

# 6. Our Priorities

WORKSHOP 6  
IT'S ABOUT US



**Aim: To discuss and decide on sustainable development goals (SDGs)**



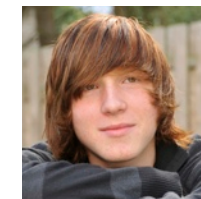
**Objectives:** Young people will...

- Learn about the needs of the planet and its population.
- Discuss the importance of listening to the views of young people on these topics.
- Decide on a set of goals to address these global needs in a sustainable way.
- Explore prioritizing goals.
- Consider the difficulties in reaching agreements and setting agendas.
- Address the need for inclusive decision making.

**Background Resources and Links:**

- [My World 2015](#) - A global survey asking you to choose your priorities for a better world.
- [Beyond 2015](#) - Campaign aiming to influence the creation of a Post-2015 development framework that succeeds the current UN Millennium Development Goals.

**You will need:** Space, pens and paper, handouts, and infographics.



4m

**View:**

- [Youth Voices Post 2015](#) - This is a video from the 2012 International Youth Leadership Academy (IYLA) training in Istanbul, Turkey. Participants share their visions for what they want their world to be like post-2015.



5m

### Discussion Points:

- Why is it important for young people to be a part of the Post-2015 agenda?

**UNICEF believes that sustainable development starts with safe, healthy and well-educated children and children's voices, choices and participation are critical for the sustainable future we want.**

- Children are not only inheritors of the planet. They actively shape it in the present.
- Childhood is a unique and fragile period of physical mental and emotional development therefore violations of children's rights have life-long and irreversible consequences. All children have a right to develop to the best of their potential.
- Investing in children yields high and long-lasting returns, not only for individuals and families but for entire societies and generations to come.
- The issues we are addressing have a deep impact on both present and future generations- engaging children to be part of the solution and to make a difference to their communities builds life skills and confidence to be effective citizens and future leaders.
- Engaging children is effective not only by gaining attention, energy and momentum for issues relevant to children- it is also their right.
- Children can create long and lasting social transformation through their choices and actions to live sustainably. This will come through an educated and aware society.
- Children and young people are creative, passionate and innovative problem solvers- they are our critical partners in developing real solutions.



25m

## **Group Work:** Deciding on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2015

### **Part One (10 minutes)**

Divide group into 4 and provide each group with an infographic:

- **Survival & Development** (1. Poverty; 2. Water; 3. Nutrition; 4. Shelter; 5. Health)
- **Protection** (1. Conflict; 2. Child Labour; 3. Child Soldiers; 4. Child Marriage; 5. Birth Registration)
- **Participation** (1. Gender; 2. Education; 3. Inequality; 4. Technology; 5. Urban/Rural)
- **Environment** (1. Climate Change; 2. Biodiversity; 3. Population Dynamics; 4. Energy; 5. Protecting Biodiversity)

Ask participants to make one goal for each subtopic. Ask them to write each goal on a separate sheet of paper in large writing along with a brief description of why it is an important SDG.

### **Part Two (10 minutes)**

When students have written their SDGs ask each person to take their written goal and stand at the top of the room, holding it up for the rest of the group to see. The rest of the group will decide on a formation for the people who are holding the goals to stand in- this will represent the priority of each goal.

### **Part Three (5 minutes)**

#### **Discussion:**

How difficult was it to get agreement from a large group? Did one person have an agenda or take control? Did you form a circle? Why /Why not? Clearly global negotiations can be difficult- how did you get people to agree on an agenda? Issues are deeply interconnected with each other.

*Sustainable development provides an integrated response to the complex environmental, societal, economic and governance challenges that directly and disproportionately affect children. Education is considered to be the fundamental tool that links these core dimensions.*



5m

**Closure:** "It is difficult for the common good to prevail against the intense concentration of those who have a special interest, especially if the decisions are made behind locked doors." [Jimmy Carter](#)

- Why is it important for the voices of young people to be heard in discussions on the SDGs?



