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Alliance

## Small Voices, Big Dreams 2013

A global survey of children's views on peace, violence, heroes and happiness



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**Mission**

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

In joining together the great strengths of its member organisations, ChildFund Alliance combines and expands the reach and scope of its members to meet the needs of children living in poverty. ChildFund Alliance members implement sustainable child-focused, community-based development programs in areas where children are impacted by war, natural disaster, poverty and global health issues such as HIV/AIDS.

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

**We have a once in a generation opportunity for children to be free from violence and exploitation.**

**Join the ChildFund Alliance Campaign at [www.freefromviolence.org](http://www.freefromviolence.org)**



## The main cause of violence in my country is the search for easy gain.

Josué, 11, Benin

**Acknowledgements**

**Respondents:** Thank you to the 6,499 children who generously contributed their thoughts and views 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 opinions and ideas.

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**Photography:** © members of the ChildFund Alliance, 2013. Cover image: Josué, 11, from Benin. Back cover image: Lokol, 10, from Kenya.

## Children's views on peace, violence, heroes and happiness



This is the fourth annual Small Voices, Big Dreams report published by the ChildFund Alliance. Once again, it reinforces the sophisticated understanding children have of the world they live in, and the value in adults taking the time to listen to what they say.

This year's survey focussed on violence and exploitation, with children asked to examine the issue of violence in their communities. Children were also asked to describe what makes them feel safe and provides them with a sense of happiness.

It is clear from the results that the 6,499 children who participated are not cocooned from the effects of violence that exist in their respective countries. At just 10-12 years of age, they are aware of its causes and have considered views on how they would prevent violence in their communities.

In developing countries, children rank poverty, domestic abuse and social conflict highly as causes of violence. In results that I find quite inspiring, they also recognise how crucial education is to reducing violence, protecting children and achieving a better life.

Children in developing countries are five times more likely to derive happiness and a sense of safety from schooling compared to their

peers in developed countries. We get a sense of its importance from Pedro, 12, from Timor-Leste where 80% of children believe everyone should have a good education. "When the rain comes and floods, I cannot go to school," he says "I feel sad because I have no chance to learn new lessons."

Consistent with this theme, children from developing countries are more likely to view their teachers as heroes than in the western world.

As you might expect, children in developed countries have suggested different causes of violence – largely drugs and alcohol. Erin, 10, from Australia says it causes domestic violence. "Many adults have too much alcohol and drugs and hurt or treat their families in a bad way," she says. Lisa, 12 from Taiwan has insight in terms of why: "Alcohol will disrupt people's willpower and cause their emotions to go up and down."

In developed countries, children's top priority was being safe from crimes and violence, rather than education. While they see education as being important, they associate safety and happiness with equality and being among friends.

When the results are viewed globally, children are most likely to attribute violence to bad behaviour

– a concept that's simply put, but ultimately very true. Globally, if they were made leaders, their priority would be increasing law and order to protect children.

This year children have also reminded us of the supreme importance of family and the impact of family members as role models, educators and influencers. Of all the people who could be potential heroes in children's eyes, globally, family ranked first. It's a result that is reassuring, given ChildFund's focus on working to overcome challenges so that children can remain in their homes.

Around the world, when asked what peace meant to them, children were most likely to say "no war". I was interested to learn that the next highest response was "harmony and unity". While both concepts are interrelated, they are not the same. Children want both. I think Mark, 11, from the Philippines is quietly profound in explaining what children want for our world. "People are fighting," he says. "I want them to be smiling always."

Jim Emerson  
Secretary General  
ChildFund Alliance



## Global snapshot: child participants 2013



# What makes you feel safe and happy?

Around the world, children say they feel safest and happiest when they are with their family (56%) or friends (21%), attending school (17%), at home (13%) or playing games and sports (11%).

## Being with family

Feeling safe and happy when with family members is particularly high in the Americas (69%), compared with Asia (45%) and Africa (43%).

## Being with friends

The company of friends is more important to children's sense of wellbeing in developed countries (31%) than developing countries (14%). Friends rank first, ahead of family, in **Sweden** (47%). Friends also rank highly in **Australia** (45%).

## School and education

School has more impact on children feeling safe and happy in developing countries (25%) than developed countries (5%). It rates most highly in Asia (35%), particularly in **Nepal** (84%).

## Being at home

Home ranks more highly in developed countries (19%) than developing (9%). In **Sri Lanka** being at home (27%) rates ahead of being at school (25%), with family (20%), or with friends (4%). Home ranks most highly with children in **Mexico** (32%).

## Playing games/sports

Children in Asia (18%) are most likely to name games and sport as a way of feeling safe and happy, compared to just 7% in developed countries.

## Country trends

In **Guinea**, 27% of children feel safe and happy when they are not in trouble, being bothered, hit or beaten, as do 18% of children in **Indonesia** and 16% in **Cambodia**.

In **Afghanistan** (27%), **Guinea** (20%) and **Indonesia** (10%) children feel safe and happy when there is peace and no more war.



**Hugo, 11**, is from France where almost three-quarters of children say they feel safe and happy when they are with family. For Hugo, it's when he has:

My mum and my blanket.



