Europe and Central Asia

Child Rights Monitoring Framework

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Overview of the Framework

The United Nations **Convention on the Rights of the Child** (CRC) is the leading international treaty on the child's rights, ratified by almost all members of the United Nations. Its provisions are detailed and comprehensive and cover many areas of children's lives, from family and health care to education and leisure, with provisions for particularly vulnerable children, like those in alternative care, children in situations of migration and children in contact with the law. In light of the indivisible and interdependent nature of its provisions, States Parties are required to implement the CRC as a whole, thus ensuring the realisation and monitoring of all rights guaranteed for all children in their jurisdiction.[1]

Child rights monitoring (CRM) may be described as "an effort to systematically evaluate the extent to which all the rights of all children are effectively protected and fulfilled."[2] Ensuring that the monitoring process addresses all the rights contained in the CRC and not only a specific group of rights is of key importance.[3] CRM requires a proactive approach to collecting data, ensuring its accuracy, reporting and use to further child rights.[4] It has several important purposes, including identification of the rights that are not adequately protected or enjoyed and the groups of children that may be particularly disadvantaged, evaluation of the relevance and effectiveness of the measures that are in place to

Europe and Central Asia Child Rights Monitoring Framework
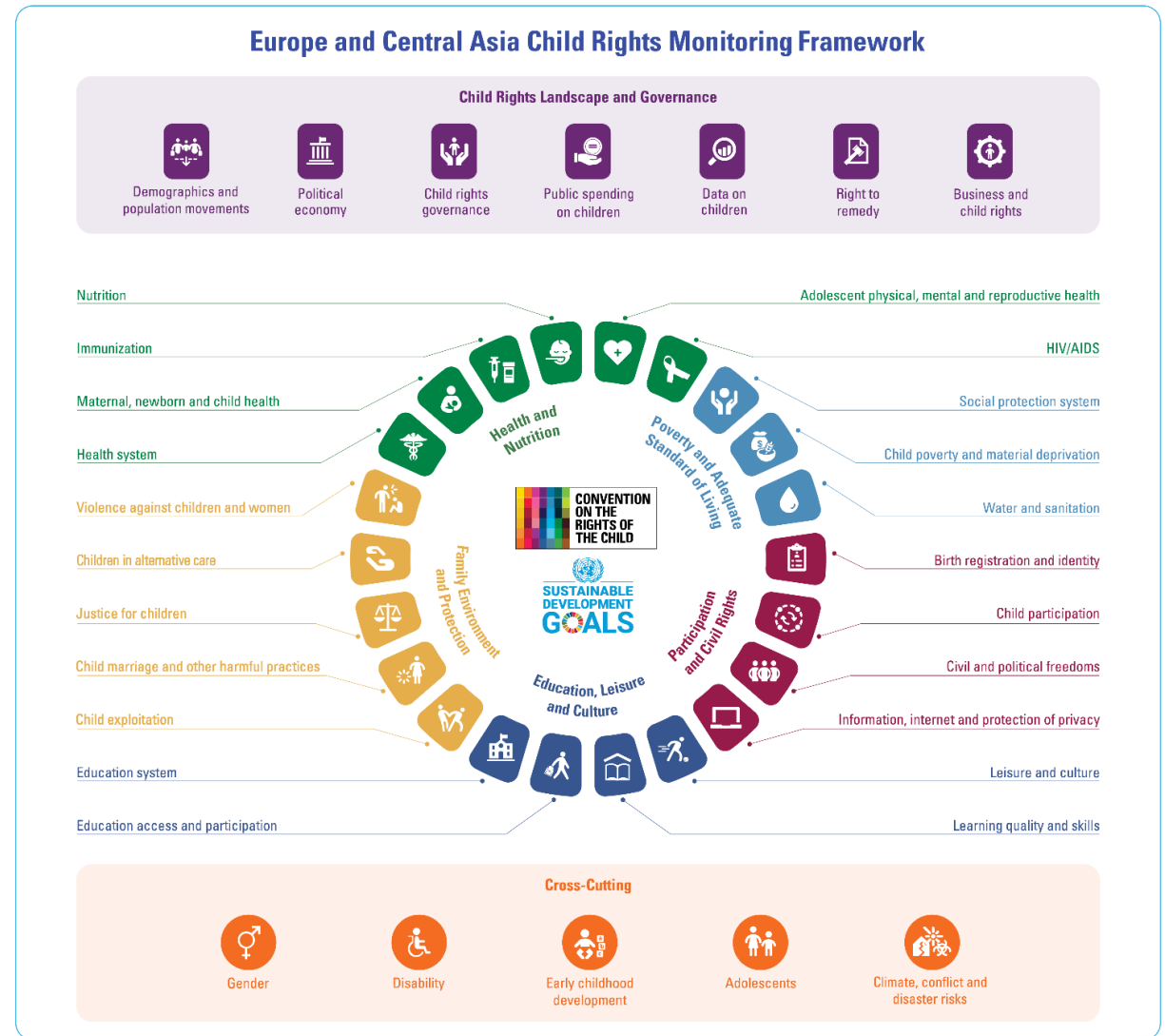
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[1] Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No 5, General measures of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (arts. 4, 42 and 44, para. 6), CRC/GC/2003/5, 27 November 2003.

