

Final report

*Child Rights Connect:
End-term evaluation of programme
activities under grant agreement with Sida*

22 July 2022

RIGHTSHOUSE

S:t Arilds väg 18

Arild

Sweden

Email: henrik@rightshouse.se

www.rightshouse.se

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rightshouse was engaged by Child Rights Connect (CRCnct) to conduct an end-term evaluation of CRCnct's programme activities, drawn from its 2020-2024 Strategic Plan¹ and supported under a grant agreement with the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (Sida) for the period 2019-2022. The evaluation has assessed CRCnct by the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria of relevance, coherence, effectiveness, impact, efficiency, and sustainability. The evaluation used a mixed data collection strategy. It relied on a review of available documentation, key informant interviews, focus group discussions with Children Human Rights Defenders (CHRDs), a verification session with the CRCnct's management team and a perception survey sent to all CRCnct network members.

The evaluation found that CRCnct's strategic priorities remain highly relevant. The membership is in particular underscoring the importance of Strategic Priority 1 concerning recognition, protection and empowerment of CHRDs and Strategic Priority 2 regarding CRCnct's interaction with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) Committee. CRCnct has taken several important initiatives to strengthen the participation and engagement of the membership. However, there may be opportunities to further strengthen the memberships' sense of ownership over the strategic priorities, including by adjusting how they are formulated and communicated. There is a firm consensus, recognised also within the secretariat, that CRCnct should further strengthen its membership in the global south and enhance its efforts to engage smaller organisations.

CRCnct's programme activities are complementary to other interventions in the child rights sector at the international level. CRCnct plays a unique role in representing and creating space for the global child rights-focused civil society – including children – to participate in the United Nations' (UN) human rights mechanisms. Without CRCnct's presence, the global civil society's advocacy and influence on children's rights and child rights mainstreaming would be hampered. The production of relevant guidance and tools, including child friendly versions, is another global added value which contributes to children's participation in the human rights field at both global and local levels.

Overall, CRCnct has made important progress towards the attainment of its four outcomes. Outcome 1, *Advanced recognition, protection and empowerment of child human rights defenders (CHRDs), including through child participation at national, regional and international levels*, has been achieved to a high extent, especially at the regional and international levels. Outcome 2, regarding *Empowered children's rights defenders through reporting to and cooperating with the CRC Committee in targeted States to advance sustained global engagement*, is also largely attained. While the outcome focuses on reporting to the CRC Committee, an increased focus on the follow up of the Committee's recommendations may be an effective way of further strengthening children's rights defenders and promote and protect children's rights more generally.

¹ <https://www.childrightsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/crcnct-strategic-plan-2020-2024.pdf>

In relation to Outcome 3, *Strengthened accountability to children by building synergies between the CRC Committee, the other Treaty Bodies, the Human Rights Council (HRC), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the youth agenda*, important milestones have been reached when it comes to child rights mainstreaming within the UN system. CRCnct has carried out several successful activities relating to Outcome 4, *Advanced ratification of the Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure (OPIC) and its strategic use by children's rights defenders*. It has contributed to increased attention to and knowledge about the protocol across multiple actors. However, the ratification process is slow and CRCnct's capacity to increase the interest of States in becoming parties to the protocol is limited. CRCnct may nevertheless contribute in bringing increased attention to the issues of access to justice for children more generally.

While it is difficult to identify to what extent and how CRCnct has contributed to improve the rights of children around the globe, i.e., to impact level changes, it is clear that it has managed to influence institutional systems and practices of actors of central importance from a child rights perspective, in particular at the global level. Most significantly, perhaps, it has increased the acceptance of child participation within the UN system at the same time as it has contributed to set an example that can have broader impact at both the global and local levels.

Of the numerous factors that have contributed to CRCnct's attainment of results, the following stand out as particularly important: (i) the positive organisational developments in recent years; (ii) the professional and committed staff, (iii) the democratic organisational structure and broad, global and diverse membership; (iv) the ability to coordinate the voices of its members and other child rights CSOs; (iv) the constructive relationships it has developed with key external actors, in particular the CRC Committee. The Covid-19 pandemic has had some negative impact on the attainment of results, but it has also led to changed practices that may further strengthen the network. Moreover, many interviewees have argued that the working groups have not functioned as well as could have been expected and that the groups have the potential to contribute to results more effectively.

The results attained under outcome 1, 2 and 3 concern changes in attitudes and practices that are likely to be of a lasting nature. If OPIC ratification advances, this result is also characterised by a high degree of sustainability. However, ratification is largely outside CRCnct's control and the value and sustainability of any results made towards advancing ratification are uncertain.

Overall, CRCnct has managed to implement its activities in a timely and economic manner. The absence of budgets and financial reports which itemises expenses in detail means, however, that a more detailed efficiency analysis considering costs for specific outputs has not been possible. Considering that most of the evaluated programme has been carried during the Covid-19 pandemic, deviations between expected and actual expenditures and between the planned and implemented activities have been limited. The organisation has shown that it has the ability to adapt its operations to changes in the external context, and this ability is underpinned by a strong learning culture at the secretariat. Amongst the members, there is a high degree of satisfaction with the staff team's performance. During the past seven years, insufficient resources have, however, been allocated for external evaluations.

Children's participation facilitated by CRCnct is of high quality and in compliance with quality standards and child safeguarding principles. CRCnct's dedicated effort to make children's participation an integral part of both its organisation and programme has led to positive outcomes. At the individual level, the engagement with CRCnct has strengthened participating children's skills, confidence and networks. This has prepared them to continue to pursue child rights initiatives and engage as a CHRD. At an institutional level, CRCnct's efforts have, as mentioned, contributed to changed attitudes and practices, most importantly amongst the human rights mechanisms in Geneva. The establishment of the Children's Advisory Team (CAT) serves as a role model for other organisations.

In the area of gender and diversity mainstreaming, CRCnct's practices are less well developed although the organisation has made visible progress in the past year. There is room for the organisation to strengthen its practices in relation to programme and activity design and follow-up, and to pay more attention to the influence of age, gender and diversity factors. The development of a gender and diversity mainstreaming guideline, which is in the pipeline, is positive. Furthermore, as well recognised by CRCnct, a strategic and proactive approach to membership can help ensuring that the voices of the most marginalised groups of children are being heard.

This report sets out 11 recommendations on how CRCnct can further strengthen its operations and attainment of results. It also provides two recommendations to Sida. The recommendations concern the following issues:

Recommendations to CRCnct:

1. Strengthen and diversify the funding base
2. Strengthen the membership's sense of ownership
3. Reformulate and consistently communicate strategic priorities
4. Make strategies and programming more diversity-sensitive
5. Strengthen follow up of CRC Committee recommendations
6. Strengthen cooperation between working groups
7. Produce and share child-friendly information about the working groups
8. Invite children to participate in the working groups
9. Ensure early and inclusive child participation
10. Strengthen capacity of children to play a role in considering the views of others
11. Produce detailed budgets and financial reports

Recommendations to Sida:

12. Increase the frequency of and amount allocated for external evaluations
13. Encourage implementation of evaluation recommendations

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

| | |
|--------|--|
| CAT | Children's Advisory Team |
| CRC | Convention on the Rights of the Child |
| CESCR | United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights |
| CHF | Swiss Franc |
| CHRDs | Child human rights defenders |
| CRCnct | Child Rights Connect |
| CSO | Civil society organisation |
| HRC | United Nations Human Rights Council |
| INGO | International Non-governmental organisation |
| NGO | Non-governmental organisation |
| OHCHR | Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights |
| OPIC | Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure |
| RBM | Results-based Management |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SEK | Swedish Krona |
| Sida | Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency |
| ToR | Terms of Reference |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNCRC | United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child |
| UPR | Universal Periodic Review |

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | I |
| ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS | IV |
| TABLE OF CONTENTS | V |
| 1 INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| 2 CHILD RIGHTS CONNECT..... | 3 |
| 3 METHODOLOGY..... | 4 |
| 4 FINDINGS | 6 |
| 5 CONCLUSION..... | 37 |
| 6 RECOMMENDATIONS | 40 |
| ANNEX 1 : DOCUMENTATION | 42 |
| ANNEX 2: PEOPLE CONSULTED | 45 |
| ANNEX 3: SURVEY | 47 |
| ANNEX 4: CHILDREN’S PARTICIPATION IN THIS EVALUATION | 52 |
| ANNEX 5: ANALYSIS GUIDED BY THE CHILD PARTICIPATION EVALUATION SHEET | 53 |
| ANNEX 6: EVALUATION SHEET FOR THE SCOPE, QUALITY AND OUTCOME OF CHILDREN’S PARTICIPATION | 62 |

1 INTRODUCTION

Rightshouse was engaged by Child Rights Connect (CRCnct) to conduct an end-term evaluation of CRCnct's programme activities, drawn from its 2020-2024 Strategic Plan² and supported under a grant agreement with the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (Sida) for the period 2019-2022. This report presents the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the evaluation.

As per the Terms of Reference (ToR) of this assignment, the evaluation has focused on evaluating “the extent to which the set outcomes have been met, analysing the impact and sustainability of identified results where possible, identifying successful strategies and remaining gaps, and providing practical recommendations to enhance the implementation of the current Strategic Plan and inform the subsequent one.” A strong learning focus has been applied. The evaluation has thus looked at what has worked well and what has worked less well with the aim of contributing to further strengthening CRCnct's ability to reach sustainable results.

To meet its purpose, the evaluation has assessed the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria of relevance, coherence, effectiveness, impact, efficiency, and sustainability. More specifically, the evaluation has focused on answering 15 evaluation questions categorised under these criteria as shown in the table below. To facilitate reading, evaluation questions 2 and 3 have been merged in the report.

Table 1: Evaluation criteria and questions

| Criteria | EQ |
|-----------|---|
| Relevance | 1. To what extent do the current strategic priorities still meet the central needs and aspirations of CRCnct's beneficiaries, target groups, partners, institutions, and global priorities in the evolving context? |
| | 2. How might the Core Activities/Strategic Plan be adapted in future strategic planning cycles to better respond to their needs? |
| | 3. Specifically, how should the Core Activities/Strategic Plan (outcomes and design) be adapted to better meet the aspirations, rights and needs of particularly vulnerable categories of children (girls, children living with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ children, children from minorities, and indigenous children), having regard to the size and capabilities of CRCnct? |
| Coherence | 4. How compatible have CRCnct's Core Activities been with other relevant interventions in the child rights sector at the international level, in particular having regard to Network members' work? This should include an analysis of CRCnct's global added value in the international child rights sector. |
| | 5. How could complementarity and coordination with others be improved, having regard to the size and capabilities of CRCnct? |
| | 6. How have other interventions and policies in the child rights sector at the international level supported or undermined CRCnct's Core Activities? |

² <https://www.childrightsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/crcn-strategic-plan-2020-2024.pdf>

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Effectiveness | 7. To what extent have the stated programmatic outcomes been achieved or are likely to be achieved by the end of the current strategic cycle? |
| | 8. Specifically, to what extent have the Core Activities contributed to safe, empowering and sustainable child participation at all levels (as a cross-cutting priority of the Strategic Plan)? |
| | 9. Are there any differential results across groups of children and children's rights defenders supported (girls/women, people with disabilities, people living in different regions, etc.)? |
| | 10. What are the major factors that have influenced the achievement or non-achievement of the stated outcomes? |
| Efficiency | 11. Have identified results under programmatic outcomes been delivered in an economic and timely way? |
| Impact | 12. Beyond immediate results, what transformative, positive longer-term effects have the Core Activities contributed to or generated on children's well-being and human rights (i.e. changes in systems and norms at all levels, from international to national / local)? |
| | 13. What negative effects have the Core Activities contributed to or generated? |
| Sustainability | 14. How likely to continue are the identified positive effects of the Core Activities? |
| | 15. How can the sustainability of the identified benefits be improved, having regard to the size and capabilities of CRCnct? |

Under effectiveness, the evaluation has also addressed the cross-cutting issues of “child participation at all levels” and “gender and diversity mainstreaming.”

The primary intended user of the evaluation is CRCnct's secretariat staff, particularly the management team. It is also expected that the evaluation will be of direct value for CRCnct's executive committee and the network members, in particular in the development of the organisation's future Strategic Plan for 2025-2029. Another user of the evaluation is Sida. It is expected that the evaluation will contribute to Sida's follow up of its support to CRCnct and provide input to its discussions with CRCnct on potential future collaboration.

2 CHILD RIGHTS CONNECT

CRCnct is an independent, non-profit organisation founded in 1983 as the Ad Hoc Group for the drafting of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Once the UNCRC was adopted, the network became the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In 2013, CRCnct took on its current name. Today, the global network comprises 100 non-governmental organisations and spans across 184 countries in all regions.

CRCnct provides a platform to ensure local to global advocacy and envisions a world in which all children have their human rights respected, protected, promoted and fulfilled, as enshrined in the UNCRC and its Optional Protocols. CRCnct's theory of change rests on the transformative role of children as rights-holders and States as duty-bearers, as well as convergence between children's rights defenders, including network members and other civil society actors, and the United Nations' (UN) human rights system in affecting positive change towards the realisation of children's rights around the world.

Adopted by CRCnct's General Assembly in May 2019, the Five-Year Strategic Plan for 2020-2024³ provides the framework for implementing the organisation's programme activities and their four related outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Advanced recognition, protection and empowerment of child human rights defenders (CHRDs), including through child participation at national, regional and international levels.
- Outcome 2: Empowered children's rights defenders through reporting to and cooperating with the CRC Committee in targeted States to advance sustained global engagement.
- Outcome 3: Strengthened accountability to children by building synergies between the CRC Committee, the other Treaty Bodies, the Human Rights Council (HRC), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the youth agenda.
- Outcome 4: Advanced ratification of the Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure (OPIC) and its strategic use by children's rights defenders.

Sida has supported CRCnct and its predecessor the NGO Group since 2003. Sida's current support amounts to SEK 18.5 million (approximately CHF 1.75 million at the time of writing) over four years (2019-2022). In 2021, Sida provided 48 percent of CRCnct's total income. Oak Foundation (15 percent of total funding in 2021), Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (11 percent) and Plan International (5 percent) were amongst CRCnct's other donors during that year. Furthermore, membership fees made up 11 percent of the organisation's total income of about CHF 1.1 million in 2021.

³ <https://childrightsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/crcct-strategic-plan-2020-2024.pdf>

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Overall approach

The Evaluation Team has applied an evaluation approach that is utilisation-focused and participatory. It has interacted closely with CRCnct and its members to capture their perspectives and experiences. We have further strived to apply a human rights and gender responsive approach to data collection, the lens applied for analysis, and development of conclusions and recommendations. We have also focused on capturing the voices of CHRDs.

3.2 Data Collection

The evaluation used a mixed data collection strategy. It relied on a review of available documentation, key informant interviews, focus group discussions with CHRDs, a verification session with the CRCnct's management team and an electronic perception survey sent to all CRCnct network members.

Desk Review

The desk review formed the start of the data collection process. It was structured around the evaluation criteria and contributed to answer the evaluation questions and helped focus and frame key informant interviews. We primarily based the desk review on documents obtained from CRCnct.

Interviews and Focus Group Discussions

At the onset of the evaluation process, the Evaluation Team conducted a mapping of stakeholders. The mapping identified individuals with knowledge of CRCnct and its operations. A list of potential interviewees was then produced and refined in consultation with the CRCnct secretariat (Annex 2). Additional informants were identified through chain referral sampling. Interviewed key informants were thus asked to suggest further informants. In total, 55 persons were consulted, including CRCnct secretariat staff (8), children who have participated in CRCnct activities (11), representatives of members (19), donors (4), observers (4) and others interacting with CRCnct (9). Of the donors interviewed, Sida was unable to engage due to the unavailability of the former portfolio manager and the view of the current portfolio manager that her very recent taking up of that role precluded the possibility for valuable insights to be provided. Interviews were semi-structured and adapted to the respondent's expected area of experience and knowledge. They aimed at capturing the interviewees most significant experiences, reflections, and ideas.

A total of 19 children from all regions who had taken part in CRCnct-organised activities were invited to participate in focus group discussions. The children could choose to share their opinions through individual interviews instead if they preferred. Conversations were carried out with 11 children. All children were subsequently also invited to share their written input to five evaluation questions. A total of 7 children chose to use this channel (some of them as an addition to the focus group discussion). See Annex 4 for further information.

Survey

The Evaluation Team carried out an electronic survey targeting CRCnct's member organisations, combining English, Spanish, and French languages. The survey questions partly drew on the questions used for the 2015 evaluation of CRCnct.⁴ The survey was distributed to 86 member organisations. Twenty-eight (33 percent) of these responded.⁵ Further information about the respondents as well as the survey questions and a summary of the responses are presented in Annex 3.

Observation

The Evaluation Team had the opportunity to observe the Annual Informal Exchange on OPIC between the CRC Committee and States on June 24. The team also observed a part of CRCnct's General Assembly in June 2022 that focussed on child rights mainstreaming across the UN.

3.3 Data Analysis and Development of Recommendations

The Evaluation Team applied an intuitive approach to data analysis, drawing on its contemplation, experiences and understanding of the context. Our analytical approach also included elements of an intersubjective approach through which CRCnct's management team was engaged in verification of findings and conclusions.

Data analysis was not an activity distinct from data collection. Rather, analysis of collected data took place as an ongoing activity conducted in parallel with the desk review, key informant interviews, focus group discussions and survey work. The ongoing analysis informed the data collection and helped ensure that it was relevant for addressing the evaluation questions.

Triangulation was key to ensuring the reliability and validity of the findings and to mitigate any biases or problems that may arise from one single method or a single observer. The Evaluation Team triangulated among the methods of gathering data, sources, and stakeholder perspectives, and across Evaluation Team members.

⁴ https://childrightsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/GA_2016_7ChildRightsConnect_FinalEvaluationReport-1.pdf

⁵ It is possible that the response rate was affected by the fact that some of the survey recipients had already been interviewed by the Evaluation Team and that it was circulated around the same time as CRCnct sent out a post-General Assembly survey.

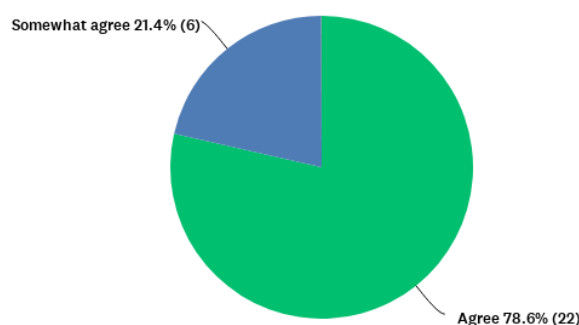
4 FINDINGS

4.1 Relevance

4.1.1 To what extent do the current strategic priorities still meet the central needs and aspirations of CRCnct's beneficiaries, target groups, partners, institutions, and global priorities in the evolving context?

Both key informant interviews and survey responses indicate that there is strong support for CRCnct's strategic priorities. Amongst survey respondents, 79 percent "agreed" that "CRCnct's Core Activities are addressing the most pressing needs for all children to have their rights respected, promoted, protected and fulfilled." Twenty-one percent "somewhat agreed" with the statement. No one responded "somewhat disagree" or "disagree".

Q5 Do you agree with the following statement? "CRCnct's Core Activities are addressing the most pressing needs for all children to have their human rights respected, protected, promoted and fulfilled."



While the key informant interviews also showed strong overall support for CRCnct's focus and activities, there were some variations in the degree to which the informants appeared to find the different strategic priorities relevant.

