

# CAPACITY STATEMENT: LOCALIZATION



## A TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACH

Save the Children recognizes that local leadership and participation are crucial to maximize and sustain positive impacts on children. The Global Localization Strategy, which the Peru Country Office applies in a contextualized manner, translates into:

### COLLECTIVE TRANSFORMATION

Adjusting the global localization agenda to the Peruvian context is a process of collective construction that involves identifying enabling conditions and defining strategic collaboration approaches.

#### ADAPTING THE OPERATIONAL MODEL

Save the Children transforms its structure and processes to consolidate its role as an equitable ally, facilitator and defender of children's rights.

#### EMPOWERMENT OF LOCAL ACTORS

Transfer of power to civil society organizations (CSOs), communities and government actors.

By empowering local capacities, **Save the Children seeks to promote a dynamic and resilient civil society**, in which local organizations play a crucial role in the promotion of children's rights and gender justice. For that reason, **it supports these organizations to amplify their impact, strengthen their advocacy capacity, improve their access to funding and engage in shared leadership spaces**. This allows coalitions to be built that integrate intersectional and intergenerational agendas to achieve systemic change.

## OVERVIEW IN PERU

Peru faces critical challenges that hinder the realization of children's rights:



### Structural inequalities

Deep gaps rooted in **gender, ethnicity, disability and geography**.



### Service gap

Despite regulatory advances, **deficiencies persist** in the implementation of laws and availability of services linked to basic rights such as protection, education, health and participation.



### Structural crises

The country is constantly affected by the **growing climate crisis**, a conservative socio-political environment of high polarization and restricted civic space.



### Vulnerability

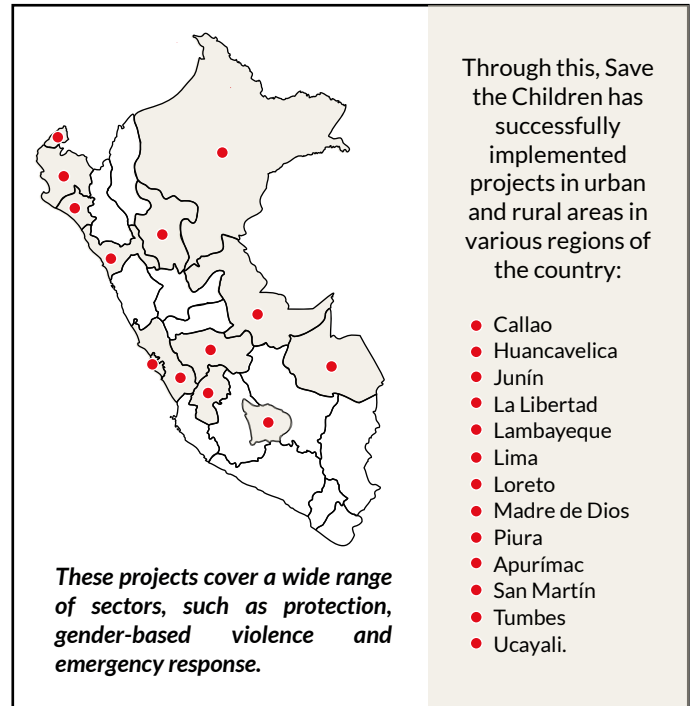
**More than 70% of cases of sexual violence involve girls and boys**, a situation that is **aggravated in rural and indigenous areas**. Girls in these areas have a 35% higher school dropout rate than boys, due to early pregnancies, caregiving responsibilities and unsafe school environments.

The Civicus Monitor classifies civic space in Peru as "Repressed". This means that civil society is finding it increasingly difficult to advocate for children's rights, gender equality and climate justice. Human rights defenders face restrictive laws and bureaucratic barriers in a scenario where protests are criminalized. Despite these challenges, **Peruvian civil society remains dynamic and resilient, with movements led by youth, women and indigenous leaders campaigning for climate resilience, gender justice and equitable policies**.

## SAVE THE CHILDREN IN PERU

Since 1980, Save the Children in Peru has equipped local organizations with tools and resources to lead advocacy initiatives and drive sustainable change. Today, it has **strategic alliances with 17 local NGOs and networks, indigenous organizations, feminist movements and other key actors to advance inclusive governance** frameworks that address children's rights, gender equality and climate justice, even in a setting of restricted civic space.