[2] UNICEF (2006). The General Measures of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: The Process in Europe and Central Asia, Innocenti Publications, p.33

[3] Ibid

[4] UNICEF ECARO (2020). National human rights institutions (NHRIs) Series: Tools to support child-friendly practices. NHRIs and monitoring children's rights in closed settings. https://uni.cf/3BT9HXi [Accessed: 10.08.2022]

promote the safeguard child rights and fostering informed social debate on public policies concerning child rights.[5]

In the national and international contexts, there have been several initiatives for applying various frameworks and tools for monitoring child rights. They have been crucial in understanding child rights issues and supporting better public policy response and programme development. Nevertheless, the existing practices have often been limited in breadth and scope, as there are aspects of the CRC that are not sufficiently covered, while direct data and indicator linkages to the CRC provisions and the broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are frequently lacking. One of the common recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child is developing a comprehensive data, analysis and monitoring system on children covering all areas of the Convention, in line with its General Comment No. 5 (2003). The Committee recommended this to many countries in the region in recent years.

The proposed **Child Rights Monitoring Framework** can help systematise the data, monitoring and analysis related to child rights across countries and regional actors. It strives to promote a holistic and coherent approach to child rights monitoring, having its conceptual roots in the CRC.

The framework focuses on **five critical child rights domains**, further broken into specific sub-domains. It also includes a domain of **Child Rights Landscape and Governance** (primarily covering the General Measures of Implementation of CRC) and **five cross-cutting dimensions or groups** which should be mainstreamed but require additional attention when monitoring CRC. Each sub-domain is mapped against the corresponding CRC article and, when applicable, to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets, acknowledging the interlinked nature of the child's rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Suggested as a regional framework, it may have multiple applications and implications at the country level.

Sets of indicators have been initially mapped against each sub-domain but will require extensive discussions and refinement based on multiple consultations with all the key stakeholders. Existing measures and indicators are prioritised, starting with child-related SDG indicators and, when applicable, regional frameworks, such as the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR). The document also suggests desired levels of disaggregation (required in the case of SDG indicators), expected data source along the name of survey(s) where applicable, and a link to meta-data.

This document includes only the domain and sub-domain descriptions and linkages with the CRC and SDGs, while an online platform is being developed to present and discuss the indicators mapped to each sub-domain.

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[5] UNICEF (2006). The General Measures of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: The Process in Europe and Central Asia, Innocenti Publications

DOMAIN 1: CHILD RIGHTS LANDSCAPE AND GOVERNANCE

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES	SDGs
This domain will include contextual indicators on political economy, demographics and the impact of businesses on the enjoyment of child rights. It also covers the general measures governments are required to undertake for the implementation of the CRC, such as the right to remedy, the availability and use of data on children and budgeting for the realisation of child rights.		SDG 8: Economic growth and decent work Target 8.5 SDG 10: Reduce inequality Target 10.3; 10.7. SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions Targets: 16.3; 16.6; 16.a. SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals Targets: 17.1; 17.18; 17.17; 17.19

LINKS TO OTHER FRAMEWORKS: The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child: Thematic areas (4) Child-friendly justice and (6) Global Dimension

SUB-DOMAIN 1.1. DEMOGRAPHICS

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain provides an overview of a set of population and vital statistics, allowing for analysis of the basic demographic characteristics and phenomena on a national level, focusing on children.	

