

IMPACT REPORT 2025

A JOURNEY

across the globe
through our activities



Foreword



**Maud
de Boer-Buquicchio**

President - January 2026

2025 marked a special milestone for Child Identity Protection (CHIP) – five years of championing the child’s right to identity within international, regional and national fora. This work has been incredibly important and effective illustrated by the different initiatives in this impact report focusing on accelerating birth registration for the over 200 million children under 5 without a birth certificate and the countless numbers of children who are stateless and/or have amputated identities due to missing information about their family relations.

Some highlights for the year encompass work at an international level supporting UN treaty bodies and special procedures with their mandates. This included a first meeting with the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women noting that discriminatory laws and practices often preclude children from being registered immediately at birth and can lead them to being stateless

At a regional level, the team provided input to the work of the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child on birth registration and in Europe, actively participated in the Committee of Experts on Access to Origins within the Council of Europe who are tasked to draft a recommendation on the rights of donor-conceived persons to know their origins. CHIP likewise entered a partnership with UNICEF’s Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean collaborating with the Organization of American States, to undertake a review of laws, policies and practices in relation to the registration of births of children born from surrogacy arrangements.

CHIP continued to provide technical assistance to support more solid birth registration frameworks at a national level in particular Cameroon, Liberia and Niger. The team also made submissions for upcoming law reforms such as in Australia on

surrogacy and how all children’s rights should be upheld in these arrangements.

This work and the many other initiatives included in this impact report have been undertaken by the modest and effective team at CHIP led by its Executive Committee and ever supportive Special Advisors. Moreover, despite the abrupt funding crisis that severely hit the development sector in 2025 and flagrant attacks on fundamental human rights across the globe, I feel admiring and encouraged by the solidarity and perseverance of those working in the child rights community.

CHIP is privileged to continue its collaboration with its technical and financial partners and I look forward to seeing more progress so that every child can enjoy every right in the coming year, particularly the right to identity, which is key to the enjoyment of multiple other rights enshrined in the Convention.

Introduction

In 2025, Child Identity Protection (CHIP) pursued its mission to better safeguard children's right to identity and to know their origins. This fundamental right, a gateway to all other rights, such as education and health, is also an essential element of prevention against sale, trafficking and exploitation. Children are the most vulnerable especially in their early years when changes to their identity can occur without their consent and their protection is crucial.

To ensure the respect of this key right, as guaranteed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to achieve SDG 16.9 (Legal identity for all by 2030), CHIP undertook research and advocacy, assessed, strengthened and implemented legislative, policy and practical frameworks in different countries. CHIP also raised awareness and increased dialogue between professionals and policy makers in diverse contexts, notably in international and regional forums.

This work would not have been possible, had CHIP not been able to strengthen existing partnerships and create new ones for which it is very grateful for the ongoing trust of technical and financial partners (see Part 4 below). Indeed, CHIP was thrilled and proud to be represented by the Swiss professional sailor Alicia de Pfyffer, who arrived 10th overall – and the first woman – in the 2025 Mini Transat race. She crossed the Atlantic Ocean raising awareness about the consequences of not having a birth certificate, highlighting its life altering impact on children's futures for the wider public.

In 2025, the right to identity, which starts with birth registration, continued to be challenged due to conflicts and emergencies, as well as lack of regulations. In addition, this year also brought about considerable uncertainty for the child rights community given the drastic reduction in resources for the development sector. Despite this difficult context, CHIP was glad to be able to pursue its partnership

with UNICEF: after Senegal, it continued its joint projects on birth registration and education in Cameroun and Côte d'Ivoire. Joint research with UNICEF was also finalised on how birth registration could act as a child protection safeguard for age verification and potentially prevent child marriage in 11 countries in West and Central Africa. Research on civil registration in cases of surrogacy in Latin America and the Caribbean was also carried out with UNICEF's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Organization of American States (OAS).

CHIP saw its impact growing: the right to identity is now systematically mentioned at an international level, birth registration is increasing and the right to know one's origins is at the centre of many debates and legislative changes. However, 'birth registration would need to accelerate at five times its current pace to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 16 on universal registration by 2030', digitalization raises new challenges and, more generally, children remain at risk of being 'uncounted, unseen and excluded'.

CHIP reiterates its commitment to preserving
children's right to identity.

Your Child Identity Protection team



1. Today

1.1. International law

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.

SDG 16.9 Legal identity for all by 2030

The Committee on the Rights of the Child has recommended on numerous occasions that States take all necessary measures to allow all children, irrespective of the circumstances of their birth, to have access to an identity.

1.2. Risks



- › Unregistered children or children lacking a birth certificate face a higher risk of exclusion, early and forced marriage, child labour, child recruitment and trafficking.
- › Lack of birth registration increases the risk of stateless and leaving stateless children unprotected.
- › Challenges to accessing information about origins can adversely impact health – physical and mental – for generations.

1.3. A few facts

≈ 138 M
CHILDREN
WORLDWIDE

are still affected by child labour despite progress.

