



YOUNG VOICES



Save the Children



Sweden
Sverige

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE REPORT



WHAT IS YOUNG VOICES?

Around the world, the people who make decisions about children's lives – at school, at home and in the community – do not always know and understand how children feel and what they want: and seldom do they simply ask. So, the problem is that children and young people's voices are not listened to and they are not allowed to express their views in matters concerning them, nor participate. Adults often do not have the facts supporting their decisions on how they affect children's lives: by doing Young Voices they get those well-needed facts through the surveys and focus groups. The aim is to disseminate these facts and to have adults and decision makers take this knowledge to heart – and act on it!

Young Voices is nation-wide research that brings forward the voices of **1242** boys and girls 12-16 years old from Kosovo on important issues for them such as their participation in decision making, views on education, security, gender sensitive topics, COVID-19 related issues and thoughts on their psycho-social challenges and impactful global processes such as climate change and environment.

This research is developed in 2016 for the first time in Kosovo and was based on Save the Children Sweden's "Ung röst" (Young voice) with the aim to collect the views of Swedish young people and children: a human right to make their voices heard and express views on matters affecting them (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, article 12).

The purpose of the Young Voices survey in Kosovo is to capture young people's voices on various topics including climate change to ultimately encourage better discourse and exchange between children and policy makers on matters that affect children and their future. Young Voices will serve as an advocacy tool to advance the child rights agenda with children. The results from the survey will be used to influence an increase public investment in children and to advocate for better inclusion of children in budget planning for matters that affect children and their rights as per UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

“

IN MOST CASES, OUR VOICE HAS NOT BEEN HEARD”

– 14-year-old girl



35%

of children have been bullied or harassed during this year.



70%

of children report to be sad and down.



84%

of children think that it is important that politicians and decision makers hear what children think.



38%

of children are informed about mental health services offered in their city.



71%

have heard about child rights in their schools.



80%

of all children look at their future in a positive way.



65%

of children declared that Kosovo needs to do more to address climate change.

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“POLLUTION HAS BEEN NORMALIZED

– 14-year old boy, Kosovo



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