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# Nicaragua Country Report

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Evaluation of Child  
Rights Governance

*With a focus on local  
governments*

January 2014

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**Disclaimer:** *The views and opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the clients, Save the Children – Norway and CRG Save the Children Global Initiative.*

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It should be noted that the findings presented are the independent views of the team. Although Save the Children has been given an opportunity to comment on the draft report, and we have made our best efforts to validate and check information; if there are any errors, these are our sole responsibility.

## Executive Summary

### Introduction

This case forms part of a broader evaluation – funded by Save the Children Norway (SCN) – that seeks to document different types of (CRG) interventions and their effects on systems and children’s lives in Nicaragua. This case (one of four) covers the Nicaraguan experience with a particular focus on engaging local government (municipalities) on child rights issues. The team looked at a wide variety of projects supported by SC and spoke with all partners including government, civil society and educational institutions.

The programme in Nicaragua has partnered with government at both central and local levels, and civil society working nationwide and in specific regions and with a university (the UCA). However, the central focus of the intervention has been on supporting and strengthening local level government commitment to, and ability to work on, child rights issues. This report delineates this experience in Nicaragua and how it has influenced work in the Central American region. We have structured the report in accordance with the SC areas of work on CRG. Mainly: child rights monitoring; strengthening national systems; and the building of awareness and capacity

### Methodology

This document has resulted from a desk review, interviews, and focus groups with children and youth in Nicaragua. The field visit to Nicaragua was conducted between the 27<sup>th</sup> of August and the 5<sup>th</sup> of September, 2013, by a team of two consultants. Children and youth were engaged in four focus groups where participatory exercises, including timeline and Venn Diagrams, were conducted. A half day introductory meeting with Save the Children Nicaragua staff was held to share the aims of the evaluation as well as discuss the methodology, and gain some contextual understanding on the projects conducted on CRG and how these fit within SC’s broader engagement in the country. The field visit ended with a debrief session where preliminary findings and our understanding of these were presented to Save the Children Staff. Key findings from this study have been included in a synthesis report.

### Main findings

SC involvement in Nicaragua has primarily focused on work with municipal governments to increase their engagement on Child Rights issues. SC partners in Nicaragua extend far beyond municipal governments, but can generally be seen as part of an effort that supports local government engagement. Broader efforts have included, for example, the strategic level engagement with the central government institutions aimed at improving the child rights situation overall (i.e., MIFAMILIA).

Save the Children currently has a CRG portfolio that includes 13 projects, 10 partners and an annual budget of 789,792 USD and an expected expenditure equalling 805,760 USD in 2013. The Nicaraguan experience in creating and supporting *partnerships* is a rich one. In Nicaragua, SC has worked with a variety of partners ranging from government actors at the central and the local level, civil society organizations, children

institutions and initiatives, as well as academic institutions. SC's partnerships with these organizations have enabled projects and programmes around the country to carry out activities ranging from radio programmes to MA programs; and most prominently working directly with municipal governments to support capacity building on child rights issues and strengthen their ability to support the implementation of child friendly policies. Overall, the partnerships have benefited from strong ties to SC and there are clear synergies between the works carried out by individual partners. SC has started to promote lateral relationships between SC partners. This is an area that could be consolidated and would serve to strengthen the outcomes of the SC work overall.

SC's role as an *innovator* in the Nicaraguan context extends to some of the projects supported by SC; mainly to the work conducted with the network of municipalities and more recently with supporting municipal child friendly budgeting. In furthering **results to scale**, the work carried out with municipalities is one that appears to have the potential to be sustainable long after SC involvement may cease. While there are numerous steps that remain to be taken in ensuring that municipalities have developed child friendly policies, the potential for sustainability is there because there is a structural foundation from where municipal governments can develop. Child rights is one of many clear and important demands made of municipal governments, therefore SC's support is important in focusing attention on CRG specifically.

#### **Recommendations**

- To continue supporting municipalities to ensure that the newly developed policies are adequately implemented.
- To support engagement between SC partners. Municipalities, for example, could benefit from having stronger ties to other SC funded actors.
- To further develop the methodology to evaluate child friendly budgets so that it is able to better explain the factors that have led to individual budgetary decisions.
- To explore opportunities for child and youth engagement at the municipal level which ensure that the participation of children is safe and meaningful

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## Acronyms

CESESMA	Centro de Servicio Educativo de Salud y Medioambiente
CODENI	Coordinadora de ONGs que trabajan con la Niñez
COPINA	A National Council for the Comprehensive Care and Protection of Children and Adolescents
CRG	Child Rights Governance
MILAVF	Movimiento Infantil Luis Alfonso Velazquez Flores
MINAJ	Movimiento Nacional de Adolescentes y Jóvenes
MIFAMILIA	Ministry of Family, Youth and Children
SC	Save the Children
SCN	Save the Children Norway
SCI	Save the Children International
ToC	Theory of Change
UCA	Central American University

## 1. Introduction

This report forms part of a broader evaluation which aims to:

- Provide Save the Children (SC) with a better overview of types of Child Right Governance (CRG) interventions (including advocacy) at the national, regional and international levels; and a system for classifying types of outcomes and impacts resulting from them.
- Provide SC with evidence of outcomes and impacts, positive and negative, intended and unintended, and establishing causal links between outcomes at system level and outcomes and impacts for children.
- Provide SC with a manageable methodology to capture outcomes and impacts from different CRG programmes through monitoring and evaluation.

This report focuses exclusively on the Nicaraguan experience, CRG activities carried out in the country, lessons learned from these experiences, and the identification of recommendations targeted to the Nicaraguan experience specifically. Some recommendations may of course also be useful in other contexts.

The findings of this report are structured along the following SCI classified sub-themes:

- Strengthening national systems;
- Building awareness and capacity;
- Child rights monitoring.

Moreover, we will endeavour to systematically examine children's level of participation within each theme and do so in a manner that relies heavily, albeit not exclusively, on child participation (i.e., Human Rights Based Approach). This examination will be structured around the approach developed by Claire O'Kane for Save the Children (December, 2011). This approach classifies child participation into four stages:

- Child not involved;
- Child consulted;
- Collaborative;
- Child led/managed.

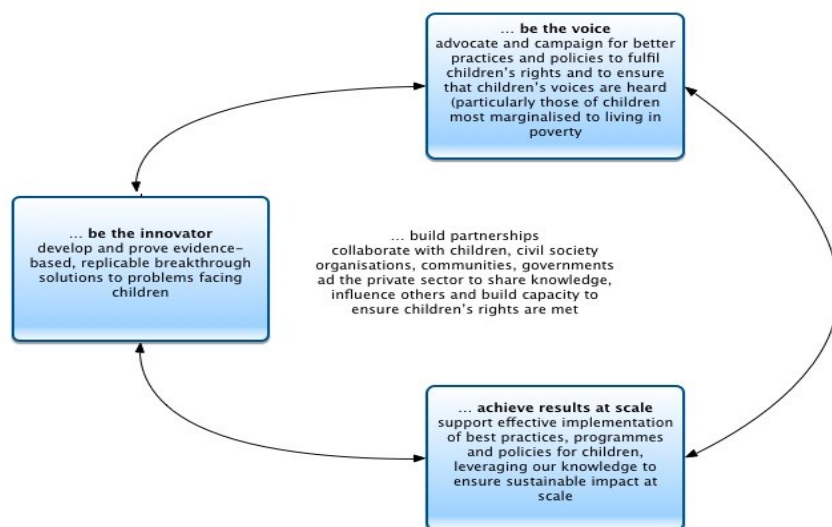
In addition to examining child participation as a crosscutting issue, we have also looked into the efforts made in the field of advocacy as embedded into activities in the aforementioned thematic areas.

In identifying best practices we have consistently asked what has been the impact within a particular theme as well as how has child participation has been integrated into the theme.



Moreover, in order to be able to identify a *best practise* a pre-identified set of 11 criteria was selected.<sup>1</sup> In addition, the ToC is utilized as a framework to analyse findings.

Figure 1: SC Theory of Change



In accordance with the ToC, SC aims to:

- **Be the innovator:** SC achieves its own objective of being the innovator when it is able to determine, through evidence, that any one or a combination of interventions are both effective and can be replicated.
- **Be the voice of and for children:** SC supports numerous initiatives that include child participation and aims to ensure that the voice of children is heard.

<sup>1</sup> The eleven characteristics required in order to identify a best practice were: 1) Programmes or initiatives that have achieved targeted tangible results **and made a difference to children's** lives; 2) Programmes/initiatives that can **demonstrate effectiveness** in meeting stated goals and objectives (must be reasonable cost-effective); 3) Programmes/initiatives that have successfully addressed important issues related to **CRG Global Initiative**; 4) Programmes/initiatives that are strategically important to **promoting children's rights** in the country; 5) Programmes/initiatives that can serve as **a model** for other SC offices or have a potential for being **replicated** in other countries; 6) Programmes/initiatives with components, concepts, principles, strategies or insights that are **transferable** to other SC policy areas (e.g. education, advocacy, participation, protection); 7) Programmes/initiatives in which collaboration with other **civil society organizations** has yielded tangible results; 8) Programmes/initiatives in which collaboration **with government** has yielded tangible results; 9) Programmes/initiatives in which collaboration with **children/youth** has yielded tangible results; 10) Programmes/initiatives, or aspects of them, that are likely to **be inspirational** to other members of SC; 11) Programmes/initiatives that have been monitored /evaluated/scrutinized and documented so that effects can be accessible to the evaluators.

- **Achieve results to scale:** This involves working with local organizations as multipliers of individual interventions. This means that while SC may intervene at one level, such as the national level, it will support individual organizations to further the same or derivative efforts at the local level, for example. Achieving results to scale calls for work in each of the thematic areas be maximized by ensuring that when adequate, it takes place at all relevant levels of execution (i.e., local, national, regional, global).
- **Build partnerships:** The building of partnerships with the government, Civil Society Organizations (CSO), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) and other partners is used to both achieve results to scale, as noted above, and to ensure that experiences and resources are shared and capitalized upon in the best possible manner.

As is illustrated by the ToC -themes, actors and individual activities do not exist in isolation from each other. Indeed, as noted in the SC CRG Strategic Document (2013-2015), efforts to achieve CRG objectives require the “build[ing] of partnerships... which include the collaboration with children, civil society organisations, communities, governments and the private sector.” These partnerships are intended to enable the sharing of knowledge, influence the actions of partners and other actors and build capacity. These relationships are central to the activities that SC supports in connection with CRG (See Figure 1).

## 2. Child Rights Governance in Nicaragua

In this section we both provide an overview of the child rights situation in Nicaragua as well as introducing the work conducted by SC locally.

### 2.1 Child Rights in Nicaragua

According to UNICEF's Annual Report 2013, "Nicaragua has demonstrated positive advances in its commitments to comply with the CRC which it ratified in 1990. In 1998 the country approved the Legal Code for Children and Adolescents and has made strides to implement said code. A National Council for the Comprehensive Care and Protection of Children and Adolescents (CONAPINA) was established following the requirements outlined in the aforementioned Code. The establishment of COPINA included civil society participation, and governmental support at the presidential level. The latter demonstrates a positive shift in the importance given to child rights issues, which earlier did not command attention at the highest levels of government. In 2008 this council was disbanded following an amendment to Law 290 (2007) and was succeeded by the Ministry of Family, Adolescence and Childhood (MIFAMILIA). The role and success of the new ministry are still unknown as the institution is new."

