

GLOBAL CHILDREN'S EVENT 2021



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Putting children and young people back at the heart of the rebuilding agenda to create a future fit for every child.

Youth Participation Guide

We are looking forward to your participation!

For any questions you have about the Event or your participation, please reach out to

Vivienne Parry
Marcy Levy
Kate Pawelczyk

vivienne@unicef.ie
malevy@unicef.org
kpawelczyk@unicef.org

Introduction

UNICEF is holding a Global Children’s Event: A global convening and pledge to a new day for every child. The event will be a 3-day virtual programme, from 7-9 December 2021.

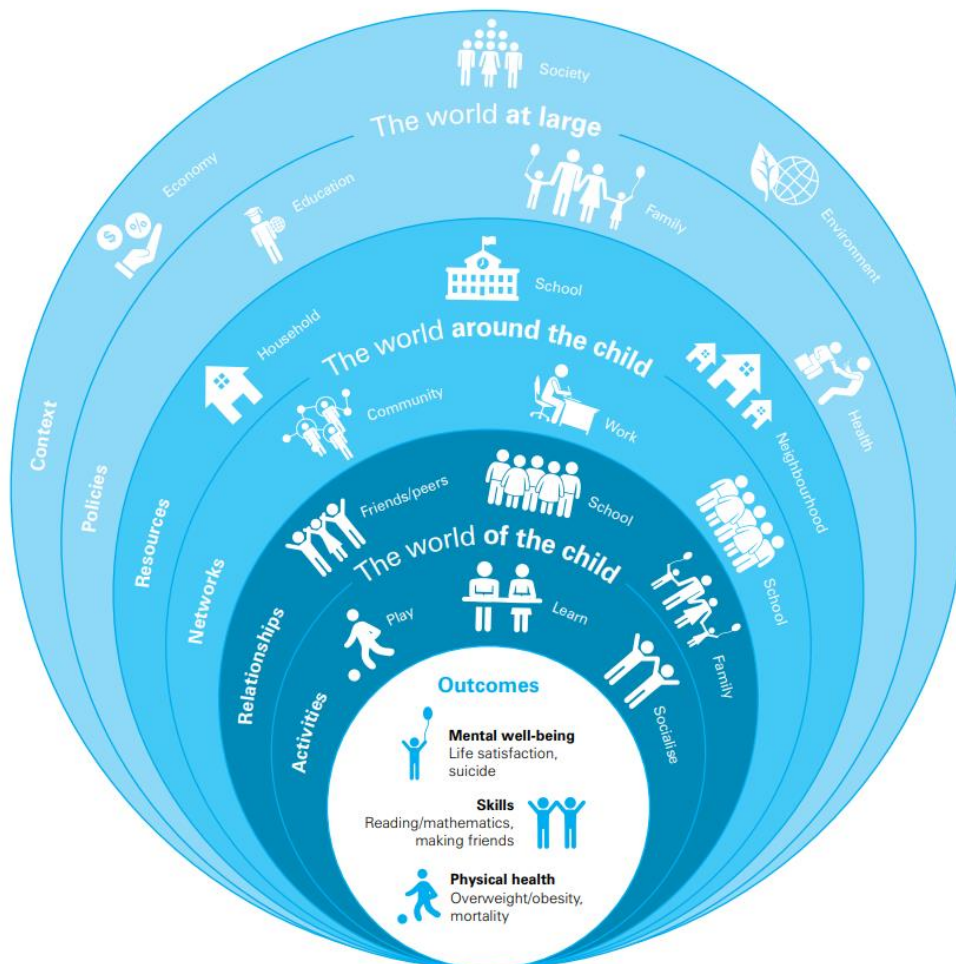
As the world begins the journey of recovery from COVID-19. We need to find the solutions and commitments that will enable us to build back better and ensure children’s rights are realised. Poverty, discrimination, and exclusion from basic services such as health and education were prevalent long before the pandemic hit, threatening the survival and aspirations of millions of children. Conflict and climate change continue to endanger children and young people’s lives today and in the future. We want a recovery that is the fairer, greener future envisioned by the Global Goals.

