

## **Terre des Hommes International Federation Accountability Report Period covered 2017 Executive Summary**

### **Opening Statement from the Head of organisation**

Terre des Hommes International Federation is a network of 10-member organizations jointly promoting and supporting the rights of children in 67 countries worldwide. As an organization working for the rights of children and their equitable development, accountability – first and foremost to children empowered and served through our work – is at the heart of our concerns. We therefore welcome the possibility to report annually on progress to Accountable Now, and to learn from the recommendations from the panel.

2017 has been an exciting year for the Terre des Hommes International Federation (TDHIF). Jointly, our Member Organizations reached close to 7 million beneficiaries through 816 projects – covering child protection, humanitarian aid, health and nutrition activities, education and professional training, youth empowerment support and more.

Building on these results, a series of measures were taken in 2018, which illustrate the continued and increased commitment of the Federation to accountability principles:

- In March 2018, the International Board of TDHIF decided to proceed to a comprehensive strategic review process, with an aim to align programme goals and approaches across the Federation as well as the underlying structure and governance to a greater collective impact for children in the world. The review started from a thorough phase of diagnostic and evaluation, surveying and interviewing internal stakeholders from the various levels of the Federation (headquarters and field). In addition, the diagnostics phase included a series of in-depth qualitative interviews with external partners who were asked for feedback on our impact and work. The review process is led by a task force composed of the CEOs of two Member Organisations and the TDHIF Secretary General – accountable to the International Board. The review is implemented with the support of external consultants selected by the Board to make sure the methodology is sound and achieves envisaged results.
- Keen to further align policies and practices related to integrity, including issues related to child safeguarding, anti-fraud, harassment and bullying, a new position was created within the International Secretariat, funded by the Member Organizations. The Integrity Coordinator will, in the course of 2019, conduct a critical analysis of the members' policies and practices, and develop recommendations for improvement.
- Safeguarding of children being crucial, and a shared commitment, in the activities undertaken at all levels within the Federation, efforts are in the process of being stepped up in this area. Members of Terre des Hommes committed to jointly invest in the development of a new e-learning module which will provide for a better awareness, a great capacity of recognizing

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*An international non-governmental network in consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC, UNICEF, the ILO and the Council of Europe.*

concerns and swifter response across the various layers of the Federation, including our work through partners and volunteers at field level.

- In order to improve internal communication and coordination, a handbook bringing together all procedures and internal policies of working together in the Federation has been initiated. The handbook will be finalized in 2019 and will provide for greater transparency within the network.
- Building on existing partnerships, Terre des Hommes has continued working closely with others, including children and young people at all levels. This has included closer cooperation with 5 other major child focused agency joining forces for child rights, as well as field work where young people and children are empowered as actors of change.

While accountability is a fundamental concern for all members of the Federation, the report focusses primarily on the efforts of the International Secretariat which coordinates the decentralized network of member organizations. With the above-mentioned developments in the pipeline, a more integrated and comprehensive reporting system is expected to become a reality towards 2020.

In line with the approach of Accountable Now, Terre des Hommes considers accountability as a dynamic process, embedded and improved on a day to day basis throughout the various layers of the organization. We are dedicated to fulfilling the 12 commitments, and look forward to the cooperation with Accountable Now.

Delphine Moralis  
Secretary General

## 1. Impact achieved

**In 2017, the programmes implemented by the TDHIF network allowed to have the following impact:**

- 816 development and humanitarian aid projects implemented in 67 countries
- Partnerships with 706 local organizations and 4'009 (local) employees in the field
- More than 6.5 million beneficiaries reached by protection, care and development projects with a view on opening opportunities to children

The programmes work has been enhanced by the advocacy work to:

- Lobby governments to make necessary changes in legislation and practice
- Raise general awareness about violations of children's rights
- Coordinate the sharing of knowledge to further develop MO capacity and provide quality work and be accountable to beneficiaries and stakeholders

The TDHIF International Secretariat is engaged in three main campaigns and an advocacy initiative on child labour, having in common a rights-based approach and a child protection and child participation focus:

- the Destination Unknown Campaign - to protect children on the move and offer them perspectives for the future ([www.destination-unknown.org](http://www.destination-unknown.org))
- the Children Win Campaign - to protect children in mega-sporting events ([www.childrenwin.org](http://www.childrenwin.org))
- the Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA) run through the lead of TDH Netherlands and several other Dutch organisations (<https://www.terredeshommes.nl/en/programmes/girls-advocacy-alliance>)

**The Destination Unknown Campaign** has shown relevance and timeliness with regards to the global migration crisis and to the negotiations on the Global Compacts on migration and on refugees. It is still a unique campaign to deal with all aspects of child and youth mobility and has also demonstrated its credibility, since it is rooted in field work done at the side of children on the move and for and with them. The Campaign bridges the local, national, regional and global levels and has contributed to develop a reference work of 9 recommended principles for children on the move (<http://destination-unknown.org/wp-content/uploads/recommended-principle-EN.pdf>).

At national and regional level, the campaign has accompanied children all along their migration route, from origin through transit and destination. It has helped children on the move to be better informed about the conditions of safe migration and to protect themselves and make their views and opinions heard, it has also helped caregivers and service providers to increase the relevance of their activities with regards to child protection.

At global level, The Campaign contributed to increase knowledge about children on the move and to highlight their rights on the international agenda. 2017 has been a crucial time with the negotiations on the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migrations. TDHIF is a co-lead of the “Initiative for child rights in the Global Compacts” which is generally recognized to have allowed to substantively raise the provisions regarding children in the two Compacts. The Global Compact on Migration, which was adopted in December 2018, contains 38 paragraphs referring to children and establishes a solid platform for collaboration in protecting the rights of migrant children. The measures suggested by the Compact will help improve access to protection, care and support for the many vulnerable children who are on the move today. It will help set up predictable and suitable responses and provide tools for international, national and local authorities and other relevant actors to respond appropriately to the needs of children and act in their best interests.

