

The Right to Be Heard

A Final Statistical Report



* In 2002–2005 the Swedish Children’s Ombudsman ran a project called The Right to Be Heard. The aim of the project was to find ways of communicating children’s and young people’s views to decision-makers in a representative, easy-to-understand manner. The project proposes an information system called the Children Condition Index (CCI). This report describes the method developed during the project and contains statistical results from all participating countries.



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A Final Statistical Report

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Preface

The right of children and young people to be involved and influence, as stated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is one of the absolute rights in the convention and is not dependent upon a state's level of development and prosperity.

In Europe, roughly every fifth person is under the age of 18, and in other continents the proportion is even higher. It is a challenge for decision-makers in all societies to find ways of listening to children's and young people's views and opinions on and around social issues. By listening to children and young people, adult decision-makers can gain knowledge and find solutions that bring a greater children's aspect to their decisions.

For this reason, the Children's Ombudsman in Sweden has been conducting a project in the years 2002–2005 financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida, in a number of developing countries and in Sweden in order to develop a method for gathering children's and young people's views and opinions about their lives in a representative fashion and presenting the results in a clear, action-related manner. We based the project on a method that has been used for many years in trade and industry and the public services to measure degrees of satisfaction. The project involved developing the method to allow it to be used to measure how children and young people subjectively perceive their quality of life.

The aim of the project is to find ways of communicating children's and young people's views to decision-makers in a representative, easy-to-understand manner. We asked the children and young people if they are satisfied with various things in their lives and processed their responses in the statistical model. We thus contributed to the development of a Children Condition Index (CCI).

The results are intended to be policy-relevant, that is, give an indication of the areas upon which we should concentrate our efforts to enhance children's and young people's quality of life.

This statistical model can of course be applied to some aspects of children's and young people's lives. It is thus possible to study more closely children's and young people's satisfaction with, for example, school or leisure time and culture. It can also be used as an evaluation instrument by conducting the study again in the same way as the first time. The study has also given us much concrete knowledge about what children and young people think about many different things, as those questions that make up the various components are for the most part very concrete.

Lena Nyberg
Children's Ombudsman, Sweden

Background

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child gives children the right to participation and contributory influence. The influence is limited to the children's capabilities. Implementation of the convention requires proper data for monitoring and following up children's situation from the children's own perspective. In its General Guidelines for Periodic Reports, the UN Child Rights Committee asks for information about how children's views are obtained through public opinion surveys and other means.

Need for proper statistical data

Implementation of the convention demands proper data for monitoring and follow-up of children's situation from children's own perspective. Children are more than one third of the world population and in most developing countries half of the population are children (below the age of 18). Only a marginal part of all official statistics deal with children and marginal part is collected directly from children.

Political and administrative decisions may not always be to the best for the children, due to lack of relevant and reliable information. Today there are few regular surveys or statistics on children. Public debates are based on adult perspectives – children do not recognize themselves in the debates and therefore do not participate. This can delay their entrance to politics and democratic values.

The available statistics do not recognize children's priorities and definitions of well being.

Current statistics on children are mostly either indirect or of a more qualitative nature, based on case studies and therefore not very representative.

In most developing (and many developed) countries there are no focused statistics on children, so there is a need to develop instruments for data collection, analysis and presentation of statistical information on children, particularly from children.

Such statistics are needed for planning the best for the children in each country and for the reporting to UN and other international organizations, following the development of the world summits.

All child statistics should be sex distributed and attention should be given to children with special needs.

For the best of the children, data are needed on children's satisfaction with:

- Food, health, shelter, clothing and social security.
- School environment and education quality
- Sports, cultural and other leisure activities
- Friends and other social relations
- Personal safety
- Participation and possibilities to decide for a better future.

Developing a Children Condition Index (CCI)

In 2002–2005 the Swedish Children’s Ombudsman ran a project called The Right to Be Heard. The objective of the project was to support confident decision-making for the best of the children, based on representative, relevant and reliable information in six pilot countries.

It is a project testing a new system for monitoring children’s well being in Sweden and in five pilot countries, representing different development and transition cultures. Five pilot countries were selected in cooperation with Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The aim was to test the method in different environments. Countries on different development level as well as transition countries on different continents were selected. Other criteria used in the selection were experience of war and disasters, multi-ethnicity, migration, level of democracy and institutional capacity. Following countries participated beside Sweden: Bosnia Herzegovina (B a H), Peru, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Vietnam.

The information system the project proposes is called the Children Condition Index (CCI) and this index is based on the general Living Condition Index (LCI). The survey content has been adapted to each country after the LFA-workshop that started the project in each country. The survey content contains several standard (comparable) questions. CCI can generate easy accessible and useful information of children’s satisfaction in total and by component. The impact of each component on the total satisfaction is also presented.

In this statistical method the responses to the concrete questions are processed in order to relate them to latent abstract concepts, such as health, justice and fairness, empowerment, relationships and quality of life. The results, that are based on about a hundred concrete questions, can thus be presented in an easily understandable diagram and provide a quick indication of the degree of satisfaction and how great an effect the various aspects have on children’s and young people’s satisfaction with their lives.

The method allows some interesting comparisons to be made between a measurement of subjective perception, for example of quality of life, poverty, and social services, or some other aspect, and objective measures from register studies and other information to do with the same phenomenon. The method gives a picture of the subjectively perceived content of such things as quality of life or poverty and thus broadens and deepens our understanding of these concepts.

The method is an instrument that allows children and young people to make their own views and opinions known on issues where decision-makers need to make decisions.

This statistical model can of course be applied to some aspects of children’s and young people’s lives. It is thus possible to study more closely children’s and young people’s satisfaction with, for example, school or leisure time and culture. It can also be used as an evaluation instrument by conducting the study again in the same way as the first time.

The project was funded by Sida and implemented by the Swedish Children’s Ombudsman with technical assistance from the LCI-Institute that is responsible for methodological support.

Conclusions from the project

The main conclusions from the project are:

1. It was possible to find relevant counterparts in all countries. Only Sweden has a Children's Ombudsman, but after some research a general ombudsman, a family committee or a similar function was found. In all countries except Sweden, NGOs supported the process. Not least, it was easy to engage confident and active children in all phases of the project. All involved have been very supportive and non-bureaucratic with a true belief in Children's Rights and no competition (but much mutual assistance) between government and non-government officials.
2. All stages in the survey process ran smoothly and children participated actively at all times. The survey content was guided more by children than experts. The surveys were easy to carry out with limited external support and limited internal capabilities. The questionnaire could have been shorter, particularly in Sweden.
3. The main object of the project was to test whether this method might be a way for children to be heard in a representative way. Surveys of children generally ask about indicators devised by experts and related to problems from adults' or society's perspective. Children are sometimes allowed to speak on different occasions, but seldom in a representative manner and seldom with any influence on the agenda. This project aimed to give a broad picture of all facets of children's life. Is their childhood as happy as it should be? What is good and what is bad? What means most for children? The method is supplementary to the more problem-oriented surveys. Some authors have advocated shifting the focus from problems to potentials (development approaches). Irby and Pittman (1996), for example, give a graphic description: *If I introduced an employer to a young person I have worked with by saying, 'Here's Katib. He's not a drug user. He's not in a gang. He's not a dropout. He's not a teen father. Please hire him', the employer would respond, 'That's great. But what does he know, what can he do?'*
4. Another important object was to avoid the typical result of a statistical survey – a colourful report distributed to those already involved. The project aimed to bridge the gap between the children and the decision makers and the statistical tools are merely simple instruments to give the children a representative voice. Much effort has been put into strengthening the ears that listen.
5. All-in-all, the project has shown that the method can support children in their right to be heard according to Article 12 of the CRC in three ways:
 - The method gives all children a voice in a representative way and from their own perspective
 - The method tells the decision makers what makes children happy and unhappy and the importance of each component of life for their total satisfaction with life
 - The method shows at all stages that children in general are capable subjects deserving of attention, rather than problematic objects to be offered treatment.
6. Poverty has an impact on children, but home and family relations are more important.
7. The project has been successful in strengthening the mechanisms for giving children greater influence in matters that have an impact on them. The gaps, however, are not fully bridged. Officials working for children still need to open decision makers' eyes.

8. All participating countries want to repeat the survey. Interest has also been expressed in focusing on specific components of life and spreading the method to other countries. Interest has already been shown by the Philippines, and Oman. And in Karlskoga/Degerfors municipalities in Sweden a survey has been conducted in September 2007.
9. The database of more than 10,000 respondents is available for future research.

General results

This report presents the results from the project that tested a new system for monitoring children's well being. The survey was carried out in all countries except Tanzania. Serbia and Kosovo conducted the survey outside the project in 2004. In 2005 also Montenegro conducted a similar survey.

The results are approximately representative for the children in the participating countries. Random sampling was used at all stages and in all countries except Vietnam. For economic and logistical reasons, three Vietnamese regions in the first stage were not selected randomly but deliberately to represent different types of regions. The sample is mainly self-weighted and no re-weighting has been done. In the next chapter, where results are presented for all children, each child has the same weight. No weighting has been done according to the total number of children in each country. Kosovo and Montenegro are not included in the results for all children because of the very limited sample size.

Table 1. Sample size, age of participating children and survey year, by country

| Country/area | sample size | relevant to | year |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|------|
| Sweden | 1,910 | 8–16 years | 2002 |
| Sri Lanka | 2,004 | 8–18 years | 2004 |
| Vietnam | 2,032 | 9–16 years | 2004 |
| Peru | 1,936 | 8–17 years | 2004 |
| BaH, Republika Srpska | 1,137 | 9–14 years | 2004 |
| BaH, Federation | 996 | | 2004 |
| Serbia | 1,368 | 8–16 years | 2004 |
| Kosovo | 524 | 9–15 years | 2004 |
| Montenegro | 116 | 7–15 years | 2005 |

The sampled children represent about 26 million children .

The answers have been given on a scale from 1 to 10. We have chosen to categorise 1–4 as not satisfied, 5–7 as neither satisfied nor dissatisfied and 8–10 as satisfied.

Different answers/indicators have been weighted together with PLS¹ to components and are then presented as an index on a scale from 0 to 100.

Happy children

The average child in each and all countries is happy. The average child in the participating countries has a satisfaction index of 77 on a scale from 0 to 100. Total satisfaction with life ranges from 60 in Kosovo to 88 in Sweden. Satisfaction with life is measured with three indicators:

1. Current life and living conditions
2. Compared to expectations one year ago
3. Compared to other children

¹ For estimating the coefficients in the linear structural equation model we have chosen to use the PLS (Partial Least Squares) technique. This technique for solving structural equations is described for example in Fornell and Sha (1994), Lohmöller (1989) or Wold (1985). The motive for using PLS is that it provides a simple and robust technique.