**Solongo, 11**, is from Mongolia where 59% of children surveyed feel safe and happy when they are with family.



I was often beaten at least twice a week. Sometimes, he [my now deceased father] beat me every day without any explanation.

**Tinh, 12**, Vietnam

**Tinh, 12**, is from Vietnam where almost half of children surveyed reported feeling safe and happy when with family. For 8%, it's when they are not in trouble, being bothered, hit or beaten.





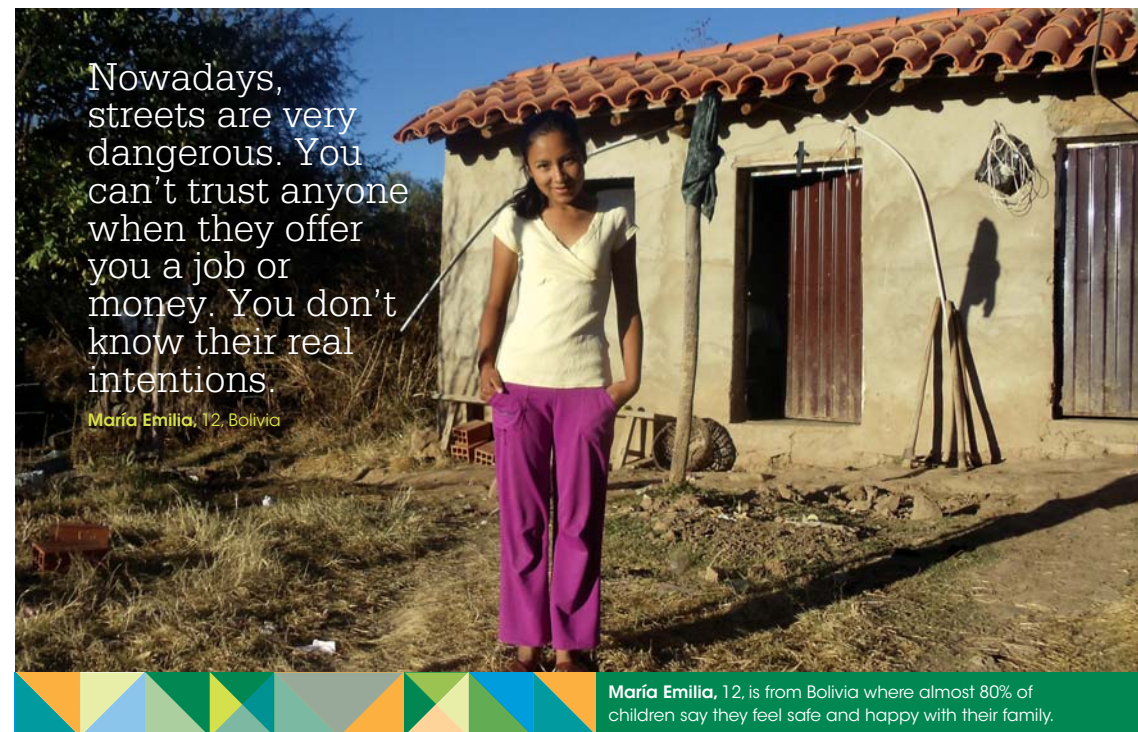
**Modou**, 10, is from The Gambia where almost one-third of children say they feel safe and happy when they are playing games and sport. For 12%, it is when they are with family. Modou dreams of being a professional footballer. The football field and the classes are one of the things that I love about my school.



**Hansana**, 11, is from Sri Lanka where 27% of children reported feeling safe and happy when at home. For 20%, it's when they are with family. I feel safe and happy playing with my brother and sister.



**Kuathor**, 10, is from Lao where 82% of children surveyed feel safe and happy when they are with family. What makes me happy is my parents, because they live with us, and playing rugby.



**María Emilia**, 12, Bolivia

**María Emilia**, 12, is from Bolivia where almost 80% of children say they feel safe and happy with their family.

#### What makes you feel safe and happy?

	ALL COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	AFRICA (DEVELOPING ONLY)	AMERICAS (DEVELOPING ONLY)	ASIA (DEVELOPING ONLY)
Being with family	56%	50%	65%	43%	69%	45%
Being with friends	21%	14%	31%	12%	10%	18%
School/education	17%	25%	5%	25%	12%	35%
Being at home	13%	9%	19%	7%	9%	11%
Playing games/sports	11%	14%	7%	12%	14%	18%
Having my basic needs taken care of	5%	6%	4%	10%	1%	5%
When I'm not in trouble/being bothered, hit or beaten	3%	5%	2%	5%	4%	5%
Peace/no more war	3%	4%	1%	4%	2%	5%
Being around people I know/trust	3%	1%	4%	1%	2%	1%
Having fun/doing things I enjoy/laughing	3%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%
Being healthy	2%	2%	1%	4%	1%	1%
Religious beings/places/god	2%	3%	1%	4%	3%	0%
A good environment/safe neighbourhood	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Pets	2%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%



# If you were the leader of your country, what is the ONE thing you would do to protect the children of your country from violence?

As leaders of their countries, children globally say they would increase law and order (30%), improve education (12%) or guarantee the personal safety of all children (12%) in order to protect other children from violence.

