



**World Vision**

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

# **Learning to See the Climate Crisis**

**Children and Young People's  
Perceptions of Climate Change  
and Environmental Transformation  
in Bosnia & Herzegovina**

Sarajevo, 2023



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## 1- Executive summary

Climate change poses a significant threat to global socioecological systems, with predictions of surpassing critical atmospheric warming thresholds by 2040. Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) faces intensifying climate challenges, including rising temperatures and extreme weather events. Economic and infrastructural constraints, compounded by a 40% unemployment rate and past conflict damages, hinder adaptation. The devastating 2014 floods exemplify these climate threats. Although agriculture is vital for the country, it is vulnerable due to various factors. BiH's significant biodiversity and forestry sectors also face growing climate-related risks.

Amidst these transformations, it is crucial to recognize that children and young people will bear the brunt of the changing climate. As the future stewards of the environment and the upcoming decision-makers, their perspectives and actions are pivotal in addressing the climate crisis effectively. This research aims to explore how children and young people in Bosnia & Herzegovina conceptualize environmental knowledge as a process of "figuring out." It specifically investigates their level of concern about climate change, their understanding of its consequences and impacts on their lives, and their preparedness to cope with climate-related disasters. Additionally, the study explores the extent of children and young people's engagement with climate change as a pressing issue. It investigates their role as climate change agents and assesses their ability to navigate the challenges posed by climate change while envisioning their futures amidst various social complexities. Beyond examining the views of the younger generation, we also delve into the perceptions of adults and older generations regarding climate change to establish a comprehensive societal viewpoint

Through a mixed-method design, this research delved into the perceptions of climate change among children, adolescents and young people in Bosnia & Herzegovina. Employing both qualitative key informant interviews and quantitative surveys, data was gathered from a convenient sample representing diverse communities where World Vision has active programs for children and youth.

### Knowledge on Climate Change

Children in Bosnia and Herzegovina have a moderate understanding of climate change, often visualizing extreme weather patterns. Adolescents show slightly more knowledge and concern, associating the term with observable impacts and broader issues like rising sea levels. Young adults, while demonstrating the highest concern levels, connect climate change to both immediate environmental changes and wider global trends. Across all age groups, there is a mix of direct experiences with climate effects and more general concerns, highlighting varied personal connections to the issue.

Teachers remain pivotal in imparting climate change knowledge across all age demographics. However, while children's understanding often stems from classroom learning and family dialogues, adolescents increasingly rely on digital platforms like Instagram. Young adults exhibit a blend of formal educational experiences and online media influence, with notable figures like Greta Thunberg shaping their perceptions. Alarming, despite the myriad of sources, there is a pronounced gap in understanding the psychological implications of climate change, signaling a pressing need for comprehensive climate education.

Children, adolescents, and young adults in Bosnia & Herzegovina demonstrate a profound awareness of the main contributors to climate change. Children predominantly highlight the role of the industry

sector, waste incineration, and transportation, while adolescents emphasize heating and construction as significant factors. Young adults have a more comprehensive view, tying in electricity production, heating, and transportation. Across all groups, the consensus is that human actions are major drivers of climate change, though there is also acknowledgment of natural processes playing a role.

Children, adolescents, and young people in Bosnia & Herzegovina express significant concerns about the negative impacts of climate change on their lives, with particular emphasis on health, education, and societal implications. Across all age groups, health issues like malnutrition and illness were consistently recognized. While children highlight dangers from environmental calamities, adolescents focus on mental health and societal repercussions. Meanwhile, young people emphasize both immediate and long-term societal challenges.

Across all age groups in Bosnia & Herzegovina, there is a notable understanding of the key activities that can help mitigate climate change. From walking and cycling to recycling and responsible water usage, there is a prevalent recognition of the significance of sustainable practices. However, certain areas like public transport and sustainable fashion need more emphasis in raising awareness.

### **Practice and taking actions to mitigate climate change**

The survey showcases a commendable motivation level among children, adolescents, and young people in Bosnia & Herzegovina to act on environmental concerns. Love for wildlife and a desire to ensure a better future for upcoming generations serve as potent motivators. However, challenges persist. Many feel that they lack the capability for meaningful change, and there is a significant percentage across all groups who are not clear about the reasons for their demotivation. While external factors like community support and financial constraints are vital, internal motivations and awareness of the urgency of the climate crisis play a pivotal role.

The data presents a promising outlook on the engagement levels of children, adolescents, and young people in Bosnia & Herzegovina in environmental preservation. Each age group shows a commendable commitment to various eco-friendly practices, but they also have areas where improvement is needed. Their reflections highlight a shared sentiment of collective responsibility, sustainable living, and the importance of education and awareness in shaping a greener future.

The data provides a compelling perspective on disaster preparedness and information sources across different age groups. A considerable proportion of respondents lack specific disaster preparedness strategies, although several acknowledge the role of education in this area. As for acquiring knowledge on climate change, both traditional and modern sources come into play, but with varying preferences across age groups.

### **Mental health and climate emotions**

The emotional repercussions of climate change across children, adolescents, and young adults reflect deep concern, sadness, and a sense of responsibility. From the children's empathy for global consequences to adolescents' anxiety about the future and young adults' mix of despair and hope, there is a clear mental toll on the younger population due to global warming.

### Perception of response to climate change

A large fraction of children, adolescents, and young adults feel their climate concerns are disregarded or misrepresented by the government, with many believing the government's actions are ineffective or deceptive. Despite the prevailing mistrust, some still hold faith in the government's commitment to protect the youth from climate impacts. Adolescents view climate action as a shared responsibility, with emphasis on the government's regulatory role. Meanwhile, young adults want climate issues prioritized over geopolitical concerns and stress the importance of environmental education.

Adolescents and young people highlight the role of NGOs in harnessing both traditional and modern approaches to engage with the youth on climate change. While education is the primary role emphasized for child-focused NGOs, using interactive teaching methods is key. Young people emphasize direct engagement through surveys and peer-to-peer interactions. Overall, NGOs are expected to not just educate, but also inspire, mobilize, and amplify youth voices in decision-making processes.

### The intergenerational perception of climate change

Caregivers acknowledge human actions, like fossil fuel consumption and deforestation, as major contributors to climate change, with some noting the disproportionate effects on vulnerable populations. They also recognize the impact of technology and the generational divide in addressing the issue. Their views on the future are diverse, from stability to pessimism. On actions taken, responses vary from lack of engagement to proactive steps inspired by younger generations and support for youth-led initiatives.

### Key recommendations

Based on the findings, World Vision calls for urgent and collaborative action to address the challenges posed by climate change in BiH. World Vision recognizes the critical role of children, adolescents, and young people in shaping a sustainable future. Therefore, World Vision advocates for the following actions:

- **Enhance Comprehensive Climate Education:** Ensure that children, adolescents, and young adults receive holistic education on climate change, including its psychological implications, its causes, impacts, and mitigation strategies.
- **Boost Youth Engagement:** Encourage and support youth-led initiatives, ensuring their voices resonate in decision-making corridors. Harness both traditional and digital platforms for engagement.
- **Strengthen Disaster Preparedness:** Implement programs that teach disaster preparedness strategies to all age groups, emphasizing the role of education.
- **Prioritize Mental Health Support:** Recognize and address the mental toll of climate change on the younger generation, providing counseling and support services.
- **Enhance Trust and Collaboration with the Government:** Promote transparency and active participation in governmental climate actions, ensuring that concerns of the youth are addressed adequately.

## Key findings on knowledge

### Children:

- Moderate understanding: 4.29/10; associate climate change with extreme weather.
- Mixed perceptions: some see human-induced pollution, others lack personal connections.
- Main sources: Teachers and family dialogues.
- Variance in exposure: Some learn in school, others rely on internet or lack formal exposure.
- 94.4% identify the industry sector as the top climate change contributor, followed by waste incineration (90.1%) and transport (89.4%).
- 42.2% believe climate change is primarily due to human actions, 10.8% attribute it to natural factors, and 45.8% see it as a combination of both.
- Recognize land deterioration (61%), illness (51.5%), and malnutrition (50%).
- Understand impacts on mental health (40%) and see links between climate change and child marriage.
- Understand the positive impact of walking/cycling (72.3%), recycling (63.3%), and water conservation (51.9%).
- Need more awareness on the benefits of public transport (36%) and donating clothes (34.1%).

### Adolescents:

- Elevated understanding: 5.41/10; concern at 5.53/10.
- Diverse views: from weather changes to rising sea levels; many recall Sarajevo floods.
- Schools and digital platforms, like Instagram, are vital.
- Sentiment: Recognize the situation's gravity and call for early, in-depth education.
- 92.1% emphasize the industry sector's role, with waste incineration (90.5%) and heating (87.7%) also noted as key contributors.
- 49.5% attribute climate change to human activities, 12.6% to natural phenomena, and 37.9% see it as a result of both.
- Highlight concerns on malnutrition (51.6%), illness (55.3%), and significant mental health issues, especially anxiety (70.8%).
- Note effects on school attendance and express concerns about societal challenges like economic decline.
- Recognize walking/cycling (49.7% avg.), recycling (59.8%), and tree planting (73.9%) as significant mitigation measures.
- Require more knowledge on public transport (25.8%), air travel reduction (37.3%), and sustainable fashion (26.1%).

### Young People:

- Highest concern: 6.06/10; knowledge at 5.54/10.
- Varied insights: From local environmental shifts to global impacts, many feel disconnected from direct impacts.
- Schools and digital platforms, like Instagram, are vital.
- Sentiment: Recognize the situation's gravity and call for early, in-depth education.
- Industry sector (95.7%) and waste incineration (97.8%) remain dominant concerns, but there is an increased focus on electricity production (90.7%).
- 40.4% view climate change as human-induced, 10.6% as natural, and 48.9% believe it is a mix of both human and natural causes.
- Express concerns about malnutrition (52.8%), illness (46.5%), and long-term impacts like economic decline (50%).
- Recognize potential societal tensions from climate change and have a more even view on gendered impacts.
- Highlight the importance of recycling (64.4%), water conservation (69.6%), and planting (76.1%).
- See areas like walking (27.7%), public transport (28.3%), and sustainable fashion (28.2%) as having a lower impact.

## Key findings on Practice

### Children:

- Motivation: 79% are either strongly or somewhat motivated.
- Key Drivers: Love for wildlife (35.3%) and ensuring a better life for future generations (28.1%).
- Challenges: 23.5% feel they can't effect meaningful change; 52.9% don't specify a reason
- Engagement: 81.7% engage in environmental preservation.
- Noteworthy Practices: Preference for walking (73%), good water consumption habits (40%), and raising environmental awareness (34%).
- Areas for Improvement: Waste sorting (18%) and reduced use of plastic bags (17%).
- Reflections: Showcases a proactive approach, emphasizing waste management, sustainable transportation, and the importance of green spaces.

### Adolescents:

- Motivation: 77% are either strongly or somewhat motivated.
- Key Drivers: Love for wildlife (51.6%) and better future for next generations (34.3%). Personal beliefs also matter for 14.3%.
- Challenges: Community and financial support are crucial. 61.9% don't specify a reason for demotivation
- Engagement: 69% actively participate in eco-friendly actions.
- Noteworthy Practices: Walking (76%), consuming organic food regularly (14%) and often (19%), and waste sorting (31% combined regular and often).
- Areas for Improvement: Only 13% actively spread environmental awareness.
- Reflections: Blend of activism, conscious consumption, and importance of early education. A push towards collective action and acknowledging the impacts of climate change on both genders.

### Young People:

- Motivation: 73.9% are motivated.
- Key Drivers: Love for wildlife (35.3%), future generations (35.3%), and personal beliefs (17.6%).
- Challenges: 33.3% feel they cannot effect change; another 33.3% do not specify a reason for demotivation. Individual influence and societal pressure influence their motivation levels.
- Engagement: 75.6% are actively involved in environmental actions.
- Noteworthy Practices: Walking as a means of transportation (79.2%), effective water consumption (33.3%), and waste sorting (39.6%).
- Areas for Improvement: Garbage collection (6.3%) and composting (10.4%).
- Reflections: Highlight collective actions, conscious consumption, and the need for more visibility on youth-led environmental initiatives. Emphasizing the universal impact of climate change on all genders.

### Preparedness to disaster:

- Unprepared Population: Around 40% across all age groups do not have specific disaster preparedness measures in place.
- Role of Education: Around 40% of children and adolescents and 27.1% of young people highlight the importance of education in disaster preparedness.
- Family Emergency Plans: 22% of children, 30.6% of adolescents, and 22.9% of young people have them.
- Disaster Kits: Only about one-fifth to one-third of each age group have a disaster kit.
- Evacuation Drills: Approximately a quarter of participants across all age groups practice

### Preferred Sources of Information on Climate Change:

- Children and Adolescents: Majorly depend on the school curriculum, books, and youth groups.
- Young People: Prefer lectures, followed by workshops, websites, and youth groups.
- Scientific Journals and Papers: These are not popular among any age group.

**Key findings on Climate Emotions:****Children:**

- Display a blend of personal inconvenience and deep empathy towards global climate issues.
- Express desires to make positive changes and find relief in discussing their feelings about the environment.

**Adolescents**

- Exhibit a strong connection between their emotional well-being and the environment, particularly about long-term survival.
- Some experience tangible repercussions of climate change on their mental health, while others feel the weight of responsibility to find solutions.