Table 2. Children’s satisfaction with life, mean value on a scale from 0 to 100, by country

| Country | Satisfaction with life |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Sweden | 88 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 85 |
| Serbia | 84 |
| Montenegro | 77 |
| Sri Lanka | 74 |
| Vietnam | 73 |
| Peru | 66 |
| Kosovo | 60 |

There is no standardised border between happiness and unhappiness, but we can safely say that the average child in all countries is satisfied with life as a whole, with some reservations as regards children in Kosovo.

The same method has been used to study adults in some countries and we can state that children are more satisfied than adults.

Table 3. Adults’ satisfaction with life, mean value on a scale from 0 to 100, by country

| Country | Satisfaction with life |
|---------|------------------------|
| Kosovo | 34 |
| Serbia | 41 |
| Oman | 46 |
| Jamaica | 54 |

The average girl is as happy as the average boy. The younger children are more satisfied than the older children and the average child in poor families is not satisfied, giving a score of only 62 on a scale from 0 to 100. The children have classified themselves as living in poor or not poor families. No such classification was made in Sweden and Sri Lanka, so these countries are not included in this group.

Table 4. Children regarding themselves living in poor families, percentage of children in the surveyed age groups

| Country | % poor |
|---------|--------|
| Serbia | 7 % |
| B a H | 8 % |
| Vietnam | 17 % |
| Peru | 60 % |

This subjective classification differs widely between the countries; from 7–8 percent in Serbia and B a H to 60 percent in Peru. Children in “poor” families are much less happy than other children.

Table 5 Children's satisfaction with life on a scale from 0 to 100, by sex and age group, mean value

| Group of children | Satisfaction with life |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| All children | 78 |
| Girls | 78 |
| Boys | 78 |
| Younger (8–12) | 81 |
| Older (13+) | 76 |
| "Poor" | 62 |

What is good and bad in children's life?

The results in this report are based on the 47 questions/indicators that are comparable between all countries. At the top of the list we find relations with parents with an average of 9.1. Other relations also score high. Children on average are also satisfied with basic support such as food, clothing and housing. Children are happy with their possibilities to be heard and are rather confident about the future.

Table 6. What children are happy with , average on a scale from 1 to 10

| Question/indicator | Mean value |
|--|------------|
| Relations with parents | 9.1 |
| Relations with friends | 8.7 |
| Food | 8.6 |
| Relations with teachers | 8.6 |
| Treatment at home | 8.6 |
| Clothing | 8.4 |
| Own health | 8.4 |
| Possibilities to be with friends | 8.3 |
| House standard | 8.3 |
| Place to sleep | 8.3 |
| Relations with relatives | 8.3 |
| Own sleep | 8.2 |
| Possibility to choose clothing | 8.2 |
| To be in school | 8.1 |
| School in general | 8.1 |
| Sanitation at home | 8.1 |
| Possibility to choose food | 8.0 |
| Possibility to speak at home | 8.0 |
| Possibility to speak at school | 7.8 |
| Confidence in getting a job as an adult | 7.8 |
| Confidence in getting a home as an adult | 7.8 |
| Confidence in earning money as an adult | 7.7 |
| Commercial services | 7.6 |
| Possibility to speak in public | 7.5 |
| Access to books | 7.5 |

The children are neither happy nor unhappy with the rest of the indicators that deal with services, safety from violence and disasters, and possibilities to decide.

Table 7. What children are less happy but not unhappy with, average on a scale from 1 to 10.

| Question/indicator | Mean value |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Available time for leisure | 7.3 |
| Safety from violence at school | 7.3 |
| Access to places to meet friends | 7.2 |
| Possibilities to decide at school | 7.1 |
| Cultural services | 7.1 |
| Travel opportunities | 6.9 |
| Punishment at home | 6.8 |
| Violence from other children | 6.8 |
| Media | 6.8 |
| Access to leisure areas | 6.7 |
| Possibilities to decide at home | 6.6 |
| Safety from dangerous diseases | 6.3 |
| Safety from natural disasters | 6.1 |
| Safety from drug abuse | 6.0 |
| Safety from criminality | 5.6 |
| Safety from discrimination | 5.5 |
| Safety from parents' divorce | 5.4 |

The average child is dissatisfied with nothing of what was measured. This is also valid for most of the sub-groups: boys, girls, younger and older children, and children in poor families. Only in some of the countries are children dissatisfied with a few of the indicators.

Table 8. Children dissatisfied with certain aspects of life , average on a scale from 1 to 10.

| Question/indicator | Vietnam | B a H | Serbia |
|------------------------------|---------|-------|--------|
| Safety from drug abuse | 4.2 | – | 4.3 |
| Safety from criminality | 3.9 | 4.2 | 4.0 |
| Safety from discrimination | 3.8 | 4.2 | 3.8 |
| Safety from parents' divorce | 4.1 | 3.7 | 3.3 |

Children from poor as well as non-poor families are unhappy with those indicators. Those in poor families are somewhat more unhappy.

The unhappy children

That the average child is happy does not mean that all children are satisfied with their lives. If we look at those who rate their total satisfaction with life between 1 and 4 on a scale from 1 to 10, we find that 6 percent of all the children are unhappy.

Table 9. Children not satisfied with their life and living conditions, percentage giving a rating of 1 to 4 on a scale from 1 to 10

| Country | Unhappy |
|------------|---------|
| Peru | 9 % |
| Sri Lanka | 8 % |
| Montenegro | 6 % |
| Vietnam | 5 % |
| Serbia | 5 % |
| B a H | 4 % |
| Sweden | 3 % |
| All | 6 % |

There are most unhappy children in Peru and Sri Lanka and fewest in Sweden. The differences between the other countries are not statistically significant.

The unsatisfied children are unhappy with different things in different countries, but they are all satisfied with the basic needs (food, clothing, health and sleep), school, home and family. They are also eager to see changes for the better and have confidence for the future.

Children are not satisfied with travel opportunities in Peru (4 on a scale from 1 to 10) and Vietnam (3.5). They are not satisfied with meeting places in Sri Lanka (4.1) and leisure areas in Sri Lanka (3.8), Vietnam (3.9) and Peru (4.5).

The unsatisfied children in Sweden are not satisfied with their possibilities to decide at home (3.4) and in Sri Lanka with choice of food (4.5) and choice of clothing (4.0).

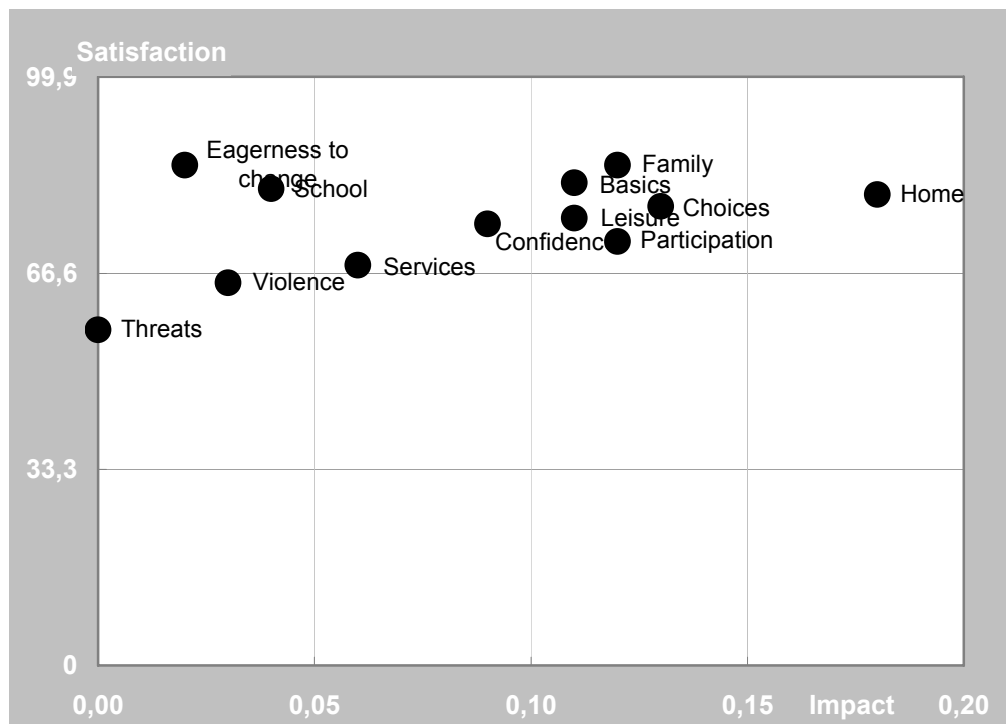
In B a H, Serbia and Vietnam these children are also afraid of crimes (3.1–4.0), drug abuse (4.1–4.3), parents' divorce (2.9–4.1) and discrimination (2.9–3.9). The unhappy children in Vietnam are also afraid of natural disasters (4.2), dangerous diseases (4.3), punishment at home (3.8) and violence from other children at school (4.0).

With the indicators we have used we can, however, only explain part of the unhappy children's unhappiness. For those in Vietnam we can only explain 20 percent, meaning that there are other things that make them unsatisfied with life. In Serbia we explain more (48 percent) and in the other countries 30–37 percent.

How to improve children's life

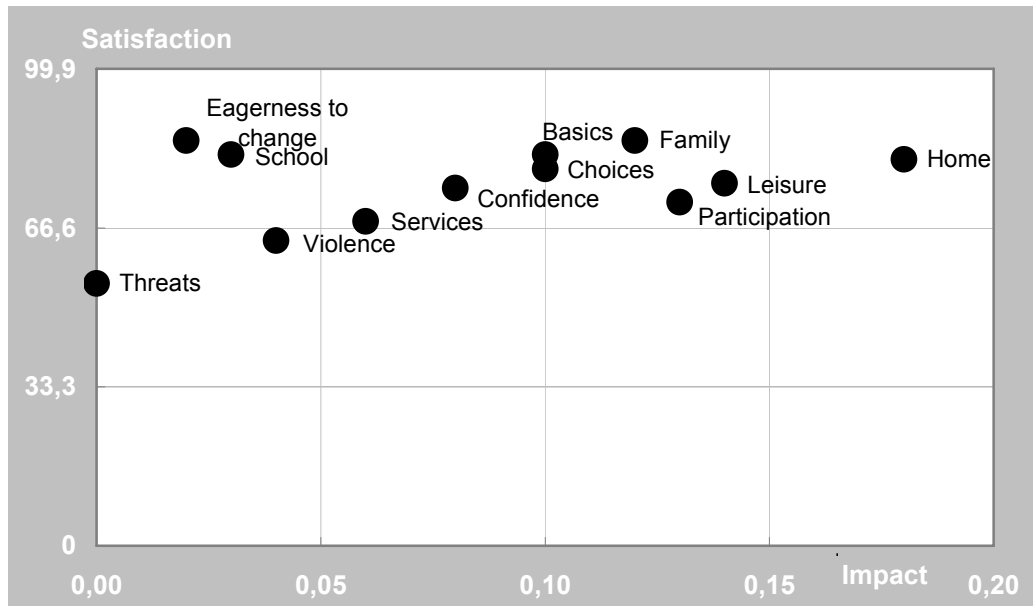
With the model approach used in this project (see Annex for more details) it is possible to estimate the impact of each component on total well being. Components further to the right in the graph below have a greater impact on total life satisfaction.