SUB-DOMAIN 1.2. POLITICAL ECONOMY

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain captures key drivers of the macro-level political, economic and social policy contexts. It includes indicators related to economic management and performance, structural policies, policies for social inclusion/equity, and public sector management and institutions. These indicators aim to foster a better understanding of the diverse structural factors which indirectly affect the enjoyment of child rights.	

SUB-DOMAIN 1.3. CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain covers multiple aspects related to the legislative, administrative, and other measures governments are required to undertake for the implementation of child rights. These include: ▪ measures for reviewing and bringing domestic legislation, policy and practice into full conformity with the CRC, ▪ adopting and implementing a unifying, comprehensive and rights-based national strategy for children, ▪ establishing cross-sectoral governmental structures for coordination and monitoring of child rights, ▪ developing training and capacity-building for all those working with and for children, ▪ measures for making the principles and provisions of the CRC widely known to adults and children, and ▪ cooperating with civil society, including non-governmental organisations, child- and youth-led organisations and youth groups, parent and family groups, faith groups, academic institutions and professional associations.	

SUB-DOMAIN 1.4. PUBLIC SPENDING ON CHILDREN

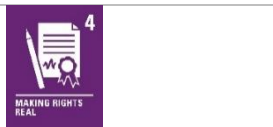| DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain children concerns the management of financial resources that directly or indirectly affect children. It focuses on whether sufficient financial resources are being mobilised, allocated and spent in an accountable, effective, efficient, equitable, participatory, transparent and sustainable manner that facilitates the full realisation of child rights.	

SUB-DOMAIN 1.5. DATA ON CHILDREN

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain concerns the collection of sufficient, reliable and disaggregated data and evidence on children. It focuses on the effectiveness of the data collection systems, as well as on the evaluation and use of data to assess progress in implementation, to identify problems and to inform all policy development for children.	

SUB-DOMAIN 1.6. RIGHT TO REMEDY

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain refers to the general ability of children to obtain a remedy when their rights are being violated, not respected or denied. This can apply to children who are unable to access services like education, health care or social welfare to which they are entitled and children who are directly or indirectly part of legal or administrative proceedings that affect them. It entails aspects related to access to child-sensitive redress mechanisms, including before independent national human rights institutions.	

SUB-DOMAIN 1.7. BUSINESS AND CHILD RIGHTS

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain assesses the extent to which the business culture respects and supports child rights. It is particularly focused on the sufficiency and effectiveness of the legal and institutional frameworks which ensure that business enterprises identify, prevent and mitigate their impact on child rights, including across any business relationships linked to their operations, products or services and across their global operations.	

DOMAIN 2: HEALTH AND NUTRITION

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES	SDGs
The domain entails issues with respect to the overall health system and health services, prevalent health challenges to promoting the physical and mental health of mothers, newborn and children and specifically adolescents' physical, mental and reproductive health. It incorporates aspects related to immunisation coverage, nutrition, and prevention of HIV/AIDS.		SDG 2: Zero hunger Targets 2.1; 2.2. SDG 3: Good health and well-being Targets: 3.1; 3.2; 3.3; 3.5; 3.7; 3.8; 3.a; 3.b. SDG 5: Gender equality Target 5.6
LINKS TO OTHER FRAMEWORKS: The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child: Thematic area (2) Socio-economic inclusion, health and education		

SUB-DOMAIN 2.1. HEALTH SYSTEM

	DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
	This sub-domain is related to children's access to quality health services, including prevention, health promotion, care and treatment services.	

SUB-DOMAIN 2.2. MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH

	DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
	This sub-domain concerns the extent to which mothers, newborns and children enjoy the highest attainable standard of health.	