**Young people**

- Express a spectrum of emotions from deep concern to detachment, with some channeling their anxieties into proactive actions.
- Social support emerges as crucial, with many seeking empowerment in affecting change and grappling with the crisis's magnitude.

**Key findings on the perception of the response to climate change:****Children:**

- 30.3% feel their climate concerns are overlooked.
- 45.9% are distressed over their worries being dismissed, and a significant 60.3% feel the government is betraying them.

**Adolescents**

- 25.7% express dissatisfaction with the recognition of their climate concerns.
- There's a strong sentiment for collective responsibility and trust in regulatory powers, yet a significant 64.4% feel betrayed by the government.
- They believe in blending traditional methods like surveys and interviews with modern digital platforms for engagement.
- For child-centric NGOs, there is a significant push for educational content, emphasizing proactive, engaging methods.

**Young people**

- 10.9% find governmental actions inadequate, with a hefty 84.6% feeling betrayed.
- There is a strong call for prioritizing climate issues over other geopolitical concerns and the emphasis on increased climate education.
- They stress direct engagement via digital and face-to-face surveys and see potential in peer-to-peer interactions.
- There is a call for NGOs to focus on proactive community actions, educational programs, and ensuring youth voices influence decision-making processes.

**Key findings on the intergenerational perception of climate change:**

- Majority believe human actions significantly contribute to climate change.
- Some emphasize the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable groups.
- There's a sentiment that technological advancement, while beneficial, exacerbates the climate crisis.
- An intergenerational divide exists, with older generations possibly not acting as per their environmental advocacy.
- Engagement levels vary: from no action, adoption of eco-friendly practices inspired by youth, to active support for youth-led initiatives.



## 2- Introduction

Climate change is often said to be the defining issue of our time. Indeed, climate change threatens the stability of socioecological systems around the globe and requires unprecedented societal transformation now. The urgency of the issue is apparent when considering the latest Special Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which warns that by 2040 global atmospheric warming could exceed 1.5°C beyond preindustrial levels<sup>1</sup>. Crossing this critical threshold is now linked to triggering the most catastrophic social and environmental consequences of a changing climate.

Future climate trends in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) suggest rising temperatures, intensified extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, and heatwaves, and fluctuating rainfall patterns with reduced levels during the summer. The nation's ability to adapt is constrained by several factors including a significant segment of its population nearing poverty, a high joblessness rate at 40%, lingering damages from past conflicts to its infrastructure, inadequate data on the climate's impact on societal, health, and environmental aspects, and a shortfall in technological advancement. The uptick in the occurrence and severity of natural disasters is noticeable. The 2014 flooding events in BiH stand as a testament to the climate risks, causing the tragic loss of over 20 lives, displacing approximately 90,000 residents, and incurring damages worth billions of dollars<sup>2</sup>.

Although agriculture makes up only 7.6% of BiH's GDP, it employs 20% of its labor force and is crucial for rural food security. The sector's resilience to climate change is weakened by limited productivity, inferior soil, and predominantly small plots<sup>1</sup>. BiH has abundant water resources but lacks comprehensive flow and weather data. Infrastructure issues, intensified by war damages and land mines, are compounded by climate challenges. Heat-related deaths are a rising concern in the Balkans. BiH also struggles with predominant circulatory and cancer deaths and lacks a clear climate-related health strategy. Despite only 5% protection, BiH boasts significant biodiversity which faces climate threats. Forestry, integral to the economy, is also at risk<sup>2</sup>.

Against that backdrop, **the aim of this study was to explore how children and young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina come to articulate environmental knowledge as a process of “figuring out”** more specifically the research explored children and young people's level of concern on climate change, level of knowledge on the consequence and impact of climate change on their lives and level of preparedness to climate change disaster.

**The research also explored the extent to which children and young people engage or a ready to engage with the changing climate as a matter of concern.** More specifically the research explored children and young people's action on the climate crisis as climate change agents and to what extent they are equipped to navigate climate change and to envision their futures amid multiple social challenges.

In addition to listening to the voices of children and young people, this research also sought to explore how perceptions of climate change vary across different generations. By examining the views and

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<sup>1</sup> IPCC (2018) <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

<sup>2</sup> USAID (2016) Climate Change Risk in Bosnia & Herzegovina <https://www.climatelinks.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/2016%20CRM%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%20Bosnia%20%28003%29.pdf>

attitudes of adults and older generations, a comprehensive understanding of the broader societal outlook on climate change could be attained.

By examining these factors, this research endeavored to generate valuable insights into the perception of climate change among children and young people in BiH. This knowledge will inform targeted interventions, policies, and strategies to empower and engage the younger generation in climate change mitigation and environmental conservation efforts.

## 3- Methodology

### Research Design

This research utilized a mixed-method design, combining quantitative and qualitative data collection methods. The integration of both approaches provided a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of children and young people's perceptions of climate change. The quantitative data allowed for the examination of trends and patterns, while the qualitative data provided rich insights into individual experiences, perceptions, and responses.

### Sample Size and Data Collection Tools

To gather quantitative and qualitative data from children, adolescent and young people, a range of research tools were employed, including surveys and key informant interviews:

1. Survey: Three surveys, one for children, one for adolescents and another one for young people were administered to collect quantitative insights on the perception of climate change. The sample included 100 children aged 8-11, 100 adolescents aged 12-17, and 48 young women and men aged 18-24, selected conveniently from urban and rural communities in BiH
2. Key Informant interviews with children: 8 KIIs were conducted with girls and boys from rural and urban communities in BiH
3. Key informant interviews with adolescent: 4 KIIs were conducted with girls and boys from rural and urban communities in BiH
4. Key Informant interviews with young people: 4 KIIs were conducted with young women and men from Rural and Urban communities in BiH
5. KIIs were conducted with 3 caregivers to explore the intergenerational impact of climate change.

### Sampling Strategy

The researchers selected participants by convenience from various urban and rural communities in BiH where World Vision has existing programs for children and youth. The decision to use convenient sampling may have been influenced by several factors:

- Access to Participants: World Vision's existing programs for children and youth in BiH provided easy access to potential participants. It allowed the researchers to directly engage with the target population without the need for extensive outreach efforts.

- Time and Resource Constraints: Conducting research in diverse communities can be time-consuming and resource-intensive. Convenient sampling allows researchers to collect data efficiently and quickly without the need for extensive planning and logistics.
- Feasibility: BiH's geography and demographics might pose challenges in reaching a representative sample using other sampling methods. Convenient sampling allowed researchers to work within their limitations and still obtain valuable insights from the targeted population.

### **Data Collection**

Data collection for this study involved the use of both surveys and Key Informant Interviews, which were administered through a combination of phone and face-to-face interviews. The survey was designed to collect quantitative data and was administered through MS Forms and was conducted either over the phone or in person, depending on the preferences and accessibility of the participants. The KIIs, on the other hand, aimed to gather qualitative insights and were conducted using face-to-face interactions to ensure the comfort for the participant throughout the process.

The utilization of both phone and face-to-face interviews allowed for flexibility in data collection, accommodating the diverse circumstances and geographical locations of the participants. It ensured that data could be gathered effectively while respecting the participants' preferences and maintaining the highest ethical standards.

Furthermore, a participatory approach was employed during the data collection process for KIIs. This approach involved the use of vignettes and short stories to engage participants and encourage their active participation in sharing their experiences and perspectives. Vignettes, which are fictional but realistic scenarios, were presented to participants to stimulate discussions and reflections on climate change-related issues. These vignettes provided a platform for participants to express their thoughts, emotions, and personal narratives related to the impact of climate change on their lives. This method facilitated a deeper understanding of their individual stories, enabling a more nuanced analysis and interpretation of the data collected.

### **Data Analysis**

The collected data from the survey tools, which were administered through Microsoft Forms, was transferred to SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) for data analysis. The analysis of the survey data involved conducting descriptive analysis using SPSS. This included examining frequencies, distributions, and percentages of the responses provided by the participants. The quantitative insights obtained from the survey were crucial in understanding the prevalence and patterns of various aspects related to perceptions of climate change.

Regarding the KIIs a thematic analysis approach was employed to analyze the qualitative data. Thematic analysis involved identifying recurring themes, patterns, and concepts within the interview transcripts. This process allowed for a comprehensive exploration of the participants' experiences, perceptions, and perspectives on climate change and its consequences.

To ensure the robustness and credibility of the findings, a triangulation approach was employed, whereby data from multiple sources were combined and analyzed. The survey data and the thematic analysis of the KIIs were triangulated providing a rich and nuanced understanding of the impact of climate change on children, adolescents, and young people.

## **Ethical Considerations**

Ethical considerations were paramount throughout the research process to ensure the protection and well-being of all participants, particularly children and young people. Prior to data collection, a comprehensive informed consent process was followed, where participants were provided with a clear explanation of the research objectives, procedures, potential risks and benefits, and their rights to voluntary participation and withdrawal. Consent forms were obtained from all participants, and for children and adolescents, additional consent was sought from their caregivers or legal guardians.

To uphold the principles of safeguarding, measures were implemented to ensure the physical and emotional safety of participants. Confidentiality and anonymity were maintained by assigning unique identifiers to each participant, and all personal information was kept secure and accessible only to authorized researchers. Participants were assured that their responses would be treated with the utmost respect and used solely for research purposes.

In cases where the research unveiled sensitive information or disclosed instances of harm or distress, appropriate referral pathways were established. These referral processes aimed to prioritize the well-being and welfare of participants and mitigate any potential harm that may arise from their involvement in the research.

The ethical considerations surrounding this study were guided by internationally recognized ethical guidelines, ensuring the highest standards of research integrity and respect for human rights. The research team remained committed to upholding ethical practices throughout the entire research process, from data collection to analysis and dissemination of findings. By prioritizing informed consent, safeguarding measures, and referral protocols, the study aimed to protect the rights, dignity, and well-being of all participants, fostering a research environment that adhered to ethical principles and promoted trust and respect.

## **Limitations**

While this study aimed to provide valuable insights into children and young people's perceptions of climate change in BiH, it is important to acknowledge certain limitations that may have influenced the findings and interpretations.

Firstly, convenient sampling may not represent the broader population accurately. It may introduce bias, as participants were selected based on their proximity to World Vision programs rather than through a random or systematic approach. The findings from a convenience sample might not be applicable to the entire population of children and youth in BiH. The study's results should be interpreted as reflective of the specific communities where data was collected, rather than being generalized to the entire country. Moreover, researchers have limited control over the characteristics of the sample in convenient sampling. This can affect the study's internal validity, as the sample might not adequately represent the diversity of the population.

Secondly, the data collection relied on self-reported information obtained through surveys and interviews. While efforts were made to ensure the accuracy and honesty of responses, there may have been biases or recall errors that could have influenced the data. Participants' perceptions and experiences are subjective, and their responses may have been influenced by various factors such as social desirability or personal interpretation.

Lastly, external factors such as time constraints, resource limitations, and contextual challenges may have impacted the research process and potentially affected the comprehensiveness and depth of the study's findings. These limitations were taken into consideration when interpreting the results and applying them to policy or practice.

Despite these limitations, the study contributes valuable insights into children and young people's perception of climate change in BiH. It highlights the importance of further research and interventions to foster a deeper understanding of climate change among children and young people and empower them to become active agents of change in environmental conservation and sustainability.

## 4- Findings/ Discussion

### 4.1 Socio-demographic characteristics

The gender distribution among the surveyed children and young people was relatively balanced, with each age group consisting of roughly equal proportions of males and females. The marital status of young people varied, with the majority being single. A considerable percentage of surveyed children and young people resided in urban areas (Table 1).

Family situations varied among surveyed children and young people, with some living in single-parent households, and others in households headed by females. A small percentage belonged to minority groups. Moreover, a notable number of surveyed children and young people had family members with disabilities or chronically ill, while a notable portion comprised families with elderly members (Table 1).

The study also explored surveyed children and young people's engagement in youth groups, revealing varying levels of participation among different age groups. While a substantial proportion of surveyed children and young people were not involved in youth groups, a notable number had participated in the past or were currently members especially in World Vision Youth clubs and Impact clubs (Table 1).

All surveyed children and adolescents are enrolled in formal education mainly in the primary or secondary levels. However, among surveyed young people, a diverse range of education levels was observed, with some having attained high school completion or post-secondary qualifications (Table 1).

Regarding employment, the majority of surveyed young people were not currently employed, with only 31.1% being employed (Table 1).

