

# **2020 Evaluation Report of the Activity of the local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People**



**Executive summary,  
conclusions and  
recommendations**



Title: Executive summary, conclusions and recommendations of the 2020 Evaluation Report of the Activity of the Local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY





**Elaborated and published** annually by the National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and the Protection of Children and Young People, the Annual Report of Evaluation of the Activity of the local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People is a public national reference document for the society at large and for the local Commissions themselves, as it presents, analyses and reflects the results of the prevention and protection actions implemented by the latter in each year at stake.

## THE PROTECTIVE INTERVENTION OF THE LOCAL COMMISSIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Prevention and protection are both fundamental levels of the Promotion and Protection System in safeguarding the best interests of the child. In this section, the protective level is highlighted and reveals, through statistic indicators, the essential and complex nature of the action taken on its behalf and its importance, the categories of danger, the number of cases of promotion and protection and corresponding outcomes.

The indicators below illustrate the high total number of processes dealt with by the local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People (hereinafter referred to as local Commissions or CPCJ) in the year under review, as a result of complying with the need to initiate promotion and protection processes regarding children and young people in situations of danger and to monitor the implementation of the corresponding promotion and protection measures applied to each specific situation.

As of December 31, 2020, there were 310 CPCJ spread nationwide. These local Commissions are official entities of non-judicial nature endowed with functional autonomy, aiming at promoting the rights of children and young people and at preventing or eradicating situations that may affect their safety, health, training, education or integral development. The CPCJ embody a model for the protection of children and young people that calls for the active involvement of the community, in partnership with the State, based on a rational of integrated governance, allowing local synergies to arise and thus fostering the creation of social development networks.

**69 622**

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION PROCESSES

**30 256**

OPENED IN 2019 AND STILL ACTIVE IN 2020

**39 366**

OPENED IN 2020

NEW PROCESSES

**31 599**

REOPENED

**7 767**

**69 622**

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION PROCESSES

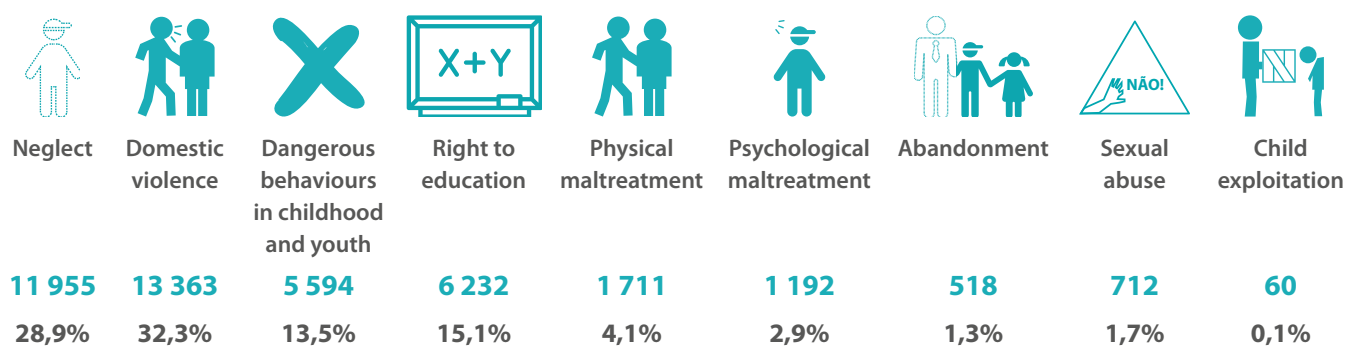
**1387** transfers of processes from one local CPCJ to another due to changes in the residence of the child or young person

