



ChildFund
Alliance

Small Voices, Big Dreams 2012

A global survey of children's
hopes, aspirations and fears

ChildFund
Australia



I am afraid of war and I would like to ask to our parents to stop doing war as war destroys children's futures.

Achiatou, 12, Mali

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Mission

The mission of the ChildFund Alliance is to improve humanity by creating opportunities for the deprived, excluded and vulnerable children of the world. Operating worldwide, we strive to eradicate the root causes and the effects of poverty on children by implementing meaningful, sustainable solutions resulting in positive futures. Working together with children in need, their families and communities, we make a difference each and every day.

Acknowledgements

Respondents: Thank you to the 6,204 children who generously contributed their hopes, aspirations and fears to this survey.

Data collection: This survey would not be possible without the dedication of ChildFund Alliance staff around the world who spent weeks talking to children and documenting their thoughts and opinions.

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Photography: © members of the ChildFund Alliance, 2012
Cover image: Achiatou, age 12, Mali. Back cover image: Enkh-Amgalan (far left), age 10, Mongolia

Listen and learn from the world's children

The voices of 6,204 children from 47 countries are represented within this report. Through it, we get a taste of what children aged 10-12 aspire to, for themselves and their communities. We're reminded that children can think beyond themselves and consider how their world can be improved. We've also gained insight into their hopes, aspirations and fears.

ChildFund didn't opt for a simple tick-box approach when undertaking this survey. Instead, we asked children six questions and documented their responses. Enabling children to respond freely has ensured their answers were not prompted; these are their own thoughts. We learned that in Afghanistan, 30% of children fear violence and crime, and 21% fear war or the world ending. Zabihullah, 12, told us: "I am afraid of child kidnapping. I have heard of this happening a lot here. I am also afraid of killing children. If I was president I would provide programs about child rights."

Achiatou, 12, from the troubled African country of Mali, made a simple but moving plea. "I am afraid of war and I would like to ask to our parents to stop doing war as war destroys children's futures."

On some topics, comments from children from 36 developing nations in Africa, Asia and the Americas were strikingly similar to those made by children from 11 developed nations.

Consistently, children want to protect their world. Their greatest environmental concern is pollution. They want to enhance their communities by planting trees and creating more parks and they take a strong stand against litter and rubbish. When asked what they were most afraid of, one theme resonated strongly: dangerous animals and insects.

There are stark differences between developed and developing countries too. While children in developed countries want to make their mark on the world by becoming professional athletes or entertainers, children in developing countries want to change their world by working in healthcare or education.

When asking about natural disasters, we listed 10 and gave children the option to select those they had personally experienced. The responses show that young children have been through a lot in their first decade of life; some have lived through drought, earthquakes,

floods, fires, heatwaves, landslides and snowstorms. About one-quarter of children in developing countries worry about natural disasters.

For Chandra, 12, from Nepal, his concern is drought. "My family has to walk for an hour to fetch drinking water during the dry season," he said.

For Amina, 12, from Ghana, it's floods. "Sometimes, I am very sad because during the rainy season, the stream which passes through our community floods and causes us a lot of pain," she said. "This year somebody died in the flood and it was so sad."

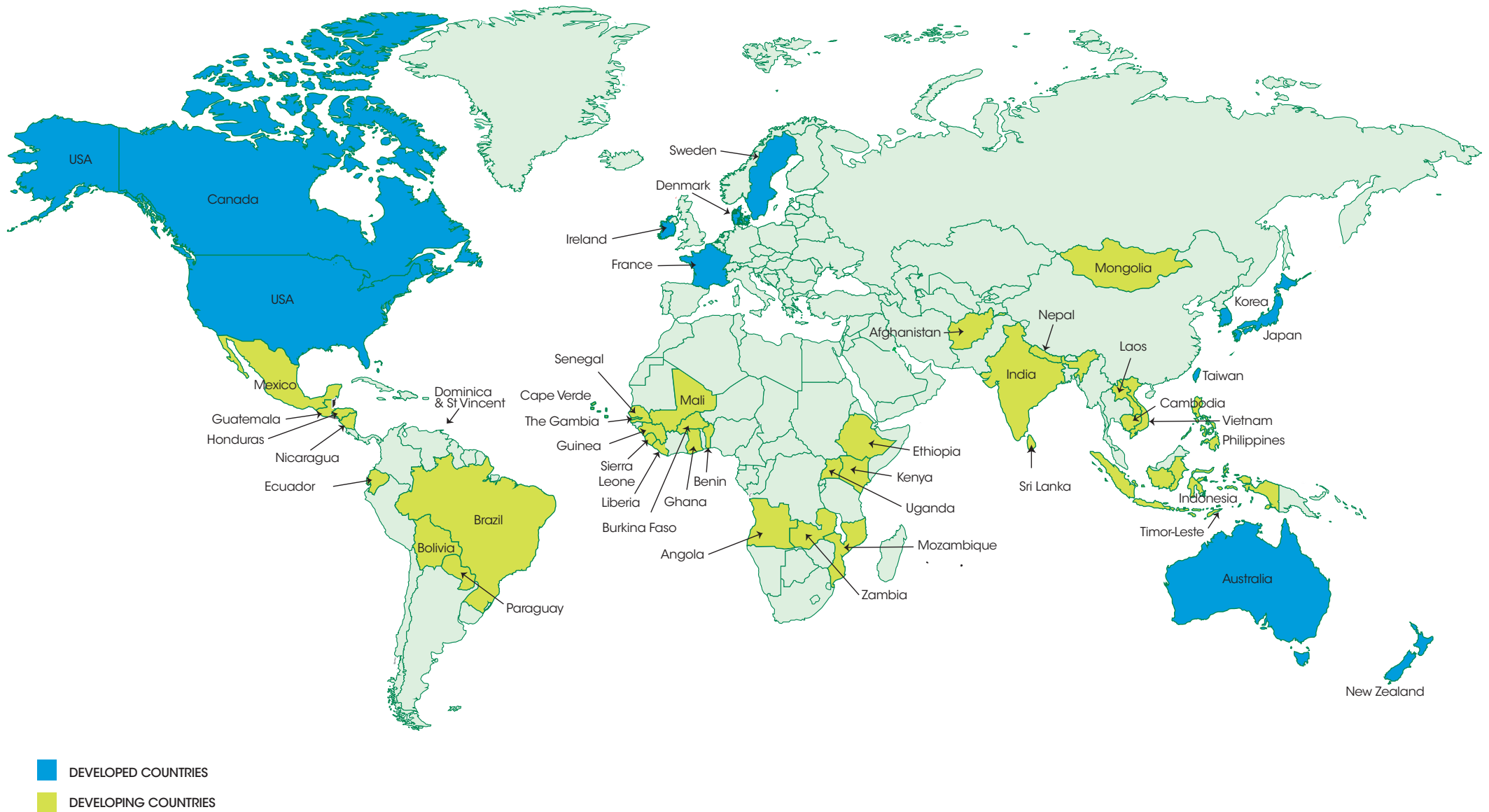
This is the third year the ChildFund Alliance has presented the Small Voices, Big Dreams Survey. Again, it has highlighted the value in asking children what they think. And the importance of stopping to listen and to genuinely hear what children have to say.

