

The background of the entire page is a photograph of three children standing against a light-colored, textured wall. On the left, a young boy in a dark long-sleeved shirt with a red and white striped chest and grey pants looks off to the side. In the middle, a girl in a striped shirt and red pants looks towards the camera. On the right, a younger girl in a light blue sweater and patterned jeans looks towards the camera. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

About Us

Child Rights Connect is an independent, non-profit organisation founded in Geneva in 1983. We are the largest international network for children's rights, linking children's rights defenders to the United Nations human rights system. Through our 84 member organisations, we reach out to almost every country on the globe.

OUR MISSION

THE REALISATION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM



OUR APPROACH

- ▶ We empower children's rights defenders all around the world to influence the United Nations human rights system through capacity building and technical assistance.
- ▶ We work with the UN human rights system to ensure that their processes, frameworks and outcomes are appropriate, relevant and in line with children's rights.
- ▶ We connect children's rights defenders with other human rights organisations and international actors in order to trigger implementation of UN frameworks and recommendations on the ground.

CHILD RIGHTS CONNECT ENVISIONS A WORLD IN WHICH ALL CHILDREN ENJOY THEIR RIGHTS, AS DEFINED BY THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD



WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE?

- With our **global outreach** we enable children's rights defenders to address the United Nations with a unified voice.
- As **trusted partner of the United Nations** we have unique access and leverage to strengthen the institutional framework for children's rights.
- We take a comprehensive approach to children's rights **and promote their indivisibility**, to ensure that they are taken into account as a whole within evolving international priorities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2015 – 2019

1. National, regional and international NGOs, child rights coalitions, children, child-led organisations and National Human Rights Institutions effectively engage with the Committee on the Rights of the Child
2. Children's Rights are addressed in strategic areas of work in the UN human rights system and other international processes
3. The Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure is used by children, NGOs, child rights coalitions and National Human Rights Institutions to seek redress for child rights violations
4. Children's views influence the work of the Committee and the broader UN human rights system to advance child rights at national, regional and international levels.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- We are the first group of civil society actors to coordinate and speak with one voice in the drafting of international human rights treaties.
- We have made significant contributions to the texts of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols.
- We have facilitated the engagement of children's rights defenders from almost every country in the world with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- We have successfully advocated for the adoption and implementation of the first United Nations working methods on child participation.
- We have led the global campaign for the Optional Protocol 3, the first international complaints procedure for children's rights violations to ensure national accountability.

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Message from the President

Today, more than ever, there is an urgent and growing need to deliver and defend the rights of children. More than 30% of the world's population are children. More than half the population of Africa is under 18-years-old. And with births outnumbering deaths by two to one, these percentages are growing fast.

Children today live in a rapidly changing and interconnected world. Threats such as climate change, religious fundamentalism, violent conflict and mass migration hit the most marginalised and vulnerable groups in society the hardest. Within these marginalised groups, children are particularly vulnerable.

In so many parts of the world today children's rights are all but non-existent. As a result of extreme poverty, social or political unrest, conflict or despotism, children do not even have the right to be safe, let alone the right to thrive and achieve their full potential. Even in seemingly stable rich countries, an increasing number of children are exposed to poverty, exclusion and abuse.

This is why it is so essential that we focus all our energy and attention on strengthening and achieving children's rights around the world.

IF WE CAN IMPROVE THE LIVES OF THE YOUNGEST PEOPLE ON THE PLANET, WE CAN LAY A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most widely ratified of all UN treaties. Over the last decades, it has played a crucial role in addressing and improving the rights of children but there is still a great deal more to be done.

The UN human rights system is the key to ensuring that governments worldwide are held accountable for delivering human rights to their youngest citizens. It is essential that this system is strengthened and that national governments are made to comply with its decisions. An important milestone in 2015 was the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which are the follow-up universal development initiative after the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), the first comprehensive development agenda. The issue with the SDGs is the follow-up and accountability to the children-related SDG and targets.

The challenge that lies ahead is very great but we should not forget that there have been a number of important developments in the field of children's rights in recent years - including a new protocol (OP3 CRC) which allows children to claim and challenge violations of their rights at the international level. This was achieved as a direct result of the global campaign led by Child Rights Connect.

For Child Rights Connect, together with children, children's and human rights defenders, the main challenge now is to make human rights a reality for children.

Delia Pop
President
Child Rights Connect

2015 Developments

FOR CHILD RIGHTS CONNECT, 2015 WAS A YEAR OF NEW BEGINNINGS AND CRITICAL REVIEW

The internal change-process, the first step in the realisation of the 2015-2019 strategic plan, was complemented by an external evaluation, conducted with the support of SIDA (Swedish International Development Agency). We analysed our work and its impact and set the stage for being even more effective to make children's rights a reality.