**1 706** situations that generated more than one reopening of a process in the same year

**66 529**

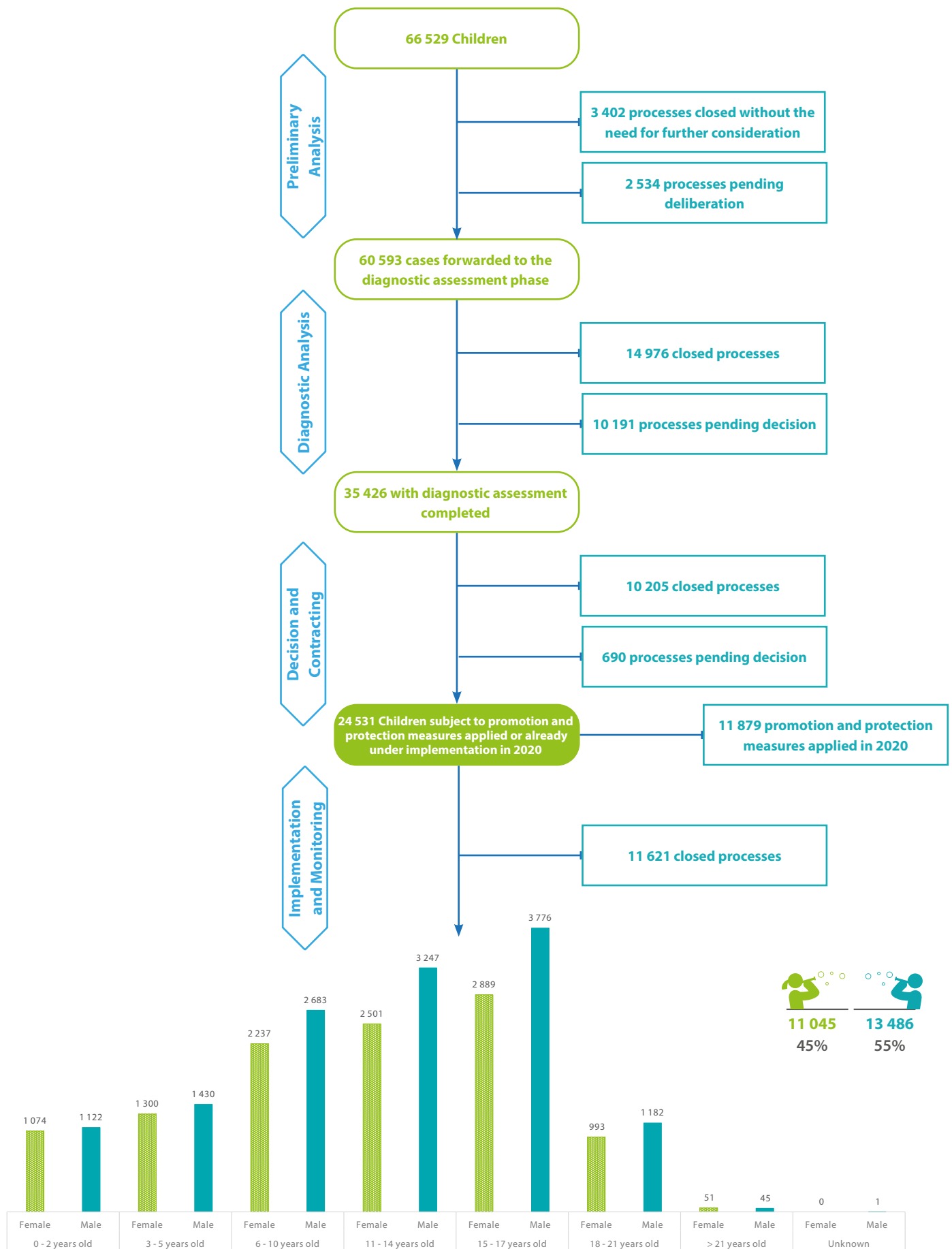
children and young people who benefited of the intervention of the CPCJ<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Total number of children in the protection system in 2020, representing the sum of the number of children who entered the system in 2020, along with those whose protection started prior to 2020 and who were still being protected in the year at stake.



Situations of danger communicated to the CPCJ

**41 337**





# CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS





**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,** FOLLOWED BY  
NEGLECT, WERE THE MOST REPRESENTED CATEGORIES OF DANGER  
IN THE COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE LOCAL COMMISSIONS  
FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE,  
MAINTAINING THE SAME TREND OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In a year marked by the context of a declared pandemic and characterized as demanding from the public health point of view, the promotion and protection system faced an unprecedented challenge in the pursuit of its mission, specifically with regard to the activity of the CPCJ.

A first analysis of the work carried out by the CPCJ reveals the remarkable capacity of the promotion and protection system to rethink and adapt itself to a rapidly imposed transformation of the society, despite the obstacles that are inherent to the aforementioned context.

In this regard, this report allows one to conclude that the CPCJ used of resilience and combativeness to succeeded in maintaining the implementation of their activities both in the preventive and in the protective dimensions, despite the continuous need for training and qualifying their members, as well as the need to harmonize procedures, in order to ensure greater effectiveness and efficacy in assessing the situations of children in danger and in monitoring the measures correspondingly applied.

### CONCLUSIONS

With regard to the promotion of the rights and the prevention of situations of danger, it is noteworthy to highlight the development of activities of the CPCJ in its extended format, which succeeded in maintaining the diversity of the topics discussed and the significant participation of their respective communities and stakeholders throughout the year, and in spite of the restrictions imposed to face-to-face activities.

