

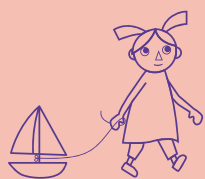


CHILD
IDENTITY
PROTECTION

Impact Report

20
24





Foreword



**Maud de Boer-
Buquicchio,**

PRESIDENT

March 2025, Geneva

2024 has been a year of massive global changes with many resulting in the erosion of human rights with children often being collateral damage.

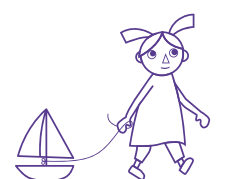
Figures released in 2024 by UNHCR noted that at the end of 2023, 47.2 million children had been forcibly displaced worldwide, entailing a high risk of lack or loss of identity. Additionally, UNICEF estimated that in 2024, 150 million children under the age of five did not have their birth registered.

Fortunately, there are many committed professionals working to ensure positive changes so that all children can enjoy all their rights in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, notably the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, UNHCR, UNICEF, Hague Conference on Private International Law, International Commission on Civil Status, international organisations such as ATD Fourth World, Global Survivors Fund and Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, academic institutions including the Universities of Geneva and Leiden as well as associations led by those with lived experiences such as InterCountry Adoptee Voices and Origines.

The team at Child Identity Protection (CHIP) has had the honour of collaborating with these champions for children's rights and many others by 1) Contributing to the achievement of universal birth registration and accurate documentation; 2) Spearheading positioning of identity rights in family relations on the global agenda; and 3) Promoting access to and speedy re-establishment of identity, when elements are missing and/or falsified.

This 2024 impact report showcases CHIP's work at the UN, regional and national levels. A few highlights include the catch-up birth registration work in Cameroon and Senegal to ensure that thousands of pupils can continue their schooling and the work on the Legal Atlas for birth registration laws in partnership with UNICEF. In parallel, the CHIP team have worked on a number of research and advocacy initiatives to ensure that children's rights in family relations identity are better protected in alternative care, adoption and assisted reproductive technology, for example through the development of child-friendly and professional guides. Furthermore, the CHIP team have collaborated with over 20 organisations to support the CRC Committee in its drafting of the next General Comment on Access to Justice and Effective Remedies by hosting an expert meeting and webinar series.

In my role as President, I continue to see the pressing needs of children without an identity and the transgenerational impact for those without one. I am encouraged to know that the CHIP team is doing its part to contribute to the continuous and constructive changes in preserving the child's right to identity. I hope that you enjoy the read of this 2024 Impact report and look forward to future collaborations.



Introduction

2024 was a year, where the right to identity was increasingly on the radar and awareness about its importance grew. This brought about many opportunities to collaborate for the Child Identity Protection team to work on better preservation of the child's right to identity. This work is essential given that millions of children are deprived of an identity or of elements of their identity. This means they cannot access their fundamental rights, are made more vulnerable to illegal practices and exploitation and cannot access their origins. The right to identity is more than a legal protection, as knowledge of one's origins is an essential element in the construction of one's personal identity.

Throughout the year, this right was challenged due to many causes such as the lack of birth registration or missing information about birth circumstances, conflicts and emergencies, as well as a lack of awareness and political will regarding the right to know and being able to access one's origins.

Changes are possible, and impact is achievable, with a better understanding of the challenges and an identification of promising practices. These changes are facilitated by reforms to laws, regulations, and practices, through partnerships with UN entities, governments and other partners. To ensure better respect of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.9 (Legal identity for all by 2030), CHIP worked to promote children's identity rights by undertaking research, advocacy, assessing, strengthening and implementing legislative, policy and practical frameworks in different countries. The year was marked by a strengthened partnership with UNICEF and several projects with governments.

2024 was also marked by renewed trust of technical and financial partners. This also included the establishment of an Identity Ambassador.

CHIP is thrilled to benefit from the advocacy undertaken by Swiss professional sailor Alicia de Pfyffer, who, through her participation in prestigious sailing competitions, is raising global awareness about the dire consequences of not having a birth certificate. Her journey will spotlight the critical need for birth registration in countries around the world, highlighting the life altering impact it has on children's futures.

More generally, CHIP was very glad to see its impact growing: the right to identity is now more often mentioned at an international level and the team was given many opportunities to provide technical inputs in a variety of situations, including both global and national contexts. These inputs have received very positive feedback from stakeholders.

CHIP reiterates its commitment to and belief in safeguarding children's right to identity, which includes ensuring their access to other rights and their protection.

YOUR CHILD IDENTITY
PROTECTION TEAM

UNICEF congratulates the NGO CHIP and thanks the National Agency for Civil Registration, as well as the Ministries of Education and Justice, and all those at central and decentralized levels who have contributed to the deployment, ownership and sustainability of this mechanism, which brings hope to Senegal's children.

Thanks to your support and collaboration, we have made critical strides in advancing CRVS systems across multiple countries, leading to tangible improvements in systems, policy frameworks, and local-level implementation strategies that will have lasting impacts on birth registration/civil registration systems.

**UNICEF West & Central Africa
Regional Office**



Today's situation

SDG 16.9 : Legal identity for all by 2030
Convention on the rights of the child

ART.7

1. The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.

2. States Parties shall ensure the implementation of these rights in accordance with their national law and their obligations under the relevant international instruments in this field, in particular where the child would otherwise be stateless.

