



When children  
work together  
they can change  
their world

CHILD  
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## About Child to Child

For over 30 years, Child to Child has been at the forefront of developing transformational approaches to children's participation globally.

Children have the right and the ability to play a central role in matters that concern them – from education to health to play.

A UK registered charity located at the Institute of Education, University of London, we train the world's leading agencies such as UNICEF, Save the Children and WorldVision to equip children to deal with their most pressing needs.

Copyright free, our materials and approaches have spread to over 70 countries worldwide, in particular Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. Our materials are translated into over 35 languages. Each year hundreds of thousands

of children benefit from participating in Child to Child activities.

Child to Child is a key partner in the only international conference focusing on children's participation: Children As Actors for Transforming Society (CATS). This conference is designed and delivered together with children and young people and takes place annually in Switzerland.



## The power of participation

We know that children have far more to offer and can do much more than adults realise. Child to Child ignites children's innate potential to work together to transform their lives and those of their communities. Because **when children work together, they can change their world.**

The participation of children and young people is not a privilege but an entitlement. Without their engagement as active citizens, they cannot realise their rights. Without their active participation, it will not be possible to either realise the ambitions set out in the Sustainable Development Goals nor to hold to account those who have made the commitment to a sustainable, equitable future that leaves no-one behind.

But to ensure their meaningful participation, children and young people need the opportunity to develop their skills *and* gain access to decision-making, so that they can express their views and take informed action on matters which affect them.

Such opportunities help children to become active citizens able to contribute positively to the societies they live in. By listening to them, we can also ensure that services designed to meet their needs are effective and efficient and deliver improved outcomes for both children and adults.

Critically, participation also helps to keep children safer. They understand the risks they are exposed to and - with the right support - can often identify what needs to be done to mitigate them. Ensuring their voices are heard removes the impunity of abusers. In much of the world, however, children are marginalised, ignored or abused. At best they fail to reach their full potential, at worst they experience exploitation and profound harm.

## Our award-winning approach

**Our approaches are grounded in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).** They are a practical way to effectively implement children's rights to survival, protection, development and participation. The Convention's guiding principles of inclusion, non-discrimination and the best interests of the child underpin everything we do.

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Awarded Unicef's prestigious Maurice Pate Award for Innovation which declared that "Child to Child is a revolutionary way of enabling communities to improve their lives through children."




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Our programme in Sierra Leone was also recently recognised by the **UN Girls Education Initiative** for its transformative impact on girls' education.

**Practical application of knowledge to bring about change is a key defining feature of Child to Child.** Working to create change in the community develops critical life skills such as team working, communication and problem solving. Child to Child enhances children's self-esteem, self-efficacy and resilience, enabling them, for example, to recognise that there are alternatives to violence and conflict.

Whilst the activities are frequently initiated by or with children, **increasing meaningful participation is a slow and phased process which requires time and adult support.** With this investment, the positive change that children bring about transforms relationships with adults who recognise, sometimes for the first time, what children are capable of.

## Our expertise

"Child to Child is a leading expert on children's participation. The resources they produce are particularly renowned for being accessible and straightforward which means they are used by thousands of practitioners across the globe."

### Corinne Davey

Director, Keeping Children Safe

- **Child protection and safeguarding**, including work with child soldiers
- **Children in challenging circumstances**, including life-threatening epidemics such as Ebola, HIV/AIDs and Disaster Risk Reduction
- **Gender**, including promoting girls' education and empowerment and sexual and reproductive health
- **Education**, including early childhood education and inclusive education for children with disabilities
- **Early childhood development**, including toy making
- **Health**, including hygiene and nutrition and health education and promotion in schools
- **Water and sanitation.**

## Our partners and clients

Our innovative approaches, extensive track record and expert technical analysis has made Child to Child the partner of choice for international donors, development agencies, governments, private companies, NGOs, think-tanks and research groups around the world.

We are a respected partner of, and have been commissioned to deliver a range of projects by:

- United Nations organisations, including UNESCO and UNICEF
- International non-governmental organisations such as WorldVision International, Plan International, Save the Children and Keeping Children Safe
- Local NGOs across Asia, Africa and Latin America.



"Child to Child is the cornerstone of our award-winning community development programme. Our Child to Child Clubs provide vulnerable children with valuable training on life skills, hygiene, HIV/health, agriculture and nutrition, and child rights. With this training, children become empowered community actors, advocating for improved health, wellbeing and livelihoods in their community."

### Joe Waddington

Director, ACE Africa





"We were definitely impressed by Child to Child. There is a real sense of care and passion for inspiring people to make a positive difference to children. It was an enriching experience to work with them."

