensure that children are properly informed to understand the processes they are engaging in. Processes must also take into account Save the Children's Gender Equality Policy<sup>73</sup> and Disability Policy and Standards<sup>74</sup>. Save the Children must take every precaution to minimize any risks to children of abuse, discrimination, exploitation and other negative consequences of participation and safeguard children throughout the process.

### b) Children most affected by inequality and discrimination are actively engaged

Children from a range of different backgrounds must be engaged equitably in the process to challenge structural inequalities and patterns of discrimination. This can include children who live in remote areas, rural and urban areas, refugee camps, who are from different socio-economic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, who have disabilities, who are institutionalized, (including children that have intellectual or psychosocial disabilities severe functioning difficulties and often don't have a say in the decisions made to institutionalize them and in their treatment, as they can lose legal rights in childhood and in adult life), children that are in and out of school, and girls, boys and children with non-binary gender that needs to be meaningfully and equitably engaged with the human rights accountability mechanisms in an inclusive and gender<sup>75</sup> sensitive, or transformative, manner. In addition, children that had an experience in child labor or children in conflict with the law, children without appropriate care, children exposed to violations due to armed conflict, etc should also be engaged as relevant for the context.

### c) Sufficient time and resources are allocated

It is important to be realistic about the time, funding and specialized adult facilitation that is required particularly to ensure that children of all ages, genders and backgrounds, have the opportunity to be involved and are properly supported. Engaging children that are the most affected by inequality and discrimination may also require additional costs, as they may need more support from adults, live more remotely or have particular protection needs or accessibility (physical and communication) needs in the case of disabled children. In addition, constant child capacity building is needed as children become adults when they turn 18 years old, and then new children step into to these processes on a rotational basis. Excellent adult facilitators are needed with good coaching and listening skills, the right tools and good knowledge about the current situation in the country; this should include knowledge and capacity on inclusive and gender sensitive/transformative approaches for child participation. Child agents engaged in this work can when they become adults, continue their child rights work with a civil society coalition and can become excellent facilitators for the next generation of children. This means that adequate resources need to be allocated to ensure training and capacity-building for child and adult facilitators, as well as budget for travel particularly for pre-sessional meetings and other logistical matters. Meeting places must also be child-friendly, gender sensitive and accessible particularly for children with disabilities. Transportation costs and meals for children should also be accounted for.

Overall, it is key that Save the Children programmes incorporates CRR as a long term commitment with sufficient funding to ensure that reporting preparations are started well in advance of deadlines, including for data collection, awareness raising etc. Besides that, CRR work should not be just about reporting, but also requires funding for active engagement in pre-sessions, and influencing states, missions and donors in the review process. In

---

<sup>70</sup> Save the Children: the Hidden Impact of Covid-19 on children and families with disabilities, 2020

<sup>71</sup> [Save the Children, Nine Basic Requirements for meaningful and Ethical Children's participation guidance](#)

<sup>72</sup> [UN Committee on the Rights of the Child \(CRC\), General comment No. 12 \(2009\): The right of the child to be heard, 20 July 2009, CRC/C/GC/12 para 134.](#)

<sup>73</sup> [Save the Children Gender Equality Policy and other gender related information, Onenet page](#)

<sup>74</sup> [Save the Children Disability Policy and standards & Disability Onenet page](#)

<sup>75</sup> Considering also the particular needs of children with other gender identities.

addition resources are needed for constant coalition strengthening and on-going child support to monitor, advocate and follow through on the reporting work, to prepare for mid-term reports and next cycles report, as well as to consider giving inputs to other accountability mechanisms.

#### **d) Child-informed and child led supplementary reports and submissions are independent**

Although Save the Children may support the preparation of state party reports, the supplementary civil society reports prepared by Save the Children, coalitions, partners and children should always be separate and independent of the state party report. Save the Children may provide government with information or facilitate child and community consultations for the state report but, even if the state invites them to give inputs to its report as part of a consultation, they can – and should – still write their own independent civil society reports subject to any risk assessment.

#### **e) Strong, Inclusive and sustainable civil society coalitions**

Civil society coalitions play a critical role in driving the child rights reporting process forward, and in ensuring that the process is child-informed, inclusive and collaborative. These coalitions are capacitated to engage children meaningfully in preparing civil society alternative reports and UPR submissions. The coalitions will include local CSOs and will strive to give these organizations a stronger voice and visibility internally and externally. Coalitions will include member organizations working directly with children who are most impacted by inequality and discrimination, to ensure that these groups of children are able to participate and that their concerns are included in the coalitions' reports.

#### **f) Accurate, robust and reliable information is included in reporting and advocacy**

Governments often do not gather reliable and sex, disability and age disaggregated data on the situation of children and even if they do, they do not always share it with civil society. As well as compromising the government's ability to monitor and report on progress to human rights bodies, this also means that civil society has limited capacity to produce a comprehensive analysis and evidence-based policy recommendations. Save the Children should encourage civil society to integrate monitoring into their daily work to ensure that there is sufficient and reliable sex, age, disability, geographic and background disaggregated data on children available to determine progress and identify disparities in realizing children's rights. Save the Children can also support conducting specific research especially on areas that lack sufficient information, to support the reporting process. Academia and think tanks can be good partners in this regard.

#### **g) Capacity to support the State; the National Human Rights Commission and UN reporting**

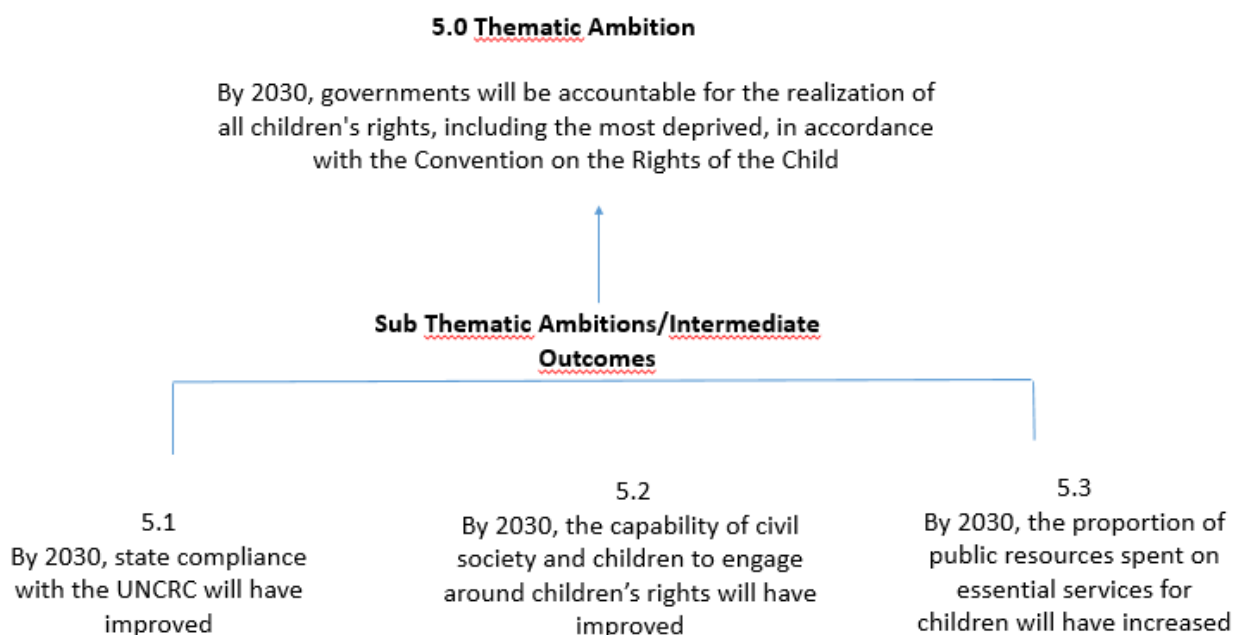
Save the Children can also support the government by providing technical support in terms of know-how, strengthening national systems to collect valid and disaggregated data based on child rights based indicators, or train relevant ministries and spokesmen on rights terminologies, how to reflect the situation of children in a decent and sensitive manner and how to consider children affected by inequality and discrimination and of different backgrounds. Save the Children plays an important role in raising awareness about rights culture and language. Save the Children have in several cases also strengthened the independent monitoring structures/ complaints mechanism/ ombudsman office in the country to further enhance feedback, validity of information and accountability. We play a particular role in ensuring this happens in a child and user friendly way, accessible to different groups of children with different abilities, and to ensure proper follow up. As an example, Save the Children and the supported coalition in [Myanmar](#) in 2020 did trainings on how to report to the UNCRC for the National Human Rights Commission. Partnering with Unicef or providing inputs to their UN report can be very relevant and useful as this can build momentum for increased government advocacy and strengthened cooperation.

