

– It's Time to Talk! – Children's Views on Children's Work

**And Action!
18 Examples of
child-led Advocacy**



#talkaboutchildwork



Imprint

Special thanks

go to all children and partner organisations who supported “It’s Time to Talk”.

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This handbook is based on case examples of Advocacy Actions from Partner Organisations of “It’s Time to Talk!”.

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Kindernothilfe is a German children’s rights organisation that supports vulnerable and marginalized children and youth to develop their full potentials.

We partner with local non-governmental organisations in 33 countries and empower children to lead independent, self-fulfilled lives.

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Introduction

“It’s Time to Talk – Children’s Views on Children’s Work” began as a global consultation of working children in 2016, and has since then evolved in order to create a space for working children’s participation that goes beyond mere consultation. Together with 27 Children’s Advisory Committees (CACs) we have started down the road of child-led advocacy – but what does that even mean?

It means children identifying the rights violations they face in their lives as working children.

Children determining what should be done to prevent such violations.

And children addressing those, who can help the process along.

As illustrated by the examples showcased in this publication, child-led advocacy can manifest in a variety of shapes and forms. What’s important however, is that children and youth seize the opportunity to raise their voices, and to do it in a way that they feel comfortable with.

The only thing left to do then is for stakeholders and decision-makers to listen and recognize that working children are experts of their own lives, that their realities differ from one to another and that they therefore must be included in the development of any policy intervention, programme or solution that hopes to successfully combat exploitation. When children have a meaningful say they can contribute significantly to find sustainable solutions that foster education and decent work.

The information shared in this publication was provided by 17 of our partner organisations, who support CACs in the preparation and execution of their advocacy actions.

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Advocacy Action 1

Country:
Bolivia

Partner Organisation:
Pastoral Social Caritas Potosí (PASOCAP)

Target audience:
General Public

Key message:

"Without abuse we have a better life!"

Activity:
Protest March

Description:

In Bolivia the Children Advisory Committee Members joined the local Carnival Festival and spread their messages about ending violence against children. To achieve this purpose, meetings have been held to prepare on how to carry out the group called "Comparsa de Huellas de Ternura", the objective of which was to sensitize the general population about the need to live and practice attitudes of respect, good treatment, respect for human rights and making a call to live without violence. The context is difficult and it is necessary to work on violence prevention issues at these carnival festivals, especially as there is excessive consumption of alcoholic beverages that promote negative and violent attitudes. With the activity the CAC wanted to show the entire population that it can change and people can have fun in a healthy way without violence. More than 1,200 girls, boys, adolescents and teachers carried messages on banners, balloons and masks.



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Advocacy Action 2

Country:
Ethiopia

Partner Organisation:
Facilitator for Change (FC), www.fce-eth.org

Target audience:
Parent / caregiver, schools, women groups (Self Help Group/SHG)

Key message:

"Stop child labour considering the age of children and their interests!"

Activity:
Organized event with songs, poems and drama.

Description:

The action was about creating child friendly environment for working children by doing the best in the interest of children through creating awareness within the family, parents/ caregiver and duty bearer to take action by considering working children. CAC members identified key messages related with working children to advocate through Drama, songs and poems using the local language and entertainment to make it easier for the community to understand. All CAC members were involved in the above activities from identification of key messages to advocacy activities contributing their talents and more in collaboration with CLA (cluster level Association) at kebele level to convince their audience.

More messages:

- Parents / caregivers should understand the best interest of children
- Parents / caregivers are responsible to arrange work considering their children physical and psychological strengthen
- Duty bearers should respect children's rights by creating child friendly environments.
- Parents / caregivers and duty bears are responsible to encourage CACs



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Advocacy Action 3

Country:
India

Partner Organisation:
Sikhasandan, www.sikshasandhan.org

Target audience:
Local authorities and parents

Key message:

"Good environment in their working place!"