SUB-DOMAIN 2.3. IMMUNISATION

	DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
	This sub-domain reflects the progress and challenges with sustaining and advancing immunisation coverage of children.	

SUB-DOMAIN 2.4. NUTRITION

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain captures children's access to nutritious, safe, affordable and sustainable diets. It covers breastfeeding practices and the prevalence of different forms of malnutrition, including undernutrition, hidden hunger and overweight.	

SUB-DOMAIN 2.5. ADOLESCENT PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain focuses on the specific health and development needs, outcomes and challenges among adolescents and their access to quality, well-coordinated and well-integrated programmes and services.	

SUB-DOMAIN 2.6. HIV/AIDS

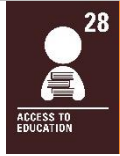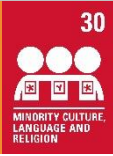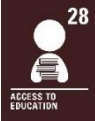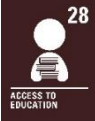| DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain concerns the prevalence, prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS infections among children.	

DOMAIN 3: EDUCATION, LEISURE AND CULTURE

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES	SDGs
This domain embraces multiple dimensions inherent to the right to education, with reference to children's access to and participation in the different stages of the educational process, the quality of education, as well as the key strengths and bottlenecks of the education system itself. It also covers children's access to their rights to rest, play, leisure, recreation, and cultural and artistic activities.	28 ACCESS TO EDUCATION 29 AIMS OF EDUCATION 30 MINORITY CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION 31 REST, PLAY, CULTURE, ARTS	SDG 4: Quality education Targets: 4.1; 4.2; 4.4; 4.5; 4.6; 4.7; 4.a; 4.c. SDG 8: Economic growth and decent work Target 8.6
LINKS TO OTHER FRAMEWORKS: The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child: Thematic area (2) Socio-economic inclusion, health and education		

SUB-DOMAIN 3.1. EDUCATION SYSTEM

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain covers a range of context, input and process-related dimensions. These include key structural characteristics of education systems, policy frameworks and application of standards, deployment and use of financial, material, and human resources to facilitate learning, learning environment and climate, and broader social contexts in which educational institutions operate.	28 ACCESS TO EDUCATION

SUB-DOMAIN 3.2. EDUCATION ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain is related to several aspects of accessibility to educational opportunities, including physical accessibility, economic accessibility and non-discrimination (ensuring that education is accessible to all, especially the most vulnerable children). It also extends to the arrangements in place and practices to maintain regular school attendance and reduce drop-out rates.	28 ACCESS TO EDUCATION

SUB-DOMAIN 3.3. LEARNING QUALITY AND SKILLS

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain concerns the educational outcomes and the extent to which education is child-centred, child-friendly and empowering. 'Educational outcomes' in this context go far beyond academic achievements to embrace the broad range of physical, mental, social and emotional development of children, life competencies and values that education should nurture.	29 AIMS OF EDUCATION

SUB-DOMAIN 3.4. LEISURE AND CULTURE

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain captures the opportunities for children to engage in play, leisure, sports, cultural and artistic activities and exercise their right to rest. It incorporates aspects related to safety, accessibility and quality of such opportunities in a diversity of settings.	31 REST, PLAY, CULTURE, ARTS 30 MINORITY CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION

DOMAIN 4: FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE AND HARMFUL PRACTICES

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES	SDGs
This domain spans several interrelated themes, such as children in alternative care and adoption, administration of justice for children, violence against children and women, child marriage and other harmful practices, as well as child labour and other forms of exploitation.		SDG 5: Gender equality Targets: 5.2; 5.3. SDG 8: Economic growth and decent work Target 8.7 SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions Targets 16.1; 16.2; 16.3.

LINKS TO OTHER FRAMEWORKS: The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child: Thematic area (3) Combatting violence against children and ensuring child protection

SUB-DOMAIN 4.1. VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND WOMEN

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain captures the prevalence and the measures to prohibit, prevent and eliminate all forms of violence, such as physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, maltreatment, neglect or negligent treatment, including sexual abuse.	