Jim Emerson

Secretary General
ChildFund Alliance



Global snapshot: child participants 2012



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

Improving education

If made president, half of all children in developing countries would improve education or provide enrichment opportunities for other children, compared to a quarter of their peers in developed nations. The strongest results came from Africa: **Angola (79%)**, **The Gambia (77%)** and **Guinea (77%)**.

Improving healthcare

Improving healthcare is a priority for 15% of children in Africa, compared to just 5% in developed countries.

Providing basic needs

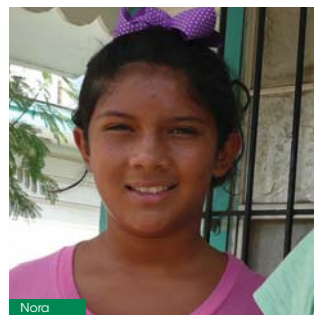
A relatively high proportion of children from **Angola (53%)**, **Zambia (47%)**, **Paraguay (46%)** and **Mozambique (43%)** are focussed on providing food, clothing and shelter.

Poverty, inequality and employment

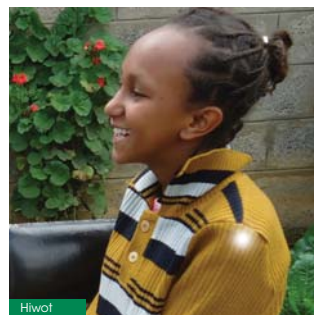
While 15% of children globally would address poverty and inequality, and create more jobs, this response was volunteered most by children in **Vietnam (37%)**, **Taiwan (29%)** and **Mongolia (27%)**.

Change social or political policies and address problems

While this was an action expressed by 7% of children worldwide, it received a significant focus in **Ethiopia (31%)** and **Ecuador (21%)**.



Nora



Hiwot

Alejandra, 11, enjoys social science and dancing. She is from Paraguay, where 46% of children say they would provide basic needs like food, clothing and shelter, for children if they were made president.

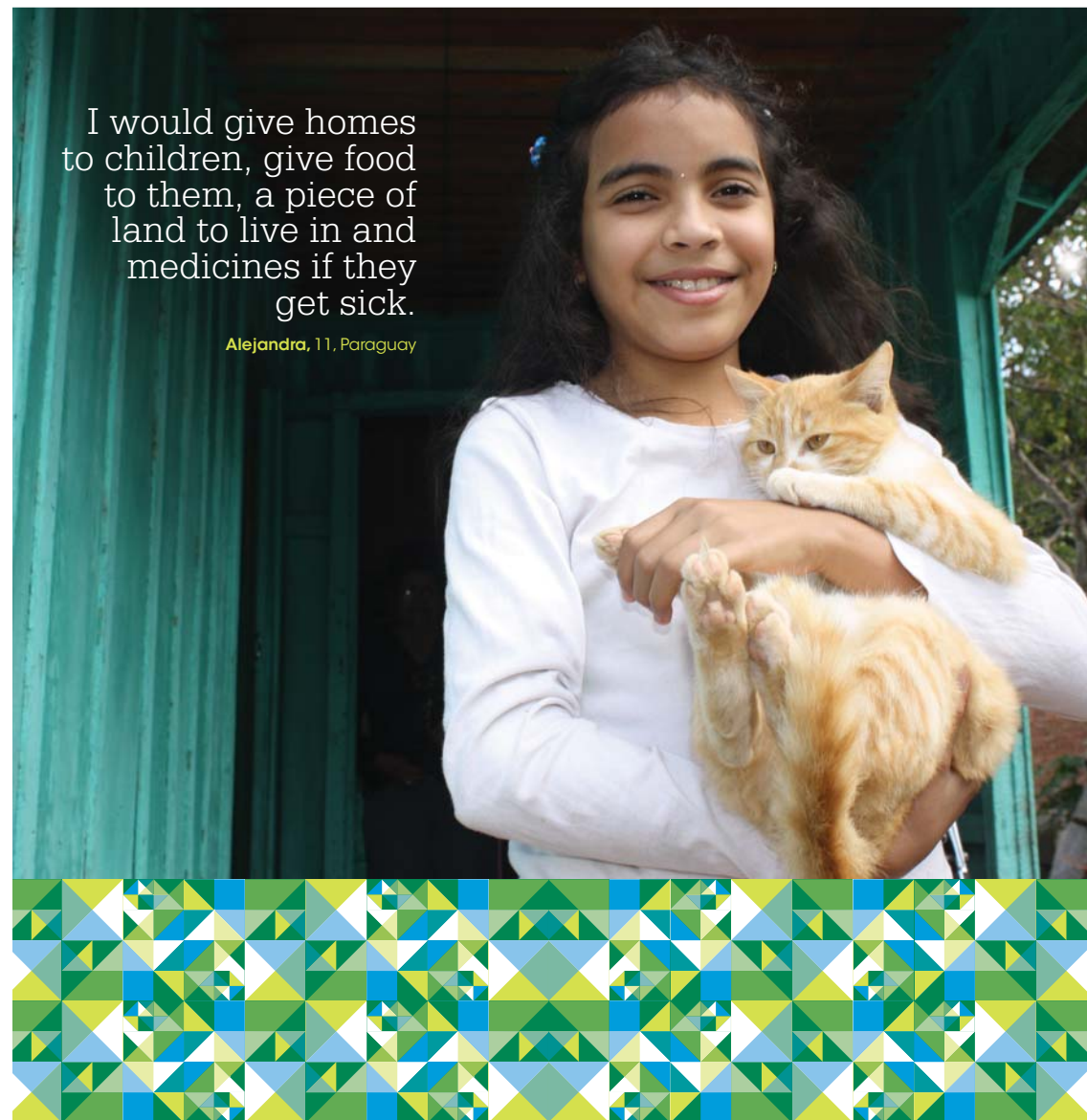
Nora, 11, is from the USA where 28% of children would improve local children's lives by providing basic needs, such as food, clothing and shelter. A further 27% would improve education and provide enrichment opportunities.

Hiwot, 12, is from Ethiopia where 31% of children want to overcome social and political problems.

If I was president, I would make rehabilitation centres for Tutsi children.

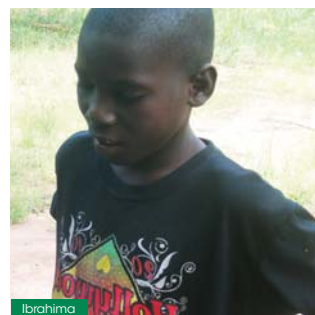
I would give homes to children, give food to them, a piece of land to live in and medicines if they get sick.

