

**CHILDREN CHANGE COLOMBIA LTD  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

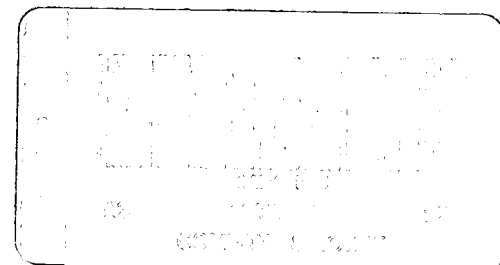
**ANNUAL REPORT  
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR  
THE YEAR ENDED  
31ST DECEMBER 2020**

**CHARITY REGISTRATION No: 1075037**

**COMPANY REGISTRATION No: 03731943**

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Independent Examiners Ltd  
2 Broadbridge Business Centre  
Delling Lane  
Bosham  
PO18 8NF



**CHILDREN CHANGE COLOMBIA LTD  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

**LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

<b>CHARITY NUMBER</b>	1075037
<b>COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER</b>	3731943
<b>START OF FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	1st January 2020
<b>END OF FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	31st December 2020
<b>DIRECTORS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020</b>	Carolina Giraldo (Chair) Richard Drean (Treasurer) Felipe Alviar Baquero Marilyn Thomson Martin Diaz (resigned 25 February 2020) Eugenia Londoño (appointed 27 August 2020) Richard McColl (appointed 27 August 2020) Alex Jones (appointed 27 August 2020) Juan Pablo Hernandez (appointed 27 August 2020) Janey Wall (resigned 10th November 2020)
<b>COMPANY SECRETARY</b>	Ángela María Carreño Malaver
<b>REGISTERED ADDRESS</b>	5 Richbell Place Holborn London WC1N 3LA
<b>DATE OF INCORPORATION</b>	12th March 1999
<b>GOVERNING INSTRUMENT</b>	Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 12th March 1999, amended by certificate of incorporation on change of name dated 16th September 2015 as amended on 26th November
<b>PRIMARY BANKERS</b>	National Westminster Bank Plc RH4 1AX  Barclays Bank Plc GU21 1AE  Unity Trust B1 2HB
<b>ACCOUNTANTS</b>	Independent Examiners Ltd 2 The Broadbridge Business Centre Delling Lane Bosham PO18 8NF

**CHILDREN CHANGE COLOMBIA LTD  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)  
REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

The Directors take pleasure in submitting their report and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2020. A more detailed report can be accessed from web site [The Charity Commission - GOV.UK](http://TheCharityCommission.gov.uk)

**Statement of Director's responsibilities:**

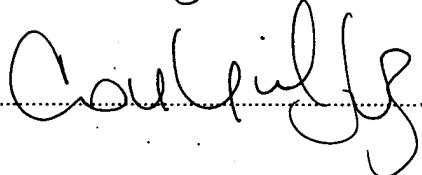
Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company during that period. In preparing those financial statements the directors are required to:

- (i) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently,
- (ii) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- (iii) prepare financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. In preparing this report the directors have taken advantage of special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

I approve the attached statement of financial activities and balance sheet for the year ended 31st December 2020, and confirm that I have made available all information necessary for its preparation.

Date 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2021

Signed by  Carolina Giraldo (Chair and Director)

**CHILDREN CHANGE COLOMBIA LTD  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

Incorporating income and expenditure account

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:</b>					
Donations and Legacies	3a	186,906	135,722	322,628	463,068
Trading Activities	3b	31,684	0	31,684	30,345
Investments	3c	99	0	99	299
Other Income	3d	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>218,689</b>	<b>135,722</b>	<b>354,411</b>	<b>493,712</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>					
Raising Funds	4a	3,792	0	3,792	7,143
Charitable Activities	4b	199,483	122,557	322,040	460,936
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>203,275</b>	<b>122,557</b>	<b>325,832</b>	<b>468,079</b>
<b>NET INCOME/- EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>15,414</b>	<b>13,165</b>	<b>28,579</b>	<b>25,633</b>
Total Funds Brought Forward		79,113	28,030	107,143	81,510
Transfer between funds	5	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>94,527</b>	<b>41,195</b>	<b>135,722</b>	<b>107,143</b>

Movements on all reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above. All of the organisation's operations are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 6 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

**CHILDREN CHANGE COLOMBIA LTD  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	31-Dec-20 Total £	31-Dec-19 Total £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Tangible assets	2	0	0	0	0
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Debtors	7	16,179	0	16,179	31,829
Stock		1,026		1,026	1,026
Cash at bank and in hand	6	89,386	41,195	130,581	82,460
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>106,591</b>	<b>41,195</b>	<b>147,786</b>	<b>115,315</b>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	8	12,064	0	12,064	8,172
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>94,527</b>	<b>41,195</b>	<b>135,722</b>	<b>107,143</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS less current liabilities</b>		<b>94,527</b>	<b>41,195</b>	<b>135,722</b>	<b>107,143</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>94,527</b>	<b>41,195</b>	<b>135,722</b>	<b>107,143</b>
<b>Funds of the Charity</b>					
General Funds		94,527	0	94,527	79,113
Restricted Funds	5	0	41,195	41,195	28,030
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>94,527</b>	<b>41,195</b>	<b>135,722</b>	<b>107,143</b>

For the year ending 31st December 2020 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

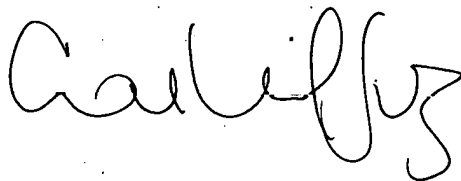
The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Directors on August 25<sup>th</sup> 2021 and

Signed on their behalf by



Carolina Giraldo  
Chair and Director

**CHILDREN CHANGE COLOMBIA LTD  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Incoming Resources**

***Recognition of Incoming Resources***

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

***Incoming Resources with related expenditure***

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resource and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.

***Grants and Donations***

Grants and Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

***Tax reclaims on Donations and Gifts***

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

***Contractual Income and Performance Related Grants***

This is only included in the SOFA once the related goods or services has been delivered.

***Gifts in Kind***

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SOFA as incoming resources when receivable.

***Donated Services and Facilities***

These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity.

***Volunteer Help***

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the directors' annual report.

***Investment Income***

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

***Investment gains and losses***

This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

**Expenditure and liabilities**

***Liability recognition***

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

***Governance Costs***

This includes costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of the trustees meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

**CHILDREN CHANGE COLOMBIA LTD  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**Grants with performance conditions**

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SOFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

**Grants payable without performance conditions**

These are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to a grant which remain in control of the charity.

**Support Costs**

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of the resources, e.g. allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

**Assets**

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £3,500. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt.

**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis convention (as modified to include the revaluation of investments) in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2015), applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 2006. The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The Charity has claimed exemptions available in Section 1a of FRS 102 not to prepare a cash flow statement since it is a small charity.

