



Annual Report 2022

Annual Report 2022



April 2023

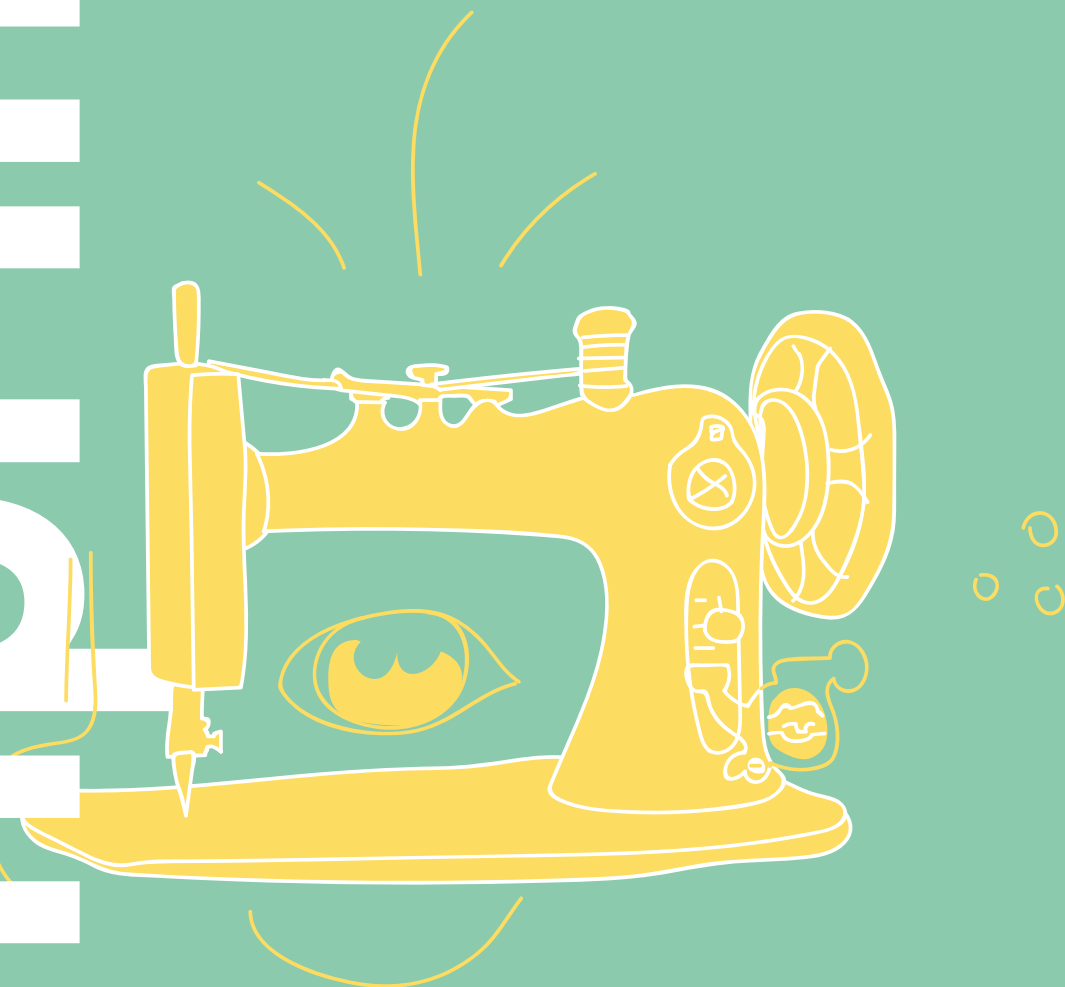
With support from



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

Terre des Hommes
International Federation





A publication by

Kindernothilfe, Germany
Lea Kulakow, lea.kulakow@knh.de
Laura Goldschmitt, laura.goldschmitt@knh.de

Terre des Hommes International Federation
Antje Ruhmann, a.ruhmann@tdh.de

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 (2023) Annual Report 2022, 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

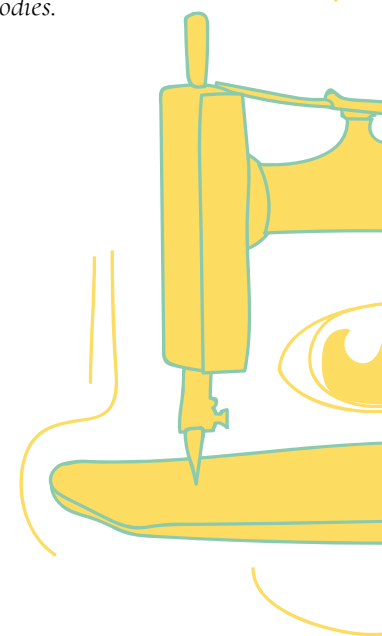
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development



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.

April 2023
© All rights reserved.