Alejandra, 11, Paraguay





Maty



Ibrahima

Maty, 12, is from Senegal where 71% of children would improve education and provide enrichment opportunities if made president.

Ibrahima, 12, enjoys football and marbles. He is from Guinea where 77% of children would improve education and provide enrichment opportunities.

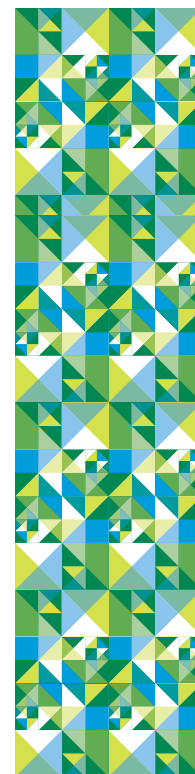
If I was the president, I would encourage education for every child and would multiply school infrastructures in every village where there are maximum numbers of children of school age. This is good because when you are educated you can help yourself and your family. You can get a better job and can go to any part of the world.



Ramadhan

Ramadhan, 10, is from Kenya where 59% of children would improve education and 37% would provide basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter.

Ga, 12, is from Laos where 49% of children would improve education and 10% would address poverty and inequality, and create more jobs.



If I was president,
I would help
children study.
I would support
education.

Ga, 12, Laos

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

	ALL COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	AFRICA (DEVELOPING ONLY)	AMERICAS (DEVELOPING ONLY)	ASIA (DEVELOPING ONLY)
Improve education/provide enrichment opportunities	39%	50%	24%	55%	39%	52%
Provide for basic needs: food/clothing/shelter	23%	22%	25%	25%	29%	11%
Improve healthcare	7%	9%	5%	15%	5%	4%
Provide more outlets for fun/sports/recreation	7%	7%	8%	7%	7%	7%
Provide/Improve safety and security	5%	3%	6%	2%	6%	4%
Address poverty/inequality/create more jobs	15%	13%	17%	10%	16%	15%
Strengthen infrastructure/improve transportation	2%	3%	0%	3%	2%	4%
Change social/political policies/problems	7%	5%	9%	4%	7%	5%
Provide technology	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Other	11%	8%	15%	7%	7%	11%
Don't know	3%	0%	5%	0%	2%	0%

What are you most afraid of?

Dangerous animals and insects

Across developing and developed countries, 26% of children say their greatest fear is dangerous animals and insects. This was strikingly high in Timor-Leste (79%), Mozambique (74%) and Nepal (65%).

Death, illness and disease

While 11% of children globally fear death, illness and disease, this fear is raised by only 6% of children in the Americas and 3% in Asia. It is more commonly cited in Africa (19%), particularly by children from Sierra Leone (43%), Burkina Faso (35%), Uganda (35%), Guinea (29%) and Ethiopia (25%).

Violence and crime

A fear of violence and crime is more prevalent in developing countries (12%) than developed (7%). It rates most highly in Liberia (38%), Afghanistan (30%) and Cambodia (28%).

God and religious beings

In Indonesia, 17% of children cite god and religious beings as a cause of fear, compared to 1% of children globally.

Scary creatures or characters

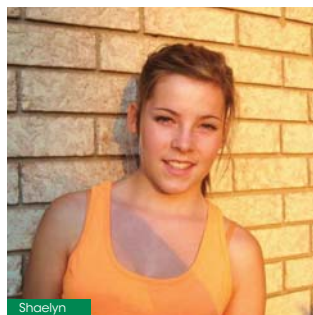
While 6% of children globally fear scary creatures or characters, such as ghosts or witches, results are much higher in Sri Lanka (40%), Laos (33%), Korea (18%) and Benin (18%).

The dark

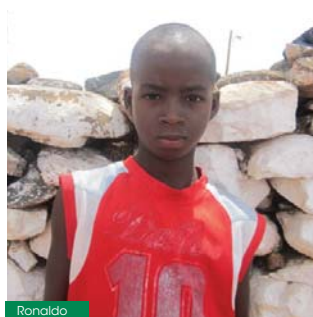
Children in the Americas are more likely to be scared of the dark (11%) in comparison to 2% of children in Asia and Africa, and 4% of children globally.

War or the world ending

Fear of war or the world ending affects 7% of all children, but is more pronounced in Liberia (25%), Afghanistan (21%), Ghana (20%), France (19%), Guinea (18%) and Sweden (16%).



Shaelyn



Ronaldo

Shaelyn, 12, is from Canada. She has experienced earthquakes, heatwaves and snow storms.

The thing I am most afraid of is spiders.

Ronaldo, 12, is from Cape Verde where 23% of children are afraid of violence and crime.

Bernard, 10 is from Benin where 26% of children fear dangerous animals and insects.

Children from Benin are more afraid of scary creatures or characters (18%) than violence and crime (14%).



Bernard (middle)



Hawa



Zabihullah



Rita (right)



Erik

Hawa, 10, is from Sierra Leone where 43% of children nominate death, illness and disease as their greatest fear.

Zabihullah, 12, is from Afghanistan where 30% of children fear violence and crime, and 21% fear war or the world ending.

I am afraid of child kidnapping. I have heard of this happening a lot here. I am also afraid of killing children. If I was president I would provide programs about child rights.

Rita, 11, is from Timor-Leste. She wants to be a nurse, doesn't like people who cut and burn trees, and has experienced drought, earthquakes, heat waves and cyclones.

I am scared of snakes because they will bite me.

Erik, 10, is from Bolivia where violence and crime are most commonly nominated by children (23%), followed by dangerous animals and insects (22%).

I am afraid of gangs. A year ago, burglars came into my home. We lost the TV, radio, clothes, shoes, and my toys. There is a lot of delinquency and people walking at night. It's dangerous and children can't play at the park or soccer field.

Panchma, 12, is from Cambodia where 28% of children are scared of violence and crime and 22% fear unfulfilled aspirations, such as not being able to complete school or find employment.

I am afraid of thieves, child rape and drug users.

Panchma, 12, Cambodia



What are you most afraid of?

	ALL COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	AFRICA (DEVELOPING ONLY)	AMERICAS (DEVELOPING ONLY)	ASIA (DEVELOPING ONLY)
Dangerous animals and insects	26%	29%	21%	27%	28%	31%
Specific people	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	5%
Unfulfilled aspirations	5%	5%	5%	6%	2%	5%
The dark	4%	4%	3%	2%	11%	2%
Violence and crime	10%	12%	7%	13%	13%	9%
Threats to family life	6%	4%	9%	3%	6%	2%
Scary creatures/characters	6%	6%	6%	3%	6%	12%
Death, illness and disease	11%	11%	11%	19%	6%	3%
Natural disasters	7%	7%	7%	4%	7%	11%
War/world ending	7%	6%	7%	10%	2%	5%
God/religious beings	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	3%
Other	12%	11%	14%	11%	13%	9%
Don't know	4%	2%	6%	2%	4%	1%

If you could grow up to be anything you wanted, what would you be?

