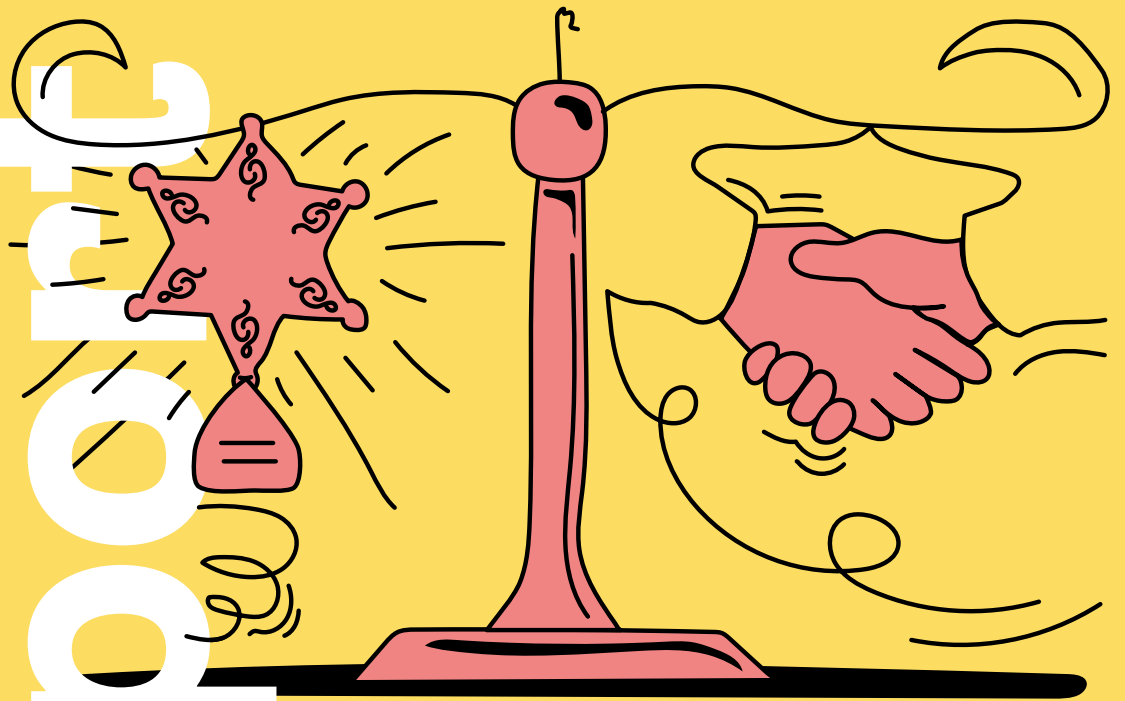




2024

Annual Report 2024

Annual



June 2025

With support from



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

Terre des Hommes
International Federation

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Kindernothilfe is a German children's rights organisation that supports vulnerable and marginalized children and youth to develop their full potential. We partner with local non-governmental organisations in 33 countries and empower children to lead independent, self-fulfilled lives.

Terre des hommes International Federation is a network of ten national organisations committed to realizing children's rights and to promote equitable development without racial, religious, political, cultural or gender-based discrimination.

Citation

Dialogue Works (2025). Annual Report 2024. Published by: Kindernothilfe and Terre des Hommes International Federation, Germany.

Concept & Design

mañana Designstudio, Düsseldorf
www.maniana.design

Illustrations

George Popov, Düsseldorf

Photos

All photos provided by Dialogue Works partner organisations or Kindernothilfe

Supported by the

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

This publication is part of the global campaign "Dialogue Works". The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the financing bodies.

1st edition, June 2025
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1. Introduction and Background Information



CAC members from Peru are demonstrating to demand better working conditions for working children and youth (Ifejant/ Peru)

The purpose of the Dialogue Works Campaign was to create meaningful spaces for the active participation of working children and youth in policy debates that directly affect their lives and futures. Dialogue Works (2020 – 2024) is a joint campaign led by Kindernothilfe and Terre des Hommes and co-financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

This final annual report provides an overview of the main activities implemented under the Dialogue Works Campaign throughout 2024. It highlights the progress made at every level, from the impactful actions carried out by our partner organisations at local to national level and the significant advocacy initiatives taken on the international stage. Alongside these achievements, we also reflect on the lessons learned and challenges faced in empowering children and youth to actively contribute to policy discussions on their rights as well as the activities organised by the Steering Committee.

The Dialogue Works network spreads across four regions: Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. It supports more than 40 Children's Advisory Committees (CACs) of working children in 15 countries, supported by 19 NGO partners:

Africa

FC - Facilitator for Change (Ethiopia)



AfCiC - Action for Children in Conflict (Kenya)



WCY - Welfare for Children and Youth (Kenya)



CVT - Children's Voice Today (Rwanda)



TAWLAE - Tanzania Women Leaders in Agriculture and Environment (Tanzania)



JCM - Jesus Cares Ministries (Zambia)



CACLAZ - Coalition Against Child Labour in Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe)



Asia

CSID - Centre for Services and Information on Disability (Bangladesh)



NIWCYD - National Institute of Women, Child and Youth Development (India)



VIGYAN - Vigyan Foundation (India)



PKPA - Pusat Kajian dan Perlingdungan Anak (Indonesia)



CWISH - Children Women in Social Service and Human Rights (Nepal)



Kaugmaon (the Philippines)



CAJDEN - Christian Advocates for Justice and Development - Negros (the Philippines)



Latin America

PASOCAP - Pastoral Social Caritas Potosí (Bolivia)



CEIPA - Centro Ecueménico de Integración Pastoral (Guatemala)



CESIP - Centro de Estudios Sociales e Publicaciones (Peru)



Ifejant - Instituto de Formación para Educadores de Jóvenes, Adolescentes y Niños, Niñas Trabajadores de América Latina y el Caribe (Peru)



Middle East

NABAA - Development action without border (Lebanon)



Since 2021, each of these partner organisations has supported the formation of between one and four Children's Advisory Committees (CACs). These CACs have continued to meet regularly - from weekly to bimonthly - and have organised at least one advocacy dialogue per year with key stakeholders identified by the CAC members themselves.

The CAC members, who are children and young people aged 8 to 18 years¹, come from a variety of backgrounds and contexts across different countries. They include girls and boys from both urban and rural areas, many of whom are in school, while others are engaged in non-formal education or have dropped out. The members represent a diverse mix of refugee, displaced, and migrant children, as well as children from host communities, children with disabilities, indigenous children, and those from various ethnic backgrounds.

These CAC members are involved in a wide range of work, with the majority working in the informal sector. Many of the CAC members assist their families with household tasks, work in agriculture, sell goods as small-scale vendors, or care for animals or younger siblings. Other jobs include producing and selling handicrafts, small-scale production, collecting wood or water, fishing, tailoring, working in hospitality, construction, or carpentry. Most of these children engage in part-time or occasional work, often fitting their responsibilities around school schedules, weekends, or seasonal agricultural work.

