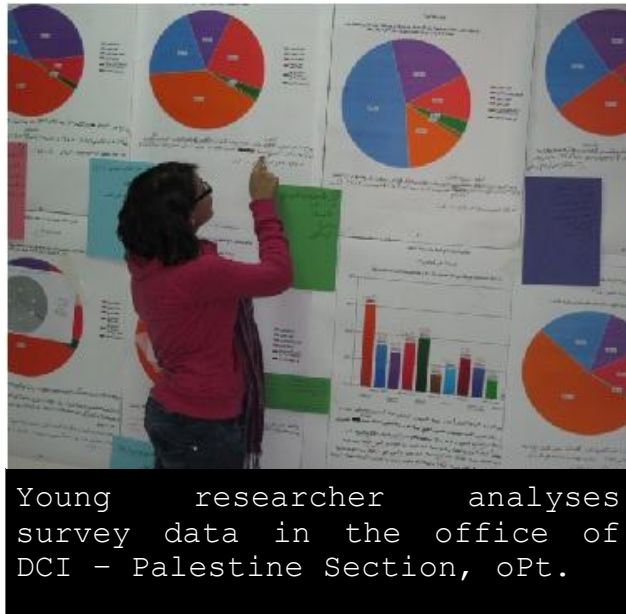


Save the Children Sweden's Child Led Data Collection Methodology

Child Led Data Collection (CLDC) is a child participation methodology that was piloted, tested and finalized by Save the Children Sweden (SCS) and its MANARA Child Rights Network of partners in the Middle East and North Africa region. CLDC is being used as one of the child participation tools under the research component for the MANARA Network.

CLDC methodology engages young researchers in gathering evidence of children's situations and child rights violations. The methodology is child friendly and produces qualitative and quantitative evidence of everyday needs and priorities which can be used to inform change. Policies and programmes can then use this evidence to focus on needs that children themselves have asserted and reported in detail.



Young researcher analyses survey data in the office of DCI - Palestine Section, oPt.

CLDC involves research which is led by 15-18 year old researchers who gather, analyze, report and advocate about the everyday needs and experiences of 8 - 18 year olds across the MENA Region, with support from the members of the MANARA Network. The central concept behind CLDC is that children are capable, willing and entitled to research and campaign about needs and priorities in children's lives. After all, how can anyone else know better than children?

CLDC and the CRC

SCS continuously seeks new methods of empowering children and making their voices heard. CLDC is based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly:

Article 12 (Respect for the views of the child): The child has the right to express his or her opinion freely and to have the opinion taken into account in any matter or procedure affecting the child.

Article 13 (Freedom of Expression): The child has the right to express his or her views, obtain information, make ideas or information known, regardless of frontiers.

CLDC Methodology

In the CLDC Pilot, teams of 26 young researchers in each of the four participating countries in the MENA Region (Lebanon, occupied Palestinian Territories, Yemen and Morocco) interviewed children and young people in their own neighborhoods about their everyday lives, and how they would change these if they could.

These interviews were subsequently analyzed and used to develop surveys to measure the extent to which the needs and priorities of the sample interviewed were shared across a larger sample of children in each of these settings. Around 1000 children were surveyed in each country. The qualitative and quantitative evidence was then combined and each country's young research team generated their own findings report, and regional trends were studied. The CLDC evidence base from the Pilot includes evidence gathered from over 4000 children and young people in the region, and details everyday experiences, needs and priorities.



Young Researchers working on a Profile Chart in a survey workshop at Nabaa organization, Lebanon

Advocacy is an intrinsic part of CLDC, given that the methodology focuses on driving evidence-based change. So the final stage of the CLDC cycle involves young researchers being supported to present and share their findings with those in a position to shape policies and define interventions in children's lives.

CLDC supported by civil society

This methodology aims to encourage organizations and young people themselves to try a pioneering approach which enables young people to learn about, demand and change the lives they live. With crucial support and training facilitated by civil society organizations, children can do this as good as, if not better than, adults can and it is more ethically justifiable and practically sustainable if they do.