



Photo by Kyaw Zin Hein (U-Reporter)

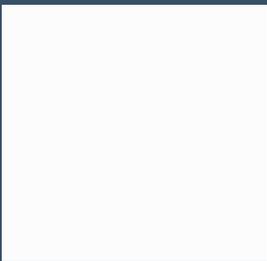
U-Report Poll Report on **Better Cities for Children and Young People**

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Background

A place where children and young people live and grow – a city, town or community – should present opportunities and hope for a better life so that children can live, learn and thrive. But this is not always the case; inequalities are everywhere. The demographic shift of populations towards urban areas, and the challenges and opportunities which this transition brings, are causing us to rethink our cities, and to reconsider our collective roles and responsibilities, as well as those of our leaders. The impact of COVID-19 has re-shaped urban life around the world. Local communities have played a key role in contributing to keeping people safe and maintaining economic activity. Community activities can no longer be taken for granted or under-resourced. Policymakers and urban managers need to engage communities systematically and strategically in urban planning, implementation and monitoring to co-create the cities of the future. Cities that are best prepared for this shift will be in a position to effect positive and lasting change in a rapidly changing world.

To learn more about the experiences of children and young people, and their vision for the future, UNICEF Myanmar issued a poll through the U-Report platform.

Engagement

1 TOTAL RESPONSE RATE

Within two weeks, **8,328** U-Reporters responded to the poll question.

2 GENDER RATIO

56% of the respondents were female and **42%** were male. **2%** identified themselves as other genders.

