

Girls (**62%** in urban areas, **63%** in rural areas) are more informed than boys (**60%** in urban areas, **55%** in rural areas) and know where to seek help in case they have family or school problems.

However, **39%** of the children do not know nor are unsure where to seek for help when they feel violated, or feel like they have been unfairly treated, whilst **10%** of the children do not feel safe at school.

73% of children reported that they have felt stressed over school work and **75%** reported that they have felt stressed over their grades. Grade 10 children in urban areas (**83,1%**) feel very stressed, especially girls. Almost half of them (**47,4%**) reported that they feel stressed over their grades.

Specifically, **25%** of boys in rural areas have financial difficulties, which have halted them from taking part in school and/or extracurricular activities during the last year.

Almost half of the children (**49,9%**) experience pessimism for some time while only **45%** are optimistic about finding a job after finishing school.

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YOUNG VOICES ALBANIA, 2017



“Our voice must be heard because child’s rights policies aim to deal with our needs. We know reality better than adults. We can transmit messages to adults exactly as they are stated by children because children are sincere and direct.”

Dorina 17 years old, Elbasan

YOUNG VOICES ALBANIA, 2017

“Young Voices Albania, 2017”, is a study report based on a survey that was initially carried out in Sweden in 2014 and then was adapted to the Albanian context by Save the Children Albania, in cooperation with the Child Led Group “Voice 16+...”.

It aims to assess the views of children on all issues that affect them under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

“Young Voices Albania, 2017” discovers in depth children’s views and their critical concerns for the present and for the future. “*Young Voices Albania 2017*” reached 1,200 children from 8 regions (urban and rural areas) of Albania, aged 12, 14 and 17, respectively from Tirana, Durrës, Elbasan, Korça, Gjirokastra, Kuçova, Mat and Dibra. Through this survey, children’s views and ideas on the realization of their rights, addressing their main concerns like participation in decision making, education, violence, bullying, safety in school and community, discrimination, exclusion, costs in schools, awareness on their rights, the future etc., are collected, elaborated, analyzed and presented.

The study report is carried out by Save the Children in collaboration with Child Led Group “Voice 16+... and is funded by SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency).

Key results of the survey “Young Voices Albania, 2017”

Around **97%** of the children have heard of children’s rights, whereas **89%** of them have obtained that information at school. Awareness on the Children’s rights and on the Convention is similar among girls in urban and rural areas, while boys in urban areas are slightly more informed than their peers in rural areas.

Almost **94%** of the children think that the government needs to do more to help children that feel excluded due to poverty, ethnic discrimination or disability.

Approximately **89%** of the interviewed children think that policymakers should take into consideration the opinions of children on matters that concern them, whilst **60%** of the children state that they have not had any or little chance to be heard by policymakers and **81%** of them stated that they would like to have more access to decision-making.

Regarding the participation of children in decisions taken on their behalf at school, almost **30%** of the children have stated that they have not given their opinions on matters regarding them.

The findings show that **58%** of the children have seen another child being physically violated, whilst **34%** of the children have been bullied. Significantly girls in urban areas, nearly **40%** (39,5%) have felt bullied and harassed as much as twice more than boys (20,3%) while the percentage of girls and boys that felt bullied or harassed in rural areas are almost the same (40,8% and 38,9%).

Furthermore, according to the survey, **56%** of children are of the opinion that duty bearers need to do more to eliminate bullying; **87%** of children are of the opinion that duty bearers need to do more to help children who self-harm, and **90%** of children consider the presence of a psychologist/social worker at school as very important.