Graph 1. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction of well being components, all countries studied in the project

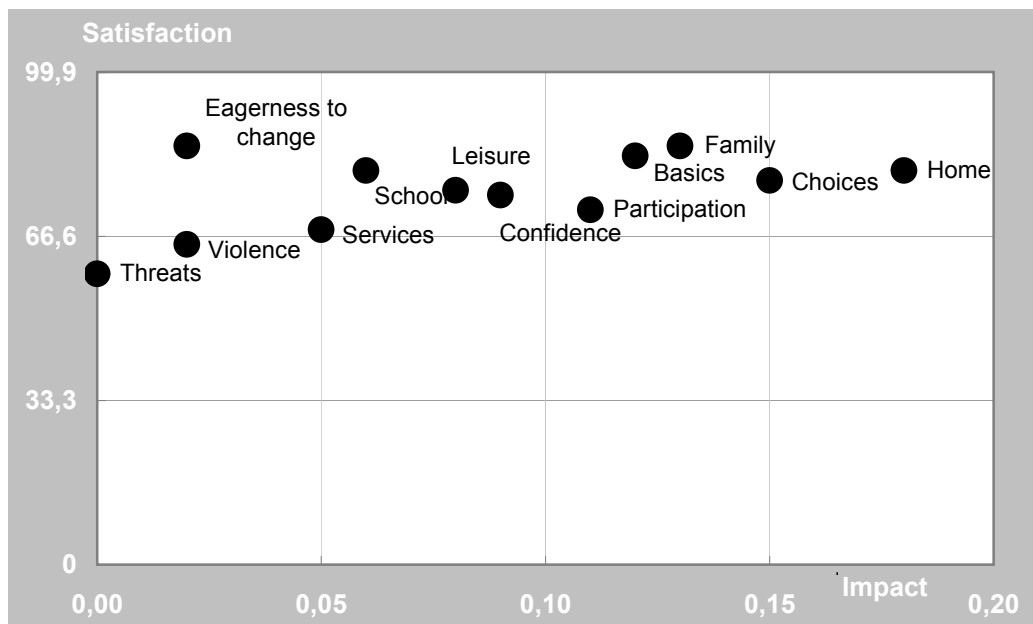


Home conditions have the greatest impact on children's life followed by possibilities to choose, family relations and participation. Basic conditions and leisure conditions are also of some importance. School, services and violence have less impact and external threats like disasters, discrimination, diseases, divorces and drug abuse have almost no impact.

Graph 2. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction of well being components, girls, all countries studied in the project.

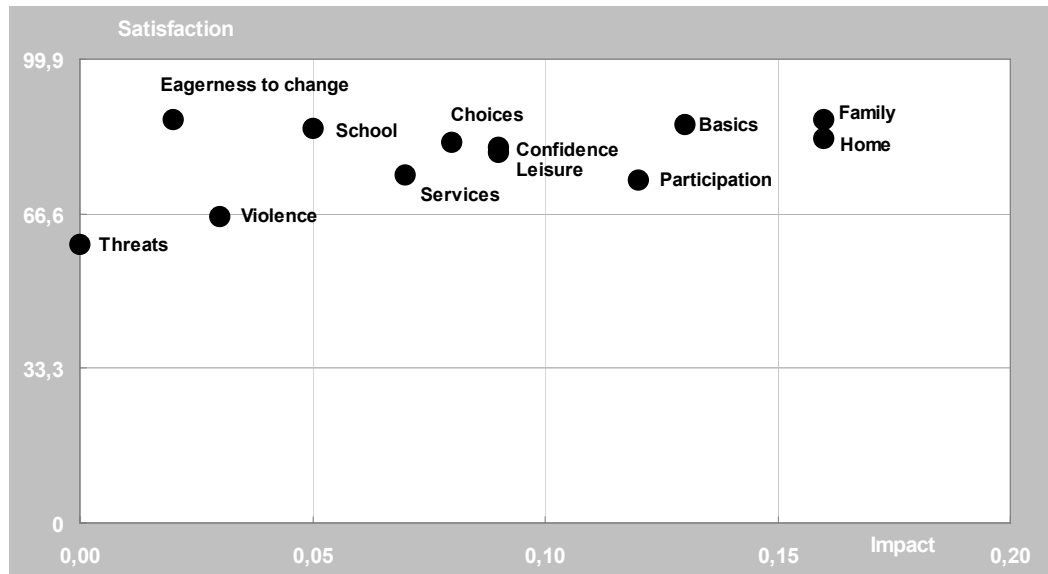


Graph 3. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction of well being components, boys, all countries studied in the project.

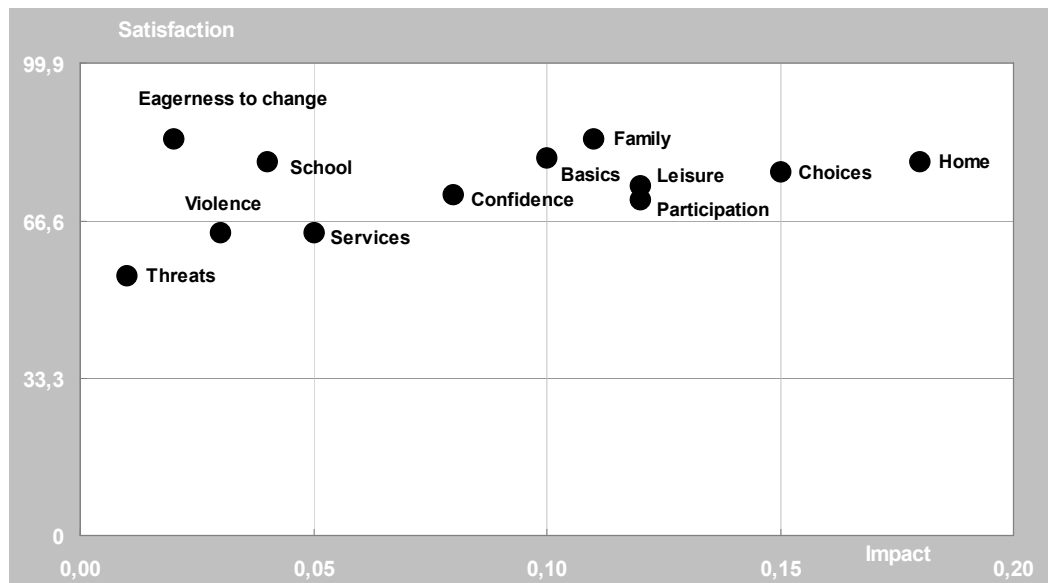


There are only small differences between boys and girls. Leisure is more important for girls, while choices are more important for boys.

Graph 4. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction of well being components, younger children (8–12), all countries studied in the project.

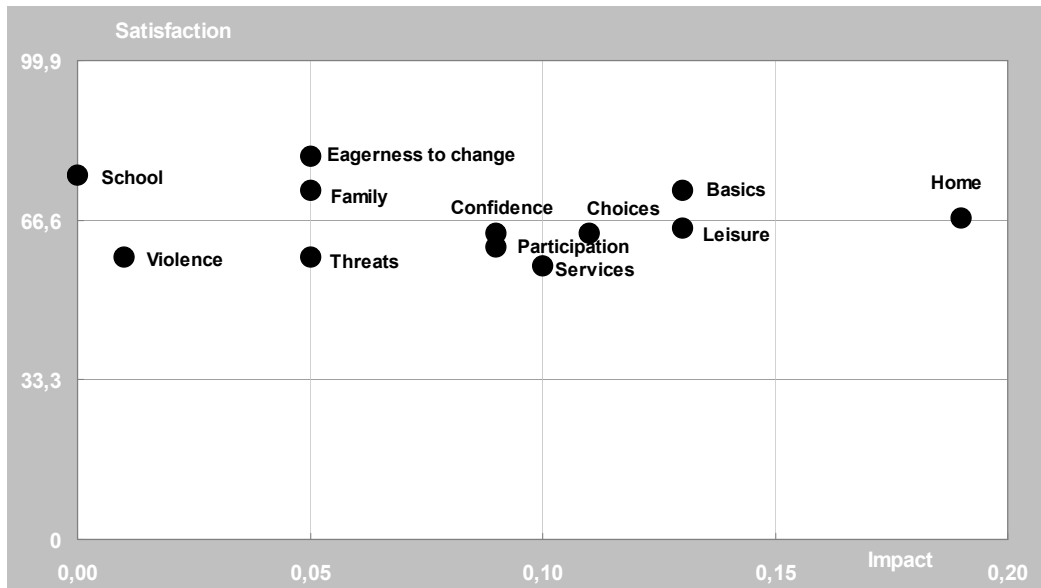


Graph 5. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction of well being components, older children (13+), all countries studied in the project.



Besides home, family and basic conditions have most impact on younger children, while choices and leisure are more important for older children.

Graph 6. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction of well being components, children in “poor” families, all countries studied in the project.

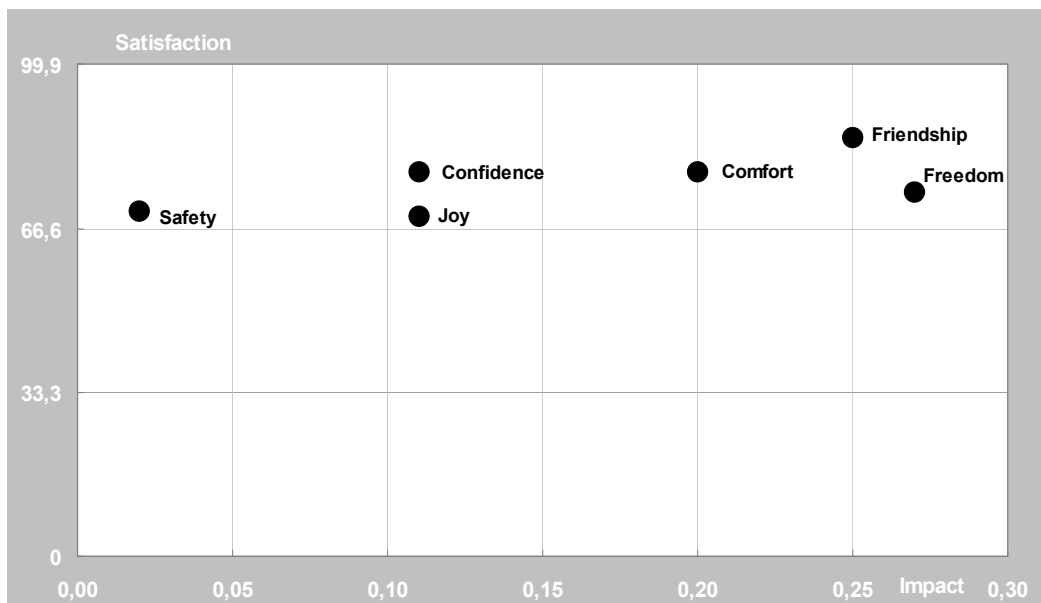


Children in poor families are less satisfied with all components, but their impact is more or less the same. They are also more vulnerable than other children. Threats such as discrimination, divorces and drug abuse have a greater impact on their total happiness.