We are very grateful to work with such strong and dedicated partner organisations, CAC Coordinators, and the children and young people who form the heart of the CACs. Without their unwavering commitment and active participation, neither this campaign nor the broader network for child participation would have been possible. Their dedication to advancing and fulfilling children's rights has been instrumental in driving the Dialogue Works campaign forward. ●

¹ Some CAC members were under 18 when they joined the CAC, but have now become 18 and support the CAC Coordinators in facilitating the CAC meetings.

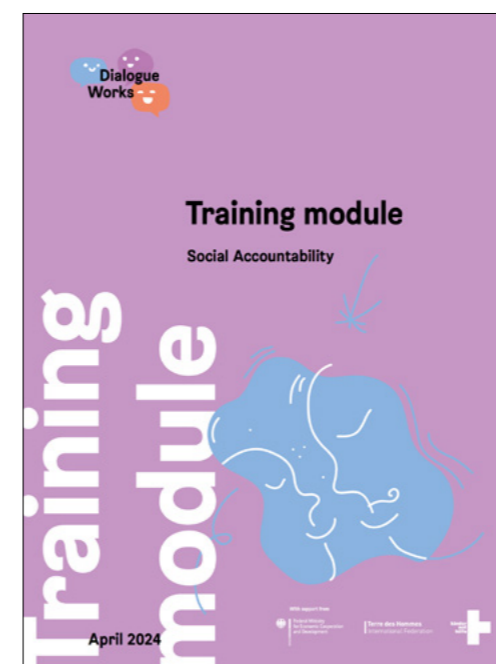
2. Key internal activities implemented at global level

In this section main activities implemented as part of the Dialogue Works campaign in 2024 at global level are described.

2.1. The development of guidance and training module for NGO partners and CACs

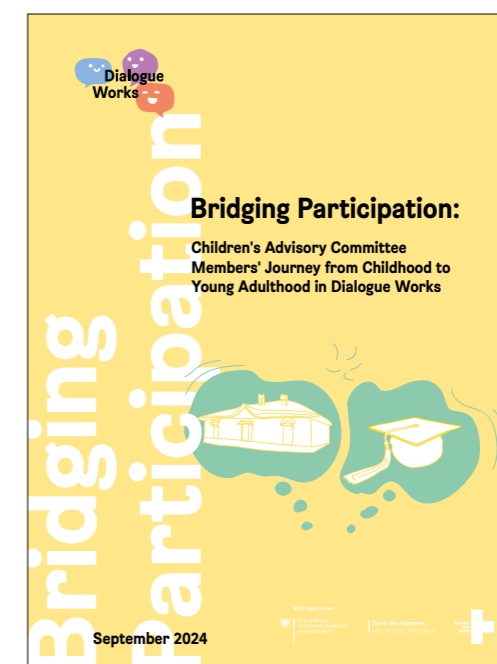
The Steering Committee and two lead consultants on child participation, Claire O'Kane and Ornella Barros, gave guidance on the proposed flow of CAC meetings, providing an outline of the purpose of each CAC meeting and proposed activities drawing upon existing guidance and tools from the Time to Talk! Toolkit I and Toolkit II and different training modules.

A new module on “Social Accountability”, developed by Ornella Barros and Claire O'Kane has been published in April 2024. This training module introduces and encourages practical application of general concepts and approaches to social accountability, and it introduces some tailor-made Dialogue Works user-friendly templates to support such efforts.



2.2. Publication of Booklet on “Bridging Participation”

In September 2024, a booklet called “Bridging Participation” has been published. It documents participation approaches to age transition, outlining roles, responsibilities, and the support provided to CAC members upon reaching the age of 18. Drawing from the participation experiences of nine implementing partners across India, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Rwanda, The Philippines, and Zambia, it sheds light on the pivotal transition of CAC members into young adulthood and the supportive frameworks guiding their journey. It also includes reflection and learning on effective ways to engage and actively involve younger members to enhance the sustainability of children's action and advocacy initiatives. It is our hope that the experiences and insights presented in this booklet will provide guidance and inspiration for organisations supporting meaningful participation of children as they grow into young adulthood.



2.3. Regional CAC Meetings

During the Global Gathering 2023 in Rwanda, as an initiative from several Dialogue Works partner organisations, the idea was born to organise a first regional exchange of CACs to explore opportunities for intensified collaboration at this level that consist of representatives of the local CACs from the NGO partners. Three initial regional meetings have been realised in Latin-America, Africa as well as Asia in 2024 accompanied by first exchanges via Zoom. These meetings were organised to foster collaboration; they served as an initial platform for children and youth across these regions to exchange their realities, share experiences, and brainstorm new advocacy strategies.

Asia

The Asian CAC Regional Meeting was held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 8 to 11 July 2024. The meeting brought together a diverse group of CAC members from the Philippines, Bangladesh, India and Nepal to connect, play and learn from each other. One of the highlights of the event was a traditional Nepali dance performance to welcome the participants. The participants also took part in a role play on child protection, an interactive way of addressing crucial issues.

In the follow-up of the Global Gathering, each CAC met and discussed to prioritise one key demand from the Kigali Declaration, in order to unpack what the demand means in their particular socio-political cultural context. With these results, the CACs developed and took forward very concrete demands for their prioritised topic with specific target audiences and the support of key allies.

This event led to the development of the Kathmandu Declaration, which outlines key areas for regional collaboration. Participants also gained leadership skills through various group activities, boosting their confidence. Creativity was encouraged through arts, crafts, storytelling, and performances, allowing children to express themselves and showcase their talents. Additionally, the gathering strengthened networks among children from different regions, encouraging continued collaboration and raising awareness of children's rights.



CAC members at the Asian Regional CAC Meeting 2024 in Kathmandu

Latin America

From February 29th to March 4th, 2024, the Latin American Regional CAC Meeting was held in Lima, Peru, with 16 child delegates from Bolivia, Peru and Guatemala. This event was the result of months of preparation, with CAC members meeting virtually to develop the programme and agenda.

The meeting began with an introduction to the Dialogue Works campaign, where CAC members presented their initiatives from each community. This was followed by an analysis of the realities of children's rights in each country, focusing on key issues such as education, health, and child labour. The participants worked together to identify progress and challenges in these areas, creating a platform for sharing strategies and solutions.

One of the key activities was a media and advocacy workshop where a child rights journalist provided insights into effective communication strategies. CAC members engaged in role-playing exercises and created a video to practise delivering impactful messages.

The meeting also included discussions on future collaboration, where CAC members brainstormed and planned joint activities for 2024. The focus was on mental health, which was selected as the main advocacy issue for the coming year.

On the final day, the group had a productive meeting with an advisor to Congresswoman Flor Pablo to discuss a new law proposal on inclusive education for working children. The event concluded with a positive evaluation session, marking the end of a successful meeting.



CAC members at the Latin American Regional CAC Meeting 2024 in Lima

Africa

18 representatives from the CACs of Zambia, Rwanda, Kenya, Lebanon, and Zimbabwe met in Harare, Zimbabwe in April 2024, for the African Regional CAC Meeting.

Throughout the discussions, participants highlighted the different challenges faced by working children in their respective regions and provided insights into

the unique circumstances of each country. The meeting provided an opportunity for these young advocates to learn from each other and strengthen their collective resolve to address child labour and other issues that are most relevant to them, such as climate change.