Depreciation is calculated at a rate to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives. The rates applied per annum are as follows:

Equipment	25%
Fixtures and Fittings	10%

**2. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

		Building £	Equipment £	Fittings £	TOTAL £
Cost	31-Dec-19	0	7,978	0	7,978
Additions		0	0	0	0
Cost at	31-Dec-20	<u>0</u>	<u>7,978</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,978</u>
Depreciation	31-Dec-19	0	7,978	0	7,978
Charge		0	0	0	0
Depreciation at	31-Dec-20	<u>0</u>	<u>7,978</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,978</u>
Net Book Value	31-Dec-20	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	31-Dec-19	0	0	0	0

The charity has no annual commitments under non-cancelling operating leases nor any capital commitments.

**CHILDREN CHANGE COLOMBIA LTD  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

<b>3. INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:</b>	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
<b>a) Donations and Legacies</b>					
Individual Donations		68,448		68,448	69,757
Corporate Donations	5	31,348	2,500	33,848	16,800
Legacies		11,103		11,103	25,586
Standing orders and covenants		48,730		48,730	51,489
Tax Reclaimed		5,079		5,079	11,713
Grants	5	22,198	133,222	155,420	287,723
		<b>186,906</b>	<b>135,722</b>	<b>322,628</b>	<b>463,068</b>
<b>b) Trading Activities</b>					
Community Fundraising		24,449		24,449	19,223
Events Income		7,235		7,235	11,122
		<b>31,684</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31,684</b>	<b>30,345</b>
<b>c) Investments</b>					
Interest		99		99	299
		<b>99</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>299</b>
<b>d) Other Income</b>					
Miscellaneous Income		0		0	0
		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



**CHILDREN CHANGE COLOMBIA LTD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

**4. EXPENDITURE ON:**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
<b>a) Raising Funds</b>					
Event costs		3,792		3,792	3,008
Publicity and Advertising				0	4,135
		<b>3,792</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,792</b>	<b>7,143</b>
<b>b) Charitable Activities</b>					
Staff Costs					
UK	9	130,772		130,772	151,867
Colombia	9	31,663		31,663	31,618
Recruitments & CRB's		986		986	313
Payroll		315		315	385
Office Costs					
Premises		15,693		15,693	18,478
Operation Costs		3,295		3,295	4,055
IT		6,241		6,241	3,325
Networking		19		19	3,017
Project Support Costs					
Monitoring Visits		141		141	1,729
Field Office Costs		4,187		4,187	6,766
Project Development Costs		717		717	6,380
Grants	5		122,557	122,557	225,472
Bank Charges		888		888	1,062
Insurance		1,251		1,251	1,546
Currency Fluctuation Losses		1,099		1,099	3,003
Independent Examination Fees	8	1,500		1,500	960
Other Governance		716		716	960
		<b>199,483</b>	<b>122,557</b>	<b>322,040</b>	<b>460,936</b>

**CHILDREN CHANGE COLOMBIA LTD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

**5. GRANTS AND RESTRICTED FUNDS**

GRANTS PROVIDED FOR THE CHARITY

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 31-Dec-20 £	Total Funds 31-Dec-19 £
Anonymous Donors	7,489	10,407	17,896	60,980
The Ashmore Foundation		28,000	28,000	5,000
The British & Foreign School Society		0	0	20,000
Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust		0	0	3,000
Comic Relief		6,880	6,880	110,323
Educational & General Charitable Trust		0	0	3,000
Evan Cornish Foundation		10,000	10,000	0
Gemini Foundation		13,000	13,000	17,000
INTO Giving		4,000	4,000	7,500
Latin America Children's Trust		38,846	38,846	36,650
Peter Stebbings Memorial Charity		0	0	10,000
Souter Charitable Trust		0	0	3,000
Other Grants received (under £3,000)	14,709	22,089	36,798	18,150
	22,198	133,222	155,420	294,603

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 01-Jan-20 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31-Dec-20 £
Acadesan	6,773	11,177	7,731		10,219
ACJ	8,737	27,079	31,861		3,955
ACTI Workshop Bogota	0			3,433	3,433
Circulo de Estudios	0	39,133	35,253	-3,433	447
CRAN	12,284	20,151	17,397		15,038
FFF Own Funds	92	1,118	714		496
TDJ - Comic relief	144	37,064	29,601		7,607
CCC Projects	28,030	135,722	122,557	0	41,195

Descriptions of Restricted funds

**Acadesan** - protecting children from rights abuses in illegal mining areas through re-engagement in high-quality education

**ACJ** - Preventing the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Bogota

**ACTI (Action for Child Trauma Intl)** - Training workshop in Bogota for childcare professionals, in methods of trauma management

**Circulo de Estudios** - reducing conflict related sexual violence against children and young people

**CRAN** - social inclusion for demobilised young people and children at risk of recruitment

**FFF (Fundación Formación d' Futuros)** - helping young care leavers prepare for independent life

**TDJ (Tiempo de Juego)** - Change the Game: Preventing and reducing risks in gangs

**CHILDREN CHANGE COLOMBIA LTD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

**6. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND**

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 31-Dec-20 £	Total 31-Dec-19 £
Barclays Current Account	10,077	-	10,077	4,713
Barclays Savings Account	56	-	56	56
NatWest No.1 Account	37,395	-	37,395	1,885
NatWest No.2 Account	3,978	41,195	45,173	1,000
NatWest Capital Reserve Account	6,808	-	6,808	12,778
NatWest Reserve Account	1,634	-	1,634	15,181
Banco de Occidente Account		-	0	8,391
Unity Trust Bank Account	10,777	-	10,777	19,627
Unity Trust Bank Reserve Account	18,624	-	18,624	18,587
Paypal	-6	-	-6	142
Cash Account	43	-	43	100
	<b>89,386</b>	<b>41,195</b>	<b>130,581</b>	<b>82,460</b>

**7. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS**

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 31-Dec-20 £	Total 31-Dec-19 £
Debtors	10,330	-	10,330	-
Accrued Income	4,660	-	4,660	27,633
Prepayments	1,189	-	1,189	4,196
	<b>16,179</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,179</b>	<b>31,829</b>

**8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 31-Dec-20 £	Total 31-Dec-19 £
Trade Creditors	1,007	-	1,007	755
PAYE	9,137	-	9,137	6,389
NEST	420	-	420	-
Accrued Expenditure	1,500	-	1,500	1,028
	<b>12,064</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,064</b>	<b>8,172</b>

**CHILDREN CHANGE COLOMBIA LTD  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

**9. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS**

The Charity runs a PAYE scheme, as detailed below:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Gross Salaries	149,321	176,042
Employer's National Insurance Costs	12,460	13,740
NI & Maternity Pay Rebates	-4,153	-11,623
Pension Contributions	4,807	5,326
	<b><u>162,435</u></b>	<b><u>183,485</u></b>

Employees were engaged in the following activities:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	TOTAL	TOTAL
Colombian Project Support	2.8	3.4
Fundraising	2	2
Administration	1	0.6
Activities in furtherance of organisation's objects	<b><u>5.8</u></b>	<b><u>6.0</u></b>

No employees received emoluments in the range of £50,000 to £60,000, or higher.

**10. DIRECTORS AND OTHER RELATED PARTIES**

No payments were made to directors or any persons connected with them during this financial period. No material transaction took place between the organisation and a director or any person connected with them.