ART. 8

1. States Parties undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognized by law without unlawful interference.

2. Where a child is illegally deprived of some or all of the elements of his or her identity, States Parties shall provide appropriate assistance and protection, with a view to re-establishing speedily his or her identity.

150 million
CHILDREN

under the age of five do not have their birth registered.

(UNICEF 2024)

55 million
CHILDREN

under the age of five who are registered but do not have a birth certificate.

(UNICEF, 2024)

650 million
GIRLS & WOMEN

alive today were child brides, entailing a loss of identity at an early age due to separation from family of origin.

(UNICEF, 2022)

BY THE END OF 2023,
47.2 million
CHILDREN

had been forcibly displaced worldwide, entailing in a high risk of lack or loss of identity.

(UNHCR, 2024)

IN UB-SAHARAN AFRICA,
90 million
CHILDREN

account for more than half of the world's unregistered children.

(UNICEF, 2024)

102 per 100,000
CHILDREN

were in residential care in 2023, having been separated from their family and with often an important impact on their family relations.

(UNICEF, 2024)



→ Impact in 2024

Children worldwide benefit from having their identity rights given visibility through UN mechanisms

- ◆ Submission of 12 country factsheets for the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC Committee), and main identity-related issues reflected in the Committee's Concluding Observations;
- ◆ Co-chairing of an expert meeting in Geneva in May 2024 with the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI), to support the CRC Committee in drafting its upcoming General Comment 27 on Access to Justice and Effective Remedies;
- ◆ Holding of an expert meeting on birth registration and digital technologies in Geneva in May 2024, in collaboration with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and UNICEF;
- ◆ Submission of inputs for the 2025 report on the rights of the child and violations of the human rights of children in armed conflicts, coordinated by the OHCHR;
- ◆ Drafting of inputs focused on family relations in the provision of care for OHCHR's prospective study on the centrality of care and support;
- ◆ Partnership with various organisations to host two side-events connected to the Human Rights Council in Geneva: the first one on inclusive social protection, where the role of birth registration as an enabler was highlighted, and the second one as a follow-up round table on next steps;
- ◆ Contribution to the Annual Day on the Rights of the Child, including the resolution mentioning the importance for children of having a legal identity as a pre-requisite to inclusive social protection.

More children worldwide have access to a legal identity through work with UNICEF and other key partners

- ◆ Identification of provisions on legal identity in 30 countries through a legal atlas, developed and to be published in partnership with UNICEF HQ, which provides professionals worldwide with key information on promising legal provisions and practical opportunities and challenges affecting the registration of children's births;
- ◆ Holding of webinars and publication of academic articles, offering professionals new perspectives and content for reflection on enhancing children's access to a legal identity.

Thanks so much for all this valuable information in these country factsheets, which is framed in such a useful way.

ANN SKELTON, CRC Committee Chairperson, February 2025



Children worldwide have better access to their origins, through key information aimed at children, families, specialists and the public

- ◆ Holding of a webinar series hosted by the Identity Rights Working Group, co-chaired by CHIP and ISI on access to justice and effective remedies for children whose identity rights have been contravened;
- ◆ Sharing of expert views on the importance of the right to identity and circumstances of violations of this right through 46 new videos on CHIP's website, as well as the sharing of 22 brief news of relevant developments;
- ◆ Provision of opportunities for persons with lived experience to offer testimonies about the consequences of the violations of their right to identity through seven new videos;
- ◆ Contribution to and dissemination of three tools on life story work and the adoption and contact amongst siblings, as well as a child-friendly guide on placement in Switzerland, developed by or in partnership with key partners;
- ◆ Submission of opinions, inputs and comments to law reforms to surrogacy laws in Denmark, Mexico and Switzerland;
- ◆ Drafting of a legal opinion on judgements affecting persons' access to origins at the European Court of Human Rights.





Children without a birth certificate in West and Central Africa have improved prospects of having a legal identity and continuing their education through technical assistance with UNICEF WCARO and country offices, governments and other partners

- ◆ In Senegal, provision of technical assistance and publication of a report by the Ministry of Education, UNICEF and CHIP. As a result, cooperation between education and civil registration sectors increased, allowing more pupils to have a birth certificate and to continue their schooling;
- ◆ Identification of possibilities for preventing child marriage through birth registration in eleven countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone);
- ◆ Key achievements and outcomes of UNICEF WCARO-CHIP's partnership, including the advancement of civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems, leading to tangible improvements in systems, policy frameworks and local-level implementation strategies that will have lasting impacts on birth registration/civil registration systems. In Cameroon, Nigeria, Niger, Liberia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Senegal, children are benefitting from better protection thanks to improved processes to increase birth registration.

Children's family identities when placed in alternative care and adopted are better preserved in Switzerland

- ◆ Following the formal conclusion in May 2024 of the research undertaken for the Swiss National Scientific Foundation regarding the placement of children, publication of a child-friendly guide on alternative care in Switzerland and key contacts and addresses in the country aimed at children at risk of family separation or placed, and dissemination via postcards with a QR Code for downloading;
- ◆ Publication of two articles on Switzerland's child-friendly ciao.ch website for children to prevent family separation and better respect for children's right to a family identity;
- ◆ Development and launch of the childrights-mooc-ch in December 2024, aimed at increasing possibilities for all professionals in Switzerland working with children to be better informed of the importance of children's rights, including their right to identity.
- ◆ Submission of inputs into proposed amendments to the Swiss Civil Code related to step-parent adoptions in the context of surrogacy.





