



ALTERNATIVE REPORT OF THE  
**Wamprakunapak  
Yuyaykuna**  
Network to the Committee on the Rights of the Child

**2024**



# Credits

**Produced by:**

Red Wamprakunapak Yuyaykuna

**World Vision**

Coordination of Advocacy, Protection and Participation.

**Consulting team:**

Patricia Calero Terán /Jorge León León/Santiago Aguilar

**Editing:**

María Eugenia Delgado

**Graphic design and layout:**

Esmeralda Bolaños

© January, 2024

This manual may not be reproduced in whole or in part by any electronic, mechanical, photocopy or any other reproduction method, without prior authorization from World Vision Ecuador.

# Table of contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Priority topics</b> .....	<b>1</b>
	<b>Topic 1.</b> Right to health .....	<b>2</b>
	<b>Topic 2.</b> Mental health .....	<b>4</b>
	<b>Topic 3.</b> Addictions .....	<b>5</b>
	<b>Topic 4.</b> Sexual and reproductive health .....	<b>7</b>
	<b>Topic 5.</b> Nutrition and food security .....	<b>11</b>
	<b>Topic 6.</b> Decent living and poverty .....	<b>13</b>
	<b>Topic 7.</b> Environment and climate emergency .....	<b>15</b>
	<b>Topic 8.</b> Right to education .....	<b>16</b>
	<b>Topic 9.</b> Connectivity .....	<b>19</b>
	<b>Topic 10.</b> Identity and identification .....	<b>20</b>
	<b>Topic 11.</b> Recreation .....	<b>22</b>
	<b>Topic 12.</b> Participation .....	<b>23</b>
	<b>Topic 13.</b> Child work .....	<b>25</b>
	<b>Topic 14.</b> Violence, physical punishment, mistreatment .....	<b>27</b>
	<b>Topic 15.</b> Safety .....	<b>30</b>
	<b>Topic 16.</b> Human mobility .....	<b>32</b>
	<b>Topic 17.</b> The system for the protection of children’s and adolescents’ rights .....	<b>34</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Our proposals</b> .....	<b>36</b>
3.1.	Right to health .....	36
3.2.	Mental health .....	37
3.3.	Addictions .....	37
3.4.	Sexual and reproductive health .....	38
3.5.	Nutrition and food security .....	38
3.6.	Decent living and poverty .....	38

3.7. Environment and climate emergency .....	39
3.8. Right to education .....	39
3.9. Connectivity.....	39
3.10. Identity and identification .....	39
3.11. Recreation .....	39
3.12. Right to participation .....	40
3.13. Child work .....	40
3.14. Violence, physical punishment and mistreatment .....	40
3.15. Safety.....	40
3.16. Human mobility.....	41
3.17. On the rights protection system.....	41
<b>Sources consulted</b> .....	41



# 1

## Introduction



The Wamprakunapak Yuyaykuna Network (in Kichwa)<sup>1</sup>, hereinafter “the Network”, is a participatory and vocal forum for the accountability, oversight, promotion and enforcement of the rights of children, adolescents and youth in Ecuador, which was created in 2009 with the support of World Vision Ecuador.

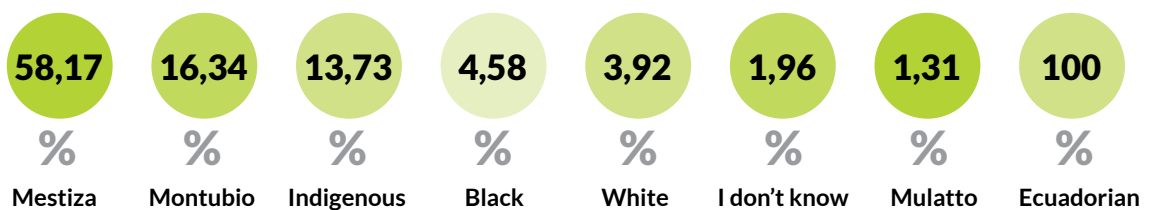
The Network is made up of **1,350 children, adolescents and young people between the ages of 9 and 26**, organized in 15 local networks in different cities and towns on the coast and in the highlands of the country. The Network has a National Board that consults and makes decisions about the actions it carries out. It is represented by 2 members from each of the local networks, as well as by 2 national boards: one for children and adolescents and the other for youth; both led by 17 children, adolescents and young people who are members of the Network and who have been elected in a participatory manner.

For the first time, the Wamprakunapak Yuyaykuna Network presents an **Alternative Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child**, which explicitly reflects the voices of girls, boys, adolescents and young people who are part of it on the fulfillment of our rights, which is the result of a process carried out with the support of World Vision Ecuador. A total of 230 girls, boys, adolescents and youth members of the Network participated in this consultation process, most of them adolescents and more than half of them women. Among the participants there was a representation of children and adolescents with diverse ethnic self-identification.

### Number of participants by age and gender

	Female	Male	Other / don't say	Total
Less than 12	3	2	–	5
From 12 to 34	28	22	2	52
15 to 17	42	34	–	76
18 and older	16	4	–	20

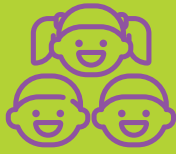
### Percentage de participantes por nacionalidad y autoidentificación étnica



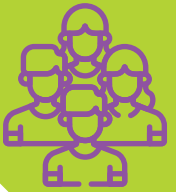
1 The voice of children and adolescents is the English translation of Wamprakunapak Yuyaykuna.



## 2 Prioritized topics



To ensure the participation of the children and adolescents that make up the Network, both in the consultation process and in the drafting of the document, **the National Board, in coordination with the local networks, designated 16 children and adolescents to be part of the Editorial Committee** in charge of drafting the *Alternative Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child*.



With the Editorial Committee, **the topics to be included in the Report** were prioritized, after consultation with the local networks, in order to define the main concerns of children and adolescents in the various locations, as well as to gather their opinion.



**A workshop was held with the Editorial Committee, and in this workshop the topics regarding which the Committee on the Rights of the Child made observations to Ecuador in 2017** were presented, and these were organized into the four groups of rights as established in the Organic Code of Childhood and Adolescence: survival rights, rights related to development, participation rights and protection rights.



For the prioritization of the topics, we, the children and adolescents of the Network, took into consideration **the observations** made in 2017 by the Committee on the Rights of the Child to Ecuador, **the main concerns** of children and adolescents in the local networks, and **the opinion** of those who make up the Editorial Committee.



The consultation process was carried out through two workshops with 15 participants each, in addition to meetings with the National Board integrated by 28 children, adolescents and young people, as well as with the Editorial Committee integrated by 16 delegates of the Network; additionally, **a survey was carried out in which 153 children and adolescents of the Network participated.**



In Ecuador we are approximately **six million children and adolescents who face various problems that prevent us from exercising our rights** as established in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. That is why we present this *Alternative Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child*. We want to let you know what are our problems, our concerns and our proposals so that they can be considered by the Committee as recommendations for the Ecuadorian State.



TOPIC

# 1 Right to Health

## Our opinion

Children and adolescents in Ecuador are facing the following problems:

- » *There is no equal attention in the health system.*
- » *Health services are precarious and there is a lack of medicines and supplies.*
- » *There is a lack of health centers.*
- » *There is a lack of quality care.*

Como consecuencia de estos problemas, creemos que:

- » *There is an aggravation of the illnesses of children and adolescents.*
- » *Children and adolescents no longer seek care and their situation worsens.*
- » *There is a lack of diagnosis of illnesses.*
- » *There is no decent attention for children and adolescents.*
- » *Children and adolescents die.*

## Survey results

In the consultation on the exercise of the right to **health of children and adolescents**.

### Access medical care and medicines



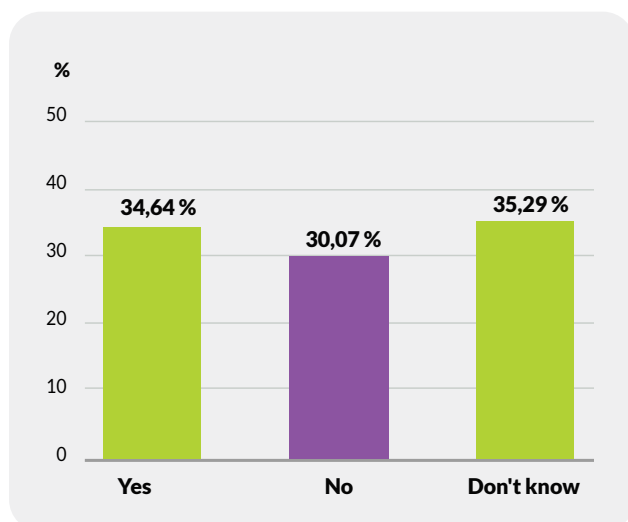
**67,32 %**  
(103 out of 153)

of the children, adolescents and young people consulted believe that it is children and adolescents living in poverty who have **more difficulties in accessing medical care.**

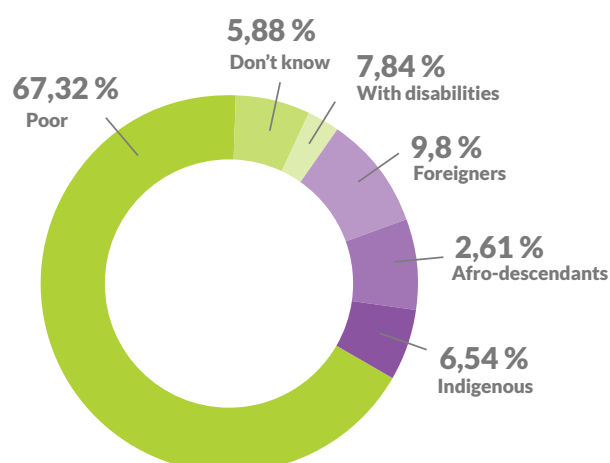




Percentage of participants who believe that children and adolescents receive medical care and medicines in case of illness



Percentage of participants indicating which children and adolescents have more difficulties in accessing health care



## Conclusion

For the children and adolescents of the Network, **there is no equal and quality care in the health system, there is a lack of services and medicines**, which means that there is no adequate and timely care, putting at risk the exercise of the right to health.

Official State data show that<sup>2</sup>:

- » In outpatient health services, **less attention is reported for Afro-descendant, indigenous and Montubio children and adolescents** (5207, 52 326 and 2938, respectively, out of 244 734).
- » **Low attention is also reported for children and adolescents of other nationalities** such as Venezuelans and Colombians (1990 and 407 respectively).
- » The three main causes requiring attention are colds, dentin caries and parasitosis; and in children under 1 year of age, anemia.
- » The highest number of deaths is reported in **girls and boys under 1 year up to 5 years** of age (3251 of 5208), followed by adolescents aged 15 to 19 years (1122).
- » The main cause of infant deaths are **conditions originating in the prenatal** period, while among children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 years, are traffic accidents, followed by suicides.

2 Information obtained from MSP, External Consultation, 2022.



TOPIC

## 2 Mental health

### Our opinion

Children and adolescents in Ecuador are facing the following problems:

- » *We feel depression, anxiety, stress and psychological problems.*
- » *There is discrimination against those who attend psychological therapy.*
- » *Lack of mental health professionals.*
- » *There is no entity responsible for addressing mental health problems.*

As a consequence of these problems, we believe that children and adolescents:

- » *Have low self-esteem, lack of confidence in themselves and in other people.*
- » *They distance themselves from family and other people, they are not sociable people.*
- » *Use substances and have vices such as alcoholism and drug addiction.*
- » *They hurt themselves, there is self-harm and may even commit suicide.*
- » *They cannot control themselves and are very nervous.*
- » *Their situation worsens when they stop attending therapies, they do not believe that anyone can help them.*
- » *They look for solutions or answers in inappropriate places such as social networks on the Internet.*
- » *They should be better attended so that there are no suicides, bullying and other problems.*

### Survey results

Children, adolescents and young people participating in the survey say:

**59,48 %**

(91 out of 153)

feel well



**28,10 %**

(43 out of 153)

more or less well



**9,15 %**

(14 out of 153)

getting better

**2,61 %**

(4 out of 153)

they are very bad  
and need help



**0,65 %**

(1 out of 153)

do not know how  
they feel

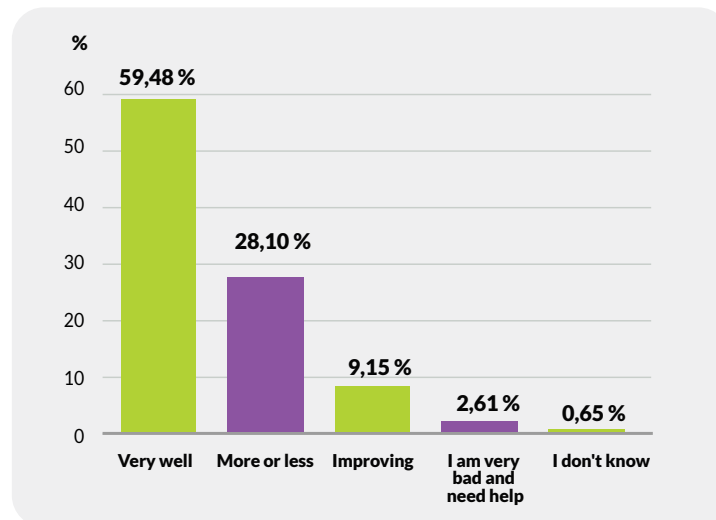
**62,75 %**

(96 out of 153)

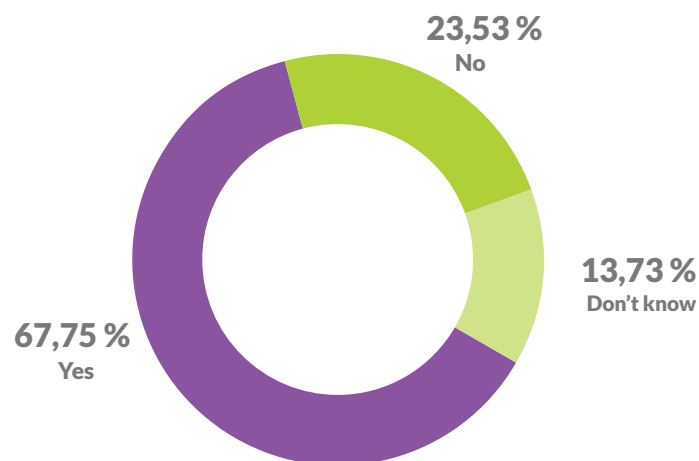
of the participants say they know a child or adolescent  
with mental health issues.



Percentage of participants according to how they feel about their mental health.



Percentage of participants who know children and adolescents with mental health issues.



## Conclusion

**Children and adolescents face mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, stress and other psychological problems;** in addition, there are neither psychological care services nor a sufficient number of professionals. This situation **causes children and adolescents to tend to isolate themselves, to lose self-esteem and confidence,** to expose themselves to alcohol and other harmful substances, and even to cause harm to themselves, which can lead to suicide.

Official State data show that<sup>3</sup>:

» **Suicides mostly involve adolescent males** (70 out of 129); adolescents from urban areas (85 out of 129); mestizo and mixed-race adolescents (117 out of 129).

» **The most affected age range** is between 14 to 17 years old (81 of 129), followed by children from 10 to 13 years old (47 of 129).

