Save the Children organised a virtual children’s gathering & dialogue on Sunday 17th September 2023 at 9h00 EDT. This interactive discussion was a safe and friendly space for over 50 children from 12 countries (Albania, Bangladesh, Colombia, El Salvador, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Palestine, Peru, the Philippines, Somalia, Venezuela and Zimbabwe) to talk about what they think leaders should commit to make the Sustainable Development Goals a reality. It was also a chance to learn from each other and create powerful messages about changes that matter to them and their communities.

Children first shared their views on the SDGs that they feel are most relevant to their countries. The discussion was then structured around the following questions:

1. Is there a challenge or gap related to one SDG/the SDGs that you see in your community or country? What can be done to make it better?
2. How can your government help achieve the SDGs? What concrete actions do you believe would make a difference? Write a direct message to world leaders, expressing your hopes, concerns and demands regarding the implementation of the SDGs.

FREEDOM, PEACE AND SECURITY

- For me, one of the objectives that is least fulfilled and one of the most marked problems in Colombia is 16, since Colombia is still living an armed conflict and this affects children and communities living in these areas.
- Together, we can build a safer, more equitable world for our children.
- Peace and justice is a main challenge for children in my country. No peace and justice is equal to no life, no health, no education and most importantly no life.
- NNA no pueden usar el espacio público, no pueden ir a parques, se debe mejorar la seguridad. Según % Colombia tiene ppto para ello, pero se ve no es eficiente. Potenciar el Sistema [Children and adolescents (NNA) cannot use public spaces, go to parks; security needs improvement. According to %, Colombia has a budget for it, but it seems inefficient. Enhance the system.]
- Seguridad y justicia: Colombia problemática fuerte, el CAI específicamente Grupos Armados Ilegales, afecta a las personas la seguridad de NNA. [Security and justice: Colombia faces significant challenges, especially concerning Illegal Armed Groups (Grupos Armados Ilegales) and their children the safety of children and adolescents.]
- Que se enfoquen en solucionar los temas de conflicto armado mediante diálogos de paz, y que trabajen para que los niños y sus derechos queden fuera de estas problemáticas [Focus on resolving issues related to armed conflict through peace dialogues and work to ensure that children and their rights are kept out of these problems.]

Mais
The missiles and bombs used by the Israeli occupation is killing innocent children, who have no mean to defend themselves. They also
We pollute the environment with dangerous chemicals and cause huge destruction to the infrastructure.

We call on the international community and the human and children’s rights institutions to work together to stop the violence and provide humanitarian intervention to help children, rebuild damaged infrastructure, and protect the environment.

To create spaces for those in the womb of suffering to be able to talk to other countries so their suffering and fears will reach in a more accurate and better way.

My demands to the world leaders as a Palestinian child is to stop turning a blind eye to the violence of the Israeli occupation against the Palestinians, because these violations are the greatest and primary obstacle to achieving the SDGs.

Also, the occupation didn’t leave any mean from missiles, incursions, internationally prohibited materials; like they did in Gazza using the white phosphorus. We demand living in peace.

Pass our voices to other countries in a correct way and convey the Palestinian people’s suffering to the world in a clear way explaining all the occupation’s violations against Palestinian people, whether adults or children

In Palestine, our first and last ask is peace and freedom, because by achieving them we can achieve the SDGs.

We also hope that our voice will reach the world and decision makers, and we demand freedom and independence. Either we are the owners of the land or we are, whether you like it or not.

As a Palestinian child who has seen many things with his own eyes, nothing scares me. My wish is the wish of any young man, which is the disappearance of this usurping entity. My recommendations: I call on the world leaders to impose sanctions on them as they don’t abide by any agreement and break them all.

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Sending our voices to other countries in a correct way, and passing across the suffering that the Palestinian people experience.

The biggest dilemma as a Palestinian citizen to whom all agreements apply is the occupation. With the disappearance of the occupation, most of the problems disappear

Peace and freedom of Palestine.

POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

- Mi gobierno ayudaría a solucionar estas problemáticas enfocándose en dar recursos y trabajos a aquellos que no tienen, con esto pueden empezar a erradicarse problemas [My government would help address these issues by focusing on providing resources and employment opportunities for those in need, which can begin to tackle these problems.]
- Nadie debería porque aguantar hambre. Se podrían generar lugares en los cuales personas de bajos recursos puedan llegar para acceder a una alimentación digna [No one should have to endure hunger. Places could be created where people with low incomes can access decent food.]
- Condiciones inequitativas: Se necesita reinvención de profesores y sistema educativo para que las personas no sean no tomadas en cuenta y apartadas del sistema. [Inequitable conditions: There is a need for the reinvention of teachers and the education system so that individuals are not overlooked and excluded from the system.]

- There are definitely challenges related to the SDGs in Zimbabwe. For example, Zimbabwe faces serious issues with poverty, food insecurity, and lack of access to clean water and sanitation. There are also challenges with the environment, including deforestation, soil erosion, and pollution. The country has also experienced political instability and human rights abuses in the past. All of these issues make it difficult to achieve the SDGs in Zimbabwe. However, the UN and other organizations are working hard to help the country make progress on the goals.
- Climate change disproportionately affects people living in poverty and those vulnerable due to social, economic and political circumstances
- As the effects become more severe the poor will only widen, I’d like for the government to call for emergency aid around vulnerable places in Zimbabwe as well as awareness organisations
- Children who often grow up or is in situations where they are struggling economically, has less option to participate in activities or other general events due to everything being mon
- 22% of the children are facing either poverty or social exclusion.
- In my department there is a lot of dead for hungry. Many kids go to school, and if they don’t receive a lunch for example they will no eat again in all day - Agata, Colombia
- Inequalities are equally urgent. Enforce inclusive policies, ensure quality education for all, and create opportunities that empower every child and youth. Address in
Inequalities are equally urgent. Enforcing inclusive policies, ensuring quality education for all, and creating opportunities that empower every child and youth. Addressing income disparities and providing equal access to education and opportunities, making the world fairer for everyone.

Calling on the social and development institutions to support poor families, so they don’t force their children to submit to what is called child labor … and enhancing the groups and schools so we become more efficient.

Poverty and unemployment: from providing employment opportunities for youth… collaborating with the global institutions supporting the provision of financial support … and cooperating with neighboring countries and other countries to exchange economic interests between them.

**EDUCATION**

- Educación inclusiva: No hay recursos para que personas con discapacidad acceda a educación o servicios básicos. [Inclusive education: There are no resources for people with disabilities to access education or basic services]
- Habilitar programas de salud mental en los colegios [Enable mental health programmes in schools]
- Compromiso político sobre todo el derecho a la educación, todas las personas en general, debe ser gratuita. Puedan acceder a las instituciones públicas para poder estudiar. [Political commitment, especially regarding the right to education; education should be free for everyone. They should be able to access public institutions to study.]
- Aprovechar y fortalecer las potencialidades de NNA en Educación [Harness and strengthen the potential of children and adolescents (NNA) in education.]
- Atender el Derechos a la Educación, hay mas dificultad en niños y niñas rurales para acceder [Address the right to education; there are more difficulties for rural boys and girls to access it.]
- En el derecho a la educación también debe entrar la educación sexual: Este tema debería ser enseñado en colegios (a partir de edades adecuadas) y con profesionales + The right to education should also include sexual education: This topic should be taught in schools (starting at appropriate ages) and with professionals.]

**Mسكوك**

We, as children, demand and aspire to integrate technology into education to increase its quality and keep up with the advancements. Also, if we employ technology to solve the most prominent environmental problems, this will
contribute greatly to improving the living and environmental situation.

Yes, necessarily for education: advancement in all educational aspects, from changing curricula that almost became false and Jewish, and using the methods that are more enjoyable by students.

Changing curricula and using modern, non-boring methods.
Social institutions supporting children who work at the expense of their studies.
Advancing the skills needed by the market.
Providing scholarships nationally and abroad.

CLIMATE ACTION

- Desinformación sobre discapacidades en todo el territorio. Se debe dar mayor información para que se puedan desarrollar. [Disinformation about disabilities throughout the territory. More information should be provided to facilitate development.]

- Más espacios de participación real de niñas, niños y adolescentes alrededor del cambio climático y la desigualdad para que nuestra opinión sea tenida en cuenta [Create more real participation spaces for girls, boys, and adolescents regarding climate change and inequality so that our opinions are taken into account.]

