E.NDIMVENI.HAU IHA LIAN.KHOY M ANI SAGALEE QABA.MACISHEA SAYA PUNYA SUARA. 나에게도 ÖST. MERI BHI AWAJ HAI. AN KOU AUTI. I GEH MA VOICE. NDILI JISI J EG HAR EN STEMME. MINULI ÓI.NINA WASYA.N'KA FOTA BÈ LA A. NDINE CHEKUTAURA.AMARO IK HEB EEN STEM. '() JEG HAR EN STEMME. MAY BOSE VOIX. ICH HABE EINE STIMME. JE JEA KAN.TÔI CÓ MỘT TIẾNG N E.MAGE HADATA SAVAN DENNA O UMA VOZ. I HAVE A VOICE. IK H NGO VOZ. TÁ GUTH AGAM. JEG I MERI BHI AWAZ HAI. J'AI UNE VO AN.KHOY KOR ME SIT KHUEA KAN

DENNIA NICE CHARACTER CONTROL CONTRO

بتوص اي ان ان يوك المرابع بي JAG HAR EN RÖST. MERI BHI AWAJ HAI. AN KOD DUOL. 我有 E. MAY BOSES AKO. NINA SAUTI. I GEH MA VOICE. NDILI JISI JWI. NILI NE STIMME. JEG HAR EN STEMME. MINULLA ON MIELIPIDE.NDIMVENI. NG NÓI.NINA WASYA.N´KA FOTA BÈ LAMEN. المرابع المرابع المرابع المرابع المرابع DENNA. NDINE CHEKUTAURA.AMARO BOLAR ACHE. SAYA PUNYA SUAP VOICE. IK HEB EEN STEM. المرابع المرابع المرابع المرابع المرابع



EU Offfice Promoting child rights to end child poverty

I UNE VOIX. ICH HABE EINE STIMME. JEG HAR EN STEMME. MINULLA ON MIELIPIDE.NDIMVENI.HAU IHA LIAN.KHOY F JEA KAN.TÔI CÓ MỘT TIẾNG NÓI.NINA WASYA.N ˊKA FOTA BÈ LAMEN.أن لويا ص وت.ANI SAGALEE QABA.MACISHEA

HØ 1.1 SAG 5 2



Welcome to Plan Europe's "I Have a Voice!" campaign

Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) provides:

- States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.
- 2. For this purpose the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.

With the "I Have a Voice!" campaign we are creating a platform for young people around the world to raise their voices and make them visible to European politicians. Plan will gather children and young people's voices over a period of one year and then share these voices with European politicians and policymakers, to highlight the importance of listening to children's voices, to share what children are calling for as their priorities for the European Union, and to petition the EU to create a mechanism for children's participation in the European Parliament.

The decisions taken by the European Union (EU) affect the daily lives of the 94 million children living in Europe and hundreds of millions more around the world. In Europe, EU decisions protect the safety of our food, allow us to travel freely anywhere in Europe, and provide funding for students to travel to other countries to learn new languages. Outside of Europe, imagine the impact an EU decision to take action on climate change, for example, can have on the future of children around the globe. Because these decisions are so important, we believe that the children affected by them should have the opportunity to share their opinions and views and be heard.

It is an international law that children have the right to share their views and opinions on decisions that affect them, but governments do not always give them the chance to do so. The right to participation is one of the four pillars of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). It is for the 20th anniversary of this important agreement that Plan launched the "I Have a Voice!" campaign to highlight right of the child to participate in EU decision-making.



Plan international is one of the largest international children's development organisations in the world. Founded over 70 years ago, Plan is active in 66 countries, working in 48 developing countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas and has offices in another 18 countries in Europe, North America, East Asia and Australia.

Plan is a child-centred community development organisation which works with more than 3,500,000 families and their communities each year to bring about lasting change. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child provides a framework for all our actions.

Plan's work is broadly based around five key areas: health, learning, habitat, livelihood and building relationships. Crucial for the development of each child, we use an integrated rights-based approach to engage in all our work. When children and adults work together as part of the change process, it significantly contributes to progress in the fight against poverty. As a **global development expert**, **Plan draws from community expertise and guidance from southern voices to promote child rights and to lift millions of children out of poverty**.

Plan Europe is a regional network within Plan International, which links Plan's ten national organisations in the European Union (EU) member states, Plan Norway and Plan offices in programme countries around the world, with the Plan EU Liaison Office in Brussels. Plan has the active support of 700,000 individual donors in EU member states through child sponsorship.





What is the European Union?

The "EU" is a group of 27 European countries which have formed a ,union' (it may be easier to think of this as a ,club' whose members have agreed that some decisions should be taken by the club and not the individual members) to make it easier to trade between their countries and to work together for ,peace and prosperity'. The original union had only six members and was created in 1957. Since then, membership has increased and many new European laws have been introduced which have changed the focus of the union and the way in which it works in order to achieve a real area of peace and prosperity.

European Countries

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

European Commission

This organisation acts on behalf of all the countries in the European Union. It is independent of national governments. It proposes laws, policies, action plans and strategies. It manages the day-today business of carrying out EU policies and spending EU money. The Commission also keeps watch to see that everyone obeys the European treaties and laws. It can act against those who break the rules, taking them to the European Court of Justice if necessary. http://ec.europa.eu/

European Council

All the heads of government of each country in the EU meet twice a year to take joint decisions. Between these meetings there are also many other meetings at different levels of government to agree on different joint policies e.g. agriculture, justice, foreign policy. Since January 2010 there is a permanent president of the European Union who holds the position for two and a half year. The current president is Herman Van Rompuy.

http://www.european-council.europa.eu/

European Parliament

The Parliament is directly elected by European citizens in their own country. The number of parliamentarians that a country can elect depends on the amount of people who live in that country, so big countries will elect more members for the European Parliament, as we want to be sure that every one in the European Union is fairly represented. A new Parliament was elected in June 2009 with a five year mandate. It is their job to monitor that the decisions that are made by the European Council and European Commission, are taken democratically. The Parliament discusses and gives its advice on proposed new laws and gets to co-decide about the budget of the Union, and about the new countries who want to join the Union. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/

For all the information about the EU: http://europa.eu

"I Have a Voice! – twentieth special." The 'I have a Voice' campaign is marking twenty years since the Convention on the rights of the child. In recognition of this, between November 2009 and November 2010 on the twentieth of every month we will be highlighting an important issue on which we think children's voices need to be heard!



CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO BIRTH REGISTRATION

COUNT ME!

I have the Right to Birth Registration!

20 years United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 20 reasons for Children's Right to Birth Registration

"Who am I? Where did I come from? What's my nationality? All I know is that my name is Murni, but I don't have proof for that! COUNT ME!" Child in Indonesia

Children have the right to an identity!

Children's right to an identity is set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Millions of children born every year are not registered at birth. Without proof of citizenship through registration, children struggle to realize other rights under the Convention, for example their parents may not be able to access essential child health services, such as immunization programmes.

Millions of 'invisible children' get access to vital services after Global Campaign

The International child rights organization Plan has facilitated the registration of over 40 million people – mostly children- in 32 countries during the life of the 'Universal Birth Registration' (UBR) campaign. This is more than the entire population of Canada. Plan's five-year global campaign 'Universal Birth Registration' had one simple ask – for every child to have a birth certificate (2005-2009). The campaign also helped to improve laws in 10 countries – enabling access to registration for an additional estimated 153 million people and ensuring birth certificates for generations to come.

The report 'Count Every Child' documents dramatic change in some countries over short periods of time. For example, in Cambodia around 7 million people (around 56 per cent of the population) picked up their birth certificates in only 10 months. And one area of Indonesia saw registration rates soar from only 3 per cent to 72 per cent in two years.

The Universal Birth Registration (UBR) campaign has given official recognition to many remote and marginalised groups - from 20,000 street children in Dhaka, Bangladesh to the Baka people of Cameroon who had never previously been officially registered. The report also reveals some remarkable stories of determination, including a woman from the Dominican Republic who walked 120km just to register her child.

Birth registration gives children a voice!

51 million children a year are still not registered at birth. This lack of birth registration is both a symptom and a cause of underdevelopment in the countries where it occurs. Registering a birth is a critical first step in ensuring the rights of a child. Registration means proof – not only of identity, but of existence. A non existent child cannot enjoy the rights of a child outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

You can download the report 'Count Every Child' in English/ French/Spanish here: http://plan-international.org/about-plan/ resources/publications/campaigns/count-every-child



HAITI

Did you know that... Haiti is in the Americas

The Republic of Haiti, together with the Dominican Republic, make up the island of Hispaniola, in the Greater Antillean archipelago. The capital is Port-au-Prince. There are more than 10 million people living in Haiti and half of them is younger than 20. In Haiti the people speak French and Creole.

Plan is working in Haiti

Plan Haiti wants to promote the well-being of children and youth with by working closely with families, communities but also policy makers. Plan is in Haiti for 37 years now and by working very closely with local institutions they try to let children go to school, they provide health facilities for children and their family but they also try to meet other needs of children and their community. An earthquake hit Haiti really hard

Haiti was severely hit by an earthquake on Tuesday January 12th. It all happened in the afternoon and the most affected cities are Portau-Prince, which is the capital of Haiti, Carrefour and Jacmel. In Jacmel, almost 1800 homes were completely destroyed and about 4500 houses damaged. Also more than 50 schools have been hit and 6000 families have become homeless.

After this strong earthquake an aftershock has followed on 20 January...8 days later!

Plan is helping children and their parents affected by the earthquake Plan has an office in Haiti. Luckily, the people working for Plan Haiti were not injured (except for one member of the team) and they immediately started to taking care of the children and their families that need help. When a disaster happens, the first thing that should happen is that people have clean water, food, shelter but also moral support. And that is what Plan is doing at the moment. Plan has provided tents and family packs that include food, soap, towels, cups, nappies and toilet paper. This is very important to make sure that people still have access to some basic hygiene and that they can clean their wounds properly (if they don't these wounds get infected).

Some good news from the people in Haiti

The people in Haiti have are still suffering from the earthquake but sometimes we hear stories that give us hope. A few days after the earthquake, a 2-years old boy was rescued from under the rubble and reunited with his mother.

Children's laughter amongst quake misery

This group of smiling playing youngsters wouldn't look out of place in any school yard around the world – but in quake-hit Haiti it's a rare sight. These children were taking part in one of Plan's psychosocial games clubs, designed to give the youngest survivors of the earthquake a break from the relentless misery of life on their rubble-strewn streets. As they played pass the parcel, hide and seek and blind man's bluff it was possible, just for a moment, to forget the horrors that the quake had bought to their streets. The play sessions are a vital part of helping children to overcome the trauma of living through a natural disaster. Also Miline and Francoise survived the earthquake.

MY BODY IS MY BODY

In developing countries just being a girl can mean a hard and dangerous life. Girls face huge challenges in developing countries - in many ways, and for many reasons. Girls are often seen as inferior to boys and because of this they are often denied an education, or basic rights. Of course, even in our own countries, life isn't fair for girls and women – they still earn much less overall than men; for example in the United Kingdom, for every 1 £ earned by a man, a woman earns only 67 pence!However, in developing countries, girls are far less able to make their own choices and must follow the paths laid out for them by society – mostly decided for them by men. In really serious cases, this can mean that girls are forced to marry very young and even have their bodies harmed in order to make them 'fit in' to society. These 'harmful traditional practices' are a big problem for girls growing up all around the world – and make life much more difficult, and dangerous than it already is.

My body is my body! Right?

Unfortunately for many girls growing up in Africa, part of becoming a woman and fitting into society means undergoing painful rituals where their bodies are badly harmed. Of course, this is terrifying for the girls and many become very sick, or even die as a result. But if they don't go through with this ceremony, they are often treated even worse by their community, and may not be able to find a husband. While it is important to respect the traditions of our family, or ancestors, and of other cultures, clearly this is an awful situation for children to be in, and one that could be avoided without causing much harm to the community! Furthermore, the international community has come together and made laws which make these practices illegal.

Unfortunately, these rituals are not just happening in parts of Africa. Many families from these regions have also found new homes in Europe. Of course, it is understandable - and really fantastic - that many of these families want to carry on the traditions of their ancestors! However, putting children in great danger and harming them so badly is not the way to make cultures stronger at all. And sadly, many young girls are being harmed in countries across Europe because of these harmful traditional practices. For example, in the United Kingdom, as many as 80,000 young girls have been or are in danger from harmful traditional practices.

A painful education?

For most children around the world, homework and long division equations are painful enough! But for many girls, having their bodies harmed is considered an important part of their education as well. Being harmed or being forced at a young age to marry, are two examples of harmful traditional practices which some societies believe are both a hugely important part of their culture, as well important to helping girls make it in the world. They believe that these practices also help to turn a young girl into a woman; for example, many believe these painful rituals help the girl become more hard working, quiet and respectful to men, who often treat the woman as servants and not as people with the same rights and importance as them. Also, women who don't go through with these rituals are often treated as inferior people in society – even if they are more than 20 years old. Can you imagine how awful it must be to be left out of your community or looked down upon by your friends and family? You may be able to see now why so many women go through with such painful ordeals.