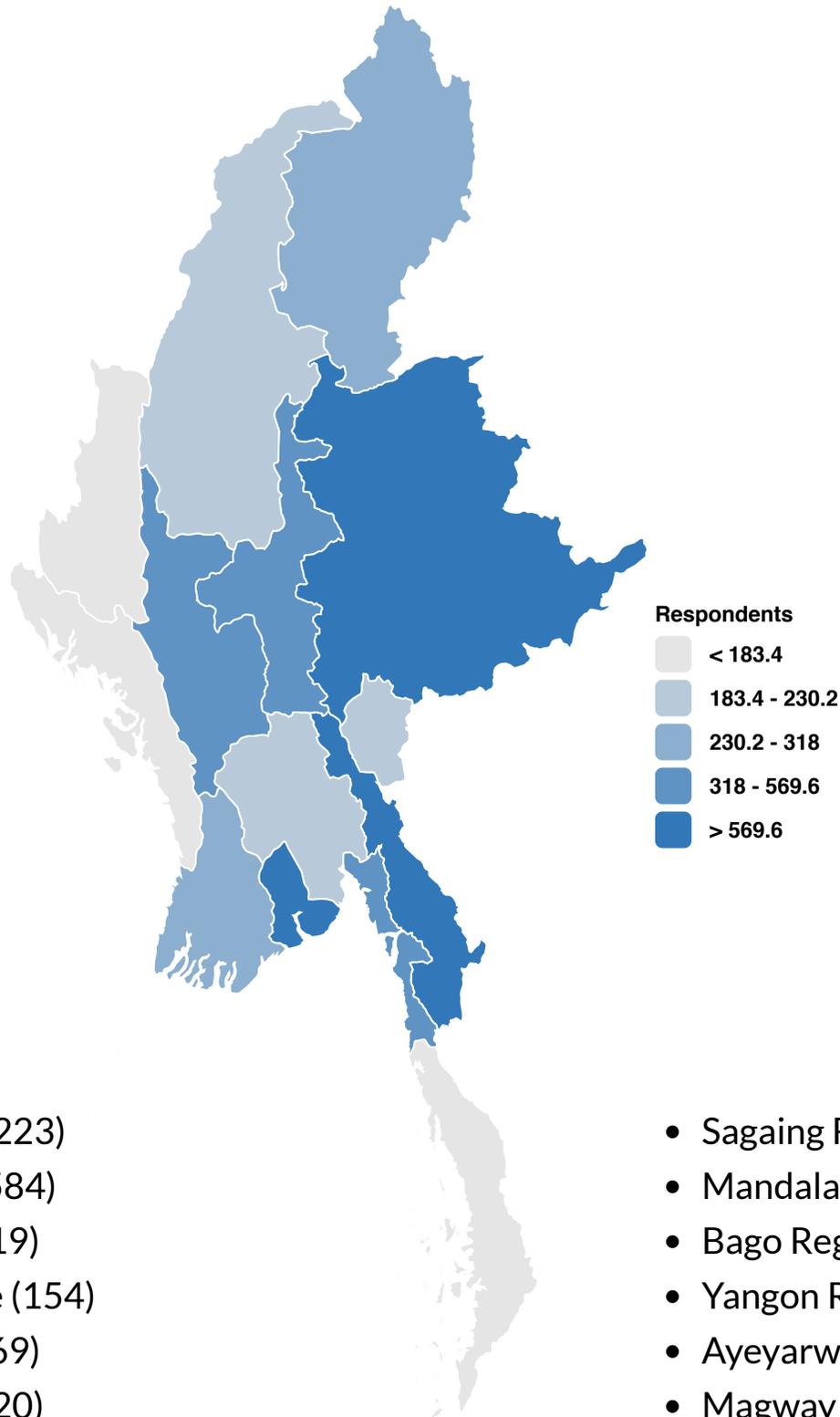
3 AGE GROUPS

42% of the responses were aged 20 to 24. **39%** were under the age of 19.

4 STATE & REGIONS

Yangon Region had the highest response rate with **1,169** respondents. A detailed breakdown of respondents' geographical location is shown on the next page.

Engagement



- Kayah State (223)
- Kayin State (584)
- Mon State (319)
- Rakhine State (154)
- Chin State (169)
- Shan State (920)
- Kachin State (314)

- Sagaing Region (212)
- Mandalay Region (560)
- Bago Region (193)
- Yangon Region (1169)
- Ayeyarwady Region (259)
- Magway Region (486)
- Tanintharyi Region (96)

Questions

1

What do you think about the voice of children and young people in your city, town or community?

- A. People listen to children and young people, and we have the power to influence decisions that affect our lives.
- B. People listen to children and young people, but we often don't have any power to influence decisions that affect our lives.
- C. People don't listen to children and young people and make decisions about us without consulting us.

2

During the COVID-19 pandemic, which of these areas have presented the greatest challenges for you and your family?

- A. Accessing health services
- B. Having the opportunity to access education and learn
- C. Eating a healthy diet and getting enough exercise
- D. Accessing job opportunities and earning enough money
- E. Looking after my mental health
- F. Participating in my community
- G. Facing domestic violence or abuse at home
- H. Accessing the internet
- I. None/ I do not know

Questions

3

How has your experience been of living in your city/town/community during the COVID-19 pandemic?

- A. It has been great – I haven't experienced any challenges
- B. It has been ok – I have faced some challenges but nothing major
- C. It has been difficult – I have faced some difficult challenges
- D. It has been extremely difficult – I have experienced major challenges
- E. I don't know

4

What would be your biggest concern for the future of Myanmar?

- A. Climate change
- B. Finding a good job and making a living
- C. Accessing quality education
- D. Eliminating discrimination and building an inclusive society
- E. Conflict and security
- F. Other

5

If you were in charge of your city/town/village/community, what changes would you make to make it a better place to live for children and young people?

“

”

Responses

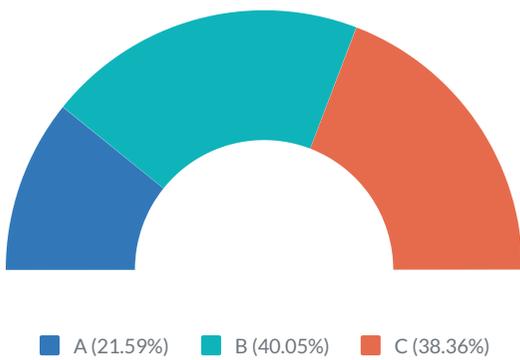
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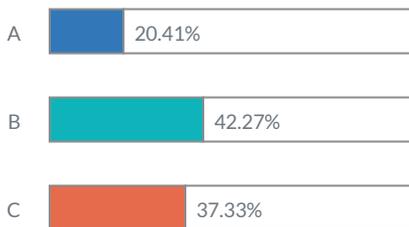
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Overall Percentage

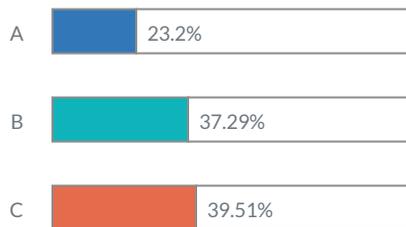


- **4 out of 10** respondents said that children and young people opinions **are not consulted or considered** when making decisions.
- **Only 21%** of respondents said that people listen to children and young people and their opinions can influence the decisions.
- More female respondents said that children and young people are consulted but they often cannot influence the decisions that affect their lives.