Sporting and artistic pursuits versus health and education

Children from developed countries most typically want to become professional athletes (19%), artists (13%) or entertainers (11%). Becoming an athlete particularly appeals to children in **Ireland** (25%), **Sweden** (24%) and **Denmark** (24%).

Being an athlete or entertainer is of little interest to children in developing countries, who aspire to becoming doctors, nurses, dentists (27%) or teachers (24%). Medical careers are popular with children in **Ghana** (67%), **Uganda** (54%), **Sri Lanka** (51%). Teaching is appealing in **Nepal** (49%), **Benin** (47%), **Zambia** (44%) and **Laos** (43%).

World, country or government leader

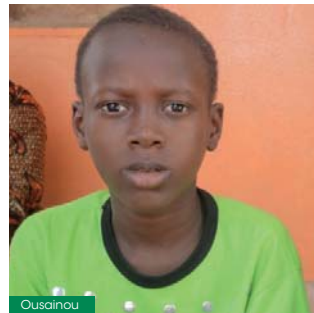
Becoming a world, country or government leader is the most popular aspiration held by children in **The Gambia** (32%) and **Senegal** (22%). For children in **Mali**, it is the second most popular choice (25%) after teaching (29%). In contrast, this option doesn't appeal to many children in developed countries; **Canada** and **France** (1%), or **Denmark**, **Ireland**, **New Zealand** and **Sweden** (2%). No children from **Australia** and **Japan** want to become leaders.

Police, firefighters or military

Law enforcement roles are most commonly nominated by children in **Vietnam** (36%) and **Dominica & St Vincent** (23%), compared with 6% of children from developed countries. An exception is the **USA** (17%).



Lily



Ousainou

Lily, 12, is from **Australia** where 8% of children want to become vets or animal trainers.

When I grow up, I want to become a vet. I have always wanted to do this as I love animals and I think that I am good at taking care of them. I also want to try and save their lives. When an animal ends up not surviving, or is very badly injured or hurt, it would be very sad to be a vet. But if you save an animal's life, you would feel really good about it.

Ousainou, 11, is from **The Gambia** where 32% of children want to become leaders.

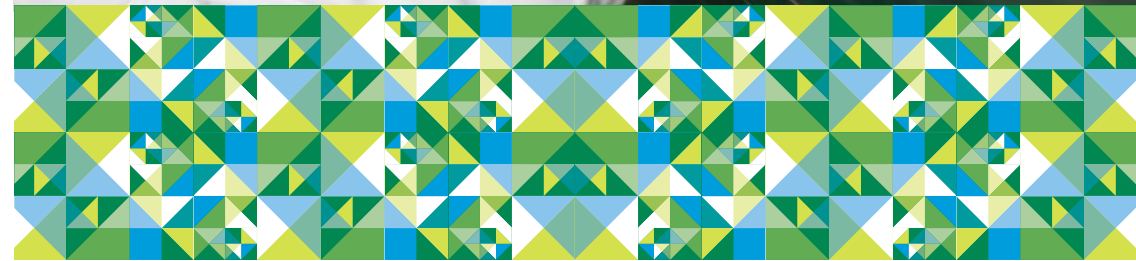
When I grow up I would like to be the president of **The Gambia**.

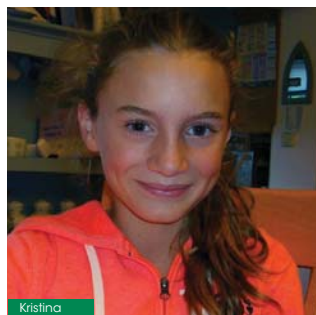
Van Anh, 11, is from **Vietnam** where 36% of children want to be a police officer, firefighter or join the military. Her dream is to become a lawyer.



I would like to be a lawyer and justify for those who are unjustly punished and help punish those who are proven guilty.

Van Anh, 11, **Vietnam**





Kristina



Irma



Byung-Joon (left)



Rashia (right)

Kristina, 10, is from Ireland where 25% of children want to be athletes

I would love to be an athlete and go to the Olympics for sprints. I have always wanted to! I think I would love it.

Irma, 12, is from Guatemala where 41% of children want to become teachers.

I want to become a teacher and then I can educate children in my community.

Byung-Joon (left), 12, is from Korea where 17% of children want to become artists or creative professionals, 14% want to become professional athletes and 11% entertainers.

I want to be an architect.

Rashia, 12, is from Uganda where 54% of children would like to become a doctor, nurse, dentist or healthcare worker.

Celsia, 11, is from Dominica & St Vincent where 23% of children want to become police, fire fighters or join the military.

I enjoy school so much that I dream of being a teacher. I cannot always get to school as I have a heart condition. I get sick very often and have to visit the hospital.

Celsia (right), 11, Dominica & St Vincent



If you could grow up to be anything you wanted, what would you be?

	ALL COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	AFRICA (DEVELOPING ONLY)	AMERICAS (DEVELOPING ONLY)	ASIA (DEVELOPING ONLY)
Professional athlete	10%	4%	19%	3%	7%	2%
Entertainer	6%	2%	11%	1%	3%	2%
Teacher/academic	16%	24%	5%	25%	18%	29%
Doctor/nurse/dentist/healthcare provider	19%	27%	8%	30%	24%	25%
Veterinarian/animal trainer	4%	1%	8%	1%	3%	1%
Business professional	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%	3%
World/country/government Leader	5%	7%	2%	10%	3%	5%
Lawyer/judge	3%	3%	2%	3%	7%	1%
Social worker/childcare provider	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Engineer	2%	4%	1%	3%	4%	4%
Construction/transportation worker	2%	3%	2%	3%	4%	2%
Artist/creative professional	7%	3%	13%	3%	4%	2%
Police/firefighter/military	9%	10%	6%	9%	11%	12%
Scientist	2%	1%	4%	1%	1%	0%
Other	9%	7%	11%	6%	5%	11%
Don't know	2%	0%	4%	0%	1%	0%

What is the environmental problem you worry about most?

Pollution

Pollution (34% including water pollution) and natural disasters (20%) are the most commonly cited environmental problems that all surveyed children worry about. Pollution is more commonly cited by children in the Americas (43%) whereas natural disasters are more commonly cited by children in Asia (27%) and Africa (26%). Water pollution is of particular concern to children in Mali (42%) and Guinea (21%).

Deforestation

About one-third of children in Angola, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Honduras, Nicaragua and Sri Lanka cite deforestation as one of their biggest environmental concerns.

Climate change and global warming

Children in developed countries (16%) are more likely to cite climate change and global warming as environmental concerns, compared to their peers in developing countries (2%). Climate change and global warming are the most common concerns nominated by children from Japan (36%) and Denmark (28%).

