

Child Rights Now! ***Template for National Child Rights Progress Reports***

Background

At the national level, a key deliverable for *Child Rights Now!* is the preparation of a **child rights progress report**.

The aim of the national child rights progress report is to look at what has been achieved since the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1989 and to set out the most urgent, critical and transformative child rights issues, which need to be tackled. The intent is to move away from business as usual and sustainably realize the rights for all children equitably and without discrimination. **While celebrating successes and progress over the last 30 years, the report should discuss the child rights climate in the country and set out the child rights issues that have the potential to be ‘game changers’ and, when addressed, make a real impact in children’s lives. Children’s voices, views and recommendations should be a central part of the report.**

Considering that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an important implementation test of the UNCRC, the national report should also consider and discuss the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SDGs and the pledge to leave no one behind. They should use a gender lens throughout the text and be rights-based.

While focusing on the current child rights situation in the country, the report should, where possible, set out how the situation has changed since 1989 and what needs to change moving forward to make a step change in the realization of the UNCRC and related SDGs by 2030. See methodology below.

The report should be framed as an **advocacy** product. It doesn’t require a comprehensive analysis of the child rights situation in the country, **but should focus on key issues that are limiting child development in a country. The national report will also form the basis for the *Child Rights Now!* Global Child Rights Progress Report**, which will be prepared by an external consultant and launched in 2019.

Child Rights Now! has the ambition to produce national child rights progress reports, which will shape and inform global progress reports, **every five years until 2030.** The 2019 reports will be the first round of the exercise. **Subsequent reports, provisionally scheduled for 2024 and 2029, will build on each other, and the timeframe will provide an opportunity to cover a range of important child rights issues and track these over time.**

We recommend that the national report is used to support existing child rights and SDG advocacy in-country, including any activities marking the 30th Anniversary of the UNCRC in 2019.

Structure and focus of the national child rights progress report

1. Introduction

The introduction should both take stock of child rights progress and successes over the last 30 years, and create a sense of urgency about the unfinished agenda. It will outline the case for why states and other actors need to step up political commitments and actions to realize children’s rights as outlined in the UNCRC and reinforced by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The introduction should identify the key issues covered in the report and explain why they were chosen, summarize the country context, and provide statistics that will grab the attention of readers.

2. Methodology

This section should provide brief information on the methodology used to develop the report, including:

- How the report was developed, by whom and with what sources of evidence (primary or secondary data, involvement of children etc.).
- A brief paragraph on availability of data or evidence on children's rights and how this has been considered in the choice of focus of the report.
- Limitations

3. Child Rights Climate in the Country

In this section, the report should set out key national statistics on children and the overall climate for child rights in accordance with the UNCRC and analyze how the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs help accelerate implementation of the UNCRC. The discussion could be framed by the following questions looking at the current situation, progress since 1989 and what needs to change to realize the UNCRC and the child focused SDGs by 2030:

- What are the political commitments to and leadership on children's rights (or lack thereof)? Outline what has advanced and gaps as related to the political commitments. How have these commitments changed since the adoption of the SDGs.
- Has the government developed an SDG implementation strategy and, if so, how are children's rights reflected there?
- What political, economic, social and cultural factors and attitudes help or hinder the realization of children's rights? What role do the SDGs play in accelerating implementation of the UNCRC (see for example [UNICEF tool analyzing UNCRC/SDG linkages](#) and Plan International's [Making the Link: SDGs and Human Rights Obligations](#))?
- Based on a stakeholder analysis, who influences the child rights agenda (role of government actors at different levels, legislature, private sector, community/traditional/religious leaders, media, academia, civil society, children etc.)? Who should influence the agenda?
- Does the government engage with and respect recommendations by international ([UNCRC](#), [Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council \(UPR\)](#), [UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#), [High-level Political Forum \(HLPF\)](#) etc.), regional ([African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child](#) etc.) and national accountability mechanisms (independent national human rights institutions, ombudspersons etc.)?
- Does civil society, including children, have the space to speak out and participate in public decision-making (see for example [CIVICUS Monitor](#) and [Freedom House](#))? Can civil society promote, monitor and defend child rights without restrictions? What needs to change?
- How do children participate in public decision-making and private spheres? What are the political, legal, structural, social and cultural opportunities and challenges to children's meaningful participation in private and public spheres (see for example [UNICEF fact sheet on the right to participation](#), [Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment No. 12](#) and [Concept Note for UNCRC 2018 Day of General Discussion on Protecting and Empowering Children as Human Rights Defenders](#))?

