

U-Report Poll: Children and Youth Participation

RESULTS

2026
January

About the U-Report poll

All child rights are equally important, yet children and adolescents' right to participate is often overlooked, sidelined, or not treated as a priority. On the local government unit level, while there are existing national child and youth development indicators for children and youth participation in the Child-Friendly Local Governance Audit and Seal of Good Local Governance, these indicators are yet to capture its depth and nuances. Moreover, within UNICEF, the December 2024 evaluation of the Adolescents Development and Participation programming highlighted the need to strengthen UNICEF's approach to participation and find better ways to integrate it effectively across sectoral programming.

Children's participation is recognized as a key priority under the 4th National Plan of Action for Children. However, there is currently no national study that examines the state of child and youth participation in the Philippines. To address this, UNICEF Philippines is working with the National Committee on Child and Youth Participation, alongside National Youth Commission, the Department of Education, and Council for the Welfare of Children, to harmonize a national framework on children and youth participation.

With the support of the committee members, a U-Report poll with six simple questions will be launched and disseminated nationally among young people aged 13 to 30 to help inform the harmonized child and youth participation framework. The poll ran from June 2025 to October 2025.

About U-Report

U-Report is a digital community, powered by UNICEF, for young people, by young people, where they can raise their voices and share opinions on topics that matter to them. It empowers youth to find out about issues that affect them and take action.

U-Report started in 2011 and has evolved into an international movement for positive social change with over 37 million U-Reporters to date. U-Report Philippines was launched in 2019 and is currently being used as a polling platform to ensure that voices of children and youth in the Philippines are heard.



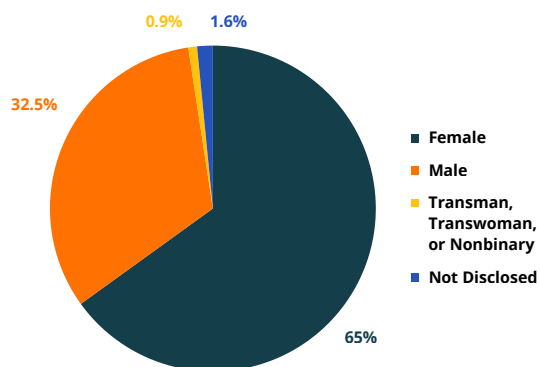
About the respondents

The poll was responded by **4,251** people between 13 and 30 years old living in the Philippines.

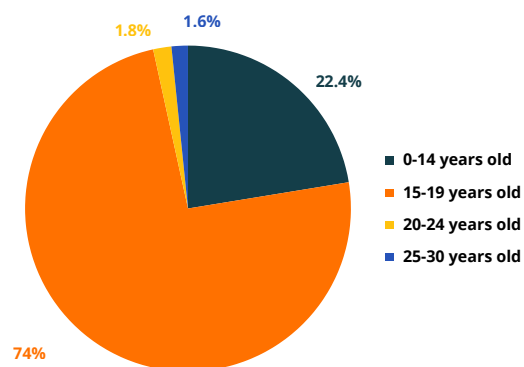
Table 1: Gender and Age Distribution of Respondents

	Female	Male	Transman, Transwoman, or Nonbinary	Not Disclosed	TOTAL
0-14 years old	609	325	5	14	953
15-19 years old	2077	999	26	50	3152
20-24 years old	37	36	2	2	77
25-30 years old	42	23	4	0	260
TOTAL	2765	1383	37	66	4521

Graph 1: Gender Distribution of Respondents



Graph 2: Age Distribution of Respondents



Among the respondents, **65%** identified as **female**, while **32.5%** identified as **male**. Additionally, **0.9%** identified as **transman, transwoman, or nonbinary**, and **1.6%** chose **not to disclose** their gender identity.

The majority of respondents were from the **15-19 age group (74%)**, followed by those aged **0-14 (22.4%)**, though this group **only includes 13- and 14-year-olds**, as the survey was limited to those 13 and above. Meanwhile, **1.8%** of respondents were in the **20-24** age range. A smaller **1.6%** fell under the **25-30** age group.

Respondents came from 18 regions across the Philippines, with the highest representation from **Region 11, Davao Region (18.6%)**, **Region 1, Ilocos Region (17.8%)**, and **Region 6, Western Visayas (16.7%)**.

See Annex A for the full regional distribution of respondents.

Disclaimer: The ages indicated in the results are based on the year of birth that U-Reporters provided in the poll. Since this data is self-reported, it cannot be independently verified. However, it still provides valuable insights into the perspectives of young people.