Activity:
Awareness rallies in the villages on social evils

Description:
The CAC members did many activities like Body mapping, Flower of support, H-assessment and Hot air balloon activities and prepared their CAC action plan for advocating the challenges/problems faced by the working children. The CAC members took out awareness rallies in the villages on social evils like child marriage, illiteracy and spread awareness messages. They wrote letters on various issues or problems that one working child experiences during work to their local self government authorities and demanded for an urgent redressal of the issues like registration of children who go to other states for work, parent counselling on educating children of 6-14 age groups, reducing dropouts, arrangement of life skill training for adolescent girls and career counselling for tribal youths.

The CAC members sought the help of the local authority leaders in motivating the parents and the elders of the family so that a healthy environment can be created for the working children. The tribals children have an aspiration for higher studies but their financial condition is a big hindrance in achieving their dream. They can fulfill their desires if a good environment is ensured in their working place.

More messages:

- A zero tolerance policy by government and local authority on child marriage cases
- Children of age groups 6-14 must be enrollment and utmost important should be given to their elementary education completion
- Life skill workshop and trainings to the adolescent and youths by NGOs, Local bodies and by government
- Displaying of emergency child helpline numbers on major places for creating awareness
- More meetings and workshops for addressing the views of working children
- Campaigns and awareness rallies by school children and generating support to CAC members for addressing views of working children at various national and international forums with the support of government and non government organisations
- Panchayat level survey of all orphan, single parent and neglected children and advocating for their rights
- As illiteracy is very high in the interior tribal pockets of Mayurbhanj. Here, parents hardly knows about what the child rights is? More awareness on child rights in villages and open discussion on the needs of working children

Advocacy Action 4

Country:
India

Partner Organisation:
Campaign against child labour (CACL)

Target audience:
Government officials

Key message:

"Right to education in their respective state!"

Activity:
Local level campaign against Child Labour

Description:
After the CAC meetings the CAC members coming from four districts of Madhya Pradesh decided to organise a local level advocacy campaign for one month on Child Labour in their respective villages/slums along with other children. The aim of the campaign was to identify the children involved in work in their area and

motivate them to go back to school and also to create awareness on Child Labour in their community through rallies, streetplays and wall writing. This local level campaign was ended on 12th June. It was decided that the Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL) along with Time to Talk! and other supporters will organise a state level consultation where the CAC members along with other active children would raise their voices and interact directly with the government officials and share about the present status of child labour and status of implementation of Right to Education in their respective State as well as the State as a whole. The children presented a 11-point charter of demands to the government officials mentioning their demands and expectation from government.

More messages:

- Lack of identification of children in work
- Lack of facilities in schools which force us to go to work
- Parents not having regular source of livelihood, due to which we have to work in order to support our families
- Due to poverty, our parents take loan from moneylenders and in return, we have to work as bonded labour
- There are no middle or high schools in or near our villages, due to which we cannot pursue our education after class 8th and are forced to get in child labour
- Employers employing child labour should treat the children properly and provide them with basic facilities at work place



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Advocacy Action 5

Country:
Indonesia

Partner Organisation:
Pusat Kajian dan Perlindungan Anak (PKPA)
www.pkpaindonesia.org

Target audience:
Children, young people, government officials,
parents and NGO workers

Key message:

"Ensuring better conditions for education, upbringing by parents, health services and environment!"

Activity:
Interactive dialogue, singing a song and showing a produced film

Description:
Before the interactive dialogue started CAC members sang a song that they wrote and arranged in front of the audience. They needed about a month to write the lyrics and arrange the music, with support from a music group whose members are youths working as street singers in a bus terminal. Through the song, they wanted to pass the message that adults should treat children better and their hope to make their dreams come true although they are child workers. After the music performance they also screened a film that they produced. The film, The Power of Niat, tells about a child who wants to help his parents improve their economic condition and find a way to earn money to enable him to pay his school tuitions. Although his friends decide to leave school for economic reasons, he

insists to go to school. The film was also sent to Child Film Festival and Child Theater Festival 2019 and it won the sixth place.