## Increase law and order

Increasing law and order if given a position of power is a high priority for **Zambian** children (66%), but it is barely mentioned by children in **Afghanistan** (1%). Increasing law and order was the top-rated response from children from all developed countries, particularly **Korea** (52%).

## Improve education

Children in developing countries (17%) are more likely than those in developed countries (6%) to see education as a way leaders can protect children.

## Guarantee children's personal safety

As leaders, 40% of children from **Sierra Leone** would guarantee children's personal safety. This is the biggest priority for children in **Mali** (23%) and **Nicaragua** (28%). It ranks second in **Ethiopia** (27%) and **Guatemala** (21%).

## Country trends

Stopping domestic violence and abuse is the highest priority for children in **Vietnam** (28%) and the second highest in **Mexico** (21%).

Building schools is important to children in **Afghanistan** (26%) and **The Gambia** (21%), while it barely rates a mention in developed countries.

Banning guns is a priority for children in the **USA** (21%) and **Canada** (15%). It is not mentioned by children in any of the Asian or African countries surveyed.



**Christopher**, 10, is from Zambia, where two-thirds of children say they would increase law and order and 16% would improve education. I will ask the police to arrest the violent people and send them to jail.



**Min-gyu**, 11, is from Korea where over half of all children surveyed would increase law and order, 9% would improve education and 9% would provide shelter and safe houses for children. I will initiate an education program to prevent violence for children everywhere.



I would have a new stringent law to punish all those who commit crimes on children. I would have police arrest and punish those who ever tease girls while going to school. I would stop the sale of alcohol as it fuels much violence in villages.

**Shravan**, 11, India

**Shravan**, 11, is from India where 41% of children reported that they would increase law and order and almost 20% would improve education.





**Heydi, 10**, is from Nicaragua where 28% of children say they would guarantee children's personal safety, 17% would increase law and order, 10% would stop domestic violence and 10% would provide shelter and safe houses for children. I would help children so they do not get mistreated. I would give them a home so they can feel safe.



**Marcel, 12**, is from Benin where over one-third of children say they would increase law and order and 16% would stop domestic violence. I will write a letter to all the village leaders and compound stating that all the people involved in taking children to Nigeria for child labor be arrested.



**Kate, 11**, is from New Zealand where almost 30% of children surveyed would increase law and order and 15% would guarantee children's personal safety. Let children decide whether they like living with their parents. Children have to feel safe with the people they live with. A child has to have a safe and happy place to be.



I would fight against excision [female circumcision], the early marriage and the child labor.

**Djiba, 12**, Mali

**Djiba, 12**, is from Mali where 23% of children report they would guarantee children's personal safety, 22% increase law and order and 15% stop domestic violence.

**If you were the leader of your country, what is the ONE thing you would do to protect the children of your country from violence?**

	ALL COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	AFRICA (DEVELOPING ONLY)	AMERICAS (DEVELOPING ONLY)	ASIA (DEVELOPING ONLY)
More law/order	30%	28%	33%	31%	31%	22%
Improve education	12%	17%	6%	18%	12%	18%
Guarantee childrens' personal safety	12%	13%	11%	12%	16%	11%
Provide shelter/safe houses	7%	6%	8%	6%	8%	5%
Stop violence	5%	6%	4%	3%	5%	11%
Stop domestic abuse/violence	4%	6%	2%	5%	7%	6%
Build schools	3%	5%	0%	6%	1%	6%
Ban guns	3%	0%	6%	0%	1%	0%
Provide basic needs	2%	3%	1%	5%	3%	2%
Ban drugs/alcohol	2%	1%	4%	0%	3%	1%
Ensure parental care/protection	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%
Help the poor	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%



# What do you think are the main causes of violence in your country?

Globally, bad behaviour – including disobedience, laziness, greed and lying – is the most common reason children give for violence (29%), followed by poverty (17%), alcohol (16%), drugs (12%), and social conflict (11%).

## Bad behaviour

More children in developed countries (33%) report bad behaviour as a cause of violence than in developing countries (26%).

## Poverty

Poverty is seen as a cause of violence particularly by children in Africa (29%), Asia (18%) and developing nations generally (21%).

## Alcohol

Most children in **Cambodia** (90%) blame alcohol for violence. Alcohol is also the most common response given in **Mongolia** (53%), **Australia** (45%), **Vietnam** (41%), **New Zealand** (35%), **Bolivia** (31%) and **Ireland** (28%).

## Drugs

Children from developed countries (18%) are more likely to see drugs as a cause of violence than those in developing countries (8%). It is the most common response given in **Cape Verde** (44%), **Brazil** (37%) and the **USA** (20%) although the same proportion of **USA** children nominate guns (20%).

## Social unrest

Social conflict was the top-billing cause of violence identified by children in **Kenya** (50%) and **Ghana** (45%).

## Country trends

Striking figures on domestic abuse being the main cause of violence come from **Nicaragua** (68%), followed by **Paraguay** (38%) and **Ecuador** (32%). This reflects in the relatively high result for the Americas (20%) compared with Africa (8%) and Asia (9%).