SUB-DOMAIN 4.2. CHILDREN IN ALTERNATIVE CARE

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain concerns the protection of and assistance to children who are temporarily or permanently deprived of their family environment. It captures the arrangements and practices for ensuring and maintaining the quality of alternative care.	

SUB-DOMAIN 4.3. JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain concerns the rights of children in contact with the justice system as victims, witnesses and perpetrators. It captures aspects related to setting up of comprehensive policy and the undertaking of measures to prevent children from coming into contact with the law, strengthening child-friendly and sensitive procedures for children, quality and provision of non-custodial and diversion measures, provision of recovery and reintegration services, and strengthening of the systems through improved organisation, capacity-building, data collection, evaluation and research, among other.	

SUB-DOMAIN 4.4. CHILD MARRIAGE AND OTHER HARMFUL PRACTICES

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain focuses specifically on the prevalence and measures to prohibit, prevent and eliminate all forms of harmful practices which are deeply rooted in social conventions and social norms. Harmful practices include but are not limited to, female genital mutilation, violent and degrading initiation rites, "honour" crimes, forced marriage and early marriage.	

SUB-DOMAIN 4.5. CHILD EXPLOITATION

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain concerns children in situations of economic exploitation, trafficking and sale, including measures to prohibit, prevent and eliminate child labour, as well as measures for children's physical and psychological recovery and soial reintegration.	

DOMAIN 5: PARTICIPATION AND CIVIL RIGHTS

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES	SDGs
This domain incorporates issues that are part of the broader group of civil rights and freedoms, such as the right to birth registration, a name and nationality and the right to preservation of identity. Further to these, this domain includes elements relevant to a child's right to participation in individual and collective decision-making, access to information and protection of privacy, as well as civil and political freedoms, such as the freedom of expression, freedom of thought, conscience and religion and freedom of association.		SDG 4: Quality education Target 4.4 SDG 5: Gender equality Targets 5.b SGD 10: Reduced inequalities Target 10.2 SGD 16: Peace, justice, and strong Institutions Targets: 16.7; 16.9; 16.10. SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals Targets: 17.8; 17.19.
LINKS TO OTHER FRAMEWORKS: The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child: Thematic areas (1) Child participation in political and democratic life, and (6) Digital and information society		

SUB-DOMAIN 5.1. BIRTH REGISTRATION AND IDENTITY

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain is related to the arrangements in place and the consistency of the practices of children's registration and naming immediately after birth, securing children's nationality and preventing statelessness, as well as preserving children's identity, including their nationality, name and family relations.	

SUB-DOMAIN 5.2. CHILD PARTICIPATION

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain refers to the extent to which children enjoy their right to be heard and accorded due weight on matters affecting them in the diverse settings and situations in which they grow up, develop and learn. Such settings include but are not limited to, family, alternative care, health care, education, play, recreation, sports and cultural activities, workplaces, emergency situations, situations of violence and immigration and asylum proceedings. Child participation captures both the right of an individual child to be heard and the right to be heard as applied to a group of children.	

SUB-DOMAIN 5.3. CIVIL AND POLITICAL FREEDOMS

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain relates to the opportunities for children's democratic engagement and promoting children as active, participating members of society. These include opportunities for children to enjoy the freedom to hold and express opinions through any media, the freedom of thought, conscience and religion, as well as the freedom of association and of peaceful assembly.	

SUB-DOMAIN 5.4. INFORMATION, INTERNET AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain concerns children's access to a wide diversity of child-sensitive and age-appropriate information and children's protection from arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy. The indicators included take into account the constantly evolving and expanding role of the digital environment in facilitating children's access to information and the threats to children's privacy arising from their increasing presence in the digital environment.	

DOMAIN 6: POVERTY AND ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES	SDGs
This domain is dedicated to children's standard of living, including access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, social security and social benefits, material assistance and support programmes.		SDG 1: Zero poverty Targets: 1.1; 1.2; 1.3; 1.5; 1.b. SGD 6: Clean Water and Sanitation Targets: 6.1; 6.2; 6.b. SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy Target 7.1 SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities Targets: 11.1; 11.2; 11.7.

