

THE NOW AND THE FUTURE:

ADVANCING THE RIGHTS, EMPOWERMENT AND PROTECTION OF CHILD HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS GLOBALLY AND IN DISCRETE COUNTRIES



GOAL

Enhanced empowerment, enjoyment of rights and protection for child human rights defenders (CHRDs) worldwide, and in selected countries (Brazil, Moldova, Thailand and Togo)



VISION

With their rights, empowerment and protection advanced, CHRDs can be strong catalysts for human rights, democratic change, good governance and sustainable development, strengthening the voice and action of adult defenders and challenging the *status quo*, including through new and inclusive responses



EXPECTED RESULTS

1. Improved safe and sustainable promotion and defence of human rights by empowered CHRDs, particularly girl CHRDs and other groups of CHRDs most deprived of their rights

- Improved capacity of aspiring/actual CHRDs to use resources, tools, strategies and connections
- Improved capacity of children to engage in safe, empowering and sustainable action as CHRDs
- Improved understanding of risks and possible responses to threats/attacks; and linkages with HRD protection mechanisms

2. Increased effective recognition of CHRDs by duty-bearers and responsibility-holders

- Improved ability of adult defenders to recognise and empower, protect and advance the rights of CHRDs
- Improved willingness and ability of global/regional human rights mechanisms as well as HRD protection mechanisms to advance the rights of CHRDs in their work and decisions
- Increased willingness of national/local authorities to recognize CHRDs and increased awareness of ways to implement their rights

KEY ACTIVITIES



CONNECT

Local to global and global to local

- Operation of our Children's Advisory Team to feed child participation throughout the project
- Global consultations and strategies
- Tools development & publication
- Training materials and workshops
- Partnership-building
- Technical advice
- Advocacy
- Awareness-raising

WITH AND FOR WHOM

Direct beneficiaries & target group

Actual/aspiring CHRDs (below 18 years old) globally and in the selected countries, with a specific focus on children who disproportionately face barriers when acting as HRDs, incl. girls, gender diverse children, children from indigenous communities and minorities, refugee children, children living in poverty, etc.

Other target groups

Responsibility-holders: Adult defenders (individuals / organisations / coalitions), incl. CRCnct Network members and broader human rights NGOs, and other non-State actors (NHRIs and Children's Ombuds)

Duty-bearers: National authorities (Parliaments/Ministries/other institutions), UN diplomats (Permanent Missions in Geneva) and UN/regional human rights mechanisms

BASIC FACTS



Where: Globally, with actions in priority countries: Brazil, Moldova, Thailand & Togo



When: 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2027



Duration: 36 months



Total budget: +/- 810,000 Swiss Francs (CHF)



Implementing organisation:

Child Rights Connect (CRCnct)