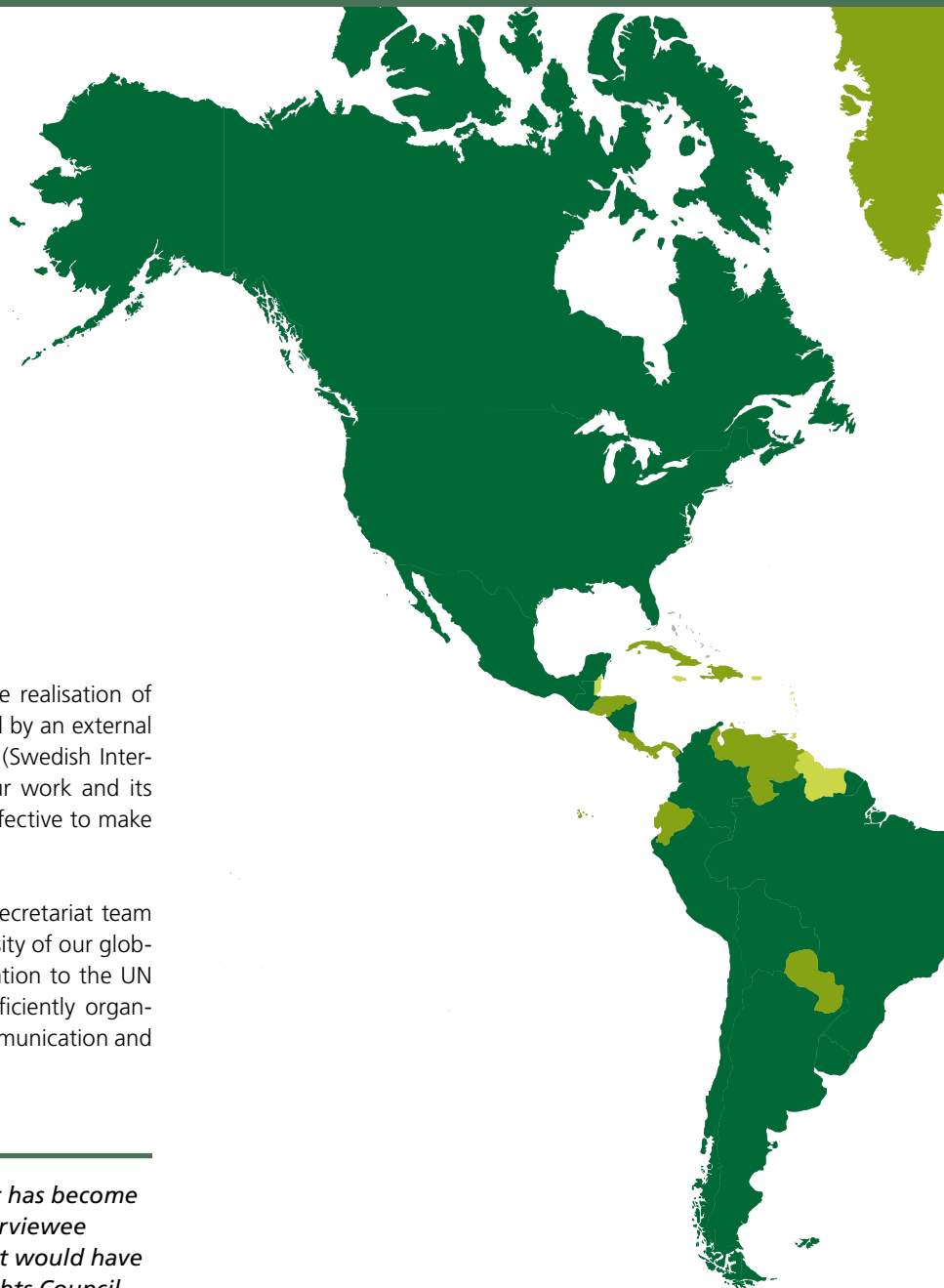
Child Rights Connect is coordinated by a small secretariat team in Geneva. In order to benefit from the rich diversity of our global membership, and the strategic position in relation to the UN human rights mechanisms, it is crucial to be efficiently organised, have a shared vision, a well-functioning communication and strong strategic partnerships.

"From small beginnings Child Rights Connect has become a highly respected organisation – as one interviewee noted 'if Child Rights Connect did not exist, it would have to be invented'. The focus on the Human Rights Council as well as the CRC Committee has the potential to lead to a long-term positive impact on children's rights..."

Evaluation of the work of Child Rights Connect, 2015

In 2015 we re-organised the secretariat, clarified our theory of change and developed a new conceptualisation of our programmes. Our new results-oriented planning helps us to be clearer about strategic priorities and on where to invest our limited human and financial resources.

One of our most important strategic partnerships is with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Together with the Committee's secretariat at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and UNICEF, we coordinate civil society engagement with the Committee. In 2015 we started a strategic process to strengthen our relations with these partners.

