

PRESS RELEASE

Safety, discrimination and participation are the main challenges for children in cities

More than half of the world's population now lives in urban centers and it is estimated that by mid-century, nearly 70% of the world's children are set to live in urban areas.

Quito, October 14, 2016 - According to a virtual survey conducted by UNICEF to 35,000 children from 65 countries, 1 of every 4 children do not feel safe in their cities, 1 of every 2 states that there are children suffering from discrimination and only 26 per cent said that their voice is heard by the authorities.

One of every 2 argues that their main safety concern is crime. And, more than 40 per cent of children stated that they felt unsafe in public transportation and walking outside their neighborhood.

"Addressing urban issues is more important than ever for the world's children. Issues such as violence, inequality and exclusion against children in cities are not getting the attention they deserve," says Grant Leaity, UNICEF representative for Habitat III.

Thirty percent (30%) of the children who participated in the *#TuVozEnHabitat* survey stated that in their city they did not have full access to health, protection and education services.

At least 1 of every 2 children said that in their cities there are children working or begging. And almost 4 of every 10 children stated that their city is not concerned with promoting a healthy environment, controlling the emission of toxic gases, garbage recycling nor with saving energy.

Another alarming fact is that more than half of all children said that their city is not ready to face a natural disaster.

The complete results of the survey and the possible solutions to these challenges will be analyzed during the various events that UNICEF has organized within the framework of Habitat III, at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, which takes place in Quito, Ecuador; from October 17 through October 20.

It is time to listen to the views of children. Participate in the various events and join-in so that the voice of children can be heard; let's not wait another 20 years to address this issue.

H-III Urban Talk

Event	Childhood and Inequities in Urban Development
Date	Tuesday, October 18, 2016
Location	National Theater at the " <i>Benjamín Carrión</i> " Ecuadorian Cultural Center (Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana- Teatro Nacional).
Address	Avenida 6 de Diciembre N16-224, Quito
Time	19h00 - 20h30
Speakers	Saskia Sassen - Professor at Columbia University Sergio Fajardo - Former Mayor of Medellín, Colombia Tri Rismaharini - Mayor of Surabaya, Indonesia Babatunde Fashola - Minister of Energy, Labor and Housing of Nigeria

About UNICEF

At UNICEF we promote the rights and welfare of all children and adolescents in everything we do. Together with our allies, we work in 190 countries and territories to transform this commitment into practical actions that benefit all children, especially focusing our efforts on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded, worldwide. For more information on UNICEF and its work, please visit [Http://www.unicef.org/ecuador](http://www.unicef.org/ecuador).

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