Terre des Hommes
International Federation



Content



1. Introduction and Background Information	6
2. Key activities implemented at local level	9
3. Key internal activities implemented at global level	19
4. Key advocacy activities implemented at global level	22
5. Key challenges, lessons learned and suggestions to improve	24

1. Introduction and Background Information



CAC member sharing his message during a public Advocacy Dialogue (Vigyan, India)

This annual report provides an overview of the main activities implemented under the Dialogue Works project from local to global levels during 2022. Dialogue Works (2020 – 2024) is a joint campaign led by Kindernothilfe and Terre des Hommes and co-financed by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, dedicated to create spaces for meaningful participation of working children and youth in international policy debates.

Dialogue Works supports over 30 Children’s Advisory Committees (CACs) of working children in 15 countries, supported by 21 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 Ecuménico 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)



SAMA (Lebanon)



PWHO - Women's Humanitarian Organization, supported by TdH Lebanon (Lebanon)



Members of the CACs are working children and young people aged 8 to 17 years.¹ Across the various countries, the CAC members include girls and boys from urban and rural settings; mostly school going children, but also children in non-formal education or children who dropped out of school; refugee, displaced and migrant children and children from host communities; working children with disabilities; children from indigenous communities and diverse ethnic backgrounds.

The CAC members are engaged in different types of work, with the majority working in the informal sector. Most of the CAC members help their families with the household, do agricultural work, work as small-scale vendors or looking after animals or siblings. Other work that CAC members undertake include to sell or produce handicrafts, as small-scale producer, for wood or water collection, in the fishing industry, as tailor, in a hotel or restaurant, brick or stone making, construction work or in carpentries. Most of the children do part-time or occasional work (e.g. before or after school, at the weekends or during the school holidays or agricultural seasons).

The annual report highlights key activities undertaken by the partner organisations and Children’s Advisory Committees at local to national levels, as well as key advocacy activities at the global level. Furthermore, it portrays general activities organised by the Steering Committee as well identifying key lessons learned, challenges and suggestions to inform planning for 2023 and beyond.

We would like to really thank our dedicated partner organisations and CAC Coordinators as well as the children who form part of our CACs, without whom this campaign would not be possible. We greatly appreciate their commitment to the fulfilment of children’s rights! ●

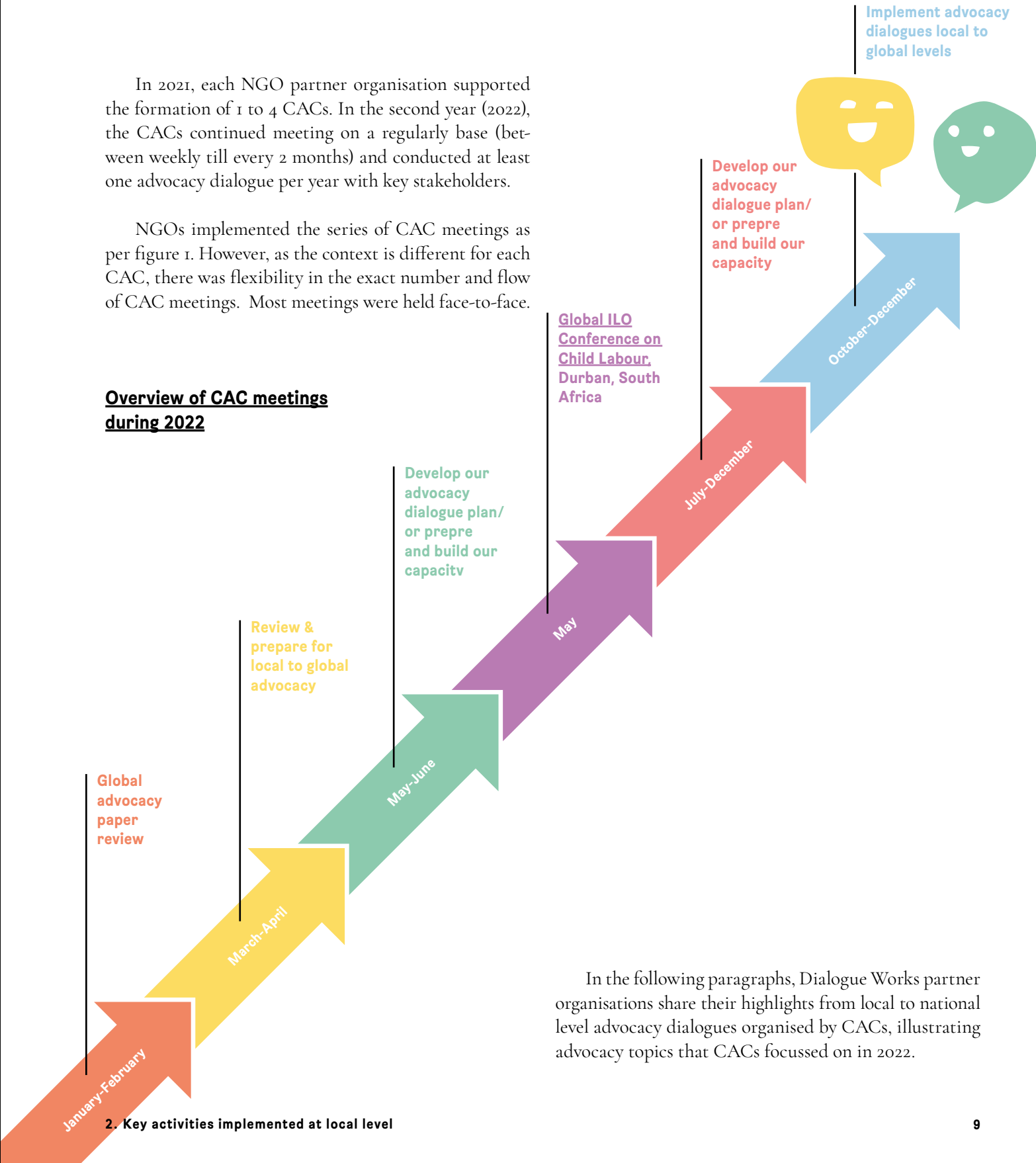
¹ Some CAC members were under 18 when they joined the CAC, but have now become 18 or 19 years old.