In addition to sharing personal experiences, the representatives engaged in advocacy planning sessions aimed

at developing strategies that can be implemented across borders. This regional collaboration underscores the importance of a unified approach to tackling the complex issues surrounding child labour and child rights.



African Regional CAC Meeting 2024 in Harare

The meeting concluded with a commitment to continue working together to achieve meaningful change in the lives of working children across Africa. Their demands were summarised in the [Harare Children's Call to Action](#), in which they identified poverty and climate change as the top priorities requiring urgent attention from their regional body, the African Union. The Call to Action is not just words on paper; it's a commitment to real change. The African Regional Child Advisory Committee urges leaders to listen, respond, and act urgently.



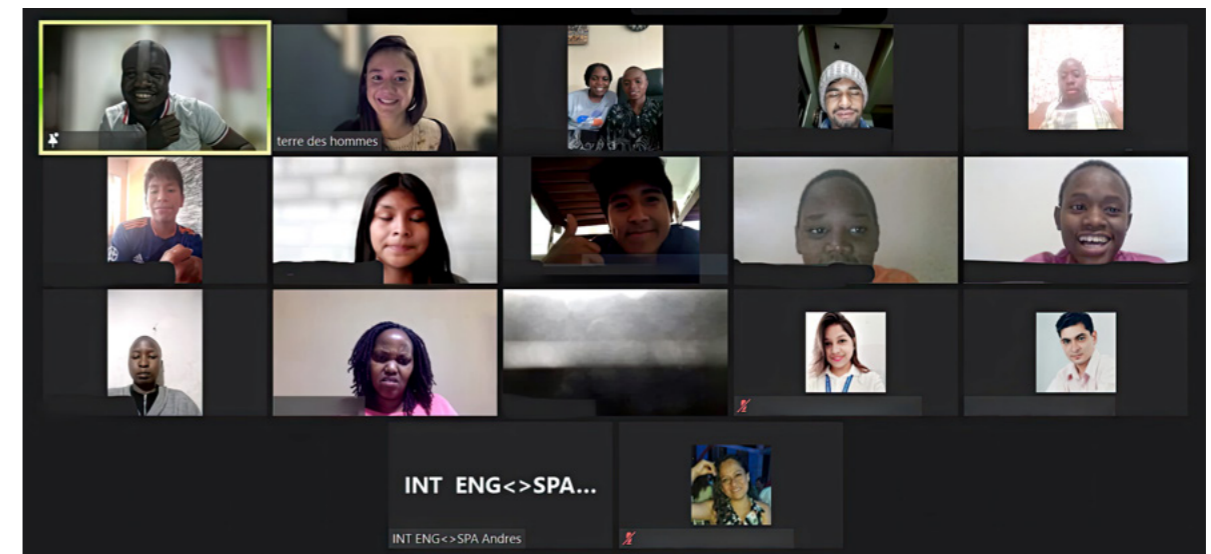
2.4. Media Youth Group

In 2024, Dialogue Works' Media Youth Group, launched in November 2023, continues to empower CAC members from seven different countries. The global Media Youth Group aims to amplify their voices through online and offline media to influence policy and decision-making. The group consists of 14 members (from Peru, Guatemala, Kenya, Rwanda, Nepal, Zimbabwe and Zambia) aged between 13 and 19 who meet virtually once a month. In 2023, they explored different aspects of media such as communication, photography, videography, child-led advocacy, internet safety and misinformation on social media. In 2024, they applied this knowledge on Dialogue Works' social media channels.

An example of how the media youth group expressed themselves is by reporting on the three regional CAC meetings that took place throughout 2024. The [Media Youth Group](#) was present to document the activities, capture the collaborative atmosphere by making pictures and videos during the meetings, and edit these materials into engaging content. This approach empowered the children to share their experiences of the regional CAC meetings with the wider world from their perspective.

Additionally, throughout the year, the Media Youth Group members have received training on cyber security, the opportunities and risks of Artificial Intelligence for youth activists, fake news and disinformation, together with other youth from the International Youth Network of Terre des Hommes. This allowed them to interact on these important topics with children and youth from across the globe.

By the end of the 2024, several Media Youth Group members volunteered to be part of the closing video of Dialogue Works, showcasing how they have grown through-out the project and demonstrating their ability to speak confidently in front of a camera. The Media Youth Group members have overall shown a great growth in their knowledge of media, their confidence in using different types of media, and how to use it in safely while effectively conveying their advocacy messages.



Virtual Meeting of the Media Youth Group

2.5. Peer learning among Dialogue Works partner organisations

Virtual CAC Coordinator Exchanges:

Coordinators' meetings and advocacy calls were also organised to facilitate more informal exchange and peer learning among the different partner NGOs and to seek advice on global advocacy activities, e.g. on indicators and standards for child participation or on involving parents in the project activities.

Global Facilitator Workshop in Istanbul:

CAC coordinators from 7 countries came together for a week in Istanbul to share their experiences during the Global Facilitator Workshop and reflect on how to continue the great work we have done so far. The main topics of discussions were, for example:

Embedding participation and CACs: How can children's participation be sustainably integrated into internal and external structures and processes?

Social accountability: How can we make decision-makers or other service providers more accountable for the commitments they make?

Global network planning: Building bridges around the world! How can we continue our work as a network after 2024 and continue to work towards common goals beyond the Dialogue Works Campaign? ●



Global Facilitator Workshop in Istanbul, January 2024

3. Key advocacy activities implemented at global and regional level

3.1. Minimum Standards for Child Participation in Global Events

Dialogue Works has launched a virtual process to develop Minimum Standards for Child Participation in Global Events. This is being done in collaboration with other NGOs, Queen's University Belfast and Child Rights Connect. A virtual drafting group of adults and children has been formed in 2024. This group will draft standards based on the results of two online surveys and a mapping of existing standards throughout 2025. The draft will be presented and discussed in a global virtual event with a larger group of children and adults. The results of these events will be used to finalise the set of standards, which can then be widely disseminated and used for global events from the second half of 2025 onwards.



3.2. Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children

Moreover, in 2024, two of our twelve dedicated child delegates were selected to participate in the "First Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children", which took place in Bogotá, Colombia, on November 7th and 8th, 2024.

This conference aimed to unite global leaders, advocates, and stakeholders in the fight against violence against children, emphasising the importance of their voices in shaping policies that affect their lives. These two CAC members, Melani from Guatemala and Shekinah from Zimbabwe. Melani and Shekinah represented the voices of working children globally.

The conference resulted in six calls to action, one of which emphasises collaboration with children. This involves building strong partnerships with different stakeholders, including children, caregivers, communities, and organisations at all levels, to ensure children's rights are upheld. The focus is on promoting protective norms, challenging harmful practices, empowering survivors and children to influence policy and strengthening international cooperation to address violence against children.

While the conference produced many positive outcomes, participation also presented certain challenges. These were primarily logistical and financial, and were not adequately addressed. This experience emphasised the need for continuous improvement in these areas, as well as the importance of establishing clear structures and global standards for such events. Meaningful participation of children and young people requires a more organised, equitable and supportive framework.