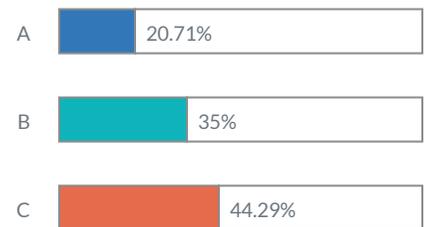
Female Respondents



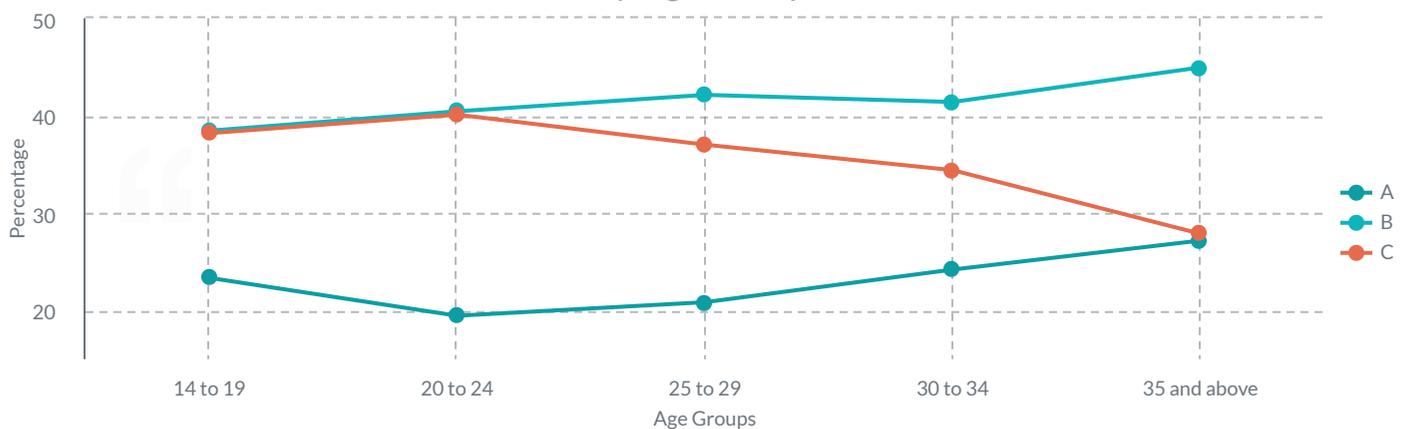
Male Respondents



Other Gender Respondents



By Age Group



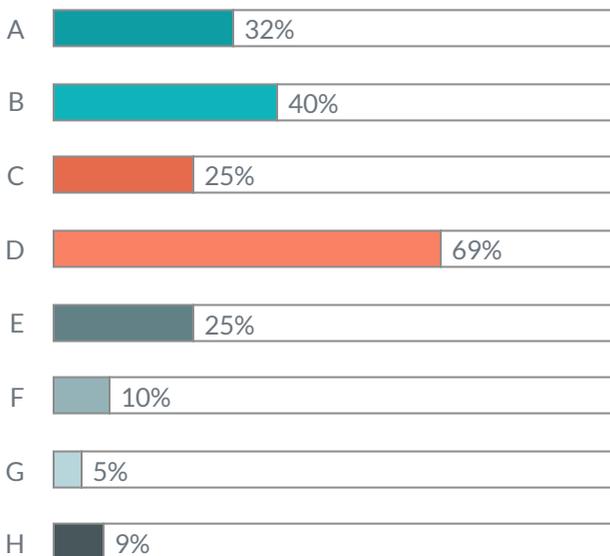
Responses

2

During the COVID-19 pandemic, which of these areas have presented the greatest challenges for you and your family?