(UNICEF, 2025)

1 in 5
YOUNG WOMEN
TODAY

were married before their 18th birthday

(Child Marriage Data Portal, 2025)

≈ 49 M
CHILDREN

below 18 years of age are forcibly displaced. At the end of 2024, they represent 40% of the 123,2 million forcibly displaced people

(UNHCR, 2025)

Gender-based discrimination is an obstacle in multiple countries. Women are barred from registering their children's birth, unless in exceptional circumstances.

(OHCHR, July 2025, use digital technologies to achieve universal birth registration)

> 200 M
CHILDREN
UNDER 5

live without a birth certificate in the World

(UNICEF, 2024)

1 in 50
CHILDREN

falls victim to identity theft each year

(London Stock Exchange, LSEG Risk Intelligence, June 2025)

90 M
CHILDREN

from Sub-Saharan Africa are unregistered, accounting for more than half (51%) of the world's unregistered children.

(UNICEF, 2024)

2. Impact in 2025

2.1. Impact on children worldwide through UN mechanisms



Three thematic factsheets were submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, given their reduced meeting times. Nonetheless, the Committee increasingly and systematically examines the right to identity in its concluding observations and recommendations raising awareness of country responsibilities. Some are reforming their laws and practices accordingly, e.g. Mexico is working on a bill on surrogacy and CHIP was able to provide some input on the right to identity.



Technical submissions were provided to various UN bodies such as the [Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women](#), the [United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls and the Child and Youth Rights Unit at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\)](#). Parts of CHIP's submissions were reflected in a number of OHCHR's final reports such as the one on [universal birth registration and the use of digital technologies](#).



2.2. Impact on children worldwide through collaboration with partners



The Legal Atlas on birth registration laws in over 100 countries was further developed in cooperation with UNICEF published in January 2026 on CHIP's website. The atlas is a tool for countries and professionals to identify obstacles to birth registration and change their regulations and practices.



Nine different webinars, with a large audience, were co-organised by CHIP on legal identity and birth registration issues, including in relation to the prevention of child marriage, children living in poverty, child identity theft, access to justice and alternative care.



A three-day meeting took place to discuss issues linked to third party reproduction and surrogacy in Geneva at the Brocher Foundation, gathering professionals from all over the world with policy documents to be published in 2026.



CHIP is participating in an increasing number of technical groups, including as Co-chair of the thematic working group on ending childhood statelessness as part of Global Alliance to End Statelessness and the Identity Rights Working Group.



CHIP hosted the virtual launch of a book titled Children's Right to Identity, Selfhood and International Family Law

2.3. Impact on children worldwide through dissemination of general information



Through our Experts CHIP in series, interviews with a wide range of professionals, as well as the testimonies of persons with lived experiences, were shared in short videos with the aim of raising awareness about the importance of respecting the right of identity, resulting in over a thousand views.



News most relevant to the child identity rights were disseminated on CHIP's website and in CHIP's monthly newsletter, which reaches over 2,500 persons.

2.4. Impact on children in West and Central Africa



Key achievements based on partnership between UNICEF's Regional Office for Western and Central Africa (WCARO) and CHIP, through Cornelius Williams and CHIP's team, include the advancement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems, leading to tangible improvements in systems, policy frameworks, and local-level implementation strategies that will have lasting impacts on birth and civil registration systems. In Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Niger, Liberia and Senegal, more children will be registered at birth and benefit from protections linked to having a legal identity.



Catch-up birth registration in schools in Senegal, Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire was also strengthened, providing more children with a legal identity and access to education in collaboration UNICEF and other partners (see Part 4 below). In Senegal, thanks to a reinforced collaboration between the civil registration and education sectors, a total of 30,268 pupils obtained a birth certificate during the school year 2024-2025. An inter-ministerial council meeting took place in March 2025 and announced measures, in line with CHIP's recommendations such as the implementation of an action plan for the early detection of students without civil status documents, including in Daaras (Koranic schools), particularly upon their admission to the education system, and the deployment of appropriate strategies for managing the civil status of nomadic or displaced populations.



Identification of possibilities of preventing child marriage through birth and marriage registration in eleven countries in Western and Central Africa. The link between birth registration and marriage laws was examined based on a desk review of existing legislation.



In Cameroon, a similar project took place between 2023 and 2025, where over 1.4 million school-aged children lack birth certificates – a considerable obstacle to exams and continuity in education. The report was finalised in August 2025 and launched in November 2025. The Canton of Geneva, a key funder of the project, went to Cameroon and was able to meet with UNICEF colleagues to understand the positive impact of this project on children in the country. A similar project was launched in Côte d'Ivoire at the end of 2025.

