

# The free charters

Children's priorities  
for the post-2015  
development agenda





## About ChildFund Alliance

ChildFund Alliance is a worldwide alliance of 12 children's development organisations working in 58 countries to improve the lives of vulnerable and excluded children, helping them overcome poverty and achieve their rights. Find more information at [www.childfundalliance.org](http://www.childfundalliance.org).

Published by

ChildFund Alliance  
211 East 43rd Street, Suite 1402  
New York, NY 10017

First published in 2014  
© ChildFund Alliance

ChildFund Alliance is a Virginia Nonstock Corporation organized exclusively for charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and incorporated in the state of Virginia.

## Acknowledgements

This report would have not been possible without the commitment and hard work of many individuals across ChildFund Alliance and beyond. We specially thank the following countries for facilitating the consultations and documenting children's aspirations, opinions and views:

Afghanistan, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Dominica, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Mali, Mexico, Mozambique, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nepal, Paraguay, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Korea, Sri Lanka, The Gambia, Timor Leste, Togo, Uganda, United States, Vietnam, and Zambia.

**Lead editor:** Felipe Cala

**Contributing editors:** Andrew Johnson, Sarah Stevenson, and Avril MacDonald

# Table of contents

<b>Executive summary</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>About this report</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Major themes and priorities coming out of the consultations with children</b>	
The Millennium Development Goals	8
Violence against children	10
Quality in education and health for all, and other priorities	12
A clean and safe environment	13
Awareness raising, education, laws and protection from violence as key areas for Governments	15
Monitoring and indicators	18
<b>The free charters from children</b>	
<b>Africa</b>	20
<b>The Americas</b>	40
<b>Asia Pacific</b>	49
<b>Europe</b>	66
<b>Annexes</b>	
List of participating countries	69
Coding explanation	70

# Executive Summary

As the United Nations and Governments from around the world converge at the UN General Assembly to discuss and define the next set of global priorities to eradicate poverty and attain sustainable development, children's participation must be central. It is imperative that children's views are listened to and acted upon, as it will be they who will be living with and inheriting the choices made by world leaders today.

For the past few years, the world has seen unprecedented efforts on the part of Governments, UN entities and civil society to reach out to citizens and communities across countries and regions. In the UN-led processes alone, more than 3 million citizens, including children and young people, from throughout the world have had the opportunity to express their views and state their priorities for the next generation of development goals.

Building upon these ongoing efforts, ChildFund Alliance is committed to amplifying the voices of children, particularly the most vulnerable and excluded, so they can reach Governments and decision-makers in capitals and at the UN. In 2013, ChildFund Alliance, as part of its *Small Voices, Big Dreams* initiative, conducted 6,500 one-on-one interviews with children in 47 countries, asking them to rank what is important for them and their families, according to the MY World survey, and what they wanted world leaders to do about violence against children.<sup>1</sup>

In addition, ChildFund Alliance undertook a series of focus group discussions in 41 countries, engaging over 1,300 children, to gather their views on the issues of violence and exploitation, and their place in the next set of global priorities, which were published in a report last year.

The current report presents the results of an additional round of over 50

consultations held in 40 countries and engaging over 2,300 children, who came together to discuss their aspirations and priorities for the future of sustainable development. We asked children the following questions:

1. What priorities do you think should remain the same in the next priorities for the world?
2. What priorities do you think should be added to the next priorities for the world?
3. If you could do one thing to improve the natural environment, what would you do?
4. What do you want leaders in your country to do about these issues?
5. How do you think all this should be measured?

After discussing these questions in groups and in plenary, children were asked to elect two peer representatives to draft – with the aid of the facilitator – a children's charter on the post-2015 development agenda, which ChildFund Alliance then collated and analysed. These are all included in this report.

Children's priorities and views are very clear, cutting across countries and regions:

- The efforts that began with the MDGs should not be brought to a halt, and all current priorities should be carried forward in the next development framework.

- Violence against children is one of the issues that was not included in the MDGs and should be prioritized by the post-2015 development agenda. In 82% of participating countries, children indicated this was one of the priorities that should be added to the next development framework, with specific calls for ending bullying, child labour, child marriage, child trafficking, corporal punishment, female genital mutilation and cutting, children associated with armed forces or groups, and violence in schools.
- Quality and universality in education and healthcare are also important to children. Children want the MDGs on education and health to go further, and for Governments to ensure that everyone – males and females, children and adults – can benefit from good quality education and healthcare systems.
- Children want more trees planted than cut; they want less use of toxic materials and more recycling; they want less greenhouse emissions and cleaner air.
- Children want to be involved in the monitoring of the next generation of development goals, and are aware of the importance of measuring progress at the local level, and with the direct engagement of the communities.



Children across countries suggested different indicators to measure and monitor progress for the post-2015 development agenda. These indicators include:

**Overarching indicators:**

- Media coverage of issues
- Awareness levels at community level
- Existence of budgets and implementation plans

**Indicators on children’s engagement and participation:**

- Children who grow up to be productive citizens
- Children involved in the decisions that affect their lives

**Indicators on violence against children:**

- Violence and conflict in communities
- Existence of campaigns to prevent violence against children
- Cases of violence against children
- Punishment of perpetrators of violence against children

**Indicators on education:**

- Schools in the community
- Children enrolled in school
- Girls enrolled in school
- Test scores for children
- Children who complete secondary school
- Trained teachers in classrooms
- Cases of corruption in schools
- Adults who can read and write

**Indicators on health:**

- Hospitals built
- Availability of medicines in health facilities
- Women dying at childbirth
- Deaths of children from treatable diseases

**Indicators on employment:**

- People who are employed
- Young people who cannot find a job after graduation

**Indicators on fulfilment of basic needs:**

- Level of income in the community
- Households with enough food
- People with access to electricity
- People with access to clean drinking water
- Children who have a home

**Indicators on environmental protection:**

- Planted trees
- Rate of abusive tree-cutting
- Reduction in deforestation

<sup>1</sup> MY World is a UN global survey for citizens. Working with partners, the aim is to capture people’s voices, priorities and views, so they reach world leaders as they define the next set of global development goals. As of August 2014, more than 3,000,000 had participated.

# Demographic breakdown of consultations

## Africa

16  
COUNTRIES

Country	Girls	Boys	Total
Benin	14	14	28
Burkina Faso	69	55	124
Cape Verde	28	24	52
Ethiopia	53	28	81
Gambia	30	30	60
Ghana	35	25	60
Guinea	26	24	60
Kenya	21	21	42
Liberia	23	17	40
Mali	24	24	48
Mozambique	18	24	42
Senegal	33	29	62
Sierra Leone	27	20	47
Togo	19	20	39
Uganda	13	15	28
Zambia	106	91	197

Girls 539	Boys 471	Total 1,010
--------------	-------------	----------------

## Asia Pacific

14  
COUNTRIES

Country	Girls	Boys	Total
Afghanistan	25	25	50
Cambodia	42	31	73
India	68	50	118
Indonesia	23	22	45
Japan	10	4	14
Kyrgyzstan	34	28	62
New Zealand	2	1	3
Nepal	35	24	59
Papua New Guinea	19	25	44
Philippines	38	35	73
South Korea	25	28	53
Sri Lanka	16	14	30
Timor Leste	30	25	55
Vietnam	41	34	75

Girls 408	Boys 346	Total 754
--------------	-------------	--------------

## The Americas

8  
COUNTRIES

Country	Girls	Boys	Total
Bolivia	15	11	26
Dominica	28	26	54
Guatemala	75	55	130
Honduras	21	22	43
Mexico	15	17	32
Nicaragua	34	29	63
Paraguay	40	30	70
United States	18	27	45

Girls 246	Boys 217	Total 463
--------------	-------------	--------------

## Europe

2  
COUNTRIES

Country	Girls	Boys	Total
Belarus	26	22	48
Ireland	39	21	60

Girls 65	Boys 43	Total 108
-------------	------------	--------------

# About this report

Children's participation in the decisions that affect their lives is not only a right, but also a general principle and part of the general measures of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The purpose of this report is to amplify the voices of boys and girls in the agenda-setting process for the post-2015 development framework, seeking to ensure that their views are actively listened to and taken into account.

This report is based on first-hand information that over 2,300 children shared during consultations in 40 countries across **Africa**, the **Americas**, **Asia Pacific** and **Europe**. To conduct and guide these consultations, local facilitators asked the following questions:

1. What priorities do you think should remain the same in the next priorities for the world?
2. What priorities do you think should be added to the next priorities for the world?
3. If you could do one thing to improve the natural environment, what would you do?
4. What do you want leaders in your country to do about these issues?
5. How do you think all this should be measured?

The information gathered during the consultations was later coded to obtain quantifiable results. The charts in the first section indicate in what percentage of countries children raised a particular issue.

The selection of countries was based on those where ChildFund Alliance works. The ethical and meaningful participation of boys and girls was ensured as per international standards and best practices, including General Comment No.12, which

enabled children to express their opinion and develop their recommendations.<sup>2</sup>

To ensure that consultations were conducted in a safe and inclusive environment and to support the facilitators the following documents were shared:

- a concept note
- a facilitators' guide
- a consultation session plan
- a child-friendly PowerPoint presentation on the MDGs and the post-2015 development agenda
- a list of open-ended questions
- all the necessary consent forms for children and their caregivers
- a documentation and reporting guideline
- a suggested template for children to draft their charters

Additionally, the facilitators were provided with guidance and feedback, as and when needed, to successfully conduct the consultations and collate the information.

This report is divided into two main parts: The first part consists of a quantitative analysis of the qualitative data that was gathered during more than 50 consultations. The second part includes the outcomes of these consultations, in the shape of children's charters drafted by peer-elected representatives.

Additionally, Annex 1 includes a list of all participating countries; and Annex 2, information on how outcomes from the consultations were coded to conduct the quantitative analysis.

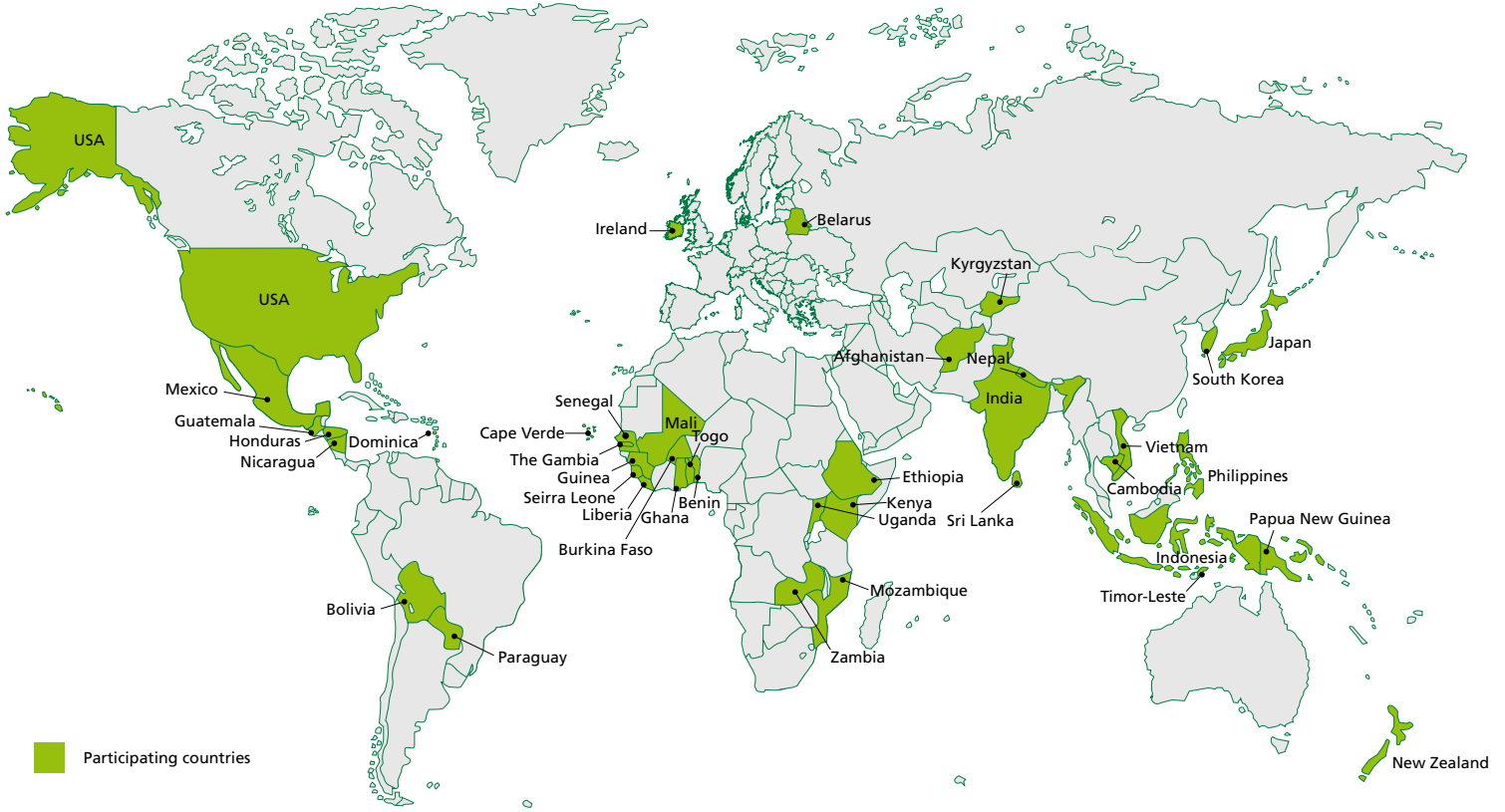


<sup>2</sup> The General Comment No. 12 of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child is the Committee's interpretation on the right of the child to be heard.

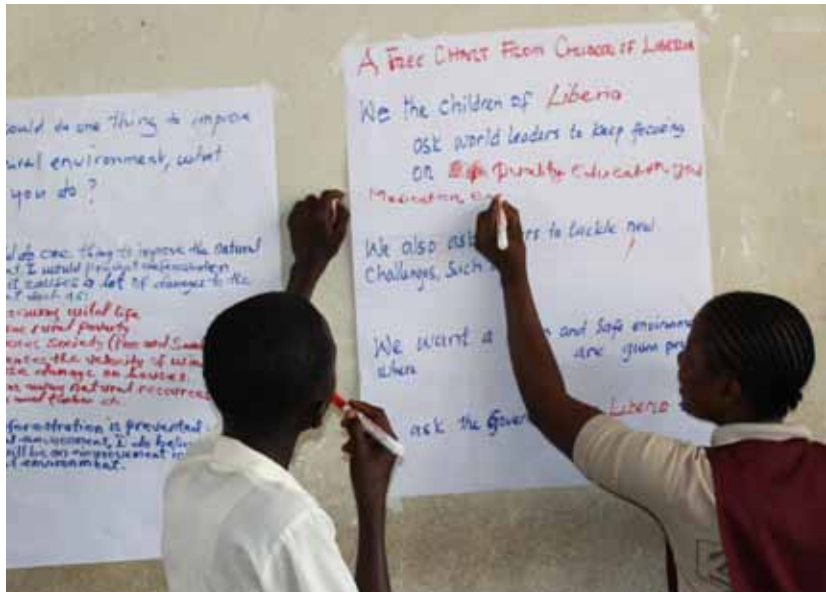
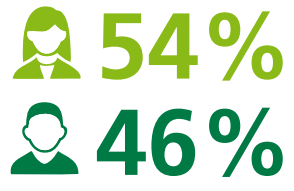
## Participating countries







## Disaggregation of participating children by region and sex



# Major themes and priorities coming out of the consultations with children

## 1

### The Millennium Development Goals

Throughout the last decade and a half, the concerted efforts of national Governments and the international community have saved more children than ever before from preventable diseases, and have provided them with access to clean water and sanitation, to education, and to healthcare. Much more still remains to be done to eradicate poverty in all its forms and achieve sustainable development.

Across the consultations, children displayed an acute awareness of the fact that the promises contained in the Millennium Declaration and in the MDGs are still partially unfulfilled. "There are still poor people in our country, and poverty and hunger still exists in our communities," children in Cambodia said. "We think the eight MDGs, and Cambodia's goal on demining, should remain as priorities for the next 15 years."

While prioritization varied from country to country and from region to region, all the current MDGs received support for remaining in the post-2015 development agenda. "They are all still important because they directly impact us," children from Papua New Guinea said.

Globally, eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (MDG 1), and achieving universal primary education (MDG 2) were mentioned by children in 82% of the countries as needing to remain in the next development framework, followed by combating HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases (MDG 6), in 64%; ensuring environmental sustainability (MDG 7), in 69%; and improving maternal health (MDG 5), in 67%.



#### Regional analysis

In **Africa**, achieving universal primary education (MDG 2) was mentioned by children in 87% of the countries, while eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (MDG 1), and ensuring environmental sustainability (MDG 7) were raised in 80% of the countries; and improving maternal health (MDG 5), in 73%.

"I think we should keep MDG 1, because poverty and hunger keep rising every day and kill many children all over the world," said a 14-year old girl from Togo. On MDG 8, a 15 year-old girl from Ghana observed: "The global partnership for development carries the rest of the goals, because it creates a forum for international dialogue to enable all the countries to air out their views on issues affecting the world."

In the **Americas**, eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (MDG 1), and combating HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases (MDG 6) were brought up by children in 88% of the countries, while achieving universal primary education (MDG 2), and promoting gender equality and empowering women (MDG 5), in 75%; and ensuring environmental sustainability (MDG 7), and developing a global partnership for development (MDG 8), in 63%.

In Nicaragua, a 16-year old boy stated: "All the goals are important and are related to each other. What we have to do is get commitments from everyone, as this

is a shared responsibility and it does not only rely on the rich or poor countries."