**11. RISK ASSESSMENT**

The directors actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated, combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems carried out on an annual basis will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The directors have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

**12. RESERVES POLICY**

The directors have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain, appropriate to the charity's needs. This is based on the charity's size and the level of financial commitments held. The directors aim to ensure the charity will be able to continue to fulfil its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure. The directors will endeavour not to set aside funds unnecessarily.

**13. PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The charity acknowledges its requirement to demonstrate clearly that it must have charitable purposes or 'aims' that are for the public benefit. Details of how the charity has achieved this are provided in the report of the directors. The directors confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees/ members of Children Change Colombia Ltd on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 set out on pages 4 to 12.

### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for an independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act), and;
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the organisation and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

P B Robinson MAAT FCIE  
Independent Examiners Ltd  
2 Broadbridge Business Centre  
Delling Lane  
Bosham  
West Sussex  
PO18 8NF



Date: 13th September 2021

**Charity Registration No. 1075037**  
**Company Registration No. 3731943 (England and Wales)**



**CHILDREN CHANGE COLOMBIA LTD**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**DIRECTORS' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

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## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

### TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS

- Carolina Giraldo – Chair
- Richard Drean – Honorary Treasurer
- Felipe Alviar Baquero
- Marilyn Thomson
- Janey Wall – resigned 10th November 2020
- Martin Diaz – Resigned 25 February 2020
- Eugenia Londoño – Appointed 27 August 2020
- Richard McColl – Appointed 27 August 2020
- Alex Jones – Appointed 27 August 2020
- Juan Pablo Hernandez – Appointed 27 August 2020

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & SECRETARY

Ángela María Carreño Malaver

### REGISTERED OFFICE

The Green House  
244-254 Cambridge Heath Road  
London EC2A 9DA

5 Richbell Place  
Holborn  
London WC1N 3LA From October 1<sup>st</sup> 2020

### REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER

1075037

### COMPANY NUMBER

3731943

### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Independent Examiners Ltd  
Sovereign Centre  
Poplars  
Yapton Lane  
Walberton  
West Sussex BN18 0AS

### BANKERS

National Westminster Bank Plc  
Dorking Branch  
Dorking  
Surrey RH4 1AX

Barclays Bank Plc  
Towngate House  
Church Street East  
Woking  
Surrey GU21 1AE



Unity Trust  
Nine Brindleyplace  
Birmingham B1 2HB

Banco de Occidente  
Calle 5 #34-24,  
Cali  
Colombia

## CHAIR'S STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 December 2020

I must start by remarking in this yearly statement how fortunate we are to have this opportunity to report on Children Change Colombia's important work one year after the Covid-19 pandemic started, and 30 years after Children Change Colombia -CCC- was founded. We have all, sadly, witnessed the devastation the virus has caused around the world killing millions of people. And yet here we are reporting that Children Change Colombia has been able not only to consolidate a new team and a new Board of Trustees throughout the toughest moments the world has lived in recent history, but also helped five organisations, 1,807 children, their families and communities, and giving extra support to 27,000 people during the Covid emergency. Today, CCC is looking ahead hoping the hardest part of the pandemic has passed and that we are somehow starting to see the post-pandemic reality.

For most people, non key workers, the pandemic meant that reality changed from early commutes and busy offices to staying home and carrying on. It was within this context that Children Change Colombia made the important decision of closing down our offices in London and moving to a flexible shared workspace. We created a new emergency project to give extra support to our partners in Colombia during lockdown, adapted our operations to virtual and online delivery, and revised our strategic plans in order to correspond to the challenges ahead; in this sense we have reaffirmed CCC's priorities such as keep on strengthening grass roots organizations in Colombia, empowering communities and develop partnerships so we can prevent and protect children from risks. All these decisions were made looking carefully at our accounts and considering the vision of the team and trustees.

"More than ever" has almost become a mantra that I go back to every time I talk about Children Change Colombia because indeed today, "more than ever" the relevance of this organisation is re-affirmed. Even though the new reality is not strictly better than the one we knew before Covid, we have reasons to believe it will turn out, at some point, as a positive change in the future. At the beginning of 2020 when the pandemic was just starting, Colombia was immersed in post-conflict transition, trusting that the recent and stable economic and social achievements would support the great challenges the country had (and still has) in social justice and inclusion. Today, more than a year after the pandemic exploded, Colombia has more than 3 million people that fell back into poverty, more than 3.5 million young people in Colombia are neither studying nor working, and children have not been able to go back to school: in summary Colombia has moved more than 10 years backwards in social indicators.

It is not surprising then, that after the restrictions of lockdown, which put millions of people in Colombia in great vulnerability, there has been a social explosion in Colombia. The world has witnessed, especially in the last months, how this country still struggles to guarantee basic human rights. Thousands of young Colombians have marched courageously for a more inclusive society where people are able to live freely and with opportunities, rather than surviving with resignation. At CCC, we stand for the right to freedom of speech and we reject violence. We understand that there is frustration and hopelessness amongst the next generations that today in Colombia feel the future does not look bright for them. Children Change Colombia stands strong in support of

these new generations who are raising their voice to demand a more equal society through music, performances, dance and determination.

I want to express my admiration to CCC's partner organisations in Colombia, for proving that despite many difficulties, weaving the social thread to connect and support people is possible. Thank you for creating alternative ways, through the arts and sports, in which children and their communities can discover how to be agents of change. As a society, we are forever in debt for your contribution.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to all the donors, individuals and organisations that have generously contributed throughout these 30 years, enabling CCC to carry on collaborating with partners that make the change Colombia needs so desperately - and in light of the recent events, quite possibly today more than ever

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolina Giraldo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carolina Giraldo  
Chair of Trustees  
25th August 2021

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES ("The trustees")**

**For the year ended 31 December 2020**

**The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.**

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's memorandum and articles of association, the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting & Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2015.

### **Principal Activities and Aims**

Children Change Colombia Ltd (formerly known as Children of the Andes) is a UK registered charity, established in 1991 to support at risk children in Colombia. We work with children and their families to challenge poverty, inequality, discrimination and violence. Despite a growing economy and the signing of Peace Accords with the FARC, millions of children in Colombia still face poverty, violence and exclusion from the opportunities presented by a changing society. Children Change Colombia Ltd is committed to working with the children that need us most and in areas neglected by other organisations. We work in partnership with local children's organisations that have a proven record in defending the rights of children most affected by poverty, inequality and conflict. Our partners work with children who have been displaced by the conflict or who have been threatened by or escaped the armed groups. They are children whose rights to a safe and happy family life, to health and education, are threatened by poverty, violence and sexual exploitation.

As well as providing financial support, Children Change Colombia Ltd provides ongoing accompaniment to its partners, helping them build their capacity, share learning with other organisations working in similar fields and access new and sustainable sources of funding.