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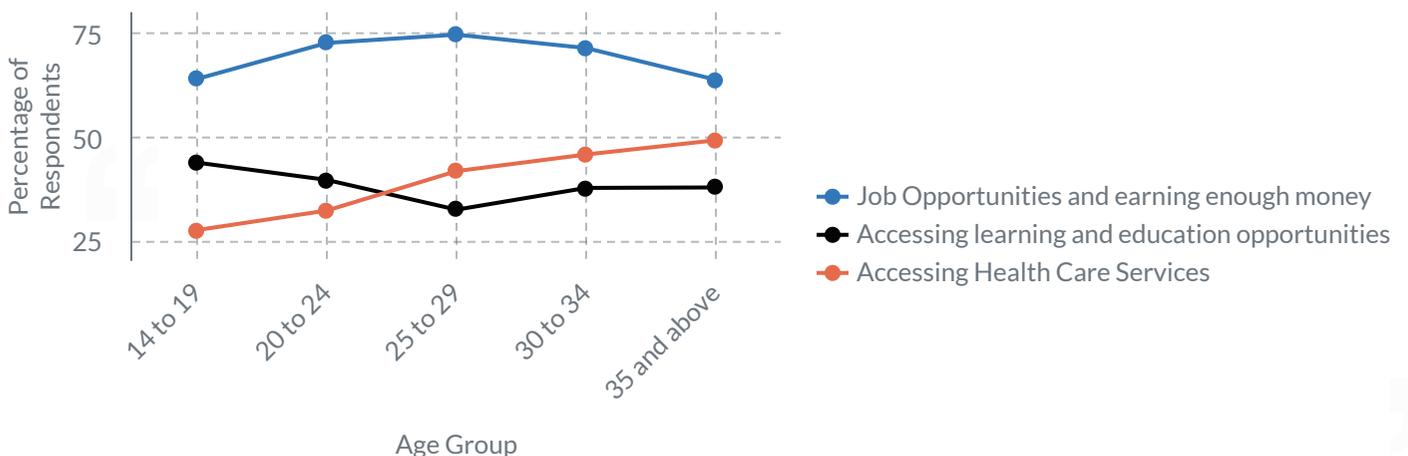
Percentage of Responses



95% of the respondents said they have challenges during COVID-19.

- **7 out of 10** U-Reporters have expressed that accessing job opportunities and earning enough money are the greatest challenges for them.
- **4 out of 10** respondents said accessing education and learning opportunities during COVID-19 is the greatest challenge for them.
- **25% of respondents** said healthy diet, physical and mental health are the greatest challenges.