It is always difficult to confront cherished cultural practices and traditions which are considered important in allowing children to be part of a community. However, the suffering, humiliation, and often death, that accompanies these practices should not be justified because of traditions - after all, many traditions in our own culture have been abandoned as they are now considered to be harmful to children's development and welfare! Also, culture and traditions are so much more than a few harmful practices and surely, shouldn't children themselves have a say over what they want their culture to be? With this in mind, there should be 'no more excuses' when it comes to harming children for traditional reasons. Everyone benefits when girls are given equality and empowerment! Of course, girls make up half the population across the world, so imagine the problems created when half the population of a developing country is not allowed basic rights, such as an education, nutrition, the right to work and make money - as well as the right to be safe from harm and fear?

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are important goals set by world leaders in 2000 to try and solve some of the world's biggest problems. They recognized that the special problems facing girls are not only important if we want to make the world a safer and more happier place, but that directly addressing the welfare of girls and women are essential to help lessen poverty and increase welfare for all the worlds people. For example, MDG 3 calls for equality 'empowerment' for girls, meaning that the barriers to girls' participation in school and in different jobs should be completely removed and that girls should be encouraged and supported in making choices and decisions for themselves. MDG 4 and 5 also aim to improve the health of children and mothers around the world – this is difficult to do when so many cruel and harmful traditional practices still take place!

Boys! We need your help too! Problems for girls aren't for girls to solve alone.

All people and communities – including boys! – are affected when girls are denied an education, basic rights, nutrition, and are made to feel afraid and inferior. Boys and men have a big part to play by challenging the attitudes and ideas that allow harmful traditional practices to take place. They need to change the way they think about girls, and realize that girls are not inferior, but equally talented and equally capable members of society too!



CHILD RIGHTS CROSSWORD

Did you know that... Haiti is in the Americas

The Republic of Haiti, together with the Dominican Republic, make up the island of Hispaniola, in the Greater Antillean archipelago. The capital is Port-au-Prince. There are more than 10 million people living in Haiti and half of them is younger than 20. In Haiti the people speak French and Creole.

Plan is working in Haiti

Plan Haiti wants to promote the well-being of children and youth with by working closely with families, communities but also policy makers. Plan is in Haiti for 37 years now and by working very closely with local institutions they try to let children go to school, they provide health facilities for children and their family but they also try to meet other needs of children and their community. An earthquake hit Haiti really hard

Haiti was severely hit by an earthquake on Tuesday January 12th. It all happened in the afternoon and the most affected cities are Portau-Prince, which is the capital of Haiti, Carrefour and Jacmel. In Jacmel, almost 1800 homes were completely destroyed and about 4500 houses damaged. Also more than 50 schools have been hit and 6000 families have become homeless.

After this strong earthquake an aftershock has followed on 20 January...8 days later!

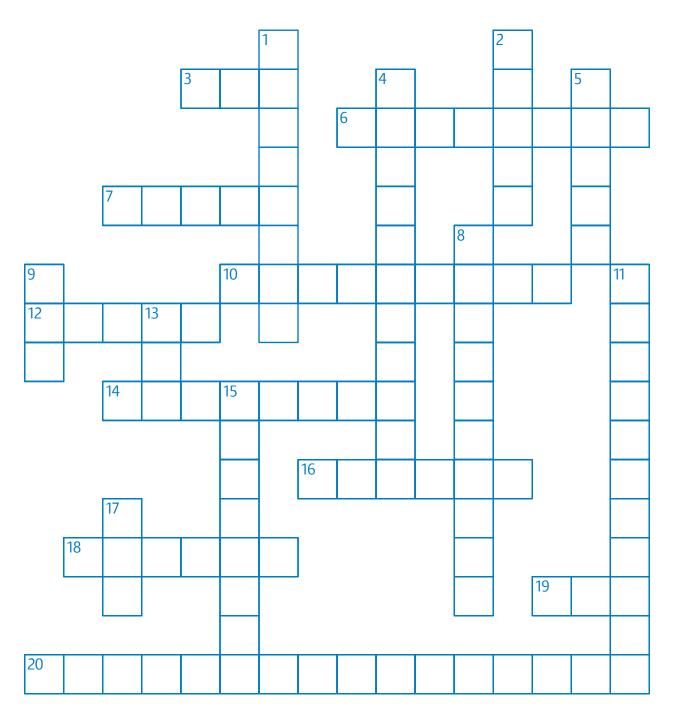
Plan is helping children and their parents affected by the earthquake Plan has an office in Haiti. Luckily, the people working for Plan Haiti were not injured (except for one member of the team) and they immediately started to taking care of the children and their families that need help. When a disaster happens, the first thing that should happen is that people have clean water, food, shelter but also moral support. And that is what Plan is doing at the moment. Plan has provided tents and family packs that include food, soap, towels, cups, nappies and toilet paper. This is very important to make sure that people still have access to some basic hygiene and that they can clean their wounds properly (if they don't these wounds get infected).

Some good news from the people in Haiti

The people in Haiti have are still suffering from the earthquake but sometimes we hear stories that give us hope. A few days after the earthquake, a 2-years old boy was rescued from under the rubble and reunited with his mother.

Children's laughter amongst quake misery

This group of smiling playing youngsters wouldn't look out of place in any school yard around the world – but in quake-hit Haiti it's a rare sight. These children were taking part in one of Plan's psychosocial games clubs, designed to give the youngest survivors of the earthquake a break from the relentless misery of life on their rubble-strewn streets. As they played pass the parcel, hide and seek and blind man's bluff it was possible, just for a moment, to forget the horrors that the quake had bought to their streets. The play sessions are a vital part of helping children to overcome the trauma of living through a natural disaster. Also Miline and Francoise survived the earthquake.



(1) In case children's rights are violated, everyone can c.... before a committee. Unfortunately the UNCRC doesn't have a mechanism to do it. This mechanism would be an important tool to defend your rights and to participate more. (2) For which word does the first C of the short name UNCRC stand? I'll give you a tip: If you are not an adult yet, you are a c.... (3) The world population is almost 7 billion people. Can you guess the number of children? If you are good at math, they are one third of the world population: more than ... billion (4) The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the world's most ratified international document. Almost every country in the world has ratified it. Can you guess how many? One hundred and... (5) Many people have a nickname, do you have one? With which short name is the international document on the Rights of the Child known? (6) Worldwide young people need a convention like the UNCRC because not hundreds, thousands but even...... of children are still victims of exploitations, abuse and violence. (7) The Convention on the Rights of the Child applies to every child. We are all e... (8) For which word does the second C of the short name UNCRC stand? This is a difficult question. It is the name given to a specific international agreement between

two or more States. (9) What is the name of one of the countries which hasn't yet ratified the UNCRC? (10) By how many articles is the convention formed? More than fifty but less than sixty... (11) Who has the main responsibility to fulfil children's rights in every country? (12) In many countries girls are being married before having reached the age of 18. In sub Saharan Africa even % of girls are married between the ages of 15-19. (13) How many countries have not yet ratified the convention? (14) In which month of the year was the convention born? (15) Until what age are young people considered as children alongside the UNCRC? (16) This year we are celebrating a special UNCRC's anniversary. Do you know how old it is? It's not that young anymore. (17) About nine million children still die each year. Do you know how many million children could be prevented or treated? (18) For what stands the R in the UNCRC (19) The formulation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child was a very long process; do you know how many years it took to write it? Maybe it has exactly your age... (20) The convention lists the rights of the child, but it refers also to their r.... (an example is Article 29)



JUST A MINUTE MEMORY GAME

Healthier mothers mean a brighter future for children!

Do you have 'Just a minute' to play with us? Take just a minute to find out what you can do to help increase the health of mothers and their children around the world! MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD on this vital issue! Did you know that every minute, a woman or girl dies because of problems while expecting a baby? Did you also know that these problems would have been almost always avoidable, if the women had access doctors and medicines - such as in European countries?

The Health Millennium Development Goals

In 2000, the leaders of the world came together at the UN to make the Millennium Declaration – a promise to do everything they could to end poverty and the problems that come from poverty. The deadline to reach these goals is 2015 but while we've made a lot of progress on some, we are still far away from reaching them, so we need to try even harder now if we are going to succeed by 2015! Sadly, the 'Health Millennium Development Goals' (MDG 4,5 and 6), are really off track. Reaching these goals would mean improved health for millions of people around the world who do not have access to good doctors, hospitals or medicine.

MDG5: Improve Maternal Health

Of the three 'health MDGs', MDG 5 has had the least success so far. This MDG aims to improve the health of mothers, and their children, around the world by giving them better access to doctors, medicines and safe places to get help with their babies. This goal also aims to give women and young girls more choices about when to have children and what sort of families they would like to have.

Every minute, one woman dies while she is expecting a baby or actually giving birth or very soon after the baby is born, when a simple intervention could usually have saved them. More money and attention to achieving MDG 5 would save millions of lives. We know that when the health of mothers is improved, the health and wellbeing of children is also greatly improved. It also makes communities and families stronger and helps to stop the spread of poverty and disease. Also, when women and girls are given choices over when to have children and what sort of families they'd like to have, it becomes easier for them to become more educated and have better opportunities. Because this issue is so important for children, it was even included in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which - as you know - is the most important document for promoting the well being of children around the world, and the main reason for launching the 'I have a voice!' campaign! "States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care service;....To ensure appropriate pre-natal and post-natal health care for mothers;" Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

In order to show just how important this issue is, we created a 'memory game' called Just a minute! We called it this because one minute is all the time that goes by between a woman or girl dying from maternal problems - and this is the time we have given players to find 3 pairs of cards and win the game!. So go on! Take Just a minute and play our memory game! www.kids.mdq5.eu

"I HAVE A VOICE" REPORT 2010

Take action! - Children Have their

Around the world children are participating in decisions with their families, communities, their schools and their governments. The right to participation is one of the key principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, but the one that governments pay the least attention to.

Our campaign is called 'I have a voice!' because children and young people have the right to be heard in political discussions that affect their lives. If EU decision-makers are discussing education, child protection, or child poverty policies, they should be asking children for their opinions too. We are collecting your 'voices' on this website to share your ideas and opinions with EU policy-makers and to show them that you want them to listen to and respect them when it comes to making changes that affect your life and those of millions of young people around the world.

This month, Plan celebrates the release of an important report that calls for more child participation in European Union policy making. Like our campaign, our report is also called: 'I have a voice!', and the main message we want to send to the policy makers of Europe is that there are lots of good examples already of young people participating in government decisions that affect them and that young voices need to be heard and taken into account at the European Union as well!

This report was written for adults, but it's still quite easy to read, explaining what child participation is and giving lots of great examples of children's parliaments and councils, websites, and networks in Europe and around the world where children are making themselves heard.

What are we asking the European Union?

In our report we ask the European Union leaders to look at the examples of good practice already out there with child participation and to set up a mechanism for the EU to start talking to children – either by using some of the children's participation structures already there, or by using those as a model to help set up child participation structures in other countries that don't have them. They could even link all of these together to use as a network for asking children what they think about a range of issues. We suggest setting up a new on-line "virtual" parliament for children to participate directly in EU decision-making, parliament. This virtual parliament would help children to meet up to learn about issues, talk about their opinions and to further link children with EU leaders.

How are children working together with governments around the world?

Check out some of these fantastic groups that help to make children's voices heard, or let us know of other that you are involved in.

BOLIVIAN CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT

This parliament is made of young people from all over Bolivia, chosen through schools, who come together twice a year to discuss important issues and find out about democracy and how policy making works! They have been very successful in making their voices heard by Bolivian leaders. They have had such an impact that 'real' parliamentarians have started to try and influence the youth parliamentarians!

CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENTS IN ETHIOPIA

Plan Ethiopia has established three Children's Parliament in Ethiopia, where children come together to help raise awareness on child rights, and the problems facing young people in Ethiopia. They often talk with the government to help address and solve some of these problems. Watch our short video about these parliaments!

FINNISH CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT

This parliament has the same aims as the one in Bolivia but works mainly online. The youth parliamentarians have a lot of tools to use such as chat rooms and discussion groups. Check out their website! http://www.lastenparlamentti.fi/in_english

What can you do?

Our report is a powerful tool for encouraging more youth participation groups to be set up, but will need your support too! Furthermore, now that it is May, we are halfway through our campaign and so it is more important than ever to add your voice to our campaign website! You have a voice... make sure it is heard! Feel free to share this report with teachers, friends, Members of Parliament, including the European Parliament, and write back to tell us more great examples of how children are participating around the world in government decision-making



"KICK OFF" FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Kick off ... for children's health!