In **Asia Pacific**, achieving universal primary education (MDG 2) was prioritised by children in 86% of the countries, while eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (MDG 1) and combating HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases (MDG 6), in 79%; and improving maternal health, in 71%.

A 14-year old girl from Nepal said: "HIV and AIDS-affected people and children have faced much discrimination in society. This is why this disease should be prevented. It is urgent to carry out research to find a medicine that cures such incurable diseases."

In **Europe**, the following MDGs were mentioned by children in both participating countries as needing to remain in the next development framework: eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (MDG 1), reducing child mortality (MDG 4), promoting gender equality and empowering women (MDG 5), combating HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases (MDG 6), and developing a global partnership for development (MDG 8).

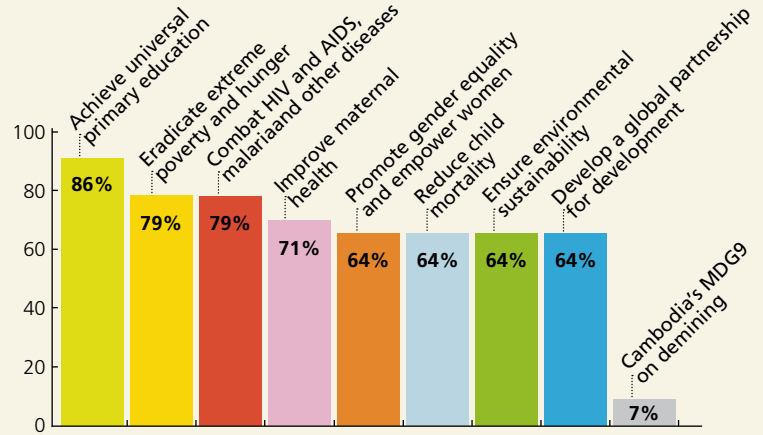
A 16-year old boy from Belarus said, in relation to MDG 8: "Strengthening partnerships between countries, plus developing trade, will help countries to improve their economy. They will have more money to improve healthcare, take care of the environment, and in short solve all the issues that we have discussed."

### Question 1

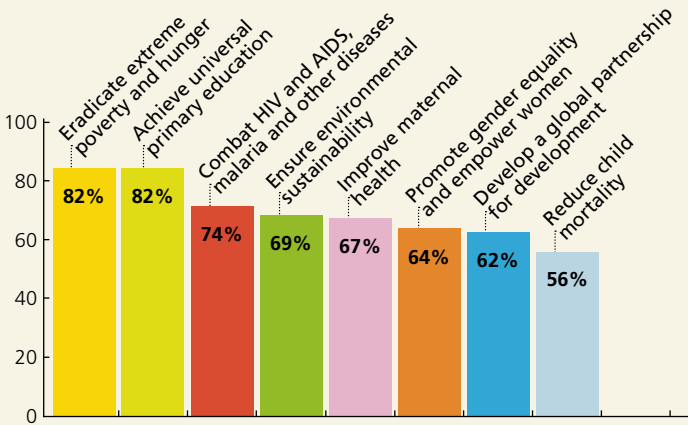
What priorities do you think should remain the same in the next priorities for the world?



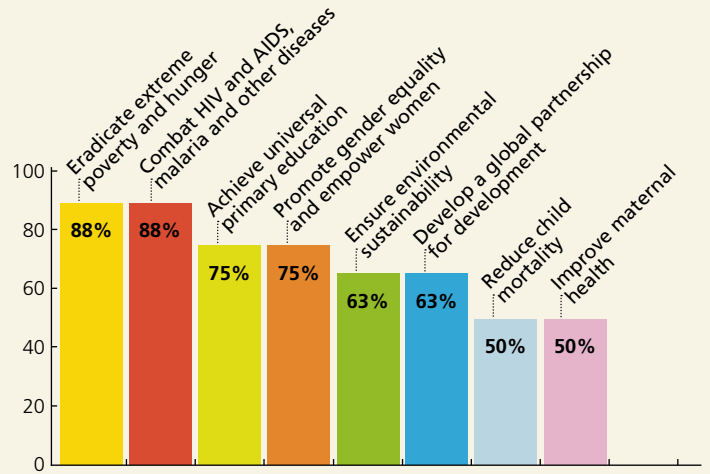
### Asia Pacific



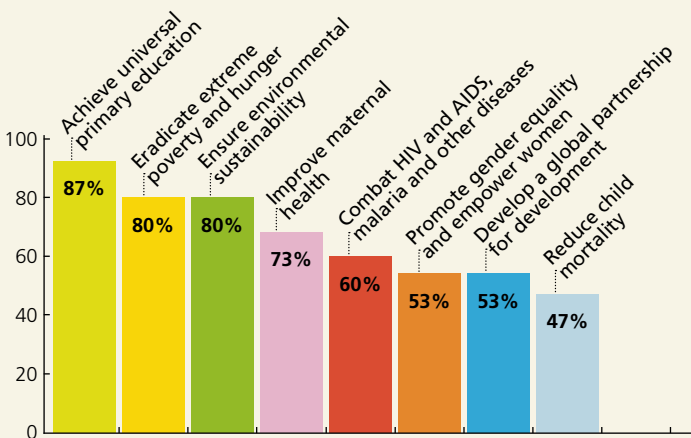
### Global Data



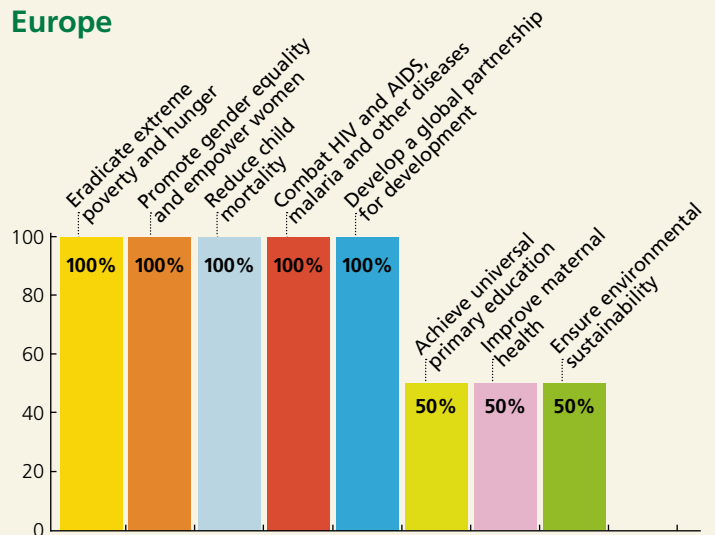
### The Americas



### Africa



### Europe



All graphs show percentages of countries

# 2

## Violence against children

When asked about which issues should be added to the current priorities and included in the post-2015 development agenda, violence against children was consistently the top priority for children across all regions – in **Africa, Asia Pacific, the Americas and Europe** – having been brought up in 82% of the countries.

“Governments should combat violence, take care of the environment and end injustice,” said an 11-year old girl from Guatemala, while a 16-year old boy from Togo stated: “We can see that in the world, children are victims of many forms of violence. Many children drop out of schools because of violence. We should include this in the next development agenda.”

Children made explicit calls for the post-2015 development agenda to address the following forms of violence: bullying, child labour, child marriage, child trafficking, corporal punishment, female genital mutilation and cutting, children associated with armed forces or groups, and violence in schools.

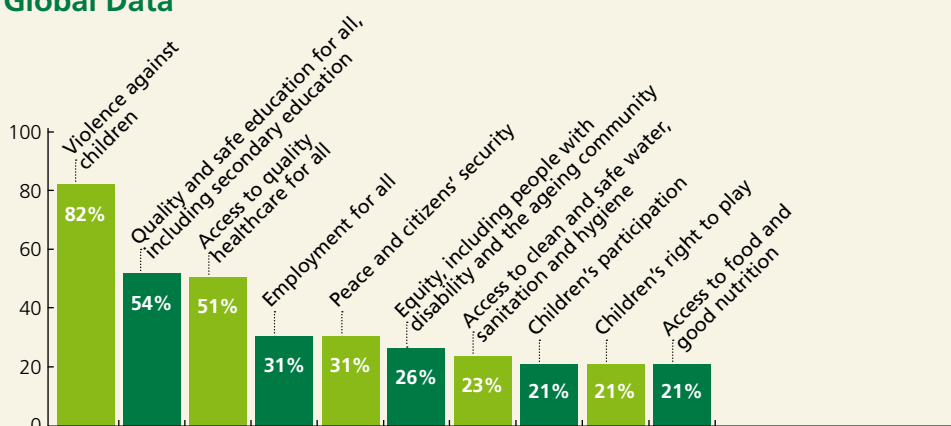


### Question 2

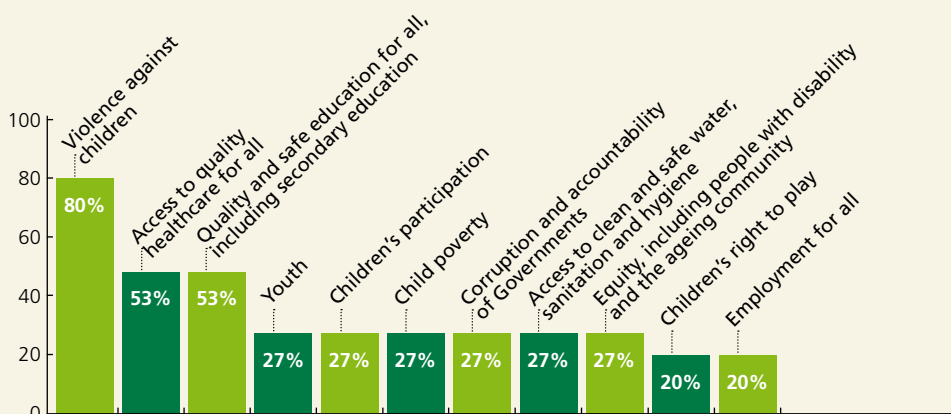
What priorities do you think should be added to the next priorities for the world?



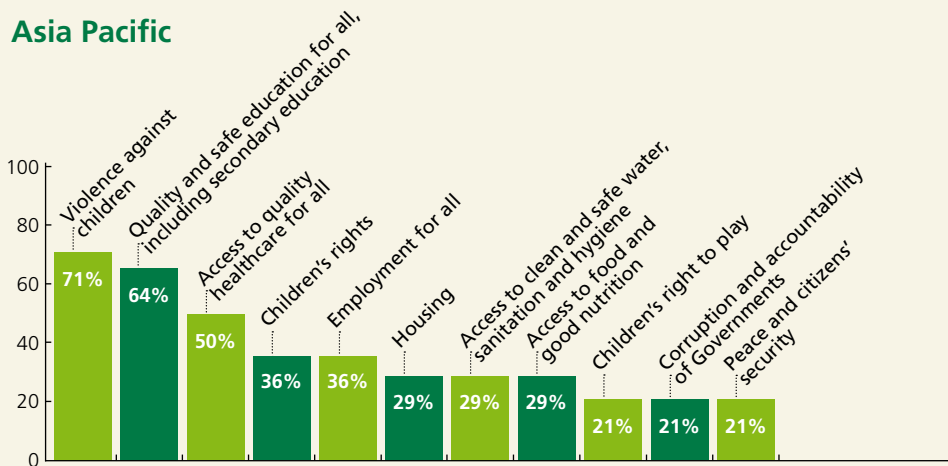
### Global Data



### Africa



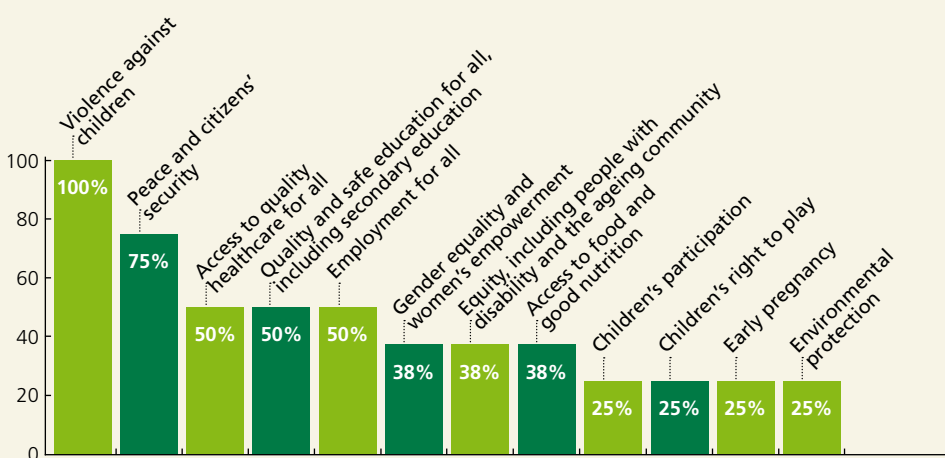
## Asia Pacific



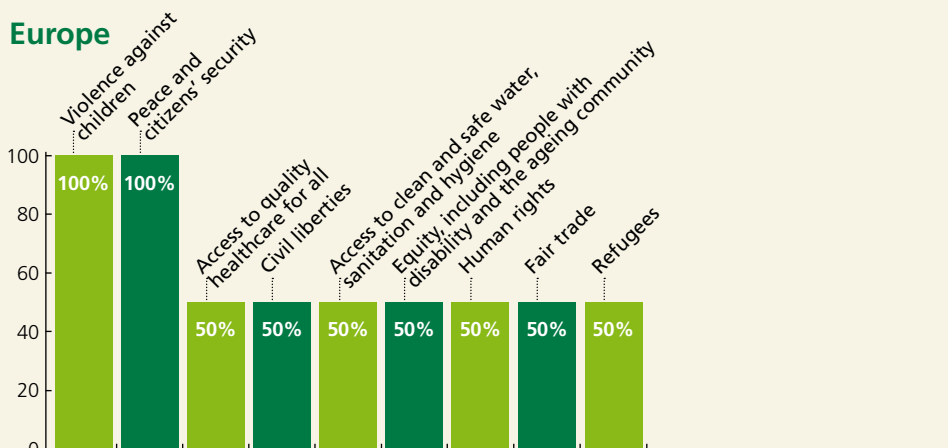
The prevention of and response to violence against children was prioritized by children in 80% of the countries in **Africa**, 100% of the countries in the **Americas**, 71% of the countries in **Asia Pacific**, and the two participating countries in **Europe**.

A 15-year old girl from Zambia said: "I want a new world where children are protected from all forms of violence and abuse." In India, a 15-year old girl stated: "No child in the village should have to work!" A 12-year old boy from Honduras said: "Child labour should be controlled so that more children are able to go to school." In Belarus, a 16-year old boy said: "Children should be free from bullying: from peers and adults, in school and everywhere. This is unacceptable, in any country."

## The Americas



## Europe



All graphs show percentages of countries



# 3

## Quality in education and health for all, and other priorities

### Education

In 54% of the countries children called for quality and safe education for all to be prioritized, including access to secondary education. Children from Ethiopia stated that the next development goals should not focus only on primary education, because in this country most girls drop out during secondary school, due to various harmful traditional practices – such as child marriage, female genital mutilation, and marriage by inheritance. In Ireland, a 16-year old girl observed: “If you’re given an education, you learn about your rights. If more people had access to education, it would lead to other, positive things.”

On the subject of attaining quality education for all, concrete issues were also prioritized, such as access to adult education and literacy programmes,

technical training for youth, and information and communications technologies (ICTs) in schools.

### Health

Children in 51% of the countries prioritized quality healthcare for all as an issue to be addressed by the next development framework, and called for specific related issues to be addressed, such as access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, prevention of deadly diseases, and prevention of substance abuse. A 10-year old girl from South Korea said: “Because not enough doctors are available or because people can’t afford to go to the hospital, many people face death today. No one should die from a disease that can be cured. We need to build more medical centres that are open to everyone free of charge.”

### Regional analysis

In **Africa**, issues to be addressed by the next generation of development goals included quality healthcare for all, and quality and safe education in 53% of the countries. “Schooling is not learning!”

said a 15-year old boy from Ethiopia. And a 14-year old boy from Benin said: “It’s good to send children to school, but every day we must ensure that they also have good academic results.”

In the **Americas**, children called for peace and citizens’ security to be considered a global priority in 75% of the countries, while in 50% they called for quality healthcare for all, quality and safe education, and employment for all to be also taken into account.

In **Asia Pacific**, children in 64% of the countries called for quality and safe education; in 50%, for quality healthcare for all; and in 36%, for children’s rights, and employment for all.

Children in both participating countries in **Europe** also prioritized peace and citizens’ security. A 16-year old boy from Belarus called for world leaders “to stop and prevent wars and armed conflicts to avoid children from suffering. Many children die, many have their houses burned, they have no place to live, and their childhood becomes hell for them.”

# 4

## A clean and safe environment

Globally, children showed great concern regarding the destruction of forests, and addressing the indiscriminate cutting of trees was mentioned as a top priority across countries and regions. Indeed, regarding environmental issues, children in 67% of the countries were clear that the next generation of development goals should address deforestation, desertification and other forms of land degradation. Suggestions for Governments in this area were varied, and ranged from enacting and enforcing strict laws against indiscriminate cutting of trees, to the direct engagement of the community in reforestation activities – such as planting two trees for every tree that is cut down.

To improve the natural environment, children in 59% of the countries also mentioned the need to reduce the use of toxic materials and improve waste management. The production and consumption of plastic bottles came across as an area of particular concern, as did the lack of proper ways to dispose of waste. Again, suggestions in this area were varied, and included small and everyday actions such as stopping the use of plastic bottles, increasing the number of garbage cans in public spaces, or recycling at home, but also larger-scale solutions such as forbidding the dumping of waste into lakes, oceans and rivers.

