



Transforming Children's Care

GLOBAL COLLABORATIVE PLATFORM

WEBINAR #13: Learning from Participatory Research with Careleavers: Experiences from Latin America and Australia

9 May 2023



MODERATOR

Justin Rogers

The Open University
Centre for the Study of Global
Development

WELCOME

- This webinar is hosted by the Transforming Children's Care Global Collaborative Platform
- The platform establishes more strategic sector-wide collaboration from global to local levels to strengthen children's care and care systems
- Sign up at the link in the chat to join the platform and receive updates about future webinars

HOUSEKEEPING

- Introduce yourself in the chat (select “everyone” when sending a message so everyone can see it)
- This webinar is being recorded and the recording will be made available to you in Spanish and English.
- Remember to select the interpretation
- Use the Q & A to ask questions and upvote and comment on the questions of other attendees.

AGENDA

- Welcome
- Presentation of participatory research in Australia
- Presentation of the first Regional Mapping of Activists with care experience in Latin America
- Presentation of key findings in mapping project by youth researcher
- Panel discussion

PRESENTER

Jade Purtell

Research fellow at the Monash
University Department of
Human-Centred Computing



Research, evidence and 'hardly reached' care leavers

Increasing representation through
participatory research

Acknowledging Aboriginal land

“When we talk about traditional ‘Country’...we mean something beyond the dictionary definition of the word. ...we might mean homeland, or tribal or clan area and we might mean more than just a place on the map. For us, Country is a word for all the values, places, resources, stories and cultural obligations associated with that area and its features. It describes the entirety of our ancestral domains.” Professor Mick Dodson

[Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome to Country - Reconciliation Australia](#)

Wicked problems

"What really surprised me was that we're still facing the same problems since 40 years ago and hopefully that won't happen anymore and I just hope that in the next 20 years we will look back to 2021 and see how much change we've made and how much progress."

- **Munashe**, Children's Advisory Team member from Canada and co-facilitator of Working Group 3

UN DAY OF GENERAL DISCUSSION 2021 – CHILDREN IN ALTERNATIVE CARE

‘Measuring what matters’ in Australia

Whole population indicators

“...indicators are often for Australians on average. This **may not reflect the circumstances of those at the margins**, or specific groups in society. For example, **aggregated data does not highlight** the inequalities that lead to **differing outcomes for groups such as First Nations people, women, people living with a disability and young people.**” (Australian Government Treasury, 2022, p. 131).

‘Gold standard’ research

Our sampling frame was exclusively mobile phone. All numbers selected for potential inclusion in the study received a text message about the study and a link to the website (www.acms.au) where details about consent could be read.

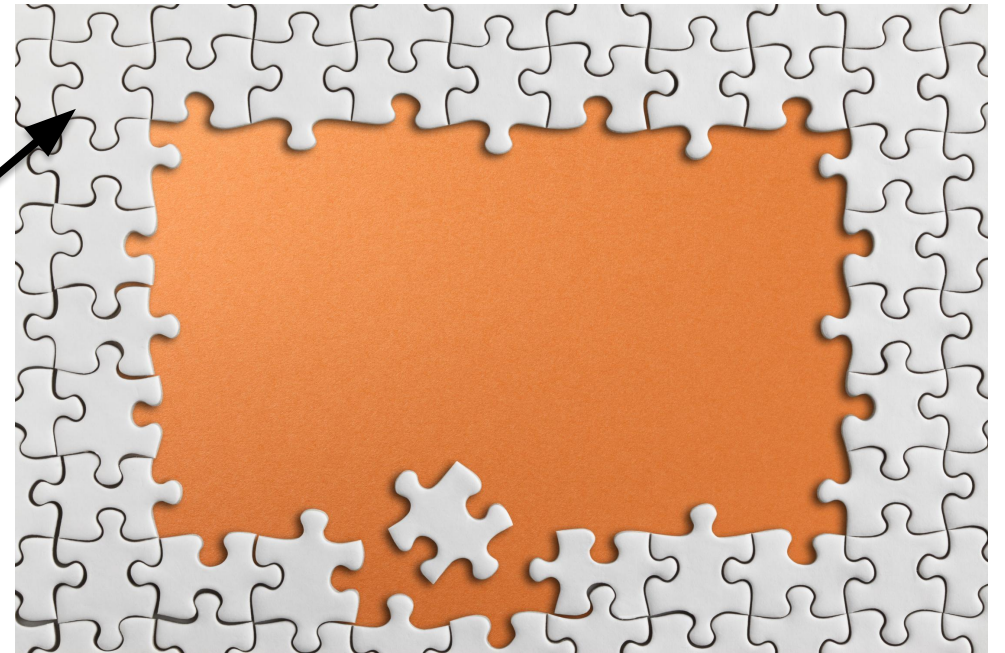
Australian Child Maltreatment Study, 2023