The interactive dialogue started by asking the participants to see photos of Time to Talk! which were attached on the wall. CAC members explained them about the photos and what they had done in the program to the participants.

More messages:

Board of Education

- Providing free education, free education facilities and free transport to school
- Providing free package learning program for poor children (working children)

Parents

- Educating children without violence
- Parents should not ask their children to work
- Parents must be a role model for and give advice to their children

Board of Health

- Providing free health services to poor families and quality health services to patients who are hospitalized using health insurance (BPJS)

Police

- Creating a public order in the neighborhood
- Providing information about drug abuse to prevent children from using drugs
- Giving protection to everyone in community
- Responding a criminal case quickly
- Creating a safe and comfortable environment

Communities

- Becoming a role model
- Establishing cooperation between neighborhood unit heads and communities to create a safe and comfortable environment
- Stopping child abuse

Advocacy Action 6

Country:
Kenya

Partner Organisation:
Action for Children in Conflict (AFCIC)
www.actionchildren.or.ke

Target audience:
The general public, the Members of the Parliament for Thika Town Constituency, the Members of the County Assembly Kiambu County, the directorate of Children Services- Thika West Sub County, the Community Leaders and the faith based leaders and local administration.

Key message:

"Violation against children rights is harmful to their health and development!"

Activity:
Consultations including supporting the CAC members to meet the stakeholders

Description:

The CACs from Thika have been very active and committed to raising the issues affecting working Children in Thika and neighboring counties. In August they held several consultations to map out the key issues they would want addressed by policy makers and other stakeholders. They were drafting the memorandum as the governor had been kicked out of the office because of corruption. They opted to address their issues to the Member of Parliament for Thika Hon Patrick Wainaina wa Jungle. He was presented with a copy of the memorandum so that he can prepare for the official sitting with the CAC members. It is anticipated that he will give the CAC members an appointment soonest. The other stakeholders are County Assembly of Kiambu, Directorate of Children Services. The CAC has had a lot of impact since formation and has helped people to understand issues around working children with more appreciation and respect.

More messages:

- To the Children's Office: You are responsible for safeguarding of Children Rights
- To children: Know your rights and say no to any form of abuse
- To employers: Have mercy on children and also, Do to other children what you want done to your own children
- To the Member of Parliament: Ensure that there is legislation in place to protect the rights of working children
- Duty bearers respect child right by creating child friendly environments.
- Parents /caregivers and duty bears are responsible to encourage CACs



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Advocacy Action 7

Country:
Kenya

Partner Organisation:
Welfare for Children and Youth (WCY)

Target audience:
The community members

Key message:

**"The importance of a
child labour free community!"**

Activity:
A walk against child labour within the community.

Description:
The advocacy activity was a walk that was done within Ndhiwa community in Homabay. For sensitizing the community members for the importance of having a child labour free community whereby the children are allowed to exercise their rights: the right to light and limited work, right to rest when sick, right to age appropriate work, right to seek legal representation as a protection from abuse.

The children took the lead role of being the walk marshals and in moderating the walk with support from adults. The CAC members had an opportunity to share the key messages that protects children and require attention by relevant authorities.

The children were so excited in taking such an initiative to speak for themselves, it was the first activity of its kind and they are looking forward to do another walk soon with banners, procession bands and with other partners who were impressed by the initiative of having a community walk against child labour. The adults realized that its time to give a chance to children to talk for themselves. There is still a big challenge of having media cover the events concerning children and so the children suggested to seek more time in the radio stations and tv stations to talk about say no to child labour and having talk shows in local language in local stations.