By late 2011 the Government added two new policies on children and adolescents: 1) the National Policy on Early Childhood (Amor Programme) which targets children under 6 and their mothers and aims to provide comprehensive care in the areas of health, food security and sovereignty, education, early stimulation, psychomotor, affective, cognitive, communication and values formation; and 2) the "Regulations for the Restitution of Rights and Special Protection of Children and adolescents<sup>2</sup>, which focuses on ensuring the protection of children within the family structure rather than with the state<sup>3</sup>. These efforts clearly indicate progress which is visible in the statistics below:

- In 2010, 96% of children between 6 and 11 were attending primary school;
- Chronic child malnutrition (children under 5) has fallen from 32.4% in 1998 to 21.7% in 2006-2007;
- HIV transmission from mother to child has fallen from 38% in 2006 to 3.3% in 2012;
- Children's births registration increased from 65% in 2005 to 81% in 2007<sup>4</sup>.

Despite these clear successes, the view shared by both government and civil society is that securing children's access to their rights is more hampered amongst rural economically

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<sup>2</sup> Texto de la regulación en link: [http://www.mifamilia.gob.ni/?page\\_id=236](http://www.mifamilia.gob.ni/?page_id=236)

<sup>3</sup> Reporte del Centro Nicaraguense de Derechos Humanos (CENIDH – ONG), link <http://www.cenidh.org/noticias/447/>

<sup>4</sup> Fuente: Unicef Cooperation Programme 2013-2017. Nicaragua. Link [http://www.unicef.org.ni/media/publicaciones/archivos/Presentaci%C3%B3n\\_CPD\\_INGLES.pdf](http://www.unicef.org.ni/media/publicaciones/archivos/Presentaci%C3%B3n_CPD_INGLES.pdf)

disadvantaged populations. Therefore, these populations still require continued support and attention. One example of areas that require further attention is child labour. The National Survey on Child Labour carried out in 2005 revealed that 238,000 children and adolescents in Nicaragua were exposed to exploitative labour conditions. Child labour in Nicaragua has both structural and cultural causes. These include poverty, lack of educational infrastructure and cultural norms that promote child labour as a legitimate practice.

Shortly after the end of our fieldwork carried out in the context of this evaluation, several relevant actors (MIFAMILIA, MITRAB, MINED, COSEP (Consejo Superior de la Empresa Privada, Supreme Court of Justice and leaders of different Workers Union) signed a Joint Action Agreement which aims to eradicate child labour. This agreement, together with the improved conditions at the municipal level where the task of SC has been instrumental in promoting the importance of and role of municipal governments in securing children's rights, is a positive step towards further progress in the CRG field in Nicaragua.

## 2.2 Save the Children in Nicaragua

SC formal<sup>5</sup> engagement on CRG in Nicaragua dates back to 1993: At the time, the then SC Norway led initiatives on the issue. The aim of the original programme was to promote both education and implementation of child rights. Following the merging of the different SC offices and the establishment of SC International (SCI) in 2008, all activities that fell under the CRG topic were regrouped under a new programme entitled the Program for Compliance and Monitoring of the Rights of the Child. In 2010, SC Norway (SCN) led the development and design of the current SC strategic plan (2010-2014) which includes key CRG pillars. Currently, SC in Nicaragua counts with one staff member responsible for following up the CRG efforts in country as well as supporting the effort in the region. Child participation is supported by additional staff as it is part of SC work generally not only CRG.

The current Strategic Plan under implementation in Nicaragua is in partnership with 28 local organizations and accounts for a total of 31 projects in seven sectors including health, education, nutrition, protection, HIV/AIDS, risk management, livelihood and CRG. The annual budget is of approx. 4.10 million USD (equal to approx. 25.5 million NOK). The funding for SCI in Nicaragua is largely sourced from Norway, USA, Canada, Sweden, Spain, and private contributors. The CRG programme is implemented by 10 partners including two government counterparts and eight NGOs and counts with an annual budget of 884,000 USD (in 2013). Norad and SC basket funding accounts for 84% of the aforementioned budget, while the remaining 16% is sourced from private benefactors and Spanish regional authorities (Ayuntamiento de Barcelona). The aforementioned budget includes 105,000 USD used to cover monitoring, capacity building (thematic workshops with partners and coordination meetings with other NGOs) and CRG regional approach work. These funds are

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<sup>5</sup> Prior efforts could be identified as falling within the CRG category, even though they did not specifically belong to a CRG denominated program. Still these earlier efforts served as a platform for the engagement that started in 1993.

administered by SC themselves. SC interventions in Nicaragua are aimed to have an impact at three levels: support for locally based organizations and spaces for children and youth; support for civil society and government organizations; and broad/nation wide advocacy activities.

The CRG programme was organized around three objectives corresponding to the CRG subthemes:

- Child rights monitoring;
- Strengthening national systems; and
- Awareness and capacity-building.

According to a SC statement the 2012 achievements<sup>6</sup> included:

- The participation of 81% of municipalities of Nicaraguan municipalities in the Network of Child and Youth Friendly Local Governments;
- The development of 7 new municipal policies on children's issues;
- The conduct of 10 municipal level projects that incorporated child participation in decision-making;
- 4 310 children presented their proposals or demands to municipal staff or election candidates;
- 6 482 people were provided trainings to further their knowledge of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and/or issues such as child responsive budgeting, violence prevention, and culture of peace;
- CODENI conducted research on HIV/AIDS, and inter-family and sexual violence;
- The Ombudsman's office conducted studies on the implementation of the legislation and focused on bettering inter-institutional coordination;
- The ministries of family, health, education and work - as well as the judicial system - evaluated how the recommendations to the implementation of the CRC affected their work.

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<sup>6</sup> The details of how these calculations were arrived to were not elaborated upon in the summary made available to us.

### 3. Methodology

This report is the result of a literature review and a field visit to Nicaragua. The field visit was conducted between the 27<sup>th</sup> of August and the 5<sup>th</sup> of September, 2013, by a team of two consultants. The evaluation focused on the review of written documentation, the conduct of interviews with SCN staff and partners, as well as a visit to a municipality with a long history as a member of the **Network of Child and Youth Friendly Local Governments**. In addition four focus groups, as well as participatory exercises including time-line and Venn Diagrams with children and youth, were conducted. A half day introductory meeting with SCN staff was conducted to both share the aims of the evaluation as well as discuss the methodology and gain some contextual understanding on the projects conducted on CRG and how these fit within SCN broader engagement in the country. The field visit ended with a debrief session where preliminary findings and our understanding of these were presented to SCN staff. The documents reviewed are noted in the bibliography (Section 6). The list of interviews is found in Annex 3 and a more detailed list of the tools used and meetings held with children is available in Annex 2.

The team encountered some difficulty in relation to visiting and interviewing staff from municipalities involved in the **Network of Child and Youth Friendly Local Governments**. The following the elections of November 2012 the engagement by municipalities as part of the network has not been formalized, which has proved challenging for the network. The lack of formalized engagement appears to be tied to two issues: first that most municipalities are led by the same party as the central government; and second that the central government is considering taking on a far wider role in relation to child rights. A further challenge faced has been in relation to the type of information that has been gathered and reported by SC. This however is discussed in Section 4.5 in relation to reporting itself.

## 4. General findings

In this section we present the principal findings from the Nicaragua case study. We have categorized these activities according to the three themes of intervention SC uses in CRG. In addition, we also examine SC reporting. The diagram below (See Figure 2) has been used as the framework for analysis in each section.

Figure 2: Depiction of Save the Children's Child Rights Governance work

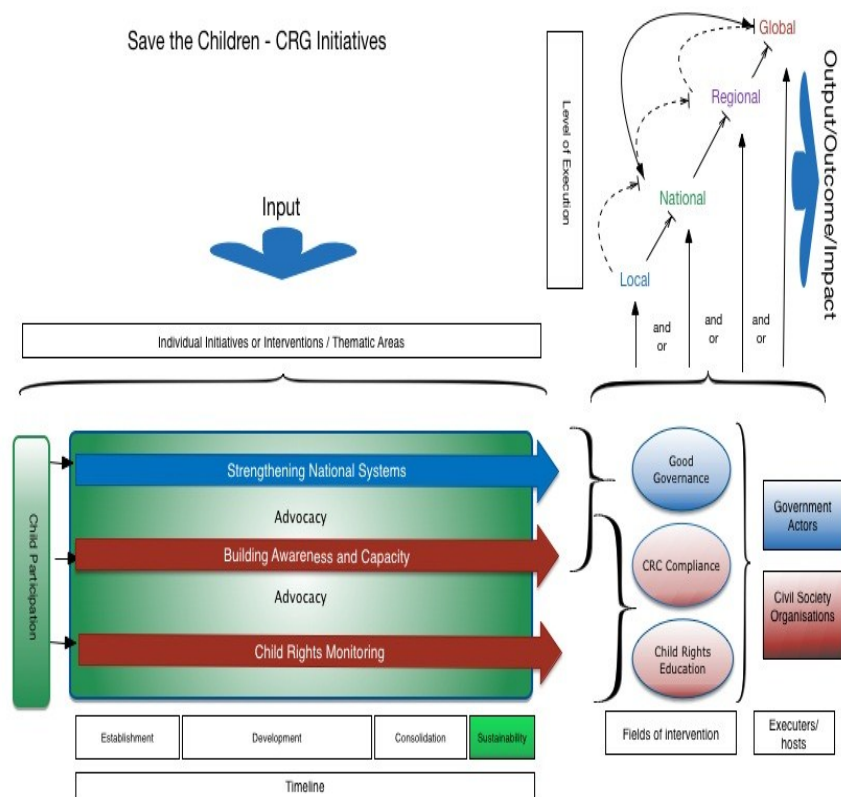


Figure 1 shows that all thematic areas include child participation and that advocacy is embedded into each thematic area. This has been consistently the case in the Nicaraguan context. In Nicaragua, advocacy engagements have existed within individual interventions or have been nurtured by activities within thematic areas. All activities have been aimed to supporting a timeline process that aims to allow SC to exit after ensuring efforts supported are sustainable. In Nicaragua, SC has been engaged at the ministerial level, with the universities, and with a number of civil society actors such as CODENI, SESESMA, MILAFV, etc. (e.g., with both government and civil society actors). Lastly, activities have existed at different levels of intervention and often included clear relationships between different levels of intervention. For example, the experiences from one municipality have served to entice other municipalities to join up, as well as served as a baseline experience to prompt similar engagements in other countries in the region.

#### 4.1 General measures of implementation

SC in Nicaragua has supported changes in legislation and through partnerships and involvement with other agencies such as CODENI, been involved in supplementary CRC reporting. In addition, SC has directly supported the work of different government entities - mainly the Ombudsman's office and the Ministry of Family, Youth and Children (MIFAMILIA). SC has been closely engaged with local governments for a number of years through the Network of Child and Youth Friendly Local Governments (Red de Gobiernos Municipales Amigos de la Niñez).<sup>78</sup> This last type of engagement has been the cornerstone of the SC work in CRG and is one of the key focuses of this report. Therefore it will be returned to later in this report.