4. Game Changers To Realize Child Rights

Outline the most urgent, critical and transformative child rights issues that, if tackled, will enable realization of the rights of the child and achievement of the SDGs for all children, including the most marginalised and deprived groups, by 2030.

These child rights issues need to be specific to the context in the country and informed by what children identifies as critical (see section on child participation below). They could focus on a specific group of children, a specific thematic issue, social or behavioral norms and/or a more political or structural issue or a combination of these.

Underlying the country specific analyses, please call out the particular gender norms and discriminatory factors (e.g. age, race, ethnicity, religion, impairments/ disability) that relate to the key child rights issues in your country. We would also encourage you to help children analysis and reflect on these factors (see section on children's participation below).

<p>For each issue, discuss the current situation and what explains it, how it has changed (or not) since 1989 and what needs to be done by whom to successfully address the child rights issue by 2030 (backed up by data and children’s own views). Please ensure to apply a gender lens throughout the analysis.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Where relevant, analyze the following for each of the child rights issues identified</i></p>					
<p>Leave No One Behind</p>	<p>Structural Barriers</p>	<p>Successes & Learning</p>	<p>Who Makes Changes</p>	<p>Children Speaking Out</p>	<p>International Influence</p>
<p>How are the most marginalised and deprived groups of children affected by the issue? What are the reasons for this? How can discriminatory practices be addressed and by whom? Are there other influencing practices such as culture and others?</p>	<p>What are the legal, policy, administrative, structural, budgetary, social and/or cultural barriers to addressing this issue? What are the reasons for this? How can these barriers be addressed and by whom?</p>	<p>Are there progress, successes, learning and positive attitudes and practices that the state and others can build on to change the situation?</p>	<p>Who has power to change the situation and why (government, legislature, politicians, private sector, community, traditional or religious leaders, media, academia, civil society etc.)? Are they willing to take action? If no, why not?</p>	<p>Do children have meaningful opportunities to have their voices heard and influence on the issue? If yes, how are they engaging? If no, why not? What can they do to solve this problem?</p>	<p>Are there international, regional or cross-border factors affecting the child rights issue? What are the reasons for this? What needs to change and by whom? Is there any positive engagement of international, regional or cross-border bodies?</p>
<p>5. Conclusions</p>					
<p>The concluding chapter should include clear recommendations to the State/government on what they need to do to invest in the game changing strategies identified in the report and to create a more conducive child rights climate in the country ensuring that rights of all children are fulfilled. Please also include how achieving the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the SDGs can contribute to this objective.</p> <p>Recommendations could, as relevant, also be directed to other actors, including the UN and other intergovernmental organizations and agencies, the private sector and civil society etc.</p>					

Children’s involvement in producing the national report

One of the stated objectives of *Child Rights Now!* is to increase participation of children in the decision-making processes that affect their lives. Furthermore, the UNCRC and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development affirm children as agents of change and their right to meaningful participation. In view of this, it is important to ensure that children’s voices, views and recommendations are part of the elaboration of the national child rights progress report, including the views of the most marginalised and deprived groups of children.

The voices, views and recommendations of children should be visible throughout the report, for example by including specific information and recommendations from children, direct quotes or by including children’s own stories. To ensure the essence and spirit of how children expressed themselves be maintained, please do not edit children’s voices.

We would recommend that you run focus group discussions with children to inform the report. You could also involve children in collecting specific data for the report. In addition, you could also draw on views, priorities and recommendations of children captured and documented during the last year through other projects.

The questions discussed with children during focus group discussions should be informed by the specific country context. However, below we have outlined a few questions that might be useful to explore with the children. This set of questions needs to be adapted into child-friendly language as per normal practice.

- Do children know they have rights and that these rights are instituted in the UNCRC?
- What do children think about the rights they have? What are they? How do they think these are respected in the country/in their community? What would they like to change and why?
- What do children know about the SDGs? How do they think the SDGs can help improve their lives?
- Who do they think has the power to make change happen?
- What do children think children's role is to influence change in children's lives / their families / their communities/ their country / internationally? What are they doing already?
- If the children could provide one piece of advice to the President, Prime Minister or other leaders of the country on how to improve child rights – what would that be?
- If children could change one thing to improve their lives, what would it be?