Children from **Afghanistan** (70%) say war and fighting is the main reason for violence, as do children in **Timor-Leste** (36%) and **Laos** (29%).

Relatively few children globally say corruption is a cause of violence, except in **Sierra Leone** (47%) where it ranks first.

While bullying didn't feature strongly as a cause of violence globally (4%), it stood out in results from **Japan** (17%) and **France** (13%).



**Cameron, 12**, is from Canada where 37% of children surveyed think bad behaviour causes violence, before poverty (16%) and guns (11%). I think the main causes of violence in my country are drugs and gangs.



**Lisa, 12**, is from Taiwan where children report bad behaviour (41%), alcohol (28%) and social conflict (16%) as causes of violence. Drinking alcohol, because alcohol will disrupt people's willpower and cause their emotions to go up and down.



**Lydia, 11**, is from Uganda where children in the survey say bad behaviour (31%), poverty (22%) and domestic abuse (22%) cause violence.



I would talk to the policemen not to cause violence to children.

**Lydia, 11, Uganda**





**Erin, 10**, is from Australia where almost half of all children surveyed say alcohol causes violence, as well as drugs and bad behaviour (both 32%).

I think the main violence in my country is domestic violence from alcohol and drugs. Many adults have too much alcohol and drugs and hurt or treat their families in a bad way. I think we could stop this by limiting the amount of alcohol adults drink and buy.



**Mónica, 11**, is from Paraguay where children think domestic abuse (38%), crimes and criminals (25%) and drugs (14%) cause violence. The main cause of violence is the lack of education in the country.



**Abigael, 10**, is from Kenya where half of children surveyed say social conflict causes violence, followed by bad behaviour (24%).



**Diego, 11**, is from Brazil where over one-third of children think drugs cause violence, in addition to bad behaviour (21%).

#### What do you think are the main causes of violence in your country?

	ALL COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	AFRICA (DEVELOPING ONLY)	AMERICAS (DEVELOPING ONLY)	ASIA (DEVELOPING ONLY)
Bad behaviour	29%	26%	33%	28%	28%	20%
Poverty	17%	21%	10%	29%	11%	18%
Alcohol	16%	13%	21%	6%	11%	25%
Drugs	12%	8%	18%	5%	17%	7%
Social conflict	11%	13%	8%	16%	5%	15%
Domestic abuse/violence	10%	11%	9%	8%	20%	9%
War/fighting	9%	10%	9%	7%	6%	15%
Lack of education	8%	12%	2%	13%	9%	11%
Criminals/crime	7%	7%	6%	6%	15%	4%
Corruption	4%	6%	3%	6%	7%	4%
Bullying	4%	1%	7%	0%	2%	2%
Guns	2%	1%	4%	0%	2%	2%
Jealousy	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%



# Who is your hero?

Children around the world were most likely to report family members as their heroes (46%), followed by political leaders or activists (11%).

## Family

The strongest admiration of family comes from children in **Cambodia** (93%) and **Zambia** (81%), in contrast to children from **Ghana** (5%). Globally, parents are favourite family members (36%).

## Political leaders and activists

Political leaders and activists are ranked highly by children in Africa (27%), and more commonly in developing countries (16%) than developed countries (5%).

## Country trends

Fictional characters hold great sway in **Paraguay**, where they are heroes to 56% of children (Superman gets special mention from 13%).

While fictional characters are also popular in **Mexico** (27%) and **France** (25%), they barely rate a mention in many countries, including **Japan** (1%) and the **USA** (1%).

Very few children globally nominated historical figures as heroes, with the stark exception of **India**, where they rated most highly (23%). Special mention was made of Mahatma Gandhi (17%) and Subash Chandra Bose (5%).

Sport is a major force in **Togo**, where athletes rank highest among children's heroes (30%) and Togolese footballer Emmanuel Adebayor is considered a legend (21%).

Teachers and coaches ranked as top-billing heroes in **Ghana** (35%) and **Nepal** (40%). They were more popular in Asia (10%) and Africa (9%) than the Americas (1%).



**Sebastian, 11**, is from Ecuador where family members rate highly as heroes (69%), followed by religious figures (9%) and fictional characters (7%). My hero is my mom because she teaches me to be persistent, honest, responsible and punctual, among some other values.



**Kausada, 12**, is from Ghana where teachers and coaches are popular heroes (35%), followed by political leaders and activists (25%), and doctors and nurses (15%).



My hero is my teacher because she teaches us, shares good knowledge and shows the right direction to us.

**Saraswoti, 12**, Nepal

**Saraswoti, 12**, is from Nepal where teachers and coaches are top-billing heroes (40%), followed by family members (25%) and friends (10%).





**Abina, 11,** is from Togo where almost one-third of children surveyed say athletes are their heroes, followed by political leaders and activists (26%) and family members (14%).



**Félicité, 10,** is from Burkina Faso where 22% of children say their heroes are political leaders or activists, 18% are family members and 14% are teachers or coaches.

I would like to be like the first lady of my country, the wife of President Blaise Compaore, because she takes care of children.



