



Save the Children

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGES ON GIRLS RIGHTS - POLICY BRIEF



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This policy paper is supported by Save the Children, in the framework of Accountability to Girls accelerator grants 2022.

Save the Children believes every child deserves a future. Around the world and in Albania, we give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. We do whatever it takes for children – every day and in times of crisis – transforming their lives and the future we share.

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TIRANË, 2022

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1. Background and context

Save the Children, as the leading global independent organisation for children, whose vision is: A world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development, and participation”, commissioned a consultancy to “Develop a child friendly policy brief on how Climate Changes are disproportionately affecting children, especially girls – based on the Child – Led CRC Alternative Report submitted to UN Geneva.

On 1st June, Save the Children supported Child Led Groups (CLGs) to submit a child led report on UNCRC mechanisms related to the climate change and environmental issues. Two representatives from Child – Led Groups in Albania (one girl and one boy), supported from Save the Children in Albania National Office will present the child friendly policy brief to presession meeting being held in September 28th as part of Alternative CRC Reporting Process for Albania; Save the Children in Albania supported Child Led Groups, (CLG) have already submitted their child led – CRC alternative Report on how Climate Changes are affecting children in Albania. UNCRC Child Rights Committee informed on how climate change issues are affecting Albanian children, with particular focus to four regions, including: Durres, Elbasan, Peshkopia and Burrel and how those issues are disproportionately affecting girls.

This report deals with the impact that climate changes have on children in general, and on girls in particular to design some policy recommendations that would lead to the establishment of some measures that would diminish the impact of climate changes on children’s rights.

Save the Children supports the development of the above-mentioned child friendly policy brief on how Climate Changes are disproportionately affecting children, especially girls. As the previous studies, undertaken by Save the Children, Albania showed, children are aware on the impact of climate changes to the child wellbeing, especially to girls. However, more organized, and well-focused evidence is required. This report tries to pave the way to further analyse and argue the necessity of urgent actions to impede the widening the gender gap.

2. Methodology

Relevant to the organization requirements, qualitative research methods, designed as a combination of (a) rigorous data from primary and secondary sources, and (b) data from semi structured interviews with focused groups of children, are applied.

“Generation Hope Children’s Survey” conducted in June-July 2022 by Save the Children was the main source of primary data. The data that resulted from that survey are elaborated in the section 4.

Information from the Focus Groups (FGs) is elaborated in the section 5.

Whereas data from secondary sources are taken from the similar surveys conducted during 2019-2022 in different poor countries of the world. Findings from literature review are summarized in the section 3.

3. Key messages

Key messages below are drawn taking into consideration the findings of this research, other findings as well as the literature. They are formulated to serve the audience to think carefully about policy actions that by all means should be undertaken, to prevent and protect, in the short- and long-term run.

Climate changes in poor and underdeveloped countries is affecting in many ways girls more than boys. Despite evident progress, Albania remains a poor country, while climate is rapidly changing and negatively affecting the nature, economy, agriculture, and social structures. Whereas there is a slight increase in the proportion of women aged 20-49 who married by age 18 and who have begun childbearing, the proportion of poor people has also increased. The increase is especially noticeable among girls with little education as well as of girls in the lowest wealth quintile (Section 7).

There remain significant gaps in the research on the linkages between climate change, Gender-based-Violence (GBV) and Violence against Children (VAC) and it is essential that these are urgently addressed in order to understand how both the climate and protection sectors (both child protection and GBV) can better ensure prevention and response to violence during climate-induced disasters. This evidence should also inform policies and budgets implemented at national level by government which should recognize these linkages: policies related to violence prevention should address emergency and climate crisis contexts, and policies on the impacts of the climate crisis should address prevention and response to violence. (Section 7).

A relatively higher proportion of girls compared to boys mention negative influence of climate changes and economic inequalities have on children's welfare. This fact is noted in all findings that regard family economic and social standard. It may be a direct result of the worsening of economic and social indicators, that stem from climate changes. But, at the same time, it seems to be directly linked with traditional family pattern which pays more attention to boys than girls (Section 6, findings 1 to 7).

A significant proportion of girls than boys is concerned about the impact of climate change and economic situation on the realization of children's rights. Girls are concerned about food and its sufficiency for family normal life; They are of opinion that education and health care are getting worse, domestic violence and violence outside home are critical, while the social protection structures are not easily accessed. (Section 6, findings 8 to 16).

Further and in-depth analysis on climate change and its concrete impact on the Albanian children and the realization of their rights, with a special focus on girls and women, is of utmost importance. The analysis has to include the impact, the root causes as well as the level of accountability of the responsible structures. (Section 6, findings 8 to 16).

The analysis of the impact of climate change has to include the functioning of social protection structures, especially during the natural catastrophes, epidemics or other health disasters, in order to be prepared to prevent and protect, direct and indirect harming impacts of climate changes. (Section 6, findings 8 to 16).

5. Literature review-summary

Literature suggests that climate changes negatively impact girls more than boys. Recent research by Young Lives¹ shows that without urgent action, climate change will make it increasingly difficult to achieve a quality education. This is especially true for disadvantaged girls and young women. Young Lives' unique longitudinal research reveals in stark terms how childhood exposure to climate shocks such as droughts and floods has an unequal impact on children's development, affecting their nutrition and access to education. This impedes their learning progress, with poorest children most affected.

The climate crisis intersects with another crisis: interrupted education and widening inequalities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Urgent action and new research is required to help build resilience, enable 12 years of quality education for girls and boys, and help to prepare them to face vulnerabilities that previous generations have never had to deal with.

1. Climate change: How is it affecting girls' education? <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/11/climate-change-girls-education-gender-equality/>

Although it may sound irrelevant, there are proves that climate changes in poor and underdeveloped countries is affecting girls more than boys. “Climate change isn’t just changing our weather; its consequences are a daily reality for millions of people around the world”². This is because women and girls already face inequalities and discrimination – because of their gender –which compound and multiply when disasters strike.

In general, the literature acknowledges that climate changes impact critically the life of women and girls in five ways, namely:

1. Increased risk of violence against women and girls
2. Risk of child marriage
3. More likely to miss classes or drop out of school
4. Increased risk of death and injury
5. It affects the availability of food and chances of earning a living.

Section 7 explains in depth the connection among climate change and women and girls’ rights.

5. Findings from the “Generation Hope Children’s Survey” that regard gender differences.

5.1. Summary of findings

The survey “Generation Hope” - a child hearing process initiated and supported by Save the Children, took part during July 2022. The methodology consisted of the utilization of individual of face to face and focus groups interviews.

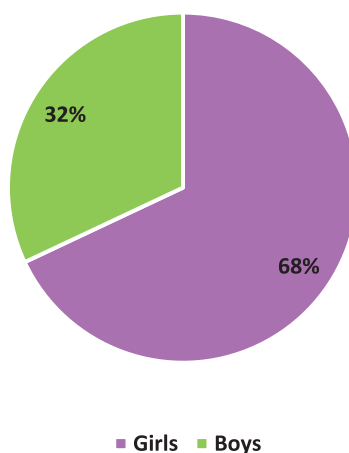
The questionnaire that regarded individual interviews consisted of 25 questions mostly concentrated on how the climate change and economic inequality are affecting children and their families. From these results, some findings that regard on how climate changes affect girls are formulated below:

1. Level of participation in the survey

There is a higher participation of girls versus boys, respectively 68% of the participants is composed of girls, which demonstrates the feeling of responsibility and willingness of participation, which appear stronger to girls rather than boys.

2. Plan International’s Director thanks to Plan International work in Somalia. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/5-ways-climate-change-affects-women-and-girls>