The Destination Unknown Campaign has also however been affected by the migration crisis. This has made the campaign particularly relevant but has also diverted some of the activities from the original plans as well as the attention of external partners and the public. An external evaluation of the campaign delivered in May 2017 concluded that “the DU Campaign is relevant and sorely needed by child refugees and other children on the move and many of its objectives remain to be achieved.”

**The Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA)**, has engaged with international human rights mechanisms to ensure that national governments in the ten GAA countries uphold human rights obligations with regards to gender-based violence and economic empowerment of girls any young women. The GAA engaged notably with the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Universal Periodic Review of the

Human Rights Council as well as the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures. The GAA empowered local actors to access the above mentioned human rights bodies and procedures.

**The Children Win Campaign** shed light on children whose rights were jeopardised by mega sporting events and is part of international coalitions such as the 'Sport and Rights Alliance' (SRA). The Children Win Campaign has led to several improvements, for example in the establishment of the bidding documents for the EURO 2024 or the 'sustainability concept' (including stakeholder hearings with youth) which the German Football Federation (DFB) presented to UEFA. Overall, the Children Win Campaign has been able to influence and contribute to many major evolutions or human rights and child rights policies worked out by Sport Governing Bodies along with other major civils society organisation.

**Child labour** : In 2017, the TDHIF-IS joined several other NGOs in the "Time to Talk" campaign which collected the voice of 1'822 working children (52% girls and 48% boys) on their views about their work. On the invitation of the ILO, the results of the Time to Talk campaign and the main recommendations of children were presented at the IVth Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour in November 2017 in Argentina which was attended by 3800 governmental and non-governmental participants, hence conveying the recommendations of working children to international decision makers.

Please see also : ([https://www.time-to-talk.info/wpcontent/uploads/2018/05/T2T\\_Report\\_EN.pdf](https://www.time-to-talk.info/wpcontent/uploads/2018/05/T2T_Report_EN.pdf)).

## 2. Stakeholders involvement

The TDHIF-IS has several layers of stakeholders, it is first an advocacy and campaigning body. Its advocacy is deeply rooted in the field work run by the TDH national organisations in 67 countries. Links and consultations with the directly affected stakeholders' groups is made through the field offices of the TDH organisations and conveyed to the TDHIF-IS by them. Child participation is at the core of TDH work. A recent attempt to systematize learning and practices resulted in a draft manual on children's participation, which will be developed and shared among all TDH organisations.

As an International Secretariat the TDHIF-IS is also a service provider for the members of the TDHIF which are national organisations of Terre des Hommes. They are very closely associated to the design of activities and programmes. Seven transversal Working Groups or Steering Committees gather the staff of the TDH national organisations having a similar function :

- WG Advocacy
- SC Destination Unknown Campaign
- WG Communications
- WG Humanitarian Coordination
- WG Heads of Programmes
- SC Children Win Campaign
- WG Child Safeguarding Measures

The activities and programmes of the TDHIF-IS are decided in close cooperation with these working groups which imply the active participation of the TDH member organisations. As an

example, the Steering Committee Destination Unknown Campaign has engaged in a lessons learned exercise, with the help of a consultant who conducted extended interviews with TDH and other partner staff active in the Destination Unknown Campaign. The outcome lessons learned report has been used to conceive the next phase of the Campaign based on the learning and experience collected.

Regarding structural and organisational development, the engagement of the main stakeholders of the TDHIF-IS (its member organisations) is intense and obvious at all levels of the organisation. The governance bodies (General Assembly and International Board) emanate from the member organisations and are responsible for all major decisions which are then implemented by the TDHIF-IS.

A recent survey has shown that the members of the TDHIF network usually appreciate its function of coordination. They also appreciate the function of global representation as it makes their voice and impact stronger for children. External stakeholders have pointed out that TDHIF has an appreciated role in alliance building, they also fully appreciate the campaigns of the TDHIF, the fact that they are grounded in programmes, the expertise of TDHIF regarding child protection and child safeguarding.

The main dislikes come from the fact that the TDHIF is still a decentralised network and this implies problems in communication between its different entities as well as loss of impact potential due to level of collaboration which are not optimised. The Strategic Review, mentioned above has been engaged to address this issue which is regarded as fundamental.

### **3. Organisational effectiveness**

2017 has been a year of change for the TDHIF. Former Secretary General Ignacio Packer left in June 2017 and a new Secretary General, Delphine Moralis, started in January 2018. The interim period (June-December 2017) was managed by the Head of the International Secretariat, Eylah Kadjar.

Activities and campaigns of the TDHIF-IS have been run under the current Strategic Plan with increased involvement of the member organisations of the TDHIF network, especially through the working group structure described above, and regular reporting to the International Board and the General Assembly on attainment of objectives. Several pilot projects are also ongoing for increased cooperation in countries of operations and a united voice in campaigning and advocacy.

The TDHIF has also engaged in closer cooperation with other child focussed agencies to multiply our common impact to protect, promote and defend children's rights at a time when they are being under attack from several sources.

In 2018, the TDHIF started a Strategic Review designed to lead to a new vision and strategic plan, with a view to multiply the impact of the TDHIF for children, be more influential as leaders in the child rights movement and secure resources to match with ambitions. The aim is to align

programme goals and approaches across the TDHIF as well as the underlying structure and governance to enhance and multiply our capacity to achieve our common goals for children.