In 2020, in what the protective area is concerned, 41.337 situations of children in danger were communicated to the CPCJ, 2.459 less than the total reported in

2019, but still higher than that registered in 2018.

*Domestic Violence*, followed by *Neglect*, were the most represented categories of danger in the in the communications received by the CPCJ, maintaining the same trend of the previous year.

In 2020, the CPCJ carried out 13.031 diagnostic analysis, which corresponds to 794 less than those carried out in 2019. As in 2019, *Neglect and Domestic Violence* remained the main the categories of danger diagnosed, assuming an approximate share of 32% and 30%, respectively. These were followed suit by situations of danger diagnosed as *Dangerous Behaviours in Childhood and Youth* (17%), and by situations in which the *Right to Education* was at stake (14%).

It should be noted that the diagnosis of *Neglect* have been progressively decreasing since 2013, a trend that has intensified in the last two years. *Domestic Violence*, which accounted for 12.8% of the total number of diagnosis in 2018, recorded an increase of 19%, revealing the growing concern of the society about this issue and the greater awareness towards its impact on the integral development of child and youth victims.

The CPCJ applied 11.879 promotion and protection measures, which correspond to 2370 less than in 2019. *Support with the parents and Support with other family members* were the prevalent measures in the decisions made.

The local Commissions accompanied a total of 24.531 children, who were subject to promotion and protection measures whose implementation started in 2020 or prior to it. It shall be underlined that 91% of the measures at stake were being implemented in the context of the natural living environment of the child.

It is also important to highlight the monitoring and technical support provided by the five Regional Technical Teams of the National Commission for the Promotion of Rights and the Protection of Children and Young People (CNPDPJ) to the local Commissions. This approach fosters greater proximity of the local Commissions to the CNPDPCJ and contributes to deepen the latter's knowledge of the local territorial reality of each CPCJ. This allows the CNPDPCJ to take decisions that suit best the needs and potential of each local Commis-

sion and its corresponding specific communities.

Similarly, the regional meetings of the CNPDPCJ with the local Commissions have become a support and capacity building tool, enabling a greater connection between the National Commission and the CPCJ. These occasions allow the creation of moments in which the CPCJ: are heard about their needs; are provided training adjusted to the specificities of their territories; and are able to debate their child protective intervention and carry out a continuous mutual cooperative appreciation.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

In an evolutive perspective and considering the information and analysis contained in this report, the following recommendations are made aiming to broaden and strengthen the activity of the local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People:

### COMMUNITY-BASED SYSTEMIC INTERVENTION

- Greater awareness and further training for the entities with competencies in childhood and youth matters shall be promoted regarding their role as agents of the promotion and protection system, fostering an increasingly closer and systematic collaboration, namely in the implementation of promotion and protection measures;
- The CPCJ shall promote the active involvement of their extended format in identifying and mobilizing the necessary resources for the promotion and the protection of children's rights and also in the formulation of collaborative initiatives of local social development in the area of childhood and youth;
- The entities represented in the CPCJ shall adjust the profile of their representative to that approved in the National Council of the CNPDPCJ, as well as ensure

the compliance of the time defined for the fulfillment of their representative's assignment.

- Within the scope of the Adélia Project – Support to Positive Parenting, the CPCJ shall optimize the development and implementation of their Local Plan for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children and Young People, along with the entities with competencies in the area of childhood and youth matters, and counting with the effective participation of children and young people, families and of the community;
- The CPCJ shall promote the active participation of children and young people in activities of prevention at the local level, in hearing them about matters and decisions that concern them (in schools and municipal initiatives, among others), resourcing to consultations with the National Council of Children and Young People whenever feasible, in order to gather possible contributions to the pursuit of this goal.

### CAPACITY BUILDING AND CONTINUOUS AND PERMANENT TRAINING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CPCJ

- The CNPDPCJ shall promote the qualification of members of the CPCJ through the ongoing training plan funded by PO ISE or Cresc Algarve, aiming to extend their capacity of intervention;
- The CNPDPCJ shall make available greater diversity of training thematic areas to the members of the CPCJ, in order to provide them specialized knowledge that fits best the needs identified by the local Commissions themselves;
- The intensification of the frequency of regional meetings shall be ensured, favouring training sessions on the various subjects recognized as priority matters within the scope of action of the CPCJ;
- The CNPDPCJ shall formulate technical guidelines aiming at promoting greater uniformity of procedures in the different stages of the evolution of the promotion and protection process, as well as elaborate tools/documents to support the activity of the CPCJ.



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