

LINDA EXENBERGER FRANZ-JOSEPH HUA INIGG



OUR WORLD

OUR FUTURE

OUR WORLD. OUR FUTURE.

A reader introducing the international development goals

In 2015 the UN General Assembly adopted the 17 goals for a more equal and sustainable world – the so called Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Among these goals are for example: to end starvation and poverty as well as providing clean water and good healthcare for all people in the world. These big goals can only be achieved, if we all make our contributions within our local sphere of action.

The short stories are the core part of this book and enable young people to get an insight into everyday life of children in other parts of the world and at the same time they can draw interesting comparisons to their own quality of life. Furthermore they can learn, what they can do to help to achieve each and every one of these goals.

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FOREWORD

Young people may be 25% of the world's population, but they are 100% of the world's future.

Ending childhood poverty, in all its dimensions, is critical to addressing the root causes of poverty worldwide and ensuring a more prosperous future for all. Unfortunately, children globally are still disproportionately living in extreme poverty. The consequences of growing up with inadequate food and nutrition, poor healthcare, lack of access to clean water and sanitation and without quality education, can have long term negative effects on children, adolescents and societies, creating challenges that are difficult to overcome later.

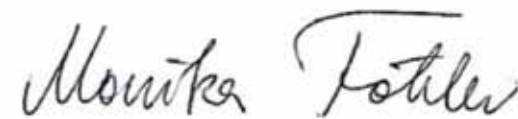
But are there any solutions?

Yes – there are: investing in all children from an early age, building opportunities required to reduce poverty and generating prosperity for all, will shape the world's future.

In 2015, the world came together to examine the most prevalent problems facing our planet. From this meeting, the world community decided on 17 goals which can be viewed as suggestions for solutions to our global challenges. These solutions are called the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It is important that children and youth globally are aware of the Sustainable Development Goals. This book is a collection of stories teaching youth about the SDGs and what they entail. Hopefully, these stories will inspire children and youth to take action with regards to sustainable development in their communities and countries. The role of children and youth in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals can be summarized with the three „A's“ – raising Awareness, taking Action and holding governments and other stakeholders Accountable for progress.

Moving forward, we all need to take part in helping the world progress towards a brighter tomorrow. I know that children and youth are key to this future and that they will surely do their part to make it possible.



Monika Froehler
Chief Executive Officer
Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens

THE BIG STORY, BEFORE WE TELL YOU ALL THE LITTLE STORIES.

Introduction

The planet, on which we live on is 4.6 billion years old. That is incredibly old. If we were to convert this time to a single day it would be as though human beings would only have existed for three seconds; in this very short space of time we have already managed to turn the world topsy-turvy. We have invented life-saving medicine, such as penicillin that has saved many lives and cured many diseases. First book printing and later the media and the world wide web has helped us to share our knowledge. It has enabled us to connect with people all around the globe at incredible speeds, so that we can communicate by talking, writing and even watching each other on a mobile or laptop screen. Sometimes it almost feels like we live in the same street although we are miles apart from each other. Thanks to the invention of cars we are able to travel from one place to another in a really short spaces of time. Ships take us across the ocean, and airplanes have made the human dream of flying come true. Things that we use in our everyday lives, such as clothes, furniture or electrical machines are produced in factories on the other side of the world. We can turn on the water tap in the kitchen or the bathroom and we are able to drink the water; we can also cook and wash ourselves with it. Our rubbish bins are full every day but, of course, there is an organised waste collection system that gets rid of everything.

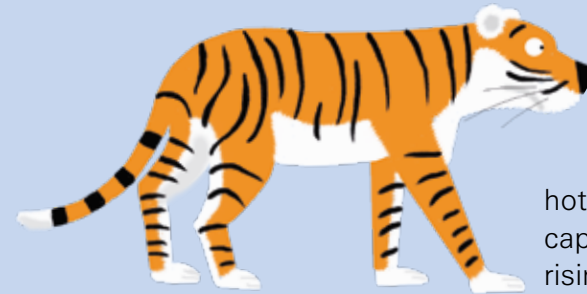
If you ever feel ill you can be sure to receive the right medication and treatment and if necessary go to a nearby hospital. In many places your school is not far away from your house and there is a great variety of things you can do in your free time such as visit the theater, cinema, libraries and a lot more. The quality of life in Austria is very high, at least for most people.

In this book you will read stories that show that it is not like this in other parts of the world. The possibilities people have in this world are very unequally distributed. The eight richest people in the world have as much money as all the poor people of the world population put together. In many



countries people have to live in poverty. They have to take long marches to get to drinking water, they do not have enough food to eat and are not able to go to school.

We often live our life at the expense of our environment and our entire planet. Our way of life also endangers the habitat of many animals and plants. Through our careless use of our raw materials and energy resources our earth is becoming hotter and hotter. Glaciers and pole caps are melting and the sea-level is rising; this causes flooding, yet at the same time in other places in the world this also causes severe drought. This all sounds very negative. And it is true, our planet is in danger and it urgently needs help and support.



However, there is some good news! This is pointed out in the video produced by The Project Everyone – ‘The world’s largest lesson’ (You can watch it with the QR-Code in the bibliography of this book)

The first piece of good news is – there is enough food on our earth to feed all the 8.5 billion people who will live on this earth until the year 2030. If the world became a fairer place nobody would need to go hungry.

The second piece of good news – there is a plan to change the world and make it a better place. The UNO, also named the United Nations Organisation is a global association of states. In September 2015 the 193 member states from all parts of the world decided upon the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are set out in a plan that aims to end poverty and hunger in the world. The belief and hope behind this plan is that the quality of life should be improved so that the world is fairer and climate change should be halted. In this book, you will find out more about these international goals that should be implemented by



all states in the world. An incredibly important step at the point when all member states admitted their responsibility at the UN conference. Who are these states that will support the achievement of these goals? Behind those states stand millions of people and you are one of them!

We can change the world! People have showed that again and again. We have something that distinguishes us as humans: in our head we form ideas, we can think about problems and we can find solutions for them. Every single one of us has incredible skills just waiting for an opportunity to be used. We all have the chance to live those dreams.

Now you might ask yourself, how can a single person save the world? It is possible, if we all agree what is important and then act on our ideas and if we all contribute to changing something in our life, we can implement the 17 goals. This book will give you ideas and show initiatives of how this might work.

At the very heart of this book are the stories told by children from different countries from around the world from various countries. They wish for a better life and find ways of making a change. Their stories take us into their world and we get an insight into what their lives are like; we share their worries and dreams. Most of the stories are based on real narrative reports from children and young adults from around the world. The heroes of our book have been brought to life by the illustrations of Carola Holland. With this book we would like to encourage people, to take action and to get together with others to make a change. We only have the one planet that we can live on. Together we can build a future in which we want to live in. Come and join us!

By Franz-Joseph Huainigg und Linda Exenberger





GOAL 1: NO POVERTY

'Greed is the root of all evil.'
[proverb from the United States of America]

One day spent with Angela from the USA

Hi guys! It's me Angela. I have just finished watching my favourite TV-series and before I have to leave for school, I want to tell you a little bit about myself. I am 12 years old and I live in this little apartment with my two older brothers. Another 1000 people also live in my apartment block. That means, I am never really alone. Shhh ... if you listen closely you can hear the neighbour coughing on the 15th floor. In the apartment below you can hear a baby cry night and day and next door a couple often fight really loudly. As you can see, there is always something going on! That is why it is sometimes difficult to concentrate on my maths homework.

When you look out my window, you can see the centre of the city – New York. It is the biggest city in the USA. Surrounding our apartment are impressive skyscrapers, where the rich people live and work. In New York you can buy anything you could possibly wish for; however you need money for that and my family doesn't have much money at all, even though my mum works really hard for her money as a waitress, we still do not have enough. Ever since my dad has left us, we have been really struggling because my mum only earns minimum wage as a waitress. But she always hopes, that people will pay her additional tips so that we can pay our bills.

In the USA we call people like us „the working poor“ – these are the people that have a job and are working but still have too little money to live a good and healthy lifestyle. But now, I really have to hurry – I need to catch the bus to school. Come on, you can come with me to the bus station. If I get to school early, I have time to get a free breakfast and hang out with my friends at the youth centre next to the school. The other day my best friend Zoe invited me to her birthday party on the other side of the city. I would love to go, but my mum doesn't have enough money to give me to buy a bus ticket.

I told Zoe that I could not come, because I had a doctor's appointment. I was too embarrassed to tell her the truth. My family is poor, but we are still lucky to have a roof over our heads – there are far poorer people living in New York. When you walk through the streets you often see homeless people lying on the cold floor. I am lucky to have a bed.

I share my room with my two older brothers – Tom and Justin. They are 25 and 28 years old, but still live at home. It is hard to find a job and an affordable flat in New York. But I hope, they will soon find work, so they can move out so I can have the bedroom to myself.

Oh, here is the bus, now I really have to go! Just let me say this one last thing: If I had one wish for our future I would want to end poverty in this world. Every little girl in this world should be able to have their own bedroom!





End poverty in all its forms everywhere

If you struggle to afford everyday things, then you are considered as poor. Here we have to distinguish between two types of poverty: 'absolute poverty' and 'relative poverty'. People suffering from 'absolute poverty' don't even have the money for the bare essentials to be able to survive. They do not have access to food or clean drinking water and can not afford to buy shoes or clothing. Many of these people do not have a home and live on the streets. Statistically speaking, everyone who has less than 2 Euros to spend a day is considered very poor. In Austria, that would mean you would only be able to afford a sandwich with two slices of cheese.

In Austria almost no one needs to live in absolute poverty. Our social state ensures primary care for everyone. However, there are some people, who live in relative 'poverty'. These people can not afford to turn on their heating in the winter, they can't go on holiday with their families and they also can't buy school materials for their children. Often these people also have to live with prejudices and exclusion from society. The embarrassment they have to face is sometimes harder than having to live on too little money.

At the moment, one in ten people have to live in extreme poverty. Goal 1 seeks to change that. In 2030 every person should earn more than 2 Euros per day. The number of people living in relative poverty should be halved. Reaching this goal isn't going to be very easy.

In some countries in Africa almost 80% of the people live in absolute poverty. Rich and poor countries need to work together so we are able to reach our first goal. Together we have to think of a good strategy.

What can we do to help achieve this goal?

- We sometimes see poor or homeless people on the streets begging for money. It is up to you whether you buy them food or give them a few pennies. But always make sure you meet these people with respect without prejudice. Sometimes it is nice for them if they get a friendly hello or just to have someone to talk to.
- Poverty can affect us all! Find out more on the topic of 'world poverty' and discuss it with your friends. Make sure you let other people know about the problems we have to face in this world. This is where your social media accounts come in handy.

**Tom (17) from
Vöcklabruck, Upper Austria:**

'I did a presentation in geography on the causes of poverty. Afterwards we had a big discussion in class about it and how each and every one of us can help poorer people in our community.'

Anna (14) from Reutte, Tyrol

'I have been a carol singer for five years. I don't just have fun doing this, I can also make a change for people living in poorer regions of the world.'

- Every year around 85.000 children and 30.000 adults set an example to show how you can help people in need. For example, they collect money as carol singers which goes to support charity projects in places such as Africa, Asia and Latin-America. Most carol singers are between 8 and 12 years old, but there is no age restriction. You can find more information on the homepage of the 'Dreikönigsaktion': www.dka.at



GOAL 2: ZERO HUNGER

'Hunger is misery;
a full stomach is worry'
[proverb from Haiti]

One day spent with Sidney from Haiti

Alo! Mwen se Sidney. I am 8 years old and I live in Cite Soleil. It's a commune in the capital of Haiti, Port-Au-Prince, also referred to as "slums" and is made out of tin shacks – not exactly a very nice place to live but we cannot afford to live anywhere else. Come in, this is our hut – welcome to our home! I live here with my parents and my three siblings. This is the room in which we cook, eat and sleep. We used to have two rooms, but a big tsunami wave, that was caused by an earthquake, washed it away.

Our roof has also been destroyed. We tried to seal it against the rain but it didn't work. Luckily, the corner where we children have our bed is still dry but when it rains, water drips onto my parents' bed and they can't sleep there. During the night, they have to sweep out the water in the hut, and in the morning they take a quick nap in our bed, so that they get a little rest.