**Siofra, 11,** is from Ireland where athletes (18%) rank second to family (31%) as heroes.



#### Who is your hero?

	ALL COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	AFRICA (DEVELOPING ONLY)	AMERICAS (DEVELOPING ONLY)	ASIA (DEVELOPING ONLY)
Family	46%	44%	48%	35%	54%	49%
Political leaders/activists	11%	16%	5%	27%	3%	11%
Fictional characters	5%	4%	6%	0%	13%	2%
Teacher/coach	5%	7%	1%	9%	1%	10%
Athletes	5%	4%	6%	7%	1%	1%
Religious beings/figures	4%	6%	3%	3%	18%	1%
Artists and entertainers	3%	2%	4%	2%	1%	4%
Friends	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%
Doctors/nurses	1%	2%	1%	3%	0%	1%
Police	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Historical figures	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	4%



# What does peace mean to you?

Children around the globe are most likely to define peace as no war (26%), followed by harmony/unity (20%), no violence (16%), or happiness (16%) and serenity/inner peace (12%).

## No war

No war is at the heart of what peace means to children in developed countries (34%), much more so than developing (19%).

## Harmony and unity

Harmony and unity ranks first in Asia (31%) and the Americas (21%). It scores particularly highly in **Laos** (60%), **Nepal** (57%), **Mali** (48%), **Sri Lanka** (42%) and **Timor-Leste** (42%).

## No violence

More children in developed countries (21%) say that peace is the absence of violence, in comparison with developing countries (12%). This was particularly so in **Germany** (32%), **Australia** (26%) and the **US** and **New Zealand** (both 25%).

## Happiness

In Africa, 19% of children report that peace is happiness, with high rankings in **Liberia** (54%), **Sierra Leone** (50%) and **Ghana** (36%). Happiness is also a popular understanding of peace for children in **Vietnam** (40%).

## Serenity and inner peace

Serenity and inner peace is the most popular definition of peace from children in **Bolivia** (39%), **Afghanistan** (34%), **USA** (31%), **Dominica and St Vincent** (30%) and **Paraguay** (30%).

## Country trends

Love is the most popular understanding of peace for children in **Ethiopia** (32%). Love ranks second in **Laos** (53%) and **Kenya** (20%).

The concept of freedom strikes more of a chord with African children (14%) than those from other regions. Freedom is the most popular definition of peace for children in **Togo** (31%), **Zambia** (31%) and **Uganda** (16%), and second most popular – behind happiness – in **Liberia** (41%) and **Sierra Leone** (41%).

Children in **Cambodia** (31%) are the most likely to link peace to the absence of crime, rating this first, ahead of no violence (26%) and happiness (19%).



**Alberto**, 10 is from Cape Verde where 38% of children reported that peace means no war, 20% think it means harmony or unity and 19% say it means happiness.



**Hilma**, 11, is from Sweden where 44% of children surveyed say that peace means no war and 20% think it means harmony or unity. Peace to me is when people live at peace and everything is calm and everyone has the right to their own opinion.



It's the solidarity, love and knowing how to take care of the earth.

**Thith**, 12, Laos



**Thith**, 12, is from Laos where 60% of children surveyed say peace means harmony and unity and 53% think it means love.





**Erica**, 10, is from Guatemala where around one-quarter of children think peace means happiness and 24% say it means harmony and unity.



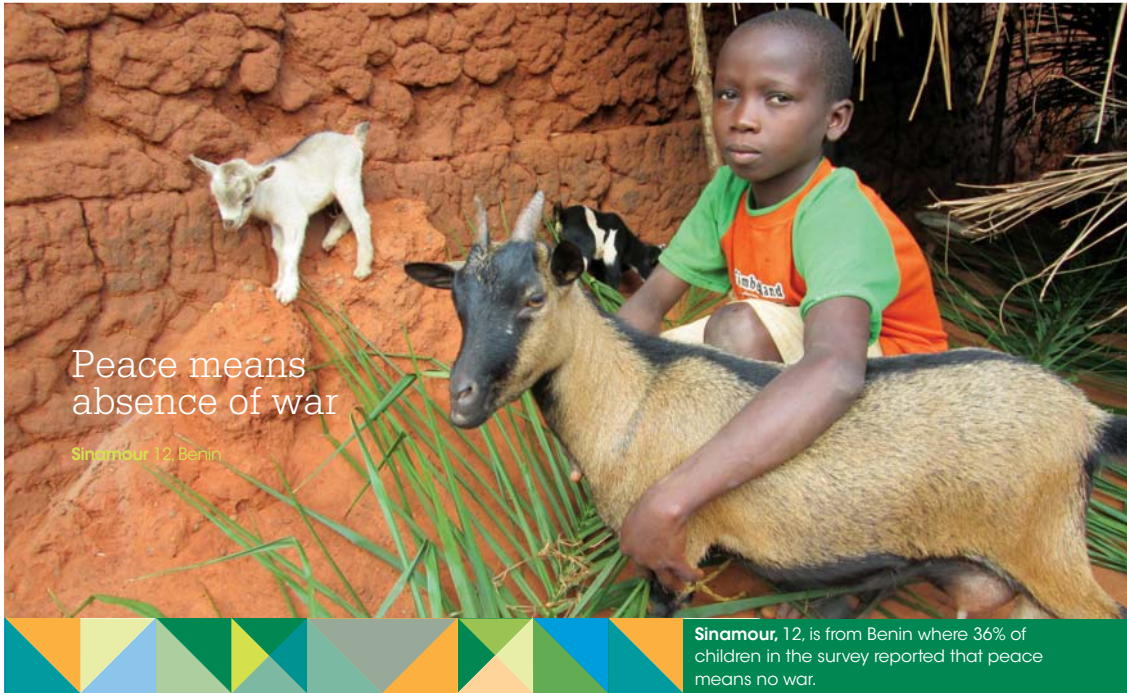
**Mark**, 11, is from the Philippines where around one-third of children say peace means harmony and unity. People are fighting. I want them to be smiling always.