3 Information obtained from the Ministry of Public Health (MSP), 2018, MSP. PND, 2022, INEC. EDG (2), 2022.



TOPIC

# 3 Addictions

## Our opinion

Children and adolescents in Ecuador are facing the following problems:

- » *There is no solution to the issue of addiction to controlled substances.*
- » *There is a lot of alcoholism.*
- » *There is also addiction to video games.*

As a consequence, we believe that these problems:

- » *Affect the physical and mental integrity of children and adolescents.*
- » *Affect behavior and produce aggressiveness.*
- » *Cause lack of concentration in studies.*
- » *Cause detachment from real life.*

## Survey results

Most participants consider alcohol to be the most serious addiction problem affecting children and adolescents in their community.

**36,60 %**

(56 out of 153)

alcohol



**23,53 %**

(36 out of 153)

other types of drugs



**16,99 %**

(26 out of 153)

virtual games and virtual social networks

**53,59 %**

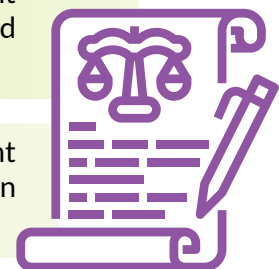
(82 out of 153)

of participants believe that government institutions **do nothing** to prevent children and adolescents from falling into addictions.

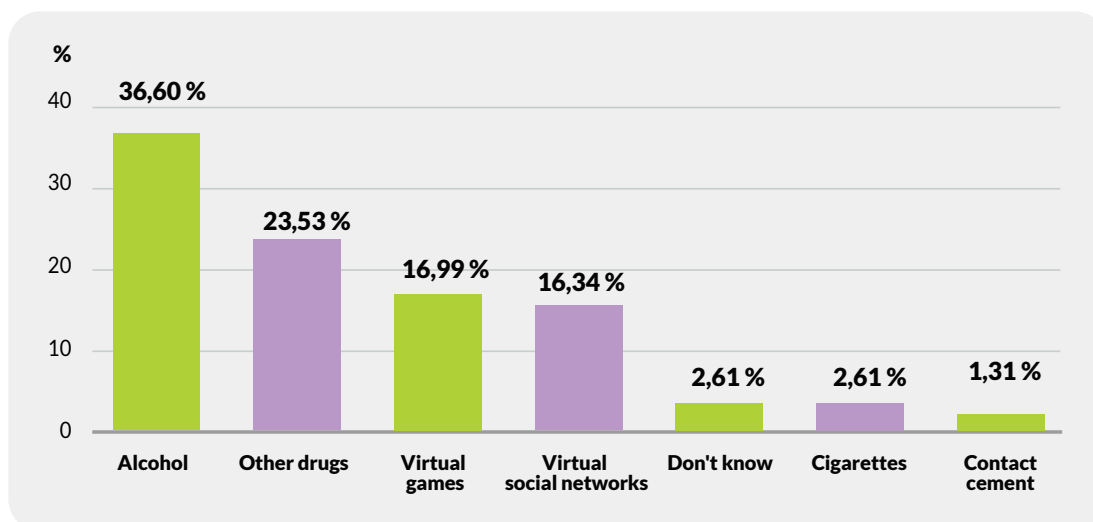
**33,99 %**

(52 out of 153)

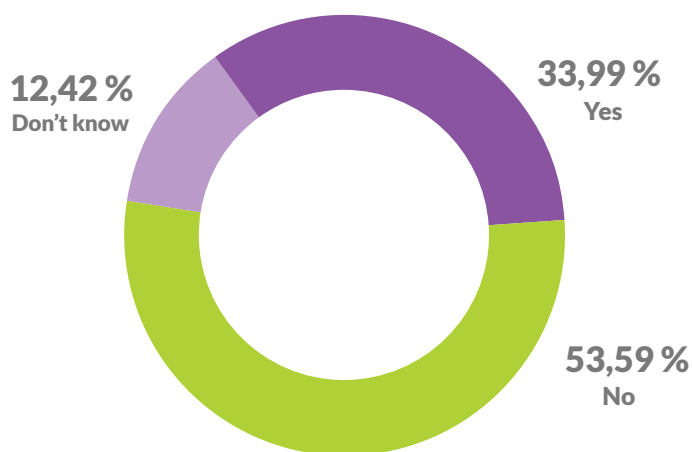
of participants believe that government institutions **do something** to prevent children and adolescents from falling into addictions



Percentage according to the most serious addiction problem in their community.



Percentage of participants according to their opinion about the government's work on addictions.



## Conclusion

**Children and adolescents are exposed to alcoholism and addictions**, which include addictions to video games and virtual social networks, as well as addictions to various types of illegal drugs, a vulnerability that increases when public institutions do not comply with their obligation to prevent children and adolescents from becoming victims of these addictions. **Addictions and alcoholism cause damage to health and modify the behavior of children and adolescents**, leading them to abandon their homes and also their education; in addition, they become very aggressive, become involved with criminal gangs and put their lives at high risk.

Official government data show that<sup>4</sup>:

- » At the national level, **alcohol has the highest percentage** of consumption among people aged 10 to 17 years.
- » **The Sierra region is where the highest consumption** of both alcohol and tobacco is reported, followed by the Amazon region.
- » There is no updated statistical information on the consumption of other controlled substances.

<sup>4</sup> Information obtained from: INEC-ENSANUT, 2018.



TOPIC

# 4 Sexual and reproductive health

## 4.1 Sexual and reproductive rights

### Our opinion

Children and adolescents in Ecuador are facing the following problems:

- » *Lack of sexual education to prevent teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.*
- » *There is social questioning of the sexual orientation of adolescent.*
- » *Sexual diversity is invisibilized.*

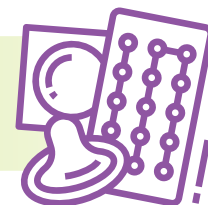
As a consequence of these problems, we believe that:

- » *Girls and adolescents have to assume unwanted pregnancies and are exposed to clandestine abortions.*
- » *Children and adolescents are exposed to sexually transmitted diseases due to lack of information.*
- » *There is a lack of knowledge about sexually transmitted diseases and their treatment.*
- » *Children and adolescents of diverse sexualities are unaware of their bodies due to lack of information and the invisibility of sexual diversities.*
- » *Children and adolescents with diverse sexual orientations face discrimination and lack of opportunities. The fact of being questioned can lead them to suicide.*

### Survey results

**81,05 %**  
(124 out of 153)

of children and adolescents in the Network stated that they had received information on sexual and reproductive health.



First source  
of information

**63,40 %**  
(97 out of 153)

at school

second source  
of information

**16,34 %**  
(25 out of 153)

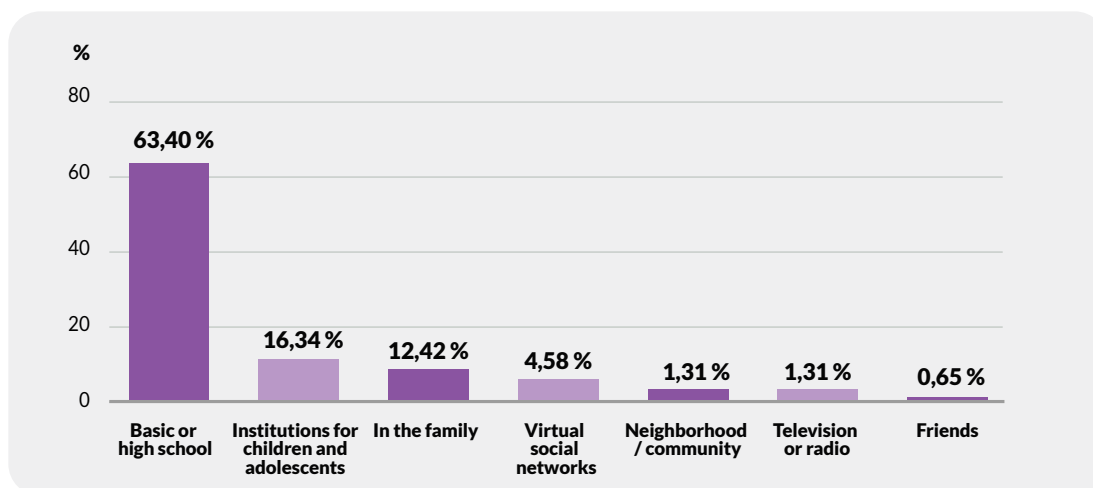
institutions that work  
with and for the rights of  
children and adolescents

third source  
of information

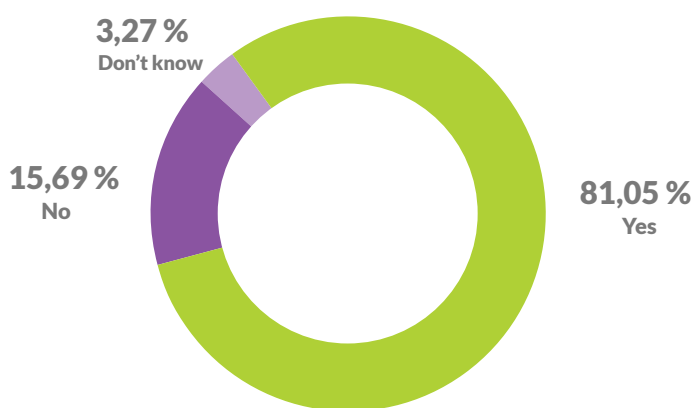
**12,42 %**  
(9 out of 153)

in the family

Percentage who have received sexual and reproductive health information.



Percentage of participants who indicate where they have received information about sexual and reproductive health.



## Conclusion

The children and adolescents in the Network, despite the fact that in the survey we stated that we had received information on sexual and reproductive health, we believe that this is not enough, and that the lack of education and information on sexual and reproductive health results in premature and unwanted pregnancies, as well as in the lack of prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. We also believe that the lack of information affects discrimination against children and adolescents of diverse sexualities.

Official government data show that by 2022<sup>5</sup>:

- » **Information from State health services reflects a low number of children and adolescents receiving sexual and reproductive health information** in relation to the total population (5.53% of the total number of children and adolescents), and that it is mainly women who receive it.
- » **Female adolescents aged 15 years and older access sexual and reproductive health care services** such as gynecological exams, insertion and monitoring of contraceptive devices.
- » **There are no sexual and reproductive health care services** for male adolescents, nor for girls, boys and adolescents under 15 years of age.

5 Information obtained from the MSP, Outpatient Consultation, 2022.

## 4.2 Adolescent pregnancy and the right to the voluntary termination of pregnancy in cases of rape

### Our opinion

Children and adolescents in Ecuador are facing the following problems:

- » *Early pregnancies exist in the country because there is a lack of policies to prevent girls and adolescents from getting pregnant.*
- » *Society criticizes pregnant girls and adolescents instead of supporting them.*
- » *In health centers they face gender violence, criticism for being pregnant and mistreatment when they seek care.*
- » *There is a lack of interest among authorities and health services regarding pregnant girls and adolescents.*

As a consequence of these problems, we believe that:

- » *Pregnant girls and adolescents are revictimized because of the violence, mistreatment and criticism they receive.*
- » *Due to the mistreatment they receive in the health system, they feel mistrustful about seeking care.*
- » *Their dreams and life projects get destroyed. They are unable to complete their education and move on with their lives.*
- » *Pregnant girls and adolescents have to mature much faster to take care of the baby. They must assume the responsibilities of an adult.*
- » *Adolescent mothers do not have the necessary conditions to care for their children, there may be malnutrition, even abandonment, lack of economic resources, and precarious living conditions due to being expelled from the home.*
- » *Because of their age, the risk of abortion increases among girls and adolescents who are pregnant.*
- » *They are exposed to forced marriages to avoid social rejection.*

### Survey results

**60,78 %**  
(93 out of 153)

know a pregnant girl or adolescent

**49,46 %**  
(46 out of 93)

believe that this girl or adolescent has received enough information to decide whether or not to continue with the pregnancy

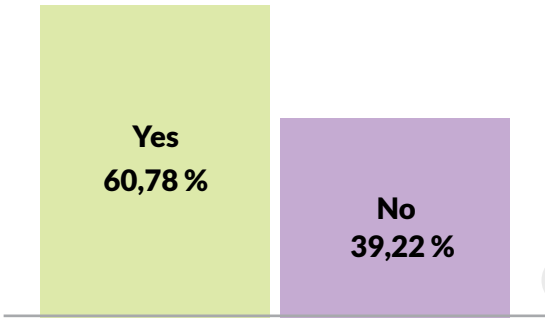
**43,79 %**  
(67 out of 153)

A similar percentage believes that responsible institutions **do enough and do not do enough** to prevent teenage pregnancy.

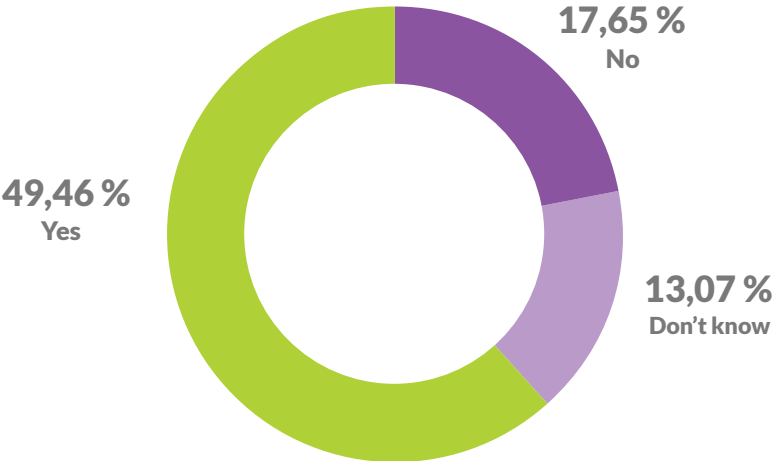




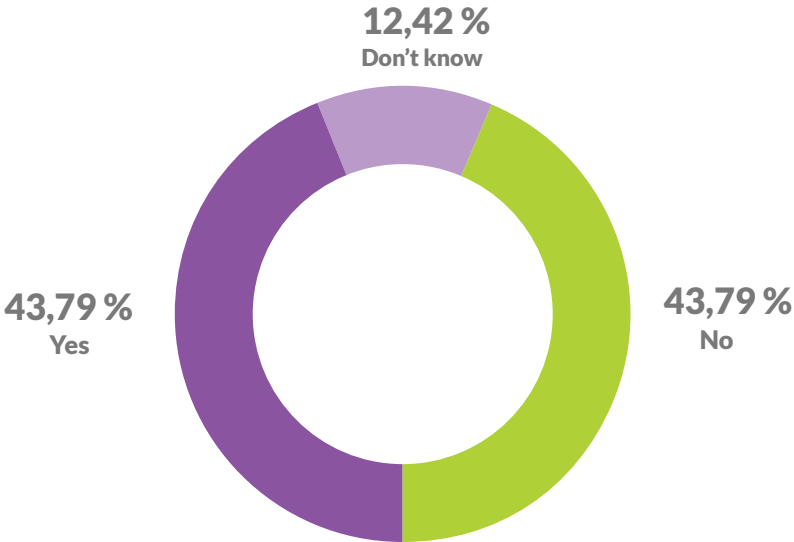
Percentage who know pregnant girls or adolescents.



Percentage who believe they have received enough information to continue or not to continue with the pregnancy.



Percentage who consider that the responsible institutions do enough to prevent teenage pregnancy.