Mission, activities & outcomes

CHIP's MISSION :

- ◆ Spearhead prioritising of the right to identity on the international, regional and national scene;
- ◆ Achieve universal birth registration and accurate documentation;
- ◆ Increase access to fundamental rights (such as education), through birth registration;
- ◆ Increase protection of children (such as prevention of child marriage) through birth registration;
- ◆ Ensure all children may know their origins.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3.1 Right to identity as a fundamental right for all children's rights	9	3.3 Alternative care	14
Advocacy and policy development	9	Research	14
Engagement with human rights mechanisms	9	Engagement with human rights mechanisms	14
Events, training and capacity building	10	Events, training and capacity building	14
3.2 Birth registration	11	3.4 Adoption	15
Research	11	Research	15
Technical assistance	12	Events, training and capacity building	15
Engagement with human rights mechanisms	13	3.5 Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy	16
		Research	16
		Technical assistance	16



3.1 Right to identity as a fundamental right for all children's rights

The right to identity is a gateway to all other rights, such as health, education and access to justice, as enshrined in Articles 7 and 8 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

ADVOCACY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing publication of 'CHIP-in videos'.

CHIP's short videos continue to reflect [the views of leading experts](#), and [persons with lived experiences](#), including [children and young people](#), on pressing issues and opportunities to better protect children's right to identity. During 2024, 53 videos were launched, addressing a variety of issues linked to the right to identity.

Dissemination of relevant [internal and external news](#).

Available in three languages on CHIP's website, the latest developments relevant to identity issues are shared periodically on CHIP's website and are widely viewed and disseminated through CHIP's social networks. Furthermore, CHIP's newsletter is sent every month to almost 2000 people including partners, colleagues and interested professionals. CHIP periodically receives positive feedback to the latter, which is encouraging.

Inputs into global human rights resources.

CHIP provided inputs into three upcoming reports at the Human Rights Council, coordinated by the Child and Youth Rights Unit at OHCHR notably 1) a study on ensuring quality education for peace and tolerance for every child as part of resolution 54/5; 2) a report on the rights of the child and violations of the human rights of children in armed conflicts (HRC res. 55/29) and 3) a [resolution on birth registration and digitalisation](#).

ENGAGEMENT WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

Cooperation with the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In the context of the periodic examination of countries' implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, [CHIP supported the constructive dialogue undertaken by the CRC Committee with each country's delegation](#) by providing brief factsheets focusing on

children's right to identity in the national context. CHIP drafted 12 such factsheets on the following countries: Argentina, Armenia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iraq, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Slovakia and Spain. These factsheets are intended to ensure that key issues related to children's right to identity are addressed during the dialogue with the country and that they are reflected and recommended on in the Committee's Concluding Observations and will contribute to changes of laws in countries, such as in relation to Mexico.

To support the CRC Committee in drafting its upcoming General Comment 27 on Access to Justice and Effective Remedies, [an expert consultative meeting](#) was held in the framework of the Identity Rights Working Group, currently co-chaired by CHIP and ISI, with representatives of UN agencies, civil society, academics and people with lived experience. Specifically, this meeting highlighted the importance of ensuring that all children, especially the most vulnerable have a full and complete identity including nationality as an enabler for accessing justice. Following the meeting, a [submission](#) was made to the Committee by CHIP individually and by the working group.

Cooperation with the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC).

A factsheet was submitted to ACERWC on the child's right to identity in Niger.



Exchange with academics & students.

At the beginning of May, as part of the annual visit of students from the Advanced Studies in International Children's Rights, Leiden Law School to Geneva, CHIP was able to explain the wider context of working opportunities in this international environment.

**EVENTS, TRAINING
& CAPACITY-BUILDING**

Webinar series on access to justice and effective remedies. As a follow-up to the above-mentioned expert meeting, the Identity Rights Working Group, co-chaired by CHIP and ISI, started hosting a [webinar series](#) dedicated to access to justice and effective remedies for children whose identity rights have been contravened. Two webinars each lasting 90 minutes were held in 2024 on 'No justice without identity' and 'Speedily re-establishing missing elements of identity'. These were attended by 100-115 participants each, in addition to those subsequently watching the recordings of the event, which amount to over 1,000. Two further webinars in the series will be held in 2025.

Contribution to events held in the framework of UN mechanisms. The Annual Day on the Rights of the Child included a resolution mentioning the importance for children to have a legal identity as pre-requisite to inclusive social protection. CHIP partnered with ATD Fourth World, Child Rights Connect, Consortium For Street Children, Family for Every Child, Hope and Homes for Children, Lumos, Make Mothers Matter – MMM, Save the Children International and SOS Children's Villages International to host two side-events: one on bridging gaps for children's rights and inclusive social protection (12 March), where the role of birth registration as an enabler was highlighted, and a follow-up round table (15 March) addressing expectations for moving forward.

Contribution to the development of a MOOC on children's rights in Switzerland. CHIP participated in the development of a MOOC (massive open online course) on children's rights for professionals in Switzerland ([childrights-mooc.ch](#)), launched in December 2024, in French, German and Italian. This is the very first MOOC on children's rights to have brought together professionals from all areas related to children in Switzerland. This childrights-mooc.ch has benefited from the contributions of more than 80 experts, over 40 partner organisations and many children. The MOOC was the brainchild of Philip Jaffé and Jean Zermatten, indicators of its high quality.





