

CHILD-LED MOBILISATION

*An essential approach for ending
violence against children*



WHAT IS CHILD-LED MOBILISATION?

Child-led mobilisation is an approach that aims to empower, engage and equip children and young people to take action toward social change in their communities and countries through activism and social movements in order to challenge unfair policies, practices or attitudes that affect children and young people.

Child-led mobilisation offers new spaces and opportunities for children and young people to act as key social actors through inclusion and active citizenship by taking public action to achieve their collective goals.

What are the main components of the project?

SPACE

Children and young people are provided with space and opportunities to engage in social mobilisation and make their voices heard on issues that are relevant to them. They are equipped with the essential skills and tools needed to ensure meaningful and effective participation in social change.

ACTION

Children and young people develop strategies as activists plan and undertake the actions they want to take to make their communities and countries safer for everyone. This component includes identifying priority issues and selecting mobilisation strategies such as advocacy campaigns, social media action and community conversations with key stakeholders.

INFLUENCE

Children and young people contribute to change in policy, practices and attitudes around violence against children by reaching out to decision-makers and stakeholders and presenting their appeals to make positive changes in their communities and countries.

What are the benefits of this approach?

This approach helps to transform communities as a result of children and young people's engagement on issues that are relevant to them. Children and young people are mobilised to use their potential, willingness and enthusiasm for positive change. This approach provides them with advocacy skills, tools and knowledge with an emphasis on civic engagement and social mobilisation.

This approach offers opportunities for children and young people to express their opinions and contribute their ideas to an intergenerational dialogue among other stakeholders and decision-makers at the community and national level.

Child-led mobilisation helps to raise awareness about the contribution that children and young people can make to society by emphasising that they are competent social actors and positive contributors to society.

How does the project contribute to the new campaign goal and to the specific children and young people's participation objectives?

As the campaign to end violence against children seeks to empower children and young people as key drivers and partners, child-led mobilisation provides a beneficial and powerful way to engage them to include their unique knowledge and perspectives in generating ideas to end violence against children.

By participating in mobilisation actions, children and young people contribute to making the campaign more efficient, relevant and sustainable. In many consultations, children and young people have prioritised violence against children as one of their most pressing concerns and asked to be actively involved in actions to address this issue and promote long-term solutions.

Experiences from the field have proven that children and young people can undertake multiple initiatives such as enhance positive and peaceful environments, improve relations with peers to end bullying and harassment, or raise awareness of the need to address violence as a matter of urgency.



A promising practice from the field

In Brazil, the Young People Monitoring Public Policy, MJPOP, (its acronym) is a social movement that aims to open up spaces for young people to engage in mobilisation and participate in public policy debates. MJPOP advocates for creating a space for young people from slum communities to dialogue with stakeholders on issues that are relevant to them.

MJPOP focuses on tackling the issues of violence and discrimination that affect young people, who are most likely to be male, black and from vulnerable families. MJPOP has conducted several awareness campaigns to highlight the racial violence in Brazil.

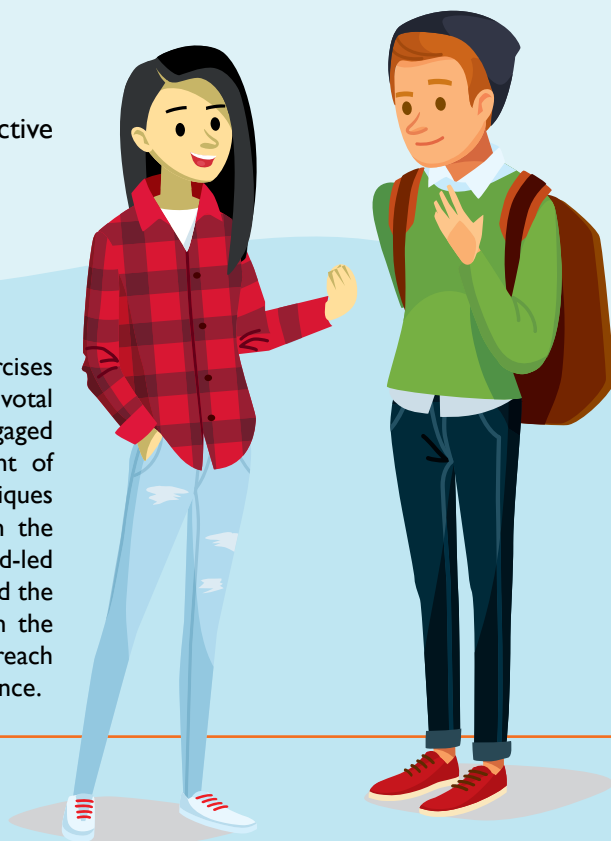
As part of the MJPOP work, young people explore issues related to their well being and mobilise the community to hold meetings with the representatives of the municipal government to address these problems and develop a joint action plan with the authorities. As a result, new opportunities have been created for debate between young people, community members and government representatives on issues such as discrimination and violence.

How does the project work?

The project is divided into three critical phases:

- A** Prepare children and young people for having an active role in their communities
- B** Take actions and mobilise for a cause and
- C** Influence changes on the issues relevant to them

The first phase includes workshops and capacity building exercises to equip children and young with essential life skills, which are pivotal to their participation in social change. Children and young engaged in previous mobilisation projects identified the development of leadership and public speaking skills, conflict resolution techniques and self-awareness as one of the critical success factors. In the second phase, children and young people learn about child-led mobilisation, the development of strategies and action plans and the need to work together with other groups or movements. In the third phase, children and young people mobilise themselves to reach the key decision-makers and stakeholder they want to influence.



For further information, please contact:

Patricio Cuevas-Parra,
Senior Policy Adviser,
Child Participation and Rights.
Advocacy and Justice for Children.

Email: Patricio_Cuevas-Parra@wvi.org



It takes a world
to end violence against children