

# SMALL VOICES Big Dreams 2014

To mark the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, children around the globe say what child rights mean to them.



### Mission

ChildFund Alliance is an effective global network of child-centred development organisations working in the poorest countries around the world to create opportunities for disadvantaged children. The mission of each ChildFund Alliance member is to create long-term, sustainable, community-based solutions to development problems affecting children and their families.

In joining together the great strengths of its member organisations, ChildFund Alliance combines and expands the reach and scope of its members to meet the needs of children living in poverty.

ChildFund Alliance members implement sustainable child-focused, community-based development programs in areas where children are impacted by war, natural disaster, poverty and global health issues such as HIV/AIDS.

While each member organisation retains its own distinct national identity and governance by national boards, collectively, ChildFund Alliance is a voice for children and an instrument for maintaining worldwide standards of performance, efficiency and accountability.

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**Data collection:** This survey would not be possible without the dedication of ChildFund staff, volunteers and field assistants around the world who spent weeks talking to children and documenting their opinions and ideas.

**Research:** Dr Xiaoyan Zhao, Senior Vice President, Global Research & Consulting, GfK Roper; Kathleen O'Neil, Research Director, GfK Roper.

**Report editor:** Heather Wiseman

**Graphic designer:** Julie Coughlan

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**Cover image:** Nanda from Timor-Leste

**Back cover image:** Nicolas from France

# SMALL voices BIG DREAMS 2014

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- Barnfonden, Sweden
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- Taiwan Fund for Children and Families
- Un Enfant Par La Main, France



## The perfect time to hear children's views on child rights

The Convention recognises that children have additional rights and need special care and protection.

It is timely, on many fronts, for this year's Small Voices, Big Dreams survey to focus on children's rights.

Significantly, this year marks the 25th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (the Convention), one of the most ratified international treaties in the world. Currently, 194 countries are signatories to the Convention, which has led to an enormous increase in national legislative frameworks aimed at protecting children.

The introduction of the Convention recognises that children have additional rights and need special care and protection. Rights that were previously negotiable are now legally binding.

To understand better what children think of these rights, this year's Small Voices, Big Dreams survey focused on the Convention. As a child-focused organisation currently advocating for the inclusion of specific targets to prevent violence and exploitation perpetrated against children in the post-2015 agenda, we also wanted to know whether children felt that protection rights were being upheld in their countries.

Some findings from this year's Small Voices, Big Dreams report highlight just how much work is yet to be done to ensure children's rights are upheld internationally.

One in three of the world's children say children's rights to protection are still not being met. In developing countries, 28% of children surveyed say children in their country are rarely or never protected from harmful work that is detrimental to their health and education.

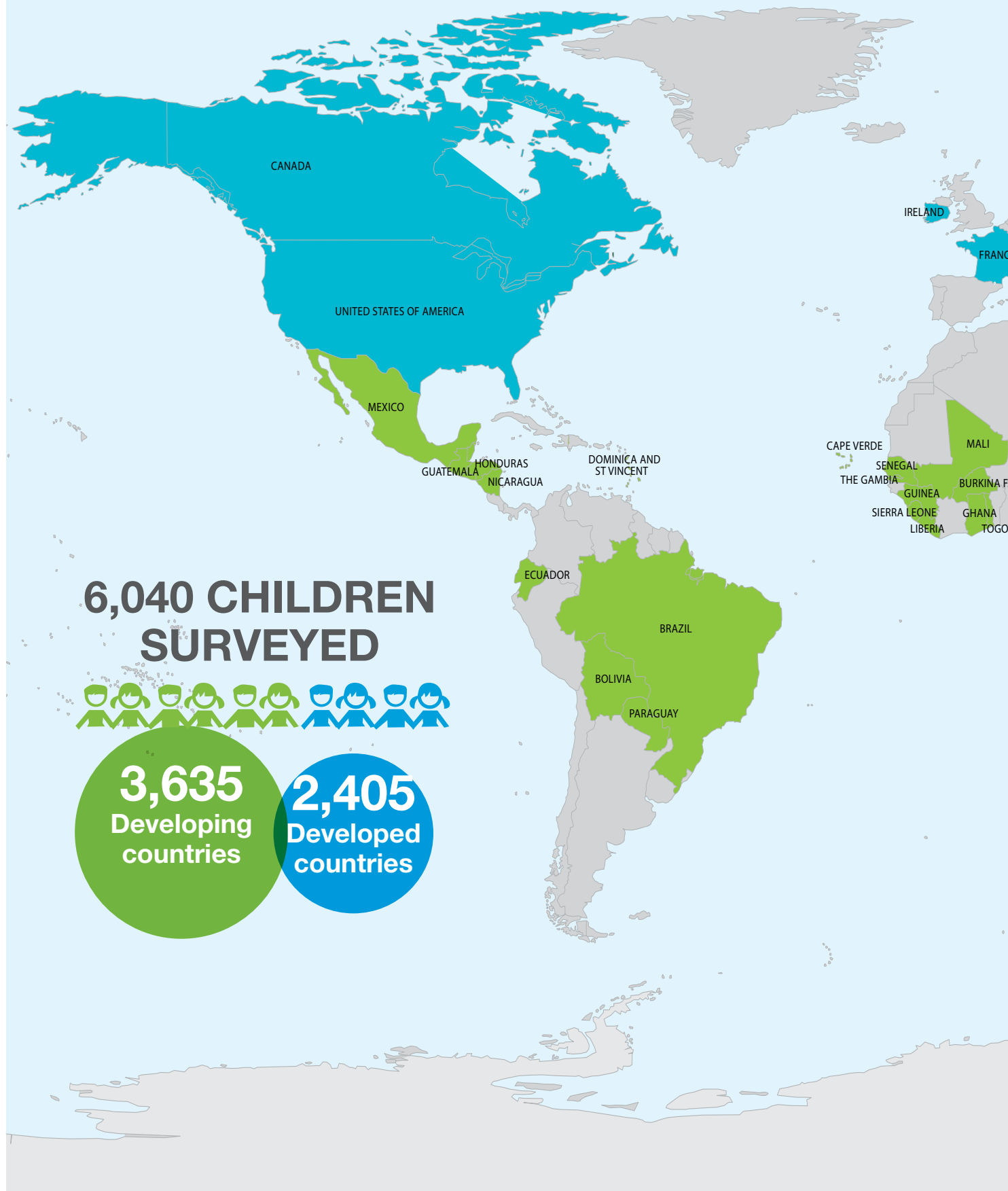
Disturbing too is that only 11% of children globally say they can give an opinion and adults will *always* take it seriously all of the time. In some countries, up to 70% of children say children are denied the right to attend school.