SC has contributed amply to the development of CRG activities locally. To this end the organization has supported work conducted by other agencies and worked alongside other key actors. Other key organizations involved in relevant issues have included: Plan Nicaragua, Intervida and UNICEF. In discussion with these actors, all agreed that working with parents (one of the focus areas of both Plan and Intervida) was essential in furthering compliance with child rights. SC does not work with parents directly, but some of the partners are engaged with parents (for example CESESMA). Plan Nicaragua, Intervida, as well as CESESMA argued that culturally children had a limited voice and hence, failing to work with parents could mean that the only children involved in projects or programmes were those who already lived in a more child friendly environment - essentially failing to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable children. This does not mean, however, that

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<sup>7</sup> This organization is also referred to as "**the Network**" throughout this report.

<sup>8</sup> The work with the **Network of Child and Youth Friendly Local Governments** originated in 1993 as a national programme under the auspices of the INIFOM. [In January 2008 the Network was legally established as a national association of municipalities, with its own statutes and governing bodies. Municipal governments came together as an association emerging from the INIFOM effort.](#) SC funding for the network focuses both on ensuring its operationalization and enabling its activities, including support for capacity to enable the formulation of municipal policies (ex: manual on the design of child friendly policies; a manual to prepare educational activities with a child friendly focus).



there is no value in working directly with children but rather that environments such as the Nicaraguan one require a multi-pronged approach. Such an approach should include multiple organizations launching complementary efforts and taking into account the needs and environmental realities faced by children in relation to their peers, in their family and community contexts.

#### 4.2 Strengthening national systems

SC has been working towards **Strengthening National Systems** in Nicaragua since 1993. The current relevant budget and intervention allocation is depicted in the table below.

**Table 1: Current efforts in strengthening national systems In Nicaragua<sup>9</sup>**

Name of Project	Partner	Budget in USD	
		2012	2013
Municipal Action on the Rights of Children and Adolescents in 60 Municipalities in Nicaragua <sup>10</sup>	Red de Gobiernos Municipales Amigos de la Niñez (Network of Child and Youth Friendly Local Governments)	217,694	217,694
Municipal Action on the Rights of Children and Adolescents in 8 Municipalities in Nicaragua (Funded by Ayuntamiento de Barcelona/SC Spain)	Red de Gobiernos Municipales Amigos de la Niñez	70,865	83,497
Strengthening the Technical and Institutional Capacity of the Amor Program	Ministry of Family, Youth and Children -MIFAMILIA	27,000	27,000
Promotion and Defense of the Human Rights of Children and Adolescents in the National Territory	Procuraduría Especial de la Niñez - PDDH	57,070	57,070

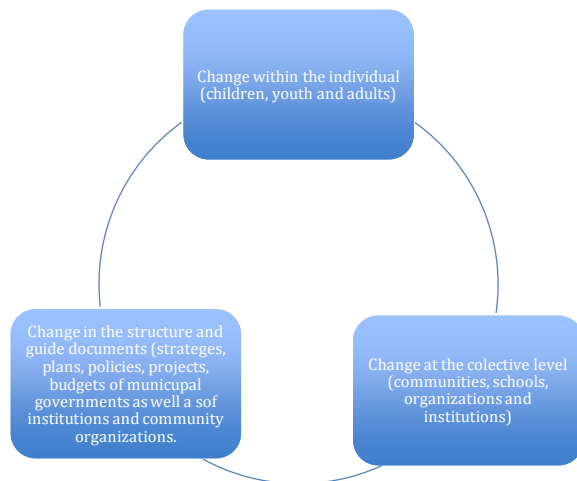
A principal focus of SC work dating back to 1993 has been work with **the Network**. One of the most important milestones in the development of SC involvement in this theme has been a joint effort that took place between 1997-2002 and brought together SC, UNICEF, The National Council of Integral Attention and Protection to Children and Youth (el Consejo Nacional de Atención y Protección Integral a la Niñez y la Adolescencia - CONAPINA), CODENI, and the Nicaraguan Institute of Promotion of Municipalities (Instituto Nicaragüense de Fomento Municipal-INIFOM) - entitled **Capacity Building of**

<sup>9</sup> Each section in this report outlines the budgetary allocation assigned for tasks that SC considers fall within this category. It is important to note that there is some overlap where activities fall within more than one area of work.

<sup>10</sup> This programme: The Network of Child and Youth Friendly government is a corner stone of the SC work in Nicaragua. Components of their work with Municipal governments therefore figures under each of the different areas of SC CRG work. However our main focus on the work conducted directly with municipal governments is discussed here because the overall objective is to strengthen the local government's ability to respond to CRG.

**Municipalities on CRG.** This project focused on making municipalities accountable for the implementation of child rights. This effort was catalytic in developing the concept of CRG at the municipal level and led to the identification of the following central objective for work with municipalities through the Network to "...promote, defend, enforce, exercise the rights of children in each municipality." This redefinition of CRG implementation at the municipal level was envisaged as a continuous chain of events that incorporates change at the individual, and collective level serving to inform the development of projects and documentation which in turn informs further progress (See Figure 3: Change Trajectory - source Documento "Estrategia de Save the Children para el trabajo municipal en Nicaragua: Municipalización de los Derechos de la Niñez y la Adolescencia", May 2012). In Nicaragua the effort has evolved from an initial recognition that municipalities had a role to play in child rights, to a number of different initiatives led by municipal governments such as including children in municipal level meetings (i.e., choosing projects and budgetary allocation discussion). Most recently the effort has led to the formulation of municipal policies on child rights.

**Figure 3: Change Trajectory**



Currently, the Network has 127 members (the total number of municipalities in Nicaragua is 153). The Network today is mainly concerned with the following issues: registration of births; child friendly budgeting; protection; and attention to the needs of children with special needs. The Network has worked extensively on the promotion of, and support for, the formulation of municipal level child policies<sup>11</sup>. At the moment, 36 such policies have

<sup>11</sup> Municipalities work on a child friendly policy to be implemented locally. While there are similarities between the policies put forth by different municipalities, the network has supported the

been approved and a further 18 are currently being drafted. The Network does not currently evaluate the operationalization and implementation of these policies. Overall, it is clear that the efforts with municipalities have had an impact in shifting how municipal governments see their role in relation to child rights. The process is now at a decisive stage where the successful implementation of municipal policies will be a clear step forward in the materialization of CRG at the local level. The policies are recent and therefore it is unclear at this time how much support will be required from SC in order to take the next step (i.e., implementation). The knowledge that SC has on CRG will be a clear asset in supporting this further step, undoubtedly.

In addition, to working with Municipalities SC has also worked with other government offices at the central level; most recently with the newly established MIFAMILIA. The MIFAMILIA is a state institution that focuses exclusively on family, childhood and youth issues. Its principal aim is to promote the rights of children, youth and the elderly and prevent the violation of said rights. They focus specifically on the eradication of child labour, promotion of family values and the protection of elderly. The organization was established in February 2012 as the successor to the National Commission of Children and Adolescents.<sup>12</sup> The transformation of the commission into a ministry suggests that the government is committed to child and youth issues, therefore supporting the Ministry could yield considerable.

The work conducted by SC with the Ministry of the family focuses almost exclusively on the strengthening of technical institutional capacity. This focus has stemmed from a well recognized knowledge/capacity gap amongst ministerial core staff. To date, trainings have been held both at the central level and with local partners. The aim of these efforts has been to promote both knowledge building and the sharing of responsibility between the local community and the central government. The trainings have focused on raising awareness of the legislation and the implementation of protection mechanisms. The SC project has also served to improve housing for children in care and have supported the national programme on the “right to have a name” – which aims to secure the birth registration of children nation wide. Birth registration is a problem in Nicaragua that has been targeted by many institutions, including the ministry, in a variety of ways including registration rallies. Overall, SC has worked and continues to work in a way that aims to strengthen the governmental ability to ensure children’s rights by supporting both the strengthening of governmental capacity (i.e., staff capacity) and supporting projects that are important to the government (i.e., in line with government priorities). Although the work conducted with the ministry is not directly tied to the engagement with municipalities, both types of engagement are complementary to one another. Working with the central government and

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development of case specific policies in order to secure local engagement in the development process (i.e., buy in).

<sup>12</sup> In Nicaragua, commissions operate independently of the state and have no budget; while ministries must be aligned with the government policies and are included in the state budget.

local governments simultaneously increases the chances that both types of institutions have a similar understanding and objectives regarding CRG.

SC in Nicaragua has been a proponent of **child participation** and has actively sought after opportunities where participation can be included into different projects and initiatives. The Network encourages the creation of child and youth local governance structures such as cabildos (i.e., forms of local child and youth parliaments). The degree to which participation in these gatherings has effectively influenced activities carried out by the municipality - and are representative of non-participating children - are important questions that could merit further attention. The views regarding the value and genuine nature of these efforts is mixed amongst respondents (i.e., SC partners in Nicaragua), but all concurred on the importance of parental support as an enabling factor to child participation. This highlights the importance of supporting the raising of parental awareness.<sup>13</sup> One clear initiative where SC demands child participation is a small grant project whereby municipal governments can apply for a 5000 USD grant on condition that: a) children were involved in the identification of the project, and: b) the municipal government is able to make a contribution (i.e., fund matching), irrespective of size, to the project. The contribution made by children and the importance of this contribution in determining budgetary decisions is an issue requiring attention. To this end it is important that SC is able to support the initiatives until the concepts guiding child participation have been adequately internalized and understood by municipal governments as a whole, and children can participate in a safe manner. This is highlighted because child participation is relatively new to governmental agencies and therefore it can succumb to misunderstandings and inadequate utilization.

In terms of **level of execution and replication**, the work in Nicaragua has focused on both the local and national levels. However, the Nicaraguan experience working with municipalities has been shared at the Central American Circle on Learning and Experiences on Child Rights and Local Development Forum which was established in 1999. The forum has utilized local experiences generally as a way to inform initiatives elsewhere in the region. Indeed in case of the work with municipalities specifically, the experience from Nicaragua has served to inform and start-up similar efforts in neighbouring countries including Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Costa Rica. Although each effort is distinct it is undeniable that it has direct ties to the work in Nicaragua. This is a very good example of replication which has been adapted to meet the demands of local contexts. In this way the impact of the work in Nicaragua has not only been limited to what has happened within the country, but also in other countries in the region.

Generally the work with the Municipalities has showed progress from recognizing the role of municipalities in CRG to more recently the development of child friendly policies, and the use of the experience in Nicaragua as a foundation for initiatives in other countries. The

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<sup>13</sup> As noted, SC partners work with parents - for example CESESMA. However, the projects do not have parent training/education as the principal component of the work.

Nicaraguan experience supporting good governance within the MIFAMILIA has less clear documented successes. However this is primarily due to the short time span that SC has been working with the ministry and the recent creation of the ministry itself. Lastly, it is important to underscore that **advocacy** as part of strengthening national systems has tended to target very specific audiences. The degree of success of these efforts, such as information leaflets and published studies on child rights related issues, would benefit from further attention. This is not to say that the efforts have not been successful but rather that the ability of these documents to reach audiences is not known, nor is the ability of these documents (i.e., general leaflets) to play a key complementary role in supporting the aforementioned efforts.

#### 4.3 Building awareness and capacity

Examining this second thematic area makes it evident that in Nicaragua single interventions include multiple thematic areas, for example work with the Network. This serves to highlight that often a single implementing partner and/or initiative can require multiple types of support or effort in order to achieve progress on CRG.