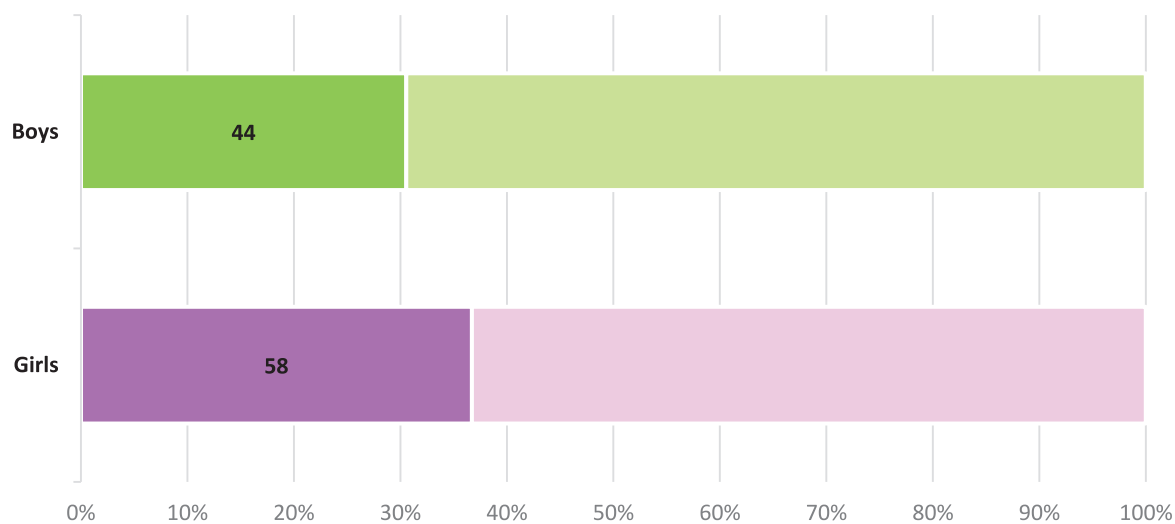
Level of participation in the survey



2. Awareness regarding children's rights.

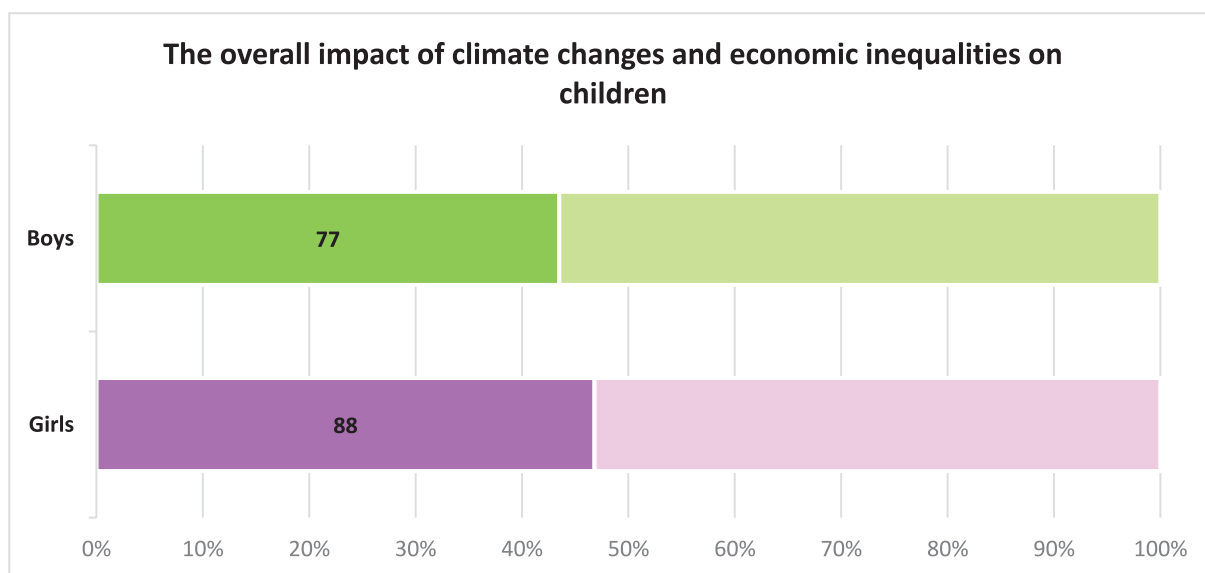
Not all the children who participated in the survey are informed on children's rights. The fact that 58% of girls are informed about children's rights and only 44% of boys are informed, emphasizes the need to strongly invest into the awareness of children's rights, using not only school education but also media and community.

Awareness regarding children's rights



3. The overall impact of climate changes and economic inequalities on children

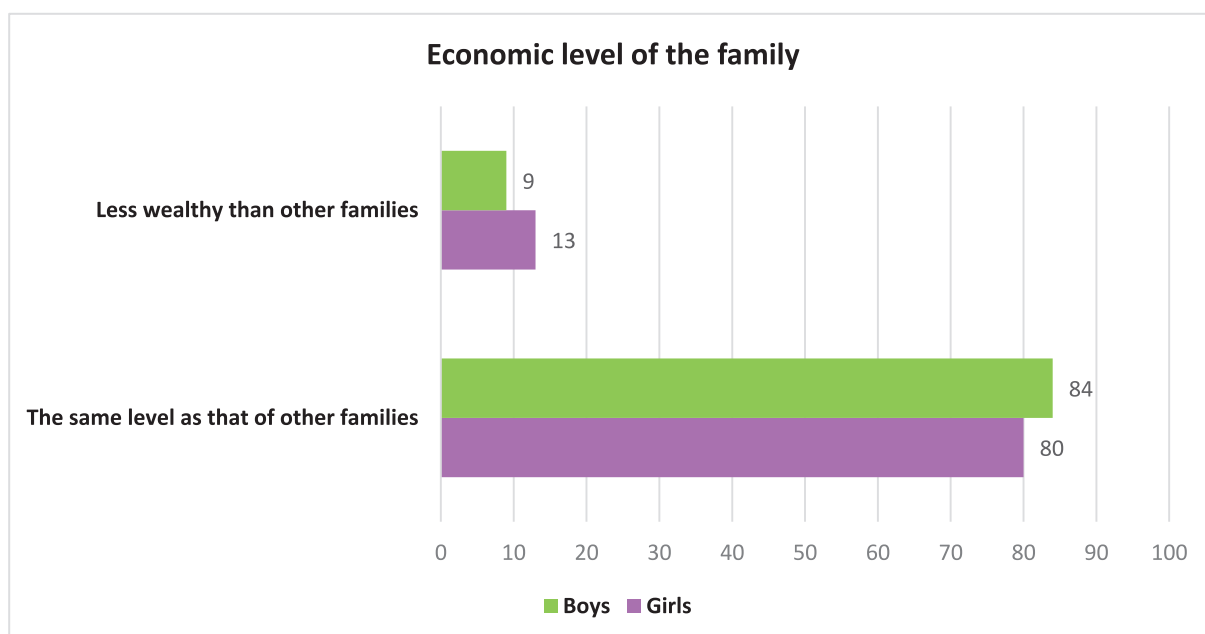
Climate change and economic inequalities are not only affecting children in Albania. 88% of girls and 77% of the boys think that these issues are also affecting children in other countries.



Very high proportion of participants think of the impact that climate change has on children's globally, which shows that children access information and are aware of most critical risks that challenge the world today.

4. Economic level of the family

80% of girls estimate that the average economic standard of the families is at the same level as that of other families, meanwhile for the boys there is about 84% who share the same estimation. 13% of the girls say that their family is less wealthy than other families, and only 9% of boys confirm the same finding.

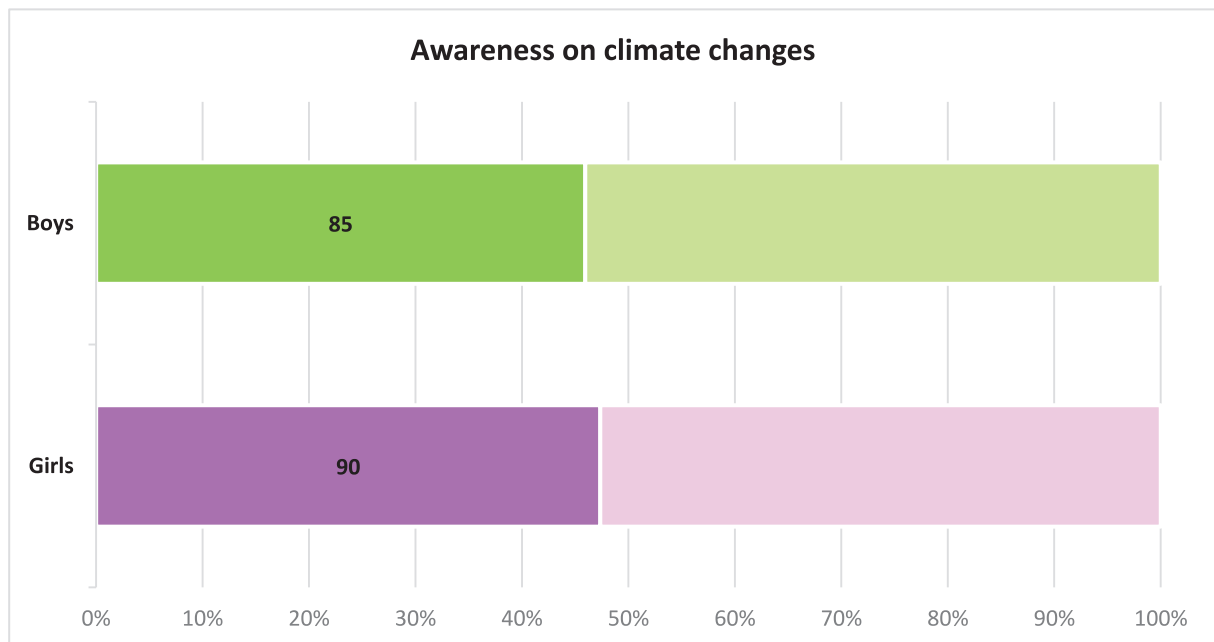


While the study shows that almost the same proportion of girls and boys consider “unchanged” the economic standard of the albanian families, unfortunately those who identifies the worsening

of the family situation are more girls than boys, which reconfirms the traditional norm that Albanian families, who face economic difficulties and their resources are limited, they pay more attention to boys rather than girls.

5. Awareness on climate changes

A large number of girls that took survey, about 90% of them, have expressed that they have noticed climate change is affecting the world around them. 85% of boys are of the same opinion.