Look, there in the corner, is a bucket filled with clean drinking water, which I only just fetched. Running water from the tap isn't available here. We have to pay for clean water. We can't afford to buy it every day. Sometimes we have to beg for the drinking water. Can I offer you a glass of water? Would you like to know, what we do so we don't feel so hungry? We drink salt water from the sea bay of Cite Soleil. It is not only salty, it is also pretty dirty. This makes us feel so sick, that we don't feel hungry anymore.

I am sorry, that my little brother doesn't stop crying. That's because he is hungry. When he does not get fed in the morning, he cries and cries. This means that our neighbours know that we do not have enough money to buy

him food and this embarrasses my parents. At the moment they are at the market, trying to sell grilled fish, hot dogs and beans. These are specialties that they can sell for a lot of money. With that money we can go and buy cheaper food for us to eat. Sometimes we eat rice with beans, or millet with a bean sauce, and on some days we grill sweet potatoes. But my favourite is rice with bean sauce and meat. There are days, however, when my parents come home with empty hands, and no food for us to eat.

During the school holidays I help my parents sell these specialties at the market. Believe me, it is not easy to sell food, when you are hungry yourself. My siblings and I have to fetch water every morning, then we help our parents clean out the hut. We have chicken, that lay us two eggs every day; that is always something we really look forward to.

My mum says, that she was not as fortunate as we are because she was not able to go to a school so she never learned how to read or write; she is just like a lot of other people in our slum. She always says that we should work hard, so that when we grow up we can find a job and earn enough money to buy ourselves enough food. Some children in my class have books, newspapers and pens and pencils at home, which makes reading and writing a lot easier. My siblings and I don't have any of that, however we have a really good memory, which also helps us learn. In our house there are always a lot of stories being told, for us to remember. I have a dream, that one day I will own my own little shop, where I can sell rice and beans. So when I have children, they will always have enough to eat and if I earn enough money, I will share what I have with my neighbours.



Source: 'Two Girls from Cité Soleil' by Heike Fritz/Stephan Krause, D/Haiti 1996. Documentary Film



To end **hunger** in the world, healthy nutrition for all and ensure the future for agriculture

Do you know the painful feeling in your stomach, when you haven't eaten anything? That is how millions of children feel right now. Most of them also won't be eating in the next few days. The number of people dying, because they have too little food has reduced by 200 million in the last 30 years. However, there are still 800 million people, that have to go to bed feeling hungry. That is almost every tenth person. The second goal states that all people should have enough to eat by 2030. But it is not only the quantity of food, it is also important that it holds the necessary nutrients, that the body needs to survive. Some people have enough food to eat, but still suffer from malnutrition, because they don't live on a balanced diet. If you eat rice every day, your body lacks important nutrients, such as vitamins. That's why fruit and vegetables are so important.

For pregnant women this is especially important because their unborn child starts life already malnourished or is sometimes born with physical impairments.

In principle we produce enough nutritious food to feed all people on this planet. Still there are people suffering from hunger, because they simply do not have enough money to buy food for themselves. But often they do not have access to fertile land and water resources to grow their own food. Sometimes it also happens that bad weather conditions or plant diseases damage the harvest or the goods that are being produced are exported overseas – such as for example soya beans from Brazil.

Even though there is fertile land available, they often do not have enough water or lack the know-how to grow their own food efficiently. Therefore, the second goal also includes the need for a better exchange of agricultural knowledge. People in richer countries, such as Austria have the machines to manage their fields more effectively. Often they also have a lot more to eat, than they need and throw away most of their edible goods. That is very sad, because food is precious and should be valued.

Maybe you would love to just pack up your food and send it in a box to children who are hungry. Of course that is a nice thought, however to give out food during an emergency only provides an important short-term help but

it is far more important to help the people to be able to care for themselves and produce their own goods so they are not dependent on others.

What can we do to achieve this goal?

- Make sure not to waste any food within your own environment. Often a yogurt is still edible, even though the best before date has already passed. Simply check how the food looks, smells or tastes like and decide if it is still edible. You can still cook something delicious with most foods that have gone out of date or have been cooked the day before. Here are some tips and recipes to try out: restlkochbuch.bmv.at

Romana (12)
from Rust, Burgenland: 'When the best before date has already passed, the food is often still edible: It simply says BEST before.'

Florian (16) from Karpfenberg, Styria:
'This year I am going to win the Viktualia Award! I have this really cool idea! I don't want to tell you yet t it is just yet – but you wait! It is an amazing idea!'

- If you have leftover at home, or you have cooked too much for your family then share it with others!. You call that 'foodsharing'. Either you offer your leftovers and other edible goods on an online platform or you use the so called "fair-teiler", those are public fridges, that can be found at several places in Austria. More information here: foodsharing.at
- Start your own project against wasting food and submit it to the VIKTUALIA-Award. A grammar school from Dornbirn put all their leftovers from the school canteen into a fridge with the motto „Save and share“. From this fridge all students and also refugees could always get food when they felt hungry and could also take it home. If you want to find out more information about this project look here: www.bmifuw.gv.at/land/lebensmittel/kostbare_lebensmittel.html

GOAL 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



'It might smell like melon, but it will make you feel ill'
[proverb from Afghanistan]

One day spent with Rafi from Afghanistan

Salām! Man Rafi hastam. This is my new bicycle and it is red, which is my favourite colour. I recently celebrated my 10th birthday and I had to relearn how to ride a bike. To start with, I couldn't ride it because I was missing one leg. Now, I have a new leg, it is a blue and grey wooden leg, that I attached to a sneaker. So, would you like to go on a bicycle tour with me? I can show you around my little town, it is called 'Anar Dara' and is in West Afghanistan. But you have to be good at cycling in a slalom to be able to go round all the potholes and stones. There aren't any asphalted roads here. Look, over there is the hospital, where I got my new leg.

It was a blessing in disguise. A couple of years ago, on my way home from school, I decided to take a short cut. It turned out, that this was not a good idea because I stepped into something. There was a massive explosion and I fainted straight away. When I woke up, I knew, that something terrible had happened. My parents were sitting next to my hospital bed and explained that I had stepped on a landmine. Landmines are still all over the place here, they are leftovers from the civil war 20 years ago. My parents said, that about 30-60 people lose their lives or get severely injured every month because of landmines in Afghanistan. I was extremely lucky, that only my leg got injured.

The doctors told us, that they had to amputate my leg in order to survive. So my whole family and friends had to collect and raise money to bribe the doctors for me to have the operation.

Just after the operation, I was only able to walk on crutches, and I was hopping around everywhere. It was crazy, I could feel my foot, but it wasn't there anymore.

Come this way, we'll cycle a bit further, down to the loam house that belongs to my uncle Ali and my Aunty Nesrin. Nesrin is really clever, she always has great ideas! She carved my new leg out of a piece of wood. We trained together every day, so that I would learn to walk again. My uncle Ali once said that if we have enough money one day, we will drive to Kabul, the capital city of Afghanistan, where there is a rehabilitation centre. There they have leg prostheses made of plastic, that do not hurt or feel uncomfortable on my skin; they can be tailored to my body. I bet then I will be even faster at cycling and can race with all the other children. If I had one wish for the world? I wish there were enough hospitals and rehabilitation centres everywhere, so that every sick or injured child can be treated there to be able to live a healthy and happy life.





Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Each and every one of us had the experience of feeling unwell: high temperature, headaches, a sore throat – the typical flu symptoms. But it only needs a visit to the doctor, a few days in bed and the right medication and you are back on your feet again. Some of you will have probably spent some time in a hospital. You might have had an x-ray, or blood taken or in the worst case perhaps even an operation.

In many countries the health system does not offer these privileges. In these countries it is hard to even find a doctor nearby. You cannot buy medication at a pharmacy and the next hospital is a day's journey away.

Goal 3 states that all people, no matter what country they were born in, or where they live, should have access to a good health system until 2030. In Austria we have a good working health insurance system. Everybody pays, according to their income into the health insurance. This makes it possible for the insurance to cover the costs of doctor visits or hospital stays.

The doctors in Austria are very well educated and usually patients are treated fairly quickly. Generally speaking Austrians are quite conscious of a healthy lifestyle, including sports, a healthy diet, less stress, personal hygiene and regular visits to the doctor.

Other countries often lack the necessities for a healthy lifestyle. To this day, we still have over 300.000 pregnant women that die because of complications during their pregnancy or reasons related to pregnancy. This is mainly due to lack of knowledge, poor medical training of doctors, a lack of hygiene, or weaknesses in infrastructure.

In areas, in which there are no hospitals, or where the hospital is too far away, children are often born at home. This can be a great risk, especially for the life of the mother but also for the child. Sadly, a lot of newborn babies and children under the age of 5 die of their illnesses, such as pneumonia or diarrhea that could easily be treated by medical help if it is available.

Since the 1990s the number of deaths among newborn babies and infants was reduced by half, however 6.6 million children still die in their first few

years of their life. That needs to be changed!

We need not only more hospitals and affordable medication; we also need enough doctors. These have to be trained well and need to be working with the latest medical standards. This would also mean, that states need to provide enough money for the national health system.

Knowledge plays a big role, in trying to achieve Goal 3. It is important, that every person knows enough about their body and their health and in particular they need to receive sex education to help prevent sexually transmitted diseases, such as AIDS, as well as help in planning to have a family, so that parents are in a good position to choose the number of children they want to have and when to have them.

What can we do to achieve this goal?

- Look after yourself and those around you. Remember cigarettes, energy drinks and alcohol are very bad for your body. Make sure to get enough sleep, eat well and be physically active.
- The initiative *Break the Silence* run by the organisation 'Doctors without borders' gives young people the chance to get involved. 'Doctors without borders' is a medical charity. You can also start an initiative yourself or be part of already existing other initiatives. Get more information here:

www.aerzte-ohne-grenzen.at/break-the-silence

Lara (13) from Fischamend, Lower Austria 'I played my violin in front of over 100 people, and a lot of them donated money. With the money raised, children in need will have access to better medical supplies.'

Hans (11) from Klagenfurt, Carinthia : 'In a project we did at school, using wheelchairs ourselves, we tested the accessibility of our school grounds. We discovered, that the toilet was much too narrow for a wheelchair user. I really understand now what problems people with disabilities have to face in their day to day lives.'

- Spend a day in a wheelchair and experience yourself how important accessibility, provision of aids and rehabilitation is. Every year there is a competition for young people, where you can submit a campaign and win 300 Euros. The team from the initiative 'Wheelday' will give you tips and tricks and can give you all the support you need. For more information, look here: www.wheelday.at



GOAL 4: EDUCATION FOR ALL

'There is nothing bad in the world, that can't be turned into something good'
[proverb from Columbia]

A day spent with Miguel from Colombia

Hola Soy Miguel. But all my friends call me Coroto, which translates as junk or rubbish. They call me that because when I was a little child, I put everything that I could find on the streets in a plastic bag and carried it around. I am nine years old and live with my older Brother Ricardo in a little hut that we build for ourselves. It is located on a steep dirt road near one of the biggest cities in Colombia. The road has a particularly steep curve where a lot of car accidents happen. You might ask yourself why we chose to live on such a dangerous road? Ricardo and I help the big lorries to get past the steep curve and sometimes we are lucky and the drivers throw some change out of the window.

My mother and my father got divorced when I was very little. Now they have turned their back on me. My father lives downtown in the city of Medellin. I once went down there to ask him for some clothes but he didn't have any for me. Nevertheless, if I behave and bring him some money every now and then I am allowed to sleep at his place and he also gives me a little something to eat.

When we first came here, we had nothing, not even a pair of shoes. The rich people, that drive past us everyday sometimes give us clothes, blankets or like I said, throw out some money. My brother and I figured it would

be a good idea to also offer the truck drivers a chance to have their lorries washed. That way we could earn a little money and afford to build our hut bit by bit. This is the washing station, where my brother and I work. I enjoy washing the lubricating grease of the lorries the most. The sticky grease is all over the chassis of the truck and a lot of it is stuck in the engine compartment. You need a lot of strength and it takes ages to wash it off. Washing the lorries is great work. We earn more than the farm workers that help to bring in the harvest. Sometimes one of the heavy lorries tips over in the dangerous curve. Then my brother and I help to pick up the goods, that fall out the lorry and in turn we get a piece of wood or a tyre. We take these materials and build ourselves „caritos” – these are soap box cars. We tie them to the back of the lorries, that then pull each other up the steep hill. When we go down again we race the lorries just for fun. Going downhill we are much quicker than the lorries. Sometimes we go down so quickly that I get a little scared!