Variables		Children	Adolescent	Young people
<b>Total Sample</b>		<b>N=100</b>	<b>N=100</b>	<b>N=48</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Male	49.0%	48.0%	50.0%
	Female	51.0%	52.0%	50.0%
<b>Marital status</b>	Single			89.6%
	Married			8.3%
	Widowed			-
	Divorced			2.1%
	Separated			-

<b>Community</b>	Urban	74.0%	76.0%	72.9%
	Rural	26.0%	24.0%	27.1%
<b>Family situation</b>	Single father/ mother	15.0%	16.0%	12.5%
	Female heading household	17.0%	14.0%	16.7%
	Members from minority groups	10.0%	9.0%	0.0%
	Unaccompanied minors	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Members with physical disability	0.0%	1.0%	4.2%
	Members with psychosocial disability	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Members with intellectual disability	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Members chronically ill	6.0%	3.0%	12.5%
	Elderly members	13.0%	18.0%	18.8%
Other	0.0%	0.0%	-	
<b>Participation in youth groups</b>	No	91.0%	79.0%	66.7%
	Yes	2.0%	12.0%	10.4%
	Not currently but participated in the past	7.0%	9.0%	22.9%
<b>Enrollment in formal education</b>	No	-	-	25.0%
	Yes	100.0%	100.0%	75.0%
<b>Current level for children enrolled in formal education</b>	Primary	100.0%	41.0%	
	Intermediate	-	-	
	Secondary	-	56.0%	
	Finished high school	-	-	
	Technical/ vocational	-	3.0%	
<b>Highest level of education attained for children not enrolled in formal education and young people</b>	None	-	-	-
	Primary	-	-	10.4%
	Intermediate	-	-	-
	Secondary	-	-	8.3%
	Finished high school	-	-	62.5%
	Post-secondary	-	-	12.5%
	Technical/ vocational	-	-	6.3%
<b>Employment</b>	No			68.9%
	Yes			31.1%

Table 1: Socio-demographic characteristics of children, adolescents and young people

## 4.2 Knowledge

### 4.2.1 General Knowledge on Climate Change

Among the children surveyed, the average self-rated score for their knowledge about climate change was 4.29 out of 10. This suggests that children have a moderate level of understanding about the topic. The findings also indicated that children expressed a notable level of concern about climate change, with an average self-rated score of 5.09 out of 10 (Figure 1).

When the phrase "climate change" is mentioned, many children immediately visualize extreme weather patterns, from relentless sunshine to unending rainfall. A 10-year-old boy commented, "When I hear the term climate change, I think of rain falling or sun shining all the time," while an 11-year-old girl

associated it with "a lot of sun" and shifts between "heat and cold." These reflections suggest that many youngsters perceive climate change as a sequence of heightened meteorological events. Yet, a more nuanced understanding was evident when another boy remarked that climate change makes him think of the "pollution of nature and the environment," highlighting an awareness of the human-induced factors driving these global shifts. When asked if they knew anyone affected by climate change, children's responses varied. Some shared firsthand stories, like a friend's neighbor with a storm-damaged roof. Others expressed emotional reactions, such as sadness over a flooded city. However, a few admitted unfamiliarity with anyone directly impacted, highlighting diverse levels of personal connections to the issue.

When it comes to the adolescent age group, the average self-rated score for knowledge about climate change increases to 5.41 out of 10. This suggests that adolescents have a slightly higher level of understanding compared to children. Additionally, their concern about climate change is more pronounced, with an average self-rated score of 5.53 out of 10 (Figure 1).

Responses to the term "climate change" span a wide spectrum of perspectives among adolescents. A 17-year-old boy directly associates it with "changes in weather," showcasing its observable impact. A 16-year-old girl broadens the perspective, linking it to lifestyle shifts and changes in nature. Delving deeper, a 15-year-old girl pinpoints specific issues like "melting ice and rising sea levels." Highlighting the generational concern, a 16-year-old boy accentuates the global future, underscoring the challenges youth will face not just in Bosnia & Herzegovina but globally. Many respondents don't feel directly hit by climate change but recognize its broader impacts, especially after local disasters like floods. As a boy shared, "The floods in Sarajevo threatened many people I know."

And lastly, in terms of the young people surveyed, the average self-rated score for knowledge about climate change is 5.54 out of 10. Moreover, young people demonstrated the highest level of concern amongst the age groups, with an average self-rated score of 6.06 out of 10 (Figure 1).

The term "climate change" resonates differently among young adults, drawing connections to both immediate environmental shifts and broader, long-term impacts. A 23-year-old woman perceives it in terms of polluted air, deteriorating health, and altered natural landscapes. On the other hand, an 18-year-old woman's perspective gravitates towards the overarching theme of global warming, while still acknowledging localized climatic deviations. For a 24-year-old man, the real-time deviations in weather patterns, such as unseasonal temperature fluctuations, encapsulate the essence of climate change. Collectively, their insights showcase an intertwining of localized experiences with overarching global trends, painting a comprehensive picture of the climate crisis. It is important to note that many young adults haven't felt the direct impacts of climate change, implying a disconnect between global awareness and localized experiences. As one woman stated, "I haven't been affected by climate change and I don't know anyone who has."

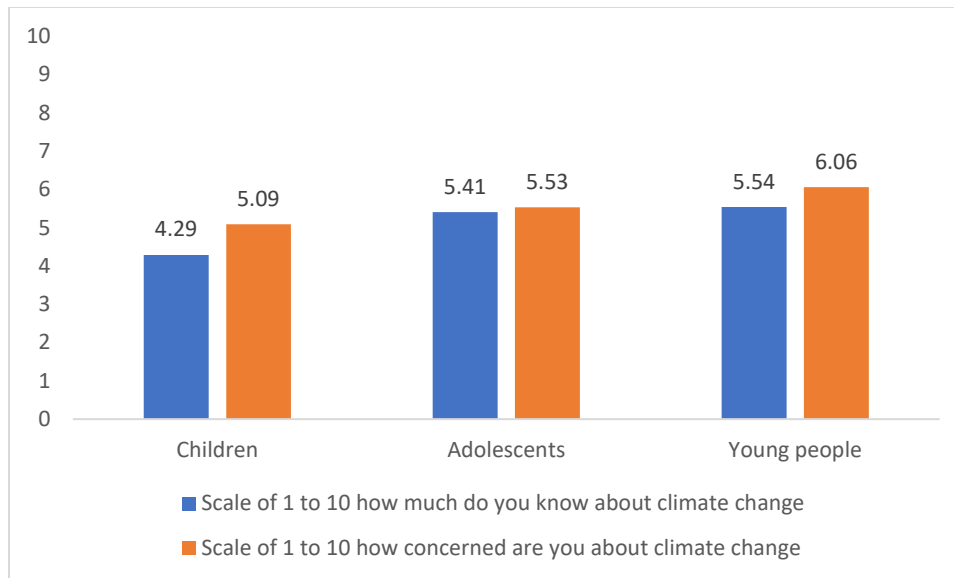


Figure 1 Children and young people's general knowledge and concerns over climate change

#### 4.2.2 Sources for knowledge's acquisition on climate change

The study examined the sources from which children, adolescents, and young people in Bosnia & Herzegovina acquire their knowledge about climate change. Teachers emerged as the primary source of climate change knowledge for the participants across all three age groups. The media was another prominent source of climate change information for all age groups, particularly for surveyed adolescents and young people. Family members also proved to be influential in providing knowledge about climate change. Peers and books played a more limited role as a source of climate change knowledge. (Figure 2).

The exposure of children to the subject of climate change is inconsistent. Some have been formally introduced to the topic in school, suggesting that it's integrated into certain curriculums. Yet, the depth of this coverage is mixed. While a few recall learning about broader weather patterns, others have been taught more specific aspects of climate change. Alarming, a 10-year-old boy mentioned having no exposure to the topic due to not attending school yet. Beyond the classroom, other avenues like the internet and family dialogues serve as vital touchpoints for climate change education. For instance, a 10-year-old girl has gleaned information from online sources and conversations with her parents. Such variances underline the importance of ensuring consistent, comprehensive climate education both inside and outside of schools.

The feedback from adolescents underscores the instrumental role schools play in imparting knowledge on climate change. While classrooms, particularly geography lessons as cited by a 17-year-old boy, emerge as foundational sources of climate awareness, there's a burgeoning influence of digital platforms in this educational matrix. A 16-year-old girl's acknowledgment that her understanding largely stems from online platforms, including Instagram and media outlets, emphasizes the burgeoning role of the digital age in climate education. Yet, what resonates is not just the sources but the sentiments towards this education. Many young individuals, as seen from a 16-year-old boy's comment, recognize the gravity of the situation and believe in early awareness, advocating for its inclusion in the curriculum for even younger students. This sentiment is both a call to action and a reflection of their own



experiences, as some believe that while schools do touch upon the topic, the coverage may lack depth and comprehensiveness, leading to a reliance on alternative information sources.

The educational exposure of young adults to climate change appears varied. While a 23-year-old woman recalls structured lessons on the topic, others mention ad-hoc discussions initiated by proactive teachers. For a 24-year-old man, formal education provided limited climate change insight, largely relegated to broader ecological contexts. Beyond schools, media, especially online platforms, has played a pivotal role in shaping understanding. Personalities like Greta Thunberg have notably influenced youth perceptions. However, there is a pronounced gap in awareness regarding the psychological implications of climate change. Many, including an 18-year-old woman, were unfamiliar with the mental health aspects until recently. This suggests an imperative to bolster climate education, ensuring a comprehensive understanding that spans both its environmental and psychological impacts.

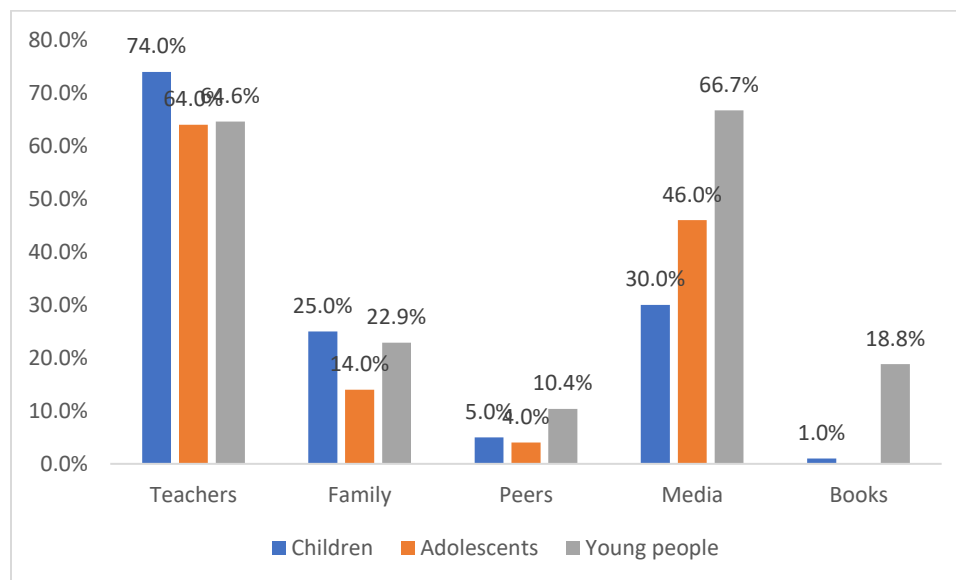


Figure 2 Children and young people’s sources of knowledge on climate change

#### 4.2.3 Perceptions of main contributors to climate change

For surveyed children, the industry sector stood out as the most significant contributor to climate change, with 94.4% identifying it as a main culprit. The incineration of waste followed closely, with 90.1% of children perceiving it as a significant contributor. The transport also garnered considerable attention among children, with 89.4% recognizing its impact on climate change (Figure 3). Furthermore, heating and construction was also identified by children as major contributors with 75.5% and 71.7% respectively. Among the surveyed children, a significant percentage (42.2%) believe that climate change is predominantly caused by human factors. In contrast, a smaller percentage (10.8%) attribute climate change to natural phenomenon. Moreover, a significant number of children (45.8%) perceive climate change as a result of both human actions and natural processes (Figure 4).

The children's insights during KIIs underscore a profound grasp of how human activities are intrinsically tied to climate change. Evidently, observable consequences, like vehicle emissions and factory smog, stand out as primary indicators for many of them. This observation, exemplified by one 10-year-old boy's mention of "gases, fire, black smoke, cars, and toxic fumes", reveals a tangible, visual linkage to environmental degradation. The repeated mention of factories and vehicular pollution across the

responses emphasizes the visibility of these contributors in their everyday lives. An 11-year-old girl's concern about waste, both its improper disposal and the act of burning it, sheds light on the children's broader understanding of environmental harm, extending beyond just atmospheric changes. Moreover, the mention of the impact on forests and rivers cements the idea that these children are linking climate change to a more expansive notion of environmental degradation. This holistic viewpoint is particularly striking in the response those points out not just industrial but household chemical pollutants as well, signifying a nuanced understanding of the topic.

Surveyed adolescents, showed a similar awareness of the impact of waste incineration and the industry sector's contribution, with 90.5% and 92.1% respectively identifying it as a main contributor. Additionally, transport was also identified as a major contributor by the majority of adolescents with a percentage of 83.7%. However, a higher percentage (87.7%) of adolescents attributed significant importance to heating. The construction sector also received recognition from adolescents (70.1%), suggesting a heightened understanding of the environmental impact of construction activities in this age group (Figure 3). Among the surveyed adolescents, a notable 49.5% of surveyed adolescents attributed climate change to human factors, only 12.6% to natural phenomena, and 37.9% recognize that climate change is a consequence of both human actions and natural occurrences (Figure 4).

The insights suggest a keen awareness among the adolescents about the human-induced origins of climate change. Their comments convey a dual perspective: a general acknowledgment of humanity's negligence and a specific focus on the industrial causes of climate change. The reference to "human negligence" encapsulates our collective failure to prevent or address the escalating environmental issue, while "toxic fumes" pinpoints the direct industrial contributors. These concise remarks highlight a pressing call for responsibility and action.