**Table 2: Current efforts in building awareness and capacity in Nicaragua**

Name of Project	Partner	Budget in USD	
		2012	2013
Master's Degree in Social Policy, Rights and Proactive Role of Children and Adolescents. Specialization in the Rights of Children and Adolescents – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition / Certificate in Communications and Rights	Universidad Centroamericana UCA	25,282	13,000
Municipal Action on the Rights of Children and Adolescents in 60 Municipalities in Nicaragua	Red de Gobiernos Municipales Amigos de la Niñez (Network of Child and Youth Friendly Local Governments)	217,694	217,694
Municipal Action on the Rights of Children and Adolescents in 8 Municipalities in Nicaragua (Funded by Ayuntamiento de Barcelona/SC Spain)	Red de Gobiernos Municipales Amigos de la Niñez	70,865	83,497
A Change of Pace in the Monitoring and Evaluation of Participation by Children and Adolescents Worldwide, Validating and Applying a New Framework and Tools to Measure and Evaluate Participation	Centro de Servicio Educativo de Salud y Medioambiente, CESESNA	12,700	11,000
Adolescents and Youth Promoting	Movimiento Nacional de	30,400	30,000

Participation and the Construction of a Culture of Peace	Adolescentes y Jóvenes - MNAJ		
Children and Adolescents Promoting and Defending their Rights through the Communications Media	RADIO CHAVALA	20,000	20,000
Children and Television Project (Open Your Eyes)	IMAGINARTE	30,000	30,000
Citizenship building through children participation in the fulfilment of their rights.	Movimiento Infantil Luis Alfonso Velazquez Flores - MILAF	69,937	70,000
Contribution to the Implementation of the 2012- 2016 Strategic Plan of CODENI	Coordinadora de ONGs que trabajan con la Niñez -CODENI	110,000	99,330
Contribution to the Implementation of the 2012- 2016 Strategic Plan of CODENI (Funded by SC Sweden)	Coordinadora de ONGs que trabajan con la Niñez -CODENI	21,377	15,000

The main activities conducted in this thematic area, as illustrated in Table 2, include the work with the **Central American University (UCA) and the Network of Municipalities**. In addition, SC itself conducts a series of efforts on both advocacy and monitoring which include other partners such as the **Centro de Servicio Educativo de Salud y Medioambiente (CESESMA)**, the **Movimiento Infantil Luis Alfonso Velazquez Flores (MILAVF)**, **Movimiento Nacional de Adolescentes y Jóvenes (MNAJ)** and even the work done by the **IMAGINARTE TV** programme and **Radio Chavala**.

The work conducted with the UCA dates back to 2005 and involves the support for a couple of Master of Arts programmes. These are interesting initiatives that enable the university to focus more attention on child rights issues. At present, the 3<sup>rd</sup> MA program is underway with 25 participants. Participants are awarded a scholarship ranging from 5-50% of tuition fees.<sup>14</sup> Participants of the course range from private individuals such as independent consultants to government and even SC staff. SC makes few demands of who is accepted into the programme because it maintains that any additional knowledge on CRG or CRC related issues within Nicaraguan society is progress. While this is true, the number of participants is limited and therefore stricter targeting may be able to yield more clear outcomes. Another issue related to outcomes are the dissertations. While dissertations for the MA need to be on a topic relevant to the situation in Nicaragua in the hope that these individual pieces of work influence society or promote specific initiatives is a positive step, whether past dissertations have or have not been used and by whom is unclear and therefore the outcome of these efforts may or may not have been influential.

<sup>14</sup> The total costs of the 2 year program is 5000 USD

**CESESMA**, another partner of SC who focuses extensively on building awareness and capacity, was founded in 1992 and has been legally recognized since 1996. The organization was created by a group of teachers working in rural areas in Nicaragua. The objective of the institution was, and remains, to respond to the lack of information and understanding about how to best work with children and children's rights. This included working with teachers and parents. In addition, they have also worked with coffee producers in an effort to reduce the use of child labour; they currently work in 5 municipalities nation wide. SC engagement with them has been limited in scope but long-term, and serves as a testament to how long it can take to materialize social change.

SC supports numerous efforts that actively engage children and **child participation** as part of this thematic area of intervention. **MILAVF** and **MINAJ** work respectively with children/youth and young adults and support the promotion of child, youth and young adult participation and building of awareness raising on issues relevant to child rights. The role of children in these interventions is consultative rather than driving or leading. **MILAVF** in particular has over 40 years of experience engaging children and youth on extra curricular activities such as sports or cultural activities of interest to the children. These activities are then infused with training and capacity building on child rights issues, participation and information sharing training. The approach aims to enable children to share information and experiences with peers. Similarly, the work of **MINAJ** aims to continue engaging individuals once they have become young adults. Children and youth who are part of the MILAVF program partook in focus groups during this evaluation. Consistently they noted that they had, through their work with MILAVF, become much more outspoken, secure and able to serve as advocates for child rights issues. In short, they were both able to protect their own rights, although they noted they required parental support for this, and were able to share their knowledge with their peers. They also consistently highlighted that their participation in any programme was dependent on the approval of their parents. This finding was consistent in all four focus groups conducted during the evaluation. This served to highlight that parental involvement "buy in" is a key component to ensuring that children are able to participate and also, as discussions showed, that parents support the tenets that parental understanding of child rights and support for child involvement is crucial in the success of any project.

In addition, two other initiatives that can be credited with building both awareness and capacity and which include child participation, indeed initiatives which unlike all others are child led, are the **IMAGINARTE TV** programme which airs once a week on national TV and the **Chavala Radio** station which covers the Managua and District III of Managua (that is one of the 7 districts in the Managua area). Both programmes are fully reliant on children as central to their operationalization, which was very unique amongst the projects reviewed. In both cases programme subjects, production and airing is led by children. The projects focus both on entertainment for children, but also on raising awareness on children's issues and children's rights.

When discussing with children and youth the role and impact their engagement has had on them as individuals, and on the issue of child rights more generally, a few issues came to the fore. First, children interviewed concurred that the experience, regardless of the partner they have been involved with, has been beneficial to them personally as they have gained a number of specific skills such as public speaking, ability to work in groups, and child rights knowledge. In the case of the TV and Radio programme a number of specific technical skills were also mentioned. Having a stronger skill set, they proposed, was beneficial to them when furthering their education or trying to retain employment as adults. Children and youth who have been involved in budgeting discussions seemed less clear about their role and the purpose of this specific type of engagement. All children and youth involved in interviews noted that their participation was completely dependent on their parental approval, and some added that their parents were often not well versed on child rights themselves; but the children and youth welcomed the knowledge as an opportunity to change the thinking when they become adults.

Overall, all the initiatives listed here where SC is involved have common threads that support the building of local level knowledge on CRG, and child rights more broadly. The initiatives build awareness and capacity on child rights at the individual level, of both children and adults, through media (i.e., radio and TV) and clubs (i.e., MILVF and MINAJ) as well as the work done by CESESMA. While each of these initiatives has a relatively limited coverage, either because the initiative is limited or because the population may not be able to attain access (i.e., may not have TV), all efforts are seen as moving towards creating a critical mass of knowledge on child rights. The Masters programme has potential for having a clear impact. A requirement for participants to work actively in the field of child rights or CRG after completing the degree would serve to maximise the impact of the programme. Since the number of participants is very limited the programmes ability to be catalytic is reduced. However, the existence of a Masters programme on the issue of Child Rights is a message in and of itself and hence can be a contributor in raising awareness on the importance and value of the subject matter.

In terms of the **level of execution and replication**, aside from the efforts mentioned earlier (See Section 4.2), the work in this theme has great potential for replication both within Nicaragua as well as elsewhere. The model of work with the University - as well as the work of MILAVF, the Radio and TV - could be further expanded. The work with the University is indeed used elsewhere. The approach taken by MILAV in how it engages children<sup>15</sup> could be explored as an approach to be used elsewhere. In Nicaragua the MILAVF effort has expanded extensively around the country. The media interventions are quite small at the moment, but they too could be widely replicated at multiple levels.

**Advocacy** is again a central component of this thematic area, but not a subject that had overt focus. The efforts are mainly geared towards advocating for the compliance with

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<sup>15</sup> Children are engaged in extracurricular activities of their choice and from there engage themselves in child rights related activities.



children’s rights and enabling children to access their rights. Rather, it is embedded into activities such as the Radio and TV programmes. Similarly, MILAVF and MINAJ also engage in limited *advocacy* efforts amongst their general activities. SC has not been engaged in large campaigns as such, but utilizes its position as a well recognized agency, to promote children’s rights broadly through the training and capacity building it supports and/or engages in.

#### 4.4 Child rights monitoring

As was noted in the previous two themes, here too some of the same partners and initiatives are noted. This again illustrates that SC works on multiple themes within a single initiative.

**Table 3: Current efforts in child rights monitoring in Nicaragua**

Name of Project	Partner	Budget in USD	
		2012	2013
Municipal Action on the Rights of Children and Adolescents in 60 Municipalities in Nicaragua	Red de Gobiernos Municipales Amigos de la Niñez (Network of Child and Youth Friendly Local Governments)	217,694	217,694
Promotion and Defence of the Human Rights of Children and Adolescents in the National Territory	Procuraduría Especial de la Niñez - PDDH Special Child Ombusman	57,070	57,070
Strengthening the Technical and Institutional Capacity of the Amor Programme	Ministry of Family, Youth and Children -MIFAMILIA	27,000	27,000
Contribution to the Implementation of the 2012-2016 Strategic Plan of CODENI	Coordinadora de ONGs que trabajan con la Niñez -CODENI	110,000	99,330

One of the main initiatives conducted by SC in Nicaragua in the field of monitoring has been the development of a methodology for, and conducts of studies on, municipal child friendly expenditure<sup>16</sup> which is tied to their work with the **Network of Child and Youth Friendly Local Governments**.

The methodology has aimed to examine the degree to which Municipalities conduct child friendly investment. The approach taken is very interesting, still a few factors merit further attention as the methodology is developed further. The assessment of municipal expenditure has been conducted twice (in 2008 and in 2012). The 2008 study was based on a sample of 44 municipalities, of which 38 were members of the **Network of Child and**

<sup>16</sup> See: Save the Children. n.d. Matriz para la utilización de los elementos de Calidad en la Inversión en Niñez y Adolescencia como lista de chequeo de su cumplimiento.

**Youth Friendly Local Governments**; and the 2012 study on 50 municipalities where the whole sample was based on municipalities members of the **Network of Child and Youth Friendly Local Governments**. The 50 municipalities in the second sample do not include all the municipalities in the sample used in 2008. Indeed, only 37 municipalities are the same. This could lead to a misrepresentation of progress made. The details of exactly how the calculation was done in Nicaragua are unclear because there are degrees of measurement and rankings which are by default somewhat arbitrary (i.e., what is more or less important).

The assessment does not analyse other aspects of financial distribution, for example, whether or not the absolute figures of funding to other sectors have changed. The latter means that since the increase in child friendly investment is coupled by an overall budgetary increase, it is possible that budgeting in other sectors has remained the same. The importance of accounting for the aforementioned two factors is the following:

- The methodology, as has been implemented, is unable to determine if the **Network of Child and Youth Friendly Local Governments** has played any role in the increase on child friendly investment because the sample focused primarily (2008) and exclusively (2012) on municipalities which were part of the Network.
- The methodology, as has been implemented, is unable to determine if increases in financial allocation to child friendly issues represents a global understanding and practice of making child issues as a priority at the municipal level, is a product of chance or of demands made by the central government which determine priority areas of investment. While clearly the investment alone benefits children, SC would benefit from knowing what caused the increase as this would allow them to know where their attention is most required in order to ensure budgetary increases.