## Conclusion

We, the children and adolescents of the Network, **consider that early pregnancies persist in Ecuador and that there is a lack of adequate attention and respect for the rights of pregnant girls and adolescents, who are exposed to violence in the health system.** As a consequence of teenage pregnancy, we believe that they are subject to undergo abortions due to their age. Likewise, we believe that their integral development process is interrupted when they are forced to assume adult responsibilities. In addition, we believe that they are prone to poverty, discrimination, expulsion from their homes or forced marriages.

With respect to health care, **we believe that the lack of adequate care and mistreatment leads to mistrust in the health care system**, which is why we stop seeking care. We also believe that the authorities have taken measures to prevent teenage pregnancy, but these are not enough.

Information from the Gender Equality Observatory of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) reports that **Ecuador is among the five countries in the region with the highest percentage of girls and adolescents who are mothers**<sup>6</sup>.

Official state data show that<sup>7</sup>:

» Despite Ecuador's obligation to have policies and programs for the dissemination and guidance on sexual and reproductive health to prevent teenage pregnancies, **pregnancy persists in girls and adolescents as young as 10 years old in the country.**

» **As of 2021, nearly 2000 girls between 10 and 14 years old were mothers;** and one girl in this age group died as a result of childbearing.

» Information from the Ministry of Health reports that **in 2021 more than eleven thousand girls between 10 and 14 years of age were attended for first pregnancy** supervision and more than one hundred and ninety thousand adolescents between 15 and 19 years of age have been attended for pregnancy care.

» The administrative records of the Ministry of Health report that as of 2021 **there were 14 maternal deaths of girls and adolescents.**

» The information from the Ministry of Health reports attention to spontaneous abortions of girls and adolescents. However, there is no information on voluntary interruption of pregnancy in cases of rape, despite the fact that the Organic Law that Regulates the Voluntary Interruption of Pregnancy for Girls, Adolescents and Women in Cases of Rape has been in force for more than a year and that, according to the Organic Integral Penal Code, sexual relations with girls and adolescents under 14 years of age constitute a crime.

6 <https://oig.cepal.org/es/indicadores/maternidad-adolescentes>

7 Information obtenida de INEC-ENV, 2021; MSP, Gaceta, 2022; MSP, Consulta Externa, 2022; MSP, Egresos, 2022.





Levanta la  
mirada

Wanda Victoria



TOPIC

# 5

## Nutrition and food security

### Our opinion

Children and adolescents in Ecuador are facing the following problems:

- » *Chronic child malnutrition.*
- » *Poor nutrition for children and adolescents due to lack of family economic resources.*

As a consequence of these problems, we believe that:

- » *Girls and boys get sick and have delayed growth and more affectations in the future.*
- » *Because of poor nutrition, children and adolescents have health problems and do not grow well. They also have problems with concentration in the classroom and may suffer from diabetes. In some cases, they even suffer from a diminished will to live.*

### Survey results

#### Children and adolescents from the Network were asked how many times a day they eat

**82,35 %**

(126 out of 153)

three times a day

**13,73 %**

(21 out of 153)

more than three times a day

**3,92 %**

(6 out of 153)

twice a day

**80,39 %**

(123 out of 153)

stated that their breakfast, lunch and dinner

Yes

do comply with the nutritional content that includes balanced carbohydrates, vegetables, fruits, proteins and fats.

**13,73 %**

(21 out of 153)

stated that their breakfast, lunch and dinner

No

**47,6 %**

(10 out of 21)

They do not have enough money to include those contents in the three meals.

**33,3 %**

(7 out of 21)

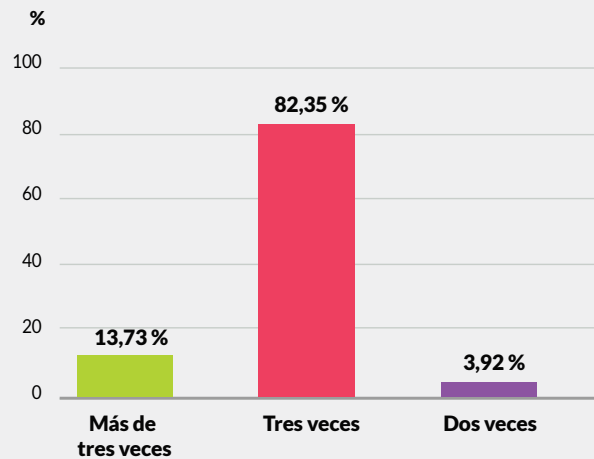
They are used to eating other foods.

**19 %**

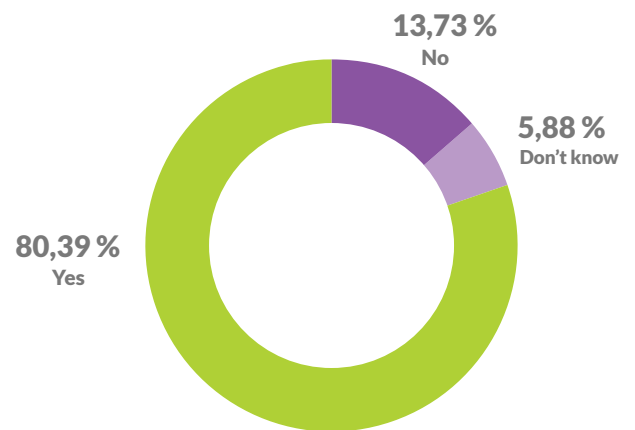
(4 out of 21)

There is not enough money for three meals a day.

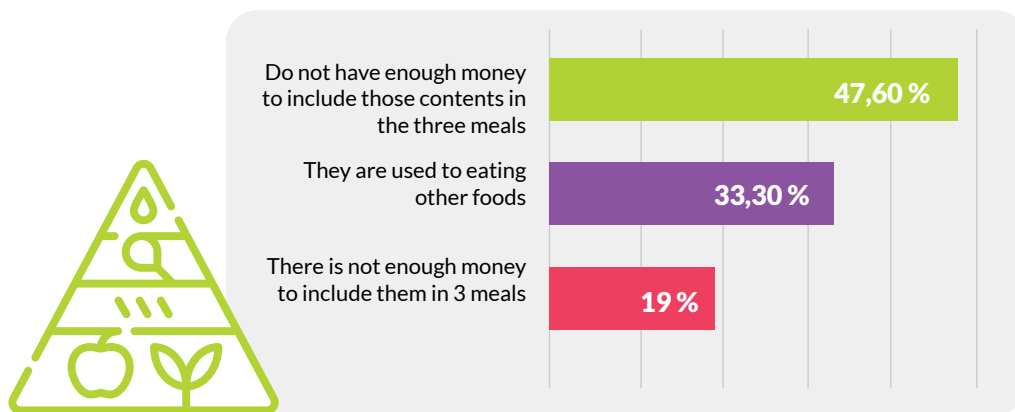
Percentage of participants indicating how many times a day they eat.



Percentage of participants whose diet complies with nutritional content.



Reasons for not complying with the nutritional content of foods.



## Conclusion

For children and adolescents in the Network, malnutrition and poor feeding of children and adolescents is a problem that is mainly related to the **lack of economic resources**. In our opinion, this poor nutrition generates health problems, stunted growth and difficulties in studying.

Official government data show that<sup>8</sup>:

- » **A high percentage of children under 2 years of age are breastfed at the national level**, although a higher incidence is observed in rural areas.
- » There is a percentage of chronic child undernutrition and malnutrition, however, the data are from 2018. The country does not have updated statistical information.
- » The Technical Secretariat Ecuador Grows Without Child Malnutrition, points out that **Ecuador is the second country in the region with the highest rates of chronic child malnutrition**, which means that “three out of every 10 children under 2 years of age could suffer from this problem, which means, approximately two hundred thousand boys and girls”.

8 Information obtained from INEC-ENSANUT, 2018, STECSD, n/d.



TOPIC

# 6 Decent living and poverty

## Our opinion

Children and adolescents in Ecuador are facing the following problems:

- » Lack of economic resources in their homes.

As a consequence of this problem, we believe that:

- » Children and adolescents cannot study, suffer from poor nutrition and their mental development is affected.
- » It generates problems in family coexistence and, in some cases, abandonment by the family.

## Survey results

Regarding the poverty situation of the families of children and adolescents in Ecuador

**40,52 %**

(62 out of 153)

situation is the same



**25,49 %**

(39 out of 153)

that it is improving



**25,49 %**

(39 out of 153)

it is getting worse

**42,48 %**

(65 out of 153)

There is **no support** from public institutions of the national, municipal and parish governments to address poverty.

**32,68 %**

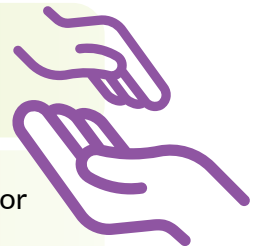
(50 out of 153)

there is such support.

**24,84 %**

(38 out of 153)

Do not know whether or not there is support for families living in poverty.



Regarding access to basic services in their homes.

electricity

**98,04 %**

(150 out of 153)

internet

**86,27 %**

(132 out of 153)

drinking water

**78,43 %**

(120 out of 153)

sewerage

**45,75 %**

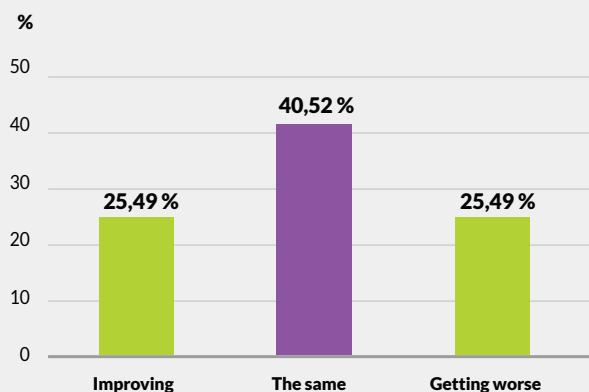
(70 out of 153)

Services to which they have greater access

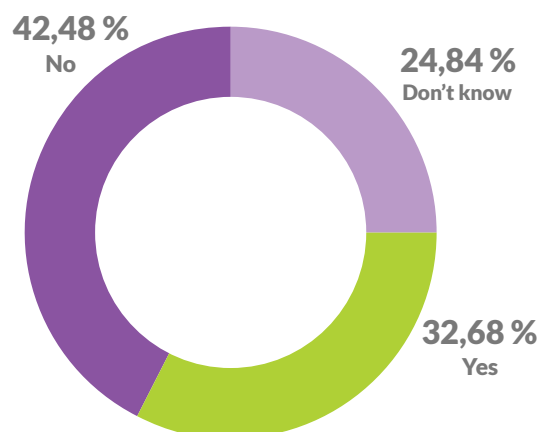
**21,57 %** Do NOT ACCESS  
(33 out of 153)

**54,25 %** Do NOT ACCESS  
(83 out of 153)

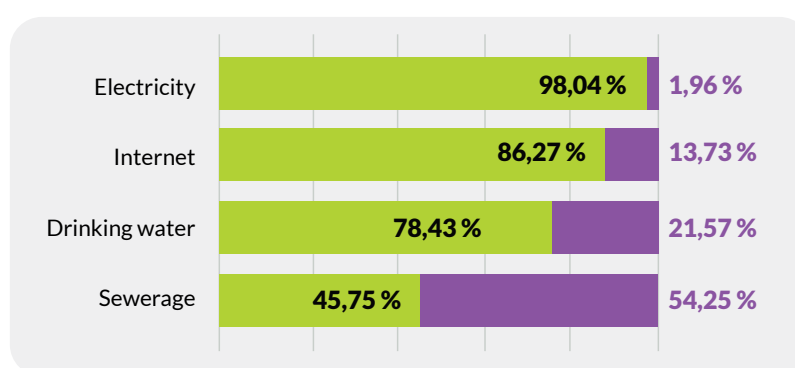
Percentage according to how they believe the situation of children and adolescents is.



who consider that the national and local governments provide support to fight poverty.



Percentage de participantes que acceden a servicios básicos.



## Conclusion

For those of us in the Wamprakunapak YuyayKuna Network, **the situation of poverty affects families in Ecuador**, which impacts the lives and integral development of children and adolescents, who are affected in terms of food, education and family life. In addition, there is a **lack of support from the State for families to face and overcome poverty, as well as limitations to access basic services.**

Official State data show that<sup>9</sup>:

- » The statistical information of the State does not record information on **children and adolescents under 15 years of age in a situation of poverty.**
- » **Children and adolescents between 15 and 24 years of age have higher percentages of income poverty** (34.4%) compared to the national percentage (25.5%), i.e., there is a 9-point difference.
- » A higher percentage of children and adolescents (14.5%) with respect to the national percentage (9.9%) **live in overcrowded conditions**, i.e., there is a 5-point difference, in addition to a significant percentage with a housing deficit: 26.6% of children and adolescents compared to 35.3% of the national percentage, i.e., there is a 9-point difference.
- » According to official data, children and adolescents have adequate access to basic services, although **in rural areas there are fewer households with access to water and basic services.**

<sup>9</sup> Information obtained from INEC-ENEMDU, 2022.



TOPIC

7

# Environment and climate emergency

## Our opinion

Problems and consequences regarding the climate emergency were not mentioned in the workshops.

## Survey results

Ask whether the girls, boys and adolescents of the Network consider that they live in a healthy and beautiful environment

**63,40 %**  
(97 out of 153)  
Yes



**28,76 %**  
(44 out of 153)  
No



**7,84 %**  
(12 out of 153)  
Don't know

**86,27 %**  
(132 out of 153)

Believe that the national, municipal and parish governments should take more actions to ensure a healthy environment.



## Climate emergency

Are they sufficiently protected to face these situations?

**64,05 %**  
(98 out of 153)  
No



**22,22 %**  
(34 out of 153)  
Yes

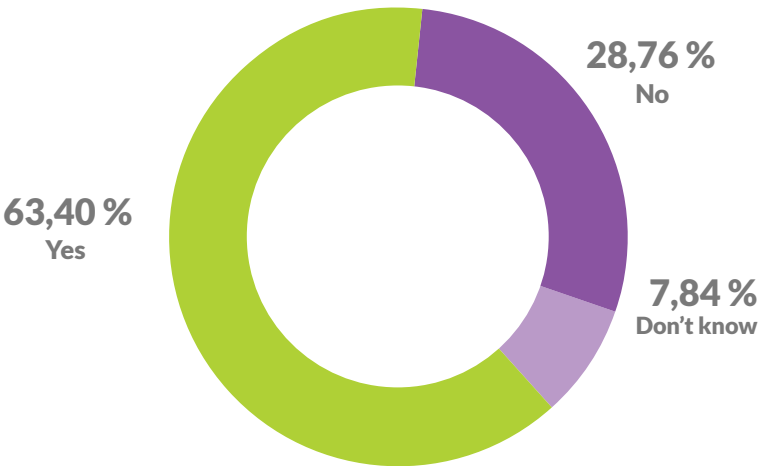


**13,73 %**  
(21 out of 153)  
Don't know





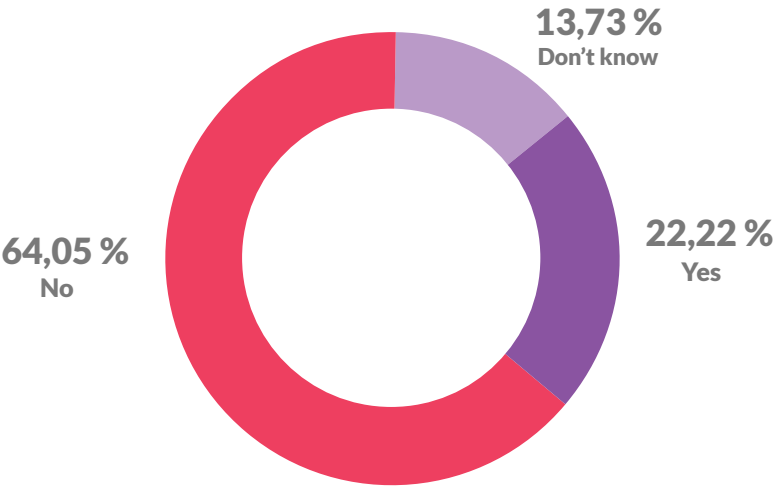
Percentage who consider that they live in a healthy and beautiful environment.