Surveyed young people displayed the a similar level of concern regarding the waste incineration and the industry sector, with a striking 97.8% and 95.7% respectively recognizing their role in contributing to climate change. Unlike children and adolescents, a higher percentage (90.7%) of young people pointed to electricity production as a main contributor. The transport sector was also highly recognized by young people, with 91.5% attributing its role in climate change. Additionally, young people demonstrated a higher level of awareness of the industry heating's contribution, with 88.9% identifying it as a main contributor (Figure 3). The data also reveals that young people show the highest level of awareness, with 40.4% acknowledging that climate change is caused by human factors, 10.6% by natural phenomenon, and 48.9% perceive climate change as a result of both human actions and natural processes (Figure 4).

The collective insights from young individuals shed light on a nuanced understanding of the underpinnings of climate change. A 23-year-old woman observes that climate change is "mostly due to the pollution of the environment, unhealthy food, pesticides, garbage, exhaust gases, and thus global warming." This sentiment of human-induced degradation is echoed by an 18-year-old woman, who cites "environmental pollution, global warming, unplanned construction, deforestation and the like" as primary contributors. Additionally, a 24-year-old man brings a more scientific perspective, pointing to the "greenhouse gases that cause the greenhouse effect" and other factors such as "damage to the ozone layer and water pollution." Their varied responses capture a multi-dimensional perspective, intertwining both the everyday visible culprits and deeper scientific processes as leading factors in our planet's climate predicament.

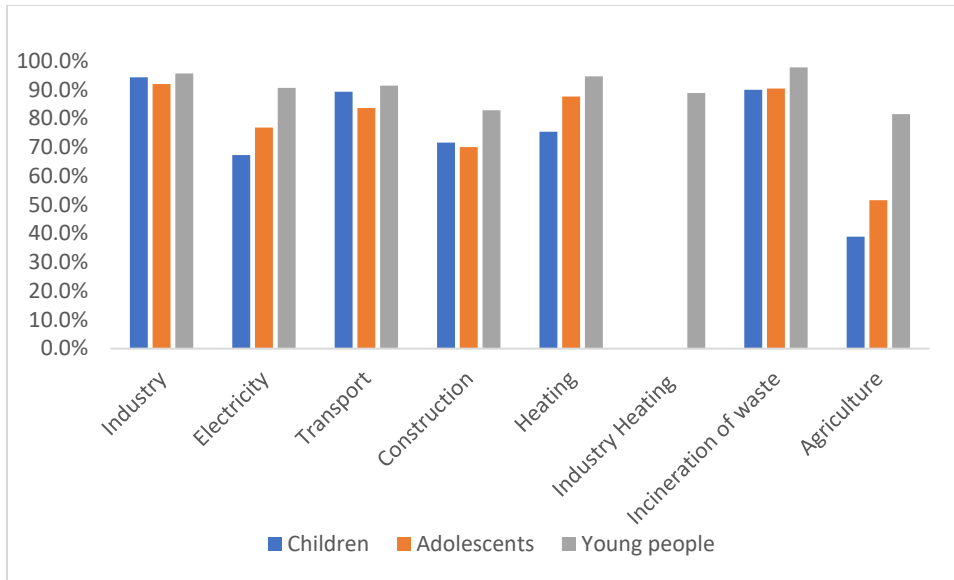


Figure 3 Children and young people’s perceptions on main contributors to climate

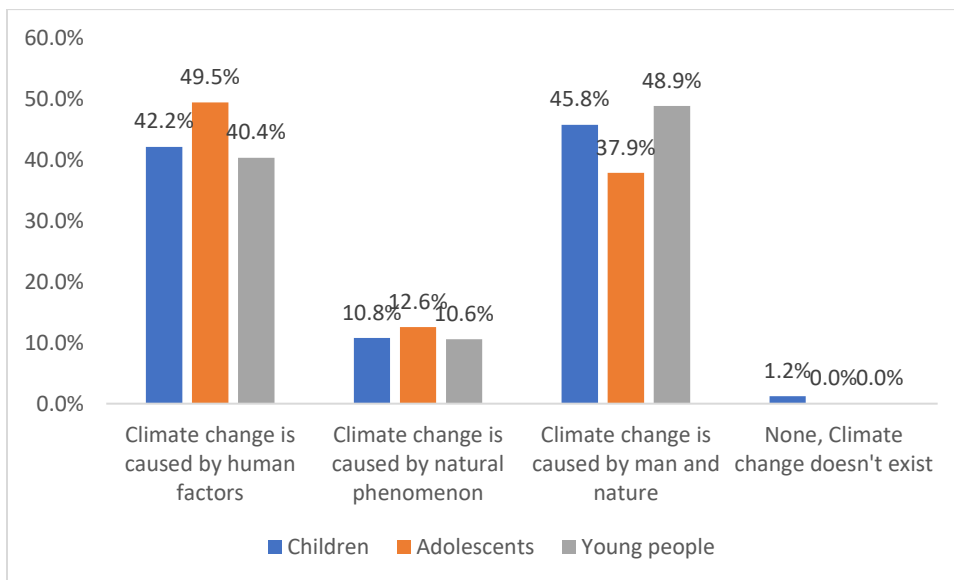


Figure 4 Perceptions of climate change causes

#### 4.2.4 Knowledge on the Impact of Climate Change on Children and Young People

Among the children surveyed, 50% and 21.3% perceived the climate change’s impact on the quality of life of children and young people globally as "Mostly Negative" or "Very Negative" respectively, emphasizing a prevailing view of adverse consequences on their lives due to climate change. However, a lower percentage of 20% viewed the impact as "Neither" while 8.8% as "Mostly Positive," suggesting that some children might lack knowledge on climate change (Figure 4). Adolescents' perceptions of climate change's impact on their quality of life followed a similar trend. With 48.3% perceived the impact as "Mostly Negative" and 21.3% as "Very Negative" (Figure 4). The data for young people shows

a similar pattern, with a striking 56.5% expressing a "Very Negative" perception and 34.8% perceiving the impact as "Mostly Negative." (Figure 5)

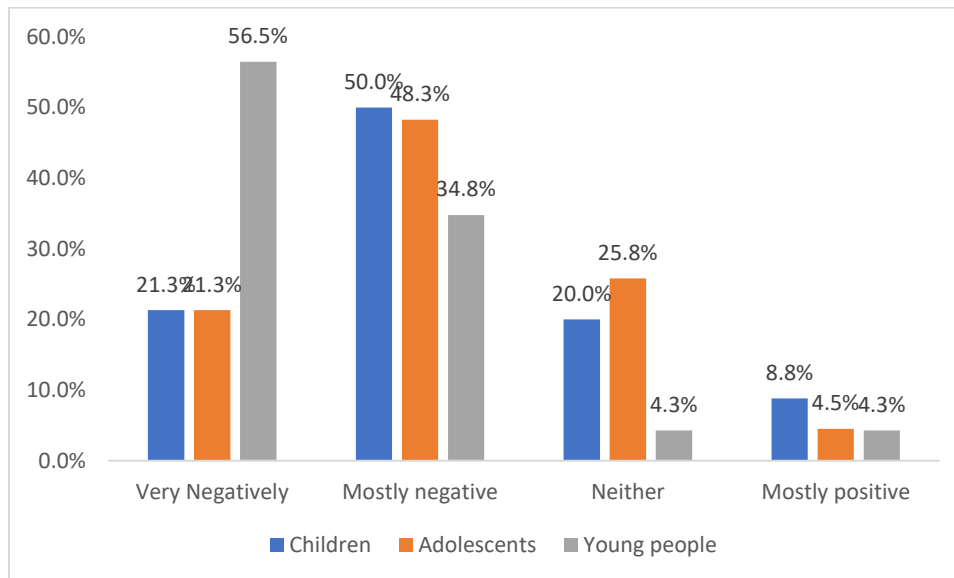


Figure 5 Perception of climate change's impact on the quality of life of children and young people

The data shows that a majority of surveyed children perceive immediate impacts of climate change on land deterioration (61%), illness (51.5%), and malnutrition (50%). A notable percentage (40%) of surveyed children also express awareness of climate change's immediate impact on mental health. Additionally, 34.5% and 39.5% of children believe that climate change poses immediate risks to hazardous jobs for both girls and boys respectively. Furthermore, a smaller proportion of the surveyed children recognize climate change's impact on access to education for girls (24.5%) and boys (27.7%), and a slightly higher portion perceive an immediate impact on school attendance decline for both genders (30.2% for girls and 28.3% for boys), reflecting their understanding of potential disruptions in educational systems. On the other hand, a considerable percentage of children did see direct connections between climate change and child marriage (33.3% girls and 38.5% for boys) and violence against children (girls 29.6% and boys 37.2%). (Table 2)

Interviewed children provide an insightful glimpse into their firsthand experiences with the effects of climate change on their community and on children and young people. Health emerges as a significant concern, with another child warning about the health repercussions of polluted air: "People will get sick because of polluted air." Another underscores the dangers of living near water bodies, highlighting the challenges faced during floods, where people may have to "renovate again, or even move if the house is destroyed." Wildfires, hail storms, and even the subtle emotional toll of unpredictable weather patterns, as evidenced by a comment on how it could "affect their mood," are also mentioned.

The findings indicate that a significant proportion of adolescents see climate change as having an immediate impact on malnutrition (51.6%) and illness (55.3%). Moreover, adolescents express concerns about limited health care access for both girls (31.4%) and boys (33.3%). They also recognize the immediate impact of climate change on mental health, with anxiety (70.8%), sleep problems (56%), and

suicide (41.2%) being significant concerns. Surveyed adolescents also show awareness of the immediate impacts on hazardous jobs for both genders (41% for girls and 41.9% for boys) and economic decline/poverty (34.2%). Additionally, adolescents acknowledge the immediate impact of climate on school attendance decline for both genders (49.3% for girls and 45.1% for boys). However, most adolescents do not perceive direct impacts of climate change on issues like discrimination, violence, and child marriage, and access to education (Table 2).

Adolescents' insights highlight immediate climate change threats, with a respondent noting, "There are floods in my community currently and they are bringing large damages." Hotter summers and droughts concern many, as one girl remarked, "They bring summers that are too hot." The damage to the ozone layer and urban air pollution, especially in places like Sarajevo, are growing concerns. One teen stated, "We can already feel the damage to the ozone layer." Beyond ecological impacts, the personal effects are evident. The emotional burden on the youth is evident, with an adolescent expressing, "People our age say the world is left to the youth to care for." Behavior changes, like less outdoor play, lead to other challenges, as indicated by a comment: "Warmer summers lead to...more time on social media." However, many lack firsthand experience with severe climate-related repercussions, hinting at either limited exposure or early stages of extreme consequences.

A significant proportion of surveyed young people see an immediate impact of climate change on malnutrition (52.8%), illness (46.5%), and limited health service capacity (45.5%). Surveyed young people also express concern about the lifelong impact of climate change on mental health, including depression (47.6%), anxiety (47.6%), sleep problems (33.3%), and suicide (38.9%). Moreover, the data shows that surveyed young people are mindful of the long-term impacts of climate change on certain issues. Notably, they perceive a lifelong impact on land deterioration (46.2%), pregnancy complications (39.5%), and learning difficulties (35%). Additionally, the data indicates young people's concern about the potential societal impact of climate change. They recognize the immediate impact on economic decline and poverty (50%) and group hostility (43.2%), which may exacerbate social inequalities and tensions. Furthermore, surveyed adolescents also show awareness of the immediate impacts on hazardous jobs for both genders (40% for girls and 48.7% for boys). However, it is worth noting that young people perceive child marriage, physical violence, emotional violence, and sexual violence against girls and boys to have a relatively lower impact from climate change (Table 2).

The feedback from young adults paints a vivid picture of environmental and societal challenges due to climate change. Key concerns include food quality, deforestation, and more frequent natural disasters. For instance, a woman remarked, "We will have unhealthy food... more floods, polluted air, fires..." Changes in weather, especially warmer temperatures, are also evident, with another noting, "Winters and summers are getting warmer." For the younger generation, there's anxiety about both their physical and mental well-being. A woman voiced, "Children are unhealthy and mentally concerned." There's also a belief that many youths are potentially desensitized to climate issues due to continuous online exposure, with a man observing, "They hear and watch it constantly on the Internet." On the topic of gendered impacts of climate change, the predominant view leans towards equal effects across genders. This could suggest gaps in climate education about nuanced impacts on different demographics. One woman shared, "I think they affect both genders the same." Another man hadn't noticed any gender differences in his community.

