

Summary of existing topics/ field of work

Instructions

This summary shall give a brief overview of terre des hommes concepts, strategies and successes in its main fields of work. The addressees are all participants of terre des hommes co-decisions process, including volunteers, partner organizations, the International Youth Network and staff. It is part of the Exploration Phase of the Pathway 23, the co-decision process leading up to the Delegates Conference 2023. It is one element of a mapping of our fields of work and topics and shall provide a common basis of information for all participants.

The factsheet shall be short, understandable, and give summary on terre des hommes' approach to the respective topic in max. 20 min reading time. Therefore, available text space is limited in the format of the factsheet. For those that want to enter into more details you may attach annexes and/ or provide links or literature recommendations.

These factsheets will be elaborated on all fields of works/ topics on which terre des hommes itself has been working thematically and conceptually; however, not on all of the topics that are addressed by the work of our partners. All the other fields of work and topics can be mapped online, in a format accessible to the participants of the webinars of the Exploration Phase.

Summary on Promoting a Child's Right to a Healthy and Sustainable Environment

1. Please shortly define the field of work and its central terms or concepts

(limit 600 signs each)

<p>Topic:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> <p>Children's rights and the environment</p> </div>	<p>1. The environment as a pre-requisite for the enjoyment of human rights (implying that human rights obligations of States should include the duty to ensure the level of environmental protection necessary to allow the full exercise of protected rights);</p> <p>2. Certain human rights, especially access to information, participation in decision-making, and access to justice in environmental matters, as essential to good environmental decision-making</p> <p>3. The right to a safe, healthy and ecologically-balanced environment as a human right in itself</p>
<p>Central term 1</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> <p>Environmental rights</p> </div>	<p>Environmental rights aim for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - children's ability to enjoy their rights to life and health, as well as a host of other rights (water, play, food, housing etc.) in an environment that is healthy and sustainable and - the exercise of children's rights (right to information, education, participation and effective remedies) that help to protect and develop respect for the environment, which in turn enables the full enjoyment of children's rights.
<p>Central term 2</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> <p>The right to a healthy environment</p> </div>	<p>The right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right includes six vital (substantive) elements: a stable climate, clean air, healthy and sustainably produced food, clean water and sanitation, healthy ecosystems and biodiversity, and a non-toxic environment to live, study, work and play in.</p>
<p>Central term 3</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> <p></p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>

2. Please name groups of children and youth especially focused by terre des hommes´ in this field of work (if any)

Indigenous children, poor children, working children and other marginalized groups of children, and children activists

(150 signs)

3. Please name the three biggest challenges, that terre des hommes is addressing in this field of work and the concerned child rights according to the UN Child Rights Convention

	Challenges (limit 400 signs each)	Concerned Child Rights (limit 50 signs each)
1	Lack of robust universal standards to protect children's rights in the environmental context and lack of consideration of children's rights in environmental and other relevant policy areas, including lack of political will to address root causes of environmental problem	Convention as a whole, incl. Articles 24 and 29
2	Lack of awareness, empowerment and education in the environmental context along with opportunities to participate in decisions.	Convention as a whole, articles 12,13,15 29
3	Environmental injustice concerns age-discrimination through adult-centred standards and decisions (e.g. short-term thinking), discrimination of specific groups of children and inequalities between countries leading to adverse environmental impacts on children	Article 6

4. Please shortly describe terre des hommes' strategies to address these challenges

4.1. Introduction (general description of the strategy)

Action on the ground facilitated by youth groups and networks on local, national, regional and global level is strongly linked with advocacy on all aforementioned levels. The campaign My Planet My Rights has given the SG a great push and resulted in the collection of 150,000 signatures to the UN, asking for recognition of a Child's Right to a Healthy and Sustainable Environment. A major milestone was achieved when the UNCRC appointed tdhG as partner organisation to draft a General Comment on this matter, which will be published in 2023. While requesting an Optional Protocol of the CRC is an option for the future, local and national action and advocacy as well as the youth networks will surely continue. tdhG is currently collecting good practices in order to publish a manual & toolkit as well as a training and exchange platform for practitioners in order to further strengthen concerned organisations and groups.

(limit 1000 signs)

4.2. Specific strategies to tackle each challenge (consider participation of youth, project work, and advocacy - if applicable)

(insert number of challenge)	Specific strategies to tackle each challenge limit 600 signs each)
1	Project work to empower and educate children and youth, especially those coming from marginalized segments of the population, creation of opportunities to get involved in environmental matters
1	Advocacy with decision-making at different levels to achieve lobby goals, involving children and youth

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5. What were the biggest successes in this area of terre des hommes and partners so far? (limit 1500 signs)

- Numerous projects since 2013 and before lead to changes on local and national level all over the world.
- My Planet My Rights Campaign flanked by action & advocacy on local, national and global level lead to collection of 150,000 signatures demanding the recognition of this Child Right; the UNCRC appointed tdhG as partner organisation to draft a General Comment on this matter, which will be published in 2023

6. Is there anything else, everybody should know about this field of work?
(limit 600 signs)

- Will remain one of the key children's rights issues at international level for the years to come
- Need to (re-)define tdh's role with main advocacy goals achieved and more and more organizations focusin on the relationship between children's rights and the environment

7. Recommended Annexes (please name here and attach as a separate document)

8. Recommended literature and links

Healthy environments

1. Prüss-Üstün, A., Wolf, J., Corvalan, C.F., Bos, R., and Neira, M. (2016) 'Preventing disease through healthy environments: A global assessment of the burden of disease from environmental risks', Geneva: World Health Organization. https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/204585/9789241565196_eng.pdf?sequence.
2. UN Environment Programme (UNEP) (2002) 'Global Environment Outlook - GEO-3: Past, Present and Future Perspectives', Nairobi: UNEP. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/468999?ln=en>.
3. UN Environment Programme (UNEP) (2019) 'Global Environment Outlook - GEO-6: Healthy Planet, Healthy People', Nairobi: UNEP. <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/27539>.
4. World Health Organization (WHO) (2017a) 'Inheriting a Sustainable World? Atlas on children's health and the environment', Geneva: World Health Organization.

Climate change

1. Why children must emit eight times less CO2 than their grandparents, Carbon Brief, 10 April 2019: <https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-why-children-must-emit-eight-times-less-co2-than-their-grandparents>.
2. Intergenerational inequities in exposure to climate change extremes, Science, 8 October 2021: <https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-why-children-must-emit-eight-times-less-co2-than-their-grandparents>. (Check accessibility with Jonas Schubert)