**Joschua**, 12, is from Germany where almost half of children surveyed say that peace means no war.



**Manuel**, 12, is from Mexico where 24% of children think peace means no war and 16% think it means happiness. Not to fight, to be free, to be honest.



**Sinamour**, 12, is from Benin where 36% of children in the survey reported that peace means no war.

What does peace mean to you?

	ALL COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	AFRICA (DEVELOPING ONLY)	AMERICAS (DEVELOPING ONLY)	ASIA (DEVELOPING ONLY)
No war	26%	19%	34%	22%	13%	20%
Harmony/unity	20%	22%	19%	15%	21%	31%
No violence	16%	12%	21%	9%	17%	11%
Happiness	16%	17%	14%	19%	16%	16%
Serenity/inner peace	12%	11%	13%	6%	20%	12%
Feeling safe	9%	6%	14%	7%	7%	4%
Love	7%	9%	5%	7%	13%	10%
Freedom	6%	8%	4%	14%	4%	3%
Respect and treat each other as equals	6%	4%	9%	2%	7%	5%
Having basic needs	4%	5%	3%	8%	1%	4%
Family	3%	4%	2%	2%	8%	4%
Friendship	3%	4%	3%	2%	4%	5%
Living without trouble/problems	3%	3%	2%	4%	5%	2%
No crime	3%	2%	4%	1%	2%	4%
Being healthy	2%	3%	1%	6%	1%	2%



# My world

Children were asked which six of 16 possible issues were the most important for them and their family. This question is from the United Nations My World Survey, which asks children and adults to identify their priorities for a better world. The results will inform global leaders as they define the post 2015 Millennium Development Goals.

## A good education

Globally, everyone having a good education (65%) is the most highly rated of 16 issues put to children, though it rated more in developing countries (72%) than developed countries (55%). Education receives an overwhelming response in the Americas (80%), most notably in **Paraguay** (98% – the highest response to any question in this survey).

## Protection against crime and violence

Ranking second globally is everyone being safe from crimes and violence (53%), which resonates more with children in developed countries (61%) than developing countries (48%).

## Equality between men and women

Globally, gender equality ranks third, with relatively consistent results across Africa (40%), Asia (48%) and the Americas (45%) as well as developed (48%) and developing (44%) countries. Gender equality ranks first in **Mozambique** (79%), **Germany** (66%) and **Liberia** (48%).

## Better healthcare

Improvements in healthcare rank fourth, with 57% of African children ranking this as a priority, compared to 32% in developed countries. This was a very popular issue for children in **Sierra Leone** (83%), **Brazil** (77%), **Senegal** (73%) and **Mexico** (70%).

## An honest and responsive government

Globally children rank in fifth place honest and responsive governments (44%). This rose to 51% in the Americas, with 70% of children in **Honduras** including this in their top six. Children in **Cambodia** also felt strong about this issue, with 76% of children surveyed naming it as a priority.



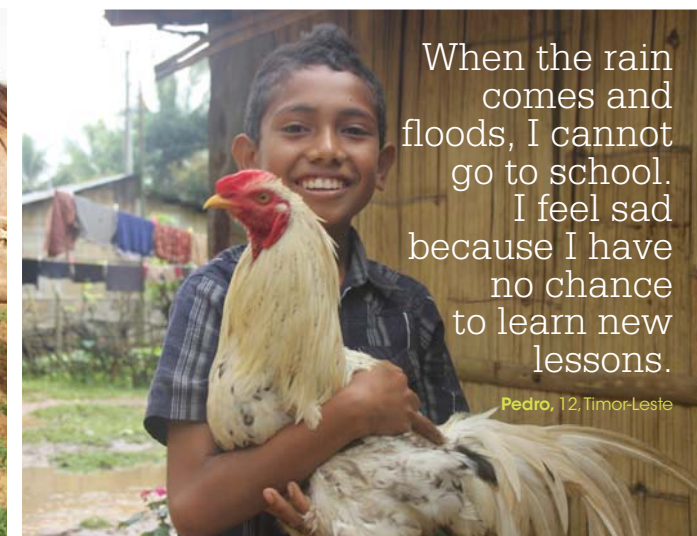
**Sina, 11**, is from Cambodia where 77% of children surveyed believe everyone should have a good education and 76% believe governments should be honest and responsive.



**Loany, 12**, is from Honduras where the majority of children say everyone should have a good education and 70% believe governments should be honest and responsive.