		Children	Adolescents	Young people
Total sample		N=100	N=100	N=48
Malnutrition	Not an impact	38.0%	41.9%	25.0%
	Immediate impact	50.0%	51.6%	52.8%
	Lifelong impact	12.0%	6.5%	22.2%
Illness	Not an impact	10.3%	17.1%	7.0%
	Immediate impact	51.5%	55.3%	46.5%
	Lifelong impact	38.2%	27.6%	46.5%
Pregnancy complications	Not an impact			7.9%
	Immediate impact			52.6%
	Lifelong impact			39.5%
Limited Health service capacity	Not an impact			9.1%
	Immediate impact			45.5%
	Lifelong impact			45.5%
Limited Health care for girls	Not an impact		48.6%	
	Immediate impact		31.4%	
	Lifelong impact		20.0%	
Limited Health care for boys	Not an impact		44.4%	
	Immediate impact		33.3%	
	Lifelong impact		22.2%	
Mental Health	Not an impact	30.0%		
	Immediate impact	40.0%		
	Lifelong impact	30.0%		
Depression	Not an impact			11.9%
	Immediate impact			40.5%
	Lifelong impact			47.6%
Anxiety	Not an impact		15.3%	14.3%
	Immediate impact		70.8%	38.1%
	Lifelong impact		13.9%	47.6%
Sleep Problems	Not an impact		24.0%	20.0%
	Immediate impact		56.0%	46.7%
	Lifelong impact		20.0%	33.3%
Learning difficulties	Not an impact		42.1%	27.5%
	Immediate impact		42.1%	37.5%
	Lifelong impact		15.8%	35.0%
Suicide	Not an impact		44.1%	27.8%
	Immediate impact		41.2%	33.3%
	Lifelong impact		14.7%	38.9%
Land deterioration	Not an impact	11.9%	21.5%	10.3%
	Immediate impact	61.0%	51.9%	43.6%
	Lifelong impact	27.1%	26.6%	46.2%
Women financial access	Not an impact			44.1%
	Immediate impact			32.4%

	Lifelong impact			23.5%
Jobs for women	Not an impact			47.1%
	Immediate impact			35.3%
	Lifelong impact			17.6%
Discrimination against girls	Not an impact		46.2%	
	Immediate impact		33.8%	
	Lifelong impact		20.0%	
Discrimination minority groups	Not an impact		47.1%	
	Immediate impact		30.9%	
	Lifelong impact		22.1%	
Child marriage for girls	Not an impact	58.8%	68.3%	48.5%
	Immediate impact	33.3%	25.4%	27.3%
	Lifelong impact	7.8%	6.3%	24.2%
Child marriage for boys	Not an impact	57.7%	67.2%	48.4%
	Immediate impact	38.5%	26.9%	25.8%
	Lifelong impact	3.8%	6.0%	25.8%
Violence against girls	Not an impact	66.7%		
	Immediate impact	29.6%		
	Lifelong impact	3.7%		
Violence against boys	Not an impact	55.8%		
	Immediate impact	37.2%		
	Lifelong impact	7.0%		
Physical Violence against girls	Not an impact		65.2%	44.1%
	Immediate impact		24.2%	26.5%
	Lifelong impact		10.6%	29.4%
Physical Violence against boys	Not an impact		62.7%	42.4%
	Immediate impact		26.9%	30.3%
	Lifelong impact		10.4%	27.3%
Emotional Violence against girls	Not an impact		53.0%	39.4%
	Immediate impact		34.8%	33.3%
	Lifelong impact		12.1%	27.3%
Emotional Violence against boys	Not an impact		60.3%	45.7%
	Immediate impact		30.2%	28.6%
	Lifelong impact		9.5%	25.7%
Sexual Violence against girls	Not an impact		63.1%	44.4%
	Immediate impact		20.0%	27.8%
	Lifelong impact		16.9%	27.8%
Sexual Violence against boys	Not an impact		61.5%	47.4%
	Immediate impact		24.6%	31.6%
	Lifelong impact		13.8%	21.1%
Partner violence	Not an impact			38.9%
	Immediate impact			38.9%
	Lifelong impact			22.2%

Hazardous jobs for girls	Not an impact	56.4%	39.3%	37.5%
	Immediate impact	34.5%	41.0%	40.0%
	Lifelong impact	9.1%	19.7%	22.5%
Hazardous jobs for boys	Not an impact	59.6%	38.7%	30.8%
	Immediate impact	39.5%	41.9%	48.7%
	Lifelong impact	3.8%	19.4%	20.5%
Economic decline/poverty	Not an impact		31.6%	15.8%
	Immediate impact		34.2%	50.0%
	Lifelong impact		34.2%	34.2%
Group Hostility	Not an impact			29.7%
	Immediate impact			43.2%
	Lifelong impact			27.0%
Girls unable to access education	Not an impact	67.9%	59.4%	
	Immediate impact	24.5%	31.9%	
	Lifelong impact	7.5%	8.7%	
Boys unable to access education	Not an impact	59.6%	62.9%	
	Immediate impact	27.7%	25.7%	
	Lifelong impact	12.8%	11.4%	
Girls school attendance decline	Not an impact	65.1%	41.8%	45.9%
	Immediate impact	30.2%	49.3%	32.4%
	Lifelong impact	4.7%	9.0%	21.6%
Boys school attendance decline	Not an impact	63.0%	47.9%	44.7%
	Immediate impact	28.3%	45.1%	31.6%
	Lifelong impact	8.7%	7.0%	23.7%

Table 2: Children and young people's perceptions on the impact of climate change on their lives

#### 4.2.5 Knowledge on the impact of mitigation solutions

The data reveals important percentages that highlight children's perceptions of activities that may impact climate change. Notably, 72.3% of children recognize the big positive impact of walking/cycling, similarly, 63.3% of children believe that recycling can have a big impact on mitigating climate change. Interestingly, 51.9% of children acknowledge the big impact of the rational use of water, demonstrating their understanding of the importance of responsible water consumption in addressing environmental challenges. Moreover, 45.9% of children recognize the big impact of food waste reduction, reflecting their awareness of the environmental consequences of reducing food waste. Another notable finding is that 63.1% of children perceive a big impact from the reduction of plastic. However, there are areas where more awareness-raising is needed. For example, only 36% of children see public transport as having a big impact as well as only 34.1% of children believe donating clothes can have a big impact (Table 3).

Children's responses reveal not only awareness but also a commendable depth of understanding regarding mitigation solutions to climate change. Their suggestions, ranging from afforestation to sustainable waste management, showcase their grasp of key environmental principles. The emphasis on tree planting, as one boy articulately points out — "When we cut one tree we should instantly plant another" — underscores their recognition of the critical role forests play in carbon sequestration.



Additionally, their insights into waste management, promoting the recycling of waste into resources like fertilizer, echo the principles of a circular economy. Their inclination towards eco-friendly transportation options further demonstrates their forward-thinking and holistic approach to addressing the climate crisis.

Adolescents showed a strong understanding of the impact of certain actions on mitigating climate change. Walking and cycling were recognized as having a big impact by a significant percentage, 47.8% and 51.6%, respectively. Recycling was overwhelmingly acknowledged for its big impact (59.8%), showcasing a good understanding of waste management. Rational water use (48.8%) and planting (73.9%) were also perceived as highly impactful, reflecting their awareness of water conservation and afforestation's role in carbon sequestration. Solar panels garnered positive recognition, with 55.7% acknowledging their big impact, indicating a favorable attitude towards renewable energy solutions. Waste reduction through food waste and plastic reduction received significant attention, with 45.2% and 60.2% acknowledging their impact respectively. However, there is room for improvement in raising awareness of sustainable fashion and responsible consumption, as only 26.1% recognized the impact of donating clothes. Educating adolescents about the significance of public transport (25.8%), reducing air travel (37.3%), and reducing firewood use (33.3%) can also lead to more impactful actions.

Adolescents demonstrate a clear understanding of mitigation strategies to combat climate change. Their insights range from fundamental cleanliness initiatives and tree planting to advanced concepts like leveraging renewable energy sources. This awareness reflects a generation that has both informed about and invested in environmental solutions.

The findings show that surveyed young people are actively engaged in understanding actions that can positively influence climate change. Among the activities surveyed recycling, rational use of water, and planting emerges as a highly favored practice, with a significant 64.4%, 69.6%, and 76.1% of young people acknowledging their significant impact on mitigating climate change respectively. Another prominent action recognized by young people is the use of solar panels, with a high percentage of respondents acknowledging its importance in the city (66.7%) and at home (72.7%). Additionally, waste reduction (76.7%), food waste reduction (42.9%), reduction of plastic (63.4%), and composting (54.5%) are perceived as impactful approaches to combat climate change. While young people exhibit a high level of awareness regarding actions that can have a positive impact on climate change, the data also highlights some areas that need attention. For instance, walking (27.7%), public transport (28.3%), donating clothes (28.2%), and less firewood use (28.6%) are perceived to have a comparatively lower impact (Table 3).

Young adults exhibit a commendable awareness of climate change mitigation tactics, rooted in daily practices and community-wide responsibility. A 23-year-old woman encapsulates this communal spirit by stating, "It is likely that we are all fighting more for a better life and health." Highlighting the importance of individual actions, another respondent suggests "all of us can do at least the minimum, which is to stop polluting environment around us, and not to throw garbage in places which are not intended for waste disposal." In contrast, a man, aged 24, spotlights the interconnectedness of personal decisions, observing, "First of all, my influence on an individual basis is very little, but it moves on from the individual. An example is, of course, public transport." These responses together emphasize the significance of mindful living and collective sustainable decisions.

		Children	Adolescent	Young people
Total Sample		N=100	N=100	N= 48
Walking	Big Impact		47.8%	27.7%
	No impact at all		16.7%	23.4%
Cycling	Big Impact		51.6%	39.1%
	No impact at all		12.9%	13.0%
Walking/ Cycling	Big Impact	72.3%		
	No impact at all	7.4%		
Public transport	Big Impact	36.0%	25.8%	28.3%
	No impact at all	14.0%	22.5%	17.4%
recycling	Big Impact	63.3%	59.8%	64.4%
	No impact at all	3.3%	4.3%	4.4%
Energy efficient light bulbs	Big Impact		43.5%	60.9%
	No impact at all		9.8%	0.0%
organic food	Big Impact		39.8%	60.5%
	No impact at all		12.5%	4.7%
Collection of garbage	Big Impact			62.2%
	No impact at all			0.0%
Solar panels in the city	Big Impact			66.7%
	No impact at all			0.0%
Rational use of water	Big Impact	51.9%	48.8%	69.6%
	No impact at all	7.4%	5.8%	2.2%
Planting	Big Impact		73.9%	76.1%
	No impact at all		3.3%	0.0%
Waste reduction	Big Impact			76.7%
	No impact at all			0.0%
Composting	Big Impact			54.5%
	No impact at all			6.8%
Energy efficient appliances	Big Impact			60.0%
	No impact at all			4.4%
Donating clothes	Big Impact	34.1%	26.1%	28.2%
	No impact at all	19.5%	21.6%	15.4%
Food waste reduction	Big Impact	45.9%	45.2%	42.9%
	No impact at all	8.2%	7.5%	9.5%
Reduction of plastic	Big Impact	63.1%	60.2%	63.4%
	No impact at all	6.0%	5.4%	2.4%
Digitization of operations	Big Impact			43.9%
	No impact at all			7.3%
Solar panels at home	Big Impact		55.7%	72.7%
	No impact at all		2.5%	0.0%
Less air travel	Big Impact		37.3%	56.1%
	No impact at all		12.0%	2.4%
Firewood use	Big Impact		33.3%	28.6%

	No impact at all		21.4%	16.7%
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Table 3: Perceptions of activities that can have an impact on climate change

### 4.3 Practice

#### 4.3.1 Taking actions on climate change

The survey results demonstrate a high level of motivation among children, adolescents, and young people regarding environmental concerns. Specifically, 79% of children, 77% of adolescents, and 73.9% of young people indicated that they are either strongly or somewhat motivated. (Figure 6).

The reasons behind their personal motivations vary, but some common themes emerge. Across all age groups, love for wildlife serve as a powerful driving force, with a significant percentage (35.3% to 51.6%) citing this as a significant motivator. The chance to provide a better life for future generations is another compelling reason, resonating strongly with 28.1% of children, 34.3% adolescents and 35.3% of young people, showcasing their concern for environmental sustainability. Moreover, personal beliefs also play a notable role behind the adolescents and young people's motivation, with a considerable percentage of 14.3% and 17.6% respectively (Figure 7).

Despite these positive motivations, some respondents cite challenges that can affect their willingness to engage. A notable percentage of children (23.5%) and young people (33.3%) feel inhibited by the belief that they lack the ability to bring about meaningful change. Similarly, a significant percentage of children (52.9%), adolescents (61.9%), and young people (33.3%) indicated that they do not have a reason behind their demotivation, showcasing the dire need for more awareness (Figure 8).

The reflections of adolescents shed light on the various factors motivating them in the fight against climate change. Many underscore the importance of community involvement, implying that unity in action amplifies the impact. A 17-year-old boy captures this sentiment, noting, "I need support from people in my community, but no one is interested." Financial constraints are also a recognized barrier, with a 15-year-old girl straightforwardly asserting, "Financial support is most needed." The role of overarching institutions, especially governmental bodies, cannot be ignored; their support is seen as pivotal for individual actions to make a difference. However, amidst these external factors, the inherent drive of the youth emerges strongly. A 16-year-old boy's statement stands out: "I am really aware of ecology and climate change." This speaks to the idea that personal motivation, stemming from an understanding of the dire stakes, can be a potent catalyst for change.

Young people's motivations and challenges in confronting climate change are multifaceted. A 23-year-old woman highlights the need for specialized training to combat the crisis, suggesting a desire for deeper knowledge. The sentiment of collective action is echoed by a 21-year-old woman, emphasizing that a united community effort is vital. However, individual influence, like the impact of figures such as Greta Thunberg, can be both motivating and daunting. An 18-year-old woman shares her initial inspiration from Greta but conveys a subsequent realization of the limits of individual impact: "When I was initially exposed to Greta's videos... I realized that whatever I change in my life, it would have a very minimal impact." This highlights the interplay of societal influence and personal introspection in shaping young people's approach to climate action.