Natural disasters

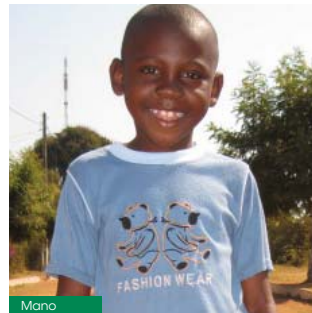
Many children in Mozambique (70%), Indonesia (62%), Nepal (58%), Philippines (55%) and Uganda (52%) worry about natural disasters; a concern not shared by any children in Angola, Mali or Afghanistan. While 15% of children from developed countries worry about natural disasters, this is more pronounced in the USA (24%) and Japan (22%).

Sanitation

Sanitation is a common concern for children in Sierra Leone (36%), Senegal (28%) and India (21%), compared to those from developed countries (1%).



Xin Yi



Mano

Xin Yi, 12, is from Taiwan where 36% of children are concerned about pollution.

I live near the industrial estate. The air pollution always makes me feel uncomfortable.

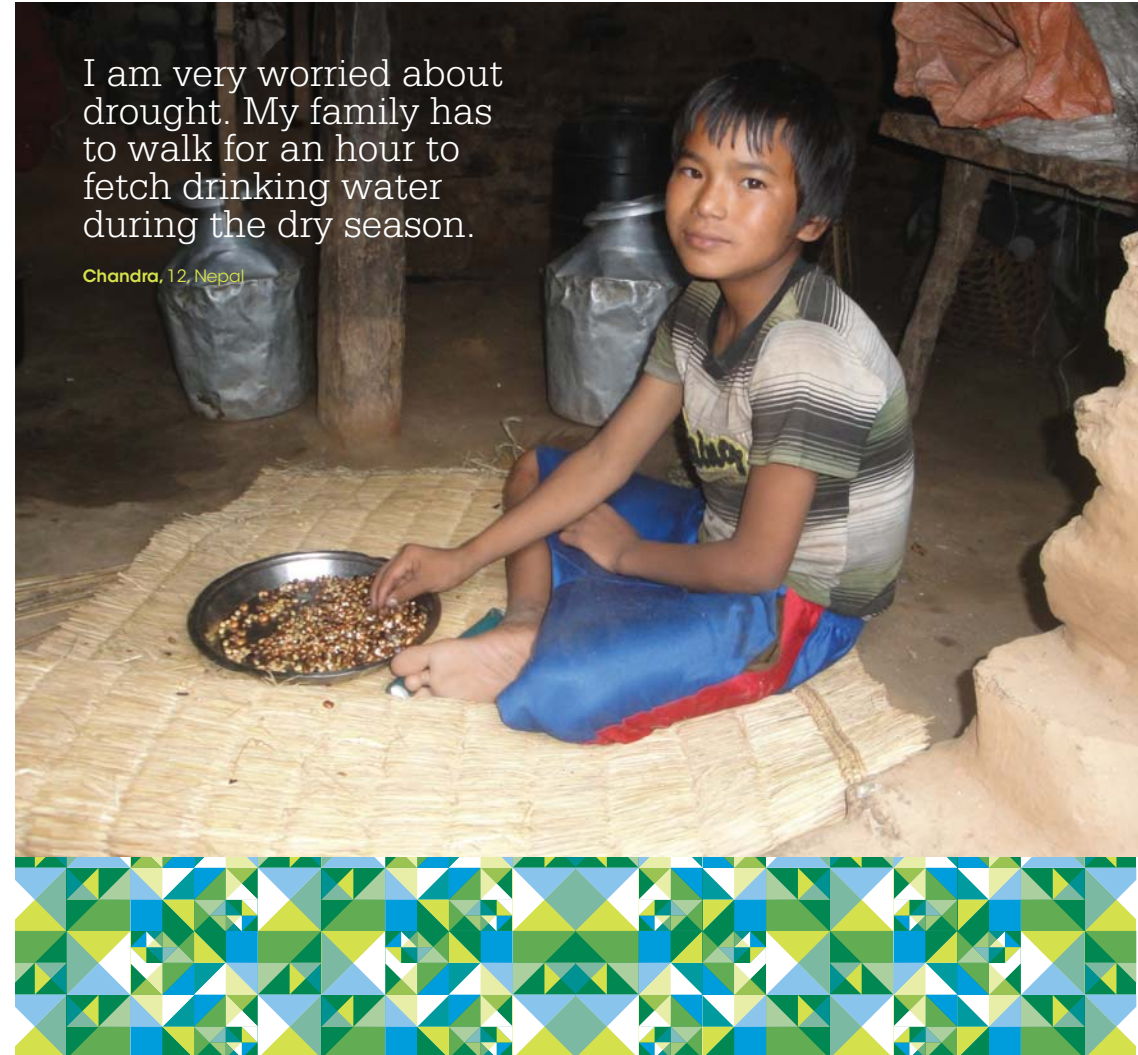
Mano, 10, is from Mozambique where 70% of children worry about natural disasters.

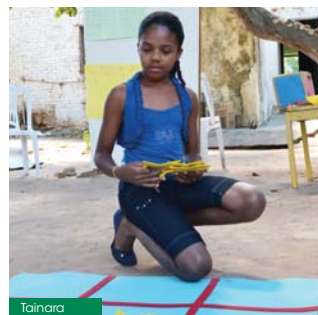
Chandra, 12, is from Nepal where natural disasters concern 58% of children.

People are facing problems of untimely rainfall, drought, and limited drinking water. Their harvest gets badly affected by the drought which leads to food shortages. I would like to plant trees and conserve the forest to improve environment problems and to protect drinking water sources.

I am very worried about drought. My family has to walk for an hour to fetch drinking water during the dry season.

Chandra, 12, Nepal





Tainara



Anushree (left)



Amina



Amandine



Ruth

Tainara, 11, is from Brazil where children are worried about pollution (37%), deforestation (23%), natural disasters (14%) and water pollution (12%).

People waste a lot of water and sometimes they cut the pipes that carry the water to the houses and deviate them to other places. I would stop them to do that. I would stop them to cut the trees and to throw trash in the streets, because trash should be placed in the trash can. I would like everybody to be aware, respect the environment and human rights, and when no one is using drugs, we will then all have a much better world.

Anushree, 11, is from India where children's chief environmental concerns are sanitation (21%) and pollution (17%). She lives in a slum which becomes water logged when it rains. Sometimes water even comes inside the houses. Due to this, the surroundings are unclean and unhygienic and the diseases like malaria, dengue and chikungunya often affect people.

The thing I am most afraid of is child marriage and child labour. I would like to eradicate child labour if I could. When I grow up, I want to become a doctor.

Amina, 12, is from Ghana where 33% of children worry about natural disasters, 20% about pollution and 15% about sanitation.