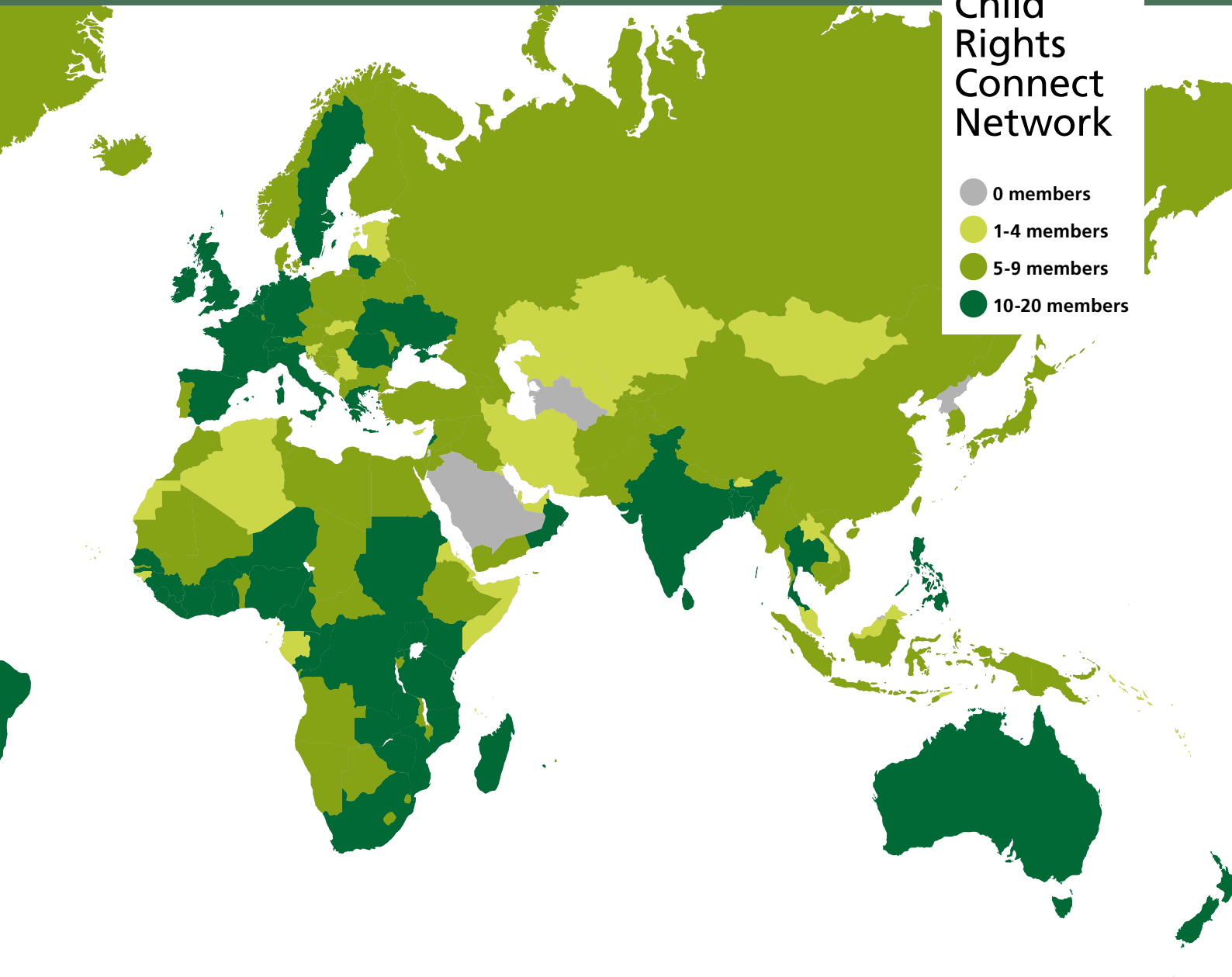


"Child Rights Connect is a very valuable partner of the Committee. They facilitate our interaction with children and with civil society, which helps us to get additional first-hand information from the ground. In 2015, Child Rights Connect and the Committee further strengthened their cooperation, enabling us to use this information for more nuanced and effective dialogues with States. We are indeed looking forward to our future collaboration."

Dr. Benyam Dawit Mezmur
UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Chairman

Child Rights Connect Network

- 0 members
- 1-4 members
- 5-9 members
- 10-20 members



CHILD RIGHTS CONNECT IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST CHILDREN'S RIGHTS NETWORK, CONSISTING OF 84 ORGANISATIONS WORKING IN MORE THAN 180 COUNTRIES.



Our network is unique in its global outreach, diversity of members and broad coverage of themes related to children's rights. Our internal and external review in 2015 identified strengthening the network as one of the key elements to increase the impact of our work. As a first step the secretariat became more closely involved in the work of the working groups, monitoring the meetings, and ensuring exchange of information on developments in other working groups.

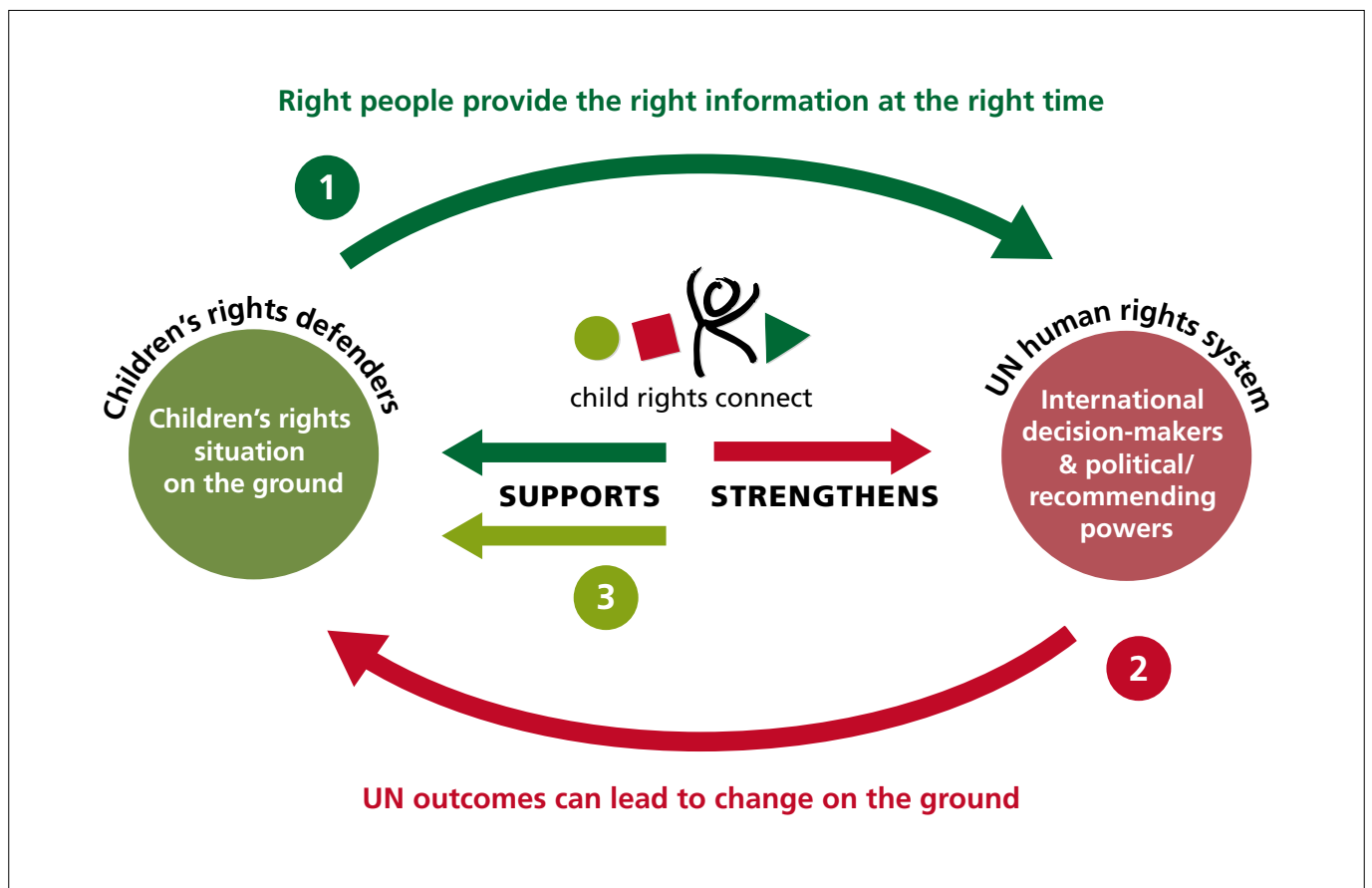
Our Theory of Change

In order to improve children’s rights worldwide, minimum international standards are needed. This is why we advocated for the drafting of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, the core of the international legal framework for children’s rights.

This international legal framework is only useful if there are accountability mechanisms and political pressure to trigger implementation of those standards at national level.

For this to happen, children’s rights defenders (members, national, regional and international NGOs, child rights coalitions, and National Human Rights Institutions and children) need to engage and be listened to, since they are the experts in children’s rights on the ground.