That is why UNICEF is introducing this event, to convene leaders from the United Nations, government, business, philanthropy, the United Nations, and civil society, alongside authors, artists and, critically, children, and young people to:

1. Focus attention on the urgent needs of children and young people
2. Commit to action to progress on child rights and achieve the Global Goals, and
3. Get the resources required to make this happen.

Focus for each day:

- **Day 1 - The World at Large:** Global issues such as climate and conflict that affect the lives and future of all people.
- **Day 2 - The World around the Child:** Local essential services for children such as education, healthcare, and social supports
- **Day 3 - The World of the Child:** Issues that can affect children’s daily lives, like violence and mental health.



Youth Engagement

Young people have a crucial role to play when developing responses to meet their needs. UNICEF will make sure children and young people from diverse backgrounds play an active role in the design, implementation, and participation of the event. Starting with the initial co-creation process in June to inform the content, event design and meaningful engagement of children and young people. Additional workshops will be held with a wider group of young people to shape inputs, finalise contributions to the agenda and build their capacity to advocate. A final group of participants will be invited to participate in December, where they will have the opportunity to engage with a wide network of young people, share their views, amplify messages, and influence decision-makers.

Wherever possible, we will draw on existing consultations and groups active across UNICEF and partner organizations, to ensure young people have the support and information needed to participate meaningfully.

This document will outline the how and why of the co-creation process with young people

The principles that we follow

Facilitating child participation in decision-making acknowledges their status as a rightsholder and confirms that they/you are a 'citizen of today' rather than 'in the process of becoming'. They/you are uniquely expert in their/your own lives and the decisions that impact them. UNICEF integrates the nine key principles of participation outlined by the Committee of the Rights of the Child under General Comment number 12.

1. Transparent and informative
2. Voluntary
3. Respectful
4. Relevant
5. Child friendly
6. Inclusive (non-discriminatory)
7. Supported by training
8. Safe and sensitive to risk
9. Accountable

Objectives

- Amplify youth voices on child rights issues
- Young people influence decision makers
- Youth participants go back to their communities with knowledge, wider network, and greater capacity to advocate.

Expectations of youth

- Meet and participate respectfully in a collaborative process with peers from diverse backgrounds and differing perspectives,
- Network and exchange knowledge, understandings, experience, and ideas to inform the outcomes,
- Further develop skills in leadership, communication, and negotiation and advocacy
- Provide youth perspectives on how best to address global challenges and opportunities for children and young people

Expectations of UNICEF

- Incorporate youth voices and participation in the design implementation, communication, and outcomes of the event,
- Ensure a safe, structured, and well-resourced space for youth led discussions, consultations, and collaboration,
- Provide technical information, capacity building, and mentoring to support effective participation,
- Further participants understanding of children's rights and their skills in leadership, communication, and advocacy,
- Communicate roles, responsibilities, and expectations successfully.

Who will participants be?

1. **Age:** Youth aged 15-24. Please note individuals under the age of 18 will need the consent of their parents or guardians (we will provide the appropriate forms).
2. **Ensuring equity & inclusion:** young people who because of gender, disability, health status, care status, ethnicity, refugee status/statelessness, sexual orientation or family income can face marginalization and be excluded from decision making.
3. **Geographical representation:** Global
4. **Champion/advocate:** young people with experience in advocating or championing children's rights issues will be prioritized for engagement. Participation in one of UNICEF's recent events, clubs, youth boards, consultations, research, and data collection efforts is helpful to ensuring those learnings and outcomes are integrated into the global event.
5. **Lived experiences:** young people that can bring their lived experience in to their advocacy.