SC does not validate the investments accounted for in the studies conducted, but rather relies on the information made available by the municipality itself. Indeed, identifying the individual projects is nearly impossible since the individual projects are not necessarily categorized as child friendly investment at the municipal level. Anecdotally, the explanation given by SC and Network staff delineated in details the expectations and the implementation of child friendly budgeting were very dissimilar from the explanations given by the staff at the single municipality visited during this study. The municipal staff could not clearly explain how child friendly budgets are defined. The interviews conducted showed there was a limited understanding of what child friendly budgeting was; and how, if at all, it had been implemented locally.<sup>17</sup>

The methodology utilized is interesting and clearly deserving of attention because it aims to quantify the local governments will to comply with/support children's rights. Further refinement in its implementation to enable it to become a solid tool to measure the degree to which the work of the **Network of Child and Youth Friendly Local Governments** has succeeded in furthering child friendly budgets and expenditure locally would be a great step

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<sup>17</sup> The Mayor was not present at the time of the visit. However, we were able to interview both the current and former staff members in charge of child rights issues. Unfortunately, it was not possible to identify and visit child friendly projects.

forward. Issues that could be considered as components of future iterations of the tool could include: measuring the degree of participation of children and youth on the development of budgets locally; measuring the degree in changes in the budgetary allocation relative to other budget lines; measuring factors that have contributed to shifts in budgetary allocation; measuring which allocations require further attention in order to yield results (e.g., the need to synergise with other SC projects or initiatives such as “education for all” activities/projects, for example, in order to make the construction of a road to a school successful in achieving its objective). Having a more complete picture of factors that have influenced expenditure would enable SC to further encourage, support and/or enable the furthering of contributing factors. This in turn would permit the more consistent increase or, at the very least, maintaining the expenditure levels.

In addition to monitoring budgets, the **National Ombudsman’s Office** also gets support from SC for child rights monitoring. The office counts with a special Ombudsman who is responsible for caring specifically for child related issues. They have a central office in Managua and additional representation in eight of the 17 departments in Nicaragua. One of the key activities of the office is to monitor compliance, by both the state and individuals, with legislation protecting the rights of children and youth. To this end they both respond to reports on specific complaints regarding a violation and also work towards promoting the enforcement of child rights. In cases where a violation has occurred they aim to find a resolution that restores the rights of the victims. The Ombudsman’s Office also conducts specific audits that aim to explore the degree to which rights are being upheld. Previous audits have included school audits aiming to explore the degree to which child rights are respected, similarly an audit of health care facilities and more recently a study of 63 child shelters. In addition, the office focuses systematically in the monitoring of the following themes: adoption issues; trafficking; and HIV/AIDS. The support from SC started in 2010 and focuses mainly on enabling the conduct and publication of audits and other reports produced by the ombudsman’s office; the aim of the publication is to enable a broader readership of the material which is believed can both serve to better inform on the activities undertaken by the office as well as on the state of child rights implementation in the country. During the interview at the Ombudsman’s Office the staff present stressed that they felt certain that their interventions had positive results and similarly that the publications had an impact, but also noted that a systematic measurement of either has not taken place and that they currently lack the capacity and funds to do any such study. The ombudsman’s office noted that they are unable to determine, for example, the nature and impact of the production of audits and reports. Do audit reports, for example, lead staff to be more aware of their actions? Are staff members keener on enforcing child rights issues because they know audits are being conducted? These are interesting questions that could be studied more carefully, but would require both time and financial support. They noted that the data they have available to them is very broad and lacks the degree of specificity to determine impact. For example, much of the data focuses on cases rather than on individuals affected. This can seriously distort the number of individuals affected by any one intervention. This is clear when examining the Ombudsman’s Office institutional reports on

activities undertaken. However, a brief review of the monitoring and audit reports, which result from thorough research of specific offices on specific issues, shows that they are very openly critical and clear in reporting non-compliance; in some cases even mentioning the staff members involved in the violation of the right in question - the latter, a clear name-and-shame tactic.

The *Coordinadora de ONGs que trabajan con la Niñez (CODENI)* is an organization that has since its inception in 1991 (and has legal status as an association since 2000) aimed to bring together different civil society actors to have a common voice on child rights related issues. The organization focuses on the dissemination of information regarding the Convention on the Rights of the Child and on advocating its implementation. In addition, they have been actively involved in commenting on new Nicaraguan legislation. They are also actively involved in the preparation of the CRC alternative report. SC is a member of the organization and also funds some of its activities. CODENI stresses that they are able to strengthen the voice of civil society actors, many of which are very small local agencies, by bringing them together. They also note, however, that member organizations vary greatly on how they approach the issue of child rights, and their level of success and ability to conduct concerted programmes and projects.

As an institution, they have very limited funds and few permanent staff, but rather focus on promoting a common agenda as pertains to advocacy issues. This includes informing partners, conducting trainings, and developing relevant publications which aim to serve as reference documents and focus on national statistics. In addition, CODENI also defines common agendas that facilitate the joint work done by CSOs working on child related issues in Nicaragua. These are the type of activities that have been funded by SC. They do, however, carry out projects on an ad hoc basis. One of these is the observatory (Observatorio sobre los derechos humanos de la niñez y adolescencia Nicaragüense) which is an on-going effort to monitor compliance with child rights. The reports have focused on issues such as expenditure on education and health, but also in relation to compliance with other child rights. This observatory project relies exclusively on freely available data and like the work conducted by SC on child friendly budgeting, does not carry out any form of verification. This work is carried out by staff members that are hired on a project basis. They do not engage child participation as an active component of their on-going work.

In Nicaragua SC is not directly involved in the formulation of a supplementary report to the CRC, but is loosely engaged through CODENI which is a leading institution in drafting said reports. Similarly, *advocacy* exercises are part and parcel of CODENI's work and therein of SC's efforts. CODENI engages in publishing an extensive number of flyers and reports on a wide range of child rights issues. Additionally, CODENI serves as an umbrella to lobby the government on multiple issues of CRG as they emerge. Indeed, the institution serves as a one-stop place to coordinate civil society on issues of priority concern at a national level. Similarly, the audits drafted by the Ombudsman's Office are intended to play an advocacy role, however tacit.

**Child participation** is not highly visible within this thematic area. But it should be noted that in some cases children involved with MILAV (See Section 4.4.) engage specifically on monitoring activities. Ensuring that these activities link to other efforts, could merit future attention.

Overall, the three pronged approach to supporting the monitoring of children's rights in Nicaragua fulfils key gaps in the current environment. The budgetary analysis complements the work conducted with municipalities and can, if further developed, serve as a key instrument to measure the success of SC in working with local governments. The work with the ombudsman's office takes place at the central level, but its impact can also serve to strengthen local level implementation of child rights. The central effort funded is the conduct of subject audits which call attention to violations done at the local level. Therefore, the audits do not only have an impact centrally but also directly on the conduct carried out in individual municipalities. Lastly, the work of CODENI is both central but has a clear tie to the work conducted in the different regions. CODENI brings together a number of institutions which work in small areas around the country. This effort serves to bring to attention both the experiences from around the country, but can also serve to highlight the different challenges and contexts under which municipal governments operate.

#### 4.5 Report quality

The Nicaragua programme counts with an extensive array of documentation on the different initiatives undertaken. These documents primarily recount the actions and activities taken and can serve as a thorough institutional memory of what has been done, by whom and when. In addition, and very relevant to this report, there are extensive documented descriptions on the child rights budgeting analysis, the methodology used, and the findings. A final set of documents pertains to information provision on a variety of issues ranging from the state of implementation of the CRG, HIV/AIDS, and even guidelines on how municipal governments may prepare their local child friendly policies.

These documents have been very informative in providing the evaluation team with background information for this report. In utilising them, a few issues came to our attention which we believe are noteworthy as they can serve to strengthen SC's ability to benefit further from their reports in future.

**Methodology used as a foundation to claims made:** A number of the reports make clear claims of the contribution made by the SC interventions. But it is unclear what methodological approach was used to derive these conclusions. For example, the 2010-2014 Strategic Plan Mid-Term Review asserted that based on the opinions of the informants, analysis of indicators, and review of documents<sup>18</sup> - that the SC programmes have, in relation to child rights governance, supported: the implementation of information

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<sup>18</sup> The document did not contain a list of respondents, documents reviewed or methodology used to examine indicators.

systems; the monitoring and supervision of child rights by civil society and government organs; the approval of legislation at the municipal level with ample child participation; the launching the municipal investment on children and youth; the promotion for the sharing of experiences and good practices on the municipalisation of child rights in Central America; and capacity building on child rights. In addition the document claims that as pertains to participation, SC has supported the consolidation of child participation as a transversal issue covering all projects and programmes; opening spaces so that children are to express themselves and so they can be heard; and broadening the opportunities for participation in a variety of different types of activities ranging from sport to the creation of TV and radio programmes. The documents would have benefited from a description of the methodology used to arrive to these findings.

***Methodology with a positive bias:*** As noted earlier, the analysis on child friendly budgeting focuses primarily (2008) and exclusively (2012) on municipalities that are part of the Network. Therefore, it is impossible to know if positive trends are also visible elsewhere. This methodological caveat does not permit an assessment of whether the contribution made by the Network has had a decisive role in child friendly expenditure or not.

***Analysis on utility of publications:*** The assessment of the MA programme, the studies and publications led by the Ombudsman, and the municipal policies passed, were noted as success in their own right. However, there appears to have been no analysis of the degree to which these deliverables have led to any tangible change. The radio and TV programme could also benefit from a robust impact evaluation. It was noted that their potential for influence was as large as the population having access to the respective programmes, hence its real impact could merit attention. The ability of these initiatives to have an impact by virtue of access is different from other publications that had limited readership to begin with.

Overall there is a strong emphasis on the belief that activities, by virtue of existing, have an impact. However, this is methodologically an incorrect assumption. It is well known that the provision of information does not necessarily lead to behavioural change. These comments are intended to provide SC and their partners with some critical review and reporting which may be beneficial to future analysis of tasks and activities.