Dialogue Works representative, Melaní, at the first Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence against Children, November 2024, Bogotá, Colombia

3.3. Exchange between children's rights experts and CAC members

A key highlight of our global and regional advocacy efforts was the exchange between children's rights experts and CAC members, which further strengthened our campaign's impact. Additionally, a delegation from our partner organisation in Rwanda joined the 30th Anniversary Event of the African Movement of Working Children and Youth (AMWCY) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This participation not only provided a platform to directly amplify children's voices but also created synergies that enriched our broader advocacy work and reinforced our commitment to advancing children's rights on the global stage. Read more [here](#). ●

4. Key activities implemented at local level

Let's delve into the key activities carried out at the local level by each partner organisation involved in the implementation of the Dialogues Work campaign in 2024. Throughout the year, the partner NGOs con-

ducted several CAC meetings as shown in Figure 1. As the context is different for each CAC, the guidance has been used in a flexible way, adapted by each partner to best suit their particular context.

Overview of the CAC meetings:

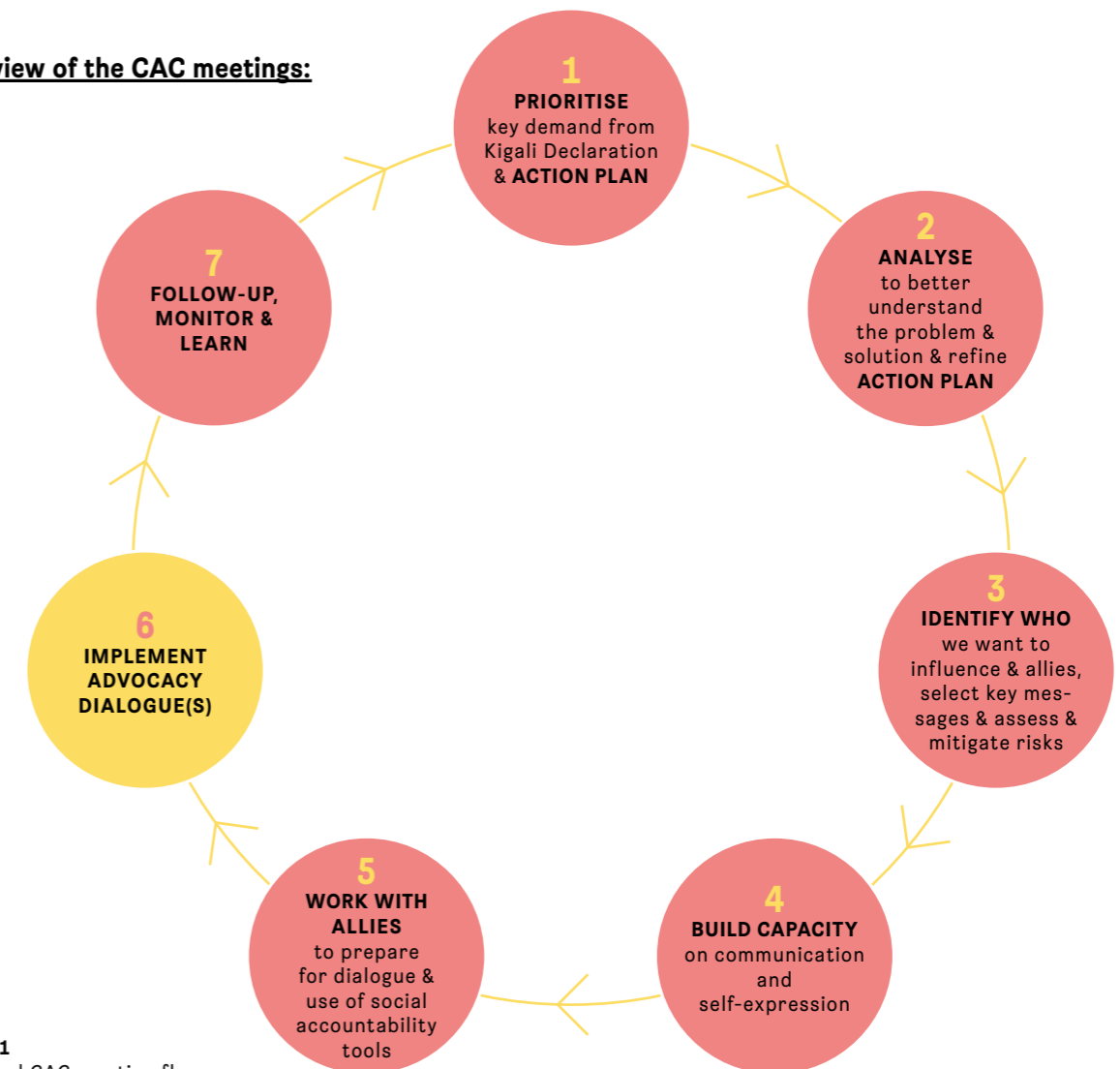


Figure 1 Proposed CAC meeting flow for 2024 (starting on the top)

In the following sections, Dialogue Works' partner organisations will showcase their achievements from the local to the national level with their respective CACs. They also shed light on the advocacy dialogues and issues

that their CACs focused on in 2024, providing insight into the impactful initiatives undertaken by working children and young people at a grassroots level.

4.1. Highlights from the Asian countries

In 2024, the CACs supported by **CWISH in Nepal** succeeded in facilitating a dialogue between children, police and local authorities. Children voiced their concerns about abuse, particularly online, and made key recommendations such as improving child-friendly spaces, police training and creating a one-door system for victim-centred investigations. This built trust and encouraged children to see the police as supportive figures.

CWISH's engagement with the Mahalaxmi Municipality led to positive outcomes, such as the establishment of "child clubs" and the appointment of a dedicated Child Welfare Officer. The municipality also committed to transparency and social accountability by publishing service information, budgets, and complaint structures. In addition, the Municipality began to collect data on child labour and advanced initiatives with CWISH and other partners to combat child labour.

Further advocacy efforts included engaging journalists, who gained a deeper understanding of children's rights and committed to ongoing media collaboration. The introduction of a "Flag Campaign" in the Suryabinayak Municipality aimed to hold businesses accountable for child labour, with green flags indicating child labour-free businesses and red flags for those that use child labour.

CWISH also played a crucial role in the legislative process, submitting recommendations for the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Bill, which were discussed with local governments, civil society organisations, and parliamentarians. The bill, once amended, will strengthen child protection laws and ensure more effective enforcement.

Throughout the year, CWISH facilitated meaningful child participation in policy discussions, particularly on climate change and disaster response. Children raised concerns about the impact of flooding on their education, work and livelihoods, leading to commitments from local authorities and the Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens to include children in future planning.