3.2 Birth registration

Birth registration is the fundamental first step ensuring the establishment of a child's legal identity.

RESEARCH

Development of a Legal Atlas on children's right to identity through birth registration in partnership with UNICEF. Following the mandate granted by UNICEF, CHIP continued developing a comprehensive a Legal Atlas that currently captures the relevant birth registration laws of more than 60 countries. This Legal Atlas intends to reflect progress and challenges in terms of laws, policies and practices relating to birth registration and identity and to provide solid legal information on potential constructive

legal provisions and promising practices to improve frameworks. UNICEF and CHIP are developing a user-friendly platform for all to access this information, which is planned to be launched in 2025, funding dependent.

Strengthening of the formal partnership with UNICEF's Regional Office for West and Central Africa. This partnership has the objective of harnessing high-level political commitment, action and improved resource allocation towards acceleration of the fulfillment of children's rights to a legal identity in West and Central Africa, as per the regional Key Results for Children Agenda, UNICEF's 2022-

2025 Strategic Plan Goal Area 3 and SDG target 16.9. Cornelius Williams – former Global Director of Child Protection UNICEF – has provided strategic and technical input, advice and support for political engagement at country level for scaling up and decentralising birth registration service delivery, as well as to strengthen evidence about the criticality of birth registration for access to different services, to prevent child marriage and exploitation as well as statelessness (see details under technical assistance).

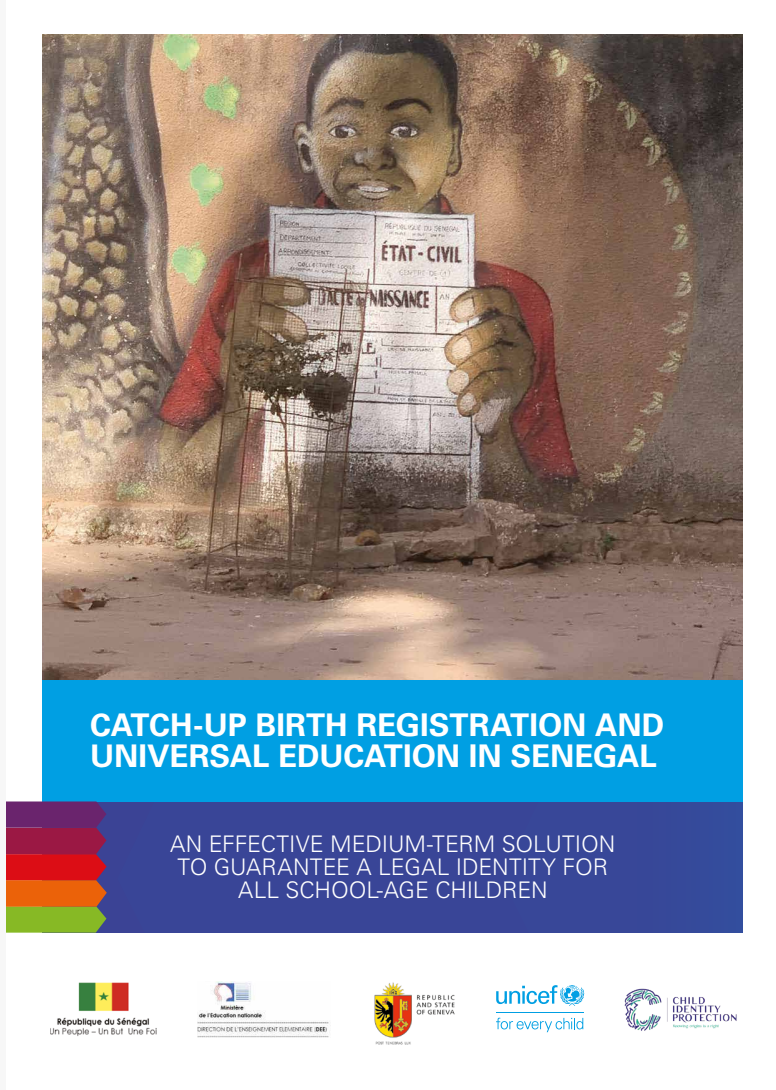




TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

SENEGAL

Strengthening birth registration to improve access to education. Following research including an in country mission, a report was published by the Ministry of Education of Senegal, CHIP and UNICEF. Following this research, regularisation continues everywhere for CI and CM2 pupils, thanks to collaboration between the various ministries involved in civil status and registration will even be extended to other classes, at the request of the Director of Elementary Education. The Prime Minister has announced an inter-ministerial council on civil status and pupil enrolment. Training sessions were held in Kaffrine for school planners and directors and more trainings are planned. Figures of increase in birth registration will be available in 2025.



CAMEROON

Key achievements and outcomes of the technical assistance provided by Cornelius Williams and CHIP's team in the framework of the partnership with UNICEF's Regional Office for West and Central Africa (see also above under 3.2.1).

Strengthening local governance for birth registration. By providing strategic support to the Mayors' Forum on Universal Birth Registration in April 2024 (including through a training for Mayors), this partnership has supported the integration of birth registration micro-plans into local development frameworks. This work lays the foundation for sustainable, decentralised birth registration efforts that are driven by local governments and tailored to community needs.