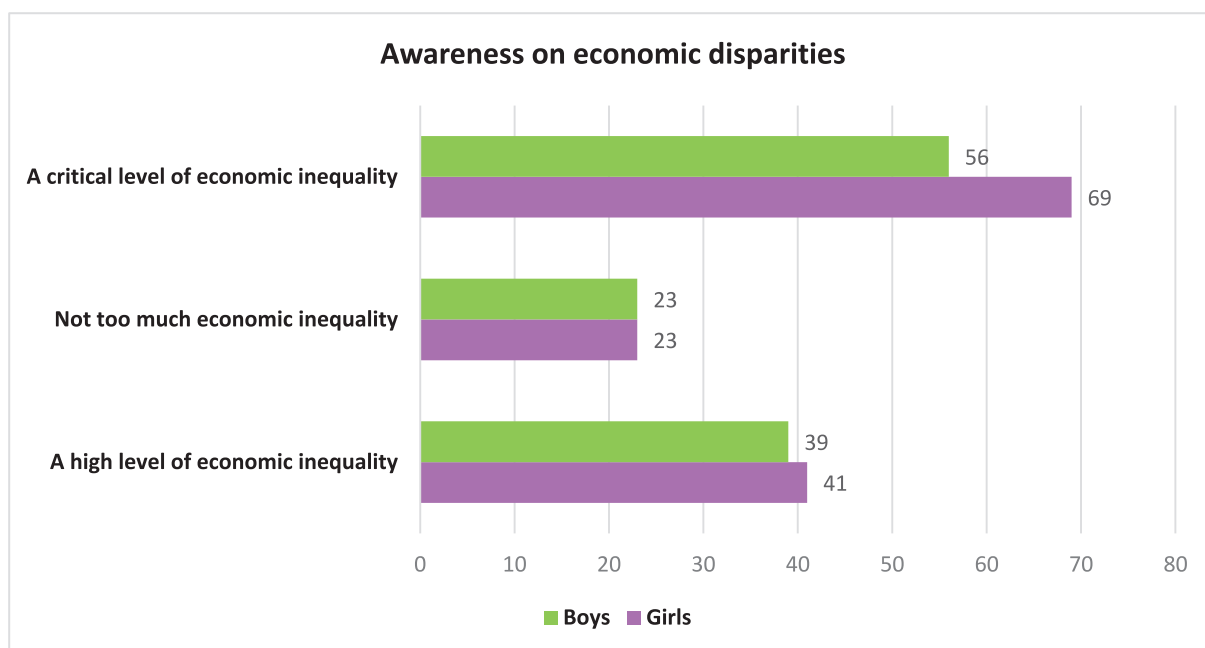


The fact that almost the same high proportion of girls and boys recognize the climate change mean that climate change is a critical issue and challenges Albanian families'life.

6. Awareness on economic disparities

The highest percentage of the children who think that there is a high level of economic inequalities in the community where they live, is that of girls (41%) and 39% is of the boys. Those who think there is not too much inequality where they live are also mostly boys (33% vs. 23% that are girls).

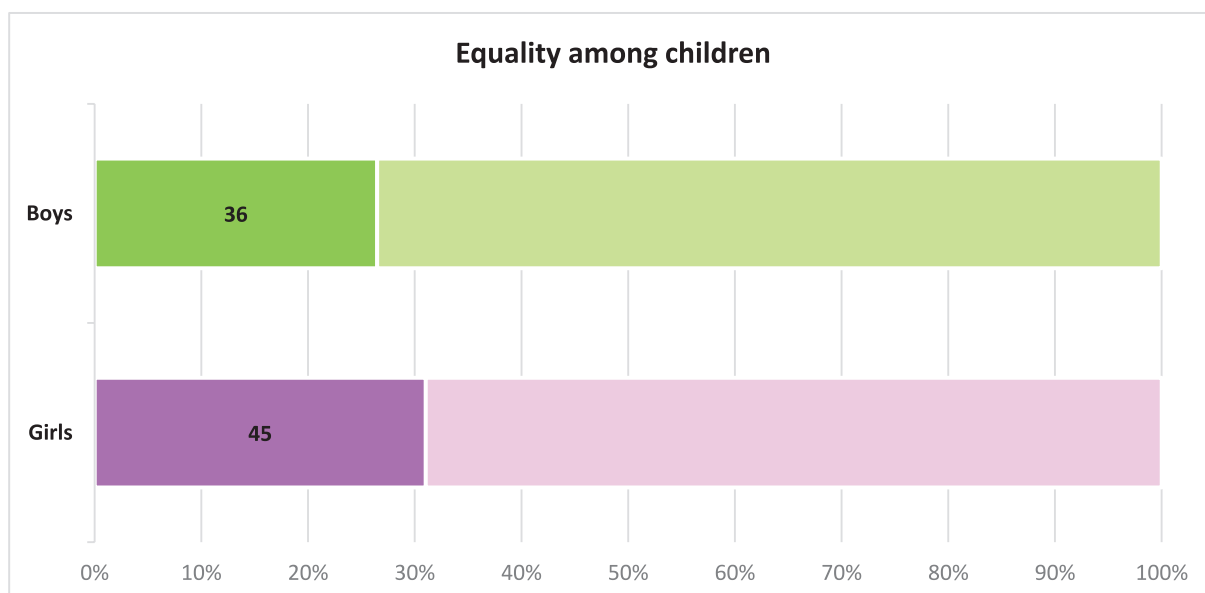
For many children, this level of inequality is seen relatively critical (for 69% of the girls and only for 56% of boys).



The data shows that girls and boys share almost the same opinion on economic disparities, while there is a slight disagreement among them regarding the criticality of the problem. There are more girls than boys who consider economic disparities “critical”.

7. Equality among children

45% of the children who think that the equality among children is getting worse are girls, whereas only 36% of them are boys.

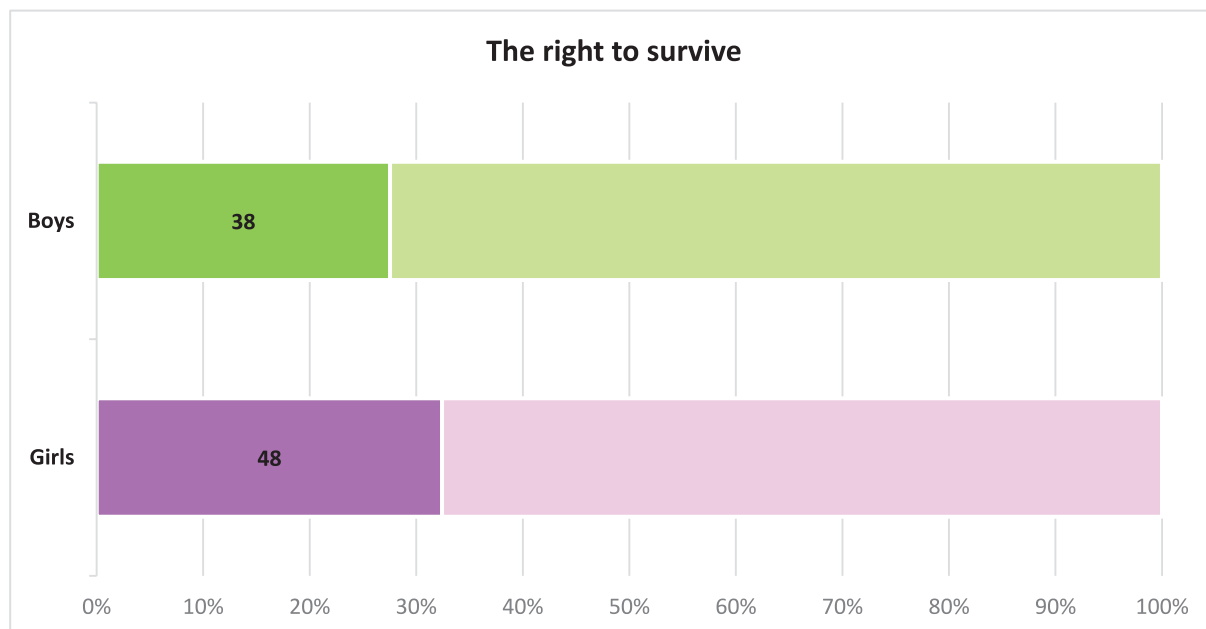


Like in the finding 6, girls are more concerned about “equality” than boys. This finding sounds reasonable considering the whole context of “gender discrimination” in Albania.

8. The right to survive: Family economic means to afford the basic economic needs

Findings 8 to 16 deal with girls and boys' opinion regarding some basic children's rights and their implementation in Albanian families. By no surprise discrepancies among girls and boys views are noted. This is directly linked with traditional family pattern which pays more attention to boys than girls. This feature is observed in all findings that regard family economic and social standard and its impact on the realization of children's rights.