Percentage who believe that national and local governments should take more action for a healthy environment.



Percentage who believe that children and adolescents are protected in the face of climate emergency.



## Conclusion

We, the children and adolescents of the Network consider that we live in a healthy environment, however, we believe that the **national, municipal and parish governments should develop more actions to ensure the preservation and protection of the environment.** We also believe that we are not protected to face climate emergency situations.



## Our opinion

Children and adolescents in Ecuador are facing the following problems:

- » *Those who live in rural areas cannot easily reach schools due to the distance and the poor condition of the roads.*
- » *There are children and adolescents who do not study.*
- » *Educational institutions do not have enough information or technology for children and adolescents to learn well, especially in single-teacher schools.*
- » *Teachers do not give students the importance they need.*
- » *Sometimes students do not study because there are no places in universities.*
- » *Lack of trained teachers in each subject; for example, the chemistry teacher is not specialized in that subject.*
- » *The new curriculum has not been socialized to the students, and it is implemented without consulting them.*
- » *They cannot go to study in peace because of the insecurity outside the institutions; there are unknown people who can harm children and adolescents.*

As a consequence of these problems, we believe that:

- » *Children cannot develop their skills and knowledge, even if they want to learn.*
- » *These people have a hard time getting ahead in the labor field, precisely because it is said that “they are not educated”.*
- » *Children who work for very low wages, do not set goals, do not know how to be good teenagers, so they may pursue the easy life.*
- » *There is greater poverty because they are unable to get a decent job.*
- » *It is more complicated when parents have a lag in education, and have a different perspective, which makes it difficult for them to educate their children properly.*
- » *Without education they become conformist, they do not want more and do not look for help, they think they deserve what is happening to them.*
- » *Many times it is difficult for them to continue studying and they stop doing it.*
- » *It is a very big problem that there is no technology, now there are more tools on the internet.*
- » *Students can get bored in class, which in the long run causes children and adolescents to have a knowledge gap because they were not able to learn.*
- » *They drop out of education, look for a job, sometimes poorly paid or, in the worst cases, become part of gangs, consume psychotropic substances or fall into bad habits and vices.*
- » *Children and adolescents are discouraged about education, because they have mental health problems, and this affects their academic performance, but this is something that is not taken into account.*
- » *Some say: “If I do not enter the university, I am going to be a drug dealer”.*
- » *They feel stressed not knowing what is going to be implemented in education.*

## Survey results

In the consultation carried out with **girls, boys and adolescents of the Network**, it is considered:

**90,20 %**  
(138 out of 153) Receiving an education **is useful** for your life.

### Discriminación

**62,09 %**  
(95 out of 153)

Believe that there is no discrimination for reasons of nationality.

**52,94 %**  
(81 out of 153)

Believe that there is discrimination for reasons of physical characteristics, such as overweight, use of glasses, height, among other.

**40,52 %**  
(62 out of 153)

Believe that there is discrimination based on economic circumstances.

**66,01 %**  
(101 out of 153)

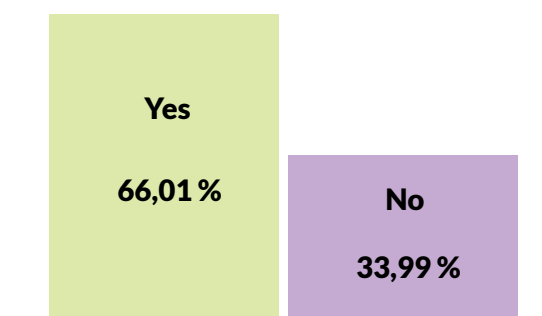
Know a child or adolescent who has recently **stopped studying and/or dropped out of school**.



Percentage who consider that the education they receive is useful for their life.



Percentage who knows any child or adolescent who has dropped out of school.



## Conclusion

Children and adolescents face several barriers to exercise their right to education, especially those who live in rural areas, which has worsened with the implementation of the virtual modality. We, the children and adolescents of the Network, point out that factors such as the quality of education, the lack of capacity of teachers, inadequate infrastructure and the lack of educational centers, in addition to the serious situation of insecurity, influence the deterioration of educational development and have entailed greater efforts to continue our education, which, at times, has led children and adolescents to drop out of school.

Likewise, we note that among other factors that influence the exercise of the right to education, are the methodology used and the contents taught in educational centers that do not respond to the interests and the context in which we live, which also produces a lack of motivation to continue studying.

Official government data show that<sup>10</sup>:

- » The average number of school years is **lower in rural areas** (7.75% compared to 10.31% at the national level) and among indigenous (7.17%) and Montubio (7.05%) populations.
- » **Illiteracy** among the indigenous (17.3%) and Montubio (16.8%) population is **almost three times higher than the national percentage** (6.1%).
- » **The net attendance rate in basic education and high school**, i.e. of children and adolescents of the corresponding age for the level they are attending, **is close to 100% in all variables**.
- » In secondary education and high school, lower attendance percentages are observed in the Montubio population, and in all variables there is a reduction in attendance in the case of high school, i.e., adolescents between 15 and 17 years of age.

10 Information obtained from INEC-ENEMDU, 2022.







TOPIC

# 9 Connectivity

## Our opinion

Children and adolescents in Ecuador are facing the following problems:

- » *There are many low-income people who do not have the tools to access a computer or do not have access to the Internet.*

As a consequence of this problem, we believe that:

- » *Many times they find it difficult to continue studying and drop out.*

## Survey results

### Access to a computer with internet to study and do their homework.

**44,44 %**  
(68 out of 153)  
do not have  
easy access to it.



**18,30 %**  
(28 out of 153)  
have difficulties



**37,25 %**  
(57 out of 153)  
do have easy  
access to it.

### They consider that virtual social networks disseminate information that helps in their social development, values and real knowledge.

**66,01 %**  
(101 out of 153)  
Yes



**16,34 %**  
(25 out of 153)  
No



**17,65 %**  
(27 out of 153)  
Don't know

### Contar con el cuidado y acompañamiento de personas adultas cuando navega en páginas web o redes virtuales.

**56,86 %**  
(87 out of 153)  
Yes

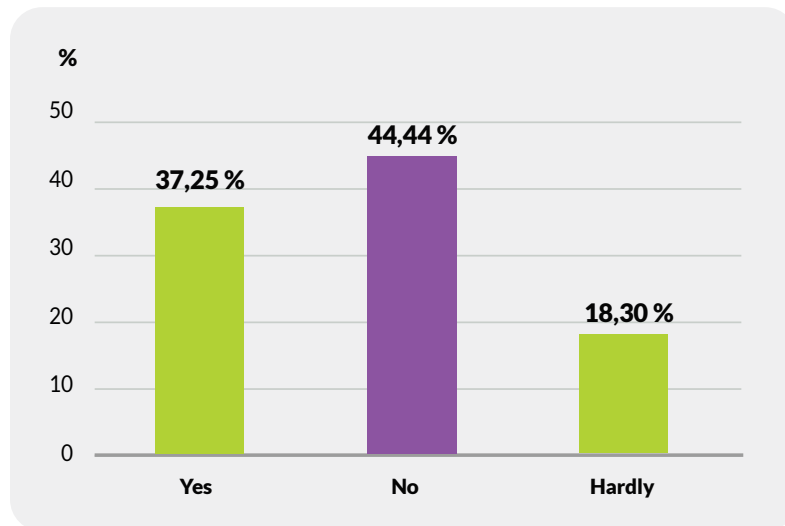


**20,92 %**  
(32 out of 153)  
No

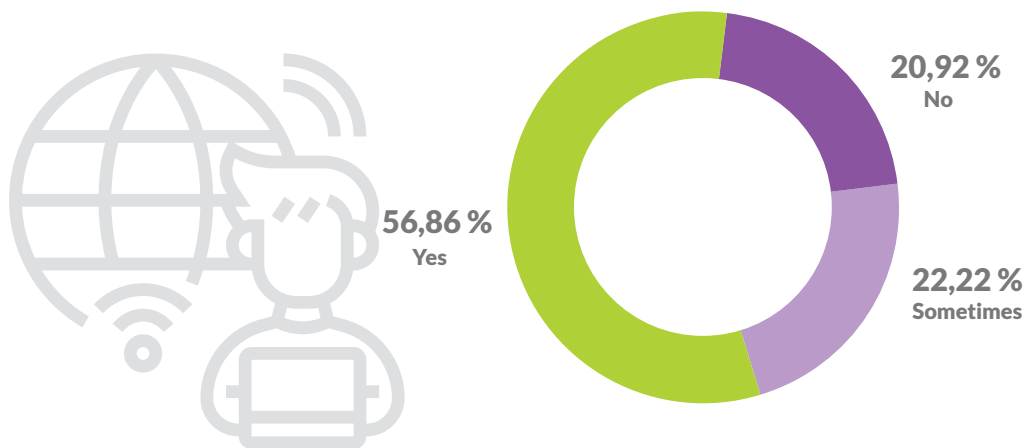


**22,22 %**  
(34 out of 153)  
Don't know

Percentage who have access to a computer with internet for study and homework purposes.



Percentage of participants who are accompanied by an adult when surfing the web and virtual social networks.



## Conclusion

Due to the implementation of the virtual modality in the public education system, children and adolescents face another difficulty, since **many families do not have a computer and internet connection**, so they must make additional efforts to continue classes and do their homework, and when they have not been able to cope with the situation, they have dropped out of school.

Official government data show that<sup>11</sup>:

- » At the national level, there are still **inequalities in connectivity** (Internet access), especially in rural areas.
- » At the national level, more than half of the households have at least one computer, and the **gap widens in rural areas**.
- » There are no specific data related to the access of children and adolescents.

11 Information obtained from INEC-EMH, 2020.



TOPIC  
**10** Identity and identification

### Our opinion

Children and adolescents in Ecuador are facing the following problems:

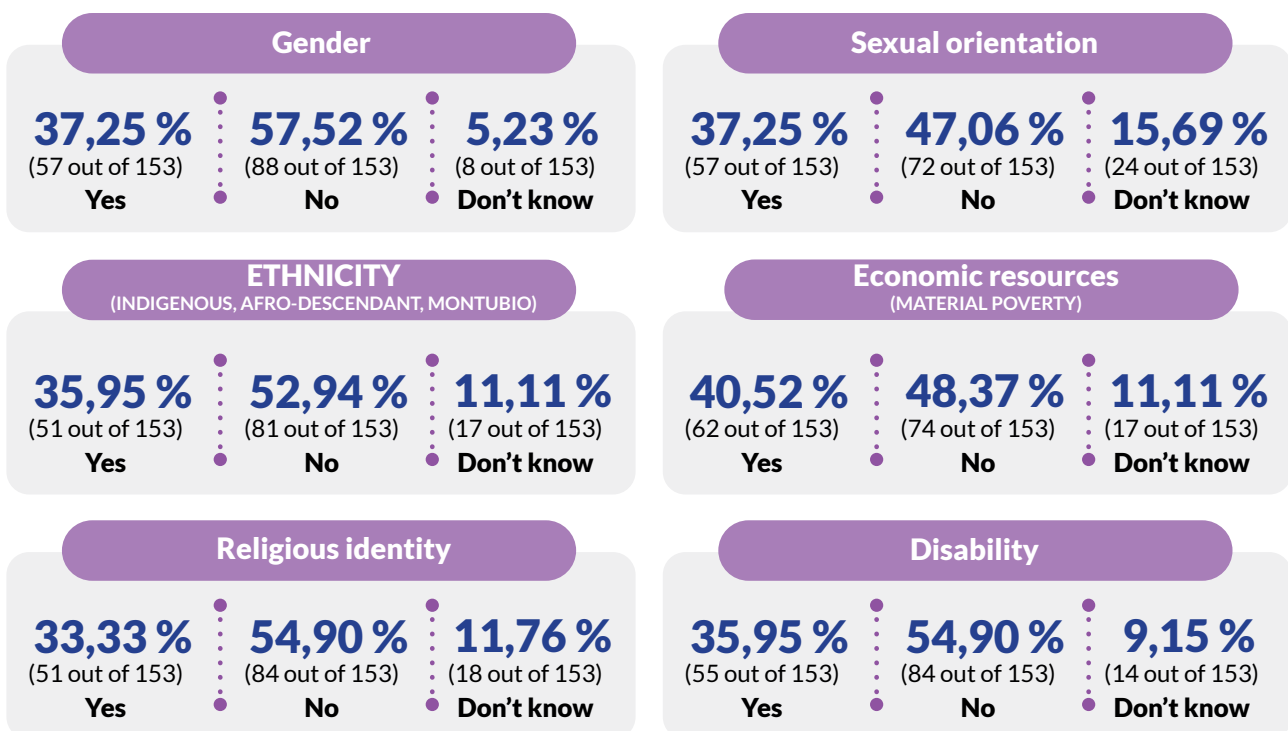
- » Many children and adolescents cannot identify themselves with their sexual orientation on their identity documents.
- » Discrimination against children from different cultures or children with special needs .

As a consequence of these problems, we believe that:

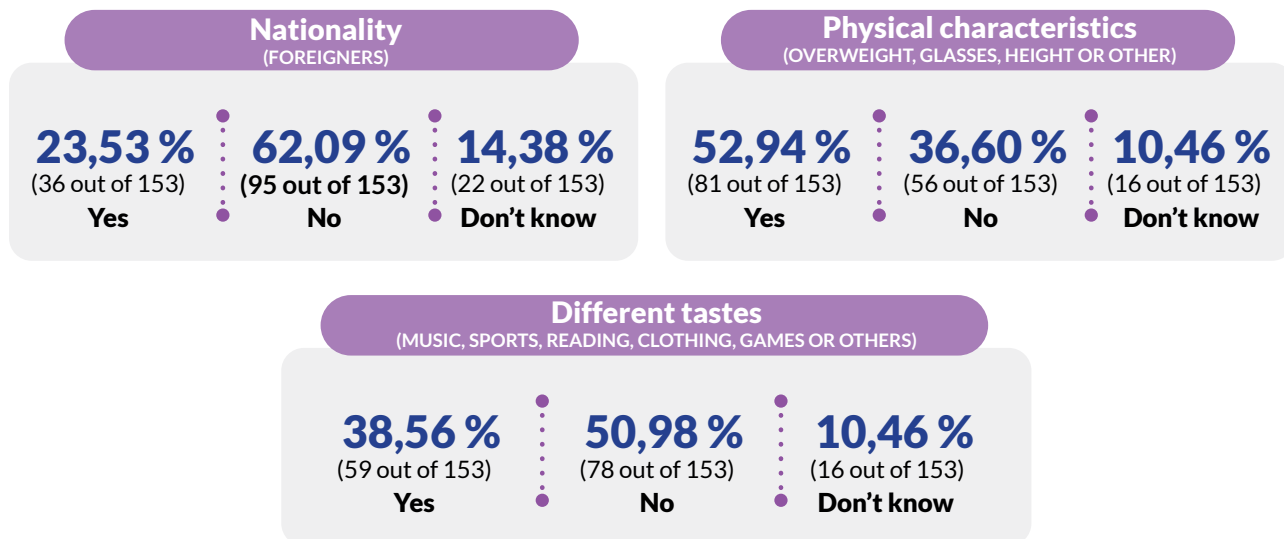
- » There is limited information on sexual identity for children and adolescents, so they cannot define themselves with a specific gender or sexual orientation; in addition, saying that they are part of the LGBTI community can represent a danger for them and they can be victims of bullying.
- » Lack of support for the specific needs of children and adolescents.
- » Children and adolescents feel low self-esteem and lack of confidence, “ because we are from other cultures, we feel we are less”.
- » Children and adolescents feel discriminated against for being different or having special needs.