Strategic priority 1, concerning recognition, protection and empowerment of CHRDs is a very well-known priority amongst the informants. They see the CRCnct's work to promote and facilitate child participation in relation to the human rights mechanisms in Geneva as a relevant approach and contribution. Informants see strategic priority 2, relating to interaction with the CRC Committee as an equally important and relevant priority. CRCnct's role in promoting access to the CRC Committee and other treaty bodies is emphasised. Many smaller organisations have also expressed appreciation of CRCnct as a platform for interaction and exchange of ideas with other organisations working on children's rights. The added global value of CRCnct is strongly linked to these two strategic priorities (see section 4.2.1).

No informants explicitly stressed that Strategic Priority 3, relating to the building of "synergies between the CRC Committee, the other Treaty Bodies, the Human Rights Council (HRC), the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the youth agenda” was less relevant than the other priorities. However, the *synergy* aspect of the priority was not highlighted among the informants. While the secretariat points to numerous instances where it has contributed to interaction and cooperation between key actors, members and other interviewees are primarily aware of the capacity strengthening activities targeting members.

The only strategic priority around which *a few* informants raised relevance-related reservations was priority 4 on OPIC. When asked, in the survey, to rate CRCnct’s performance in relation to the four strategic priorities, there were more respondents that said they did not know how to rate the performance in relation to the strategic priority 4 than for any of the other priorities. The relevance and effectiveness concerns raised by some informants are presented under Effectiveness, in section 4.3.1.

These reservations concerned the value of focusing on a protocol that is not likely to see a significant number of States acceding in the near future. It was also argued that that CRCnct’s engagement under this strategic priority is not likely to have a major impact on the lives of a large number of children. It was therefore suggested that CRCnct should focus on the issue of access to justice for children more broadly. However, the *vast majority* of informants did not raise any concerns of this nature and the CRCnct secretariat notes in response to the concerns that (i) “ratification campaigns are slow in their results”, (ii) “ratification *will* have an important impact on the lives of children”, and (iii) “a greater emphasis on access to justice...is something the Secretariat wants to push for in the next Strategic Plan cycle.”⁶ Nevertheless, strategic priority 4 is not what informants most primarily associate CRCnct with.

Interviews showed that some members are not fully aware of CRCnct’s strategic priorities and outcomes. A contributing factor may be the way the strategic priorities are communicated in the Strategic Plan, where the four strategic priorities – or outcomes – set out in the results framework are different from the three actor-focused outcomes set out in the Theory of Change (i.e. relating to children’s rights defenders, UN Human Rights system and States). In other contexts, including on its webpage, CRCnct uses a different set of the categories to explain its work. A more consistent way of communicating the organisation’s strategic priorities could make it easier for members and others to obtain an accurate picture of CRCnct’s focus and approach.

The 2015 evaluation indicated a concern as to the capacity of the network members to assess CRCnct’s relevance. It noted that the low response rate to a survey sent out in connection with the evaluation indicated that “many members remain distant from the network” and that those who

⁶ In email communication with the Evaluation Team on 11 July 2022, the secretariat wrote:

“1. Ratification campaigns are slow in their results. There has been a shift in attention by States away from this issue due to COVID, but this does not undermine the value of this focus.

2. To the contrary, we take the view that ratification *WILL* have an important impact on the lives of children.

Without access to remedies, rights are illusory both for victims (yes they may be a small proportion compared to all children in the world) and all children (through lack of adherence by States with their child rights obligations through a lack of enforcement/accountability).

3. A greater emphasis on access to justice (holistically - OPIC as well as child-accessible national law/mechanisms for remedies and reparation) is something the Secretariat wants to push for in the next Strategic Plan cycle.”

responded showed that there were “many aspects of Child Rights Connect’s work that they did not know much about.”⁷ However, there was a fair response rate to the survey submitted to members in connection with the present evaluation and members’ responses to the Evaluation Team’s requests for interviews indicate a commitment to contributing constructively to the evaluation and, presumably, to CRCnct and its work.

The degree to which members contribute financially to CRCnct and its activities can also be seen as an indication of how relevant the organisation is for its members. As shown in the table below, the total membership fees have increased since 2015, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of total income. Between 2015 and 2021, the membership fees more than tripled, from CHF 37 000 to 116 000. During the current programme period, the increase has been more modest, but membership fees have nevertheless steadily increased and grew with 38 percent between 2019 and 2021.

Table 2: Membership fees

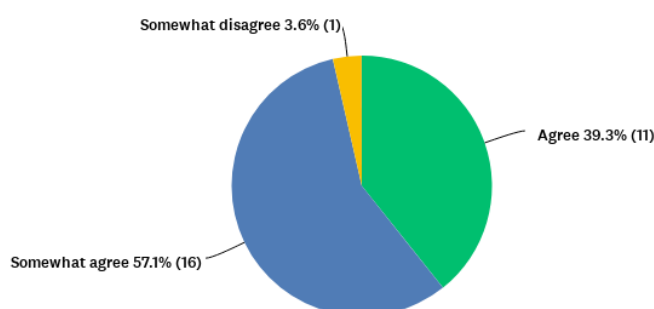
| Year | Membership fees | |
|------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | CHF | % of total income |
| 2015 | 37 000 | 5 |
| 2016 | 65 000 | 8 |
| 2017 | 61 000 | 8 |
| 2018 | 84 000 | 11 |
| 2019 | 104 000 | 10 |
| 2020 | 106 000 | 11 |
| 2021 | 116 000 | 11 |

The 2015 evaluation noted that CRCnct acted as “a sort of ‘entry point’ to the CRC Committee for civil society” and that there was a “need to improve communication so that members and non-members alike are aware of who does what and where Child Rights Connect’s role starts and finishes.” This need has also been raised by both members and non-members in connection with the present evaluation.

The survey responses also indicate that there is room for CRCnct to further strengthen the members’ ownership over the organisation. Thirty-nine percent of the responding members agreed with the statement “As an organization collaborating with CRCnct, we can effectively influence the network’s strategy and governance.” The majority, 57 percent, answered “somewhat agree” while four percent answered, “somewhat disagree.”

⁷ Mary Robinson, Evaluation of the Work of Child Rights Connect: Final report of SIDA funded evaluation, December 2015

Q8 Do you agree with the following statement? "As an organization collaborating with CRCnct, we can effectively influence the network's strategy and governance."



The most important opportunity to influence a membership organisation of CRCnct's nature is arguably to actively participate in its General Assembly. In recent years, the interest in attending the General Assembly has increased amongst CRCnct's members. In 2019, 23 members attended the General Assembly held in Geneva. In 2020, when the General Assembly was an online event, the number of attending members increased to 33. In 2021, when the General Assembly was also held online, 46 members participated, and in 2022, when the General Assembly was a hybrid event allowing the members to participate either online or in person, the number increased to 55.

The Evaluation Team's impression is that the secretariat has a strong commitment to facilitate the members' engagement, while at the same time recognising the need to ensure a level of efficiency. The special General Assembly webpage set up to ensure that members have easy access to all relevant information concerning the event is one such example. Additionally, the secretariat has established the *Member Space*, an online platform for members and observers to access information about the network and share information and knowledge, and the *In Action* series sharing impact stories with the network (see Effectiveness section).

Regularly, the CRCnct secretariat is also seeking feedback from the members on its performance and priorities. Since 2019, it has conducted a survey asking members to provide feedback on the General Assembly proceedings. In 2020, the secretariat for the first time invited the members, through an online survey, to provide input to the development of the Annual Work Plan for 2021. This practice has continued. It can also be mentioned that the secretariat holds regular webinars with members on important initiatives to hear members' views and build the greatest possible consensus.

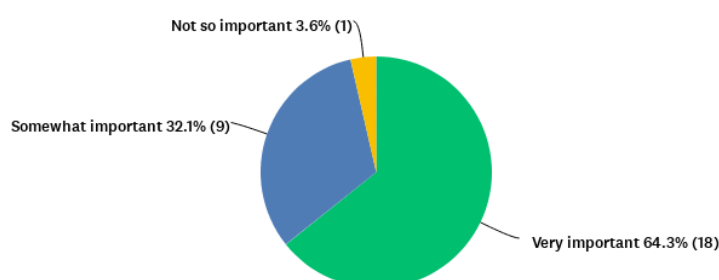
To sum-up, the network members see CRCnct as a highly relevant organisation. There may still be opportunities to further strengthen the members' sense of ownership over the organisation's strategic priorities. At the same time, there is very strong consensus amongst both members and others familiar with the work of CRCnct that its general operational focus has been and remains relevant. During the current programme period, the CRCnct secretariat has implemented several important initiatives to try to strengthen the membership's participation and engagement.

4.1.2 How might the Core Activities/Strategic Plan be adapted in future strategic planning cycles to better respond to the rights and needs of beneficiaries, target groups, partners, institutions, global priorities and particularly vulnerable categories of children in the evolving context?

Survey respondents and interviewees did not suggest any major changes to CRCnct's strategic priorities or programme activities, which is an additional indication of the consensus that CRCnct's activities are relevant. Those who did suggest changes focused on the need to pay further attention and dedicate more resources to specific activities rather than on changing the area of focus.

Many network members found CRCnct to be a more relevant organisation than other networks they interact with. Among the survey respondents, 64 percent answered “very important” to the question “In comparison with other child rights networks that your organisation is a member of, how important is your engagement with CRCnct?”

Q9 In comparison with other child rights networks that your organization is a member of, how important is your engagement with CRCnct?



The informants highlighted several practices that contribute to make CRCnct a particularly relevant organisation. Interviewees expressed their appreciation for CRCnct's responsiveness and for being an organisation that truly tries to represent its members. Other factors contributing to members' perception of CRCnct being a relevant actor is its membership model which gives the organisation unique weight and influence, that it serves as a neutral platform for interaction and cooperation, that it gives international level voice to smaller local actors, and that it gives local organisations the opportunity to interact with other child rights organisations at the international level.

The desk review demonstrates that CRCnct has invested in strengthening the functioning and effectiveness of the working groups in the past years. It was for instance included as an agenda item with identified action points during the General Assembly Statutory Meeting in 2021. Nevertheless, a few respondents suggested that there is need for CRCnct to further increase its

focus on the working groups and to dedicate more staff resources to the activities of these groups.⁸ Some key informants also indicated a scope for further advancing the coordination *between* the working groups, to ensure complementarity between their initiatives. One example mentioned is the working group on child participation, which is a cross-cutting theme and relevant for all the other working groups. Some child informants also raise the wish for more transparency on the activities of the working groups and possibilities for children to contribute.

Informants would also like to see CRCnct reinforcing its capacity to bring treaty body recommendations to the national level and focus more on Africa and the Indian Ocean islands. A few interviewees argued that it is primarily the international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that are visible within the network.

During the evaluation period, CRCnct has made efforts to diversify its membership, both in terms of type of members/observers (e.g. two child-led initiatives joined as observers) and geographical diversity. The membership mapping, updated after the 2022 GA, shows an increased representation from organisations working in the Global South (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Middle East and North Africa and Latin America) beyond Europe and North America). Yet, the CRCnct secretariat and others have stressed the need to further strengthen the membership in terms of organisations from the global south and child led organisations. Furthermore, several interviewees have noted the challenge to reach specific groups of children and child rights organisations representing specific groups. Most frequently mentioned was the need to reach out to indigenous groups, but the linguistic challenges this entails were also noted.

Overall, the data collected does not provide a strong indication that members, secretariat staff and others concerned with CRCnct and its operations believe that the organisation should make any significant changes to its strategic priorities or programme activities. While there are some specific suggestions on actions to strengthen its relevance, many of these suggestions tend to point in somewhat different directions. There appears, however, to be a strong consensus that CRCnct should further strengthen its membership in the global south, enhance its efforts to engage smaller organisations, and, if resources are available, develop its capacity to bring the global level to the national or local level (in particular by ensuring stronger follow up of treaty body recommendations), and strengthen the working group system by promoting interaction and coordination between the groups and providing them with stronger secretariat support.

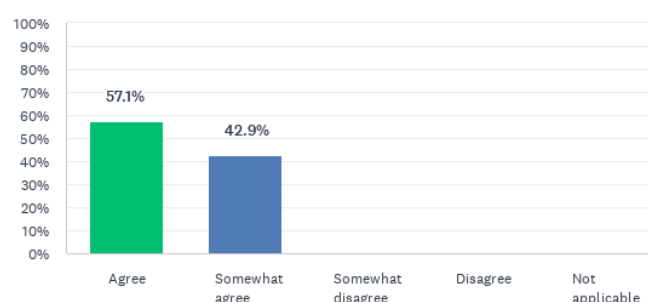
⁸ The current working groups are: Child Participation, Children's Rights and the Environment, Children of Incarcerated Parents, Children and Violence, Children Without Parental Care, and Children and Armed Conflict.

4.2 Coherence

4.2.1 How compatible have CRCnct's Core Activities been with other relevant interventions in the child rights sector at the international level, in particular having regard to Network members' work?

Key informants frequently describe CRCnct as a key partner to everybody working on children's rights and an organisation with a clear role and complementary function. Whilst there are other networks focused on different child rights issues, they are said to be more geographical or thematic in nature. Informants consistently voice that there is no other *global* network that assembles child rights-focused civil society actors, including children, and connect them to the human rights mechanisms in Geneva the way CRCnct does. The engagement with CRCnct is said to complement members' collaboration with regional and national networks and coalitions. This aligns with the survey results, where 57 percent of the respondents "agree" that "CRCnct is effectively complementing the work of our organisation on children's rights", and 43 percent "somewhat agree".

Q7 Do you agree with the following statement? "CRCnct is effectively complementing the work of our organization on children's rights"



No concerns have been raised regarding the compatibility between CRCnct's work and other relevant interventions in the child rights sector at the international level, including the global initiative "Joining Forces."⁹

The role of CRCnct being a global *representative* of child rights-focused civil society is emphasised as important by several key informants, including strategic partners and human rights mechanisms. Among the survey respondents, 44 percent rate CRCnct's performance in relation to coordination of NGO input to the CRC as "excellent" and 48 percent as "good". As mentioned above, members of CRCnct highlight the network-structure as well as CRCnct's neutrality when bringing forward children's and civil society organisations' (CSOs) voice in global processes as positive and something that enhances their sense of "safety." These results align with those from the 2015 evaluation where CRCnct's ability to bring organisations from all over the world together to act and speak as a global voice for child rights was identified as the most important role of the organisation. However, some key informants (particularly those outside of the network) say that it

⁹ <https://joining-forces.org/about-joining-forces/>

can sometimes be unclear to them what derives from the CRCnct secretariat, and what derives from the larger network. When outputs (e.g., statements, comments) stem from the secretariat rather than the entire network, this can be more clearly stated.

Key informants believe that the *access* of the child rights-focused civil society to the human rights mechanisms in Geneva would be less effective, coherent, and efficient without CRCnct's presence and engagement. CRCnct's technical support, information, guidance, and training about how to report to and engage with the CRC Committee, including through digital channels, is emphasized. CRCnct's role in ensuring access to and engagement with other mechanisms, such as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and events like the Annual Day on the Rights of the Child, are also appreciated. The general opinion is that CRCnct serves as vital entry point and bridging function between the global civil society and the human rights mechanisms, and that without its presence, the civil society's advocacy and influence on children's rights and child rights mainstreaming would be significantly hampered.

The interviews also indicate that CRCnct is needed as a global representative and facilitator of voice and space, particularly for national-level CSOs. Although some of the international children's rights organisations with presence in Geneva also work with national partners, representatives from these organisations explain that they need to safeguard their own, often limited, seats and space. According to interviews, international child rights organisations welcome and appreciate CRCnct's role and encourage their national partners to become members of CRCnct. In this regard, CRCnct's work is both compatible with and complementary to other Geneva-based child rights actors.

Respondents point out that CRCnct plays a key role in relation to actors outside of the network. For example, the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) and other UN agencies can forward requests and questions to CRCnct that they in turn receive from CSOs and do not have the time and resources to handle. CRCnct also acts as a formal strategic partner of UNICEF as well as an informal *focal point* in relation to the CRC Committee. CRCnct has up-to-date information regarding the process of reporting and provides expertise on technical and methodological work around child rights. It serves as a knowledge base for diverse actors within the child rights sector conducting activities at global level and sometimes adopting CRCnct best practices in local initiatives.

Moreover, several key informants highlight that the *progress on child rights mainstreaming* amongst human rights mechanisms in Geneva would not have materialised without the presence of CRCnct.

Regarding CRCnct's added value at the regional level, some key informants stress that CRCnct has played an important role in (co)-facilitating capacity building, such as the training on strategic litigation with a focus on OPIC that was co-facilitated with Save the Children in Latin America in 2020. Others have been more sceptical about CRCnct's added value at the regional level, mentioning that it is difficult for any organisation to add significant value at specific events in a context that it is not very familiar with.

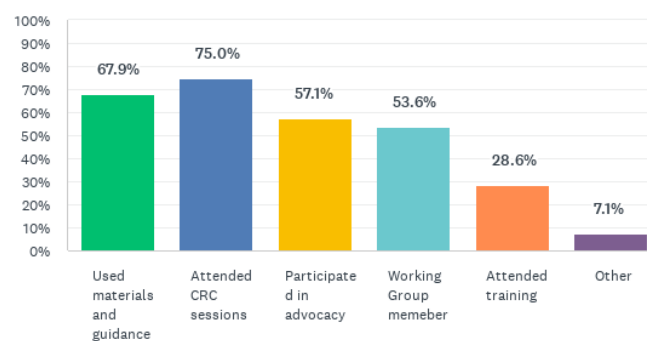
At the national level, CRCnct is generally not considered a major player, as can be expected given that it is a global network without in country or regional presence. Rather mixed responses on

CRCnct's work on promoting the realisation of child rights at national level were noted also in the 2015 evaluation. In the present evaluation, some key informants highlight the importance and need of CRCnct to (continue to) work closely with its member organisations, both as an important aspect of ensuring adequate representation and as a strategy to maintain a connection between what is happening in Geneva and children's daily realities. Some informants acknowledge CRCnct's added value at the national level in connecting and facilitating people and processes. The work to support child human rights defenders in Moldova is such an example, where CRCnct facilitated the connection between a member organisation (CRIC) and (i) the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, and (ii) the Children's Ombudsperson in Moldova.

CRCnct has also implemented various capacity building initiatives at the local and regional levels that have engaged and empowered children, e.g. a regional training for children in Latin America on OPIC and consultations with CHRDs around the CRC and UPR child friendly modules in Morocco, Venezuela and Jamaica.

The *production of guidance and tools – including child friendly versions* – is yet another continued global added value that is frequently mentioned by respondents. Key informants stress that CRCnct's materials are valuable and frequently used at the national level to guide human/children's rights actors in facilitating children's participation. In the survey, "used materials and guidance" is ranked as the second most common reason for involvement with CRCnct (68 percent of the respondents), after "attended CRC sessions" (75 percent of the respondents). In the 2015 evaluation, the use of materials and guidance was ranked as the top reason for becoming involved with CRCnct.

Q3 What has been your involvement with CRCnct?



To conclude, CRCnct's programme activities are compatible with other relevant interventions in the child rights sector at the international level. It plays a unique and critical role in representing and creating space for civil society actors – including children – to participate in human rights mechanisms at a global level in Geneva. Its representative and bridge-building function alongside being an entry point for child rights-focused CSOs to the human rights mechanisms are main global added values, especially in relation to the CRC Committee but also other mechanisms and events. Without CRCnct, civil society advocacy on children's rights and the progress on child rights mainstreaming would be hampered. The production of relevant guidance and tools, including child friendly versions, is another global added value by CRCnct that contributes to children's participation at both global and local levels.

4.2.2 How could complementarity and coordination with others be improved, having regard to the size and capabilities of CRCnct?