Top Three Greatest Challenges by Age Group



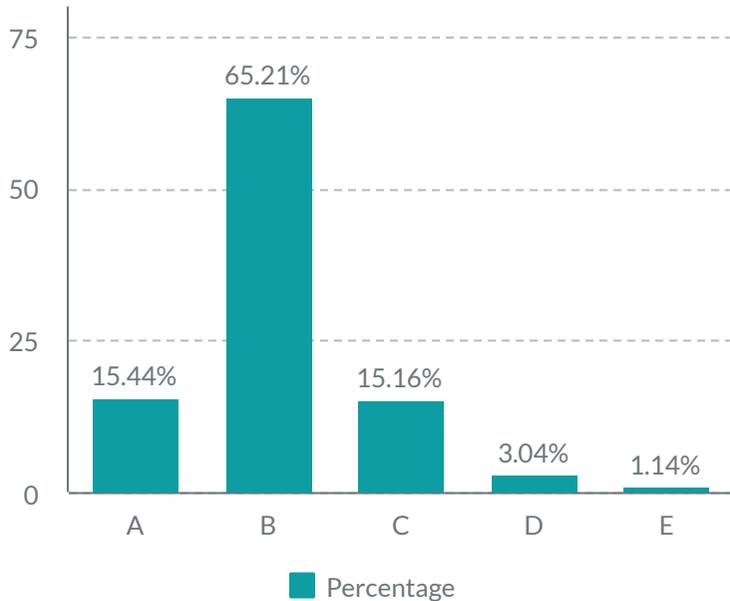
Responses

3

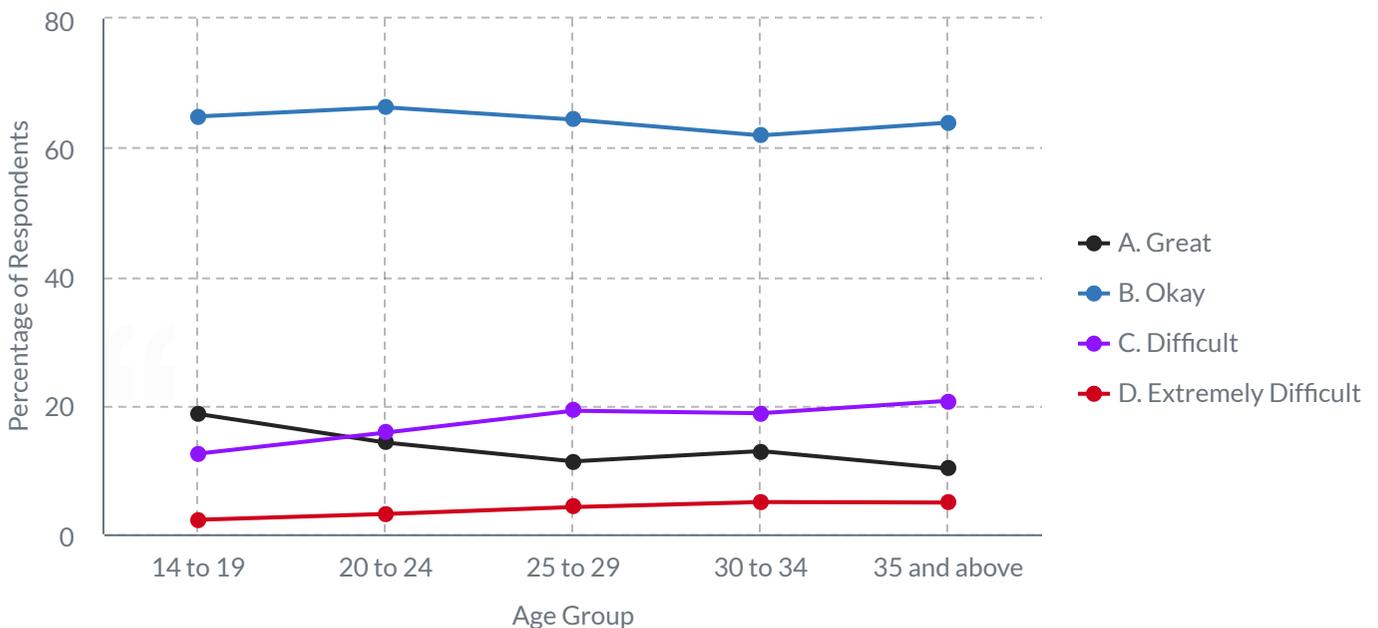
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Overall Percentage



- **65%** of the respondents said they have faced some **minor challenges**.
- **3%** of the U-Reporters experienced **major challenges** and it has been **extremely difficult** for them. Highest responses saying extremely difficult are from Rakhine (10%), followed by Kayah (5.5%) and Sagaing (4.78%).
- It is found that **older respondents** find it **more difficult** to be living in the community during COVID-19 pandemic than younger respondents.