This is the fifth annual Small Voices, Big Dreams report published by the ChildFund Alliance. It captures the views of children aged 10-12 from 44 countries. This includes 34 developing nations in Africa, Asia and the Americas as well as 10 developed countries.

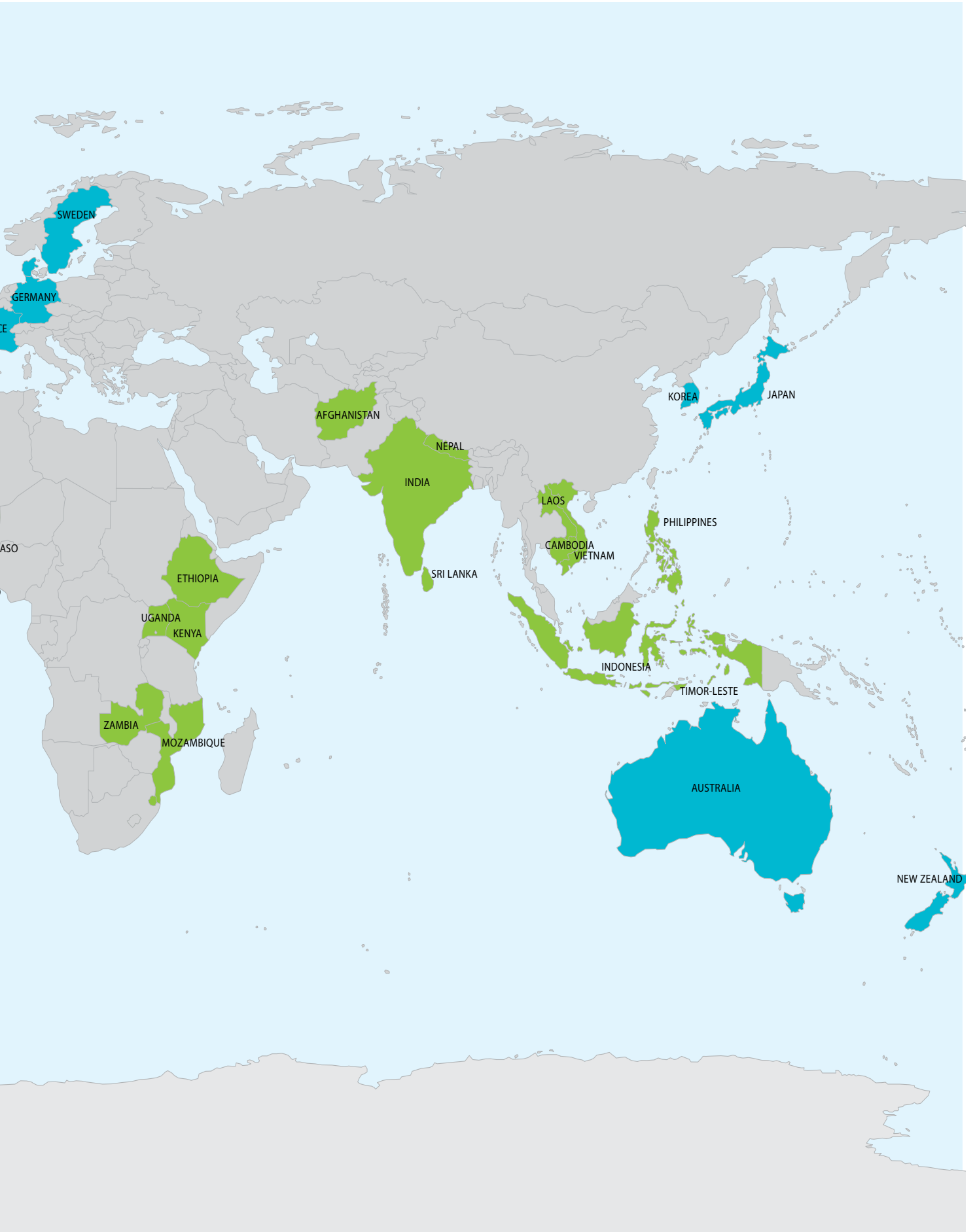
I am confident there is no other annual survey of children's views quite like it. It offers a rare opportunity to listen and learn. Should it also inspire you to act, please take a stand by visiting [www.freefromviolence.org](http://www.freefromviolence.org) and adding your signature to our petition to help create a world where children are free from violence and exploitation.

**Andrew Johnston**  
Interim Secretary-General  
ChildFund Alliance

# Global snapshot







# What do child rights mean to you?

Children's responses to this question are grouped according to the four themes in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: development, protection, participation and survival.

## DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

Globally, when asked this question, 52% of children mention one or more of the rights that are classified as a 'development' right in the UN Convention, with children in developing countries (60%) more likely to cite these than children in developed countries (40%).

### Access to school and quality education

Worldwide, children are most likely to think of access to school and education (32%) when asked what child rights mean. But this varies significantly between developing countries (40%) and developed countries (20%). It is most strongly endorsed by children surveyed from **Timor-Leste** (88%), **Afghanistan** (87%) and **Nepal** (74%), and compares with only 8% of children in the **USA**.

### The right to live, grow older and develop as a person

While only 5% of the world's children suggest the right to live, grow older and develop as a person, it is a frequent response in **Cambodia** (50%), **India** (28%) and **Vietnam** (25%).

### Access to entertainment and leisure

Globally, only 2% of children surveyed think of child rights in terms of access to entertainment and leisure, but it rates highly in **Vietnam** (42%), **Senegal** (22%) and **Brazil** (10%).

## PROTECTION RIGHTS

Nearly one-third of children in developing countries (29%) nominate one or more of the rights that fall under the theme of protection, compared with nearly one-quarter of children (24%) in developed nations.

### Protection from violence

The right to be protected from violence rates most highly among those children surveyed in **Afghanistan** (48%), **Cambodia** (39%), **Mozambique** (27%) and **Vietnam** (27%).



FARAH, 11



**MAMADOU, 10,** is from **Guinea** where 60% of children want the opportunity to build a better future.  
.....

**FARAH, 11,** is from **Germany** where 20% of children surveyed say child rights mean protection from child labour, slavery and exploitation.

“Child rights mean that children are allowed to be children, that they have the right to education, that they are not exposed to violence, that they can be happy and feel secure.”