Our interventions focus on strengthening and effectively using the international human rights mechanisms for the realisation of children’s rights. We do this by working directly with children’s rights defenders and the UN, through three programme areas:





1 Empowering children's rights defenders to influence the UN

Children's rights defenders, including children, are in the best position to voice the reality of children in their countries to the international level. Child Rights Connect provides technical assistance and capacity building to children's rights defenders all around the world and enables them to influence the UN human rights system.

2 Working with the UN to make it a better mechanism for change in children's rights practices

For the UN human rights system to have a positive impact on children's rights situation at the national level, periodical thematic recommendations are not enough. Consideration for the human rights of children needs to be part of all its processes, frameworks and outcomes. Child Rights Connect works with the UN to ensure space for children's rights defenders to be heard and to ensure UN outcomes are appropriate, relevant and in line with children's rights.

3 Increasing the impact of the UN on children's rights at national level

National implementation of UN recommendations is the key to improving children's rights situations. Child Rights Connect fosters cooperation and joint action by connecting children's rights defenders with peers, other human rights defenders, international entities and UN agencies with a presence in the country.


Empowering children's rights defenders

Bringing together the right people, with the right information at the right time. Participating in the UN sessions in Geneva is not just about getting children's rights defenders to the table with the UN and States; it's about them being there at the key moments, equipped with the information that can spark change.

In 2014, the Committee adopted working methods on child participation in the Convention on the Rights of the Child reporting cycle, thanks to the work of Child Rights Connect. 2015 was the first full year of child participation with an institutional framework. 79 children from 13 countries talked to the Committee on the rights of the Child and provided first-hand information.


Child participation

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT CHILDREN VOICE THEIR CONCERNS TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM DIRECTLY



I decided to get involved in the reporting to the Committee of the Rights of the Child because for me as president of a children's club at a local level and Member of the Board of the Senegal National Coalition of Children's Rights Organisations, it is essential to voice the concerns of the children I represent.

Moussa Sall
Child participant, Senegal



What then is more natural than bringing children into the Committee's own work?

"Thanks to the working methods on child participation our exchanges with children are facilitated in a better way and have become even more meaningful. This has led to more children coming to Geneva.

Additionally, through videoconferencing the Committee has been able to talk to children, who would otherwise not be in a position to engage directly with the Committee."

Kirsten Sandberg
UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, member and former Chairwoman



Best Practice and Exchange Forums for children's rights defenders



Committee on the Rights of the Child

2015 was a busy year for the Committee on the Rights of the Child, holding its sessions in double chambers, in order to reduce the backlog of reports. This has made the process more dynamic, as it gives children's rights defenders less time to prepare alternative reports and increases the number of representatives coming to Geneva. In order to manage the increased amount of coordination work, Child Rights Connect introduced a country focal point system, through which we provide technical assistance on how to engage with the Committee and other UN human rights mechanisms.

Country focal point system

The pre-session is the key moment for children's rights defenders to influence the outcomes of the Committee's reporting cycle. With the new country focal point system, introduced by Child Rights Connect, children's rights defenders maximise the impact of their participation. This approach fosters coordination between children's rights defenders before, during and after the pre-session. Participants know each other and each other's topics in advance, they maximise the use of the limited time and raise their key messages, while responding to the Committee's questions. This system is now the standard process implemented by OHCHR to organise country pre-sessions. The country focal points are nominated by the pre-session participants to act as liaison with OHCHR and the Committee.

Peer-to-peer exchange

Child Rights Connect organised Best Practice Exchange Forums for the children's rights defenders, including children, participating in the February and June pre-sessions. The forums provided a space for mutual learning on the CRC reporting cycle and other UN mechanisms, such as the Universal Periodic Review. The children had the opportunity to reflect on their involvement in the reporting cycle and share their views with the adults and their peers. There was great interest in exchanging about how to follow-up the CRC sessions and how to continue advocacy through the UN.

Capacity building

In 2015 Child Rights Connect established a strategic partnership with the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC). We conducted the first training for National Human Rights Institutions to strengthen their knowledge of the Committee's reporting cycle and their capacity to engage.

We also conducted the first training for the members of the European Network on Statelessness.

"Child Rights Connect facilitated a dynamic and high quality workshop on how to advocate for issues related to childhood statelessness at the UN level. It was highly useful for our members and partners to understand the links between their issues and children's rights."

Chris Nash
European Network on Statelessness, Director

2015 in numbers

79 CHILDREN PARTICIPANTS

375 PARTICIPANTS 50 COUNTRIES
COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

8 NEW STATES RATIFIED OP3 CRC

Timeline

2015

January

February

March

April

May

Committee on the Rights of the Child works in **double chambers** and reviews twice as many states as usual

Best practice and exchange forum for children's rights defenders, including children

Largest consultation of children on theme of investment in children showcased and put to life **at the Human Rights Council**

Investment in children as theme of annual day and resolution on the rights of the child at the Human Rights Council, and as theme for General Comment on public spending of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