2. Key activities implemented at local level

In 2021, each NGO partner organisation supported the formation of 1 to 4 CACs. In the second year (2022), the CACs continued meeting on a regularly base (between weekly till every 2 months) and conducted at least one advocacy dialogue per year with key stakeholders.

NGOs implemented the series of CAC meetings as per figure 1. However, as the context is different for each CAC, there was flexibility in the exact number and flow of CAC meetings. Most meetings were held face-to-face.

Overview of CAC meetings during 2022



In the following paragraphs, Dialogue Works partner organisations share their highlights from local to national level advocacy dialogues organised by CACs, illustrating advocacy topics that CACs focussed on in 2022.

The partner organisation **NABAA in Lebanon** works in a camp for Palestinian refugees. The CAC organised awareness sessions on the right to play in the framework of the 12th of June, “International Day Against Child Labour”. One key message was: “Working children should live their childhood and have their right to play away from their tiring work”.

Another event was organised to raise awareness to protect children from abuse. The number of working children and youth who participated in the awareness sessions and activities led by the CAC was around 250 and there was also a huge number of caregivers, stakeholders and decision makers. In addition to focusing on the right to play and rest, the CAC also focused on the right to education, voluntary work, the importance of psychological support of children and the benefits of life skills training (e.g. communication, problem-solving).

The CAC became a part of the voluntary group supporting NABAA to implement activities for children in centres, helping children feel that the centre is their home and that their initiatives matter.



CAC members doing the activity body mapping (Nabaa, Lebanon)

The CAC from **CSID in Bangladesh** consists of 30 working children with disabilities. They met every two months, plus CSID facilitators regularly communicated with all CAC members face-to-face and over phone.

The CACs discussed the laws and policies for children with disabilities and the prevention of child abuse. Furthermore, they are very happy to discover their many talents and qualities.

One advocacy dialogue on national level with government representatives (from the social welfare department and local government representatives), NGOs representatives, health workers, teachers, guardians and factory owners was organized by the CAC members to present the outcomes from the child labour situation analysis in Bangladesh. As one agreement, the government representatives assured to support children with disabilities to get their ID Card (“Suborno Nagorik card”), to cooperate in providing free birth registration to working disabled children and to include them in the social security system. Furthermore, CAC members above 14 years can get training session in tailoring, computer and Beauty parlor work in the vocational training centers of the Department of Social Services to have better opportunities to get decent jobs.



Group picture during a CAC meeting (CSID, Bangladesh)

The CAC supported by **CWISH in Nepal** discussed the situation of child labour at the local level and invited representatives of the municipality to discuss gaps in policies to fulfil children’s rights, which were identified through different studies carried out by CWISH. Besides this, the CAC members also worked with political candidates during the election to include actions to address the issues of child labour in their election manifesto and to discuss its implementation. During another dialogue with different representatives of media they discussed the idea to work as watchdog and to publish concerns affecting child labourers.



CAC members meet representatives from political parties (CWISH, Nepal)

The CACs supported by **PKPA in Indonesia** focused on addressing Indonesian politics because they realized that the existing policies and laws are only for children who work in institutions or factories but do not include children working in the informal sector. Plus, the CACs were concerned about the lack of skill training programs for children and families. They worked on recommendations to improve the Indonesian policy and plan, and they shared their recommendations during a national dialogue on March, 3, 2023. CAC representatives met with representatives from the Employment Department and the Social Department in Medan. During the meeting, the CAC members and government representatives discussed about government policy and programs, especially for working children.

The CAC members joined two times a podcast as a speaker for working children’s issues and some CAC members also developed a best practice E-book to collect and share their stories of change through their participation in the CAC meetings.



CAC members at a national advocacy meeting (PKPA, Indonesia)

The CACs from **CAJDEN in the Philippines** conducted a lot of creative activities, such as community theatre, and a “stop child labour” campaign through social media, including a focus on prevention of child sexual abuse.

CAJDEN is also doing advocacy work in schools: Two members of the CAC were elected as members of the Student Council in their respective schools. They invited the CAC to talk about child’s rights, the elimination of child labour and the protection of children.

Furthermore, some CAC members met representatives from the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children. During this meeting, the CAC members discussed with them the meaning of child labour and child work.