What matters to children?

In the previous chapter, life was decomposed from a society perspective. The wide spectrum of indicators can also be arranged from other perspectives. Here follows an attempt to arrange them from a child perspective.

Graph 7. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction of well being components from a child perspective, all countries studied in the project.



The UNDP Human Development Reports define development as the enlargement of free choices and Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen argues that development is a process of expanding the real freedoms that people enjoy.

From a child perspective, freedom has most impact on total satisfaction. Freedom is measured in terms of possibilities to speak and decide and possibilities to choose food and clothing.

Friendship (with family, relatives and friends) also has great impact on children's life, followed by comfort, including food, clothing, health, sleep and standard at home.

Safety has limited impact, while confidence and joy have some influence on total happiness.

Explanatory rates

The comparatively high explanatory values are due to the fact that in the introductory phase of the project, we assembled a focus group in each country consisting of children and adults who work with children in order to be able to define the aspects around which to formulate our questions without any preconceived ideas.

Some aspects that are important from the point of view of well being, for example love, were not included in the study. A questionnaire cannot capture everything. Emotions, imagination, fun and dreams, security though a sense of belonging, experiencing love and caring, appreciating oneself and one's own, inner world, are very significant factors in one's satisfaction with one's life.

| Country | Explanation rate |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sweden | 0.50 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 0.45 |
| Serbia | 0.45 |
| Sri Lanka | 0.45 |
| Vietnam | 0.48 |
| Peru | 0.47 |
| Kosovo | 0.63 |
| All children | 0.51 |
| Boys | 0.51 |
| Girls | 0.50 |
| Younger | 0.50 |
| Older | 0.50 |
| Poor | 0.47 |
| Unsatisfied | 0.22 |

The children in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Some facts

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Births per 1,000 population | 9 |
| Life expectancy at birth | 78 |
| Infant deaths per 1,000 live births | 10 |
| Under-fives underweight | 4 % |
| Population under 18 /Total pop. | 19 % |
| Number of children and young people represented in the survey | 330,000 (calculated) |

Sources: UN Statistical Division, UNICEF and US Census Bureau

The youngest children are a little more satisfied than the older children, a similar pattern to most countries. Boys and girls are equally happy (the difference is not statistically significant). As expected, children in poor households are less satisfied.

Table 10. Satisfaction with life and living conditions in different groups, B a H, 2004.

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| All children | 87 |
| Boys | 86 |
| Girls | 88 |
| 8–10 years old | 89 |
| 11–13 years old | 88 |
| 14–16 years old | 85 |
| In poor households | 74 |
| In not poor households | 88 |

Children are most satisfied with themselves and their close environment. They are somewhat less satisfied with their participation role, school and conditions for leisure. They are rather afraid of external threats (war, natural disasters and dangerous diseases) and criminality.

Satisfaction with life is not only determined by their current situation but also by vulnerability. On average, vulnerability is given 61 on a scale from 0 to 100. They are less afraid of hunger, violence at home and violence in school, but more afraid of economic shortages, discrimination and parents' divorce.

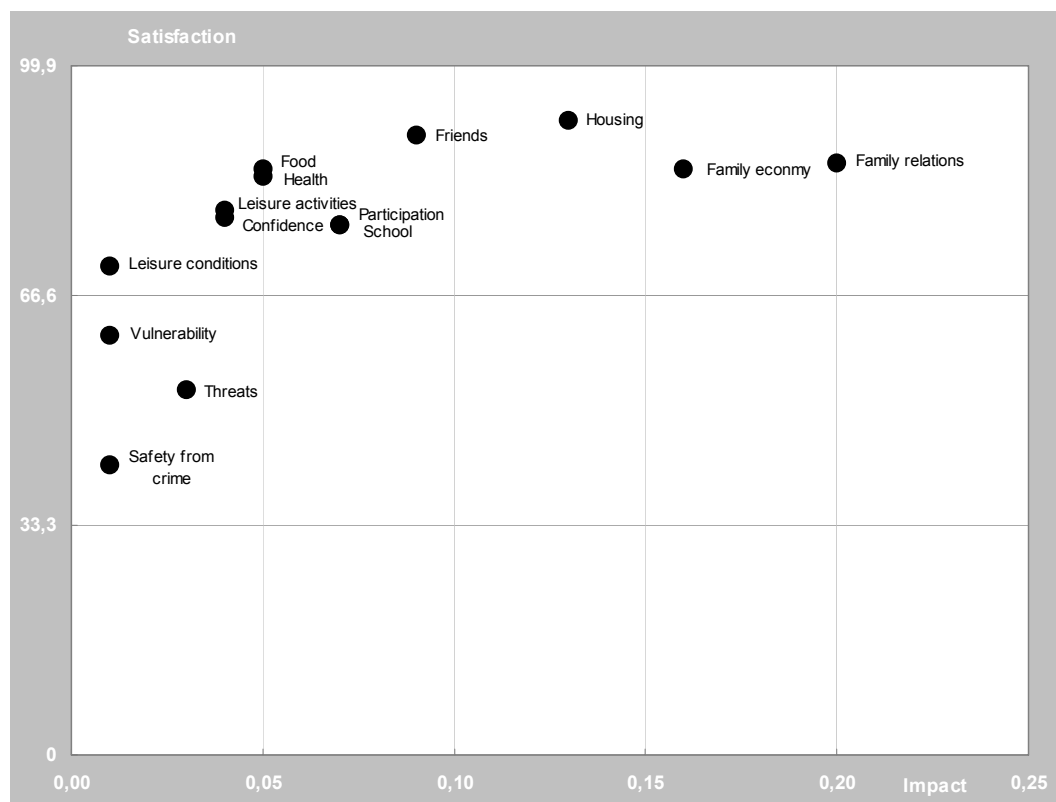
On the other hand, children are rather confident (index 78), i.e. they expect to get a job, earn money and own a house of their own. They are eager to continue to learn, to exercise for better health protect nature and animals. Such efforts are rated 87.

Table 11. Satisfaction with different aspects of life, B a H, 2004.

| | Fed. ² | RS ³ |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Housing | 92 | 90 |
| Friends | 90 | 89 |
| Family relations | 86 | 93 |
| Food | 85 | 89 |
| Family economy | 85 | 84 |
| Health | 84 | 86 |
| Leisure activities | 79 | 83 |
| School | 77 | 78 |
| Participation | 77 | 69 |
| Leisure conditions | 71 | 71 |
| Vulnerability ⁴ | 61 | – |
| Safety from external threats | 53 | 53 |
| Safety from criminality | 42 | 37 |

Family relations have by far the highest impact on total satisfaction with life and living conditions in the Federation. Children are, however, very satisfied with these relations. The aspects they are not happy with (external threats and crime) have rather limited impact on total satisfaction.

Graph 8. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction of well being components, all children in the Federation, B a H, 2004.



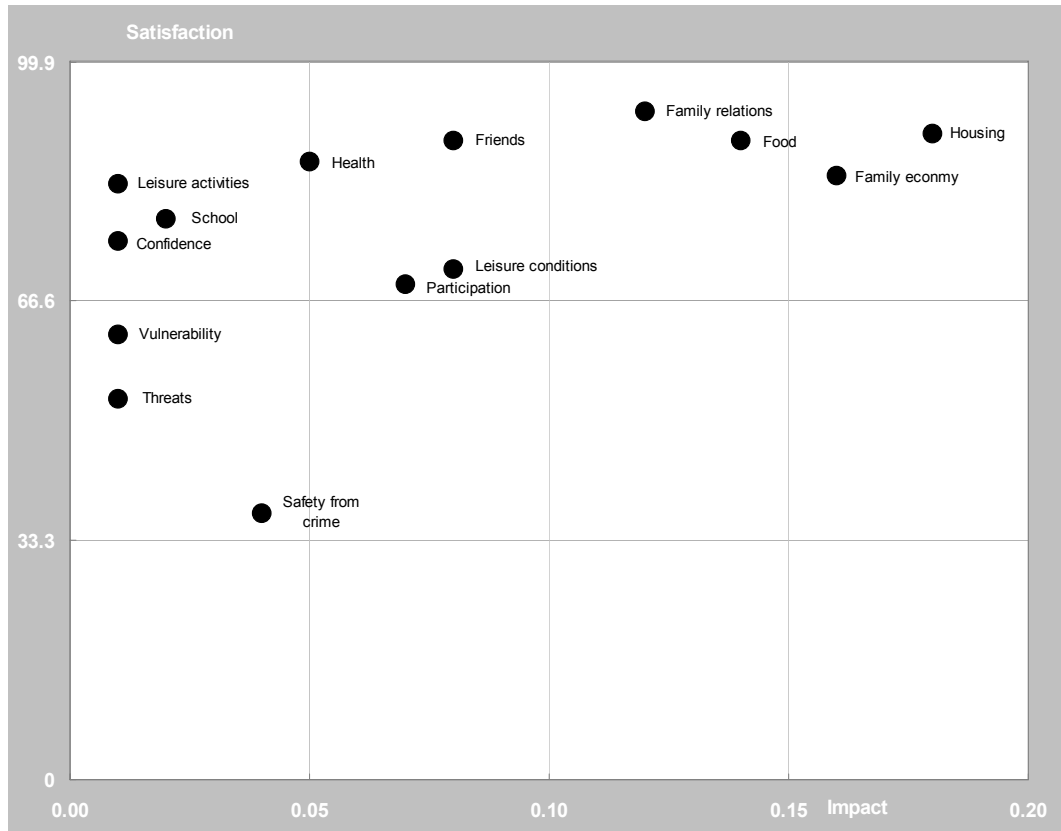
² Fed = the entity in B a H called the Federation.

³ RS = The entity in B a H called the Republica Srpska.