PARTNERS



Brazil: Alana Institute



Moldova: Child Rights Information Centre



Thailand: Amnesty International



Togo: Plan International

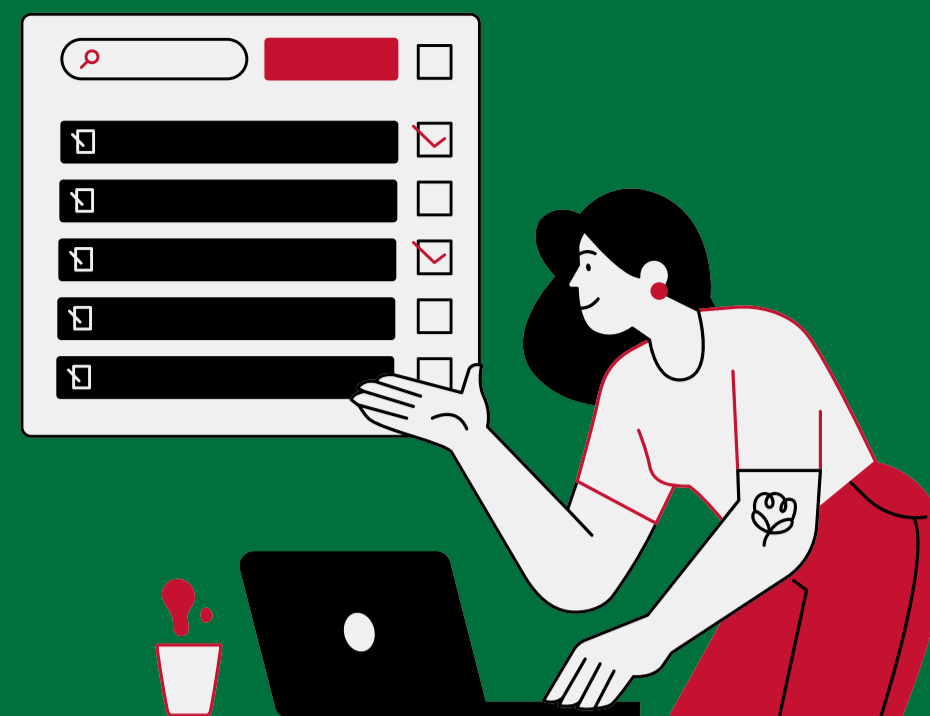


Globally: Save the Children and other CRCnct Network members & other partners



How change will happen

With increased recognition that the UN Declaration on HRDs also applies to children, improved legal awareness of CHRDs' rights, strengthened supportive role of adults, a culture of child participation and activism fostered, and tailored support, **children will develop the necessary confidence, skills, means and connections to boost their potential and capacity to act for addressing the most pressing challenges faced by societies and humanity.**



Theory of change

KEY CHALLENGES

- Lack of global recognition that the UN Declaration on HRDs applies to children, fueling violations of their rights as defenders
- Distinct barriers, risks and reprisals due to children's status in society, incl. age-based and gender-based discrimination, paternalistic attitudes towards children, stigmatisation, undue restrictions on their exercise of civil and political rights, lack of access to child-friendly information and to complaint mechanisms and effective remedies
- Additional, specific challenges and opportunities in the selected countries: Brazil, Moldova, Thailand and Togo



INTERVENTIONS

- Ongoing child participation throughout the project through the permanent, global [Children's Advisory Team \(CAT\)](#).
- Global consultations and strategies development with children and adults
- Tools development and publication | Capacity-building
- Partnership-building | Awareness-raising, advocacy and technical advice

OUTPUTS

Children are consulted, key barriers to CHRDs' safe, empowering and sustainable action as HRDs are assessed, and strategies to overcome these identified and used

CHRDs, particularly girls and other groups of children most deprived of their rights, have more accessible tools available

Child-orientated training materials are developed and workshops are delivered to CHRDs on their safe, empowering and sustainable action as HRDs

Consultations with adult defenders are undertaken, an assessment of challenges to civil society that present key threats and opportunities for CHRDs is conducted, and strategies to overcome these obstacles are identified and used

Tools are developed and published for adults to help them implement a child rights approach and address the rights of CHRDs in their work, with a focus on girl CHRDs and other groups of CHRDs most deprived of their rights

Technical advice is provided to UN agencies and mechanisms (and regional mechanisms where opportunities arise) as well as HRD protection mechanisms on the rights of CHRDs, child rights mainstreaming and child participation and safeguarding

National/local authorities are advised on national law/policy/practice reform to enhance the rights of CHRDs

IMMEDIATE OUTCOMES

Increased capacity of CHRDs, particularly girls and other groups of CHRDs most deprived of their rights, to use resources, tools, strategies and connections

Increased capacity of children, particularly girls & other CHRDs most deprived of their rights, to engage in safe, empowering and sustainable action as CHRDs

Improved understanding of risks and possible responses to threats/attacks; and linkages with HRD protection mechanisms, by CHRDs, particularly those under threat or attack, including girls

Improved ability of adult defenders to recognise and empower, protect and advance the rights of CHRDs

Improved willingness and ability of global/regional human rights mechanisms and HRD protection mechanisms to advance the rights, empowerment and protection of CHRDs in their work and decisions

Increased willingness of national/local authorities to recognise the existence, status, and role of CHRDs and increased awareness by national/local authorities of ways to implement their rights as HRDs



INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

Improved safe and sustainable promotion and defence of human rights by empowered CHRDs, particularly girl CHRDs and other groups of CHRDs most deprived of their rights

Increased effective recognition of CHRDs by duty-bearers and responsibility-holders

IMPACT

Enhanced empowerment, enjoyment of rights and protection for child human rights defenders worldwide



Global standards, practices and resources tested and embedded in priority countries and country findings used to inform global work

MUTUALLY-REINFORCING GLOBAL TO LOCAL APPROACH