More messages:

- Every child has a right to appropriate age child work
- Its our time to learn not time to work
- Protect a child and have a secure future
- If you see or hear about child labour please speak up
- Support, protect and treat injured child

Advocacy Action 8

Country:
Kenya

Partner Organisation:
Welfare for Children and Youth (WCY)

Target audience:
Various stakeholders and partners

Key message:

**"Child protection is everyone's
responsibility!"**

Activity:
The celebration of international youth day with acrobats, music and dance

Description:

The celebration of the International Youth Day whereby the children and youth displayed their talents and had stand exhibitions to showcase their actions. The CAC members used acrobats, music and dance as an advocacy tool to pass over information. During the gallery walk the CACs set up a stand with various messages being communicated to various stakeholder and partners on the need for child protection: Most children are being exploited and being exposed to hazardous work.

It has been invited: the permanent secretary labour, children and social services, the regional youth coordinator Nairobi, the county commissioner, the deputy county commisioner, the member of parliament, the county government youth officer, the sub county youth officer, the senior clergy, youth leaders, the children officer, the labour officer and a non governmental organization (plan international).

More messages:

- Nothing for us without us
- We need quality, skill based and relevant education
- Stop child labour, it hurts our health
- Promote children talent as a form of living
- Respect our rights, child rights is human rights too
- Allocate funds to support child development
- Say no to child abuse and child neglect

Advocacy Action 9

Country:

Kosovo

Partner Organisation:

Terre des hommes Kosovo

www.tdh.ch/en/our-interventions/kosovo

Target audience:

Institutions and society

Key message:

"Children's place is not in the streets but inside the schools!"

Activity:

1. Appearance of 3 CAC members in national TV to talk about working children's rights
2. Painting activity in the public park of Prishtina
3. Artistic performance on the occasion of the opening of the first Drop in Shelter in Kosovo for children in street situation

Description:

CAC advocacy activities aimed to raise awareness on society about the challenges and rights of working children. During the first two activities, children conveyed messages to the public about the situation, working conditions and the treatment of children by others. In the third activity present were also representatives of local institutions and ambassadors where children had the opportunity to talk directly with policy makers and demand opportunities to be heard and participate on decision making process.



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Advocacy Action 10

Country:

Lebanon

Partner Organisation:

Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team (AMURT)

www.amurt.net

Target audience:

SMEs, parents, local authorities and other children

Key message:

"Improving the conditions for working children and raising awareness!"

Activity:

Meetings in the Lebanese Parliament and distributing booklets

Description:

The CAC members had a meeting in the Lebanese Parliament with Dr. Michel Moussa, the deputy in charge of the Human Rights Council. It was a successful meeting and he seemed very interested in our work on improving the conditions for working children and raising awareness on the issue among SMEs, parents, local authorities, and other children. They had another meeting also in the Lebanese Parliament with Dr. Inaya Ezzeldine, the deputy in charge of the Women and Children's Rights Council. She was motivated to collaborate further and expand the project also into other regions (Beirut and the South of Lebanon) in which child labour is very common. The children began distributing booklets to the SMEs. They distributed 100 booklets in upper Chouf in 3 areas: Batloun, Ain w Zain, and Bekaata, in which there are many working children in the SMEs. The youth spoke to each SME and explained a little about Time to Talk! and the outcomes found in the booklets.

Advocacy Action 11

Country:
Lebanon

Partner Organisation:
Nabaa

Target audience:
Local authorities

Key message:

"Protect children from abuse and exploitation!"

Activity:
Collaboration with the Protection Committee in Ein el-Hilweh

Description:

The Protection Committee in Ein el-Hilweh Camp was established in 2009 with the aim of forming a framework of civil and local society associations, popular committees, Islamic parties and UNRWA . It works on the protection of children from different forms of abuse and exploitation, such as harassment, sexual abuse, child recruitment, and labour exploitation. With support from the NGO Nabaa, the CAC members collaborated with the Protection Committee to help establish and implement a Code of Conduct to protect working children from abuse and exploitation in Lebanon. The rules and protective measures for working children were considered a good and important basis for all those who deal with working children, especially the parents, employers and the protection committee in the Ein el-Hilweh camp.