Closing and reflection meeting with CAC members.
The education ministry came to the closing event and provided certification and motivations to the CAC member to always raise their voices (CWISH/ Nepal)

As the CAC members from **PKPA in Indonesia** who have been involved with Dialogue Works from the beginning are now young adults and most of them have left the area to find work, they have focused their advocacy efforts on following up on the Kigali Declaration from 2023. Therefore, in October 2024, PKPA reformed the CAC group and continued to advocate for child labour issues in the villages of Kwala Bekala and Damak Maliho. The two new CAC groups are currently consulting and building their capacity, developing an advocacy plan, and preparing for a joint stakeholder dialogue in 2025. The main issue identified by the CACs is child labour, which prevents children from attending school and participating in cultural activities. The target audience includes government organisations and child protection institutions. The goal of the advocacy dialogue is to address child labour through legal protection, economic empowerment, access to education and recovery efforts. The key messages of the CACs emphasise the protection of child workers, ensuring their right to education and play, and addressing negative impacts on their development. Advocacy activities include the creation of posters, socialisation campaigns, artistic performances, podcasts and talk shows. The CACs have engaged with government agencies at district level to present their advocacy results and receive support for their initiatives to combat child labour.



Capacity building during a CAC meeting (PKPA/ Indonesia)

Meanwhile, on 27 July 2024, coinciding with National Children's Day, the Hero of Digital Protection Medan (HEDIPRO) advocated against the online sexual abuse and exploitation of children through a structured process of advocacy at the University of North Sumatra. HEDIPRO is a children's community consisting of 30 children and young people from a programme addressing cyber safety issues that adopted the Dialogue Works tools for their advocacy. The main issue they identified was the lack of government regulations addressing online violence against children. The target audience included government agencies, schools, parents, the media and community organisations. The aim was to urge the Medan City Government to increase its efforts to prevent and protect children from online violence. Key messages included the need to create regulations to protect children online, involve children in policymaking and strengthen cooperation among stakeholders. The advocacy dialogue enabled a talk show involving children and stakeholders, with 1,000 participants in Medan City. The outcomes included the city government holding follow-up meetings with the children's group, providing child-friendly spaces for participation in planning and collaborating with the children's community on child protection initiatives.



HEDIPRO's dialogue with the government (PKPA/ Indonesia)

The CAC from **CSID in Bangladesh** consists of 30 working children with disabilities. Most of them live with their families. In 2024, the CAC focused on ending child labour by collaborating with the government and child-led organisations addressing the issue. CAC members also sought to eliminate wage discrimination between working children with and without disabilities.

During the year, CSID held eight CAC meetings with working children with disabilities and two advocacy dialogues with government authorities. Two CAC members and two CSID staff also participated in a regional CAC meeting programme in Nepal.

A key advocacy achievement at the local level was CAC members discussing birth registration and disability cards with the local government. CAC members also advocated for increased opportunities and accessibility. The CAC focused on ending child labour by working with the government and child-led organisations working on the issue. The CAC members also sought to eliminate wage discrimination between working children with disabilities and non-disabled working children.



Group picture of CAC members during a CAC meeting (CSID/ Bangladesh)

In 2024, two CACs (one rural and one urban CAC) supported by **Kaugmaon in the Philippines** engaged in activities to enhance the skills and advocacy capacity of their members.

Throughout the year, the CAC prioritised key initiatives, including job and livelihood programmes for parents, scholarships for children, and raising awareness of child labour through symposiums, media campaigns and stakeholder dialogues. The majority of advocacy efforts were concentrated at the local level to facilitate meaningful engagement between children and stakeholders, enabling local issues to be addressed directly while also supporting broader national initiatives.

A key event was the Young Leader's Camp, where CAC members received training to become Peer Educators and teach others about children's rights, with a particular focus on child participation. Child labour was a central topic, and the children developed a Call to Action, which was then adapted to align it with local advocacy actions.

With the support of caregivers and staff, the children participated in media advocacy to raise awareness of the **Kigali Declaration** and local issues. During stakeholder meetings, CAC members and their parents presented their local call to action to key stakeholders. Around 60 children presented their advocacy work using Body Mapping, Problem Tree Analysis and Hot Air Balloon methods and presented the Kigali Declaration. The event concluded with the 2024 World Day Against Child Labour.

During Children's Month activities in Davao City, CAC members performed in a theatre production to showcase their creativity.



Presentation of the Call to action during a stakeholder meeting (Kaugmaon/ Philippines)

In 2024, the CACs from **CAJDEN in the Philippines** focused on various initiatives aimed at promoting children's rights and combatting child labour.

CAC meetings were held to update members on their work and schooling, and an important initiative was an awareness-raising campaign targeting the parents of child labourers. CAC members also represented CAJDEN in the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) and School Student Councils.

Throughout the year, CAJDEN held seminars on important topics such as children's rights, child labour, child trafficking, online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC) and mental healthcare. A seminar on public speaking was also held to empower children.

CAJDEN also organised the "Child Labourers and Working Children Summit" in 2023 and 2024. At this event, children assessed stakeholders using the Flower of Support Tool and explored the root causes of child labour using Problem Tree Analysis. They then developed an advocacy plan, which they presented to representatives from the Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE), Region 6 of the Philippines.

On World Day Against Child Labour, CAJDEN collaborated with the DOLE to celebrate the event. The Regional Director announced a grant for a two million pesos livelihood project for the parents of child labourers, followed by a press conference.

During Children's Month, the organisation held a series of events including a forum, social media campaigns, radio appearances, TV interviews and a school symposium. CAJDEN members and alumni also led campaigns on child rights and anti-child labour advocacy.



Seminar on online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC) (Cajden/ Philippines)

In 2024, the CAC, supported by **NIWCYD in India**, held monthly meetings that focused on child labour, education, mental health, and social justice. Activities such as role-playing, group discussions and storytelling were used to help children understand their rights better. Parental involvement was promoted through sessions on school enrolment and raising awareness. The CAC also arranged health and hygiene training for children and parents.

CAC members actively participated in the Regional CAC Workshop in Kathmandu and the National Consultation Policy Dialogue on Child Rights in Lucknow, further strengthening their advocacy efforts.

The CAC's Advocacy Highlights for 2024 included hosting local events to raise awareness of children's rights and advocating for the inclusion of children's voices in political discussions. The launch of the Children's Aspiration Letter 2024 saw 3,000 children identifying key issues for policymakers to address. At the State-level Consultation on World Children's Day, the CAC promoted policies focusing on education, vocational training and child protection.

The CAC emphasised the need for comprehensive action against child labour, reforms to improve education for marginalised children and greater community involvement. They also stressed the importance of children participating in policymaking and called for stronger community support networks.



CAC members from NIWCYD at the Asian Regional CAC Meeting (NIWCYD/ Nepal)

In 2024, the rural and urban CACs supported by **VIGYAN in India** engaged in various activities aimed at empowering children and advocating for their rights. Key highlights included capacity building for CAC members and caregivers in participation and consent through interactive training sessions, which fostered a collaborative environment for effectively addressing issues affecting children. An annual sports event was organised for working children to promote solidarity and provide them with a platform for them to raise their voices on pertinent issues. CAC members participated in regional and online stakeholder meetings to discuss child rights and collaborate on advocacy efforts. Workshops were conducted for child collective members and caregivers on effective communication and child-centric approaches to empower children to articulate their needs and aspirations. A national consultation on child rights involving policymakers, civil society organisations and children was held to address issues affecting children from various states.

Key messages and prioritised issues from the CACs include the importance of listening to children, collaboration between civil society organisations and the government to realise children's rights, and sensitising adult caretakers and duty bearers to children's rights.