2.5. Impact on children in Europe

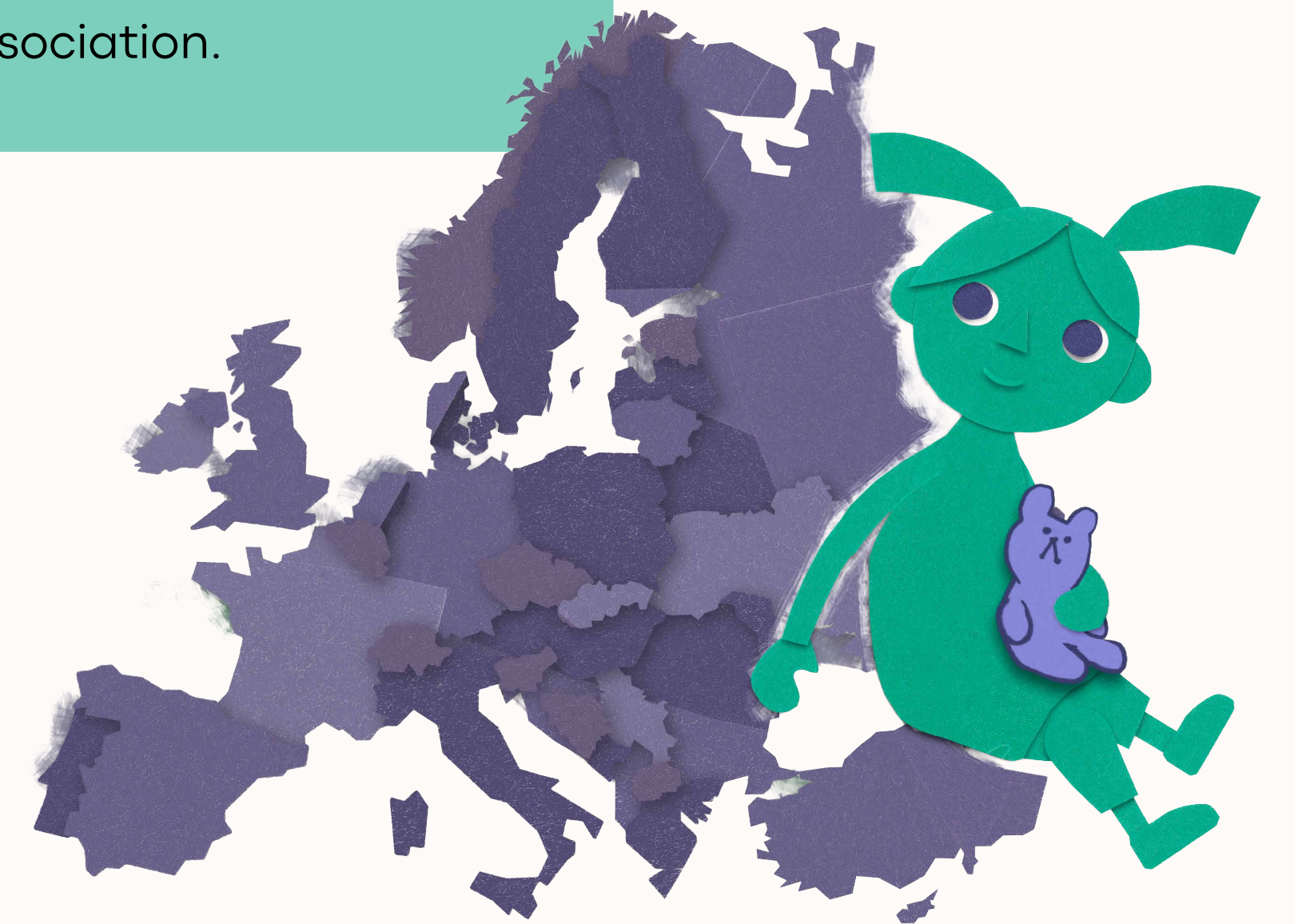
CHIP was honoured to serve as an observer and to be able to offer its inputs to the European Law Institute's position paper on the Private International Law on Filiation and the European Commission's Proposal COM/2022/695. CHIP is pleased that the importance of the children's right to identity and access to origins was considered, even though some concerns remain in cross border situations, in particular in relation to surrogacy and anonymous gamete donation.

A team member and several Special Advisors of CHIP published an article on European Court of Human Rights cross-Border surrogacy decisions and their impact on children's rights to identity, not to be sold and their best interests.

CHIP actively participated as an Observer at the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on Access to Origins.

Members of CHIP's team delivered courses at Leiden University and the University of Geneva on the right to identity in different contexts.

CHIP is very pleased to have been among experts and persons with lived experiences, who have shared their views in a podcast series on adoption broadcast by the research group AFIN (Barcelona) and to have been invited to deliver the inaugural speech at the biannual congress on identity in foster care and adoption of MANAIA – the Galician Foster Care and Adoption Association.



2.6. Impact on children in Latin America and the Caribbean



CHIP feels privileged to have been able to submit some inputs for reflection in the context of the drafting of reforms to Mexico's Code of Civil and Family Procedures, aimed at regulating surrogacy, with a view to strengthening the right to identity of children born through surrogacy, as well as prevent the sale of children.



CHIP participated in an online international seminar in the framework of the enactment of the new Law on Adoption in Chile, organised by the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, TransformAdopción, GRISIJ and the Universitat de Barcelona (Spain), with the registration of over 1,000 participants.



