

Global child rights dialogue (GCRD): what children across the globe think about their right to health

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Objective. Global Child is an international project that is operationalizing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) using a comprehensive indicator framework to develop a global child rights monitoring platform.

Methods. The CRC is grounded on four guiding principles: non-discrimination; best interests of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and respect for the views of the child (child participation). Acting upon the principle of child participation as a guiding principle of the CRC, we launched the Global Child Rights Dialogue (GCRD) to seek children's opinions about their rights, with the objective to incorporate this feedback into the Global Child indicators.

Results. We recruited facilitators across the globe to host workshops with children in their local areas. Using specially developed child-friendly versions of all substantive rights of the CRC, children were asked for their opinions about certain rights and how to know whether they were being implemented or not. Children at one of the sites in Russia specifically discussed articles 23 and 24: the rights to health and health services, and the rights of children with

disabilities, respectively. Workshops followed Lundy's Model of Participation, which includes the four elements of space, voice, audience and feedback. First, children were informed about the right to be discussed to assist them to form and voice their opinions within the safe space of the workshop. Facilitators (the audience) listened to and recorded children's opinions. Upon analysis of all collected data, emerging themes were incorporated into the Global Child indicators. Finally, a child-friendly report was prepared to provide feedback to the children on how their input was used.

Data collected from 1,836 children in 52 sites across the globe, confirmed that when children have a safe space, time, and a non-judgmental audience, they can share opinions and insights that are often underestimated by adults. These opportunities are conducive to improving development of the children, to teaching them active listening and to instilling values of tolerance and lifelong learning.

Conclusion. This presentation will share the collective input on articles 23 and 24 from children across the globe, as well as some of the specific outcomes from the workshops in Russia.