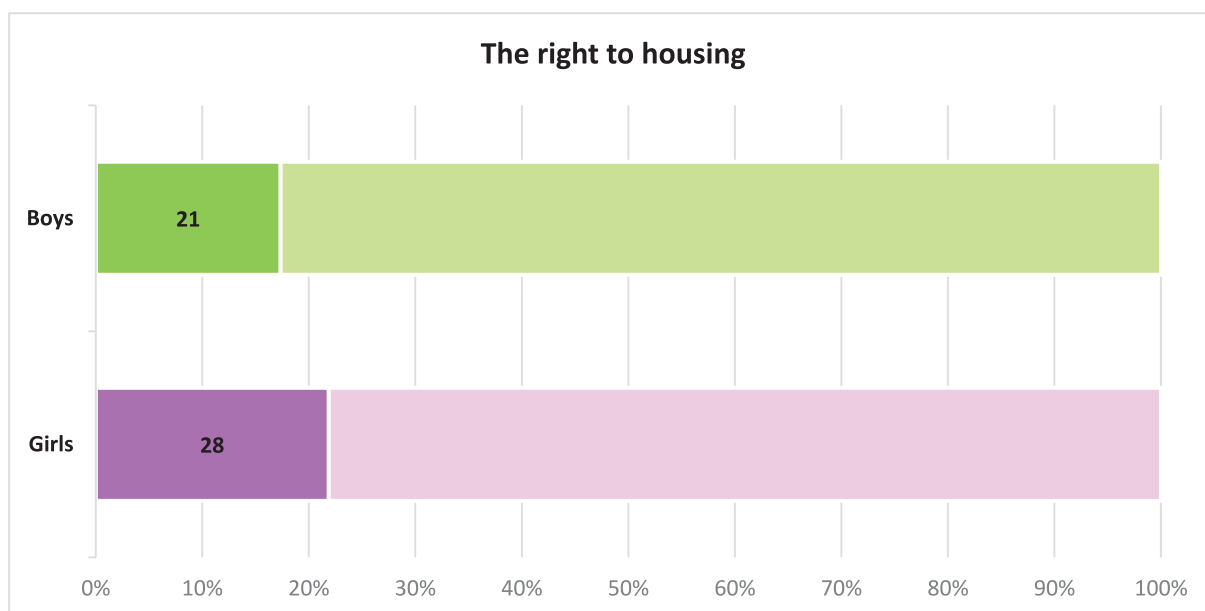
There are 48% of girls who think that the basic economic needs are not sufficiently afforded versus 38% of boys who share the same opinion.



As seen from the table 8, girls are more concerned about the limited family economic means to afford basic need. This result is strongly connected to the Albanian family pattern and traditions. In the conditions of poverty and limited household's resources, families take care more for boys than girls.

9. The right to housing

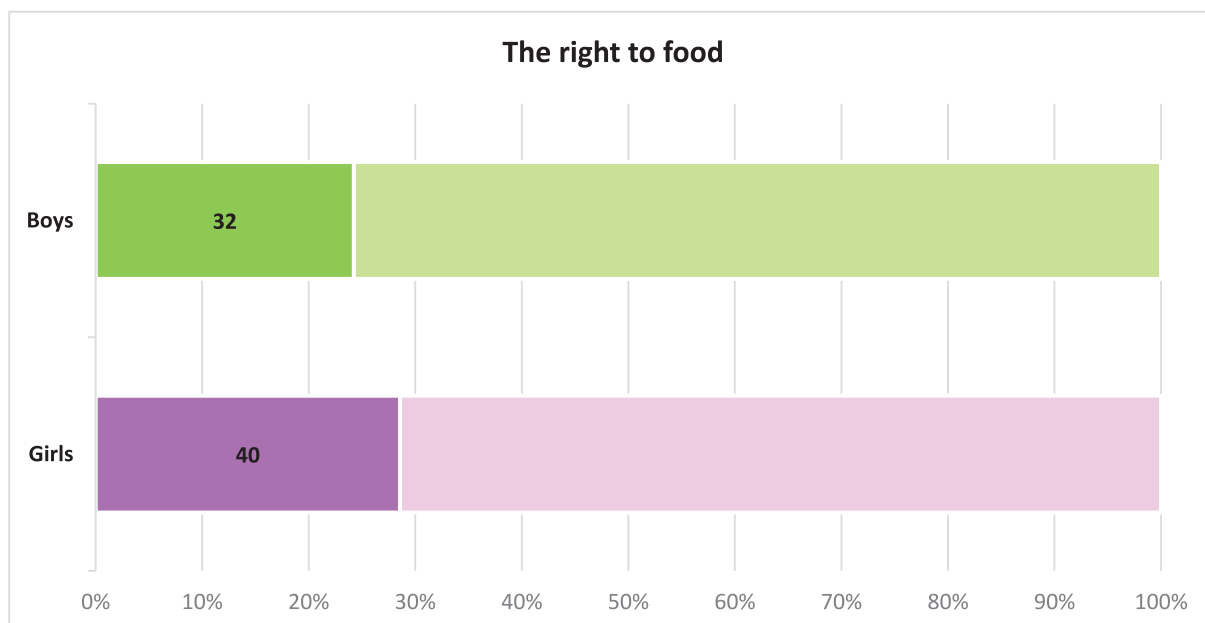
Even when it comes to the right to have a safe and suitable house, only a few number of girls think that this right is being threatened (28%), whereas only 21% of boys are of the same opinion.



Similar to the finding 9, the same conclusion stands for the explanation of differences regarding boys and girls' views on housing.

10. The right to food

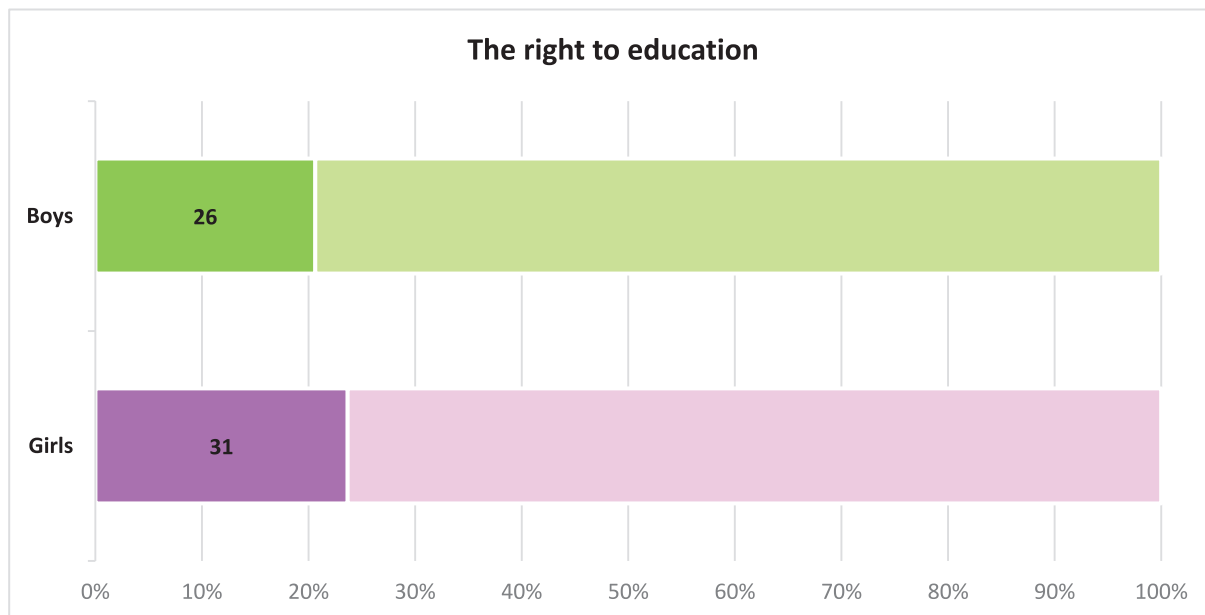
Whether families can access or afford food is seen as a problem for 40% of the girls and 32% of the boys.



Again, girls appear more concerned about food and its sufficiency for family normal life. This may be connected to the feeling of responsibility, which is stronger to girls rather than boys. However, another explanation may derive from the fact that not rarely, economic means of the family are scarce, which affects more girls than boys. This may be dramatically critical in the cases of natural disasters, which strongly affect Albanian farms and poor agricultural communities.