### **9. CRR in the Global Results Framework, Indicators and Benchmarks**

The Global Results Framework (GRF) is the causal pathway from our day-to-day activities to the global changes we want to see for children. By 2030, we aim to inspire three breakthroughs for children: for all children to survive, learn and be protected. To inspire these breakthroughs, we will work towards achieving our thematic ambitions in five inter-related thematic areas of work: health and nutrition, education, child protection, child poverty and child

rights governance. Each thematic ambition will be achieved through intermediate outcomes at the sub-thematic levels.

The pathway of change to achieving CRG thematic ambition is shown in the diagram below:



The CRR Common Approach will be contributing to the Sub-Thematic Ambition 5.2, which is led by the sub thematic area called Monitoring and Demanding Children's Rights, and will contribute to the overall Thematic Ambition to hold governments accountable for the realization of children's rights as per the UN CRC. Further, the Sub Theme 5.2 is divided into two domains and each has designated indicators for measuring progress towards achieving this sub thematic result. The domains and indicators for this sub theme is given in the chart below:

Sub Theme	Domains	Indicators
5.2 By 2030, the capability of civil society and children to engage around children's rights will have improved	Civil Society Voice and Space	5.2.1 Number of shared activities of civil society actors that aim to influence human rights reporting, policy formulation, legislation or programming linked to children's rights 5.2.2 Child informed supplementary reports are being prepared or have been submitted to human rights mechanisms (including but not limited to the UNCRC, Universal Periodic Review, African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child) 5.2.3 Practice of systematic government consultation with civil society actors engaged with children's rights on policy formulation, legislation and programming 5.2.4 Extent to which civil society actors are able to organize, participate and communicate without hindrance
	Children in public decision making	5.2.5 Practice of systematic government consultation with children in policy formulation, legislation, programming and service delivery

The sub thematic ambition 5.2 will be accomplished by enhancing civil society voice and space and enhancing the participation of children in public decision-making.

The indicator 5.2.2 on child informed supplementary reports being prepared or submitted is directly linked to CRR as a key programming part of the Common Approach, as without the reports we cannot monitor and do follow up and advocacy.

The indicator 5.2.1, is linked to how we build coalitions and partnerships that use the CRR reports, monitoring and follow up advocacy, to influence outcomes on the human/child rights reporting processes, and government policy formulation and legislation to achieve changes to laws, policies, plans, budgets and/or practice that will ultimately bring about positive changes in children's lives based on the notion of stronger government accountability.

The indicator 5.2.3 is linked to how CRR aspire to influence government practices around consultations with civil society for state reporting on the status of child rights implementation and on policy formulation to improve the laws that are meant to fulfill child rights.

Finally, the indicator 5.2.4 is linked to CRR as the level of civic space to engage in public reporting, monitoring of child rights violations or gaps, and follow up advocacy for policy change without hindrance (by Government) will affect our ability to deliver all of the other indicators and can harm our ability to implement the CRR Common Approach.

### **a) Outcomes and Indicators**

#### **Intermediary outcomes of CRR Common Approach**

Besides the Global Results Framework sub-thematic ambitions and global indicators, we are suggesting intermediary outcomes of the Common Approach and indicators to give a more detailed assessment of the different phases of the Common Approach and allow us to make comparative analysis of results across countries and regions. You can find some suggested intermediary outcomes below.

- Children, civil society and research institutions monitor and analyze the child rights situation and submit child-informed, gender-sensitive/transformational<sup>76</sup>, inclusive of different groups and high quality supplementary submissions to human rights accountability mechanisms.
- Recommendations and outcome documents from the CRC Committee, UPR and ACERWC reflect issues raised in Save the Children supported supplementary reports.
- Children, civil society and research institutions monitor the implementation of recommendations and engage in advocacy on the issues raised.

#### **Outcome indicators for CRR Common Approach include:**

- At least 75% of UNCRC recommendations, 50% of child rights related UPR recommendations and 50% of ACERWC are based on issues highlighted in the supplementary reports supported by Save the Children.
- Number and percentage of child rights recommendations from UNCRC, UPR, ACERWC, which were supported by Save the Children, are implemented by States.
- Number of legal, policy, budgetary or administrative changes to realise full and equal rights for all children, irrespective of gender identity, inequality concerns and discriminatory practices.
- Number of SC supported actions to implement legal, policy, budgetary and administrative changes for children
- Number and percentage of supported girls and boys, as well as children with non-binary gender<sup>77</sup>, disaggregated by disability, who believe decision-making on children's rights is responsive and gender sensitive and inclusive to their needs
- Number and percentage of supported girls and boys, and children with non-binary gender<sup>78</sup>, disaggregated by disability involved in monitoring the outcomes of the reporting reviews
- Number and percentage of supported girls and boys, as well as children with non-binary gender<sup>79</sup> disaggregated by disability, that feel empowered to create change on behalf of children as a result of the engagement in CRR

---

<sup>76</sup> gender sensitive (minimum requirement)/ or gender transformational (aspirational)

<sup>77</sup> Considering also the particular needs of children with other gender identities

<sup>78</sup> Considering also the particular needs of children with other gender identities

<sup>79</sup> Considering also the particular needs of children with other gender identities

## b) Quality benchmarks

The Quality Benchmarks helps us in measuring and improving key processes of CRR Common Approach. We have outlined the key ones below.

SI No	Key Activities	Description of Activity	Quality Benchmarks
1.	Conduct Risk Assessment	Save the Children will understand the level of risk of implementing the CRR Common Approach for Save the Children, partners, staff and children	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Guideline for Risk Assessment is developed to mitigate risks of doing CRR</li> <li>2. Risk Assessment Checklist for SCI, partners, staff and children (safeguarding and do no harm included)</li> <li>3. Take necessary steps to mitigate risks identified</li> <li>4. All guidelines, checklists and mitigation actions, should comply with minimum standards of gender sensitivity and disability safeguarding<sup>80</sup></li> <li>5. Document report/evidence on risks identified and mitigation efforts.</li> </ol>
2.	Map Partners	Save the Children will identify various stakeholders to work with which include networks, civil society coalitions, international and local NGOs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identification of potential partners, coalitions, networks and stakeholders, including national human rights institutions, including considerations of gender and disability organisations</li> <li>2. Agreement for engagement with partners identified in step 1 which mitigate identified risks</li> <li>3. Collaboration with UNICEF if appropriate</li> </ol>
3.	Strengthen capacity within Save the Children	At least one staff member within country and member offices has the capacity to support other colleagues and civil society partners to engage with these mechanisms.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identification of trainer or team of trainers from CRG TA in the country, region and/or in member offices with experience</li> <li>2. CRG and other thematic staff to certify in silver course through the Common Approach Learning Programme</li> <li>3. Certified Silver staff to share knowledge with country teams for cross thematic cooperation</li> <li>4. Country focal persons for CRR identified with dedicated time to support the implementation of the Common approach</li> <li>5. Capacity building on Gender equality and disability safeguarding</li> <li>4. Publicise training events and participate in internal conversations such as on Workplace, SCI weekly bulletin and other online forums</li> </ol>
4.	Map timetable for reporting	Submission dates are different for UPR, ACERWC & UNCRC and backlog should be avoided, data should be up to date and data collection efforts should not be duplicated	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Framework for data collection and secondary information providing source and timetable for UPR, ACERWC &amp; UNCRC reporting</li> <li>2. Plan for avoiding duplication of data collection and analysis and secondary information among the three international human rights accountability mechanisms</li> <li>3. Work plan made in collaboration with partners</li> <li>4. Plan for monitoring the timetable</li> </ol>

<sup>80</sup> Save the Children's and Able Child Africa Disability Inclusive Child Safeguarding toolkit

			5. Consider mapping opportunities to engage in other accountability mechanisms like CEDAW and CRPD or regional mechanisms
5.	Build cohesive coalitions of child focused organisations and build capacities as needed	Bringing together organizations with a focused mandate to monitor children’s rights and to report to human rights bodies accountability mechanisms.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. List of organisations with child rights mandate is prepared to identify potential members for a child rights coalition</li> <li>2. Constitution /Terms of Reference /Memorandum of Understanding for Coalition members</li> <li>3. Registration of Coalition if relevant/needed</li> <li>4. Annual work plan of Coalition is prepared to agree on activities among members and facilitated by Save the Children</li> <li>5. Publicise coalition-building events and participate in internal conversations such as on Workplace, in SCI weekly bulletin and in other online forums</li> <li>6. Build capacity of partners in coalition to engage in CRR</li> <li>7. Capacity building of boys and girls, and children with non-binary gender<sup>81</sup> including those with disability, to understand their rights, and the mechanisms to properly engage in CRR, on data collection, reporting, advocacy and on-going monitoring of data and results</li> <li>8. Children supported to set up their own child led structures and/or to engage with decisions makers</li> </ol>
6.	Data collection and reporting	Child Rights coalitions and children have access to guidance on how to report to influence the review of states’ child rights implementation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Data collection methods on child rights gaps and/or violations applied based on existing guidelines (UN and AU)</li> <li>2. Existing guidance on reporting applied to compile data for a supplementary civil society coalition report</li> <li>3. Guidance for doing child led data collection and child led reporting developed</li> </ol>