Children Change Colombia Ltd operates in a context in which:

- The largest guerrilla group, the FARC, has demobilised. However, FARC dissidents, alongside the ELN and the paramilitary successor groups, still operate across Colombia, taking advantage of power vacuums left by the FARC. The narcotics trade and illegal mining continue to fund criminal armed organizations, who threaten human rights in many parts of the country.
- Armed violence continues in the post-accord context. Since 2016, over 400 human rights defenders have been killed in Colombia—the highest number of any country in Latin America, according to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The COVID-19 pandemic has put human rights defenders at even greater risk. During the pandemic, the authorities have reduced the protection schemes in place for some human rights defenders, and authorised activities that have put communities at increased risk.
- In 2020 Covid-19 badly affected Colombian context. Colombia has passed 1.1 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 32,000 deaths in 2020. A massive rise in unemployment caused by the pandemic has left millions of people facing an uncertain future, with young people and women particularly impacted. While the national level of unemployment is 17 per cent, rising to around 20 per cent in major cities, the figure is 28 per cent for women and 22 per cent for young people. The National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), the state's official data body, has found that the economy contracted by 6.8 per cent in 2020 due to the pandemic, the biggest fall in the country's modern history at an estimated \$70 billion dollars.

### **CCC's Strategic Plan 2020- 2025**

In 2020 a group of Trustees and staff members analysed the current Colombian context and the situation of the Charity and designed CCC's Strategic Plan 2020- 2025. This was a participatory process. Several meetings and discussions involving the staff and Board took place to develop the Strategy. A survey conducted with staff, interns, and Trustees was also used as a tool to ensure the opinions of all members of CCC were included.

Children Change Colombia's Strategic 2020 – 2025 Plan establishes strategic guidelines and their respective objectives which will guide the organisation in the next five years. CCC has grouped the main topics it will work on the next five years into three priorities:

#### Neglected issues 2020- 2025

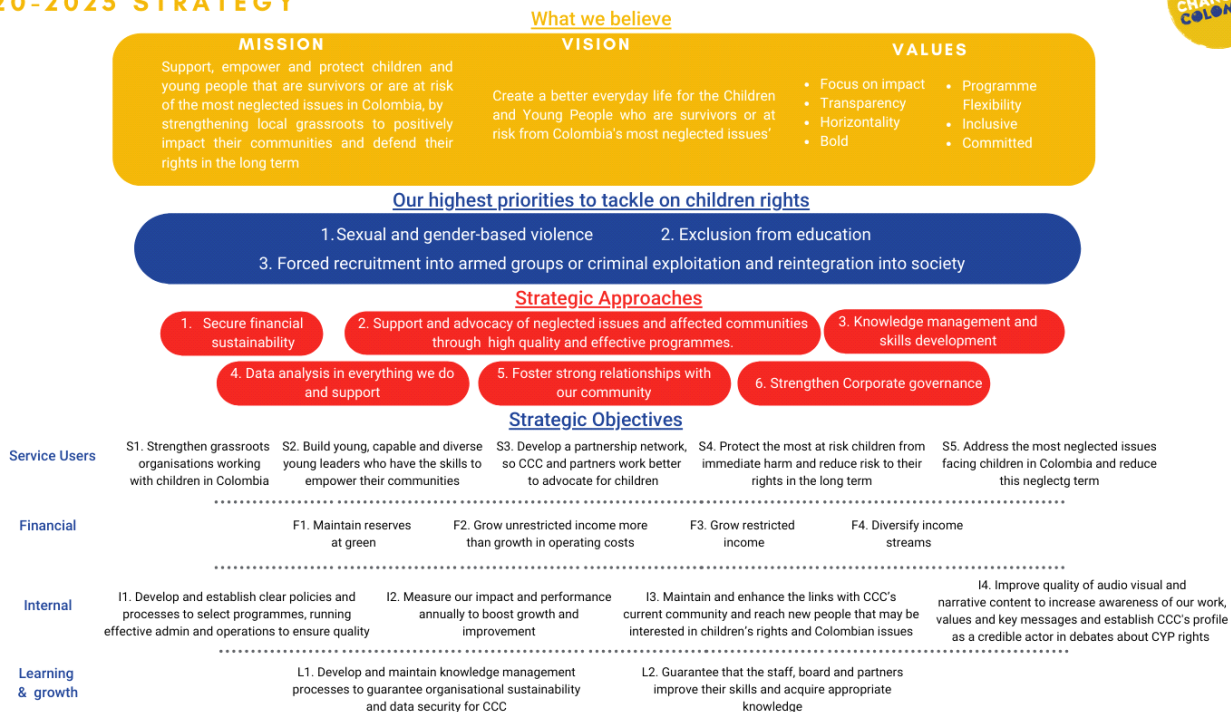
1. Sexual and gender-based violence
  - Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC)
  - Promotion of sexual and reproductive rights
  - Livelihood and educational options for young sexual workers or young mothers
  
2. Exclusion from education
  - Child Labour
  - Children in rural and remote areas
  - Education for ethnic minorities
  
3. Forced recruitment into armed groups or criminal exploitation and reintegration into society
  - Forced recruitment by armed groups
  - Demobilised children
  - Reintegration into Society
  - Minors in juvenile justice centres
  - Livelihood and educational options for young offenders

In addition, there are 3 cross cutting topics that are involved in our current projects and that could evolve to become a higher priority: raising awareness among young people about the environment, children and young people on the move and the Pandemic.

As the political and humanitarian situation in Colombia evolves, so do the threats facing children. At CCC we continuously carry out research to identify neglected issues threatening children's rights. We use our findings to guide the direction of our work in Colombia - the issues we work on, the regions we work in, and the partner organisations we work with. The highest priorities and crosscutting topics will be reviewed at the beginning of 2023 to be sure we continue to tackle the most neglected issues in Colombia.

## Strategic Map

# CHILDREN CHANGE COLOMBIA 2020-2025 STRATEGY



In this map the six strategic guidelines are aligned to the fifteen strategic objectives that were established to meet our 2025 mission. For each of the six strategic guidelines, CCC has different strategic objectives, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), goals and their respective initiatives that will show the way to how we plan to achieve our 5-year strategic plan.

## Overview of work in 2020

During 2020, Children Change Colombia Ltd worked with five partner organisations. Our work over the year is described below, organised thematically by our neglected issues. This year was of course significantly impacted by Covid 19. Schools were closed and some juvenile centres did not allow the staff of our partners to visit the children. As a result of this unprecedented situation, and the fact we could not carry out in-person activities, we collaborated with our local partners to find new and innovative solutions to modify the project plans to ensure their continuity. The staff established ways to continue the activities using other methods such as home visits, telephone calls, virtual sessions, WhatsApp groups and social media communication in order to conform to all the security measures imposed by the government. Unfortunately, our partner Acadesan could not implement the project planned for 2020 as it was linked to the education establishments themselves, and CRAN has to start 6 months later. Because of this, in the neglected issue of Access to Education it was not possible to implement a development project as planned. Instead we were able to support other projects and communities with tablets so the children could continue their studies from home.

Despite the difficulties in implementing projects, it was possible to deliver almost all the activities and reach all the goals planned for the year. Additionally, we delivered a very successful “Help Colombia Covid-19 Campaign” that provided emergency relief to the communities where we implement our projects.