11. The right to education

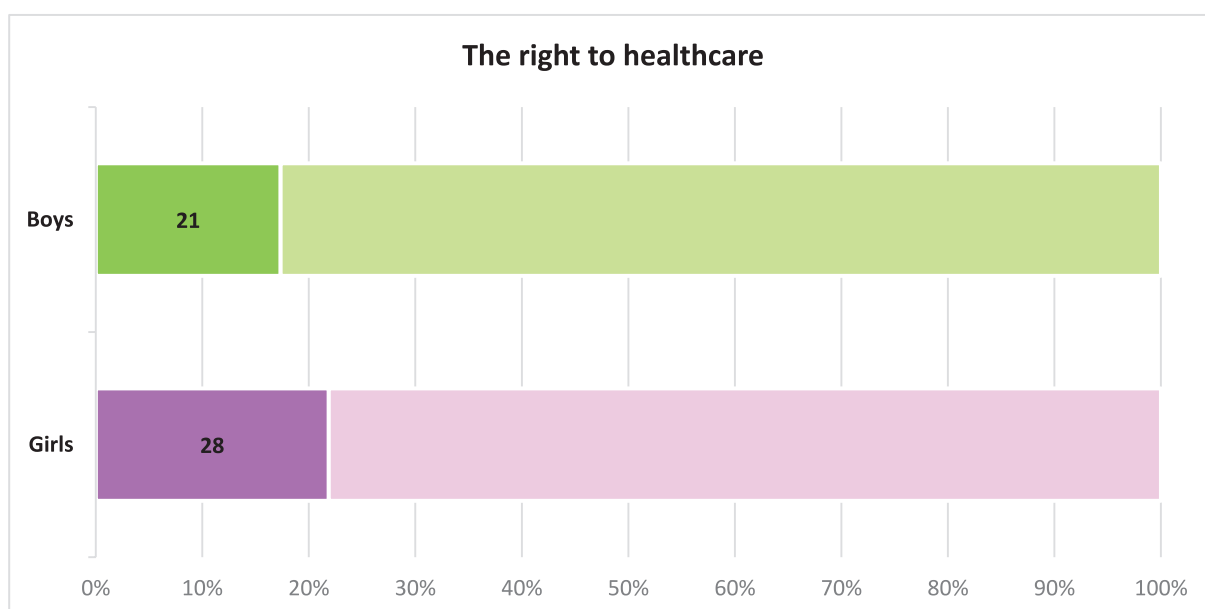
There are 31% of the girls versus 26% of the boys who think that the children's access to good education is getting worse.



The fact that girls more than boys are of opinion that education is getting worse, is of critical importance and sad. There is a huge investment from the governments and donors into the quality of children's education. If its is not producing the desired results, then the quality of education in general and girls' education, alike, should serve as strong points of reflection and further analysis.

12. The right to healthcare

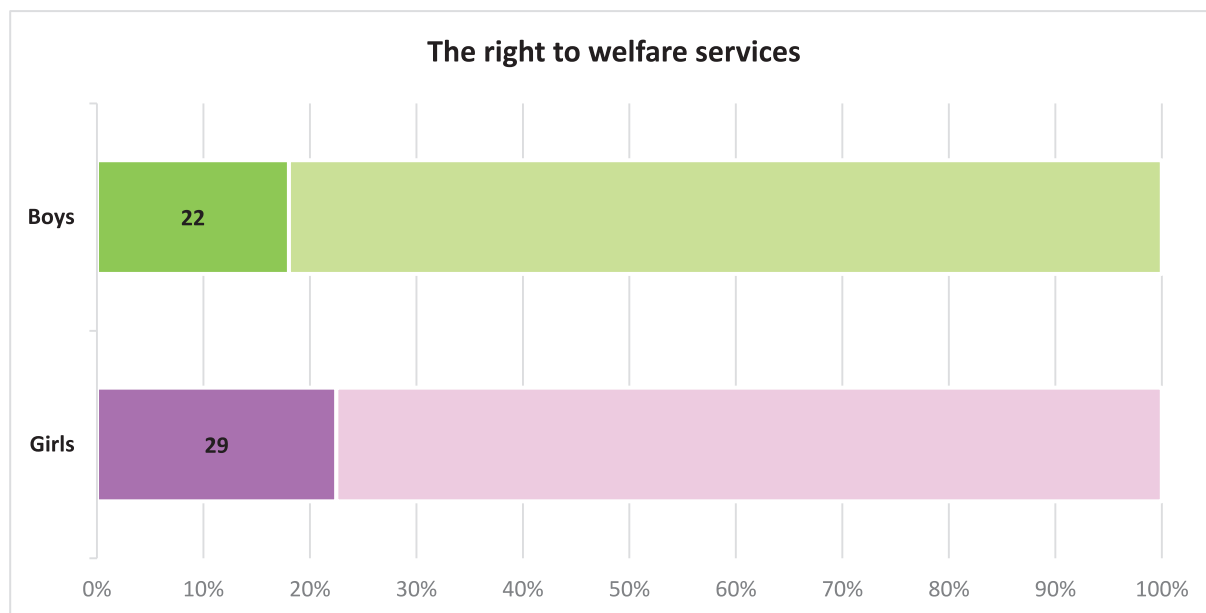
Children's access to good healthcare seems to be deteriorating mostly for the girls than boys (28% vs. 21%).



Another strong point of concern is healthcare, especially for girls. Climate change has a stronger physical impact on girls than boys. This impact has to be detected by health care structures, which should undertake urgent actions to prevent harms that poor health care may cause to girls prior to reproductive age.

13. The right to welfare services

29% of the children who think that the children's mental well-being is getting worse are girls, while 22% of them are boys.

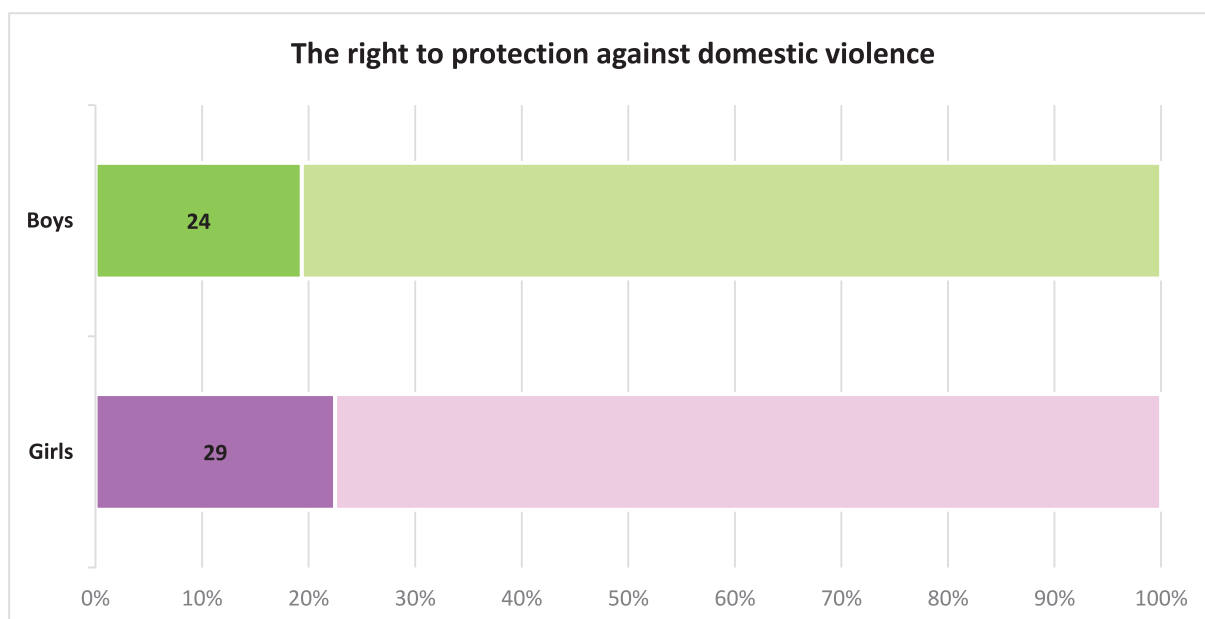


Other risks that may exacerbate the turbulent adolescence if social protection structures are not functioning properly, may devastate the life of children, of girls in particular. Therefore, analysis of the impact of climate change has to include the functioning of social protection structures, especially during the natural catastrophes, epidemics or other health disasters.

14. The right to protection against domestic violence

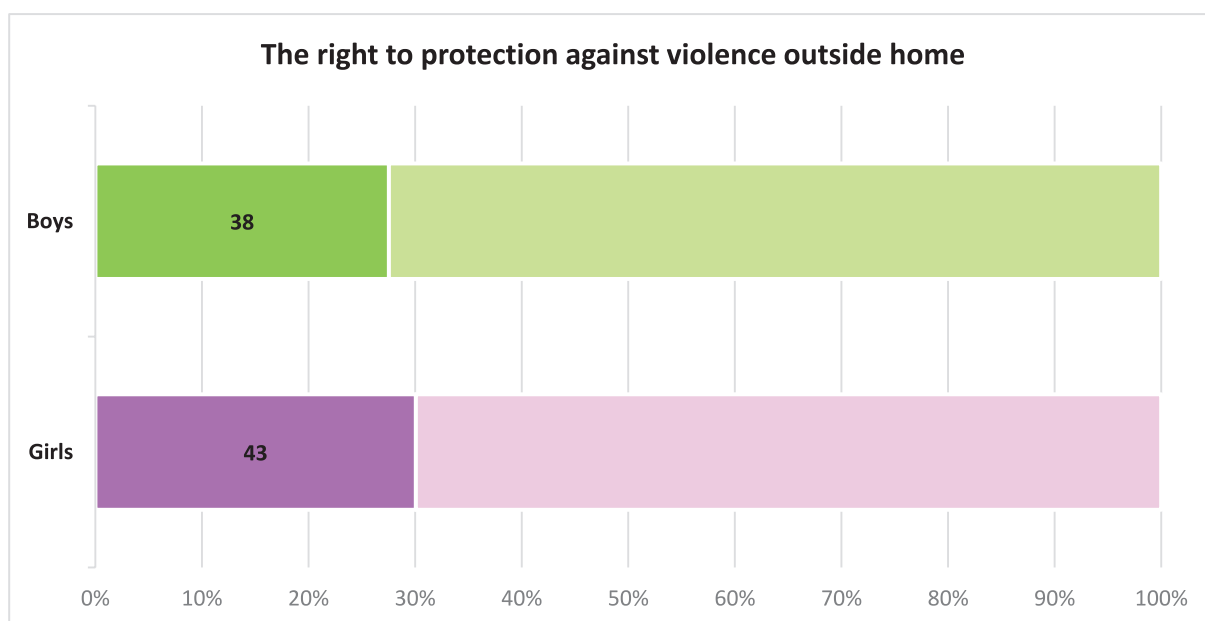
Children's safety from violence at home is considered to be a problem for 29% of the girls and 24% of boys.