Every day, many thousands of children around the world lose their lives - mostly because they do not have enough access to good hospitals, doctors or medicine. Because of this, when world leaders decided upon the 8 most important development problems to address, the Millennium Development Goals, they included children's health as a priority. They made the forth Millennium Development Goal to massively increase child's health. Unfortunately not enough progress has been made and it is not certain that the goal will be met by the target date of 2015.

Children's health is strongly linked to many other important issues, including hunger, poverty and lack of access to education. In many ways it is the central point of a big wheel which has around it all the major problems and challenges that are found in poor countries. Improving children's health and saving lives is only possible if leaders make sure they give it the attention it deserves by building better hospitals with more doctors and nurses and providing the sort of medicine and medical care found in European countries.

Plan, along with our partners in Action for Global Health (a network of like-minded NGOs that focus on improving healthcare around the world), has created a new online game based around football and focusing on the issue of child health. We hope not only that it will give you some important information about the state of child health around the world, but also that it will help you to understand what you can do to help put pressure on world leaders to take action on this critical issue.

In the game, you will have eleven questions to test your knowledge on children's health. Each correct answer will add one more player to your winning football team. If you don't know the answer, it's ok! You'll have plenty more chances and hopefully you'll discover some interesting new facts about children's health around the world. Kick off ... for children's health and help save millions of lives!

PLEASE PICK UP!

The law says that children have the right to be heard, and that their thoughts should be taken into account when adults are making decisions which affect them. Children are also entitled to other things, like the right to have a family and to be educated. But these rights are not always protected like they should be, and boys and girls can sometimes be put into situations in which they are afraid, or feel sad and lonely. Young people are vulnerable, and need special protection when they are faced with abuse or exploitation. When you have a problem, it's important that there is someone you can talk to. Sometimes, it's not possible to talk to your parents or brother or sister. Sometimes it's not even possible to talk to your best friend. But it is important to speak to someone, so that boys and girls know they are not alone when they feel scared or upset. That's why Plan is supporting special children's telephone lines, where young people can speak to someone who has been specially trained to help them. Boys and girls in different countries can call up to talk in secret about their problems, without having to be afraid. Child lines offer a friendly voice; someone who will listen and give advice about all the issues that affect children. By supporting child lines, Plan wants young people to know that they are not alone and that there is someone there who can help them. So if you are scared or sad or confused, you can pick up the phone because there is someone you can turn to.

Zimbabwe: Getting bigger and better

Zimbabwe's child helpline has existed since 1997 and was originally created to support children on the street. Today, the helpline is so successful that it received almost 120,000 calls in 2009!

Zimbabwe's child line was set up in 1997 by a group of women who thought it was important to provide 24-hour support to children, because more and more children were moving to live on and off the street. The free telephone service started working in 1998. At first, the service was difficult for children to access, as you could only use it on fixed landlines - it was calculated in 2008 that there were only 400,000 fixed landlines but over six million children in Zimbabwe. There just weren't enough phones for the children to use. Now, mobile phones can also be used, which means that it is much easier for children to use the service whenever they want to. Since then, Childline Zimbabwe has become bigger and bigger, with the number of children using the service growing all the time, receiving almost 120,000 calls in 2009. In the first five months of 2010, the service received almost as many calls as during the whole of 2009! The number that children all over Zimbabwe have to dial if they want to talk to somebody is 116.

Vietnam: the magic number

Vietnam's helpline is a great example of how children can be included in issues that affect them. Here, children chose the name and designed the logo for the helpline!

In Vietnam, the special child helpline is known as "The magic number" - a name chosen by children themselves! They also designed the logo for the helpline, so that other children in the country would be able to recognise the helpline and would be comfortable using it. "The magic number" offers support and guidance to children and carers on all the issues which affect them. It helps children in difficult situations who feel they have nobody they can trust – children who have been exploited or sexually abused, for example. For the helpline to be really effective, it is important that as many children as possible know about the service, so that if they are scared or in danger, they know who to turn to. The information gathered from the child helpline is used so that child protection can be improved throughout the country, because the people who make the laws are given up-to-date information about the problems children are facing.

Mozambique: A child-centered approach

In Mozambique children finally have a place to call when facing difficult situations such as neglect or violence. The helpline was officially launched in 2009, and it has already received 40,000 in the first half of 2010!

In Mozambigue, children who faced difficult circumstances such as neglect or violence or exploitation did not have access to appropriate resources to take care of them. Adults were aware of this problem, but for a long time were unable to deliver proper services to protect these children. A joint effort was made to try to identify and trace children who were vulnerable, and the first free child line was set up in 2007. In Mozambigue, the number to call is also 116 - just like in Zimbabwe! Children can call from either a mobile phone or a fixed landline, which means that it is easier for them to use the helpline. After finding an office for the counsellors to work in, the service was properly launched in November 2009 to offer help to children and carers facing distressing or difficult situations, who needed advice to help them deal with their troubles. The helpline - Linha Fala Criança - is child centered, and it talks and listens to more boys and girls that any other child welfare service. In the first half of this year, almost 40,000 children called 116 in Mozambique to talk to someone about their problems.

Guatemala: The tenderness grandmothers

Grandmothers in Guatemala hope to go nationwide with "the tenderness line" - a confidential helpline which is raising awareness of child abuse in the country

In Guatemala, a country where children face a number of problems, a group of grandmothers teamed up to provide a place for the people of Jalapa to turn to for confidential advice. The abuelas, as they are known in Spanish, offer children - and parents - the chance to ask for help, often in very serious cases including children that have been beaten or abused, for example. The abuelas support victims and encourage them to go to the hospital or complain to the police or other authorities if this is needed, and having the line has helped raise awareness about the problem of child abuse in Guatemala. The grandmothers are given special training every month, and one day they hope that "the tenderness line", as they call it, will go nationwide!

CHILD AND YOUTH MEDIA

Plan believes that children should be both seen and heard! That's why we run almost 60 child media programmes in over 30 countries – Plan wants to help children speak up for themselves and speak out for their rights!

By promoting children's media – whether it's film, radio, web or even cartoons – Plan is helping young people take control and change lives. These programmes increase confidence and allow young people to develop lots of different skills that are important in day to day life, such as communication, team work, self expression and creativity.

Plan hopes that these different media projects will help change attitudes and behaviour towards children and their role in society. And, by making their voices heard, young people are able to influence the decisions taken by adults which are important to their lives. The resulting programmes and projects often do more than make young voices heard, they also boost self-confidence, provide new skills and teach children how to better communicate important issues to adults and to each other!

Training

Of course, these young people couldn't achieve all this without proper training. Plan provides a lot of attention to this training because it gives youth and children much needed skills, not only for these media projects but also for later on in life.

Stepping Stones

Plan Ecuador's Stepping Stone project trained young people in HIV/Aids prevention, treatment and support. Yet the project not only increased their awareness of the diseases but also taught young people how to better communicate their ideas and to express themselves. Wanting to share their knowledge and educate their peers on sex, relationships and HIV/Aids, the young people launched an early morning radio show, called Chicos Pilas (Smart Kids), and a travelling theatre production.

Girls Making Media

Let's hear it for the girls! Girls Making Media is a three year project shared between Plan Ghana, Plan Liberia, Plan Sierra Leone, Plan Togo and Plan West Africa. The project will train 140 girls in media production and journalism to give them key skills to seek out employment opportunities while also creating public platforms for girls to advocate on issues, such as gender discrimination, which affect them.

Reporter

Children have the power to understand the difficulties they and their communities face. With media they are able to make their voices heard to politicians and community leaders. Look at these movies and see how these children make their voices heard!

1. Young journalists have the power!

At the climate change convention in Copenhagen in December 2009, Plan made the news with their great group of young reporters. Plan had already worked numerous times with young people as junior journalists in communications and advocacy work but they rarely achieved so much as at the climate change conference. The success these young journalists had was immense! With the support of Plan staff, 11 young reporters took part in high-level side event discussions and created a media stir by producing news, videos, photos and features. Look at this video where 12-year-old Joseph interviewed the Kenyan environment minister.

2. ,Our Climate, Our Future'

,Our Climate, Our Future' is a groundbreaking project in which children are using film to examine the impact of climate change on their communities. Young people from Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines learned how to map the risks facing their communities and make their own films to highlight these issues and bring about change. In Cambodia the children interviewed the elders seeking their insight on the droughts, while in Indonesia they researched the root causes of these droughts. In the Philippines, on the other hand, children were facing floods. These projects are a hopeful sign for the future as they show how children can sensitise their communities with these new acquired skills and remind them that the time is NOW to change their behaviour!

Arts and Media

Of course media is closely interlinked to the arts. The following projects show how youth are able to use arts and media to achieve their goals and objectives.

Dance

"Breakdancing is more than a dance," says 27 year old Marcos, a member of the Youth in Harmony group supported by Plan Colombia. The group, formed to promote young peace builders, performs songs and choreographs dance routines on subjects ranging from football to non violence for local children. Youth in Harmony says that breakdancing is "a visual representation" of love and peace and uses dance to help prevent young people from following a life of crime and violence.

Festivals

Youth from six Asian countries - Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam - met in Bangkok last October for the Young Hearts Youth Arts and Media Festival. The festival was the culmination of a two year project developed by Plan Asia in which young people received media training and put their skills into action to promote social change. Festival goers saw an inspiring showcase of media projects made by the youth - including films, TV and radio shows, short stories and poems and theatre productions.



Theatre

From the distress and grief of the 2004 tsunami disaster, a powerful Bollywood-style theatrical production emerged. "Children of the Sea" showcased 22 teenage tsunami survivors who, despite having no acting experience, channeled their harrowing experiences - of losing their villages and families - into an award-winning stage show. With support from Plan Sri Lanka, "Children of the Sea" has been performed for more than 150,000 people in tsunami displaced peoples camps in Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Photo Exhibition

The Belgian Youth Board created a photo exhibition last year on access to pre-school education in Peru and in Belgium. To prepare for this, they were trained by a professional photographer.

Three of them even had the chance to go to Peru to investigate access to pre-school education and infant mortality. In the video below you will see a documentary on this trip, where the youngster made the 'Peru' part of the photo exhibition. The exhibition was even showcased in the parliament and will now travel from school to school around Belgium!

One of the oldest and most wide-spread media outlets is, without doubt, radio. Today, radio is still an extraordinary way to touch even the most isolated communities!

Kids Waves

Kids Waves is a radio show broadcast in eight countries across West Africa, which is supported through a partnership between Plan and Nokia and is just one example of our child media programmes.

This regional project enables children and young people to express themselves and entertain their community while raising awareness about children's rights and responsibilities, as well as the responsibilities that parents, authorities and adults have to protect and promote children's rights. In each country, the show is produced in a different community almost every week. Children from the selected community are trained in child rights, radio production and hosting techniques before being involved in all aspects of producing the show.

Since 2004, Kids Waves has travelled throughout West Africa to promote child rights. The project has involved thousands of children and more than 50 radio stations!

The voice of the youth

In Latin America, there are some great examples of young people using radio. In Bolivia Plan supports "Voz del Estudiante", a student and community radio, has managed to strengthen its organisation to 23 adolescents and young people who play an important role in their local communities. They give the community information, provide entertainment and education. Their station is even integrated into school activities, helping develop children and adolescents' competencies in the area of language and communication. At the same time, it is an important method of disseminating messages that promote the rights of children and adolescents.



INVEST IN ME ... BECAUSE I AM A GIRL!

Did you know that girls are half of the world's future? 600 million girls are growing up in developing countries. 600 million! This is more than all the people together living in the 27 countries of the European Union!

BECAUSE I AM A GIRL my rights are ignored.

Did you know that girls face discrimination for two main reasons: BECAUSE they are female and BECAUSE they are young. This is a human rights violation and we shouldn't accept this. Discrimination against young women and girls is one of the underlying causes of child poverty. Yet investing in girls has an incredible impact on alleviating poverty for everyone; for the girls themselves, for their families, communities and entire countries.

BECAUSE I AM A GIRL I am more likely to be pulled out of school.

Did you know that more than 60 million girls are not in primary school? In many countries young girls must take over many tasks at home and take care of their younger sisters and brothers for many hours a day. As a result, many girls cannot go to school. Also, the way to school is often far too long and very dangerous for them.

BECAUSE I AM A GIRL I have less access to medical care.

Did you know that girls often do not receive necessarymedical treatments? Girls are also three times more likely to suffer from malnutrition because their families feed boys first. Pregnancy and childbirth are leading causes of death for teenage girls in

developing countries. Educated girls have better opportunities to marry later, and have fewer and healthier children.

BECAUSE I AM A GIRL

I experience more violence and sexual harassment.

Did you know that in developing countries one girl in 7 marries before the age of 15? Many girls are forced into marriage at even younger ages and have children before they are ready. Girls are also often exposed to physical and psychological violence and sexual harassment just because they are girls.