**Farah, 11,**  
**Germany**





DARA, 12

**DANIELA, 11**, is from **Ecuador** where 34% of children define child rights as being treated with respect and without discrimination.

“For me the most important right is to be free and to be able to express opinions without fear.”

**DARA, 12**, is from **Cambodia**, where children surveyed say child rights means protection from violence (39%) and abuse (27%).

## PARTICIPATION RIGHTS

Children from developed countries are more likely to associate children’s rights with issues of participation (41%) than children in developing countries (32%).

### Freedom of speech and the right to be heard

Children from **Ireland** (32%), **Laos** (23%) and **France** (15%) are most likely to suggest freedom of speech and the right to be heard – a view more common in developed countries (11%) than developing countries (5%).

### Making my own choices and decisions

Children from developed countries are more likely to see this form of independence as a right (15%) than children from developing countries (5%). However, there were some exceptions, including children surveyed in **Zambia** (26%) and **Ghana** (22%).

### The right to participate in my community

When asked what child rights mean, only 1% of children in developed countries nominate participation in their community, but the concept resonates strongly in **Cambodia** (58%) and **Vietnam** (25%).

### The right to play and take part in sports

Playing and participating in sport are more commonly thought of as child rights by children in **Asia** (26%) than **Africa** (8%). Results are highest in **Timor-Leste** (77%), **Nepal** (44%) and **Japan** (38%).

“The right to protection means I should get attention from my parents, teachers and the people around me, to protect me from being hurt or from harmful things which could affect my body and mind.”

Dara, 12, Cambodia





DANIELA, 11

## What do child rights mean to you?

	ALL COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	AFRICA (DEVELOPING ONLY)	AMERICAS (DEVELOPING ONLY)	ASIA (DEVELOPING ONLY)
<b>DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>74%</b>
Access to school and quality education	32%	40%	20%	33%	29%	58%
Being treated with respect and without discrimination	9%	6%	13%	3%	16%	3%
A happy/comfortable life	6%	6%	6%	6%	7%	5%
The right to live, grow older and develop as a person	5%	7%	2%	3%	5%	15%
Access to life skills education	4%	5%	2%	4%	6%	5%
The right to love/affection	3%	3%	3%	2%	4%	3%
The opportunity to build a better future	2%	3%	1%	5%	2%	1%
Access to entertainment and leisure	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%	5%
<b>PROTECTION RIGHTS</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>29%</b>
Protection from violence	12%	13%	10%	11%	12%	17%
Protection from abuse	7%	7%	7%	6%	8%	7%
The right to be helped, supported and taken care of	6%	7%	5%	10%	7%	4%
Protection from child labour, slavery, child trafficking and exploitation	3%	3%	4%	2%	3%	3%





MANISH, 10

**ADELE, 10**, is from **Senegal** where children say rights mean improved child health (30%) and access to entertainment and leisure (22%).

“Children have the right to education, leisure and health.”

**MADDIE, 10**, is from **Australia** where 16% of children say child rights mean having a happy, comfortable life.

“To me child rights means that all children, even poor ones, have rights to do all the things that help kids learn and grow, like going to school and to be treated nicely.”

**MANISH, 10**, is from **Nepal** where 74% of children surveyed say child rights means access to school and quality education and 44% nominate the right to play and take part in sports.

## SURVIVAL RIGHTS

Nearly one-third of children globally nominate rights that relate to survival, with little difference between children in developing (28%) and developed (26%) countries.

### Enough nutritious food

Children surveyed in **Cambodia** (35%), **Ireland** (28%) and **India** (27%) are most likely to say access to healthy food is a right for children.



MADDIE, 10





ADELE, 10

## What do child rights mean to you?

	ALL COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	AFRICA (DEVELOPING ONLY)	AMERICAS (DEVELOPING ONLY)	ASIA (DEVELOPING ONLY)
<b>PARTICIPATION RIGHTS</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>48%</b>
The right to play and take part in sports	12%	16%	7%	8%	16%	26%
Making my own choices and decisions	9%	5%	15%	5%	4%	4%
Freedom of speech and the right to be heard	8%	5%	11%	3%	6%	7%
Freedom and liberty	8%	6%	11%	4%	10%	7%
The right to participate in my community	3%	4%	1%	0%	2%	11%
<b>SURVIVAL RIGHTS</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>28%</b>
Enough nutritious food	11%	10%	12%	10%	6%	13%
Access to basic rights	6%	5%	9%	3%	8%	3%
Proper shelter	5%	4%	7%	3%	5%	5%
Improvements to child health	5%	6%	2%	7%	6%	5%
The right to a name, family and nationality	4%	5%	2%	5%	6%	3%
Access to quality healthcare and hygienic conditions	3%	3%	2%	4%	1%	4%
Enough clean water	2%	0%	5%	0%	0%	1%



# Which rights for children are not being upheld in your country?

Almost one in five children surveyed from developed countries say there are no rights that children are being denied in their country (19%), compared with one in 20 children from developing countries (6%).

## DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

Globally, almost one in three children (28%) say one or more of children's development rights are not being supported.

### Access to school and time to study

Not having access to school and time to study is more commonly reported by children in developing countries (29%) than developed countries (4%).

Highest results came from **Burkina Faso** (70%), **Mozambique** (48%) and **Togo** (48%).

### Being treated with love, respect and without discrimination

Children from the Americas are most likely to say children in their country are not being treated with love, respect and without discrimination (13%), with the most striking responses from **Honduras** (30%), **Ecuador** (23%) and **Guatemala** (20%).

This is also a concern for children from **Vietnam** (20%), but less so in **Asia** generally (4%).



JUSEONG, 11





**JUSEONG, 11**, is from **Korea** where 33% of children say the right to protection from violence is not being upheld.

“The government doesn’t protect children from violence and bullying in the school.”

**DIEN, 10**, is from **Vietnam** where children surveyed are more likely to say that children are not protected from trafficking (11%) than children in other countries.

“I think children in my country are not totally protected from child kidnapping. I saw a case of child kidnapping in my village. A girl was caught by a very scary man. She cried a lot but nobody cared.”

**Dien, 10, Vietnam**



“There are children being raped and getting pregnant. There is no right to protection because gangs in our country violate those rights.”

**Elkin, 11, Honduras**



**ELKIN, 11**

## PROTECTION RIGHTS

Globally, about one-third (32%) of surveyed children say rights to protection are not being upheld. This issue is raised by more than half of participants in **Honduras** (60%), **Bolivia** (56%), **Philippines** (55%), **Cambodia** (52%), **Cape Verde** (52%) and **Brazil** (51%).