### Help Colombia Covid-19 Campaign

Colombia went into a restricted lockdown from March until September 2020. This situation exacerbated many of the problems that already existed in Colombia. The basic needs of the most vulnerable people that we work with were not being met (food, rent, toiletries etc.). Our beneficiaries faced multiple new challenges, including physical and psychological health risks, isolation, family confinement, school closures, and high economic vulnerability. Additionally, the rates of domestic violence, child abuse and neglect also increased during the crisis.

All of the children and young people we work with come from economically disadvantaged families who rely on informal employment to survive. With little to no savings and living each day hand to mouth, parents are struggling to maintain their livelihoods. They cannot go to work and receive their daily income, which has made affording basic necessities extremely difficult. Furthermore, as schools across the country close to prevent the spread of Covid-19, most of the children from the project who rely on school nutrition programmes are being cut off from the food they need. This has also caused some of the children's support networks to fall through, losing vital contact they had with teachers, social workers etc., leaving the children more at risk than ever.

After conducting a needs assessment with all of our five current partners including CRAN and ACJ, we launched “Campaign Help Colombia Covid-19” on the 3rd of April, with the support of individual donations and institutional funding we were able to deliver emergency relief distributions during 10 months. Through this campaign, we were able to support 27,000 people by providing emergency food packages, toiletries, housing support, PPE and first aid kits, dignity kits and tablets to several communities in Chocó, Valle del Cauca, Nariño, Córdoba, Bogotá and Girardot.

### Neglected issue: Sexual and gender-based violence

**Project:** Protecting children from violence and rebuilding protective and peaceful communities

**Partner:** Asociación Cristiana de Jóvenes

**Location:** Bogotá (Santa Fé and Los Mártires neighborhoods)

Our project with ACJ aims to protect children and young people-CYP living in poverty in Bogotá's sex work 'tolerance zone' from being groomed and sold for sex. ACJ works with children, parents, schools, shop workers, former sex workers, academics and public officials to create an effective and coordinated approach to tackling Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children-CSEC that is better equipped to protect children's and provide those who have experienced CSEC with the support they need to recover from their trauma.

The beneficiaries of this project are CYP, their families and young women who are already involved in or have been involved in sex work or sexual exploitation that are living or studying in schools in the areas of Santa Fe and Los Martires, two of the zones in Bogotá with the highest levels of CSEC.

### Project Outcomes:

- 60 beneficiaries (35 CYP and 25 families) have developed socio-economic skills that contribute to generating an environment safe from commercial and sexual exploitation of children (CSEC).
- 488 CYP can identify the risks of gender based, sexual and domestic violence and have reflected on their own experiences around these themes.
- 456 CYP have consolidated their like skills to protect themselves against sexual violence and discrimination.
- 70 CYP now can use artistic activities within their communities to promote acceptance of sexual diversity and protect CYP from sexual violence.

- 20 young leaders have developed their school's online content to help educate their peers about their sexual and reproductive rights and sexual violence and discrimination based on their gender and sexual orientation. This has contributed to improving their own school experience and that of their classmates.
- 79 CYP who completed activities about their sexual health and reproductive rights are now able to make informed decisions regarding the risks to personal safety that can be found on online platforms.
- 32 CYP who received individual counselling acquired social skills (including assertive communication and the ability to manage difficult emotions) and can now strive to improve relationships with their families and peers, which will, in the long run, be vital in protecting them from CSEC.
- 33 families of women involved in sex work have strengthened their parental skills and are better able to identify and protect themselves, as well as their children, from commercial sexual exploitation and other forms of sexual violence.
- 26 women accessed family planning services and thus strengthened practices of responsible sexual health.

In 2020, our partner ACJ provided a range of artistic activities, individual counselling and training sessions to a total of 637 CYP throughout the year. ACJ carried out a combination of face-to-face and virtual sessions focused on identifying the risks of CSEC and the different forms that it can take and what to do if they feel threatened by it. All the workshops had a focus on developing life and socio-emotional skills to strengthen their understanding of risks and prevention strategies. The workshops in 2020 had a particular focus on reproductive and sexual rights and sexual and gender diversity. ACJ also worked with the CYP and their families to develop their socio-economic skills.

**Project:** Reducing conflict-related sexual violence against children and young people in Quibdó

**Partner:** Círculo de Estudios (CDE)

**Location:** Quibdó, Chocó (Kennedy, Samper and Villa España neighbourhoods)

The project aimed to reduce the risk of conflict-related sexual violence and forced recruitment faced by children and young people (CYP) in three of Quibdó's most marginalised neighbourhoods - Kennedy, Samper and Villa España. By helping CYP to manage difficult emotions linked to past traumas and teaching them about their rights and how to claim them, the project aims to empower children to protect themselves from violence. A common theme to all activities is a focus on artistic expression through music and dance. This offers the children a safe and creative way to express their experiences, as articulating them is often difficult or traumatic. In addition, through work with parents, guardians and youth and community leaders, as well as youth-led advocacy meetings with the local authorities, the project aims to create a protective environment for CYP in which adults are aware of their responsibility for protecting children's rights and are taking the appropriate action to do this.

**Project Outcomes:**

- 60 children participated in the project's activities. Of these, 25 were male and 35 were female.
- 50 children (41 male, 9 female) who were part of the programme in previous years to monitor their current situation.
- In addition, 46 young people (17 male and 29 female) have participated in the youth leadership 'círculos' (workshops) during this period.
- 92 parents and carers of the participating children received support from the project through home visits, phone calls and workshops carried out by CDE's team and community leaders. Furthermore, CDE provided psycho-social support to 50 families and carers of former children beneficiaries of the project to help them express and deal with their emotional stress as a result of the Covid-19 crisis.
- Five school teachers have been supported by the community leaders to provide both individual and group psycho-social support to some CYP at risk.
- 11 staff members from the local government including the Secretary of Health and the Secretary for Women, Diversity and Gender, as well as human rights institutions such as the Ombudsman's Office, the local Youth Centre (Casa de la Juventud), the Cultural Centre (la Casa de la Cultura) and Plan International.
- 41 community leaders have participated in the project this year, 35 female, four male, and two LGBT+.

CDE's greatest learning experience and challenge during this year arose from the Covid-19 emergency and the increase of violence in the neighbourhoods where the project has been taking place. While circumstances in the communities in which CDE works have always meant children have been exposed to circumstances that threaten their rights, the pandemic has worsened this situation and has made it possible for illegal armed groups to further establish control in the area and increase their terrorisation strategies. The groups have imposed their regulations on these neighbourhoods with curfews and threats. This has resulted in intimidation, confinement of communities, sexual and gender-based violence and an increase in the risk of forced recruitment of children. This situation meant that the support provided by the project became more crucial than ever.

The situation with the pandemic changed the dynamics of the 'círculos'. CDE increased the number of activities with the CYP, recognising that they needed more support during this time. CDE modified the methodology to implement the activities remotely and added new topics related to aspects relating to Covid-19, especially the risks, treatment and care, and prevention. They had to adapt them to virtual and remote workspaces, which at the beginning was difficult as most of the children didn't have access to computers and/or internet in their homes. Nevertheless, CDE found a way to keep up all the activities through phone calls and virtual sessions by supporting the beneficiaries with mobile phone top-ups. CDE has had the support and collaboration of parents and caregivers who have provided devices (smartphones) to those beneficiaries who did not have them. Also, despite the obstacles imposed by the lockdown and social distancing impeding visitation and observation, CDE has had great support from families and caregivers to monitor the activities of the CYP.