About the data

U-Report is a platform that aims to engage young people with UNICEF. The polls run on U-Report do not provide results that are statistically significant, but rather a general sentiment from what children and youth in the Philippines think, feel, and experience.

Respondents are given the option to skip questions or discontinue participation at any point in the survey. Therefore, not all respondents answered every question, which accounts for the variability in the total number of respondents per question.

What young people said about their participation

Question 1

As a child/young person, do you know that you have the right to freely express your views and have adults take you seriously?

Responses: 4,251

Graph 3: Awareness of right to participation

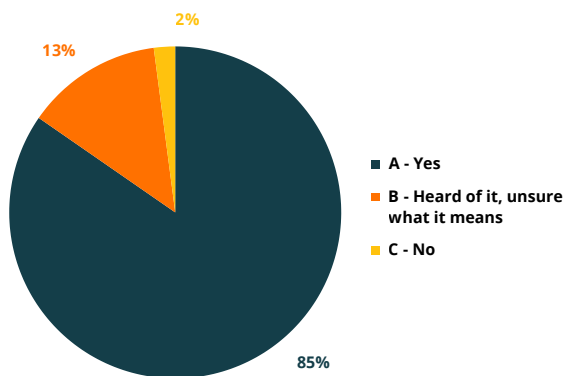


Table 2: Awareness of right to participation

Options	No. of Respondents	Percentage
A - Yes	3598	85%
B - Heard of it, unsure what it means	565	13%
C - No	88	2%
TOTAL	4251	100.00%

When asked whether they know that they have the right to freely express their views and have adults take them seriously, **85%** of respondents answered “Yes,” indicating a **high level of awareness of this right among children and young people**. However, **13%** said they have heard of this right but are unsure what it means, suggesting gaps in deeper understanding. Meanwhile, **2%** reported that they do not know about this right at all, pointing to a small but important group that may need information and support.

Question 2

At home, do you feel that parents/guardians listen to your ideas and consider them when making decisions?

Responses: 4,216

Graph 4: Perception of being listened to and considered by parents/guardians

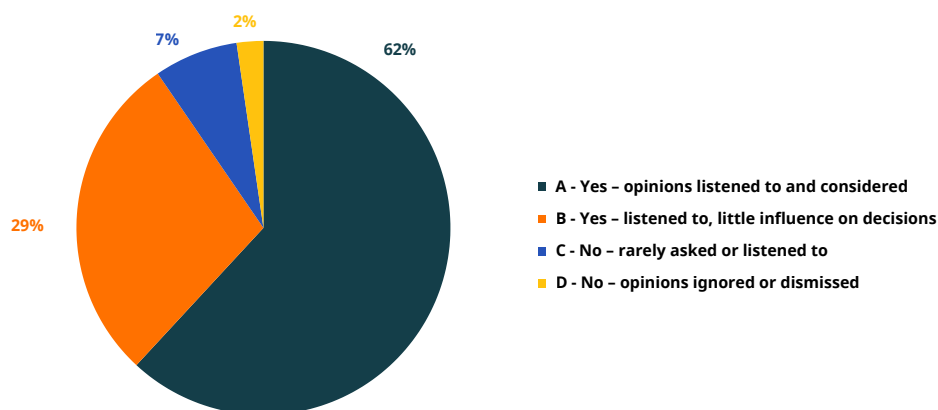


Table 3: Perception of being listened to and considered by parents/guardians

Options	No. of Respondents	Percentage
A - Yes - opinions listened to and considered	2609	62%
B - Yes - listened to, little influence on decisions	1204	29%
C - No - rarely asked or listened to	306	7%
D - No - opinions ignored or dismissed	97	2%
TOTAL	4216	100.00%

When asked whether they feel that their parents or guardians listen to their ideas and consider them in decision-making at home, **62%** of respondents said their opinions are listened to and considered.

However, **29%** reported that while they are listened to, their views have little influence on actual decisions, suggesting that participation may be more consultative than meaningful for many children and young people. Meanwhile, **7%** said they are rarely asked or listened to, and **2%** reported that their opinions are ignored or dismissed.

Taken together, about **two in five** U-Reporters **do not feel that their views meaningfully shape decisions at home**, pointing to gaps between being heard and having influence.

Question 3

At school or work, do you have opportunities to share your thoughts and ideas in activities or discussions?