### Right to safety

Children in **Afghanistan** (46%), **Cambodia** (31%) and **Mali** (25%) are most likely to say children are denied their right to safety, in contrast to children in developed countries (3%).

### Protection from abuse, violence and murder

Equal proportions of children from developing and developed countries (15%) say children are not being protected from forms of violence, including abuse and murder. Results are highest in **Philippines** (34%), **Korea** (33%) and **Cape Verde** (29%).

### Labour, slavery and exploitation

Children from **Brazil** (24%), **Laos** (21%) and **Cape Verde** (21%) are most likely to say children are not being protected from child labour, slavery and exploitation, in contrast to children from developed countries (1%).

### Trafficking

Children surveyed in **Vietnam** (11%) and **Philippines** (8%) are most likely to say children are not being protected from trafficking.

### Psychological harm

In the **USA** and **Sweden** 10% of children say children in their country have inadequate protection from psychological abuse and bullies.

**ELKIN, 11**, is from **Honduras** the country where children are most likely to say rights to protection are not being upheld (60%).

**CATHERINE, 10**, is from **Burkina Faso** where 70% of children say the right to attend school is not being upheld. Here, 22% of children also say children are denied the right to a name and nationality.

“The right to education is not upheld in my country because some parents do not enrol their children in school. The right to an identity also is not upheld in my country because there are children who do not have a birth certificate.”

**Catherine, 10, Burkina Faso**





CATHERINE, 10

## Which rights for children are not being upheld in your country?

	ALL COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	AFRICA (DEVELOPING ONLY)	AMERICAS (DEVELOPING ONLY)	ASIA (DEVELOPING ONLY)
<b>PROTECTION RIGHTS</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>38%</b>
Protection from abuse, violence and murder	15%	15%	15%	14%	18%	14%
General protection and safety	6%	9%	3%	7%	6%	13%
Protection from child labour, slavery and exploitation	6%	10%	1%	9%	12%	8%
Protection from psychological abuse and bullying	3%	2%	5%	1%	3%	3%
Right to family, proper care or support	3%	3%	3%	2%	6%	3%
Protection from robbery, kidnapping and abduction	1%	1%	2%	0%	0%	2%
Ban smoking/drug/alcohol use	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%	2%
Protection from child trafficking	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%
<b>DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>32%</b>
Access to school and time to study	19%	29%	4%	34%	31%	21%
Being treated with love, respect and without discrimination	5%	5%	5%	2%	13%	4%
Books, libraries and other educational resources	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	2%
Freedom of movement and travel	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%
Ability to grow/develop	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%

EDY, 11



## PARTICIPATION RIGHTS

More children from developing countries (18%) than developed nations (10%) say children's rights to participate are not being upheld.

### Freedom of speech and the right to be heard

Children surveyed in **Togo** (38%), **Ghana** (31%), **Senegal** (22%) and **Cambodia** (22%) are most likely to say that rights to freedom of speech and to be heard are not being met.

## SURVIVAL RIGHTS

Almost one-quarter of children in developing countries say the rights to survival are not being upheld (24%), compared with 13% of children in developed countries.

### Enough nutritious food

Children who most often say that the right to adequate nutritious food is not being upheld live in **Afghanistan** (23%) and **Burkina Faso** (19%). In developed countries, it is most commonly raised by children in **Ireland** (13%) and **New Zealand** (12%).

### Proper shelter

Children surveyed from the **Americas** are more likely to say children are denied proper shelter (13%), compared to **Asia** (1%) and **Africa** (2%). The highest results come from **Honduras** (41%) and **Paraguay** (24%).

**AISHA, 10**, is from **Mexico** where 19% of children surveyed say in their country children are not protected from abuse, violence and murder. A further 18% say children are not treated with love or respect, and experience discrimination.

**EDY, 11**, is from **Cape Verde** where 21% of children say protection from child labour, slavery and exploitation is not being upheld.

Children from developing countries are more likely than those in developed countries to say participation rights are not supported.



AISHA, 10



## Which rights for children are not being upheld in your country?

	ALL COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	AFRICA (DEVELOPING ONLY)	AMERICAS (DEVELOPING ONLY)	ASIA (DEVELOPING ONLY)
<b>SURVIVAL RIGHTS</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>12%</b>
Enough nutritious food and clean water	6%	7%	6%	8%	7%	5%
Proper shelter	4%	5%	3%	2%	13%	1%
Improvements to child health	4%	6%	0%	7%	10%	2%
Enough warm clothes	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%	0%
The right to life	2%	2%	1%	1%	6%	1%
Access to quality health care and hygienic conditions	2%	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%
The right to a name and nationality	2%	4%	1%	4%	5%	1%
<b>PARTICIPATION RIGHTS</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>21%</b>
Freedom of speech and the right to be heard	7%	9%	4%	10%	6%	10%
Right to play and take part in sports	4%	6%	1%	4%	6%	8%
Right to make own choices, to vote, to privacy and freedom	3%	2%	4%	2%	3%	2%
Freedom of religion and right to worship	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%



# Children have the right to give their own opinion and for adults to take it seriously. How often, do you think, this is happening in your country?

Globally, only 11% of children surveyed say children in their country have the right to express an opinion, and that adults take it seriously, always.

Almost one in three children surveyed in developing countries (28%) say the opinion of children is never or rarely heard and taken seriously, compared to 18% in developed nations.

## Always or often

Children who feel they can always or often say what they think and have adults take it seriously are more likely to live in developed countries (36%) than developing (26%).

Significant exceptions are **Honduras** (59%), **Cambodia** (54%) and **Ethiopia** (42%).

Of children from developed countries, those surveyed in **Sweden** (50%), **France** (49%) and **Korea** (46%) are most likely to say that children are always or often heard and taken seriously, in contrast with those in **USA** (22%).

## Rarely or never

Globally, almost one-quarter (24%) of children surveyed say the opinions of children in their country are rarely or never heard and taken seriously by adults.

Children from **Africa** are the most likely to say this (35%), particularly in **Mali** (86%) and **Togo** (60%). More than two-thirds of children in **Afghanistan** (69%) also say children are rarely or never heard and taken seriously by adults.

**DER, 12**, is from **Laos** where only 8% of children surveyed feel children are heard and taken seriously always or often.

"I have no right to say anything or bargain."



**DER, 12**





SONI, 11

**SONI, 11**, is from **India** where almost one-third (29%) of children say children's opinions are heard and respected never or rarely.