[http://www.acms.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/3846.1 ACMS A4Report C1 Digital -Near-final.pdf](http://www.acms.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/3846.1_ACMS_A4Report_C1_Digital-Near-final.pdf)

Reached by research

People who are:

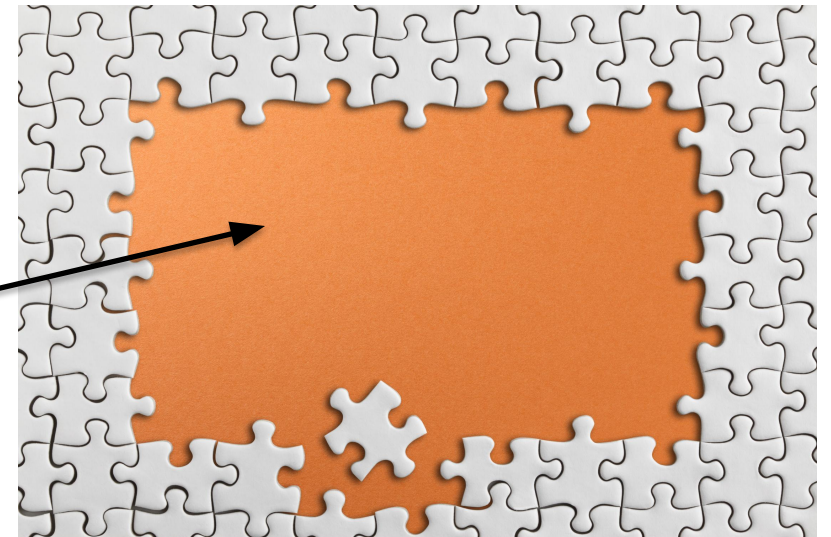
- happy to talk
- not embarrassed to answer personal questions
- have a mobile phone
- are free to consent
- speak survey language



Hardly reached by research

People who:

- don't have a mobile phone
- aren't allowed to talk by abusive family members
- don't want to speak to a researcher
- are in jail
- don't understand what research is
- are a child
- have more pressing concerns or worries*
- feel too judged or surveilled
- don't speak survey language



*Eg. homelessness, safety from violence, hunger, child care, grief, distress, mental illness, addiction

Increasing representation

Participatory research methodologies most resemble small-scale, qualitative research projects which are regarded as unrepresentative and unreliable.

In the context of the sampling methods employed in large-scale, whole population studies, participatory research methodologies may actually *increase* the representation of 'hardly reached' populations, such as care leavers.

There are many participatory options which can be employed for projects large and small.

Participatory research and policy roles

Peer Support Workers/Peer Mentors

Youth Advisory Groups/Councils

Peer Educators/Lived experience trainers

Peer Researchers

Lived Experience Consultants

ETHICAL

Adhering to principles of ethical research and engagement minimizes risks to participants and maximizes benefits of their participation.

EMPOWERING

Care experienced young people should have an empowering experience participating in events, consultations, programs and project work.

ENGAGING

Youth Participation initiatives, consultation and evaluation research designs must attract participants to be effective.

SAFE

Participation may risk re-traumatisation if young people are not listened to, respected, supported and fully aware of the implications of their participation.