10m

### **At Home:**

- Vote on your SDG Priorities on the [It's About Us](#) website.



### **Action Project:** Voting for Change

1. Choose a day to hold a vote in your school/community on Sustainable Development Goals.
2. Create and display posters around your school informing children of the SDG's and why they are important, letting them know they can have their say and vote on chosen a day.
3. Think about holding a debate or information talk about what you have learned.
4. On the day of the vote set up an information stand where students can learn more and vote on their SDG priorities.
5. Using UNICEF Website or compile data and send in to UNICEF.





# Survival and Development

Click on headings for source.



1

## Poverty

1.2 billion people are still living in extreme poverty. In Sub-Saharan Africa, almost half the population live on less than \$1.25 a day.



2

## Water

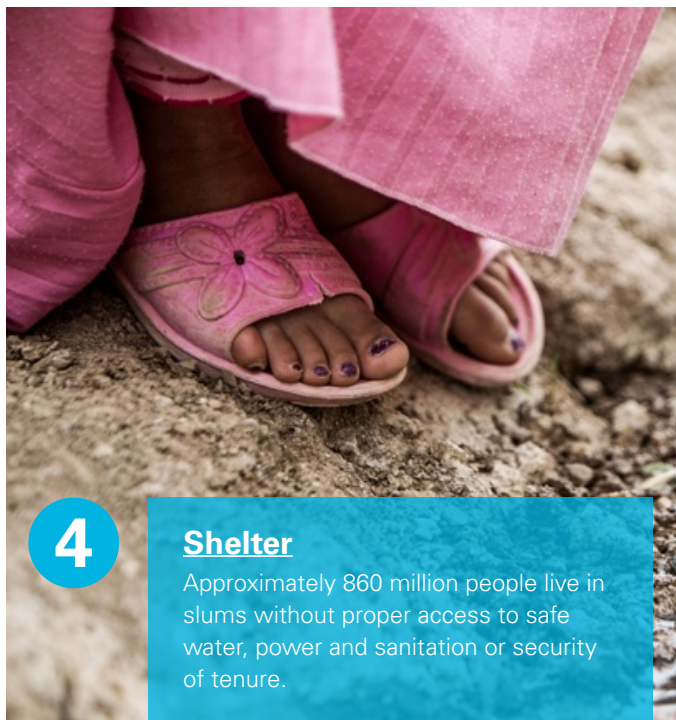
Over 180 million people rely on rivers, streams, ponds or lakes to meet their daily drinking water needs.



3

## Food / Nutrition

Worldwide, 1 in 8 people remain hungry.



4

## Shelter

Approximately 860 million people live in slums without proper access to safe water, power and sanitation or security of tenure.



5

## Health / Sanitation

19,000 children die every day from preventable diseases.





# Protection

Click on headings for source.



1

## Conflict

Globally it is estimated that over 1 billion children live in countries or territories that are affected by armed conflict.



2

## Child Labour

An estimated 215 million children are involved in child labour. The majority are in the agricultural sector.



3

## Child Soldiers

An estimated 300,000 children are directly involved in more than 30 conflicts around the world.



4

## Child Marriage

Child brides are at risk of early and unwanted pregnancies. The complications associated with pregnancy and child-birth are among the leading causes of death for girls aged 15-19 worldwide.



5

## Birth Registration

49% of children under the age of 5 are not registered at birth meaning no birth certificate, passport, proof of age or biological parentage.





# Participation

Click on headings for source.



1

## Gender

A child whose mother can read is 50% more likely to live past age 5.



2

## Education

In the world's poorest countries, a quarter of young men and a third of young women cannot read.