Out of all the children that live here on the pass road only Markos, Mariana and David can afford to go to school. It costs about 14.000 Colombian pesos for the school enrolment. That would be around 4.30 Euros and that is a lot of money for me. A book that teaches you how to read costs about 2.15 Euros, crayons cost about 30 cents and a rubber another 30 cents. I would also need a pencil sharpener for about 50 cents, pencils cost around 25 cents and exercise books cost 1.50 Euros. If I work really hard for one year and wash many many lorries to try save up the money I would be able to afford a school uniform and all the other materials. But only for one year. Then I would have to work another year to be able to go back to school the following year. This is the only way this is going to work out. Work a year, go to school for a year. Then work a year, and go back to school and so on.

I have a dream, that one day I could go to university to become a geologist. I am really fascinated by stones and mountains. People have told me, that there are many universities in this country. Some of them are among the best universities on this continent. I wish I could go to school, without having to work for it. Every child on this planet should be able to go to school!



Source: 'Miguel, the race driver' by Heike Fritz Stephan Krause, D/Kolumbien 2001. Documentary Film



Education for everyone — Access to education for everyone, equal opportunities for girls and boys

You are probably fed up with school sometimes but it is actually something really special and important. Not everyone has the chance to go to a school five days a week. 58 million children and 63 million young people around the world, still don't have access to a good education system. It should be a fundamental right for every child to be able to go to a school, because good education is the key to a happy and successful life.

For many people it is also the key to get out of the poverty trap. If you are able to receive good education your chances of getting a good job and a stable income increases enormously.

Goal 4 sets out to ensure education for all children. This is especially important for girls, children with disabilities and children with a poor social background because very often they do not have the opportunity to go to school in the many developing countries and the poorer regions of this world. In fact, 90 percent of all children with disabilities are not able to go to school. In a lot of countries only boys have the right to go to school and it is prohibited for girls. This makes girls especially vulnerable in society, they stay dependent on other people and they are in great danger of being exploited. They stand very little chance of living an independent life.

But it is not enough to just sit in a classroom, the teachers also have to be qualified. 250 million children around the world are not able to read or write even though they have attended at least 4 years of school. Therefore, children should not only learn how to read and write and how to add and multiply numbers, they should also gain knowledge about important world topics, such as human rights and taking global action.

Goal 4 also covers education for teenagers and adults. You call this 'life-long learning'. You don't stop learning as soon as you leave school. Adults should also have the opportunity to continue learning. Austria has a compulsory education system, where children have to attend school for at least 9 years, between the ages of 6 to 15. There are plenty of teachers, schools, universities and other educational institutions.

In many countries there are simply not enough schools and sometimes children have a very long way to go to school; this often prevents them from going at all. We have to build more schools in this world and we need more good educated teachers. Going to school needs to be affordable for all children!

What can we do to achieve this goal?

- At the 'Kinderuni' which takes place in the summer, children and young adults between seven and twelve years old, can try out what it is like to go to university. You get a tour of the main university in Vienna and take part in many workshops and experiments. Here is more information:

www.kinderuni.at

By the way there are 'Kinderunis' in other parts of Austria, too. In Innsbruck it is called 'die junge Uni' and in Klagenfurt it is called 'The university for children'.

Franzi (19) from Neusiedl/See, Burgenland:
'Looking back, my school years have been the best of my life. We had a great classroom energy and really likable teachers.'

Johannes (13) from Villach, Carinthia:
'In our last English lesson I noticed that my classmate Fabian could not follow, what the teacher was saying. I then kindly asked the teacher to repeat what he had said. That was not only helpful for Fabian, but also for many others in our class.'

- If you notice that one of your classmates is struggling at school, offer them your help. Revising for tests together is much more fun!
- Have you ever had a school or class partnership? The exchange with other students can be really exciting. You can start projects together and learn a lot from each other. Information and support to find a school partnership you can find on this website: www.schulpartnerschaften.at



GOAL 5: EQUALITY FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN

'Only a camel can carry weight on two sides'
[proverb from Yemen]

A day spent with Sally from Yemen

Salam-Aleikum! Ana ismi Sally. This is not a typical name in my home country of Yemen. It's an English name and has become pretty popular over here. I live together with my little sister and my parents in our apartment in Sanaa, the capital city of Yemen.

At this moment I am just about to go out to meet my lawyer but before we leave the apartment I have to quickly put on my burka. It's a long, loose garment covering my entire body including my head but with a veiled opening for my eyes. All women in Yemen have to wear a burka in public but even so, I never ever go out without my baseball cap, which I just wear over the veil. Today is a really hot day and the air is dusty but I am very happy that I am allowed to leave the house by myself although I wasn't always allowed to do that! Two years ago, when I was 10 years old my father thought I was ready to get married and my family chose my husband, which is quite usual in my country. They picked a 25 year old businessman from the north of the country and I actually looked forward to the wedding. I thought it would be a big celebration and I would be given new dresses and new toys to play with. However, after the wedding the business man took me to his little home village in the countryside and I was not allowed to leave his house and I had to follow his instructions and do everything he told me to do. Whenever I didn't obey, he would hit me and after a couple of weeks I couldn't stand it anymore and fortunately managed to escape back to my parents. Luckily, my father agreed to let me stay with them because he realised he had given me to a bad man.

I have now walked to the house where my lawyer works. Let's go in, I can already smell the cardamom tea that she has prepared for us, so please let me introduce you to her. This is Schada; she is a really brave woman who fights for the rights for girls and women. She is helping me with my divorce papers and lets me know that I am not alone in this. Over half the girls living here in Yemen have an arranged marriage before they reach their eighteenth birthday.

I am not divorced yet. The businessman paid my parents a lot of money to be able to get married to me and now he wants his money back. Sometimes I start crying out of fear of having to move back to this man. But then Schada puts her hand on my shoulders and reassures me that we will go through this difficult time together. I am lucky that my parents are also on my side and support me. What happened to me is not going to happen to any of my younger sisters. I wish that all girls could always have the chance to enjoy their childhood and later on in life choose for themselves who they want to get married to. I really believe that it is important that grown up women have equal rights to men.





Gender equality and empowerment for all girls and women

'Do not leave anyone behind' is one of the key principles of the new international development goals. Unfortunately, women and girls are discriminated against in some way almost everywhere in the world. There is a long list of inequalities and two thirds of all people who live in poverty are women and although women are responsible for about 52 percent of the world's work, they only own 10 percent of the world's income. This is because women often have to do unpaid work like housekeeping, looking after the children, nursing their parents and stepparents or making sure the family has enough to eat. This is especially true for women in developing countries in the south but even here in Austria women are still discriminated against. At the moment they earn 23 percent less than men, they have fewer opportunities to get promoted and consequently they have lower pensions than men.

Goal 5 is about the equality of men and women. The aim is to end all forms of violence, exploitation and discrimination against women by 2030. So what does equality mean? It means everybody getting the same wages for the same work, giving greater recognition and agreed payments for household work, including childcare and making sure that women and men have the same rights and opportunities.

Women's' rights also includes their sexual and reproductive rights. Goal 5 expects that every person will have access to information on contraception and that affordable contraception devices will be available to all. Medical care should be accessible to every woman during pregnancy and when giving birth. Women and girls should also have the right to decide over their own bodies.

In some countries women are not allowed to sign contracts, are not allowed to inherit or even own something. This also should be changed by 2030.

What can we do to achieve this goal?

- First of all challenge yourself by critically questioning how women are depicted in society and in the media. Ask questions such as, what jobs are presented typically or women and men in society and how are they presented? Who does the housework and the washing? Who is the decision maker in your family? Discover whether stereotypes are used to

describe the typical man or woman. Are there are too many examples of women being described as touchy and sensitive and men as aggressive and ambitious. That is not correct! Question these stereotypes and do not let anyone push you into believing or using these cliches.

- Next get information on jobs that interest you, even if they are classified as typical jobs for the opposite gender. You can do that by accompanying either one of your parents or someone you know at their work for a whole day to get an insight into what their day to day work life looks like. In Vienna there is a special day for this idea. It is called '*Töchertag*' (www.toechtertag.at) (*Daughterday*) Across Austria this day is known as the 'Girl's Day'. www.bmb.gv.at/frauen/girlsday/index.html.
- Research 'Plan international' an organisation which fights for the equality for girls and women and especially for a girls rights to be able to attend school. There are different ways to support this organisation. Just visit the exhibition 'Because I am a girl'. Your whole class could think about a sponsorship or you can create awareness about girls rights on the 11th of October the 'World Girls Day'. There is more information on: plan-international.at/because-i-am-a-girl

Mana (15) from Vienna:
'I used to watch the TV Series 'Two and a half men'. The image of women that is presented in this programme is definitely problematic because women are usually depicted as being sexy and stupid.'

Sandra (14) from Dornbirn, Vorarlberg: 'I never played with dolls. I was always more interested in people. Now I learned that I could start a traineeship at Hilti. This is so cool!'



GOAL 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITARY PROVISION

'The smaller the lizard, the greater the hope of it becoming a crocodile'
[proverb from Ethiopia]

One day spent with Ayana from Ethiopia

Selam! Ibalalew Ayana. I am 13 years old and I live in Bursa, a little village in the North of Ethiopia. I like living here very much. The landscape is beautiful and our village has a great school. But there is a big problem – there is a lack of water. I have heard that people in other countries can just drink cool water coming from a water tap. That sounds like paradise to me and the people from my village.

I used to get tummy aches and eye infections very frequently and my eyesight became weaker and weaker. For quite a while we had no idea where these infections came from. Luckily we found out the cause; it came from the polluted water from the waterhole we had made for ourselves. My infected eyes made it difficult for me to read what the teacher was writing on the blackboard at school and reading the school books was almost impossible. A doctor told us that my disease is called 'Trachoma' and is caused by using dirty water to wash your face and hands. Every time you have an eye infection it leaves scars on the corner of your eye that hurt and need to be operated. If you leave it too long without having an operation you can go blind.

Come with me, I will show you were my mum and I fetch fresh water every two days! I hope you had a big breakfast because it is quite a trip. When I

was little, I used to hold on to my mum's arm so that I would not trip over the many stones. By now I have been so many times that I know my way by heart. It takes about one hour to get to the well and I know every stone and beetle that crosses my way. It takes me 11,570 footsteps to get there and 14,300 to get back. On my way back I need to be careful not to spill any water. Usually the water is very clean but sometimes families wash their clothes with it and make it dirty. Mum says today we are lucky, the water is crystal clear. The long walk was definitely worth it!

Do you want to know how I carry the heavy water back to the village? The canisters are too heavy to be carried just with my hands so I carry them on my head! Since my head is round and not flat at the top, I take a cloth, scarf or palm leaf and lay it on my head. You fold it so that it forms a ring and then wear it like a hat. It also serves as a cushion between the weight and my head. How much water do you think I can carry like this? 25 litres weigh 25 kilos. Ever since I have the clean water to drink and wash myself I hardly ever get sick and I have a lot more energy for school. I also watch that my siblings wash their hands after they have been to the toilet.

I was taught the most important hygiene rules at school. I love learning. In my spare time I try to learn as much as possible. I also really like my teacher. He gave me the contact to the medical centre that now gives out medication to all the people in my village so that we don't get any more eye infections. In one month I will have my operation so that the scars on my eye won't get worse and I won't be in pain any more. When I grow up I would also love to become a doctor to help people in villages like mine.

I dream of our own well in our village with clean water and who knows, maybe one day we can even have a water pipeline.