### Survey results

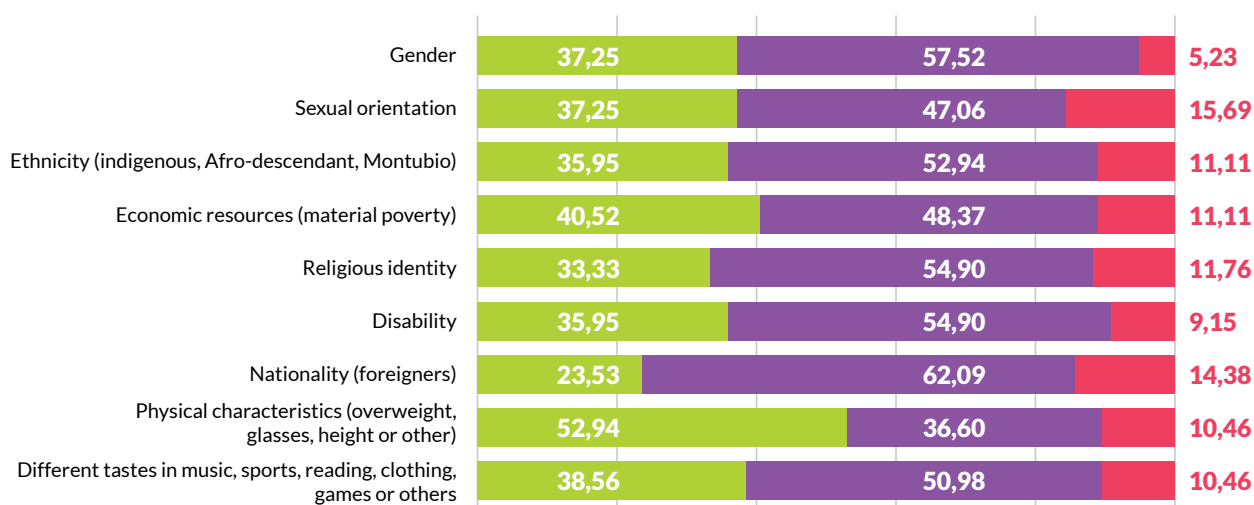
Children and adolescents experience **various forms of discrimination in educational centers, especially because of our physical characteristics, economic resources and different preferences.** The following percentage corresponds to the following reasons: sexual orientation and gender, ethnic identity, disability and nationality.







**Percentage of participants who think that there is discrimination in their school**



## Conclusion

Discrimination against children and adolescents persists, especially against those with diverse identities, who are considered “abnormal” because they do not comply with the social norms that are still in force. Discrimination is also based on nationality and economic resources, and these types of discrimination are expressed in a variety of social settings and, above all, in educational centers. As a consequence, there is a lack of accurate information on the conditions of vulnerability, which results in children and adolescents being victims of harassment and violence.

Official government data show that<sup>12</sup>:

- » In general, children are registered immediately after birth. In 2021, the statistical records of live births and fetal deaths of INEC do not record late registrations.
- » In 2021, there was a higher number of male versus female births.
- » Most of the children born alive are mestizos, followed by indigenous people.

<sup>12</sup> Information obtained from INEC-ENV, 2021; CNIPN, 2023.



TOPIC  
**11** Recreation

### Our opinion

Children and adolescents in Ecuador are facing the following problems:

- » *Lack of recreational areas.*  
*Adolescents do not have recreational spaces to participate through free expression.*
- » *Children and adolescents cannot go for walks, enjoy themselves or have fun because their parents, out of fear, do not take them out of their homes.*

As a consequence of these problems, we believe that:

- » *This affects the integral and motor development of children.*
- » *This leads children and adolescents to join criminal gangs.*

### Survey results

**94,12 %**  
(144 out of 153) Think that they need to do more recreational, artistic or sports activities.

#### Regarding the ease of attending artistic or recreational events.

**37,25 %**  
(57 out of 153)

**sometimes** they can attend easily

**32,03 %**  
(49 out of 153)

**Yes**

**30,72 %**  
(47 out of 153)

**No**

#### Principales dificultades para asistir a eventos artísticos o recreativos

**35,95 %**  
(55 out of 153)

lack of economic resources

**24,84 %**  
(38 out of 153)

Insecurity

**22,22 %**  
(34 out of 153)

lack of local events

### En menor medida

**12,42 %**  
(19 de 153)

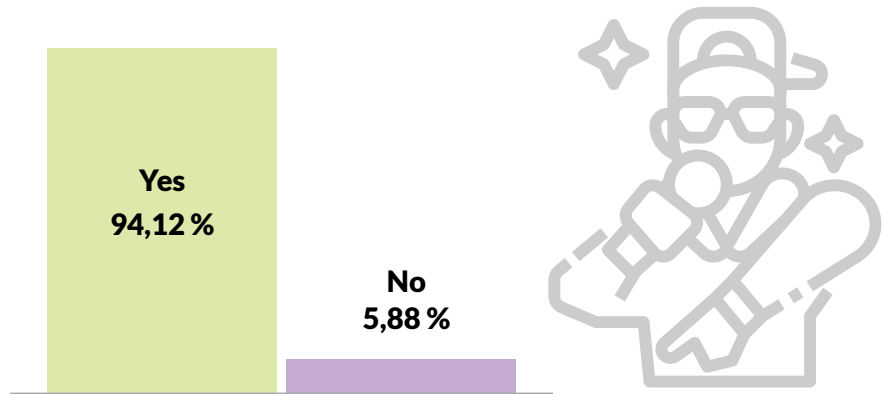
mention lack of family time



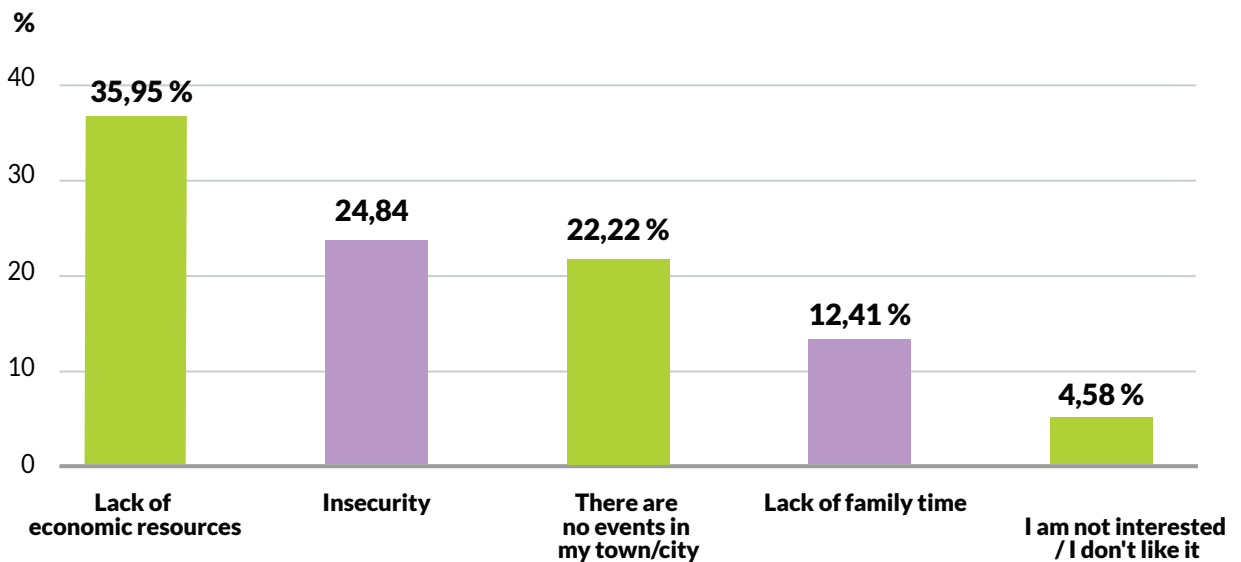
**4,58 %**  
(7 out of 153)

lack of interest or taste for these activities

Percentage of opinions on whether they need more recreational, artistic or sporting activities.



Percentage of participants according to the reason why they have difficulty attending artistic or recreational events.



## Conclusion

Children and adolescents believe that there is a **lack of recreational and sports areas** at the local level, as well as in the neighborhoods and communities, which would provide activities that could be carried out in our free time and thus have an alternative **to prevent us from getting involved in criminal gangs**; furthermore, this factor affects our integral development.



## TOPIC 12 Participation

### Our opinion

Children and adolescents in Ecuador are facing the following problems:

- » *There is adult-centeredness in society, as well as adult control over the opinions and participation of children and adolescents.*
- » *When children participate, adults tell them what to do.*
- » *Authorities make decisions about children and adolescents, they do not listen to them, they say they do activities to benefit them, but it is not true.*
- » *Parents make decisions about children and adolescents.*
- » *They do not listen and do not put into practice the proposals of children and adolescents, because they say they do not have the right idea or knowledge.*
- » *They do not take the proposals of children and adolescents seriously, and adults tell them that they are lazy and idle.*
- » *There are no participation opportunities that teach them to lose the fear of speaking in public.*
- » *There is no sense of belonging to the organization, to find things that benefit them.*
- » *Women are often silenced because of the current machista system.*

As a consequence of these problems, we believe that:

- » *El The abuse of power by adults due to adult-centeredness disregards children and adolescents as subjects of rights.*
- » *Decisions are made that do not benefit children and adolescents because they do what adults want.*
- » *The authorities make politicking and not politics, they do nothing; but it is also necessary that children and adolescents make demands to the authorities.*
- » *They underestimate the potential of children and adolescents and lower their self-esteem.*
- » *Children and adolescents are afraid to participate, they also feel insecure because they are not supported.*
- » *Due to distrust towards parents, they stop doing things they like to do.*
- » *Children and adolescents are disconcerted, because they do not receive answers, things are not explained to them, parents only say: "You live under my roof and do what I say".*
- » *Children and adolescents are afraid to speak in front of an audience and to participate because, "What will the adults say!".*
- » *They do not develop their abilities to participate.*
- » *They refuse to participate at a later time, they no longer want to give their opinion.*
- » *Children and adolescents feel frustration and helplessness, because they are being limited from doing something they want and can do.*
- » *Children and adolescents feel distrust, because their ideas are not taken into account.*

- » *Loss of interest in participating in activities they like. This also causes children and adolescents to be forced to join criminal gangs.*
- » *Participation is much lower in rural areas.*
- » *Difficulties for the participation of children and adolescents in human mobility and with disabilities.*
- » *The participation rights of children and adolescents are violated due to lack of knowledge about participation tools.*
- » *Machismo continues to be inculcated and gender violence continues to occur.*

## Survey results

In general, most of the participating children and adolescents consider that **our opinion is respected and taken into account and that we can express freely in different forums**, although the percentage decreases in the consultation on whether we believe that authorities take into account the opinion of children and adolescents.

### Our opinion is respected

**84,97 %**

(130 out of 153)

Consider that **their teachers respect** and take their opinion into account.

**57,52 %**

(88 out of 153)

Think that **authorities do take into account the opinion** of children and adolescents.

**42,48 %**

(65 out of 153)

Believe that this **is not the case**. In contrast to the previous response.

**77,12 %**

(118 out of 153)

Believe that **parents and authorities are interested in knowing the opinion** of children and adolescents in order to make decisions regarding issues that affect them.

**22,88 %**

(35 out of 153)

Believe that **they are not interested**.

**77,78 %**

(119 out of 153)

**Their opinions and contributions are promoted, valued and taken into account in their organization.**

**22,22 %**

(34 out of 153)

Consider that **this is not the case**.

**81,05 %**

(124 out of 153)

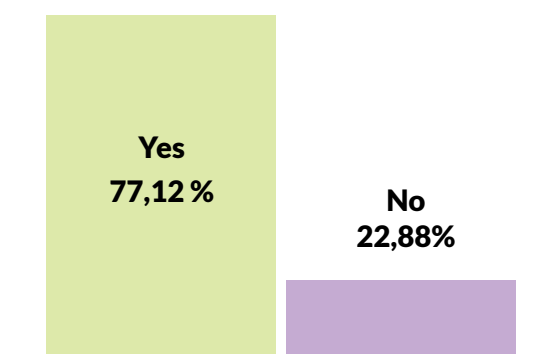
Believe that **they can express their opinion freely** on matters of interest to them and that it is respected.

**18,95 %**

(29 out of 153)

Believe that **they cannot**.

Percentage of participants who consider that their parents and authorities are interested in their opinion when making decisions that affect them.



Percentage of participants who consider that they can express their opinion freely and that it is respected.



## Conclusion

We children and adolescents feel that our opinions are listened to and valued and that several institutions promote our participation; However, we also believe that **adult-centeredness continues to influence society and its institutions, especially in rural areas**, which results in asymmetrical power relations between adults and children and adolescents, which prevents us from participating or having a say in matters that affect us, **causing children and adolescents to feel frustrated**, especially in rural areas, which is why we recognize that it is important to demand our participation.

» **Machismo is also a factor that does not allow the participation of young and adolescent girls and women**, which leads to the reproduction of gender violence and the persistence of machismo.



AMIRI

Diego Cabrera

YOUTH READY  
for work, for life

DON'T WANT TO  
GET HIS TIME  
WASTED LIVE

IF YOU  
BLAME  
BLAME  
ME MEANS



## TOPIC 13 Child work

### Our opinion

Children and adolescents in Ecuador are facing the following problems:

- » *There is child labor in Ecuador.*
- » *Families are not economically sustainable and children and adolescents are sent to work.*
- » *There is child exploitation due to poverty.*

As a consequence of these problems, we believe that:

- » *Children do not enjoy their childhood, they cannot study and perform other activities appropriate to their age. They are unable to develop fully, because they are forced to work to help at home.*
- » *They do not have a good education because, as they work, they do not study and this leads them to precariousness.*
- » *Child labor affects their emotional development.*
- » *Being on the streets, they live in insecurity, are exposed to sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, and can become drug addicts, which is one of the most frequent consequences.*
- » *Children and adolescents who perform forced labor are exposed to kidnapping, human trafficking and other types of violence.*
- » *Children and adolescents who work suffer violence, are denigrated and abused by other people, especially those with better economic conditions.*
- » *Adults and their parents do not take care of them, because they prefer to waste money on vices instead of prioritizing their daughters and sons.*

### Survey results

In the consultation carried out, **girls, boys and adolescents of the Network consider:**

**67,32 %**  
(103 out of 153)

Believe that child and adolescent labor has increased in the country.



**48,37 %**  
(74 out of 153)

Believe that government institutions have not done enough to eradicate child labor.

