INCLUSIVE DATA CHARTER – ACTION PLAN

Making data more inclusive of street children to inform and accelerate action

INTRODUCTION

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN Member States committed to leaving no one behind and to endeavour reaching the furthest behind first. As some of the world's most marginalised children, street children are often among those who are 'the furthest behind'.

Consortium for Street Children (CSC) is the only global network that raises the voices of street-connected children, uniting the organisations working to create long-term change. Our network is made up of 100+ NGOs, advocates, researchers and on-the-ground practitioners across 135 countries, working with and for street children.

This document outlines CSC's commitment to the Inclusive Data Charter and sets out the actions that we will take in order to achieve its principles. This action plan is a living document. We will review, revise and update it periodically to reflect evolving priorities and as objectives are achieved.

WHY WE ARE SIGNING THE INCLUSIVE DATA CHARTER

At Consortium for Street Children, our vision is a world where street children are guaranteed the same rights as every other child. In order to achieve this and fulfil the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development pledge, high quality, disaggregated and inclusive data is required.

For CSC, striving for inclusive data means not only collecting and using data disaggregated by (at a minimum) sex and age, but also ensuring that hidden population groups – such as street children – are included in the data that informs policies around the world.

Street children are excluded from data because standard data collection methods such as household surveys are not adapted to the realities of their live. The data that is available on street children is outdated and inaccurate, with biased data continuously reproduced. For street children, being uncounted and invisible means they rarely have access to basic health services and education, and are hardly ever accounted for in social protection systems or prioritized in policy-making processes.

We believe that signing the Inclusive Data Charter and working alongside other champions will strengthen our call for disaggregated and inclusive data and will enable us to share strategies and best practices for how this can be achieved.

CURRENT WORK

Most of our current work is already aligned to the five IDC principles:

Principle One: All populations must be included in the data

CSC works to make street children visible and ensure that their voices are included in evidence that supports policy-making and strategy-setting at all levels. We do this by facilitating street children's voices (disaggregated by gender and by age group) to be included in UN studies, submissions to UN agencies, human rights mechanisms and national action plans. Most notable is CSC's role in developing the UN CRC General Comment No. 21 on Children in Street Situations. CSC coordinated the consultation process with street children to ensure they were at the centre of the process in developing guidance on realising their rights - a world first. We coordinated 7 national, regional and multi-country consultations, bringing together 327 children from 32 countries, speaking 28 different languages. The information children provided through the consultations formed the basis of the UN General Comment.

Principle Two: All data should, wherever possible, be disaggregated in order to accurately describe all populations

We recognise that wherever possible, data should be disaggregated by sex, age, location, disability status, income, race, ethnicity, migratory status, and other relevant characteristics. We encourage member organisations, when submitting data and evidence about street-connected children to inform the work of the Network or feed into advocacy, to disaggregate by sex, age, and where possible other relevant characteristics such as disability.

Principle Three: Data should be drawn from all available sources

We believe that high quality data can come from non-official sources, helping to fill the data gaps left in official data. Our work is informed by data collected for and with street children by our network members around the world. In the absence of statistical or survey data on street children, we emphasise the importance and relevance of anecdotal evidence from street children of different age groups and genders.

Principle Four: Those responsible for the collection of data and production of statistics must be accountable

We fully support the Charter's commitment to balancing the need for transparency with the principles of confidentiality and data protection. We have policies in place to ensure that personal or identifying data is correctly handled and child protection and ethical considerations are paramount in everything we do.

Principle Five: Human and technical capacity to collect, analyse, and use disaggregated data must be improved, including through adequate and sustainable financing

The human and technical capacity of our Network Members varies greatly. To strengthen the capacity of the Network in conducting research and accessing existing evidence and literature, we established a Research Forum. This Research Forum consists of academics, independent researchers and representatives from civil society organisations, bringing academic and professional expertise together to guide CSC's collective research priorities and work. It provides a platform for experts to share existing research, resources and approaches as well as to create a link between academic research and network members' work on the ground.