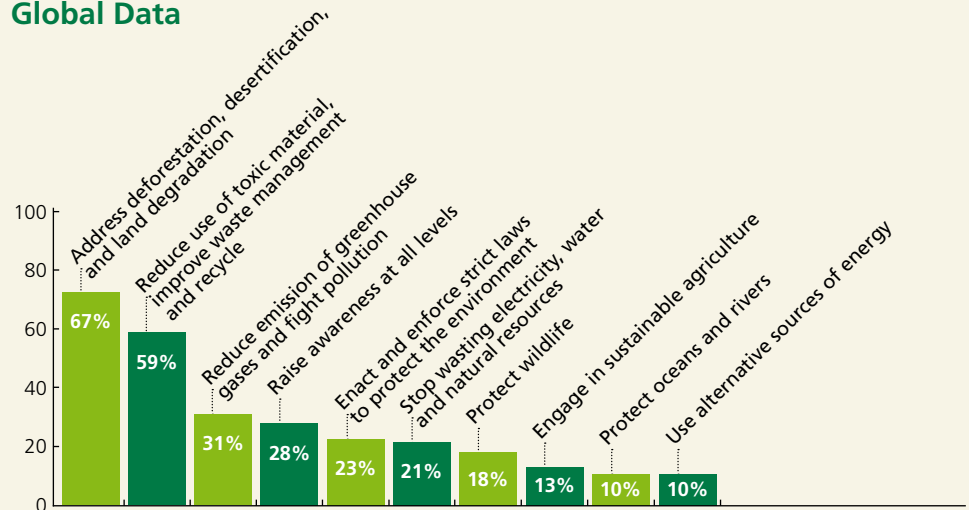
In 31% of the countries, children called for a reduction in the emissions of greenhouse gases and for better air quality. As children in Burkina Faso put it: *“Prohibit factories from producing lots of smoke and toxic gases that pollute the environment.”*

### Question 3

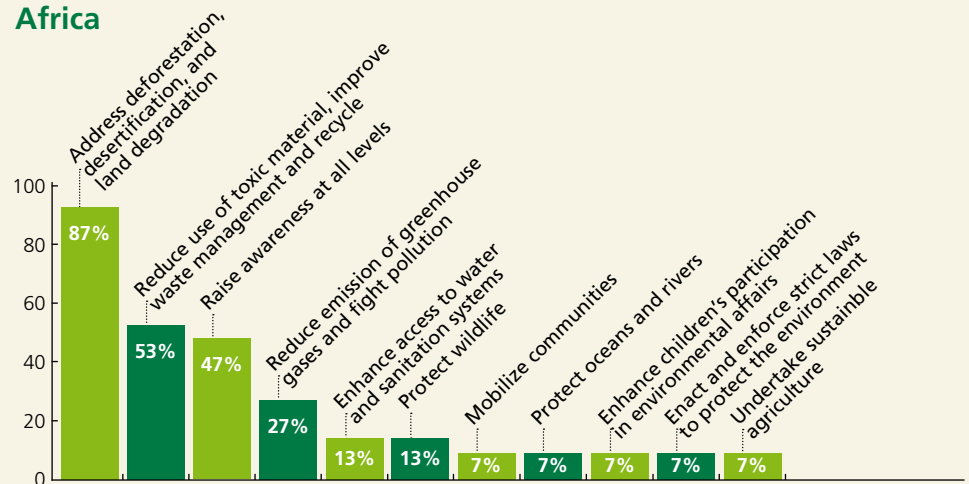
If you could do one thing to improve the natural environment, what would you do?



### Global Data



### Africa

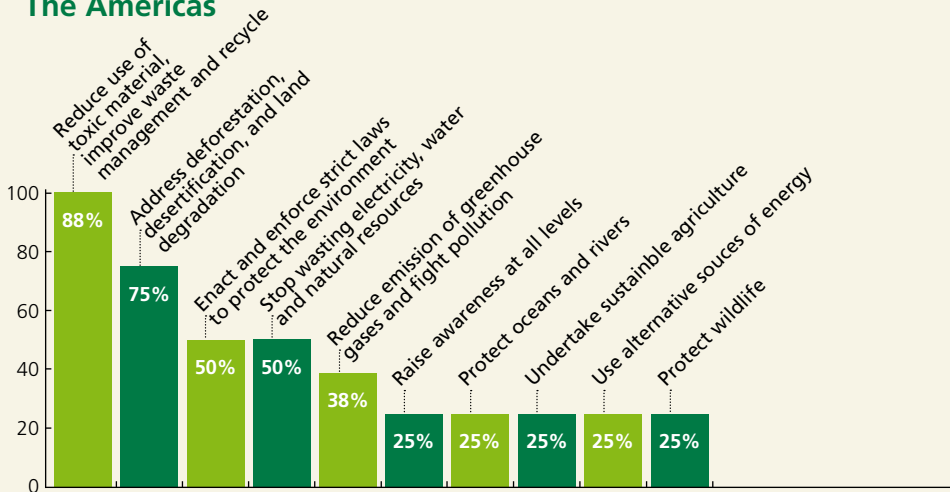


All graphs show percentages of countries

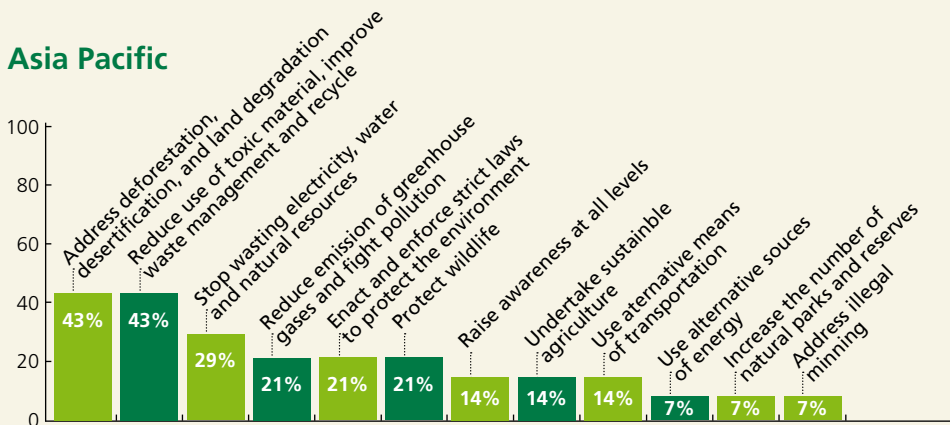
**Question 3 (continued)**

If you could do one thing to improve the natural environment, what would you do?

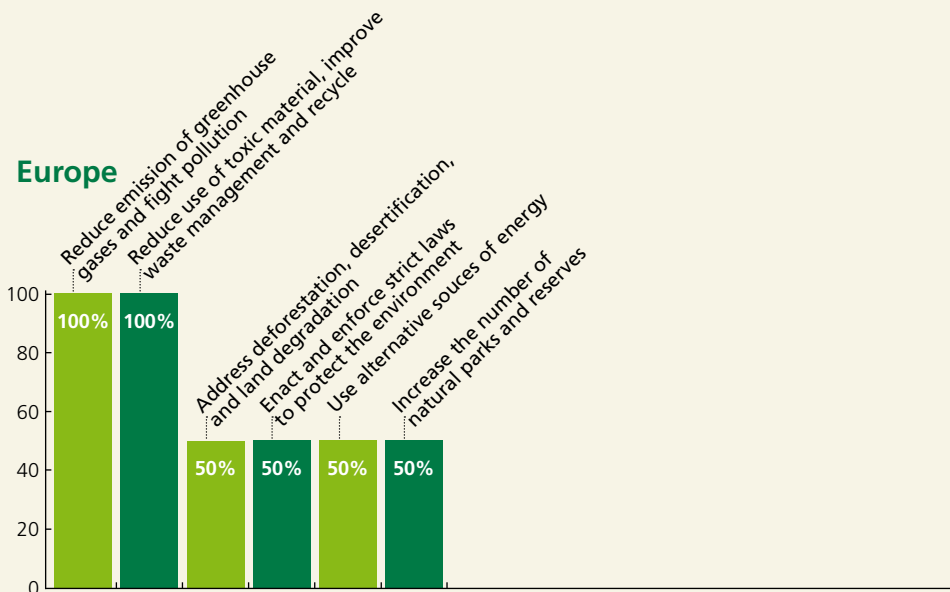
**The Americas**



**Asia Pacific**



**Europe**



All graphs show percentages of countries



**Regional analysis**

Children in **Africa** prioritized the following actions to improve the natural environment: addressing deforestation, desertification and land degradation, in 87% of the countries; reducing the use of toxic material and improving waste management, in 53%; and raising awareness about environmental issues at all levels, in 47%.

“We need to create awareness and ask people to protect and keep our environment clean,” said a 16-year old girl from Kenya, while a 14-year old girl from Burkina Faso stated: “We must plant trees because it’s the trees that bring the rain.”

In the **Americas**, reducing toxic waste and improving waste management was brought up in 88% of the countries; and addressing deforestation, desertification and land degradation, in 75%. Additionally, enacting and enforcing laws to protect the environment, and stop wasting electricity, water and natural resources were prioritized in 50% of the countries.



“There’s a lot of talk about protecting the environment, but nothing is done. We want more actions and not just words,” a 12-year old girl from Bolivia said.

In **Asia Pacific**, children prioritized addressing deforestation, desertification and land degradation in 43% of the countries, as well as reducing the use of toxic material and improving waste management. They also wanted to stop wasting electricity, water and natural resources in 29% of the countries; and reducing the emission of greenhouse gases, enacting and enforcing strict laws to protect the environment, and protecting wildlife, in 21%.

“We would be happy if the Government would manage our natural resources better, for example, by protecting biodiversity. We also want our community to practice waste management in a proper way, such as reducing and recycling garbage,” children from Indonesia said, while children in Japan stated: “We hope each one of us will start doing little things so as not to waste natural resources and protect the environment, so that the world can be clean and safe.”

Finally, in **Europe**, both participating countries prioritized reducing the emission of greenhouse gases, and reducing the use of toxic material and improving waste management. Children in Ireland said: “We want more electric cars, more bins, stronger laws on littering that are enforced properly.” And added: “We must develop policies to encourage greener methods of recycling, construction and transportation, while reducing waste and nurturing the environment.” A 16-year old girl from Belarus suggested: “Zero waste [policies] should be implemented: both in production and in people’s lives.”



## Awareness raising, education, laws and protection from violence as key areas for Governments

The importance of laws and their enforcement and implementation was raised in various ways across countries and regions. Children want their Governments to enact new laws or to enforce and implement existing laws to address the different issues –from protecting children to safeguarding the environment, to promoting gender equality and empowering women. Enacting and enforcing laws was the most frequent suggestion for Governments, being brought up in 54% of all countries.

Children identified that raising awareness at different levels –communal, local, national, regional and global– and across different population groups is fundamental for the successful implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. This suggestion was made by children in 51% of the countries. They asked Governments to raise awareness on issues as varied as violence against children, children’s rights, environmental degradation, natural disasters and infectious diseases.

Children also emphasized the need for Governments to promote and enhance education at different levels –pre-school, primary, secondary and tertiary– and ensure access to all people without discrimination –especially, to children with disabilities and girls. This issue was brought up in 41% of the countries.

A 15-year old girl from Timor Leste said: “It shouldn’t only be primary education, but education for everyone no matter how old they are.”

Specific suggestions on education were also made. Children in 21% of the countries called for their Governments to build more schools, and to adequately equip new and existing schools, while children in 18% of the countries asked for access to be increased, and 13% for quality to be enhanced. Other concrete suggestions included hiring well-trained teachers, providing support for children to go to school, and providing opportunities for alternative education.

The importance of punishing offenders of violence against children cannot be overstated, and children in 36% of the countries called for their Governments to protect them from violence and exploitation, indicating the high level of concern children face having offenders and perpetrators living among them. Calls for ending the abduction of children, child labour, child marriage and sexual violence were also explicitly made.

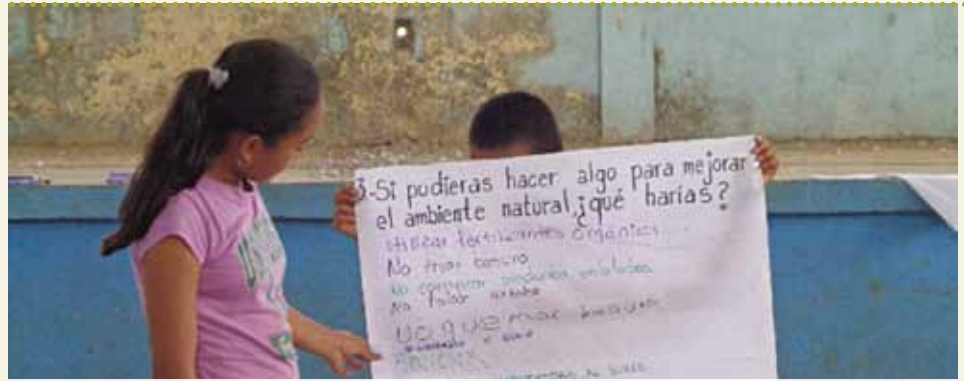
Enhancing children’s participation in development actions came across as one of the strongest aspirations of children. In 26% of the countries, children said that they wanted to be actively heard by adults and decision-makers.

## Regional analysis

All these issues were represented across the different regions, with slight variations. In **Africa**, awareness raising was prioritised in 53% of the countries; promoting and enhancing education, and enacting and enforcing laws, in 47%; and protecting children from violence and exploitation, and enhancing water, sanitation and hygiene, in 27%.

“Governments must step up security for their people and bring those perpetrating acts of lawlessness to book,” said a 15-year old boy from Kenya.

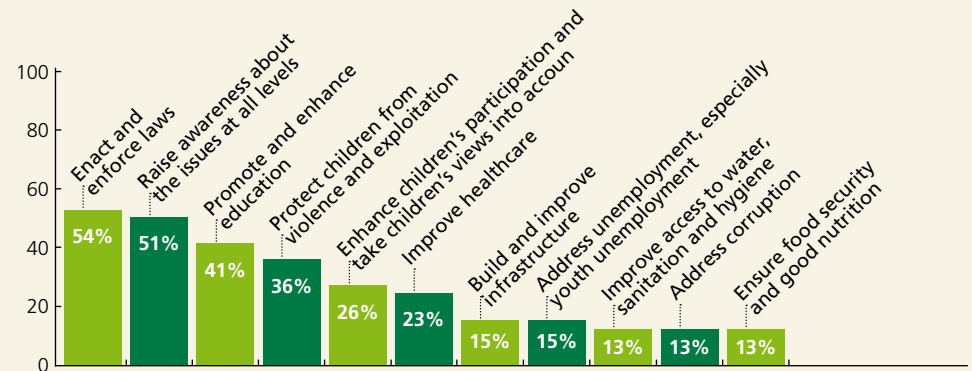
In countries in the **Americas**, enacting and enforcing laws, and raising awareness were the most frequent suggestion to Governments, with 63% and 50% respectively. 25% of the countries prioritised the following actions: promoting and enhancing education; protecting children from violence and exploitation; enhancing children’s participation; addressing corruption; and improving healthcare. “Participation spaces, where children are respected by adults, should be promoted, as adults think they are the only ones who are right and they dismiss children’s points of view,” said a 16-year old girl from Nicaragua.