CHIP entered a partnership with UNICEF's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (LACRO), to undertake a review of current legislation, policies and practices in relation to the registration of births of children born from surrogacy arrangements with support of the Organization of American States (OAS). The final report is to be published in January 2026 and to support Civil Registrars across the region in ensuring all children's rights when faced with these cases.



CHIP delivered the first eight-hour session of a Latin American-wide Diploma on adoption, held remotely by Fundacion América por la Infancia, an academic partner, which focuses on providing multidisciplinary specialist training on child-related issues. With over 30 students joining, the session allowed for knowledge sharing as well as constructive dialogue with professionals and families keen to learn more on adoption in their respective countries and the region.



2.7. Impact on children in Asia Pacific

CHIP provided inputs to the Australian Law Review Commission's Discussion Paper Review of Surrogacy Laws, aligned with its other work on a human rights-based approach to surrogacy.

CHIP held the virtual launch of a book titled Children's Right to Identity, Selfhood and International Family Law – a first-ever academic publication addressing the right to identity in a wide range of family law topics

CHIP is continued its research for its forthcoming publication on the regional situation of children's rights to identity in this region, expected to be launched in 2026.



3. Mission, activities and outcomes

3.1. Right to identity as the fundamental rights of all children's rights

3.1.1. Research

As new developments have occurred over the past year in relation to children's rights to identity, the regional publication of the issue in Latin America and the Caribbean is undergoing its final drafting stage and is expected to finally be published in 2026. Likewise, CHIP's team has is undertaking research also in relation to the situation in Asia and the Pacific and hopes to equally launch this regional publication end 2026.



¹ ATD Fourth World, Child Identity Protection, Citizenship Affected Peoples Network, Global Survivors Fund, Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, ORIGINES, UNHCR, UNICEF, Voice of Children.

3.1.2. Advocacy and policy development

The Identity Rights Working Group (IDRWG),¹ co-chaired by the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion and CHIP, had the opportunity to provide inputs for the preparation of the first session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child concerning the right to education. The IDRWG's submission examined the intersection between lack of legal identity and nationality, and the impact on the enjoyment of other rights, specifically the right to education.

The IDRWG also had the privilege of meeting with the CEDAW Committee focusing on solutions to discriminatory practices against women that can create obstacles in ensuring every child has a legal identity and nationality. The Group highlighted how systemic and gender-based inequalities in civil registration laws and practices, particularly against women, continues to drive lower birth registration, statelessness and exclusion. Children born in contexts of conflict, displacement, or sexual violence face increased risks of having an incomplete identity or one that is not recognised in cross-border settings. Additionally, ensuring universal civil registration through birth and marriage registration can also potentially help prevent child marriage. Discrimination linked to women's civil status or conditions remains a major obstacle. The group called for strengthened guidance from the Committee, alongside legal and operational reforms.

Also meant as a tool for advocacy, 'Experts CHIP-in' are small videos designed to keep viewers abreast international, regional and national trends related to the child's identity, exploring examples from both the past, present and future. Over 30 new videos were launched gathering the views and experiences of experts, children and young people, as well as adults with lived experiences and are largely viewed.

3.1.3. Engagement with human rights mechanisms

CHIP drafted three fact sheets on the right to identity for the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child which were published on the Committee's website. The CRC Committee has increased its attention to identity rights and is systematically included in its Concluding Observations, e.g. Romania in July 2025. Support was offered to various UN bodies in focusing on the right to identity such as the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls and the Child and Youth Rights Unit at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on their work on education.



3.1.4. Events, training and capacity building

In March, CHIP participated in the 27th Annual Family Law Conference in Cape Town (South Africa) and was honoured to present on two topics: 'The child's right to identity and family relations' and 'Leveraging birth and marriage registration to prevent child marriage: findings from a desk review of laws and policies in eleven West and Central African countries'.

In September, in Kenya, CHIP presented on the importance of having a legal identity to establish family relations at the Annual meeting of the International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL). CHIP explained the importance of birth registration for age verification in preventing under-age informal unions and how a birth certificate can be potentially used to prevent the celebration of formal marriages through marriage registration processes based on the 11-country comparative study undertaken with UNICEF WCARO.

In December, CHIP co-chaired a webinar with the London Stock Exchange Group's team working on risk intelligence on 'Child Identity Theft – Preventing and Protecting Children from Financial Abuse'.

LSEG Risk Intelligence joined CHIP in bringing their financial and child rights experience together to tackle the rising problem of child identity theft. Children's rights require that they are fully protected from all types of abuses, including physical, sexual, mental and importantly as highlighted in this webinar – financial. The goal of this webinar was to raise awareness about the life-long devastating effects of child identity theft, how to prevent financial abuse and responsibilities to protect children whenever financial abuse occurs.

Throughout the year, members of CHIP delivered lectures at several academic institutions. At the University of Geneva, Master students heard about rethinking intercountry adoptions from the perspective of the child's right to identity and, during the summer school on children's rights, with Nigel Cantwell, they learnt about identity rights in general. At the University of Leiden (The Netherlands), courses were offered during the summer school about the child's right to identity in emergency settings and, to the students completing their Advanced LLM on children's rights, on identity rights in adoption and surrogacy. In addition, CHIP also delivered the first eight-hour session of a Latin American-wide Diploma on adoption, held remotely by Fundacion América por la Infancia, an academic partner.