Responses: 4,190

Graph 5: Opportunities to participate in school or work settings

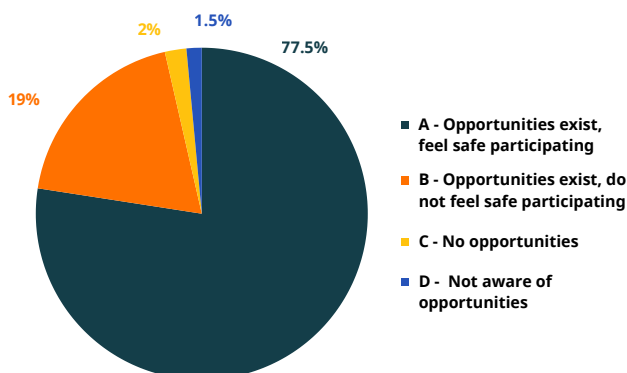


Table 4: Opportunities to participate in school or work settings

Options	No. of Respondents	Percentage
A - Opportunities exist, feel safe participating	3245	77.5%
B - Opportunities exist, do not feel safe participating	795	19%
C - No opportunities	88	2%
D - Not aware of opportunities	62	1.5%
TOTAL	4190	100.00%

When asked whether they have opportunities to share their thoughts and ideas in school or work settings, **77.5%** of U-Reporters reported that opportunities exist and that they feel safe participating.

However, **19%** said that while opportunities are available, they do not feel safe sharing their views, which indicates to concerns around psychological or social safety despite the presence of participation spaces. **2%** reported having no opportunities to participate, and **1.5%** said they are not aware of any opportunities they can be part of.

Overall, around **one in five** respondents **face barriers to meaningful participation at school or at work**, either due to safety concerns, lack of opportunities, or limited awareness.

Question 4

In your community, do you get invited to join discussions or activities where you can share your thoughts?

Responses: 4,176

Graph 6: Opportunities to participate in community

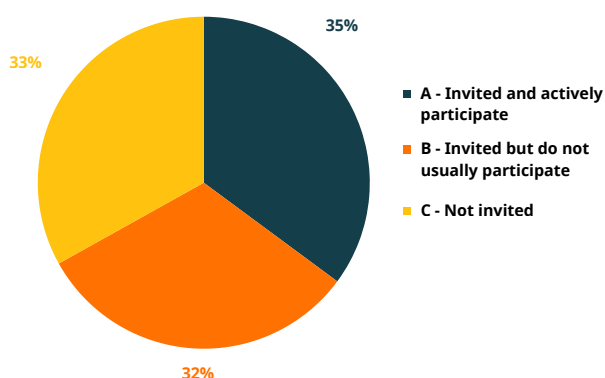


Table 5: Opportunities to participate in community

Options	No. of Respondents	Percentage
A - Invited and actively participate	1467	35%
B - Invited but do not usually participate	1327	32%
C - Not invited	1382	33%
TOTAL	4176	100.00%

U-Reporters were asked whether they get invited to join discussions or activities in their community, such as policy forums or youth group activities, where they can share their thoughts.

A little over a third of respondents (**35%**) said they are invited and actively participate, while **32%** reported that they are invited but do not usually participate. Meanwhile, **33%** said they have not experienced being invited to any such activities.

This indicates that while opportunities for community participation exist for some young people, **about two-thirds of respondents either do not actively participate or have not been invited at all.** This may be seen as a gap in inclusive engagement at the community level.

Question 5

Sometimes it can be hard to take part in decision-making at home, in school, or in the community. In general, what makes it difficult for you?