Social media campaign (CAJDEN, Philippines)

The two CACs (one rural and one urban CAC) supported in the **Philippines by Kaugmaon** have partly been restructured. Kaugmaon reached out to other children who are exposed to mining, fishing and farming who reside in the rural area. This initiative was part of efforts to include issues of children from rural areas in the advocacy work, not only the voices of children in urban settings. For the CAC members, being part of the CAC means to have a community where they are accepted and respected and not being bullied.

During the election process in 2022, the CACs presented their messages to various political candidates from city to national level, who ran for the positions.



CAC members meet representatives from political parties (Kaugmaon, Philippines)

The CACs supported by **NIWCYD in India** mostly work in agriculture, mining work, recreational work (puppet shows), and work in small shops (auto repair) and or as domestic helpers. They organised campaigns in their communities through wall writing and sharing of pamphlets through door-to door contacts for sensitization on child labour issues. As a result of regular interaction, activities and influence of the CACs and other children development groups in the community, two CAC members have been re-enrolled in school for regular studies.

In December, youth activists, including CAC members, organised a Children’s Parliament at the premises of the state legislative assembly hall to discuss about their issues and challenges. Around 80 children and civil society organisation and government representatives, including the chairperson of state of the child protection commission participated in the Children’s Parliament to listen to their voices and concerns. Representatives from the state government authorities have assured children that they will take these discussions forward and they invited child leaders to discuss the issue in different forums and asked them for solutions.



CAC members participating in a Children’s Parliament (NIWCYD, India)

The rural and urban CACs, supported by **VIGYAN in India**, conducted a regional Advocacy Dialogue in December 2022. Several stakeholders from various levels of child protection mechanisms participated including representatives from different institutions, government departments and networks working on child protection (at regional and national levels), parents and school management committee members.

In the end, the chairperson for the dialogue, the honourable member of the State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights and Member of Standing Committee of Niti Ayo, conducted a one-to-one discussion with children and ensured that they will look into matters like the non-child friendly learning atmosphere at school and the poor income level of parents forcing these children into labour or paid work, and take needed corrective actions. Furthermore, one key demand from the CAC members was the need to ensure social security nets for vulnerable and poor families so that sudden changes do not force children to enter into labour force to supplement family income.

In a joint activity with the CACs supported by the two Indian partner organisation **VIGYAN** and **NIWCYD**, the CAC members worked together on a child-led study on child labour, involving leaders from different children forums in 15 districts of Madhya Pradesh and Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh. 59 children (including CAC members) and leaders of a children’s group were invited as facilitators in the 3 days training in July 2022 to develop an understanding on the process of the study and different methodology of data collection.

The CAC members supported by the partner organisation **PASOCAP in Bolivia** live in a city at over 4000m altitude. Main topics discussed in the CAC meetings were labour exploitation, domestic violence and the need for quality education. One of the CAC highlights was the participation of CAC members in the national meeting of the union of working children and adolescents of Bolivia (UNATSBO). In this event, the Ministry of Labour and Justice presented the draft of the "programme of prevention and social protection for children under 14 years of age in labour activity" which is still under review and discussed it with the children.



CAC members with their banner
"Talking about our work"
(PASOCAP, Bolivia)

The partner organisation **IFEJANT in Peru** works with one CAC close to Lima and another CAC that is also supported by MNNATSOP, the movement of working children in Peru. In 2022, on a local level, the CACs talked about the meaning of dignified work and the difference to exploitative child labour. Based on their deliberations, they developed actions to raise awareness among the population so that they respect and understand the way of life of a child who works to survive and to respect their culture.

The local CAC met twice a month with 20 – 30 CAC members and supported the co-facilitation of CAC activities through an elected CAC board. The main topics discussed were a critical appreciation of decent work, self-organisation and social protagonism, the right to education, mental and emotional health, exploitation, poverty and prevention of violence (especially for girls).

The CACs of another partner organisation in Peru, supported by **CESIP**, is divided into 3 groups. At a local level, CAC members participated in seminars and meetings with the local authorities where they presented the situation of children's rights in the country and carried out advocacy actions in different communities through creative awareness campaigns.



CAC members raising awareness
about child labour in their community
(CESIP, Peru)

Each CAC supported by the two partner organisations **CESIP** and **IFEJANT in Peru** had a high-level advocacy dialogue at national level with the Congresswoman from the Minister of Women.

In the meeting with IFEJANT, the discussion focused on policies that do not include the voices of children and adolescents.

The CAC members from CESIP talked about the situation of child labour in the country and the rights of children and youth and presented proposals for action based on their experience. These proposals included actions such as awareness raising for officials in child labour regulations.