There is a fairly high degree of satisfaction with regards to complementarity and coordination between CRCnct and others in the child rights sector. Few informants have suggested specific improvements and no informant has raised concerns about any duplications of work. As earlier mentioned, CRCnct is recognised by respondents as a “go-to” actor when seeking up-to-date information on the developments in the child rights sector at an international level. Some informants have suggested that CRCnct should further intensify its sharing of information on key developments, e.g. through summaries of events or key documents, to other actors outside of the network – and especially to donors in addition to the formal reporting.

For coordination with and between the working groups, see section 4.1.2.

4.2.3 How have other interventions and policies in the child rights sector at the international level supported or undermined CRCnct’s Core Activities?

The general perception among the informants is that policy developments in the child rights sector at the international level during 2019-2022 largely supports CRCnct’s strategic priorities. In some cases, the support has been more visible at a later stage, as a result of subsequent initiatives rather than the initial policy change itself. The below table highlights some examples of key policy developments during the evaluation period and how they relate to CRCnct’s strategic priorities.

Table 3: Key policy developments and CRCnct’s strategic priorities

| Intervention or policy development | Relation to CRCnct’s strategic priorities |
|---|--|
| <p>The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child (2021)</p> <p>The new comprehensive EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and the European Child Guarantee are policy initiatives put forward by the European Commission to better protect all children, to help them fulfil their rights and to place them right at the centre of EU policy making. Both initiatives have been informed by extensive consultations, including with more than 10,000 children. The strategy includes six Thematic areas: (i) Child participation in political and democratic life; (ii) Socio-economic inclusion, health and education; (iii) Combating violence against children and ensuring child protection; (iv) Child-friendly justice; (v) Digital and information society; and (vi) The global dimension.</p> | <p>Overall, this new strategy acts as enabler of CRCnct's work and the thematic areas of the strategy supports CRCnct’s work (CRCnct also contributed to inform this strategy by taking part in the consultation process).</p> <p>Thematic area 1 supports CRCnct’s strategic priority to advance the recognition, protection and empowerment of child human rights defenders, including though child participation.</p> <p>Thematic area 4 does not include any real strong action to enhance child access to justice. Nevertheless, the strategy recognises the barriers faced by children in seeking redress and justice.</p> <p>In communications with CRCnct for this evaluation, it is highlighted that the EU strategy particularly helped with child rights mainstreaming advocacy (jointly with</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| | Amnesty International) at the UN General Assembly level as well as at the Human Rights Council level, where the EU advanced language on child rights mainstreaming and created a new mandate for the OHCHR. |
| <p><u>The Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) (2022)</u></p> <p>This new strategy will guide the work of the Council of Europe over the next six years. The Strategy was developed through a consultative process involving national governments, international organisations, CSOs and 220 children from 10 member states. The Strategy identifies six strategic objectives: (i) Freedom from violence for all children, (ii) Equal opportunities and social inclusion for all children, (iii) Access to safe use of technologies for all children, (iv) Child-friendly justice for all children, (v) Giving a voice to every child, and (vi) Children's rights in crisis and emergency situations.</p> <p>The strategy recognises the challenges and risks experienced by CHRDs. The protection and empowerment of CHRDs is reported as an innovative feature of the strategy.</p> | <p>The strategy supports CRCnct's strategic priority to advance the recognition, protection and empowerment of child human rights defenders, including through child participation.</p> <p>CRCnct highlights that a key factor that enabled strong synergies between this strategy and the work of CRCnct is that the Children's Rights Division and the Division of Independent Human Rights Bodies of the Council of Europe were part of the expert advisory group which contributed to develop CRCnct's Implementation Guide on the Rights of Child Human Rights Defenders in 2020. This allowed for a long-term collaboration that has informed the Council of Europe strategy.</p> |
| <p><u>The UN Secretary-General Call to Action for Human Rights (2020) and Our Common Agenda (2021)</u></p> <p>The Call to Action is the Secretary-General's transformative vision for human rights. It focuses on seven thematic areas, recognising for instance the support to "more systematic participation of civil society in United Nations bodies and agencies, with special attention to those previously underrepresented, such as women and young people."</p> <p>"Our Common Agenda" report looks ahead to the next 25 years and represents the Secretary-General's vision on the future of global cooperation and reinvigorating inclusive, networked, and effective multilateralism. The report outlines key proposals across 12 commitments. One of them is "Renewed social contract anchored in human right. Specific language refers to the fact that for the social contract to be meaningful it needs to be based on the "active and equal participation of women and girls"; and "the political</p> | <p>CRCnct has used both these policy developments as an entry point for promoting the child rights mainstreaming agenda, particularly the call for a renewed social contract and the specific language included in the report. The Call to Action for Human Rights and Our Common Agenda only mention child rights in a very sectorial way, given that there are explicit references to children only in relation to education, digital environment, health, and future generations. According to CRCnct, both initiatives entail a lack of child rights mainstreaming from a holistic perspective. Nevertheless, these initiatives have already led to positive results according to CRCnct, particularly: (i) The Secretary-General Guidance's Note on the Protection and Promotion of Civic Space (2020) prepared pursuant to the Call to Action, which explicitly recognises the significance of child participation in the UN and (ii) The Step Up – Joint commitment by Heads of United Nations Entities (2021) on the meaningful participation of children and</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| participation of a diverse range of young people”. | youth in decision-making at all levels, in relation to climate action and climate justice. Furthermore, the Call to Action is said to have concrete effects on the inter-Agency collaboration and coordination, including strengthening the dialogue between the UN mechanisms and the other parts of the UN. This in turn has contributed to the Practical Guidance Note: “ Maximizing the use of the Universal Periodic Review at country level ”. |
| <p>Youth, Power, Action! Global Children and Youth Strategy 2022-2025 of Amnesty International (2022)</p> <p>The strategy sets the direction for Amnesty International’s work for, by and with children and young people. The strategy outlines three goals and a set of commitments to ensure consistency and quality in efforts towards the realisation of these goals. The goals are: (i) Children and young people’s perspectives and agency are at the centre of Amnesty International’s work in the protection and promotion of human rights, (ii) Children and young people, in all their diversity, are enabled and empowered to actively participate and lead at all levels of our work, underpinned by mutual respect and trust, and (iii) The number of children and young people who are Amnesty International members, activists and supporters continues to grow and form an increasingly diverse, empowered, and integral part of the global movement, connected to grassroots campaigning in their efforts to deliver human rights impact.</p> | <p>This strategy supports CRCnct’s strategic priority to advance the recognition, protection and empowerment of child human rights defenders, including though child participation. The Amnesty strategy reflects the inputs that CRCnct has provided as part of their consultation process, and the strong collaboration developed in the past few years including around child rights mainstreaming. This is thought to provide a more enabling environment for further developing the partnership with Amnesty International and building bridges between the human rights and child rights sectors.</p> <p>A key factor that promoted the inclusion of children in the strategy, in support of CRCnct strategic priorities, is the joint work between the two organisations on child rights mainstreaming around the UN General Assembly in October 2021.</p> |

The Evaluation Team has not identified any interventions and policies in the child rights sector at international level that has undermined CRCnct’s strategic priorities. However, the below developments during the evaluation period have in some ways presented challenges for CRCnct’s implementation of its strategic priorities:

- (i) The cancellation of the mid-year session of the CRC Committee and the postponement of State reviews due to the extraordinary context created by the Covid-19 pandemic and the UN financial crisis were highlighted by CRCnct¹⁰ as generating a concerning protection gap for children and undermining accountability on children’s rights. The broader impact thus

¹⁰ <https://childrightsconnect.org/child-rights-connect-welcomes-the-online-session-of-the-committee-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>

also had an undermining effect on CRCnct's strategic priorities, particularly the strategic outcome 1 and 2. CRCnct and other actors (e.g. TB-Net) advocated together for the resumption of State reviews. The CRC Committee sessions were later on resumed through online channels, which in turn generated both new opportunities and challenges.

- (ii) As recognised by CRCnct in a risk analysis exercise in 2022, an undermining and ongoing "trend" is the increase in scepticism among some States towards the universality of human rights ("cultural relativism", including conservative initiatives by some States undermining individual rights), and to child rights in particular. This includes a scepticism towards children as right holders among some States, as well as push back from more family-oriented civil society actors. CRCnct strives to tackle this challenge through careful monitoring and joint advocacy with other civil society actors (such as TB-net) as well as alliances with like-minded States. Following consultation with its members, CRCnct has decided that this issue will be the main thematic focus of the General Assembly in 2023.

4.3 Effectiveness

It is worth noting that CRCnct has framed its strategic priorities and outcomes, as set out in the Strategic Plan, in a manner that can make it challenging to see clear correlation between the activities, outputs and outcomes. For example, mainstreaming of child rights is largely reported under outcome statement 3 even though there is no explicit reference to this work in related output formulations.

Some interviewees recommended additional efforts by CRCnct management to communicate results to a wider audience. Notwithstanding, CRCnct's reports to Sida show that CRCnct has increased its capacity and quality in donor reporting, and largely shifted its reporting from an output to an outcome focus. In 2022, the secretariat also initiated a new *Child Rights Connect In Action* series, sharing with members dedicated impact stories as a means of raising members' awareness of the CRCnct secretariat's work, results, challenges and lessons learned. Three of the stories (on CHRDs in Moldova, Children's Advisory Team and child rights mainstreaming), have been published in monthly newsletters of the UN Perception Change project run by UN Geneva. These newsletters have been widely disseminated as part of CRCnct's work for communicating our results more broadly, outside of the network.

4.3.1 To what extent have the stated programmatic outcomes been achieved or are likely to be achieved by the end of the current strategic cycle?

Outcome 1: Advanced recognition, protection and empowerment of child human rights defenders (CHRDs), including through child participation at national, regional and international levels.

Through CRCnct's work, children's agency as human rights defenders has reached increased recognition by several targeted state and non-state stakeholders, both inside and outside the CRCnct network, and within the UN human rights system. There are visible outcome-level changes in empowering child participation at global and regional levels, relatively less so at national level that can be directly linked to CRCnct's efforts. However, the work done in Moldova (see below

paragraph) signifies an achievement and future model for the continuation of country-level work under Outcome 1.

Achievements to which CRCnct has made credible contributions include but are not limited to: (i) improved child participation practices within the CRC Committee, (ii) CHRDs influencing the scope, drafting process, and final text of the CRC Committee *General Comment No. 25 (2021) on children's rights in relation to the digital environment*, (iii) increased prioritisation of CHRDs' rights by the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, (iv) CRCnct's establishment and institutionalisation of the CAT, including in the participation of CAT representatives in the CRCnct Executive Committee, and (v) CRCnct's engagement in implementing *the Rights of Child Human Rights Defenders Implementation Guide* in Moldova.

CRCnct and the network member Child Rights Information Centre Moldova engaged several key national CSO actors, the Children's Ombudsperson, and around 30 Moldovan CHRDs facilitating national coalition building and produced a situation analysis of CHRDs in the country. The analysis was used in the first civil society submission as part of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) focusing entirely on CHRDs. The Ombudsperson's Office launched a public call for a law on human rights defenders, including CHRDs. The global advocacy of CRCnct is reported to have resulted in Mexico calling on Moldova to develop the national human rights defenders law and the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders requesting a meeting with Moldovan CHRD. The Moldovan case signifies an increased recognition of children as human rights defenders by several national and international state and non-state actors, including behavioural change within the Moldovan Ombudsperson's Office.

The majority of survey respondents had positive reviews on CRCnct's performance in relation to strategic priority 1. Fifty-eight percent rated CRCnct's performance as "excellent", 38 percent as "good", and four percent as "average." In interviews, several informants have stressed that CRCnct has been a leading force in advancing the recognition, protection and empowerment of child human rights defenders. Children engaged and mobilised by CRCnct that were interviewed by the Evaluation Team have themselves expressed increased empowerment through their engagement with the network (for more details see sections under 4.3.2).

While the work under outcome 1 point to a realisation of several higher-level results, some key informants have also acknowledged the potential security and protection challenges at national level.

Outcome 2: Empowered children's rights defenders through reporting to and cooperating with the CRC Committee in targeted States to advance sustained global engagement.

There are several positive developments and results relating to outcome 2. The results from the key informant interviews support the survey findings, where 54 percent rated CRCnct's performance on outcome 2 as "excellent", 35 percent as "good", and four percent as "average."

As identified in section 4.2.1 as one of CRCnct's global added values, CRCnct is recognised as an essential actor for the wider civil society sector in its reporting to and engagement with the CRC

Committee. The information and support provided in relation to the CRC Committee pre-sessions and reporting has enabled effective CRC Committee engagement with civil society. CRCnct's implementation of capacity building and drafting and dissemination of support material along with its provision of strategic and technical guidance has turned the network into an enabling bridge between civil society and the CRC Committee.

CRCnct's reporting shows that the organisation has contributed to ensure a high number of submissions by the civil society to the CRC Committee between 2019 and 2020, despite challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. This includes an increased number of submissions led or informed by children. Several informants have stressed that the work of the CRC Committee would largely lose the active and inclusive participation of civil society without CRCnct, particularly of smaller organisations who lack Geneva presence or regions lacking a strong non-governmental child human rights sector.

Several key informants have mentioned the lack of capacity and ability amongst CSOs inside and outside the CRCnct network to effectively push and advocate for implementation of CRC Committee recommendations at national level. CRCnct has already carried out different capacity building activities, such as producing and refining tools on the use of treaty body recommendations. Informants are of the view that CRCnct could continue to play an important role in this regard and the CRCnct secretariat has expressed a commitment to continue and strengthen this work further, if resources allow.

Outcome 3: Strengthened accountability to children by building synergies between the CRC Committee, the other Treaty Bodies, the Human Rights Council (HRC), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the youth agenda.

CRCnct has promoted a child rights perspectives in UN human rights monitoring mechanisms and in relation to the SDGs – and in particular mainstreaming of child rights and children's safe, empowering and sustained participation. Higher level results to which CRCnct has contributed include ensuring child rights perspectives in reporting to the UPR and influencing several HRC resolutions on children's rights in protection of environmental harm.¹¹ Results also include the UN Secretary-General's decision to develop a *Guidance Note on child rights mainstreaming* in the framework of his *Call to Action for Human Rights* after receiving CRCnct's position paper. Civil society and child participation in the development of the Guidance Note is expected to be ensured through CRCnct's strategic partnership status with the inter-agency process. The Guidance Note is stated in several interviews to be a milestone decision to mainstream children's rights within the UN system, with the potential of sustainable impact.

However, there is, as mentioned, less awareness among informants of the work and achievements of CRCnct under strategic priority 3 in comparison with strategic priority 1 and 2. Amongst survey

¹¹ A/HRC/RES/40/11 in 2019 on *Recognizing the contribution of environmental human rights defenders to the enjoyment of human rights, environmental protection and sustainable development*, and A/HRC/RES/45/30 in 2020 on *Rights of the child: realizing the rights of the child through a healthy environment*

respondents, the performance rating is also lower for outcome 3 than for the other strategic priorities. Thirty-three percent rate CRCnct's performance on the strategic priority as "excellent", 52 percent as "good", and 11 percent as "average."

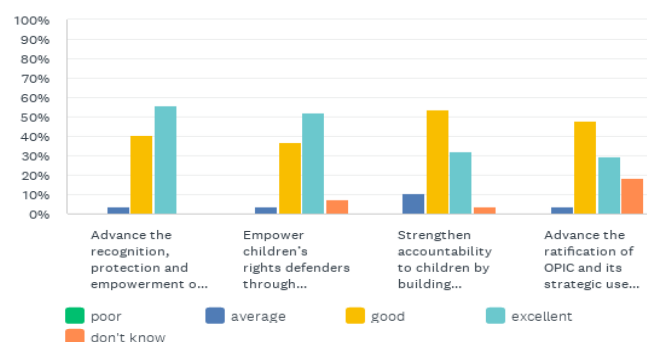
Outcome 4: Advanced ratification of the Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure (OPIC) and its strategic use by children's rights defenders.

The results attained in relation to outcome 4 are mainly visible on an output level. Reported achievements include CRCnct engaging in and initiating multi-stakeholder dialogue, developing the capacity of and providing technical assistance to CSOs in ratification advocacy, increasing awareness and access to information on the protocol amongst state and non-state actors, and strengthening interest, capacity and engagement within the network on OPIC.

While two countries, Armenia and the Seychelles, ratified the OPIC in 2021, the rate of ratification to OPIC has been declining under the current programme period, and the prospects of further States becoming parties on a significant scale is questioned by some key informants. As mentioned on CRCnct's own OPIC information website,¹² 148 States parties to the UNCRC are yet to ratify the OPIC. If the current annual average of 4 state ratification per year (2011-2022) is maintained, it will take almost 30 years for all 196 States to become parties.

Accordingly, some interviewees question whether it is effective use of resources to focus on OPIC. One interviewee stated that CRCnct needs further experience and legal expertise, and more political clout, if it should be able to meaningfully contribute to achievement of outcome 4. Conversely, several interviewees point to the importance of CRCnct contributing to keeping OPIC on the agenda and increasing capacity and awareness on the Protocol as a way to promote access to justice for children. The evaluation survey responses show that many members are uncertain about CRCnct's performance under outcome 4, with 19 percent of respondents answering that they "don't know" how to evaluate CRCnct's performance. Furthermore, survey responses show relatively lower scoring on performance in comparison to the other strategic priorities, with 30 percent stating "excellent", 48 percent "good", and four percent "average".

Q10 How would you evaluate CRCnct's performance on the following Core Activities:



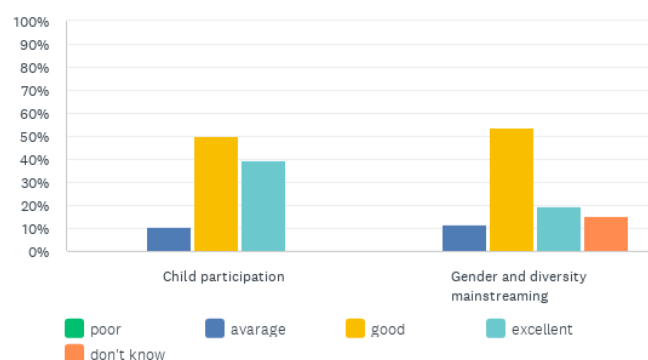
¹² <https://opic.childrightsconnect.org/ratification-status/>

4.3.2 To what extent have the Core Activities contributed to safe, empowering and sustainable child participation at all levels?

To guide its child participation work, CRCnct utilises the “Lundy Model” of child participation,¹³ with the following four interrelated elements: space, voice, audience, and influence. These elements incorporate the Nine Basic Requirements for Ethical and Meaningful Participation.¹⁴ CRCnct is also actively implementing its Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedure.¹⁵

Both key informants and survey respondents recognise CRCnct as an international authority on child participation. Amongst survey respondents, 39 percent are of the opinion that CRCnct’s performance on child participation is “excellent” and 50 percent that the performance is “good.” Eleven percent say it is “average.” No respondent believes that CRCnct’s performance on child participation is “poor” or ticked the option “don’t know.” The majority of the key informants emphasise CRCnct’s profound knowledge and relevant methodologies and tools – including child friendly versions – to facilitate children’s safe and empowering participation.

Q11 How would you evaluate CRCnct’s performance on the following cross-cutting issues:



Network members, UN agencies and human rights mechanisms regularly seek technical and operational support from CRCnct, either for specific events or for developments at an organisational or strategic level. For instance, CRCnct is a main partner to the European Union, where CRCnct has the role to ensure that children’s participation in panel discussions aligns with quality standards and child safeguarding principles. The technical and operational support from CRCnct to members, human rights mechanisms and key events is reported to have contributed to child participation at all levels – both globally and locally. Members say that they are using the guidelines and tools produced by CRCnct when supporting children’s participation at a national level and in preparation for global events/activities.