**50,33 %**  
(77 out of 153)

Believe that families and the community do protect working children and adolescents.

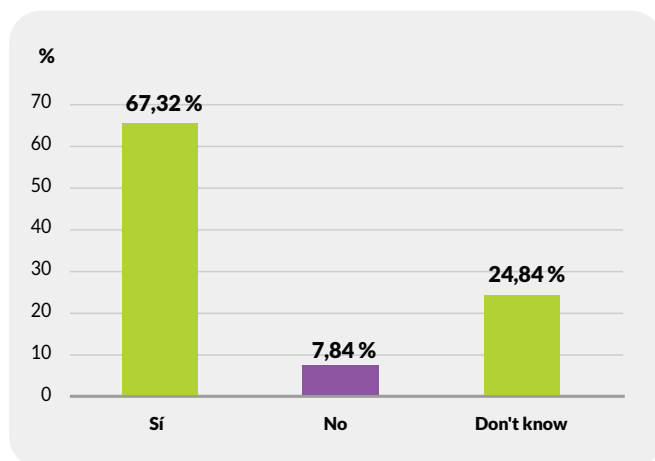


**49,67 %**  
(76 out of 153)

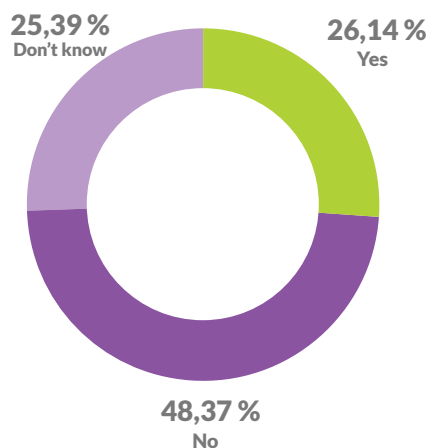
Believe that they do not protect them.



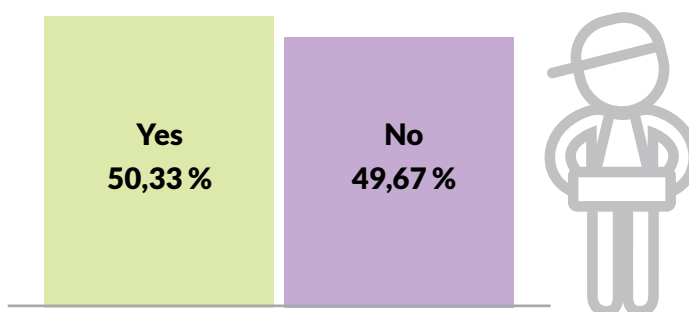
Percentage who believe that child and adolescent labor has increased.



Percentage who consider that government institutions have done enough to eradicate child labor.



Percentage who believe that families and the community protect working children and adolescents.



## Conclusion

In the opinion of the children and adolescents who are members of the Network, **families' lack of economic resources and poverty are some of the causes of child labor, as they force families to send their children to work.** This causes them to stop studying and limits the exercise of all their rights, which affects their integral development. **Children and adolescents who work are exposed to several forms of violence** and lack adequate care from their families and community. We consider that the State has not taken sufficient actions to eradicate child labor.

Official government data show that<sup>13</sup>:

- » Child labor persists as of December 2022 (6.52% of children and adolescents aged 5 to 14 years), with higher rates among women (6.99%) and in rural areas (17.05%).
- » A higher percentage of male adolescents are working in conditions that do not respect their labor rights (1.2% compared to 1% nationally).
- » Unpaid employment among adolescent women and men is high, but there are more female adolescents working without remuneration (84.1% of women compared to 71.7% nationally).
- » Government information shows that most adolescent workers work informally, i.e., without government protection, mainly adolescent women (82.5% of adolescents work informally).

13 Information obtained from INEC-ENEMDU, 2022; MDT-SUT, s.f.



## TOPIC 14 Violence, physical punishment, abuse

### Our opinion

Las niñas, niños y adolescentes en el Ecuador estamos enfrentando las siguientes problemáticas:

- » *Children and adolescents are generally physically punished by their parents and family members.*
- » *There is also a lot of child abuse and psychological, emotional, physical and verbal violence around children and adolescents and in society.*
- » *Sexual abuse continues and there is not enough protection from the authorities, nor is there enough attention from parents.*
- » *There is also violence and mistreatment among children and adolescents.*
- » *Children and adolescents have difficulty in expressing what is happening to them.*

Como consecuencia de estos problemas, creemos que:

- » *Suffer damage to their bodies, physical injuries.*
- » *They also suffer psychological problems, sadness and depression.*
- » *They have low self-esteem, can become shy, experience pain and fear, which generates intellectual and linguistic problems.*
- » *They have a hard time creating relationships with other people, because they distrust others and become isolated.*
- » *When there is sexual abuse they can face unwanted pregnancies.*
- » *They may become aggressive towards other people.*
- » *It can lead to the consumption of alcohol and other psychotropic substances, and also to suicide.*
- » *They are afraid to tell what has happened to them, to be judged and criticized, and to be accused of being guilty.*
- » *Children and adolescents who do not express what has happened to them suffer more than those who do. If they do not speak out and tell what has happened to them, they cannot get help.*
- » *There is a lack of support networks.*

### Survey results

In the consultation carried out, **girls, boys and adolescents of the Network believe:**

**71,90 %**  
(110 out of 153)

Believe that children and adolescents are victims of physical punishment.



**28,10 %**  
(43 out of 153)

Believe that they are not.

Affirm that they know children and adolescents who have sentimental, sexual and/or marriage or union relationships with adults.

**38,56 %**

(59 out of 153)

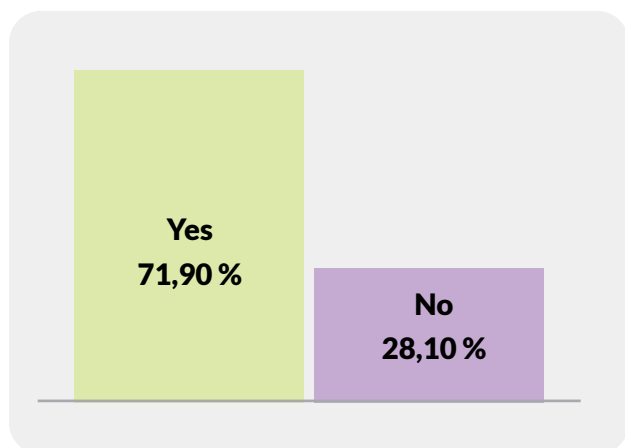
Yes they know cases.

**49,02 %**

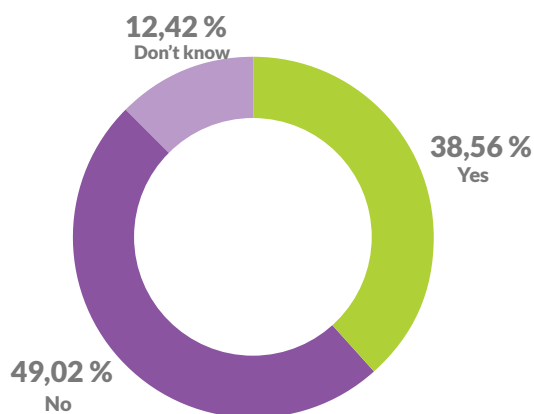
(75 out of 153)

They **don't know** of any cases.

Percentage who believe that children and adolescents are victims of physical punishment and mistreatment.



Percentage who know children and adolescents who have relationships with adults.



**89,54 %**

(137 out of 153)

participants believe that adults in the family adequately **protect children and adolescents from abuse and violence.**



Believe that adults adequately protect children and adolescents from abuse and violence.

Educational centers

**75,16 %**

(115 out of 153)

Public institutions

**60,13 %**

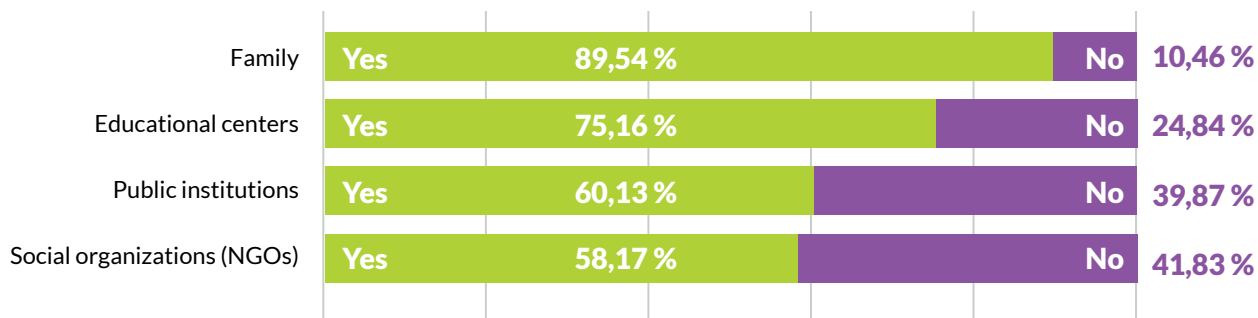
(92 out of 153)

Social organizations (NGOs)

**58,17 %**

(89 out of 153)

Percentage who consider that adults protect children and adolescents from abuse and violence and who are the ones who do so.



In the consultation carried out, **girls, boys and adolescents of the Network** consider:

**39,87 %**  
(61 out of 153)

Believe that **national and local governments do not do enough** to prevent physical punishment and mistreatment of children and adolescents.

**25,49 %**  
(39 out of 153)

Believe that **they do**.

**34,64 %**  
(53 out of 153)

**Do not know** if they do.

**45,75 %**  
(70 out of 153)

Believe that **there are sufficient programs or actions** to care for and protect children and adolescents who are victims of violence.

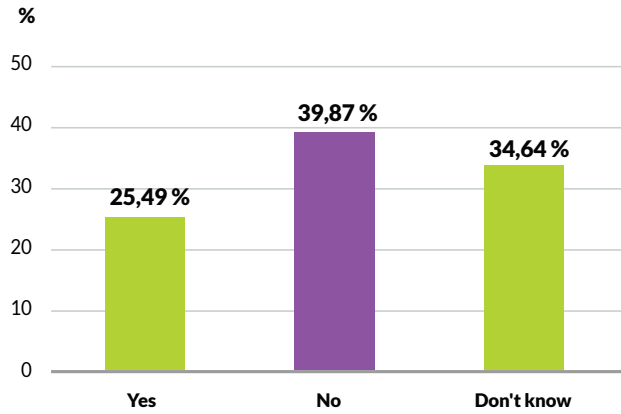
**33,33 %**  
(51 out of 153)

Believe that this **is not the case**.

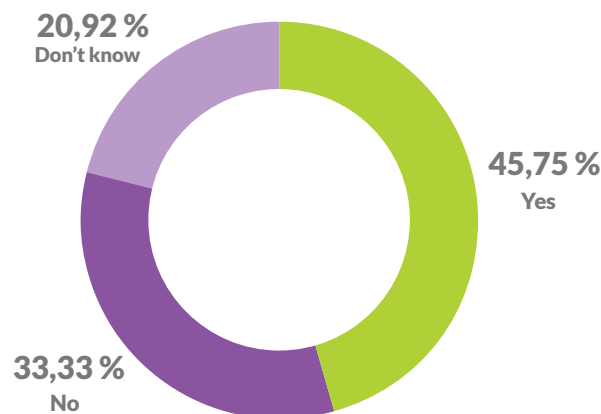
**20,92 %**  
(32 out of 153)

**Do not know**.

Percentage who believe that the national or local government is doing enough to prevent physical punishment and abuse of children and adolescents.



who consider that there are sufficient programs and actions to care for and protect children and adolescents who are victims of violence.



## Conclusion

We, the members of the Network, know that there is physical punishment, mistreatment and different forms of violence against children and adolescents. It is important to point out that physical punishment occurs mainly in families, but there is also mistreatment and violence among children and adolescents. Violence causes physical, psychological and emotional damage, generates fear, depression and anxiety and, in the case of sexual violence, leads to unwanted pregnancies. The fear of telling what is happening generates greater suffering.

We believe that there are not enough State actions to protect children and adolescents from the different forms of violence, but we do believe that there are programs and projects to assist children and adolescents who are victims of violence.

Official government data show that<sup>14</sup>:

- » As of 2018, **children under 5 years of age are exposed to maltreatment, mainly psychological**, however, at older ages, it is observed that physical maltreatment increases.
- » In 2018, psychological maltreatment of **children under 1 year of age was highly prevalent in urban and rural areas**.
- » Different forms of **gender-based violence affect girls and adolescents between 15 and 17 years of age**, with a higher percentage of violence in the social sphere (32.6%).
- » The Ministry of Public Health **reports attention to cases of sexual violence in girls and female adolescents (65 cases in hospital discharges)**.
- » In 2022, **femicides affected girls and adolescents from less than 1 year old to 19 years old (84 cases)**.
- » There is no specific information on the different types of violence against children and adolescents; the information is outdated.

14 Information taken from INEC-ENSANUT, 2018; INEC-ENVIGMU, 2019; MSP, Expenditures, 2022; FGE, s.f.



## TOPIC 15 Security

### Our opinion

Children and adolescents in Ecuador are facing the following problems:

- » *There is insecurity due to government neglect.*
- » *Children, adolescents and their families face a lot of insecurity in the streets and in their homes, especially against girls and adolescents. Insecurity is fostered by society itself.*
- » *They are threatened by mafias and extortion, because they think that children and adolescents have money.*

As a consequence of these problems, we believe that:

- » *Children and adolescents cannot be outdoors, play, or have fun, because their parents, out of fear, do not take them out.*
- » *Their environment has an influence, especially in rural areas, because the government is more focused on solving problems in urban areas than in rural areas.*
- » *It causes children and adolescents a lot of fear and anxiety, because they are not in a safe place, and they live in social isolation.*
- » *Girls and adolescent women are at risk of sexual abuse.*
- » *All the insecurity they experience leads to suicides, and children and adolescents look for drugs and alcohol.*
- » *By becoming immersed in the illicit world of gangs, children and adolescents are exposed to the risk of being killed or extorted.*

### Survey results

In the consultation carried out, **girls, boys and adolescents of the Network believe:**

#### State's actions to prevent children and adolescents from being enrolled in criminal gangs

**43,14 %**

(66 out of 153)

No



**29,41 %**

(45 out of 153)

Yes



**27,45 %**

(42 out of 153)

Don't know

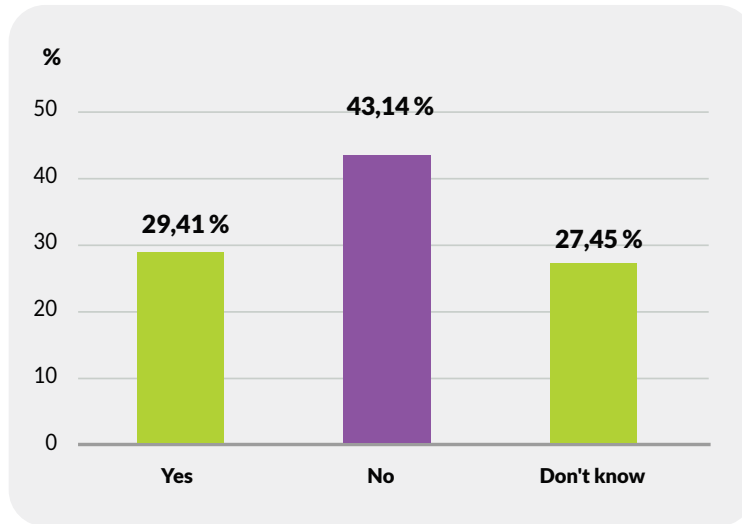
**Children and adolescents are protected against insecurity in their area**

**43,79 %**  
(67 out of 153)  
Believe that children and adolescents **are not protected** against insecurity.

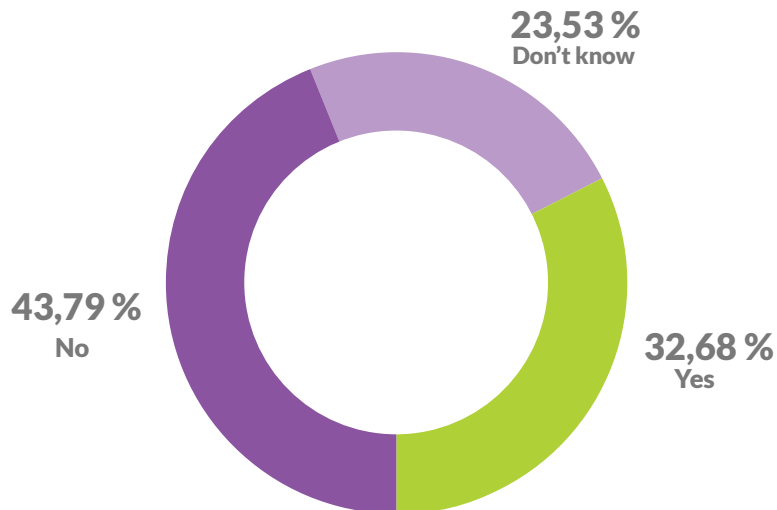
**32,68 %**  
(50 out of 153)  
Believe that **they are protected**.