CAC members at the National Consultation / Policy Dialogue on Child Rights (VIGYAN/ India)

4.2. Highlights from the Latin American countries

IFEJANT in Peru collaborates with two CACs: PROMINNATs (Protagonistas en Movimiento por la Incidencia de Niñas y Niños Trabajadores) in Lima, and MNNATSOP (Movimiento Nacional de Niños y Jóvenes Trabajadores Organizados de Perú). Throughout 2024, the CACs participated in various activities with IFEJANT's support to raise awareness and defend the rights of child workers. MNNATSOP has made a particular contribution to the campaign for decent work for children, free from exploitation and abuse.

They joined a group led by Member of Parliament Esmeralda Limachi to discuss important issues such as access to education and the protection of working children.

They also appeared on a national radio programme to discuss the challenges faced by working children and the importance of safeguarding their rights.

Additionally, they participated in an educational television programme that highlighted the rights of working children in a fun and engaging way.

By sharing their experiences in a Social Policy class at the National University of San Marcos, the CAC members succeeded in demonstrating the importance of defending the rights of working children.



CAC members (from MNNATSOP) in an interview at the national radio (Ifejant/ Peru)

In 2024, **CESIP in Peru**, continued the training and support for the two CACs consisting of adolescents working in the locality of Huachipa, Lima. The adolescents participated in 9 sessions to strengthen their advocacy skills and to conduct an evaluation of the entire process.

Additionally, they were advised on conducting Political Advocacy Dialogues with local authorities and on participating in awareness-raising and advocacy actions at the local and Lima levels, in the context of the World Day Against Child Labour and the anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, among others.

Their representatives to the Global CACs were accompanied to participate in virtual dialogue meetings of the Global CAC and the Regional CAC Meeting of Latin America, where they engaged in discussions and reached agreements on the dissemination of their proposals for political advocacy at the local, national, regional, and international levels.



CAC members from CESIP present their CACs and Advocacy Actions at the Latin American Regional CAC Meeting 2024 in Lima (CESIP/ Lima)

In 2024, the CAC members supported by **PASOCAP in Bolivia** undertook a series of impactful activities to advocate for the rights of working children and youth. These included dialogue meetings, gender-focused workshops, and discussions on the **Kigali Declaration's** importance in protecting children from discrimination and exploitation. Noteworthy events like departmental meetings and intergenerational dialogues on violence against women showcased the CAC's commitment to promoting awareness and action.

At the local level, the CAC emphasised the need for quality education post-pandemic and engaged in dialogues to address violence prevention and child protection. Key messages from CAC members urged authorities to govern with wisdom, protect the environment, and safeguard children from exploitation and discrimination.

The CAC's dedication to empowering children and youth shines through their diverse activities and calls for action, making a compelling case for continued support and collaboration in advancing the rights of children and youth in Bolivia. The challenge remains in securing the approval of Municipal Law 419's regulation to further protect the rights of working children.



CAC members from PASOCAP participating in the March for the Defense of Mother Earth on November 20, 2024 (PASOCAP/ Bolivia)

In Guatemala, the CACs supported by CEIPA in 2024 conducted a comprehensive training on Human Rights and Accountability, two artistic festivals, a walk for International Labour Day, recreational activities for Children's Day in Quetzaltenango and Totonicapán, and virtual meetings with CACs from Perú, Bolivia y Guatemala. Additionally, the development of advocacy proposals at local and national levels, participation in the First Global Ministerial Conference on ending violence against children in Colombia, and the promotion of key messages for stakeholders were highlighted.

The key messages and priority issues of the CAC for stakeholders include the follow-up and response to the advocacy proposal "Scholarships for working children and adolescents", the inclusion of working children and youth in decision-making processes, the establishment of stronger justice systems, the provision of school scholarships, and the presence of child psychologists in every educational institution.



Members of the CAC present advocacy proposal to the deputy of the official party in the congress of the republic guatemala in August 2024 (CEIPA/ Guatemala)

4.3. Highlights from the African countries

The CAC members from AfCiC in Kenya at Chania Boys High School, highlighting the importance of children's voices being heard. At an advocacy session in Nairobi, peer-nominated CAC members lobbied on issues such as poverty and access to quality education, presenting the Kigali Declaration and the Harare Children's Call to Action to lawmakers. Kigali Declaration at Chania Boys High School, highlighting the importance of children's voices being heard. At an advocacy session in Nairobi, peer-nominated CAC members lobbied on issues such as poverty and access to quality education, presenting the Kigali Declaration and the Harare Children's Call to Action to lawmakers.

In addition, a regional workshop in Harare, Zimbabwe, brought together children from different countries to discuss priority issues such as poverty and climate change. The workshop emphasised the need for children's active participation and effective policy implementation. The advocacy dialogues resulted in increased legitimacy for children's advocacy, collaboration with government leaders and a foundation for ongoing engagement.



CAC members from AfCiC during an activity at the African Regional CAC Meeting in Harare (AFCIC/ Kenya)

In 2024, Dialogue Works Clubs, formed by CAC members supported by the **Kenyan partner organisation WCY**, served as a platform for youth to engage in decision-making and promote children's rights. The clubs discussed the environmental crisis and its impact on children's rights, advocating for urgent action to address climate change. Both rural and urban CAC members participated in workshops on communication, self-awareness, and advocacy, where they strengthened their skills to influence key stakeholders and follow up on child protection matters outlined in the Kigali Declaration and Harare Children's Call to Action.

On World Day Against Child Labour, CAC members held a walk to raise awareness about the harmful effects of child labour, stressing the need for collective action to protect children's rights. In September, the Dialogue Club addressed climate justice, calling for action on key SDGs, including Quality Education and Good Health, and emphasising the need for accountability in tackling climate issues. A round table in November saw CAC members and local legislators discuss the creation of child-friendly policies to protect children and prevent exploitation.

Additionally, reflection meetings were held with both urban and rural parents and CAC members, where they discussed the importance of positive parenting and the role of parents in children's development. The meetings concluded with an agreement to hold more frequent parent-child forums to strengthen dialogue and ensure the sustainability of the Dialogue Works project.



Closing and reflection meeting with urban CAC in December 2024 (WCY/ Kenya)

The CACs supported by **CACLAZ in Zimbabwe** document, guiding future advocacy. Initiatives like Roadshows and Dialogue Works Clubs were established to promote child-led advocacy and raise awareness on child rights. They also organised a Regional Workshop in Harare in 2024. This workshop brought together children from various regions to discuss critical issues. The children created the Harare Children's Call to Action document, guiding future advocacy. Initiatives like Roadshows and Dialogue Works Clubs were established to promote child-led advocacy and raise awareness on child rights.

Key messages emphasised child participation in advocacy and decision-making, focusing on combating child labour and advocating for universal access to quality education. Prioritised issues included eradicating child labour, ensuring education access for marginalised communities, and empowering children in advocacy efforts.

Additional activities included debriefing CAC members, creating a child protection policy, developing a social accountability action plan, and ensuring follow-ups on workshop commitments. These efforts aim to sustain momentum and advance child rights advocacy.