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Advocacy Action 12

Country:
Nepal

Partner Organisation:
Children and Women in Social Service and Human Rights (CWISH), www.cwish.org.np

Target audience:
Children

Key message:

"Child Labour and discrimination are violations of your rights!"

Activity:
Advocacy Workshops in Schools



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Description:

On behalf of the Child Labour Orientation Day on the 30th of July 2019, the CAC CWISH carried out advocacy workshops in various schools. Their objective was to educate children on child labour, child rights, child protection and policies and laws related to child labour. Most of the sessions were facilitated by the CAC members themselves, while the supporting adults (teachers and CWISH staff) provided more insight into the subject matter when required. All of the children participating in the workshop were given the opportunity to share their ideas and help to develop important key messages:

- There should not be any case based discrimination.
- Ensure strict implementation of laws against child labour and ensure strict punishment to perpetrators.
- The family members should be made aware regarding child labour and its adverse effect on children.

Advocacy Action 13

Country:
Peru

Partner Organisation:
Centro de Estudios Sociales y Publicaciones (CESIP)
www.cesip.org.pe

Target audience:
Parents who send their minor children to work

Key message:

"Children and adolescents can not study and it is dangerous in the streets!"

Activity:
Theatre to reach the parents in attendance with their message

Description:
A theatre teacher was hired to train the children of the CAC and accompany them until the day of the public performance. The art pedagogue held 5 sessions of approximately 3 hours with the CAC. One of the risks of the advocacy activity evaluated by CAC was the absence or lack of interest of parents in the area. For this reason, CESIP included the presentation of the CAC in an awareness and integration day planned by another institutional project, aimed at families on that date, which guaranteed the presence of the aforementioned carers. The children, members of the CAC, showed emotions and security on the stage. At the end of the presentation, they were satisfied with what they had achieved: reaching the parents in attendance with the message. Also, they recognized that teamwork is valuable when they set a goal for themselves. For parents whose children were performing, it was a pleasant surprise to see them and their children on stage doing so well. For the other parents who were present, it was a pleasant and incredible experience to see the children display their talent so spontaneously. They were also touched by the content of the play, as it reflects the reality of many working children.



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Advocacy Action 14

Country:
Peru

Partner Organisation:
Instituto de Investigación y Capacitación y Promoción (IINCAP)
www.iincap.org.pe

Target audience:
Teachers and parents

Key message:

"Respect me, don't harm me, take care of me and protect me!"

Description:

The children of the CAC prepared a dramatisation of child violence, for which each one of them had a leading role. After showing the dramatisation, the children expressed their feelings about child violence and how this should be taken into account in order to change, to make a change and for the rights of children to be respected.

Before the dramatisation there was a talk to visualise the abuse and the causes and consequences to get an overview. The dramatisation ended with some commitments from the participants.

The educators played the role of helping in the preparation, coordinating the invitations of teachers and parents, calling the children, the CAC and the coordination with the prefecture.

Activity:
Dramatisation of child violence



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Advocacy Action 15

Country:
Phillipines

Partner Organisation:
Kaugmaon
www.kaugmaon.org.ph

Target audience:
The public

Key message:

"Educate the public about child labour!"

Activity:

Public speaking about Child Labour in conferences and interviews

Description:

After two meetings, some children have already showed skills in leadership and public speaking. Jed Lagria, one of the CAC members, participated at the weekly Kapehan sa Dadaw press conference in SM Ecoland Davao City, together with the executive director of Kaugmaon, Ms Florie May Tacanglast. The purpose of their participation during the conference was to seek support



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from the private sectors for the education of the working children in Davao City. Jed actively expressed his sentiments and calls for private sectors to extend help especially for school support for children like him. He also answered questions from the media willingly and were able to speak on behalf of the CAC members and other working children. Also, three of the CAC members were able to get interviewed on two radio stations in Davao City. The purpose of the activity was to educate the public about child labour and let them know the real situations of the children in hard and hazardous work condition. Justine Regasa, Vea delos Santos and Justine delos Santos, assisted by Petal Cagape, shared their struggles as child labourers. They also shared their dreams for the future and their desires that all the children in the Philippines can set foot in schools and not in hazardous work environment. The radio hopping was in commemoration of the World Day against Child Labour on June 12.