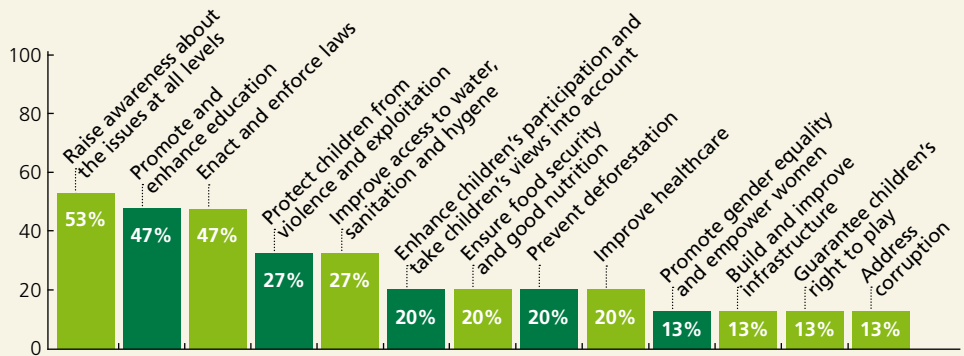
### Question 4

What do you want leaders in your country to do about these issues

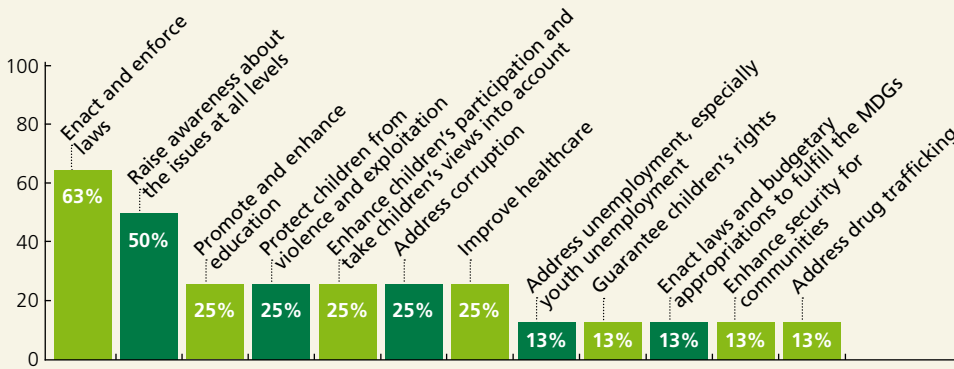
## Global Data



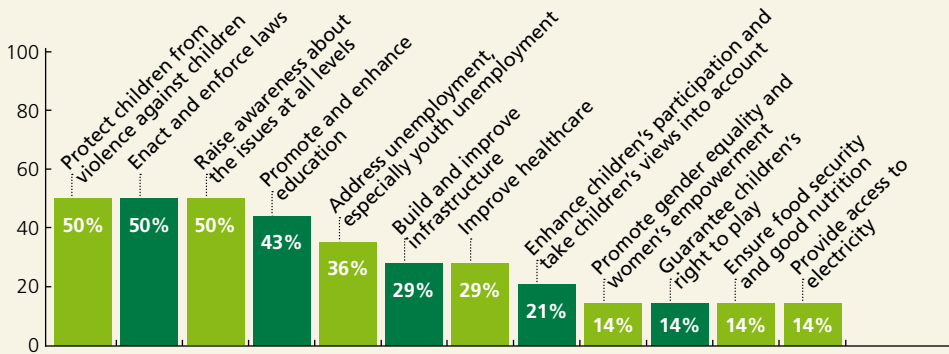
## Africa



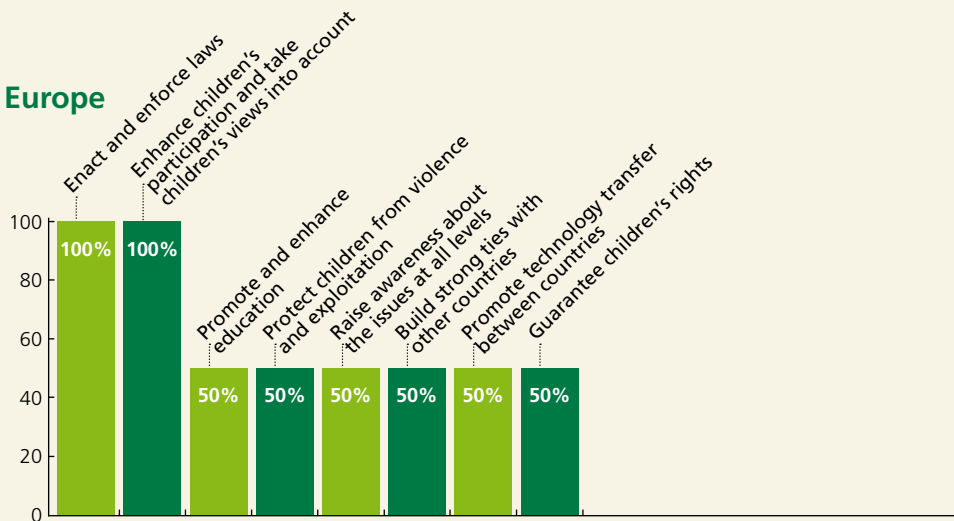
## The Americas



## Asia Pacific



## Europe



All graphs show percentages of countries

In **Asia Pacific**, protecting children from violence and exploitation; enacting and enforcing laws; and raising awareness were mentioned by children in 50% of the countries, as actions that Government should take to address the issues prioritized for the post-2015 development agenda. Promoting and enhancing education, and addressing unemployment were suggested in 43% and 36% of the countries respectively.

A 12-year old girl from Vietnam said: "The Vietnamese leaders should understand and listen to children – understand their needs and expectations, and build a healthy environment for children's development." And a 16-year old boy from Cambodia stated: "We would like the Government to eliminate corruption and bribery and strengthen law enforcement in the country."

In **Europe**, enacting and enforcing laws, and enhancing children's participation were raised in the participating countries. In Belarus, a 17-year old girl suggested: "Some kind of law should be passed to protect children from abuse by parents. And to protect mothers, if fathers beat and hurt them." In Ireland, a 16-year old boy stated: "The opinion of young people should be taken more into account."

# 6

## Monitoring and indicators

When asked how they thought progress on the different issues should be measured, children across countries and regions suggested the use of qualitative and quantitative research methods, such as focus groups and periodic on-site inspections, or public opinion polls and other types of surveys. Furthermore, it was suggested that progress should be measured at the local level and with the direct engagement of children and their communities. "Children are better placed to report their problems for solution," said a 17 year-old boy from Guinea.

The children suggested different indicators to measure and monitor progress for the post-2015 development agenda. These indicators include:

### Overarching indicators:

- Media coverage of issues
- Awareness levels at community level
- Existence of budgets and implementation plans

### Indicators on children's engagement and participation:

- Children who grow up to be productive citizens
- Children involved in the decisions that affect their lives

### Indicators on violence against children:

- Violence and conflict in communities
- Existence of campaigns to prevent violence against children
- Cases of violence against children
- Punishment of perpetrators of violence against children

### Indicators on education:

- Schools in the community
- Children enrolled in school
- Girls enrolled in school
- Test scores for children
- Children who complete secondary school
- Trained teachers in classrooms
- Cases of corruption in schools
- Adults who can read and write

### Indicators on health:

- Hospitals built
- Availability of medicines in health facilities
- Women dying at childbirth
- Deaths of children from treatable diseases

### Indicators on employment:

- People who are employed
- Youth unemployment after graduation

### Indicators on fulfilment of basic needs:

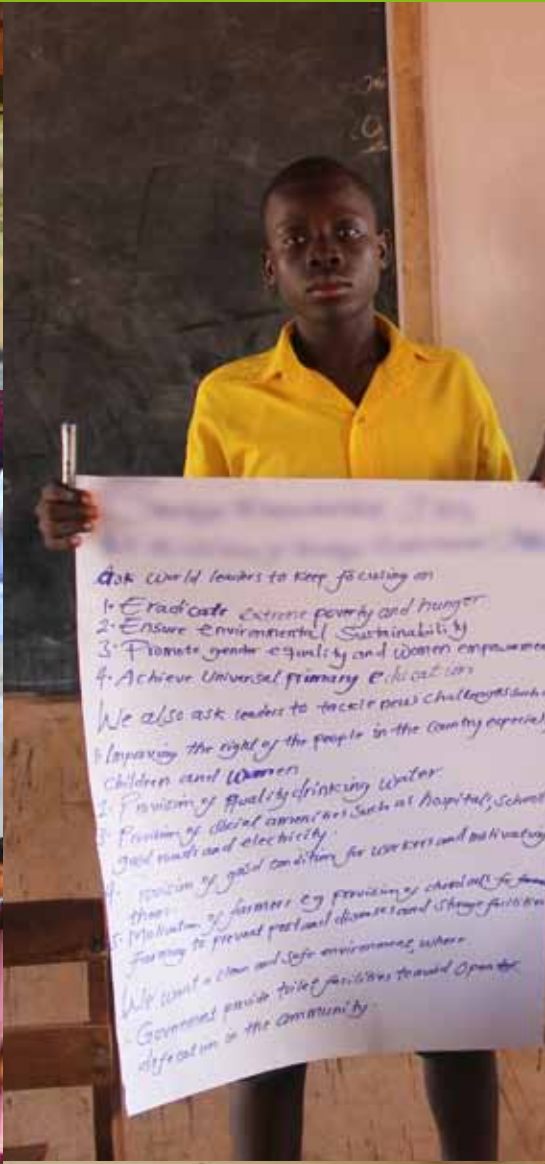
- Level of income in the community
- Households with enough food
- People with access to electricity
- People with access to clean drinking water
- Children who have a home

### Indicators on environmental protection:

- Planted trees
- Rate of abusive tree-cutting
- Reduction in deforestation



# The free charters from children





# AFRICA



## The Dangbo free charter from children

Aware that by formulating the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations has allowed humanity to make a lot of progress,

Aware also that at the fourteenth year of their implementation, the Millennium Development Goals have not still been achieved in our country, the Republic of Benin.

### We, the children of the village of Dangbo, ask Heads of State:

- To keep the eight priorities and continue to lead the fight to achieve the eight goals for a better world in the next term;
- To continue the fight against violence and sexual exploitation of children;
- To redouble the efforts to fight against discrimination against women;
- To redouble the efforts to fight against forced marriage and child marriage;
- To create effective conditions for universal primary education to give children the best conditions for success in their lives.

### We also urge Governments to cope with new challenges such as:

- The fight against any destructive and non-protective acts against the environment;
- The fight against coastal erosion that destroys the southern part of our country;
- The fight against the exploitation of our forests and our rivers.

### We urge the Government of Benin:

- To always ask appointed officials if they are able to produce the expected results from their position;
- To pass laws to facilitate the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals;
- To effectively engage in public awareness raising for a good understanding of the current and future goals;
- To entrust the execution of serious tasks only to those citizens that respect for the public good;
- To carry out the assessment of the goals every two years;
- To systematically change appointed officials when evaluation results are not good.



“  
OUTSIDE OF DISCOURSE, NO  
ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN UP  
TO TODAY TO ALLOW FOR  
THE PROTECTION OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT.”

16-year old girl



# Burkina Faso

## The Gogo free charter from children

We, the children of the Gogo commune in Burkina Faso, ask Heads of State to continue to reduce extreme poverty and hunger, guarantee primary education for all, and protect the environment.

### We also urge the Government to tackle new challenges, such as:

- To guarantee appropriate housing for all;
- To ensure inclusive, free and professional secondary education;
- To put an end to all forms of violence and exploitation against children, in particular corporal punishment, sexual violence and child labour.

We want a clean and safe environment, where the fight against deforestation and plastic bags, as well as the promotion of green fertilizers and the democratization of solar energy are given priority.

We ask the Government of Burkina Faso to take into account the concerns of children in the formulation of the post-2015 agenda.

“OUR GOVERNMENT SHOULD VOTE FOR LAWS AGAINST ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND ENSURE THAT THESE LAWS ARE ENFORCED.”

17-year old girl



## The Koubri free charter from children

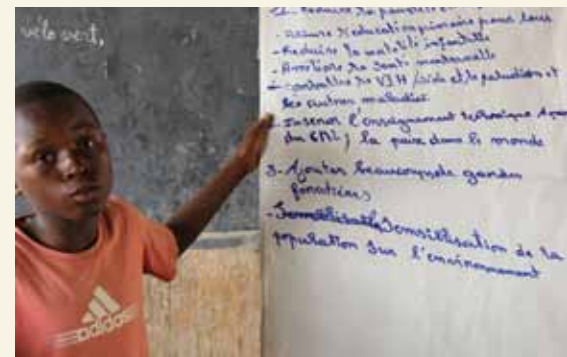
We, Koubri Children, state that these targeted issues are so important that solving them will result to the improvement of life.

### We, children of Koubri, Kadiogo Province, Central Region, Burkina Faso, request from Head Of States to keep on working to:

- Achieve universal primary education for all;
- Improve maternal health;
- Ensure environmental sustainability; and
- Reduce child mortality.

### We also ask governments to face challenges such as:

- Provide financial support to farmers and livestock breeders;
- Improve information centres;
- Provide housing for those who do not have;
- Fight against youth delinquency;
- Fight against drought;
- Improve the construction of health centres;
- Include technical training in primary school by 6 grade.



We want a clean and safe environment where reforestation and the fight against deforestation, as well as awareness raising on the dangers of plastic bags are priorities.

We request from the government of Burkina Faso to ensure that children are well treated and go to school. We also request that technical training is introduced in all schools.





## The São Tiago free<sup>B</sup> charters from children

### Charter 1:

**We, the children, want the Government to do the following:**

- Provide improved and clean environment
- Put in jail all people who don't respect the law
- Improve the hospitals and offer better training for doctors
- Improve learning conditions in our schools

**We think the following should be in the new Millennium Goals:**

- End poverty and hunger
- Fight against diseases
- Improve maternal health
- Quality of life and respect for the environment
- Fight violence against children and exploitation of children

So, this is what we wanted the Government leaders to do

July 16th, 2014

“  
PUT AN END TO HUNGER AND POVERTY. BECAUSE THERE ARE A LOT OF COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD THAT STILL SUFFER FROM HUNGER AND POVERTY.  
”



### Charter 2:

We, the children of Cape Verde are asking the Government leaders to continue to fight for the first MDG, regarding ending hunger and poverty in the world, because if we manage to make them disappear, basic education will be of better quality, so will quality of life and maternal health; child mortality will be decreased; and joint work for the world development will continue, as will the respect for the environment and the fight against AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

We also ask Heads of State to face new challenges such as introducing a new goal regarding the need to prioritize and ensure the protection of innocent children as citizens.

We want a clean and safe environment, where our planet is a priority (reduce global warming to zero, combat climate change, etc.), if we don't want to quickly

disappear and not have descendants to talk to about the wonderful history of human life, and we want to fight deforestation.

Finally, we are asking the Government to take seriously into consideration these requests. Despite the number of years and the efforts it will require, we want everything to be acted upon, especially regarding protection of children and the environment, so that in the coming years we have the possibility to continue to create new and different challenges.

**With best wishes, for a confident and objective fight.  
We, the children of Cape Verde, are all together.**

July 17th, 2014

## Ethiopia



# The Nazareth free charter from children

## We the children of Nazareth, Ethiopia ask world leaders to keep focusing on:

- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Improve maternal health
- Achieve universal primary education
- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Reduce child mortality
- Develop a global partnership for development
- Ensure environmental sustainability

## We also ask leaders to tackle new challenges, such as:

- Violence against children and women
- Traffic accidents
- Attention to street children, disabilities and old people
- Good governance
- Provision of basic needs

We want a clean and safe environment, where green development strategies are given priority.

## We ask the Government of Ethiopia to:

- Enforce strong laws against perpetrators of violence against women and children
- Make sure the quality of education is to the expected standard
- Create access of playing ground for children
- Protect us from bad people

“  
STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST  
MALE CHILDREN!  
”  
14-year old boy

# The Silite free charter from children

We the school children from Silite District, feel that eradicating poverty and hunger, quality of primary education, gender equality and women empowerment, improving maternal health, and combating HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases is still important areas to work on rigorously in our community as well as in the country.

The reason is that women and girls still face workload by undertaking household chores, negative community attitude towards gender equality, low women participation in different aspects of life, and community's negative attitude towards women capability. For instance, talking about girls' education somehow is difficult for various reasons such as girls do not have time to play, there are fewer opportunities for them, there is a

tendency to prefer sending the boy child to school, and exposure to different kinds of harmful traditional practices (early marriage, abduction, FGM) against girls and women adversely affect them economically, socially and from healthy life. Due to the above reasons, women couldn't get equal opportunity with that of men and could not make gender equality realistic in our community as well in our country. Second, though the

Government is intensively working on the prevention of HIV and AIDS, currently, lack of community awareness on HIV and AIDS, gang rape, not using and throwing tools to practice FGM, traditional delivery and cutting of tonsillitis, and marriage by inheritance (if the couples are HIV and AIDS victim and if the wife passes away first, the husband is entitled to get married to one of her sisters despite his HIV status). Third, since most of our



community especially adults are illiterate and live in rural parts of Ethiopia; they are exposed to poverty and hunger. This happens because in rural place farmers have small plot of land, erratic rainfall, and the farming is not supported by technology, thus, farmers' income is low and the family is exposed to hunger and poverty. As a result, our family will not be in a position to send children to school. Fourth, achieving primary education is one of the areas where the Government has been working intensively for the past 15 years. However, though access is achieved, the quality lags behind. Going to school alone is not learning – our parents who studied many years ago and who haven't completed their school are able to teach us now. From this we could understand how the quality of education/ learning has lag behind. Moreover, the focus so far has been to primary education, however most girl students drop out after they join secondary school and this happens due to violence against the girl child and various harmful traditional practices such as early marriage, FGM and abduction. Fifth, improving maternal health as it is not yet achieved we feel it is important to work on for the next MDGs because mothers are dying due to harmful traditional practices that causes obstructed labour, mothers are still giving birth at home, and food taboo in the locality of the mothers. Mothers' death is still rampant in our locality as they die due to fistula, UVPs, and various harmful traditional practices. We feel it is important to keep on working because deaths of mothers have significant impact on the life of the children.

We have three issues in addition to the above critical concerns of us which we feel are important. Primarily on harmful traditional practices because it is a root cause of all problem in our locality and have impact on education, maternal health, child mortality, HIV and AIDS, gender equality as well as on poverty and hunger. For instance, girls are facing FGM, early marriage, abduction, and marriage by inheritance. Due to these problems, children are becoming street children, facing socio economic problem. Second, construction of infrastructures such as road construction and health posts. We have raised this as important concerns of us because children when they come to school, market they are crossing forests and walk long distances exposing them to risks such as gang rape, sexual assault and other forms of violence. Third, water, sanitation and hygiene as it is a root cause of disability, hunger and poverty, serious diseases, and other problems. Thus, all the above issues are important due to the severity and magnitude of the problem in our community as well as in our country. We the children of Silite District, Ethiopia, ask world leaders to keep focusing on enacting policies, laws and regulations which protect and safeguard our rights and wellbeing, creating awareness among traditional and religious leaders as well as community in general of our rights and wellbeing; to put in place effective and efficient law enforcement mechanisms; to highly focus and work on eliminating harmful traditional practices; and finally, to work on child empowerment and children's recreation and playgrounds at school, as well as at the community level.

We also ask leaders to tackle new challenges, such as community attitude, community awareness, harmful traditional practices, and law enforcement gaps.

We want a clean and safe environment, where awareness raising at the community level on environmental protection is given priority.

We ask the Government of Ethiopia to work intensively and rigorously on harmful traditional practices, primary education access and quality at the same time, gender equality and women's empowerment, HIV and AIDS, water, sanitation and hygiene, infrastructure, such as roads and health centers, and on health issues.