Interviewees have raised the following as particularly important examples of child participation:

¹³ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/lundy_model_of_participation.pdf

¹⁴ 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

¹⁵ <https://childrightsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/crcnct-child-safeguarding-policy-procedure.pdf>

- (i) The CRC Committee is mentioned most frequently. While the Committee did not allow children to participate a few years ago it is now demonstrating a commitment to children's participation – and much of this is due to CRCnct's advocacy and support. Many informants highlight that children's participation generate much value and insights in state reviews or general comments. Children's views are said to have helped pursue the development of policies and steering such as risk documents and strategy, giving useful contribution to the CRC Committee (and others) be more child focused.
- (ii) The participation of children in the *Annual Day on the Rights of the Child* is another example mentioned by several informants, in which two children participated for the first time ever in 2020 (in comparison to one child in 2019 and none in 2018).
- (iii) The children's consultation as part of the development of the *General Comment on sustainable development*, by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) in 2021, was highlighted as a role-modelling example. For the first time, children had the opportunity to have their thoughts and ideas included in the process of drafting a General Comment by the CESCR.

Some informants stress the importance of unpacking the concept of child participation – including critically analysing the key issues of which children participate, how and why. Some raise the concern that participation can sometimes be pushed as a goal in itself rather than as a process that contributes to the achievement of a strategic outcome (however, the Evaluation Team's impression is that this concern is raised as a more general precaution, rather than as a point of criticism towards CRCnct). In some interviews, various perspectives are raised on the meaningfulness of children's participation in the UPR. Some respondents highlight that it is important that children give statements for their States, whilst some raise that the UPR is more “political” in its nature and that other fora, such as CRC Committee, are more appropriate for children to participate in.

That child participation not only is mainstreamed across CRCnct's programming, but also is a core component of the organisational structure is noted as important by several informants. The extensive reflection of children's participation in CRCnct's strategy is recognised and is described to have become core to CRCnct's organisation through an organic process. CRCnct is acknowledged for its ability to incorporate learning from the network members and for its sensitivity to the regional contexts.

The establishment of the CAT, as a permanent structure within the organisation is by many informants seen as a major milestone. CRCnct is one of the few organisations that facilitated children's participation in the board, which is said to serve as strong role modelling example to other organisations. The CAT is described to relate to all CRCnct's strategic priorities in different ways. Besides integrating across the network and informing the governance of CRCnct as a global network, the child advisors play an important role in the CRC reporting processes and in connecting the fields of child rights at local, regional and global levels. Without CRCnct, key informants stress that it would have been difficult to have a global representation of children in the human rights processes in Geneva.

CRCnct's hiring of a staff member dedicated to child participation and child safeguarding is said by several respondents to be key to this organisational transformation and significant programmatic

progresses. Such a function ensures that there is adequate preparation and follow-up, in addition to compliance with quality standards and child safeguarding during events and activities.

With regards to *safe* participation, the 2015 evaluation found an urgent need for CRCnct to develop its own safeguarding policy. Several key informants are now recognising CRCnct for effectively embedding its *Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedure* in all its facilitation of child participation. The *Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedure* is reviewed annually, alongside child-friendly versions of it, in English, French and Spanish. The 2021 revision of the Policy aligned itself with the new *Recruitment Policy and Procedure* (adopted in 2021) which now has a child safeguarding vetting procedure. No indication of any child safeguarding issues has been revealed during the evaluation. Other actors seek technical and operational support from CRCnct both in facilitating children's participation generally and in ensuring child safeguarding principles and standards during human rights events/activities in Geneva.

Children of different ages, genders and diversity, give merely positive feedback to CRCnct's support to their engagement in the human rights field. This specifically includes CRCnct's availability, friendly attitude, and genuine approach to listen to the children's ideas both before, during and after an event. The results align with the 2015 evaluation, where children interviewed also were all very positive about their experience and the support that they received from CRCnct. Children emphasise that the opportunity to meet peers and others who are active in the human rights field is empowering and a main reason why they choose to engage with CRCnct to begin with. Several informants say that they are still in touch with the other children and share experiences and knowledge with each other. Besides building their human rights network, the opportunity to learn about the human rights mechanisms and engage with them is another reason why children find it meaningful and relevant to engage with CRCnct. Furthermore, the opportunity to be part of an organisation that yearns for the opinions of children themselves rather than listen to assumptions made by adults based on the perspectives of children is identified as a motivational factor. The praise that CRCnct received in the 2015 evaluation for supporting the children's ideas and proposals without trying to influence them or impose adult perceptions is in other words reflected also in this present evaluation.

Children frequently and specifically give positive feedback to CRCnct's Senior Child Empowerment and Safeguarding Officer for making them feel safe and confident in implementing their initiative. The Evaluation Team notes that this indicates the importance of inter-personal relationships and trust-building in facilitating safe and empowering child participation.

The dedicated focus on both the preparatory and follow-up stages is stressed by many children as important and described as a contributor to their feeling of empowerment. The importance of having time and resources to effectively plan an activity/event is emphasised by CRCnct too (and a key learning from the 30th anniversary of the CRC where CRCnct itself became involved at a very late stage, which resulted in also children having little influence at the planning and preparation stage).

At an individual level, children report having gained skills and confidence through the interaction with CRCnct that they have later utilised in their local contexts in order to pursue initiatives on

children's rights. Some informants describe how they got empowered by their engagement in with CRCnct and subsequently were able to express themselves and become more active as a child human rights defender. Children also experience greater knowledge about the human rights mechanisms and issues and challenges around the world. Moreover, some say that their engagement with CRCnct has helped to open doors to further engagement with national duty bearers once returned from an event.

Several informants emphasise that CRCnct's active and persistent efforts has directly generated more positive attitudes and practices with regards to children's participation among human rights mechanisms in Geneva. CRCnct is said to have both the confidence and ability to influence governments' attitudes and practices in relation to child participation and is recognised for having supported the UN in general, and the CRC Committee in particular, to model child participation.

The general perception among informants that it is important to continue to find ways to promote the child advisors to take their initiatives further and promote sustainability of their work. An opinion is that it is important that everybody can continue to stay in touch and network, regardless of age. Some informants – including children – also share their reflections on how to increase sustainability of their engagement. Positive aspects of previous child advisors still being active and acting as mentors for new child advisors are highlighted. One child expresses an interest in the working groups, and says that it is a bit unclear who sets them up and decides what issues are worked on. Working group members have similarly expressed an interest in involving children in the work of the groups.

To sum up, CRCnct has the knowledge and relevant methodologies and tools to facilitate children's participation in a safe, empowering and sustainable way. This conclusion is also supported by the findings from the “deep dive” data collection and review of five activities where children have participated, which considered the Nine Basic Requirements for Ethical and Meaningful Participation,¹⁶ the “Lundy Model” of child participation¹⁷ as well as CRCnct's Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedure (see Annex 5). At an individual level, the support from CRCnct has contributed to enhanced skills, confidence, networks and engagement at a national level among child advisors. At a higher level, the data collection broadly supports a conclusion that CRCnct's professional and persistent efforts have influenced positive changes in attitudes and practices among human rights mechanisms in Geneva, and particularly the CRC Committee. At the same time, the Evaluation Team is of the perception that such change alone will not *automatically* create the *sustained* space, voice, audience and influence for children's participation. In this regard, the Evaluation Team shares the informants view that a dedicated staff to facilitate the processes, ensuring quality standards and child safeguarding is fundamental.

¹⁶ 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

¹⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/lundy_model_of_participation.pdf

4.3.3 Are there any differential results across groups of children and children's rights defenders supported?

Most respondents to the survey, 54 percent, indicate that CRCnct's performance on gender and diversity mainstreaming is "good." Nineteen percent rank CRCnct's performance as "excellent" and 12 percent as "average." Some respondents – 15 percent – answer "don't know" to CRCnct's performance on gender and diversity mainstreaming. Some interviewees further state that the work on gender and diversity mainstreaming in CRCnct programming is weaker than child participation, the other cross-cutting issue of this evaluation.

Yet, several key informants do acknowledge that CRCnct is taking on a holistic approach to gender and diversity, and that this is visible across documents, statements and tools. CRCnct is said to have become more gender and diversity sensitive in the past years. Reporting also shows that CRCnct has taken active steps towards increasing the participation in the reporting processes to the CRC Committee among actors in previously underrepresented areas or regions with weaker civil society, such as the Caribbean and the Pacific. A further indicator of the awareness and ability of CRCnct to ensure some voice of particularly vulnerable groups of children is the two street-connected children addressing the HRC in 2021, as representatives of a particularly marginalised group of children. Some progress is also noticeable in an analysis of the content of the Annual Reports across 2019, 2020 and 2021:

- (i) In the Annual Report 2019, the term "gender" is mentioned only once and the report, including annexes, present very little disaggregated data. The term "diversity" is mentioned 5 times but not in relation to programmatic results, except the learning from the UNCRC 30th anniversary to include a wider diversity of children. Additionally, the 2015 evaluation report mentions the term gender only once and the term diversity twice.
- (ii) The Annual Report 2020 and 2021 includes the term "gender" 26 times each, includes the term "diversity" a few more times and presents a little more disaggregated data as well (although some gender disaggregated data on indicators in the 2021 Results Tracker is inconsistently reported between years and indicators). The two reports from 2020 and 2021 also include a section that outlines CRCnct's work to better incorporate a sensitivity to gender and diversity into its organisation and programming, including its contributions to *UN resolution 1325*. Besides the organisational level, CRCnct is reported to have engaged at the substantive level. For instance, according to the *Annual Report 2020*, CRCnct encouraged (with some success) the CRC Committee, in developing its *General Comment on children's rights in relation to the digital environment*, to mainstream the consideration for girls' rights and for the distinctive barriers and opportunities they face when using and engaging with the online environment, and to make recommendations to States and other duty-bearers to develop specific measures for addressing gender-related digital divide for girls.

During the evaluation period, CRCnct has proactively worked to diversify the CAT. Consolidated data on the profiles of the child advisors over the period 2019-2022 indeed shows CRCnct's efforts to have a balance between children of different gender and ages (mainly older adolescents) from different countries and regions.

Table 4: Profile of child advisors

| The profile of child advisors over the period 2019-2022 | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| Year | # girls/boys | Ages | Countries | Diversity |
| 2019 | 9 children (design of the child-friendly CRC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 girls 5 boys | 11 years: 2 children 14 years: 1 child 15 years: 2 children 16 years: 3 children 17 years: 1 child | Bangladesh, Canada, Mexico, Philippines, Scotland, South Korea, Tanzania, Turkey, Ukraine | |
| 2020 | 12 children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 girls 7 boys | 10 years: 1 child 13 years: 1 child 14 years: 2 children 15 years: 1 child 16 years: 6 children 17 years: 1 child | Bangladesh, Brazil, Cyprus, England, Ivory Coast, Kosovo, Mexico, Mongolia, Palau, South Africa, Tanzania, Uruguay | One child with disabilities |
| 2021 | 16 children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 girls 8 boys | 11 years: 1 child 12 years: 1 child 13 years: 2 children 14 years: 2 children 15 years: 3 children 16 years: 4 children 17 years: 3 children | Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Cyprus, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Indonesia, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Mongolia, South Korea, Tanzania, United Kingdom | One child with disabilities |
| 2022 | 12 children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> | 12 years: 1 child 13 years: 1 child 14 years: 3 children 15 years: 2 children 16 years: 2 children 17 years: 3 children | Bolivia, Cameroon, Canada, Croatia, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Indonesia, Samoa, Scotland/United Kingdom, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago | One child with disabilities as well as one LGBTQI+ child |

Children that have been consulted for this evaluation say that they appreciate that CRCnct takes diversity into account and that the children become part of a diverse community, with a mix of boys and girls and backgrounds, when joining the CAT. The child advisors, who also are of different ages and genders, have mentioned in focus group discussions and documentation that they have felt safe and supported by CRCnct to participate.

At the same time, it should be noted that there are some hesitations from some of the adult informants with regards to the CAT's level of representation of diverse groups of children. Most of those who become part of the CAT are said to already have certain experience from the human rights field and do not necessarily represent "the real children" in our region, as one informant expressed it. At the same time, many informants acknowledge that this is nevertheless the most appropriate solution, as the purpose and meaningfulness of children's participation otherwise would be at stake. The "matching" of the most appropriate participant to a specific event is considered important in order to ensure that children's participation do not become tokenistic. Noteworthy is also that several children consulted for this evaluation highlight their role of being a voice for other children, both in their contexts and globally.

While recognising CRCnct's efforts in the past years, the informants stress that CRCnct can go further in strengthening its gender and diversity perspectives, and more expressly and further integrate age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in its "organisational mindset". This includes strengthening of intersectionality and gender transformative approaches. Some informants flag that whilst CRCnct has been better at incorporating perspectives of age and different "groups" of children, there is scope to strengthening the gender perspectives specifically, and the interlink with age and diversity. Noteworthy is that whilst some informants recommend CRCnct to further integrate gender and diversity sensitivity in its programming, others recommend focus on child rights mainstreaming as a cross-cutting issue instead (which include the right to equality and non-discrimination). Several informants, including children, flag the importance of less binary discussions on child rights and emphasise that the LGBTQI+ perspective is crucial. The scope for exploring this issue through the network and in dialogue with relevant members and partners is highlighted.

The informants moreover indicate some diverging perspectives on the participation of girls and boys. Some say that boys are more visible than girls in the consultations in which children participate, and that CRCnct should focus more on strengthening the participation of girls and children of younger age groups. It is said that it is currently more about a lack of tools than will. Other informants think that the benefits of involving girls have been more visible and that there has been a lack of boys. It is also mentioned that there are more women engaged in the human rights field than boys, which affects ratios at most levels. In interviews it has additionally been stressed that the perspectives of children from indigenous communities is lacking within the composition of the network.

Children from various age, gender and diversity who have been consulted for this evaluation, unanimously say that their engagement with CRCnct has had an empowering impact on them as child human rights defenders (strategic outcome 1). According to the Annual Report 2021, the operation of CRCnct's CAT has empowered children – *particularly girls* – to act as child human rights defenders by boosting their motivation to act for the promotion and protection of human rights, increasing their self-confidence as well as public speaking and leadership skills.

An issue that is raised by both child and adult informants is that most of the participation takes place in English and that this may have an excluding effect on some children. Further investment in sensitivity to linguistic diversity, through translation and interpretation of materials etc. is encouraged, especially to Spanish. At the same time, some children explicitly recognise CRCnct's sensitivity to languages and translation support as positive and contributing to inclusive participation.

To sum up, the Evaluation Team notes somewhat limited analysis and reporting on gender and diversity in annual reports and other documentation during 2019-2022 regarding differential results across groups of children and children's rights defenders supported. The interviews and focus group discussions also shed little input on this specific aspect of the evaluation question. Worth mentioning is that there is nothing coming out from the data collection indicating that CRCnct's programming has had an *adverse* effect on a certain group(s). There are no concerns that CRCnct's programming has been actively discriminatory or exclusive in any way. Rather, the engagement

with CRCnct has had an empowering effect on children of different ages, genders and diversity. The analysis of children's engagement with CRCnct furthermore shows that there is a diversity among children with regards to their ages, genders and geographic locations. CRCnct's engagement in the child rights mainstreaming includes perspectives of non-discrimination and inclusiveness, and there are examples where CRCnct has pushed forward a gender sensitive agenda more specifically as well.

4.3.4. What are the major factors that have influenced the achievement or non-achievement of the stated outcomes?

Several interviewees, both from outside and inside the network, emphasise the positive organisational development of CRCnct since the previous programme period. CRCnct is a highly respected organisation with professional staff according to interviews and the survey conducted. In particular, the organizational reforms have been mentioned as being both inclusive and overall positive. This in turn has had positive implications on CRCnct's image, effectiveness, efficiency and functioning. Additionally, CRCnct's effective management and convening of a broad range of CSOs' voices from the global child rights sector while maintaining constructive relationship with key stakeholders in Geneva is recognised as contributing factors to the achievement of results.

In relation to the more thematic work conducted within the CRCnct working groups, several informants state that the quality and level of engagement within the working groups are dependent on the capacity and ability of its members. There is a wish among informants for an increase in the CRCnct secretariat support provided to the working groups as well as further coordination between the different working groups (as also mentioned under section 4.1.2 in this Evaluation). Some interviewees note that working groups are rather disconnected from each other and that opportunities for synergies and collaboration is not always seized as much as they could be.

As discussed also in the 2015 evaluation, some informants highlight the strategic considerations between potential trade-offs of keeping a broad membership versus close engagement and support to fewer member organisations towards CRCnct's priorities. Generally, the added value and the broadly recognised status of CRCnct, as a global, diverse network of child rights advocates and defenders, grants it legitimacy and a strong unified voice in Geneva.

Some interviewees see a need to further engage the membership, especially smaller national level organisations, in programme activities as a key factor that will influence further achievements. That CRCnct needs to (continue to) draw on members' resource and capacity is emphasised. Some suggest that CRCnct is quite reactive in its approach to the membership and that there may be scope for a more proactive approach. Further membership engagements have thus been lifted as both a factor of importance and a recommended priority looking ahead.

While CRCnct's relationships with a broad range of actors is important overall, its close relationship and engagement with the CRC Committee is flagged as one of the major factors influencing results across the strategic priorities. CRCnct is uniquely positioned to promote inclusive and effective engagement of children's rights defenders and CHRDs towards the CRC Committee. Informants have noticed that that the relationship between the CRC Committee and CRCnct still is quite

informal, despite decades of interaction. Some suggest that it may be beneficial for CRCnct to formalise the relationship.

The Covid-19 pandemic has posed several challenges, as noted in the 2020 and 2021 narrative reporting, particularly in relation to outcome 4 as possibilities of engaging with states decreased, and in relation to outcome 2 as reporting and information procedures towards the CRC were uprooted. The pandemic led to changed CRC Committee reporting schedule and procedures. Accordingly, CRCnct spent additional time and resources guiding CSOs through these adapted processes, disseminating information and communicating deadlines.

4.4 Impact

4.4.1. Beyond immediate results, what transformative, positive longer-term effects have the Core Activities contributed to or generated on children's well-being and human rights (i.e. changes in systems and norms at all levels, from international to national / local)?

While there are no clear impact statements in the Strategic Plan 2020-2024, in the Grant Application to Sida, and in the programme Results Framework, the Evaluation Team reviewed the 2022 updated theory of change document¹⁸ where three impact formulations are visible in relation to CRCnct's programme activities: (i) "Civil society and children effectively influence the actions of States, the UN and other duty-bearers resulting in children enjoying their rights," (ii) "The United Nations system takes action and influences the actions of duty-bearers to respect, fulfill and promote child rights," and (iii) "States take action, and influence the actions of other duty-bearers, to respect, fulfil and promote child rights." These impacts have guided the Evaluation Team's reflections on CRCnct's intended impact.

CRCnct has enabled effective, inclusive, efficient and broad participation of global civil society actors, including CHRDs, towards several UN human rights mechanisms in Geneva, specifically towards the CRC Committee. CRCnct has pushed the agenda and increased the acceptance, demand and practice of safe, empowering, and sustainable child participation at multiple levels, specifically amongst its network members and in the CRC Committee, and to some extent within the wider UN system.

Despite the pandemic, CRCnct has enabled the effective voice of civil society and children and ensured the continuing of critical processes within the UN human rights system to be maintained under extra ordinary circumstances. The organisation has also contributed to some country and regional level impact such as the already mentioned impact case study in implementing the guide on the rights of child human rights defenders in Moldova, increasing prioritisation of the rights of CHRDs through effective local to global advocacy.