**23,53 %**  
(36 out of 153)  
Do not know.

According to their opinion on the State's actions to prevent children and adolescents from being enrolled in criminal gangs.



Percentage who think that children and adolescents are protected against insecurity in their area.



**Conclusion**

**The government does not carry out sufficient actions**, mainly in the rural sector, to overcome insecurity in the communities and neighborhoods where we children, adolescents and our families live, **facing permanent insecurity in the streets and in our homes; we are also threatened by organized crime, which exposes us to criminal acts, kidnappings and even sexual violence.** This whole situation of insecurity generates a lot of fear, anxiety and weakening of the social fabric, which prevents us from exercising our rights.



## TOPIC 16 Human mobility

### Our opinion

Children and adolescents in Ecuador are facing the following problems:

- » *There are children and adolescents in a situation of human mobility.*
- » *Children and adolescents in human mobility do not have the resources to move from one place to another.*
- » *In Ecuador, children and adolescents are left alone because their parents migrate.*
- » *There is a lack of State care for children and adolescents who are left alone because their parents migrate and for foreign children and adolescents.*
- » *Lack of public policies to protect national and foreign children and adolescents.*

As a consequence of these problems, we believe that:

- » *Foreign children and adolescents face xenophobia and abuse of power.*
- » *There are undocumented foreign children and adolescents.*
- » *Discrimination and poverty are on the rise.*
- » *Foreign children and adolescents cannot attend classes, do not have access to education, do not have internet connection, so they do not learn and illiteracy increases.*
- » *They are exposed to child trafficking, sexual exploitation, death and femicide. They are taken to other countries against their will.*
- » *Children and adolescents who are left alone because their parents migrate are not cared for properly, they cannot express their feelings and emotions on special days, they sometimes drop out of school, and they are not at home for long periods of time.*

### Survey results

In the consultation carried out, **the children and adolescents** of the Network **consider** the following.

Foreign children and adolescents live better in Ecuador than in their country of origin.

**38,56 %**  
(59 out of 153)  
do not know



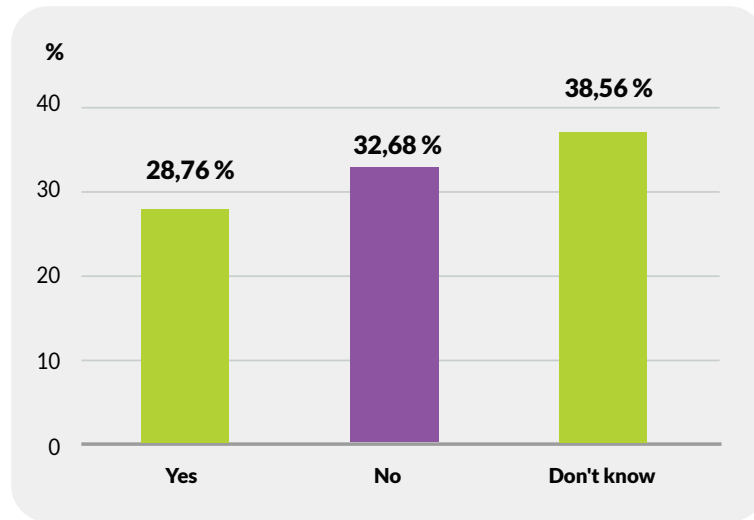
**32,68 %**  
(50 out of 153)  
No



**28,76 %**  
(44 out of 153)  
Yes



Percentage that consider that foreign children and adolescents live better in Ecuador than in their country of origin.



National or local government does enough to integrate foreign children and adolescents

**39,87 %**  
(61 out of 153)  
Yes



**30,07 %**  
(46 out of 153)  
No



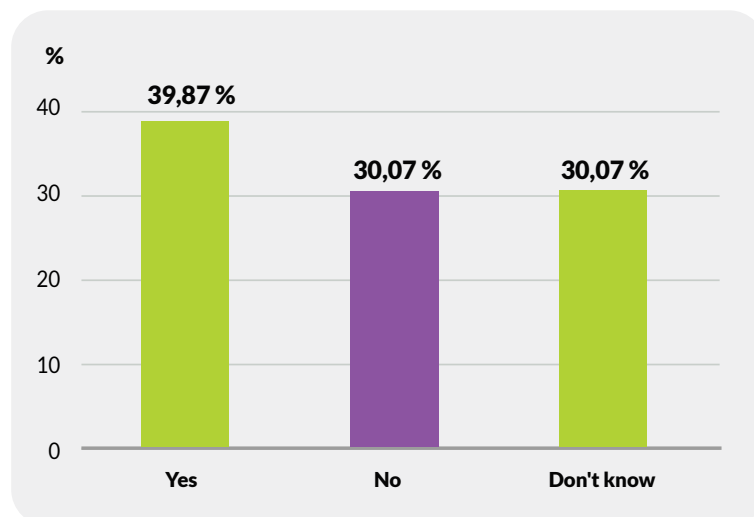
**30,07 %**  
(46 out of 153)  
Don't know

**51,63 %**  
(137 out of 153)

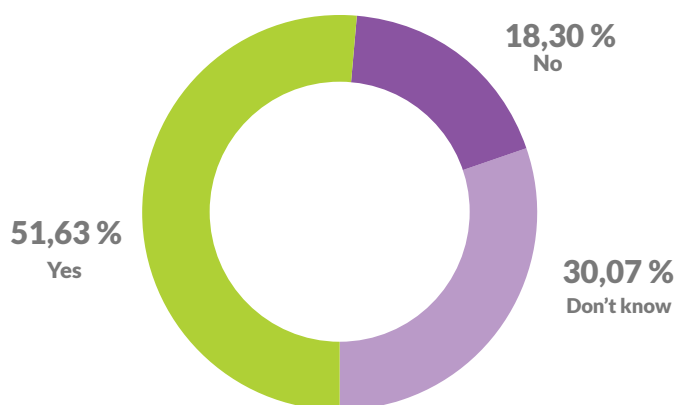
Consider that the situation of foreign children and adolescents is taken into account in educational centers in order to protect their rights.



Percentage of participants believe that the national or local government does enough to integrate foreign children and adolescents in the neighborhoods and communities where they live.



Percentage who believe that the situation of foreign children and adolescents is taken into account in schools to protect their rights.



## Conclusion

In the opinion of the Network's members, children and adolescents in a situation of **human mobility lack resources, which limits the exercise of their rights, especially the right to study**. In addition, **they face xenophobia and are exposed to human trafficking, sexual exploitation and other forms of violence**. We think that the children of migrant parents are left alone, so they are unable to express their feelings. In addition, there is a lack of care from the State to protect them and ensure the exercise of their rights.

Official government data show that<sup>15</sup>:

- » Information on international entries and exits indicates a significant number of children and adolescents who have left the country with the purpose of living in another country, most of whom are women (97,535 women compared to 10,208 men).
- » Most foreign children and adolescents who have entered Ecuador come from the United States (409,463), followed by Colombia (212,183) and in third place Venezuela (19,200).
- » The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility records a higher number of children and adolescents, aged 0 to 12 years, seeking refuge (234 compared to 2150 of the total).
- » The Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion records a higher number of unaccompanied or separated adolescents who are mainly of Venezuelan origin (261 out of 283).

15 Information obtenida en INEC, 2022; MREMH, 2023; MREMH-MIES, 2023.







## TOPIC 17

# The child and adolescent rights protection system

### Our opinion

In Ecuador:

- » *There are several institutions at the national and local levels that have the obligation to safeguard the rights of children and adolescents.*

Regarding the way in which the institutions responsible for attending to and caring for the exercise of the rights of children and adolescents have done their work, we believe that:

- » *The National Government has done a bad job because they do not give priority to children and adolescents.*
- » *The Ministries of Inclusion and Health do a good job because they care for children and adolescents, but could do better.*
- » *The Ministries of Education and Justice (now of Women and Human Rights) do a bad job because they do not have sufficient personnel or adequate care services.*
- » *The institutions for human rights defense such as the National Council for Intergenerational Equality, the Ombudsman's Office and the Administration of Justice do a bad job, because people do not even know what they do and in the case of the Administration of Justice there is corruption.*
- » *Regarding prefectures, municipalities and parish governments, their work is good because they have put in place services to assist children and adolescents, and recently they are summoning them to listen to their opinion. There are some local governments whose work is bad, because they do not prioritize children and adolescents by not including them in their work plans.*
- » *Regarding the cantonal councils for the protection of rights, their work is good because they provide training, allow them to express their opinions and include children and adolescents in decision-making and in the drafting of ordinances, and their voice is heard.*
- » *Regarding the cantonal boards for the protection of rights, their work is good because they help children and adolescents solve their problems, enable them to express their opinions, to participate in decision making, and their voice is heard.*
- » *Regarding services, children believe that the work of educational institutions, hospitals, health centers and emergency services such as firefighters, ECU911 and ambulances is bad, because they do not give them answers to their needs or prioritize them.*

### Survey results

**80,39 %**  
(123 out of 153)

Said they were aware of the laws that protect the rights of children and adolescents.



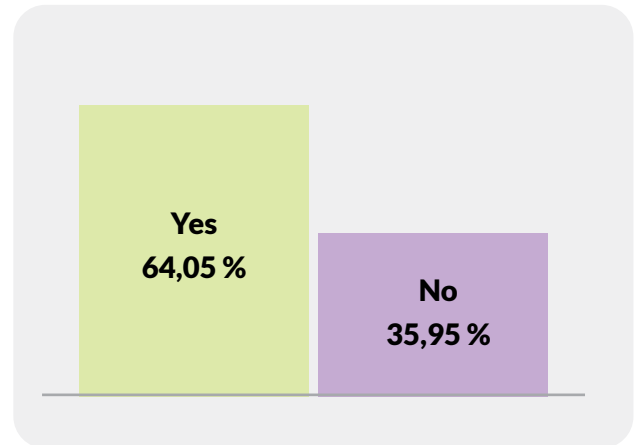
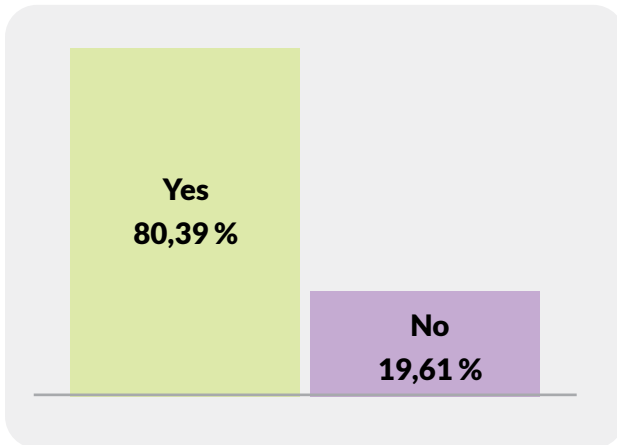
**They know about Government programs and projects to serve girls, boys and adolescents**

**64,05 %**  
(98 out of 153)  
Yes

**35,95 %**  
(55 out of 153)  
No

Percentage who are aware of the laws protecting the rights of children and adolescents.

Percentage who are aware of government projects and programs that address the needs of children and adolescents.



**They know national or local government institutions dedicated to protecting the rights of girls, boys and adolescents**

**68,63 %**  
(105 out of 153)  
Yes

**31,37 %**  
(48 out of 153)  
No

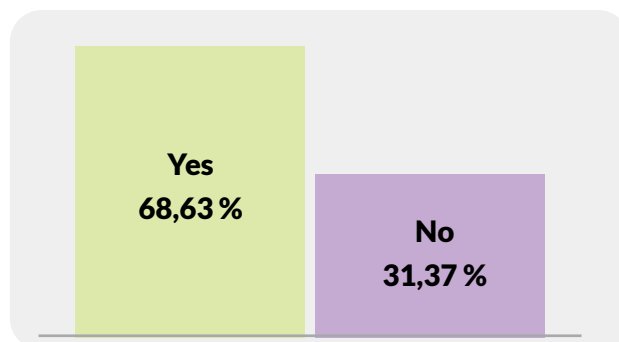
**48,57 %**  
(51 out of 105)

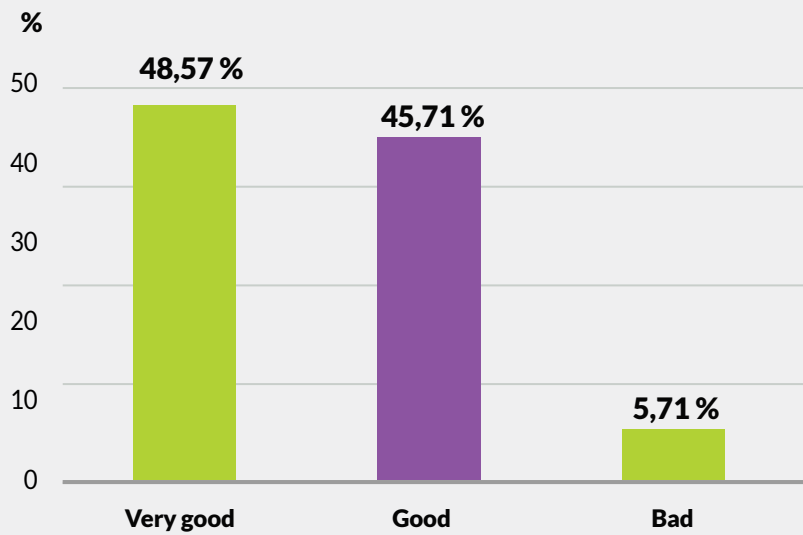
He considers that his work is **very good**.

**45,71 %**  
(48 out of 105)

He considers that his work is **good**.