---

<sup>81</sup> Considering also the particular needs of children with other gender identities



7.	Advocacy within and after the review process	Advocacy is central to influence processes and ensuring that Save the Children's priority messages are reflected in concluding recommendations of the CRC Committee, ACERWC and UPR. Consequently, advocacy is central for the implementation of the recommendations accepted by Governments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. List of key stakeholders to be reached out to for engagement for advocacy for including child rights issues</li> <li>2. Stakeholder engagement in a systematic, coordinated manner</li> <li>3. Training modules for training partners on using media for advocacy purposes and for doing effective advocacy towards authorities and within accountability mechanisms is developed</li> <li>4. Advocacy materials developed and published including advocacy briefs, social media posts, videos etc</li> <li>5. Advocacy strategy sets out key moments and opportunities such as national elections, laws and policies under development, budget process, etc.) and pre-session opportunities to influence the accountability processes and decisions of the committees and state missions regarding recommendations.</li> <li>6. Publicise advocacy events and participate in internal conversations such as on Workplace, SCI weekly bulletin and other online forums</li> </ol>
8.	Monitoring indicators of quality	Key activities will be assessed using the set of Quality Indicators as mentioned in this CRR Comprehensive Overview	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Checklist against Indicators of Quality mentioned in CRR Common Approach</li> <li>2. Guideline on using Quality Checklist against each key activity</li> </ol>

### c) CRR Learning Agenda

The learning agenda needs contextualization to programmes, political context, historic engagement and much more, but we have suggested a few key learning questions for countries to start doing research on for Child Rights Reporting in relation to child participation and impact of the CRR work on the implementation of child rights.

**How does children's participation in human rights accountability processes facilitate their agency and voice?**

**Does children's participation in human rights accountability processes improve the quality of the reports and/or recommendations?**

**What impact does CRR work have on the implementation on children's rights?**

**How many children is CRR work impacting through policy and legal change?**

### d) Fidelity of implementation

A country should be implementing all four steps of the Common Approach in collaboration with local civil society partners and children for at least one of the accountability mechanisms, in order to be implementing the Child Rights Reporting CA. **Full implementation of the Common Approach is needed and encouraged to ensure actual implementation of recommendations that will lead to changes for children.** Considering that engagement with these international accountability mechanisms takes place within country-specific 3 or 5-year cycles, countries might not always work on all four steps at the same time – they can be spaced out keeping in mind the official state reporting schedule and process. We recognise that constraints might arise during the 3 or

5-year cycles, so recommend that it is better to implement a few steps rather than none at all to create visibility of child rights violations in the international accountability mechanisms. Having said this, however, a country using the Common Approach should always be able to engage with step 4 “Advocate for implementation of the recommendations with children and civil society”. More resources on the Child Rights Reporting Common Approach can be found on [LMS for the bronze course](#) available at all times and the regularly offered [silver courses](#) and [OneNet](#).

## 10. Crosscutting aspects in CRR

In this chapter we take a closer look at 3 crosscutting areas on Gender, Resilience, and Inclusion within Save the Children in relation to human and child rights and CRR. It is fundamental also to remember that some children may face intersecting discrimination across the 3 cross cutting areas. An example can be that a disabled girl living in a disaster (or conflict) affected area is more likely to be facing triple discrimination and inequality.

### a) Gender Equality

Gender equality is a fundamental human right for children, upheld in the CRC, ACRWC, CRPD and CEDAW. Gender inequalities are a key barrier to children’s possibilities to fully exercise their rights and critically impact their ability to survive, learn and live a life free from violence. Gender inequalities intersect with and exacerbate other factors including age, race, socio-economic class, geography, health status and disability. Directly tackling gender discrimination is essential to close existing gender gaps and ensure that children can access their rights.

In line with Save the Children’s Gender Equality Policy and essential quality standards, all our work should be gender sensitive at minimum and gender transformative whenever possible<sup>82</sup>. Engaging with accountability mechanisms strengthens the right to non-discrimination on the basis of sex/gender in many interlinked ways, and gender equality should be prioritized and promoted at all stages as a foundational component of this Common Approach. Throughout the child rights reporting process, the specific situations and rights violations for girls and boys, as well as children with non-binary gender identities<sup>83</sup>, should be analyzed and reflected in reports and other relevant documents in a consistent way. Moreover, given that gender equality is a fundamental human right for children, states should be held accountable for ensuring this right and child rights advocacy actions should include specific asks around gender equality. For instance, gender discrimination raised within supplementary reports combined with advocacy can result in positive governmental action to reduce discrimination and close gender gaps.

All child rights reporting should be informed by sex-disaggregated data and the active participation of girls, boys and other relevant groups. This means that the reporting process should collect and analyze sex-disaggregated data to detect relevant gender gaps and examine why girls and boys, as well as children with non-binary gender identities<sup>84</sup>, may have unequal opportunities or differing levels of access to their rights. It also entails ensuring that all children, as well as adults when relevant, are able to participate and benefit from the process, having an equal opportunity and voice. Some relevant measures in that sense include: a) ensuring that data collection teams are gender-balanced, involving girls, boys, women and men – as well as children and adults with non-binary gender identities<sup>85</sup>, when safe and possible b) adopting specific measures to ensure that all relevant child participation spaces and mechanisms guarantees equitable access and participation for *all* children, paying particular attention to access barriers for girls’ participation. Such measures may include setting up gender-safe spaces for consultation, adapting meeting venues, times, language, staff and other factors to the specific needs of girls, boys and children with non-binary gender identities. c) ensuring that key female informants and women’s and girls’ rights organizations are interviewed as part of the process.

Child Rights Reporting processes also include many opportunities for gender transformative work, particularly by a) challenging discriminatory social norms which reinforce gender inequalities across all levels of society (e.g.

---

<sup>82</sup> **Gender Sensitive:** when the different needs, abilities, and opportunities of boys and girls, and men and women, are identified, considered and accounted for. Save the Children believes all our work should be gender sensitive as a minimum standard. **Gender Transformative:** when we use a gender sensitive approach and promote gender equality, while working with key stakeholders to identify, address, and positively transform the root causes of gender inequality with and for women and men, girls and boys. Save the Children strives to utilize gender transformative approaches whenever possible across our programs, advocacy and organization.

<sup>83</sup> Considering also the particular needs of children with other gender identities

<sup>84</sup> Considering also the particular needs of children with other gender identities

<sup>85</sup> Considering also the particular needs of children with other gender identities



within government, community, family, etc.); b) advocating for and fostering legislation and policies that promote gender equality; c) Working with communities, and stakeholders at all levels, to create lasting changes in relation to gender equality. When applying a gender transformative approach to our work, we directly tackle the root causes of gender inequalities, ensuring lasting change for children.

In 2020, Save the Children **Mozambique** supported the Coalition for the Elimination of Child Marriage (CECAP) to submit a UPR report assessing the human rights situation of girls, identifying and gaps and violations of gender and sexual rights in the context of Covid<sup>86</sup>. We suggest to review Annex A for more information on CEDAW.

In 2021, Save the Children **Thailand** was part of a coalition of CSO's and INGOs for Children's SOGIESC<sup>87</sup> rights, that submitted a [supplementary report to the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle of the UPR](#) based on child and youth consultations in Thailand. In preparation for the pre-session they prepared an [Advocacy sheet](#) to influence States for the UPR review and delivered a [statement at the pre-session](#) to address 3 key issues: on violence in education, safety in homes and families, and legal gender recognition and mental health. The reporting and advocacy work resulted in 12 states giving SOGIESC recommendations to the government of Thailand. and they have accepted many of them, though not the recommendations on same sex marriage and legislation change.