Clean water and sanitary facilities — Clean water for all, free access to high quality drinking water

Up to 60 percent of the human body consists of water. The body of a small child holds up to 75 percent. Isn't that incredible? We should all drink a minimum of 2 litres of water every day. We also use water to wash our dishes or to shower or take a bath. In total every person uses around 50 litres of water every day to live a normal good life. However, many people in poorer countries, such as Ethiopia have to live with far less water – in fact they have to get by with just 20 litres of water per day. That is about the amount of water we use showering in just 1 and a half minutes. Flushing the toilet alone takes up to 10 litres of water. We have to remember that we would not be able to grow fruits and vegetables without water and we also need it for animals and the production of clothes, shoes and furniture.

Goal 6's main focus is that every person will have access to clean and affordable water as well as good sanitary facilities by 2030. A toilet in your home seems like a matter of course but for some people it is a luxury. You might think to yourself, 'What is the problem? There is enough water on this planet for everyone. Looking down from space the earth is really blue.'

Two thirds of the planet consists of water. Nevertheless, most of it is salt-water which we cannot drink. Only 2.5 percent of the whole water supply is freshwater. It is not very easy to get to since two-thirds of freshwater is ice from the poles and glaciers. Therefore to be able to drink, cook, shower and wash up we need to get by with the one third of the freshwater supply available. What we know for certain is that all water-related cycles such as rivers, lakes, forests, mountains and wetland areas are essential to human life and need to be protected and restored.

Here in Austria we are lucky, we have many mountains, lakes, rivers and forests and we have plenty of drinking water. Nevertheless, we need to think about our future and should not use it too lavishly. Goal 6 also includes the idea that dirty water should be cleaned and recycled.

What can we to help reach this goal?

- Day by day we use drinking water without really thinking about it but without much effort you can try to save a lot of water. Take a shower instead of a bath for example: Taking a bath takes up to 60 litres of water. Using the shower would only need half of that amount.
- How about trying to eat a little less meat? The consumption of meat has a big negative impact on our environment because the production of meat needs a lot more water since more arable land is required to feed the animals. For example, one kilogram of beef takes 15,000 litres of water, whereas only 100 litres of water are necessary to grow one kilo gram of grain, or one kilogram of potatoes if it is used directly for human use. Generally we can say that we need to think about what we buy and when we go shopping we should ask ourselves, 'Do I really need this?' For the production of clothing and other products a lot of water is also required.
- **Generation Blue** is a platform for young people in Austria which provides a lot of information about water. It also offers cool competitions, you can take part in. Just have a look: www.generationblue.at

Magdalena (8) from Lilienfeld, Lower Austria:
'When I brush my teeth, I turn off the water tap. That saves me at least two buckets of water.'

Georg (13) from Hallein, Salzburg: 'I put up a rain barrel outside in the garden. I use that water to water out plants.'

- The organisation **Licht für die Welt** supports people who have lost their eyesight due to polluted water. You could organise a charity event at your school to raise money for charity organisations such as them. You could also sign up for a school workshop at **Light for the world**. Check it out: www.licht-fuer-die-welt.at/bildungsarbeit-oesterreich



GOAL 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

'A rolling stone gathers no moss'
[proverb from Greece]

One day spent with Stéfanos from Greece

Geia! Eimai Stéfanos. Welcome to Tilos – I am glad you made it here. It is one of the 3.054 Greek islands. I am nine years old and need to hurry because I have to get to school. My mobile phone did not charge its battery last night and so my alarm didn't go off this morning. We had another blackout last night. I should get myself a proper alarm clock with batteries so that this does not happen again. Usually I eat a piece of toast and drink a hot chocolate for breakfast. Not today – you need electricity for that. I will just grab some figs – and let's go!

Here in front of our doorstep is our old diesel generator. We affectionately call him „our Emmi“. Emmi is quite old and often stops running. When he does work he is really loud and smells terribly of diesel. He is very easy to work, you fill in diesel at the top and electricity comes out at the bottom but not just electricity, also a lot of dirt and exhaust fumes.

Diesel obviously does not grow on trees here, it is crude oil that can be found deep beneath the earth's surface. The oil is pumped up on drilling rigs in the sea and then transported here in massive oil tankers. If you stand on the top of those cliffs over there you can see the big oil tanks pass by every other minute. Sometimes, when an accident happens on one of those oil tanks a thick oil film can be seen kilometers along the coast. This is a disaster for people, plants and animals. Luckily this has never happened here. But my grandmother always says: 'It is just a matter of time.'

Phew, although it is only 8 am the sun is already really hot. This is not unusual for this area. There are only very few days in the year when the sun does not shine. Why can't we use the strong energy from the sun and turn it into electricity? Our teacher has told us that it is possible to generate power through the sun using so-called solar cells and that wind power can be used to generate electricity. We have a lot of wind here.

When I grow up I want to become an architect so that I can build solar cells on every roof here in Tilos. Then all the kids can do their homework in peace and will not be disrupted by the loud generators. Everyone would have electricity at all times although nobody could use a power cut as an excuse for being late to school! But you can't have it all! I dream of a future where every person has clean energy and that the world is no longer polluted through the combustion of coal and oil.





Affordable and clean energy – Support renewable energy, ensure energy access for all

Washing your clothes, cooking or using your laptop all needs energy and electricity but where does the energy come from? In Europe it just comes out of the socket in the wall but how is it generated? Usually this happens in large electrical power plants where energy is generated from wind, the sun or water or through the combustion of coal, gas and oil or through the splitting of atoms.

For a long period of time electricity generated by nuclear power stations was regarded as the cleanest and cheapest energy. However the radiation that is produced in these nuclear power stations is a big problem because it is a great health and safety risk. It is also really difficult to handle the nuclear waste that is produced. The highly radiated waste needs to be separately stored in the so called 'final repository' and even if it is stored there for thousands of years the radiation still remains. Over the years they have been in operation there have been a number of disastrous accidents with devastating consequences.

Most of the energy generated in Austria comes from fossil fuels such as crude oil, natural gas or coal. These substances have one thing in common, they are the deposits from dead plants and animals from over the many millions of years. However fossil fuels do have advantages; they aren't as dangerous as nuclear energy from a nuclear plant. That is why many cars run on petrol or diesel. However, these fossil fuels also have two very significant disadvantages; firstly as a result of the combustion of substances toxic gases are generated such as carbon dioxide (CO₂). Carbon dioxide is an invisible gas which contributes to global warming. A second major disadvantage is that the supply of fossil fuels is not endless. One day all reserves will be consumed and when they are gone, they are gone.

One main goal therefore is the development of renewable energy for all. We are talking about environmental friendly power supplies where availability is unlimited – wind, solar and water power. Access to affordable power is very important for the development of a country. We do not only need power for our homes, we also need it for our industries which are responsible for the production of goods.

Innovative methods of developing and using energy is particularly important in the field of food production. Good use of water pumps, irrigation systems, machines and other special agricultural equipment can increase profits. By 2030 all people should have access to reliable, affordable and sustainable energy. We need to make more extensive use of solar, wind and water energy. The wastage of energy should be avoided.

What can we do to help achieve this goal?

- You too can stop wasting! Here is a little bit of advice: You should make sure that you do not put warm food in the fridge. When you cook make sure that you remember to put a lid on your pan. This saves energy!
- Every year Children's energy week takes place in Vienna. In that week children and young adults from 8-14 years have the opportunity to discuss many things and for example talk to companies and ask them about their energy consumption. You can find more information here: www.kinderenergiewoche.at
- **Earth Hour:** On the 19th of March millions of people in the world switch off their lights between 8:30 and 9:30 pm. They do this to send out a message to show their commitment to protecting the world's climate. There are whole cities where people switch off all their lights, even at main tourist attractions. Light a few candles yourself and invite friends and family over for a climate friendly dinner party. More information here: www.earthhour.at

Lisa (14) from Kufstein, Tyrol 'Together with my dad, I set up a wind wheel in the garden to generate power. I really don't understand why we have to use up the earth resources for that.'

Martin (12) from Neusiedl/See, Burgenland: 'I make sure that I always switch off the lights, when I leave a room.'



GOAL 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

'Like the seaweed that clings together after each passing boat separates them, so too a family will come together with the passing of each crisis.'
[proverb from Indonesia]

One day spent with Saya from Indonesia

Hi! Saya and I come from Indonesia, the largest island state in the world. It's really nice of you to visit me at my workplace. Please sit down at the table with me, it is now 11 o'clock and I am on my first break. The factory, where we are at now is in Kendari, but I live in a little town called Motaha, which is about a two-hour bus ride from here. Our family owns a small piece of land. Since we were little my siblings and I have helped our parents working on the field and in the household. We collect firewood and food for our goats, we help cook and clean and we clear weeds on the field. Last year on my birthday, I had just turned eleven, when a man from Kendari came to our little village. He asked my parents, whether they wanted to send me to the city to earn some money. Other children from Motaha were already working there. They cleaned shoes, sold flowers or newspapers, worked as cleaning maids with rich families or got a job in one of the many factories. My family didn't really want to let me go, but they desperately needed some money and so they sent me off to Kendari to work in a paper factory.

Now I earn my own money that I can send over to my parents' week for week. Each day I earn 7.500 rupees that would be around 50 cents in your country. My job entails making paper bags in various sizes. I fold the paper, apply the self-made glue and then clench the paper bag together. I make around 2000 paper bags a day. My friend Sari has been working here for a little longer and she even manages to make 2800 on a day. To make our self-made glue, we need four main ingredients that are then mixed together. Last week the owner of our factory Mr. Hirati made us the compliment that no other glue in the country was as sticky as our glue! Of course that made us very proud. Mr. Hirati earns a lot of money with our help – he can sell

1000 paper bags for 70.000 rupees that is converted into your money about five Euros. Life here in the city is very expensive, but that doesn't matter to me because I am always working here in the factory anyway. We sleep in a little room in the cellar of the factory. We start work in the morning at 6 am and continue until 10pm in the late evening. Two weeks ago I got the flu and couldn't work for two days. In that time, I didn't earn any money. On the third day, I went to work with a high fever, but I simply couldn't afford another day without payment.

Right, my break is over and I will have to continue working now. Our next break isn't until 6pm, where we will get our dinner. Of course I am proud that I can support my parents with this job, but I would love to go to school. Unfortunately, that is in no way possible because I have to work every day. I dream of a world, where every child can enjoy their childhood and are able to go to school. If the parents can earn enough money by themselves, they will not have to send their own children to work.





Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth and ensure employment for all

Have you ever heard of child labour in Austria? You can't call hoovering, emptying the dishwasher or looking after your little siblings *child labour*, but it is definitely a great help to your parents. In Austria you are allowed to work at the age of 15. But in many other countries in this world parents send their children to work because they can't earn enough to live on by themselves. Until 2030 however, according to the sustainable development goals there should be no child labour in the world and Saya's dream could come true.

The 8th goal should ensure that by 2030 every person has a decent job or form of employment. This means that people get paid a fair wage and earn enough to be able to feed their families. Nobody should be forced to work and health insurance should be covered. There are a lot of mine workers for example, who risk their lives on a daily basis, going into the dark mines to fetch gold or silver or other valuable resources, without being given safe equipment or having any sort of protection.

Goal 8 should ensure that any type of slavery should be abolished until 2030. You might think to yourself that this has already happened. Unfortunately, this is not true. Especially women are often subject to poor working conditions that come close to slavery. They have to work days and night as housemaids and only receive a pocket money. This must stop!

Unemployment is also mentioned in Goal 8. Maybe this situation sounds familiar to you: Someone really likes the work, but can't find a suitable job anywhere. Maybe he doesn't have the right qualifications or skills required or maybe he just can't find a job because there aren't any more jobs available. In the future more jobs should be created and young people especially should be trained better, so the unemployment rate is reduced. The aim is to increase people's income, so they can afford to buy more, which also means that more needs to be produced. That in turn requires more businesses and factories to employ more people. We call this economic growth. However it is really important that this does not happen at the expense of human rights or the environment.

What can we do to achieve this goal?

- In order to find a job that you like, you should check out several different jobs by doing a short work experience. Many school classes use '*job orientation week*', where you can help out at a job placement to an insight, what the job might entail. You can receive more information from the Austrian Chamber of Labour.
- At the *children's business week*, which is held at the Austrian Chamber of Commerce children and young adults between the age of 8 and 14 years can talk to managers and take part in an 'ideas and innovation workshop'. You can find more information here: www.kinderbusinessweek.at

Ida (13) from Kuchl, Salzburg:

'Ever since I can remember I wanted to become a baker. Now I am not sure about the working hours and getting up so early in the morning. But I think I want to give it a try.'

