

ICT and Child Participation



What kind of participation do we encourage in SC?

- Participation implies an exercise of **power** (the capacity to make decisions in different environments) that children and young people have for expressing their views and that they must be given proper consideration.
- This exercise of power also implies they can responsibly assume, together with other people, the decisions that affect their lives and communities.
- Develop a culture of participation whereby children and young people systematically play a full part in policy-making and decision-taking.



CHILDREN AS
ACTIVE CITIZENS

What do we understand when we talk about participation?

*"Adults miss the point. When is a child considered skilful enough to contribute and participate actively? If you do not give them the opportunity to participate, they will not acquire the skills. Give us the chance early and see how we fly." Khairul Azri (17 years)
Malaysian delegate to the UN Special Session on Children, May 2002*

- The rising of a new social image of childhood. It profoundly affects their role and visibility, and changes their status from passive recipients of adult protection to active participants in their own lives.
- Participation continues to be a pending issue and one of the great challenges for the social change.
- Participation is a right and it is valuable as an end but also as a mean to achieve other rights.
- Active, conscious, free participation is a factor of recognition of children own dignity and a strengthening of the consciousness of equality.
- Participation is a concrete exercise of social actorship and identity construction.

Access to ICT is a right

Benefits and potentialities are enormous for children personal and social development

Right to be protected of risks linked to ICT

Reflect on emergence of new types of violence related to ICT's and lack of mechanisms to protect children rights

Benefits of digital inclusion, literacy and social inclusion

are evident. Need to guarantee total exercise to children rights to use ICT, considering responsibilities required.

Ensure safe and responsible use of ICT

Children should be prepared to protect themselves against possible risks by building capacities to do so.

Parents and adults mediation is also key. We need to be careful not to have an Adult-centered view on safety and protection guidelines in cyberspace.

Digital citizenship

Culture of respect and promotion of safe and productive use of new technologies.

INSTITUTIONAL BACKGROUND

Prevention of Violence in Virtual Environments

In 2006 Save the Children included the **prevention of violence** against adolescents **in virtual environments** within its regional protection programme.



INSTITUTIONAL BACKGROUND

SC starts its work in the promotion of safe and responsible use of ICT



In 2006, SC began activities aiming at promoting access to ICT in a safe and responsible environment. Argentina (Chicos.net), Costa Rica (Fundación Paniamor), Venezuela (Grupo Manos) and Paraguay (Global Infancia)

INSTITUTIONAL BACKGROUND

Network for the Right of children to a Safe and Responsible Use of ICT



In 2008, seven Latin American organizations with support from Save the Children established the Network for the Right of Children to a Safe and Responsible Use of ICT. Currently 11 organizations are part of the RedNATIC. The Network is composed of leading NGOs on ICT and children's rights in eight countries: Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, México, Paraguay, Perú and Uruguay



OBJECTIVES

- To implement initiatives that **promote children's rights** as well as their full participation in issues that involve them.
- To create awareness of the risks that the use of the Internet might bring to children as well as measures to prevent them.
- To work together with all social actors who have responsibilities on the different levels of policy making.
- To conduct research to understand trends and uses.





OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

Primary target: **Children**

They play a key role in all the initiatives of SC Programme

Secondary target: **Teachers, Parents Government , companies...**

They have a critical role ensuring prevention and protection of risks associated to the use of ICT

Promoting critical thinking

Culture of safe and responsible use

Of ICT



PARTICIPATION WORKING LINES

Capacity building and training

Participation in all initiatives of the Programme

Strengthening children organizations

Studies and consultations

Participation for advocacy purposes



How?



Spaces for reflection and analysis that generate abilities in children for the safe and responsible use of the ICT.

Peer education in schools. The program is structured in training sessions for awareness raising through peer promoters.



Where?

In more depth: Argentina, Costa Rica, Paraguay and Venezuela: workshops, creation of messages and materials for awareness raising.

Student Promoting Program
Implemented in 53 schools in Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, México, Perú and Venezuela

How?



Guides, manuals, videos and both face-to-face and virtual reflection sessions targeting teachers, parents and NPS operators. Promotion of active parental mediation

Teachers training of trainers (TOT) aim to develop a **school project** that involves the whole education community: e-learning and face to face training

Where?



Regional virtual course directed to NPS operators (Chicos.net) and face to face training for NPS operators in Paraguay (Global)

Programme implemented in 53 schools in Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, México, Perú and Venezuela.



How?

Campaigns, Contests and other initiatives to raise awareness and promote safe, positive and responsible use of ICT amongst children.

These initiatives are characterized by the fact that messages, videos, posters, and all products are made by children.

Where?



“Say Yes to Technology” 2009 and 2010 contests in Argentina (Chicos.net- SC)

2011 Regional Contests included 7 countries with RedNatic presence. (SC- Google-RedNatic)

“Everything a Clic away”: Video and advocacy forum for teenagers in each country (RedNatic-Google)

How?



Aims at working with children organizations to strengthen them and achieve greater impact.

The creation of safe interactive websites was promoted together with municipal (and departmental) children committees.

Where?

In Paraguay there is a strong work with organizations of children as well as school children.

Technologies proved to be a tool to strengthen and empower children

Paraguay (2010) Central Department and Asunción - Global Infancia



How?

Domestic and multi-national studies and consultations were carried out to understand the use and communication modalities that children establish through the internet.

Evidence is a key element for understanding the new paradigm of ICT. It is also critical to design programs and policies.

Where?

Argentina, Costa Rica and Paraguay KAP studies and other specific ones.

Multi-national Study: Argentina, Perú y Paraguay

Regional study: 10 countries of the region. Included a chapter on KAP of children in the use of ICT.

How?



Where?

Exhibition “Children deserve a special law that protect them against violence in the cyberspace” that took place in the Legislative Assembly aiming at new parliamentarians to endorse the Law No 18230 (which had been endorsed by more than 4000 citizens)

In Costa Rica, a group of children guided parliamentarians through the graphic exhibition presenting arguments of why young people consider important approving the draft bill. Costa Rica - Paniamor

Participation of adolescents in the CRC **Day of General Discussion:** “**Digital media and children’s rights**”

The DGD (Geneva, September 2014) would be a great opportunity for children to be heard by the CRC

Challenges to keep promoting child participation

- Strengthen the RedNatic Advisor Committee and ensure the participation of children in the Advisor Committee
- Strengthen work with children's organizations empowering them to participate as social actors.
- Promote participation that leads to a real impact on society so that children and youth can really influence in political decision regarding ICT
- Promote children participation in international events.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!



*"No, you weren't downloaded.
You were born."*