LINKS TO OTHER FRAMEWORKS: The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child: Thematic area (2) Socio-economic inclusion, health and education

SUB-DOMAIN 6.1. SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain covers the availability, accessibility and quality of the social protection system, including social security benefits, childcare services and other forms of support for children and their families.	

SUB-DOMAIN 6.2. CHILD POVERTY AND MATERIAL DEPRIVATION

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain concerns the opportunities for children to enjoy an adequate standard of living, which ensures their physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. It asses the effectiveness of the material assistance and support programmes aimed at reducing poverty and inequality, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing.	

SUB-DOMAIN 6.3. WATER AND SANITATION

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES
This sub-domain assesses children's access to clean water, reliable sanitation and basic hygiene practices, and the measures in place for improving the infrastructure and expanding the services to those in need.	

DOMAIN 7: CROSS-CUTTING

7.1. GENDER

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES	SDGs
This sub-domain addresses gender-specific discrimination and disadvantages that impede children's access to and enjoyment of their rights.		SDG 5: Gender equality Targets: 5.1; 5.c

7.2. DISABILITY

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES	SDGs
This sub-domain concerns the extent to which children with disabilities enjoy their rights, including access to all kinds of services, transportation and institutions, and in particular to education and cultural activities.		SDG 4: Quality education Targets 4.5; 4.a. SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth Target 8.5 SDG 10: Reduced inequalities Target 10.2 SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities Targets: 11.2, 11.7.

7.3. EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES	SDGs
This sub-domain concerns young children's particular capacities, vulnerabilities and requirements for protection from harm and a sense of security, health care and nutrition, emotional care and responsive caregiving, as well as opportunities for early learning, play and exploration.		SDG 2: Zero hunger Target 2.2 SDG 3: Good health and well-being Target 3.2 SDG 4: Quality education Target 4.2

7.4. ADOLESCENTS

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES	SDGs
This sub-domain focuses on holistic adolescent development, as well as the opportunities and challenges pertinent to this critical period of transition from childhood to adulthood.	12 RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS — 13 SHARING THOUGHTS FREELY — 14 FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND RELIGION — 15 SETTING UP OR JOINING GROUPS — 16 PROTECTION OF PRIVACY — 17 ACCESS TO INFORMATION — 19 PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE — 24 HEALTH, WATER, FOOD, ENVIRONMENT — 27 FOOD, CLOTHING, A SAFE HOME — 28 ACCESS TO EDUCATION — 33 PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL DRUGS	SDG 4: Quality education Targets: 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, 4.b SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth Targets: 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 8.b SDG 3: Good health and well-being Targets: 3.5, 3.7, 3.a SDG 2: Zero hunger Target 2.2 SDG 13: Climate action Target 13.a

7.5. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES	SDGs
This sub-domain covers issues such as access to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and taking action to fight climate change.	6 LIFE, SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT — 24 HEALTH, WATER, FOOD, ENVIRONMENT — 27 FOOD, CLOTHING, A SAFE HOME — 29 AIMS OF EDUCATION	SDG 1: No poverty Target 1.5 SDG 3: Good health and well-being Target 3.9 SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy (all targets) SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities Target 11.5 SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production (all targets) SGD 13: Climate action (all targets)

| | | | SDG 14: Life below water (all targets) |
| | | | SDG 15: Life on land (all targets) |

7.6. DISASTER, CONFLICT AND DISPLACEMENT

DESCRIPTION	CRC ARTICLES	SDGs	
This sub-domain addresses the right to protection during conflicts, natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies. In addition, it focuses on children affected by migration and displacement and the extent to which they receive appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance in the enjoyment of their rights.			SDG 1: No poverty Target 1.5
			SDG 10: Reduce inequality Target 10.7
			SGD 13: Climate action Target 13.1
			SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions Targets: 16.1, 16.4; 16.8.
			SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals Targets: 17.2; 17.3.