### **b) Resilience to Climate Change and Environmental Degradation**

Climate Change and Environmental degradation are major threats to children's rights. The resilience of children, communities, civil society and governments to a changing climate is strengthened when they engage with human rights accountability mechanisms. First, the resilience of children themselves is developed when they know their rights and assess the risks they face and the type and quality of response that they need to make their communities safer and better prepared to reduce risks and damage following shocks. This should specifically include climate related risks as climate disasters are becoming more frequent in many countries. Long-term resilience is achieved by making governments and institutions accountable for respecting, protecting and fulfilling children's rights in all contexts including during periods of shock, disruption and stress. Child rights reporting is a key element of this process. By drawing attention to a lack of child-sensitive and gender-sensitive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) or Climate Change Adaptation planning in a supplementary report we contribute to document the gaps which can in turn help build more resilient institutions and ultimately more resilient children whose needs and rights are addressed in disaster planning and prevention.

There is an increasing number of initiatives to ensure children have a right to healthy environment such as [CERI](#) and the new guidance on how to report to the CRC on environmental issues and rights from a child rights perspective<sup>88</sup>.

And by encouraging reliable data collection on the situation of children confronted by a climate crisis situation, that includes information on refugee, stateless and migrant children as well as birth registration, is very important to ensure that national responses to climate crisis needs, address child rights. This can be done against country commitment made to the Paris Declaration (2015) and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

We therefore need to support children to raise their concerns and demands about this issue in human rights reporting, and complaint mechanisms and in legal cases, particularly sparked by the child and youth led movements we have seen push this agenda in 2019 and 2020 in a number of recurrent global climate strikes<sup>89</sup>, the landmark complaint raised by children to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child under the Third Optional Protocol<sup>90</sup> and the support Save the Children has given to climate change court case with young people in 2021<sup>91</sup>.

The UNCRC reporting guidelines does not highlight climate change and its impact on children's rights, but it does address the right to health so a clean environment could be addressed in reporting linked to climate change as this is well proven to have potential negatively impact on health but also links closely affects other child rights, in terms of the consequences of natural disasters that can inhibit the right and safe access to schools, health clinics, safe

---

<sup>86</sup> [Mozambique coalition UPR report on the human rights situation of girls, 2020](#)

<sup>87</sup> SOGIESC is short for Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Expression and Sex Characteristics. [Here you can read the SC SOGIE policy position](#) from 2019

<sup>88</sup> [Children's Rights and the Environment: Guidance on the reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2020](#)

<sup>89</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/20/climate/global-climate-strike.html>

<sup>90</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/16-children-including-greta-thunberg-file-landmark-complaint-united-nations>, 2019

<sup>91</sup> <https://www.savethechildren.net/news/save-children-intervenes-climate-change-court-case-brought-young-people-against-33-countries>

housing, and access to food. By raising concerns about the state's ability to reduce carbon emissions and footprints, we are holding states to account for the climate governance agenda at global and national level. An example of raising concerns on climate change and disaster preparedness was seen in the Nepali child led UPR supplementary report submitted in 2020 which was supported by Save the Children in [Nepal](#), where children raised the issue of climate impact and the need for them to be involved in disaster preparedness plans and processes. In addition, in 2020 the Human Rights Council held a Day of General Discussion and consequently adopted the Resolution: Realising the rights of the child through a healthy environment, that includes strong wording on key asks from the joint call to action that we can refer to in our reporting to the human rights mechanisms to hold governments to accounts for environmental degradation and climate impact<sup>92</sup>.

### c) Disability and inclusion

Having children that face discrimination and inequalities, from different socioeconomic backgrounds, and disabilities engaged in CRR not only raises more awareness about the unique barriers these groups of children face, but also empowers them as drivers of change. Both duty bearers and all stakeholders (CSOs, private sector, etc) will be pressured to find solutions and address these barriers in the laws, policies, budgets, services, practices and attitudes. The CRC and CRPD are both rooted in the principles of non-discrimination and access to equal opportunities for all children. They both specify further areas of focus such as the principles of participation which underpins both conventions, including for children with disabilities, and emphasise the present and future autonomy and agency of the child.

Almost all reports reflect the fact that children with disabilities are the most marginalized which face high levels of discrimination and inequality. Marginalization multiplies when the child is a girl, from poor socioeconomic background or when there is a conflict. Reaching out to CSOs or CBOs focusing on disability issues and to Disabled Peoples Organisations is important to reflect their causes and issues, and to give them a voice.

[SC Sudan supported a deaf girl to engage in the UPR to report on and advocate for child protection issues for children with disabilities. See her video using sign language.](#)

Partnering with DPOs is important to access persons and children with disabilities representative of all impairment types and their carers, if these children cannot easily speak for themselves or there is a need for further information on the impact of discriminatory practices towards children with disabilities on the carers themselves and the rest of the household. Persons with disabilities including children, will be unlikely to contribute if Save the Children does not actively invite them, make sure their accessibility needs are catered for in order to contribute during the same consultation processes (i.e. do not hold separated FGD for

disabled people as this would contravene the concept of inclusion and risks reinforcing negative stereotypes) and ensure that their contributions are facilitated and valued. This implies Save the Children staff and partners to be trained and challenge their own bias towards disabled people to promote an attitudinal change within the community consulted, including challenging self-stigmatization within the disability constituency. This would contribute to lifting at least 2/3 of the barriers to inclusion i.e. environmental and attitudinal ones. We need to identify mechanisms to reach these children at the community and national levels to ensure inclusion of children with disabilities and marginalized children. Inclusion is about changing the environment and removing the barriers and it is about equity and responding to their unique needs. The CRR process will promote the safety and dignity of persons with disabilities, and ensuring they are meaningfully engaged in all phases of CRR. Inclusion does not focus on what is done, but on how it is done. The four 'must do' actions should be kept in mind in all phases of CRR a) Promote meaningful participation - Persons with disabilities are entitled to participate in matters affecting them. b) Empower persons with disabilities; support them to develop their capacities – need first to develop their own awareness of the rights and capacities of persons with disabilities c) Disaggregate data for monitoring inclusion - data on barriers and on the requirements of persons with disabilities are essential d) Remove barriers - Neither inclusion nor participation can be achieved while barriers remain. Removing attitudinal, environmental and institutional barriers is critical to addressing risks.

---

<sup>92</sup> [HRC Resolution on Realizing the Rights of the Child Through a Healthy Environment, 2020](#)

In SC **Norway** they consulted children with intellectual disabilities in 2017 for the supplementary report to the UNCRC and their inputs were reflected in outcome recommendations that focused on strengthening the rights of children with disabilities and their right to be heard in political processes.

To the extent possible and when resources allow, we should engage with the specific human rights mechanism, the Convention on the Rights of People with Disability (CRPD) and we can cross reference data and messages from our CRR reporting to other mechanisms. In **Palestine** a key Save the Children partner has been supported to develop a supplementary report on children with disabilities, expected to be submitted in 2022. The state report was submitted in 2019, but the review process was delayed by Covid in 2020-2021.

## 11. Evidence references

### Global evaluations and evidence reviews

- Geneva global internal evaluation, 2016
  - [Part 1](#)
  - [Part 2](#)
- **Evidence review, internal and external – Annex C**

### Country evaluations

- Zambia: [Final Project Evaluation Report towards Systematic Change to Realize Children's Rights in Zambia- 2013 to 2017](#)

### Save the Children Case Studies

- Child Rights Reporting Cost Impact case studies, Save the Children, 2021
- [Child Rights Reporting – Case studies from around the world, Save the Children, 2018](#)
- [Universal Periodic Review: Successful examples of child rights advocacy Save the Children, 2014](#) -good practice examples of Save the Children engagement in UPR reporting and advocacy.
- [It's all about children: Seven good examples and ten steps to meaningful children's participation in reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Save the Children, 2011](#) - includes helpful learning and advice from country offices.

### The How To Child Rights platform

A series of tools is launched in 2022 on child rights of relevance for the CRR CA, initiated by Save the Children and builds on cross organisational buy-in and collaboration with many stakeholders, inkl members of the UNCRC Committee, other INGOs and national NGOs. [Find all Resources on How To Child Rights](#)

### Below some cases to highlight for CRR:

- [How to engage with the Simplified Reporting Procedure: A case study from Zambia](#)
- [How to prepare a child led report for the Simplified Reporting Procedure: A case study from South Africa](#)
- [How to advocate for children's rights in the climate crisis through the Universal Periodic Review: A case study from Australia](#)
- [How to prepare a child-led complementary report for a Voluntary National Review: A Case study from Zambia, SDG](#)

## 12. Tools and resources

### Child Rights Reporting Common Approaches documents

- [Child Rights Reporting Onenet page](#)
- [2-pager](#)
- [Elevator pitch](#)
- [Infographic](#)
- [CA Case study](#)

Fidelity of Implementation There are a large number of tools and resources available that explain the reporting and review procedures in great detail and give ideas and suggestions on how to involve children.