- Debemos frenar la contaminación que afecta el medio ambiente y esto es tarea de todos no importa de que país o región seamos sabemos que todos nos vemos afectados [We must curb pollution that affects the environment, and this is everyone’s task, no matter which country or region we come from; we know that we all are affected.]

- Nosotros somos el futuro del hoy y mañana y que el gobierno llegue hasta donde más lo necesita necesitamos cambiar estas problemáticas en El Salvador [We are the future of today and tomorrow, and the government should reach where it is needed the most; we need to address these issues in El Salvador.]

- Que se atiendan y financien acciones de adaptación frente al cambio climático para las comunidades más vulnerables. [Address and fund adaptation actions against climate change for the most vulnerable communities.]

- Evitar el exceso de petroleo y explotación de petroleo [Avoid excessive oil use and oil exploitation.]

- Que proteja la Amazonía, los parques naturales, páramos, humedales, plantas y animales y frene la tala de árboles e incendios forestales de nuestros bosques. [Protect the Amazon, natural parks, moorlands, wetlands, plants, and animals, and halt deforestation and forest fires in our forests.]

- Todos nos vemos afectados con el cambio climático y la desigualdad económica donde la educación se ve afectada a través de la pobreza debemos implementar medidas [We are all affected by climate change and economic inequality, which affects education through poverty; we must implement measures.]

- Debemos frenar la contaminación que afecta el medio ambiente y esto es tarea de todos no importa de que país o región seamos sabemos que todos nos vemos afectados [We must combat pollution that affects the environment, and this is everyone’s responsibility, regardless of the country or region we come from; we know that we all are affected.]
• Climate change is a major challenge for Zimbabwe. The country is already experiencing the effects of climate change, including more extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods. These weather events have caused food insecurity and damage to infrastructure, and they have also led to more disease and displacement. The country is also at risk of losing important ecosystems, like the Zambezi River, due to climate change. There is a need for more action on climate change in Zimbabwe, including reducing emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change. The country is also working on developing a National Adaptation Plan to address the issue.

• Climate change and inequality threaten our children's future. It’s time to take bold steps to address these challenges. The SDGS provide a blueprint for action. Please commit to ambitious climate goals and reducing inequalities to secure a better world for all children.

• To Our Global Leaders, climate change knows no borders. Let us come together to enforce international agreements and commitments, let’s cooperate among nations to combat this global crisis and protect the environment we all share.

• We urge you to prioritize climate adaptation measures, especially for vulnerable communities. Addressing climate impacts is as crucial as reducing emissions, ensuring that no one is left behind in our efforts to safeguard our planet’s future.

• General message to world leaders” Climate change is a complex challenge that transcends national boundaries

• I implore for world leaders to invest in children who are affected by climate change effects such as drought. This can be by mobilizing finance particularly for children in remote areas, essential services such as feeding schemes

• On climate change, we urge you to act now. Cut emissions, embrace renewable energy, and push for eco-friendly practices worldwide. Our planet’s well-being is at stake, and we need strong actions and policies to protect it for future generations

• CO2 levels are twice the standard

• Poor waste management

• Goal 13 of the SDG’S Climate change effects such as drought have affected the poor communities that have a lack of resources

• In our country there is not enough resources to tackle climate change as good as possible and have a sustainable development

• In my country there is a lot of contamination and garbage, specially in the big cities.

• Climate Action: In my country Somalia, climate change is considered one of the biggest challenge to people and children. Climate change costs so many children lives.

• Improve waste management

• The Zimbabwean government needs to invest in children vulnerable to climate change effects by providing funding for safety, essential services and policies that help children

• Climate change is a complex challenge that transcends national boundaries hence it requires collective action and shared responsibility. Together we can.