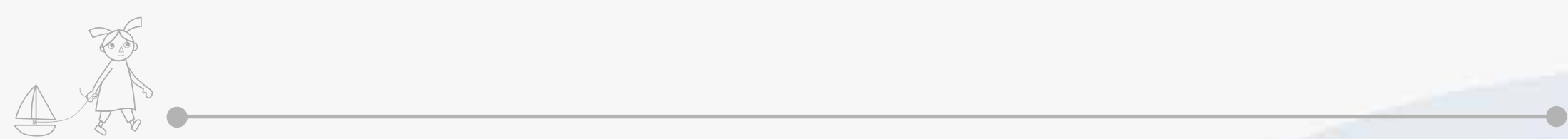
Evidence-based policy development: The research on catch-up birth registration, particularly through schools, is providing critical data to inform national policies and strengthen birth registration catch-up strategies, with potential applicability to other contexts in the region.

NIGERIA

Integration of birth registration and health services. The partnership is supporting UNICEF's Country Office in conducting multi-stakeholder consultations and the drafting of policy documents (national guidelines) to integrate birth registration into health services across eight states. These changes are expected to create lasting improvements in both health and registration systems and are anticipated to be scaled nationwide, contributing significantly to the goal of universal birth registration.

NIGER

Targeted multi-stakeholder advocacy and policy development. UNICEF's preliminary engagements in Niger have focused on supporting UNICEF's Country Office with technical input for convening CRVS stakeholders — governmental and non-governmental— to align behind a common CRVS development agenda; with a focus on addressing key system failures and identifying strategies to address them. The partnership has also developed a policy brief linking birth and marriage registration to child marriage prevention strategies, emphasising how robust CRVS systems can improve legal age verification, enhance accountability, and protect children's rights, contributing to broader social impacts and the prevention of child marriage.



LIBERIA

Strategic planning and advocacy. The partnership is supporting UNICEF's Country Office in developing a strategic framework to guide CRVS support from 2025 to 2030. This initiative prioritises alignment with Liberia's national development agenda, particularly the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID) and aims to harmonise efforts with ongoing initiatives by other development partners. A key component of this work involves supporting multi-stakeholder national consultations to foster dialogue among key stakeholders and consolidate insights. These efforts are designed to create a more integrated approach towards development of the CRVS system in the country.

SENEGAL

Strategic planning and advocacy. The partnership is supporting UNICEF's Country Office in developing a strategic note on its approach to strengthening the CRVS system for 2025 and beyond, leveraging existing data from Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys/Demographic and Health Surveys (MICS/DHS) and new insights into developments in the CRVS landscape within the country. This includes embedding the three accelerator strategies as critical areas of focus and revitalising the CRVS partners' coordination group, to ensure effective collaboration and alignment among stakeholders.

DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF
CONGO (DRC)

Strategic partnerships for long-term CRVS reform. Preliminary engagements aimed to support UNICEF's Country Office in securing a strategic partnership with the World Bank to align approaches and leverage resources for CRVS. This collaboration is particularly crucial for advancing the implementation of the UN approach to legal identity in the DRC (where there is an upcoming digital ID project), whose reinforcement is sought across the region, especially by fostering closer engagements with the World Bank.

REGIONAL INSIGHTS

The ongoing country-specific work is generating critical insights that are shaping a broader regional agenda for advancing CRVS systems. For example, in Nigeria, valuable lessons were gained on operationalising interoperability with the health sector. Insights from Cameroon and Nigeria also highlight the 'what' and 'how' of decentralisation, demonstrating how empowering local governance structures enables community tailored CRVS solutions. Additionally, Cameroon is providing valuable insights on implementing CRVS systems in humanitarian and crisis settings and addressing barriers in fragile contexts.

These insights will be incorporated into a regional learning agenda for 2025, where a deep dive into each of the accelerator strategies will be conducted. At regional level, UNICEF is leveraging these insights to guide the development of strategic frameworks and advocacy efforts at both regional and continental levels, including at upcoming events such as the ID4Africa Live Cast in March 2025 and the Expert Group Meeting on CRVS scheduled for 2025.

ENGAGEMENT WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

Strengthening of the right to identity on the United Nations agenda.

In collaboration with OHCHR and UNICEF, CHIP supported the implementation of the 2023 Human Rights Council Resolution [A/HRC/RES/52/25](#) on birth registration and the right of everyone to recognition everywhere as a person before the law. The OHCHR organised an [initial consultation](#) in May in Geneva with key stakeholders to provide guidance for the framing of the report in line with human rights, particularly that of children. CHIP was honored to support OHCHR and [to provide inputs](#) into the upcoming report.



3.3 Alternative care

Children in alternative care – whether placed in family-based care or residential facilities –should have continuity in their language, ethnicity, religion, culture and other elements linked to their family relations.

I can turn to my immediate community and/or a professional.

These people may not know what to do straight away but we could look at this guide together and get some tips from it.

Pro juventute

This number will answer all my questions confidentially, 24 hours a day. They can direct me to the right service.

BY TELEPHONE ON 147

People I trust may be able to help me

like my grandparents, aunts/uncles, godparents, friends, brothers/sisters, teachers, paediatrician, sports coach, etc.

In the event of serious concerns (e.g. physical or sexual abuse), these adults can listen to me, advise me, direct me, contact professionals, accompany me to appointments, etc. They are not bound by confidentiality and can therefore share what I tell them.