Responses: 4,155

Graph 7: Challenges in participating at home, school, or community

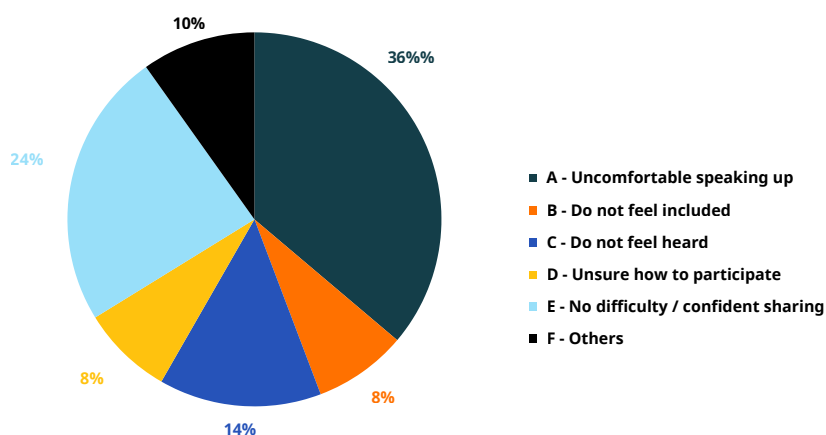


Table 6: Challenges in participating at home, school, or community

Options	No. of Respondents	Percentage
A - Uncomfortable speaking up	1503	36%
B - Do not feel included	335	8%
C - Do not feel heard	584	14%
D - Unsure how to participate	329	8%
E - No difficulty / confident sharing	995	24%
F - Others	409	10%
TOTAL	4155	100.00%

When asked about the difficulties they face when trying to take part in decision-making at home, in school, or in the community, **over a third** of U-Reporters (**36%**) expressed that they do not feel comfortable speaking up, while **14%** said they do not feel heard, and **8%** said they do not feel included.

Another **8%** reported being unsure how to participate, and **10%** indicated other reasons. Meanwhile, **24%** expressed no difficulty and feel confident sharing their thoughts.

These results suggest that while some young people feel confident in participating, the **majority face barriers related to comfort, inclusion, and being heard**. This could possibly point to the need for supportive environments that enable meaningful participation.

Question 6

What do you usually do to share your thoughts and opinions?

Responses: 4,124

Graph 8: Channels for participation

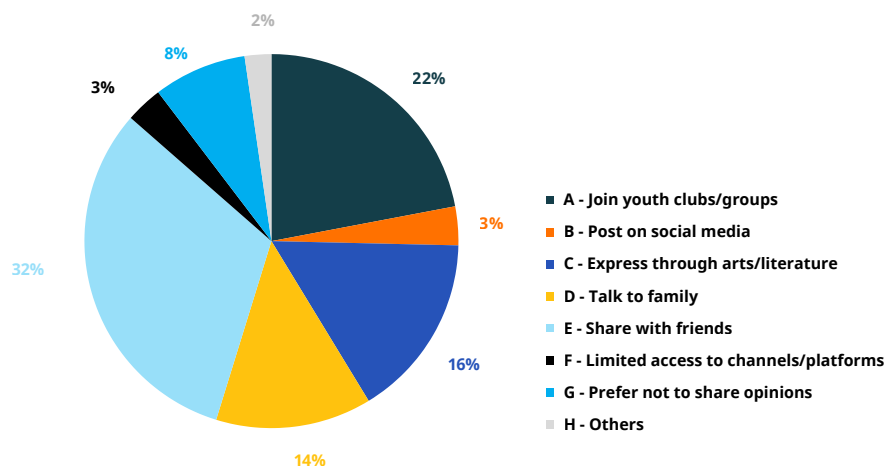


Table 7: Channels for participation

Options	No. of Respondents	Percentage
A - Join youth clubs/groups	908	22%
B - Post on social media	138	3%
C - Express through arts/literature	657	16%
D - Talk to family	556	14%
E - Share with friends	1306	32%
F - Limited access to channels/platforms	132	3%
G - Prefer not to share opinions	332	8%
H - Others	95	2%
TOTAL	4124	100.00%

U-Reporters were asked about the ways they usually share their thoughts and opinions. The most common way respondents expressed themselves was by sharing with friends (**32%**), followed by joining youth clubs or groups (**22%**) and expressing through arts, music, poems, or other forms of literature (**16%**).

Talking to family was chosen by **14%** of respondents, while **3%** post on social media. A small portion reported limited access to platforms (**3%**) or prefer not to share their opinions (**8%**), and **2%** selected other ways.

These results indicate that **peer networks and organized groups are the primary channels for young people to participate**, while access to broader platforms, including online channels, remains limited for some.

Annex

Annex A

Table 8: Regional Distribution of Respondents

Region	Number of Respondents	Percentage
NCR	276	6.49%
CAR	55	1.29%
Region 1	757	17.81%
Region 2	111	2.61%
Region 3	65	1.53%
Region 4A	28	0.66%
Region 4B	23	0.54%
Region 6	708	16.65%
Region 7	241	5.67%
Region 8	33	0.78%
Region 9	4	0.09%
Region 10	115	2.71%
Region 11	789	18.56%
Region 12	27	0.64%
Region 13	556	13.08%
Region 18	312	7.34%
BARMM	151	3.55%
TOTAL	4251	100.00%