¹⁸ Child Rights Connect, 2022, 13. *Annex 1_CRCnct ToC rev 2022.pdf*

It should further be noted that CRCnct's outcome level results under priority 3 have laid a strong foundation with the potential for further system wide impact. Specifically, the Evaluation Team recognises that there are systems and procedures in place for the CRCnct network to influence the development and implementation of the UN-wide strategy on child rights under the initiative of the secretary general's Guidance Note as the inter-agency process. In this initiative, the leading actors (OHCHR, UNICEF and two Special Representatives to the Secretary General) have voiced their intention to reach out to a broad range of actors in the development of the Guidance Note. They have reached out to CRCnct – as a strategic partner of the initiative – to take a leading role in coordinating consultations with civil society and children worldwide.

4.4.2 What negative effects have the Core Activities contributed to or generated?

Reviewing CRCnct reporting and data collected through key informant interviews and the network membership survey, no negative effects were found as generated by the programme activities. This includes child safeguarding, where no issues were reported or observed by the Evaluation Team.

4.5 Efficiency

4.4.1 Have identified results under programmatic outcomes been delivered in an economic and timely way?

Traditional efficiency assessments measure outputs in relation to inputs and require that benefits are measured in monetary terms or in some other metric measurements. They also require that the findings are compared with the costs of other interventions with similar or identical outputs. However, such an assessment is difficult to conduct for an intervention of the type evaluated. As an alternative, taking the overall context into account, the efficiency review has looked at whether the programme is on budget, activities are carried out on time, and management and activity costs are reasonable.

As for most other organisations, CRCnct's ability to implement activities as intended has during the past two years been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The organisation had to cancel planned activities that required travel and could not easily be rearranged to online events. In some cases, CRCnct's contributions were cancelled or postponed as a consequence of other organisations cancelling events. Despite these challenges, a review of CRCnct's plans and the degree to which they have been implemented show that CRCnct has implemented the vast majority of its planned activities and that significant progress has been made also in relation to activities that have not yet been completed. A review of the degree to which CRCnct has utilised its activity budget gives a similar picture. During 2020, the first year of the pandemic, CRCnct used 89 percent of its budgeted activity costs. While CRCnct's adjustments to planned activities meant that it underspent on some budget lines and overspent on others, the overall deviation from the activity budget must be assessed as limited considering the effects of the pandemic.

For an organisation of CRCnct's nature, where staff time is its main asset, it is reasonable that most of its financial resources are used to cover human resource related costs. From an efficiency perspective it is, however, important that staff members and others engaged by the organisation

have the skills required and implement their responsibilities in a professional manner. The Evaluation Team's survey asked the member organisations how they rated CRCnct's performance in different areas. Sixty-nine percent of the responding organisations said they found the performance of the staff team to be "excellent", while 27 percent rated it as "good." It is worth noting that the members assessed staff performance more favourably than any other aspect of CRCnct's performance and that a comparison with the survey carried out in 2015 indicate an increasing satisfaction with staff performance.

For 2022, CRCnct has budgeted CHF 761 000 for gross salaries for its eight staff members, i.e. an average salary of about CHF 95 000. The salaries are not set against any specific benchmark and no salary survey has been carried out. In comparison with other Geneva-based international organisations assessed by Rightshouse in the past, the average salary level seems reasonable. The Evaluation Team has not seen a budget detailing salaries for individual positions.

In 2020, CRCnct's office costs amounted to CHF 51 000. Considering the size of the organisation and the need for the organisation to be located within reasonable distance from main counterparts, such as OHCHR, the rent seems reasonable. In 2021, the office costs increased to 6 700 and for 2022 CRCnct has budgeted 94 000, an increase with 84 percent in relation to 2020. The increase is explained by the organisation's move to a larger office in anticipation of an increase in the number of staff which has not yet materialised due to current financial constraints. The move has also been seen as strategic in that CRCnct has greater possibilities of hosting its network members' child rights-related initiatives and engagement when in Geneva.

Traditionally, a challenge for many global network organisations is the high costs associated with project activities requiring global travel for large numbers of people. From an efficiency perspective it can often be difficult to see that the added value of traveling for network meetings and trainings justifies the high costs and the negative environmental impact of such travel. For 2022, the CRCnct's operational and travel related expenses (including flights, accommodation and venues) amount to 88 000 of its total budget of 1 524 000, i.e. six percent. Of the travel related expenses, CHF 53 000, 60 percent, is used for the participation of 24 children and accompanying adults in two events. Whether this significant expense is justified will partly depend on the degree to which the children obtain knowledge and experience that they apply after returning to their home contexts. This should be assessed over a longer period of time, which has not been possible for the Evaluation Team to do.

Since the General Assembly became an online event in 2020 and a hybrid event in 2022 attendance has as mentioned increased. While this is a desirable development from a democracy, ownership and engagement perspective, the hybrid format is also important from the point of efficiency as it allows more members to participate and dramatically reduces the costs for those who chose to attend online rather than in person. From an environmental and climate change perspective, the possibility of attending the General Assembly without traveling is also a welcome development.

Of importance from an efficiency, as well as effectiveness, perspective is an organisation's ability to reflect on its performance, learn from its and adjust its operations. CRCnct's reporting to Sida shows that the organisation has a very well-developed capacity to identify challenges, openly reflect

on them and develop ideas and strategies on how to address them. The organisation's capacity to follow up on its work and learn from its past performance was further strengthened with the recruitment of a staff member with responsibility for planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning, for which Sida allocated additional funding. However, the CHF 15 000 set aside for an external evaluation is very low for an organisation of CRCnct's size that has not been evaluated for almost seven years.

Overall, CRCnct has managed well to implement its activities in a timely and economic manner. Considering that most of the programme has been carried during the Covid-19 pandemic, deviations between expected and actual expenditures and between the planned and implemented activities have been limited. The organisation's ability to adapt its operations is underpinned by a strong learning culture.

4.6 Sustainability

4.6.1 How likely to continue are the identified positive effects of the Core Activities?

Many of the achievements made under outcomes one and two are expected to continue as they represent behavioural change of institutional actors. The shifts in practice in terms of child participation and recognition of CHRDs at the global level, as well as within broad segments of the CRCnct large network, will not be easily reversed.

There are stronger challenges to the sustainability of results under outcomes 3 and perhaps 4, and these outcomes are further removed from CRCnct's sphere of control and influence. Changes in political agendas and priorities may shift and undermine the results made with regards to high level child rights mainstreaming and the efforts made in relation to OPIC. As noted, the continued engagement of CRCnct on the Secretary General's Guidance Note can increase the likelihood of CRCnct having impact on child rights mainstreaming.

However, the single most important factor relating to the sustainability of results is the continued operations of CRCnct. CRCnct's total income increased between 2015 and 2021 with roughly 39 percent and with 10 percent between 2019 and 2021. Changes in the support provided by Sida and increased contributions from the membership explains part of the increase.

Table 5: CRCnct's annual income

| Year | Total income (CHF) |
|------|--------------------|
| 2015 | 789 000 |
| 2017 | 717 000 |
| 2019 | 992 000 |
| 2020 | 965 000 |
| 2021 | 1 096 000 |

CRCnct is financially highly dependent on the support it receives from Sida. As shown in the table below, during the period 2019-2021, Sida contributed between 44 and 48 percent of CRCnct's total income. This is an increase compared to previous programme periods.

To assess CRCnct's dependence on its largest donors, the Evaluation Team calculated how much of the total income the three largest donors have contributed each year. As shown in the table below, the percentage decreased from 80 percent in 2019 to 72 percent in 2021. However, in comparison with 2015 and 2017, CRCnct's dependence on its largest donors has increased.

Table 6: Largest donors' share of total budget

| Year | Sida | | Three largest donors | |
|------|---------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| | CHF | % of total income | CHF | % of total income |
| 2015 | 252 000 | 32 | 519 000 | 66 |
| 2017 | 229 000 | 32 | 459 000 | 64 |
| 2019 | 445 000 | 45 | 795 000 | 80 |
| 2020 | 428 000 | 44 | 711 000 | 74 |
| 2021 | 527 000 | 48 | 787 000 | 72 |

From a sustainability perspective it is also relevant to assess trends in terms of funds raised from members. Considering both membership fees and voluntary contributions by members, the degree to which members have covered the organisation's budget has varied somewhat over the years. During the past two years they have covered roughly one-fifth of the total budget.

Table 7: Total contribution from members (fees and grants)

| Year | Grants from members | | Membership fees + grants from members | |
|------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| | CHF | % of total income | CHF | % of total income |
| 2015 | 113 000 | 14 | 150 000 | 19 |
| 2017 | 81 000 | 12 | 142 000 | 20 |
| 2019 | 11 000 | 1 | 115 000 | 12 |
| 2020 | 94 000 | 10 | 200 000 | 21 |
| 2021 | 95 000 | 9 | 211 000 | 19 |

As already recognised by Sida in its *2020 Decision on Amendment of Contribution*, and as shown in previous sections, CRCnct's reliance on Sida-funding is high. In the Decision on Amendment, it is stated that *"The biggest risk is the increased financial dependence on Sida. With additional funds, Sida is expecting that CRCnct will make significant efforts within fundraising and diversification of donors. These expectations have been communicated to CRCnct"* [translated from Swedish]. In the CRCnct 2022 Risk Matrix, both relevant internal and external funding risks are identified with bearing on CRCnct financial sustainability, specifically, risk number 23 includes:

- (i) Lack of human resource capacity dedicated to fundraising
- (ii) Overall inability to raise necessary funds
- (iii) Lack of diverse funding portfolio / high dependency on few donors
- (iv) Inability to seek/attract new donors
- (v) Imbalance between core / project funding
- (vi) Loss of strategic or core donor(s) - particularly Sida - due to changing funding priorities, reduced budget, assessment of poor performance of CRCnct or inefficient structure, etc.

4.6.2 How can the sustainability of the identified benefits be improved, having regard to the size and capabilities of CRCnct?

The most important challenge to identified benefits is the future funding of CRCnct itself. The control functions identified in its 2022 Risk Matrix in relation risk number 23 (see above paragraph), highlight some concrete steps to increase and sustain financial sustainability. These are:

- (i) Development, implementation and review of fundraising strategy, including through:
 - a) Realistic financial planning, including building up of Operational Contingency Fund
 - b) Pursuit of project funding to offset some core costs
 - c) Investment in organisational strengthening (including through change management project) and further roll out of a results-based management (RBM) approach, and donor cultivation (timely and quality reporting, etc.)
 - d) Mapping of potential donors and targeted approach; building of long-term relationships with new donors; strengthening relationships with Permanent Missions to the UN in Geneva
 - e) Pursuit of new funding paradigm through private partnerships
- (ii) Maintain open and transparent communication with donors, including on internal challenges, funding situation, needs, ways to support, etc.
- (iii) Quarterly reviews of funding and financial situation with ExCo Treasurer and bi-annual fundraising updates to ExCo
- (iv) Review of Strategic Plan to ensure it balances programmatic and organisational/resource development
- (v) Explore possibilities for joint funding to TB-Net and joint project funding with members
- (vi) As needed and possible, seek external fundraising support

The control functions in the Risk Matrix remain valid, and concrete steps to implement them are reportedly taken: *“The MT [management team] has adopted its Fundraising Action Plan for 2022, and monthly fundraising meetings have been held. Fundraising for A2J/OPIC will continue to be prioritized in early 2022. Additional controls focus on increasing resources for fundraising, through the recruitment of a full-time Fundraising/MEL intern to start in mid-January; and the ED [executive director] dedicating 2 days a week to fundraising starting in January.”*

The CRCnct document Lessons Learned Log have documented reflections on lessons learned on the negative fundraising outcomes in response to proposals submitted in 2021 and proposes recommendations and follow up actions. CRCnct has a comprehensive fundraising strategy in place since 2021.

Some interviewees point towards some funding opportunities existing for CRCnct such as connecting to and drawing on the fund-raising processes of larger INGO network member. One interviewee stated that CRCnct could strengthen financial sustainability by attracting individuals with philanthropic ambitions, since child rights are a usually high on such individuals' agenda. Other interviewees stressed the already recognised ambition of CRCnct to continue to strengthen the Contingency Fund.

5 CONCLUSION

CRCnct's strategic priorities remain highly relevant. The membership is in particular underscoring the importance of strategic priority 1 concerning recognition, protection and empowerment of CHRDs and strategic priority 2 regarding CRCnct's interaction with the CRC Committee. CRCnct has taken several important initiatives to strengthen the participation and engagement of the membership. However, there may be opportunities to further strengthen the memberships' sense of ownership over the strategic priorities, including by adjusting how they are formulated and communicated.

There is a firm consensus, recognised also within the secretariat, that CRCnct should further strengthen its membership in the global south and enhance its efforts to engage smaller organisations. If resources are available, many informants would like to see CRCnct intensifying its efforts to bring the global level to the national or local level, including by ensuring stronger follow up of treaty body recommendations. Many would also like to see the secretariat strengthening the working group system by promoting interaction and coordination between the groups and by providing them with stronger support.

CRCnct's programme activities are complementary to other interventions in the child rights sector at the international level. This includes compatibility with the network members' work. CRCnct plays a unique role in representing and creating space for the global child rights-focused civil society – including children – to participate in UN human rights mechanisms. It adds value through its close engagement with human rights mechanisms in Geneva and its provision of technical support, information and training to CSOs. Without CRCnct's presence, the global civil society's advocacy and influence on children's rights and child rights mainstreaming would be hampered. The production of relevant guidance and tools, including child friendly versions, is another global added value which contributes to children's participation in the human rights field at both global and local levels.

Other interventions and policies in the child rights sector at the international level tend to support CRCnct's strategic priorities and programming. However, the growing challenge from some States of the notion that children are rightsholders is a trend undermining not only CRCnct's work but also children's human rights overall.

Overall, CRCnct has made important progress towards the attainment of its four outcomes. Outcome 1, *Advanced recognition, protection and empowerment of child human rights defenders (CHRDs), including through child participation at national, regional and international levels*, has been achieved to a high extent, especially at the regional and international levels. Outcome 2, regarding *Empowered children's rights defenders through reporting to and cooperating with the CRC Committee in targeted States to advance sustained global engagement*, is also largely attained. While the outcome focuses on reporting to the CRC Committee, an increased focus on the follow up of its recommendations may be an effective way of further strengthening children's rights defenders and promote and protect children's rights more generally. In relation to Outcome 3, *Strengthened accountability to children by building synergies between the CRC Committee, the other Treaty Bodies, the HRC, the SDGs and the youth agenda*, important milestones

have been reached when it comes to child rights mainstreaming within the UN system. CRCnct has carried out several successful activities relating to Outcome 4, *Advanced ratification of the Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure (OPIC) and its strategic use by children's rights defenders*. It has contributed to increased attention to and knowledge about the protocol across multiple actors. Yet, the ratification process is slow and CRCnct's capacity to increase the interest of States in becoming parties to the protocol is limited. CRCnct may contribute to bringing increased attention to the issues of access to justice for children more generally.

While it is difficult to identify to what extent and how CRCnct has contributed to improve the rights of children around the globe, i.e., to impact level changes, it is clear that it has managed to influence institutional systems and practices of actors of central importance from a child rights perspective, in particular at the global level. Most significantly, perhaps, it has increased the acceptance of child participation within the UN system at the same time as it has contributed to set an example that can have broader impact at the global as well as local levels.

Of the numerous factors that have contributed to CRCnct's attainment of results, the following stand out as particularly important: (i) the positive organisational developments in recent years; (ii) the professional and committed staff, (iii) the democratic organisational structure and broad, global and diverse membership; (iv) the ability to coordinate the voices of its members and other child rights CSOs; (iv) the constructive relationships it has developed with key external actors, in particular the CRC Committee. The Covid-19 pandemic has generated negative effects on the attainment of results, but it has also led to changed practices that may further strengthen the network. Many interviewees have argued that the working groups have not functioned as well as could have been expected and that they have the potential to contribute to results more effectively.

The results attained under outcome 1, 2 and 3 concern changes in attitudes and practices that are likely to be of a lasting nature. If OPIC ratification advances, this result is also characterised by a high degree of sustainability. However, ratification is largely outside CRCnct's control and the value and sustainability of any results made towards advancing ratification are uncertain.

Overall, CRCnct has managed to implement its activities in a timely and economic manner. The absence of budgets and financial reports which itemises expenses in detail means, however, that a more detailed efficiency analysis considering costs for specific outputs has not been possible. Considering that most of the evaluated programme has been carried during the Covid-19 pandemic, deviations between expected and actual expenditures and between the planned and implemented activities have been limited. The organisation has shown that it has the ability to adapt its operations to changes in the external context, and this ability is underpinned by a strong learning culture at the secretariat. Amongst the members, there is a high degree of satisfaction with the staff team's performance. During the past seven years, insufficient resources have, however, been allocated for external evaluations.

CRCnct' has relevant knowledge, methodologies and tools to facilitate children's participation in human rights mechanisms in a safe, empowering and sustainable way. CRCnct's efforts to make children's participation an integral part of both its organisation and programme has led to positive outcomes. At the individual level, the engagement with CRCnct has strengthened several children's

skills, confidence and networks. This has prepared them to continue to pursue child rights initiatives and engage as a child human rights defender. At an institutional level, CRCnct's efforts have, as mentioned, contributed to changed attitudes and practices, most importantly amongst the human rights mechanisms in Geneva. The establishment of the CAT can serve as a role model for other organisations.

Transparency, honesty, child-friendliness, support from adults and a genuine willingness to listen to what children have to say are key words that describe children's rationale and motivation to engage with CRCnct. Facilitating children's participation in a manner that complies with the *Nine Basic Requirements for Ethical and Meaningful Participation* as well as the *Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedure*, whilst ensuring children's space, voice, audience and influence does not come "automatically". Rather, CRCnct's dedication as an organisation, including of staff resources, has been fundamental to ensure that children's participation is safe, empowering and sustainable.

In the area of gender and diversity mainstreaming, CRCnct's practices are less well developed and it has been rather difficult for the Evaluation Team to draw more substantial conclusions regarding the differential impact that CRCnct's strategic priorities may have had on girls/women, children/adults living with disabilities, and other particularly under-represented categories of the population. There is room for the organisation to strengthen its practices in relation to programme and activity design and follow-up, and to pay more attention to the influence of age, gender and vulnerabilities. An exception is the CAT, where attention is paid to the diversity of children with regards to age, gender, background etc. – something that is also acknowledged as positive among the children themselves. The secretariat's development of organisational gender and diversity mainstreaming guidelines, which is in the pipeline for 2022, is an important move that may contribute to sensitive and even transformative approaches.

Assessing the Theory of Change and intervention logic from a gender and diversity perspective may otherwise be a relevant starting point for CRCnct to become more gender and diversity sensitive. A "gender and diversity marker" may be a useful tool for CRCnct to apply to ensure sensitivity across all strategy and programme components. Some of CRCnct's members have well-tested tools/markers that might be relevant for CRCnct to consult and adapt. In its programme and activity follow up, CRCnct could strengthen its collection and analysis of disaggregated data to better understand its capacity to reach vulnerable groups. Furthermore, as well recognised by CRCnct, a strategic and proactive approach to membership that draws upon the positive experiences of diversifying the CAT, can help ensuring that the voices of the most marginalised groups of children are being heard.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

This section sets out 11 recommendations on how CRCnct can further strengthen its operations and attainment of results. It also provides two recommendations to Sida.

6.1 Recommendations to CRCnct

1. Strengthen and diversify the funding base

CRCnct should as a matter of priority continue and further increase its efforts to strengthen and diversify the organisation's funding base.

2. Strengthen the membership's sense of ownership

The CRCnct secretariat should continue its efforts to strengthen the members sense of ownership over the organisation and its strategic priorities. CRCnct should implement this recommendation by building on and reinforcing already ongoing initiatives.