There is no any surprise in this finding. That domestic violence is a critical problem in Albania, is evidenced and assessed by different studies. By no means, girls are more concerned than boys, because it affects more girls than boys. In the situation of crisis of any type, gender based domestic violence is more visible, like it happened during Covid-19 crisis. Thus, a double viewed analysis would be a good suggestion to measure the impact of disasters on domestic violence and on girls in particular.



15. The right to protection against violence outside home

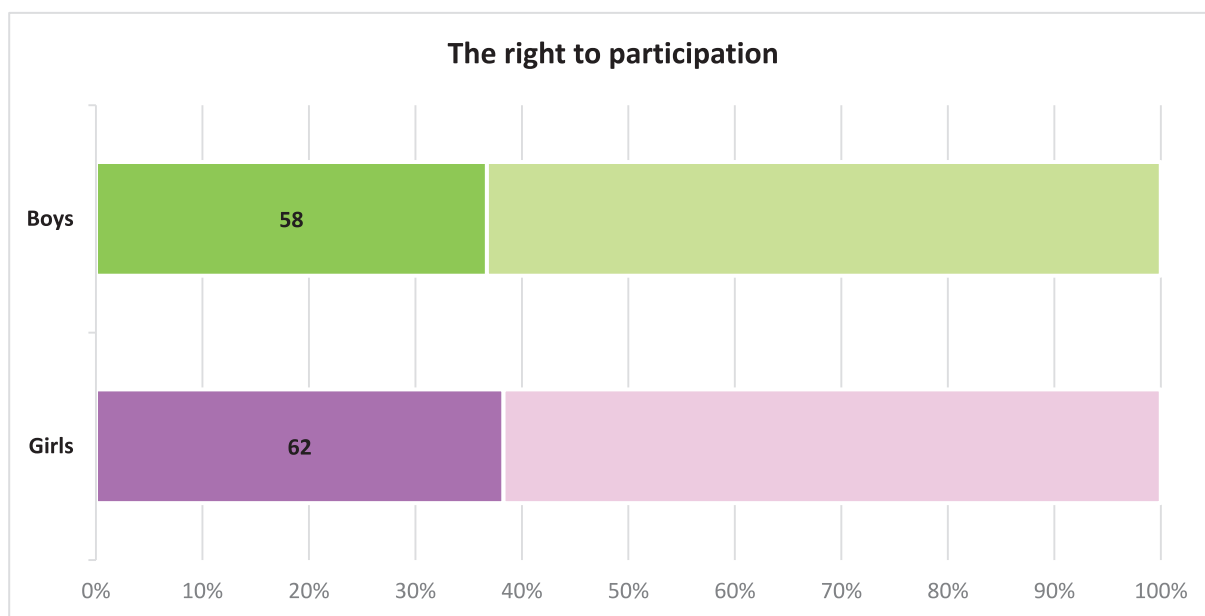
Not only children's safety from violence at home is considered a serious threat. Children's safety from violence outside the home is also seen as a problem for 43% of the girls and 38% of the boys who participated in the survey.



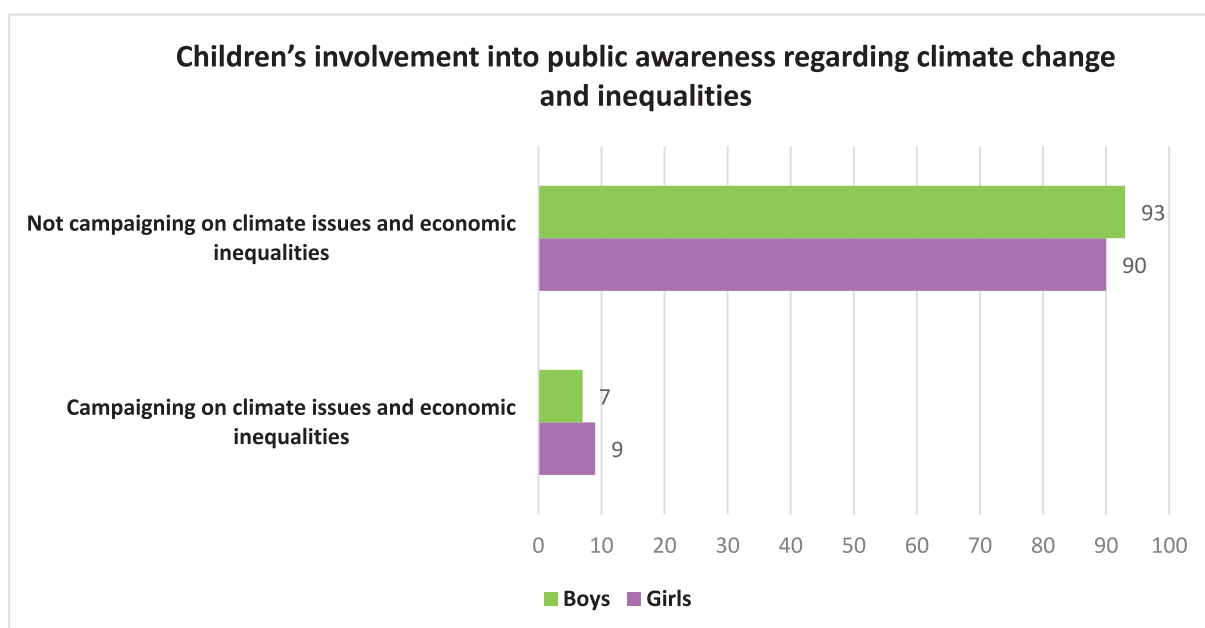
The same logic, elaborated above, is valid also in this finding. The accountability of social protection structures should further analysed, to prevent and protect, boys and girls at the same time. However the system should pay a particular attention to gender discrimination, to gender based violence, inside or outside home.

16. The right to participation

There are a few steps that should be taken against climate change and economic inequalities not only by the governments, but also by companies, businesses, community leaders and adults individually. According to the children who participated in the survey, neither of the parties involved have undertaken sufficient measures to improve the situation (on average 62% of girls and 58% of boys agree).

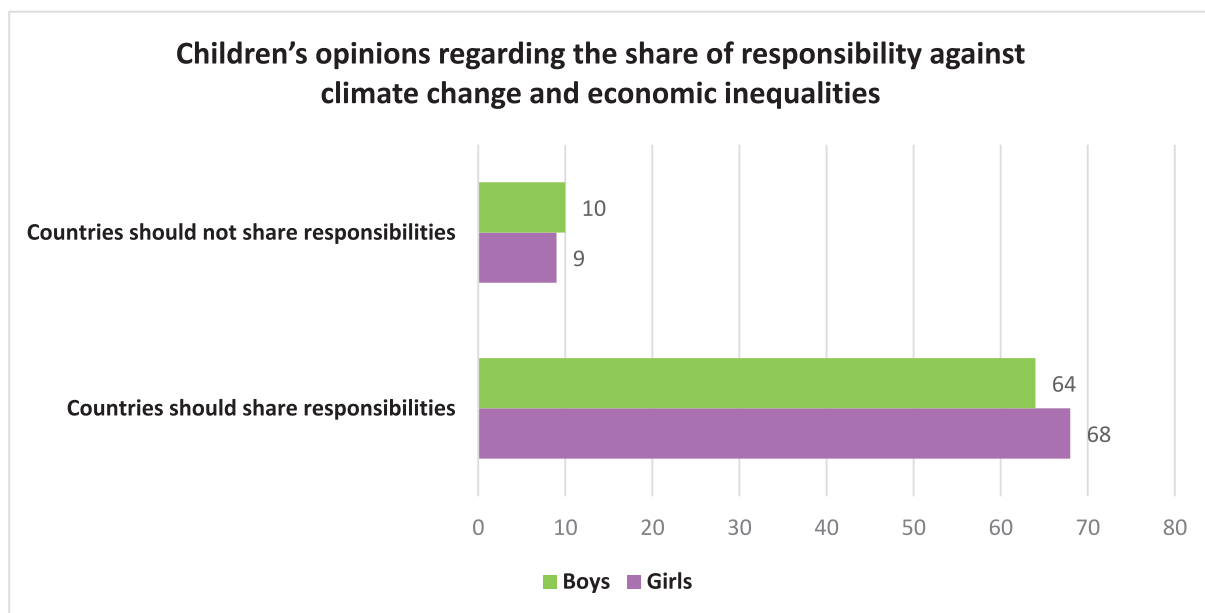


Children's involvement into public awareness regarding climate change and inequalities also appears to be at poor levels. More than 90% of the children that are not campaigning on climate issues and economic inequalities are girls versus 93% of boys. On the other hand, among the children who are campaigning on these issues, 9% are girls, while 7% are boys.