To prepare for focus group discussions with children, please draw on existing tools and methodologies being used by *Child Rights Now!* organisations to consult with children. All engagement with children must adhere to existing child safeguarding policies and standard developed by *Child Rights Now!* organisations as well as the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child standards on child participation (paragraph 134 of [UNCRC General Comment No. 12](#)). Please also make sure that you provide feedback to the children on how their information has been used.

Resource permitting, we would recommended that a child-friendly version of the national report is produced to enable children to use the recommendations in their advocacy and campaigning.

Consultations with children at the national level will also inform the Global Child Rights Progress Report. In view of this, it is important that the information collected through the national consultations (number of children consulted disaggregated by age/disability, gender, rural/urban, minority, the type of activities, views, recommendations, quotes, pictures etc.) be captured in a document so it can inform and be used in the global report. This report should be sent to the Joining Forces Project Manager together with the national child rights progress report (see below) by 1 December 2018.

Using existing data and information

To capitalise on analyses already undertaken at country level, a review of existing internal and external data, research and analysis is recommended. This could include child rights situation analysis that have already been produced by individual *Child Rights Now!* partners; State Party and supplementary reports and submissions to the HLPF, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the UPR, CEDAW, and, in Africa, the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; and data and information produced by UN agencies and other international bodies. It could also include information and reports from the government, national human rights commissions and ombudspersons, academia and the media. Reports and information from local, national and international civil society organizations and relevant information from consultations or research with children could also be used.

In Annex 1, we have included a non-exhaustive list of international data source you could explore when drafting the national report.

Author of report

Child Rights Now! partners in a country should consider appointing a lead author for the national report.

Irrespective of how the report is developed, it is recommended that *Child Rights Now!* members are closely involved with identifying, continuously discussing and guiding how to shape the 'game changing' child rights issues, the discussion of the child rights climate in the country and the recommendations to be included in the report.

Length

Child Rights Now! partners in a country will agree on the page numbers of the report, but it is suggested to keep the page number to a maximum of around 15 pages.

Language

The report should be produced in English, French or Spanish. It is up to *Child Rights Now!* partners in a country to decide if they would like to make the national report available in additional languages.

Deadline to submit national reports

The national report, where relevant together with reports from consultations with children, should be sent to the Joining Forces Project Manager (email: Sian.Platt@plan-international.org) no later than 1 December 2018.

For further information:

If you have any questions or if you need more information, please contact Sian Platt, the Joining Forces Project Manager (email: Sian.Platt@plan-international.org).

International Data Sources

Below, we have included a non-exhaustive list of international data source you could explore when drafting the national reports.

General Data Sources, SDGs & Child Rights

[SDG Index and Dashboards](#)

[UNESCO Institute for Statistics SDG data](#)

[UNICEF Mapping of UNCRC & SDGs](#)

[UNICEF Multiple Cluster Indicator Surveys](#)

[UNICEF State of the World's Children 2017 Statistical Tables](#)

[UNICEF: Monitoring the State of Children & Women](#)

[UNDP Human Development Index](#)

[KidsRights Index](#)

[UN Human Rights Council information per country](#)

[UNCRC Concluding Observations and Recommendations](#)

[UNCRC OP3 decisions](#)

[UN Human Rights Council UPR information](#)

[UPR INFO UPR Recommendation Database](#)

[Danish Institute for Human Rights UPR- SDG Data Explorer](#)

[African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child concluding observations](#)

[African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child communications](#)

Childhood Deprivation

[Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative](#)

[World Bank Poverty and Inequality Data](#)

[UNICEF Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis for Children \(MODA\)](#)

Governance

[World Bank Governance Indicators](#)

[Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index](#)

[IBP Open Budget Survey](#)

Civil and political rights & civic space

[CIVICUS Monitor Index](#)

[Freedom House](#)

Gender equality

[Global Gender Gap Index](#)

[OECD Social Institutions & Gender Index](#)

[UNDP Gender Inequality Index](#)

Humanitarian, Vulnerability, Risk

[INFORM Index for Risk Management](#)

[Humanitarian Data Exchange](#)

[UNHCR Population Statistics Database](#)

[Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative Index](#)

Migration and displacement

[UNDESA data on international migration](#)

[IDMC Global Internal Displacement Database \(GIDD\)](#)

Urbanization

[UNDESA data on urban/rural population](#)

[World Bank data on urbanisation](#)