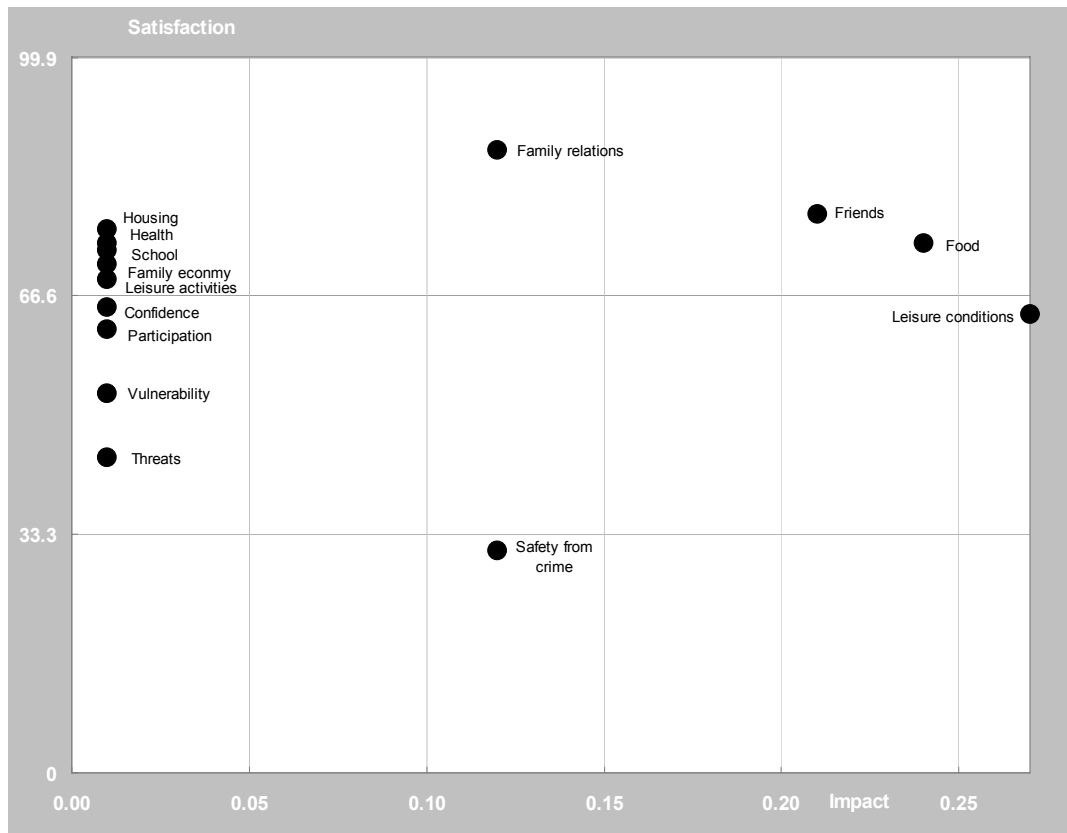
⁴ The latent variable "vulnerability" is made up from the variables: safety from disasters, discrimination, diseases and parents' divorce.

The overall patterns in the Federation are rather similar to those in the Republica Srpska. They are also similar to Sweden, except for housing, probably because of the very even housing standards in Sweden. Children in Sweden also feel safer. Housing is more important in Republica Srpska than in the Federation.

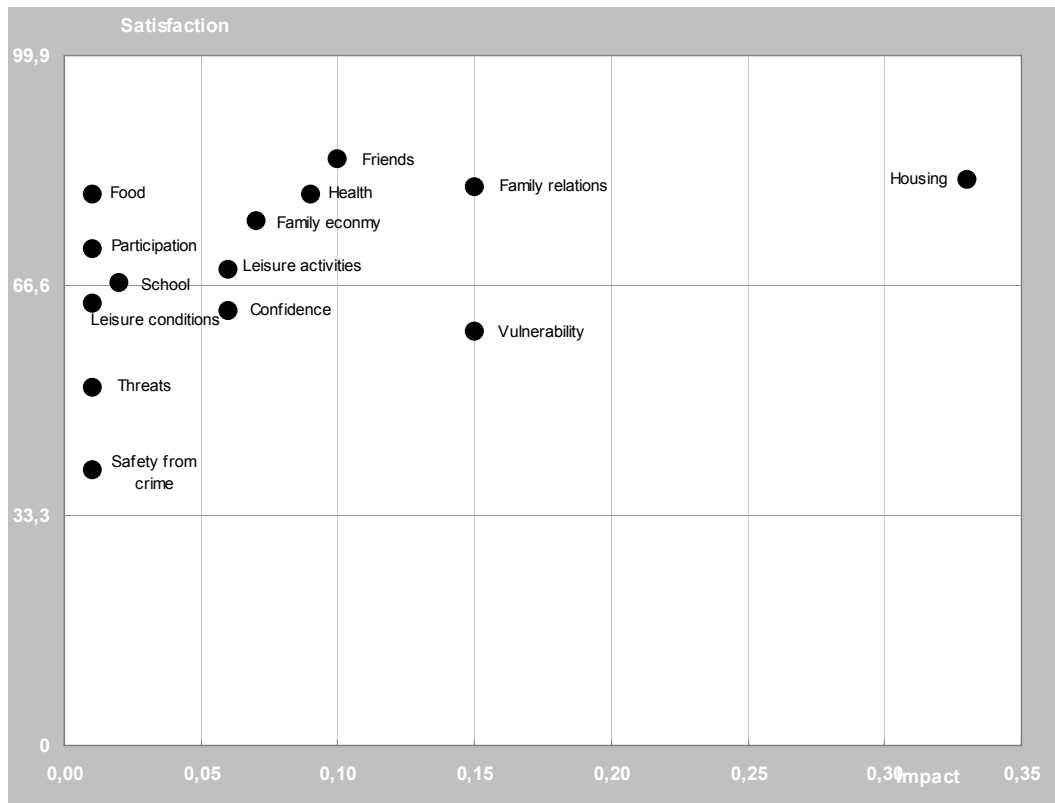
Graph 9. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction of well being components, all children in Republica Srpska, B a H, 2004.



Graph 10. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction of well being components, children in poor Srpska families, B a H, 2004.

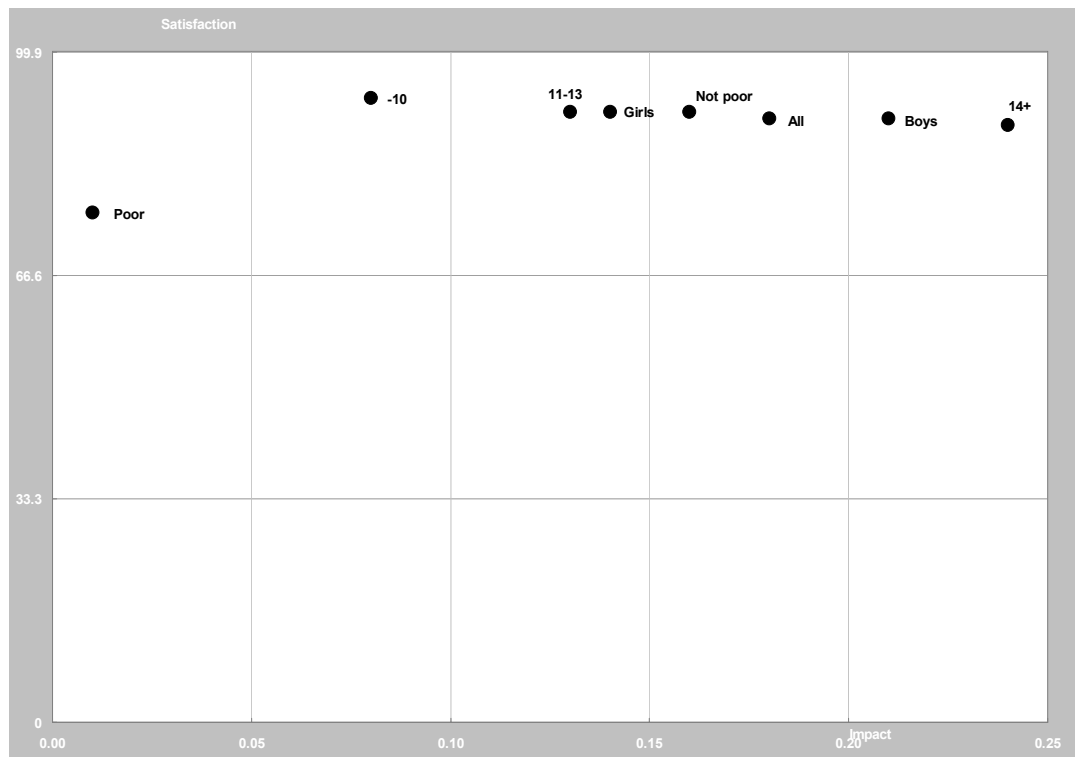


Graph 11. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction of well being components for children in poor Federation families, B a H, 2004.