CDE found that children were open to change and adapted well to the new forms of contact. One benefit was that children and families developed skills for self-learning and self-responsibility through their participation in the programme. This was also an achievement for the CDE team and the community leaders, who had the opportunity to improve their technological awareness skills through learning about online tools and platforms to carry out the activities. This new virtual reality made it possible to include new content in the 'círculos' and extend the reach of the project to more than just the local community.

Additionally, in order to protect the children and the community leaders from the violence in their neighbourhood, CDE decided to keep most activities online through the second part of 2020, and carried out some activities in small groups in the Youth Centre (Casa de la Juventud) which is one of main partners of the local government within the project. More than 300 visits and phone calls were carried out during the year to monitor the children more closely. This year they had to focus on individual psycho-social support for the children, taking into account that during the confinement violence levels rose, so the CYP were more vulnerable and emotionally unstable than ever. CDE and CCC have noticed that thanks to the interest in the 'círculos' and the project in general, the increased potential risks to children beneficiaries have been reduced. These risks have also been mitigated because of the strong social fabric that the project has helped to create between the families, the project (community leaders and CDE staff members) and the local institutions.

Neglected issue: Exclusion from education

Partner: Acadesan

Location: Rural Chocó (San Juan's river valley)

In 2019, Acadesan worked with 276 children. They participated in workshops and activities using play, physical movement and traditional afro-colombian storytelling which encouraged children to express themselves, listen to and respect others and the natural environment. The children also took part in cleaning and reforestation campaigns within their communities and learnt about the importance of protecting their environment. As well as this, 18 teachers participated in a 3-day training workshop to strengthen their teaching skills and to help them learn how to support children in the development of the skills developed through this project. Finally 9 community members participated in 2 workshops to learn about the specific human rights violations that children and young people face in their communities and how they can be better protected.

We were hoping that this project would continue and be expanded during 2020; however, the Covid-19 pandemic has hit Colombia hard and like many countries it has experienced a prolonged lockdown. Given that



the country was in lockdown for the majority of 2020 and that schools across the country have been closed since March 2020 to prevent the spread of COVID-19, unfortunately Acadesan's proposed project has been on pause until they are able to work with schools once more. Here at CCC we wanted to help Acadesan support their beneficiaries in these unprecedented times so we allocated funds to help them with a Covid-protection project. Your funding helped to provide personal protective equipment for 40 community leaders, first aid kits for 72 communities (24,000 people) and 80 tablets for 2 educational centres (800 children). The project started in 2021 supporting 200 children in 4 rural schools.

**Neglected issue: Forced recruitment into armed groups or criminal exploitation and reintegration into society**

**Project: Children and young people creating more inclusive communities that protect them from recruitment by armed groups**

**Partner: Fundación CRAN**

**Location: Bogotá, Villavicencio and Restrepo**

This project aimed to protect demobilised young people at risk of (re)recruitment into armed groups and organized crime by helping them to create better relationships with family and friends and by developing their life skills in order to build a positive future for themselves. Additionally, the project works with families and government bodies and institutions to break down the barriers to social inclusion faced by demobilised and at-risk young people. The beneficiaries of this project are young people formerly associated with armed groups that are enrolled in the government rehabilitation and reintegration programme for demobilised children under the age of 18. We also work with the foster families of these children. In addition, the project works with staff from government agencies and from local partner organisations that work with children.

**Project Outcomes:**

- 85% of the 47 children and young people who have experienced forced recruitment have strengthened their socio-emotional skills and learnt about the importance of protection against these dangers.
- 92% of the 26 foster parents recognise their responsibility for protecting children's rights and are able to identify actions they can take to promote protective environments for young people, reducing their risks of violence and recruitment.
- 9 governmental staff members have increased their awareness of the need to promote more protective environments and to break down barriers in society that inhibit the inclusion of children and young people formerly associated with armed groups.
- 2 local children organisations have incorporated part of CRAN's methodology of strengthening family and community programs to prevent risk of (re) recruitment to their own practice.

In 2020 our partner CRAN provided a series of 12 workshops for 47 children formerly associated with armed groups in the cities of Bogotá and Villavicencio. Sessions were held in small groups and through virtual platforms such as Zoom, phone calls and Whatsapp. CRAN met with each group monthly and managed to speak to each child involved in the programme on average twice a month. CRAN and CCC have found that 40 of the 47 children that we have worked with, have made great progress in developing their emotional and psychosocial capacities and practical skills to (re) integrate into society. The project has also helped them to recognise different possibilities and paths that can be pursued outside of war and conflict.

CRAN ran a total of nine group activities and group sessions with the 26 foster parents in Bogotá and Villavicencio. Through virtual platforms, the meetings consisted of activities centred around developing families' socio-emotional skills, providing them with the tools necessary to establish solid relationships and positive bonds with the children. RAN and CCC found that, 24 of the 26 foster families in the process now appreciated the importance of their role in facilitating a positive domestic environment. Families have learnt to recognise their own personal characteristics, as well as those of their children, and their impact on a supportive and positive family dynamics.

CRAN's greatest learning experience and challenge during the first six months of this project has been the need to adapt to the current situation that the COVID-19 pandemic has imposed. At the beginning of the project, CRAN had to adjust all of its activities to become distance learning activities rather than the traditional face-to-face activities they are accustomed to. They chose to use platforms such as Zoom, Whatsapp and telephone calls to run virtual workshops and support sessions for the children and foster families. CRAN found running sessions virtually required the proposal of innovative strategies to keep the participants engaged and motivated. One benefit was that children and foster families developed skills for self-learning and self-responsibility for their participation in the programme.

CRAN found that both the children and foster families were open to change and adapted well to the new forms of contact. They recognised the effort and collaborative work that CRAN is doing to find solutions to transform the way it runs its activities. This transformation also focused more actively on integrating mental and emotional health given the consequences of the confinement periods due to Covid-19, so self-care strategies were also made to be a priority of the development process.

Another challenge for CRAN was finding organisations interested in learning from CRAN's methodologies and adopting their models, seeing as many organisations had to stop their activities as they could not continue with in-person training and/or many of their beneficiaries did not have the technological resources to participate. CRAN will continue to try to build links and share knowledge with businesses and local organisations, as they recognise how important this is to protecting children and young people from (re)recruitment.

**Project: Protecting girls and boys involved in gangs: strengthening communities through youth leadership**

**Partner: Tiempo De Juego**

**Location: Bogota**

This project was run in two Specialized Attention Centres (Sistema de Responsabilidad Penal Adolescente – SRPA) where young people or adolescents to whom this sanction has been imposed by the competent authority live and two Residential centres specialising in the attention of young people with a history of psychoactive substance abuse.

Online and face-to-face activities were implemented to help 218 girls and boys from four residential recovery centres (Semillas de Amor, Junior Masculino, Redentor and Nuevamente) to heal from traumas experienced before and during their gang involvement, as well as teaching life skills that will help them make positive, informed decisions about their futures.

