

RESULTS SUMMARY

Advocacy to influence policy direction with the Africa Union

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PROJECT	<i>Title:</i>	Leave No Youth Behind
	<i>Partner:</i>	African Union/ACERWC, African governments, Civil Society Organizations
	<i>Country:</i>	African Union and Member States
	<i>Period:</i>	January 2022 – December 2026

CHANGE	The 45th Session of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) adopted a General Comment on Article 25 of the ACRWC, enhancing the region's human rights framework. Member states must incorporate these policy directions into their strategies for children without parental care (CWPC). A monitoring tool was also adopted to help countries collect and analyze data on CWPC indicators, facilitating progress assessments in upholding their rights.
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CONTEXT	There are an estimated 35 million CWPC in Africa, facing challenges stemming from war, conflict, climate change, natural disasters, pandemics, and poverty. Alarming, over 70% of countries across Africa lack explicit child protection policy frameworks. In East and West Africa, up to 80% of countries are without such policies, while 70% in Southern Africa and 87.5% in Central Africa similarly lack explicit guidelines for protecting children without parental care.
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CONTRIBUTION	Fifty-one of the 55 AU member states that have signed and ratified the Charter will integrate recommendations from the General Comment into their periodic progress reports to the Committee. The newly adopted monitoring tool will assist countries in organizing and analyzing data on CWPC from various sources, guiding them on what data to collect, and identifying areas for improvement in child rights policies and implementation. This initiative is a critical step towards enhancing the protection and welfare of children without parental care.
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IMAGES	 IOR/ESAF – Child Representative opening remarks at the ACERWC Opening  ACERWC-Representative from Africa
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[See next page for more details](#) →

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

A consultant was seconded to the ACERWC Secretariat at the African Union to help develop the General Comment and monitoring tool. This included providing technical support and policy recommendations on care leaving preparation, aftercare services, and reintegration. The consultant also supported the development of the monitoring tool both technically and financially. A validation workshop gathered input from governments, academics, and practitioners, ensuring a comprehensive approach.

LESSONS

Navigating partnerships on contentious topics requires patience, flexibility, and adaptable strategies to effectively influence outcomes. The withdrawal of UNICEF from the process due to trust issues and disagreements over the continental study highlighted the challenges faced. However, strengthening collaboration with the African Union and the Committee, the legally mandated bodies for children's rights in Africa, proved crucial to the process's success.

EVIDENCE

The continental study revealed that over 70% of governments in various regions of Africa lack explicit child protection policy frameworks and guidance. The General Comment will now serve as a foundation for member states to advocate for changes in local policies and practices. The ACERWC and AU will disseminate the General Comment to all 51 state parties, conduct follow-ups on its implementation, and provide input for ongoing assessments in periodic concluding remarks.

DOMAINS

<i>Development strategy priorities:</i>		Insert strategy priority
<i>Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>		-
<i>Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights</i>		Yes
<i>Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights</i>		-
<i>Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights</i>		-
<i>Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>		-
<i>Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work</i>		-

GUIDANCE NOTE

This format consists of two overall sections: on page one, the results summary communicates results to an external audience using a brief summary of what has been achieved; while page two provides an opportunity to explain the background and evidence behind the claims made as part of the summary.

Page 1: Results summary

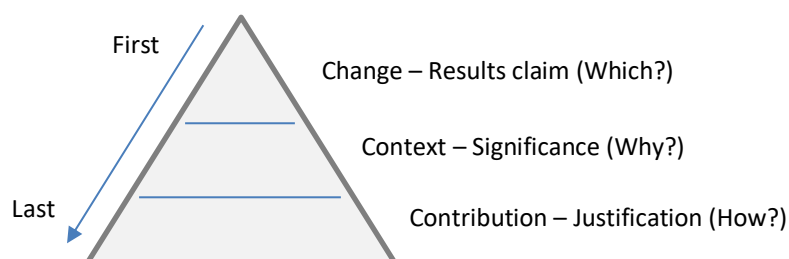
The results summary should outline of the overall change. This should be phrased in a clear and concise manner, focusing on the benefits for target groups or communities, and preferably start out by stating the overall key message as a one-line statement. It is thus important to prioritise what the key message should be and not attempt to describe every possible change that may have occurred.

Note that case studies should not describe all of the activities carried out during the implementation. Instead, it should focus on one or two key messages to be highlighted – which may also span several projects – and only outline activities to backup contributions to the highlighted change.

This can be illustrated as a “reverse funnel.” First, the “change” section introduces the overall results claim, which answers the “which.” Note that this is done before any details have been provided. Second, the “context” section outlines the problem being addressed by the project and the significance of the change. For example, by explaining “why” it benefits target groups or communities.

Finally, and lastly, the “contribution” section should provide examples to justify for “how” the intervention contributed to realising change. Note that this should focus on the plausible linkage between the change and intervention rather than describing details from activities. It is often useful to think of this as a reverse theory-of-change, i.e. “After we did X, then Y occurred, because of Z.”

Figure 1:
Reverse funnel for communication



Page 2: Additional information

The second page should provide background and evidence for project's contribution to change. It can also address technical issues that do not fit in the results summary. The section consists of the following sections:

- **Activities:** Whereas the “contribution” section on page one provides a brief summary of the project contributions to change, the “activities” section allows for more detail on the project design, organisation and underlying activities in support of the contributions made.
- **Lessons:** Describes lessons learned through the implementation. These should relate to the results claim or alternatively the project(s) as a whole. Please consider (1) novelty – i.e. whether the change represents something new – and (2) the potential to scale and/or build on lessons going ahead.
- **Evidence:** A narrative comparison between results claims and the underlying evidence. It should answer “X led to Y, because of Z,” although it does not need to be phrased this way. It is useful to include references to a few selected documents for further details. Please see guidelines for more.
- **Domains and development strategy:** Describes contributions to defined domains and the Danish development strategy. Please consider limiting the number of domains to a few selected ones.