One of its key differentiators is its **participatory approach, which involves local stakeholders, especially children and adolescents, in the planning and implementation processes of projects and advocacy actions.** This inclusive methodology enhances local capacities and ensures that interventions are well adapted to the specific needs and realities of the communities they serve, whether in development or humanitarian contexts.



## LOCALIZATION IN PERU

Save the Children in Peru is committed to moving progressively towards complete localization, ensuring that local actors take the lead in shaping, implementing and sustaining child rights initiatives. The approach evolves and adapts through four key pillars:

### 1 Reinforcing local leadership and technical excellence

- Investment in training and resources for social organizational, community groups and government partners to lead sustainable initiatives.
- Transitioning from a technical support model to one that enables full local leadership in policy formulation and implementation.

### 2 From alliances to shared leadership

- Redefining traditional relationships into long-term alliances, with joint decision-making and mutual accountability.
- Foster strong networks among grassroots organizations, youth movements and advocacy groups to amplify impact.

### 3 Base incidence in the global scenario

- Positioning local voices in national, regional and global decision-making spaces.
- Strengthen the capacity of local actors to participate in international coalitions and platforms that shape public policy.

### 4 Knowledge for sustainable localization

- Establish an ecosystem of research, innovation and monitoring to document and institutionalize best practices.
- Support civil organizations in the development of their own systems for evaluation and dissemination of learning, promoting the application of evidence-based solutions.

**In Peru, Save the Children strengthens local organizations through a collaborative approach with international agencies, governments and other actors. Through dialogues and needs assessments, training programs have been implemented for educators, health professionals and community leaders.**

At the civic level, we collaborate with partners to periodically analyze legal frameworks, policy dialogue, child rights conditions and funding opportunities, with a special focus on migrant populations, indigenous peoples and marginalized groups.

In addition, Save the Children in Peru has established strategic alliances with ministries, NGOs, businesses and communities, allowing us to leverage resources and capacities to achieve common goals. These alliances are based on trust, transparency and a vision of sustainable and equitable development. Since 2021, a strategy of secure alliances has been implemented to protect staff, beneficiaries and, especially, children.

## RECENT PROJECTS AND RESULTS

Save the Children Peru has implemented several projects that demonstrate the effectiveness of its localization strategy:



**SIDA | CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT PROGRAM (PASC)**

**2022-2025, USD \$8,4M**

Strengthens the capacities of local organizations in 17 countries, including Peru.

These organizations receive 70% of the total funds and assistance to enhance their organizational development and strengthen their operational and advocacy capacity, maximizing their localized efforts in defense of children's rights.



## USAID | DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN THE NORTHEASTERN MACRO REGION

2021-2024, USD \$2.3M

Improving preparedness and mitigation capacity in eight MRNO regions.

Prioritizes community participation and interregional coordination. The Interregional National Defense Commission, a leader in risk management, co-leads the project, conducting local assessments to prioritize areas and strengthen preparedness actions in the territory.



### COMPLEMENTARY PROJECTS

#### Protection with a local approach

In partnership with Quinta Ola and Unión Venezolana, Save the Children has strengthened promotion and prevention mechanisms at the community level to support the social and cultural integration of migrant families. Projects: "STOP: support and training to overcome violence" and "Bolivar: beneficiary outreach and legal integration for the support and rights of Venezuelans".

#### Anticipatory actions

In partnership with Descocentro, Save the Children strengthened capacities in high Andean communities to reduce the impacts of frost and drought with culturally relevant actions focused on children and their families.

## LOCALIZATION AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In emergency contexts, Save the Children generates partnerships with local organizations to respond to the crisis in a timely manner. Interventions are designed and implemented with a focus on interculturality, gender and children.

### Floods in Ucayali and Madre de Dios | 2024

- Partnerships: DAS Peru, ProPurús, Caritas Madre de Dios, World Vision.
- Impact: Urgent attention to more than 9,000 people in rural and indigenous communities.