3. Reformulate and consistently communicate strategic priorities

Consider reformulating the strategic priorities when developing a new strategic plan in order to make the main target or actor of each priority easily recognisable and tie them directly to the theory of change. Strive to consistently use the strategic priorities when describing the organisation's focus and operations. As a central part of the CRCnct's work, the child rights mainstreaming focus should be made more visible in the next strategic plan.

4. Make strategies and programming more diversity-sensitive

CRCnct should invest in gender and diversity sensitive strategies and programming. CRCnct should use its theory of change and intervention logic as a starting point and analyse them from a gender and diversity sensitive perspective. CRCnct should introduce a gender and diversity marker to guide programme/project developments. The consistent use of gender and diversity sensitive indicators and disaggregated data should be ensured. CRCnct should link the move towards more gender and diversity sensitive and transformative approaches to a strategic approach to member engagement and mobilisation. CRCnct should start using these practices when it designs a new programme or develops its next strategic plan.

5. Strengthen follow up of CRC Committee recommendations

If resources are available, CRCnct should consider how to best support members' efforts to follow up on CRC Committee recommendations.

6. Strengthen cooperation between working groups

As part of its ongoing work to strengthen the functioning and effectiveness of the working groups, CRCnct should include efforts to further strengthen the coordination between working groups.

7. Produce and share child-friendly information about the working groups

Produce and share child-friendly information about the working groups with children.

8. Invite children to participate in the working groups

Invite child advisors to participate in the working groups as an additional way of sustaining children's participation. The continuous promotion of the *Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures* will be important in relation to this recommendation.

9. Ensure early and inclusive child participation

CRCnct should continue working for children's engagement in activities and events as early in the process as possible and facilitate appropriate follow-up and debriefing. CRCnct should continue to invest in making children's participation as inclusive as possible.

10. Strengthen capacity of children to play a role in considering the views of other children

CRCnct should collaborate with children and supporting organisations to further build the capacity of CAT child advisors to inform wider outreach to children (including by the UN) and play an active role in considering the views of other children, so as to give greater visibility to others' concerns.

11. Produce detailed budgets and financial reports

Produce budgets and financial reports that itemise expenses in further detail, including salaries per position and costs per participant in major events, in order to facilitate assessments of value for money. A detailed forecast budget should be produced for the financial year 2023.

6.2 Recommendations to Sida**12. Increase the frequency of and amount allocated for external evaluations.**

If Sida and CRCnct enters into a new cooperation agreement, Sida should ensure that the frequency of and amount budgeted for external programme evaluation is increased. This increase should be reflected in the agreement between Sida and CRCnct.

13. Encourage implementation of evaluation recommendations

Sida should encourage CRCnct to implement the recommendations of this evaluation.

ANNEX 1 : DOCUMENTATION

Child Rights Coalition Asia (2021) *Child Participation Guidelines for Online Discussions with Children*.
<https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/document/child-participation-guidelines-online-discussions-children/>

Child Rights Connect (2020) *2020 Annual planning package (including revisions)*.

Child Rights Connect (2021) *2021 Annual planning package*.

Child Rights Connect (2022) *2022 Annual planning package*.

Child Rights Connect (2021) *2020 Sida-commissioned report of 18 June 2020 on CRCnct management and internal control systems Status on implementation of recommendations*.

Child Rights Connect (2020) *Amendment to the Agreement on Core Support between Sida and Child Rights Connect*.

Child Rights Connect (2019) *Annual Report 2019 including annexes: Implementation of core activities*.

Child Rights Connect (2020) *Annual Report 2020 including annexes: Core activities of Child Rights Connect – Core contribution No. 61070145*.

Child Rights Connect (2021) *Annual Report 2021 – only annexes*.

Child Rights Connect (2019) *Annual Report 2019 (public)*.

Child Rights Connect (2019) *Annual Report 2019 Summary (public)*.

Child Rights Connect (2020) *Annual Report 2020 (public)*.

Child Rights Connect (2020) *Annual Report 2020 Summary (public)*.

Child Rights Connect (2021) *Annual Report 2021 (public)*.

Child Rights Connect (2020) *Anti-Corruption Policy*.

Child Rights Connect (2021) *Child Rights Connect General Assembly 2021 Statutory Meeting. Agenda Item 4(A) Discussion Paper and Pilot Proposal: Child Rights Connect membership criteria, processes and rights & responsibilities*.

Child Rights Connect (2021) *Child Rights Connect General Assembly 2021 Statutory Meeting. Agenda Item 5(A) Discussion Paper and Pilot Proposal: Work and Functioning of Child Rights Connect Working Groups*.

Child Rights Connect (2021) *Child Rights Connect Operations Manual Part 5: Programming –Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidelines*.

Child Rights Connect (2021) *Children's Advisory Team*.

Child Rights Connect (2021) *Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedure.*

Child Rights Connect (2021) *Code of Conduct.*

Child Rights Connect (2019) *Five-Year Strategic Plan 2020-2024.*

Child Rights Connect (2019) *Grant proposal 2019-2022 to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).*

Child Rights Connect (2017) *Join and Be: Child Rights Connect Network Concept.*

Child Rights Connect (2020) *Lessons Learned Log.*

Child Rights Connect (2020) *Minutes from the 2020 annual meeting with Sida.*

Child Rights Connect (2021) *Minutes from the 2021 annual meeting with Sida.*

Child Rights Connect (2020) *Operational Plan 2020-2024 (Accompanying its Five-Year Strategic Plan for 2020-2024).*

Child Rights Connect (2020) *Our theory of change 2020-2024.*

Child Rights Connect (2021) *Overall external evaluation timeline.*

Child Rights Connect (n/a) *Terms of Reference for Supporting Organisations for child advisors of the Child Rights Connect Children's Advisory Team 2020/ 2021!*

Child Rights Connect (2021) *Terms of Reference of the 2022 external evaluation.*

Child Rights Connect (n/a) *Terms of Reference of Child Rights Connect's Children's Advisory Team.*

Child Rights Connect (n/a) *The selection process for the Child Rights Connect Children's Advisory Team must be...*

Child Rights Connect and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (2019) *Grant agreement with Sida 2019-2022.*

Child Rights Connect and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (2020) *Amendment to the Agreement on Core Support between Sida and Child Rights Connect.*

Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment No.12 (2009) *The Right of the Child to be Heard*, CRC/C/GC/12, July 2009.

<https://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/AdvanceVersions/CRC-C-GC-12.pdf>

Ernst & Young AB (2020) *Report on the review of Internal Management and Control for Child Rights Connect.*

Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation (n/a) *Program Evaluation Standards.*

<https://www.oecd.org/dev/pgd/38406354.pdf>

Lundy, Laura https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/lundy_model_of_participation.pdf

Mary Robinson (2015) *Evaluation of the work of Child Rights Connect: Final report of Sida-funded evaluation.*

Save the Children (2021) *The Nine Basic Requirements for Meaningful and Ethical Children's Participation.* <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/document/nine-basic-requirements-meaningful-and-ethical-childrens-participation/>

Save the Children (2014) *A Toolkit for Monitoring and Evaluating Children's Participation* (Interagency initiative by Save the Children, the Concerned for Working Children, UNICEF, and World Vision). <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/collection/toolkit-monitoring-and-evaluating-childrens-participation/>

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>

United Nations Evaluation Group (2014) *Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations.* <http://www.unevaluation.org/document/detail/1616>

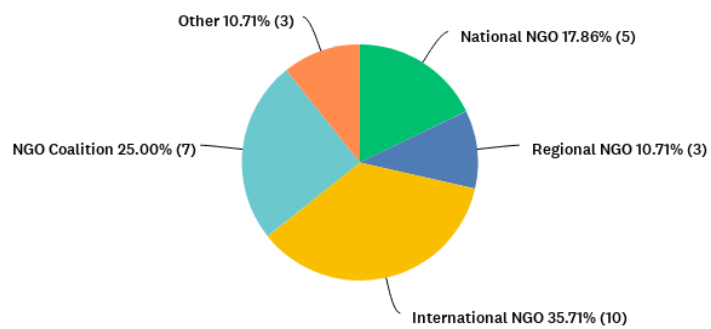
ANNEX 2: PEOPLE CONSULTED

| List of People Consulted | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Name | Organisation / Profession |
| Fanny Cachat | CRCnct |
| Ilaria Paolazzi | CRCnct |
| Fanny Chappuis | CRCnct |
| Leire Ibanez | CRCnct |
| Olivia Solari Yrigoyen | CRCnct |
| Emma Grindulis | CRCnct |
| Agnès Gràcia Corberó | CRCnct |
| Alex Conte | CRCnct |
| Agnes Bjorn | PLAN International Sweden |
| Sofia Garcia | Iprodes Peru |
| Mohan Dangal | Child Nepal |
| Flutra Gorana | War Child Beirut Office |
| Smiljana Frick | CRIC Moldova / Working Group Child participation |
| Luciano Cadoni, | Working Group Incarcerated parents |
| Ashley Bowe | Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) in the Pacific |
| Isabelle Kolebinov | CRIN, former Working Group convenor |
| Bess Herbert | The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children |
| Sonia Vohito | The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children |
| Angela Kariuki | The UN Environment Programme |
| Sigurd Jogns | Executive Committee Vice-President, Save the Children Norway |
| Laure Abado | Save the Children Sweden, Working Group the environment |
| Ana Barrera | Instituto Interamericano del Niño |
| Dulce Castillo | Instituto Interamericano del Niño |
| Dorian Hall | PLAN International Geneva Office |
| Mona M'Bikay | UPR Info |
| Barbara Németh | Child participation Expert |
| Hazel Bitana | CRC Asia, |
| Amihan V. Abueva | CRC Asia |
| Daliborka Jankovic | Former focal point The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs |
| Ha Young Lee | InCRC |
| Grace Kim | InCRC |
| Un Yeoung Ro | InCRC |
| Pascale Dychter | Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA |
| Laura Lundy | Child Rights and Child Participation Expert |
| Alan Kikuchi-White | Treasurer until June, SOS Children's Villages International |
| Veronica Mosticone | Plateforme CDE Morocco |
| Mária Herczog | President Executive Committee |
| Linda Ekholm | Permanent mission Geneva / Deputy Head of Human Rights Section at European External Action Service |
| Gina Bergh | Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) |
| Eva Geidenmark | Save the Children Sweden |
| Anastasia Anthopoulos | Oak Foundation |
| Anne Grandjean | UNICEF |
| Mikiko Otani | CRC Committee |
| Patrick Mutzenberg | TB-net / CCPR center |

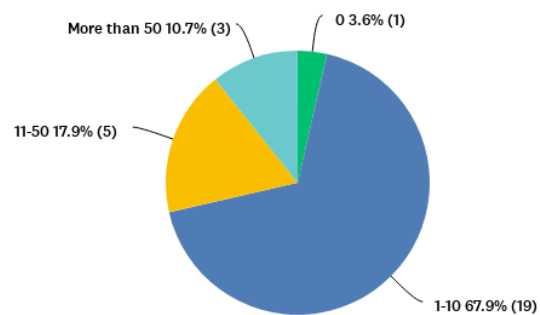
| List of Children Consulted and the Supportive Organisations | | |
|---|---|---|
| Name | Activity | Supporting organisation |
| Josephine | UNCRC 30th Anniversary (2019) | CONAFE Senegal |
| Fred | Annual Day on the Rights of the Child (2021) | Save Street Children Uganda |
| Kurt | UNCRC 30th Anniversary (2019) | - |
| Joynal | Child-friendly CRC (2019) | Educo Bangladesh |
| Maria | Child-friendly CRC (2019) | Maristas Mexico |
| Junior | Annual Day on the Rights of the Child (2020) | Charité Vie |
| Dohyeon | Child-friendly CRC (2019) | - |
| Constanza | Children's Global Consultation on Sustainable Development and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2022) | Comisión de Derechos Humanos de la Ciudad de México (CDHCM) |
| Angel | Children's Global Consultation on Sustainable Development and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2022) | Comisión de Derechos Humanos de la Ciudad de México (CDHCM) |
| Romina | Children's Global Consultation on Sustainable Development and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2022) | Comisión de Derechos Humanos de la Ciudad de México (CDHCM) |
| Miriam | Children's Advisory Team (2022) | Hi |

ANNEX 3: SURVEY

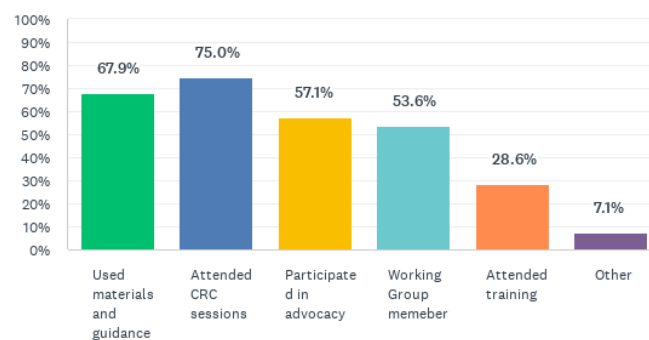
Q1 What type of organization are you representing?



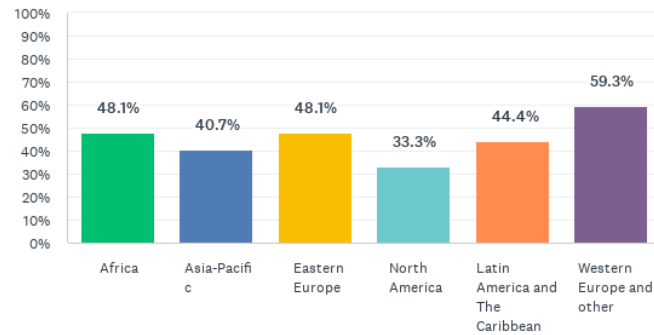
Q2 How many staff members are there in your organization?



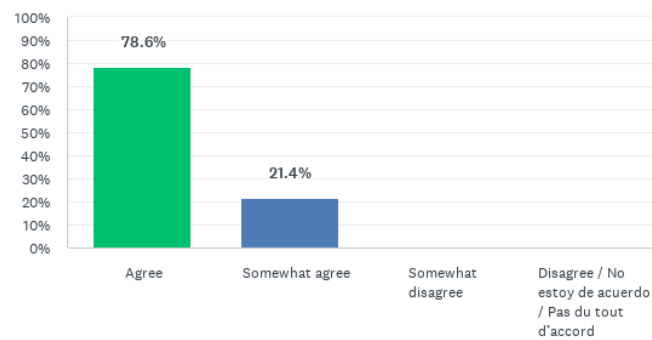
Q3 What has been your involvement with CRCnct?



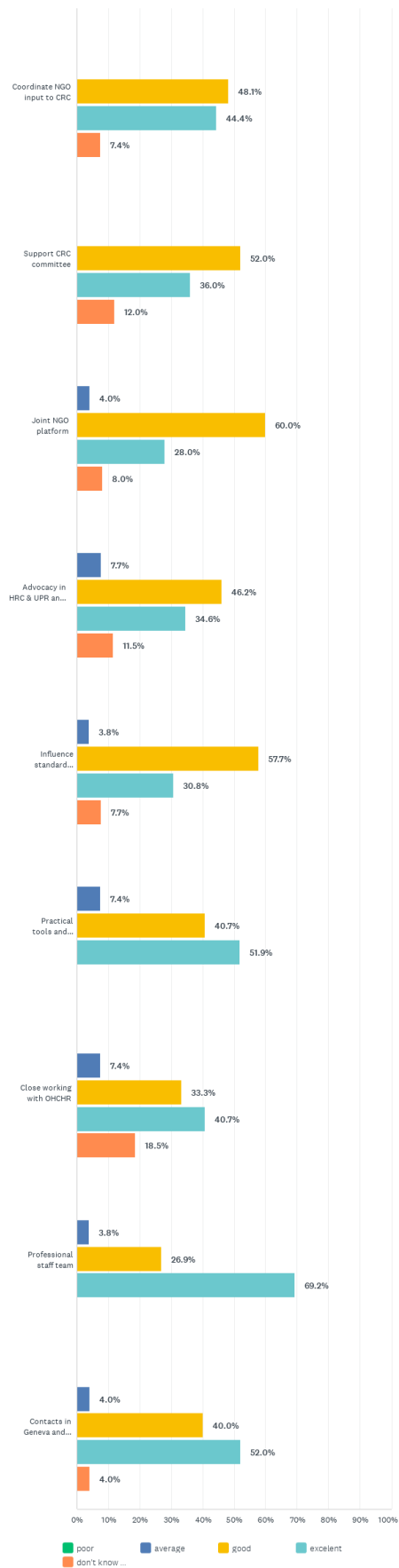
Q4 In which region is your organization working?



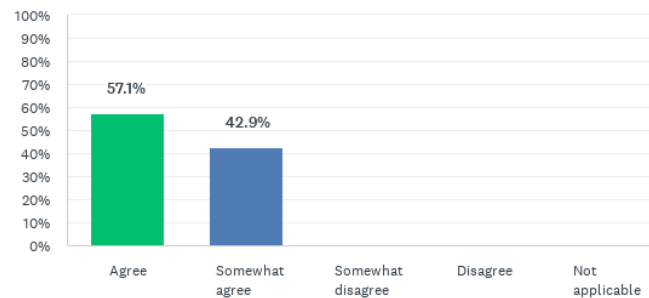
Q5 Do you agree with the following statement? "CRCnct's Core Activities are addressing the most pressing needs for all children to have their human rights respected, protected, promoted and fulfilled."



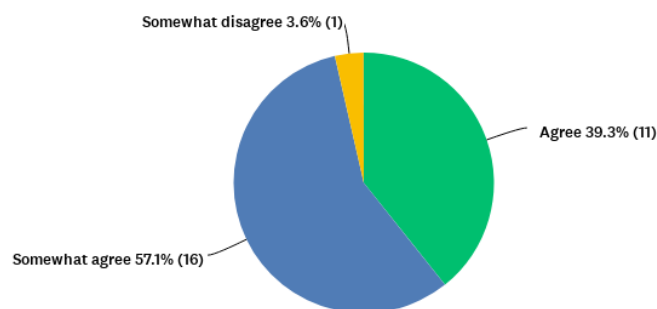
Q6 How do you rate CRCnct's performance in relation to the following?



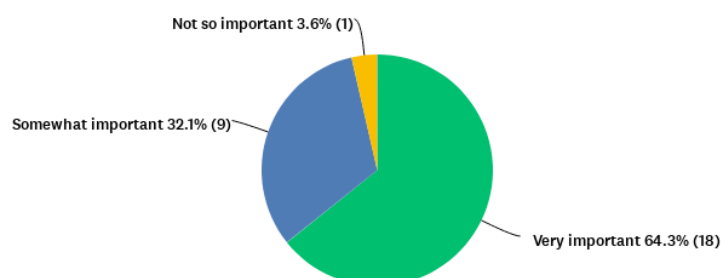
Q7 Do you agree with the following statement? "CRCnct is effectively complementing the work of our organization on children's rights"



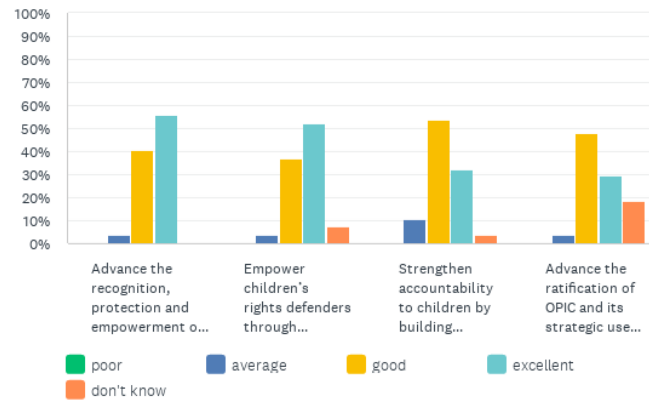
Q8 Do you agree with the following statement? "As an organization collaborating with CRCnct, we can effectively influence the network's strategy and governance."



