

GENERATION HOPE – CLIMATE CHANGE & INEQUALITY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF CHILDREN THEMSELVES

The following document presents quotes and infographics from a worldwide dialogue (through in-person consultations, interviews and surveys) with more than 54,500 children from 41 countries on issues of **climate change and inequality**. They can all be found in the [Generation Hope report](#), which we strongly recommend all competitors to read before the Hackathon in order to get a grasp of what climate change means to children and how it affects them, across the globe in a diversity of context.

One 15-year-old girl in Colombia summed it up powerfully: “Climate change is like a monster that destroys us. There are storms, hurricanes, it’s very hot, there’s a lot of rain. We are not taking care of the planet; we are filling it with garbage.”

One 13-year-old boy in Gaza told us, “Not all people are financially equal, not everyone has the privilege to be able to live in a safe home and those people are facing a greater danger.”

As one 16-year-old boy living in Egypt observed, “Children are more vulnerable than adults, so that the factories that produce smoke harm them.”

As one young woman from the Indigenous Sámi community in Norway shared with us, “We meet a lot of resistance in pretty much everything we do or say.”

Of the more than 42,000 children who responded to surveys that we ran in 15 countries, **83% reported that they had noticed the impact of climate change** and/or economic inequality in the world around them. For example, in all regions, children in our dialogues noted rising food prices and the impact this is having. The insights they shared are heart-breaking:

- “My own basic needs are often not met, and I am reluctant to ask my parents because I also know that my family’s economic condition is getting worse.” (13-year-old boy in Indonesia)
- “Food is very expensive and my mother can’t buy some things.” (10-year-old boy in Spain)
- “The prices of things keep going up. How are we supposed to sustain ourselves and our families if they keep raising the prices?” (18-year-old in Zambia)

A number (of children) shared with us the impact that this (lack of action by government, business and adults in their community) has had on their mental health or that of their peers. “The only thing I can think about is fear,” said a 17-year-old boy in Italy.

Children or poor families are the most affected negatively from climate change because they don’t have the ability to handle the huge dangers. 14-year-old boy, Gaza

Vulnerable groups, for example, those with disabilities or Afro-Peruvians, are more affected because they cannot raise their voices or carry out campaigns to disseminate information or don’t have funds to help them. 16-year-old boy, Peru

My whole house was full of plants. We had squash, peaches, flowers and fruits. But we had to leave my house because everything dried up. We harvested crops and we had to move from one place. Now we are here. 11-year-old boy in Mexico, originally from El Salvador

Some businesses are more wealthy than others.... They have money to build structures that are stable to be protected against natural disasters...Poorer countries and businesses do not have that money.... Their businesses stay destroyed while the richer businesses continue. Child in South Africa

At 8 years old I didn't really think about why we needed all the trees. But for years since then I struggled with climate anxiety, and I couldn't sleep. I thought about whether I should even have kids, whether it was smart, if I would ever be able to go on holiday. I thought about huge, existential issues that no kids should have to deal with alone. 18-year-old young woman, Norway

Due to climate change, parents are losing their only source of livelihood, which is livestock, and they are committing suicide. Children are left as orphans and they may die due to hunger. 17-year-old girl, Kenya

Everything has changed. Cost of living is high. For us now, if we do not sell we do not eat. Our people have nothing. Child in Sierra Leone

We do not have electricity, so we cannot heat in the winter or turn the fans around in the summer, even though the winter has become very cold and the summer is very hot. And we get sick a lot because the weather is fluctuating and the air is very polluted. 13-year-old boy, Lebanon

It is not fair for any child to go through this harsh economic inequality and drought situation. I wish there is something I could do that is in my hand. I can only sit and watch and see where we will end after this. 14-year-old displaced boy, Somaliland

Climate change has led to loss of soil fertility mostly as a result of the soil nutrients being washed away. For farmers to harvest more yields, they need to use fertilisers and this works for those who are rich. Poor farmers cannot afford to buy fertilisers hence less yields. 17-year-old boy, Malawi

Many children will starve to death because they will not find crops to feed on. 13-year-old boy living on the street, Egypt

It's too hot for me and my friends. The sun makes me dizzy and I can't walk outside. 16-year-old boy with a disability, Egypt

As a result of climate change, girls like us are being subjected to child marriage, trafficking and sexual abuse due to different problems and situations. 16-year-old girl, Bangladesh

Lack of money is pushing families to wed their daughters early, they can't afford another mouth to feed. Parents also only send their boys to school and keep girls for domestic work but also at risk of domestic violence and abuse. 11-year-old girl, India

The economy affects education as well. There are even parents who cannot afford to fulfil their children's education, they do not hesitate to marry off their children even though they are at an early age. They said, 'Let her husband take care of her.' 15-year-old girl, Indonesia

The impact on school attendance at the time of the floods? We cannot go to school and food is less, due to changes in the climate. The result of not going to school will be the loss of education. Boy in Iraq

Economic inequality is like a disease... and it is a threat to human rights. It is a great threat to all children and young people today... In Albania, wealth is concentrated in very few people. 15-year-old girl, Albania

Children with special needs do not have access to education and are not considered to have equal rights as other children; they are constantly ignored and do not receive the assistance they need. 14-year-old girl, Somalia

The climate emergency is a reality for children across the world

Selected climate disasters in recent years



The examples of climate disaster on this map illustrate the universality of the climate emergency and its impact on children, which is intensifying in all regions of the world. They do not include all the disasters that have been attributed to the climate emergency in recent years.

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● Countries that children participating in Save the Children's 2022 global listening exercise were from.

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The impact of the climate emergency on children around the world