### Children's right to be heard and child participation

- [UN Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment No. 12, The Right of the Child to be Heard, 2009](#) - Sets out the core principles for children's right to be heard.
- [Every Child's Right to be Heard: A Resource Guide on the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment No.12, Save the Children and UNICEF, 2011](#) – contains practical advice and examples of how to put the core principles of the General Comment into action.
- [The UPR and Me: My guide to participating in the UPR, 2020, Child Rights Connect and UPR Info:](#)

- [My Pocket Guide to CRC reporting, second edition, Child Rights Connect, 2020](#) – a child-friendly guide explaining to children how they can get involved. (available in English, French, Spanish and Turkish)
- [Child Led Data Collection: A guide for young people to learn how to do research and create positive change](#) (available in English and Arabic), Save the Children,
- [Working methods for the participation of children in the reporting process of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, CRC/C/66/2, 2014](#) – clearly sets out how and when children can engage with the process.
- [Together with Children – for Children: A guide for non-governmental organizations accompanying children in CRC reporting, NGO Group for the CRC \(now Child Rights Connect\), 2011](#) - very practical and concrete advice on how to involve children.
- [Child Friendly version of the UNCRC](#), Unicef
- [The Rights of Child Human Rights Defenders – Implementation Guide, 2020](#)
- [Young Voices survey tool](#)
- [Together we Decide – Strengthening child participation in UN processes](#), 2021 SC, research on child participation in UN processes, incl recommendations

### **Engaging with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child**

- [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)
- [UNCRC State reporting guidelines \(apply to CSO's too\), 2015](#)
- [UN CRC's website](#) - sets out key information for civil society including calendars for review.
- [Simplified Reporting Procedure guidance](#), presentation delivered by Child Rights Connect for Save the Children in Feb, 2021.
- [How to Follow Up on United Nations Human Right Recommendations, A practical Guide for Civil Society, OHCHR, 2013](#) – examines different strategies for follow up including working in coalitions, prioritizing, planning and seizing momentum.
- [Children's rights and the environment – Guidance on reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, CERI, 2020](#)
- [Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography](#), (also referred to as OP1)
- [Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict](#), (also referred to as OP2)
- [Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure](#), (Also referred to as OPIC and OP3)
- [Treaty body factsheet, Global Protection Cluster, Human Rights Engagement Task team, 2021](#)

**Key partner for UNCRC reporting:** Child Rights Connect is a Geneva based secretariat for a global network of 85 national, regional and international NGOs working on children's rights. They have consolidated guidance for CRC reporting: <https://www.childrightsconnect.org/crc-reporting/> and many resources in different languages on engaging with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child: <http://www.childrightsconnect.org/publications-resources/>. Some are referred above but particularly relevant are the below:

- [The Reporting Cycle of the Committee on the Rights of the Child A guide for NGOs and NHRIs, 2014](#) - provides information on the procedures for the examination of reports submitted under the CRC and its Optional Protocols and details how to submit information and participate in the pre-sessional working group meeting.
- [CRC Mini-site for quick and easy guidance](#) (see dropdown menu at the top "Steps in the Reporting Cycle")
- [Simplified Reporting Procedure information, incl guidance, calendar and comparative table](#)

### **Other relevant sites from Child Rights Connect on OP3 or OPIC:**

- [OPIC site](#)
- [Jurisprudence database to see complaints decisions by the Committee to the OPIC](#) (filter for CRC treaty body)
- [OPIC resources for children](#)



## **Engaging with the Universal Periodic Review**

- [UPR website](#) – information for civil society including documentation from previous sessions and calendar of reviews.
- [UPR-Info tutorials and videos](#)
- [UPR Info recommendations database](#)
- [UPR Info Civil Society compendium: a comprehensive guide for Civil Society Organisations engaging in the UPR, 2017](#)
- [Universal Periodic Review Toolkit Add-On, Advocacy Guide Save the Children, 2012](#) – a 10-step guide to successful child rights UPR advocacy.
- [Universal Periodic Toolkit- A guide for country programs Save the Children, 2011](#) – looks at why and how to get involved.
- **UPR Info** is an NGO based in Geneva with regional offices in Africa and Asia. It has a wealth of up to date resources regarding individual countries and their UPR process available at: <http://www.upr-info.org/en> as well as online training for engaging with the UPR process.
- [UPR factsheet, Global Protection cluster, Human Rights Engagement Task team, 2021](#)

## **Engaging with the ACERWC**

- [ACERWC website](#) with information for civil society
- [State Party Guidelines, the ACERWC, 2015](#)
- [ACERWC CSO guidelines to report and Pre-session, 2012](#)
- [Advancing children's rights. A Guide for Civil Society Organisations on how to engage with the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Third edition Save the Children Sweden/ Plan International, 2019](#) – sets out procedures and practices for civil society.
- [Concluding Observations Trends Tracker \(COTT\) Matrix for African Countries](#), also has links to outcome documents for UPR and UNCRC for African countries, The East Africa Child Rights Network, 2021

## **Save the Children Guidance on cross cutting issues**

- [Gender Equality Policy](#)
- [Gender Equality Program Guidance and Toolkit, Save the Children](#)
- [Gender Equality Onenet page](#)
- [Onenet page on Gender Equality](#)
- [Disability Inclusive Child Safeguarding toolkit](#)
- [Disability Inclusion Onenet page](#)
- [Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change policy](#)

## **Save the Children CRR Covid resources**

- [Covid adaptation guidance for child participation and CRG, incl for CRR, 2020](#)
- [CRR Covid Webinars, 2020](#)
- [Country examples of CRR Covid adaptation work, 2020](#)

## **Resources with Humanitarian responses around Conflict issues**

- [Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on Children in Armed Conflict](#)
- [Children and Armed Conflict dashboard, UN Security Council](#)
- [Save the Children PCIC Onenet page](#)
- [Centrality of Protection – what does it mean for Save the Children, Onenet page](#)
- [Centrality of Protection – Save the Children guidance for Country offices on accessing accountability mechanisms for child rights in humanitarian crises](#)
- [Global Protection Cluster Human Rights Engagement Task Team website guidance and tools, including webinars on UPR](#)

## **Save the Children libraries to find more resources**

- [CRG global thematic library](#) (open internally only)

- [The Save the Children Resource Center](#) (open to externals)
- [Evaluation repository](#)

## Annex A: UNCRC – UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its 3 optional Protocols

MECHANISM	BODIES/ ORGANS	YEAR	ISSUES	INTRODUCTION & FACTS
UNCRC – UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS FOR THE CHILD	UN Treaty body – Committee of experts reviews states	1989	All child rights, 4 general principles and the states systems to deliver child rights	This Convention aims to hold states to account for the implementation of children’s rights. Since it was adopted, 196 countries ratified it, reaching near universal ratification. The Convention consists of 54 articles and the Committee overseeing it consists of 18 members of independent experts. States have an obligation to report on their implementation of the Convention every 5 years. The reporting guidelines lists ‘General Measures of Implementation’ that define the changes needed in state infrastructure to make the Convention a reality.
Optional Protocol on Sale of children, Child prostitution and child pornography	Optional protocol – UNCRC Committee led	2000	Sale of children, and sexual violations	There are three Optional Protocols to the UNCRC. These are additional mechanisms that complements the CRC and highlight serious or grave violations and abuses of children. States have to ratify the protocols separately from the main Convention.
Optional Protocol on children in armed conflict		2000	Children in armed conflict	For the 2 first Optional Protocols states have reporting obligations to the Committee, whilst the third Optional Protocol is a complaints procedure for children that argue that their rights have been violated. This third Optional Protocol can be applied only when all national remedies are exhausted.
Optional Protocol on communications procedure		2011	Complaints of child violations	

## A FRAMEWORK FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CHILD RIGHTS

The Convention sets out a framework for states to meet children’s basic and fundamental rights and ensure that they reach their full potential. It requests that states apply the 4 guiding principles of 1) non-discrimination, 2) the best interest of the child, 3) survival and development and 4) participation while implementing the articles and points out how to ensure that the legal, budgetary, and administrative set up facilitates efficient and transparent state management when implementing the Convention.

The Convention requests that the state comprehensively reports on all articles of the Convention and the Optional Protocols to establish the level of compliance with all child rights in legislation and practice and aims to identify problems and what corrections are needed. The state will often focus on reporting on positive trends or achievements on child rights, while civil society’s role is seen to be pointing out gaps and missing implementation of child rights to suggest more action from the state in those areas.

*States are bound by international law to ensure the Convention is implemented into national legislation.*

The Committee of Experts examines the reports and have a dialogue with the different stakeholders prior to and during the actual review and then issues its consideration of the state report with clear recommendations to the state on where they are expected to improve implementation to meet children’s rights more thoroughly and move towards higher levels of compliance with the Convention.