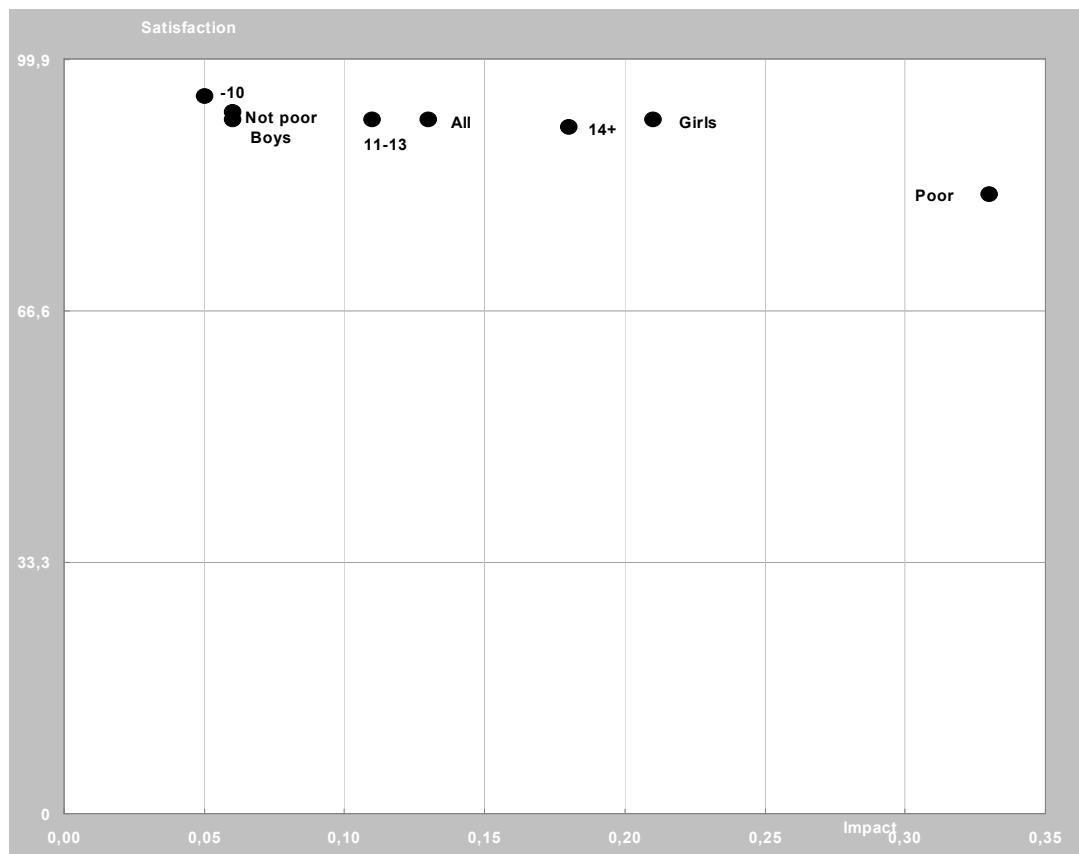


8 percent of the children see themselves as living in poor families in the Federation and 7 percent in the Republica Srpska (RS). The main concern in RS is criminality, with a relatively high impact on total well being. Vulnerability has more impact on life for children in poor Federation households. Most significant is the strong relationship between housing and total satisfaction with life in the Federation. Housing explains one third of their satisfaction with life for children in poor households compared to only 6 percent for children in 'not poor' households. This means that if the home has good conditions, even children in poor households are rather satisfied. The most effective way to make poor children more satisfied with life is therefore to improve housing standards. For the poor children in RS, the most effective intervention would be better leisure conditions.

Graph 12. Satisfaction with housing by sex, age and economic situation in RS, B a H, 2004.



Graph 13 Satisfaction with housing by sex, age and economic situation in the Federation, B a H, 2004.



Satisfaction with housing has a greater impact on total satisfaction with life for the children in the Federation than in Republica Srpska.

Table 12. Satisfaction with life and different aspects of life, by gender, age and economic situation in the Federation in 2004, on a scale from 0 to 100, B a H.

| | All | Boys | Girls | 8–10 | 11–13 | 14+ | Poor | Not poor |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Life (CCI) | 87 | 86 | 88 | 89 | 88 | 85 | 74 | 88 |
| Food | 85 | 85 | 86 | 94 | 84 | 85 | 80 | 85 |
| Housing | 92 | 92 | 92 | 95 | 92 | 91 | 82 | 93 |
| Health | 84 | 84 | 83 | 92 | 84 | 81 | 80 | 83 |
| Family economy | 85 | 84 | 87 | 94 | 85 | 84 | 76 | 86 |
| Family relations | 86 | 86 | 86 | 90 | 86 | 85 | 81 | 87 |
| Friends | 90 | 89 | 91 | 93 | 90 | 89 | 85 | 90 |
| Leisure conditions | 71 | 72 | 69 | 89 | 71 | 66 | 64 | 71 |
| Leisure activities | 79 | 78 | 80 | 85 | 79 | 77 | 69 | 80 |
| School | 77 | 74 | 80 | 85 | 79 | 72 | 67 | 78 |
| Participation | 77 | 76 | 78 | 81 | 77 | 76 | 72 | 77 |
| Safety from crime | 42 | 53 | 34 | 31 | 44 | 40 | 40 | 43 |
| Fear of war, disasters | 53 | 67 | 42 | 44 | 59 | 49 | 52 | 53 |
| Vulnerability | 61 | 67 | 55 | 69 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 61 |
| Confidence | 78 | 77 | 79 | 93 | 79 | 73 | 63 | 79 |
| <i>Explanation rate</i> | <i>0.42</i> | <i>0.42</i> | <i>0.44</i> | <i>0.74</i> | <i>0.45</i> | <i>0.40</i> | <i>0.61</i> | <i>0.37</i> |
| <i>Respondents</i> | <i>996</i> | <i>454</i> | <i>542</i> | <i>74</i> | <i>587</i> | <i>335</i> | <i>78</i> | <i>917</i> |

Table 13. Satisfaction with life and different aspects of life, by gender, age and economic situation in RS in 2004, on a scale from 0 to 100, B a H.

| | All | Boys | Girls | 8–10 | 11–13 | 14+ | Poor | Not poor |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Life (CCI) | 84 | 84 | 85 | 87 | 85 | 80 | 64 | 86 |
| Food | 89 | 89 | 89 | 89 | 90 | 87 | 75 | 90 |
| Housing | 91 | 90 | 92 | 92 | 92 | 88 | 74 | 93 |
| Environment | 77 | 76 | 78 | 88 | 75 | 72 | 66 | 77 |
| Health | 87 | 86 | 88 | 92 | 88 | 83 | 80 | 88 |
| Family economy | 84 | 83 | 85 | 86 | 85 | 82 | 69 | 85 |
| Family relations | 89 | 87 | 91 | 91 | 91 | 88 | 85 | 90 |
| Friends | 89 | 88 | 89 | 92 | 88 | 87 | 81 | 89 |
| Leisure conditions | 77 | 77 | 78 | 85 | 77 | 71 | 66 | 78 |
| Leisure activities | 84 | 83 | 84 | 87 | 84 | 80 | 71 | 85 |
| School conditions | 79 | 76 | 82 | 91 | 78 | 69 | 72 | 79 |
| School materials | 80 | 80 | 80 | 92 | 81 | 68 | 75 | 80 |
| Teaching | 78 | 76 | 80 | 91 | 79 | 73 | 74 | 78 |
| School safe and fair | 80 | 78 | 83 | 90 | 79 | 66 | 71 | 81 |
| Participation | 74 | 72 | 75 | 78 | 73 | 71 | 67 | 73 |
| Safety from crime | 39 | 48 | 30 | 32 | 40 | 43 | 31 | 41 |
| Fear of war, disasters | 44 | 50 | 37 | 37 | 46 | 45 | 32 | 47 |
| Vulnerability | 61 | 63 | 59 | 57 | 60 | 63 | 54 | 62 |
| Confidence | 80 | 80 | 79 | 86 | 81 | 73 | 59 | 81 |
| <i>Explanation rate</i> | <i>0.45</i> | <i>0.43</i> | <i>0.52</i> | <i>0.49</i> | <i>0.43</i> | <i>0.49</i> | <i>0.52</i> | <i>0.40</i> |
| <i>Respondents</i> | <i>1105</i> | <i>567</i> | <i>521</i> | <i>274</i> | <i>520</i> | <i>311</i> | <i>80</i> | <i>1021</i> |

The children in Kosovo

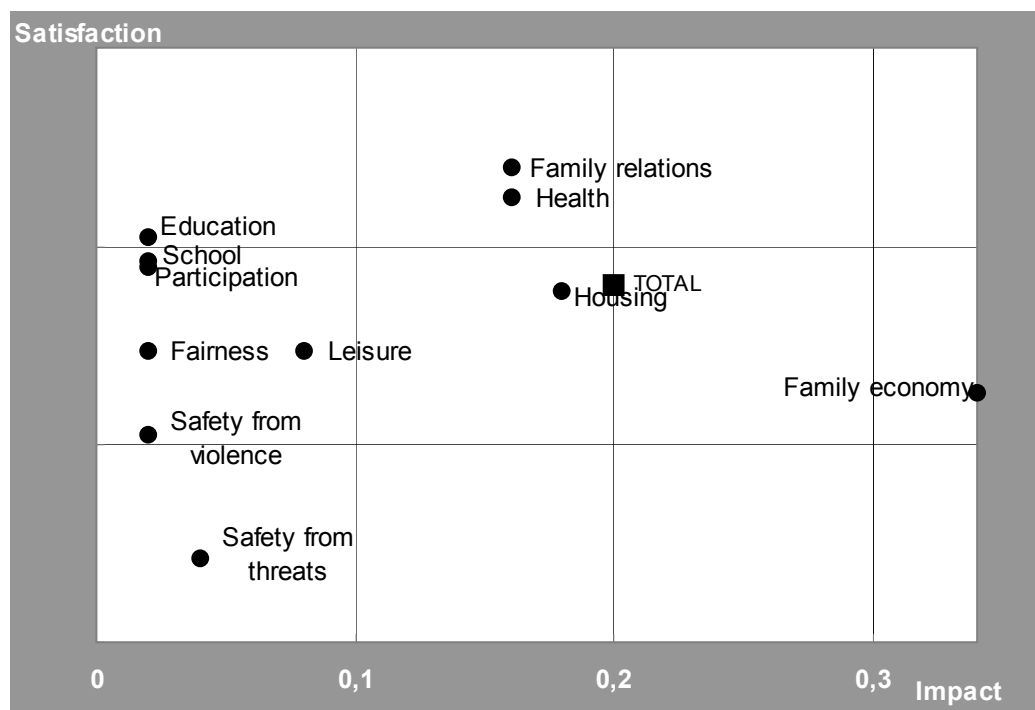
Some facts

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Births per 1,000 population | 19 |
| Life expectancy at birth | 68 |
| Infant deaths per 1,000 live births | – |
| Under-fives underweight | – |
| Population under 18 /Total pop. | 39 % |
| Number of children and young people represented in the survey | 300,000 (estimated) |
| Statistical Office of Kosovo | |

Kosovo children are especially concerned about family economy. Housing, family relations and health is also important for their satisfaction with life. The average satisfaction with life and living conditions is 60 on the scale 1–100.

Kosovo has children working in the streets. Field investigations showed that children work as a consequence of the difficult economic and social situation of their families and high unemployment; a result of the war where many children were left without parental care or necessary institutional care. Even though some children have found the support they need with relatives and close family, the situation remains difficult⁵.

Graph 14. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction for children in Kosovo, 2004



The children in Kosovo fear war and disaster but it has a rather low impact on their satisfaction with life as a whole.

⁵ Source: Statistical Office of Kosovo.

Table 14. Satisfaction with life and different aspects of life in Kosovo, average on a scale from 0 to 100, 2004.

| | All |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Life (CCI) | 60 |
| Housing | 59 |
| Health | 75 |
| Family economy | 42 |
| Family relations | 80 |
| Leisure | 49 |
| School | 64 |
| Participation | 63 |
| Safety from violence | 35 |
| Fear of war, disasters | 14 |
| Fairness | 49 |
| <i>Explanation rate</i> | <i>0.63</i> |
| <i>Respondents</i> | <i>524</i> |

The children in Montenegro

Some facts

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Births per 1,000 population | 11 |
| Life expectancy at birth | 77 |
| Infant deaths per 1,000 live births | 11 |
| Under-fives underweight | 2 % (including Serbia) |
| Population under 18 /Total pop. | 23 % (including Serbia) |
| Number of children and young people represented in the survey | 80,000 (estimated) |

Sources: UN Statistical Division, UNICEF and US Census Bureau

Average satisfaction with life and living conditions is 77 on a scale from 0 to 100, where 100 is extremely happy. The results are based on a limited sample (116 children), so there is a risk that they are not as representative as they should be. Due to the limited sample, breakdowns on sex and age will not be presented, though the data indicates the same patterns as in other countries, with small differences between boys and girls and younger more satisfied than older children.