WHAT IS NEW AND DIFFERENT?

Despite efforts being made towards strengthening data collection for and with street children, much more is needed. This action plan lays out the specific actions we will take to commit to and uphold the principles of the Charter. We have identified two objectives to be met during the course of our current strategic plan (2019-2023):

Objective One: Ensure development data becomes more inclusive of street children.

We will work with researchers, UN institutions, research institutions and other partners to develop and strengthen counting and survey methodologies and population estimation models to be more inclusive of hidden groups. With specific data on street children we will be able to develop a better understanding of street children's lives and how to tailor strategies to their specific needs. In our proposed research projects, we will also explore opportunities to incorporate citizen-generated data, collecting and using data from new sources. Once more inclusive methodologies are in place, we will promote the use of the data that these methods generate across the sector, in our own work and with governments. Through this we aim to ensure that policies, programmes and strategies for street children are better informed by the realities of their lives.

Objective Two: Encourage and build the capacity of network members to collect and use disaggregated data.

We will work to identify the capacity of network members in collecting and using data that is, at a minimum, disaggregated by gender and by age, and develop tool kits, mentoring programmes and/or e-learning materials to share good practices and support them to build their capacities further. Because of the nature of our work with vulnerable children, we will especially compile and share good practices on ethical and responsible data collection based on the highest standards of child safeguarding, and the responsible use of data (including audiovisual data), adhering to principles of informed consent and the highest standards of child protection.

Action Plan

Objectives	Actions	Time-frame*	Related IDC Principle(s)

Ensure development data becomes more inclusive of street children.	Develop a new survey method tailored specifically to street children.
	   a. Develop social indicators tailored to street children.
	   b. Develop a tailored survey method.
		2021 - 2022	Principle One; Principle Three

	Strengthen existing counting methods to establish a more accurate picture of the number of street children at local, national and global levels.
	   a. Map and analyse the strengths and weakness of existing counting methods.
	   b. Identify, pilot and document potential innovations
	   c. Trial and compare results of counting methods to establish a combined method across the sector
		2020 - 2021	

	Develop a model for estimating the number of street children at a national level, using the data from the strengthened counting methodology.
	   a. Map and analyse existing estimation models based on social indicators.
	   b. Develop new model to estimate national numbers of street children using data from counting method and social indicators, to provide reliable estimates when accurate counting data is unavailable.
		2020 - 2023	

	Develop and trial adaptations to existing survey methods that are more inclusive of street children
	   a. Map and analyse the strengths and weaknesses of existing methods
	   b. Identify, pilot and document innovations such as gridded sampling, bottom-up data collection, or changes to the definition of household.
		2021 - 2023	

	Demonstrate best practice in collecting data for street children and advocate for adoption and use of more inclusive methods and data.
	   a. Promote tailored survey and established counting methods across the sector, including with NGO partners, researchers and governments.
	   b. Promote use of disaggregated data generated from more inclusive methods across the sector to encourage better informed policy decisions and programming.
		On-going	

*Timings are approximate for the first objective as external funding is required to progress these activities.

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Objectives	Actions	Time-frame	Related IDC Principle(s)
Encourage and build the capacity of network members to collect and use disaggregated data.	Map capacity of CSC Network Members to collect and use disaggregated data a. Conduct survey with Network Members, analyse and share results with CSC Research Forum	2019-2020	Principle Two; Principle Four; Principle Five

	Develop and disseminate tool kits/e-learning materials to CSC Network Members to build capacity in collecting and using disaggregated data.
	  a. Develop a strategy for training for network members to collect and use disaggregated data to strengthen their programming and advocacy work
	  b. Design materials responding to capacity gaps identified in mapping.
	  c. Disseminate materials to network members and follow up on their use.
		2020-2021	

	Set up mentoring programme between the CSC Research Forum and interested CSC Network Members.
	  a. Conduct mapping of Research Forum members' areas of expertise.
	  b. Match Research Forum Members to Network Members based on expertise and outcome of CSC Network capacity mapping
		2020 onwards	

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