Tim (9) from Gmünd,

Lower Austria: 'I talked my brother into buying less clothes. Our school is about to become a 'Fair Trade school!'

- When a t-shirt is sold for only two Euros, you have to think about how much the people, who produced this t-shirt get paid for their work. Often, the chemicals used to produce these goods are really unhealthy for us. Therefore, take more care, when buying clothes and other products. Have a look, where they have been produced. Fair trade products with the orange fair trade symbol tell you that the farmers and plantation workers received fair payment for their work. Fair trade also is committed to improving the working and living conditions of the workers. For example, by fixing a minimum price, the fair trade premium, ensuring better health and safety at the workplace and regulated working hours. More information on fair trade and how you can take action here: www.fairtrade.at

GOAL 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE*

'Whatever you do, do it with a smile'
[proverb from Sri Lanka]

One day spent with Rubina from Sri Lanka

Hāyi! Mama Rubina inne! I am 15 years old and right now I am sitting in a tree next to a mound in Thambala in Sri Lanka. Over there is our house, where I live with my father. My mother and brother live and work in the capital city Colombo. I only get to see them once a year, but that is ok because it is always good to have something to look forward to. The last time they came to visit me, they brought me a big present: a smartphone! They managed to get it quite cheap because the screen was a little cracked, but it works fine, although the screen sometimes goes black and it is a bit slow. I don't mind though because I can be patient. When I first got my mobile phone, I was so excited and I wanted to use it straight away, but in our little village we do not get any internet reception.

Just imagine that! You get given such a cool thing, but you can't use it! I tried every corner in our village, looking for reception and I finally was successful! Right here, in this tree, here is the only reception I could find and where I can surf the Internet. The higher I go up in the tree, the better the reception gets!

Ever since I have found this spot, more and more people have joined to sit with me up here. I have just looked up the weather forecast. I want to know, when the next monsoon season starts. The monsoon rainfall is really

important for our natural environment here. When we know, when the next monsoon is about to happen, my father can prepare the rice fields just in time. We often had the problem that we were surprised by heavy rainfalls and the fields weren't prepared for that. I also found out on the Internet, that there are more efficient cultivation methods we could use. So many new technologies have been invented, it's unbelievable! When I told my dad about this, he agreed that smartphones can indeed be helpful. I didn't tell him about all the games I downloaded. Through a chat messenger I am able to talk to my mum and brother every day – for free.

The friends I have met on this tree have told me that a big company has developed internet balloons, which will make it possible to receive internet in all parts of the world. And now listen to this: They will try out these new balloons here on our island in Sri Lanka! The balloons fly twice as high as airplanes or clouds. One of the balloons can stay up to 100 days in the sky and provides us with a good signal. Then it falls to the earth and new balloons will be sent up there. That sounds to me like a fairy tale. But I am really looking forward to this experiment! I will then be able to check my emails from home or look up the news on the Internet. That's what the future sounds like! Every person should have the same access to knowledge and new technologies.





Promote and ensure access to infrastructure for all

Internet is important for many reasons: to gain knowledge, to communicate with other people, or to trade or exchange important information, such as weather or disaster warnings. Worldwide more and more people use the internet. However, most of them come from the more developed countries. More than four million people still don't have access to the internet. When we talk about infrastructure we don't just mean the internet. We also mean streets, water and electricity lines, sanitary facilities, schools, hospitals, waste disposal and public transport.

Many rural regions in the developing countries still don't have access to sufficient traffic routes and means of transport. This makes transport in those regions difficult and expensive and complicates the economic development. Also, some businesses rather relocate their production plants to countries, where there is a better infrastructure. This generates new jobs and is good for the economy of those countries.

In cities the infrastructure is usually better than in the countryside. That is why many people move from the country into the cities. One can also observe this in Austria: Many young people go to the cities to go to university and when they get their degree, they decide to stay there to find a job. In cities there are more universities, libraries, cinemas and so on. In the countryside there are pubs, small supermarkets, schools and post offices that struggle getting enough people come in there and often have to shut down because of financial difficulties. This in turn leads people to leave the rural areas – it is a vicious circle. In order for this not to happen, Goal 9 ensures to expand infrastructure, especially in the rural regions.

Until 2030 there should be worldwide and affordable access to Internet, electricity, to sanitary facilities, water supply and waste disposal. It is a great challenge since we currently have 2.6 billion people in developing countries, which have no access to electricity or sanitary facilities. 800 million people, especially in the desert regions of Africa and in southern Asia have no access to clean drinking water. We need a lot of smart people to gather innovative ideas to discover new possibilities and opportunities.

What can we do to reach this goal?

- When talking about building new infrastructure such as streets and buildings, there is nothing much we can contribute from here. However, you can draw attention to the people responsible if you can think of any changes or if you have ideas for improvement. When for example in your city there is space for another cycle path you can get in touch with the competent authority.
- Just like in the story with Rubina, Goal 9 is about the access to the Internet. Here, it is especially important to learn how to correctly use the internet. The EU initiative **safeinternet.at** helps children and young adults, parents and teachers in Austria how to use the digital media in a responsible manner. The platform offers amongst other things a lot of information, teaching material or workshops. You can find out more here: www.saferinternet.at

**Pia (11) from
Wilhelmsdorf, Styria**

'We wanted to have a playground in our village. All the children came together and talked to the mayor. Now they will start building the playground soon!'

**Mehmet (15) from
Oberndorf, Tyrol:**

'Our rural youth group built a barrier free hiking path last year. I believe that when building new streets and paths that all people should be able to access them. We had a lot of discussions how we could make this possible. Talking about new ideas, promotes innovation!'

- The Austrian organization **Jugend eine Welt** works in many developing countries and helps building schools and universities. They also help rebuild the infrastructure after natural disasters. You can support them by raising money. Take part in a charity run for example. Maybe you want to help locally for a year, when you turn 18. More information: www.jugendeinewelt.at



GOAL 10: REDUCE INEQUALITIES

'Lower your head modestly while passing, and you will harvest bananas.'
[(proverb from the Democratic Republic of the Congo)]

One day spent with **Cäsarina** from the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Salut! Je suis Caesarina. I am 8 years old and I come from the eastern Congo. For one year now, I have been living in a refugee camp in Malawi with my parents and my four brothers. We had to flee from home because we were persecuted, we couldn't even go to school.

I don't really know the reason to why this has happened. All I know is that different groups put blame on each other for different crimes that have been committed. They fight over raw materials, such as ores that are very valuable. These raw materials are used for the production of mobile phones and hence are very popular among large businesses. One day armed men turned up at our house and threatened my mother and my father. My parents then decided that it was time to leave our country and flee to a safer place.

We traveled for three months. We walked most of the time, but sometimes we got on a boat. Finally, we reached the refugee camp in Malawi. But we weren't the only ones there. 30.000 refugees also live here. Some of them have been here for ten years. They had to leave their homes for many different reasons. Some of them, because they were persecuted for their origin,

religion or language or because their lives were in serious danger. Others had to flee because there is a war or not enough food in their area. But here in the refugee camp we are all safe.

Look over here, this is the loam house, we have built for ourselves. The whole refugee camp is made out of house like this. We even have a school here that I can go to every day. My teacher also had to flee her home. She comes from Sudan. There is also a hospital here. One of my brothers broke his leg on the way here, but was treated by a doctor from Eritrea, when we arrived. Now he is able to walk without crutches.

It is lunchtime now, and my mother is going to cook for us. Today we are having corn porridge with vegetables and salted dried fish. I am not a fan of the vegetables, but I like the corn porridge. We also always used to eat that at home in the Congo. In our loam house we sleep on the floor. But that is not too bad because it's not cold at all. We have one blanket, that we have to share between us. I am scared to go back to the Congo. I am scared of the rebels there. Sometimes I have nightmares. Then, I wake up, look around, and know that I am safe. I hope that one day, we can return to our home and live there in peace. For the world I wish that no one is treated unfairly and that everybody gets the same opportunities in life, so that nobody has to flee their home.



Source: 'Cäsarina reports from a refugee camp in Malawi' by the Berghof Foundation, 2014. Documentary Film



Reduce **inequalities** within and among countries

The gap between the rich and the poor is becoming bigger and bigger: that means that there are more and more poor people on this planet and at the same time fewer people become rich. According to a study the richest eight people in this world have as much money as the entire poorer half of the world population. The growing social and economic inequalities within states, but also between different states is one of the great challenges of our time.

If somebody has to experience poor living conditions, such as living in a civil war, or having to starve or being persecuted, then that is often a reason for having to leave their country. In 2016, 65 million people had to flee their homes, that is about 8 times the population of Austria.

Goal 10 should ensure to help and support those people, who have to flee their homes and who seek refuge in other countries. Fleeing across nations can be very dangerous. Often they have to go across thousands of kilometers of countryside and across the ocean. There is a short supply of food and water. Therefore, refugees should have the possibility to reach a secure country without any dangers. There should be a fair and decent asylum procedure for all refugees that will decide upon whether they can stay or not. Every country should make a contribution to help refugees. We often forget that we only enjoy the standard of living that we do today because people in other countries are exploited. Big companies have the possibility to cheaply manufacture their products or clothing in Asian or African countries. The workforce over there only receive a very low wage, often just a few cents for their daily hard work. The companies make a lot of money that way, and we are able to cheaply buy those products.

Goal 10 states that the inequality between states should be reduced. That means that the rich nations and the poorer countries should try to work together, to share the wealth among them. We call this development cooperation and some countries are already trying to do this.

Through money, loans and projects for the population or businesses we want to achieve, that poorer countries achieve more prosperity. In the future we should also ensure that fair trade agreements between the richer

and poorer countries are made. However, we should not only ensure to reduce the inequalities between states we should also look to reduce inequalities within states. The goal is that people, regardless of their age, gender, physical or mental impairment, origin, religion or prosperity have the same opportunities and are no longer disadvantaged in any way.

What can we do to reach this goal?

- Share your things with those, who don't have as much as you. For example, if you are at school, and one of your classmates doesn't have a rubber, you can lend them yours. If your neighbour goes on holiday and needs someone to water their plants, do it for them while they are away. Solidarity and generosity are important values within the classroom community, in the family and generally in our society.

Sascha (7)

from Radenthein, Carinthia:

'When my grandmother gives sweets to me, I share them with my little sister. Although she never shares her sweets with me.'

Max (12)

from Wels, Upper Austria:

'We have a new classmate from Syria. He is a really cool guy and the best football player I know. In order for him to get better marks in German, I am now tutoring him.'

- Refugees, that come to Austria can be supported. Here is a website, where you can give tutoring lessons: wirhelfen.talentify.me You can also become a mentor at organizations such as **Caritas**, **Connecting People** or the **Diakonie** helping refugees to get a good start in the new country they are seeking refuge in.
- Organizations such as **Caritas**, **Doctors without Borders** or **UNHCR** do important work in refugee camps in other countries. They involve themselves in the food supply, education, water and sanitary facilities and health. You can support those organizations in a number of ways. You can find more information on their websites.



GOAL 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES — MAKE CITIES INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

'When the wind of change blows, some build walls, others build windmills'
[proverb from China]

One day spent with Kim from China

Nín hǎo! Wǒ shì Kim. It is the school holidays now, but I am just about to do my maths homework. All children, living here in Peking, the capital of China do school work in their holidays, two hours a day minimum. I have lived here in this flat for all my life, so that is 12 years now. I spend a lot of time here. I am either at school, at home or at my piano lessons. My father is a photographer, that's why we have all those beautiful landscape pictures hanging on the wall. Sometimes I catch myself standing in front of them for hours, picturing myself in one of them, lying in the green grass or swimming in one of the pristine lakes. Then I look out of the window of our apartment and can't see nothing but dense fog. Although the sun is shining, you can't see the sun. That is because of the smog conditions here in Peking. My teacher has told me that the word 'smog' is made out of two words from the English language: 'smoke and fog'.