"In schools, teachers hardly listen to our opinions. They hardly provide us a space to express our views relating to school management, midday meal, homework and so on."

.....  
**EBBA, 11**, is from **Sweden** where the highest number of children globally say that children are heard and listened to often (42%).



EBBA, 11

"Our student council speaks up for the will of the students. For example, we managed to make the school ground more fun. The school invested in swings, slides and balls after we had expressed our wishes. I like that."

**Ebba, 11, Sweden**





MARIA, 10

**RAMATOLIE, 11**, is from **The Gambia** where 25% of children surveyed say adults listen and take children seriously all the time or often.

**MARIA, 10**, is from **Bolivia** where 20% of children surveyed say children can always or often express opinions that adults take seriously.

“It is important that children have their opinion and tell it. They have to say what they think.”

**KAMRAN, 10**, is from **Afghanistan** where 69% of children say adults never take the opinions of children seriously.

“Children should not talk in front of elders because we should respect our elders and, while they are talking, children should not interfere. Children are not given an opportunity to share opinions.”



KAMRAN, 10

RAMATOULIE, 11



“Give the children a chance for their voices to be heard.”

Ramatoulie, 11,  
The Gambia

**Children have the right to give their own opinion and for adults to take it seriously. How often, do you think, this is happening in your country?**

	ALL COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	AFRICA (DEVELOPING ONLY)	AMERICAS (DEVELOPING ONLY)	ASIA (DEVELOPING ONLY)
<b>All the time</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>11%</b>
Often	19%	14%	27%	10%	11%	21%
Sometimes	43%	44%	41%	44%	46%	43%
Rarely	16%	17%	15%	21%	13%	13%
Never	8%	11%	3%	14%	7%	10%



# Children have the right to be protected from being hurt or mistreated, in body and mind. How often, do you think, are children being protected from being hurt or mistreated in your country?

Globally, only 16% of children surveyed say children in their country are always protected from physical or psychological mistreatment. Almost one-fifth of the world's children (19%) say children are protected only rarely or never.

## Always or often

When it comes to being mistreated, children from developed countries are far more likely to say the children are protected always or often (57%), compared to children from developing countries (33%). More children in **Asia** say children are always or often protected (41%) than children in the **Americas** (31%) or **Africa** (29%).

Countries where children are least likely to report always or often being protected are **Liberia** (4%), **Laos** (7%), **Paraguay** (9%), **Mali** (12%), **Ghana** (12%) and **Guatemala** (12%). In contrast is the response from children surveyed in **Germany** (67%), **Afghanistan** (67%), **Canada** (64%) and **Ireland** (63%).

## Rarely or never

Children from developing countries are more likely to say children are protected rarely or never (24%) than children in developed countries (11%) with results higher in **Africa** (27%) than in **Asia** (18%), particularly in **Mali** (60%) and **Liberia** (49%). Almost half of children surveyed in **Guatemala** (46%) also say children are rarely or never protected from physical or psychological abuse.

BAYARDO, 11



WATSOMBE, 11





**BAYARDO, 11**, is from **Nicaragua** where 9% of children surveyed report that children are always protected from being hurt or mistreated and 32% say they are never protected.

“Adults mistreat children and many times even humiliate them. That is worse than physical blows, because it really affects the children and does not allow them to move forward.”

.....  
**RINDY, 12**, is from **Indonesia**. Here, 48% of children surveyed say children are always or often protected, while 26% say rarely or never.

.....  
**WATSOMBE, 11**, is from **Uganda** where 33% of children report that children are rarely or never protected.



RINDY, 12





FAZIL, 12



JANIK, 11



SAHAR, 12

“Many boys and girls have been mistreated by their parents. Children should no longer be abused. If I was leader, I would help abused children and advise them on their education.”

**Jesus, 12, Guatemala**



**JESUS, 12**, is from **Guatemala**, where 12% of children say children in their country are protected always or often.

**SAHAR, 12**, is from **Afghanistan**, where 67% of children surveyed say they are always or often protected from harm, but 46% say children's right to general protection and safety is not being met.

"Children are not protected because many children die in suicide bombs and many children are doing heavy works in workshops and brick factory which harm their health."

**JANIK, 11**, is from **Dominica & St Vincent**, where 20% say children in their country are always protected and 5% say they are never protected.

"I don't know these children, but I hear about child abuse where uncles and brothers and even fathers rape their children and the mothers hide it and don't say anything. Sometimes the mothers even send those girls to the men so they can bring money home and nobody is strong enough to help that girl, not even the police. It is not fair."

**FAZIL, 12**, is from **Sri Lanka**, where 16% of children surveyed say children are always protected and 6% say they are never protected.

JESUS, 12



**Children have the right to be protected from being hurt or mistreated, in body and mind. How often, do you think, are children being protected from being hurt or mistreated in your country?**

	ALL COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	AFRICA (DEVELOPING ONLY)	AMERICAS (DEVELOPING ONLY)	ASIA (DEVELOPING ONLY)
<b>All the time</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>16%</b>
Often	27%	20%	38%	19%	16%	25%
Sometimes	34%	40%	27%	39%	42%	38%
Rarely	14%	17%	9%	21%	12%	14%
Never	5%	7%	2%	6%	11%	4%



## Children have the right to protection from work that harms them and is bad for their health and education. How often, do you think, are children being protected from doing work that is harmful in your country?

Almost one in three children surveyed in developing countries (28%) say children are never or rarely protected from harmful work, compared to 8% of their peers in developed countries.

### Always or often

Relatively few children from **Ghana** (4%), **Laos** (10%), **Nicaragua** (13%) and **Guatemala** (13%) say children are always or often protected from work that harms their health or education.

Of children surveyed in developed countries, those from **Ireland** (85%), **Sweden** (84%) and **Japan** (81%) are most likely to report children in their country being protected always or often, in contrast with children from the **USA** (40%) and globally (46%).