More info on the office of the High Commissioner of Human rights website:

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/CRCIndex.aspx>

## Annex B: Factsheets for other international human rights mechanisms

MECHANISM	Convention of the Elimination of Discrimination against Women – CEDAW
<b>BODIES/ORGANS</b>	UN Treaty Body – Led by expert Committee
<b>YEAR</b>	Adopted in 1979, entered into force 1981
<b>ISSUES ADDRESSED</b>	Women’s and Girls’ Rights; Gender Equality; Discrimination against girls and women
<b>INTRODUCTION &amp; FACTS</b>	<p>CEDAW is a landmark in the history of women’s and girls’ human rights.</p> <p>It is the first legally binding international instrument prohibiting discrimination against women. Ratified by 189 countries, it requires state parties to take affirmative steps to advance gender equality and eliminate discrimination against women and girls in both private and public spheres.</p> <p>State parties are to submit national reports, at least every four years, on measures they have taken to comply with their treaty obligations. NGOs are invited to present supplementary reports.</p>
<b>HOW DOES THIS MECHANISM LINK TO THE CRC AND CHILD RIGHTS:</b>	<p>Gender equality is a fundamental human right for children, underpinned by both the CRC and the CEDAW. They contain interconnecting standards<sup>93</sup> that may be used in a complementary way to protect and fulfil the rights of children, where articles under the two conventions support and reinforce each other. When used together, they allow for a more comprehensive human rights-based approach recognizing specific vulnerabilities to rights violations based on both gender and age. Using the synergies between the CRC and the CEDAW is particularly important to ensure the fulfilment of girls’ human rights.</p>
<b>WHAT ARE THE MAIN POINTS TO ADDRESS IN REPORTING AND FOLLOW UP:</b>	<p>The Convention, along with the general recommendations of the CEDAW Committee, represent two effective tools to protect and promote children’s right to gender equality and girls’ human rights. CEDAW allows for addressing a broad spectrum of relevant child rights issues in reporting and follow-up, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-discrimination, equality and elimination of gender stereotypes</li> <li>• Child marriage, female genital mutilation and honor-related crimes</li> <li>• Girls’ equitable access to education</li> <li>• Adolescent sexual and reproductive health</li> <li>• Trafficking and sexual exploitation</li> <li>• Equitable caregiving and shared responsibility for child-rearing</li> <li>• Girls’ equitable access to participation in political and public life</li> </ul>
<b>Experiences of reporting to CEDAW or on child rights issues with a gender/girls focus</b>	<p>We have not yet identified CEDAW reporting supported by Save the Children, if you know of cases, please let us know. Save the Children have in several cases supported coalitions to report to the UPR and CRC from a gender perspective or inputs from CRC and ACRWC report has informed other international gender spaces such as the Beijing Framework.</p> <p><b>Case of UPR report in Mozambique in 2020:</b> Report on the human rights situation of girls in Mozambique: The nexus between girls’ economic, social and cultural situation, early or forced marriages, early pregnancy, and COVID-19, submitted by the coalition CECAP (Coalition for the Elimination of Child Early Marriage) a network of more than 50 civil society organisations including Save the Children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Read the report</a></li> </ul>
<b>Tools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Plan’s Guide to monitor, report and follow up to CEDAW, 2011</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">UNICEF’s guide to CEDAW, 2009</a></li> </ul>

<sup>93</sup> Key shared principles of the CRC and CEDAW include the right to health; right to education; protection from discrimination; right to nationality; facilitation of access to resources by the state; protection from unequal treatment on the basis of sex; highlighting the duties of both parents to bring up children; the obligation of the State to provide proper child care facilities; highlighting that the best interests of the child is an important consideration; the need to eliminate trafficking of girls and women; protection of girls and women from sexual abuse, exploitation and from sex work; the importance of rest, leisure, and recreational activities; dismantling the public/private dichotomy and recognizing that certain situations demand intervention in the private sphere; provisions acknowledging State Party and non-state party liability.

<b>MECHANISM</b>	<b>Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD)</b>
<b>BODIES/ORGANIS</b>	UN Treaty Body – Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
<b>YEAR</b>	Adopted in 2006, entered into force in 2008
<b>ISSUES ADDRESSED</b>	The Convention (50 articles + optional protocol) recognises all persons with disabilities' rights including children. It defines disability as an evolving concept "Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others"; thus reminding that disability is not an attribute of the person.
<b>INTRODUCTION &amp; FACTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Human Rights instrument with an explicit, social development dimension</li> <li>• Aims at holding States Parties to account for the implementation of these rights.</li> <li>• All States parties (182) are obliged to report to the Committee on their implementation of the convention, initially within two years of accepting the Convention and thereafter every four years. The Optional Protocol (98 signatories<sup>94</sup>) gives the Committee competence to examine individual complaints with regard to alleged violations of the Convention by States parties to the Protocol.</li> </ul>
<b>HOW DOES THIS MECHANISM LINK TO THE CRC AND CHILD RIGHTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Preamble</b> recalls other HR instruments including on gender equality and "recalling obligations (...) undertaken by States Parties to the CRC" and particularly about children with disabilities should have full enjoyment of ALL human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children.</li> <li>• <b>General principles (art. 3)</b> is about respecting the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for (their) rights to preserve their identities (e.g. no forced medical interventions)</li> <li>• <b>Article 7 of the CRPD</b> concerns specifically the rights of children with disabilities to enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children</li> <li>• Most CRPD articles have their equivalent in the CRC in relation to children's rights; for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art 10 right to life to - Art 6 CRC</li> <li>• Art 8 awareness raising - CRC Art 42</li> <li>• Art 12&amp;13 legal rights/justice - CRC 7, 40, 41</li> <li>• Art 14, 15, 16, 17 on protection from abuse, exploitation, torture, .. – CRC 12, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37</li> <li>• Art 23 – CRC 9, 16, 18</li> <li>• Art 24 – CRC 28, 29</li> <li>• Art 25 – CRC 24</li> <li>• Art 28 – CRC 27</li> <li>• Art 30 – CRC 15, 31</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The main difference is that the CRPD adopts a more medical oriented model and is not clearly recommending the lifting of barriers to promote inclusion. For further comparisons find a summary <a href="#">here</a></p>
<b>WHAT ARE THE MAIN POINTS TO ADDRESS IN REPORTING AND FOLLOW UP:</b>	<p>The main points to address in reporting are the <b>same as for children without disabilities</b></p> <p>However, it is imperative that the monitoring is participatory of children with disabilities representing all impairment types and severity, and that it models meaningful participation and not just being integrated into the room or participation in segregated ways. A focus on the barriers to participation is essential. Therefore, additional issues need to be examined such as provision of reasonable accommodation (art 5, 24 and 25) necessary to allow the implementation of for example inclusive education. The demonstration of efforts towards progressive realization of all rights is to be also noted and celebrated.</p>
<b>EXPERIENCES OF CRPD REPORTING ON CHILD ISSUES</b>	<p>A Disabled Peoples Organisation (DPO) coalition in Mozambique was supported by SC in 2020 to report to the UPR from a disability and CRPD perspective, which also included perspectives on the rights of children with disability and inclusive education. The report addresses a number of systemic issues like the failure of the government to pass a disability rights act and for lack of disaggregated data collection, and the constitutional terminology around disability among other recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>READ THE REPORT <a href="#">HERE</a></b></li> </ul>
<b>TOOLS</b>	<p><u><a href="#">SEE ME, HEAR ME: A GUIDE TO USING THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO PROMOTE THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN</a></u>  <b><u><a href="#">It's About Ability An explanation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.</a></u></b>  <u><a href="#">Disability Right Promotion International- A holistic tool for monitoring the implementation of the CRPD</a></u></p>