Trauma-informed approaches



Flexibility, pragmatism and diversity

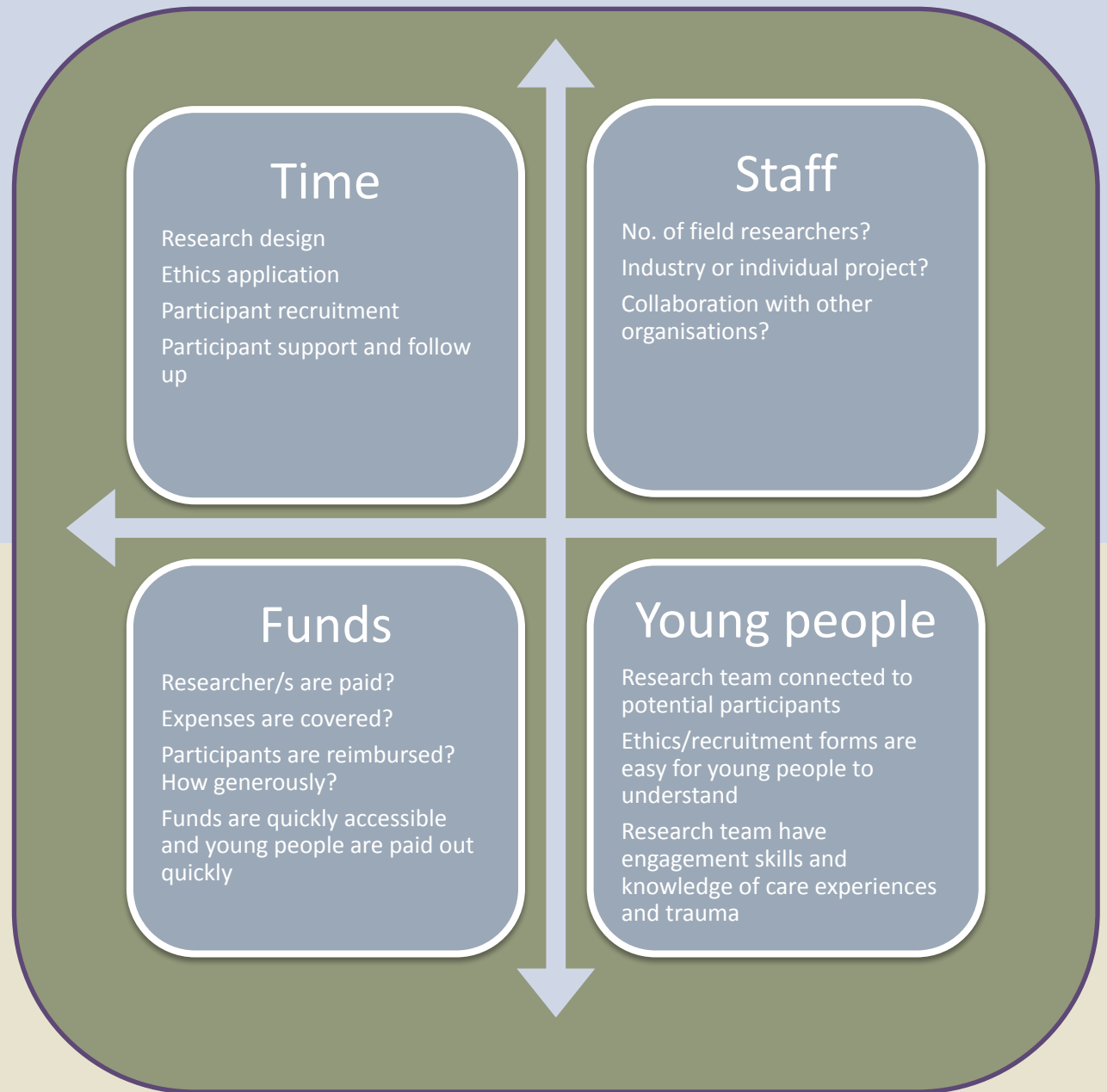


An adaptive participation model

(Purtell, Bollinger and Scott, 2023)

Resource mapping

- *How much time do you have?*
- *How many people can work on this?*
- *What will the funding cover?*
- *Do you have existing relationships with young people who will want to be involved?*



Modes of inquiry - Introspective and extrospective

	Policy focus - thoughts and opinions EXTROSPECTIVE	General impact focus - thoughts and opinions EXTROSPECTIVE	Personal impact focus - potentially traumatic experiences INTROSPECTIVE
How do we phrase our questions?	<p>Do you think care leavers face higher risk of?</p> <p>What do you think of what the existing research says?</p> <p>Do you think this policy represents best practice?</p>	<p>What do you think causes poorer outcomes for young people who've lived in out-of-home care compared to the general population?</p> <p>What is the impact on young people when they have to move schools and families many times in care?</p>	<p>Did you feel treated insensitively by.....?</p> <p>How did being removed from family affect you?</p> <p>How did it feel to be abandoned/mistreated by your family?</p>

Preparation and risk mitigation



Create a safe
space

Pre-reading, pre-briefing, development meetings and de-briefing

Reimbursement and remuneration – how much is enough?

Managing conflict or distress

Dealing with disclosures

Respecting time – breaks and finish times



AUDIENCE

Who is the audience?

INFLUENCE

What can they actually do?

Wicked solutions



“... joint action between stakeholders, including between all levels of government, from federal through to state and local spheres and across health, welfare and law enforcement functional departments together with the community sector...” p. 214 ***Co-Management to solve Homelessness: Wicked Solutions to wicked problems***

Interdisciplinary work

Rights-based Real-time Recordkeeping Governance ARC Discovery Project is grounded in Human Rights Law, Information Technology (Archiving and Recordkeeping practices), OOHC and I'm a social worker in the IT Faculty in the Department of Human Centred Computing.

PRESENTER

Mariana Incarnato

Founder of DONCEL and the Latin American Network of Careleavers



+ First Regional Mapping

A participatory research methodology for Latin America and the Caribbean.
Background and challenges.

May 9, de 2023
Mariana Incarnato



Antecedentes de investigación entre pares

Peer-to-peer Research Background

Doncel; Guía Egreso; FLACSO. (2015) *Construyendo autonomía. Un estudio entre pares sobre la transición hacia la vida adulta de jóvenes sin cuidados parentales. (Building Independence. A peer study on the transition to adulthood of young people without parental care.)*

Research with support from UNICEF.