## 5. Conclusions, lessons learned and recommendations

The experience in Nicaragua shows that consolidated efforts have been made for long periods of time with numerous actors. In forming our conclusions and identifying lessons learned from the Nicaraguan experience, we ask four key questions central to the SC Theory of Change: ***Has the work supported by SC or SC itself through its direct work:***

- Been a ***voice*** to advocate and campaign for better practices and policies to fulfil children's rights and to ensure children's voices are heard?
- Contributed to the creation of ***partnerships*** and collaborated with children and actors from civil society, communities, governments and the private sector to share knowledge, influence others and build capacity so children are enabled to claim their rights.
- Been an ***innovator*** by developing and proving, through evidence based exercises, replicable breakthrough solutions to problems facing children?
- Achieved ***results at scale*** by supporting the effective implementation of best practices, programmes and policies for children's rights - leveraging our knowledge to ensure sustainable impacts at scale?<sup>19</sup>

In this report we have delineated a number of initiatives which have been supported by SC in Nicaragua over the years and which continue to benefit from SC support. All the initiatives have a being the ***voice*** component, although the prominence of said component varies. In some cases the advocacy role of the initiative is a central objective of the activity, as is the case with the work with municipalities. Here SC has been instrumental in supporting capacity building and accompaniment of municipalities as they move towards attaining a better understanding of children's rights. Similarly, support for CODENI also purports a clear advocacy role as the institution has, as a central tenet to their work, the furthering of children's rights and children's issues and ensuring these are backed by a common front shared by organizations working on these themes throughout the country. Initiatives such as Radio Chavala and IMAGINARTE TV also present interesting venues for advocacy work by bringing the issues to popular attention. Less evident demonstrations of advocacy work are represented by the support to the Ombudsman's Office, where the engagement is limited to funding audits which are not necessarily so widely visible although they do appear very useful because they report on non-compliance. Similarly, the work with MIFAMILIA may not be categorized as advocacy by its nature, building institutional capacity, but clearly it purports an understanding for the importance of children's issues. Similarly, the work with the UCA cannot be seen as having a central advocacy role, although supporting such an initiative serves to underscore the importance of academic work that explores child rights issues, and of academic training in the field of child rights issues. Central to being the voice, SC understands its role in supporting children themselves to have a role in child rights issues. Here SC has been involved in numerous efforts. Some of these tied to the work of the municipalities, by fostering and advocating for the involvement of

<sup>19</sup>Sections of the bullets are quoted from the CRG strategy.

children in *cabildos* as well as supporting the creation of Child Clubs. Indeed, the work with municipalities has included the support for child participation in budgetary discussions in so far as project identification (i.e., municipal projects for children which count with partial SC funding).

Also notable is the work of Radio Chavala and IMAGINARTE TV which are both child led initiatives. The Nicaraguan experience provides for two different approaches to participation of children; one where children lead alternative venues of discussion and further their own understanding of children's rights and their roles as citizens (i.e., MILAV, Radio Chavala and IMAGINARTE TV), and another where children become participants to state processes (i.e., *cabildos*). The level of engagement and participation appears far more autonomous in the first model of intervention. The latter highlights a series of questions deserve attention: is engagement of children in project identification, essentially municipal budgetary discussion, the most effective way to support child participation? Are children's voices heard or is child participation a symbolic act? In environments where democracy and citizen participation generally is not common place, can child participation in these venues serve to underscore and instil in them alternative governance modalities, or does it serve to perpetuate existing ones? These questions we feel are important to ensure that children, through participation, feel empowered to become more active and informed citizens in the long-term.

The Nicaraguan experience in creating and supporting *partnerships* is a rich one. In Nicaragua, SC has worked with a variety of partners ranging from government actors at the central and the local level, civil society organizations, children institutions and initiatives, as well as academic institutions. The initiatives supported cover an extensive range of efforts with varied goals and objectives which as a programme cover each of the CRG themes that SC focuses upon. As regards to partnerships some clear linkages have been made, for example, in fostering the work of CODENI which brings together civil society organizations; or indeed the work of the Network of municipalities which brings together most municipal governments around the country. The potential, however, for collaboration has a clear potential for the multiplication of impact of individual efforts if these were better linked to complementary activities. For example, the work of the University masters programme could serve to actively inform and support activities carried out by other partners. The information emerging from most experiences funded could serve as interesting material for the media interventions. Similarly, the work by the Ombudsman's Office could also be of value to media interventions. Indeed, the opportunities for synergies and partnerships are extensive and could be exploited to their maximum capacity.

SC's role as an *innovator* in the Nicaraguan context extends to some of the projects supported by SC; mainly, to the work conducted with the Network of municipalities and more recently with supporting municipal child friendly budgeting. The potential for replicability has been tested by the clear experiences seen in Central America where neighbouring countries have taken the Nicaraguan experience and adapted it for



implementation locally. Still a more solid familiarity with the ToC amongst SC partners could lead to reporting that more clearly responds to the ToC and hence it would ease the ability to glean, in this case, innovative experiences in more detail.

In furthering **results to scale**, the work carried out with municipalities is one that appears to have the potential to be sustainable long after SC involvement may cease. While the modality of exchange between municipal governments may change and the ability of the network of municipalities to bring together municipalities and share with them new knowledge and impart skill may not continue in the absence of funding, the conceptual understanding of children's rights as an issue that is of value and importance at the municipal level appears to have been embedded through the project. Given the governmental structures in place in Nicaragua it would, of course, be crucial that the central government support the initiatives and understand child rights as an important issue that requires attention. This is not to say that municipalities have arrived at an end point in terms of implementing children's rights, understanding their own role and being able to implement it, but the foundation exists and the tools have been made available to municipalities. This experience has also had repercussions regionally with neighbouring countries where the initiatives from Nicaragua have been used to ignite local initiatives with local governments.

The Nicaraguan experience shows a series of experiences ranging in objectives, partners, areas of intervention, and modality of child involvement. As a collage of interventions they represent all the areas of interest for SC and overall they appear to have met their individual goals and objectives, although clearly this work did not evaluate any single intervention. In an effort to further strengthen the work conducted locally we feel there are a number of issues that merit attention, and interventions which merit highlighting:

**Evidence based studies:** The collection of evidence to adequately substantiate the impact of individual interventions is generally lacking. One key example is the **methodology to measure municipal expenditure**. While this is an interesting approach to measure expenditure, it is currently unable to assess the success or failure of interventions aiming to increase child friendly expenditure due to a bias sampling process. This methodology could be seminal in further demonstrating the impact of different types of interventions if the approach was explored and further refined. This general finding extends further than the municipal expenditure tracking tool. Other examples include the different models of intervention of children and the impact of these interventions. While we agree that child participation is a very important and valuable area of engagement, we also feel it is crucial to explore the implications of individual approaches to participation in order to ensure that these are supporting of childhood and do not make children feel responsible for the tasks of the adults which should be entrusted with protecting them.

**Child participation:** There are two interventions in Nicaragua that appear to be child led. These are Radio Chavala and TV IMAGINARTE. Both represent very interesting approaches

to engaging both children as active participants in the initiative, but also represent interesting approaches to engage both children and adults as passive participants to a discussion on child rights issues by listening/watching the programme.

Under the themes of strengthening national systems, building awareness and capacity, and child rights monitoring - SC has been engaged in numerous efforts. Aside from those mentioned earlier in this section the work with municipalities, which although belonging to the theme of strengthening national systems, appears to have had the most impact as a replicable model that can be translated and applied to other contexts. This, together with the approaches on child participation noted above, show the most promise in terms of evidence based positive impact. Still, the collection of unbiased evidence based data to confirm these assertions would be required before this finding can be supported foolhardily.

It is clear that the thematic common thread to the work in Nicaragua has been focusing their attention on local governments as a point of departure to generate catalytic change.

Keeping this in mind the following **recommendations** are made:

- To continue supporting municipalities to ensure that the newly developed policies are adequately implemented.
- To support engagement between SC partners. Municipalities, for example, could benefit from having stronger ties to other SC funded actors.
- To further develop the methodology to evaluate child friendly budgets so that it is able to better explain the factors that have led to individual budgetary decision.
- To explore opportunities for child and youth engagement at the municipal level which ensure that the participation of children is safe and meaningful

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## Annex 1: Terms of reference

### Evaluation of Save the Children's Child Rights Governance programmes

#### *Making Children's Rights a Reality*

**SAVE THE CHILDREN** is the world's leading independent organisation for children.

**OUR VISION** is a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.

**OUR MISSION** is to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children, and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

#### **1. Background**

Child Rights Governance (CRG) is one of six priority areas of work in SC's Global Programme Strategy 2010-2015. Nearly all governments in the world have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and in doing so agreed to establish a child rights system made up of laws, policies, institutions and processes to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of all children in their country. CRG aims to support and if necessary put pressure on states to put in place such a system, necessary to make rights realities, and facilitate a vibrant civil society (including children) able to hold governments accountable when they fail to do so. SC member organisations have joined forces in a CRG Global Initiative working to achieve the strategic objectives:

- Strengthened state institutions and mechanisms for the implementation and monitoring of children's rights
- Increased awareness and capacity among civil society and children to promote children's rights and hold duty bearers to account

CRG work supports the establishment of an environment where *all* children's rights are taken into consideration, and where the states take on relevant measures to implement them. In this sense a successful CRG programme will underpin all of SC's work and significantly contribute to the achievement of results of thematically specific SC interventions, e.g. in education, health, and protection.

The child rights focus generally became stronger in SC members' strategies and plans during the 1990s and the implementation and monitoring of the Child Rights Convention (CRC) started to appear as an explicit strategic objective early 2000. Child Rights Governance became a term and a distinct thematic priority in Save the Children's global strategy 2010 – 2015. Based on a quick mapping carried out in 2009, among 11 SC members, it was estimated that income for CRG programmes were 30 million USD. In 2011, 20 SC members spent together more than 47 million USD on CRG. The target as per the CRG business plan is 60 million USD before 2015. SC-Demark, SC-Sweden, SCN, SC-Canada, SC-UK and SC-France, are contributing to the CRG initiative's core funding in addition to in kind support in the form of human resources. CRG programmes are implemented by SC country offices and local partners, by regional and international CRG offices (advocacy), and by SC member head offices (advocacy)

#### **1.2 Save the Children's theory of change**

Save the Children adopted a Theory of Change (ToC) in 2010 to provide overall strategic guidance to its programs. A ToC explains how organizational and financial resources will be

converted into desired social results. The ToC is comprised of four linked goals, which all SC programs should seek to implement in concert, in order to achieve long-term impact for children<sup>20</sup>.

*Be the innovator:* Programmes should analyze outcomes, using evidence to identify the most effective interventions. Effective programmes should also be designed so that they can be replicated in other parts of the region and/or country.

*Be the voice of and for children:* Direct service delivery can improve the lives of many children, but far more can benefit if SC influences the political priorities of governments and decision makers in positions of power. Accordingly, programmes should garner public and political support for interventions and causes.

*Achieve results at scale:* Programmes should scale interventions so that they have nation-wide impact. However, rather than scaling programmes itself, SC should utilize other NGOs and/or the government. This will empower local organizations and ensure local ownership of programme interventions, leading to sustainable development.

*Build partnership:* Partnerships are central to each of the goals. Programmes should form partnerships to advocate and leverage those relationships to achieve scale. Partnerships should facilitate the sharing of ideas, experience, and resources, and the building of mutual capacity.

Save the Children's ToC set us out to develop and test evidence-based solutions with a view to scaling them up through advocacy and partnerships.

## **2. Purpose of the evaluation**

Save the Children is commissioning an evaluation of our CRG programmes. The evaluation will involve a mapping of SC's CRG programmes globally and an impact study of a selection of them with the purpose of:

- Providing SC with a better overview of types of CRG interventions (including advocacy) at the national, regional and international levels, and a system for classifying types of outcome and impact resulting from them.
- Providing SC with evidence of outcome and impact, positive and negative, intended and unintended, and establishing causal links between outcomes at system level and outcomes and impact for children. We hope that the learning from this evaluation will help us to make strategic decisions about priorities and directions in CRG, and develop our programmes, based on evidence. Examples of impact and good practice may also be used to attract donors, partners and allies to the work for children's rights. Furthermore, findings from the evaluation can prepare the ground for evidence based advocacy for children's rights.
- Providing SC with a manageable methodology to capture outcome and impact from different CRG programmes through monitoring and evaluation.