This project also worked with 85 adults (teachers, parents and carers of the young people in and outside the project, and members of community organisations) in the two target communities, including 23 families. This work with adults helped to dispel any stigma that sets these young people apart from other members of their communities based on their life experiences – an important barrier in their successful rehabilitation.

**Project Outcomes:**

- 75% of the 218 young people reported feeling they have developed valuable psychosocial skills which will enable them to successfully navigate the process of leaving their detention/ care centre and access support available to them, in line with their needs and interests.
- 70% of the 218 young people had strengthened their capacities of expression and management of emotions, tension, stress and interpersonal conflicts and put in place strategies to take care of themselves and others.
- 100% of the 23 young people's families reported feeling they have developed valuable psychosocial skills, both as individuals and as a family unit, and use these to generate a protective environment within their home which supports the young person's process of leaving detention/care and building a positive future.
- 100% of 22 staff at the four target detention and care centres recognise they have improved their emotional wellbeing and gained tools for identifying ways in which they can improve the support they provide to young people as they prepare to leave the centre.

- It was possible to develop a methodological guide that includes three chapters: Youth, Families and Professionals. The methodological guide concentrates the Tiempo de Juego learning on the institutionalization processes, needs, priorities, strategies and activities, good practices, etc.

There are over 4,000 children and young people in juvenile detention in Colombia, with several thousand more currently detained in protection facilities. According to the Colombian Social Services, in the last 5 years over 15,000 children and young people (between the ages of 14 and 17) have gone through juvenile detention in Colombia.

Most Colombians have been scarred one way or another by conflict and violence. Having been recruited or involved in criminal activities as minors, young offenders are also victims of this violence. Unfortunately, many people (including their own families) do not understand or do not accept that these children are also victims. This means many children and young people face hostility and stigma when they try to re-enter their communities and families.

There are clear links between social exclusion and youth detention in Colombia. For example, the vast majority of young people in such facilities in Bogotá are from the city's most marginalised and impoverished neighbourhoods. They have backgrounds of intra-familial violence and lack a support network within their family or community. Many of these young people also have severe substance abuse problems, which began before entering the institutions but continue within them.

In Colombia, young offender facilities are run by private operators and, as a result, the approach towards children's wellbeing and quality of support young people receive varies widely. Government guidelines do stipulate that psychosocial support should be provided to young people whilst they are in detention, though the complexities of young offenders' mental health and substance abuse issues mean that the staff's focus is often on simply maintaining order. As a result, little to no attention is given to psychosocial support or life skills-building activities. Moreover, the repetitive, non-participatory and isolating nature of daily life within the centres leads to a culture of apathy among the young people.

Our partner Tiempo de Juego (TDJ) has found that when young people reach the end of their time within the facilities, they are not equipped with the socio-emotional skills, the confidence, the knowledge or the support networks they require in order to build a safe, crime and drug-free future for themselves in society.

Our experience of working in this field has shown us that leaving detention, reintegrating into society and building a safe, crime-free future are extremely stressful prospects for young people in detention in Colombia. There are no concrete guidelines set by Social Services relating to helping young people access follow-up support once they have left the centre and, in practice, neither state institutions nor the detention facilities offer this type of accompaniment.

**Strengthen the voluntary sector working with children in Colombia**

A significant part of our work, that differentiates us from many other UK based NGOs, is the extent and permanence of the in-country support that we are able to offer to our partners, thanks to the presence of our permanent Project Director and a Finance and Administrative Coordinator in Bogota.

**Developing our partners' capacity:**

At Children Change Colombia, we aim to provide on-going support to our partners and the communities we work with. In August 2020, we had our first Webinar, on "Resilience Skills in Times of Uncertainty". This Webinar was hosted by Marianne Focke, a psychologist who has a background working with children and adolescents to combat depression and anxiety, by using mindfulness techniques, meditation, and cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT). This webinar aimed to share a series of resilience tools and skills for people to use in their professional and personal life. Making use of resilience studies, we explored useful tools such as mental agility and optimism, and also explored resilience interventions based on positive psychology and cognitive strategies to manage

anxiety and increase positive emotions. We were very happy to share this with our partners and our incredible community in both the UK and Colombia.

In November 2020, we held our second Webinar on “Building resilience in Children and Adolescents”, also hosted by Marianne Focke. As with the first one, this webinar was conducted in English and in Spanish on consecutive days. Our expert spoke about the importance of helping educate children in resilience in order to help them overcome the stresses and pressures of daily life, which is more important than ever given the fast-paced environment we live in today. We had the opportunity to share with some of our partners on this incredible day.

We have another exciting new project in the pipeline for 2021. We plan to work with Action For Child Trauma International (ACT) which is a UK based charity which aims to relieve mental distress of children who have experienced war and violence, or who are refugees.

ACT trains organisations in evidence-based approaches including CATT training (Children’s Accelerated Trauma Technique) which is a holistic, child-centred, rights-based approach to trauma treatments. CCC and ACT held a preliminary workshop online in September 2020 for our partners so that ACT and our partners could get to know each other and the needs of children in Colombia. We plan to offer training to all our partners during a 3 day seminar in Bogotá. General funds will play an important role in delivering this work in 2021, enabling us to involve all our partners in the training. Involvement in this training will have a meaningful impact in the varying contexts in which they work and enable our partners to provide better services to children and young people all over Colombia.

**Developing new programmes and partnerships:**

As the situation in Colombia changes, so do the threats facing children and their communities. We regularly reassess our partnerships to ensure that they remain focused on the most neglected issues. We also undertake research into emerging issues that affect children’s rights and are neglected by others.

In 2020 we worked on the design of a new project and the establishment of a new partnership with the local grassroots organisation El Origen based in la Guajira. In 2021 we are launching a pilot project with our new partner El Origen, a leading young people’s organisation in Colombia with experience training and improving access to education for children and youth in the most marginalised ethnic communities through innovative technology. This project will address the neglected issue of exclusion of education in La Guajira amongst indigenous groups. It aims to improve the quality of education and allow every child to fulfil their potential. We are excited to work with El Origen and investigate the potential that technology has to ensure all children have equal opportunities to learn.

## **Fundraising**

We are very proud to announce that even though it was a very difficult year we managed to raise our entire commitment to the four projects we implemented in 2020 and had a cross-cutting Covid-19 humanitarian relief project during 10 months to alleviate the communities we work with.

We successfully increased our cushion of general funds (reserves) from £79,113 (31st Dec 2019) to £94,527 (31st Dec 2020). Thus freeing up funds to aid cash-flow with grant giving.

Our total income fell considerably from 2019 to 2020 because 2019 was the last year that we received support from Comic Relief, and unfortunately Latin American countries, including Colombia, is no longer an area of interest for this fund or other institutional funds such as The National Lottery Community Fund and the Department for International Development. Although this was a big challenge the organisation was able to

adapt and continue its work. We reduced administrative costs by closing the London office and moving to a shared workspace, and reduced IT services and other office expenses. As a result we covered our operational costs with general funds comfortably in 2020.