3.2. Birth registration

3.2.1. Research

Following the desk review research investigating the laws in 11 countries in West and Central Africa to explore how existing birth and marriage registration legislative frameworks could potentially contribute to preventing child marriage, and at the request of and with support from UNICEF offices in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Niger, two dedicated research pieces were carried out on the civil registration (birth and marriage) in the DRC and Niger. The CHIP team worked closely with the UNICEF country offices to gather information and undertake data analysis. It is recommended that follow-up research be carried out in the countries themselves to gauge how the laws are operating in practice. With a view to undertaking a review of current legislation, policies and practices in relation to the registration of births of children born from surrogacy arrangements, the UNICEF LACRO, OAS and CHIP joined together their interest and expertise to undertake research and draft a technical document, which outlines the processes that have been developed in the region to register children born from surrogacy arrangements and offer a brief regional overview of practices with a deep-dive in a number of selected countries.



3.2.2. Technical assistance

3.2.2.1. Partnership UNICEF's Regional Office for Western and Central Africa (WCARO)

Technical assistance was carried out in Western and Central Africa, in particular in Cameroon, the DRC, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal to improve CRVS systems and increase birth registration. CHIP offered support to UNICEF's WCARO and country offices for the development of strategies to advance birth registration and legal identity through Cornelius Williams to advance evidence-based strategies. The partnership between UNICEF WCARO and CHIP – initiated in 2023 – has generated continental deliverables that help define UNICEF's strategic posture on civil registration, vital statistics and identity (CRVSID) across Africa. In 2025, these products moved beyond country implementation to shape the continental agenda and consolidate cross-country evidence.

The following are the partnership's most durable and agenda-setting contributions:

- CRVS–CHIP Synthesis Report - Drafting started in 2025 and will be finalised in 2026. It is the partnership's flagship continental product, distilling lessons from all above-mentioned six focus countries into a coherent analysis of system bottlenecks, enabling conditions, and accelerator pathways for CRVSID reform. It frames a common continental narrative - linking digitalisation, decentralisation, and interoperability to improved state capability and service delivery.
- Concept Note – Accelerating CRVS Reform - The Concept Note outlines the forward direction of the partnership, articulating why CRVSID reform must accelerate across Africa and defining the pathways to achieve it. It sets out UNICEF's strategic rationale, clarifies the accelerator logic and provides the framework used for partner engagement, resource mobilisation and alignment with continental priorities.
- UNICEF's Eastern and Central Africa Birth Registration Programme Framework - This framework establishes UNICEF's regional strategy for strengthening birth registration systems and provides the conceptual and programmatic foundation for aligning country engagement with the priorities of UNICEF's Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa. It operationalises the accelerator model, embeds CRVSID within digital governance and public administration reforms, and aligns the region with SDG 16.9, Africa's Agenda 2063 and the APAI-CRVS.

In terms of country specific support, in Cameroon, the partnership provided strategic advice on various issues including on the Civil Status Modernisation – Public Sector Reform Package and the Crisis-Zone Analysis Package. In Liberia, technical assistance through an in-country mission was provided, including through the CRVSID Strategic Framework and the Mission Evidence Package; and the Closing the Legal Identity Gap Through Education – Interoperability Framework. A number of meetings were also held, such as a CRVSID Technical Working Session and a presentation on CRVSID priority positioning to the United Nations Country Team (UNCT).

In Niger, an in-country mission was undertaken, which resulted in a technical mission report on Accelerating CRVSID Reform and Strategic Framing & Operationalisation Package; a CRVSID Operational Plan Outline; the Mayors' Campaign Strengthening Package; an UNLIA Concept Note and a UNCT Briefing Deck. In Nigeria, the partnership provided key advice on the State Standard Operating Procedure for Birth Registration as well as its Implementation Plan. Nigeria was also supported with a Technical Assessment of its Draft National CRVS Plan; a CRVS Strategic Plan; and an Interoperability Workshop Concept Note. In Senegal, support was provided on its analysis of regional disparities in birth registration.



3.2.2.2. Projects on catch-up birth registration in education settings in Senegal Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire

Senegal has established a protocol to identify and register pupils without birth certificates during their schooling. This protocol was the subject of a 2024 report on its implementation, accompanied by recommendations, published by the Minister of Education, UNICEF and CHIP. The implementation of the protocol was reinforced and according to statistics from the Ministry of National Education, 30,268 students obtained a birth certificate as of 31 July 2025 during the 2024-2025 school year.²

Regarding children educated outside the formal system, an interministerial council meeting was held in March 2025 with thirteen measures recommended, many in line with the 2024 report including the:

- › implementation of an action plan for the early detection of students without civil status documents, including in Daaras, particularly upon their admission to the education system and the full regularisation of children enrolled in school without civil status documents;
- › deployment of appropriate strategies for managing the civil status of nomadic or displaced populations.