• include climate-based curriculum so that children will slowly know what is climate change

• investment in social protection for children

• Mobilizing climate finance and investing in children affected by climate change

• budget allocation. i think my government can allocate part of the national budget to implement the goals
• We urge you to prioritize climate adaptation measures, especially for vulnerable communities. Addressing climate impacts is as crucial as reducing emissions.
• The time to act on climate change is now. Our planet is at a critical juncture, and we must prioritize sustainable policies and investments to reduce emissions and transition to clean.
• Public awareness is key. Educate and engage children on climate issues, encouraging sustainable lifestyles and responsible consumption. Together, we can.
• To Our Global Leaders, climate change knows no borders. Let us come together to enforce international agreements and commitments, let’s cooperate among nations to combat this.
• On climate change, we urge you to act now. Cut emissions, embrace renewable energy, and push for eco-friendly practices worldwide. Our planet’s well-being is at stake, and we need
• Empower us to be advocates for change and listen to our ideas. By doing this, we will be engaged in climate policy and give us a sense of ownership.
• Integrate climate education into curricula, empowering children with the knowledge and tools to become climate-conscious citizens.

On climate change, we should urge them to act now because our planet’s well-being is at stake, and we need strong actions and policies to protect it for us and for future generations, such as cutting emissions, embracing renewable energy and pushing for eco-friendly practices worldwide.

A message on behalf of the children of Palestine
First, fulfillment of the Paris climate Agreement. All countries must take steps to reduce their emission; Second, limiting the phenomenon of global warming, so it doesn’t pass the 1.5 degree limit; Third, supporting renewable energy; Forth, rich countries acknowledging their responsibility of the loss resulting from the damage caused by climate change that countries and societies are experiencing, and providing compensation.

Supporting the green economy and renewable energy, and the end of the Israeli occupation which prevents peace, and the need to manage the greenhouse gas emission.
HEALTH, INCLUDING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

- Los diferentes tipos de inteligencia conversen entre sí. Fortalecer que el cerebro del NNA en todas sus áreas, ámbitos y capacidades. [Different types of intelligence should interact with each other, strengthening the brain of 8reas8en and adolescents (NNA) in all their areas, domains, and capacities.]
- De embarazos adolescentes es el más alto del país [The rate of teenage pregnancies is the highest in the country.]
- Que traten el tema sin tabú y con su debido respeto, para trabajar en que los índices de embarazos adolescentes y ETS bajen (por ejemplo en mi departamento el índice + [Discuss the topic without taboos and with due respect in order to work towards reducing the rates of teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases (for example, in my department, the rate is high).]
- Salud: hospitales en zonas donde se requieran y con personal especializado [Healthcare: Hospitals in areas where they are needed, staffed with specialized personnel.]
- Inversión en la salud: demasiado bajo el acceso a la salud, los países tienen ppto para invertir en salud, porque es de calidad deplorable. [Investment in healthcare: Access to healthcare is severely limited; countries should allocate budgets for healthcare because the quality is deplorable.]
- Que a la salud mental se le de la importancia necesaria, y que en todo colegio y comunidad se pueda tener acceso a psicólogos y profesionales en el tema [Give the necessary importance to mental health and ensure that every school and community has access to psychologists and professionals in the field]
- Salud: No brindan atención requerida, se fue el internet y todo colapsó. En el camino al hospital empeoran o fallecen, sectores o zonas donde no hay acceso a salud tengan hospitales [Healthcare: Insufficient attention is provided, and when the internet goes down, everything collapses. Hospitals should be established in Acces or regions with limited healthcare Access.]
- Docentes: salud mental, salud SyR y medio ambiente. Temas muy importantes como matemático y otros. Venezuela se respete lo que está en el Plan Estratégico Educacion [Teachers: Mental health, sexual and reproductive health, and the environment are very important topics, as well as mathematical and others. Venezuela should respect what is in the Strategic Education Plan.]

GREEN ECONOMY AND ENERGY

- The time to act on climate change is now. Our planet is at a critical juncture, and we must prioritize sustainable policies and investments to reduce emissions and transition to clean energy sources.
- Let us invest in green technologies and innovation to drive economic growth while reducing our carbon footprint. Embrace sustainable practices that can create jobs and prosperity, aligning economic development with environmental preservation.
ACROSS VARIED THEMES