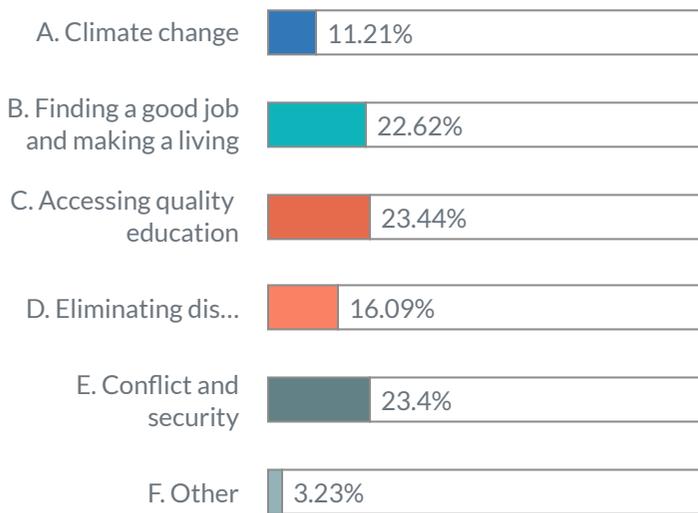


Responses

4

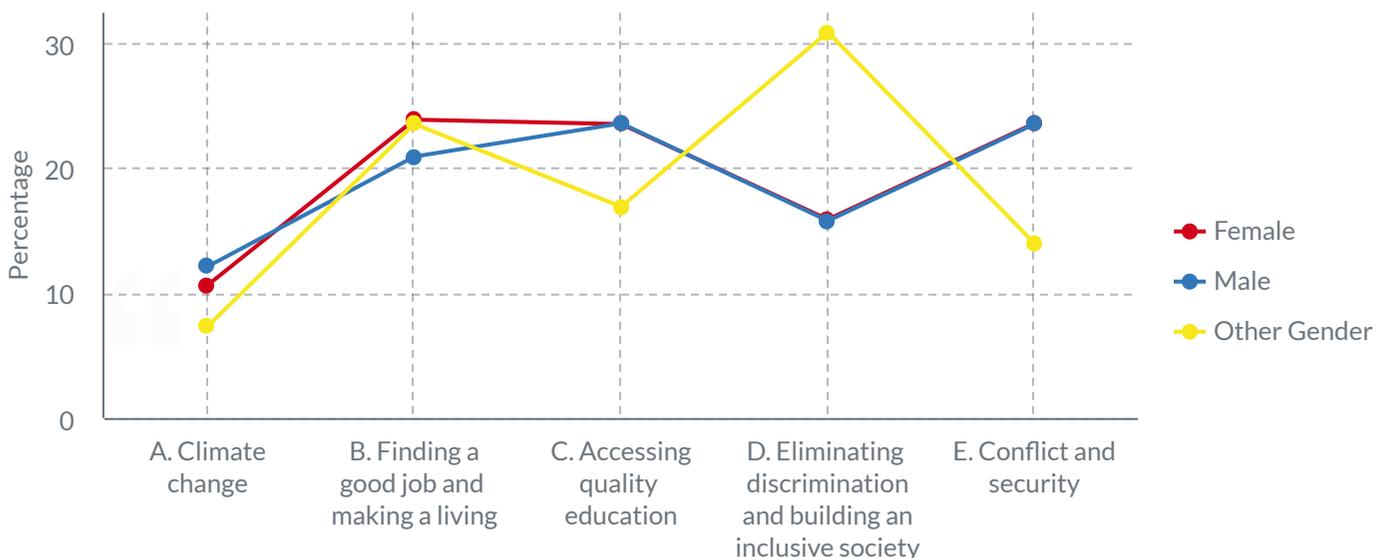
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- E. Conflict and security
- F. Other



- The biggest concern for the future of Myanmar are **conflict and security, and accessing quality education** said by **nearly half** of the respondents.
- **22%** of U-Reporters said finding a good job and making a living is a concern. It is found that female respondents are more worried about finding a job than male respondents.
- U-Reporters who identify themselves as other genders are more concerned about discrimination and inclusive society.

Comparison by Gender



Responses

5

If you were in charge of your city/town/village/community, what changes would you make to make it a better place to live for children and young people?

More than 6000 U-Reporters responded freely to this question. Broadly speaking, they saw education as a key priority, followed by increasing the number of green and safe places. Drug use was also referenced frequently as a major concern for young people. The following are some selected responses from young people, translated into English.

- I'd like to create more secure public places like a park where families and children can safely play and interact. I also want to see wide platforms where pedestrians can walk peacefully. I also want to see more youth-friendly spaces and public libraries in my city.”
- “If I had authority, I would create a Community centre for youths, drop-in centres for young people where they can come and learn, read and have access to information.
- “Safe, secure and violence-free environment for children.”
- “I want to see more libraries free for youth or affordable prices for youth.”
- “I want citizens to be a responsible citizen who follows the rules and regulations.”
- “I want my city greener, keep more trees and parks where children can play safely, and families can relax.”
- “I will encourage youths to speak up. They have their rights to choose their own life. I want to create more activities and opportunities for youths to participate officially by the government. “
- “I want to encourage the government to listen to the voices of children and young people and include them in building better cities.”
- “I will listen to the voices of children and young people. Then together, with government, experts in respective can find or create better solutions for our cities.”
- “I want to create more learning opportunities for children living in the streets.”
- “I want to engage different activities for youth such as sports so that they will not use drugs.”
- “I want to help children from poor communities to continue education so that children will stay in classrooms instead of working in the streets of the cities.”
- “I want to create more spaces for children to speak out.”
- “I want to help children to be more educated so that they can build better and responsible citizens when they grow up”



*Together, we can
reimagine a better
world, for every child
and young people.*



About U-Report Myanmar

U-Report is an innovative social messaging tool allowing adolescents and young people from communities across Myanmar, to speak out and respond to polls on the issues that matter to them. U-Report was launched in Myanmar in August 2016. As of November 2020, already more than 48,000 U-Reporters have registered through Facebook and Viber.

Poll questions on a wide range of development topics are asked to U-Reporters every week, providing a profound source of real-time information on the views and opinions of adolescents and young people in Myanmar. The platform provides decision-makers with a forum to listen to many voices across the country, giving them a unique insight into the challenges that affect young people in Myanmar.

To access our poll results: <https://myanmar.ureport.in/>

Our Facebook

Page: <https://facebook.com/ureportmyanmar>