**UNICEF and Child Rights Connect Collaboration:** Development of a child-friendly version of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as a practical guide

**Child-friendly version of the UNCRC – child participation process**

* **Starting point:** Many child-friendly versions of the UNCRC exist, but their quality and participation of children in their development varies significantly.
* **Aims:** To produce the official UNICEF child-friendly version of the UNCRC, including children’s views. To take forward a safe and meaningful child participation process including inputs from children across regions and from diverse backgrounds.
* **Child participation key points:**
* First draft created by UNICEF using all available child-friendly versions of the UNCRC
* Global Children’s Advisory Team of 9 child advisors, selected using inclusive criterion
* Close collaboration with child advisors led by Child Rights Connect to input and review to the text, and child advisors took forward consultations with their peers
* Draft shared broadly with diverse groups of children for additional suggestions/review
* **Child participation methodology:**

**Step 1:** Creating a first draft

* UNICEF collated all the child-friendly versions of the UNCRC available and reviewed them to help create a first draft of the official UNICEF text. This text was to be used as a basis for the children to work with.

**Step 2:** Setting up a Children’s Advisory Team

* Child Rights Connect circulated amongst its network (of **over 90 organisations worldwide**) and partners an open call for applications to a Children’s Advisory Team (*see annex 1*) with a clear deadline. Members were encouraged to circulate among their own networks.
* Child Rights Connect received **42 child applications in total.**
* A selection criterion was applied to select **9 child advisors**. **Strict criterion** included to guarantee: Gender and age balance, children across different regions, English speaking, children from diverse backgrounds, a supporting organisation who is a member or partner of Child Rights Connect and completed consent forms by the child, parent or guardian and supporting organisation. Some of the details of the team are below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Gender | Age | Country | Region |
| Female | 16 | México | Latin America |
| Male | 14 | Tanzania | Africa |
| Female | 15 | Republic of Korea | Asia |
| Male | 16 | Bangladesh | Asia |
| Female | 16 | Philippines | Pacific |
| Male | 11 | Ukraine | Eastern Europe |
| Male | 15 | Turkey | MENA |
| Female | 17 | Canada | North America |
| Male | 11 | Scotland | Western Europe |

* All child applicants were contacted with a response to their application.
* Each child advisor and supporting organisation was invited to join a Basecamp group to allow for collaborative work, live chats and sharing of documents. Basecamp was chosen as it is a safe and child-friendly platform.
* The first draft text of the child-friendly CRC, the original UNCRC text, an activity pack and the consent forms were uploaded onto the Basecamp group.
* Child Rights Connect took forward a call with supporting organisations to introduce them to the project and child participation process.
* A first call was arranged with the child advisors using WebEx, to introduce the Team and run- through the activity pack together.

**Step 3:** Activities and feedback with the Children’s Advisory Team / integrating and consolidating inputs

* A series of WebEx calls and Basecamp chats took place in order to revise and review the children’s inputs to make the text more child-friendly. This included discussing what was possible/not possible to change or to add to the text.
* The child advisors each received feedback from Child Rights Connect on their suggestions and spoke as a Team on the Basecamp chat.
* The child advisors also received the draft design brief and draft article descriptions to provide their inputs, as part of the process to design an icon for each article, which UNICEF was taking forward. They received specific feedback from UNICEF on their suggestions.
* Many of the child advisors set up consultations with their peers to help collect inputs for the child-friendly UNCRC. There were **67 children** who took part in these broader local and national level consultations (age range 12 years to 17 years old).

**Step 4:** Review with broader groups of children

* Once the child advisors had worked through the entire text, the draft was then shared with broader groups of children, in order to ensure a child-friendly version that would be accessible and understandable to as many children as possible. This included sharing and inviting inputs from:
* Child Rights Connect ‘DGD Children’s Advisory Team’ (a group of 10 children globally, who have been central to the planning, implementation and follow-up of the 2018 Day of General Discussion).
* The remaining 33 child applicants to this project
* Members of Child Rights Connect to share and collect inputs from the children they support in their activities at different levels

**54 children** (30 children from Nepal, 15 children from Sri Lanka, 6 children from Philippines, 2 children from Scotland and 1 child from Moldova) offered inputs to further amend the text to make it easier to understand (children from different backgrounds and from ages 13 to 17, with 5 19 year-olds who took part in Sri Lanka).

**Step 5:** Evaluation

* An evaluation activity is due to take place with the child advisors and supporting organisations once the project has ended, in order to collect their feedback and help inform future projects with children.
* The child advisors will be sent the final version (plus design) of the child-friendly text and informed of how it is being used / any feedback received. If they wish, they will have the chance to continue to be informed by Child Rights Connect of future opportunities to engage.