BY TELEPHONE AN APPOINTMENT IN PERSON

ciao.ch

I can ask questions on the site and a professional will answer all my questions (aged 13 to 20)

THROUGH THEIR WEBSITE WWW.CIAO.CH

See also a list of other services here

RESEARCH

Completion of the research on coercive decisions in Switzerland through the lens of international standards, with a focus on foster care placements (Swiss National Science Foundation, Switzerland). The national research plan (NRP 76) held its [final event](#) in Bern in May. CHIP's researchers presented their findings, which were discussed and put into context by a panel, in presence of the Federal Councilor Beat Jans. The results of NRP 76 have been published in 2024 in [three thematic book volumes](#), and two articles were written by members of the CHIP team with other experts.

Human rights in alternative care. CHIP has continued working in partnership with the University of Strathclyde in a Taskforce to help generate new insights into rights-respecting, community-based alternative care for children.

ENGAGEMENT WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

Provision of inputs into a report on care and support. Pursuant to resolution 54/6, adopted by the Human Rights Council, on the centrality of care and support from a human rights perspective, a comprehensive thematic study is being prepared by the OHCHR on the human rights dimension of care and support. In this context, in April, CHIP submitted [a document](#) aimed at sharing approaches applicable to children at risk of being separated from their parents or caregivers and to children already in care and whose family reintegration is reliant on appropriate support to them and their families. The impact of support and care on their family relations has been a cross-cutting issue of the submission, as illustrated by promising practices of concrete implementation at domestic and local level, considering the variety of socio-economic, cultural and geopolitical contexts.

EVENTS, TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Switzerland. A [Guide](#) for Swiss children, available in French, German and English was developed in cooperation with various Swiss professionals in child protection, in order to prevent the separation of families and provide children with information on when, how and where to seek help. The guide was published online, and printed postcards with a QR code for downloading were shared with the main relevant contacts. These have been well-received by Swiss professionals, who distributed thousands of postcards to children and young people.

Publication of child-friendly articles. Following the publication of this guide, Ciao.ch asked CHIP to write [articles](#) for their website. Ciao.ch is the main information website for teenagers in Switzerland, where they can find information and ask questions anonymously to professionals regarding all topics. The articles published focused on the prevention of family separation and their rights during a placement in a foster family or residential facility.



3.4 Adoption

Adoptees must be able to access their origins, in order to have knowledge of their full identity and family relations, if they wish to.

RESEARCH

Publication of article. CHIP's team wrote an article published in December 2024 in the academic review Adoption & Culture: "[Preserving Family Relations as an Essential Feature of the Child's Right to Identity](#)". This article reflects the presentation by CHIP of the main content of its signature publication (2021) at an earlier event at Queen's University Belfast (2023).

EVENTS, TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

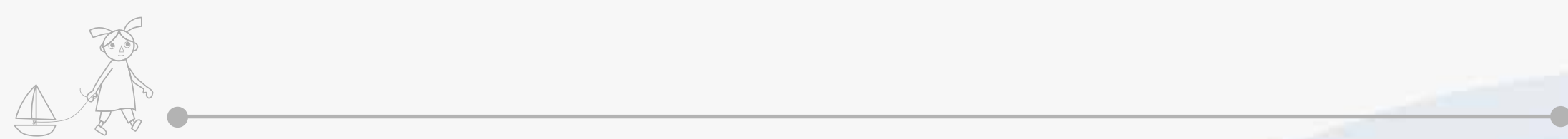
Event and guide on the adoption of siblings:

In a webinar organised in the framework of Chile's Adoption Month 2024, CHIP provided information on the importance of contact amongst siblings in the construction of their family identity. During that same event, the Project 'AdoptARTE: Strengthening a child-centred perspective in adoption research, policy and practice', the Autonomous University of Barcelona, the Specialised Protection Service for Children and Adolescents of the Government of Chile, Corporación OPCIÓN and CHIP launched the guide [Caminando hacia la adopción. Orientaciones para la adopción conjunta de hermanos/as o contactos post-adoptivos](#).

These organisations developed the guide, with inputs from CHIP with a focus on the right to identity of adoptees. This guide intends to facilitate the adoption of groups of siblings or their contact, an essential element of a child's identity. As part of the same project, CHIP participated to the elaboration of a [guide for professionals](#) on life history work with children and adolescents in the process of adoption.

In Europe, CHIP had the privilege of rethinking children's rights and intercountry adoption with a focus on their right to identity as part of the [Master of advanced studies in children's rights of the University of Geneva](#), as well as of the Summer School on Children's Rights, by presenting in the framework of both these academic courses. Likewise, CHIP also participated in the courses provided by the University of Geneva, in its Summer School on Children's Rights and Master's Degree in Children's Rights.