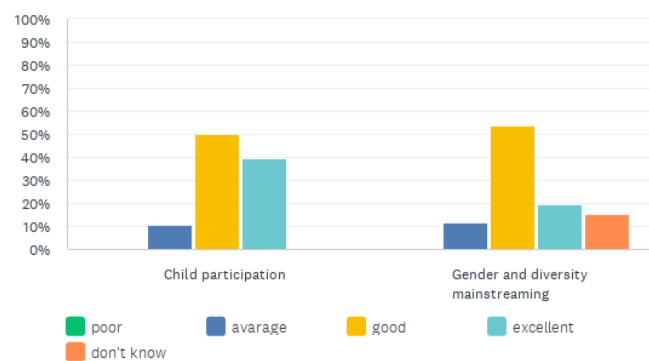
Q9 In comparison with other child rights networks that your organization is a member of, how important is your engagement with CRCnct?



Q10 How would you evaluate CRCnct's performance on the following Core Activities:



Q11 How would you evaluate CRCnct's performance on the following cross-cutting issues:



ANNEX 4: CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN THIS EVALUATION

The set up and implementation of interviews and focus group discussions with children have followed the Nine Basic Requirements for Ethical and Meaningful Participation and fully complied with CRCnct's Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedure. All interviews were planned and carried out in consultation with CRCnct staff. An adapted consent form, including an information note about the evaluation, was developed in collaboration with CRCnct. Children were informed both prior and at the onset of the interview/discussion about its purpose and their role and in broad terms what questions would be asked. Children were also informed that participation was completely voluntarily, that they could skip any questions that they felt uncomfortable with, and that they could withdraw at any time – and they also received information on how to do this. In order to make children's participation safe and inclusive, the Evaluation Team was also sensitive to the fact that the interaction with children took place online and via digital means. Children were reminded of the principle of confidentiality and that no recordings, photos or screenshots were permitted during the FGDs. The time, day and duration was sensitive to children's other commitments, such as school, family engagements and leisure activities. Furthermore, the informed and written consent by the legal guardian(s) for the children below 18 was also sought. For the children below the age of 18, their supportive organisations were also informed about the evaluation and available to support them as needed prior, during and after the interview.

Child Safeguarding compliance meant that the CRCnct's Senior Child Empowerment and Safeguarding Officer attended the interviews with the children. In some cases, also the children's supporting organisations participated. To promote children's sense of being able to speak completely freely despite the presence of both CRCnct and supportive organisations, the evaluation team emphasised both prior to the meetings and at the onset of the interviews to share their honest experiences, thoughts and recommendations, and reassured that nothing that the children say would be held against them in any way at a later stage. The role of the Senior Child Empowerment and Safeguarding Officer in the meeting was explained and served as a reminder that children's safety and well-being during the interviews was important.

At the end of each meeting, the children were invited to share their reflections upon the interview and if they had any suggestions to the evaluation team for future interviews with children. This served as an important "check-out" exercise that also gave the evaluation team an opportunity to evaluate how the children felt about the interview. The feedback was merely positive, and children expressed their appreciation of the opportunity to be consulted for this evaluation. One recommendation was to make it even more clear beforehand which questions would be covered during the interview (and stick to them during the interview), to enable the respondents to prepare themselves.

ANNEX 5: ANALYSIS GUIDED BY THE CHILD PARTICIPATION EVALUATION SHEET

This Annex summarises the findings from the “deep dive” data collection and review of the following five activities, which were identified in collaboration with CRCnct based on criteria of significance and elements of learning. The activities were:

- The celebration of the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (2019)
- The development of the child-friendly Convention on the Rights of the Child (2019)
- The establishment of the Children’s Advisory Team (CAT) with child advisors (2020)
- The Annual Day on the Rights of the Child (2020)
- The children’s consultation as part of the development of the General Comment on sustainable development, by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) (2021)

The summary follows the same structure as the *Child Participation Evaluation Sheet* that was developed for this evaluation. It incorporates the Nine Basic Requirements for Ethical and Meaningful Participation,¹⁹ the “Lundy Model” of child participation²⁰ as well as CRCnct’s Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedure.

It should be noted that the term “informant” below consistently refers to a child or young person being interviewed for this evaluation unless otherwise is specified.

The scope of engagement

The point of engagement: At what point in the “programme” cycle” that children start their engagement varies depending on the event/activity implemented. Indeed, global good practise indicate that different stages of involvement can be appropriate for different activities. Both CRCnct and the children highlight the importance of participation as early in the process as possible, and especially at the stage of planning and preparation. This is also something that CRCnct tries to promote as much as possible. One of the informants report a sense of freedom to express oneself and that the children’s proposals indeed were taken into account in the preparation of the activity. One informant however raises concern over the fact that the invitation to participate in a panel came after everything was already planned. There was also limited possibility to connect with the other panellists before the panel and share the scripts with each other in order to make the statements more impactful. Another informant highlights the relevance of being engaged at an early stage to stimulate creativity. The particular document shared with the child advisors to be reviewed was said to already be “so polished” (by CRCnct and partners) that it looked perfect at the first sight. The informant suggests that if the children had received a more rough draft, they would have been able to come up with more creative suggestions. Yet another respondent says that the most interesting/positive stage of the activity was the children’s consultation, as it would otherwise make no sense to present ideas that are not from children themselves.

There are however factors that can limit children’s early participation and sometimes such factors are external beyond CRCnct control. One example is in relation to the 30th anniversary of the UN

¹⁹ 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

²⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/lundy_model_of_participation.pdf

Convention on the Rights of the Child, where CRCnct itself became involved very late in the process, which meant that the involvement of the children also was late with little possibility to influence the modalities and content. As recognised by CRCnct in the 2019 Annual report, the way the conference was organised placed CRCnct in a delicate position of having to mediate varying expectations and sometimes conflicting views between the organisers and the Network members, which took a considerable amount of staff time to solve. CRCnct convened regular calls with the child advisors to raise their awareness about the event and brainstorm on ideas that then fed into the design. In the post-event follow-up by CRCnct, the children reported to be overall satisfied that they had participated. Yet, they also reported a feeling that the conference was the same as other events and lacked innovation and fun.

CRCnct systematically facilitates post-event debriefs with the children who have participated, in order to listen to their reflections and feedback. This effort has proven to play a very important role – particularly in situations where children’s possibilities to engage in the planning stage was limited (as in the 30th anniversary of the UNCRC). The informants indicate that such debriefs promote their sense of being listened to and taken seriously.

The level of participation: At what level children participate (consultative, collaborative, and child-led) also varies depending on the event/activity implemented. Global good practice for child participation indicates that the importance lies in ensuring the optimum level of participation possible, appropriate to the process or activity. Furthermore, an activity will not necessarily remain at one level of engagement. Rather, there is a dynamic and often over-lapping relationship between the different levels, and this is seen also in relation to children’s participation supported by CRCnct. Generally, CRCnct scans of the agendas of the human rights mechanisms and where children’s participation may be relevant and meaningful. An as collaborative approach as possible is then taken when involving children in deciding what topics to prioritise for a specific event and how to engage. Furthermore, child advisors are consulted when its time to revise and launch the new Expression of Interest to become a child advisor. The children consulted with for this evaluation unanimously share feelings of being genuinely listened to and taken seriously by CRCnct. The children then work with adults from CRCnct and their supportive organisations in the design and implementation of the activities.

There are also examples of child-led approach to participation, particularly amongst the child advisors of the Children’s Advisory Team. Children decide for themselves what issues they want to work on and seek support from CRCnct as well as their supporting organisations to implement it. For instance, the storybook “Our Lives Under Lockdown” was created during the Covid19 pandemic. CRCnct has also supported children in their own initiatives at national level, for instance by visiting the initiative when the staff member happened to be in the same country as the child advisor.

The quality of children’s participation

Transparent and informative; and voluntary: A child friendly consent form has been developed and is adapted to each activity. It outlines relevant information about the activity, what participation in the specific activity entails, that participation is completely voluntary and that the children can withdraw any time. Both CRCnct and the supporting organisation are mentioned to be available before, during and after the activity to offer support and provide more information as needed. Previous child advisors are also available to mentor newer ones.

Whilst the consent form entails all the relevant information, the Evaluation Team would like to share the following points that could be considered for further strengthening:

- Although the language is child friendly, CRCnct could consider making the more generic parts about children's participation in the consent form (the bullet points starting with "I understand that...") even more child friendly and easy to read/see/understand by adding relevant images and illustrations if resources and capacity allow.
- Currently, the requirement is that the consent form should be signed by one of the legal guardians. However, it may be worth considering changing this to *both* legal guardians in the cases where there are two, which may also be better aligned with the common practice in certain countries.

Respectful: CRCnct is demonstrating respect for children's other commitments throughout the facilitation of their participation and such respect is promoted also among children. One informant acknowledges that CRCnct always made sure that the Children's Advisory Team activities did not collide with the academic work or other personal commitments of the children. Also, the form to express the interest to engage with the Children's Advisory Team highlights what commitment is expected, how much time is required approximately, and that this is flexible depending on children's other commitments/rights (e.g. school). One informant mentions that it is understandable that children are busy with exams and other personal commitments. However, this informant also mentions that it impacts the other child advisors when someone is not showing up and not communicating this beforehand either.

- A recommendation shared by the informant is to invest even further at the planning stage and request the applicants to write down why they want to participate in this activity and how they are planning to contribute, in addition to filling in their basic personal information in the application form.

Relevant: In relation to the human rights mechanisms at the global level, the agenda is most of the time already set and the participation of children is adapted according to the pre-set time frames, themes and modalities. CRCnct demonstrates efforts to make children's participation as relevant as possible, by facilitating meetings to go through what the event is about, and support children to come up with their own ideas (e.g. their own speech). As mentioned earlier, informants also stress that the engagement of children as early in the process as possible plays a role in making participation relevant.

The opportunity to be part of an organisation that yearns for the opinions of children themselves rather than listen to assumptions made by adults based on the perspectives of children is a motivational factor for children to engage with CRCnct, as highlighted by one informant. This informant says this gives hope and believe that this hope is what pushes young people and adds drive for passion.

Learning about treaties and human rights mechanisms and how they work in reality is another reason for wanting to engage with CRCnct.

The informants also describe that they find it highly motivational to engage with CRCnct as this generates opportunities to network amongst like-minded peers and adults in the human rights field. Facilitating children's participation in an event is hence both about the event (e.g. children participating, their voices are heard), but also about gauging the opportunities for children to build connections amongst themselves. Children in this evaluation suggests several recommendations to promote such opportunities:

- Whilst navigating privacy and security issues, one informant recommends implementing more activities to promote network and integration between child human right defenders (or "children's rights advocates" as one child calls it). This helps to create a wider network and enable children to draw on each other for other projects.

- Meeting physically is valuable to children. When doing so, another informant recommends that children are accommodated in the same place, if possible, to better get to know each other. However, some informants also recognise that it's both easier and cheaper to connect online via video tools.
- The importance of maintaining the links between the participating children is highlighted by an informant. Another informant suggests creating a platform for exchange to maintain contact (so that the activities are not limited to one day). Yet another informant proposes CRCnct to connect children through their active participation and organise different sessions on different topics. This is thought to strengthen the relationship and interaction between the children as well as support skills-building for public speaking.

In this regard, CRCnct's initiative to establish a platform for former child advisors to remain in contact is positive and an important aspect of ensuring sustainable child participation. Children wish for more opportunities to stay in touch, and for opportunities to stay in touch regardless of their age.

- The Evaluation Team would like to stress the importance of making a risk assessment and mitigation strategy for a platform that is operating "beyond its control", e.g. is CRCnct accountable for child protection issues that may happen through the platform?

Beyond the building of a network with other child human rights defenders and CRCnct, the importance of building connection with other panellists and human rights defenders is also acknowledged among the informants.

- One informant says that it would have been better if there was time for the panellists to interact with each other or comment on each other's points. This could have helped the audience understand the common thread unifying the different circumstances of the countries where the panellists came from.
- The Evaluation Team notice a possible interest among some children about participating in the working group that are more thematic in their nature. If resources and capacity of CRCnct permits, it may therefore be relevant to explore children's participation in the working groups as part of their sustained participation and engagement.

Child friendly: CRCnct receives unanimous positive feedback from consultations with children and adults alike for their ability to facilitate quality child participation. The input from the children indicates that it is not only the steps and processes that matters, but also the interpersonal relations and trust with CRCnct staff. The organisation, and the CRCnct's Senior Child Empowerment and Safeguarding Officer in particular, also receives positive feedback for their ability to talk to young children in a child-friendly manner, and for being down to earth with children.

The close interaction and support to prepare for an activity or an event is described as very important by the informants.

- In this regard, one informant recommends even more support to prepare by receiving feedback to the speech they are preparing for an event.

Another informant mentions that the child's presentation was prepared together with a peer and that there was no major difficulty in the process.

One informant highlights the accessibility and child friendliness of activities as one of the most positive aspects of engaging with CRCnct. The opinions on "Basecamp", the platform on which children participating in CRCnct-supported activities are communicating with each other, seem to receive somewhat mixed feedback. One informant shares some concern and says that the platform is a bit difficult and complicated to work through. Another informant however really likes the platform, which is said to be easy to navigate and help the children to overcome the limitation of not being able to meet in person.

Some children share input on the child friendliness of the events themselves of the human rights mechanisms. For example, one informant mentions that one of the events held digitally was not so interactive because it consisted of panellists giving presentations in order. The informant recommends more interaction and joint preparation by the panellists to strengthen effectiveness. Additionally, whilst acknowledging that running a virtual event can be inherently more difficult than organizing in-person events, the informant thinks it is crucial to make events more engaging, especially if wanting more children to participate in these events as audiences.

Inclusive: When the Children’s Advisory Team was established in 2020, a requirement for applying was to have a contact already established with a supportive organisation. In order to make it more inclusive, this requirement was later on removed. Hence, children do not need to be connected to a supportive organisation in order to express their interest in the Children’s Advisory Team. Rather, CRCnct can offer support by connecting the child to an organisation, whilst paying careful attention to Child Safeguarding protocols and procedures. Most child advisors say that they found out about the possibility of expressing their interest to the Children’s Advisory Team or otherwise engage with CRCnct through what is now defined as their supportive organisation.

CRCnct promotes participation of children from all regions, genders and ages – and there appears to be a strong diversity in the activities in which children have participated. Informants explicitly also gives positive feedback to the diverse community they participate in, and to CRCnct for facilitating a nice mix of girls and boys and children from different backgrounds, etc.

Some *adult* informants consulted with for this evaluation express some hesitations with regards to the Children’s Advisory Team’s level of representation of diverse groups of children. Most of those who become part of the Children’s Advisory Team are said to already have certain experience from the human rights field and do not necessarily represent “the real children” in our region, as one adult informant expressed it. At the same time, many adult informants acknowledge that this is nevertheless the most appropriate solution, as the purpose and meaningfulness of children’s participation otherwise would be at stake. The “matching” of the most appropriate participant to a specific event is considered important in order to ensure that children’s participation do not become tokenistic. Noteworthy is also that several children consulted with for this evaluation highlights their role of being a voice for other children, both in their contexts and globally. Yet, it is important that CRCnct continue to collaborate with children and supporting organisations to further build the capacity of CAT child advisors to inform wider outreach to children (including by the UN) and play an active role in considering the views of others, so as to give greater visibility to others’ concerns. Other actions may include:

- Monitor how children found out about the possibility to participate in the CAT, in a disaggregated manner (age, gender and diversity) as not all children find out from an already existing “supporting organisation”. A question with a tick-list can be included in the CAT application Google form. This will indicate channels for further engagement and ensure that an as diverse audience as possible is reached with information.
- Continue to promote a diverse range of channels to reach out to children who do not already have an established contact with a supportive organisation (those who do have such a contact established will likely be able to access information through this organisation).
- One informant recommends developing strategies for disseminating information and implementation of the documents generated, such as child friendly adaptations. Tools for information dissemination may include games, presentations, leaflets and songs amongst others, so that more children can know their rights and assert them.

- Another informant proposes that children who have participated in a specific event could write an article on equitable access to justice for children for the CRCnct website, as a complement to the already available recording. It is acknowledged that some people might find it more convenient to read the article version of it. The informant mentions that this idea didn't come to mind until just recently, after the debriefing call with CRCnct. This points to the importance of both debriefs and availability of CRCnct and supportive organisations to children's ideas after the debriefs.

Several children also mention the role of language in promoting inclusive participation, both for themselves and for their ability to involve other children in their network.

- One informant highlights that if everyone had the opportunity to present in their own language, the activities would be easier.

Another informant proposes a solution to the scenario when a draft document is in English, which makes it difficult to implement feedback sessions from the network in a non-English speaking country.

- The solution proposed by the informant is to engage greater numbers of children after the child-friendly version of a document, such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, is translated into the local language.

Supported by training: CRCnct has employed the strategy of ensuring that each child is supported by a supportive organisation from their local context. These organisations are available before, during and after an event to offer support to the child. A Terms of Reference for the supporting organisation outlines their role and responsibilities.

- The Evaluation Team notes as a general reflection the importance of continuous capacity building and mentoring processes to the supportive organisations, including in child safeguarding.

Upon selection of child advisors, they are invited to an introductory training covering various topics, including about CRCnct.

- CRCnct mentions during an interview that it may be time to review the content of the information provided in the modules as they were developed some years ago now.

Safe and sensitive to risk: During the data collection, there has been no issues mentioned regarding the safety and security of children, including child safeguarding. CRCnct actively and effectively implements its Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedure and is sometimes consulted by other organisations to support on such issues in relation to child participation in the human rights mechanisms. Children's safety and security is also safeguarded when utilising digital means, for instance by putting a password to be able to access the meetings happening on Zoom.

A risk assessment is done prior to an event to detect and mitigate any issues. The follow-up and debriefs with children also play an important role in following up on children's safety and well-being.

- Though no issues have been reported, it is important that the risk assessment also takes into account risks beyond CRCnct's control, such as risks that may appear in the child's home country upon return.

Accountability: Informants are of the opinion that CRCnct follows up with children after they have participated in an event/activity. CRCnct itself perceives this as an important part of children's participation that is prioritised. Children's feedback and reflections are gathered and used to inform future events. It is the Evaluation Team's impression that child participation is not treated as a singular event by CRCnct, but rather as an ongoing process, facilitated through the engagement of the supportive organisations too.

- The Evaluation Team note as a general reflection the importance of ensuring a place for systematic documentation of the lessons learnt and recommendations by the children.
- The team also notes the importance of having a mechanism in place where children can submit anonymous feedback, including on child safeguarding issues.

Space, voice, Audience and Influence

Space:²¹ CRCnct provide children with safe and inclusive space to express themselves, by actively seeking their views through both calls and the online platform Bootcamp (though it should be recognised that one child voiced concerns over Bootcamp being difficult to use as mentioned earlier). Several informants give positive feedback to CRCnct for making them feel genuinely listened to, and safe and confident in implementing their initiative. CRCnct is sensitive to children's needs and take steps so that they can take part (e.g. translation support and adapts the timing for the meeting). Yet, there are some ideas for how the possibilities to participate can become even more inclusive and reach larger audiences as outlined above (e.g. even more language support, initiatives to disseminate materials to peers).

Voice:²² Children have access to child friendly and appropriate information, through adapted consent forms and preparatory calls. The children's supportive organisations are also available to provide information and support as needed, before, during and after an event/activity. The interviews with the children confirm that they do know that their participation is voluntary. As much as possible, CRCnct also seek to be supportive in children's choices on how they want to express themselves within the existing parameters.