CACLAZ members dancing at the African Regional CAC Meeting (CACLAZ/ Zimbabwe)

Since joining the project in 2021, **CVT in Rwanda** has worked with 18 CAC members from both urban and rural areas of Kigali, Rwanda, engaging them in activities such as regular meetings, advocacy dialogues with duty-bearers, and the development of child-friendly materials and campaigns.

In 2024, the CAC members participated in key advocacy activities, including mapping areas of child labour and advocating for the withdrawal of children from exploitative work environments. They conducted community awareness campaigns with local leaders, targeting parents, employers, and community members about children's rights. The CAC also held a significant dialogue with duty-bearers in Nyarugenge District to address child labour issues. Their efforts led to the successful withdrawal of 13 children from harmful labour, and they reviewed their work from 2021 to 2023, developing a new work plan for 2024.

The project's achievements underscore the importance of continuous dialogue with stakeholders and the effectiveness of community-based awareness campaigns in improving conditions for working children. It also highlighted the need for capacity-building, particularly in child protection and referral pathways. However, challenges remain, including persistent child labour, resource limitations, and the impact of school schedules on CAC members' full participation. Despite these obstacles, the project continues to make strides toward improving the lives of working children.



CVT's two-day workshop, designed to facilitate a collaborative learning experience with the parents of CAC members (CVT/ Rwanda)

Despite the challenges posed by armed conflict, **FC in Ethiopia** has continued its efforts to improve meaningful child participation in the target areas through the CACs. By strengthening links between CACs and other community-based organisations (CBOs), such as self-help groups (SHGs), farmers learning groups (FLGs), and community leaders, they focused on mitigating child rights violations. Where schooling services have been interrupted, many children have been exposed to child labour, including working in private construction sites. However, through discussions and support from the Yewula CAC members, these children were able to withdraw from exploitative work and return to their families to engage in safer, household tasks.

In response to the challenging environment, the CAC members in Senan and Machakel districts have continued to meet, focusing on important issues such as labour exploitation, harsh working conditions, and the need for access to dignified work. Through a series of meetings, the CAC members analysed the causes of child labour, including war, lack of awareness on child rights, and school shutdowns. These discussions led to the identification of potential solutions, including community awareness campaigns, strengthening child protection mechanisms, and advocating for accessible education.

The CAC members have also engaged in peer education programs to rehabilitate attitudes toward education. They worked with parents to raise awareness about the Kigali Declaration and the importance of prioritising children's education. Despite the instability, the CAC members identified key allies, including SHG members, community and religious leaders, and CLA representatives, and developed key messages such as "We need peace, and we need education."

In addition to advocacy activities, the CAC members held a peer education program to support the rehabilitation of children's attitudes toward education and established a reading book borrowing system to encourage learning. These activities are vital for ensuring that children's rights are protected and that they have access to education, even amid ongoing conflicts and challenges in the region.



CAC members promising to work together and fight violence (FC/ Ethiopia)

In 2024, the CACs from **JCM in Zambia** took meaningful actions in advocating for children's rights at local, regional, and national levels throughout the year. They thereby highlighted the vital role of children's voices in shaping policies and raising awareness on issues like child labour and education.

On the local level, the CAC members developed indicators to address child labour as part of the KNH Project. For the World Day Against Child Labour, they organised a tree planting event and a radio programme, raising awareness about the harmful effects of child labour. Additionally, during the 6th and 7th CAC meetings, members reflected on their personal growth and advocacy journey.

At the regional exchange in Harare (April 2024), children from several countries created the Harare Call to Action, focusing on climate change and poverty. At the 30th Anniversary of the African Movement in Ethiopia, two CAC members presented a report on the impacts of climate change on children's rights. During World Children's Day, children from various countries presented a Call to Action for better education.

As key messages, the CAC emphasised the need for a climate-sensitive learning environment in schools, integrating climate education and promoting sustainable practices. They also advocated for solar-powered learning spaces to enable children to study at night.

One challenge was ensuring consistent parental involvement and raising broader community awareness. The children learned that engaging in decision-making processes empowers them to become agents of change. Working closely with government ministries helped reinforce the importance of child participation.



CAC members at a radio programme, raising awareness about the harmful effects of child labour (JCM/ Zambia)

All the messages presented by the CACs were acknowledged by the audience, and stakeholders committed to acting within their capacity. They've also included these messages on their agenda for future discussions. ●

5. Key Challenges, Lessons learned and Suggestions to Improve



Addressing the threats posed by climate change to their lives is a priority for most CACs, including PASOCAP in Bolivia

As we draw the curtain on the Dialogue Works Campaign, we are reminded of the core mission that has guided our collective efforts. From 2020 to 2024, the central objective of the Dialogue Works Campaign was to create meaningful platforms for the active engagement of working children and young people in policy dialogues at all levels, from local to global, which directly shape their present realities and future prospects. During the final year of implementation, the campaign and its partner NGOs faced several key challenges. Lessons and recommendations have emerged from each partner's experiences, which are presented below.

Key Challenges

Numerous challenges were faced by partner organisations during the implementation of the Dialogue Works Campaign, testing their commitment and resilience.

One significant challenge is **the complexity of the advocacy topics**, such as child labour, climate change, mainstreaming proposals, engaging families and employers, bridging the gap between campaigns and addressing structural issues affecting children, demanded innovative approaches and collaborative efforts to drive meaningful change and create a lasting impact in the communities served by the Dialogue Works Campaign.

Inadequate government capacity on child labour issues also posed a challenge. Partner organisations had to navigate **complex bureaucratic systems** and advocate for policy changes in environments where awareness and resources were lacking. **Raising community awareness and encouraging adult caregivers and duty bearers** to recognise children's rights were additional hurdles, emphasising the need for comprehensive outreach strategies and education campaigns to achieve **consistent parental engagement** and sustained support for children's rights.

Another challenge was **adjusting meeting times to accommodate working children and government officials**. As working children often have to balance education, work and advocacy commitments, coordinating the schedules of these two groups required careful planning and flexibility.

Additionally, **conflicts and other crises** have hindered the work of partner NGOs and CAC members within the Dialogue Works campaign, particularly in Lebanon and Ethiopia. Armed conflict often disrupts schooling, increasing the likelihood that children will need to work, potentially exposing them to more abusive or dangerous forms of child labour. Effective communication with local leaders and caretakers is crucial in securing safe employment for children in conflict zones, as demonstrated by experiences recounted by **Facilitator for Change (FC) in Ethiopia**.

At a global level, two child delegates participated in the **First Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children**, representing the voices of working children worldwide. While the outcomes were mostly

positive, logistical and financial challenges prevented meaningful participation. This highlights the need for stronger structures, **consistent global standards and equitable support systems to ensure child and youth voices are effectively included in policies affecting their lives**.

Furthermore, the **postponement of the development of global standards for child participation in global events**, which was originally planned for completion in 2024 but has been delayed until 2025 due to resource and time constraints, highlights the importance of prioritising and allocating adequate resources to support meaningful child participation initiatives on a global scale.

Lessons learned

Despite the challenges faced during the Dialogue Works Campaign, partner organisations learned valuable lessons that will inform their future advocacy strategies.

