**This information is based on input from Juconi Mexico, a founding member of the Safe Families Safe Children Coalition:**

**Juconi Mexico** uses both quantitative and qualitative measures to gather baseline and follow-up data on street-involved children (including parents and siblings) it works with. Data is collected at initiation in program and every six months thereafter until beneficiaries exit the program. Information includes:

a) Individual level data:

* Demographics: age, gender, ID card registration
* Street involvement: level of street involvement (working and/or living), time spent on streets, type of work, time of work (day/night), reasons and risks of street involvement, proceeds of work
* Education: grade, attendance, performance (end of year grades), and literacy skills
* Physical health: nutritional status, infectious diseases, access to healthcare, child immunization and addictions
* Mental health: emotional wellbeing using the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (with input from parents, teachers and children) for relevant age range (4 – 16)

b) Household/family level data:

* Household characteristics: number of rooms, access to services, dwelling characteristics, family income and access to social networks
* Household caring and protection practices, including levels of family violence (physical, emotional, sexual and neglect) due to it being a key contributing factor to street involvement

Information is gathered by program educators and integrated into their scheduled project activities with children and families. Previously defined questionnaires are filled-out every six months and handed over to the monitoring and evaluation team for data entry and analysis. In addition, a long-term, post-programmatic tracking system is in place to collect data, once a year, on a sample of children successfully graduating from the program to assess the long term impact and sustainability of project results. Data gathered includes schooling, employment, marriage, household characteristics, access to social networks, family environment, and achievements.

**Challenges:**

* Control group and attribution: no control group is used in measuring outcomes as it would require similar levels of intervention to acquire comparable data and as such attribution would be harder to identify. Additionally, Juconi does not consider it ethical to gather information from a population with similar characteristics, without providing them with support.
* Subjective input: the data that is being measured depends on the assessment done by individuals, however, this is mitigated by data triangulation through the use of mixed methods and always assessed /reviewed by a team of people representing different hierarchical positions in the organization.
* Improvements of methodology: interventions are constantly improved where the need to do so is identified, making comparisons between generations more challenging
* Lifecycle changes (adolescence): as there is no control group, the effect of age is more difficult to assess (ie is this result similar across age ranges)

**How is the information used?**

* The process of gathering and examining data allows Juconi to design programs and activities that are effective, efficient and yield powerful results for the target population.
* Monitoring progress at regular intervals provides program staff at all levels with timely indications of progress, or the lack of, which supports them in decision making, ensuring accountability, and providing the basis for learning and systematization.
* Lessons learnt from data collected is used for sharing best practice (including M&E), donor reporting, fundraising and promoting the importance of working with this segment of the population.

**Good practice:**

* Child and family centred: all individual and family-level data collection tools are an integral part of the therapeutic process with each child and family and have been chosen and developed to ensure that all data collection has a very direct and personal benefit for the beneficiary. Additionally, data is collected by project educators themselves, eliminating third party data collectors which could increase unwanted stress for the child and household. The focus is on assessing the effectiveness of the intervention in an open and honest manner with the ultimate goal of sustainably improving life outcomes for individuals and participants and not necessarily driven by producing the best results within a specific period of time or meeting the priorities of anyone other than the beneficiary
* Strengths based: the bias leans towards looking for improvements which motivates beneficiaries and cares for staff who work in difficult conditions and would otherwise not necessarily identify the small but meaningful changes as they take place.
* Learning and staff development: observation and qualitative data collection are an integral part of the process providing in-depth information to better understand the complex reality of the target population. The system is geared to providing information which will enrich treatment planning, identify gaps in training and skills and lessons which can be applied across programmes
* Measurement: data allows for adequate assessment of progress of intervention of individuals and their families (including comparison between individuals and families) as well a summary report of the collective results of the target group
* Practical: monitoring and evaluation uses mixed methods which are integrated into everyday project activities
* Balances validity and reliability: a variety of tools are used and their application and the analysis of information is reviewed by a methodology expert (not directly involved in the intervention) and triangulated for consistency purposes with other data
* Ethical: Data is collected: using participatory methods, high standards of child protection and confidentiality, requesting prior permission and transparency about purpose and use,
* Supportive of staff: by providing staff with clear evidence of changes the system and process used to apply it, provide staff with clear evidence of the impact of their work.