### Rarely or never

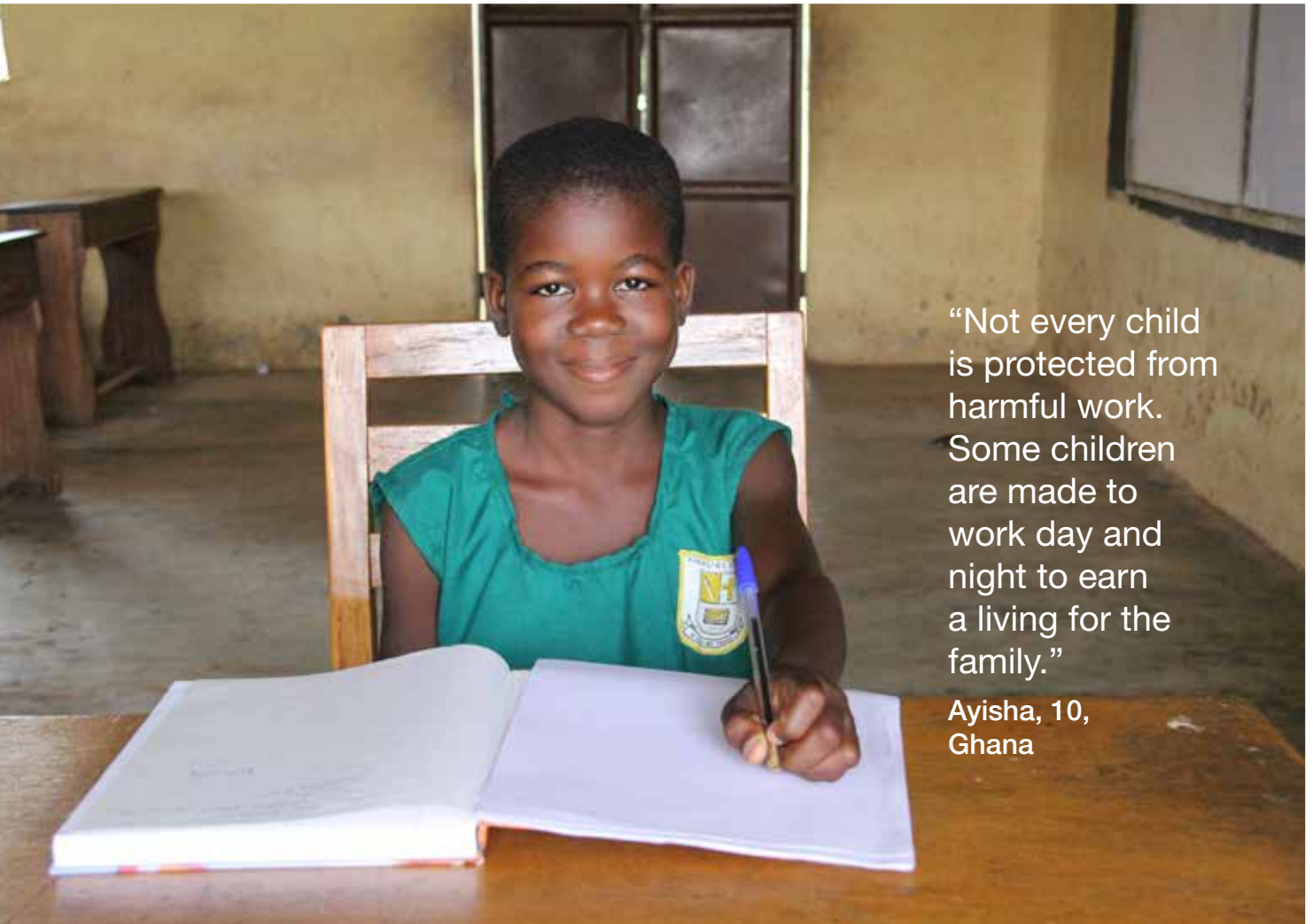
Children from **Nicaragua** (62%), **Mali** (61%) and **Paraguay** (55%) are most likely to think children are rarely or never protected from harmful work, compared with 20% globally.

AMALE, 12



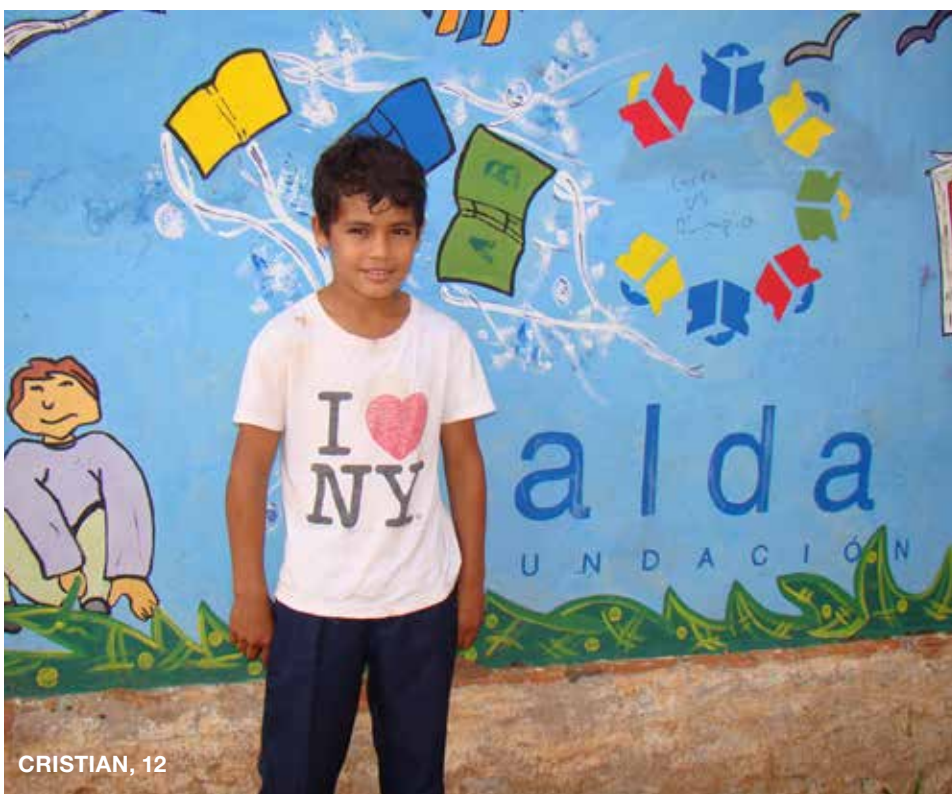
**AMALE, 12**, is from **Togo** where 7% of children say children are always protected from harmful work.

“At the school, we are now free from forced manual works as the teachers have been sensitised about it.”



“Not every child is protected from harmful work. Some children are made to work day and night to earn a living for the family.”

Ayisha, 10,  
Ghana



CRISTIAN, 12

**AYISHA, 10,** is from **Ghana** where only 3% say children are always protected from harmful work, while 33% say they are rarely protected.

**CRISTIAN, 12,** is from **Paraguay** where 49% of children surveyed say children are never protected from harmful work.

“Children should be given love, a house and food. Where I used to live there were many children who worked and some even smoked.”