In Cameroon, CHIP conducted research on the Special Operation of the Support Programme for Education Reform in Cameroon (Special Operation). The operation aims to provide birth certificates to pupils at the end of their primary education, as it is a mandatory document for sitting the end-of-primary exams. To provide oversight to the overall research, a final report of the work in Cameroon was published by CHIP, the Ministry of Education and UNICEF in August. With the goal to support PAREC to optimise the Special Operation, the report highlights both promising practices and remaining challenges and formulates guidelines to facilitate the process. The project is mentioned on the UNICEF website. The results of the catch-up birth registration in Cameroon will be available in 2026. The Fonds de solidarité of the Canton of Geneva, which financially supported the project together with Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of France, went to Cameroon in November and met with UNICEF to better explore the outcomes of actions undertaken.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the catch-up birth registration research started end 2025 including desk review and initial drafting of the inception report, with a first meeting with the Director of CRVS to plan for 2026.

² At elementary level: 27,750 students out of 74,004 students were without a birth certificate; at middle level: 2,499 students out of 16,436 were without a birth certificate ; at secondary level: 19 students out of 285 were without a birth certificate.



3.2.3. Engagement with human rights mechanisms

Submission to Special Rapporteur on Birth Registration, Name and Nationality in Africa of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) on the topic of digitalization of birth registration. CHIP is pleased to have had the opportunity to respond to the call by the ACERWC's Special Rapporteur which is based on CHIP's work, including that related to birth registration as part of its partnership with UNICEF WCARO working in Cameroon, the DRC, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal. It also considers CHIP's work on a Legal Atlas on birth registration being developed in collaboration with UNICEF as well as other sources.

CHIP's 2024 submission in the framework of the OHCHR's report on birth registration and digital technologies was well reflected in the final report published 2025, thereby demonstrating the relevance of CHIP's inputs and provision of references.

3.2.4. Events, training and capacity building

Throughout 2025, a webinar series was launched titled 'I was born. I exist. Add me to the list'. It focused on accelerating birth registration for the hardest-to-reach populations — those living in poverty starting with national, then regional and finishing with international efforts. This series was led by ATD Fourth World in collaboration with African Child Policy Forum, CHIP and UNICEF. For the regional series, the focus was on Africa and this gave UNICEF in Eastern and Southern Africa an opportunity to present its Strategic Programme Framework. The webinar was also an occasion to highlight some of the work being undertaken as part of the UNICEF/CHIP partnership in the region.

In May 2025, UNICEF and CHIP organised a webinar on Leveraging birth and marriage registration to prevent child marriage in 11 countries in West and Central Africa. Based on findings from a desk review of laws in 11 countries in West and Central Africa, the webinar explored how existing birth and marriage registration legislative frameworks could potentially contribute to preventing child marriage. The interactions between these frameworks were specifically examined in Benin, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone. Senior government officials presented their countries' legal frameworks and their enforcement, and discussed the operational realities, barriers, how they are being addressed and lessons learned to enforce the legal age of marriage to prevent child marriage.

In July 2025, UNICEF in collaboration with CHIP hosted a webinar on the Strategic programme framework on strengthening civil registration and vital statistics in Eastern and Southern Africa. Millions of children in that region remain invisible in official systems, denied the legal identity that unlocks access to education, healthcare, and protection. The Strategic Programme Framework for Strengthening CRVS offers a bold, evidence-driven roadmap to close this gap. Leading experts explain how concrete country examples from the ground demonstrates how these accelerators operate to ensure that every child has a legal identity in the region.

UNECA and UNICEF organized a webinar with the support of CHIP in August 2025 on the Civil Registration as the Foundation for Digital Public Infrastructure and Digital Legal Identity Systems in Africa. Africa commemorated the Eighth Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Day on 10 August 2025, under a theme that highlights civil registration as the backbone for trusted, inclusive digital identity systems. Strong CRVS systems make everyone visible, protect rights, and enable access to essential services laying the foundation for inclusive, resilient societies.

3.3. Alternative care

3.3.1. Events, training and capacity building

End 2025, CHIP collaborated in a webinar with several governmental, non-governmental and academic partners driven by a joint commitment to amplifying children's views and lived experiences and the ambition to realise children's human rights within alternative care. The [webinar, titled 'Strengthening Children's Care Reforms through Access to Justice'](#) explored the role of child-centred justice and other mechanisms in enabling children and families to actively claim their rights. It also examined how justice and other mechanisms can provide effective remedies when children's rights are violated in alternative care, and how accountability can be leveraged to drive systemic change across care and protection systems, ultimately safeguarding children's rights to prevent harm. This webinar is closely linked to the ongoing comprehensive project on child rights indicators in alternative care, which is subject to securing further funding.