<sup>94</sup> as per May 2021



MECHANISM	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)
<b>BODIES/ORGANS</b>	The Commission is one of the principal autonomous and consultative organs under the <a href="#">Organization of American States (OAS) and the OAS Charter</a>
<b>Year</b>	The Commission was created in 1959
<b>ISSUES ADDRESSED</b>	Promote and protect human rights in the American hemisphere.
<b>INTRODUCTION &amp; FACTS</b>	<p><a href="#">The IACHR's main mandate and work:</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mission: Protect and promote human rights in the Americas</li> <li>• The Commission observes human rights, receives petitions of violations and performs country visits and submits reports, studies, recommendations and an annual report to the OAS General Assembly.</li> </ul> <p>The mechanism states that the rights of all people must be protected; especially those populations that have historically been discriminated against, such as children.</p> <p>The IACHR has the capacity to take matters related to the safeguarding of human rights to the <a href="#">Inter-American Court of Human Rights</a> to present cases and appear during processing and consideration of cases. Several cases has been presented and settled by the Court, see the judgements <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<b>HOW DOES THIS MECHANISM LINK TO THE CRC AND CHILD RIGHTS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work of observance of the rights of children and adolescents based on the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Rapporteurship on Rights of the Child</a> that contributes to the analysis and evaluation of the situation of the human rights of children in accordance with the CRC and its decisions.</li> <li>• The Rapporteurship advises the IACHR on individual petitions, cases and requests for precautionary and provisional measures related to children's rights, conducts on-site visits in OAS Member States and prepares studies and publications.</li> </ul>
<b>WHAT ARE THE MAIN AREAS WE CAN USE FROM THEIR MECHANISMS FOR REPORTING AND FOLLOW UP:</b>	<p>Each year, the IACHR presents questionnaires and forms focused on specific problems. All these questionnaires are open to civil society participation, so that it can provide information, insight, experience, and assistance regarding the state of human rights in the region that the IACHR and its Executive Secretariat could not otherwise access.</p> <p>All questionnaires and additional complementary information are available on the platform of the Organization of American States (OAS) and can be consulted <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>The Commission takes into account the information provided in its' working visits, petitions and cases received, precautionary measures, public hearings, thematic and country reports, and requests for information from the States.</p> <p>Some of the most relevant questionnaires related to children rights are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Eradication of Violence and Discrimination against Women, Girls and Adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean</li> <li>2) Freedom of Expression and the Media</li> <li>3) Report on National Systems for the Promotion and Protection of Children's Rights</li> <li>4) Organized Armed Violence and the Rights of Children and Adolescents in the Americas.</li> </ol> <p>Inputs from these questionnaires can be used for reporting and follow up in Child Rights Reporting.</p>
<b>SC Example of engagement</b>	<p>An accurate example is the participation of children's network "Red Paz Mx", which works closely with Save the Children Mexico, in an event organized by the Rapporteur on Children and Adolescents in 2020; in which children shared their concerns due the COVID-19 crisis, and their expectations from the government to address them.</p> <p>Results from the <a href="#">"Violence, Children and Organized Crime" questionnaire report</a> from 2015 by the IACHR were used to monitor violations to the children's' right to a life free from all forms of violence, in particular regarding children and adolescent's recruitment by organized crime groups in activities ranging from extortion to human smuggling. These inputs were informed the report submitted by Save the Children for the Universal Periodic Review of the State of Mexico in 2018 and demonstrates the value of using documentation from a regional accountability mechanism into one of the mechanisms addressed in the Child Rights Reporting Common Approach.</p>

MECHANISM	
<b>European Human Rights Mechanisms</b>	
<b>BODIES/ORGANS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">The Council of Europe (CoE)</a><sup>95</sup></li> <li>2. <a href="#">Commissioner for Human Rights</a></li> <li>3. <a href="#">European Court for Human Rights (ECHR)</a></li> </ol>
<b>Year</b>	The Council of Europe (CoE) was established in 1950, and the European Court began operating in 1959.
<b>ISSUES ADDRESSED</b>	Promote and protect human rights in 47 European member states.
<b>INTRODUCTION &amp; FACTS</b>	<p>The Council of Europe (CoE) is an intergovernmental organization with 47 Member States and it operates entirely independent from the European Union, but works in partnership with the EU and cooperates with UN and OSCE. The CoE's connection to the European Union is that the European Union itself, its 27 <a href="#">EU Member States</a>, and candidates for EU membership are required to ratify the <a href="#">European Convention on Human Rights</a> (ECHR)). See <a href="#">Treaty of the European Union</a>.<sup>96</sup></p> <p>The Council of Europe promotes human rights through international conventions. It monitors member states' progress in these areas and makes recommendations through independent expert monitoring bodies.</p> <p>In Europe, the principal judicial and quasi-judicial organs responsible for defining and overseeing States' compliance with their regional human rights obligations are the European Court of Human Rights and the European Committee of Social Rights, both created under the auspices of the <a href="#">Council of Europe</a>. In addition, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights serves as an independent monitor, highlighting issues of concern in the region.</p> <p>The <a href="#">European Court of Human Rights</a> (ECHR) is a regional human rights judicial body based in Strasbourg, France. The Court began operating in 1959 and has delivered more than 10,000 judgments regarding alleged violations of the European Convention on Human Rights. Since 1998 individual victims have been allowed to submit their complaints directly to the European Court of Human Rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">HUDOC judgements and decisions</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">A video about how to search HUDOC</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">HUDOC FAQ</a></li> </ul>
<b>HOW DOES THIS MECHANISM LINK TO THE CRC AND CHILD RIGHTS:</b>	<p>The CoE secures better implementation of children's rights in the member states for example by raising awareness and working in co-operation with national authorities in eliminating all forms of violence against children and corporal punishment; promoting child-friendly justice and social services; guaranteeing the rights of children in vulnerable situations; and promoting children's participation in decisions affecting them. All CoE objectives are anchored in the UNCRC.</p> <p>The CoE implements and promotes periodic child rights strategies<sup>97</sup> in the member states and advocates the EU to commit to these strategies. The strategy processes involve all member states and stakeholders, including the UN organisations and Special Representatives, international non-governmental organisations, academia, professionals, The European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (<a href="#">ENOC</a>), parliamentarians and ministers, local and regional authorities.</p> <p>Established in 2020, <a href="#">The steering Committee for the Rights of the Child</a> (DCENF) is the Council of Europe intergovernmental body responsible for the standard-setting activities in the field of the rights of the child. The CDENF also oversees the implementation of the strategies and ensures that the rights of the child are mainstreamed into all relevant CoE committees and bodies and supports Member States in mainstreaming child rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Learn more here about CoE and child rights approaches</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Handbook European law relating to the rights of the child</a></li> </ul>

<sup>95</sup> <https://www.coe.int/en/web/about-us/structure> - here you can read more about the structures of the CoE and other organs

<sup>96</sup> How to distinguish the EU organs from one another: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/about-us/do-not-get-confused>

<sup>97</sup> Strategies and programmes: [https://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/BriefDescription/Default\\_en.asp](https://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/BriefDescription/Default_en.asp)

## Children's rights and the CoE

The main human rights treaty of the Council of Europe, the [European Convention on Human Rights](#), which deals with civil and political rights, makes no mention of children's rights. The first provision for children added to this Convention was in [Article 5 of Protocol No. 7](#), which was adopted in 1984.

The other major human rights treaty of the Council of Europe is the [European Social Charter](#) (1961) which sets out economic and social rights. The provisions relating to children's rights refer mainly to their right to protection in the workplace and from economic and social vulnerability. See Articles 7, 8, 16, 17, 19, 27, 31 and the [CoE's factsheet on children's rights in the European Social Charter](#).

The CoE has also adopted a number of specific treaties on children's rights which may be invoked to challenge breaches of these rights:

- [Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse \(2007\)](#)
- [European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights \(1996\)](#)
- [European Convention on the Legal Status of Children born out of Wedlock \(1975\)](#)
- [European Convention on the Adoption of Children \(revised 2008\)](#)
- [European Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Decisions concerning Custody of Children and on Restoration of Custody of Children \(1980\)](#)
- [European Convention on Nationality \(1997\)](#)
- [European Convention on the Repatriation of Minors \(1970\)](#)
- [Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings \(2005\)](#)
- [Convention on Cybercrime \(2001\)](#)

## WHAT ARE THE MAIN BODIES TO ENGAGE WITH FOR CRR REPORTING AND FOLLOW UP

The human rights monitoring mechanisms of the Council of Europe seek to establish a permanent dialogue with governments to encourage them to better implement human rights treaties. They function principally through the use of national reports, on which basis they make recommendations, and may also visit or question states directly.

The key CoE international conventions, their monitoring bodies and mechanisms in monitoring child rights in Europe are as follows:

### [The European Convention on Human Rights](#)

#### [The European Social Charter](#)

Every year the States Parties submit a report indicating how they implement the Charter in law and in practice. Each report concerns some of the accepted provisions of the Charter

**A collective complaints procedure:** Under a Protocol that entered into force in 1998, complaints of violations of the Charter may be lodged with the European Committee of Social Rights by national and international organisations such as trade unions, employers' organisations and international NGOs.

#### [The Revised European Social Charter](#)

**Monitoring body:** [European Committee of Social Rights](#)

System of reports. Additional Protocol provides for a system of individual complaints

#### [Lanzarote Convention](#)

Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (T-ES).

**Monitoring body:** [Committee of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse \(T-ES\)](#). (also called Lanzarote Committee)

Evaluation based on a questionnaire of the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Convention with respect to the selected theme

#### [Budapest Convention](#)

The Convention on Cybercrime of the Council of Europe (CETS No.185) is the only binding international instrument on this issue. It serves as a guideline for any country developing comprehensive national legislation against Cybercrime and as a framework for international cooperation between State Parties to this treaty.