However, did you also know that equal rights can only be achieved together with girls and boys, women and men? Therefore Plan supports both girls and boys in their projects but we also take into account the specific disadvantages they face. Girls and boys have the same entitlements to human rights, but they face different challenges in accessing them. Plan's participatory and childcentered approach ensures that neither girls nor boys are excluded in any projects and measures (not sure what measures is supposed to mean).



YOUTH ADVISORY BOARDS

It's YOUR voice!

This is the last in our year-long series of "I have a Voice!" specials, and marks the close of our campaign. As "I have a Voice!" is all about YOU and YOUR voice, we wanted to showcase the important work youngsters are doing as part of Plan's many youth boards around the world. It's over to you...

Getting good advice

Children and young people are at the heart of everything Plan does, and helping you make your voice heard is what makes us us. It makes sense, doesn't it, that youngsters are an important part of how Plan operates? Who better to talk to about the issues that affect them than children themselves? Young people are our leaders of tomorrow, and they are the people best placed to engage, motivate and mobilise their peers within their community. Lots of Plan's national offices have youth boards, and their members are helping to spread the word about issues including children's rights, sustainable development and education in their own unique ways.

A day in the life...

Fundraising, campaigning, lobbying – it's all in a day's work for our gang of in- trepid advisors. They'll take on anything from TV interviews and concerts to panel debates with politicians and sponsored dance-a-thons to get their message across. And a trip to the field isn't out of the question either – our advisors have travelled as far as El Salvador and Vietnam to find out more about what life is like for their peers, and bridge the gap between developed and developing countries. Our youth boards are always on the look-out for enthusiastic and motivated people who aren't afraid to roll their sleeves up and stand up for what they believe in. In short, we're looking for you!

"I feel as if I am making the world a better place by communicating and associating myself with people that want to make the world a better place. Young people need to get involved because this world is soon to be ours." Jennifer, Plan Canada

"We want to feel that we have a say in Plan, and that the work we do matters." Maia, Plan Finland

"When an organisation is engaged in tasks related to child welfare, it becomes important that the voice of children is heard clearly." Kartik, Plan India

Want to know more?

You can find out more about how children and young people are speaking up in your country by visiting the links below. Check it out and get involved!

Plan Belgium (NL) - planbelgie.be/jongeren/plan- youth-board Plan Belgium (FR) - planbelgique.be/jeunes/ Plan UK - plan-uk.org/involved/YAP/ Plan Netherlands - plannederland.nl/doneren/start-je-eigen-actie Plan Finland - plan.fi/fi-Fl/lastenhallitus/ Plan USA - planusa.org/youthadvisoryboard Plan Canada - plancanada.ca/Page.aspx?pid=1559 I Have a Voice! The steme may boses and stime. Summary and initial analysis of Children's Voices before and states 20 November, 2010 20



INTRODUCTION

The European Union takes decisions that directly affect the lives of the 94 million children living in Europe and millions more outside of Europe. Children and young people have the right to be heard in political discussions that affect their lives. If European decision-makers are discussing education, anti-poverty, or international development policies, they should be consulting with stakeholdes, including asking the children affected for their opinions. **Child participation is enshrined in Art. 12 of UNCRC and is at the heart of Plan's vision.**

With Plan's 'I Have a Voice!' campaign we have invited children from all over the world to share their voices and opinions with us on what European policy makers should be doing to promote, protect and fulfill the rights of the child. With this campaign, Plan wanted to make children's voices visible, aimed at making policy-makers to listen to and act upon those opinions as well as involving children in decision-making processes that affect their lives.



THE 'I HAVE A VOICE' CAMPAIGN

The 'I Have a Voice!' campaign was launched on 20 November, 2009, the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, with the goal of raising awareness of the importance of including child participation in EU decision-making and bringing the voices of children directly to decision-makers. The launch in the European Parliament was chaired by the Chairwoman of the sub-committee on Human Rights, MEP Heidi Hautala.

With this interactive online platform, Plan created a child participation tool for children to leave their messages, videos and voices telling European policy-makers what they should do for children's rights worldwide. When the youngsters added their voice, it appeared on the world map. Anyone could then click on a country of interest and see what children have to say. Thanks to an incredible programming that made the website accessible from everywhere, we could create a democratic tool for global participation and bring Southern voices to European policy level.

Over the period of one year, we have used our campaign website to collect children's voices, raise awareness of child participation, as well as to share monthly child-friendly "specials" on specific child rights issues to raise awareness amongst children and where children's voices needed to be heard: from birth registration to the Millennium Development Goals 4 & 5 on child health and maternal health. Plan also included issues that are sensitive and difficult to talk to children such as Haiti earthquake or harmful traditional practices.

In addition, we produced the "I Have a Voice!" report (http://www.ihaveavoice.eu/report.pdf) targeting EU policy-makers and politicians on child participation. By drawing on examples from Europe and beyond of child participation in government decision-making, Plan Europe's report suggests how the EU can increase its engagement with children. Our report attempts to clarify the concept of child participation for European policy-makers, provide examples of best-practice, and make concrete recommendations for how EU decision-makers can move forward on commitments to respect the views and opinions of children in decisions that affect them.

The Voices from the Campaign

Plan committed to hand over to EU decision-makers all of the voices that were submitted, and the following summary report contains copies of all of the 1016 voices we received via our campaign website. In addition to the voices that were submitted to the website, there were video messages submitted which can be viewed at (www.ihaveavoice.eu), as well as many voices that were submitted via our sister campaign, run by the Youth Advisory Panel of Plan UK, A Hand in my Future (http://www.plan-uk.org/newsroom/ahandinmyfuture/), which have not been included in this summary report.

Summary of the Children's voices

The 'I Have a Voice!' campaign was open to every child around the world, and we received a wide diversity of voices. However, please note that the voices collected are not a representative sample of children from each country in the world. Therefore this summary aims only to provide an indication of the priorities areas in the opinion of the children who responded to our call to action.

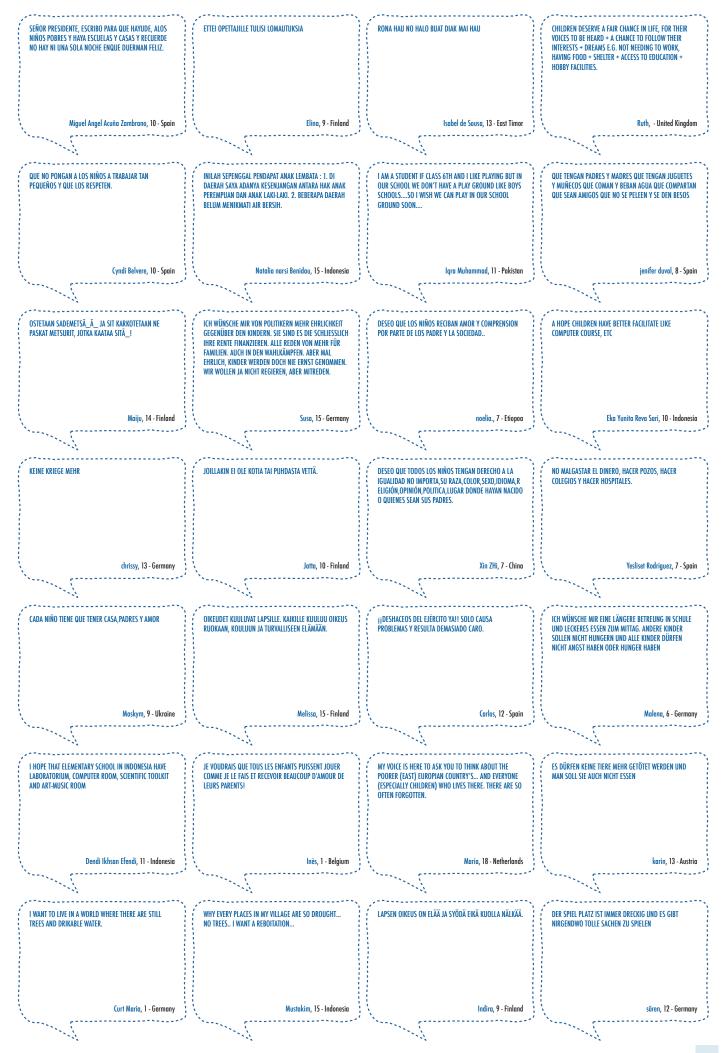
Of the 1016 voices submitted to the 'I Have a Voice!' Campaign website, 737 came from EU countries, with 164 coming from Asia, 56 coming from Latin America, and 30 voices coming from Africa. In terms of ages of the children, of those who left their age, there were 43 children 0 - 6 yrs old, 563 children 7 - 13 yrs old and 384 14 - 18 year olds.

Plan reviewed all of the voices submitted and categorized the messages by the clusters of rights that the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has suggested for State Reports. We found many commonalities in the messages that children wanted to share with EU policy makers, which crossed international borders, coming from EU children and non-EU children alike. The following is a summary of the voices by cluster of rights:

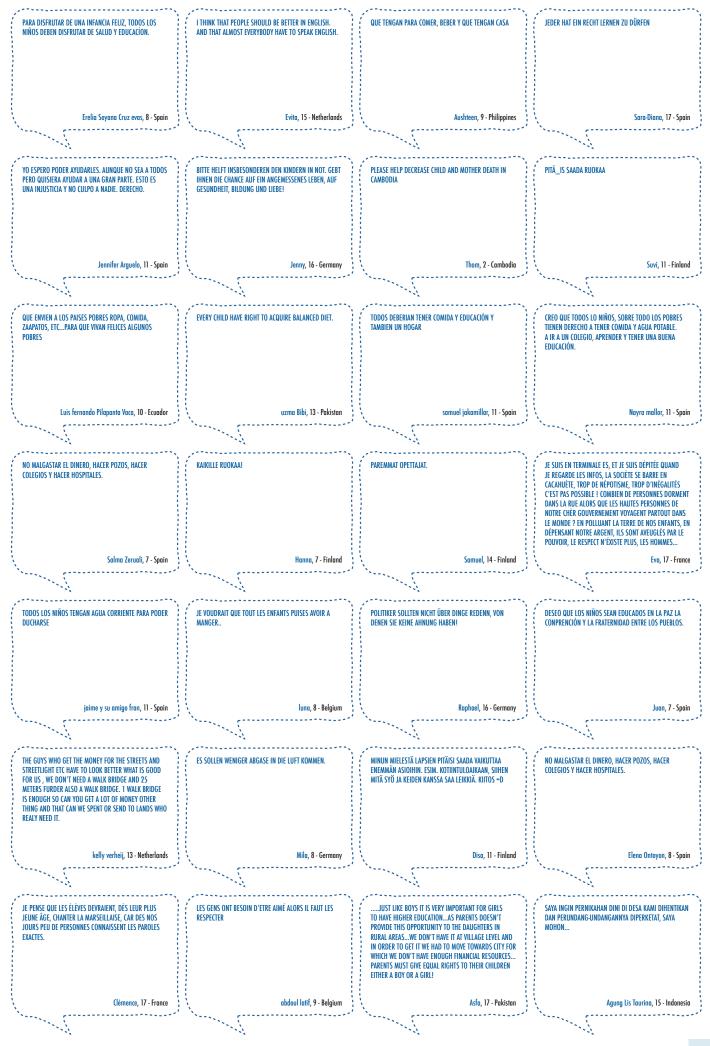
UNCRC Clusters of Rights		
General measures of implementation		30
General principles		246
- non-discrimination (Article 2)	40	
- best interest of the child (Article 3)	5	
- life, survival and development (Article 6)	74	
- child participation (Article 12)	75	
Civil rights		40
- freedom of expression (Article 13)	7	
Family environment		50
Basic health & welfare		206
Education & leisure		220
- education (Article 28)	106	
- leisure (Article 31)	24	
Special protection		63
- child labour (Article 32)	15	
Non classified		153
Total Voices		1016

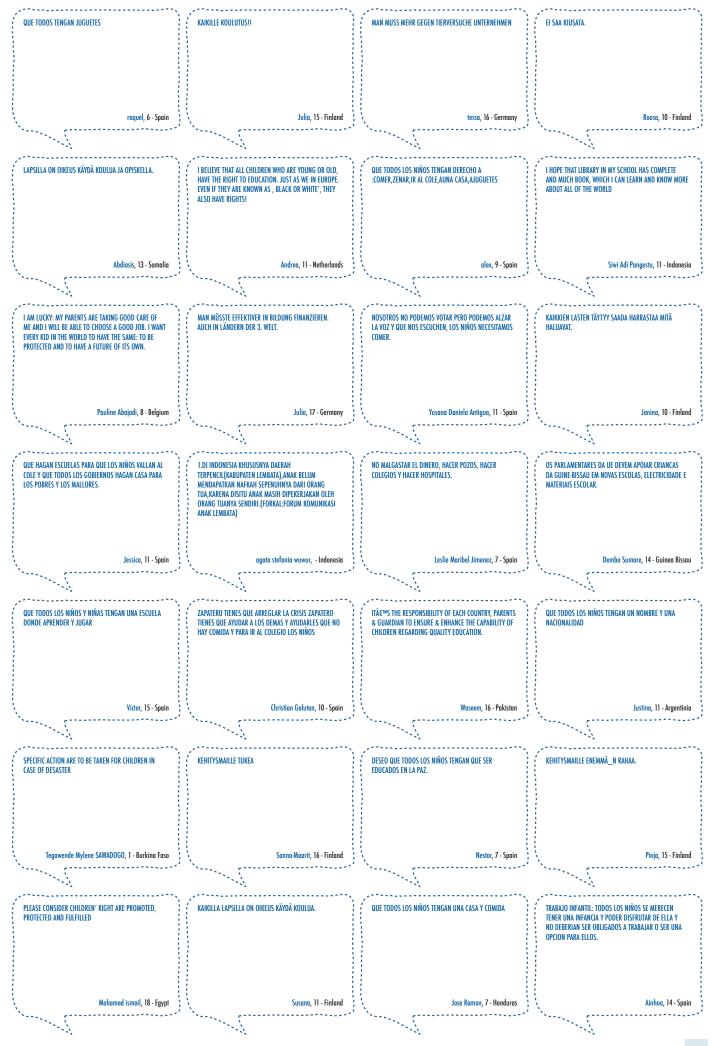
A simple analysis, by clusters of rights, shows us that the children that responded felt strongly that EU decision-makers should prioritize issues related to the general principles of the UNCRC including non-discrimination, life, survival and development, and child participation as well as education and leisure, and basic health and welfare.