3.4. Adoption

3.4.1. Advocacy and policy development

In March, CHIP and 16 partners – mostly adoptee-led organisations – published an advocacy note on the ['Need to reinforce efforts to respond to systemic illicit intercountry adoption practices'](#). They called on all relevant States to accelerate their efforts to respond to the systemic nature of illicit intercountry adoptions in line with their human rights obligations including the establishment of truth, apologies, access to justice and effective remedies, as well as guarantees of non-recurrence. CHIP hopes to further approach illicit intercountry adoptions from the perspective of the international law on enforced disappearances during 2026.

3.4.2. Events, training and capacity building

CHIP was very pleased to have been among experts and persons with lived experiences, who share their views and life stories in a [podcast series on adoption broadcast by the research group AFIN](#), based in Barcelona (Spain). This series of podcast dialogues – called ['\(Re\)imaginando la adopción'](#) and led by Dr Irene Salvo Agoglia, a researcher at AFIN and the Autonomous University of Barcelona – addressed important issues, including identity, origins, adoptive parenthood, the place of families of origin and professional approaches to adoption from a multidisciplinary perspective. These sessions are available in Spanish on Spotify and iVoox under the title ['Conversaciones AFINes'](#). CHIP also delivered the first [eight-hour session of a Latin American-wide Diploma on adoption](#), held remotely by Fundacion América por la Infancia, an academic partner, which focuses on providing multidisciplinary specialist training on child-related issues. With over 30 students joining, the session allowed for knowledge sharing as well as constructive dialogue with professionals and families keen to learn more on adoption in their respective countries and the region. In September, [MANAIA – the care and adoption association of Galicia, founded by adoptive families](#) – held its sixth congress in Galicia. This year, the event focused on ['identities and measures'](#) and offered an opportunity to discuss relevant issues with professionals as well as with families. CHIP delivered the event's inaugural conference, which focused on progress made and the remaining challenges in the implementation of the right to identity in alternative care and adoption.

3.5. Third-party reproduction, including surrogacy

3.5.1. Research

Following the invitation extended to CHIP by the European Law Institute (ELI) to act as an Observer, CHIP had the honour of providing additional input to the [European Commission Proposal 2022 695 on Enhancing Child Protection: Private International Law on Filiation](#). While CHIP welcomed the amendments made to the previous version, particularly with respect to preserving the child's right to identity, the organisation had remaining concerns that the Proposal could inadvertently undermine the rights of the child including capturing all identity elements and the sale of children. Some of CHIP's inputs on the [European Law Institute's position paper on the Private International Law on Filiation and the European Commission's Proposal COM/2022/695 final](#) (European certificate on parenthood) were taken into account in the final version of the report.

3.5.2. Technical assistance

In Mexico, a group of actors, under the leadership of some federal deputies, worked on the [drafting of reforms to the country's Code of Civil and Family Procedures](#), to regulate surrogacy. 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 June, CHIP had the privilege of presenting to the Council of Europe's expert group tasked to prepare a [recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the rights of donor-conceived persons to know their origins](#). CHIP was able to encourage the Committee to ensure that child rights were the central focus of the recommendation, starting with the principle of human dignity. While the right to know their origins is important, efforts are needed to ensure that children can also be proud of their origins. CHIP remains committed to supporting the work of the Committee as an observer in any way that is helpful moving forward.



3.5.3. Events, training and capacity-building

In Geneva, an expert meeting on Donor Conception & Surrogacy: Preventing & Addressing Complexities hosted by the Fondation Brocher and organised by CHIP with partners took place in October. This conference gathered donor-conceived adults, parents and donors, together with practicing and academic bioethicists, child rights experts, as well as legal, psychosocial and medical practitioners. It included global and national actors from the UN, the Hague Conference on Private International Law, Government (Germany and -Switzerland), and civil society. The aim of the meeting was to exchange points of view and to draft a high-level policy document on rights of children in these situations from a multi-disciplinary perspective and a practitioner document on issues to consider when working with children. These documents will be available in 2026.



3.5.4. Engagement with human rights mechanisms

CHIP provided inputs to the thematic report on surrogacy and violence against women and girls, upon a call issued by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls on surrogacy. In the absence of international consensus from a legal, policy, or ethical perspective on surrogacy, States Parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and/or its Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC) have obligations towards all children within their jurisdiction, including those born through surrogacy, without discrimination. This brief submission highlighted issues that should receive further attention in line with protecting all children's rights. The final Report on the different manifestations of violence against women and girls in the context of surrogacy was published later in the year. CHIP welcomed the Special Rapporteur's initiative to foreground women's rights in surrogacy, alongside children's rights, following the recommendations already made by the UN Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children in her 2018 and 2019 reports and recognised that women's rights and children's rights together constitute the key component of the human rights at issue in surrogacy. An additional note was submitted by CHIP with several experts with a view to invite the Special Rapporteur to consider some issues that may deserve further reflection and/or clarification.

4. Executive Committee, human resources and partners

CHIP would not be able to deliver its mission without the ongoing guidance and time support of the association's Executive Committee members: Maud de Boer-Buquicchio (President), Grégoire Bordier (Treasurer), Luis Pedernera (Secretary) and Wanchai Roujanavong. Luis Pedernera was elected at the 2025 General Assembly and CHIP is very grateful to benefit from his large experience: Member, Vice-Chair and Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2017-2025), Luis Pedernera is also a member of the Academic Committee of the Certificate of Advanced Studies in Juvenile Justice at the University of Geneva and the Institut international des droits de l'enfant.