### Drought in Loreto | 2024

- Partnerships: DAS Peru, World Vision, Plan International, Humanity & Inclusion.
- Interventions: Water, sanitation, hygiene, food security and protection.

### Forest fires and drought in San Martín | 2024

- Partnership: DAS Peru.
- Interventions: Water, sanitation, livelihoods, emotional recovery and training of forest firefighters, reaching more than 1,000 people.

### Earthquake in Caravelí, Arequipa | 2024

- Partnership: ADRA Peru.
- Interventions: Emotional support and distribution of 206 socioemotional support kits, benefiting more than 1,400 children and adolescents.

### Cyclone Yaku in Lima, Lambayeque and La Libertad | 2023

- Partnership: Banco de Alimentos del Perú.
- Impact: Distribution of 11.9 tons of food to 2,140 people.

## LOCALIZATION-FOCUSED ADVOCACY

Save the Children in Peru promotes and leads advocacy actions through national coalitions and partnerships with more than 30 civil society organizations (CSOs), integrating the children's perspective in governance and policy formulation. Its main initiatives are:



#### Children's agenda in governance

- In 2022, the National Coalition of Concertation for Children, with more than 20 CSOs and child-led organizations (workshops and national survey with 12,000 responses), developed governance agreements and launched the "Vote for Children" campaign.
- For 2025, a pre-electoral strategy is being designed with child-led agreements and campaigns.



#### Accountability with and for children

- During the OAS General Assembly in 2022, a side event on Structural Racism was organized with refugee and migrant, Afro-descendant and indigenous children, which led to the incorporation of the children's perspective in the OAS declarations.
- In addition, child-led organizations were consulted, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, for the National Plan for the Prevention of Child Pregnancy.



#### Public investment for and with children.

- In partnership with Acción por los Niños and Peru Equidad, a budget analysis was carried out in pilot locations, complemented by a participatory budgeting workshop and the preparation of three guides for civil servants, child-led organizations and civil society.



#### Joining Forces for Children

- Led the Joining Forces alliance for three years, promoting the creation of a temporary group on sexual violence against children and adolescents at the ministerial level and organizing events on children's rights on the anniversary of the Convention.



## Reports on children's rights

- Produced two reports for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in 2022 and supported organizations to develop their own child-led reports.
- In 2024, produced the alternative report "Our Voices" as part of the periodic review of the Child Rights Committee.

## CAMPAIGNS WITH GLOBAL ECOS

Save the Children promotes campaigns such as Generation Hope and Let's Talk about Migration, which integrate children's voices in national and global spaces on climate change, inequality and food insecurity. **This has been achieved by including the children's perspective in declarations, activities and key documents, such as General Comment No. 26, the United Nations Future Summit and hearings at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.**

### Generation Hope

Generation Hope exemplifies Save the Children's commitment to child-led advocacy, adapting global agendas to generate change that responds to local needs in climate justice, child participation and reducing inequalities. **The organization provides children and adolescents with the essential tools to participate in policy dialogue, climate action and social justice, transferring leadership to local actors and strengthening children's movements.**

As a child-led campaign, Generation Hope integrates conventional social mobilization strategies - such as dialogue with authorities and public statements - with innovative artistic interventions, such as storytelling, mural creation and digital campaigns. This combination enhances the reach of advocacy, allowing children's voices to be present in political and social spaces.

In 2024, Save the Children strengthened the climate advocacy capacities of children's organizations in key regions such as Piura, Apurímac, Loreto and Lima, demonstrating that the methodology is scalable and adaptable to diverse contexts, from rural Andean and Amazonian communities to urban centers. **This child-led localization approach transforms decision-making processes and promotes policies that directly impact the lives of children and adolescents.**



## ADVOCACY PARTNERS

- |                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| • Acción por los Niños | • MNNATSOP      |
| • Paz y Esperanza      | • Movimiento    |
| • INFANT               | • Manuela Ramos |
| • Quinta Ola           | • ONAMIAP       |
| • MANTHOC              | • SPDA          |
| • IFEJANT              | • CEDET         |

## OUR DONORS

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| • BPRM        | • Atlas Copco             | • LACT and others.                                 |
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| • OIM         |                           |  |

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