**Serigne, 11**, is from Senegal where 81% of children reported that everyone should have access to clean water and sanitation.



When the rain comes and floods, I cannot go to school. I feel sad because I have no chance to learn new lessons.

**Pedro, 12**, Timor-Leste

**Pedro, 12**, is from Timor-Leste where 80% of children say everyone should have a good education.

## Which of these are the most important for you and your family?

	ALL COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	AFRICA (DEVELOPING ONLY)	AMERICAS (DEVELOPING ONLY)	ASIA (DEVELOPING ONLY)
A good education	65%	72%	55%	66%	80%	74%
Protection against crime and violence	53%	48%	61%	48%	52%	43%
Equality between men and women	46%	44%	48%	40%	45%	48%
Better healthcare	44%	52%	32%	57%	52%	47%
An honest and responsive government	44%	46%	40%	41%	51%	50%
Access to clean water and sanitation	43%	45%	41%	51%	39%	42%
Freedom from discrimination and persecution	42%	36%	49%	32%	42%	37%
Support for people who can't work	40%	40%	39%	38%	38%	46%
Affordable and nutritious food	37%	35%	41%	44%	24%	30%
Protecting forests, rivers and oceans	36%	30%	46%	23%	41%	30%
Action taken on climate change	29%	21%	41%	19%	21%	23%
Reliable energy at home	29%	32%	25%	36%	30%	29%
Better transport and roads	25%	32%	16%	31%	29%	35%
Phone and internet access	21%	22%	21%	24%	15%	24%
Better job opportunities	19%	23%	13%	25%	22%	23%
Political freedoms	17%	16%	18%	20%	10%	16%



Of the 6,499 children who completed ChildFund's Small Voices, Big Dreams survey, 202 were from Australia. Among them were six inspiring girls aged 10-12, who share their insights below.

### Safe and happy

When asked what makes them feel safe and happy, 70% of Australian children say it is being with family. While that is consistently the highest ranking response internationally, Australia's result is significantly higher than the global average (56%) and that for developing countries (50%).

Mateship seems to play a key role in Australian children's sense of wellbeing too. Many Australian children feel safe and happy with friends (45%). Australia ranked only behind Sweden (47%) in placing this emphasis on companions – results much higher than the average in developing countries (14%) and globally (21%).

Australian participant, Erin, 11, says all children should have the right to feel safe and happy. "To me, being happy is to know I have some company, family, a safe shelter to live in and a good place to go to school and learn."

### Protection from violence

If made Prime Minister, Australian children are most likely to increase law and order to protect children from violence (33%) – a result that is consistent across developed countries (33%), developing countries (28%) and globally (30%).

Australian children also want to provide shelter or safe houses for children. This was a priority for more children in Australia (12%) than developed countries (8%), developing countries (6%) and globally (7%).

As Prime Minister, Sithara, 12, would focus on achieving equal rights for everyone "because I strongly believe equality could change this world and

make living conditions for children and families better".

### Main causes of violence

Aerin, 10, is representative of her Australian peers when she suggests: "The main violence is [caused by] drugs and alcohol." Australian children are most likely to nominate alcohol as a cause of violence (45%), followed by drugs (32%) which ranked second, equal with bad behaviour.

Australia's alcohol result (45%) ranks far ahead of the global average (16%) and results for developed countries (21%) and developing



Eliza, 11

countries (13%). The same pattern plays out in responses suggesting drugs, with much higher results in Australia (32%) than the global average (12%), and in developed (18%) and developing countries (8%).

Erin, 11, says alcohol and drugs cause domestic violence, because "many adults have too much alcohol and drugs and hurt or treat their families in a bad way". She adds: "I think we could stop this by limiting the amount of alcohol adults drink and buy."

### My hero

When asked to name their hero, Australian children are most likely to suggest family members (54%), with mothers (26%) and fathers (15%)

ranking most highly.

Amy, 10, says her dad is her hero, "because he always finds a solution to a problem" and her mum is too, "because she is kind and helps me with my homework and other things".

Sophie, 11, says her mum and dad are her heroes because "they make sure they do stuff for our physical health like keeping the house clean and cooking good food". She adds: "They pay for me to go to school and to do sports that I love, so I can be fit and healthy".

Political leaders and activists achieve next highest billing as heroes (8%), followed by athletes (5%). Aerin, 10 says, "My hero is definitely Nelson Mandela the old South African president. He's my hero because without him my parents wouldn't be together, because he fought against apartheid and if he hadn't done that I wouldn't even exist."

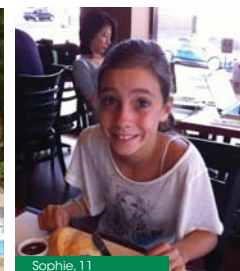
### Peace

The most common definition of peace given by Australian children surveyed was no war (29%), closely followed by no violence (26%). Happiness and serenity or inner peace (both 21%) also ranked highly, followed by feeling safe (18%) and harmony and unity (17%).

Eliza, 11, says Australia is a peaceful place because most people are against violence. For Eliza, peace means "to love and care for the environment and other people and to think positively all the time". "The most peaceful day I can imagine is a day when there is no violence or hate in the whole world and everyone would be safe and happy all day," she says.