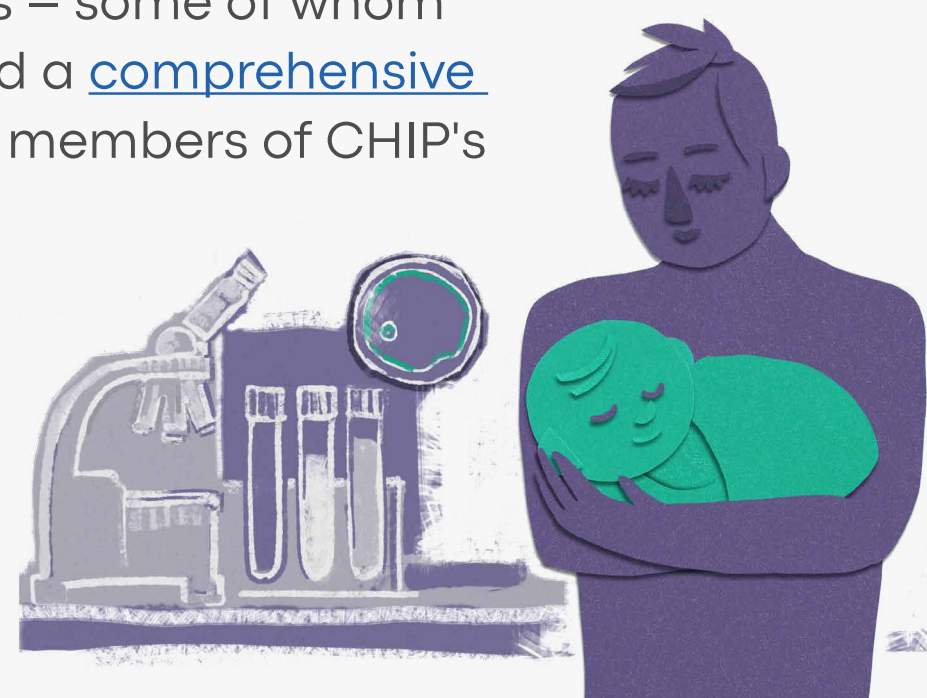


3.5 Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy

Children born from third party reproduction should know the circumstances of their birth in order to build a full identity and understand key elements of the latter.

RESEARCH

Research handbook on surrogacy and the law. After years of preparation and perseverance, the editors Claire Achmad, Sharon Shakargy and Katarina Trimmings – some of whom are CHIP Special Advisors – have launched a [comprehensive handbook on surrogacy](#), to whom various members of CHIP's team were privileged to contribute to.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AT REGIONAL AND COUNTRY LEVEL

EUROPE

CHIP thanks the European Law Institute (ELI) which has allowed CHIP, as an observer, to participate in meetings and give inputs regarding [their position paper on the Private International Law on Filiation and the European Commission's Proposal COM/2022/695 final](#). In its feedback, CHIP acknowledged that ELI has done great work to improve the children's right to identity, especially by including in the Regulation a new specific provision on the right to know their origins. However, CHIP identified some gaps that could prevent the child from knowing their origins. In particular, the Regulation must ensure that all information regarding a child's legal identity, including details on parent(s), donor(s) and surrogates, is registered and accessible. It must also ensure that any filiation certificate does not inadvertently facilitate and/or recognise situations where the sale of children has occurred.

DENMARK

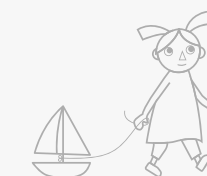
Following the call for submissions for proposed laws in Denmark to respond to surrogacy arrangements – currently prohibited in the country – CHIP took the opportunity to make a [submission](#) to ensure that the child's right to identity is fully protected. This submission was led by David Smolin as Special Advisor for CHIP, with inputs from other Special Advisors notably Katarina Trimmings and Nigel Cantwell. CHIP highlighted potential areas on how to align Danish practices with international standards, noting concerns of using adoptions to regularise legal status of children, particularly in commercial arrangements.

MEXICO

A group of interested actors, under the leadership of some federal deputies, have been working on the drafting of reforms to the country's Code of Civil and Family Procedures, in order to address and regulate surrogacy in the country. CHIP was invited to [submit some inputs for reflection, with a view to strengthening the right to identity of children born through surrogacy, as well as prevent the sale of children in these contexts](#).

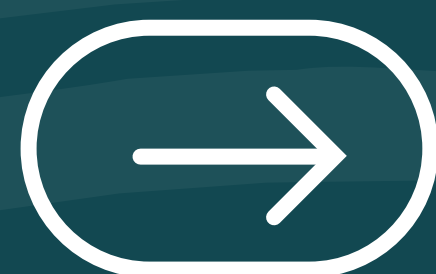
SWITZERLAND

CHIP offered inputs into proposed amendments to the Swiss Civil Code in relation to step-parent adoptions in the situation of children born from anonymous gamete donation in cross-border situations as well as from foreign surrogacy arrangements. This [legal memorandum](#) addresses concerns relating to these children's identity rights.



In a powerful fusion of adventure and advocacy, CHIP was delighted to welcome an ambassador to set sail to champion the rights of children through the organisation in 2024. Professional sailor Alicia De Pfyffer – a swiss citizen born in Zimbabwe and living in Spain – chose to represent CHIP and advocate for children's birth registration rights and protection convinced of the massive need in this area.

Thanks to the global visibility of high-level sailing competitions, Alicia has raised awareness on the fundamental right to a legal identity, the foundation upon which all other rights are built. Just as an anchor, a legal identity secures the full spectrum of a child's rights. Alicia participated in several races in 2024 championing CHIP's mission, values and colors. **CHIP is very grateful to Alicia for having approached us and for identifying with CHIP's mission and values. We hope to continue sailing on this adventure together.**



Executive Committee, Human Resources & Partners

CHIP would not be able to deliver its mission without the ongoing guidance, time support of the association's Executive Committee members: Maud de Boer-Buquicchio (President), Grégoire Bordier (Treasurer) and Wanchai Roujanavong (Secretary). CHIP's General Assembly was held in April 2024, during which the Executive Committee and CHIP members discussed progress in the implementation of the year's activities, thereby reaffirming CHIP's mission and strategies.