First training for **National Human Rights Institutions**

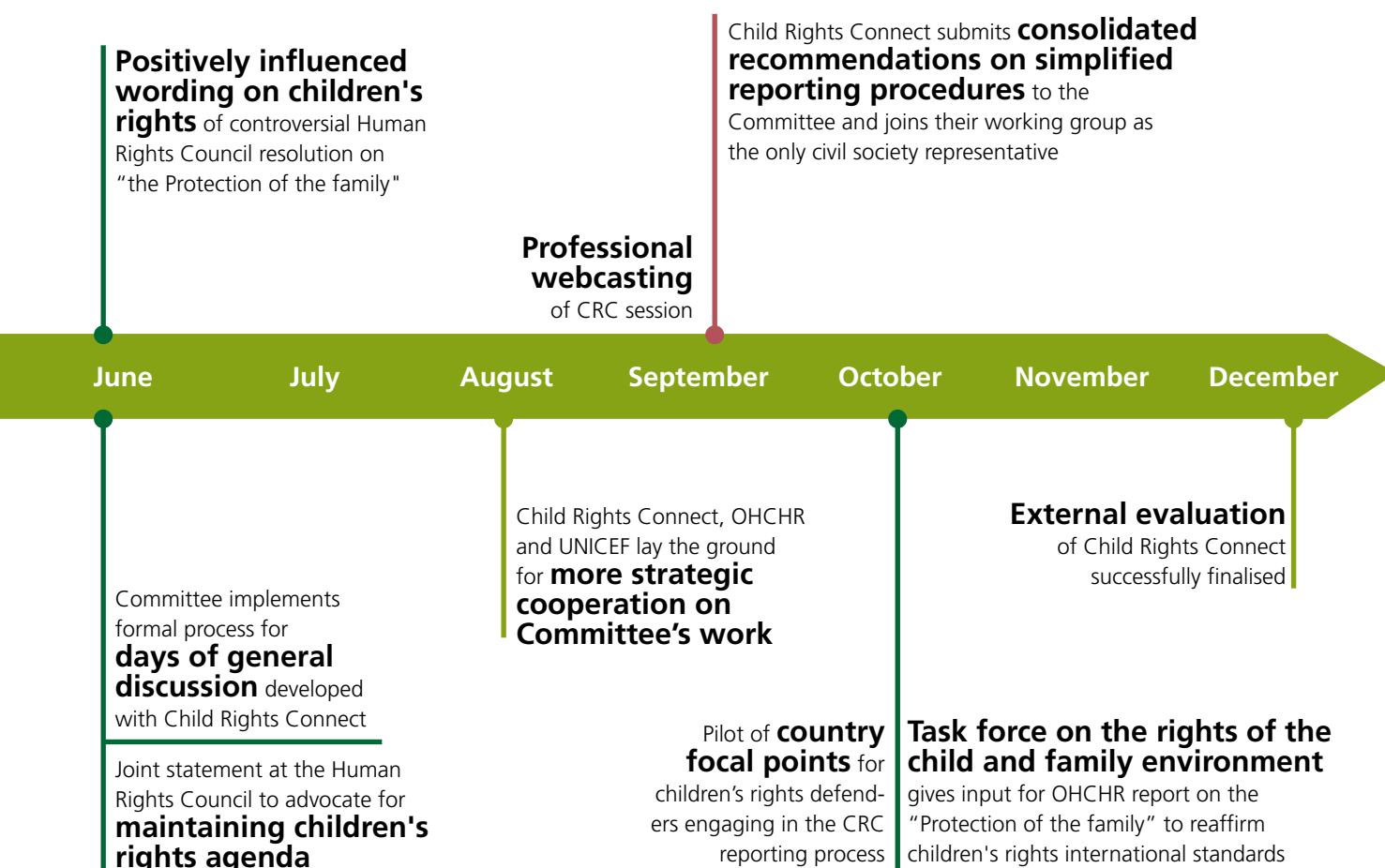
280
REPORTS SUBMITTED



16
UNIVERSAL
PERIODIC
REVIEW (UPR)
BRIEFS

40 UPR RECOMMENDATIONS
ACCEPTED BY STATES

41,000
ONLINE PARTICIPANTS
IN THE CRC WEBCASTS



Working with the UN

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

Working with the UN human rights system means: raising awareness; contributing to the debate; changing opinions and policy; implementing; and damage control.

United Nations Human Rights Council: Preserving the rights of the child as individuals in family environments

Child Rights Connect was instrumental in improving the Human Rights Council's resolution on "the protection of the family", negotiated and adopted during the 29th session, in June 2015. This resolution is highly controversial, putting a strong focus on the family as a unit rather than on the rights of individual members of the family. It fails to acknowledge the states' legal obligation to respect and protect the rights of children, including by intervening in families where needed and in accordance with the best interests of the child. And it fails to recognise the different forms that the family can take.

"Under the coordination of Child Rights Connect, Defence for Children International together with other members ensured that children's rights were affirmed in the Human Rights Council resolution on the protection of the family."

Anna D. Tomasi
Defence for Children International, Advocacy Officer

To counter these threats to children's rights, Child Rights Connect mobilised its members to advocate in Geneva or towards their government to align the resolution with international human rights standards, and oppose its adoption. Child Rights Connect coordinated a broad range of human rights NGOs to speak with one voice, in order to improve the resolution and bring it in line with human rights standards.

Despite an improved text, the resolution remains problematic. After its adoption, Child Rights Connect created a task force of few members to efficiently respond to future threatening initiatives.

The annual day on the rights of the child, a unique international platform for children's rights

The efforts of the Human Rights Council to improve its effectiveness and efficiency threatened the space of children's rights. In order to retain children's rights on the agenda of the Human Rights Council and promote further mainstreaming, Child Rights Connect, with 19 of its members and partners advocated for maintaining a full annual day and annual resolution for the rights of the child. In our position paper to preserve the children's rights agenda at the Human Rights Council, we also recalled the importance of engagement of civil society actors, including children, in the Council's work.



Committee on the Rights of the Child

In 2015 Child Rights Connect initiated a strategic process to strengthen the coordination between our main partners in the work with the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In a retreat with OHCHR and UNICEF we clarified the areas of work to be strengthened. The retreat resulted in the commitment of all partners to continuing this strategic exchange in the future. In addition to that, a regular working meeting with the Chair of the Committee has been introduced.

Following its decision to offer to some States an optional reporting procedure (the List of Issues Prior to Reporting or Simplified Reporting procedure), the Committee established a working group with UNICEF and Child Rights Connect to come up with an implementation plan. We are the only civil society organisation to be able to directly influence the new reporting cycle. In continued consultation with our members and partners we work to ensure a space for children's rights defenders to voice their concerns in the new reporting cycle.

Starting discussions on the Sustainable Development Goals in Geneva

As the Sustainable Development Goals were just adopted in New York, Child Rights Connect with some of its members started discussions on how international human rights mechanisms could be used in following-up and ensuring accountability to the children-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets.

Increasing the impact on national level

The Third Optional Protocol (OP3):

Following years of advocacy by Child Rights Connect and the International Coalition on the OP3 CRC on a communications procedure, eight new States ratified OP3 CRC in 2015. This allows more children to be able to bring a complaint to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva, if they have not found a solution for a violation of their rights at national level. The States that have ratified OP3 CRC in 2015 are Argentina, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, Mongolia, Uruguay, bringing to 24 the number of States party to this new treaty.

Opening the doors of the Committee's sessions to the world

The live webcast of the Committee's sessions put in place by Child Rights Connect since 2012, has had major impact at national level. In 2015 more than 41,000 children's rights defenders followed the CRC sessions remotely and sent comments on the dialogue to the Committee through Child Rights Connect. In 2015 Child Rights Connect professionalised the webcast, in order to ensure better access and quality.

As a result of our advocacy, the OHCHR will webcast the sessions of all Treaty Bodies starting in May 2016.