A well-known challenge in working to make human rights a reality is how to measure change – real change in the lives of rights holders. Monitoring data can only take us half way, and often stop at outcomes such as observed system change (be it laws, institutions, policy documents, action plans, etc.). Measuring the long-term outcomes and impact in people's lives resulting from those system changes require a longer time dedication and

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<sup>20</sup> This description of SC's Theory of Change is based on a graduate study, *Rooting Organizational Change at Save the Children* (de Vulpillières and Hu, 2011).



more sophisticated methodologies, also addressing attribution, than project funding usually allows for. This evaluation should help us to both document and better understand if and how longer term outcomes and impact come about, and suggest a methodology to better capture such changes within our M&E framework in the future.

### **3. Objectives and key evaluation questions**

The objectives for the evaluation are:

1. Improved overview of SC's CRG interventions globally, and developed methodology for classifying and measuring different types of impact from CRG work.
2. Identified and documented intended and unintended, positive as well as negative outcome and impact in selected CRG programmes.
3. Identified factors facilitating or obstructing positive CRG outcome and impact for children in different CRG projects and contexts.
4. Identified good practices in designing and implementing CRG programmes in order to achieve positive and sustained change for children.
5. Identify assumptions on casual effects of specific interventions in programme contexts, and critically examine whether those are valid.
6. Assess how the theory of change is underpinning CRG work, and to which extent the theory of change is being implemented.
7. Assess how CRG programmes link to other thematic priorities in the country offices.

The following set of evaluation questions should guide the evaluation team in further developing the evaluation design and questions in cooperation with CRGI before an Inception Report is finalized. Evaluation questions should be refined in a participatory process involving SC staff and partners, other stakeholders and very importantly, children, when the evaluation start up in each case country. The external evaluation team will facilitate this process.

Evaluation questions:

1. How can CRG interventions at the national, regional and international levels and results from them be classified and measured?
2. What outcome and impact (positive and negative, intended and not intended) can be found from the selected CRG interventions?
  - on system level
  - in children's lives
3. Where the selected CRG interventions relevant in the context and how has relevance been assessed and taken into account during the implementation?
4. To what extent are outcomes and impact sustainable?
5. How was sustainability designed into the interventions?
6. What has SCs added value been in bringing the outcomes and impact about?
7. Why were some interventions successful and others not? Which factors are contributing to success versus failure, looking at programme design; implementation model (organization, skills and capacities, partners, involvement of children and communities, timing etc); political, economic and cultural context; relations with key stakeholders; funding, etc?
8. How has risks, including risks for children involved, been managed from project design, through implementation, monitoring and evaluation?
9. Have SC missed opportunities in promoting a CRG agenda in the selected case countries? What were the consequences?

10. Are there cases of high impact and good practice that can be shared as models for CRG work outside the original context?
11. To what extent do the country offices lift their CRG agendas to regional and global levels, and what role do the different SC bodies, including SC advocacy offices, play in this?
12. Which intervention logics/theory/theories of change can be detected from programme implementation? Are these convergent with SC's overall Theory of Change?
13. Is it possible to identify some common 'success factors' or 'enablers and obstructers' for achieving impact for children through CRG work across the different CRG programmes evaluated?
14. What role do partners, including child clubs and child led groups, play in bringing about outcomes and impact in CRG? Has cooperating with SC increased the capacity of partners? If so, in what way?

#### **4. Evaluation design and methodology**

The evaluation should be carried out in two phases:

1. A desk study mapping of a wide range of different CRG interventions in different geographic areas leading to a classification of intervention and selection of cases to look closer at in the next phase.
2. An in-depth evaluation of the selected cases to assess outcomes and impact of long term CRG interventions, and to identify the process leading to impact.

##### **4.1 Phase 1: Mapping, classification and selection of projects**

Classifying types of outcome and impact resulting from CRG work, and develop a methodology to actually capture such evidence, is a key task in this evaluation. Hence, the evaluation team will be invited to develop a classification and methodology as a first product and apply it in the impact assessment of the selected cases to answer to the objectives of this evaluation. Four to six case countries and CRG programs should be selected for the purpose of data collection. To inform the selection of projects for Phase 2 we propose the following criteria:

- Selected CRG programmes (cases) should reflect the key components of the global CRGI strategy.
- The projects should have been implemented by SC or/and partners for a period of minimum five years in order to allow for medium and long-term results and impact. When choosing to focus on programme with a relative long and stable lifespan, it will also be possible to look at historical development to identify important steps and strategic choices along the way.
- Among the cases there should be examples of interventions where monitoring data indicate success. After conducting a more thorough impact assessment of the same interventions, it would allow for a critical analysis of how trustworthy monitoring data is in measuring outcomes in this field. These cases should also allow for a critical assessment of the assumed causal links between the short term and medium term outcomes at system level and longer term outcomes and impact in children's lives. This would help SC to understand better how to build a trustworthy M&E framework for CRG. Such cases will also have a potential to bring important learning to the larger group of CRGI stakeholders.
- The selection should ideally represent projects funded and supported by different members, in order to capture potential learning from different practices.

Both SC country offices, member head offices and SC advocacy offices will have archives of historical data that can be scanned in desk review. SC programme staff, child led groups and partner staff are obvious sources of information, as well as stakeholders in programme countries. Information should be validated with programme beneficiaries. The evaluation steering group will provide the evaluation team with the following data sources for the mapping in Phase 1:

- Financial information on CRG projects 2010-2013 (2013 budget).
- Annual reports, annual plans, CRG strategies, donor reports, evaluations and any other relevant written material about CRG programmes.
- Members' Indicator dataset, where available.
- CRGI indicator baseline dataset 2011 (raw data).
- CRGI funding mapping 2012/2013.

In addition to the written material, the evaluation steering group and other SC staff are available for interviews to provide the evaluation team with more information if requested.

By end of Phase 1, the evaluation team should present the mapping and classification, and suggest a selection of 4-6 cases for the Phase 2 impact assessments. After receiving input from the evaluation steering group, the evaluation team chooses the final cases.

#### **4.2 Phase 2: Impact assessment of selected cases**

As the CRC is the foundation of the work of SC, it is vital that the evaluation of its CRG programme is solidly anchored in the CRC and the human rights-based approach to development commonly understood and agreed in the human rights community<sup>21</sup> For that reason, methodology has to evolve with the evaluation and only basic principles will be set here:

1. A state of the art impact assessment methodology is required, relevant for human rights and good governance interventions, combining quantitative and qualitative data, with a historical retrospective approach. The question of added value and attribution should be explicitly addressed.<sup>22</sup>
2. The methodology should also help us understand the process leading to impact as well as processes failing to produce the intended impact, and how context influence.
3. The OECD/DAC evaluation criteria should be applied (Relevance, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Impact, Sustainability).
4. The methodology should enable the team to identify and explore the contextualization of the Theories of Change implied in the different programmes.
5. A more critical external audience in the selected programme countries should be able to input to the evaluation (human rights experts and advocates, INGOs and others).
6. Stakeholder participation and especially the meaningful participation of children and youth are key to any SC evaluation process, and a process to ensure this should be outlined in the Inception report. Evaluation activities must comply to SC Practice Standards for Child Participation.

<http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/resources/online-library/practice-standards->

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<sup>21</sup> See for example, the UN Statement of Common Understanding og Human Rights Based-Approaches to Development Cooperation and Programming, 2003.

<sup>22</sup> See Howard White and Daniel Phillips 'Addressing attribution of cause and effect in small n impact evaluations: towards an integrated framework', 3ie working paper 15, June 2012.

[children%E2%80%99s-participation](#)), as well as SC’s Child Safeguarding framework and Ethical Standards for M&E.

## 5. Organization, roles and responsibilities

### Evaluation Team:

The evaluation should be led by an external evaluation team (consultant(s)/researcher(s)) with extensive evaluation experience and competence in human rights/child rights. In each of the case countries we suggest that one national consultant/researcher with the necessary competencies is commissioned to support the global evaluation team.

We would like to see involvement of staff, partners, children and government in the evaluation process in programme countries, both in the design phase and in the feedback of findings and recommendations.

The evaluation team will be responsible for developing the research methodology, facilitating participatory processes and managing data collection, as well as writing up the reports and presenting the findings and recommendations. The external evaluation team is ultimately responsible for conclusions and recommendations, and the quality of the evaluation reports.

The team of researchers/consultants is expected to fill the following requirements:

- Documented experience in undertaking impact studies in the field of human rights.
- Documented knowledge of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child.
- Fluency in the English language, written and spoken.
- A record of interest in/publications on methodology for capturing social change will be an advantage.
- Experience with Child Participation is an advantage.

National consultant/researcher should be recruited by the global evaluation team itself through their own networks, is possible, or calls will be sent out from the selected country

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<b>Commissioned by</b>	Save the Children Norway/ CEO Tove Wang
<b>Project owner</b>	SCN and CRG GI

offices and managed by SC if necessary.

### SC evaluation management

The Steering Group will approve the Inception Report and the draft final reports after consultations with the Reference Group.

<b>Project manager</b>	Brynjar Sagatun Nilsen, M&E adviser, CRG GI
<b>Project group</b>	Brynjar Sagatun Nilsen, M&E adviser for CRG GI (Project Manager), Ingunn Tysse Nakkim, M&E adviser SCN, Turid Heiberg
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Case country offices will be expected to engage at SMT level as well as the relevant M&E staff and CRG staff, giving input to design, facilitate in the organization of the evaluation team's field visit, data collection, and child participation activities, as well as in commenting on draft reports and help feedback to participants at country level. The country offices will also be key in sharing and learning from the evaluation.

## 6. Deliverables

- A *classification* of the CRG interventions based on the initial desk study mapping, based on available documentation.
- *Inception report*/detailed work plan for the evaluation to be approved by the Steering Group.
- A *methodological framework* for measuring outcome and impact from CRG work, designed for an INGO like SC, taking the already established SC M&E system and global indicators into account.
- Draft and final evaluation *reports* per case country (maximum 20 pages) in English, with executive summary.
- Final *global evaluation report* (maximum 30 pages) with executive summary, in English.
- *Easy-read version* of an extended executive summary, in English, for children.
- *Visual (PP or other) presentation* of findings and recommendations.
- *Presentation* at one CRGI workshop or conference.

Possibilities for video documentation should be explored during the evaluation process.

## 7. Timeline

<b>First SCN consultation with CRG GI</b>	<b>Mid October 2012</b>	<b>Done</b>
Draft ToR shared for comments	By 23 <sup>th</sup> November 2012	<i>Done</i>
Second draft ToR for review	25 <sup>th</sup> January, 2013	<i>Done</i>

ToR approved	11 Feb, 2013	
Call for external consultants/researchers, application period, selecting evaluation team	11- 25 Feb, 2013	
Signing contract	By 4 <sup>th</sup> March, 2013	
Desk review and draft Inception Report	By end March, 2013	
IR approval	Early April, 2013	
Start-up workshop in one case country	Early April, 2013	
Field work/data collection	April – July, 2013	
Draft reports	Late August, 2013	
Participatory reflection and feedback	Mid September, 2013	
Final reports	Early October, 2013	
Presentations and input to follow up plans	October and November, 2013	

### **8. Budget/Resources**

SCN will fund the evaluation, covering consultancy for approximately 140 days in total (global and national consultants/researchers) and cover travel costs, accommodations and participatory workshop(s). A detailed budget will be prepared based on the consultancy fees agreed and case countries selected.