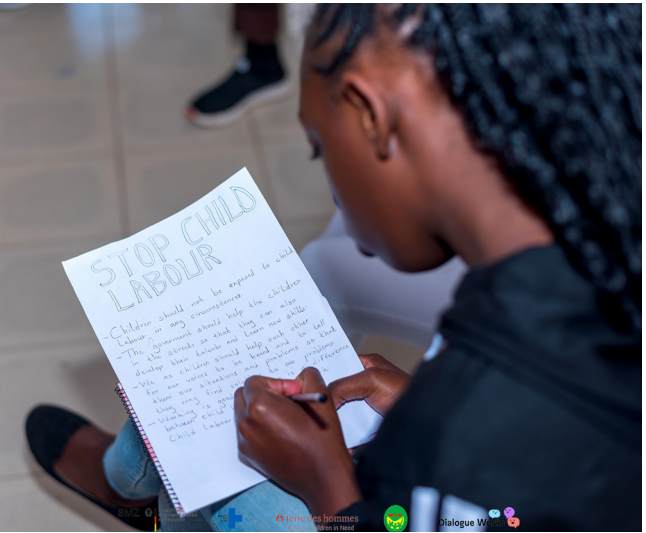


CAC member during the
dialogue with the congresswoman
(Ifejant, Peru)

The CACs supported by **WCY from Kenya** focused on peer-to-peer learning as an advocacy tool. Each CAC member used their talent or hobby to raise awareness and share the CAC messages, experiences and best practices. For example, children used theatre, drama, poetry, art, drawings, and focus groups discussion to raise their messages among their peers in the community, even during the breaks of a basketball match. In total, between 300 – 500 children and youth have been reached.

Through other advocacy actions and dialogues with different actors in the field of child protection, parents and guardians, local leaders and community, the support towards education and meeting the basic needs of children including shelter, food, clothing and social protection have been increased.

Focal themes in 2022 during the CAC meetings were skill trainings on alternative income support for families and parents as an entrepreneurship activity, community volunteerism, physical and mental health and the importance of environmental management and conservation.



CAC member writing a
poem about child labour
(WCY, Kenya)

The **Kenyan** NGO Action for Children in Conflict (AFCIC) focused on mobilizing and sensitizing pupils in eight municipal primary schools, working children in street situation and teachers about child labour.

Two art, music and theatre festivals on the topic of child labour were held during school vacations in November and December, attended by 600 children and community members. CAC members asked politicians running for election about their views on child labour and whether they would be willing to support legislation that would create a good environment for working children.

In total, the initiatives from AFCIC directly reached 800 children in eight schools, 76 working children who live on the street, and more than 150 adults, including parents, teachers, government officials, public health officials and employers.



CAC members preparing their contribution for the public festivals (AFCIC, Kenya)

The CACs supported by **CACLAZ in Zimbabwe** collaborated with news reporters and radio stations who helped them to raise awareness in the country and at national level on how child labour is increasing. They also engage a youth network group which is working together with the CAC to fight against child labour.

Another great success was a roadshow in Chiredzi where the participants emphasized the need to eliminate child labour and sensitized others that working children must be recognized as right holders. They also explored the working lives of children and later prepared the capacity of children as right holders. CACLAZ educated the CAC members on self-care and its relevance before we commemorated the “global action month”.



CAC members collecting garbage in their community during the “global action month” (CACLAZ, Zimbabwe)



The CACs supported by **CVT in Rwanda** focused on two key messages including “protecting working children from violence at work” and “encouraging working children to enrol in school for preparing their better future”. Monitoring visits to different workplaces from children have been conducted, in collaboration with local leaders, child protection committees, employers and CAC members to identify the problems they are facing and find solutions. During community gatherings (community meeting and family evening session), the problems raised by working children were discussed and jointly they took measures to address them. As one result, 27 working children (18 boys and 9 girls) re-enrolled at schools due to the sensitization done by CAC members.



CAC member preparing their advocacy dialogue with the activity “hot air balloon” (CVT, Rwanda)

30 CAC members supported by **FC in Ethiopia** worked on the topics of labour exploitation, child marriage and school absenteeism and dropout from school. During “International Women’s Day” celebration days on March 8th, CAC members shared their advocacy messages (“Stop child labour exploitation” and “End child marriage”) on child labour exploitation in two districts and more than 250 participants from government officials and community members have been reached. Also, during the “African Child Day” and “World Children Day”, CAC members presented their advocacy messages through poems and dramas for 85 participants.

And finally, CAC members presented their key messages to 29 zonal higher government officials. The government representatives agreed on protecting children from child labour exploitation.



CAC members after their advocacy dialogue (FC, Ethiopia)

B. The development of guidance and training modules for NGO partners and CACs

- The Steering Committee the two lead consultants on child participation Claire O’Kane and Ornella Barros shared 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.
- In the first months of 2022, the CACs have convened to re-assess the advocacy messages from 2019. The result is the updated version of the global document “**Let our voices be heard**” that are:
 - Address poverty, provide decent jobs for our parents, and ensure that our basic needs are met
 - Take our education seriously and provide quality education and skill training
 - Protect us from labour exploitation, harsh conditions and risks, and allow children to do suitable dignified work
 - Listen to us, understand us, and implement laws that respect our rights
 - Prevent and protect working children from violence and discrimination
- To fulfil the aim to support efforts to embed and institutionalise sustainable platforms and structures for working children’s participation, two training modules on “**Embedding and institutionalising children’s participation**” in ‘Part A: ongoing organisational structures’, and ‘Part B: in external institutional structures’ have been published and implemented by several partner organisations.
- Another module called “**Module on self-care, risk and disappointment management**” published in 2022 provides activities for CAC members, youth and adult co-facilitators to enhance self-care, celebrate achievements and manage risks and disappointments and also successfully implemented by partner organisations. This module is not only used for CAC meetings but has also been adapted by several partner organisations for other activities with children and youth.

