

RESULTS SUMMARY

Young researchers pushing for change with ‘Analysis of the situation of the children in Mali’s prisons’

Author: Save the Children (2024)

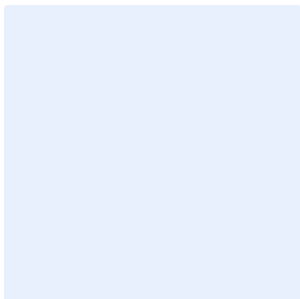
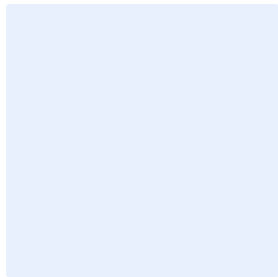
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PROJECT	<i>Title:</i>	Young researchers pushing for change with ‘Analysis of the situation of the children in Mali’s prisons’
	<i>Partner:</i>	AJID Mali (Youth Association for Integration and Development)
	<i>Country:</i>	Mali
	<i>Period:</i>	2024

CHANGE	<p>Youth-led research in Mali contributed to eleven children being released from prison with the support of social services. Twelve additional children were put back in contact with their parents, helping to facilitate their release. Advocacy work led to the courts requesting that in future children are prevented from prison until a parent arrives. A total of 45 attendees advocated for provision of legal aid services for children in detention to improve awareness amongst authorities and the wider population on children facing prison. The young researchers themselves were also positively impacted, primarily as a result of developing skills and strengthening their capacity on research methodologies and their networks.</p>
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CONTEXT	<p>By supporting and facilitating youth-led research and advocacy work, Save the Children Denmark (SCD) prioritises making research accessible to as diverse a group of people as possible as well as challenging existing understandings of who in society are considered ‘expert’. Through our Shifting the Power Programme, one focus has been to strengthen meaningful participation and youth-led research in the Sahel through capacity strengthening, mentorship and fostering a network of cross-cultural relations between young researchers, mentors and practitioners. A concrete outcome of this work is the research project ‘Analysis of the situation of the children in Mali’s prisons’ conducted and led by the youth association AJID Mali in 2024.</p>
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CONTRIBUTION	<p>The objective of the research partnership was to identify the needs and challenges of children in conflict with the law in terms of detention conditions, improve the skills of local actors involved in caring for children in prison, raise awareness among authorities and the general public of the rights of children in detention and the importance of protecting them, promote the application of legal texts in favor of children and access to adequate legal assistance through advocacy and defending children’s rights throughout the judicial process and ensuring that they receive adequate protection.</p>
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IMAGES	 <p>This is a case summary Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	 <p>This is a case summary Click or tap here to enter text.</p>
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

Activities in the project included: 1) Identifying the needs and challenges of children in conflict with the law in terms of detention conditions; 2) Improving the skills of local actors involved in caring for children in prison; 3) Awareness-raising for authorities and the general public on children's rights and the importance of protecting them; 4) Promoting application of legal texts in favor of children and access to adequate legal assistance through advocacy; 5) Defending children's rights throughout the judicial process and ensuring that they receive adequate protection; 6) Distributing foods and hygiene kits for 310 children in the prisons; 7) Conducting 180 information, education and behavior change sessions to reach 455 children; 8) Activities educating children about personal hygiene and raising awareness of their rights; and 9) Assisting children with support and social work for families during court hearings.

LESSONS

To improve the condition and experience of children in detention in Malian prisons some lessons from the research partnership and analysis were: 1) Develop institutions adapted to the needs of children, including the provision of educational, rehabilitation programmes and psychosocial care, and appropriate training to prison staff; 2) Promote alternatives to incarceration, including restorative justice and community-based rehabilitation; 3) Provide detainees with cleaning products on a monthly basis and other health-related equipment, including mosquito nets, medicines, and new beds, as well as information on the prevention of communicable diseases; 4) Provide activities focused on socio-economic rehabilitation, for example, welding, sewing, and masonry; 5) Establish family support services and promote the maintenance of family ties; 6) Appoint consulting lawyers to assist children and help enforce their rights.