### **9. Plan for dissemination and learning**

A plan will be developed by CRGI in close cooperation with SCN, other members and the involved country offices. Feedback to stakeholders, particularly children, who were involved in the evaluation, is essential.

The evaluation reports will be published on the SC web. COs are also free to translate (if necessary) and publish the report locally. The reports will also be used to extract briefing documents, lessons learned documents, communication materials, and presentation at workshops/conferences.

## Annex 2: Field data collection tools for work with children

### Focus Group Questions for work with children:

This will be a very informal gathering that will aim to collect data on the following themes:

- Knowledge of children's rights and of the projects they are involved with. We may use Time Line for this.
- Their own participation in children's rights
- The role of adults on children's rights (parents, teachers, etc). We may use Venn Diagrams for this.
- Knowledge of systems that are established to protect them and their access to such systems.

General data collected:

- Gender of participant.
- Age of participants.
- Time they have been involved in the project.
- Role in the project (if relevant).

Questions on project:

- Can you describe the project, what it aims to do (objective, activities, do they meet the objective? How?
- Can you explain who is involved in the project (i.e., authorities, teachers, parents, brothers and sisters, friends).
- How have you become involved in the project?
- Has the project made any change to you? How?
- What role do you play in the role (participation through out)?
- Have you been involved in assessing the project? What have you done?
- Has the project changed over time? How? Why?

In addition to the focus group questions, we also used timeline and Venn Diagram methodologies as described in the *Tools for Reflection, Monitoring and Evaluation of Quality work in Children's Participation in Peace Building* document.

### Annex 3: List of respondents and field visits

Date	Event Type	Name of Participant	Gender	Age (children and youth only)	Position	Organization	Email	Telephone
29/08/2013	Meeting/discussion with Save the Children CRG staff	Mary McInerney	Female		Country Director	Save the Children		+505 22667101
		Luz Maria Sequeira	Female		Program Development & Quality Director (Quality & Partnership)		<a href="mailto:luz.sequeira@savethechildren.org">luz.sequeira@savethechildren.org</a>	
		Pedro Hurtado	Male		CRG Coordinator		<a href="mailto:pedro.hurtado@savethechildren.org">pedro.hurtado@savethechildren.org</a>	
		Georgina López	Female		Children participation Coordinator		<a href="mailto:georgina.lopez@savethechildren.org">georgina.lopez@savethechildren.org</a>	
		Ramón Meneses	Male		Advocacy and Communication		<a href="mailto:ramon.meneses@savethechildren.org">ramon.meneses@savethechildren.org</a>	
		Renee García	Female		Monitoring and Evaluation		<a href="mailto:Renee.garcia@savethechildren.org">Renee.garcia@savethechildren.org</a>	



Date	Event Type	Name of Participant	Gender	Age (children and youth only)	Position	Organization	Email	Telephone
							<a href="http://children.org">children.org</a>	
30/08/2013	Meeting at La Dalia Municipality	Melania Rivera	Female		Secretary of City council's	La Dalia Municipality	Lunayoshua23@yahoo.es	+505 2774 1041 +505 2774 1042
		Francis Lucila Blandón			Communication and Citizenship			
	Meeting with Women Police Station	Officer Maritza Espinosa	Female		Investigation Officer	Women Police Station		
	Focal group with Children	Ariel Herrera	Male	16	Vice Presidente of Child Council	Membre of MILAVF		+505 8868-1188
		Joaquin Arauz	Male	16	President of Child Network			
		Keving Cruz	Male	14	President of MILAVF Dalia			
		Maylin Sofana	Female	10	Child Symbol of MILAVF			
		Yarlen Rivera	Female	15	Vice President of Child Network			
	Harin Herrera	Male	14	Children's				

Date	Event Type	Name of Participant	Gender	Age (children and youth only)	Position	Organization	Email	Telephone
					Right and Leadership			
		Gerald Larios	Male	23	Member			
	Meeting with CESESMA	Martha Lidia Padilla	Female		Project Officer	Centro de Servicios Educativos en Salud y Medioambiente CESESMA		
	Meeting with SC field office La Dalia	Dixmer Rivera	Male		Coordinator of SC Health program and Field Office La Dalia	Save the Children La Dalia	<a href="mailto:dixmer.rivera@saveethechildren.org">dixmer.rivera@saveethechildren.org</a>	+505 2774 1234
02/09/2013	Meeting with CODENI Staff	María de Jesus Gómez	Female		Executive Secretary	CODENI Coordinadora de ONGs que trabajan con la Niñez	<a href="mailto:ejecutiva@codeni.org.ni">ejecutiva@codeni.org.ni</a>	+505 266-1503
		Marvin García	Male		Observatory		<a href="mailto:observatorio@codeni.org.ni">observatorio@codeni.org.ni</a>	+505 2268-1008
	Meeting with Ombusman Office	Sorayda Blandón	Female		Chief of Cabinet	PDDH - Niñez Procuraduría Especial de los DD de la Niñez	<a href="mailto:ismael.rodriguez@pddh.gob.ni">ismael.rodriguez@pddh.gob.ni</a>	+505 22663 258
Victor Urroz	Male		Director of Planning Division	<a href="mailto:ismael.rodriguez@pddh.gob.ni">ismael.rodriguez@pddh.gob.ni</a>	+505 8884 5965 +505 8821 6527			

Date	Event Type	Name of Participant	Gender	Age (children and youth only)	Position	Organization	Email	Telephone
		Ismael Rodriguez	Male		Public Relations			
		Concepción Andino	Male		Division of Finance and Administration			
		Tania	Female		Planning Officer			
		Jenny	Female		Defense Officer			
		Rafaela Solano	Female		Promotion Officer			
	Meeting/Discussion with Red de Gobiernos	Janeth Castillo	Female		Executive Director	Red de Gobiernos Municipales Amigos de la Niñez	<a href="mailto:directora@gobiernosmunicipalesamigosdelaninez.org.ni">directora@gobiernosmunicipalesamigosdelaninez.org.ni</a>	
		Isacc Bravo Gomes						
		Emmanuel Siero Silva						
		Claudia Chavez						
		Elizabeth Rodrigues Alvarado						
		Veronica E Rivas						

Date	Event Type	Name of Participant	Gender	Age (children and youth only)	Position	Organization	Email	Telephone
		Miriam Rodrigues						
	Meeting with Children and Young Movements	Cristian Rivera	Female		Program Coordinator	Movimiento Infantil Luis Alfonso Velazquez Flores MILAVF	riveracc@gmail.com	+505 2266 6825
		Francisco Molina	Male		Local Coordinator	MILAVF		
		Harvin Cruz	Male		Member	Mov. Nac. Adolescentes y Jóvenes	harvin@movimientoayj.org	+505 2266 4719 +505 89338464
03/09/2013	Meeting/discussion with Universidad Centroamericana	Iris Prado	Female		Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Communication	Universidad Centroamericana, UCA	irisp@ns.uca.edu.ni	+505 22783 923
		Martha Violeta Trujillo	Female		Former Coordinator of Post Graduate Studies		mvioleta@ns.uca.edu.ni	
		Karla Hernandez	Female		Master Studies Coordinator		karlyhernandez04@yahoo.es	

Date	Event Type	Name of Participant	Gender	Age (children and youth only)	Position	Organization	Email	Telephone
		Ricardo Norori	Male		Coordinator of Communications		<a href="mailto:meastriainfancia@ns.uca.edu.ni">meastriainfancia@ns.uca.edu.ni</a> ; <a href="mailto:norori@ns.uca.edu.ni">norori@ns.uca.edu.ni</a>	
	Meeting/discussion with IMAGINARTE an Radio Chavala	Aleyda Gadea	Female	20	Program Coordinator	Programa de TV Abre Tus Ojos - IMAGINARTE	<a href="mailto:info@imaginarte.com">info@imaginarte.com</a> ] <a href="mailto:pperson@imaginartefilms.com">pperson@imaginartefilms.com</a>	+505 22702679
		Carmen Zamora	Female		Director of Radio Station	Radio Chavala	<a href="mailto:carmenlzh@gmail.com">carmenlzh@gmail.com</a>	+505 2268 3775
	Meeting with Ministry of Family	Karen Sanchez	Female		Director of AMOR Program	Ministry of Family, Children and Youth	<a href="mailto:cpaez@mifamilia.gob.ni">cpaez@mifamilia.gob.ni</a>	22781620
		Jenny Madriz	Female		Planning Division			
		Elizabeth Roman	Female		Responsible of Substitute Homes			
	Focal Group with members of the City Council of	Luis Gonzalez	Male	21	City Council of Children and Youth - Granada	City Council of Children and Youth		
		Bryan Gutierrez	Male	15				
		Yervin Betano	Male	17	City Council of			

Date	Event Type	Name of Participant	Gender	Age (children and youth only)	Position	Organization	Email	Telephone
	Children and Youth				Children and Youth - Nagarote			
		Francisco Mejía	Male	16	City Council of Children and Youth - Tisma			
		Blanca Rosa Bardos	Female	11	City Council of Children and Youth - Telica			
		Mayela Saborío	Female	18				
		Estefany Chavez	Female	13	City Council of Children and Youth- Tisma			
		Francis Toruño	Female	13				
	Liliana Sotelo	Female	14					
	Discussion with SC on Municipal Budget with focus on Children and Youth rights	Pedro Hurtado	Male		CRG Coordinator	Save the Children	<a href="mailto:pedro.hurtado@savethechildren.org">pedro.hurtado@savethechildren.org</a>	
		Georgina López	Female		Children participation Coordinator		<a href="mailto:georgina.lopez@savethechildren.org">georgina.lopez@savethechildren.org</a>	
	04/09/2013	Meeting/discussion with NGOs working in	Ana Lucía Silva	Female		Responsible for Governance and	Plan Nicaragua	<a href="mailto:ana.roman@plan-international.org">ana.roman@plan-international.org</a>

Date	Event Type	Name of Participant	Gender	Age (children and youth only)	Position	Organization	Email	Telephone
	children's rights				Participation			
		Aminta Saravia	Female		Responsible for Planning and Monitoring	INTERVIDA	<a href="mailto:john.delgado@intervida.org">john.delgado@intervida.org</a>	+505 2278 4485, +505 2278 1729
		Ana Lucía Silva	Female		Specialist in Protection	UNICEF	<a href="mailto:asilva@unicef.org">asilva@unicef.org</a>	+505 2268 0687
	Debriefing Meeting on field data collection	Mary McInerney	Female		Country Director	Save the Children Save The Children Nicaragua		+505 22667101
		Luz Maria Sequeira	Female		Program Development & Quality Director (Quality & Partnership)		<a href="mailto:luz.sequeira@savethechildren.org">luz.sequeira@savethechildren.org</a>	
		Pedro Hurtado	Male		CRG Coordinator		<a href="mailto:pedro.hurtado@savethechildren.org">pedro.hurtado@savethechildren.org</a>	
		Georgina López	Female		Children participation Coordinator		<a href="mailto:georgina.lopez@savethechildren.org">georgina.lopez@savethechildren.org</a>	
		Ramón Meneses	Male		Advocacy and Communication		<a href="mailto:ramon.meneses@savethechildren.org">ramon.meneses@savethechildren.org</a>	