**Monitoring body:** [Cybercrime Convention Committee \(T-CY\)](#)

**Istanbul Convention**

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women.

**Monitoring body:** [Group of Experts on action against violence against women and domestic violence \(GREVIO\)](#)

Committee of Parties Evaluation in rounds in response to questionnaires

Special enquiry procedure

**Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**

**Monitoring body:** [Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings \(GRETA\) Committee of the Parties.](#)

Evaluation in rounds based on a questionnaire regarding a specific provision.

**Example of Civil Society and SC engagement**

The civil society, including the SC member offices, may monitor the CoE Conventions through the monitoring mechanism established for each Convention. As far as the country offices are concerned they may also use the monitoring mechanism for their advocacy, although the country has not ratified or will not as a non-member ratify the Convention. International non-governmental organisations are also able to apply for INGO status in several monitoring committees. This provides them with transparent opportunities to be up-to-date of the exchange of the Member States and the experts.

INGOs holding participatory status in the Council of Europe, known as the Conference of INGOs, actively contribute to the decision-making process at the Council of Europe and to the implementation of its programmes. The civil society co-operation programmes funded by the Council of Europe aim at strengthening the role of civil society in a pluralist democracy, in particular promoting public participation in decision making, and offer excellent opportunities for monitoring human rights violations.

An example: Save the Children Finland has in its' programme strategy targets for tackling sexual violence against children. In order to address these child rights violations SCF monitors the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention in Finland. This is done by following up the work of the Monitoring Body, the Lanzarote Committee, and making sure that SCF is active when the civil society has a space to give recommendations during the monitoring cycle. In addition, SCF has been the main advocate in ensuring that the Finnish government is for the first time (2021) since the ratification of the Convention (2011) drafting an Action Plan for the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention. Furthermore, SCF makes sure that all recommendations by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding sexual violence against children are also addressed as an integral part of the monitoring of the Lanzarote Convention. SCF also informs the decision makers, civil servants, professionals and children about the state obligations, and participates in The European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse which takes place in the CoE Member States annually 18 November during the Child Rights Week. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/6th-european-day-on-protection-of-children-against-sexual-exploitation-and-sexual-abuse>

**Annex C: Child Rights Reporting (CRR) Common Approach - Internal and external review of evidence (2021)**

Author and year	Title	Brief description	Links/documents
<b>Rating: Very Useful evidence</b>			
CRG Global theme, and SC CRG teams, Pakistan, Philippines, Afghanistan, Albania, Nepal, Zimbabwe <b>2021</b>	Child Rights Reporting Cost Impact Case Studies	6 case studies with assessment of SC, partners and civil society level of impact and contribution, evidence links and spending on programmes	<a href="#">HERE</a>
Unicef and Universal Rights Group <b>2020</b>	Realising Rights, changing lives – the impact of the United Nations human rights system on the enjoyment of children’s rights.	The report tracks the implementation of the human rights reporting cycles in some countries and identify and share good practices and pinpoints success factors	<a href="#">HERE</a>
African Child Policy Forum <b>2020</b>	Africa’s 30 year journey with the African Children’s Charter: Taking Stock - Rekindling Commitment	The report assesses the status of child rights in Africa for the past 30 years, examining progress and challenges and offers recommendations to address challenges.	<a href="#">HERE</a> <a href="#">Infographic</a>
Laura, Theytaz, for Child Rights Connect <b>2019</b>	Global Status of Engagement in Reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child	The review addresses the status of engagement and new developments historically, assesses on progress/impact and challenges and reflects on lessons learned to inform CR Connects 2020-2024 CRC strategy to create more impact of the civil society and child led work.	<a href="#">HERE</a>
CRG Global theme, and SC CRG teams in South Sudan, Albania, Yemen, Senegal, Bangladesh, Nicaragua, <b>2018</b>	Child Rights Reporting Case Studies from around the world	6 case studies assessing SC and civil society activities, impact and lessons learned	<a href="#">HERE</a>
SC Geneva Advocacy Office Jennifer Philpot, consultant <b>2016</b>	Internal evaluation of Save the Children’s child rights monitoring and advocacy using international and regional child rights and human rights monitoring mechanisms, notably the UPR, CRC Committee and ACERWC, to hold governments to account	Strong internal evaluation of more than 30 programmes working on CRR	<a href="#">Part 1 – summary of findings, conclusions and recommendations</a> <a href="#">Part 2 – compilation of responses</a>



	on their commitments to children		
UPR Info 2016	The Butterfly Effect – spreading good practices of UPR implementation	Assessing impact of UPR work from different levels, but not exclusively assessing impact on child rights but also in broader human rights context. Also shares good practices.	<a href="#">HERE</a>
SC CRG Global Initiative 2014	Universal Periodic Review – Successful examples of child rights advocacy	8 case studies assessing coalition and SC thematic recommendations adopted by states and policy and other outcomes	<a href="#">HERE</a>
Child Rights Connect, 2013	CRC Case Studies	10 case studies of civil society experiences following up on the CRC reporting process looking at activities and results	<a href="#">HERE</a>
Gabriella Olofsson, for SC Kosovo 2016	A regional program evaluation document A Program Evaluation of Projects Implemented in Serbia, Moldova and Ukraine 2013-2015	This evaluation assesses processes done in Serbia, Moldova and Ukraine incl on effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the CRR work	<a href="#">HERE</a>
UPR Info 2014	Beyond Promises – the Impact of the UPR on the ground	The study provides insights into the results and concrete actions by the Governments for the first UPR cycle. UPR addresses a broader human rights context beyond that of child rights.	<a href="#">HERE</a>
SC CRG Global Initiative, 2011	It’s all about children Seven good examples and ten steps to meaningful children's participation in reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child	Document the impact on children through their participation in CRR	<a href="#">HERE</a>
SCS Eva Clarhäll, CNN Consulting 2011	Civil Society Partners' contribution to the implementation and monitoring of “Children's rights in society”. Thematic Review of Save the Children Sweden	Thematic review of SCS and partners work to assess the impact and challenges of the civil society reporting and follow up work and provides recommendations for future work	<a href="#">HERE</a>
SCS Eva Clarhäll, CNN Consulting 2011	Monitoring Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: A review of Concluding Observations by the UN CRC Committee regarding General Measures of Implementation	The review provides an assessment of Concluding Observations from the CRC from 15 countries on gaps, status and recommendations for improvement in particular on the GMI’s	<a href="#">HERE</a>
SCS regional Asia office, Ashish Damle, 2010	UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: Monitoring and Reporting. An overview of South Asia	Document areas civil society reported on, progress and change and areas for improvement	<a href="#">HERE</a>
Denise Allen By CRIN and SCUK	The Use of Concluding Observations for Monitoring the	9 country case studies describing the experiences of NGO coalitions in monitoring progress	<a href="#">HERE</a>

2005	Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child	of the Concluding Observations from the CRC and using them for advocacy	
SCUK, Daniela Baro 2003	A Tool for Change? Reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child	Assessing benefit of CRR and suggest how to improve impact of work	<a href="#">HERE</a>
<b>Rating: Useful evidence</b>			
Annabel Trapp and Roz Keating, consultants and Diarra Diop, SC for SC Geneva office, 2021	Together we Decide – strengthening child participation in UN processes	The review assesses the level of child participation across 7 UN processes and consults more than 200 children across 9 countries.	<a href="#">HERE</a>
John Njoka and Romola Adealo consultants for UNICEF 2020	Review of progress in the advancement of child rights in Africa: Reflecting on the past and future challenges and opportunities	The review assesses the status of child rights implementation in Africa, the role of the ACERWC and actors of change, incl cases	<a href="#">HERE</a>
SC Bangladesh CRG team 2015	Children in Bangladesh It's progress towards commitments 2015	Useful country example and tool. This report provides a best practice follow up framework tool and present status from the CRR follow up work through monitoring of implementation of recommendations and further recommendations.	<a href="#">HERE</a>
Queens University Belfast commissioned by UNICEF UK, 2012	The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: a study of legal implementation in 12 countries	Research that assesses the level of UNCRC legal implementation in 12 countries as the overall achievement we want to see from CRR work.	<a href="#">HERE</a>
Madeline Tearse, commissioned by SCS, SC EU office, CRG Global Initiative 2012	Eyes on Europe. Progress on children's rights in the European Union A study on the impact of international children's rights monitoring on European member states EU institutions	The study assesses the impact of the human rights reporting mechanisms in EU countries	<a href="#">HERE</a>