CHIP's General Assembly was held in April 2025. The Executive Committee and CHIP members discussed progress in the implementation of the year's activities, thereby reaffirming CHIP's mission and strategies. CHIP welcomed new members: Prof. David Smolin and Prof. Katarina Trimmings. A meeting was held in December with CHIP members to discuss the 2026 strategy.

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, Gisela Sin Gomiz and Cornelius Williams. During 2025, CHIP's team also benefitted from the support of, and would like to thank, Anjali Bhaskar, Marine Braun, Enola Carandante, Siena Demetriou, Mariama Diallo and Lorna Kleinsorge, who have been key and valued members of the team.

CHIP is also very grateful for the valuable inputs and advice shared by its Special Advisors: Dr Nigel Cantwell, Prof. Olga Khazova, Lynelle Long, Prof. David Smolin, Prof. Katarina Trimmings and Dr Michael Wells-Greco.

CHIP would like to acknowledge and thank its international and local partners, volunteers and donors, who it looks forward to pursuing initiatives with, in particular ATD Fourth World, the Centre d'Accueil de la Genève Internationale (CAGI), the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Council of Europe, Espace A, the Fondation Brocher, the Fondation Coromandel, the Fonds de solidarité du Canton de Genève, the Grupo AFIN / Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI), InterCountry Adoptee Voices (ICAV), Leiden University, the London Stock Exchange, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR), Origines, TransformAdopción (in particular Irene Salvo Agoglia), the University of Geneva, 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!

5. Financial resources

During 2025, CHIP increased its fundraising applications. In a complex global context of funding for human rights activities and several unsuccessful applications, CHIP was very honoured to receive funds from private donors, project partners, Swiss foundations, the Canton of Geneva (Switzerland) and the Commune of Meyrin / Geneva (Switzerland). The overall balance sheet for 2025 is satisfactory after five years of existence with a positive balance of CHF 14'978.

Following a first spot check in July 2024, BDO carried out a second spot check on the accounts of CHIP in September 2025. For the second spot check, BDO noted that all was in order, and issued two minor recommendations which were duly addressed.

This financial situation reflects a renewed stability and a certain continuity from the 2024 accounts, which were unanimously approved at the General Assembly in March 2025, upon the recommendations issued by external auditors Ratha Jaques and Evelyne Chappuis, to whom CHIP is very grateful to for their support and report. Detailed financial statements are available from the association and 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 2025

ASSETS	<u>31.12.2025</u> <i>Swiss francs</i>	<u>31.12.2024</u> <i>Swiss francs</i>
Bank Account	78 107	62 278
Prepaid Expenses	660	659
Accrued Incomes	0	0
International research on alternative care Account	13 225	14 077
Total Assets	<u>91 992</u>	<u>77 014</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accrued Expenses	0	0
Initial capital of the association	30 000	30 000
Reported Surplus / Expenses	47 014	143 668
Surplus / Expenses	14 978	-96 654
Total Liabilities	<u>91 992</u>	<u>77 014</u>

CHILD IDENTITY PROTECTION
Income statement as of 31 december 2025

REVENUES	<u>31.12.2025</u> <i>Swiss francs</i>	<u>31.12.2024</u> <i>Swiss francs</i>
Other private donors	1 625	1 203
Swiss based foundations	59 000	50 000
Membership Fees	400	150
CHIP Consultancy Revenue	8 046	0
UNICEF	32 092	8 639
UNICEF WCARO	75 222	135 397
Geneva University	185	431
Subsidies Canton of Geneva	19 500	40 000
Terre des Hommes (MOOC)	8 200	8 200
Brocher Event	4 282	0
Subsidies Commune Meyrin	10 000	0
Exchange profit	0	9 333
International research on alternative care Revenues	0	2 272
Total Revenues	<u>218 551</u>	<u>255 625</u>
EXPENSES		
Consultancy fees	38 784	38 581
Expenses WCARO	79 550	159 205
Salaries	23 605	38 018 *
Social security expenses	7 704	21 169
Insurance	1 031	590
Website maintenance	6 448	5 755
MailCHIMP	199	0
Branding costs	4 147	9 866
Experts CHIP in	3 137	6 382
Events	6 397	4 208
Gift	188	294
Terre des Hommes (MOOC) Expenses	2 500	5 708
Exchange Loss	2 719	0
Banking Fees	17	0
Senegal Birth Registration	0	13 886
Cameroon Birth Registration	27 148	25 738 *
International research on alternative care Expenses	0	22 879
Total Expenses	<u>203 574</u>	<u>352 279</u>
Net operating result	14 978	-96 654

* Reclassification of CHF 7,414.85 in salaries to Cameroon Birth Registration

Child Identity Protection

info@child-identity.org

DESIGN AND LAYOUT
Alexandre Bouscal
www.alexbouscal.com