The smog consists of fine dust, which we call particulate matter. It is in the air and is caused by heavy traffic and by many factories. How dangerous this particulate matter is we already got taught in kindergarten. You can't really see the tiny dust particles in the air. But if you breathe them in, they

can cause lung cancer, heart attacks or asthma. In China, 4000 people die daily because of air pollution. Can you imagine that? Before I go to school, my dad checks the air standards on his smartphone. There have been days, where I wasn't able to go to school because the air pollution level was too high. I often have to wear a facemask on my way to school.

A few years ago, during the Olympic games in Peking, the air suddenly was very clear and clean. My dad told me that people weren't allowed to use their car in the city because of all the athletes staying there. They wouldn't be able to perform in the games, if they didn't have clean air to breathe in.

I used to love playing football, but there aren't very many sports halls and most football fields are outside. So it depends on the weather and smog forecast whether I am allowed to play or not. 11 Million people live in Peking at the moment and the city is growing and growing because many people move here from the countryside to find a job. It's probably really difficult to organise public transportation and housing for all.

I often dream of a Peking without cars, and that I am able to play football outside. I really wish we had clean air and many green parks in the city.





Sustainable cities and communities — Ensure a high living standard in cities with access to affordable housing

Half of the world population- that is around 3.5 billion people live in cities. In the future this number will increase even further. Cities have to be planned and organized well, in order for everyone to live there comfortably. Streets and housing need to be built, public transport, such as buses and trams must be made available and there need to be enough schools, hospitals, supermarkets and parks.

Urban planning needs to ensure that no slums are created on the outskirts of the city. A lot of people cannot afford to live in the city and thus settle in suburban locations. Often there is no running water, there is no waste collection service, no electricity and no public institutions, such as schools or hospitals. It would be sensible to mix people with different ethnicities and backgrounds in the cities districts and neighbourhoods: There should be young and old people, wealthy and poorer people, and people with all different backgrounds living together in one place. That is important, so that no inequalities in terms of education and employment are created.

For example, if you only have Polish speaking families living in one district of Vienna, their children will probably only talk Polish amongst themselves. This makes it more difficult for them to learn German, which might make it difficult for them to find a job later on in life.

Goal 11 sets out to create secure and affordable housing for all people in the cities. Slums on the outskirts of the city, which often are made of tin huts, where many poor people live, should be supplied with water, electricity and better construction material, so they can be equally integrated in the city and society.

Reducing the air pollution is one of the most important world goals. This can be achieved through the expansion of public transport and the creation and development of parks and public green spaces. Moreover, there is a need for good dirt filters for factories. Besides the poor air quality, big cities often encounter problems with the waste disposal.

In Peking, the capital of China, every inhabitant produces around 480 Kilograms of waste per year. In China's countryside it is only around 90 kilograms, so that is not even one fifth.

The goal until 2030 is to reduce the city's environmental impact per capita. And last, but not least every person should be integrated in the planning and designing of the urban public areas.

What can we all do to help achieve this goal?

- Your parents have probably taught you right to throw your waste in the waste bin and at home you probably separate your waste into paper, glass and plastic. Unfortunately, not everyone on this planet has learned to do this. Many cities and communities organize rubbish collections, where schools can take part. This is not only useful, it also brings a lot of fun and team spirit.

**Anton (9) from
Viertelfeistritz, Styria: :**

'My school took part in an annual waste collection organized by the volunteer fire department. That was great! It makes me really angry, when people just throw away their rubbish on the ground and leave it there.'

**Tara (14) from
Bad Ischl, Lower Austria:**

'The director of our youth centre helped us write a letter to the mayor because there are a few things that we like to change in our village.'

- At communal level you can get together with others to gather ideas how to make changes in your community. Youth organizations such the Austrian 'Landjugend' for example are a good place to meet like minded people, who are looking to make a contribution. In cities there are a lot of opportunities for participation. You can get an overview of all the projects, taking place in Vienna: www.wiengestalten.at
- Within city and community partnerships experiences and knowledge on urban planning development can be exchanged. Check out whether your city or community has a partnership. Maybe there are youth organizations too in which you can get together and exchange views.



GOAL 12: ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PLANS

'It doesn't matter how high the mountain is, just take it step by step' *[[proverb from Austria]]*

One day spent with Jakob from Austria

Grias eich! I bin da Jakob. I live in Rohrbach and I am 13 years old. It's nice of you to visit me here. Rohrbach is located in Upper Austria in the lovely area of the 'Mühlviertel'. Some people are of the opinion that it is the nicest place on earth. I totally agree with them and that is why it is important that we look after our environment in order to preserve our nature and wildlife. I have to go now to do the weekly family shopping. Why don't you just come along? I will just fetch a cotton bag from the kitchen so that I won't need to get a plastic bag from the supermarket. Ever since I saw a TV documentary on a huge plastic island that was swimming in the ocean I try to use as little plastic as possible. I don't want the plastic bags that I have bought from the supermarket to end up in the tummy of a seagull.

Let's make a move! Of course we will walk to the shops. I think it is crazy that our neighbour always takes his car everywhere, even if it is just down the road. Walking is good for your health and unlike cars you do not produce any dangerous emissions. Yummi, look at those strawberries! They look really delicious! But where do they come from? They do not grow here in the winter. Let's have a look at the label? Ah I see! They come from Morocco! That means they get shipped over here or transported by plane or by lorry and whatever way it is creates damage to the environment. So I would rather buy some apples and pears that have been grown in Austria. My grandmother has told me that I should only ever buy fruits and vegetables that have been grown in the local area. Of course, it is not always possible since things like bananas or coffee do not grow here at all. So when I buy

them I try to buy fair trade products as the people who produce and harvest the products receive a fair payment for their work and they do not use harmful pesticides. My parents love to drink coffee and they enjoy drinking a cup of coffee a lot more knowing that it was produced fairly.

I go past the meat section in the supermarket because we ate Schnitzel only yesterday and eating meat once a week is enough. We used to eat bacon and meat almost every day but then I learned that it takes 4,000 litres of water to produce one small piece of steak. You might ask yourself why? It is because that is the amount of water needed for the cultivation and watering of the fodder crops plus, of course, animals also need drinking water. So now I am picking up the last item of my shopping list, which is yoghurt. I have chosen a yoghurt in a glass container rather than a plastic pot and the date of expiry is tomorrow. That is not a problem at all since it says on the packaging "best before", which means that it is totally safe to eat it a few days later. You should just smell, taste and then enjoy whatever you buy.

I am off home now but before we say goodbye I want to tell you my wish for the future. Everything we buy has to be produced somewhere in the world and that might be from somewhere like a farm or from a factory. I would like people to remind people that we can influence many things through our buying behaviour including what we buy and where we buy it. That means thinking about how something is produced and whether what we buy is produced in an environmentally friendly way and whether there are fair working conditions and whether there is fair payment for the workers. I would want all people to think carefully about what they are buying and how much of it.





Sustainable use of resources responsible consumption and production

The life of every individual leaves lasting traces on this world. Many things that we produce or buy have a negative impact on our environment, for example, the waste created through plastic packaging or aluminium cans, devices that use a lot of electricity and polluted air and water, as for example, the exhaust fumes from cars, airplanes and ships.

The problem is that important resources are being used up too quickly and irresponsibly. We pollute too much water and air, we catch too many fish, we eat too much meat and we chop too much wood. We are exhausting the reserves of our earth and this is happening way too fast! 'Earth Overshoot Day' is the day each year when humanity starts using more natural resources than the planet can produce in a sustainable way every year. This day is set to an early date each year. In 1987 the date for 'Earth Overshoot day' fell in the 19th of December of the same year. In 2012 'Earth Overshoot Day' fell in August and soon it will probably take place in July. We need to remember that if every person on this earth would live like we do in Austria we would still need another three earth like planets to get enough resources.

Goal number 12 sets out to achieve the reduction of resource consumption through recycling processes. You don't always have to get rid of something broken straight away, have a go at trying to repair them. Today we live in a throw-away society where lots of our electronic devices are thrown in the bin as soon as a newer model or design comes on the market. Products should be produced in a way that makes them last longer and so that they can be easily repaired. We also have to combat food waste. Supermarkets, production firms and individuals should ensure that no food is thrown in the bin. In Vienna for example, we throw away enough bread every day to feed the whole population of Graz for one day. By 2030 the goal is to half the world-wide food waste.

Goal 12 also calls on businesses to produce in a sustainable manner. That does not just mean that human rights are respected and that fair payment is made to the workforce, it also means that they have to protect the environment and that rubbish is disposed properly and does not end up in the river.

What can we all do to help achieve this goal?

- Everyone one of us can help to achieve this goal. It starts with your daily grocery shopping. It's best to only buy regional and seasonal products.

Sara (11) from Bregenz, Vorarlberg: 'Two weeks ago a great artist came to our school to do an 'Upcycling'* Workshop with us. An old t-shirt of mine now looks like a designer top!'

Klaus (9) from Eisenstadt, Burgenland: 'Once a year I go through my toys and think about what I do not need any more. Those toys, I don't play I donate to charity, so that other children can play with them as well. I also try and look after all my toys, so that they can be used again.'

- In Austria there are many secondhand shops or shops, where you can get your clothes repaired. You can buy and sell second hand products on internet websites such as www.willhaben.at and on the website www.reperaturfuehrer.at you can find repairment experts. There are also websites like www.teilbar.at, where you can share things. This can save you a lot of money and it also saves our resources.
- In so-called **world shops** you can buy sustainable and fair trade products. Fair trade food items, arts and craft work, clothing, musical instruments, toys and jewellery and a lot of other things are sold there. You can find more information on these shops and where to find them in Austria, here: www.weltladen.at



GOAL 13: TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

'When you have gone so far that you can't manage one more step, then you've gone just half the distance that you are capable of.'
[proverb from Greenland]

One day spent with Julka from Greenland

Hej! Jeg er Julka. I am 12 years and live here in Greenland. It's funny that Greenland is called 'green' because most of the year it is all white and the landscape is covered with lots of snow. Today, right in the middle of August, the summer holiday is over and we start school again. Come with me on my way to school and I can show you what our life here is like!

The little fishing village in which we live in is called 'Itilleq; it is located 200 metres north of the Arctic Circle. Living inside the red, green, light-blue and yellow wooden houses are around 110 inhabitants. It is very quiet here because there are no cars or motorbikes on the roads. For young ones like us it is quite a boring place to be. It takes up to one hour with the boat to go North into the nearest small city of 'Sisimiut' and it takes four hours to the nearest residential area in the south. Only very occasionally there is a bit of a change and that is when the tourists come to visit us and once a month a supply vessel comes to deliver goods. That is why we always have to have a strict plan as to what foods and goods we need for every day.

The grown-ups get a living from hunting seals, reindeers and musk oxen as well as fishing. Codfish is probably the most common and popular fish over here. As you can imagine there is only just enough work for our community to survive but nobody can make a lot of money from hunting.

Today it is 7 degrees Celsius – that probably does not sound like summer weather to you but for us it's really warm. In the winter it can get as cold as minus 49 degrees Celsius, so sometimes when I spit in the air you can hear

a clinking sound a second later – that is my spit turning immediately into ice. However, every year the temperature rises. The researchers say that this is the result of climate change, which in turn causes the glaciers to melt. Just listen – can you hear the rumbling and tumbling? That is not a thunderstorm, it is a glacier sliding its way down to the water. Unfortunately, this is now happening more frequently. Over there you can see the modern research laboratory. One of the researchers came to our school and taught us that the amount of ice that has fallen from the glaciers into the sea has doubled in the past ten years. The ice sheet which covers the ground in Greenland is extremely thick – 3000 metres. That is three kilometres of ice – can you imagine that? Of course this ice cover does not melt that quickly but if people in the world continue to live in the way that they do now, then in 2100 a lot of ice will have melted and this will have led to the sea level being one and a half metres higher than it is now. This will cause flooding in a lot of islands and coastal regions.

Climate change is also dangerous for animals because for many species the melting ice is causing their habitat to shrink. That in turn means that there are less fish to catch and animals to hunt. Our sledge dogs used to be really important when we went hunting, nowadays we only breed them as a hobby.