“ COUNTRIES' GROWTH WILL HAPPEN WITH EQUAL TREATMENT OF WOMEN, MEN, BOYS AND GIRLS. ”

13-year old boy



## The Gambia

# The Brikama free charter from children

We the children of The Gambia are aware of child participation in decision-making about basic educational needs, healthcare, and poverty within our villages.

“ PROVIDE ADEQUATE AND GOOD FOOD WITH CLEAN WATER FOR ALL. ”

13-year old boy

By having free basic education we are able to improve our livelihood to succeed and become leaders. The basics of a sustainable future are adequate healthcare services, and a clean and healthy environment. Poverty and hunger are factors that are responsible for children to drop out of school, effected by malnourishment, loss of confidence, and even death. Moreover, global partnerships can aid in addressing the above issues for all in children in The Gambia.

We the children of The Gambia ask leaders to keep focusing on basic free education, infant and child healthcare, poverty and hunger alleviation, and child rights. These issues shall in no small measure support in developing adequate school systems and healthcare services for children of The Gambia. However, it shall support in enhancing the most sustainable bright future for all children.

As future leaders, it is our duty to help the people attain clean water, stop the spread of diseases and build global partnerships. We also ask leaders to address new challenges such as a global partnership. This should be put at the centre stage of our Government’s agenda for a more a developed country.



We want a clean and safe environment where afforestation, waste management systems such as recycling, indiscriminate dumping, and bush fires are given priority. These issues are affecting the community and the country at large.

Indiscriminate dumping has affected our water systems while also affecting the agricultural farmlands creating a toxic environment to grow produce. We want the Government of The Gambia to enact the laws to protect the people from harmful diseases, such as malaria and TB.

We ask the Government of The Gambia to ensure that all children, including the differently abled, have free education up to grade 12; to provide mothers and infants with good healthcare and childcare services; to alleviate poverty and hunger, and enhance child protection mechanism in all communities. We want our Government to enhance child participation and protection for a more conducive environment for all children.



## The Tamale free charter from children

### We the children of Ghana ask world leaders to keep focusing on:

- Achieving universal primary education
- Promoting gender equality and empowering women
- Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger
- Developing a global partnership for development
- Ensuring environmental sustainability

### We also ask leaders to tackle new challenges, such as:

- Providing quality drinking water to all people
- Providing good conditions for workers and motivating them
- Children with disabilities should study in the same school as children without disabilities
- Reducing teenage pregnancies, early parenthood and forceful marriage or betrothal

“  
**GOVERNMENT MUST PROVIDE MORE EMPLOYMENT IN ORDER TO REDUCE EXTREME POVERTY.**  
 ”

13-year old boy

We want a clean and safe environment, where children and women are given priority.

### We ask the Government of Ghana to:

- Include more women in leadership positions
- Train more people to take care of children with disabilities

- Educate people about the environment and how to keep it safe
- Provide facilities to avoid open defecation in the community
- Enforce laws on illegal mining
- Provide dustbins to avoid dumping of refuse around





## The Guinea free charter from children

With constant concern to promote children’s rights and achieve a world in which all children enjoy their potential, we the children of Guinea believe that world leaders have great roles to play. We are therefore happy to contribute to the elaboration of the post-2015 agenda and the post 2015 process. During our discussions we took some times to carefully go through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and identified some priorities that should continue to be focused with supporting reasons why we identified them (see table below).

### We the children of Guinea ask world leaders to keep focusing on the below priorities:

Goals	Details	Why keep focus on this
One	There is plenty of food for everyone to have enough	Food is an inevitable need for survival (children and adults).
Two	All children can go to school no matter where they live or how much money they have.	For better development of a country, children need to be educated.
Four	Children don’t suffer from diseases that can be cured with a visit to the doctor and good medicine.	The health of children must be secured, and prevented from illnesses so that they can grow to become better leaders.
Five	Pregnant women can visit a midwife, nurse or doctor during their pregnancy and when they have their baby. If they need medicine, it is available.	Since children are hope for future and since they come to being through women, better care should be given to pregnant women.
Seven	People take care of the environment: jungles and forests, oceans and rivers, etc.	Environment should be protected because we live within it and there we carry out all routine activities.
Eight	Rich governments can help poor governments, and people can help other people in different countries by paying them fair prices for food when they buy it.	The wellbeing of children often ensured by loving and good care givers (elders, rich countries, etc.)



“  
 EARLY OR FORCED MARRIAGE  
 IS A SCOURGE WITH MANY  
 DANGERS TO THE LIVES OF  
 YOUNG GIRLS.  
 ”  
 16-year old girl

**We also ask leaders to tackle new challenges, such as:**

New challenges	Why consider this
Children actively participate in all decisions affecting their lives.	This is important because doing something for a child without his/her consent is a crime against that child. Children are better placed to report their problems for solution. The participation of children in all decisions affecting their lives is an indispensable factor for the promotion of children’s rights.
Girls get married when they attain mature age and give their consent	Leaders and adults must fight against early and forceful marriage, which is a scourge with many dangers to the lives of young girls (health, education, mental health, etc.).
Schools and homes are free of corruption and actions are in place to prevent all forms of corruptions	Corruptions in homes and school settings prevent children from benefiting quality education.
Children are free to play and talk with friends.	Child play and entertainment give them confidence and help to acquire a well-developed learning spirit.

We want a clean and safe environment, where water and sanitation, zero pollution and tree planting are given priority.

**We ask the Government of Guinea to:**

- Raise the awareness of the population on the importance of protecting our natural environment;
- Encourage the active participation of children in all decisions that affect their lives;

- Fight against corruption and enforce actions to prevent it in schools, homes and work places;
- Produce more food to help children to grow in good health;
- Increase youth centres and play grounds for children.



## The Baringo County free charter from children

So many issues are still affecting children and we feel there is need for more efforts dedication and resources from all leaders around the world to limit the suffering children are facing.

We have settled on the issues stated below because we think they affect us so much and need the attention of all the leaders around the world.

### We the children of Baringo County ask world leaders to keep focusing on:

- **Goal 1:** Eradicate poverty and hunger
- **Goal 2:** Achieve universal primary education
- **Goal 3:** Improve maternal health
- **Goal 6:** Combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- **Goal 7:** Ensure environmental sustainability
- **Goal 4:** Reduce child mortality

### We also ask leaders to tackle new challenges, such as:

1. Security and peace
2. Increasing more teachers and doctors
3. Provide computers to schools

We want a clean and safe environment, where towns have litter bins, improved sanitation and reduced pollution.

We ask the Government of Kenya to increase more soldiers and police, recruit more teachers and doctors and help street children to live a decent life.

“

POLLUTION IS DANGEROUS TO BOTH THE ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN BEINGS. IT CAUSES DANGEROUS DISEASES LIKE CANCER THAT LEADS TO DEATH. WE NEED TO CREATE AWARENESS AND ASK PEOPLE TO PROTECT AND KEEP OUR ENVIRONMENT CLEAN.

16-year old girl

”







# Liberia

## The Bomi free charter from children

We the children of Liberia, ask world leaders to keep focusing on quality education, good medications and enough food for all.

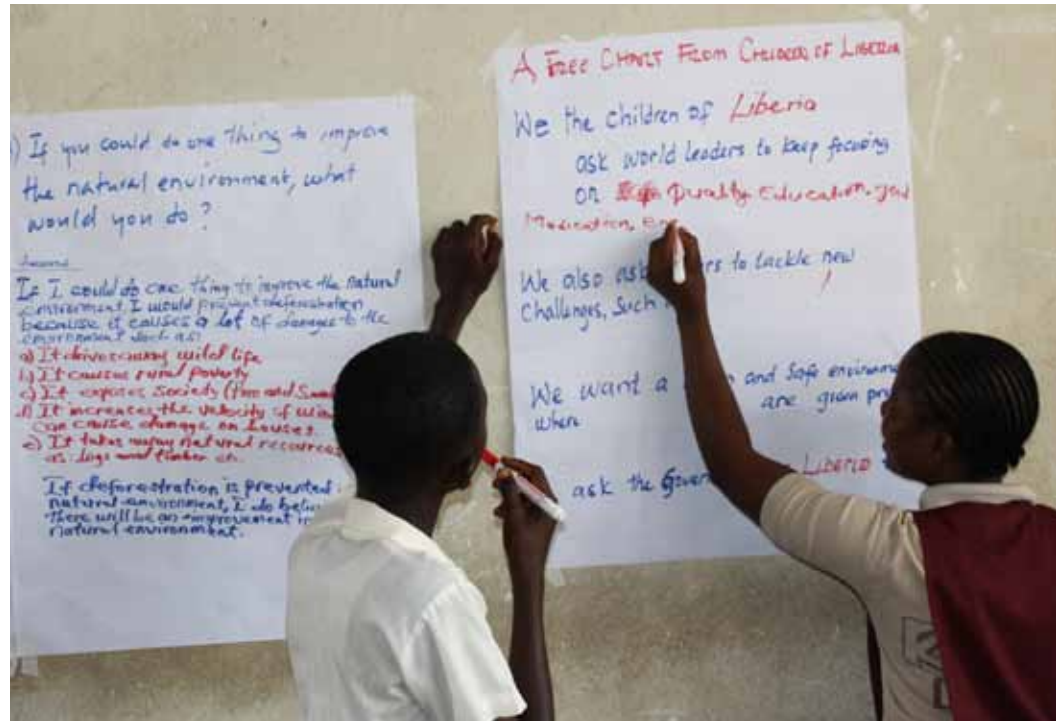
“FOR ME, CHILDREN SHOULD BE ABLE TO PUT THEIR HANDS UP AND SAY SOMETHING FOR OLDER PEOPLE TO HEAR.”

13-year old girl ”

We also ask leaders to tackle new challenges, such as bad diseases and child trafficking.

We want a clean and safe environment, where women and children are given priority.

We ask the Government of Liberia to stop cheating, to practice good leadership, to make good laws for children, to allow children to make their own decisions, and to provide jobs for our families.





## The Koulikoro Region free charter from children

We have chosen these problems because they are the problems with which we live every day.

### We, the children of the Koulikoro Region in Mali, urge Heads of State to continue to:

- Fight against the mutilation of girls
- Fight against sexual violence
- Build health centres and maternity centres
- Combat the punishment of children in schools
- Combat sexual harassment of girls
- Combat the involvement of children in wars.
- Provide work to those unemployed graduates
- Combat child labour
- Fight against diseases that affect children



### We also ask Governments to address new challenges, such as:

- Children who are forced to beg for money in the streets
- Students who are punished by their teachers
- The protection of nature, especially forests and water sources
- Migration of girls from the countryside to the cities
- The presence of small children in mines

We want a clean and safe environment, where hygiene and sanitation, as well as the prevention of bush fires, the conservation of forests and reforestation are given priority.

We ask the Government of our country, Mali, to enact laws that uphold the issues listed above.

“MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN TO GUARANTEE ACCESS TO GOOD MEDICINES.”

12-year old boy



## Mozambique

# The Maputo free charter from children

We the children of Maputo, Mozambique, ask world leaders to keep focusing on the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger; the promotion of primary education for all children; improving maternal health; combating HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases; and ensuring environmental sustainability.

We also ask leaders to tackle challenges, such as improving the quality of education at all levels, and eliminating all forms of violence and exploitation faced by children; and to make sure that laws are effectively implemented.

We want a clean and safe environment, where children are given priority.

We ask the Government of Mozambique to strengthen the implementation of child protection laws, raise awareness about children's rights at the community level, and punish all children offenders.



“  
STOP VIOLENCE...  
EDUCATE CHILDREN...  
”

12-year old girl



# Senegal

## The Dakar free charter from children

**We, the children of Dakar believe that the following priorities should remain for the next priorities for the world:**

- Preserve maternal health
- Fight against poverty
- A good education for all children
- Fight against HIV and AIDS, malaria and contagious diseases
- Preserve the environment

**In addition, we think the following priorities should be added:**

- Fight against violence
- Help street children
- More tolerance in the world
- Help Talibé children (street beggars)
- Fight against drugs
- States should look for jobs for young people
- Fight against exploitation of children
- Stop sacrificing children



**We're asking the world leaders to:**

- Build more schools for children
- Provide free health care for poor children
- Help the poorest families to live with dignity
- Improve families living conditions.

## Sierra Leone



# The Bombali District free charter from children

We the children of Bombali District, are drafting this free charter on the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals on behalf of other children from our village because we believe that issues like girl child education, clean water, clean environment, improved structures, better sanitation, quality education, access to justice, free medical health care, better sitting accommodation in schools, trained and qualified teachers, toilet facility, good roads, electricity facilities are important issues that should be prioritized by our government in Sierra Leone if the development process in the country is to be sustainable. This is because these issues are problems that are affecting children, youth and Sierra Leoneans in general.

We the children of Bombali District in Sierra Leone are asking world leaders to keep focusing on the above mentioned issues if they really want to ensure sustainable growth in the whole world. Issues like gender equality, construction of good roads, proper medical facility, accessible water facilities, trained and qualified medical practitioners including trained midwives, girl child empowerment, justice to those whose rights have been violated are some of the factors that world leaders should focus on when drafting the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals.

“  
TOILET FACILITIES FOR EACH  
HOUSEHOLD SHOULD BE MADE  
AVAILABLE BY GOVERNMENT.  
”

13-year old girl

We ask leaders to tackle new challenges such as rape against a girl child, forced child labour, inaccessible medical facilities especially in rural areas, lack of justice of children, cultural practices like for instance in Sierra Leone the “BONDO” society for girls, etc., if these issues are to be overcome in order to ensure development. We want a clean and safe environment where children have the opportunity to play with one another, their families and community members. We also want a clean and safe environment where children are given the priority to do things

that will contribute to their person development.

We ask the Government of Sierra Leone to ensure that the issues highlighted above are prioritized in order to ensure protection and development for children, youth and Sierra Leoneans in general. This we believe will contribute in sustaining the development process.

We are also asking the Government of Sierra Leone to ensure that issues concerning children are considered when drafting development policies.





# Togo

## The Maritime Region free charter from children

This free charter is drafted for the world Governments by the members of the children’s clubs and children’s organizations in the Maritime Region of Togo.

### We, the children of the Maritime Region of Togo are asking the world Heads of State to continue to work towards:

- Reducing extreme poverty and hunger
- Ensure basic education for all
- Promote gender equality and women empowerment
- Improve maternal health

And

- Preserve the environment

### We are also asking Governments to address new challenges such as:

- Promote protection of children against all forms of violence
- Promote the rights to reproductive and sexual health for children, young people and adolescents
- Create jobs for all



### We want a clean and safe environment where the priorities would be:

- The fight against illegal chopping down of trees and deforestation
- Fight against forest wild fires
- Reforestation
- Awareness raising of population on environment protection
- Set up of community work to clean up streets, etc.

We’re asking the Togolese Government to take into consideration all the priorities we have worked on and to share them with the other world leaders to make sure they are part of the next Millennium Development Goals after 2015.

We, the children, hope to see change happening in the life of people, and especially children worldwide.

“ WE CAN SEE THAT IN THE WORLD CHILDREN ARE VICTIMS OF MANY FORMS OF VIOLENCE. MANY CHILDREN DROP OUT OF SCHOOLS BECAUSE OF VIOLENCE. WE SHOULD INCLUDE THIS IN THE NEXT DEVELOPMENT AGENDA.

16-year old boy





# Uganda

## The Kampala free charters from children

This is a charter of issues affecting children and other people in the country and they are important because if they are followed, the world can be a better place to live in.

### We the children of Kampala ask the leaders to keep focusing on:

- Children's rights and child abuse
- Peace and unity
- Infrastructural development
- Universal education
- Improved health
- Stopping corruption
- Freedom of expression
- Agriculture
- Disease prevention
- Environmental preservation
- Poverty and hunger eradication
- Gender equality
- Maternal health
- Child mortality
- Foreign trade

### We also ask leaders to tackle new challenges such as:

- Floods
- Land slides
- Droughts

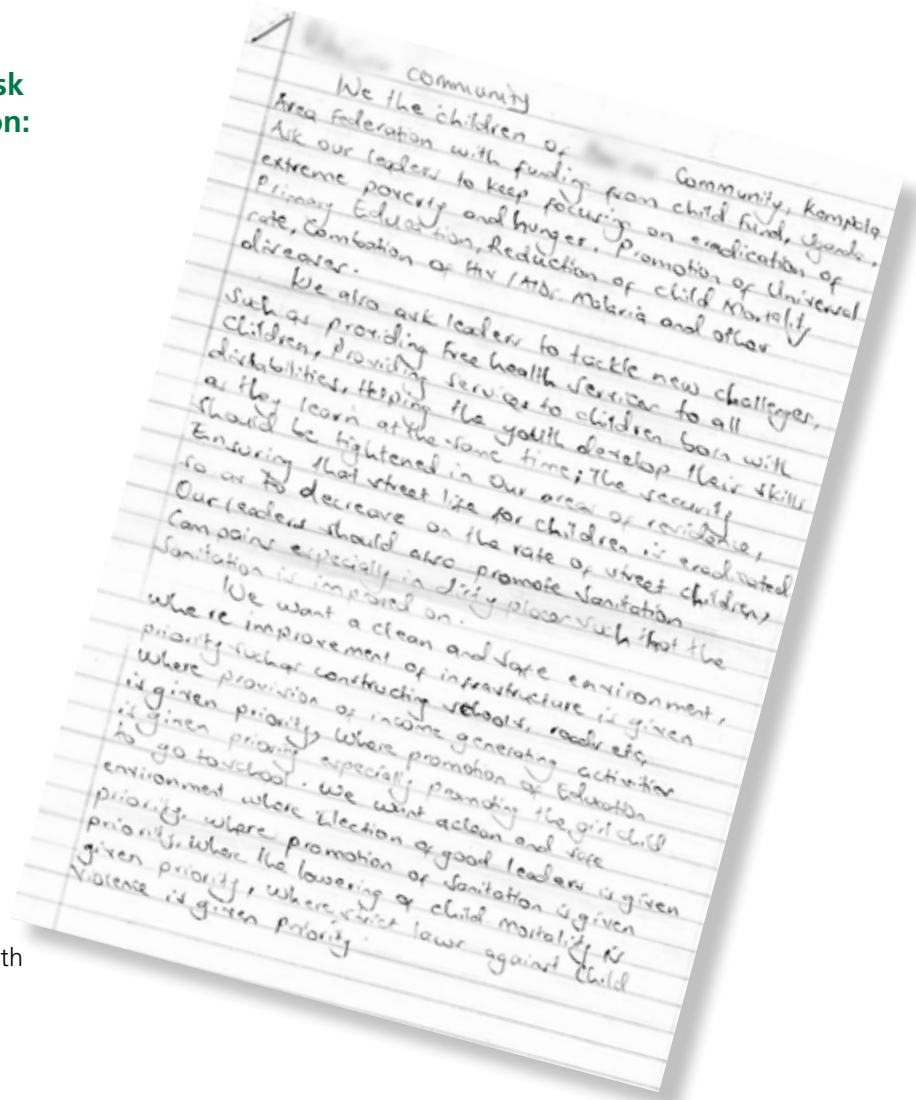
We want a clean environment where both children and adults are given priority.