Research link:

<https://doncel.org.ar/2014/05/07/proyecto-de-investigacion-entre-pares-para-jovenes-en-transicion-del-sistema-de-proteccion-hacia-la-autonomia/>

Video Summary Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeh_pcHgbLY

Doncel; Guía Egreso. (2018) *Solos contra el afuera. (Alone Against the Outside World)*

Research developed with the support of the Strengthening of Civil Society Office of the Ministry of Urban Development and Habitat of the Government of the city of Buenos Aires.

Research link: <https://doncel.org.ar/2018/07/20/somos-solos-contra-el-afuera/>

Red Latinoamericana de Egresados de Protección/Doncel. (2020) *Más autonomía, más derechos. (Latin American Network of Care Leavers/Doncel. (2020) More Independence, more rights.)*

Research link:

<https://www.redegresadoslatam.org/gran-noticia-les-compartimos-el-informe-regional/>

Video Summary Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvARfpwZ-L4>

Link a lanzamiento completo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtOcwXV-zcE>



1- A participatory research methodology is more than that.

2- What do we need to know?

3- How did we do the Mapping?




Peer-to-peer Participatory Methodology

The peer approach indicates that the researchers are care leavers of the child protection system in Latin America and the Caribbean.


Young people who have lived in alternative care and are activists and advocates participated in the project.



Peer-to-peer Participatory Methodology



Participation allows people to actively intervene in producing relevant knowledge to generate changes within society and the existing social order. This gives rise to new political subjectivities, potentially emancipating, connected to the demand for rights (Restrepo, 2002).





Mapping Purposes

- Generate an **activists registry**
- To **identify the characteristics, interests, and barriers to participation**
- Systematize **the peer-to-peer participatory methodology**



Team

Project Management

- Mariana Incarnato (ARG)

Regional Coordinator

- Florencia Rodríguez (ARG)

Regional Support

- Laila Skoczylas Fiszler (ARG)

Subregional Coordinations

- Anaclara Planel (URU)
- Gustavo Martin Castillo (PER)
- Jimena Del Castillo (MX)

Jóvenes investigadores/as



Perú
Viviana Contreras de la Cruz



Argentina
Roxana Pardo



Guatemala
Luis Fernando Vásquez Asencio



Ecuador
Patricia Lourdes Gudiño

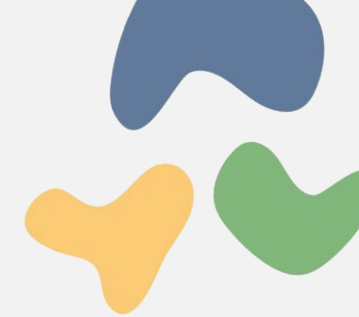


Argentina
Tatiana Lustig Da Silva



Bolivia
Mario Luis Bustios





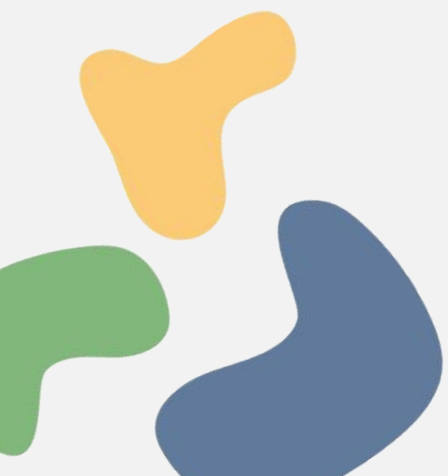
Team Structure

Subregional Teams



- Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean
- Andean
- Southern Cone

Our region is large and rich in culture and languages. So, we formed a team with people in different countries to achieve a better territorial reach.



Team Structure

Central Regional Team

Responsible for project implementation.

Led and coordinated the general team and was responsible for the participatory peer-to-peer methodology design and the drafting of the final report.

Facilitated contacts with partners and stakeholders and supervised and supported the sub-regional teams.

Team Structure

Subregional Coordination

Responsible for the implementation of the mapping in each subregion. They coordinated the field work and supported the participation of the researchers.

Key roles to promote the active participation of each young person in the project, they were their main referents. At each stage, they accompanied, supported, and facilitated their participation.

Team Structure

Care Leavers

Participated in the methodology design and validation of the data collection tools.

They supported the fieldwork and the systematization process.

They were part of the analysis process, validated the results, and provided recommendations.

Team Structure

Care Leavers

Previous experience in similar projects, educational level, and skills such as autonomy, responsibility, and digital competencies was considered for their selection.