Behind the football fields over there, the green house that you can see, is our school. I look forward going to school every day. Our teacher has taught us Danish, English and my mother tongue Greenlandic, which is a throaty language with many sounds of 's' and 'sh'. Our teacher says that we won't need any more fishermen/women or hunters but we will need a good education so that we can become carpenters, engineers or doctors. I would like to become a researcher, so that I can study climate change. I want people to take action against climate change – we need to start now, before it is too late!





Climate Action – Reduce global warming and improve living conditions for all

The temperature on this earth is rising. That is why we talk about global warming. This is caused by greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane or nitrous oxide. CO₂ is mainly generated through the burning of coal and petrol. Cars, aeroplanes and other machines produce a lot of greenhouse gases. According to some tests taken, the CO₂ in the atmosphere has increased by one third in the last 100 years. That is probably the highest figure measured in the last 15-20 million years. Air pollution created by humans has resulted in the rise of the world-wide temperature which in turn has caused the melting of glaciers on the North and South Poles. These snow and ice surfaces act like big ice cubes cooling our air and water but as these surfaces become smaller the temperature rises. We need to break out of this vicious circle! Climate change makes the weather go crazy. In some areas in the world it never rains and in other areas there are heavy floods. This is particularly bad for the countries of the global south where longer periods of droughts cause extreme famines.

Another consequence of global warming is that the sea level rises on average about 2.5 mm every year due to the melting of the polar ice caps and glacial ice. The melted ice in Greenland results in a significant increase in the amount of water. If the sea level continues to rise as it is at the moment many islands and coastal regions will soon be underwater.

Goal 13 therefore calls for action against climate change. Further warming will have dramatic repercussions for all humankind. In order to stop this we have to work together. Every country will have to make a fair contribution in their efforts to switch from fossil fuels (crude oil, coal) to renewable energy (wind turbines, solar panels, hydropower plants).

Goal 13 calls upon all countries to cooperate with each other and support each other to put in place national policies and measures that develop and support climate protection.

A world-wide early warning system for all meteorological disasters, such as tsunamis or droughts needs to be established alongside systems that provide fast help in the case of natural disasters. The richer states have

already committed themselves to financially supporting poorer countries implement effective measures to combat climate change.

What can we do to help achieve this goal?

- Half of the motorways in Austria are shorter than 6 kilometres. Short distances result in excessive fuel consumption. This can be prevented. Short distances can be walked, or cycled or people can use public transport rather than getting in your car.
- Communities, schools and businesses should fight against climate change and join the Climate Alliance. In Austria we already have 1,000 climate-alliance communities that fight for climate justice. You can find more information here: www.klimabuendnis.at
- JUMP is a youth platform where you can get information on how to take action against climate change in Austria. It gives information on events, workshops and publication on environmental and sustainability topics. On the website you can find useful information, such as the 'voluntary environmental year': www.jugendumwelt.at

Vincent (10)

from Bad Fischau, Lower Austria:

'When I visit my family in Germany I take the train. I don't go by plane because this is bad for the environment. I much prefer going by train anyway.'

**Ceyda (16) from St. Georgen,
Längsee, Carinthia:**

'I am head girl and I talked to our school headmaster because I want our school to join the Climate Alliance Austria.'



GOAL 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

'Cross the river in a crowd, and the crocodile won't eat you.'
[proverb from Madagascar]

One day spent with Pascal from Madagascar

Salama! No anarako Pascal. It's nice of you to visit me here, even though it is so early in the morning. This is the beach, where I spend most of my time every day. It is very close to our little village 'Anakao' here in the south of Madagascar.

Madagascar is an island full of adventures. It has many bays like this one here. In the past many pirates used to hide in them. Madagascar has the most exciting pirate stories!

Today I am going to go fishing with my cousins Pali and Marael. Fishing is a job for us men! Meanwhile the girls collect sea urchins in the shallow water. The sea urchins can be spooned out and eaten. My little sister loves them. I prefer eating fish – my favourite fish are the little sardines. If you think fishing is really easy then you are very much mistaken! It is a lot of hard work. Yesterday when we were around the bonfire we had to spend a long time mending all the holes in the fishing nets, it took us hours. I also have to make sure I take good care of my pirogue. A pirogue is a little boat which looks much like a canoe.

I can remember when my father gave me my first pirogue, it was a birthday present three years ago. For months I practised steering it along the shallow water up and down the beach. My father said that it would be some time before I would be allowed to take it far out into the sea. Now I have got a bigger pirogue although it is not as big as the ones grown ups use, but it is fine for me, my cousins and I fit in pretty well.

My father always talks about how this island used to be a real paradise. The nets used to be filled with all different kinds of fish. You used to be able to feed a whole family when you returned from your fishing journeys. Nowadays fishing is only a hobby for us boys. There aren't very many species left and my net has never really been fully filled.

That is probably because the big fishing fleets that pass here every day take so many fish. Their fishing nets are as big as five football fields! So it is no surprise they take away most of our fish! They sell their fish for very little money abroad. Sadly, they also catch other animals with those big nets, such as dolphins or turtles which often get injured and just thrown back into the sea.

Look over there! Can you see the little bright dots in the distance floating above the water? That is a flock of birds – a good sign! Where the birds fly over the sea, that is where all the fish are and that is where I am going to throw my fishing net out in a minute. Before I go out to sea I want to tell you my wish for the future. I wish for a world where people took much more care of nature and particularly our oceans. The oceans are the nutritional base for our fish and other sea water life.





Life below water – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources, reduce pollution

The ocean is by far the largest habitat on earth. We should have called this planet 'Ocean' and not 'Earth', because 70 percent of this planet is covered with water. Without the oceans there would not be life; they are just as essential as the atmosphere. That is why we should take good care of this sensitive habitat.

The oceans and many marine animals are already endangered today because of the way they are treated by humans. Sadly, we have been using the oceans as the biggest dumping site on earth. Every hour an estimated 675 tons of rubbish is dumped in the sea and half of that is plastic. It looks as though this waste simply disappears somewhere in the sea but marine pollution has severe consequences. Plastic takes years to disintegrate and releases toxic substances into our environment. Plastic particles clog the digestive system of marine animals such as dolphins, fish and water birds, this in turn leads them to starve because they have tummies full of plastic and there is no room for food.

But plastic isn't the only problem, oil is equally bad. 6,000 tons of oil end up in our oceans every year. Oil tanker accidents happen frequently, for example, the one in 1989 when Exxon Valdez, an oil tanker, owned by the Exxon Shipping Company, struck a reef and spilled 37,000 tons of crude oil into the ocean. The huge oil slick killed an incredible number of sea dwellers. This disastrous accident clotted the feathers of water birds and caused irreversible damage on our environment. Goal 14 stipulates that all kinds of sea pollution should be substantially reduced by 2025.

Another big problem we face is that our oceans are being fished to the point of exhaustion. That is not the fault of Pascal or other small fishermen but it's the huge fishing fleets that fish more than 80,000 tons of fish in a year. Pascal is right, the fishing nets are up to 23,000 square meters big, that is as big as 5 football fields. Therefore, they do not only catch fish for food but many other marine animals are also caught up in the big fishing nets. World-wide up to 30 million tons of unwanted sea animals a year, such as juvenile fish, sharks and turtles are captured and killed or injured. They often perish torturously in the nets.

Goal 14 says that by 2020 we should regulate all fishing activities efficiently and that over-fishing, illegal or unregulated fishing as well as destructive fishing practices should be stopped. The oceans should be healthy and productive again so that they can also provide for small fishermen, such as Pascal and his friends.

What can we do, to help achieve this goal?

- When you go buy fish, make sure you know where it comes from. There are different types of quality marks that guarantee, for example, the protection of dolphins or state that only fisher nets of a particular size are used. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has a fish guide. You can also get it as an app for your smartphone: [fischratgeber.wwf.at](https://www.fischratgeber.wwf.at)
- If you separate your waste properly, it can be disposed more efficiently and recycled properly. You should also dispose of cooking oil separately, it shouldn't just be put down the drain. One litre of oil can contaminate 1 million litres of water. If you dispose cooking oil in visibly labelled containers and take them to a waste collection centre they can be used to help produce biodiesel fuel.
- With a WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) sponsorship you can give whales, dolphins, sea turtles and other sea dwellers a better future. Maybe your school class would like you to take up a sponsorship together and give a presentation on the topic 'sea life' in your school. You can raise the money together! You can find more information on: [meere.patenschaft.at](https://www.meere.patenschaft.at)

Metin (14) from Bad Gleichenberg, Styria: 'I looked at a documentary about whale culling. It was horrible. I think everybody should see this movie!'

Vanessa (15) old from Lienz, East Tyrol: 'The WWF have a lot of campaigns that I like to support. I collect signatures for petitions at my school. If I can get enough signatures, we can really make a difference!'



GOAL 15: LIVE ON LAND

'He who rides on a donkey's back doesn't know that the ground is burning hot.'
[proverb from Burkina Faso]

One day with Flora from Burkina Faso

Salut, je suis Flora. It is nice of you to visit me here in Burkina Faso! I have just finished my school homework and now I am going to take some time to relax. I love taking a nap in the millet fields that belong to my grandfather Yacouba. Come with me and I will show you where they are and maybe we will meet him there, he is probably working in the fields right now.

Can you see the amazing forest over there? 40 years ago when my grandfather Yacouba was young there was nothing here, just desert. At that time there was a great famine because it hadn't rained for a very long while. That was when Yacouba started to plant trees in the desert. Everyone else thought he was crazy because the desert ground was way too dry to have plants growing there but he went out with a pick axe made holes in the hard ground in the shadeless heat. He then planted millet seeds.

Yacouba had the great idea of adding a fertilizer mixture of slurry, animal excrements, leaves and ash into the holes. Then during the rainy season water accumulated in the holes and like magic the millet began to grow through the fertilizer mixture but not only millet also trees and bushes. The roots of the bushes and trees then prevented the water from drying out and provided shade for humans and animals. The falling leaves served as

new fertilizer for the millet plants, so that when the people here were hungry they could also even eat the leaves from the trees and bushes.

Over there under the mango tree, next to the two cows, you can see my grandfather lying there – he is wearing a brown cotton robe and a white cap. Oh, he is sleeping. I don't want to wake him up he has probably been working the whole day on the field. I will go back to the village to get him something to eat. My Aunty can make him some fresh 'To'. That is a millet bread that we eat with different kinds of sauces almost every day.

I am very proud of my grandfather and what he has achieved. His cultivation technique is now used by hundreds of farmers in the desert area as well as in the neighbouring countries from Burkina Faso, such as Mali and Niger. So now that they have applied his technique they have turned desert regions into fertile land. My grandfather has taught me that land is precious because it is the basic foundation for our food supply. Ninety percent of the people living here live off the food they produced themselves. So if I could I have a wish for the world, I would want every country to become sufficiently fertile and I would want local resources to be used in a sustainable way in order for all people to be able to grow fruit and vegetables so nobody has to go hungry.





Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss

Land is the foundation of the production of our food and therefore the basis for our lives. Millions of small farmers in Asia and Africa produce the largest proportion of food that we have on this earth. Austria also makes agriculture a high priority, in fact about 44 percent of the land in the country is used for agriculture. Most farms belong to families that not only produce food but also support the preservation of the countryside. However, sadly the number of family owned farms is decreasing quite rapidly and there is now less land available for crops. Every day Austria loses around 20 hectares of land because streets and houses are built. Twenty hectares is around the same size as 30 football fields. This results in significant negative consequences, for not only can Austria grow much less food but the way the land is used has an important effect on our climate because land stores greenhouse gases including CO₂ and water. As these stores decrease, the weather becomes more extreme and this in turn can cause natural disasters such as flooding. Goal 15 says that we need to ensure the conservation of our agricultural land and that we should use it in a sustainable manner.

The deserts and semi-deserts, which cover around one third of land area on this earth are spreading rapidly and increasing in size at a rate which almost matches the landmass of Switzerland each year. Climate change is one of the causes for this growth in desert land and therefore why we have to develop new technologies to help develop desert areas into fertile land. As part of this we should seek to support affected countries which are implementing such technological solutions.