### We ask the Government of Uganda to:

Sensitise citizens on how to preserve the environment and put strict laws against people who destroy the environment

Construct more UPE schools

Starting up small-scale industries to create employment and fight against poverty



# Uganda



We the children of Kampala ask our leaders to keep focusing on eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, promotion of universal primary education, reduction of child mortality rate, combating HIV and Aids, malaria and other diseases.

We also ask leaders to tackle new challenges, such as providing free health services to all children, providing services to children born with disabilities, helping the youth develop their skills as they learn at the same time. The security should be tightened in our areas of residence, ensuring that street life for children is eradicated so as to decrease on the rate of street children. Our leaders should also promote sanitation campaigns especially in dirty places such that the sanitation is improved on.

We want a clean and safe environment, where improvement of infrastructure is given priority such as constructing schools, roads, etc., where provision of income generating activities is given priority, where promotion of education is given priority especially promoting the girl child to go to school.

We want a clean and safe environment where election of good leaders is given priority, where promotion of sanitation is given priority, where the lowering of child mortality is given priority, where strict laws against child violence is given priority.

We ask the Government of Uganda to give counselling and guidance to the youths. The Government should follow up parents who don't take their children to school. We ask the Government of Uganda to put up more savings accounts for the youth to save such that they could start up businesses. It should carry out weekly sanitation activities to improve on the sanitation in different areas such as teaching them on how to recycle waste materials. The Government of Uganda should set up committees for people to be taught the dangers of child abuse. Further, we ask the Government to encourage pregnant mothers to go for antenatal services to get rid of HIV so as to protect the unborn children, to tighten the security so as to reduce on theft and insecurity in our communities. We ask the Government of Uganda to up strict laws against the violence of children's rights.





# Zambia

## The Zambia free charter from children

### We the children of Zambia ask world leaders to keep focusing on:

- Achieving universal access to primary education
- Fair treatment and respect for women
- Combating preventable diseases
- Taking care of the environment
- Rich Governments assisting poor Governments by paying fair prices for food

### We also ask leaders to tackle new challenges, such as:

- Providing access to adequate clean and safe drinking water for all
- Providing clean and safe energy for all including rural areas so that people can watch TV and listen to the news
- Providing social amenities for children in communities such as play parks and resource centres
- Making adult education available for women and men especially in rural areas to reduce illiteracy levels

We want a clean and safe environment, where two trees are planted for every tree cut down, and enforcement of laws on charcoal burning are given priority.

### We ask the Government of Zambia to:

- Own these issues as our problems that require prioritisation
- Focus on these issues for the next 15 years with adequate budgetary provisions
- Draw up appropriate national policies and legislation were need be as part of the process to show commitment to the issues herein raised

“ IF CHILDREN ARE NOT EDUCATED WHO WILL PROVIDE HEALTH SERVICES, WHO WILL TEACH THE FUTURE CHILDREN AND WHO WILL RULE THE COUNTRY? ”

15-year old girl





# THE AMERICAS

# Bolivia



## The La Paz free charter from children

La Paz, April 14th 2014

Dear world leaders of the United Nations,

We are writing to you, wishing you good health and success in the tasks that you undertake for the wellbeing of humanity.

On April 14th 2014 boys, girls and youth representing all regions in Bolivia were part of a meeting in the city of La Paz to express our point of view on the Millennium Goals.

“ WE NEED TO TALK MORE ABOUT VIOLENCE, WE THINK THAT ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ADDICTION ARE CAUSES OF VIOLENCE.

10-year old boy

”

### We the boys and girls from Bolivia ask world leaders to focus their efforts on:

- Food for all
- Education
- Inequality
- Lack of medical attention
- Care of pregnant women
- Care of big diseases
- Enforcing laws for nature
- Aid among countries

### We also ask them to include new issues, for example,

- Violence against children
- Trafficking of people
- Wellbeing of elderly people and people with especial abilities
- Equality of socioeconomic conditions and rights
- Awareness raising against racism and all forms of discrimination
- Protection of endangered species and not harming domestic and wild animals

- Caring for the environment
- Policies against alcoholism and drug addiction
- Sexual education for adolescents, through campaigns, etc.

### We want a clean and healthy environment were the following issues are given priority:

- Recycling
- Reducing the use of plastic bags
- More awareness raising campaigns
- Organic gardens
- Reducing products that harm the ozone layer
- Reusing water
- Planting more trees and reducing indiscriminate cutting
- Disposing waste properly
- Taking advantage of hydraulic energy

### We ask the government of Bolivia to:

- Have secure borders
- Make sure that laws are known
- Raise awareness in schools and communities
- Teach people what to do in case they are victims of trafficking and how to prevent it
- We hope that we are heard and taken into account.





## Dominica

# The Roseau free charter from children

Children are the poorest and most vulnerable in any society. We suffer from circumstances that we can do nothing or little about and as such we need to know that someone cares about our overall well-being.

We the children of the Commonwealth of Dominica ask world leaders to keep focusing on all the existing MDGs. In the case where there are schools for all children to go to, these children should have food and everything that they need so they can attend.

We also ask leaders to tackle new challenges, such as all forms of violence against children –at home, school and everywhere else, drug abuse amongst minors, free movement throughout the world to work, universal tertiary education, and the provision of fun time for children, as well as to make children with disabilities a priority

We want a clean and safe environment, where laws are put in place to have a cleaner and better environment; where our natural resources are used well and includes the use of alternative energy; where children are engaged in decisions on management of the natural environment and where people are taught how to protect the environment.

We ask the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica to take children and youth seriously and make things happen with the information that is provided in the charter.





## Guatemala

# The Guatemala free charter from children

May 24th 2014

Boys' and girls' representatives from Guatemala.

We ask world leaders to focus their attention on: education, security, equality, the environment, food and health.

We also ask our leaders to solve new challenges such as creating sources of employment for families so that they have access to food. We call on the State for the opportunity to have quality education for boys and girls, where the values to contribute to the prevention of all forms of violence are practiced, including bullying, and with gender equality, with no differences between men and women. We ask for the safety of all people, especially girls and boys, especially from the abuses caused by alcohol abuse within the home.

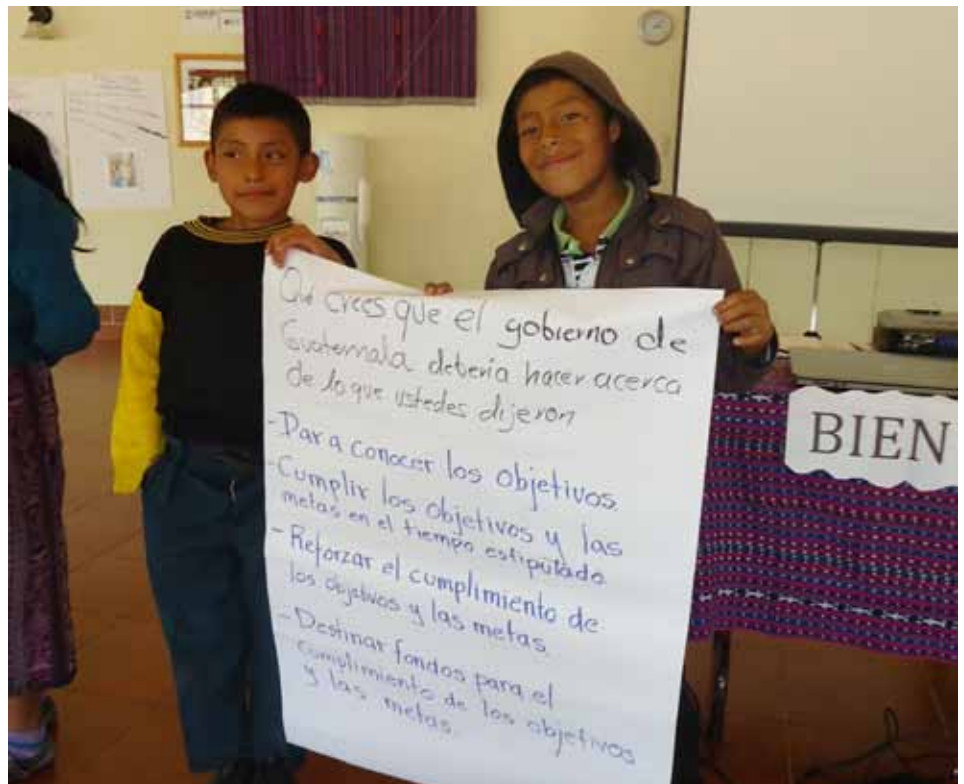
We want a clean and safe environment where not littering, not killing animals and not wasting paper is the priority.

We ask the Government of Guatemala to fulfil its commitment to Guatemalan children, respecting our rights and providing us with quality basic services.

Thank you for taking into account what we ask for in this letter.

Sincerely,

Child representatives from Guatemala.



“  
LEADERS SHOULD LISTEN  
TO THE OPINION OF BOYS  
AND GIRLS.”

12-year old boy

# Honduras



## The Francisco Morazán Department free charter from children

### We the children of Francisco Morazán Department, Honduras, ask world leaders to keep focusing on the following goals:

- Enough medicines to treat health problems and for better health
- Prevention of the following diseases: HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, etc.
- Nutrition for all, with enough food, especially for poor people
- Caring for pregnant women
- Preventing social and domestic violence
- Fulfilling human rights

### We also want the following issues to be solved:

- Creating more jobs in the country
- Fighting drug trafficking in the world
- Preventing violence and making security better
- Right to life and reducing abortions
- Promoting basic education up to 9th grade
- Right to life and having more equality between rich and poor
- Eradicating child labour

### We want our environment to be like this:

- Don't dump chemicals in rivers
- Don't burn forests or cut down trees
- Recycle or bury the trash, and don't burn it
- Use organic products and don't use chemicals
- Don't kill the fauna and flora from Honduras
- Protect natural reserves
- Put laws in place

### And we ask that you do the following:

- Put stricter laws in place and abide by the ones already in place
- Give security to all
- Support education, especially for the poor
- Create more opportunities for alternative education
- Improve border security
- Create sources of employment
- Call a truce with other countries
- Improve the education and health systems



“  
AWARENESS TO IMPROVE.  
”

13-year old girl



## Mexico

# The Veracruz free charter from children

Below we present the important ideas and opinions of children in our community.

We, the boys and girls of Veracruz, Mexico, ask world leaders to pay attention to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.

We also ask our leaders to solve new challenges, such as the issue of sexual abuse against children, violence from parents to children, and insecurity.

We want a clean and safe environment, where recycling, not cutting trees and taking care of water are given priority.

We ask the Government of Mexico to promote non-violence from parents to children.

“ WE SHOULD ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND GENDER INEQUALITY. ”

11-year old girl



# Nicaragua



## The Managua free charter from children

We believe that the issues covered during this meeting are important, as they pose the main problems that are affecting our daily lives as well as the main needs we all face as children; therefore, addressing these issues will promote and assure our wellbeing and a healthier, better-quality of life for all of us.

We, the children from the municipalities of Managua and Esteli, urge the world leaders to focus their attention on the compliance of objectives that help guarantee our wellbeing as they have a meaningful impact on our lives; such objectives are: to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, to achieve universal primary education, to improve maternal health, to combat HIV and AIDS, and other diseases, to ensure environmental sustainability, and to promote a global partnership for development.

We also ask our leaders to resolve new challenges, such as: eliminating violence and exploitation against children, eradication of child labour, to decrease street crime in order to assure safer neighbourhoods and schools, to facilitate conditions so that young people receive education, to guarantee responsible parenthood, to decrease teenage pregnancy, to promote job creation and a dignified wage for the overall population, and to promote participation spaces in society for children.

We want a clean and safe environment where: children can plant and protect trees where there are none, there is no garbage, nor tree cutting, educational campaigns can be carried out, plastic and bottles are eliminated, we can create ecological surveillance patrols and where having a happy and healthy childhood is a priority.

We ask the Nicaraguan Government to be more strict with the compliance of laws that protect the environment and contribute to children's development, to listen to children's opinions, to allow children to participate and take part in the decisions of issues related to children, to be aware of the reality we live in our communities and we urge them to work harder to guarantee safety in our schools as an essential part of our full development.



“NATURAL DISASTER PREVENTION IS A KEY TOPIC BECAUSE OFTEN TIMES WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF AN EARTHQUAKE AND WE DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A FIRST AID KIT; IN OTHER WORDS WE ARE NOT PROPERLY PREPARED IN CASE OF A DISASTER.”

12-year old boy





# Paraguay

## The Presidente Hayes Department free charter from children

To world leaders,

**We the children and adolescents of Presidente Hayes Department, Paraguay, after getting together with a lot of other children and adolescents ask world leaders to take into account that:**

- Food should not lack in households
- Education services should be available for everyone
- Everyone should have access to good medical attention

**We also ask our leaders to work on solutions to new challenges, like:**

- That the more developed countries help the poorer countries
- That they support the fight against the violence that is growing in our country and community
- That there should be more job opportunities for the parents, so that children do not have to go out to work in the streets
- That the laws should be stricter



We want a clean and pure natural environment, free from pollution, where trash burning and factories' contamination are forbidden

**We ask our leaders to:**

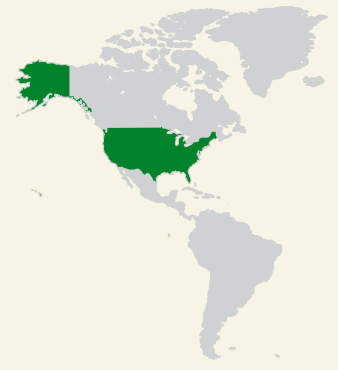
- Support the people responsible for security
- Light the streets of the city
- Equip health posts with ambulances, medicines and professional people

- Create centres in the community to help families by training parents or guardians
- Provide information about the dangers of the use of weapons
- Be strict with laws and sanctions
- Stop being corrupt, and do good things

**Listen to our opinions!**

“  
ALL CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS MUST WORK TOGETHER, UNITED, SO THE AUTHORITIES WILL LISTEN TO US.  
”

13-year old girl



# United States

## The McAllen free charter from children

### Recycling and the environment:

- Something that needs to be changed is the environment because there's too much trash in the street at times.
- Reduce nuclear plants, reduce oil spills, chemical dumping.

### Animal abuse:

- Why aren't animals treated equally?

### Violence:

- World leaders should aid the Mexican Government on violence caused by cartel member killing the innocent civilians because of drug involved and free will to kill innocents.
- Equal rights for women.
- Terrorism, shootings, gangs, sex trafficking, slavery.
- It's inhumane to use children as weapons or for sex trafficking.

### Out of school activities:

- Clubs, sports.

### Care for veterans/disabled:

- More affordable care.

### Transportation:

- Affordable transportation.

### Employment:

- We need increased employment, it's not fair that people have to have a high-school diploma to have a certain job. That's why most people go into gangs or start selling drugs because they see no other use in their lives if they can't get a decent job.

“ JUST HEAR US OUT. ALL WE WANT IS TO BE HEARD. ”





# ASIA PACIFIC

# Afghanistan



## The Nangarhar Province free charter from children

Our parents are jobless, so how do we end joblessness?

“ IF I GET EDUCATION I WILL SUPPORT THE FAMILY AND EARN MONEY. ”

13-year old girl

### We the children of Afghanistan ask world leaders to keep focusing on:

- Livelihood programs
- Construct markets
- Implement projects in our township

We also want peace. Stop fighting. And all countries should help with Afghanistan.

Sports grounds and hospital should be constructed for us

### We also ask leaders to tackle new challenges, such as:

- War
- Earthquakes
- Floods
- Poverty



### We want clean environment where this is given priority:

- Children rights
- Separate female education
- Playing grounds
- Islamic madrasas
- Hygiene
- Growing and planting trees
- Peace

### We ask the Government of Afghanistan to:

- Bring peace and stop fighting
- Pave the roads
- Hire female doctors for clinics
- Construct parks and playing grounds
- Dig water pumps
- Bring electricity
- Provide jobs to jobless people
- Stop kidnapping
- Construct ECDs
- Provide lesson materials to all schools

## Cambodia



# The Svy Rieng Province free<sup>B</sup> charters from children

We, the students of Svy Chrum District, think that all of the issues mentioned below are important as there are still many poor people in our country.