3

## Inequality

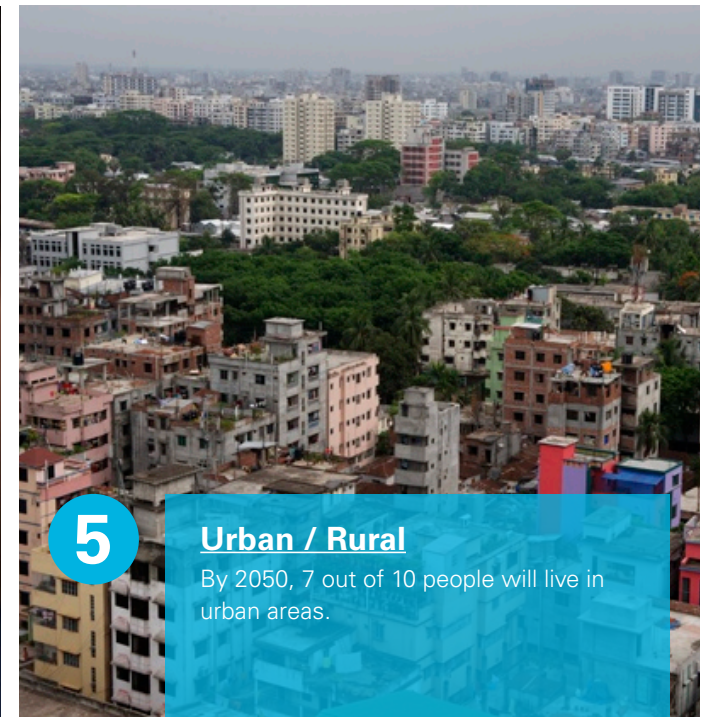
Children from the poorest households throughout the developing world are twice more likely to die before the age of 5.



4

## Technology

6 billion people have access to mobile phones. Only 4.5 billion have access to a toilet.



5

## Urban / Rural

By 2050, 7 out of 10 people will live in urban areas.





# Environment

Click on headings for source.



1

## Climate Change

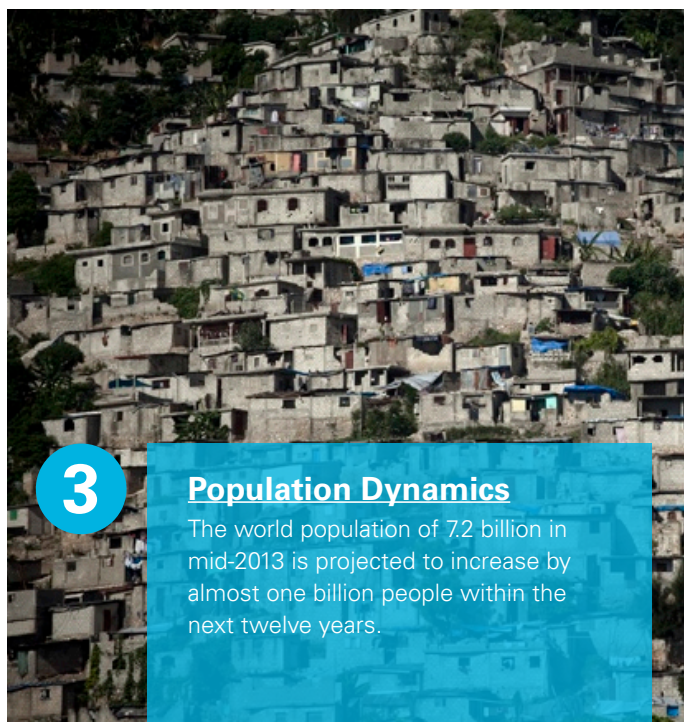
Since the middle of the twentieth century, recorded disasters have increased tenfold, with the majority stemming from weather related hazards. Children typically represent 50 to 60 per cent of those affected by disasters.



2

## Biodiversity

Given predicted warming rates- more than 30% of all known species might disappear by the end of the century.



3

## Population Dynamics

The world population of 7.2 billion in mid-2013 is projected to increase by almost one billion people within the next twelve years.



4

## Energy

China is burning almost as much coal as the rest of the world combined.



5

## Protecting Natural Resources

86% of the world's energy is generated from non-renewable resources.