Audience:²³ CRCnct demonstrates an awareness of the different levels of child participation, including the risk of children's participation being "tokenistic". Steps are taken to promote that children's views are communicated to someone with the responsibility to listen, e.g. the CRC Committee. Some *adult* informants stress the importance of further unpacking the concept of child participation – including critically analysing the key issues of which children participate, how and why. Some raise the concern that participation can sometimes be pushed as a goal in itself rather than as a process that contributes to the achievement of a strategic outcome (however, the Evaluation Team's impression is that this concern is raised as a more general precaution, rather than as a point of criticism towards CRCnct). In some interviews with adults, various perspectives are raised on the meaningfulness of children's participation in the Universal Periodic Review. Some respondents highlight that it is important that children give statements for their States, whilst some raise that the Universal Periodic Review is more "political" in its nature and that other forum, such as CRC Committee, therefore are more appropriate for children to participate in.

Influence:²⁴ One informant describes how the children's recommendations and statement got included in the final report and how this led to a feeling of happiness. Another informant acknowledges that when some of the children's suggestions for the draft documents could not be

²¹ Linked to e.g. Basic Requirements: 5) Child-friendly, 6) Inclusive, 7) Supported by training and 8) Safe and sensitive to risk

²² Linked to e.g. Basic Requirement 1) Transparent and informative, 2) Voluntary, 3) Respectful and 6) Inclusive

²³ Linked to e.g. Basic Requirements: 1) Transparent and informative, 4) Relevant and 9) Accountable

²⁴ Linked to e.g. Basic Requirements: 9) Accountable

accepted, CRCnct has explained why in detail. CRCnct demonstrates an awareness and effort to ensure that children's views are taken seriously and acted upon, where appropriate. CRCnct follows up with stakeholders after an event and utilises what the children have said in their continuous work to influence.

Some informants – including children – share their reflections on how to increase sustainability of their engagement. Positive aspects of previous child advisors still being active and acting as mentors for new child advisors are highlighted. The general perception that it is important to continue to find ways to promote the child advisors to take their initiatives further and promote sustainability of their work but there are few concrete suggestions for what CRCnct can do differently from today.

Outcomes

Personal:

At an individual level, children report having gained skills and confidence through the interaction with CRCnct that they have later on utilised in their local contexts too to pursue initiatives on children's rights. One informant shares several examples of initiatives with the purpose to spread awareness on children's rights and civic engagement among the peers. Another informant was able to open an organisation and explains how the work with CRCnct helped to become more active as right defender. Several informants highlight how the support from the CRCnct staff prior and during an event has helped them to feel safer and more confident. One informant recalls being very shy at first but because of the CRCnct team (especially the Senior Child Empowerment and Safeguarding Officer), she was able to feel safer and freer to open up and share.

Some also say that their engagement with CRCnct has helped to open doors to further engagement with national duty bearers once returned from an event. Moreover, the dedicated focus on both the preparatory and follow-up stages contribute to children's feeling of empowerment. Furthermore, children emphasise the opportunity to meet peers who are active in the human rights field empowering and a main reason why they choose to engage with CRCnct to begin with. The children keep maintaining these social contacts also after their engagement as child advisors or post an event/activity.

Several informants express a sense of responsibility of representing the interests of other children in their contexts.

Wider external:

At a higher level, the data collection broadly supports a conclusion that CRCnct's professional and persistent efforts have influenced positive changes in attitudes and practices among human rights mechanisms in Geneva, and particularly the CRC Committee.

rightsHOUSE

ANNEX 6: EVALUATION SHEET FOR THE SCOPE, QUALITY AND OUTCOME OF CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION

| Short description of the child participatory action | A) The scope of children's participation | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| | Point of engagement <i>(When did children participate?²⁵ See Tool I for more guidance)</i> | Level of engagement <i>(At what level did children get involved?²⁶ See Tool I for more guidance.)</i> | Inclusiveness <i>(Which children participated? See also Basic Requirement #6)</i> |
| | Notes: | Notes: | Notes: |
| B) The quality of children's participation ²⁷ | | | |
| Basic requirement | What to look for ²⁸ (see also Tool II on what the requirements means in practice) | Notes ²⁹ | |
| Transparent and informative | <i>Demonstrated efforts to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide child-friendly information in appropriate and accessible languages/formats. define roles and responsibilities, opportunities, and limitations. | | |
| Voluntary | <i>Demonstrated efforts to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure children have time to make an informed decision about their involvement. ensure children can withdraw at any time. address adult/child power imbalances to ensure a truly voluntary process. | | |

²⁵ Children may be participating at different stages of the programme cycle/intervention/activity, e.g. **situation analysis, planning, implementation, M&E, and dissemination and feedback.**

| | | |
|----------------|--|--|
| Respectful | <p><i>Demonstrated efforts to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take into account children's other commitments/ rights (e.g. school/ work/play). • ensure ways of working are culture and gender sensitive. • key adults (parents, teachers, etc.) are supportive and informed. | |
| Relevant | <p><i>Demonstrated efforts to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure the issues are of real relevance to the children. • support child defined initiatives and topics. • ensure adults have not pressured children. | |
| Child-friendly | <p><i>Demonstrated efforts to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use child friendly methods and approaches. • ensure meeting places are child friendly and accessible. | |

²⁶ Three different levels of children's participation: **consultative, collaborative, and child-led**. The level of participation may vary depending on the stage of the activity (see footnote #1). There is a dynamic and often over-lapping relationship between the different levels. Different levels of participation and different stages of involvement can be appropriate for different activities. What is important is to ensure the optimum level of participation possible and appropriate in any process or activity.

²⁷ Whether the programme/intervention/activity has met the **Nine Basic Requirements for Ethical and Meaningful Participation**, in conjunction the **Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedure**.

²⁸ Source: [The Nine Basic Requirements for Meaningful and Ethical Children's Participation](#) (Save the Children, 2021).

²⁹ Issues to consider: Has the requirement been considered? Is there awareness of the requirement but not reflected in practice? Are there efforts made to address the requirement but no systematic procedures? Is the requirement fully understood by all staff, implemented and monitored?

| | | |
|---|--|--------------|
| Inclusive | <p><i>Demonstrated efforts to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> engage children of different genders, ages, backgrounds and abilities. provide safe space for different groups of children to explore issues relevant to them. ensure the process is non-discriminatory and inclusive. ensure those most impacted by discrimination and inequality have equal access. ensure methods and tools are accessible and promote equal access. | |
| Supported by training | <p><i>Demonstrated efforts to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure staff and partners have the confidence and skills to facilitate child participatory processes. | |
| Safe and sensitive to risk | <p><i>Demonstrated efforts to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> undertake conflict sensitivity and risk assessments. develop and implement a child safeguarding plan. ensure all children know where to go for help if needed. | |
| Accountable | <p><i>Demonstrated efforts to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop a M&A strategy, and child-friendly feedback and complaints mechanism. engage children in M&E processes. define communication and follow-up mechanisms with children. ensure children see the results of their participation. | |
| C) Promotion of the four elements of child participation | | |
| Element | What to look for³⁰ | Notes |

³⁰ [The Lundy model of child participation](#) (Laura Lundy)

| | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| Space | <p>How: Provide a safe and inclusive space for children to express their views³¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have children's views been actively sought? • Was there a safe space in which children can express themselves freely? • Have steps been taken to ensure that all children can take part? | |
| Voice | <p>How: Provide appropriate information and facilitate the expression of children's views³²</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have children been given the information they need to form a view? • Do children know that they do not have to take part? • Have children been given a range of options as to how they might choose to express themselves? | |
| Audience | <p>How: Ensure that children's views are communicated to someone with the responsibility to listen³³</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a process for communicating children's views? • Do children know who their views are being communicated to? • Does that person/body have the power to make decisions? | |
| Influence | <p>How: Ensure that children's views are taken seriously and acted upon, where appropriate³⁴</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were the children's views considered by those with the power to effect change? • Are there procedures in place that ensure that the children's views have been taken seriously? | |

³¹ Linked to e.g. Basic Requirements: 5) Child-friendly, 6) Inclusive, 7) Supported by training and 8) Safe and sensitive to risk

³² Linked to e.g. Basic Requirement 1) Transparent and informative, 2) Voluntary, 3) Respectful and 6) Inclusive

³³ Linked to e.g. Basic Requirements: 1) Transparent and informative, 4) Relevant and 9) Accountable

³⁴ Linked to e.g. Basic Requirements: 9) Accountable

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have the children and young people been provided with feedback explaining the reasons for decisions taken? | |
| D) The outcome of children's participation: Personal outcomes³⁵ | | Wider external outcomes³⁶ |
| Notes: | | Notes: |

Tool I: When do children participate and at what level (point and level of engagement)³⁷

| | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| | Children are not involved | Consultative | Collaborative | Child-led |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|

³⁵ The outcomes of participation activities on the people most directly involved or affected by it – for example, children, their parents or caregivers, staff of the supporting organisation, or the wider community, e.g. communication skills, awareness of children's rights, sense of empowerment, etc.

³⁶ Linked to the element of Influence. The outcome will vary depending on the objectives of the activity, and whether child participation was a means (e.g. working on advocacy) or a goal (e.g. mechanisms through which children can participate). Regarding child participation as a means, find out from stakeholders *why* they consider a change has taken place and whether children's participation contributed to the change.

³⁷ Source: [A Toolkit for Monitoring and Evaluating Children's Participation: Booklet 3](#), table on p. 14 (Save the Children, the Concerned for Working Children, UNICEF, World Vision, 2014).

rightsHOUSE

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| Situation analysis (finding out what the problems are) | | Children are asked to give their views | Children are asked to contribute to the process of finding out what problems they face in life | Children undertake their own research with other children to identify issues of concern |
| Planning (deciding what to do) | | Planning takes account of the issues raised by children | Children are involved in deciding what programmes to prioritise and develop | Children decide for themselves what issues they want to work on |
| implementation (taking action) | | Children are invited to take part in the programme | Children work with adults to design and implement the programme | Children organise and manage the programme and have full responsibility for its implementation (with adult support as needed/requested) |
| Monitoring and Evaluation (measuring what happened) | | Children are consulted on whether they think the programme achieved what it planned to do | Children work with adults to decide how to evaluate the programme | Children determine what should be evaluated and, with adult support, undertake the evaluation of the programme |
| Dissemination and feedback (acting on findings) | | Children are invited to make suggestions as to how to respond on the basis of the findings | Adults involve children in a joint discussion about the implications of the findings and explore how they should influence future programming | Children reflect on the findings and come up with proposals for the implications, which are then shared with adults |

Tool II: What the Basic Requirements mean in practice

| Requirement | What the requirement means in practice ³⁸ | Additional considerations – online activities ³⁹ |
|---|--|--|
| 1) The opportunity to participate is transparent and informative | <p>Child-friendly information (in appropriate and accessible languages/formats) so that children know and understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their right to participation. • Why they are involved in a given activity. • What their participation will help to achieve for themselves, communities and peers, as well as limitations. • The types of decisions and plans that their participation will influence. • The project, programme, organisation(s), key terminology and the processes/activities with which they will be involved. • What they are being asked to do. • What will happen with the information they share. • Who will have access to the information. • That they can freely ask questions, seek clarification, raise concerns and/or express ideas and recommendations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All participants introduce themselves; the staff write their role prior to the name in the connection ID (e.g. “facilitator”). |
| 2) Participation is voluntary | <p>Child-friendly information and support so that children know and understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed consent/assent. • The purpose and nature of the project/programme/activity and the children’s role. | |

³⁸ Source: [The Nine Basic Requirements for Meaningful and Ethical Children’s Participation](#) (Save the Children, 2021).

³⁹ Source: [Child Participation Guidelines for Online Discussions with Children](#) (Child Rights Coalition Asia, 2021).

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The choices available to them, what they mean and how to engage – or not – with the process. • The implications of their choices and that they are free to make decisions to participate or not to participate accordingly. • That they can withdraw at any time, and how to withdraw from the process. • Staff have the competencies necessary to encourage children, particularly those who are marginalised, to participate and to ensure that children are never forced to participate. A culture that respects children's choice must be fostered throughout the participatory process. | |
| 3) Participation is respectful | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children can freely express their views and share their opinions/ideas/insights. • Children's views are treated with respect by adults and by other children. • Children's views are heard and valued. • Facilitators are polite and considerate and have effective listening skills. • Key adults (e.g., parents, teachers) are supportive. • Children's other commitments/rights (e.g., school/work/play) are taken into account. • Children's socio-economic, environmental and cultural context is understood and taken into account. • Documents, data and products developed by the children are appropriately stored. • Children are never used or manipulated by adults to advance the latter's agenda. • Children understand the importance of respecting other children. | |
| 4) Participation is relevant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics/opportunities are of real relevance to the children involved (e.g. by being given the opportunity to identify issues that children themselves believe to be relevant and important). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methods of engagement and options for remote participation is explored together with children and are revisited/adapted as needed. |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are encouraged to identify/highlight the issues that they themselves regard as relevant • Children understand why they are participating in a given process, and how their input will add value. • Children are involved in ways that suit their age, ability, capacity, language and circumstances. • Children's expectations are managed effectively, and they understand both the relevance and the limitations of their participation. • Children have access to relevant child friendly information so they can effectively define how they want to participate and the issues that matter most to them. • Any unexpected changes to a program/process are communicated to children with sensitivity. | |
| 5) Participation is child friendly | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information, materials, methods and approaches are child friendly. • Meeting places and times are child friendly and accessible by children. • Facilitation skills that build self-esteem, fun, safety, inclusiveness, etc. and is sensitive to children's evolving age, diversity and capabilities. • Children feel welcomed; staff are approachable and responsive. • Settings/platforms etc. are evaluated and adapted – with the input from children. • Children are free to ask questions and raise concerns. • Children feel that their contributions will be valued and used for the intended purpose(s). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All possible efforts are taken to make spaces/platforms accessible to all children, including the most marginalised. • Children receive easy to follow instructions for access/using remote/online platforms. • The text/font size of the presentations and other online engagement tools is large enough to be read by children who are using mobile phones. • The physical space where children are located when participating digitally are considered. |
| 6) Participation is inclusive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No child is discriminated against during the participation process; Children of all genders, ages, backgrounds and abilities are engaged. • A safe space is provided for different groups of children to explore issues relevant to them (e.g., girls working separately from boys, if needed) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of online and offline methods are based on an analysis of the participants. • The design of activities is closing the “digital divide” by considering: |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methods and facilitation techniques are inclusive. • The process ensures that children most impacted by discrimination and inequality have equal access. All efforts to consult with children should reach the most marginalised, including children with disabilities, minority groups, girls, etc. • Child friendly information is accessible and includes audio, large print, pictures and sign language. • Partnerships are explored/formed to define a good participation strategy reaching the most marginalised. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to digital device and electricity to charge them. • Number and type of device needed (e.g. some methods require a second device). • Connectivity (internet speed, financial aspects). • Skills among children to use the online technology; availability of information in relevant languages. • Support from adults who are able to provide support on <i>online</i> technology). • Measures are in place to close the gender-related digital divide for girls (access, digital literacy, privacy and online safety). |
| 7) Participation is supported by training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All facilitators working with children have been trained and equipped to work effectively with children. • Specifically, facilitators working with children possess excellent communication skills, facilitation skills and analytical skills. • Children have access to training on child rights, advocating, communicating with the media, holding decision makers to account, engaging in meetings, facilitation and designing and delivering training. • Monitoring, evaluation and learning is taking place to support the continuous quality improvement in child participation. • Facilitators are able to identify and mitigate risks related to participation together with children. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitators can effectively navigate remote/online platforms to ensure their interactions with children are respectful, friendly and inclusive (e.g. emojis). • Facilitators are able to identify and mitigate risks related to participation on remote/online platforms together with children. • Children receive training and support on the online activity platform and online engagement. |
| 8) Participation is safe and sensitive to risk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are aware of their rights (including protection from abuse) and know how to seek help and support when needed. • The principles of ‘do no harm’ and ‘best interests of the child’ have been applied. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk assessment focused on the online technology has been undertaken, e.g. if the recording or livestreaming of the online activity will pose any risk to any child. |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict sensitivity and risk assessments have been undertaken. Relations between facilitators/support persons are positive and they treat each other with respect and honesty; <i>The child safeguarding policy is known by staff and respected at all times.</i> • Referrals for child protection, MHPSS or other (urgent) support for children have been established. • Children are involved in identifying risks and creating solutions; children feel safe when they participate. • A procedure is set up to allow children involved in participatory activities to give feedback in confidence. • Informed consent/assent is obtained for the use of all information provided by children and information identified as confidential is safeguarded at all times. • No photographs, videos or digital images of a child can be taken or published without the child and parent/caregiver's explicit consent for a specific use. There is agreement on how personal information, videos and photos will (or will not) be shared to protect everyone's safety and privacy. • Responsibilities relating to liability, safety, travel and medical insurance are clearly delegated and effectively planned for. • Ground rules are established with children on safe and respectful ways to interact. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground rules for online interaction are established. • Children and parents/caregivers have information related to online safety and the risks involved (e.g. the movement of photos/screenshots, video recordings, words uttered, and typed messages cannot be 100% controlled). • Measures are put in place to ensure the online activity platform is private (e.g. pre-registration, monitor who enters). • Risks are reduced by taking control of online features, e.g. screen and file-sharing. • The Child Safeguarding Focal Person are present; have the control/access to block or boot out anyone violating the child safeguarding policy. • Children remove their surnames and/or only use their nicknames as their connection ID. |
| 9) Participation is accountable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation is not a singular event, but rather an ongoing process. • Communication and follow up mechanisms with children have been defined; Children receive feedback in a timely and accessible manner on how their contribution has advised, informed or influenced developments to date. • Children have access to key stakeholders and have the opportunity to ask questions and to provide feedback on their participation; Children receive appropriate, honest and transparent responses to their inquiries, concerns and questions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback mechanisms are incorporated into any process, including online/remote platforms. |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children have a range of opportunities and processes to deliver their feedback (not only those children who take part in consultations and events). • Lessons learned are systematically documented and applied to ensure quality improvement. • Children have adequate time, support and information to share any feedback with their peers, particularly when nominated by their peers and/or communities to represent their views. • Child friendly versions of any final report/evaluation are developed – children explore how the information can be used to support their own actions/follow up processes. | |
|--|--|--|

Key models to guide the child participation assessment of the evaluation

Figure I: Dimensions of participation

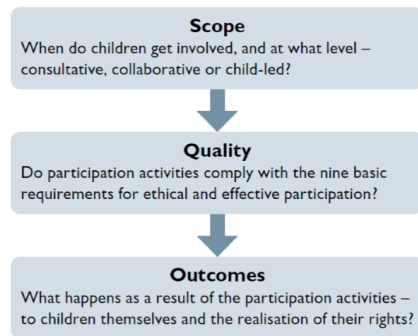


Figure II: The Lundy model of child participation

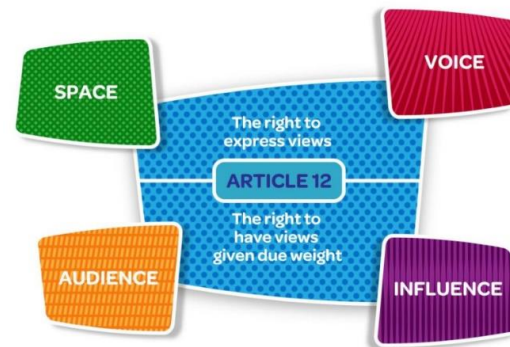


Figure I: [*A Toolkit for Monitoring and Evaluating Children's Participation: Booklet 3*](#) (Save the Children, the Concerned for Working Children, UNICEF, World Vision, 2014).

Figure II: [*The Lundy model of child participation*](#) (Laura Lundy)