Children are most satisfied with themselves and their close environment. They are somewhat less satisfied with their participation role. They are not afraid of external threats (war, natural disasters and dangerous diseases) and criminality.

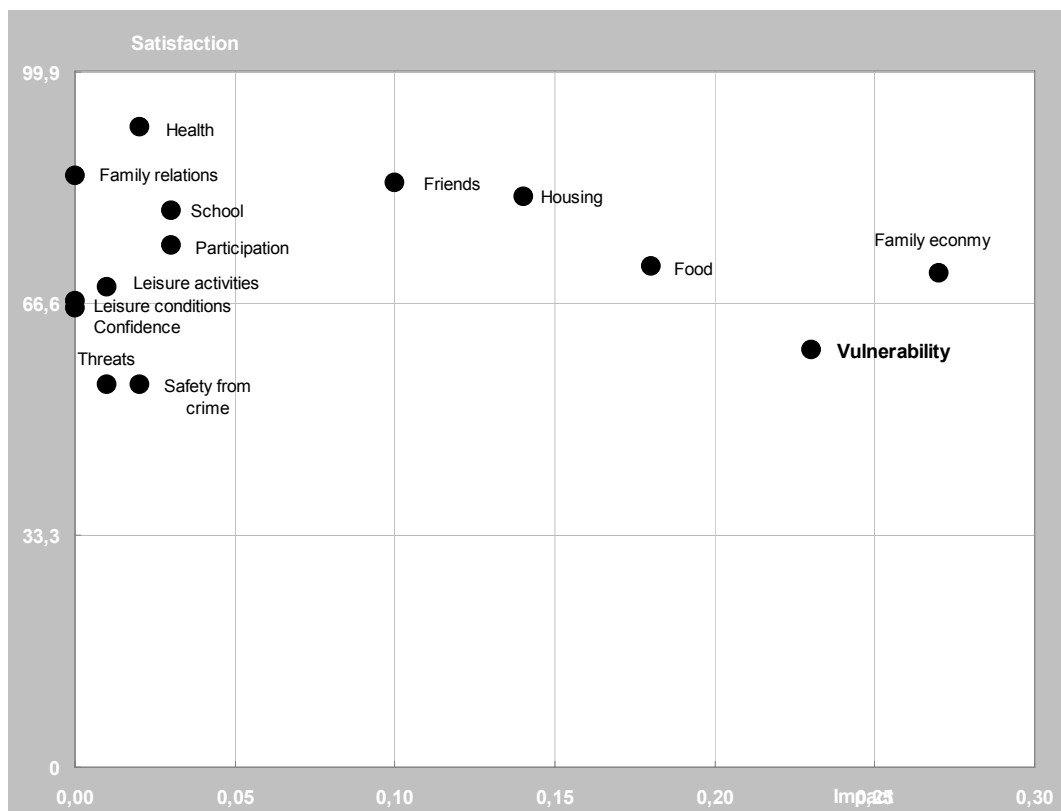
Satisfaction with life is not only determined by current situation, but also by vulnerability. On average, vulnerability is given the relatively low rating of 60 on a scale from 0–100.

Children are eager to continue to learn, to exercise for better health and protect nature and animals. Such efforts are rated 84.

Family economy has by far the highest impact on total satisfaction with life and living conditions. The average child is fairly satisfied with their economic situation, but the best way to improve total satisfaction for children is to improve the economic situation for those less well off.

Vulnerability also has a significant impact on total satisfaction with life.

Graph 15. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction of well being components, all children in Montenegro, 2005.



The patterns in Montenegro are in some ways different from those in Serbia, where housing has the biggest impact on life satisfaction. In Serbia children are more afraid of external threats and crimes.

Table 15. Satisfaction with life and different aspects of life in 2005, on a scale from 0 to 100, Montenegro.

| | All |
|-------------------------|------|
| Life (CCI) | 77 |
| Food | 72 |
| Housing | 82 |
| Health | 92 |
| Family economy | 71 |
| Family relations | 85 |
| Friends | 84 |
| Leisure conditions | 67 |
| Leisure activities | 69 |
| School | 80 |
| Participation | 67 |
| Safety from crime | 55 |
| Fear of war, disasters | 55 |
| Vulnerability | 60 |
| Confidence | 66 |
| Eagerness for change | 84 |
| <i>Explanation rate</i> | 0.73 |
| <i>Respondents</i> | 116 |

The children in Serbia

| Some facts | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Births per 1,000 population | 12 |
| Life expectancy at birth | 75 |
| Infant deaths per 1,000 live births | 13 |
| Under-fives underweight | 2 % (including Montenegro) |
| Population under 18 /Total pop. | 23 % (including Montenegro) |
| Number of children and young people represented in the survey | 1.2 million (estimated) |
| Sources: UN Statistical Division, UNICEF and US Census Bureau | |

The youngest children are a little more satisfied than the older children, a similar pattern to most countries. Boys and girls are equally happy. As expected, children in poor households are less satisfied.

Table 16. Satisfaction with life and living conditions, Serbia, 2004.

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| All Serbian children | 84 |
| Boys | 84 |
| Girls | 85 |
| 8–10 years old | 87 |
| 11–13 years old | 85 |
| 14–16 years old | 80 |
| In poor households | 64 |
| In not poor households | 86 |

Children are most satisfied with their close environment. They are somewhat less satisfied with their participation role. They are rather afraid of external threats (war, natural disasters and dangerous diseases) and criminality.

Satisfaction with life is not only determined by their current situation, but also by vulnerability. On average vulnerability is given 61 on a scale from 0 to 100. They are less afraid of hunger, violence at home and violence in school, but more afraid of economic shortages, discrimination and most afraid for parents' divorce.

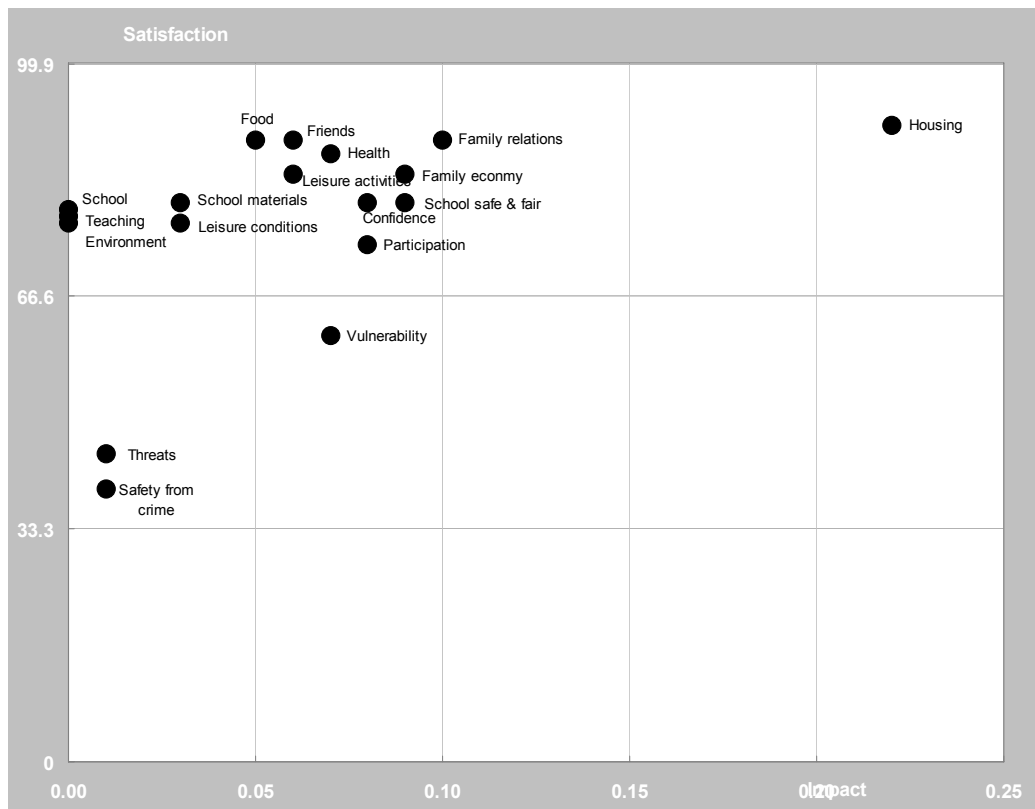
On the other hand, children are rather confident (80), i.e. they expect to get a job, earn money and have a house of their own. They are eager to continue to learn, to exercise for better health and protect nature and animals. Such efforts are rated 89.

Table 17. Satisfaction with different aspects of life, Serbia, 2004.

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Housing | 91 |
| Food | 89 |
| Family relations | 89 |
| Friends | 89 |
| Health | 87 |
| Leisure activities | 84 |
| Family economy | 84 |
| School | 79 |
| Leisure conditions | 77 |
| Environment | 77 |
| Participation | 74 |
| Safety from external threats | 44 |
| Safety from criminality | 39 |

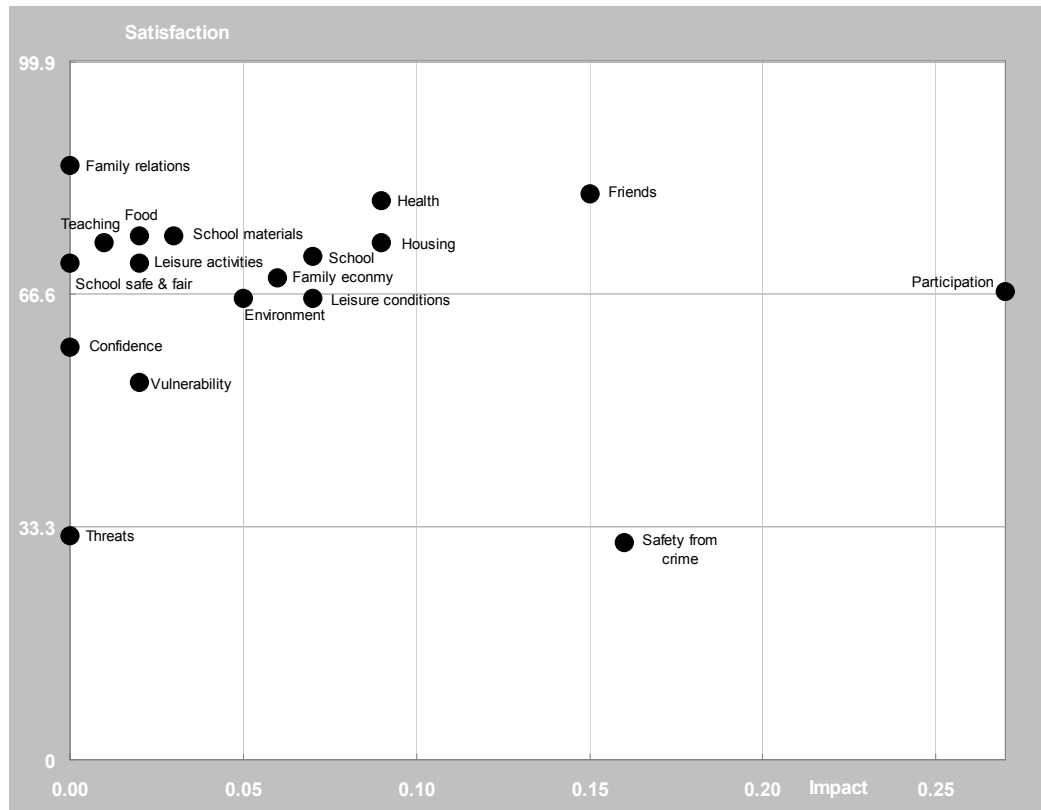
Housing (space and house standard) has by far the highest impact on total satisfaction with life and living conditions. Children are, however, very satisfied with their homes. The aspects they are not happy with (external threats and crime) have rather limited impact on total satisfaction.