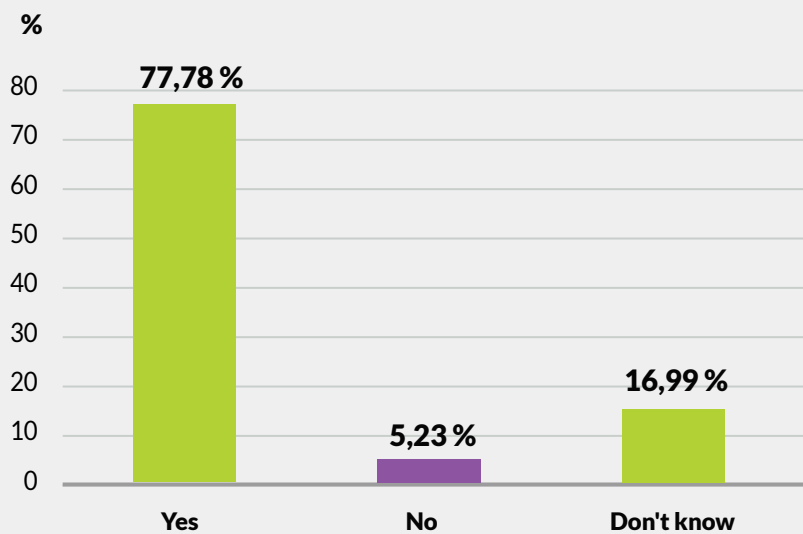
Percentage participants who say they do know government institutions dedicated to protecting the rights of children and adolescents.





**77,78 %**  
(119 out of 153)

of participants (119 out of 153), the national and local government institutions responsible for protecting the rights of children and adolescents should be better and more directly known to this population group.



## Conclusion

For the children and adolescents involved in the Network, not all State institutions responsible for ensuring the rights of children and adolescents adequately fulfill their responsibilities and, in many cases, we do not know what these institutions do. We believe that it is necessary that State institutions make themselves better known directly to children and adolescents.

## 3 Our proposals

In each of the topics that we have prioritized, we propose the following:

### 3.1. Right to health



- » *More medical personnel specifically for children and adolescents, so that they do not have to wait long to be attended.*
- » *Implement health centers close to the communities to cure illnesses.*
- » *Improve the availability of medicines, supplies and trained personnel, committed and sensitive to the wellbeing of children and adolescents.*
- » *Promote the right to health through training and information for children and adolescents.*

### 3.2. Mental health



- » *Access to mental health: ensure that there is adequate access to quality and affordable mental health services for all people, especially children and adolescents. This involves the availability of psychologists, psychiatrists and other mental health professionals in the community.*
- » *Implement early prevention programs that focus on the development of coping, resilience and emotional management skills from an early age. This may include workshops in schools or after-school programs.*
- » *Resilience promotion programs: organize activities that promote resilience and self-care, such as meditation sessions, support groups, group physical activities or stress management workshops.*
- » *Launch awareness campaigns on specific mental health issues, such as depression, anxiety or suicide, to promote awareness, understanding and help-seeking.*
- » *Promote the inclusion of mental health into general health care by ensuring the implementation of regular mental health screenings and that health care providers are trained to detect and treat mental health issues.*
- » *Ensure that LGBTIQ+, ethnic minorities, children and adolescents with disabilities or in crisis situations have access to resources and support appropriate to their needs.*
- » *Develop education and awareness programs: organize talks, workshops and educational activities on mental health in schools, workplaces and communities as a way to help eliminate stigmas and promote understanding and support.*
- » *Implement recreational spaces such as parks, especially in rural areas, because the lack of recreational areas leads to depression and other mental health problems.*
- » *Provide people trained to care for children and adolescents.*

### 3.3 Addictions



- » *Implement recreational and sports activities so that children and adolescents do not fall into addictions, and ensure that there are such spaces in rural areas.*
- » *Improve the ways to combat addictions among children and adolescents.*
- » *Train people who work with children and adolescents so that they can provide care about addictions and then refer patients to mental health professionals who can support them, follow their treatment and, finally, integrate them into participation groups (networks, dance, theater).*
- » *Punish, as indicated by law, those involved in the sale or distribution of substances and follow up those who, due to fashion, consume these substances, in order to give them support.*
- » *Train parents, children and adolescents about the dangers of using this type of substances.*

### 3.4. Sexual and reproductive health



- » *Provide more training to youth, give talks, especially in communities where they do not have the resources to go to school, to prevent teenage pregnancy.*
- » *Give talks in schools to prevent early pregnancy.*
- » *Provide support spaces for single teenage mothers who do not have the resources to support their babies.*

### 3.5. Nutrition and food security



- » *Implement school meals again, prioritizing malnourished children and adolescents in rural areas.*
- » *Listen to children and adolescents affected directly, it can be anonymously, also in health centers in the communities to know what they need.*
- » *Train parents and caregivers on the importance of adequate nutrition from the gestation stage and throughout the development process of children.*
- » *Parents and caregivers should have access to health care (medical brigades) for the proper monitoring of children and adolescents, and for pregnant mothers.*

### 3.6. Decent living and poverty



- » *Creating job opportunities for parents.*
- » *Provide training on entrepreneurship for the families of children and adolescents at the national level.*
- » *Ensure access to the drinking water system, since, due to the consumption of untreated water, children and adolescents may experience complications in their growth and development.*



### 3.7 Environment and Climate Emergency



- » Every effort should be made to protect children and adolescents during disasters and emergencies such as earthquakes.

### 3.8. Right to Education



- » Conduct quality educational programs that help children and adolescents to develop new skills.
- » Follow up on children and adolescents who have dropped out of school so that measures can be taken to get them back to school.
- » Educate parents to give their daughters the opportunity to study.
- » Conduct a study of where schools are needed in the rural sector to find out who has more difficulties in accessing basic or high schools.
- » Establish more educational centers to avoid overcrowding.
- » Provide more security systems in schools.

### 3.9 Connectivity



- » Establish connection points in neighborhoods and communities so that people can connect to the Internet free of charge.
- » Educate parents so that they can manage the internet and support their children because the lack of knowledge makes them feel insecure.

### 3.10 Identity and Identification



- » Implement actions to raise awareness of the fact that people with diverse identities give richness to the country.
- » Officials should prioritize the registration of children and adolescents, for which they should be trained on prioritizing the attention to children and adolescents.

### 3.11. Recreation



- » Promote cultural activities in safe places close to children and adolescents.
- » Promote action plans to define cultural and recreational activities for children and adolescents with members of civil society and the State, ensuring funding to carry them out.
- » Creation of sport facilities and parks within the communities and parishes, and that people learn to take care of them.

### 3.12. Right to participation



- » Authorities should organize opportunities for children and adolescents to be trained to participate, lose their fear of speaking out and express their opinions and decisions.
- » Children and adolescents should be trained on participation tools and their application (empty chair and others).
- » In each public institution there should be spokespersons for children and adolescents, for their direct participation or consultative tables with authorities.
- » The opinions of children and adolescents should be taken into account because they are the ones who experience the real situation in their communities.

### 3.13. Child Labor



- » The government should work more in schools and communities to protect children and adolescents so that they are raised with tenderness.
- » Improve the working conditions of adults so that they do not feel the pressure of sending their children to work.
- » Raise awareness among parents so that they do not send their children to work because it is not good for them.

### 3.14. Violence, Physical Punishment and Maltreatment



- » Surveys should be conducted with children and adolescents so that they can speak out and give their opinions about their problems.
- » Provide safe points in neighborhoods, communities and schools so that they can express their feelings and tell if they are suffering any type of violence or mistreatment, especially in the rural sector.
- » Provide mental health professionals to assist children and adolescents who are victims of abuse and violence.
- » Provide training to prevent violence, so that children and adolescents can grow up in safe environments.

### 3.15. Security



- » Children and adolescents should have safe places to grow up and not join criminal gangs.
- » Conduct many recreational activities so that children and adolescents do not become involved in criminal gangs.
- » That more policemen guard places close to children and adolescents, such as schools, parks and universities.

### 3.16. Human Mobility



- » Community campaigns against xenophobia and discrimination in order to better integrate children and adolescents from other countries and make them feel comfortable in this country.
- » Conduct surveys to learn more about the situation of children and adolescents in human mobility.
- » Implement care services for children and adolescents in mobility, so that they can express what they feel and find solutions to their problems.
- » Include issues of human mobility, prevention of discrimination and xenophobia in the curricula of educational institutions to promote inclusion.

### 3.17. About the rights protection system



- » Be aware of the needs of children and adolescents and actually put into practice the priorities for children and adolescents.
- » To support with campaigns on the rights of children and adolescents, and to raise awareness to take their opinion into account.
- » To improve their functions and obligations and to change strategies so that each institution fulfills its obligation to protect children and adolescents.
- » Ensure that the resources allocated to public institutions are invested in programs that directly benefit children and adolescents, and that information is provided on how this investment is made.
- » Take greater care when appointing positions in public administration to ensure that officials comply with the law and their work, ensuring the rights of children and adolescents.
- » When appointing positions in public institutions, the commitment of individuals to the rights of children and adolescents should be verified.
- » Train people who work with children and adolescents to protect their rights.
- » Inform about the system's institutions and protection mechanisms, so that children and adolescents know where to turn.



# Bibliography

- CNIPN. (2023). *Agenda nacional para la igualdad de los derechos de los pueblos y nacionalidades indígenas, pueblo afroecuatoriano, pueblo montubio. (National Agenda for the Equality of Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Nationalities, Afro-Ecuadorian people, Montubio people). 2021-2025.* Consejo Nacional para la Igualdad de Pueblos y Nacionalidades. <http://www.pueblosynacionalidades.gob.ec/#> <http://www.pueblosynacionalidades.gob.ec/#>
- FGE. (s.f.). *Estadísticas de muertes de mujeres en contexto delictivo. (Statistics of women's deaths in criminal contexts). (Fiscalía General del Estado) (State Attorney General's Office).* Analytical. <https://www.fiscalia.gob.ec/analitica-muertes-de-mujeres-en-contexto-delictivo/>
- INEC. (2010). *Proyecciones poblaciones. Proyección de población por años en edades simples. Período 2010-2020 (Population projections. Population Projection by years in simple ages. Period 2010-2020).* Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos.
- INEC. (2022). *Registro Estadístico de Entradas y Salidas Internacionales. Tabulados y series históricas (Statistical Register of International Arrivals and Departures. Tabulations and historical series).* Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos. <https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/entradas-y-salidas-internacionales/>
- INEC. EDG (2). (2022). *Estadísticas Vitales. Registro Estadístico de Defunciones Generales de 2021. Principales resultados. (Vital Statistics. Statistical Register of General Deaths in 2021. Main Results).* Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos. [https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/webinec/Poblacion\\_y\\_Demografia/Defunciones\\_Generales\\_2021/Principales\\_resultados\\_EDG\\_2021\\_v2.pdf](https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/webinec/Poblacion_y_Demografia/Defunciones_Generales_2021/Principales_resultados_EDG_2021_v2.pdf)
- INEC. EMH. (2020). *Encuesta Nacional Multipropósito de Hogares (seguimiento al Plan Nacional de Desarrollo). Principales resultados. (National Multipurpose Household Survey (follow-up to the National Development Plan. Main Results).* Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos.
- INEC. ENEMDU. (2022). *Tabulados - Encuesta Nacional de Empleo, Desempleo y Subempleo acumulada. Indicadores de mercado laboral, 2019-2022 (Tabulations - National Survey of Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment, accumulated. Labor market indicators, 2019-2022).* Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC). <https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/enemdu-anual/>
- INEC. ENVIGMU. (2019). *Encuesta Nacional sobre relaciones familiares y violencia de género contra las mujeres - ENVIGMU. (National Survey on Family Relations and Gender Violence against Women - ENVIGMU).* Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos. [https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/Estadisticas\\_Sociales/Violencia\\_de\\_genero\\_2019/Principales%20resultados%20ENVIGMU%202019.pdf](https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/Estadisticas_Sociales/Violencia_de_genero_2019/Principales%20resultados%20ENVIGMU%202019.pdf)
- INEC-ENSANUT. (2018). *Encuesta Nacional de Salud y Nutrición- ENSANUT. Principales resultados. (National Health and Nutrition Survey - ENSANUT. Main Results).* Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos.
- INEC-ENV. (2021). *Anuario de estadísticas vitales: Nacidos vivos y defunciones fetales (Vital Statistics Yearbook: Live births and fetal deathd).* Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos. <https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/nacidos-vivos-y-defunciones-fetales/>
- MDT-SUT. (s.f.). *Plan Nacional de Desarrollo (National Development Plan) 2021-2025. SUT. Sistema Único del Trabajo (Single Labor System).* Ministry of Labor. <https://sut.trabajo.gob.ec/mr/contenido/indicadores/indiPlanNacionalDesarrollo.xhtml>
- MREMH. (March 2023). *Sobre refugio. Infografía de solicitantes de refugio por grupo etario y género (About Refugee. Infographic on refugee applicants by age group and gender).* Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility. Statistics on Human Mobility. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/2020/06/18/sobre-refugio-datos-actualizados/>

- MREMH-MIES. (2023). *Menores de Edad (N/A). Registro de no acompañados/separados (Minors (N/A). Registry of unaccompanied/separated minors)*. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility – Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion. Reportaría de Información del Proceso de Regularización (Regularization Process Information Report). <https://bit.ly/41SQ3cp>
- MSP. (2018). *Plan Intersectorial de Alimentación y Nutrición (Intersectoral Food and Nutrition Plan) 2018-2015*. Ministry of Public Health, Vice Ministry of Public Health Governance, Quito.
- MSP. Consulta Externa. (2022). *Consulta Externa (Outpatient Consultation)*. Ministry of Public Health. *Geosalud en cifras. Producción de salud*. Visualizador de estadísticas de salud (Geo-health in figures. Health production. Health statistics viewer). <https://bit.ly/4aOFhYN>
- MSP. Egresos. (2022). *Egresos hospitalarios (Hospital discharges)*. Ministry of Public Health. *Geosalud en cifras. Producción de salud*. Visualizador de estadísticas de salud. (Geo-health in figures. Health production. Health statistics viewer). <https://bit.ly/3ShlsIB>
- MSP. Gazette. (2022). *Gaceta epidemiológica de muerte materna SE 1A SE 52 (Maternal death epidemiological gazette)*. Ministry of Public Health, National Directorate of Epidemiological Surveillance. <https://www.salud.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Gaceta-MM-SE-52.pdf>
- MSP. PND. (2022). *Indicadores PND (PND Indicators) 2021-2025*. Social Axis. Ministry of Public Health. <https://bit.ly/3SdCoJw>
- STECSD. (s/f). ¿Qué es la desnutrición crónica infantil? (What is chronic child malnutrition?) Secretaría Técnica Ecuador Crece Sin Desnutrición Infantil. Noticias Destacadas (Technical Secretariat Ecuador Grows Without Child Malnutrition. Featured News). <https://www.infancia.gob.ec/que-es-la-desnutricion-cronica-infantil/>





EXTINTOR  
Pólvora química seca  
H  
A  
P

SALA  
EMPL

READY  
for life.

YOUTH READY  
for work, for life.




YOUTH READY  
for work, for life.

YOUTH READY  
for work, for life.

YOUTH  
for work



Follow us

-  Red Nacional Wamprakunapak Yuyaykuna
-  @rednacionalwkyk
-  @redWKYK\_ecuador



Learn more about  
the network's work