- How do we ensure we don't just continue the same circle of creating goals over and over again (child from Zimbabwe)
- My points will be addressing Goal 3, 4, and 16. My government should focus on addressing inequality by providing basic services such as education and health. This will help reduce poverty and vulnerability to climate change and hunger and ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.
- Inequalities are equally urgent. Enforce inclusive policies, ensure quality education for all, and create opportunities that empower every child and youth. Address income disparities and provide equal access to education and opportunities, making the world fairer for everyone.
- The goals clearly focus on 5 aspects people, planet, peace, prosperity and partnership but in as much we focus on prosperity let us not threaten the environment, goal 13 calls for climate action goal 8 focus on industry innovation and infrastructure goal 8 sometimes goals on to threaten goal 13 industrialisation causes depletion of the ozone layer. The world leaders need to look deeper into these aspects and make sure all goal align as echoed by goal 13 (Guardian Angel)
- As the leader of the country, the President of Zimbabwe can play a key role in achieving the SDGs. He can start by promoting political commitment to the goals and ensuring that they are reflected in national development plans. He can also promote public awareness of the SDGs and ensure that they are integrated into education curricula. The President can also mobilize resources for the implementation of the SDGs and hold regular review meetings to monitor progress. In addition, he can promote gender equality, fight corruption, and promote transparency and accountability in governance. All of these measures will help to create an enabling environment for achieving the SDGs in Zimbabwe.

- Children are the most vulnerable to the effects of conflict and poverty. I implore you to invest in education, healthcare, and protection for children in your country. (Child from Nigeria)
- As a child rights advocate, I urge you to prioritize the rights and well-being of children in your policies and actions.
- Children are the most vulnerable to the effects of conflict and poverty. I implore you to invest in education, healthcare, and protection for children in your country.
- Climate change affects our mental health, as we grapple with anxiety about an uncertain future. Show your commitment by supporting mental health services

- Capacitaciones para que los profesores sobre salud mental, salud sexual y reproductiva y medio ambiente [Training for teachers on mental health, sexual and reproductive health, and the environment.]
- Desde mi punto de vista la pobreza afecta tanto a adultos y a niños así también provoca que los niños ya comienzan a trabajar desde muy temprana edad [From my point of view, poverty affects both adults and youngen, and it also causes youngen to start working from a very young age.]
- Colombia: El tema del conflicto armado, que a pesar de que hoy estamos "bien" (a comparación con los 90) siguen habiendo grandes problemáticas, sobre todo en áreas campesinas. [Colombia: The issue of armed conflict, which, despite the fact we are “better” today (compared to the ’90s), still presents significant challenges, especially in rural areas.]
Lamentablemente Colombia aún vive muchas situaciones de acoso hacia las mujeres. También está la desigualdad laboral, el tema de las madres adolescentes, etc. [Unfortunately, Colombia still experiences many instances of harassment towards women. There is also workplace inequality, the issue of teenage mothers, and more]

- Diseñar nuevos programas evaluativos, más allá de los tradicionales, potenciando las inteligencias multiples [Designing new evaluative programs that go beyond traditional methods, focusing on multiple intelligences.]
- Habilitar programas de salud mental en los colegios [Implementing mental health programs in schools]
- Respetar el derecho a salud sexual y reproductiva estipulado en la curricula, los colegios no están brindando educación adecuada al tema [Ensuring the right to sexual and reproductive health as stipulated in the Lopna (10a) Protection of Children and Adolescents’ Rights); schools are not providing adequate education on this topic.]
- Capacitación en salud mental, salud sexual y reproductiva y medio ambiente en los colegios [Training in mental health, sexual and reproductive health, and the environment in schools.]
- Fortalecer el buen trato en los colegios, respeto y no discriminación [Strengthening respectful treatment, respect, and non-discrimination in schools.]

الأحمد

"at this meeting, we are representative voices for other children. We got here to champion them and their voices. We should take advantage of this opportunity and pass across our voices to meet our promise to them in any way possible."

التوصيات اللازم نقدمها

1. دعم مشاريع الطاقة البديلة
2. دعم مشاريع الاقتصاد الأخضر
3. معاقبة الاحتلال الإسرائيلي على استخدامه الأسلحة المضرة للبيئة كالفسفور الأبيض
4. تحقيق العدالة المناخية بين الدول حيث يتم توفير الحلول لكل الدول

The recommendations that we must put forward:

1. Support the use of alternative/renewable energy.
2. Empowering programs about the green economy
3. Punishing the Israeli occupation for using weapons that harm the environment like the white phosphorus.
4. Establishing climate equality amongst countries by offering climate resolutions for all countries