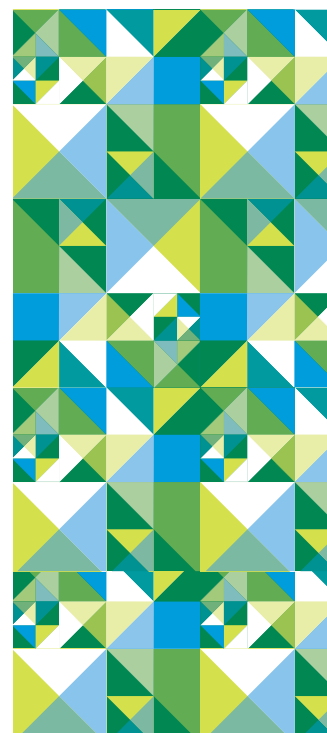
Sometimes, I am very sad because during the rainy season, the stream which passes through our community floods and causes us a lot of pain. This year somebody died in the flood and it was so sad. Many community members dump refuse into the stream, which blocks the free flowing of the stream so it overflows into houses.

Amandine, 12, is from Burkina Faso where 43% of children worry about natural disasters, and 29% are concerned about deforestation.

My biggest environmental concerns are earthquakes and uncontrolled animal wandering. To solve the different threats on the environment I want to stop tree lopping, animals wandering and bushfires.

Ruth, 10, enjoys reading books. She is from Kenya, where 29% of children worry about natural disasters.

Carla, 11, is from Ecuador where 54% of children worry about pollution and water pollution.



The main problem I am concerned about is environmental contamination.

Carla, 11, Ecuador

What is the environmental problem you worry most about?

	ALL COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	AFRICA (DEVELOPING ONLY)	AMERICAS (DEVELOPING ONLY)	ASIA (DEVELOPING ONLY)
Extinction of animals/plant	2%	1%	4%	1%	2%	0%
Natural disasters	20%	23%	15%	26%	13%	27%
Pollution (general)	29%	26%	33%	18%	43%	23%
Deforestation	9%	12%	5%	10%	16%	12%
Climate change/global warming	8%	2%	16%	2%	3%	1%
Mass destruction/world ending	1%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%
Water pollution	5%	5%	4%	5%	9%	3%
Depleted resources	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%
Lack of drinking water	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%	5%
Mining	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
Sanitation	4%	7%	1%	11%	3%	5%
Other	13%	18%	7%	23%	6%	19%
Don't know	4%	2%	11%	1%	2%	1%

What natural disasters have you experienced?

Children in **Guatemala** had experienced an extraordinary range of natural disasters; forest or bushfire (40%), landslide (39%), flood (31%), drought (23%), snow storm (21%), heatwave (17%) and earthquake (17%). In response to the question about what they feared most, natural disasters (24%) ranked a close second to dangerous animals and insects (25%).

Similarly, in **Cambodia** children have experienced drought (44%), flood (39%), heatwave (37%), cyclone or tornado (25%), landslides (18%) and forest or bushfires (18%). In response to the question about what they fear, 19% were most scared of natural disasters.

Large numbers of children in **Nepal** (90%) and **Timor-Leste** (91%) reported having experienced cyclones or tornados. Drought had been experienced by a similar proportion of children from **Kenya** (95%), **Timor-Leste** (95%) and **Sri Lanka** (90%). Children reported experiencing earthquakes particularly in **Japan** (96%), **Nepal** (92%), **Taiwan** (89%), **Afghanistan** (88%), **Mexico** (74%) and **New Zealand** (60%).

Natural disasters was the biggest fear nominated by children from **Japan** (26%) and the second most common response, after dangerous animals and insects, in **Nepal** (14%). Flooding has been experienced by 55% of children in the **Philippines**, where 23% are most scared of natural disasters. While 75% of children in **Canada** have experienced a snowstorm, only 4% feared natural disasters.

Of all children in developed countries 23% have not experienced any natural disasters, particularly in **Korea** (55%) and **Sweden** (40%).



Sunethra



Troy

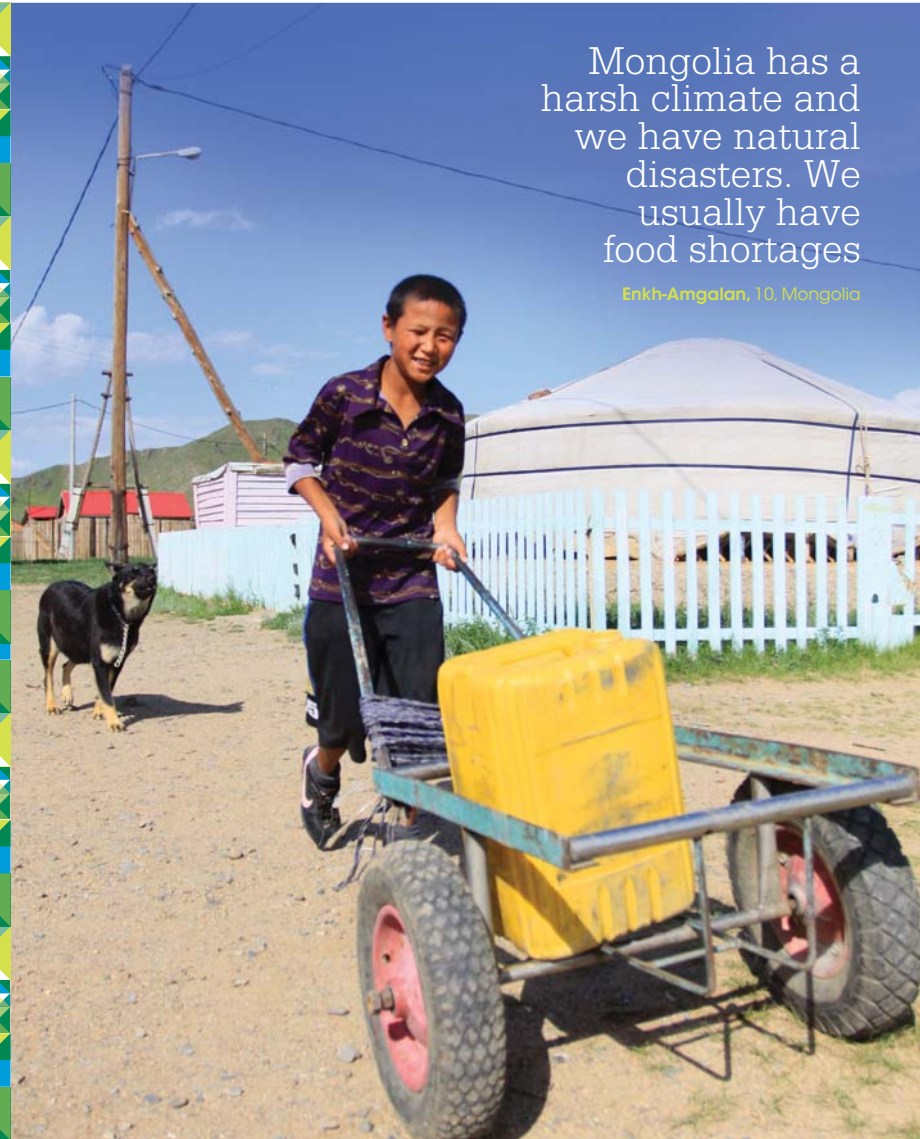
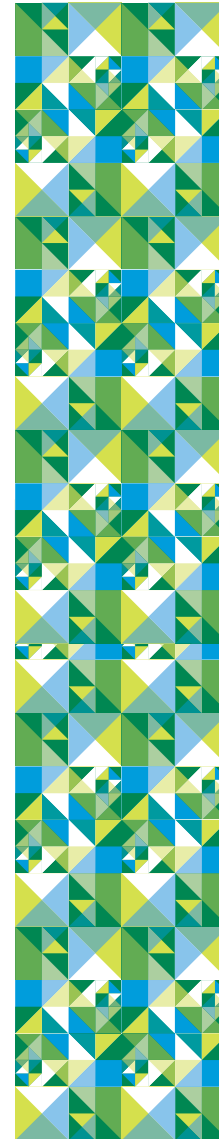
Sunethra, 11, is from Sri Lanka where 90% of children have experienced drought.