Plan, therefore, calls on the European Union first, to live up to its commitments to ensure children's views and opinions are taken into account in decisions which affect them, and second for the European Commission and the European Parliament specifically to take into account the voices of these children in the development of policies and legislation and ensure their priorities are addressed.

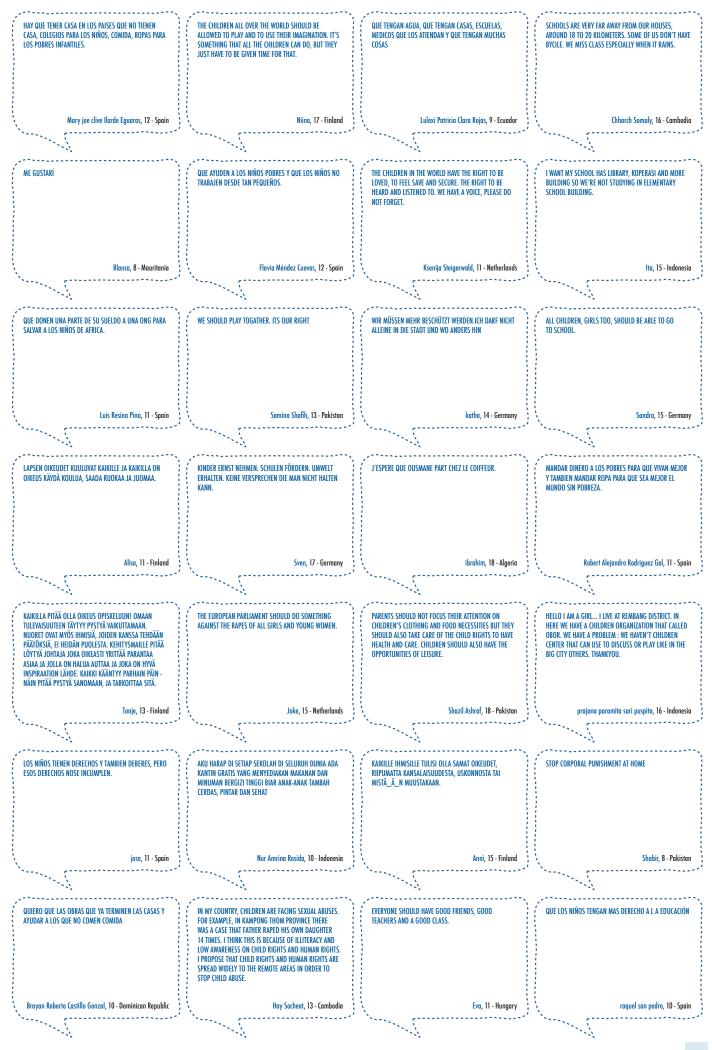


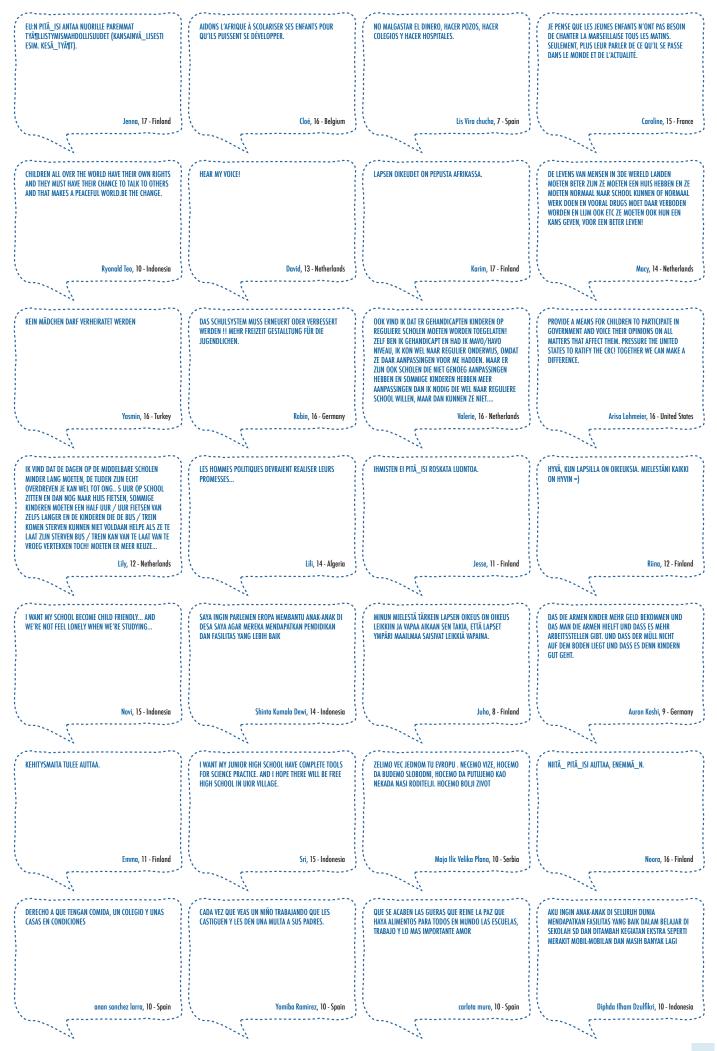




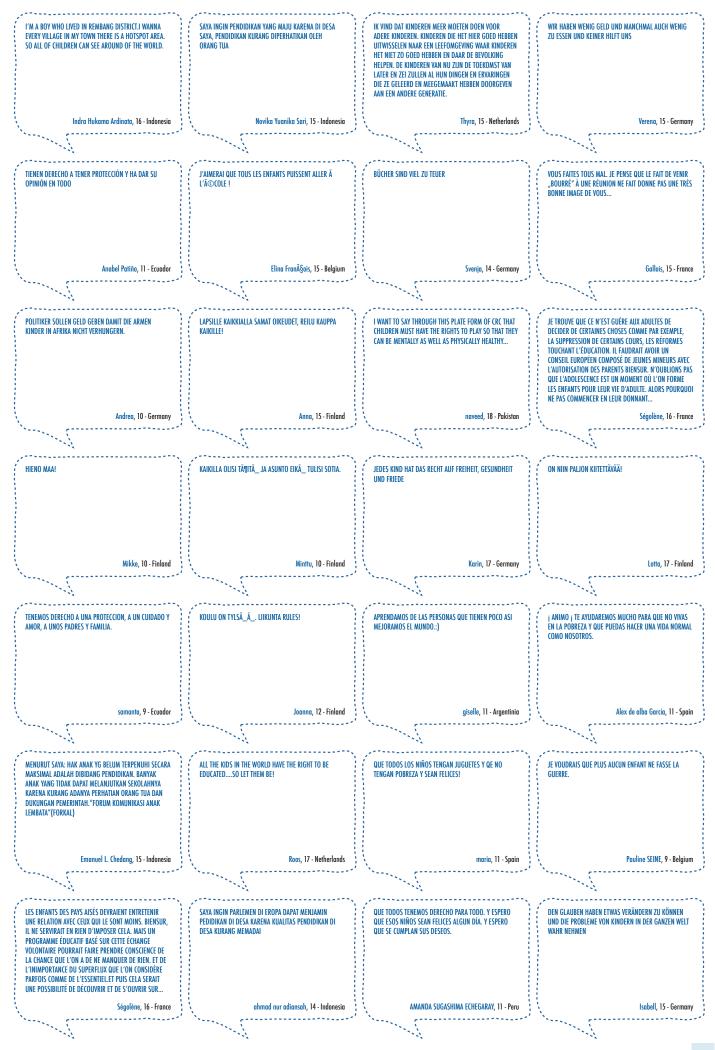


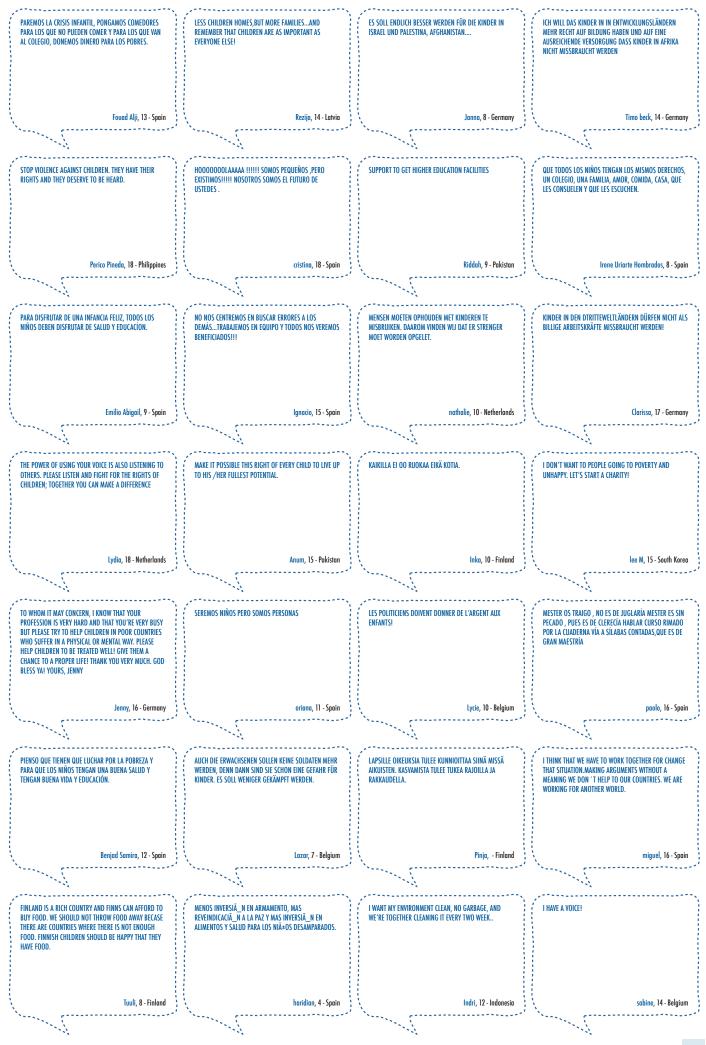


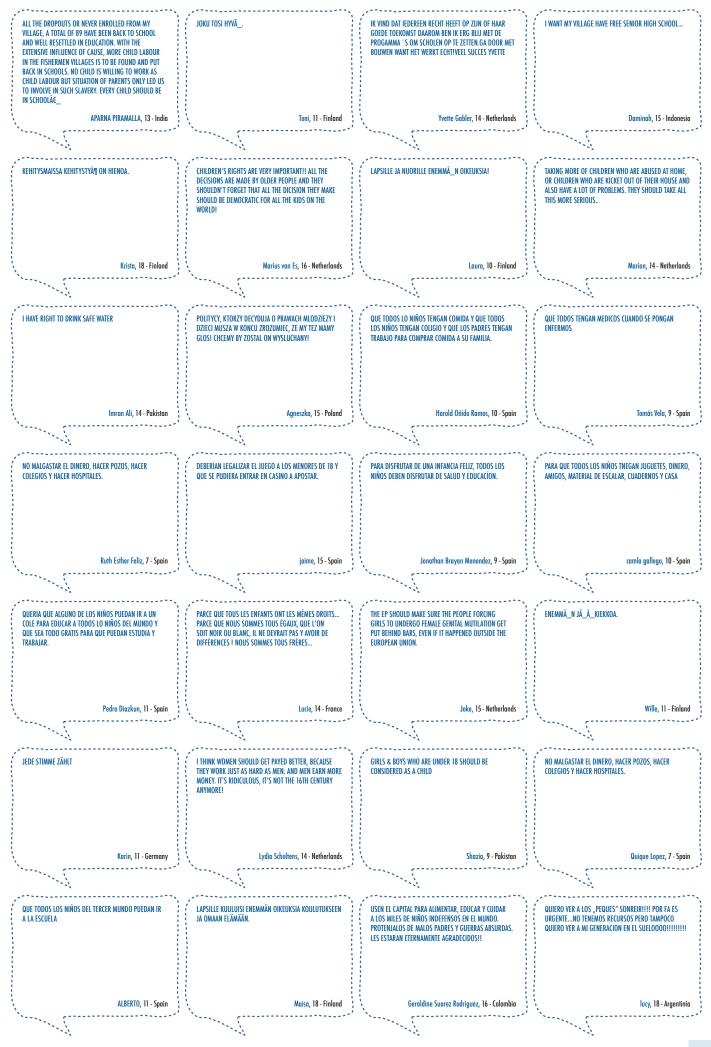


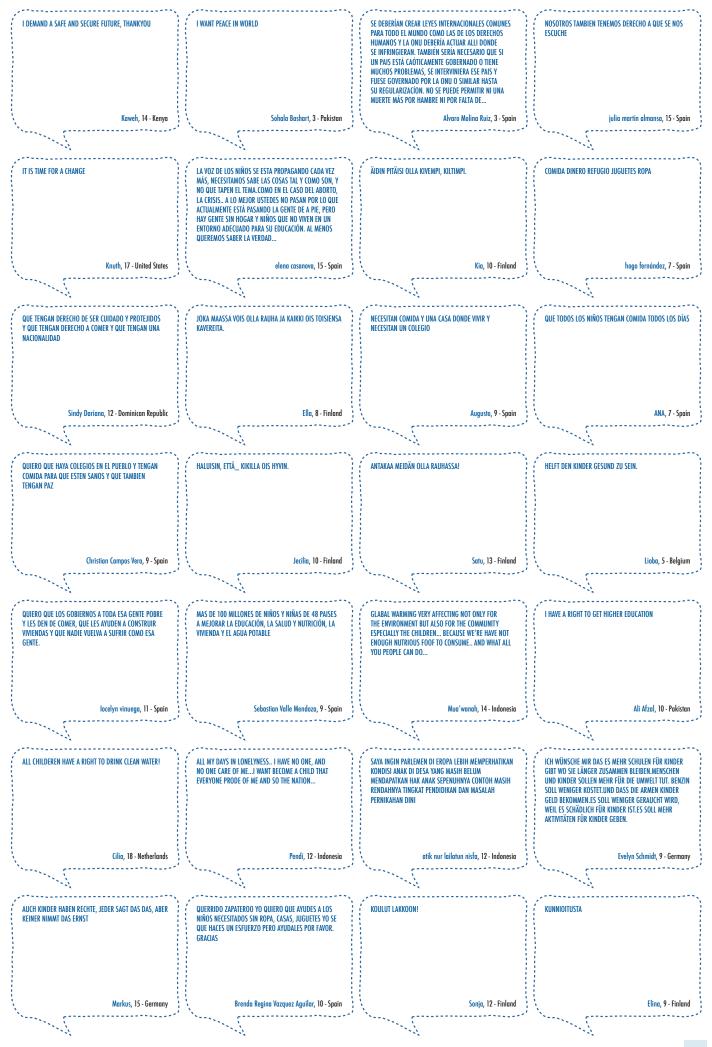


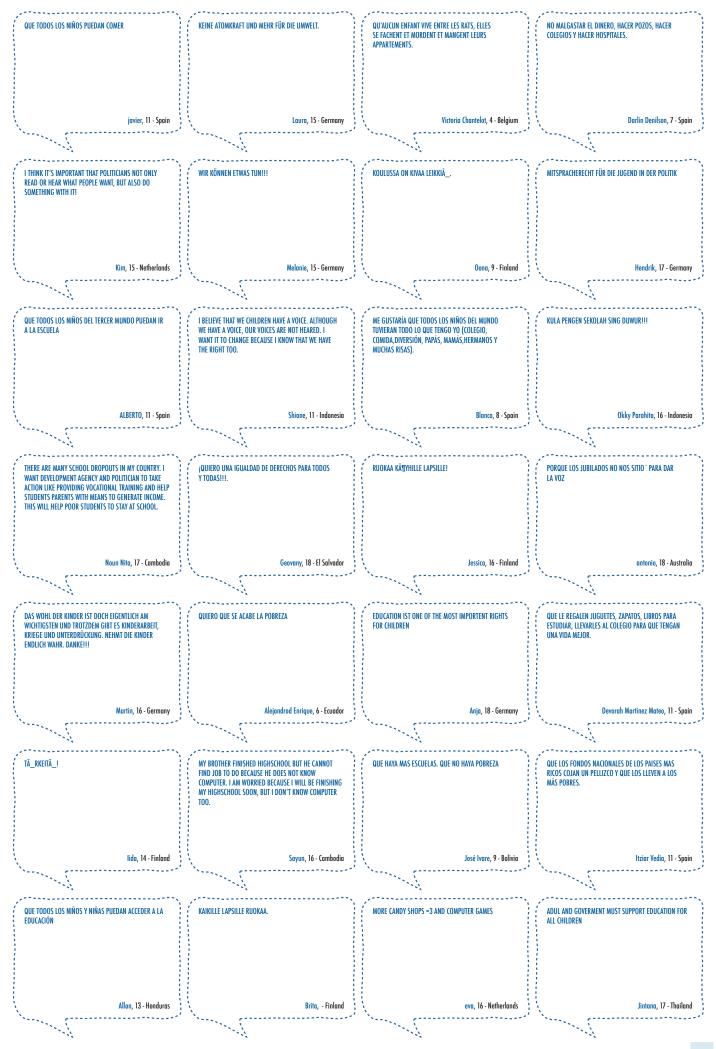




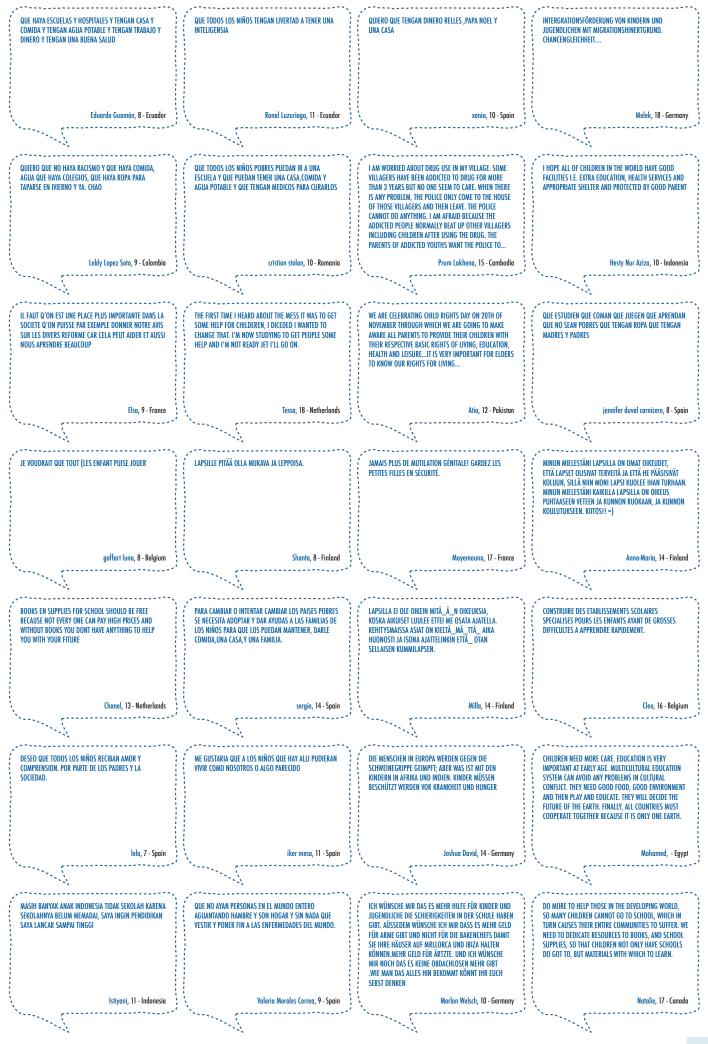


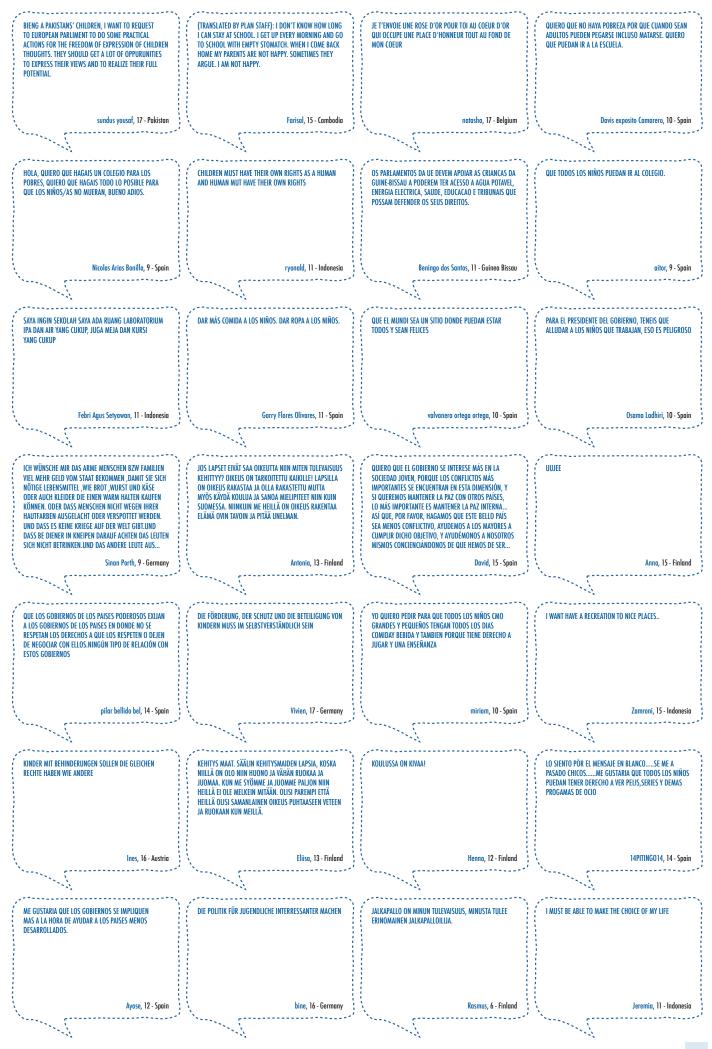




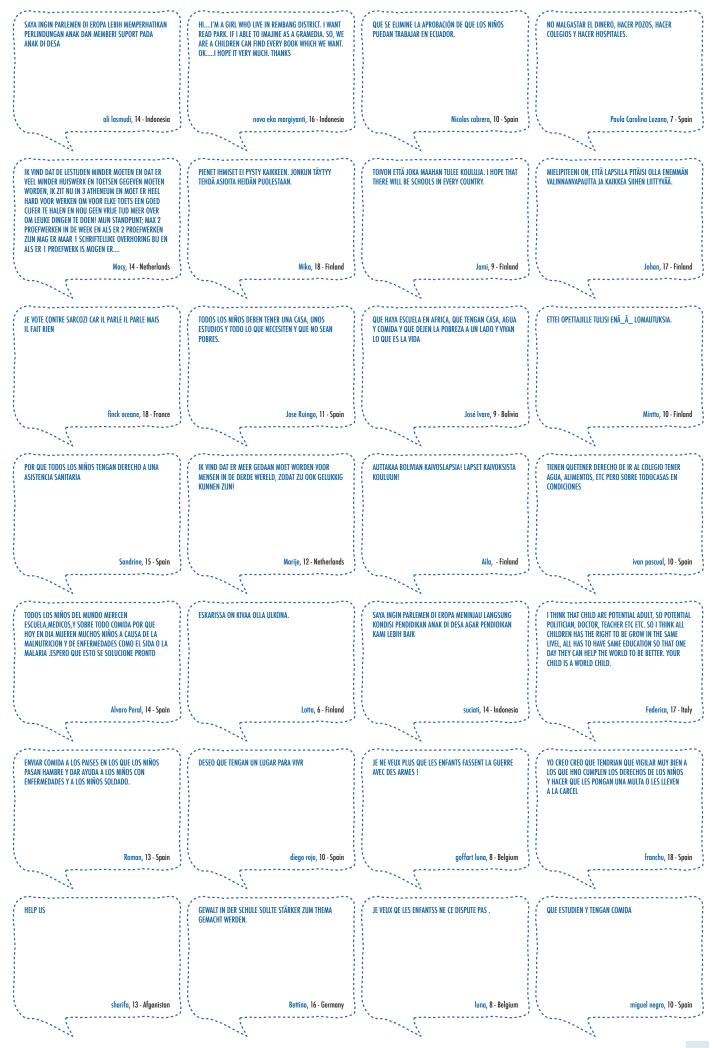