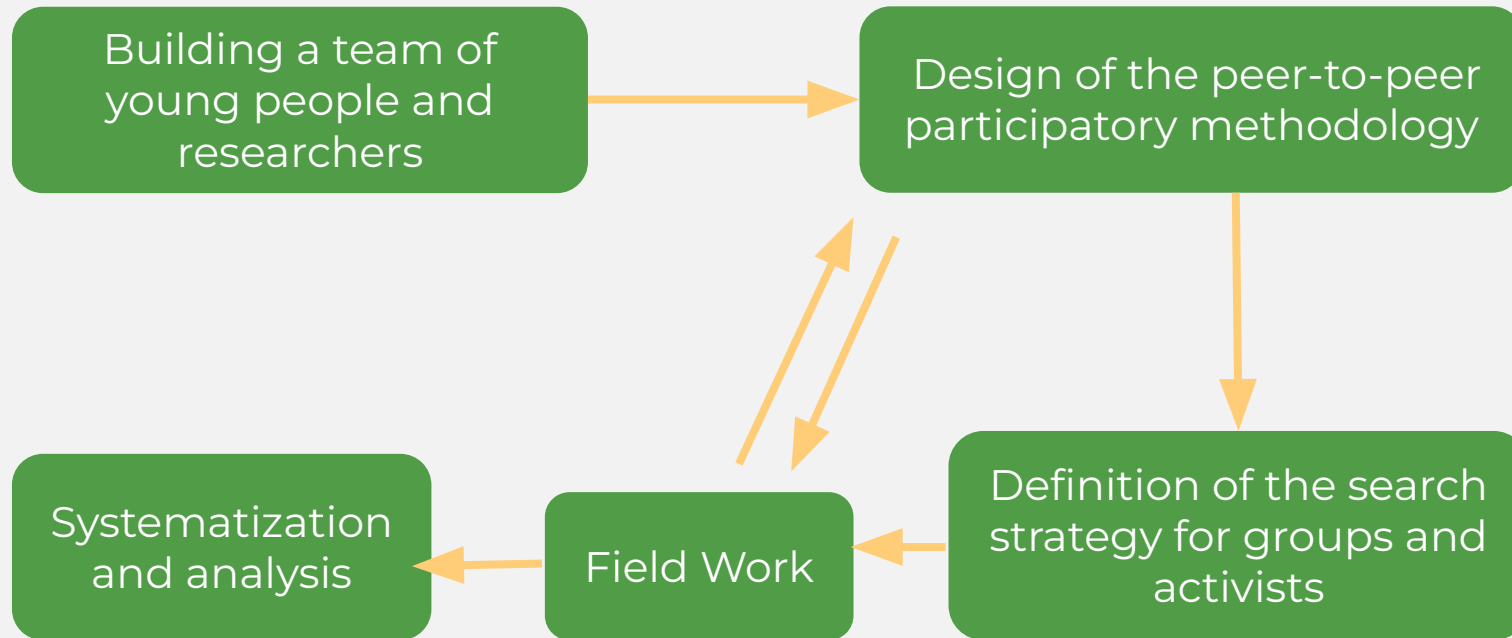
The team consisted of six activist care leavers between the ages of 18 and 28 who have lived in alternative care.

Some have been members of the Latin American Network of Care Leavers for several years, and others have recently joined.

Most have experience in research and advocacy and have participated in national, regional, and global forums related to the issue.


For one of them, this is their first paid job.

Phases






Design of the Study



Definition of a participatory peer-to-peer methodology strategy, triangulating quantitative and qualitative techniques.

Working sessions with the team for the study's design to determine the best strategy for the proposed objectives.

Revelation of the interests and expectations of those who are part of the Latin American Network of Care Leavers and of the project partners.





The search

- More than **160** Key actors of **27** countries in the region
 - Local NGOs
 - International NGOs
 - State Agencies
 - International Cooperation Agencies





What did we find?

- **49** individual activists and
- **14** organizations, groups, and networks
- of **19** countries





X Thank you!

X GRACIAS!