Troy, 10, is from the Philippines where 55% of children had experienced floods, and 46% earthquakes.

I live in a coastal village. Our house and source of income are always affected by typhoons. When I was only two years old my village was stricken by flood and landslide. Many children lost their homes and loved ones.

Enkh-Amgalan, 10, is from Mongolia where 41% of children had experienced a flood.

Mongolia has a harsh climate and we have natural disasters. My father's health is bad and the job opportunities for him are rare, so we do not have much money. I have four brothers and one sister. We usually have food shortages. Many people in my town have health problems. We lack water and food, livelihood activities and education supports.



Mongolia has a harsh climate and we have natural disasters. We usually have food shortages

Enkh-Amgalan, 10, Mongolia

My biggest fears are earthquakes, rain and drought. I have had to experience all these things within my community as well as forest fires, landslides and storms.

Luis, 11, Guatemala



Luis, 11, is from Guatemala where 40% of children have experienced a forest or bush fire, 39% a landslide, 31% a flood, 23% a drought, 21% a snow storm, 17% a heatwave and 17% an earthquake.

Mirian, 11, is from Honduras where 56% of children have experienced a forest or bush fire.

I have experienced earthquakes, forest fires, heat waves, storms and hurricanes.

Jérémie, 11, is from Benin where 75% of children have experienced drought, 50% have experienced a forest or bush fire and 44% have experienced a flood.



Mirian



Jérémie

Have you ever experienced the following in your community?

	ALL COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	AFRICA (DEVELOPING ONLY)	AMERICAS (DEVELOPING ONLY)	ASIA (DEVELOPING ONLY)
Drought	28%	40%	10%	46%	24%	44%
Earthquake	24%	16%	35%	4%	23%	29%
Flood	29%	33%	24%	36%	19%	41%
Forest or bush fire	22%	30%	10%	44%	19%	17%
Heatwave	21%	19%	24%	10%	28%	26%
Landslide	9%	11%	7%	2%	16%	21%
Snow storm	13%	1%	29%	0%	3%	2%
Volcanic eruption	1%	1%	1%	0%	3%	1%
Tsunami	1%	1%	3%	0%	0%	2%
Cyclone or tornado	10%	11%	10%	5%	3%	25%
Other	6%	8%	4%	5%	19%	4%
None of the above	18%	15%	23%	16%	14%	14%
Don't know	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%

If you could do one thing to change the environment around your community, what would you do?

Improve infrastructure

Drilling for water, building schools and hospitals and providing electricity and latrines are popular responses from children living in **Guinea** (72%), **Sierra Leone** (62%), **Timor-Leste** (51%) and **Afghanistan** (50%) compared with children from developed countries (4%).

Stop littering

Littering is of little concern to children in **Africa** (7%), while 36% of children from the Americas want to stop or reduce it; **Mexico** (54%), **Bolivia** (50%), **Nicaragua** (42%). Results vary widely across developing countries, where 16% of children want it addressed. It is of particular concern to children in **Australia** (47%) and **Canada** (38%), compared with **Denmark** (2%).

Plant trees and build parks

More children in developing countries (28%) want to plant more trees and parks than children in developed countries (13%). For children in **Angola**, this is a priority for most children (74%).



Alix



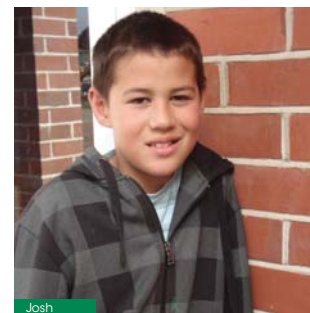
Abraham

Alix, 11, is from France where 13% of children want more environmental laws. She is worried about global warming.

The one thing I would do to change the environment around me would be to remove nuclear power stations.

Abraham, 11, is from Mexico where 54% of children would like to reduce littering, 13% would like to minimise pollution and 10% would plant more trees and build parks.

No littering. Tell people not to litter because it may bring us down and we would end up dead.



Josh

Josh, 11, is from New Zealand where 26% of children want to stop or limit littering and 17% wanted more trees and parks.

I would change the environment by making it against the law to cut down native trees without permission, to make sure that we don't lose our native trees.

Juana, 11, is from Nicaragua where 42% of children would like to reduce littering and 33% would plant trees and build parks.



If you could do one thing to change the environment around your community, what would you do?

	ALL COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	AFRICA (DEVELOPING ONLY)	AMERICAS (DEVELOPING ONLY)	ASIA (DEVELOPING ONLY)
Plant more trees and parks	22%	28%	13%	26%	22%	36%
More environmental laws	4%	2%	7%	3%	2%	1%
Stop/decrease pollution	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%
Stop climate change and global warming	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Public transportation/Fewer cars	1%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%
Stop/decrease littering	21%	16%	29%	7%	36%	14%
Stop forest/bush fires	1%	2%	0%	3%	3%	1%
Educate about environment	4%	7%	1%	9%	6%	3%
Improve infrastructure	12%	17%	4%	23%	7%	17%
Other	14%	12%	18%	14%	8%	13%
Don't know	6%	1%	12%	1%	3%	0%

Charli's story: I want all children to have the same things

Of the 6,204 children who completed ChildFund's survey, 123 were from Australia. One was Charli, age 11, who lives in Sydney.

Concern for others

Australian children show great concern for others. If they were to become leaders, 18% would provide basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing, and 19% would address poverty, inequality and create more jobs.

Improving education and providing other enrichment opportunities is rated the highest priority by Australian children (28%).

Charli says she would help children "get better lives by giving them clothes and money". She explains: "I would want all children to have the same things."