C. Peer-learning among Dialogue Works partner organisations

- **Regional training workshops: “Exchange, learning and action for Dialogue Works”.**
In September 2022, three regional Workshops were held in Nepal, Peru and Kenya to exchange and reflect on the achievements, challenges and lesson learned of the Dialogue Works project activities and to develop a vision for the future pathway of Dialogue Works (at local/ national/ global level) that builds on the project’s outcomes, organisational commitment of partners, and the interest of children to continue creating sustainable platforms for children’s participation in decisions that concern them. From each partner organisation, two representatives participated at the workshop.
- **Virtual CAC Coordinator exchanges:**
Coordinator meetings and advocacy calls were also organised to allow for more informal exchange and peer learning among the different NGOs and to seek advice on global advocacy activities.

D. External midterm Evaluation

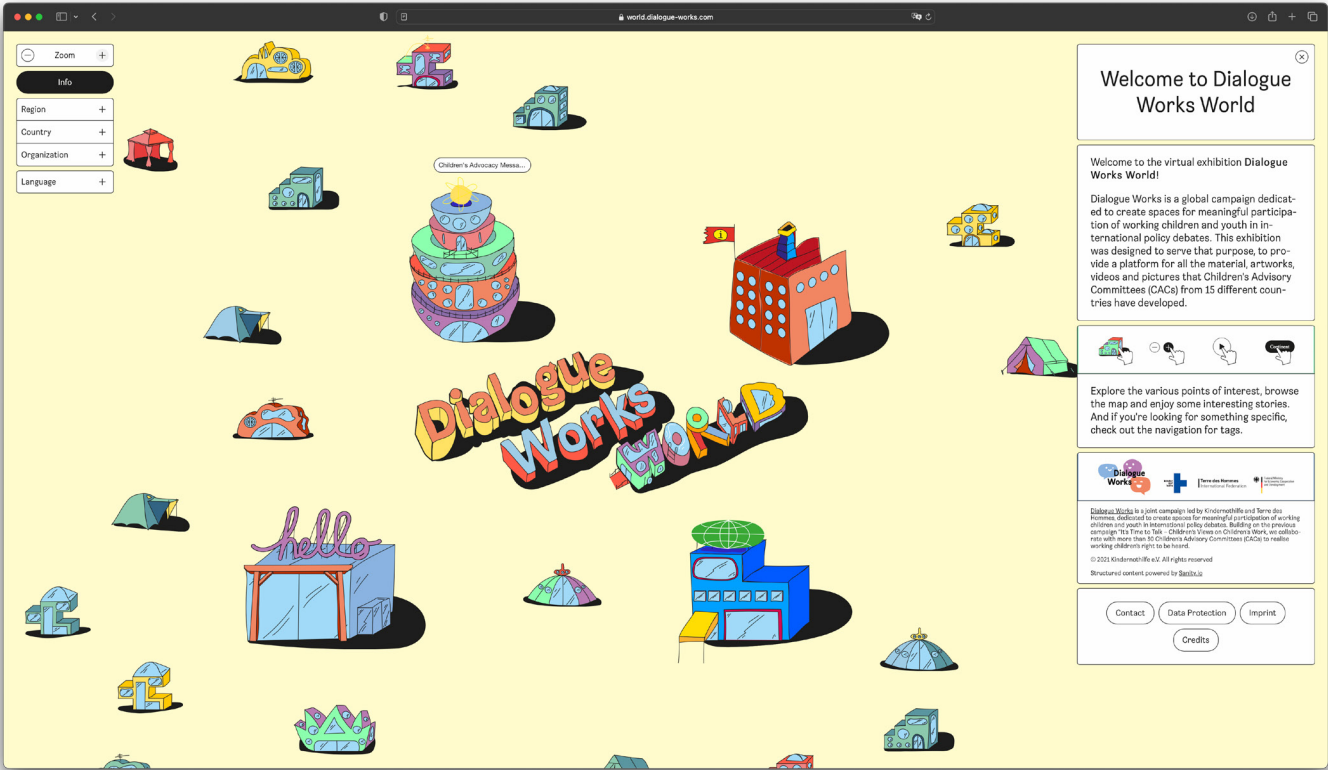
Furthermore, the Dialogue Works team has started an external Midterm Evaluation. In this framework, semi-structured interviews with all partner organisations, relevant stakeholders, key actors and lead consultants of the Campaign have been conducted. During the Global Gathering in January 2023 in Rwanda, focus group discussions with CAC members are planned. Results are expected for March 2023.

F. Image film

In May 2022, three representatives from local CACs in Peru (CESIP), India (VIGYAN) and Zambia (JCM) showed in the official Dialogue Works image film what the CAC and participation means to them. ●

E. Launch of the virtual exhibition

How to create more spaces for working children’s voices to be shared and heard globally? In May, the “**Dialogue Works World**”, a virtual exhibition was designed to serve that purpose and to provide a platform for all materials, artworks, videos and pictures that the CAC develop. Also, video contributions of Dialogue Works supporters, e.g. from the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children Najat Maalla M’jid and the Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Mikiko Otani, are part of the exhibition. All partner organisations and international actors contributed to this interactive online tool with great contributions (available in Spanish and English).