We ask world leaders to keep focusing on all the Millennium Development Goals, as poverty and hunger still exists in our society. We want to complete high school and university and we want to have good jobs after we graduate from school.

We also ask world leaders to tackle new challenges, such as paying more attention to disabled children and orphans, so they have equal access to education and all children can go to school. We would also like children to participate in community development and decision-making.

We want a clean and safe environment, where garbage is not thrown into lakes and rivers, and planting more trees, protecting wildlife and preventing deforestation are given priority.

We ask the Royal Government of Cambodia to eliminate child labour in our country, improve access to education so all children can complete primary and secondary school education, have English language and computer classes at school and continue to promote the equal rights of women and men in our country.



“ I WOULD LIKE THE LEADERS TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO EDUCATION AND SAFETY OF CHILDREN.

15-year old girl

”

# Cambodia

We, the students of Romeas Haek District, think that all of the issues below are important as there are still a lot of poor families in Cambodia, children still get sick and die, the health of mothers is still weak, women and men are still not equal and there people who still want to destroy the environment.

We ask world leaders to keep focusing on all the Millennium Development Goals, but with special attention paid to MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; and MDG 5: Improve maternal health.

We also ask world leaders to tackle new challenges, such as eliminating corruption in society and creating opportunities for high school graduates, with appropriate salary, according to their capacity and skill level.

We want a clean and safe environment where forests are protected, deforestation is prevented and the planting of more trees are given priority.

We ask the Royal Government of Cambodia to arrange for the monitoring of these issues at the village and commune levels, raise awareness of people on the importance of taking care of their health, strengthen the rule of law, and organize jobs for all high school graduates in all provinces in the country.





## The Kratie Province free<sup>B</sup> charters from children

We, the students of Chhloung District, think that all of the issues below are important as there is still poverty in our country, our schools do not have adequate wells or toilets, children are still dying, women do not yet have equal rights and we want the environment to be sustainable.

We ask world leaders to keep focusing on all the Millennium Development Goals, including Cambodia MDG 9 on de-mining, explosive remnants of war and victim assistance, so that all children can continue to study, so children and mothers have good health, so women and men enjoy equal rights and we can reduce diseases like AIDS even more.

We also ask world leaders to tackle new challenges, such as supporting wells and toilets in our communities and schools, paying more attention to education and safety of all children and building schools, school playgrounds, health centres, paved roads and pagodas.

We want a clean and safe environment, where more trees, flowers and gardens are planted and people join together to

collect the rubbish in the village, at the school and along the roads.

We ask the Royal Government of Cambodia to provide school materials and build playgrounds, and for the leaders to come down to the villages to support the things we have suggested and to know the real needs of the villagers.

---

We, the students of Chhloung District, think that all of the issues below are important as there are still a lot of poor people in our villages, we don't want a lot of children to die, we don't want our mothers to get sick and we don't want women to get threatened with violence.

We ask world leaders to keep focusing on all the Millennium Development Goals, especially to eliminate poverty and violence, so that all children can complete primary school and get higher education, and for women to have equal power and rights as men.

We also ask world leaders to tackle new challenges, such as building schools, school playgrounds, and toilets and providing playing materials in schools. We also want a clean environment and clean water.

We want a clean and safe environment, where we clean up the schools and the environment together, plant more trees and teachers educate students to not cut down trees.

We ask the Royal Government of Cambodia to build more schools, toilets and school playgrounds, as well as bridges and good roads.

## India



### The Tamilnadu free charter from children

We the children of Tamilnadu, India, on behalf of all the children, endorse the current goals for development and we strongly recommend that you to fulfil all the goals as per commitment.



We urge the world leaders to create a society that is free from discrimination of caste, creed, race, religion, sex and language. We condemn the use of plastic to protect nature.

We demand that the Government of India makes education compulsory for children up to grade 12. We appeal to the leaders that there be stringent punishments for those who commit sexual crimes against

children. We request you to create an environment for children that are free from violence and exploitation of all forms.

“STOP TEACHERS FROM BEATING US.

12-year old girl”

### The Palamau free charter from children

We, the children of Palamau, ask world leaders to keep focusing on mothers' health, children's survival, children's education, school quality with libraries for all schools, adolescents' health, proper nourishment, right to play, youth employment, having a clean environment, and minimizing poverty levels.

We also ask leaders to tackle new challenges, such as controlling extremism, exploitative migration, child abuse and sexual violence, child trafficking, and rising risky behaviours of adolescents towards addiction to alcohol and unsafe sex.

We want a clean and safe environment, where addressing deforestation, regulated mining of natural resources, protecting forest animals, and minimum usage of fossil fuels are given priority.

We ask the Government of India to start acting on these issues immediately before situation slips from our hands.



“CORRUPTION AND MALPRACTICES AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT CAN LARGELY BE HELD SINGLE MOST REASON FOR UNDERDEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA.

16-year old boy”





## The Kulon Progo free charter from children

We, the children of Kulon Progo, Central Java, Indonesia, ask world leaders to keep focusing on:

1. Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieving universal primary education
3. Promoting gender equality and empower women
4. Reducing child mortality
5. Improving maternal health
6. Combating HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensuring environmental sustainability
8. Developing a global partnership for development



### We also ask leaders to tackle new challenges, such as:

1. Eliminating all forms of violence and exploitation against children
2. Achieving universal secondary education
3. Reducing unemployment to end extreme poverty

We want a clean and safe environment, where forestry and waste management are given priority, as well as having a quality, green agricultural system and approach.

We want the Government of Indonesia to develop policies that could be implemented at the local level. To ensure implementation success, a transparent monitoring and evaluation should be conducted involving the community and children.

Kulon Progo, 3 May 2014

“ WE ARE HAPPY IF THE GOVERNMENT COULD MANAGE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES BETTER, FOR EXAMPLE KEEPING BIODIVERSITY SAFE, AND MANAGING ORGANIC FARMING. WE ALSO WANT TO OUR COMMUNITY PRACTICE WASTE MANAGEMENT IN A PROPER WAY, SUCH AS REDUCING AND RECYCLING THE GARBAGE. ”

# Japan



## The Tokyo free charter from children

We the school children of Tokyo, Japan, ask world leaders to keep focusing on the goal in the MDGs that says countries in the world should cooperate with each other.

We also ask leaders to tackle new challenges, for example, that the world becomes a place where children are free from violence, with violent organizations punished, so that children can grow up safe and well.

We want a clean and safe environment, where each people can start with a small thing so as not to waste resources and save the environment.

We ask the Government of Japan to propose the above requests to the world leaders and implement the activities to achieve these goals.

“ IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO SET A GOAL TO *DECREASE* THE VIOLENCE AT SCHOOL. WE NEED TO AIM TO *END* IT. ”

11-year old girl



# Kyrgyzstan



## The Chuy Province free charters from children

**We the children of Kyrgyzstan ask world leaders to keep focusing on:**

- Education
- Improving health of mothers
- Improving relationship with developed countries

**We also ask leaders to tackle new challenges, such as:**

- To act together with each other
- To help children that don't have any parents
- To build schools and kindergartens
- To make medical services free
- Mutual aid

**We want a clean and safe environment, where this is given priority:**

- Use more road signs
- Cultural development

**We ask the Government of Kyrgyzstan to:**

- Put garbage cans in the streets
- Stop selling cigarettes



**We the children of Kyrgyzstan ask world leaders to keep focusing on:**

- Education for all children
- To create medical services in the country
- To treat homeless dogs from illness
- To create pet hospitals
- To build good relationship with mothers
- To act together with each other
- To build schools and kindergartens

**We also ask leaders to tackle new challenges, such as:**

- Struggle with mortality
- Struggle with hunger
- Struggle with corruption

**We want a clean and safe environment, where this is given priority:**

- Use more road signs and to best pedestrian
- Stop selling alcohol and cigarettes

**We ask the Government of Kyrgyzstan to:**

- To write a letter for principles of our country
- To regularly check the work of organizations (schools, hospitals, etc.)
- To regularly get reports from schools, hospitals, and organizations
- To give grants to students
- To create shelters for homeless people

- To invite investors
- To make repairs in dilapidated homes and schools
- To create cleaning days for all people
- To do regular vaccination of children

# Nepal



## The Sindhupalchok free charter from children

We Nepali children are feeling proud to explain our views to be taken into account for the next development agenda and priorities. Children are discriminated in the society. Corporal punishment still exists. Sexual abuse and exploitation, child marriage and child labour are not yet reduced.

Therefore, we the children of Nepal would like to appeal/request to world leaders to keep focusing on following agenda in the next development goals, so that the rights of the children should be ensured:

- Rights of the children should be ensured
- Child marriage should end
- Child-friendly schools all over the country should be established and education related to life skills should be provided
- Every child should be equally treated regardless of their caste, religion and age by ending gender discrimination
- Children's participation in various decision-making processes that affect them should be ensured
- Children's clubs should be established in every village.
- Child labour should be eliminated
- Sexual abuse and exploitation of children should end
- Strong action should be taken against people engaging in child trafficking
- Children should be treated respectfully

We Nepali children are discriminated at home. There is still capital punishment implemented in our school, and the country still has problems such as sexual abuse and exploitation of children, child marriage and child labour. Therefore, we like to appeal/request to the leaders of Nepal to ensure that the following points are included in the next development goals.

- Children's rights should be guaranteed
- Child marriage should end
- Strong action against person committing sexual abuse and exploitation of children should be taken
- There should be provision of child-friendly teaching and learning system
- Every child should be equally treated regardless of their caste, religion and age by ending gender discrimination
- Children should be provided with education related to life skills
- Children should be included in various decision making processes that affect them

- Children's clubs should be established and mobilized for the development of children
- Children should not be scolded in public, rather they should be counselled separately if they commit any mistakes
- Violence, exploitation and discrimination against children should end
- HIV and AIDS should be prevented
- There should be provision of support for education for children from extremely poor families
- Equal education for all!
- Programmes to reduce child mortality and maternal mortality should be implemented
- A clean and safe environment should be ensured

We humbly request to world leaders and the Government of Nepal to ensure that the above mentioned issues are included in the next development agenda to make children free from violence and ensure that child rights are guaranteed.

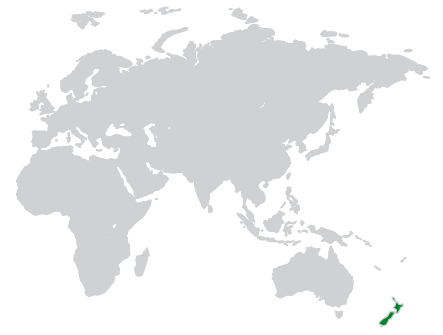
Thank you!



“MANY CHILDREN GET CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN SCHOOL, IF THEY DO NOT COMPLETE THEIR HOMEWORK.”

16-year old boy

## New Zealand



# The Auckland free charter from children

We, as representatives of New Zealand youth, ask world leaders to keep focusing on current Millennium Development Goals' issues, including:

- Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, with a raised definition of what 'poverty' means;
- Reducing child mortality;
- Improving access to education for all – with no age limit for access;
- Combating HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases;
- Promoting gender equality.

### **We also ask leaders to tackle new challenges, particularly:**

- Reducing income disparity within and between countries;
- Improving people's ability to secure the necessities of life (such as access to safe food, water, and shelter).

In addition, we want a clean and safe environment, where Governments support research and technology which is publicly owned for the benefit of all; and where climate change laws are developed and enforced.

We ask the Government of New Zealand to invest in creating an informed public who understands the social and environmental issues facing the world; has involvement in solving the problems, and is kept informed as to how countries are succeeding in achieving these goals.

We also ask Governments to invest in developing laws and solutions to these issues and to actively commit to ensuring the success of these goals.

## Papua New Guinea



# The Central Province free charter from children

There are global issues that affect the world and that impact the lives of innocent people. Therefore, the children of the Central Province communities ask the leaders of this world to continue working on the MDGs.

We also ask the world leaders to address violence against children, unemployment among the youths, and disaster preparedness.

We want a safe and conducive environment for the people of this nation.

We ask the Government of Papua New Guinea to provide us a better living environment.



“  
FROM MY POINT OF VIEW, MDG 2  
COVERS EDUCATION, BUT I THINK  
WE SHOULD INCLUDE MORE  
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE  
OF GIRLS AND MORE  
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR THE YOUTH.  
”

# The Philippines



## The Philippines free charter from children

We, the participants of the National Children's Consultation held on May 19th, 2014 in Cagayan de Oro City, representing the children of the Philippines, ask world leaders to keep focusing on achieving the eight Millennium Development Goals –even after 2015– with special focus on the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger; the improvement of maternal health; the reduction of child mortality; the achievement of universal primary education; and ensuring environmental sustainability.

There are still a lot of our fellow Filipino children whose rights continue to be violated. Many of us continue to experience abuse, exploitation, discrimination, and all other forms of violence. More Filipino children remain in the worst forms of child labour, or are into drug abuse, while more and more adolescent girls become pregnant. Children are also the most vulnerable in the event of armed conflicts and natural disasters.

We also ask leaders to tackle new challenges, and exert their best effort to empower children towards full realization of their rights, free all children from violence such as abuse, exploitation, bullying and from all other forms of violence; free all children from child labour and drug abuse, pornography, discrimination; provide appropriate care for adolescent mothers; and prevent teen pregnancies.

We want a clean, safe, and non-exploitative environment where children can continue to live healthy and safe from dangers.

We ask the Government of the Philippines to respond and make solutions through actions such as livelihood programs and temporary jobs, and educational assistance to children and youth.

We also ask the Government of the Philippines to reiterate its commitment in strengthening community-based child protection structures like the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) or Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC). Above all, we ask the Philippine Government to uphold children's human rights and make sure that services are enjoyed by all without discrimination.

As Filipino child and youth leaders from all over the Philippines, we commit to uphold the interest of our fellow children and youth and be accountable and responsible in all the undertakings we do to promote and protect our rights as children.

Adopted this 19th day of May 2014 by the children and youth participants of the National Children's Consultation.



“ WE WANT TO HAVE ALL THE MDGS REMAIN BECAUSE MOST OF THESE HAVE NOT BEEN ACHIEVED TO 100% SO MAYBE IN THE NEXT DEVELOPMENT SETTING THEY WILL BE 100% ACCOMPLISHED. ”

# Republic of Korea



## The Republic of Korea free charter from children

**We the children of the Republic of Korea ask world leaders to keep focusing on the following:**

- In order to stop school violence, not only do the students, including the offenders and the victims, need to receive regular training, but the teachers do too. The whole school needs to know about how they can prevent and react to school violence.
- In order to have a better nature, we ask for more trees to be planted in each neighbourhood and solar generators and pollution-purifiers to be installed.
- For the safety of children, we ask for safety training that could let us practice and learn how to act in emergency cases.
- For a safe environment, we ask for TV shows and a training programme that could raise awareness on environmental protection.

We want all countries to provide children with the necessities of life, such as food, clothing and shelter. We want more free medical centres.

We want a clean environment.

We want a safe environment.

We want more places for us to play without charge.



**We, the children of the Republic of Korea, ask world leaders to:**

- Create a new culture that puts less weight on academic status
- Create laws and policies for child protection
- Punish offenders equally regardless of their economic status
- Create laws that to give children opportunities to play
- Eliminate statutes of limitation –no time limit should be set for criminal charges
- Ban all forms of labour that are not appropriate for children
- Stop all forms of history distortion
- Invest more money to eliminate human trafficking
- Make safety training obligatory at educational institutions
- A variety of programmes are in need to help children fulfil their dreams- and this is where the government needs to put in more money.

- Ban people from hunting endangered species
- Create internal laws to guarantee human rights
- Conduct research and surveys on child protection on a regular basis
- Create more free medical centres
- Conduct elections in a lawful manner
- Ban nuclear weapons
- Ban female genital mutilation and human trafficking

We strongly ask the world leaders for active support!

“ WEALTH SHOULD NOT DECIDE WHETHER A CHILD CAN GROW UP IN A SAFE LIVING ENVIRONMENT OR NOT; OR WHETHER A CHILD CAN HAVE A CHANCE TO LEARN OR NOT. ”

10-year old boy



## Sri Lanka



# The Trincomalee free charter from children

Every person should have the opportunity to live in a beautiful environment by equally fulfilling their basic rights.

### We the children of Trincomalee ask the leaders to keep focusing on

- Mother's health improvement
- Gender
- Universal primary education
- Global relationships for development
- Poverty alleviation
- Environmental protection and development

### We also ask the leaders to tackle challenges such as

- Equal rights for children with special needs
- Supplementary food and nutrition programs
- Alcohol and narcotic prevention programs
- Cultural programs
- Welfare activities for elders

### We want a clean and safe environment through

- Not wasting water resources
- Systematic garbage disposal
- Observing the environment by the environmental authority
- Management of natural resources
- Protection of biodiversity
- Beautification of environment using natural resources

### We ask the Government of Sri Lanka for

- A legal system to protect the environment
- Awareness raising on bad effects of teenage marriages
- Development of rural areas
- Awareness raising on communicable diseases through the media

“  
AWARENESS FROM THE SCHOOL LEVEL NEEDS TO BE STARTED TO PROTECT CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

17-year old boy

”



## Timor Leste



# The Cova Lima free charter from children

We, the children of Timor Leste, ask world leaders to keep focusing on education, health, poverty and hunger.

We also ask leaders to tackle new challenges, such as lack of teachers, lack of doctors and nurses, and stopping various diseases.

We want a clean and safe environment, where the policing of forests and the enforcement of *tara bandu* (peace pact) are given a priority.