 **DONCEL.** JOIN BY

 RED LATINOAMERICANA DE EGRESADOS DE PROTECCIÓN

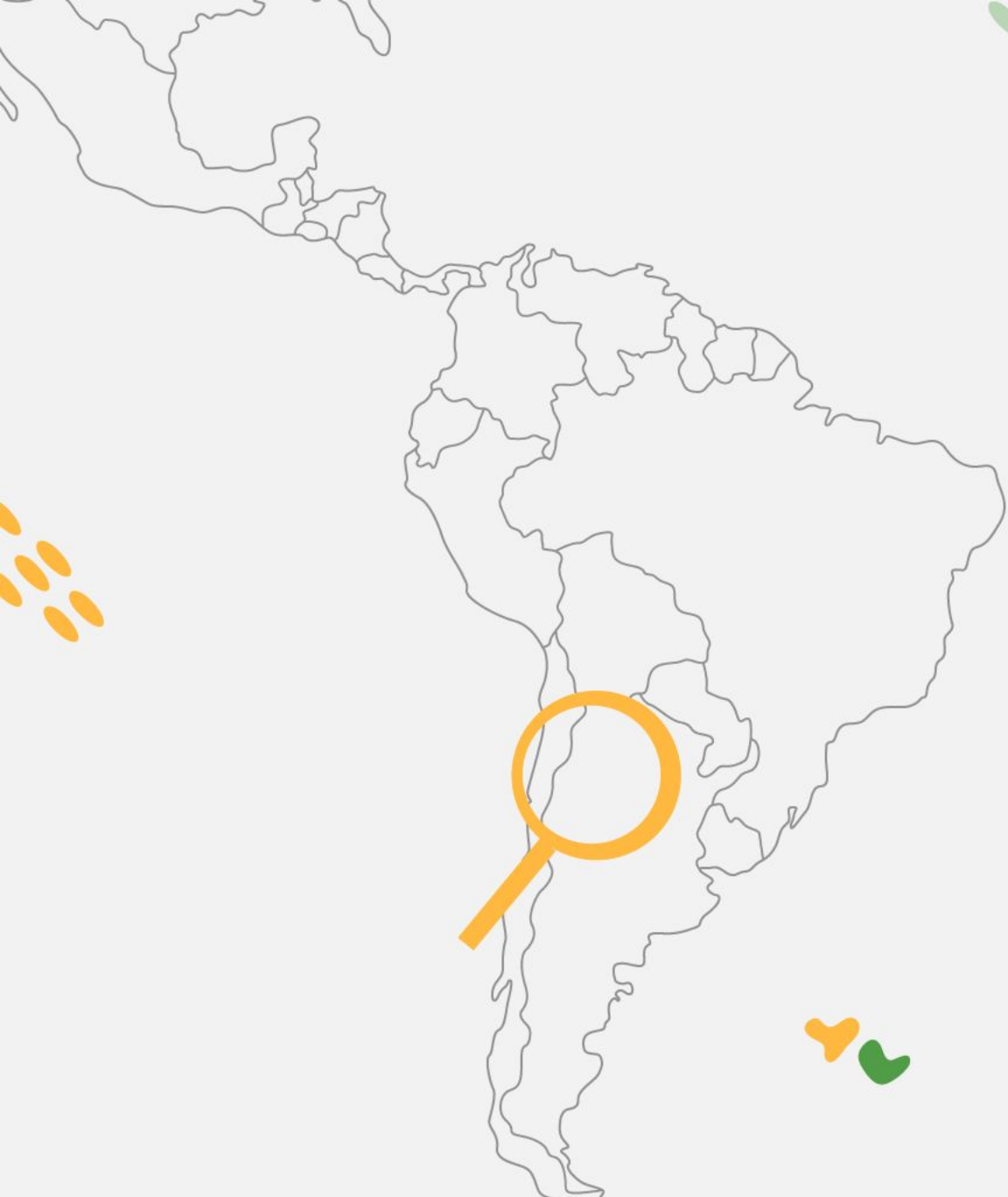
**Better
Care
Network**

**Changing
THE WAY WE
care**

PRESENTER

Tatiana Lustig Da Silva

Youth researcher from the LAC
Regional Network of Care Leavers



PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

First Regional Mapping

Activism of Care Leavers of Alternative Care in LAC

May, 9 Mayo 2023
Tatiana Lustig Da Silva

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Better Care Network

Changing THE WAY WE care

Mapped Activists

Subregión	País	Tipo Actor		
		Activista individual	Organización/grupo	Suma total
Andina	Bolivia		4	4
	Chile	2	3	5
	Colombia	1	1	2
	Ecuador	2		2
	Perú	3		3
Total Andina		8	8	16
Centroamérica	Belice	1		1
	Costa Rica	1		1
	El Salvador	2		2
	Guatemala	3	1	4
	Haití	3		3
	Honduras	2		2
	Jamaica	1		1
	México	6	1	7
	Panamá	6		1
	República Dominicana*	1		1
Total Centroamérica		21	2	23
Cono Sur	Argentina	7	3	10
	Brasil	8		8
	Paraguay	2	1	3
	Uruguay	3		3
Total Cono Sur		20	4	24
Suma total		49	14	63



What did we find?

- **49** individual activists and
- **14** organizations, groups, and networks
- of **19** countries



Who are the activists?