Virtual exhibition:
Dialogue Works World

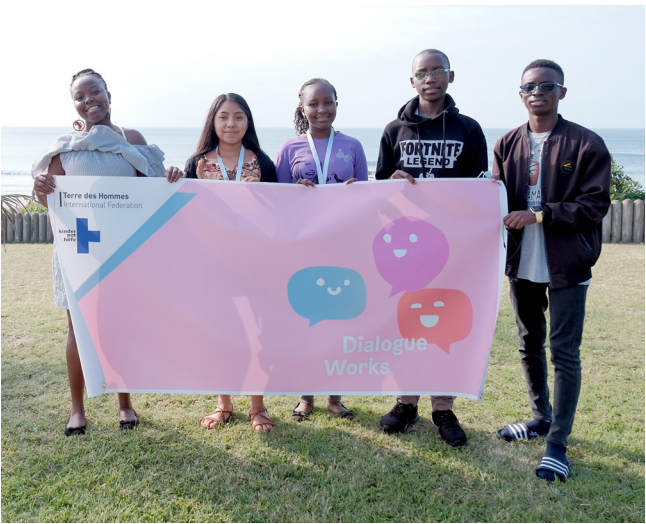
4. Key advocacy activities implemented at global level

A. Working children's participation at the V Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour

In May 2022, the South African Government and the ILO (International Labour Organisation) hosted the V. Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour.

Prior to the Conference, Dialogue Works had many meetings and discussions with different actors engaged in the organisation of that conference, primarily from ILO and the South African Government to reach one main goal of the Dialogue Works Campaign: to ensure the participation of working children in this international conference.

A **Children's forum** dedicated to children was organised and an international group of 60 youth activists from different civil society organisations were invited to participate. Among these, five representatives of the Dialogue Works Global CAC from WCY and AFCIC (Kenya), JCM (Zambia) and CEIPA (Guatemala) travelled to Durban to be part of this children's forum and to speak up for working children.



Dialogue Works youth representatives from Guatemala, Kenya and Zambia

The Conference started for the child and youth representatives with a two-day-workshop to prepare for an intergenerational dialogue in the main programme called the Children's Forum. Virtual participation through online meetings was also arranged, for those who couldn't participate in person to also share their messages, including some CAC members. During the Children's Forum on 19th of May, the perspective and messages of the child and youth representatives were presented in form of creative expressions through music, dance and theatre, as well as in an intergenerational panel discussion. Two Dialogue Works representatives, Ashley (age 15) and Kabwe (age 18), were elected as panellists and gave strong statements in the discussion with representatives from ILO, the South African government and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The meetings for the preparation of children's participation prior to the Conference were at times challenging and took place on short notice, and the overall Children's Forum was only marginally linked to the overall conference program. It was a first step for children's participation in this series of global high-level political debates and hopefully will result in more sustainable meaningful participation of children at the global level.



Intergenerational panel discussion during the Children's Forum

B. Development of a child friendly version of the Durban Call to Action

After the Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour in South Africa, Dialogue Works started to work jointly with other civil society organisations (including UNICEF, and ILO and the government from South Africa) that have been involved in the Children's Forum on a **child-friendly** translation of the outcome document of the Conference - the **Durban Call to Action**. The final document will be published in April 2023.

C. CACs video contribution for high level event

Ahead of the presentation of the annual report to the United Nations Third Committee, Najat Mal-la M'jid, the UN Special Representative of Violence against Children, co-organised an event to launch an **advocacy briefing** focusing on how the climate crisis increases violence against children. Video contributions and questions from CAJDEN (Philippines) were part of this event and helped transmit children's main messages around this issue.

D. Advocacy meetings on global level

Prior to the V Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour, a series of preparatory calls have been undertaken by SC members to reach out to ILO, as well as to potential governments, UN and civil society allies to open up opportunities for meaningful participation during the Global Conference (e.g. calls with ILO, CRC members, permanent missions of Germany and South Africa in Geneva, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, German Federal Ministry of Labour, African Movement of Working Children and Youth (AMWCY), the Latin American and Caribbean Movement of Working Children and Adolescents (MOLACNATs), the Concerned for Working Children (CWC), core members of the Children & Works network).