National Follow-Up

"Our participation in the review of Mauritius by the Children's Rights Committee had a positive effect on the follow-up. NGOs and the state cooperated in concrete actions. As a collective we have more weight, we are united for the same cause, and this is in the best interest of children in Mauritius."

Kolektif Drwa Zanfan Morisien (KDZM), Mauritius Coalition

"Children who participated in the review by the Committee in 2014, took an active part in the national follow-up process, known as the 2015 Social Audit Project. They participated in discussions on public accountability and in dialogue with local authorities in their regions."

Colombian coalition

Working Groups

Child Rights Connect members can form working groups, in order to act jointly on specific issues related to children's rights. In 2015 34 member organisations were cooperating in six working groups and one sub-group.

Investment in Children

Bringing the issue of investment in children simultaneously into the work of the UN HRC and the CRC

In 2015, thanks to the coordination and advocacy of the working group:

The Human Rights Council adopted the first UN resolution 'Towards better investment in the rights of the child' by consensus, reflecting key messages by the working group.

The 2015 HRC annual day focused on the theme 'Towards better investment in the rights of the child' and was the first global discussion on this topic with over 30 supportive statements made thanks to outreach by members of the working group.

The views and recommendations of almost 2,700 children from 71 countries collected in a video and report influenced the HRC annual day of discussion and the drafting of the UN CRC General Comment on Public Spending to Realise the Rights of the Child.

Children of Incarcerated Parents

Promoting the rights and welfare of children of incarcerated parents in the UN and international processes

In 2015, the working group presented and promoted to a wide audience the African Committee of Experts' General Comment #1 on "Children of incarcerated and imprisoned parents and primary caregivers" during a side-event organised at the 28th session of the HRC. The working group continued to provide the UN human rights mechanisms information on children of incarcerated parents and children of parents sentenced to death or executed. The success of this work can be seen in frequent references to the issue in treaty body observations, especially the CRC, and the reports of Special Procedures. In 2015 the UN Crime Congress in Qatar brought the rights of children of incarcerated parents to the attention of delegates and included a recommendation in one of their reports.



First discussion on investment in children at the Human Rights Council



Side-event on investment in children and families to prevent unnecessary separation

Universal Birth Registration

Promoting universal birth registration as part of civil registration and vital statistics in the UN Agenda.

In 2015 the working group achieved two milestones as a result of their work in the past years: based on text suggested by its members, reference to the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS), human rights and free birth registration was included in the HRC Resolution. Secondly birth registration has become part of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015.

Mainstreaming Children's Rights

The working group on mainstreaming works to ensure that the UN considers and acts on children's rights seriously and systematically across all its bodies and activities. In 2015 the working group started its coordination and strategic planning to mainstream children's rights at the UN and met with several representatives of states to discuss these issues.

Children Without Parental Care

Promoting the dissemination and implementation of Guidelines on Alternative Care of Children on a global, regional and local level.

The working group organised a side-event at the Human Rights Council in September, focusing on "investing in children and their families to prevent unnecessary separation" to emphasise the importance of this issue. The working group brought aboard the Committee on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF, Permanent Missions and civil society organisations, making it a truly inter-agency initiative. More than 40 participants from different missions attended the event, and the working group was able to identify friendly missions from all regions.

"Investment into children and families to prevent unnecessary separation is not only the right thing to do, but also the smart thing to do."

Dr. Benyam Dawit Mezmur, during the side-event
Committee on the Rights of the Child, Chairman

In 2015 the working group piloted their tool that allows national coalitions to track progress in the operationalisation of the Guidelines for the alternative care of children. A paper tracking tool was created and tested in Paraguay and Rwanda, which will be used to inform an online version of the tool.

Children and Violence

Prompting violence prevention strategies and protecting children who are vulnerable – Global focal point to advance the recommendations of the UN study on violence and children.

The working group, together with other civil society organisations, advocates for the implementation of the recommendations towards key players in Geneva, such as the UN, Missions and regional institutions. In 2015, the working group focused its ongoing advocacy to end violence against children on the inclusion and monitoring of SDGs targets related to violence against children. The working group also promoted the Campaign “Act Now – End Violence Against Children” by disseminating information through their video at HRC side events and through social media.

Children and Armed Conflicts


























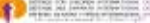










Advocating on children and armed conflict, sub-group of the working group on children and violence.



Ms Leila Zerrougi, SRSRG on Children and Armed Conflict, participating in a side-event on ‘strengthening protection of education during Armed Conflict’.

This is an advocacy group and a facilitator for information exchange among members and with partners engaged in human rights, humanitarian affairs and development. The group has established an ongoing connection with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict (O/SRSG on CAAC). In 2015, the group advocated for measures to ensure safe access to quality education in conflict-affected contexts within the UN Human Rights mechanisms and with other relevant actors. They organised two side events on safe schools at the HRC, together with the O/SRSG CAAC and several UN missions. This work on safe schools has resulted in open support for the Safe Schools Declaration endorsement process from the O/SRSG CAAC.

Child Rights Connect Members

	Action for Children and Youth Aotearoa (ACYA), New Zealand		Child Rights Network Switzerland (Netzwerk Kinderrechte Schweiz), Switzerland		End Child Prostitution Child Pornography and Trafficking (ECPAT International), Thailand
	African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), Ethiopia		Children's Rights Alliance, Ireland		Eurochild, Belgium
	Alliance for Children (Mauritius), Mauritius		Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE), United Kingdom		European Association for Children in Hospital (EACH), Switzerland
	Anti-Slavery International, United Kingdom		Child Soldiers International, United Kingdom		Every Child, United Kingdom
	APPROACH Ltd. - Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, United Kingdom		Child Fund International, USA		Fédération Internationale des Communautés Educatives (FICE International), Austria
	Arigatou International, Switzerland		Coalition Against Trafficking in Women International (CATW), Belgium		Franciscans International, Switzerland
	Associated Country Women of the World, United Kingdom		COGRADE, Conseil Français des Associations pour les Droits de l'Enfant, France		Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), Switzerland
	Association for Childhood Education International, USA		Consortium for Street Children, United Kingdom		Fundación Privada Intervida, Spain
	Association of Networks for Community Empowerment (ANCE), Pakistan		Defence for Children International (DCI), Costa Rica		Hope and Homes for Children, United Kingdom
	Baha'i International Community, USA		Defence for Children International (DCI), Switzerland		Human Rights Watch, USA
	Casa Alianza Suisse, Switzerland		Edmund Rice International, Switzerland		INGO "Ponimanie", Belarus
	Child Helpline International, The Netherlands		Egyptian Foundation for Advancement of Childhood Conditions (EFACC), Egypt		Inter African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women, Ethiopia
	Child Rights International Network (CRIN), United Kingdom		Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, USA		International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW), Switzerland