Worldwide there are 356 million square meters of forests cleared and burned every day, and the biggest part of the forests lost comes from the tropical rain forests. Each year an area as big as Greece disappears. Can you imagine that? That is 35 football fields per minute! The rainforest has the biggest biodiversity of plants and animals but if their habitat is destroyed many of these plants and animals will die. In fact up to 150 species of plants and animals die every day.

As part of protecting endangered species and preventing their extinction, Goal 15 stipulates that we need to take action right away to prevent a

deterioration of natural habitats and the loss of biodiversity and that we need to do this in a way that promotes the sustainable management of forests and ends deforestation.

What can we do to help achieve this goal?

- You can support the Austrian agriculture by buying products that have been grown in Austria. It is particularly important to buy regional and seasonal products. If you want to take a step further then buy only Austrian organic products. Organic farming means that no artificial chemicals have been used and therefore better care has been taken of the agricultural land.
- More and more people live in the city and have forgotten what it's like to live in a more natural environment. Get to know your surroundings! Go for a hike, get to know more about the forests, agriculture and farming. Maybe your school wants to invite a guest speaker who can do a work shop with you. You could, of course, join the **Alpine Club**, the **Naturfreunde** or other associations. You can find more information here: www.alpenverein.at/jugend
- An Austrian guy named Michael Schnitzler founded an association for the conservation and protection of the endangered Esquinas Rainforest in Costa Rica. You can symbolically buy yourself a tree there for 18 Euros and this helps the organisation. Maybe your school could organise a buffet and you could help fundraise some money to support the reforestation. You can find more details on this website: www.regenwald.at

Rosa (11) from Salzburg City: 'We try to only buy organic vegetables and fruits because no pesticides are used. I also throw paper in the waste paper so that it is properly recycled, which means less worldwide deforestation.'

Samuel (9) from Schärding, Upper Austria: 'When we go for a hike through the woods we always take the marked rambling routes, so that we don't disturb any animals living there.'



GOAL 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

'Choose your neighbours before you chose your house.' [Sprichwort aus Palästina]

One day spent with Mustafa from Palestine

Salam! Ana ismi Mustafa. Ahlan wa sahlan – You are very welcome in my country 'Palestine'! I am a 14 year old photographer. I love taking pictures and I think that I am quite good at it. I have already had an exhibition of my photographs in the community centre of our town, so let me show you some of my art pieces. On this picture you can see my parents standing in front of our brick house and this is a picture of my school class. I am so happy that I am able to go to school. More than half of the schools in our country have been destroyed by bombs during the war.

For years there have been fights over Palestine. In 1948 the state of Israel was founded and since then there have been disagreements and wars about who this land belongs to. Life here is really difficult. You can't move about freely and there are many police check-ups. My cousin Anna lives in Jerusalem on the Israeli side but there is a wall that divides us, it is 8 metres high and it cannot be passed easily. If I want to visit my cousin there is no direct transport connection available to get to her. I have to change several times, go across fields and through backyards. Usually it takes me up to three hours to travel just 12 kilometers.

A few days ago I wanted to visit Anna but I had to wait for week to be allowed entry into Israel. If I had paid the authorities money they would have let me in straight away. The more money you pay the quicker you are allowed in. The people working for the authorities are very corrupt. They use their power for personal gain.

At the border between Palestine and Israel I always get checked to make sure that I am not carrying any weapons. Living here is like living in a war zone. The people from Israel are scared of us and we are scared of them. Often there are terrorist attacks, there is violence and bombardment of whole districts. Nobody really trusts anyone anymore. I have often spoken to my cousin about this and we just don't understand it. We both agree that when we get older we will fight for peace between Israel and Palestine. Anyone who can build a wall can also tear it down again.

Here, this is a photograph of my brother Ali. Every time I look at this photo, it makes me very sad. He is in prison at the moment just because he threw a stone at an army tank. It seems so unfair that they have put him in prison for that. He didn't even get a proper trial. The military just decided what his punishment would be. You might wonder how something like that is even possible? But here in Palestine there is no constitutional state, like there is in your country. There are laws but nobody follows them. Not even the people who made them. I want every person to be able to trust in laws and I want everyone to follow the laws. I also wish for a world where people talk to each other and work out solutions rather than fight each other.





Promote justice, peaceful and inclusive societies

You might ask yourself why there are so many wars on earth and why states and people have to fight each other all the time. At the moment there are over five million people living in states where there are armed conflicts. It is not that long ago that that Europe, including Austria, peace could be taken for granted.

Wars have terrible consequences, ordinary people lose their lives - children, women and men. Many families lose their homes and their children can no longer go to school. Some people are starving because they have lost their jobs and they can no longer grow food in their fields. In war regions people are also often scared of attacks by hostile groups. Sometimes they are forced to serve in the army. We wish so much that these wars wouldn't break out in the first place.

Peace has to start in your own home and it is often difficult to deal with conflict. You probably know the kind of situations that lead to heated discussions! But only if we talk to each other in an open and honest manner are we able to develop an understanding for the other person's feelings and give them a chance to understand us so that together a solution or a compromise can be found. Often a third person is able to mediate between people.

Goal 16 says that all forms of violence have to be reduced significantly. Furthermore abuse and exploitation of children and all forms of violence against children should be stopped.

In order to prevent conflicts and violence it is important that government structures are well functioning and act fairly. In order for this to work there needs to be a fair and transparent judicial system. It needs to include court proceedings with judges who are independent and not corruptible. The UN has decided that by 2030 corruption and bribery in all forms should be considerably reduced.

We need to ensure that by 2030 political decisions are not made in an arbitrary manner or by one single person. The general public or groups

representing them must be included in political decision making processes and the creation of new laws. Finally, Goal 16 states that public access to information should be available and the fundamental freedoms that are the rights of each person should be protected. This includes the human rights that have been recognized by all member states of the United Nations.

What can we do to help achieve this goal?

- You too can contribute to a more peaceful environment in your community because if we try and listen to each other, respect other people and solve problems and arguments without using violence, we are also making a contribution towards the peace of humankind. Tolerating other people who think differently, showing respect and trying to understand those who have a different background or religion is part of helping to achieve this goal. You can make peace anywhere. It is important to remember that after a dispute it pays to look for a solution that is good for everyone. It is great to stand up for other people if they have been excluded because of their language or the way they look.

Dennis (12) from Feldkirch, Vorarlberg: 'I think it is really unfair to make fun of other people, if, for example, they have jug ears I stand up for them. If other children would do the same or would stop laughing at them it probably would not happen as often.'

Hanna (13) from Graz, Styria: 'I am doing a course at school to become a mediator. I am really looking forward to it.'

- You can also become a professional mediator at your school. Some schools offer a training course in **Peer-Mediation**. Find out if your school offers something like this: www.bmb.gv.at/schulen/unterricht/ba/peer-mediation.html
- **Amnesty International** works to achieve worldwide justice and peace. You can support them in many different ways. There are special offers for young people from the age of 14 to get involved. More information you can find here: www.amnesty.at/de/youth

GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

'We can change the world,
if we change it together!'



We can change the world! We have proved that many times in past decades. There is something that makes human beings special, which is that in our heads we can form ideas. We can think about problems and find solutions for them.

With the 17 sustainable development goals we have a plan which has the potential to ensure that by 2030 we will be living in a fairer world, but how can we reach these goals? It is not going to be easy for each and every one of us to make a contribution but the most important thing is that we work together to support each other. Goals such as the fight against poverty and keeping the climate safe are achievable if we work on them together.

Exchanging thoughts and opinions with others will help to develop good ideas. We can learn so much from each other. Just as we can learn so much from the children in the stories that you have read about in this little book which show how much they have learnt from each other.

Jakob's class from Austria has a partnership with the school class from Stéfanos from Greece. Together they came up with great ideas as to how to save energy in their schools. Special floor panels in the boys' schools

converts the students' footsteps into energy. In Greece they will start this experiment and if it works Jakob's school will also generate its own electricity.

Can you remember Flora from Burkina Faso and her grandfather? Flora got in touch with Rubina from Sri Lanka and told her about the cultivation technique her grandfather invented. Rubina is planning to modify the technique a little bit and then try it out in Sri Lanka.

And what is Miguel doing in Colombia? He no longer needs to wash lorries and he is able to go to school. An organization from Denmark started a project over there and built a school very close to the steep mountain road so that children from poorer families could go to school without having to pay. They even made sure that the children receive a school uniform, school materials and a school lunch – and guess, what? Miguel is the best pupil in his geography class. That is lucky, since he wants to go to university and become a geologist.

Whereas with the help of her lawyer, Sally has managed to start an internet blog. There she reports about her experiences and thus encourages other girls and women around the world to stand up for their rights.



Working together in a global partnership working together on all levels

The quality of life in Austria is very high. Most people have a home and enough food to eat. You have already learned from this book that this is not the case in all parts of the world. The opportunities that people have are very different. Goal 17 says that all states in the world should work together on the realization of the goals. There is a need for a 'global partnership' between states, governments, groups and also between individuals.

Goal 17 also states that all political measures across states should share the same objectives and these should not contradict each other. The rich states should support poorer states financially, aid projects or increasing their exports. It does not make sense if a state gives money to a poorer country but at the same time exploits that country with poor trading policies, such as unfair fishing agreements. On the one hand they try to improve people's lives in developing countries but on the other hand they take away their livelihood by taking the fish from their waters. These things do not go together!

Goal 17 also defines that there will be regular monitoring whether the world goals are implemented in individual states or whether they are implemented across a number of states. Both lead to making the world a better place.

What can we do to help achieve this goal?

- There is a lot of teamwork happening in the world and there will be examples of cooperation. It is important to work together in communities because it helps us reach our common goals. A football team only has a chance of winning the game if they play as a team. Remember there is no I in team. Therefore don't just think about the advantages to you, be a team player and think about what you can do for the team?
- Start your own project with your friends and classmates. That way you learn how to function in a team. If you are between 14 and 25 years old and have a great idea for a project but are not sure how to implement and finance it, you can find support on this website: www.eureprojekte.at
- The UNO (United Nations Organisation) is a worldwide organization that has member states in almost all countries of this world. Together they decided upon the 17 sustainable development goals. One of the headquarters of the UNO is in Vienna. You can take your class on a guided tour there as a school trip. At the moment there are special tours on the 17 world goals. Here you can find more information: www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/de/visitors_service



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Stories need inspiration – an idea that sets the foundation and on which a story can unfold. In this case newspaper articles were used, from which we took different ideas: because we wanted to tell real life stories and because we wanted to pay respect to children's stories such as Sally's. For three stories we used documentary films as inspiration for our ideas, where children from other parts of the world told their story about their everyday life. We used a lot of ideas from the documentary films and would like to take the opportunity to thank the producers for letting us use them! At the same time we would like to encourage to use these films in class as teaching material.

The big story, before we tell you all the little stories: Introduction

The World's Largest Lesson: youtu.be/WOyUYa-FU9I

More Videos and informationen here:

worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org/de



In order to watch the video you have to download an App on your mobile. (QR-Code Scanner)

Story 2:

'Two girls from Cité Soleil' by Heike Fritz/Stephan Krause, D/Haiti 1996. Documentary Film. Suitable for ages 10 and over.

To be found here: Children of this world are telling their stories.

Targeting: children's rights

DVD Video with seven documentary films on children's living conditions worldwide (approx. 200 min) and DVD-ROM with supporting material.

Publisher: Filme für eine Welt (CH) (Films for one world), BAOBAB (A). 2009.

Contact: Heike Fritz & Stephan Krause

Schilfstr. 5

82223 Eichenau, Germany

+49 (0)8141-32 86 68

krausefilm@aol.com

Story 4:

'Miguel, the race driver' by Heike Fritz/Stephan Krause, D/Kolumbien 2001.

Documentary Film Suitable for ages 10 and over

To be found here: Children of this world are telling their stories.

Targeting: children's rights

DVD Video with seven documentary films on children's living conditions worldwide (approx. 200 min) and DVD-ROM with supporting material.

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Schilfstr. 5

82223 Eichenau, Germany

+49 (0)8141-32 86 68

krausefilm@aol.com

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Authors: Franz Joseph Huainigg | Linda Exenberger

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Strozzigasse 10/7-8 | 1080 Vienna | tel: +43 1 402 47 01
forum@umweltbildung.at | www.umweltbildung.at

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