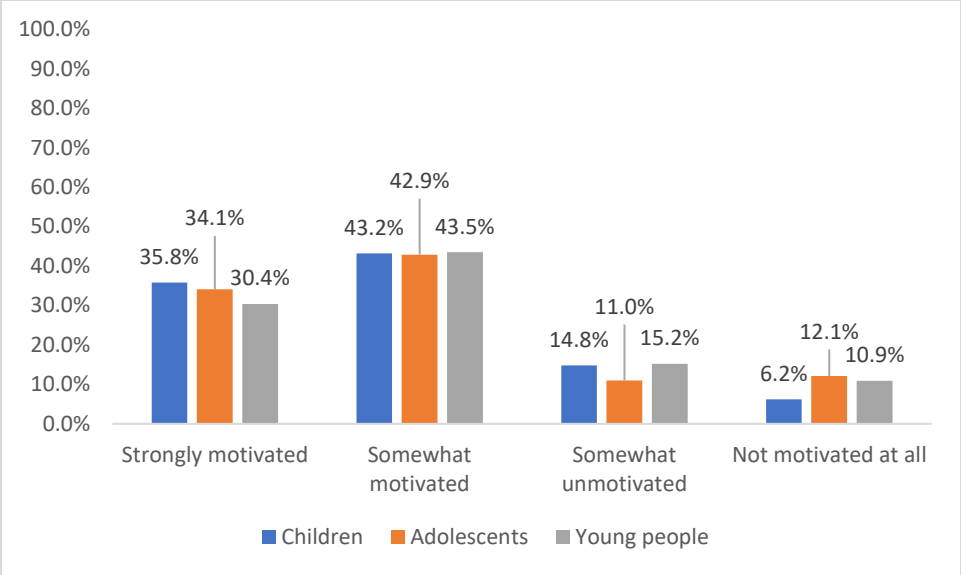


Figure 6 Motivation to engage in environmental activities

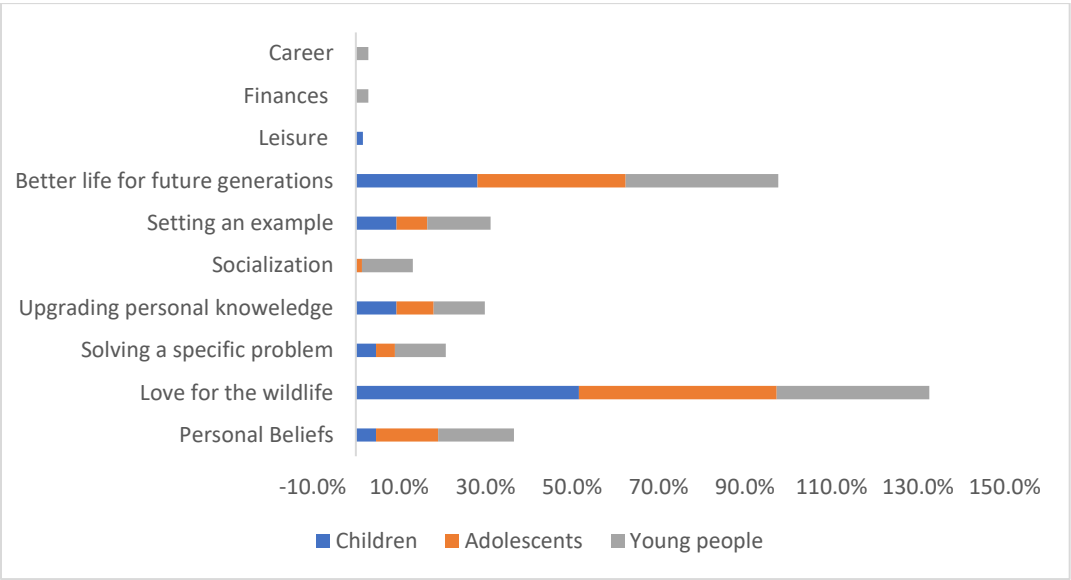


Figure 7 Sources of motivation

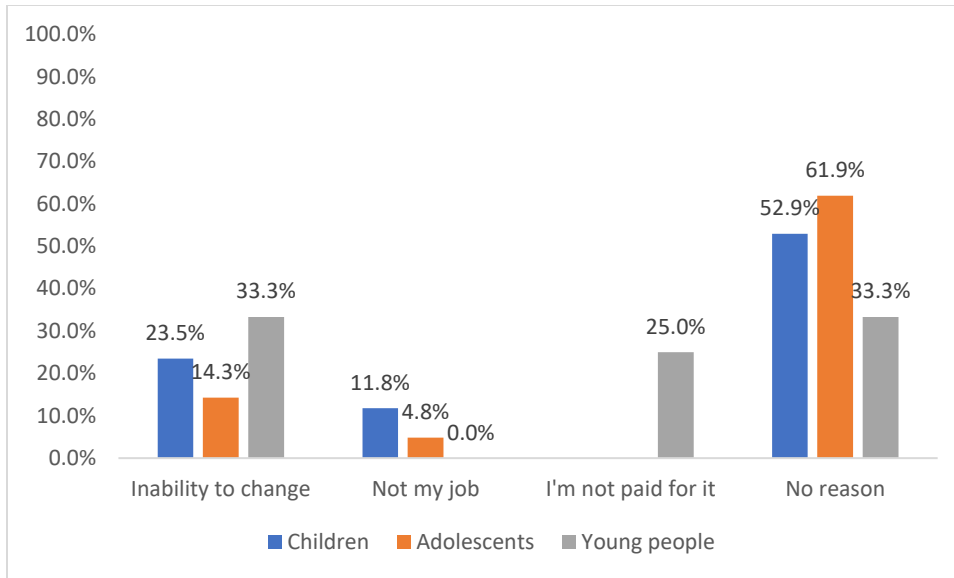


Figure 8 Sources of demotivation

#### 4.3.2 Practicing mitigation solutions

A significant proportion of respondents from all three age groups (81.7% of children, 69% of adolescents, and 75.6% of young people) participate and engage in actions that contribute to environmental preservation and sustainability (Figure 9).

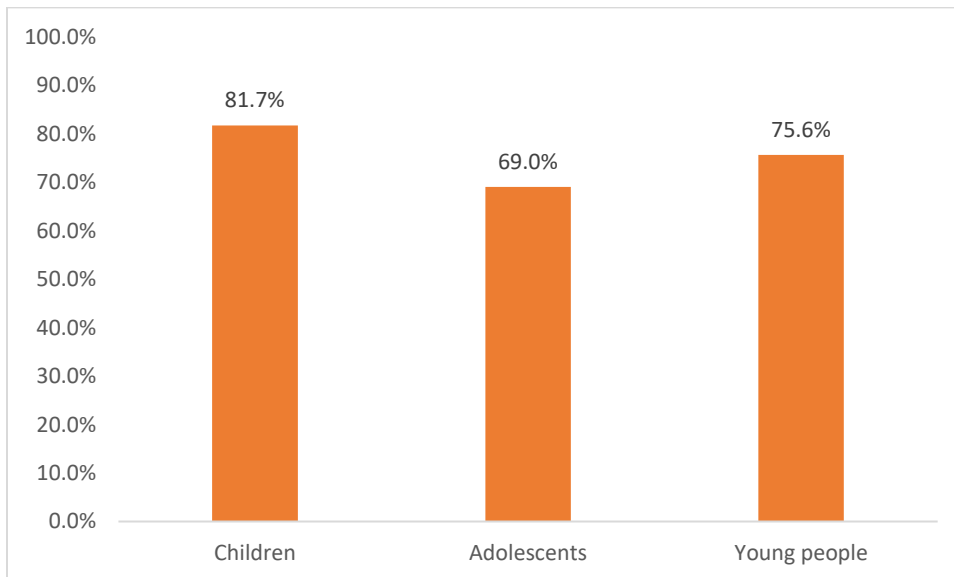


Figure 9 Participation in activities that impact the environment

The data provides valuable insights into the behaviors and actions of children in relation to various environmental practices. A significant 73% of children favor eco-friendly transportation by walking regularly. While 40% have good water consumption habits, only 18% sort waste and a mere 17% regularly abstain from using plastic bags. Energy conservation is a priority for 35% of children.

Additionally, 34% of children either regularly or often engage in raising environmental awareness. (Table 4).

Children's reflections reveal a proactive approach to mitigating climate change. Their insights showcase a mix of environmental knowledge and personal commitment. There's a recurrent theme of waste management, with practices like recycling, rejecting single-use plastics, and donating items to minimize waste. The significance of green spaces is clear, with frequent mentions of planting flowers. Sustainable transportation is addressed by preferences for bicycles over cars. While they demonstrate an understanding of individual actions, there's an evident call for collective responsibility. A young boy poignantly states the need for everyone to respect the environment, emphasizing the collective power in shaping a sustainable future. Examples include: 'I would plant one flower every day' and 'I would use glasses and not plastic cups, and cloth bags instead of plastic ones.'" Their responses mirror a generational call to action, stressing the need for collective responsibility in environmental stewardship.

Walking	Regularly	73.0%
	Often	18.0%
	Sometimes	4.0%
	Rarely	2.0%
	Not at all	3.0%
Waste sorting	Regularly	18.0%
	Often	17.0%
	Sometimes	25.0%
	Rarely	14.0%
	Not at all	26.0%
Water consumption	Regularly	40.0%
	Often	14.0%
	Sometimes	18.0%
	Rarely	12.0%
	Not at all	16.0%
No plastic bags	Regularly	17.0%
	Often	18.0%
	Sometimes	29.0%
	Rarely	18.0%
	Not at all	18.0%
Donate clothes	Regularly	23.0%
	Often	12.0%
	Sometimes	16.0%
	Rarely	22.0%
	Not at all	27.0%
Energy consumption efficiency	Regularly	35.0%
	Often	11.0%
	Sometimes	14.0%
	Rarely	17.0%
	Not at all	23.0%

Spreading awareness	Regularly	14.0%
	Often	20.0%
	Sometimes	22.0%
	Rarely	19.0%
	Not at all	25.0%

Table 4 Children's practice of mitigation solutions to reduce the climate change's impact

A significant 76% of adolescents walk regularly, indicating a positive trend in eco-friendly transportation. Public transport is used regularly by 33% of adolescents, suggesting room for promoting public transport as a sustainable option. Adolescents actively participate in waste sorting, with 13% doing it regularly and 18% often, reflecting a growing awareness of proper waste disposal and recycling. Regarding dietary choices, a considerable number of adolescents consume organic food regularly (14%) and often (19%), showing a preference for sustainable and healthier options. Water consumption habits are balanced, with 34% reporting regular usage and 14% often. A portion of adolescents (26%) sometimes avoids plastic bags, indicating a positive effort to reduce plastic waste, and 21% make regular attempts at energy conservation. However, only 13% are actively spreading environmental awareness, while 22% do not participate in it at all and 24% do so rarely, indicating a dire need for increased awareness and action (Table 5).

Adolescents' views on mitigating climate change reveal a blend of activism, conscious consumption, and education. Some advocate for direct actions, such as participating in protests, emphasizing the power of youth advocacy. The environmental drawbacks of fast fashion are critiqued, with a tilt towards sustainable alternatives like donating and buying second-hand clothes. The importance of being eco-aware from a young age is evident, with family and peer influences playing a crucial role in molding sustainable habits. Lastly, there is a strong emphasis on education as pivotal, suggesting that well-informed adolescents can make eco-friendly decisions that extend into adulthood. Responses indicate that both boys and girls possess the capability to influence and combat climate change equally. All respondents stress that climate change affects both genders, emphasizing collective responsibility

Walking	Regularly	76.0%
	Often	17.0%
	Sometimes	6.0%
	Rarely	0.0%
	Not at all	1.0%
Bicycling	Regularly	22.0%
	Often	16.0%
	Sometimes	13.0%
	Rarely	16.0%
	Not at all	33.0%
Public transport	Regularly	33.0%
	Often	14.0%
	Sometimes	22.0%
	Rarely	15.0%
	Not at all	16.0%
Waste sorting	Regularly	13.0%

	Often	18.0%
	Sometimes	33.0%
	Rarely	13.0%
	Not at all	23.0%
organic food	Regularly	14.0%
	Often	19.0%
	Sometimes	34.0%
	Rarely	17.0%
	Not at all	16.0%
Water consumption	Regularly	34.0%
	Often	14.0%
	Sometimes	18.0%
	Rarely	19.0%
	Not at all	15.0%
No plastic bags	Regularly	13.0%
	Often	15.0%
	Sometimes	25.0%
	Rarely	21.0%
	Not at all	26.0%
Avoiding plastic	Regularly	12.0%
	Often	17.0%
	Sometimes	26.0%
	Rarely	19.0%
	Not at all	26.0%
Donate clothes	Regularly	16.0%
	Often	21.0%
	Sometimes	26.0%
	Rarely	19.0%
	Not at all	18.0%
Energy consumption efficiency	Regularly	21.0%
	Often	21.0%
	Sometimes	24.0%
	Rarely	15.0%
	Not at all	19.0%
Spreading awareness	Regularly	13.0%
	Often	15.0%
	Sometimes	26.0%
	Rarely	24.0%
	Not at all	22.0%

*Table 5 Adolescents' practice of mitigation solutions to reduce the climate change's impact*

The data from young people indicates positive trends in environmentally friendly practices. An impressive 79.2% of young people regularly use walking as an eco-friendly transportation method, and



waste sorting is embraced by 39.6% either regularly or often, showcasing a growing awareness of proper waste management. Energy-efficient lighting and effective water consumption is adopted regularly by 31.3% and 33.3% respectively. On the other hand, there is room for improvement in certain areas. Only 6.3% collect garbage regularly, and composting needs bolstering with just 10.4% practicing it consistently. Additionally, 18.8% actively spread environmental awareness, presenting an opportunity for inspiring peers to participate in eco-friendly practices. (Table 6).