## Small Voices, Big Dreams 2014

**ZERAY, 11**, is from **Ethiopia** where 5% of children surveyed say they are always protected from harmful work.

.....

**WILLIAM, 12**, is from **France** where 54% of children say they are always protected from harmful work – the highest response globally.

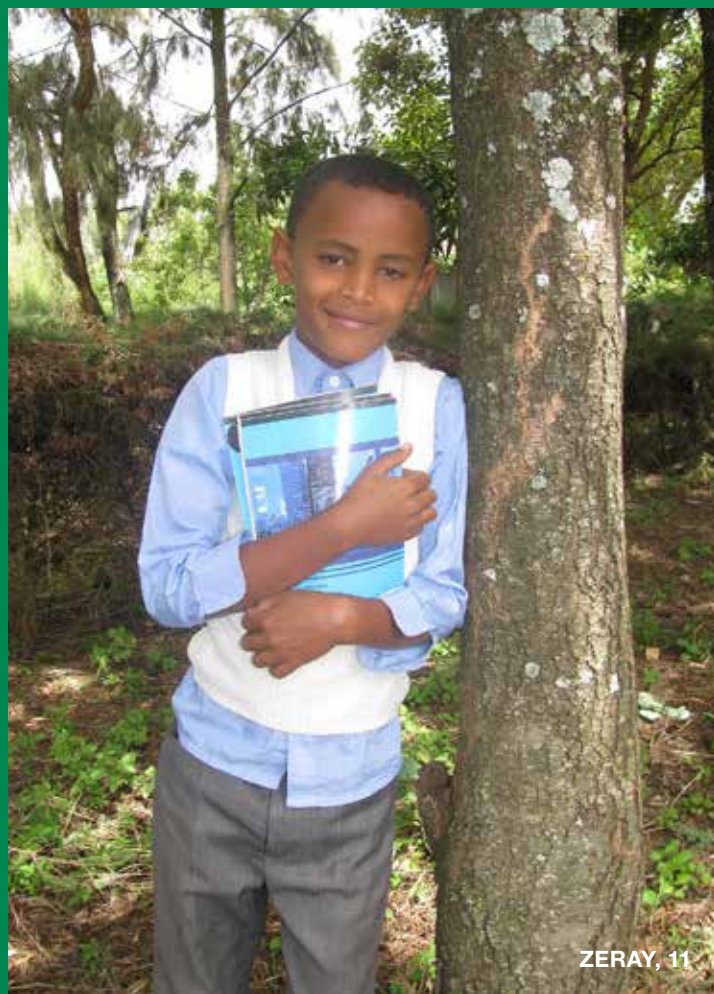
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**ROKIA, 12**, is from **Mali** where 5% say children are always protected from harmful work, 32% say rarely protected and 29% never protected.

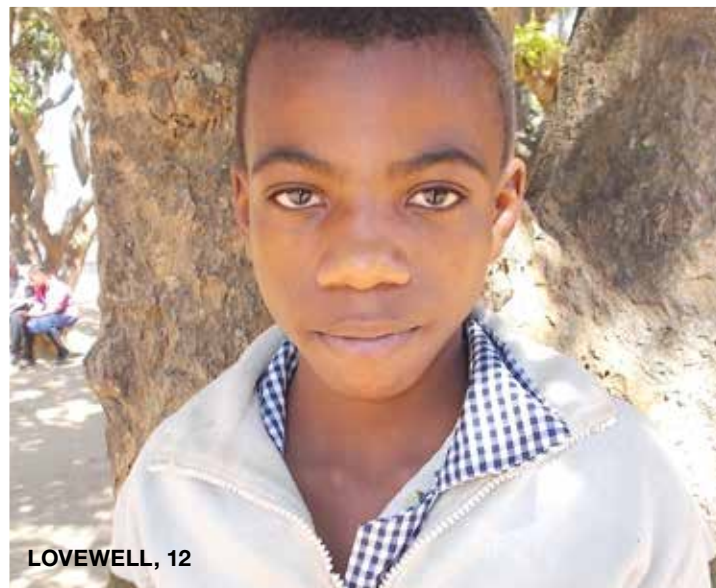
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**WILLIAM, 12**



**ZERAY, 11**



**LOVEWELL, 12**

**LOWEWELL, 12**, is from **Zambia** where 26% of children surveyed say children are protected from harmful work always or often.

“Here children are involved in sand mining, so they are not protected, because a lot of them suffer from coughing as a result of sand mining.”



ROKIA, 12



Children have the right to protection from work that harms them and is bad for their health and education. How often, do you think, are children being protected from doing work that is harmful in your country?

“Children are forced to do some jobs.”

Rokia, 12, Mali

	ALL COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	AFRICA (DEVELOPING ONLY)	AMERICAS (DEVELOPING ONLY)	ASIA (DEVELOPING ONLY)
<b>All the time</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>16%</b>
Often	24%	18%	32%	17%	14%	24%
Sometimes	28%	37%	14%	41%	36%	33%
Rarely	13%	18%	6%	20%	16%	15%
Never	7%	10%	2%	8%	17%	7%



# If you were the leader of your country, what would you do to improve the lives of children?

Globally, as leaders, the children surveyed would most likely improve education and learning opportunities and provide technology (39%), a view held more strongly in developing countries (51%) than developed countries (20%). Ranking second globally is providing safety and security (24%), followed by providing food, clothing and shelter (20%).

## Improve education and learning

Top results for improving education and learning come from **Cambodia** (80%), **Nepal** (73%), **Sri Lanka** (72%) and **India** (72%). Education is a focus for fewer children in **France** (7%), **Germany** (18%) and the **USA** (18%).

## Provide food, clothing and shelter

Providing food, clothing and shelter is a priority for children surveyed in **Paraguay** (58%), **Honduras** (51%), **Cambodia** (45%) and **Nicaragua** (44%).

## Improve healthcare

Improving healthcare rates most highly among children in **Burkina Faso** (43%) and **Senegal** (40%), in contrast with children from developed countries (4%).

## More spaces for sport and recreation

More sport and recreation space is important to improving the lives of children, according to children surveyed in **India** (28%), **Nicaragua** (27%) and **Cambodia** (24%).



ELSA, 12



JOAO, 10





CHARLOTTE, 11

**ELSA, 12**, is from **Mozambique** where 27% of children surveyed say, as national leaders, they would improve healthcare and 26% would provide safety and security.

“I would do everything possible to protect children and make sure that parents do not ill-treat their children.”