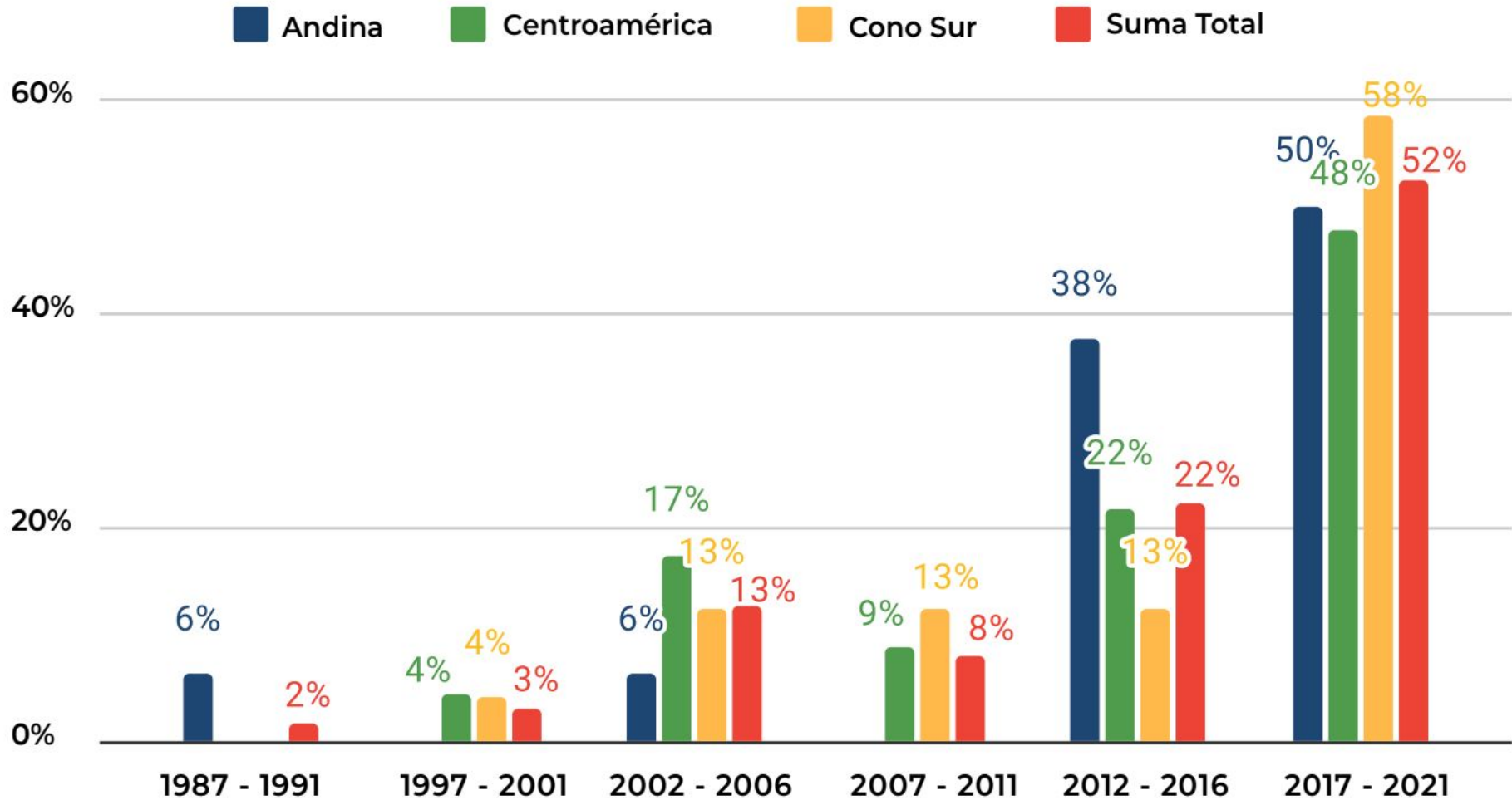
- Adult activists
- Young consolidated activists
- Incipient Young activists



CRÉDITO: BUCKNER PERÚ

Año en que comenzaron a ser activistas o a participar del grupo

The year in which they started to become activists or participate in the group



<i>Situación educativa</i>	<i>Nivel académico</i>	<i>% de personas</i>
No estudia <i>Does not study</i>	Secundario/bachillerato incompleto	5%
	Secundario/bachillerato completo	6%
	Universitario/terciario incompleto	8%
	Universitario/terciario completo	21%
Total No estudia		40%
Estudia <i>Studies</i>	Primario incompleto	2%
	Secundario/bachillerato incompleto	3%
	Secundario/bachillerato completo	8%
	Universitario/terciario incompleto	29%
	Universitario/terciario completo	19%
Total Estudia	<i>Total that do study</i>	60%
Suma total		100%