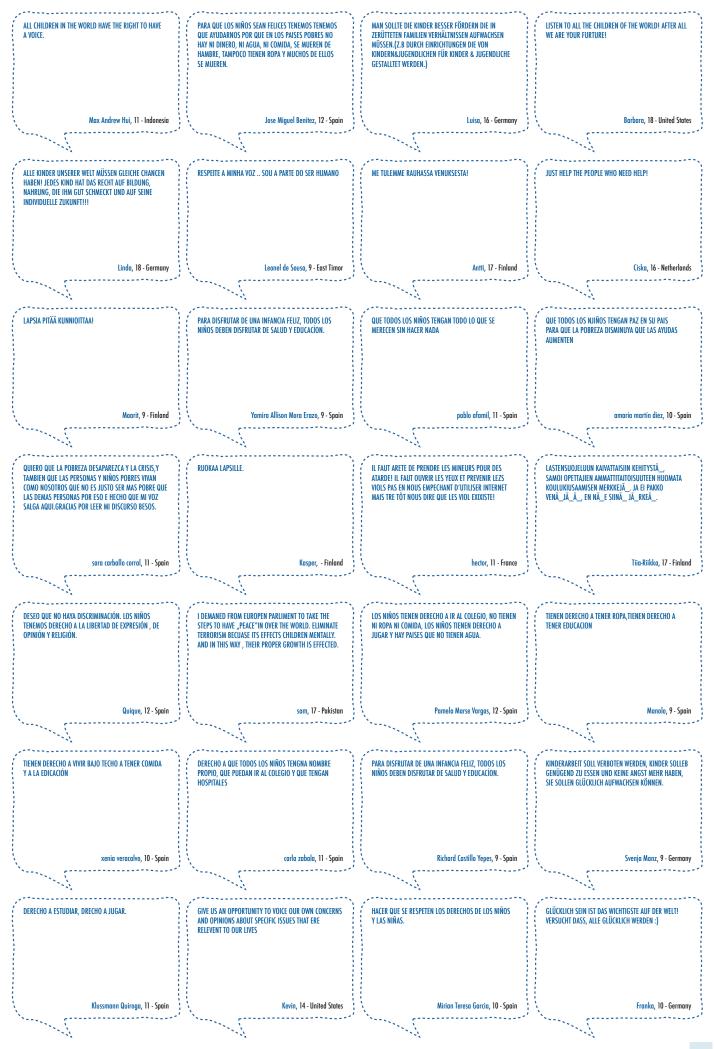




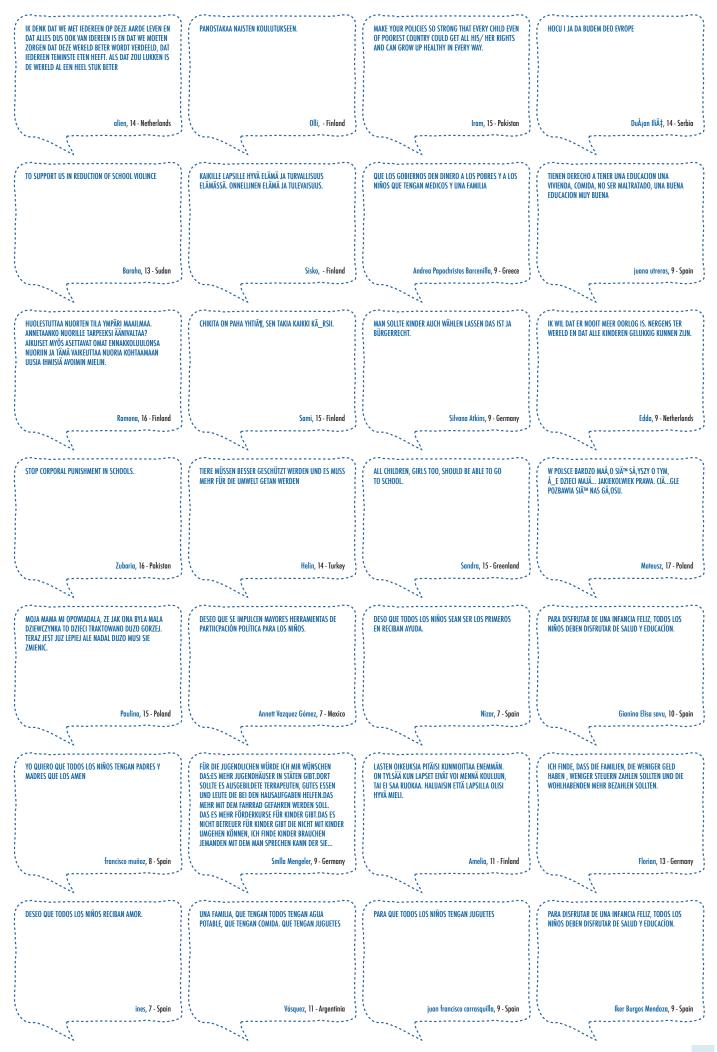


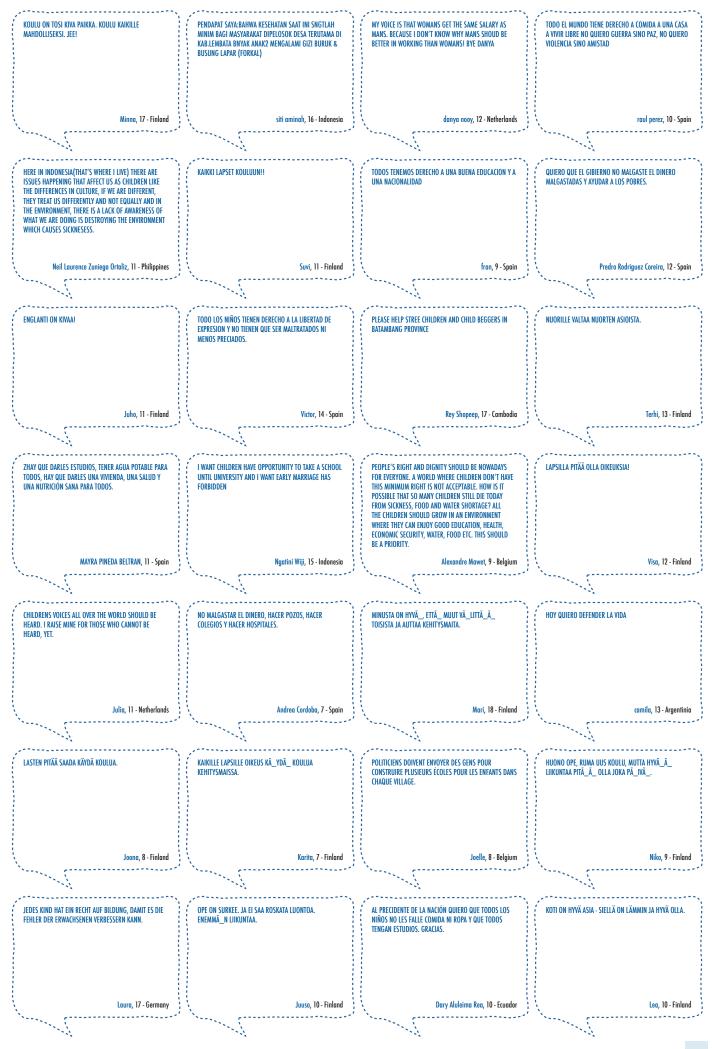


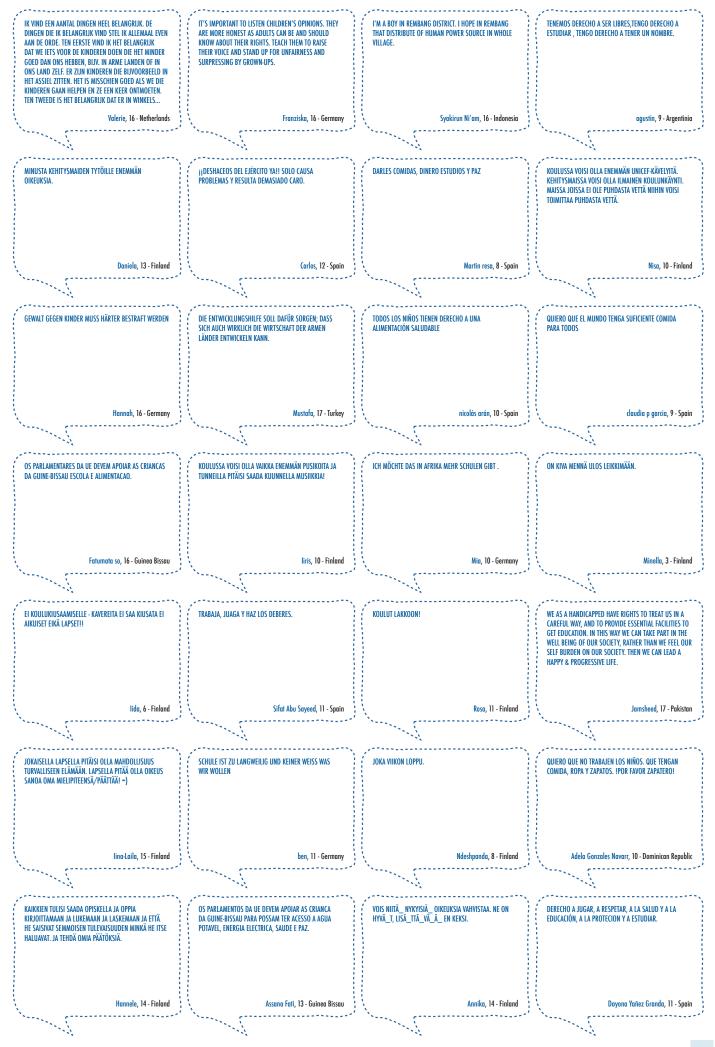










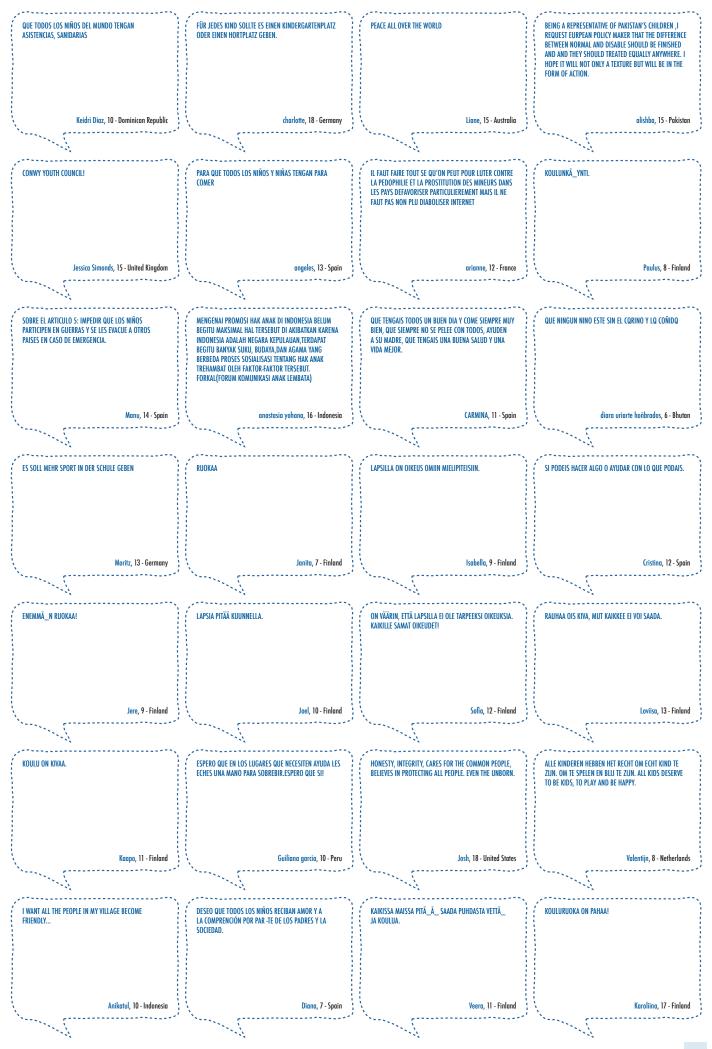






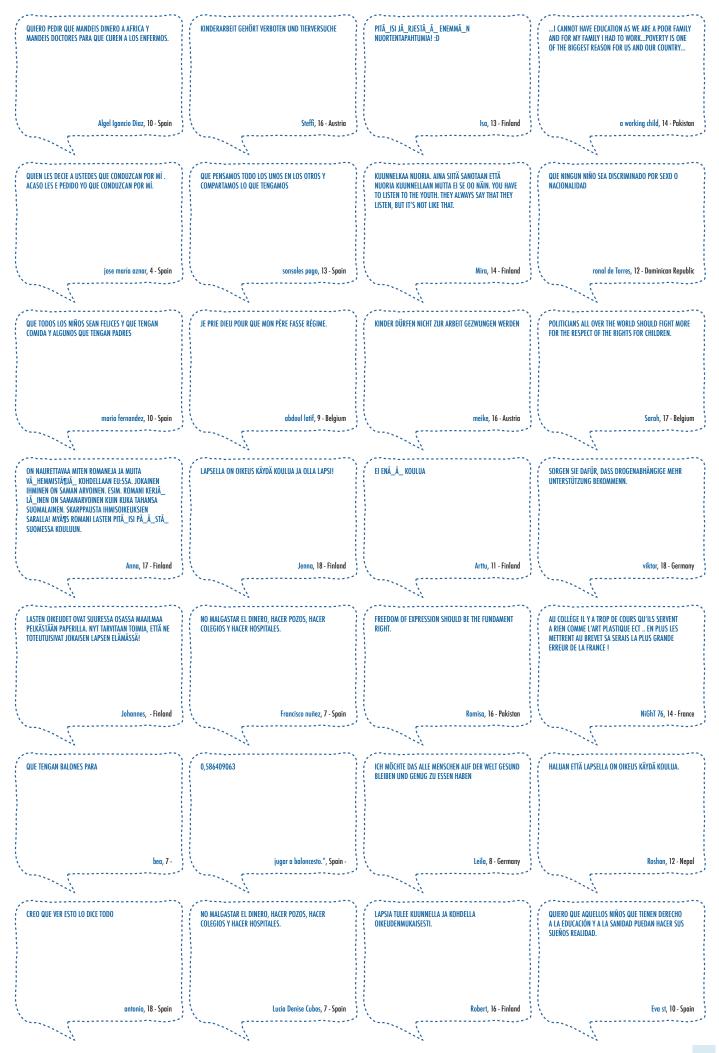


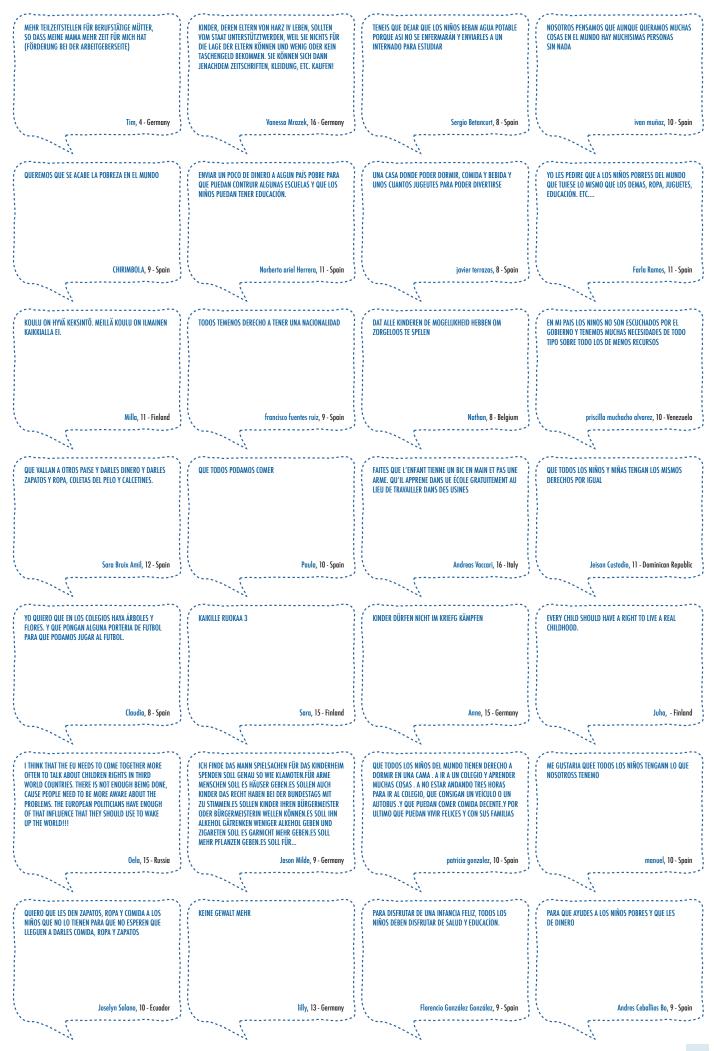




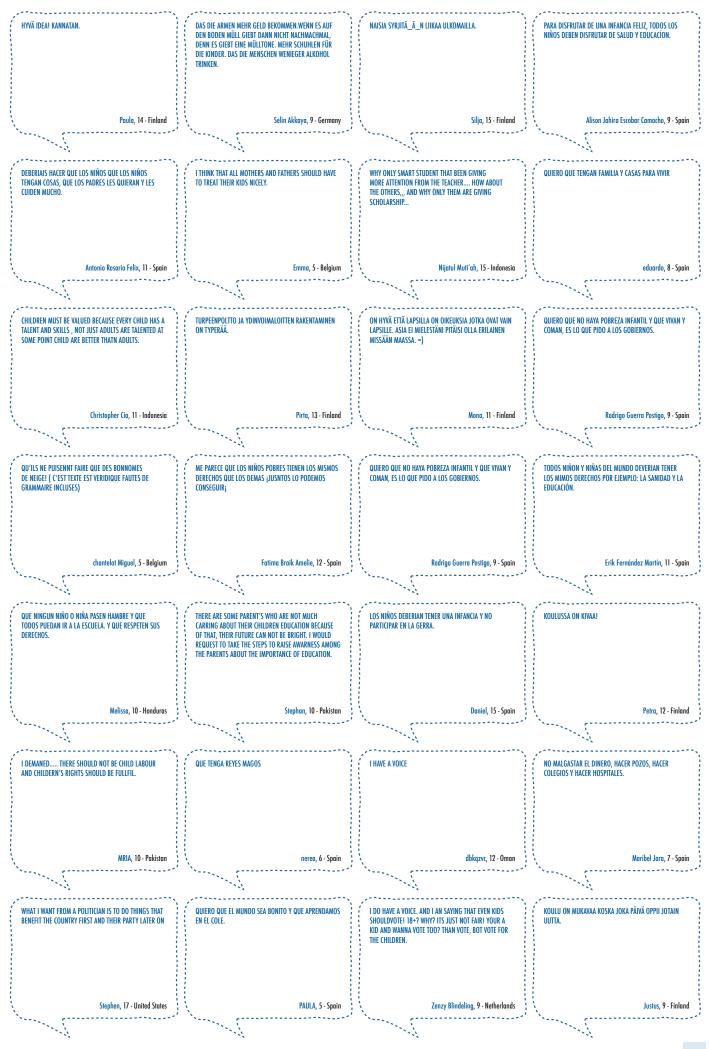


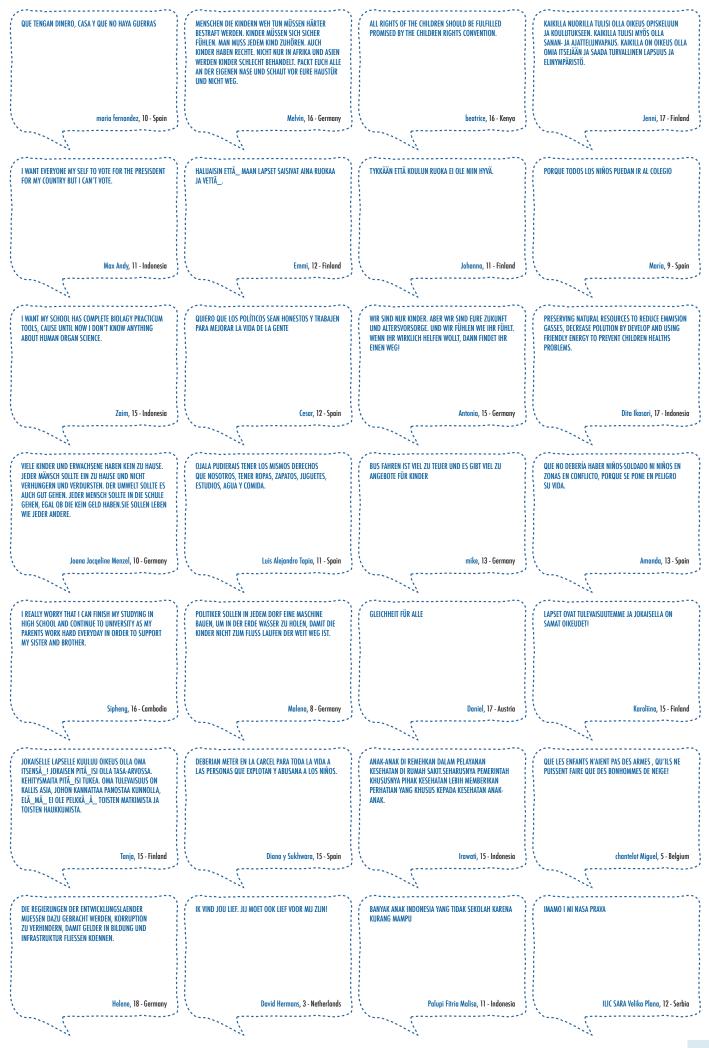