The feedback reveals insights into the measures and initiatives young people can undertake to combat climate change. Emphasizing collective endeavors, respondents highlight daily habits such as responsible waste disposal and opting for sustainable transportation like public transport. Conscious consumption, ranging from mindful utility use to choosing local organic foods, emerges as a cornerstone of sustainable living. Meanwhile, regarding youth-led initiatives in the community, many respondents are not fully aware of specific efforts. Still, some mention community clean-ups and organizations like "Let's Do It!" promoting environmental actions. This underscores the significance of raising awareness and enhancing visibility for youth-driven climate initiatives. Respondents unanimously suggest that climate change is a universal issue affecting both genders, and as such, both have an equal stake in mitigation efforts.

Walking	Regularly	79.2%
	Often	8.3%
	Sometimes	10.4%
	Rarely	2.1%
	Not at all	0.0%
Bicycling	Regularly	20.8%
	Often	16.7%
	Sometimes	20.8%
	Rarely	12.5%
	Not at all	29.2%
Public transport	Regularly	22.9%
	Often	20.8%
	Sometimes	10.4%
	Rarely	27.1%
	Not at all	18.8%
Waste sorting	Regularly	14.6%
	Often	25.0%
	Sometimes	25.0%
	Rarely	8.3%
	Not at all	27.1%
Energy efficient lighting	Regularly	31.3%
	Often	16.7%
	Sometimes	12.5%
	Rarely	8.3%
	Not at all	31.3%
organic food	Regularly	16.7%
	Often	18.8%

	Sometimes	20.8%
	Rarely	14.6%
	Not at all	29.2%
Collecting garbage	Regularly	6.3%
	Often	18.8%
	Sometimes	33.3%
	Rarely	14.6%
	Not at all	27.1%
Water consumption	Regularly	33.3%
	Often	25.0%
	Sometimes	18.8%
	Rarely	10.4%
	Not at all	12.5%
Growing Vegetables	Regularly	27.1%
	Often	16.7%
	Sometimes	10.4%
	Rarely	16.7%
	Not at all	29.2%
No plastic bags	Regularly	18.8%
	Often	14.6%
	Sometimes	20.8%
	Rarely	18.8%
	Not at all	27.1%
Avoiding plastic	Regularly	16.7%
	Often	18.8%
	Sometimes	14.6%
	Rarely	18.8%
	Not at all	31.3%
Donate clothes	Regularly	16.7%
	Often	10.4%
	Sometimes	22.9%
	Rarely	22.9%
	Not at all	27.1%
Composting	Regularly	10.4%
	Often	8.3%
	Sometimes	10.4%
	Rarely	10.4%
	Not at all	60.4%
Energy consumption efficiency	Regularly	27.1%
	Often	16.7%
	Sometimes	18.8%
	Rarely	14.6%
	Not at all	22.9%

Spreading awareness	Regularly	18.8%
	Often	6.3%
	Sometimes	18.8%
	Rarely	29.2%
	Not at all	27.1%

Table 6 Young people’s practice of mitigation solutions to reduce the climate change’s impact

### 4.3.3 Preparedness to disaster

The data on preparedness for disasters among different age groups reveals interesting insights. While a significant portion of children, adolescents, and young people (39.6% to 44%) reported having no specific disaster preparedness measures in place, there is a noteworthy number of individuals who do take steps to prepare. Education appears to play a crucial role in disaster preparedness, with a notable percentage of children (40%), adolescents (40%), and young people (27.1%) acknowledging its importance. Family emergency plans are slightly less common between the age groups (22.9% for young people, 30.6% for adolescents, and 22% for children). Similarly, when it comes to having a disaster kit a low percentage of participants reported having one (20.8% of young people, 30.6% of adolescents, and 20% of children reported having one). Moreover around a quarter of participants practice evacuation, which involves practicing drills to know what to do during a disaster. (Figure 10)

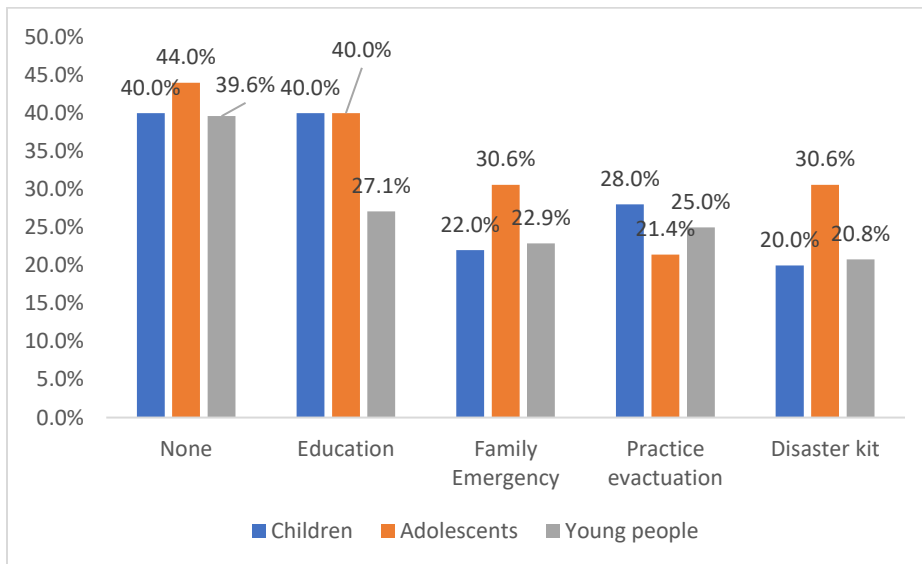


Figure 10 Preparedness to disaster

### 4.3.4 Preferred sources of information

When it comes to learning about climate change, children, adolescents, and young people have varied preferences. Children and adolescents rely heavily on the school curriculum, books, and youth groups. For young people, lectures are the top choice, followed by workshops, websites, and youth groups. Scientific journals and papers are less commonly used across all age groups (Figure 11).

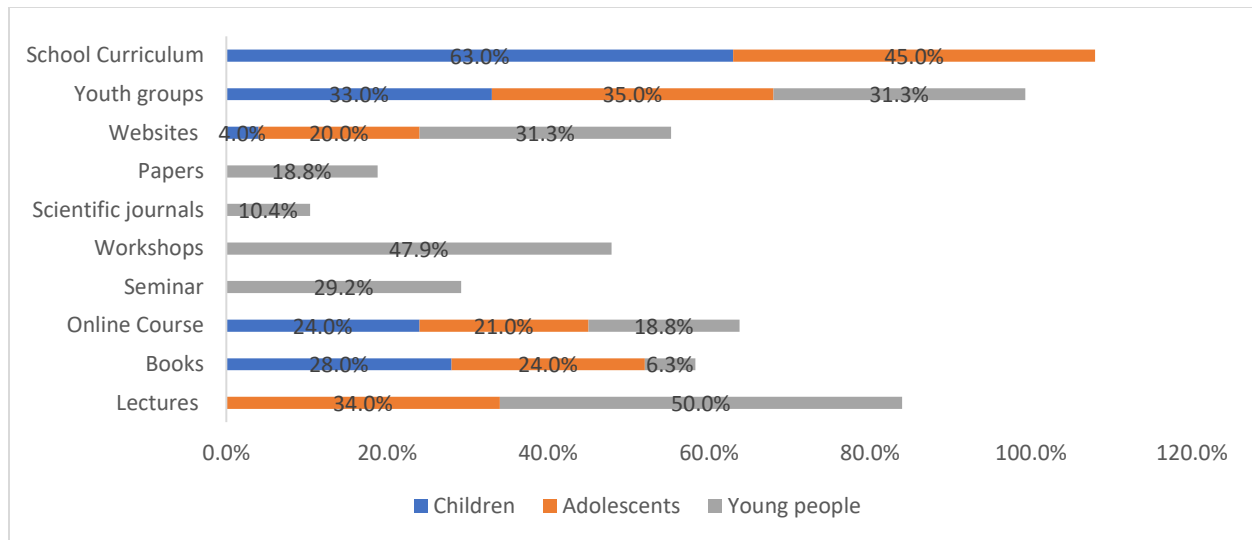


Figure 11 Preferred Sources for Climate Change Information

## 4.4 Impact of Climate Change on Mental Health

### 4.4.1 Climate emotions

When it comes to worries about climate change, the majority of respondents fall into the "moderately worried" category, with significant percentages ranging from 27% for children to 32% for adolescents and 35.4% for young people. A notable proportion of young individuals are also "very worried," with percentages ranging from 11% to 27.1%. Only a small minority, particularly young people (4.2%), adolescents (4%), and children (5%) express being "extremely worried" about climate change (Figure 12).

A substantial number of respondents feel "sad" about climate change, with percentages ranging from 51.2% for young people, 49.3% for adolescents, and 58.7% for children. "Helpless" feelings are also prevalent, with high percentages across all age groups, ranging from 48.3% to 56.8%. Additionally, participants reported feeling afraid, with percentages ranging from 40% to 53.3%. Moreover, anger was also experienced by 44.4% of children, 39.5% of adolescents, and 54.8% of young people. (Figure 13)

In exploring children's emotional reactions to climate change, a multifaceted picture emerges. While some children, focus on immediate personal inconveniences, "Only when it rains, because I cannot go out and play then," others demonstrate a deeper empathy for global consequences. One child expressed sorrow over the harm humans inflict on the environment, stating, "I am sad to know that some people in some parts of the world are hurt...while others just pollute." However, it's not all gloom. There is an unmistakable desire among these youngsters to make positive changes. One boy's aspiration resonates as he says, "Yes, I like learning about it and I really like helping to clean the environment." Equally telling is the therapeutic role of communication, with a girl sharing, "I feel better when I talk to someone about it, especially if they know a lot about that topic!"

The emotional impact of climate change on adolescents is both profound and varied, as underscored by the diverse responses collated. As the environment undergoes noticeable shifts, many adolescents have intricately woven their emotional well-being with these changes. For instance, one girl reflected on the

COVID-19 lockdown period and noted, "I thought a lot about the future... the planet seemed to breathe and as if it was waking up again." This sentiment resonates with the broader theme of nature's resilience and humanity's impact. Yet, the overarching sentiment is one of anxiety, with concerns about long-term survival indicative of the psychological toll on the younger generation: "It affects me when I think about the future and I have concerns about how we will survive on this planet in the future." This sentiment is further amplified by those who experience the tangible repercussions of climate change on their mental health, such as the respondent from Sarajevo who said, "In winter, we have a lot of polluted air and I know that it affects me and my psychological and emotional state." However, the spectrum of concern also reveals those less affected or even indifferent to the topic, highlighting the need for more comprehensive education and awareness. The pressure and weight of responsibility also emerge prominently, with a youth noting, "A lot is expected of us to find the solution right away," pointing to the significant challenges and expectations faced by the younger generation.

Young adults' sentiments on climate change are a tapestry of emotions, ranging from deep concern to feelings of detachment. One young woman poignant remark, "I worry about us destroying our beautiful nature," highlights a profound connection to the environment. Yet, there is a stark contrast with others who admit being unaffected by the immediate impacts. Some channel their anxieties into proactive actions, like participating in community clean-ups, seeking solace in tangible contributions. Social support, especially from peers, emerges as a beacon of hope amidst the feelings of powerlessness. While some find empowerment in affecting change, even if it is just for one person, others grapple with the enormity of the crisis. These young voices collectively echo a complex interplay of despair, hope, and the desire to make a difference in the face of climate change.