CHIP's team offers the commitment, knowledge and professionalism of each of its members to the delivery of the organisation's activities and is currently composed of Christina Baglietto, Laurence Bordier, Mia Dambach, Siena-Sophia Demetriou and Gisela Sin Gomiz. During 2024, CHIP's team also benefitted from the support of and would like to thank Marine Braun, Mariama Diallo and Cornelius Williams, who have acted as key consultants and advisor on various projects.

CHIP is also very grateful for the valuable inputs and advice shared by its Special Advisors: Dr Claire Achmad, Dr Nigel Cantwell, Dr Chrissie Gale, Prof. Olga Khazova, Lynelle Long, Prof. David Smolin, Dr Katarina Trimmings, Dr Michael Wells-Greco, Rosa María Ortiz, Dr Dainus Puras and Eda Elizabeth Aguilar Samanamud.

Finally, CHIP would like to acknowledge and thank its international and local financial and technical partners, volunteers and donors, who it looks forward to pursuing partnerships and initiatives with, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Service de la solidarité internationale du Canton de Genève, the International Commission on Civil Status (ICCS), the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI), the Centre d'accueil de la Genève internationale (CAGI), the University of Geneva, Ciao.ch, the Fondation Brocher, Alexandre Bouscal (design) and Pascal Rudin (website).

A huge thank you to all the organisations and individuals, who help us safeguard the right to identity of children!



Financial resources

During 2024, CHIP received funds from private donors, project partners, a private Swiss foundation, the French government and the Canton of Geneva. Thanks to the income received from private donors and a foundation, compensation was available to team members in addition to their fees for project implementation.

In July 2024, UNICEF WCARO asked BDO to do an audit of the accounts of the project in West and Central Africa. Following the audit, UNICEF WCARO confirmed its partnership with CHIP. Our website costs increased due to a migration requested for the publication in 2025 of the above-mentioned Legal Atlas in partnership with UNICEF HQ.

The overall balance sheet for 2024 is very satisfactory after four years of existence, as it reflects the association's goals for the year, in terms of income from projects, foundations and private donations from CHIP members and individual donors. As noted in the 2023 Impact report, the year 2023 ended with a positive balance of CHF 110 329, most of which has been earmarked for ongoing projects in the first half of 2024. This explains why for 2024 there was a negative balance in terms of expenses, as projects were completed and paid from the 2023 surplus (i.e. deferred costs in 2023). Overall, CHIP, has a cash balance remaining of CHF 77 014.

This financial situation represents continuity from the 2023 accounts, which were unanimously approved at the General Assembly, upon the recommendations issued by external auditors Ratha Jaques and Evelyne Chapuis, to whom CHIP is very grateful to for their support and report. CHIP would like to thank Ferial Monnard and Alexandre Brand for their meticulous accounting work for the association throughout the year.

CHILD IDENTITY PROTECTION

Balance sheet as of 31 december 2024

	<u>31.12.2024</u> <u>Swiss francs</u>	<u>31.12.2023</u> <u>Swiss francs</u>
ASSETS		
Bank Account	62 278	138 078
Prepaid Expenses	659	590
Accrued Incomes	0	0
International research on alternative care Account	14 077	35 000
Total Assets	<u><u>77 014</u></u>	<u><u>173 668</u></u>
LIABILITIES		
Accrued Expenses	0	0
Initial capital of the association	30 000	30 000
Reported Surplus / Expenses	143 668	33 339
Surplus / Expenses	-96 654	110 329
Total Liabilities	<u><u>77 014</u></u>	<u><u>173 668</u></u>

CHILD IDENTITY PROTECTION

Income statement as of 31 december 2024

	<u>31.12.2024</u> <u>Swiss francs</u>	<u>31.12.2023</u> <u>Swiss francs</u>
REVENUES		
Other private donors	1 203	1 000
Swiss based foundation	50 000	50 000
Membership Fees	150	250
UNICEF	8 639	0
UNICEF WCARO	135 397	75 253
Geneva University	431	365
Canton of Geneva	40 000	59 700
Institut Droits de l'enfant	0	800
Terre des Hommes (MOOC)	8 200	0
Exchange profit	9 333	0
International research on alternative care Revenues	2 272	33 691
Total Revenues	<u><u>255 625</u></u>	<u><u>221 058</u></u>
EXPENSES		
Consultancy fees	38 581	23 328
Expenses WCARO	159 205	0
Salaries	45 433	18 779
Social security expenses	21 169	7 477
Insurance	590	395
Website maintenance	5 755	5 581
MailCHIMP	0	677
Branding costs	9 866	6 122
Experts CHIP in	6 382	4 497
Events	4 208	1 882
Gift	294	3 600
Terre des Hommes (MOOC) Expenses	5 708	0
Exchange Loss	0	5 662
Senegal Birth Registration	13 886	32 729
Cameroon Birth Requisition	18 323	0
International research on alternative care Expenses	22 879	0
Total Expenses	<u><u>352 279</u></u>	<u><u>110 729</u></u>
Net operating result	-96 654	110 329



Child Identity Protection

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DESIGN AND LAYOUT
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