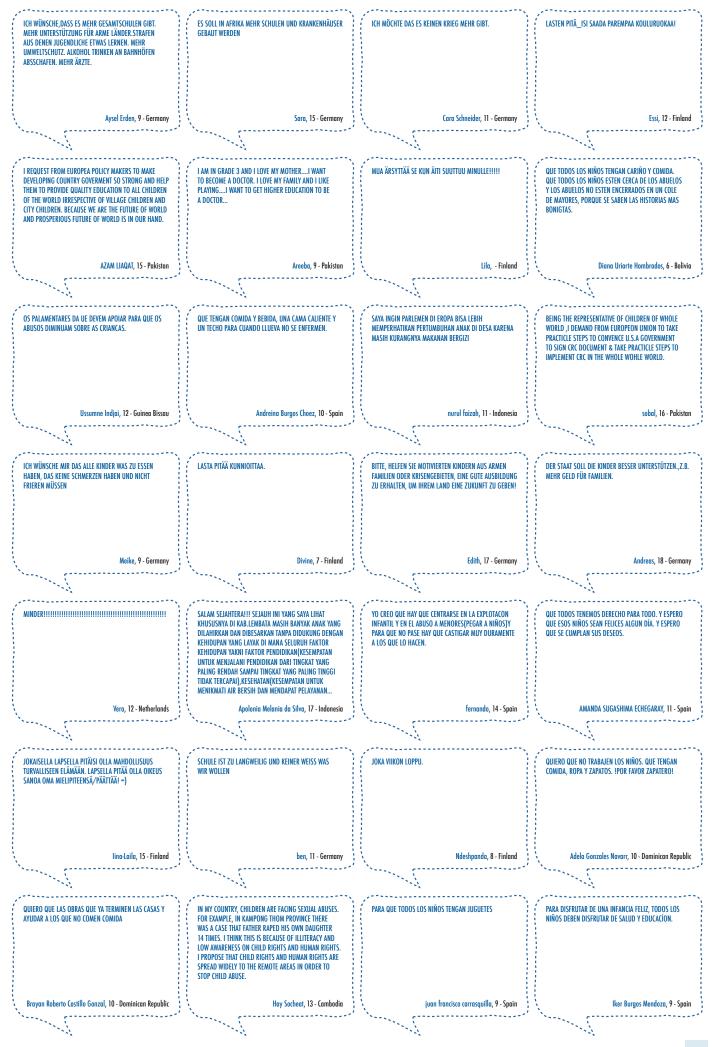












LIAN.KHCK KOP KA GE HADATA 권리자 NGO VOZ KONTH MERI BHI A NAZ HA GEH MA VOICE. ND KOY KORME SIT KI 61 (EU Office Promoting child rights to end child poverty Plan **Plan Europe** Galerie Ravenstein 27/4 1000 Brussels • Belgium <u>Tel: +32 (0)2</u> 504 60 50 • Fax: +32 (0)2 504 60 54 Email: info-eu@plan-international.org

Web: www.plan-international.org/EU