#### Roz Keating

Senior Disaster Risk Reduction Adviser  
Save the Children Denmark

3/ Child participants in a child-led research project (UK)

## How we work

If you recognise the importance of working in partnership with children but require support to do so, we can provide a bespoke service to meet your needs. This support can range from tailor-made training workshops to more in-depth capacity and organisational development. Where participation is poorly understood our experienced team of expert International Advisers understands how to strengthen and nurture its evolution.

## Training your staff

We equip organisations and their staff with the skills and knowledge to design, deliver and evaluate Child to Child programmes and initiatives.

A recent example is an eight-day training workshop we ran in Haiti on the Child to Child approach to **Disaster Risk Reduction** for **Save the Children (Denmark)**.

## Capacity development

We enable organisations to plan, implement and evaluate participatory programmes and initiatives, from short-term support with project planning to longer-term interventions.

For the **Oak Foundation**, we are delivering a **Child Rights Capacity Development Programme** to equip **60** of their **grantee organisations** in East Africa and Eastern Europe to embed child rights principles in their work.

For **WorldVision Mongolia**, we delivered a one-year capacity building programme so they could introduce a comprehensive Child to Child **school health programme** in several regions of the country.

"Child to Child has been at the forefront of recognising children's potential to contribute to the transformation of their own lives."

#### Gerison Lansdown

International Child Rights Advocate & Chair of Child to Child





4/ A Young Facilitator helping Young Learners to count in our 'Getting Ready for School' programme (Yemen)

## Materials for practitioners, teachers & children

We develop and produce resources including materials in local languages.

**UNICEF Ethiopia** commissioned Child to Child to develop a range of **storybooks on health, hygiene and nutrition** for primary school-aged children. This project took place over one year and included scoping visits to meet with the children and other stakeholders.

The **Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative** commissioned us to develop a range of **educational resources** to prevent children from being voluntarily or forcibly conscripted as soldiers during conflict and enhance their understanding about the risks. We consulted with former child soldiers in Sierra Leone to inform the development of these resources.

## Research and evaluation

Child to Child designs monitoring and evaluation frameworks. We also design and implement child-led research in partnership with children.

We were recently part of a consortium tasked with **evaluating child participation** in the European Union. Child to Child worked with 11 partners in five countries to undertake **child-led research** to ensure that children's voices were heard.

"Working with Child to Child to develop teacher training tools for Sierra Leone on how to prevent conflict and the use of children as soldiers has been one of the most incredible projects we have embarked on....they were so open to new ideas and to finding meaningful solutions to address problems."

**Dr. Shelly Whitman**

Director, Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative



## Curriculum development

We develop comprehensive curricula in various thematic areas.

"Between 2007-2010, Child to Child collaborated with us to design and implement a school readiness initiative popularly known as 'Getting Ready for School: A Child to Child Approach'. As the UNICEF Education Specialist with oversight of the project, I worked closely with Child to Child. The professionalism and expertise that Child to Child's staff and expert advisers exhibited in their work was very clear."

**Abhiyan Jung Rana**

Education Specialist - Early Learning  
UNICEF

We recently developed a **curriculum for UNICEF on early childhood education** and for the **Albanian Ministry of Education on environmental education**.

Prior to developing curricula and associated materials, we undertake detailed situational analyses and needs assessments. We then typically train and support local Master Trainers who have responsibility for training teachers and others. By developing local capacity in this way, we ensure sustainability.

"The insights from Child to Child added real value to the study by helping to ensure that children and young people's perspectives were captured in the findings and recommendations to the European Commission. Child to Child was able to engage some of the most vulnerable children in society and to design activities that were socially and culturally meaningful to them."

**Laurie Day**

Director, policy & research. Ecorys



5 / Boys carrying out survey on community safety at the local market (UK)

## Sustainability and value for money

Our projects are relevant and locally owned, engaging with and working alongside members of the community from the outset.

As those we have trained (Master Trainers and Facilitators) become more confident they require less support from us. They assume increasing levels of leadership and ownership. In this way, Child to Child is inherently sustainable, replicable and provides value for money. This can be seen in South Asia, Africa and Latin America where much of the participation work taking place with children and young people has its roots in Child to Child.



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#### Photo Credits

**Photo 1:** Child to Child 2009

**Photo 2:** Child to Child 2010

**Photo 3:** Newstead Children's Centre, London UK 2013

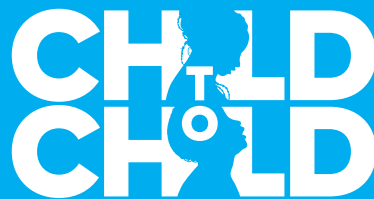
**Photo 4:** Child to Child 2009

**Photo 5:** Child to Child 2014

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To learn more about our  
work go to our website at  
**[www.childtochild.org.uk](http://www.childtochild.org.uk)**

To find out more about how  
we can work together,  
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