"Let the children who don't have families stay with us for a while. They would be able to come to school with me and play with me and my friends."

This concern for others didn't translate to Australian children wanting to take on careers in education or healthcare, which interests only 4% of children, compared to more than 20% of children in developing countries.

Charli was in the minority in wanting a career in healthcare: "I have always wanted to be an ambulance person so I can help people when they are sick. I think it would be so good being able to go to people when they are in trouble and fix them."

An enthusiasm for sport

Australian's enthusiasm for sport looks set to continue for generations to come, with 20% of Australian children aspiring to become professional

athletes. Only 4% of children in developing nations share this aspiration.

In contrast, 7% of children in developing countries dream of being world, country or government leaders when they grow up, which is a career aspiration not cited by any Australian children.

There is a distinct sporting focus to Charli's extra curricular activities. She lists soccer, netball, Oztag, t-ball, penny board and horse riding as favourite pastimes.

An appreciation for the arts

The responses from Australian children also suggest an enthusiasm for the arts. When asked what they'd like to be when they grow up, children said being an entertainer (13%) or artist/creative professional (13%) – career options nominated by about 2% of children in developing countries.

Respect for the environment

Charli was not alone in her desire to "create more parks for kids to play and be safe so they have somewhere to go after school" with 18% of her Australian peers saying they would like to enrich their local environment with more trees and parks. This need is felt even more strongly in developing countries (28%).

However, pollution is the environmental problem of most concern to Australian children (31%) and children worldwide (29%). Climate change and global warming are also issues for 15% of Australian children, in comparison to 2% of their peers in developing countries.

Globally, all children are keen to reduce littering (21%), but particularly in Australia (31%).

Australian children are also more likely to be concerned about animals and plants becoming extinct (7%) than children in developing countries (1%), where the reverse trend was true of deforestation (Australia 4% and developing countries 12%).

Scary stuff

Universally, dangerous animals and insects cause the greatest fear among children. This concern is greater for children in developing countries (29%) than in Australia (24%).

Threats to family life frighten 8% of Australian children and 4% of those in developing countries. Charli's says: "I like the comfort of my own home and being with my mum and dad and sister."

Other results within the survey show closer alignment between Australian children and children globally. Australian children and their peers in developing countries have similar levels of fear about death, illness and disease (Australia 12% and developing countries 11%). Both groups are less likely to be scared of the dark (4%) or frightened of war or the world ending (6%).

Violence and crime is of greater concern in developing countries (12%) than Australia (7%). No Australian children in the survey expressed a fear of god or religious beings, unlike their peers in developing countries.



Charli and her mum Sue watching the Socceroos

I like the comfort of my own home and being with my mum and dad and sister.

Charli, 11, Australia

	AUSTRALIA	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL COUNTRIES
If you were president or leader of your country, what would you do to improve the lives of children in your country?			
Improve education/provide enrichment opportunities	28%	50%	39%
Address poverty/inequality/create more jobs	19%	13%	15%
What are you most afraid of?			
Dangerous animals and insects	24%	29%	26%
Death, illness and disease	12%	11%	11%
If you could grow up to be anything you wanted, what would you be?			
Professional athlete	20%	4%	10%
Entertainer	13%	2%	6%
What is the environmental problem you worry most about?			
Pollution (general)	31%	26%	29%
Natural disasters	19%	23%	20%
What natural disasters have you experienced?			
Earthquake	42%	16%	24%
Flood	35%	33%	29%
If you could do one thing to change the environment around your community, what would you do?			
Stop/decrease littering	31%	16%	21%
Plant more trees/build parks	18%	28%	22%

Note: This table shows the two highest responses for Australian children for each question in the survey.

Methodology

The *Small Voices, Big Dreams* survey was undertaken by the ChildFund Alliance during June–August 2012. In the majority of developing countries, and non-English speaking developed nations, ChildFund staff conducted one-on-one interviews with children in their local language. In some of the English-speaking developed countries, children completed an online survey.

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

The survey was conducted in 47 countries with children aged 10 to 12. This included 36 developing nations in Africa, Asia and the Americas as well as 11 developed countries. A total of 6,204 children were surveyed – 3,665 children in developing countries and 2,539 children in developed nations.

Five of the six questions were open-ended, meaning the children were not given a list of answers from which to choose, with one multiple choice question.

All translated responses were provided to GfK Roper for analysis.



Que

Que, 11, is from Vietnam where 28% of children would improve education or provide enrichment opportunities if they were president.

If I were the president, I would provide children with suitable means of transport so that they can go to school on time.



A Kenyan school advertises the Small Voices, Big Dreams Survey

RESPONDENTS BY AGE & GENDER

	ALL COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	AFRICA (DEVELOPING ONLY)	AMERICAS (DEVELOPING ONLY)	ASIA (DEVELOPING ONLY)
Male respondents	48%	48%	48%	48%	49%	46%
Female respondents	52%	52%	52%	52%	51%	54%
Children aged 10 years	31%	31%	31%	30%	33%	33%
Children aged 11 years	32%	29%	36%	26%	37%	28%
Children aged 12 years	37%	39%	34%	44%	30%	39%
Total responses	6,204	3,665	2,539	1,624	912	1,129

DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

	TOTAL RESPONSES	AS % OF TOTAL
Australia	123	2%
Canada	400	6%
Denmark	92	1%
France	108	2%
Ireland	269	4%
Japan	77	1%
New Zealand	726	12%
Korea	117	2%
Sweden	404	7%
Taiwan	114	2%
USA	109	2%
Total developed	2,539	41%

ASIA: DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ONLY

	TOTAL RESPONSES	AS % OF TOTAL
Afghanistan	101	2%
Cambodia	100	2%
India	104	2%
Indonesia	94	2%
Laos	103	2%
Mongolia	100	2%
Nepal	118	2%
Philippines	102	2%
Sri Lanka	103	2%
Timor-Leste	104	2%
Vietnam	100	2%
Total Asia	1,129	18%

AFRICA: DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ONLY

	TOTAL RESPONSES	AS % OF TOTAL
Angola	100	2%
Benin	102	2%
Burkina Faso	100	2%
Cape Verde	106	2%
Ethiopia	104	2%
Ghana	123	2%
Guinea	100	2%
Kenya	99	2%
Liberia	99	2%
Mali	100	2%
Mozambique	92	1%
Senegal	86	1%
Sierra Leone	101	2%
The Gambia	100	2%
Uganda	107	2%
Zambia	105	2%
Total Africa	1,519	24%

AMERICAS: DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ONLY

	TOTAL RESPONSES	AS % OF TOTAL
Bolivia	104	2%
Brazil	103	2%
Dominica & St Vincent	100	2%
Ecuador	103	2%
Guatemala	100	2%
Honduras	102	2%
Mexico	100	2%
Nicaragua	100	2%
Paraguay	100	2%
Total Americas	1,017	16%