	International Alliance of Women, France		Make Mothers Matter / Le Mouvement Mondial des Mères (MMM), France		SOS Children's Villages International, Switzerland/Austria
	International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates ((IAYFJM/AIMJF), Switzerland		Marist International Solidarity Foundation (FMSI), Switzerland		Tanzania Child Rights Forum, Tanzania
	International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN / GIFA), Switzerland		Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, USA		Terre des Hommes International Federation, Switzerland
	International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE), Switzerland		National Aboriginal Islander Child Care (SNAICC), Australia		Together Scotland, United Kingdom
	International Council of Women, France		Our Children "Opatija", Croatia		TRACK (Truth and Reconciliation for the Adoption Community of Korea), Korea
	International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), Switzerland		Plan International, United Kingdom		WAO – Afrique, Togo
	International Foster Care Organisation (IFCO), Ireland		Plataforma de Organizaciones de Infancia, Spain		War Child Holland, The Netherlands
	International Inner Wheel, United Kingdom		Proyecto Solidario, Spain		Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF)/Children-Youth Section, Switzerland
	International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD), Canada		Red Latinoamericana de Acogimiento (RELAF), Argentina		World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA), Malaysia
	International Juvenile Justice Observatory, Belgium		Red Latinoamericana y Caribeña por la defensa de los derechos de los niños, niñas y adolescentes (REDLAMCYC), Uruguay		World Alliance of YMCAs, Switzerland
	International Movement „ATD Fourth World“, France		Relais Enfants Parents Romands – REPR, Switzerland		World Association Of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), United Kingdom
	International Play Association: Promoting the Child's Right to Play, United Kingdom		Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (RAPCAN), South Africa		World Organisation Against Torture / SOS Torture, Switzerland
	International School Psychology Association (ISPA), USA		ROC (The "Right of the Child" NGO), Russia		World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations, France
	International Social Service, Switzerland		Roshni Homes Trust, Pakistan		World Vision International, USA
	Internet Watch Foundation, UK		Save the Children International, Switzerland		Young Men's Christian Association of Costa Rica/Asociación Cristiana de Jóvenes, Costa Rica

Executive Committee



Delia Pop,
Hope and Homes for Children –
President



Eylah Kadjar,
Terre des Hommes –
Vice President



Stefanie Conrad,
Plan International –
Secretary



Ileana Bello, Defence for
Children International –
Treasurer



Conchi Ballesteros,
Plataforma de Organizaciones
de Infancia



Jorge Freyre,
Save the Children
International



Elinor Milne, Global Initiative
to End all Corporal Punishment
of Children and Consortium
for Street Children



Sabine Saliba Boutruche,
Child Rights International
Network (CRIN)



Ulrika Soneson Cilliers,
Save the Children
International



Annabel Trapp,
War Child
Holland

Staff



- Beatrice Schulter** – Director
- Muriel Dreifuss Bisson** – Administrative Officer
- Laura Collier** – Communications Officer
- Anita Goh** – Policy and Programme Manager
- Ilaria Paolazzi** – Child Rights Officer
- Laure Elmaleh** – Junior Advocacy Officer
- Sanja Milis** – Management Assistant

not in the picture

- Lisa Myers** – Director (until March 2015)
- David McAdam** – Communications Officer
(since December 2015)

Interns and short-term staff

Aditi Arora, Brice Arnaud Bambara, Marta Pazos Belart, Camille Burki, Francesco Cecon, Nora Dorado, Ivan Jordanov, Emma Martin, Fleur Pialoux, Ulrike Richter, Katariina Viiri, Cléo Wright

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Sabine Cazenave, Anastasia Ceron, Jennifer Lynn Conway, Elodie Flachaire, Anne-Muriel Kouadio, Veronica Krähenbühl, René Lejeune, Marie-Françoise Lückner-Babel, Pamela Lupton-Bowers, Granada Maryury, Claudinei Nunes, Carolina Pardal, Mary Robinson, Maria Sanz, Helen Schulter, Arbnora Uka, Pamela Valdes

2015 Auditor's report

**ALBER
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ASSOCIÉS

Report of the Auditor to the General Meeting

In accordance with the mandate received, we have audited the accounting and financial statements (balance sheet, profit and loss account for the year, statement of changes in equity and notes) of the **CHILD RIGHTS CONNECT, Geneva**, for the year ending December 31st, 2015.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Executive Committee. Our responsibility is to perform a limited examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swiss law.

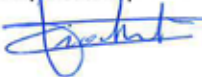
We conducted our examination in accordance with the Swiss standard on the limited statutory examination. This standard requires that we plan and perform a limited statutory examination to identify material misstatements in the financial statements. A limited statutory examination consists primarily of inquiries of foundation personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of foundation documents as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of operational processes and the internal control system, as well as inquiries and further testing procedures to detect fraud or other legal violations, are not within the scope of the examination.

Based on our limited statutory examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements:

- do not give a true and fair view of the assets, financial position and results in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER 21 "Accounting standards for Social Non-Profit Organisations",
- do not comply with the statutes and the Swiss law.