**CHARLOTTE, 11**, is from **Canada** where 17% of children will improve safety and security.

“If I was the leader, when people drove across the border, I would check the vehicles for guns and any harmful weapons. I would also add more crosswalk guards. I would also do more food drives to help with hunger. Girls should be able to be on the same teams as boys.”

**JOAO, 10**, is from **Brazil** where 59% of surveyed children say they would improve education and 32% would provide food, clothing and shelter.

“I would improve the rights of children and welcome every abandoned child.”

**BELINDA, 12**, is from **Kenya** where 63% of children would improve education and learning and provide technology and 21% would provide food, clothing and shelter.

“I would take criminals to jail.”

BELINDA, 12





JACK, 11



### Provide safety and security

As national leaders, children from developed countries (28%) are more likely than those in developing nations (22%) to prioritise safety and security in order to improve children's lives. It is a priority for children in **Laos** (60%), **France** (53%) and **The Philippines** (47%).

### Address poverty, inequality and help children and families

Children from the **Americas** (15%) and **Asia** (13%) are more likely than children from **Africa** (9%) to prioritise, as leaders, poverty and inequality and help children and families. Results were much the same across developed (13%) and developing (12%) countries, with higher rating given to this priority in **Vietnam** (41%), **Senegal** (25%) and **Cambodia** (24%).

### Strengthen infrastructure and improve transport

Improving infrastructure and transport resonates more in **Asia** (8%) than globally (4%). It is mentioned by nearly half of children surveyed in **Afghanistan** (46%), and smaller proportions of children in **India** (18%), **Ghana** (12%) and **Ireland** (10%).

### Change social/political problems or policies

As country leaders, children from developed countries (17%) are more likely to say they would change social or political problems or policies than those from developing nations (12%). The highest responses for this priority came from **Ireland** (29%), **Burkina Faso** (26%), **Brazil** (26%), **Ethiopia** (25%), **Mexico** (25%) and **Australia** (25%).

**JACK, 11**, is from **Ireland** where 36% of children surveyed say that as leader they would provide food, clothing and shelter, and 35% would provide safety and security.

"I would clean up everything, get rid of smoking because second-hand smoke is bad for your lungs. I'd get better schools and stop the people going around with guns and bombs. Instead of sending a guy with guns to jail for a few months, I would send them away for a few years."

**DEVI, 11**, is from **Nepal**, where 73% of children would improve education and learning.

"I would provide scholarships for the children."

DEVI, 11



## If you were the leader of your country, what would you do to improve the lives of children?

	ALL COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	AFRICA (DEVELOPING ONLY)	AMERICAS (DEVELOPING ONLY)	ASIA (DEVELOPING ONLY)
Improve education and learning and provide technology	39%	51%	20%	52%	43%	58%
Provide safety and security	24%	22%	28%	17%	27%	24%
Provide food, clothing and shelter	20%	22%	17%	21%	32%	16%
Change social/political problems or policies	14%	12%	17%	10%	17%	10%
Address poverty, inequity and help children and families	12%	12%	13%	9%	15%	13%
Improve healthcare	9%	13%	4%	15%	11%	10%
Provide more spaces for sport and recreation	8%	9%	6%	7%	10%	9%
Strengthen infrastructure and improve transport	4%	5%	2%	5%	2%	8%
Listen to children	3%	1%	6%	1%	2%	1%





## Methodology

The Small Voices, Big Dreams survey was undertaken by the ChildFund Alliance during May-July 2014. In most countries, ChildFund staff conducted one-on-one interviews with children in their local language. In some countries, children completed an online survey.

All non-English responses were translated by ChildFund. While every effort has been made to preserve the authenticity of the children's quotes presented in this report, some minor editing may have occurred in translation.

The survey was conducted in 44 countries with children aged 10 to 12. This included 34 developing nations in Africa, Asia and the Americas as well as 10 developed countries. A total of 6,040 children were surveyed – 3,635 children in developing countries and 2,405 children in developed nations.

Three of the six questions were open-ended, meaning the children were not given a list of answers to choose from. The remaining questions provided children with multiple choice responses. All translated responses were provided to GfK Roper for analysis.

For the open-ended questions, we have adopted the United Nations approach to group rights into four themes: survival, development, protection and participation.

Children from Japan taking part in Small Voices, Big Dreams 2014.

**RESPONDENTS BY AGE & GENDER**

	ALL COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	AFRICA (DEVELOPING ONLY)	AMERICAS (DEVELOPING ONLY)	ASIA (DEVELOPING ONLY)
Male	48%	48%	48%	48%	48%	49%
Female	52%	52%	52%	52%	52%	51%
Children aged 10 years	31%	33%	29%	34%	39%	26%
Children aged 11 years	34%	31%	38%	28%	30%	34%
Children aged 12 years	35%	37%	33%	37%	31%	40%
Total responses	6,040	3,635	2,405	1,590	923	1,122

**DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

	TOTAL RESPONSES	% OF TOTAL
Australia	202	3%
Canada	403	7%
France	424	7%
Germany	127	2%
Ireland	100	2%
Japan	205	4%
Korea	106	2%
New Zealand	614	10%
Sweden	113	2%
USA	111	2%

**ASIA: DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ONLY**

	TOTAL RESPONSES	% OF TOTAL
Afghanistan	100	2%
Cambodia	113	2%
India	100	2%
Indonesia	102	2%
Laos	100	2%
Nepal	111	2%
Philippines	131	2%
Sri Lanka	151	3%
Timor-Leste	101	2%
Vietnam	113	2%

**AFRICA: DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ONLY**

	TOTAL RESPONSES	% OF TOTAL
Burkina Faso	100	2%
Cape Verde	104	2%
Ethiopia	104	2%
Ghana	107	2%
Guinea	102	2%
Kenya	100	2%
Liberia	117	2%
Mali	142	2%
Mozambique	104	2%
Senegal	100	2%
Sierra Leone	101	2%
The Gambia	100	2%
Togo	109	2%
Uganda	100	2%
Zambia	100	2%

**AMERICAS: DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ONLY**

	TOTAL RESPONSES	% OF TOTAL
Bolivia	109	2%
Brazil	104	2%
Dominica & St Vincent	101	2%
Ecuador	103	2%
Guatemala	102	2%
Honduras	102	2%
Mexico	101	2%
Nicaragua	101	2%
Paraguay	100	2%





All children have  
the right to live  
#freefromviolence.

free<sup>B</sup>

[www.freefromviolence.org](http://www.freefromviolence.org)