EVIDENCE

Data collection and research: 1) Research Project Orientation workshop held in Bamako, in which 28 people attended. Training was provided to the researchers, supervisors and evaluators; 2) Application to the authorities for authorisation to carry out surveys in the prisons; 3) Participatory training of the team of 13 researchers responsible for the field surveys, including research techniques and approaches, safeguarding, and education for children in prison; 4) Data collection by the field team using Kobo-Collect (over a period of one-month in six prisons); 5) Face-to-face interviews with 310 children (of which 197 were aged 15-18, and 85 under 15, and 59 female and 251 male) and key informant interviews with 13 prison staff (five female and eight male); 6) Data processing and analysis of the data collected.

DOMAINS

Development strategy priorities:

Insert strategy priority

Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability

Click or tap here to enter text.

<i>Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights</i>	Click or tap here to enter text.
<i>Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights</i>	Click or tap here to enter text.
<i>Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights</i>	Click or tap here to enter text.
<i>Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	Click or tap here to enter text.
<i>Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work</i>	-

GUIDANCE NOTE

This format consists of two overall sections: on page one, the results summary communicates results to an external audience using a brief summary of what has been achieved; while page two provides an opportunity to explain the background and evidence behind the claims made as part of the summary.

Page 1: Results summary

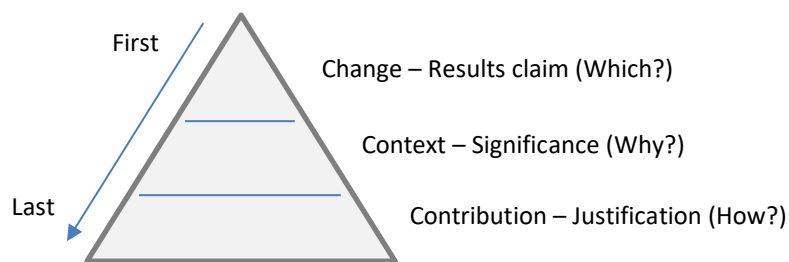
The results summary should outline of the overall change. This should be phrased in a clear and concise manner, focusing on the benefits for target groups or communities, and preferably start out by stating the overall key message as a one-line statement. It is thus important to prioritise what the key message should be and not attempt to describe every possible change that may have occurred.

Note that case studies should not describe all of the activities carried out during the implementation. Instead, it should focus on one or two key messages to be highlighted – which may also span several projects – and only outline activities to backup contributions to the highlighted change.

This can be illustrated as a “reverse funnel.” First, the “change” section introduces the overall results claim, which answers the “which.” Note that this is done before any details have been provided. Second, the “context” section outlines the problem being addressed by the project and the significance of the change. For example, by explaining “why” it benefits target groups or communities.

Finally, and lastly, the “contribution” section should provide examples to justify for “how” the intervention contributed to realising change. Note that this should focus on the plausible linkage between the change and intervention rather than describing details from activities. It is often useful to think of this as a reverse theory-of-change, i.e. “After we did X, then Y occurred, because of Z.”

Figure 1:
Reverse funnel for communication



Page 2: Additional information

The second page should provide background and evidence for project's contribution to change. It can also address technical issues that do not fit in the results summary. The section consists of the following sections:

- *Activities*: Whereas the “contribution” section on page one provides a brief summary of the project contributions to change, the “activities” section allows for more detail on the project design, organisation and underlying activities in support of the contributions made.
- *Lessons*: Describes lessons learned through the implementation. These should relate to the results claim or alternatively the project(s) as a whole. Please consider (1) novelty – i.e. whether the change represents something new – and (2) the potential to scale and/or build on lessons going ahead.
- *Evidence*: A narrative comparison between results claims and the underlying evidence. It should answer “X led to Y, because of Z,” although it does not need to be phrased this way. It is useful to include references to a few selected documents for further details. Please see guidelines for more.
- *Domains and development strategy*: Describes contributions to defined domains and the Danish development strategy. Please consider limiting the number of domains to a few selected ones.