Perfil de las y los integrantes de los grupos

Profile of the Group Members

53%

Porcentaje de
mujeres

Percent women

71%

Porcentaje de
adolescentes y
jóvenes

Percent of adolescents
and youth

73%

Porcentaje de
personas egresadas

Percent of care leavers

14%

Porcentaje
personas en el
sistema

Percent of people in the
system

23%

Porcentaje de
profesionales

Percent of professionals

18%

Porcentaje de
personas remuneradas

Percent of people
Receiving payment



/ 01

There are many
ways to engage
in activism



/ 01

Topics y actions

Care reform

Children and
Adolescents
Participation

Health
Education
Psycho-social
Support

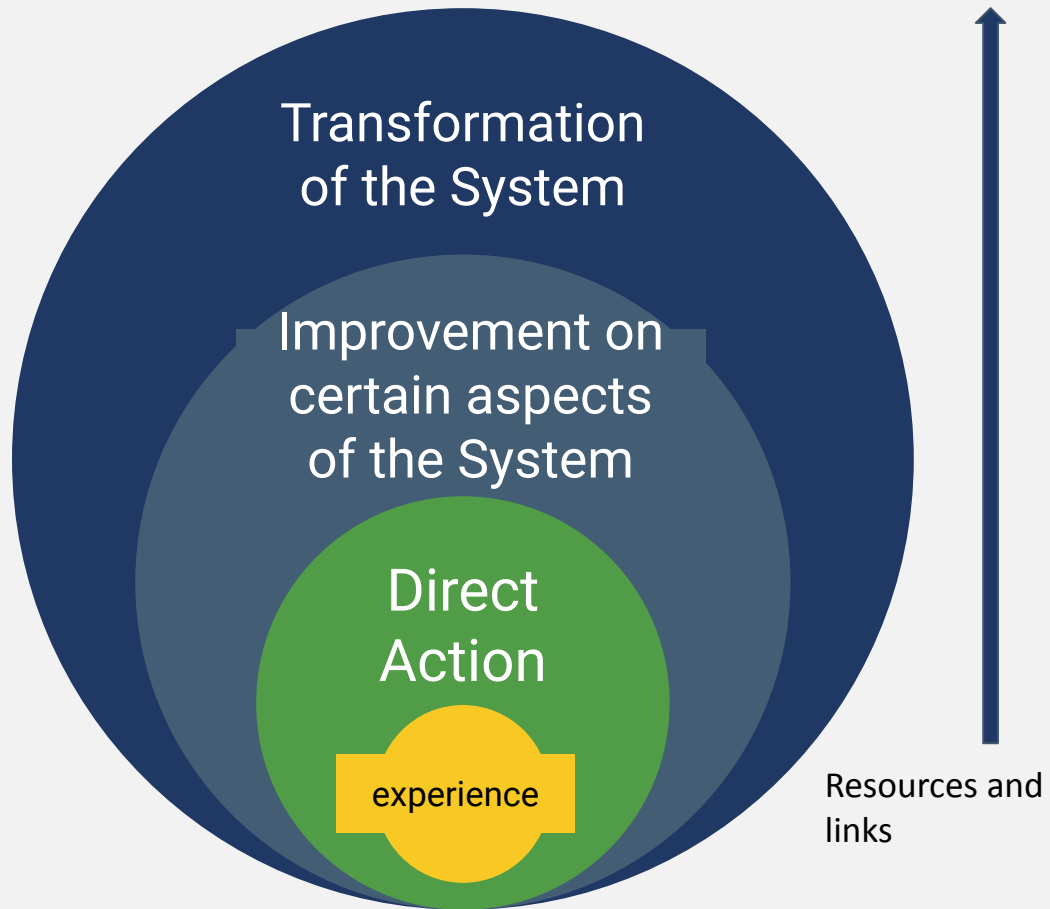
Family
Strengthening

Support to Care
Leavers

Advocacy

Staff
Training





Levels of Intervention

From their own experience, to the desire to help someone they know, to transform the reality of many people.



What are activists experts in?

Activists have several key areas of expertise in which they excel and which they are willing to share with other organizations.

/ 02

Motivations





/ 02

Purposes of activism



Giving Back

The desire to give back some of what they received

Invitation or request of support



Compensation

Give others what they would have liked to have or prevent them going through the situations they went through.

Helping others



/ 02

Meanings of activism

Well-being

Compensation



Resilience

Empowerment

“For me, activism started as a way of healing.”



Activism has a direct relationship with life's story. While it positively affects activists, it has strong emotional implications.

When working with activists, their emotional well-being must be a priority.



/ 03

Barriers to participation

/ 03

Lack of formal education

Effects of Foster care

Lack of interest

Discrimination

Lack of support

Social and institutional barriers

Lack of financial and material resources

Lack of time





RECOMENENDATIONS



To STATES: It is recommended that the State guarantee the rights of children and adolescents in and out of alternative care.

To CSOs: Support the development of peer groups.

TO ACTIVISTS: We are together in this cause. Networking strengthens us.





X Thank you!

X GRACIAS!

<https://www.redegresadoslatam.org/>



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**THANK
YOU FOR
JOINING!**

Please see the chat box for a link to learn more about the [Transforming Children's Care Global Collaborative Platform](#) and find out how to join.

We will be sending you a link to the resources shared, webinar recording and slides in a follow-up email shortly. If you have questions, comments or recommendations for future webinar topics, please send them to:

contact@transformcare4children.org