#### **Grant making policy**

Children Change Colombia Ltd makes grants to partner organisations in Colombia. Project proposals are subject to approval by the Executive Director and the trustees to ensure the work is in line with our strategic objectives. All projects are subject to a monitoring process and the payment of grants is subject to satisfactory monitoring reports being received.

#### **Voluntary Help**

Children Change Colombia Ltd is supported by a number of volunteers who provide invaluable administrative and fundraising assistance and the Board wish to express their gratitude to all of those who have helped Children Change Colombia Ltd develop its activities through such voluntary assistance.

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

During the year ending 31st December 2020 Children Change Colombia Ltd raised £354,411 (year ending 31st December 2019 - £493,712), the decrease due mainly (as mentioned above) by the ceasing of institutional funding available for projects in South American countries. Total expenditure for the year ending 31st December 2020 was £325,832 (year ending 31st December 2019 - £468,079). Thus, overall surplus for the financial period ending 31st December 2020 was £ 28,579 (year ending 31st December 2019 - £25,633).

Funds held for use by the charity on 31st December 2020 was £135,722 (£107,143 on 31st December 2019), of which £41,195 was restricted to projects (£28,030 on 31st December 2019), and £94,527 was unrestricted Reserves (£79,113 on 31st December 2019).

Restricted funds carried forward will be passed on to the respective project partners for which they have been donated, and unrestricted funds will be held or spent in accordance with Children Change Colombia Ltd's Reserves policy (see policy details below on page 19).

In line with our financial strategy, Children Change Colombia Ltd continues to raise funds from a balanced mix of income streams including trusts and foundations, individuals and corporate donors. Corporate donations did particularly well during 2020 with income of £33,848 (increased from 2019 income of £16,800) thanks to valuable new partnerships established with corporate donors interested in supporting our work in Colombia.

Income from Individuals continued to provide a steady and valuable source of support, raising £133,360 during 2020 (2019 - £158,545). This income included legacy income, regular standing orders and one-off donations. As ever, we are hugely appreciative of the personal investment they make in the future of Colombia's most vulnerable children.

## Legal details

Children Change Colombia Ltd is an international non-governmental organisation created as a charitable legal entity in the United Kingdom and a company limited by guarantee. The change of name from Children of the Andes to Children Change Colombia Ltd was registered with Companies House on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The Company known as Children of the Andes was formed on 12 March 1999, was then registered under no: 1075037 with the Charity Commission on April 9th 1999 and took over the activities of a predecessor non-incorporated charity on 6th June 1999. The members of the Company consist of the trustees listed at the start of this report.

## Organisational and decision making structure

Children Change Colombia Ltd is managed by an Executive Director (who, until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, was also the Company Secretary).

The trustees hold at least four meetings per year to, inter alia, receive and consider reports from the Executive Director, review the financial situation and monitor the achievement of the social objectives of the Charity.

The Chair holds monthly meetings with the Executive Director and the staff to review progress. The Honorary Treasurer, Chair further trustee hold regular meetings with the Executive Director and Finance Manager as a Finance Committee which then analyses monthly results and prepares documents for the following board meeting.

## *Systems of Internal Control*

There is an organisational structure of delegation with lines of responsibility for control and procedures for reporting decisions, actions and issues. The board approves and monitors the annual budget and income projections.

No remuneration or benefits have been paid or are payable in respect of the trustees. No material related party transactions occurred in the year.

## Method of appointment or election of Chair and Trustees

### *Chair*

A selection committee of trustees is appointed. When a vacancy for Chair becomes available, existing trustees may express an interest in the role, external candidates may be recommended or self-referred and the post is also advertised externally. Interested parties meet the Executive Director who explains the work of Children Change Colombia Ltd and the duties and responsibilities of the Chair. A panel, chaired by the head of the selection committee, then interviews candidates with the Executive Director sitting as an observer.

### *Trustees*

When a vacancy in the board of trustees arises, nominations may be made by staff, other trustees (including the Chair), or may be self-referred. The post is advertised externally. The potential trustee receives an information pack and submits an application. If they meet the criteria for new trustees, they visit Children Change Colombia Ltd and meet the Executive Director and staff and, following this, meet the Chair of trustees or another trustee.

Finally, the candidate attends a trustee meeting as an observer, and, after consideration by the Board, an invitation may be made to the candidate to become a trustee of Children Change Colombia Ltd.

The Board and Executive Director conduct a regular skills audit of the board of trustees to assess the fit of the board with the organisation's current strategic objectives. Vacancies in the board may arise as a result of an existing trustee stepping down by mutual agreement in order to enable the appropriate skills and experience to be represented on the board.

### Responsibilities of the Trustees

The Charity's trustees (who are also the directors of Children Change Colombia Ltd for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the Charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and the group and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

### Risk Management

The trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Charity has an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise. The regular meetings between the Honorary Treasurer and staff as well as the meetings between the Chair and Executive Director are a key component of the risk management framework. During these meetings risks faced by the charity are carefully analysed and, if required, checks introduced. The trustees are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate the risks identified.

Risks that have been identified, are being monitored and for which checks and mitigation measures have been put in place include: 1) Insufficient Reserves 2) Unexpected loss of significant income source 3) Staff caught up in violence/kidnap/terrorism/natural disasters 4) Children Change Colombia LTD unable to raise sufficient funds 5) Loss of key staff/failure to recruit suitable staff 6) Foreign currency exchange losses 7) Loss or damage to IT data 8) Exposure to unethical funding sources 9) Failure to comply with UK and Colombian regulatory obligations – in particular breach of data protection legislation 10) Child harmed accidentally or deliberately as a result of

Children Change Colombia Ltd's work 11) Physical destruction of office and files 12) Failure to report adequately to donors.

#### Statement of policies

##### Reserve policy

The trustees use a risk based reserves policy based on a traffic light warning system (Green, Amber, and Red). The purpose is to give a real time calculation of reserve and cost levels in order to allow Children Change Colombia Ltd to maintain sufficient general fund reserves in order to reflect legal and fiduciary obligations for the continued normal existence of the charity followed by an orderly curtailment of activities if necessary. The policy is monitored by the Finance Committee, and assumptions reviewed annually. A copy of the policy is available on request.

##### Equal opportunities policy

Children Change Colombia Ltd is committed to operating an equal opportunities policy in all aspects of its work.

##### Investment Policy

Children Change Colombia Ltd is effectively a steward of funds donated, and therefore considers it appropriate to minimise risk when investing these funds. To this end, surplus funds are invested in interest bearing savings accounts with reputable UK banks and institutions. In order to minimise risks from bank failure, our policy is to hold no more than £75K in any one bank.

##### Public Benefit Statement

The trustees have a duty to report on how the activities of the charity deliver public benefit. The sections of this Report above entitled "Principal Activities and Aims" and "Objectives" set out the charity's objectives on the activity and success in the year to the 31 December 2020 in delivering public benefit.

##### Independent Examination

A resolution proposing that Independent Examiners Ltd be reappointed as for the next Independent Examination of the company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

Approved on behalf of the Board of Trustees



Carolina Giraldo  
Chair of the Board of Trustees  
25th August 2021