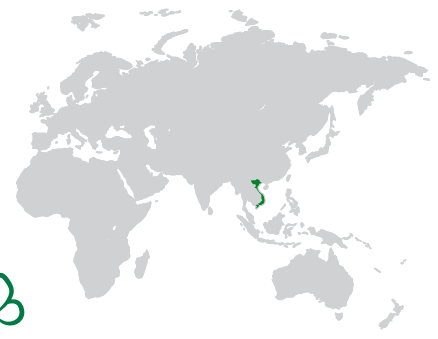
We ask the Government of Timor Leste to focus on the areas of education and health.

“  
WE NEED TO KEEP ACHIEVING  
PRIMARY EDUCATION BECAUSE  
IF THERE IS NO EDUCATION WE  
CANNOT BE SMART.

13-year old girl

”

# Vietnam



## The Bac Kan Province free charter<sup>B</sup> from children

**We, the children from Bach Thong District, would like the world leaders to focus on the following goals:**

- Enough food for everybody in the world
- Children can go to school despite their place where they live or how much money they have
- People pay good attention to environmental protection such as protecting the sea and the rivers
- Even working at home, women are treated equally and respectfully.
- People with diseases such as Tuberculosis, HIV and AIDS can be cured thanks to proper medicine and treatment and that the diseases do not spread out in communities

**We would like the Vietnam Government to:**

- Advocate for people not to litter
- Complete the goals set out in the local social-economic development plans so that people can enjoy better living standards
- Carry out the solutions and recommendations suggested by children, especially help children who are suffering from domestic violence and abuse
- Strengthen the social security system to protect children
- Regulate people to protect the water sources, manage waste and plant more trees



“ CHILD ABUSE AND VIOLENCE ARE BAD BEHAVIOURS THAT STILL HAPPEN IN VIETNAM. THE GLOBAL LEADERS SHOULD ADD MORE LAWS TO REDUCE CHILD ABUSE AND VIOLENCE CASES. FOR ME, THE MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY IS CREATING MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN TO EXPRESS THEIR IDEAS AND IMPROVE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN CHILD RELATED ISSUES.

13-year old girl

”



ChildFund  
Ireland

free



### Free from Violence and Exploitation Children's Charter

*Handwritten text in blue ink, including the title and several paragraphs of the charter's content.*

# EUROPE



# Belarus

## The Kobrin free charter from children

“  
SOME KIND OF LAW SHOULD BE PASSED  
THAT WILL PROTECT CHILDREN FROM ABUSE  
BY PARENTS. AND TO PROTECT MOTHERS,  
IF FATHERS BEAT AND HURT THEM.

17-year old girl

”

### We the children of Kobrin, Belarus, ask world leaders to keep focusing on:

- Combating HIV and AIDS and other diseases
- Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger
- Strengthening a global partnership for development
- Promoting gender equality and empowering women
- Improving maternal health
- Reducing child mortality

### We also ask leaders to tackle new challenges, such as:

- Ensuring freedom from violence: bullying, violence at home, etc.
- Ending and preventing wars and armed conflicts, in order to avoid children suffering
- Not involving children in extreme ideologies: fascism, Nazism, etc.
- Activating the promotion of universal human values, including family values: protection of children and mothers, promotion of healthy lifestyles, etc.
- Creating conditions for the development of children’s talents and potential in villages and small towns
- Ensuring the availability of quality medicaments
- Monitoring the quality of information available to children – i.e. on the internet, etc.



### We want a clean and safe environment, where priority is given to:

- Using resources rationally: proper waste disposal, zero waste in production, etc.
- Building environmentally-friendly plants and factories
- Using alternative energy sources
- Increasing the number of national parks and natural reserves

### We ask the Government of Belarus to:

- Facilitate the exchange of experience between states in addressing global challenges and achieving the Millennium Development Goals, through professional exchange programmes, exchange of information

and information technologies, and by supporting the work of international organisations and NGOs

- Provide sufficient funding for programmes on healthy lifestyles
- Pass laws against abuse and violence in the family
- Toughen penalties for drug trafficking
- Take into account children’s opinions in making important Government decisions
- Help the less developed countries with free medicines

The progress on these issues should be measured with the help of public opinion polls and surveys, statistical measurements, and monitoring the life of people.



“  
EDUCATION AT A YOUNG AGE  
CAN CHANGE TRADITIONS AND  
WAYS OF THINKING.  
”

16-year old boy

## Ireland

### The Dublin free charter from children

The post-2015 international development agenda must include children’s right to live in a world free from violence and exploitation. This is critically important because children should have freedom of speech and freedom to reach their own goals and the ability to achieve them. Law should be enforced so that children feel safe at school and at home so that they can have their voices heard. Children should be aware of their rights and we should all be aware of our responsibilities to protect them.

We the school students of a post-primary school in Dublin, Ireland, ask world leaders to keep focusing on the importance of gender equality, creating a sustainable environment, combatting illness and disease such as HIV and AIDS and reducing child mortality rates. It is also key for Governments

to meet regularly to monitor progress and communicate ideas.

We also ask leaders to tackle new challenges, such as a renewed emphasis on equality (sex, race, religion), try to promote international fair trade, educate people and create support groups regarding mental health and provide protection and support in sexual situations such as trafficking, child pornography and legalising prostitution and control of sales of arms and ammunitions.

We want a clean and safe environment, where laws are enforced regarding environmental protection, with consequences such as higher taxes if they are not adhered to. Developing and implementing green policies with the likes of recycling and reducing packaging. It is

important to improve public transport and search for alternative sources of energy and transportation.

We ask the Government of Ireland to lead by example by listening to young people’s opinions on youth culture, respecting children’s rights, protect children here while also working with other countries abroad to improve fostering and adoption facilities and methods in Ireland, including child homelessness and the separation of education and religion in state run schools. We propose that this would be monitored through research and surveys and by tracking carbon footprints (in relation to the environment).

Signed by school student representatives.

### The County Kildare free charter from children

**The post-2015 development agenda must include children’s right to live in a world free from violence and exploitation. This is critically important because:**

Children should be free to enjoy their lives and have safe homes, and have good relationships. Everyone is equal! Children must have access to education. They are also entitled to have their own opinions and participate in activities. Children having a voice needs to be promoted!

**We the students of a post-primary school in Co. Kildare, Ireland, ask world leaders to keep focusing on**

Everything! But we think food and education are priority. We think that education is important because we believe that children are the next generation. They should be supported with grants and sponsorship so they can go to school.

Food is a necessity to live! We need greener farming methods, new ideas and equipment. We also need to work on a cure for HIV and AIDS and generic medication can be used. Some diseases can be prevented easily. People need to be taught to help themselves. Free clinics are needed. We can set targets and share the knowledge.

We also ask world leaders to tackle new challenges such as protection of children against violence and exploitation (such as sexual violence, child labour, physical punishment, trafficking, conflict and harmful traditional practices). Also, to help fill the needs of people with disabilities, both physical and mental. To get rid of nuclear weapons and other forms of violence. Laws against discrimination, i.e. racial discrimination, sexual, religious and bullying in general. Access to sanitation, clean safe water.

We want a clean and safe environment where we have more electric cars, more bins, increased laws on litter, and enforcement. We need to reduce packaging, develop renewable energy and solar panels on homes and businesses. We need to stop cutting down trees and forests, and use less fossil fuels and coal.

We ask the Government of Ireland to make protective laws to look out for vulnerable children. The Government must support and invest in education. Hold conventions with other countries and leaders, and have serious consequences if people don’t abide by the new laws. Educate children/parents/ adults about these issues affecting children. The Government should carry out surveys before and after new laws to measure the change they made, and hopefully reduce the amount of people affected.

Signed by school student representatives.

# Annexes

## Annex 1: List of participating countries

### Africa

1. Benin
2. Burkina Faso
3. Cape Verde
4. Ethiopia
5. Gambia
6. Ghana
7. Guinea
8. Kenya
9. Liberia
10. Mali
11. Mozambique
12. Senegal
13. Sierra Leone
14. Togo
15. Uganda
16. Zambia

### The Americas

17. Bolivia
18. Dominica
19. Guatemala
20. Honduras
21. Mexico
22. Nicaragua
23. Paraguay
24. United States

### Asia Pacific

25. Afghanistan
26. Cambodia
27. India
28. Indonesia
29. Japan
30. Kyrgyzstan
31. New Zealand
32. Nepal
33. Papua New Guinea
34. Philippines
35. South Korea
36. Sri Lanka
37. Timor Leste
38. Vietnam

### Europe

39. Belarus
40. Ireland

## Annex 2: Coding explanation

### What priorities do you think should remain the same in the next priorities for the world?

<b>"Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger"</b>	Millennium Development Goal 1.
<b>"Achieve universal primary education"</b>	Millennium Development Goal 2.
<b>"Promote gender equality and empower women"</b>	Millennium Development Goal 3.
<b>"Reduce child mortality"</b>	Millennium Development Goal 4.
<b>"Improve maternal health"</b>	Millennium Development Goal 5.
<b>"Combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases"</b>	Millennium Development Goal 6.
<b>"Ensure environmental sustainability"</b>	Millennium Development Goal 7.
<b>"Develop a global partnership for development"</b>	Millennium Development Goal 8.
<b>"Cambodia's MDG 9 on demining"</b>	In 2003, the Government of Cambodia, recognising that one major constraint on development is the continued contamination of mines and explosive remnants of war, added demining, explosive remnants of war, and victim assistance as Cambodia's ninth major development goal.

### What priorities do you think should be added to the next priorities for the world?

<b>"Access to clean and safe water, and sanitation and hygiene"</b>	Ensuring children, families, and communities have access to clean and safe water, and sanitation and hygiene, such as latrines and toilets.
<b>"Access to food and good nutrition"</b>	Ensuring children, families, and communities have access to sufficient food for all.
<b>"Access to quality healthcare for all"</b>	Ensuring children, families, and communities have access to quality healthcare, including through the building of health centres and hospitals; training of doctors, nurses, and midwives; preventing deadly diseases; preventing substance abuse; providing access to sexual and reproductive health, etc.
<b>"Child poverty"</b>	Addressing issues related to child poverty.
<b>"Children's participation"</b>	Ensuring that children's opinions and views are actively listened to and taken into account in the decisions that affect their lives.
<b>"Children's rights"</b>	Guaranteeing children's rights as a whole and implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child, excluding mentions of specific rights.
<b>"Children's right to play"</b>	Cultural, leisure and recreational activities, as well as the provision of infrastructure for these purposes.
<b>"Civil liberties"</b>	Guaranteeing the exercise of civil liberties of children and adults, including freedom of expression, freedom of movement, and freedom of religion.
<b>"Corruption and accountability of Governments"</b>	Addressing corruption of Government officials, and making sure that Governments fulfil their promises and are accountable for their actions.
<b>"Early pregnancy"</b>	Creating awareness about and preventing early pregnancies in adolescents, excluding generic mentions of sexual and reproductive health and rights.





<b>"Employment for all"</b>	Creating job opportunities for adults and youth, including through incentives for small-scale industries, training programmes, etc.
<b>"Environmental protection"</b>	Creating clean and safe environment for children, families, and communities, including through the enactment and enforcement of laws, awareness-raising campaigns, etc.
<b>"Equity, including people with disability and the ageing community"</b>	Addressing inequalities, especially for children and people with disabilities, and for the ageing community.
<b>"Fair trade"</b>	Implementing fair trade practices.
<b>"Gender equality and women's empowerment"</b>	Achieving gender equality, by increasing the number of women in positions of power, addressing violence against women, etc.
<b>"Housing"</b>	Providing appropriate housing for all.
<b>"Human rights"</b>	Enforcing and guaranteeing human rights as a whole, excluding mentions of specific rights.
<b>"Peace and citizens' security"</b>	Communities, villages, cities and countries being safer places, including issues related to border security and to peaceful relations between countries.
<b>"Quality and safe education for all, including secondary education"</b>	Guaranteeing children and citizens' access to quality education without discrimination, including quality secondary and tertiary education, and adult literacy programmes.
<b>"Refugees"</b>	Providing services for and helping refugees.
<b>"Violence against children"</b>	Preventing and responding to all forms of violence and exploitation perpetrated against children, including bullying; child labour; child marriage; child trafficking; corporal punishment at home and school; harmful traditional practices against boys and girls; recruitment of children by armed forces and groups; sexual violence and exploitation; as well as providing birth registration for all and enhancing child protection systems.
<b>"Youth"</b>	Empowering youth and addressing issues affecting youth, such as youth delinquency and rural-urban migration of youth.

## If you could do one thing to improve the natural environment, what would you do?

<b>"Address deforestation, desertification, and land degradation"</b>	Addressing deforestation, by stopping the indiscriminate cutting down of trees and re-planting trees; as well as desertification and land degradation, such as coastal erosion.
<b>"Address illegal mining"</b>	Taking measures to stop illegal mining.
<b>"Enact and enforce strict laws to protect the environment"</b>	Enacting and enforcing strict laws and regulations to protect the environment.
<b>"Engage in sustainable agriculture"</b>	Undertaking sustainable agricultural practices, including through managed grazing, sustainable pest management, and using appropriate fertilizers.
<b>"Enhance access to water and sanitation systems"</b>	Enhancing access to water and sanitation systems.
<b>"Enhance children's participation in environmental affairs"</b>	Engaging children directly in environmental affairs, through children's clubs, etc.
<b>"Increase the number of natural parks and reserves"</b>	Increasing the number of natural parks and reserves.
<b>"Mobilize communities"</b>	Engaging communities and citizens directly in environmental protection activities, such as clean-ups, and awareness-raising activities.
<b>"Protect oceans and rivers"</b>	Protecting oceans and rivers, including by not contaminating water sources.
<b>"Protect wildlife"</b>	Protecting wildlife and address indiscriminate hunting and killing of animals.
<b>"Raise awareness at all levels"</b>	Raising awareness about environmental issues at all levels.
<b>"Reduce use of toxic material, improve waste management and recycle"</b>	Reducing the use of toxic material, such as plastic bags and bottles; improving waste management in cities and communities, including through recycling.
<b>"Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and fight pollution"</b>	Reducing the emission of greenhouse gases and achieving better air quality, including through caps for factories.
<b>"Stop wasting electricity, water and natural resources"</b>	Stopping wasteful use of electricity, water and natural resources.
<b>"Use alternative means of transportation"</b>	Using alternative means of transportation, such as bicycles.
<b>"Use alternative sources of energy"</b>	Using alternative sources of energy, such as ethanol, solar panels and wind generators.

## What do you want leaders in your country to do about these issues?

<b>"Address corruption"</b>	Taking measures to address corruption, including by appointing the best candidates for Government positions and monitoring performance of Government employees, etc.
<b>"Address drug trafficking"</b>	Taking measures to address drug trafficking, especially through cooperation between countries.
<b>"Address unemployment, especially youth unemployment"</b>	Taking measures to address unemployment, especially among youth, including through incentives for job creation, training programmes, placement services, etc.
<b>"Build and improve infrastructure"</b>	Building new and improving existing infrastructure, such as bridges and roads.

<b>“Build strong ties with other countries”</b>	Improving relations between countries.
<b>“Enact and enforce laws”</b>	Enacting and enforcing laws to address the broad spectrum of issues.
<b>“Enact laws and budgetary appropriations to fulfil the MDGs”</b>	Enacting laws and making budgetary appropriations to fulfil the current Millennium Development Goals.
<b>“Enhance children’s participation and take children’s views into account”</b>	Engaging children in decision-making processes and taking their views into account.
<b>“Enhance security for communities”</b>	Taking measures to improve security in communities, such as increasing police presence, installing street lamps, etc.
<b>“Ensure food security and good nutrition”</b>	Ensuring children, families, and communities have access to sufficient food for all.
<b>“Guarantee children’s rights”</b>	Guaranteeing children’s rights as a whole and implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child, excluding mentions of specific rights.
<b>“Guarantee children’s right to play”</b>	Guaranteeing children have access to cultural, leisure and recreational activities, as well as providing of infrastructure for these purposes
<b>“Improve access to water, sanitation and hygiene”</b>	Ensuring children, families, and communities have access to clean and safe water, and sanitation and hygiene, such as latrines and toilets.
<b>“Improve healthcare”</b>	Ensuring children, families, and communities have access to quality healthcare, including through the building of health centres and hospitals; training of doctors, nurses, and midwives; preventing deadly diseases; prevention of substance abuse; access to sexual and reproductive health, etc.
<b>“Prevent deforestation”</b>	Taking measures to prevent deforestation, such as prohibiting the indiscriminate cutting down of trees.
<b>“Promote and enhance education”</b>	Guaranteeing children and citizens’ access to quality education without discrimination, including quality secondary and tertiary education, and adult literacy programmes.
<b>“Promote gender equality and empower women”</b>	Taking measures to achieve gender equality, by increasing the number of women in positions of power, addressing violence against women, etc.
<b>“Promote technology transfer between countries”</b>	Promoting technology transfers between countries.
<b>“Protect children from violence and exploitation”</b>	Preventing and responding to all forms of violence and exploitation perpetrated against children, including bullying; child labour; child marriage; child trafficking; corporal punishment at home and school; harmful traditional practices against boys and girls; recruitment of children by armed forces and groups; sexual violence and exploitation; as well as providing birth registration for all and enhancing child protection systems.
<b>“Provide access to electricity”</b>	Providing access to reliable electricity to those people who do not have it.
<b>“Raise awareness about the issues at all levels”</b>	Raising awareness about the broad spectrum of issues at all levels, including through campaigns, communications activities, community mobilization, etc.



AFRICA



THE AMERICAS



ASIA  
PACIFIC



EUROPE

ChildFund®  
Alliance

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