In November, the Steering Committee and representatives from the Peruvian NGO MANTHOC, a member of MOLACNATs, met virtually with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to discuss working children's experiences and demands and potential activities that the UN Committee could undertake to help improve their situation. ●

5. Key challenges, lessons learned and suggestions to improve

Key Challenges

- The unstable political situation and economic crisis in some countries created challenges to organise regular CAC meetings and Advocacy Dialogues (e.g. Lebanon).
- **Time management:** Working children tend to be very busy juggling work, education and other responsibilities, as well as needing time to rest and engage in leisure activities. Sometimes, especially in rural areas, CAC members live far away from the CAC meeting location, so that it takes a lot of time and resources to bring all CAC members to the meetings (e.g. Philippines, Tanzania, Ethiopia).
- **Ad-hoc participation in certain high-level political meetings** due to spontaneous requests and/or unreliable and untimely responses by organisers. Time needed and logistic hurdles to ensure meaningful participation of children are not often acknowledged or internalized by high level organisers.
- The administrative preparation for CAC members to travel (such as applying for passport and visa, getting permission from Ministries and schools) often brings a lot of **bureaucratic barriers** and requires a lot of efforts from partner organisations and families of the CAC members.
- In some cases, partner organisations invited external guests, such as government officials or other authorities to attend their advocacy dialogues but they wouldn't attend the meeting on short notice. The success of the advocacy dialogues depends very much on the **willingness of the addressed (political) stakeholders** (e.g. Bangladesh, Peru).
- **More working children** were keen to join the CAC activities in some countries, but funds are limited (e.g. Zimbabwe).



- Another challenge is the **lack of communication material available in local languages** that can be used for awareness raising and advocacy dialogues (e.g. Rwanda).
- There is also the difficulty to **work with employers** of working children as they show no interest to participate in meetings or activities (e.g. Nepal).
- **(In-)continuity of (political) contacts:** After election or when there is a change in the position of a (political) stakeholder, the CACs need to rebuild new contacts with relevant stakeholders and to update and involve them in the Campaign (e.g. Peru, Philippines, Nepal).
- Some CACs faced the challenge that some **CAC members leave the CAC** due to different reasons (no time, moving to another place, ...) and that it takes time and a lot of efforts to activate and onboard new CAC members (e.g. Nepal, Bolivia).

Lessons learned

- It is truly important for children to have a respectful and comfortable environment where they can freely share their messages. **Children are ready to participate when platforms are provided:** "Tell me and I will forget. Show me and I may not remember. Involve me, and I will understand." (e.g. Zimbabwe)
- There is the necessity of **involving relevant stakeholders** in the action plan of CAC activities to reach the objectives (e.g. Lebanon)
- Since the beginning, many of the NGO partners are making increased efforts to inform and **actively engage parents and caregivers** which tends to increase parental support for children's active participation in the CACs and for their advocacy initiatives. Through their support they help other parents or caregivers to become interested in learning more about the CAC and children's rights.
- Partner organisations in Peru experienced that when they do advocacy with an authority, it is important to **include the permanent and appointed officials** to ensure continuity even if the person in the position is changing.
- **Dialogue** is not an event but a **continuous process**, there is a need to make clear follow-ups on steps agreed upon with the leaders and hold them accountable to their actions and commitments (e.g. Kenya).
- It is also important to include the **media** so that they report about advocacy dialogues and the children's messages (e.g. Nepal, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, Lebanon).
- In some contexts, it was also very helpful to work with the **school management committee** and parents-teacher-association (e.g. Nepal).



CAC members and parents working together on a Campaign on the 12th of June (Cajden, Philippines)



CAC members speaking in a radio show about their advocacy messages (Ifejant, Peru)

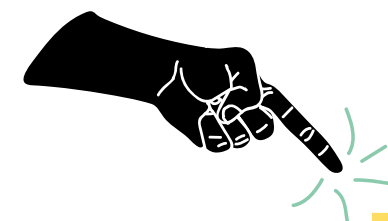


- Another lesson learned is that **political representatives** should also be trained on the issue of child participation, as in many countries there was noted a lack of sensibilization (e.g. Nepal).
- The partner organisation in Zambia, Bolivia and the Philippines learned that it is important to **develop strong networks** with other NGOs working on child-led advocacy.
- Doing awareness raising and sharing messages in a **creative way**, e.g. through poems, singing, dancing, theatre, art, is a very successful way for children to express themselves freely and with more self-confidence and helps to gain attention (all, see also Dialogue Works World).
- There is still the need to raise people's awareness to distinguish between **child labour and child work** (e.g. Rwanda).



CAC members participating in a theatre workshop (Vigyan, India)

- One partner in Peru continued to use a **mix of face to face meetings** (to meet with all CAC members) and virtual meetings (to meet with the CAC members who co-facilitate the meetings for preparation).
- **International exchange** opportunities, such as the Global CAC, are very helpful and interesting for the CAC members. However, there are some hurdles, such as weak Internet connectivity, language barriers or different time zones, as well as other obligations of CAC members, that can make it difficult to participate for them in international exchange formats.



Suggestions to improve

- Include other children in the CAC activities, trainings and workshops so that they also have the opportunity to learn about children's rights and participation. The current CAC members could co-facilitate the activities and workshops (Nepal, Peru, Bolivia, Guatemala, Kenya)
- Train also teachers (as they are in regular contact with the children) on relevant tools so that they continue to increase the sustainability of CACs to multiply the methods and tools and to institutionalize children's participation in schools (Tanzania)
- Encourage CAC members to do informal peer-to-peer learning with their friends at school (Indonesia)
- Some partners want to ensure more time to talk with the children and listen to them instead of doing one activity after the other (Zimbabwe) ●



Annual Report 2022

dialogue-works.com

With support from



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

Terre des Hommes
International Federation