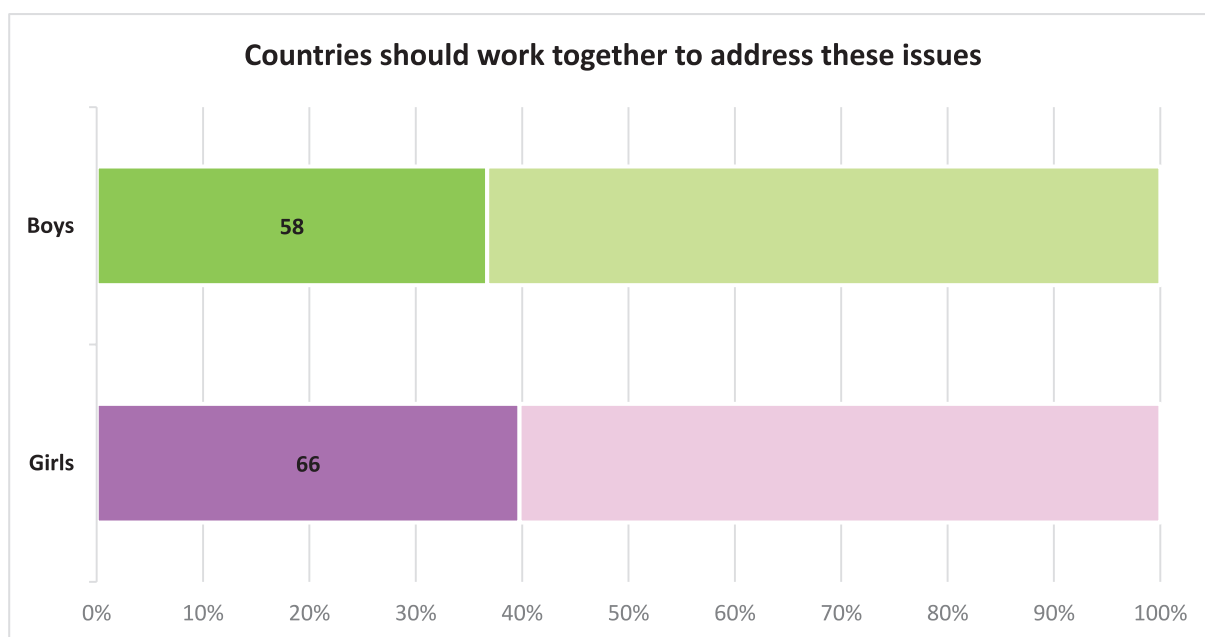


17. Children's opinions regarding the share of responsibility against climate change and economic inequalities

Some countries can be held responsible more than the others when it comes to issues such as climate change and economic inequalities. This is what 68% of girls and 64% of boys think of. This percentage is not at the same level for the children who share the opposite opinion (9% of them are girls and 10% of them are boys).



Most of the children think that countries should work together to address climate change and its impacts on children that are most affected by economic inequalities. 66% of these children are girls, whereas 58% are boys.



5.2. Observations that regard findings

- In general, a relatively higher proportion of girls compared to boys mention negative influence of climate changes and economic inequalities have on children's welfare. This may be a direct result of the worsening of economic and social indicators, that stem from climate changes. However, it may be linked to the girls' capacity to carefully observe and analyse the environment and community where children live, learn, and socially interact.
- Girls are more informed than boys on children's rights, which make them be aware as well as conscious about state parties' obligations.
- However, there is no evidence on the level and quality of knowledge that children have on climate changes and their impact on children wellbeing in general and on girls, in particular.

5.3. Findings from Girls' focus groups

As part of the methodology, FG with girls in Elbasan was organized. The discussion was guided by a questionnaire, composed of two parts, respectively devoted to "Impact of climate changes" and "Policy actions". Elaboration of the responses leads on the formulation of the following findings:

Girls are aware about climate changes, and they have a profound knowledge on their meaning, especially they know well the scientific meaning. They also know the short- and long-term influence of climate change, although they rarely are confronted with economic and social impact of natural disasters, caused by climate changes. It is difficult for them to imagine or recognize that climate changes impact differently girls and boys, although they admit that climate change does not equally affect all people.

Despite the fact that climate change is seriously influencing people's lives, neither domestic violence nor school drop-out can be directly related to it, according to girls' opinions. It rather depends more on family or social problems and gender discrimination in general.

Nevertheless, they consider extremely important the role of policy making, first to raise the society awareness, and second, to avoid the devastating role of climate change on people's life.

According to girls, policymakers play a very important role to alleviate the influence of global warming and climate change. The government must deal urgently and concretely, reacting through legislation and institutions. If the government does not act now and if the citizens do not become aware, then what is the purpose of the research and the evidence collected day by day.

6. Final remarks in climate change and its gender impacts in Albania

The above-described data and findings clearly demonstrate that either children or society are not yet conscious about the multidimensional impact that climate change has on people's life in general, and on women and girls, in particular. Therefore, in this section, we focus on two key arguments. First, what does climate change mean for Albania? And second, why gender dimension counts for climate change?

In the "Climate risk country profile" report of World Bank³, Albania is considered vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with increased vulnerability due to its infrastructure needs, and poverty in rural areas⁴. The country is prone to numerous natural hazards, including, hydro-meteorological hazards: floods, droughts, forest fires, and landslides. The country is also at high-risk to geophysical hazards such as earthquakes. Changes to Albania's climate, specifically the frequency of extreme weather events and temperature variations, are expected to have the most significant impacts to the country's key sectors, its economy and population. Natural hazards also have the potential to adversely impact crop and livestock production among others, as well as cause significant amounts of damage to critical infrastructure, such as irrigation systems, livestock shelters, and storage facilities⁵.

The same report emphasizes that Albania remains highly vulnerable to climate variability and change, particularly for the country's water resources, agriculture sector, public health, energy, and coastal zones. Heavy rains, flooding, and soil erosion puts both urban and rural infrastructure at risk,⁶ particularly for poor and vulnerable groups. Furthermore, increased occurrences of aridity and drought conditions will impact agriculture and increase risks of food insecurity, which may exacerbate conflict situations over scarce resources, settlements, expanding urbanization, and population/ livestock movements. The country faces increased challenges to agricultural viability, energy generation, and maintained population health. These are expected to be further compounded by climate stressors, environmental degradation, impacted water resources, and sea level rise presenting significant obstacles to the country's ongoing development and poverty reduction efforts⁷.

3. Albania, 2021, <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/15812-Albania%20Country%20Profile-WEB.pdf>

4. Republic of Albania (2016). Third National Communication of the Republic of Albania under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. URL: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Albania%20NC3_13%20October%202016.pdf

5. AO (2018). Comprehensive analysis of disaster risk reduction and management system for agriculture in Albania. URL: <http://www.fao.org/3/i8866en/I8866EN.pdf>

6. Ciardini, V. et al. (2016). Global and Mediterranean climate change: a short summary. *Annali*. 52(3). URL: <https://annali-iss.eu/index.php/anna/article/view/471>

7. EECCA (2012). Regional Climate Vulnerability Assessment. Synthesis Report- Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia. URL: http://d2ouvy59p0dg6k.cloudfront.net/downloads/regional_cva_synthesis_report.pdf

An increasing body of research has shown that climate-related disasters have impacted human populations in many areas including agricultural production, food security, water management and public health. The level of impacts and coping strategies of populations depends heavily on their socio-economic status, socio-cultural norms, access to resources, poverty as well as gender. Research has also provided more evidence that the effects are not gender neutral, as women and children are among the highest risk groups. Key factors that account for the differences between women's and men's vulnerability to climate change risks include gender-based differences in time use; access to assets and credit, treatment by formal institutions, which can constrain women's opportunities, limited access to policy discussions and decision making, and a lack of sex-disaggregated data for policy change⁸.

Whereas Plan International contributes a lot on the matter through its policy paper in which it clearly tackles the Protection from Violence and Climate Change. The wide-ranging consequences of climate change are having significant impacts on the right of children and young people, especially girls, to live free from violence. Although there remains notable gaps in the research, existing studies have found strong linkages between GBV and climate-induced disasters and other natural hazards, including the increase of stressors that drive GBV such as loss of livelihoods, poor mental health, the failure of protection mechanisms such as poor law enforcement, and the exacerbation of gender inequalities and worsened social norms that drive GBV⁹.