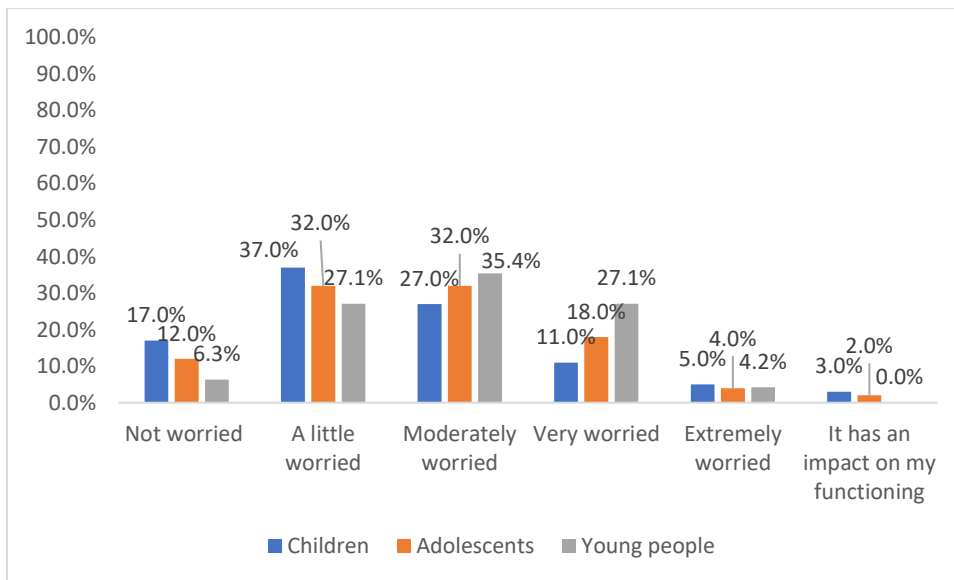


Figure 12 Level of worries over climate change

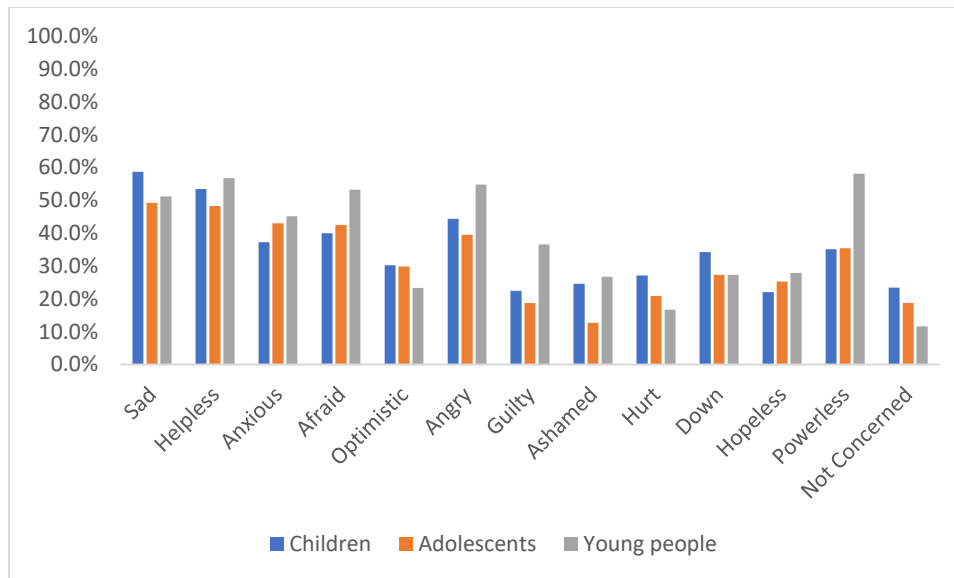


Figure 13 Climate emotions

## 4.5 Perception of responses to climate change

### 4.5.1 Perception of the government response

Across different age groups, approximately one-third of children and adolescents believe their climate change concerns are overlooked. Specifically, 30.3% of children and 25.7% of adolescents express dissatisfaction with the acknowledgment of their worries. Additionally, a considerable number feel that governmental actions are inadequate: 23.8% of children, 23.4% of adolescents, and 10.9% of young adults. Furthermore, a significant 55.8% of young people, 41.5% of adolescents, and 45.9% of children report distress over their concerns being dismissed. Furthermore, a striking proportion across all age groups feel that the government is lying about action's effectiveness (42.3% of children, 52.4% of adolescents, and 60.5% of young people) and betraying them (60.3% of children, 64.4% of adolescents, and 84.6% of young people). (Figure 14)

On a positive note, a significant portion of respondents trust the government's commitment to shielding youth from climate impacts, with 33.3% of children, 37.1% of adolescents, and 17.9% of young adults expressing confidence in these efforts. (Figure 14).

Adolescents reveal a nuanced perception of government responsibility regarding climate change. The collective sentiment emphasizes that combating the crisis is a shared duty, encompassing both collective and individual action. As one respondent aptly puts it, "We should care about our environment together." A pivotal point of consensus is the government's instrumental role in spearheading climate action through legislation. For instance, one participant stated, "Somehow I think the legislators are the most responsible for that," highlighting trust in regulatory powers to curb climate adversities. This is further emphasized by another's comment on expecting "laws that are initiatives... to encourage citizens." But while there is hope in regulatory actions, there's also a potent call for more drastic measures. The emphasis on leaders needing to "banish things that increase climate change" underscores a desire for assertive, immediate steps to be taken at both national and international levels.

Furthermore, young adults express a fervent desire for governments to reprioritize. They advocate for the elevation of climate issues above other geopolitical concerns, especially wars. This sentiment not only acknowledges wars as catastrophic human events but also as significant environmental hazards. Reinforcing this is the call for more conscientious stewardship of the environment, emphasizing cleanliness and proper waste management, alongside stricter penalties for non-compliance. Notably, the candid acknowledgment by some of limited knowledge in this realm underscores a crucial aspect: the need for enhanced climate education to ensure all young people are informed and equipped to engage in these essential discussions.

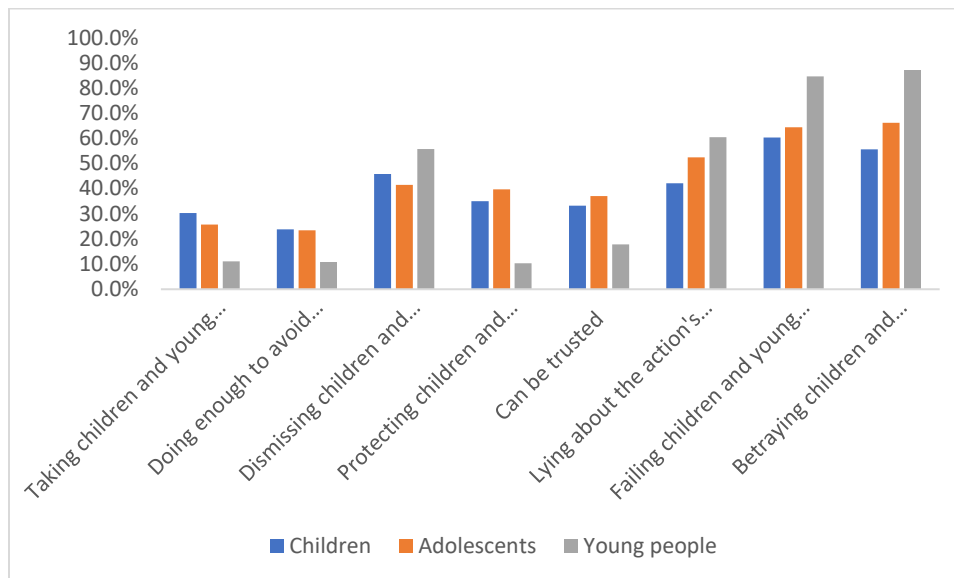


Figure 14 Perception of the government response to climate change

#### 4.5.2 Perception of the NGOs response

Adolescents' views on NGO responses to climate change suggest a need to blend traditional and modern engagement methods. While surveys and interviews remain relevant for mass feedback, there's a push for NGOs to harness digital platforms, especially social media, that resonate with the youth. For child-focused NGOs, the primary role emphasized is education. These organizations have the resources and reach to embed climate topics into educational content, ensuring youth understand the challenges. Recognizing the inherent ability of children to quickly absorb new information, NGOs are encouraged to adopt innovative, interactive teaching methods. This underscores the youth's expectation that NGOs take a proactive, engaging approach to address climate change.

Young peoples stress the need for direct engagement when understanding their viewpoints on climate change. Surveys, both digital and face-to-face, emerge as trusted mediums for capturing honest feedback. There's a clear inclination for an informed discourse, hinting that equipped with the right knowledge, youth feedback can be more nuanced. The idea of peer-to-peer interaction offers a fresh avenue, leveraging the trust between contemporaries. As quoted, a young woman sees value in "surveying and facilitating educations and workshops," while a young man suggests the intimate approach of "1 on 1 surveys with peers."

When considering child-focused NGOs, the feedback paints a multi-faceted role. A hands-on stance against environmental pollution tops the priority. Reinforcing the idea of informed participation,

respondents advocate for detailed information dissemination on climate change. There is a resounding call for proactive engagement, particularly via educational programs and workshops. However, beyond mere education, there is a yearning for tangible community actions. In essence, NGOs should not only educate but also inspire and mobilize. Finally, the call for advocacy by a young man encapsulates the sentiment: NGOs should amplify youth voices, ensuring they resonate in decision-making corridors, pushing for tangible changes.

## 4.6 The intergenerational perception of Climate Change

### 4.6.1 Perception of the climate crisis responsibility

There's a clear consensus among caregivers that human actions, such as the use of fossil fuels, increasing CO2 emissions, and deforestation, are significant contributors to climate change. Additionally, there's a socio-economic aspect to their views. Some caregivers point out that climate change disproportionately affects economically vulnerable populations. Often located in high-risk areas, these groups are more exposed to the negative impacts of climate change.

Furthermore, there's a sentiment that rapid technological advancement, although beneficial in many ways, also contributes to the climate crisis. The unchecked use of harmful materials in the name of progress has amplified environmental challenges.

Generational perspectives on climate change are also evident. Some caregivers feel that older generations may advocate for environmental consciousness but may not always act accordingly. In contrast, younger generations, who are likely to experience the effects of climate change more acutely, might feel uncertain about how to address the issue effectively. This dynamic suggests a need to bridge the intergenerational gap, fostering understanding and mobilizing collective action.

Such perspectives are evident in the quotes from the respondents: A 31-year-old man believes that every generation should be accountable for its actions. A 48-year-old woman emphasizes the long-term consequences of unsustainable practices over multiple generations. Meanwhile, a 39-year-old man highlights the potential inconsistency in older generations' verbal advocacy for environmental consciousness and their actual actions.

When considering their broader outlook on the future, the responses vary. While the 31-year-old man perceives stability since his youth, the 48-year-old woman expresses significant concern and calls for policy reforms and legal actions to address the issues. In stark contrast, the 39-year-old man is pessimistic about the future.

Finally, in the intersection of climate change, social justice, and human rights, there's a range of views. The 31-year-old man doesn't perceive a strong connection between climate change and its effects on vulnerable groups. In contrast, the 48-year-old woman stresses the importance of collective responsibility in shaping a better future. The 39-year-old man candidly admits a lack of sufficient knowledge on the matter, highlighting the need for better education on the subject.

### 4.6.2 Actions taken by caregivers to address the climate crisis

The diverse responses from older individuals highlight their varying degrees of involvement in climate action and support for youth advocacy. While a 31-year-old man admitted to a lack of personal engagement, saying, "I do not have any specific examples of actions I have taken," others have taken more proactive steps. A 48-year-old woman has incorporated eco-friendly practices, influenced by



younger generations, stating, "Following the example of youth from primary schools, in my family home and at work, I regularly separate PET packaging and recycle it." Furthermore, a 39-year-old man emphasized the significance of adult support for youth-led initiatives, asserting, "I believe that adults should support every form of environmental cleaning and maintenance action carried out by youth." These perspectives underscore the spectrum of awareness, action, and support among older generations regarding the pressing issue of climate change.

## 5- Recommendations

World Vision aims to create a holistic and inclusive approach to combatting climate change in Bosnia & Herzegovina, empowering children, adolescents, young people, and caregivers to become effective climate change agents and safeguard the future of generations to come. World Vision calls for:

### For Donors:

- Support grassroots initiatives focusing on climate education.
- Fund technological solutions that promote sustainable practices.
- Sponsor research on the psychological implications of climate change on youth.
- Back programs promoting intergenerational dialogues on climate change.
- Support the creation of digital platforms that engage and educate the youth.

### For NGOs:

- Develop and disseminate interactive teaching methods.
- Organize workshops that facilitate peer-to-peer learning.
- Collaborate with local communities for hands-on environmental projects.
- Emphasize the importance of sustainable practices like public transport and eco-fashion.
- Advocate for youth participation in decision-making processes at higher levels.

### For Governments:

- Prioritize climate change over geopolitical concerns.
- Reinforce regulations that combat major contributors to climate change, like industry emissions.
- Ensure transparent communication on governmental actions regarding climate change.
- Implement reforms based on feedback from all age groups.
- Sponsor programs teaching disaster preparedness in schools and communities.

### For Educational Institutions:

- Incorporate comprehensive climate education in the curriculum.
- Organize field trips to environmental projects for hands-on learning.
- Promote student-led initiatives that combat climate change.
- Offer counseling services addressing climate-related anxieties.
- Collaborate with NGOs and governmental agencies for workshops and seminars.

### For Communities:

- Host local dialogues on climate change, encouraging intergenerational participation.
- Foster practices like recycling, walking, cycling, and responsible water usage.
- Collaborate with NGOs for disaster preparedness training.
- Recognize and celebrate local champions of environmental sustainability.
- Encourage local businesses to adopt eco-friendly practices.

**For Families:**

- Encourage discussions on climate change at home.
- Adopt sustainable practices as a household.
- Support children and adolescents in their environmental endeavors.
- Seek and disseminate knowledge on disaster preparedness.
- Address and acknowledge the emotional concerns of children regarding climate change.

## 6- Conclusion

The youth of Bosnia & Herzegovina, as with the rest of the world, are at the forefront of the climate crisis, both as those most impacted and as crucial agents of change. This research has unveiled a profound awareness among these young individuals and their eagerness to contribute meaningfully. However, the journey is riddled with challenges, from lack of comprehensive education to emotional distress. Intergenerational collaboration, governmental transparency, and community solidarity are essential in equipping them for the future. With the right support, the young generation can not only navigate the complexities of climate change but also be catalysts for a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future.