Stages of Engagement

Stage 1 Youth Advisory Group for Planning and Design (June-December) & follow up (June 2022)



- o **Co-creators** - (Youth Advocates w/experience)
 - o Role: Event co-design, facilitate, speakers, content harvesters and leaders.
 - o Selection Criteria: involvement, from diverse backgrounds, and experiences
 - o Post event: Continued engagement with youth team, ensuring youth inputs feed into full two-year cycle.
 - o Scope of work: see Terms of Reference

Stage 2 Preparation and Capacity Building (October-December)

- o **Contributors** – 30-40 max recruited through an inclusive and transparent selection process
 - o Role: Network, collaborate on outputs, capacity building, bring discussions and actions back to communities. Amplify messages online.
 - o Selection Criteria: Representatives from groups active across UNICEF and partner organisations
 - o Post Event: Continued engagement with UNICEF offices or Local organisations ensuring outputs are part of processes throughout 2022, Possible return as designers for next Event.
 - o Scope of work: (TBC)

Stage 3 Participating (December)

- o **Participants** - 60-80 max (selection criteria tbc)
 - o Role: Contribute to the discussions, influence decision makers, bring discussions and actions back to communities, youth to youth network, Amplify messages online.
 - o Selection Criteria: Representatives from groups active in advancing children's rights
 - o Post Event: Engagement with local organisations ensuring outputs feed in to processes throughout 2022.
- o **Audience – General Public**

Methodology

All gatherings will be virtual in 2021, participants will need access to the tools necessary to participate online. Participants will need access to a computer and the internet to participate. Please contact us if this makes your participation difficult. UNICEF will endeavour to support your participation.

Recognition and Opportunities

Participants will receive recognition for their contribution and access to capacity building tools and or opportunities.

Participation Guidelines

Respect and Inclusion

These meetings will bring together people from around the world. Not everybody will share your beliefs or outlook. It is important to remember to...

- Respect human rights and act with understanding, tolerance, sensitivity, and respect for diversity. Treat all people with respect, regardless of race, sex, sexual identity, religion, nationality, ethnic or social origin, disability, birth, or other status.
- Be aware and sensitive to different cultural norms and beliefs. Behaviour or views acceptable in your friend groups, community or country may not be okay everywhere.
- Recognise your own power and privilege over other people in the group. This might be because of your economic class, education, gender, language, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, or something else. Be aware of your biases and responsible for listening, learning creating change.
- Be mindful of your behaviour toward others. *If you are aggressive or abusive, you will be removed from the group and will be contacted later by a member of staff to discuss how we can support you in the future.*

Online

All meetings will be held online using Zoom or a similar virtual meetings platform. Please make sure...

- To take part in the video call in a suitable communal environment (not a bedroom) and be appropriately dressed.
- Members of your household are aware that the call is taking place and they use appropriate language and behaviour when nearby or in the background. If you cannot be in a separate room from others during meetings please blur your background, wear headphones if possible and mute your speaker when other people in the group are talking. Personal conversations discussed within the group should not be shared outside of the group.
- That you access the meeting using the same name and account. You have the option of turning your camera off, but this may limit your participation in the group.

How to use Zoom on your [PHONE](#) on your [COMPUTER](#)

Your Safety

While participating with us, if you are concerned about your safety in any way, or feel uneasy about something or someone, please speak to a **person, who has identified themselves as a safeguarding person, this is a UNICEF staff member that has been trained to help you and guide you about how you can report and submit complaints. If you are uncomfortable speaking about a problem face-to-face, you can send an e-mail to any of the contacts listed on page 1.**

Please be aware that anything you talk to an adult about that suggests you might be in danger, will have to be shared with the safeguarding coordinator and the security team so that we can make sure your concerns are properly addressed.

And protection...

- Protect yours and others' identities. Don't ever share someone else's contact information and choose wisely who you share your contact details with.
- Don't tag any staff member, volunteer or Youth Advocate in posts, or publish their photographs or videos on any social media platform without their informed and prior written consent
- Respect and maintain the confidentiality of personal and privileged information both during and after your involvement.
- Be courteous and appropriate in all conversations. Sometimes what is considered friendly to you, may be seen as unwanted or improper to someone else. Discussions should focus on the meeting topics. Do not ask personal questions and do not use inappropriate language particularly if it may be of a sexual nature.
- Please do not take any recordings, videos or photographs of anyone without the written consent of UNICEF and use them for any purpose other than that approved by UNICEF.

IMPORTANT Once you have read through this document please click on the link, fill out and sign this [ASSENT FORM](#) and if you are under 18 please ask a parent/guardian to sign a [CONSENT FORM](#) as well.