Amy, 10



Sophie, 11



Sithara, 12



Erin, 11



Aerin, 10

	AUSTRALIA	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	ALL COUNTRIES
<b>What makes you feel safe and happy?</b>				
Being with family	70%	50%	65%	56%
Being with friends	45%	14%	31%	21%
Being at home	23%	9%	19%	13%
<b>If you were the leader of your country, what is the ONE thing you would do to protect the children of your country from violence?</b>				
More law and order	33%	28%	33%	30%
Provide shelter/safe houses	12%	8%	8%	7%
Ban guns	7%	0%	6%	3%
Guarantee children's personal safety	7%	13%	11%	12%
<b>What do you think are the main causes of violence in your country?</b>				
Alcohol	45%	13%	21%	16%
Drugs	32%	8%	18%	12%
Bad behaviour	32%	26%	33%	29%
Criminals/crime	12%	7%	6%	7%
<b>Who is your hero?</b>				
Family	54%	44%	48%	46%
Political leaders/activists	8%	16%	5%	11%
Athletes	5%	4%	6%	5%
<b>What does peace mean to you?</b>				
No war	29%	19%	34%	26%
No violence	26%	12%	21%	16%
Serenity/inner peace	21%	11%	13%	12%
Happiness	21%	17%	14%	16%
<b>Children were asked which six of 16 possible issues were the most important for them and their family.</b>				
Protection against crime and violence	71%	48%	61%	53%
A good education	66%	72%	55%	65%
Access to clean water and sanitation	58%	45%	41%	43%
Equality between men and women	50%	44%	48%	46%
Freedom from discrimination and persecution	46%	35%	49%	42%
Action taken on climate change	45%	21%	41%	29%



## Methodology

The *Small Voices, Big Dreams* survey was undertaken by the ChildFund Alliance during May – September 2013. In most countries, ChildFund staff conducted one-on-one interviews with children in their local language. In some English-speaking developed countries, children completed an online survey.

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

The survey was conducted in 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 6,499 children were surveyed – 3,766 children in developing countries and 2,733 children in developed nations.

Five of the six questions were open-ended, meaning the children were not given a list of answers to choose from. The sixth question encouraged children to choose six of 16 possible responses.

All translated responses were provided to GfK Roper for analysis.



**Rachna, 11**, is from India, where half of all children surveyed think poverty is the main cause of violence, followed by social conflict (17%).

In my opinion the main reason for violence in India is the caste system. It puts some people high on the social ladder, while it makes the lives of others miserable by branding them as low-caste people. This disparity often results in violence and we can stop this by treating everyone equally.

### RESPONDENTS BY AGE & GENDER

	ALL COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	AFRICA (DEVELOPING ONLY)	AMERICAS (DEVELOPING ONLY)	ASIA (DEVELOPING ONLY)
Male respondents	47%	47%	47%	44%	50%	48%
Female respondents	53%	53%	53%	56%	50%	52%
Children aged 10 years	27%	28%	25%	27%	36%	22%
Children aged 11 years	32%	30%	36%	30%	30%	28%
Children aged 12 years	41%	43%	39%	43%	34%	50%
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>6,499</b>	<b>3,766</b>	<b>2,733</b>	<b>1,629</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>1,227</b>

### DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

	TOTAL RESPONSES	AS % OF TOTAL
Australia	202	3%
Canada	406	6%
France	264	4%
Germany	200	3%
Ireland	100	1%
Japan	138	2%
Korea	101	1%
New Zealand	1,000	15%
Sweden	103	1%
Taiwan	101	1%
USA	118	2%
<b>Total developed</b>	<b>2,733</b>	<b>42%</b>

### ASIA: DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ONLY

	TOTAL RESPONSES	AS % OF TOTAL
Afghanistan	100	1%
Cambodia	110	1%
India	212	2%
Indonesia	100	1%
Laos	100	1%
Mongolia	101	1%
Nepal	100	1%
Philippines	100	1%
Sri Lanka	102	1%
Timor-Leste	102	1%
Vietnam	100	1%
<b>Total Asia</b>	<b>1,227</b>	<b>19%</b>

### AFRICA: DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ONLY

	TOTAL RESPONSES	AS % OF TOTAL
Benin	101	1%
Burkina Faso	100	1%
Cape Verde	102	1%
Ethiopia	101	1%
Ghana	102	1%
Guinea	103	1%
Kenya	100	1%
Liberia	106	1%
Mali	100	1%
Mozambique	101	1%
Senegal	100	1%
Sierra Leone	102	1%
The Gambia	100	1%
Togo	107	1%
Uganda	100	1%
Zambia	104	1%
<b>Total Africa</b>	<b>1,629</b>	<b>25%</b>

### AMERICAS: DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ONLY

	TOTAL RESPONSES	AS % OF TOTAL
Bolivia	102	1%
Brazil	100	1%
Dominica & St Vincent	100	1%
Ecuador	107	1%
Guatemala	100	1%
Honduras	100	1%
Mexico	100	1%
Nicaragua	100	1%
Paraguay	101	1%
<b>Total Americas</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>14%</b>