Geneva, February 11th, 2016

ALBER & ROLLE
Experts-comptables Associés SA



Frédéric Crochet
Licensed Audit Expert
Auditor in charge



Jean-Charles Vitali
Licensed Audit

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Membre de la CHAMBRE  FIDUCIAIRE Expert-éviseur agréé

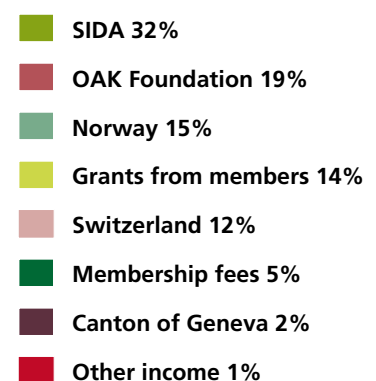
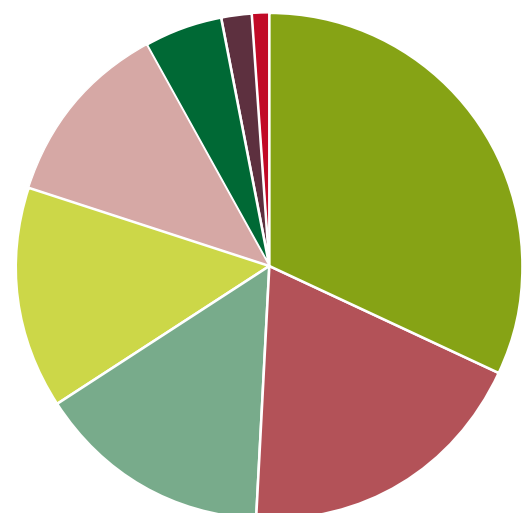
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2015

ASSETS	2015 CHF	2014 CHF
Liquidities	436'010.57	70'800.68
Prepaid	886.15	93'702.71
Current assets	436'896.72	164'503.39
Cash deposit Visa Card	5'000.35	0.00
Financial assets	5'000.35	0.00
Total assets	441'897.07	164'503.39
LIABILITIES		
Project balance carried forward	232'979.00	969.33
Payables	10'717.47	584.10
Accruals	10'495.20	13'379.50
Current liabilities	254'191.67	14'932.93
Non-current liabilities	0.00	0.00
Free capital	149'570.46	214'986.13
Restricted capital	37'130.00	0.00
Profit / (loss) of the year	1'005.64	(65'415.67)
Capital of the organization	187'706.10	149'570.46
Total liabilities	441'897.07	164'503.39

Profit and Loss Account for the Year ended 31 December 2015

INCOME	2015 CHF	2014 CHF
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Switzerland	98'000.00	100'000.00
Canton of Geneva	15'251.00	0.00
OAK Foundation	150'000.00	79'550.56
Save the Children, Denmark	20'201.06	24'092.66
Save the Children, Sweden	33'865.35	25'594.00
SIDA	251'651.05	229'775.00
Plan International	15'000.00	112'000.00
Plan Sweden	33'264.90	3'468.00
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway	117'357.12	72'712.63
SOS Children's Villages Int.	10'900.00	11'943.94
World Vision International	0.00	5'000.00
Membership fees	37'131.89	35'143.21
Other income	6'832.30	5'110.31
Funds for Committee 25 anniv. Event & DGD	0.00	46'240.27
Total income	789'454.67	750'630.58

Income



EXPENSES	2015 CHF	2014 CHF
Salaries	450'547.40	443'150.85
Social charges for employees	91'647.90	97'692.20
Interns	14'450.40	14'878.70
NGO participants in CRC pre-sessions	30'110.83	68'654.55
NGO participants in CRC sessions	19'399.25	25'966.50
Travel for trainings and meetings on the CRC, HRC and UPR	1'167.25	7'650.67
Travel for OP3 CRC ratification campaign	816.12	3'353.41
Best practise and exchange Forums	2'366.95	9'768.40
Events on the 25th anniversary of the CRC	0.00	28'515.08
Day of General Discussion on digital media and children's rights	526.80	19'297.89
Tools and research on the CRC and UPR	1'342.30	1'600.00
Tools and publications on OP3 CRC	0.00	12'632.07
OP3 CRC Coalition	995.70	1'502.95
Engagement with the Committee on the Rights of the Child	1'090.15	2'733.00
ExCo, General Assembly and Working Groups' activities	3'617.65	6'932.75
Rebranding process	0.00	3'879.78
Annual report	1'755.00	2'065.00
Rent	37'875.00	36'260.00
Equipment and furniture	2'839.65	475.50
Telecommunications, office supplies and postage	9'611.28	3'671.31
Maintenance of website and IT system	8'986.89	1'912.30
Accountancy services	13'709.90	9'887.90
Staff development	844.55	1455.90
Auditor	5'671.00	4'970.00
External evaluation	47'893.86	0.00
Miscellaneous	3'073.60	3'253.48
Total expenses	750'339.43	812'160.19
Operating Result	39'115.24	-61'529.61
Bank fees	894.00	545.37
Exchange differences	85.60	3'340.69
Financial Result	-979.60	-3'886.06
Annual Result before allocation to the capital of the organisation	38'135.64	-65'415.67
Attribution restricted capital	37'130.00	0.00
PROFIT / (LOSS) of the year	1'005.64	-65'415.67



Our Donors

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our donors and partners. Your contributions and support for the work of Child Rights Connect enables children's rights defenders around the globe to engage with each other and the UN human rights system, and to achieve important steps towards a universal realisation of children's rights.



Canton of Geneva



Sida (Swedish International Development Agency)



Save the Children Sweden



Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Plan International
Plan International Sweden



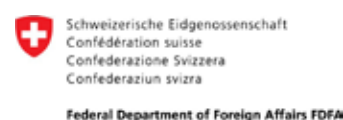
SOS Children's Villages International



Oak Foundation



Save the Children Denmark



Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs



Donations

Child Rights Connect is committed to further strengthen its global network to increase the impact of the UN human rights system on the situation of children’s rights on the ground.

For this work, we need to expand our support base, developing new partnerships with foundations, governments, philanthropists and individuals who share our vision of a world, in which all children fully enjoy their rights.

**WITH YOUR SUPPORT
CHILD RIGHTS CONNECT CAN
CONTINUE TO BUILD AN
INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK
FOR ALL CHILDREN’S RIGHTS
PROJECTS TO HAVE A LASTING
IMPACT**

Please make your donation to:

Child Rights Connect
UBS SA Vermont – Nations
17 Chemin Louis Dunant
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Bank accounts:

Swiss Francs and other currencies:
Account No. 279-230010.01M
IBAN: CH55 0027 9279 2300 1001 M

Euros:
Account No. 279-230010.62H
IBAN: CH02 0027 9279 2300 1062 H

US Dollars:
Account No. 279-230010.60L
IBAN: CH02 0027 9279 2300 1060 L

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What's on in 2016?

-  Child Rights Connect is conducting a participatory process to strengthen the network and make the potential of our global and diverse membership bloom.
-  Child Rights Connect is strengthening its capacity building on the UN human rights system to members and partners worldwide.
-  Child Rights Connect is further strengthening synergies among children's rights defenders for joint advocacy at the UN.

Child Rights Connect

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