More messages:

- The government must pay more attention in cases like child labour as many "hope of the next generation" become an out of school youth and loose their opportunity to study due to poverty."
- Justine Regasa: We hope that private sectors can extend their help to children like us so we can continue or studies.
- Jed Lagria: People should look at child labour as a problem in the community that needs to be addressed. The situation of the working children should be understood well so they can be given appropriate solution. If the economy is good and it's growing, this should reflect on every household. Meaning, at the very best, parents can send their children to school and provide their needs.

Advocacy Action 16

Country:
Paraguay

Partner Organisation:
CALLESCUELA

Target audience:
Municipality and institutional authorities

Key message:

"Lack of access to drinking water, the contamination of the streams that run through the neighbourhood and the lack of recreational spaces for children!"

Description:

Children and young people from CALLESCUELA met with representatives of the decentralized instances of the National System of Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Children and Adolescents in the Paraná region. The objective was to discuss with them and to make proposals to fight for the rights of all children.

Among the final agreements of the Conversation the commitment of the authorities present including Mayor Miguel Prieto, was to propose a solution to the claims of the residents of the neighborhood of San Roque. Another approach that had been presented to the institutional authorities was the installation of a Community Centre for the different children that are found daily in the neighbourhood, which would be used for educational, recreational and cultural activities.

Activity:

Presentation of proposals for the fulfillment of the Rights of all children



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Advocacy Action 17

Country:

Rwanda

Partner Organisation:

Children's Voice Today (CVT)
www.childrensvoicetoday.org

Target audience:

Employers and parents

Key message:

"Stop violence against working children!"

Activity:

Event with drama, songs and sketch

Description:

The action was about creating safe environment for working children, accessing health services and support to access education. CACs propose the key stakeholders to be involved and prepared the messages through speech members. CACs in collaboration with their fellow children from their respectively children's grassroots groups prepared together to disseminate the messages in sketch, drama and the songs.

More messages:

- Every one is responsible to listen to them
- Supporting working children to access education
- Encouraging child rights duty bearers to do everything that makes children to enjoy their rights



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Advocacy Action 18

Country:

Zambia

Partner Organisation:

Jesus Cares Ministries (JCM)

Target audience:

Parents

Key message:

"Acknowledge that work must not be our primary occupation!"

Activity:

Advocacy Meeting with Representatives of the Church, the Community and the Government

Description:

In efforts to convince their parents to take their messages seriously CAC members first organised a stakeholder meeting with representatives from the Church, Department of Education, Department of Labour, members of the District Child Protection Committee, and the Market association.

They asked representatives of these agencies/ associations to help them communicate their 5 key messages in the parent advocacy meeting that they were organising the next day.

- Please have kind hearts
- Please give me work for my age
- Take our education seriously
- Send us to sell at the right time and in the right places
- Give me time to rest, play, go to school and study.

In the meeting with stakeholders the CAC members introduced and explained each of the five key messages. They presented a drama to show the problems working children experience missing school if their parents do not prioritise their education. They presented a gallery of their CAC journey explaining how each of these tools (Body Mapping, Time-line, Flowers of Support, Problem Tree) had helped them to develop their advocacy action plan (the Hot Air Balloon). The CAC members also presented a song, poem and rap on the importance of their education. A similar format was used during the Parents Advocacy Meeting, and the stakeholders emphasised the importance of the CAC messages.



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