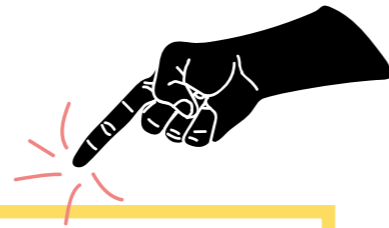
One key lesson was the importance of **flexible scheduling to accommodate the diverse needs of working children and stakeholders**. Responsive government engagement was identified as a critical factor in advancing advocacy plans, emphasising the importance of **building strong relationships with policymakers and decision-makers** to drive policy change.

Another key lesson was the importance of strengthening children's capacity to influence advocacy plans, thereby empowering them to shape policies that directly impact their lives. Partner organisations also emphasised the **effectiveness of peer education programmes and stakeholder engagement** in this respect, identifying them as key factors in empowering children and expanding opportunities for participation in advocacy initiatives.

Building support networks for children and ensuring their well-being was found to be instrumental in strengthening linkages between Children Advisory Committees (CACs) and community-based organisations. **Creating safe spaces for dialogue and implementing continuous awareness campaigns** were identified as essential components of successful advocacy efforts. This again emphasises the need for ongoing education and engagement to drive sustainable change in communities.

Suggestions for Improvement

It is essential to continue building on these experiences and lessons learned to enhance the impact and effectiveness of the CAC's advocacy efforts:



- 1. Simplify Advocacy Topics:** Break down complex advocacy topics into simpler, more digestible pieces of information. Use child-friendly language and visual aids to help children understand and engage with the topics.
- 2. Capacity Building:** Conduct training sessions for government officials on child labour issues to increase their understanding and capacity to address these issues. This could also include workshops on children's rights and the importance of their participation in policymaking.
- 3. Flexible Scheduling:** Continue to prioritise flexible scheduling for meetings to accommodate the needs of working children. Consider using digital platforms for meetings to allow for greater flexibility and accessibility.
- 4. Prioritise Development of Global Standards:** Advocate for the prioritisation of the development of global standards for child participation in global events. This could include lobbying efforts, awareness campaigns, or partnerships with other organisations advocating for the same cause.
- 5. Strengthen Children's Advocacy Skills:** Continue to provide training and support to strengthen children's capacity to influence advocacy plans. This could include workshops on public speaking, negotiation, or policy analysis.
- 6. Bridging Participation:** Increase the use of peer education programmes to empower children and expand opportunities for participation in advocacy initiatives. This could include training sessions, mentorship programmes, or peer-led workshops. More information in the [Bridging Participation Booklet](#).
- 7. Community Engagement:** Increase community engagement efforts to raise awareness about children's rights and the importance of their participation in policymaking. This could include community meetings, awareness campaigns, or partnerships with local schools or community organisations.
- 8. Support Networks and Safe Spaces:** Continue building support networks for children and creating safe spaces for dialogue. This could include regular check-ins, mental health support and designated safe spaces where children can freely express their opinions and concerns.

Conclusion

The Dialogue Works Campaign, which spanned from 2020 to 2024, was a journey marked by resilience, growth, and transformative change. Its mission was to create meaningful spaces in which working children and young people could actively participate in policy debates. Despite facing numerous challenges, the campaign also achieved significant successes. The unwavering commitment to this cause was evident in the progress made at all levels.

Partner organisations, at all levels from local to national, implemented transformative initiatives that greatly improved the lives of children. Internationally, advocacy initiatives amplified the voices of working children and young people, ensuring their perspectives were included in policy discussions that directly affected their lives and futures.

Spanning Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East, the Dialogue Works network supported over 40 Children's Advisory Committees (CACs) in 15 countries, backed by 19 NGO partners. The challenges faced and lessons learned from this campaign have strengthened resolve for future strategies.

Now that the Dialogue Works Campaign has ended, we express our profound gratitude to all partners, as well as to the children and young people who were at the heart of this campaign. Their courage and determination inspire us to continue this work. The valuable insights gained from this campaign will guide future initiatives, helping to protect and promote children's rights worldwide.

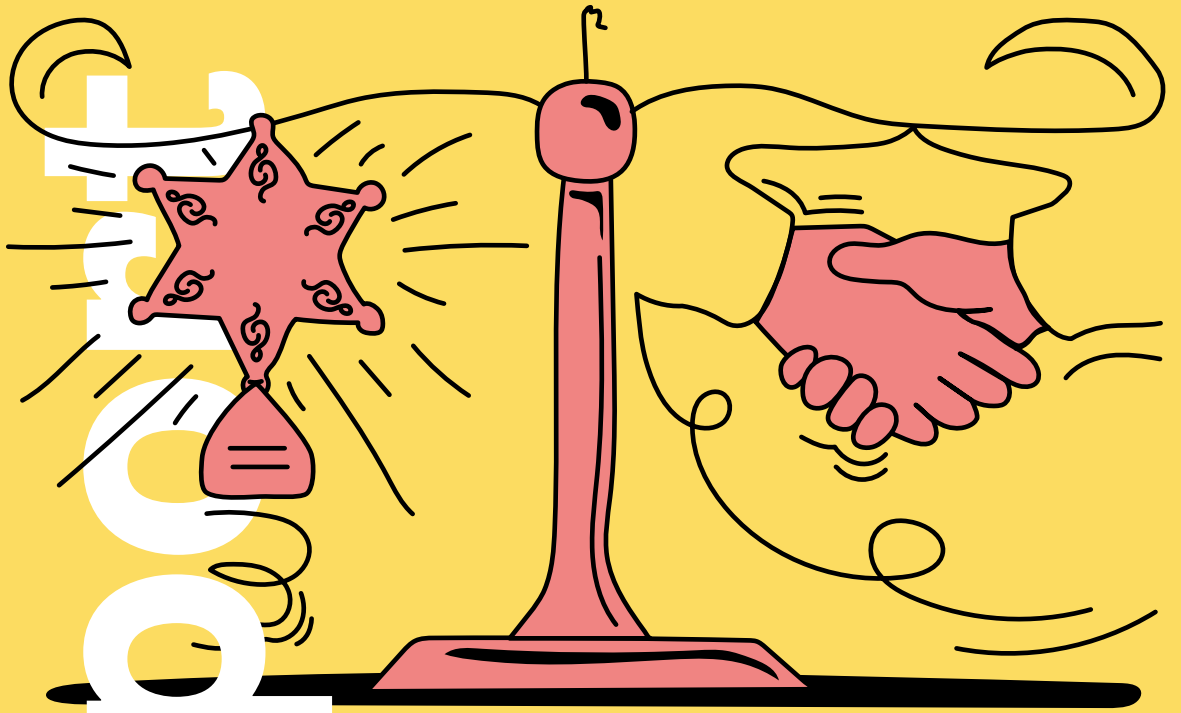
Despite the challenges encountered along the way, the progress made, and the lives impacted make every hurdle worthwhile. Now that the campaign has concluded, the commitment to our mission remains consistent. We carry forward the lessons learned, the successes achieved and the belief that all children, including working children, deserve a say in shaping their own future. ●



CAC member from Vigyan at the Asian Regional CAC meeting (Vigyan, Nepal)



Annual Report 2024



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