

COMMON
APPROACHES

CHILD RIGHTS REPORTING

SOME GOVERNMENTS
ARE FAILING TO
UPHOLD CHILDREN'S
RIGHTS AND ARE NOT
HELD ACCOUNTABLE

Despite global agreement that children have the right to survive, learn and be protected from violence, millions of children are deprived of these rights because of who they are or where they live. Without voting rights, children have few ways to hold decision makers accountable.

Countries must report back on their progress in making children's rights a reality. We work with children and civil society organisations to document and report violations of children's rights when countries are reviewed in three international reporting systems, and to advocate for change.



Photo credit: Suzanne Lee/Save the Children

OUR APPROACH

Child Rights Reporting is a process that children and civil society organisations can use to analyse, document and report violations of children's rights in their country.

It provides an opportunity to speak out about where states have failed their children and give recommendations on what needs to change. It also helps children and civil society shape the child rights advocacy agenda in countries by using recommendations from international accountability mechanisms.

This approach is well-proven and widely utilised by child and human rights organisations around the world. Save the Children has played a leading role in its development over the past 25 years, notably on how to involve children or support them to lead their own reporting and advocacy process in meaningful ways.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child: Under the UNCRC, this is a group of child rights experts that reviews countries every five years to assess the situation for children and make recommendations.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR): Under the Human Rights Council, this is a peer review mechanism where other states assess the human rights, including children's rights situation in the country under review and make recommendations.

The African Committee on Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC): Under the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, this is a group of experts that reviews and make recommendations on the child rights situations in African countries every three years.

Between 75 and 100% of all issues raised by Save the Children were reflected in the recommendations to a country under review.

Each reporting process includes a review of the State report as well as of supplementary reports prepared by civil society which provide additional information and, where necessary, critique of the government's report.



Save the Children

SCALE & IMPACT

Save the Children countries who engaged with UNCRC, UPR and ACERWC in 2013-2017



CORE COMPONENTS

PHASE 1: PREPARATION

Raise awareness, manage expectations, produce child-friendly information about the reporting process and relevant issues affecting children. Strengthen capacity of children's groups and civil society to engage.



PHASE 2: DRAFT & SUBMIT SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

Collect and analyze data together with children, agree on what to include in the supplementary report and make sure evidence is backing any raised issues; plan how to use the data collected beyond the report.



PHASE 3: INFLUENCE REVIEW OF STATE PARTY REPORT

Support children/civil society to raise important issues in pre-sessions and, for the UPR, conduct advocacy towards ministry of foreign affairs, permanent missions in Geneva and Embassies in the country under review.



PHASE 4: FOLLOW-UP, ADVOCACY & ONGOING MONITORING

Produce child-friendly information about recommendations and support children to follow up through meetings with government, parliamentarians and national human rights commissions or media. Include recommendations in national advocacy plans and support children's advocacy work.



IMPACT ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

We know that between 75 and 100% of issues raised by Save the Children have been reflected in the recommendations to the country under review and that the reporting and review process is a strong advocacy tool for achieving policy changes. For example:

- Child Rights Reporting led to amendment of the **Palestinian** Child Law promoting greater protection of children;
- ...In **Albania**, it led to strengthening of child protection mechanisms and investment in better qualified teachers;
- ...In **Pakistan**, it resulted in the passing of legislation for free and compulsory education;
- ...In **Zambia**, it led to increased budgetary allocations for healthcare; and
- ...In **Nicaragua**, the minimum legal age for marriage was raised to 18 years

Child Rights Reporting also produces data on issues facing groups of children such as the stateless, refugees and others being marginalised or discriminated against because of their gender, disability, religion or ethnicity. The data can be used beyond the reporting process and empowers children to organise and take civic action.

HELPING CHILDREN SPEAK OUT

Child Rights Reporting supports children to speak out on child rights violations and advocate for change. It is innovative in the way it provides children with a platform to engage in governance and accountability mechanisms, and pushes decision-makers to see things from children's perspectives. Through all steps, partnership with children, civil society, INGOs, etc. is considered a priority. It achieves scale through urging governments to implement children's rights in a sustained way.

KEY CONTACTS

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