

REPORTING TO THE UPR OF RWANDA

Save the Children International (SCI) in Rwanda works for the protection of children and the promotion of their rights. In November 2015, the human rights situation of Rwanda will be scrutinised by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism. The CSOs Child Rights Coalition in Rwanda has actively participated to the UPR process by developing an alternative report focusing on children's rights to education, health and protection in Rwanda. This case study provides an overview of the process undertaken.

INTERVIEWING CHILDREN ON THEIR RIGHTS



A child-led discussion in Bugesera district: children discussing which are the major challenges they face in their education, health and protection.

Children's engagement has been essential critical component of the process since the initial stages. In accordance with the CRC principles, SCI Rwanda ensured that children were involved in the identification of the main challenges in the full enjoyment of their rights. Together with a child-led organization, Children Voices Today (CVT), SCI Rwanda organised 5 child-led discussions in the districts of Huye, Nyarugenge, Musanze, Rusizi and Bugesera. Parents and teachers participated in a total of 10 focus group-discussions facilitated by young people, to gather their views on the challenges that children face in the attainment of their rights to education, health and protection in their communities.

The information gathered provided the core messages of the UPR alternative report developed by the Rwandan CSOs Child Rights Coalition. Subsequently, this information was improved by statistical data collected from official documents, validated reports and national statistics. This information helped producing an evidence-based report that conveys real challenges that children face today in the enjoyment of their rights to education, health and protection in Rwanda.

DEVELOPING A COMMON MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

The Coalition has worked together in order to define the message to be sent to the UPR review of Rwanda. A two days workshop was organised by SCI Rwanda to present the findings of the consultations and to agree on the information to be included in the report, so to represent the view of all members of the Coalition. During the workshop, the Coalition's members reviewed and validated the information presented and drafted recommendations to the Government of Rwanda according to each thematic area discussed. On the last day of the workshop, the Coalition also discussed an initial advocacy plan on how to engage in the UPR process after the submission of the report. Each of the members attending the workshop agreed to participate to one of the thematic groups to follow-up on the status of implementation of the UPR recommendations after the UPR review.



A group of CVT children and youth who facilitated the child-led and focus group discussions on the rights to education, health and protection for children in 5 districts in Rwanda.

After a constructive process of improvement of the report, the Coalition validated the report during a workshop with all members. A second validation workshop was organised with other partners in Rwanda to present the findings of the UPR alternative report on children's rights. The whole process towards the production of the UPR alternative report on children's rights has been extremely successful thanks to the crucial involvement of all members of the Coalition in the reporting. After submission of the report in March 2015, the Coalition will pursue the objectives of the advocacy plan in order to raise attention on the issues contained in the report both at national and international level.