Research that has been undertaken on VAC and climate change also demonstrates links between increases in violence and climate-induced disasters. It has been found that climate change leads to stressors on the environment, such as crop failure, droughts, floods, and other catastrophic weather events that lead to increased household deprivation and vulnerability, which subsequently increases rights violations and VAC¹⁰. Insufficient food and water supply, loss of livelihoods, and loss of housing options caused by climate-induced disasters all can lead to factors which drive VAC, including displacement, internal conflict, stress in the home, and change in family structures and care.

Accordingly, despite the gaps in research, Albania is clearly confronted with impact of climate change even in social structure and gender. Let's take only the example of early marriage. Data from ADHS 2019¹¹, show that there was a slight increase, from 9% to 11%, in the proportion of women aged 20-49 who married by age 18 between 2008-09 and 2017-18. The percentage of women age 15-19 who have begun childbearing has increased to 3.5% from 2.8% in 2008-09.

8. World Bank Group (2016). Gender Equality, Poverty Reduction, and Inclusive Growth. URL: <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/820851467992505410/pdf/102114-REVISED-PUBLIC-WBG-Gender-Strategy.pdf>

9. Thurston AM, Stöckl H, Ranganathan M. (2021). Natural hazards, disasters and violence against women and girls: a global mixed-methods systematic review. P. 10 Available at: bmjgh-2020-004377.pdf (nih.gov)

10. Barnfonden (2021). Exploring the link between climate change and violence against children. Available at: [Investigating climate-change-and-violence-against-children_FINAL-1.pdf](https://barnfonden.se/investigating-climate-change-and-violence-against-children_FINAL-1.pdf) (barnfonden.se).

11. ADHS Shqipëri 2017-2018, <https://www.unicef.org/albania/reports/albania-demographic-and-health-survey>

The increase is especially noticeable among women with little education: the proportion married by age 18 increased from 22% in 2008-09 to 35% in 2017-18 among women with primary 4-year education or less. Noticeable differences exist between prefectures, with the proportion of women married by age 18 being as low as 7% in Kukës and as high as 14% in Dibër.

Furthermore, education shows a very strong inverse correlation with early marriage: 35% of women with only primary 4-year education or less were married by age 18, compared with only 3% of women with a university or postgraduate education. There is an inverse correlation between socioeconomic status and early marriage as well, but much less pronounced than education: 15% of women age 20-49 in the lowest wealth quintile were married by age 18, compared with 7% of those in the highest quintile.

Although the analysis of risk factors is missing, it is likely to believe that climate change plays its role, strongly linked with the exacerbation of economic situation especially in the most remote areas. The poverty level in Albania increased from 35.8% in 2008 to 38% in 2017. This definition is the percentage of the population living on less than \$5.50 per day, the poverty threshold for upper-middle-income countries (The World Bank classifies Albania as an upper-middle-income country).¹²

There remain significant gaps in the research on the linkages between climate change, GBV and VAC and it is essential that these are urgently addressed in order to understand how both the climate and protection sectors (both child protection and GBV) can better ensure prevention and response to violence during climate-induced disasters. This evidence should also inform policies and budgets implemented at national level by government which should recognize these linkages: policies related to violence prevention should address emergency and climate crisis contexts, and policies on the impacts of the climate crisis should address prevention and response to violence.

12. <https://borgenproject.org/poverty-in-albania/#:~:text=Understanding%20Poverty%20in%20Albania>

7. Recommendations

Hitherto, climate change is considered more from the prospective of natural disasters than from a global phenomenon that interacts into everyday life of the whole society. First and foremost, climate change has caused critical physical changes mainly in girls, which by any means conditions the way in which girls and boys face the adolescence. Therefore, it seems that the whole spectrum of climate change is not clear, neither for adults not for children. Climate change has to be analyzed from short- and long-term impact point of view on health and nutrition, economic prosperity and social development.

R.1: To fully understand the issue of climate change and its multidimensional impact on people's life, in depth research have to be conducted. The research has to be focused on:

- Understanding the overall perception of climate change by adults, adolescents, and children.
- Measuring the impact of climate change on economic and social wellbeing of poor, excluded and remote families.
- Assessing who pays the burden of climate change, especially the burden on the most fragile groups of the society.
- The interconnection between climate change and gender discrimination in general to arrive at the deny of children's rights due to the incapacity to confront with the new reality.

R.2: Analysis of the phenomenon should not impede government to be prepared to face natural disasters, no matter of when or where they may happen. In addition to the standard components, the Emergency Plans should pay particular attention to measures that help families facing natural disasters, but at the same time, ensure gender discrimination prevention in relation to education, nutrition, participation, social protection, health, and reproductive care.

In this context, the role of local government is as important as of the central government. Local government should be equipped with knowledge, instruments and resources to face natural disasters, ensuring the protection of women and girls from violence and discrimination, no matter of circumstances.

R.3: Transforming the climate change into a society issue is of emergency. In that respect, school, community, private sector, and media may altogether provide an immense contribution. To convey the right messages, they, themselves must be aware of the huge and multidimensional impact of climate change on people's life.

R.4: Climate change should be seen in close connection with the issue of economic and social inequalities, especially for the most excluded groups. The whole issue of climate change influence into economic and social pattern of household's survival modes.

Unfortunately, this does not appear in the present social protection and care policy of Albania. While some natural shocks are considered mainly in the social assistance scheme and only temporary, the longer-term effects like the risk of school drop-out, gender-based violence and exploitation or lack of nutrition, are not considered at all.

R.5: Climate change requires a holistic response by stakeholders, who share common responsibilities. To deal with it, stakeholders first have to get the evidence-based knowledge on the problem; second, they have to be aware and third, they have to have the right capacities and education to tackle it.

Summarizing all of the above, below there is a list of actions to be undertaken to seriously and effectively deal with climate change and its impact on children's rights, especially on girls' rights:

- ✓ Understanding situation and identifying the most crucial risk factors.
- ✓ Rapid assessment of child protection and girls' protection violations during climate-induced disasters,
- ✓ Formulate responses, especially action to short-term disaster risk management interventions, which are implemented between an early warning trigger and the actual occurrence of hazards.
- ✓ Assess the level of implementation of the Child Protection Minimum Standards, especially during emergencies
- ✓ Integrate child protection and GBV measures into anticipatory action to ensure child protection and GBV systems are sustainable during crises and that children, particularly girls, and women are continuously able to access quality services.
- ✓ Strengthening resilience of programming. Resilience is an approach to overcome shocks and stresses. Strengthening resilience is crucial in addressing the climate crisis and advancing climate justice.
- ✓ Investing in girl and youth-led research
- ✓ Investing in research on the links between climate change and gender equality, particularly GBV and child protection risks.
- ✓ Invest into adjustment of child protection system to ensure girls and young women are protected from violence despite the increase in climate-induced disasters, and that they are able to continue to access systems and services which prevent and respond to violence.

- ✓ Invest into social and civic education of children and of girls.
- ✓ Support girls to follow education and develop personal and professional skills that can open up doors for their future careers with vocational advancement, making them highly likely to achieve economic empowerment and able to pull themselves and their family out of poverty.
- ✓ Raise awareness of all stakeholders and society on climate change and its tremendous impact on girls and women's rights.

8. Annex: Questionnaire

Hello! You are invited to share your thoughts in this group discussion about the impact of climate change on children's rights in general and girls' rights in particular.

We are witnessing profound climate changes during the last decade, which have caused the country to face frequent droughts, floods, storms, seasonal changes, and many other consequences.

Despite this, it is judged that climate changes have a more pronounced negative impact on girls than on boys, mainly due to gender discrimination, as well as economic and social inequalities.

To collect your ideas, thoughts, and opinions on this matter, today we will discuss based on a list of questions. We assure you that the Information you share with us is confidential and only "Save the Children" researchers will see it. Answers will be kept for five years; then they will be destroyed. All information will be stored securely within SCL's digital systems.

Part one: The impact of climate change

1. What do you understand by climate change? Do you think the problems caused by climate change affect girls more than boys, or do they affect both genders equally?
2. Does climate change increase the risk of violence against girls? What about the risk of the family's decision to marry girls at an early age?
3. Does climate change increase the risk of girls dropping out of school and increasing obstacles to girls' participation in extracurricular activities, community life or social life?
4. To your knowledge, was the COVID vaccination or vaccination in general handled differently for boys compared to girls?

Second part: Policies

5. In general, regarding the issue of climate change, do you think that policymakers should be concerned and take concrete actions? If yes, could you give your opinion on the following actions:

In-depth study on the negative impact of climate change on the violation of children's rights in general, and girls in particular

Intervention through local policies to specifically help families facing natural disasters, especially to prevent gender discrimination in relation to education, nutrition, participation, social protection, health, and reproductive care

Awareness of the entire society through media to transform the issue of climate change into an issue of the entire society

Increasing school attention on the need for in-depth education on the role and

impact of climate on gender-based inequalities

Education of the whole society on the need to react and express concern about climate changes and their negative impact on people's lives, on the growth of social and economic inequalities, especially those based on gender

Any other measure or policy that you deem necessary?

6. Is there anything else you would like to add that was not covered during today's discussion but that you consider useful to address?



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