Graph 16. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction of well being components, all children in Serbia, 2004.



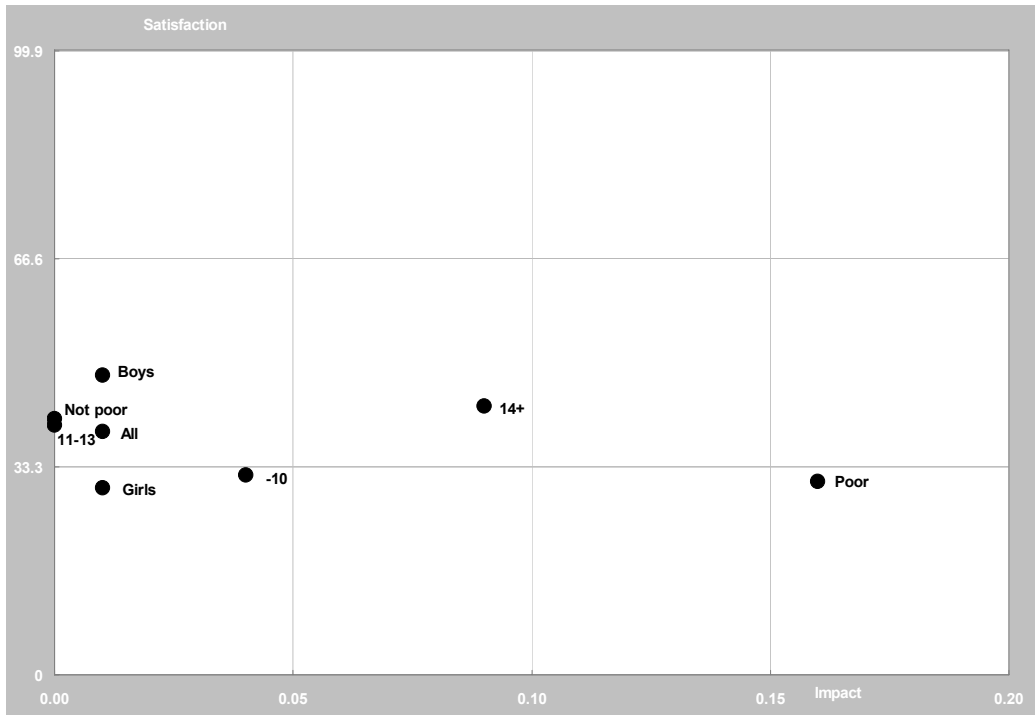
The patterns in Serbia are rather similar to those in Sweden, except for housing, probably because of the very even house standard in Sweden. Children in Sweden also feel safer.

Graph 17. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction of well being components, children in poor Serbian families, 2004.



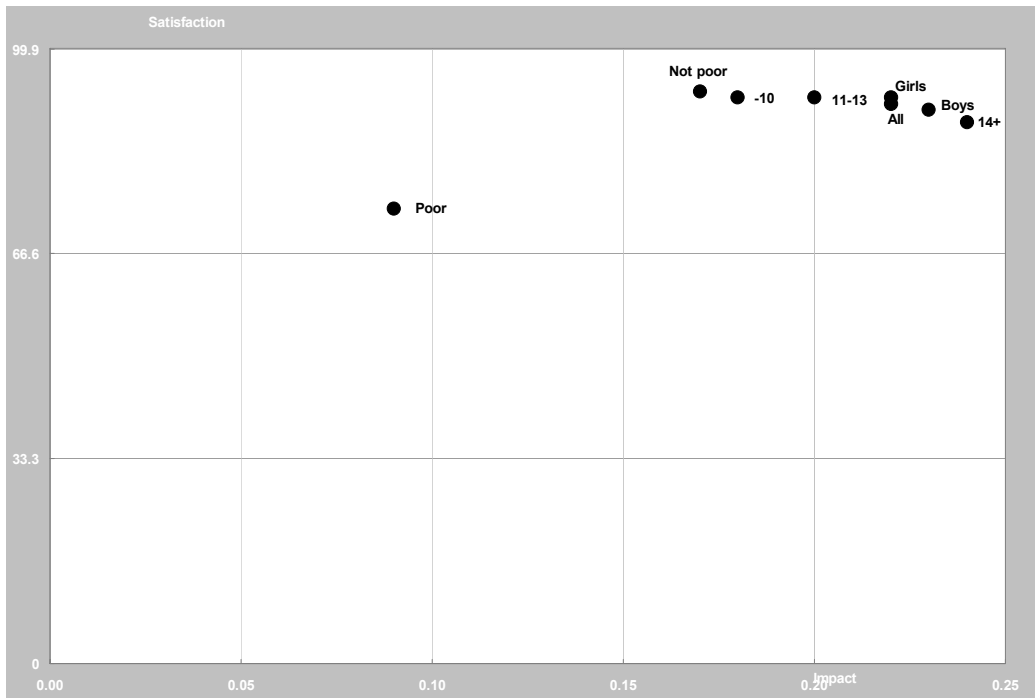
7 percent of the children see themselves as living in poor families. Their main concern is criminality, which has a relatively high impact on their total well being. Participation has even greater impact but here the “poor” children are more satisfied.

Graph 18 Satisfaction with safety from crime by sex, age and economic situation, Serbia, 2004.



For the poor children in Serbia safety from crime has a rather strong impact on their well being, which is not the case for children in families that are not poor.

Graph 19. Satisfaction with housing by sex, age and economic situation, Serbia, 2004.



Satisfaction with housing has a strong impact on children's satisfaction with life, more for teenagers than younger children in Serbia.

Table 18. Satisfaction with life and different aspects of life, by gender, age and economic situation in Serbia in 2004, on a scale from 0 to 100

| | All | Boys | Girls | 8-10 | 11-13 | 14+ | Poor | Not poor |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Life (CCI) | 84 | 84 | 85 | 87 | 85 | 80 | 64 | 86 |
| Food | 89 | 89 | 89 | 89 | 90 | 87 | 75 | 90 |
| Housing | 91 | 90 | 92 | 92 | 92 | 88 | 74 | 93 |
| Environment | 77 | 76 | 78 | 88 | 75 | 72 | 66 | 77 |
| Health | 87 | 86 | 88 | 92 | 88 | 83 | 80 | 88 |
| Family economy | 84 | 83 | 85 | 86 | 85 | 82 | 69 | 85 |
| Family relations | 89 | 87 | 91 | 91 | 91 | 88 | 85 | 90 |
| Friends | 89 | 88 | 89 | 92 | 88 | 87 | 81 | 89 |
| Leisure conditions | 77 | 77 | 78 | 85 | 77 | 71 | 66 | 78 |
| Leisure activities | 84 | 83 | 84 | 87 | 84 | 80 | 71 | 85 |
| School conditions | 79 | 76 | 82 | 91 | 78 | 69 | 72 | 79 |
| School materials | 80 | 80 | 80 | 92 | 81 | 68 | 75 | 80 |
| Teaching | 78 | 76 | 80 | 91 | 79 | 73 | 74 | 78 |
| School safe and fair | 80 | 78 | 83 | 90 | 79 | 66 | 71 | 81 |
| Participation | 74 | 72 | 75 | 78 | 73 | 71 | 67 | 73 |
| Safety from crime | 39 | 48 | 30 | 32 | 40 | 43 | 31 | 41 |
| Fear of war, disasters | 44 | 50 | 37 | 37 | 46 | 45 | 32 | 47 |
| Vulnerability | 61 | 63 | 59 | 57 | 60 | 63 | 54 | 62 |
| Confidence | 80 | 80 | 79 | 86 | 81 | 73 | 59 | 81 |
| <i>Explanation rate</i> | <i>0.45</i> | <i>0.43</i> | <i>0.52</i> | <i>0.49</i> | <i>0.43</i> | <i>0.49</i> | <i>0.52</i> | <i>0.40</i> |
| <i>Respondents</i> | <i>1105</i> | <i>567</i> | <i>521</i> | <i>274</i> | <i>520</i> | <i>311</i> | <i>80</i> | <i>1021</i> |

The children in Peru

Some facts

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Births per 1,000 population | 21 |
| Life expectancy at birth | 70 |
| Infant deaths per 1,000 live births | 32 |
| Under-fives underweight | 7% |
| Population under 18 /Total pop. | 39% |
| Number of children and people represented in the survey | 5.7 million (estimated) |

Sources: UN Statistical Division, UNICEF and US Census Bureau

The youngest children are more satisfied than the older children, a similar pattern to most countries. Boys and girls are equally happy. As expected, children in poor households are less satisfied. There are some regional differences. Children in the capital are on average most happy.

Table 19. Satisfaction with life and living conditions in different groups, Peru, 2004.

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| All children | 66 |
| Boys | 66 |
| Girls | 66 |
| 8–10 years old | 70 |
| 11–13 years old | 67 |
| 14–16 years old | 63 |
| In poor households | 61 |
| In not poor households | 69 |
| North | 61 |
| South | 63 |
| Centre | 67 |
| East | 63 |
| Capital | 75 |

Children are most satisfied with friends, school and home. They are somewhat less satisfied with family relations, family economy and leisure conditions. They are not afraid of external threats (war, natural disasters and dangerous diseases) and not so afraid of criminality. Participation is also ranked rather low.

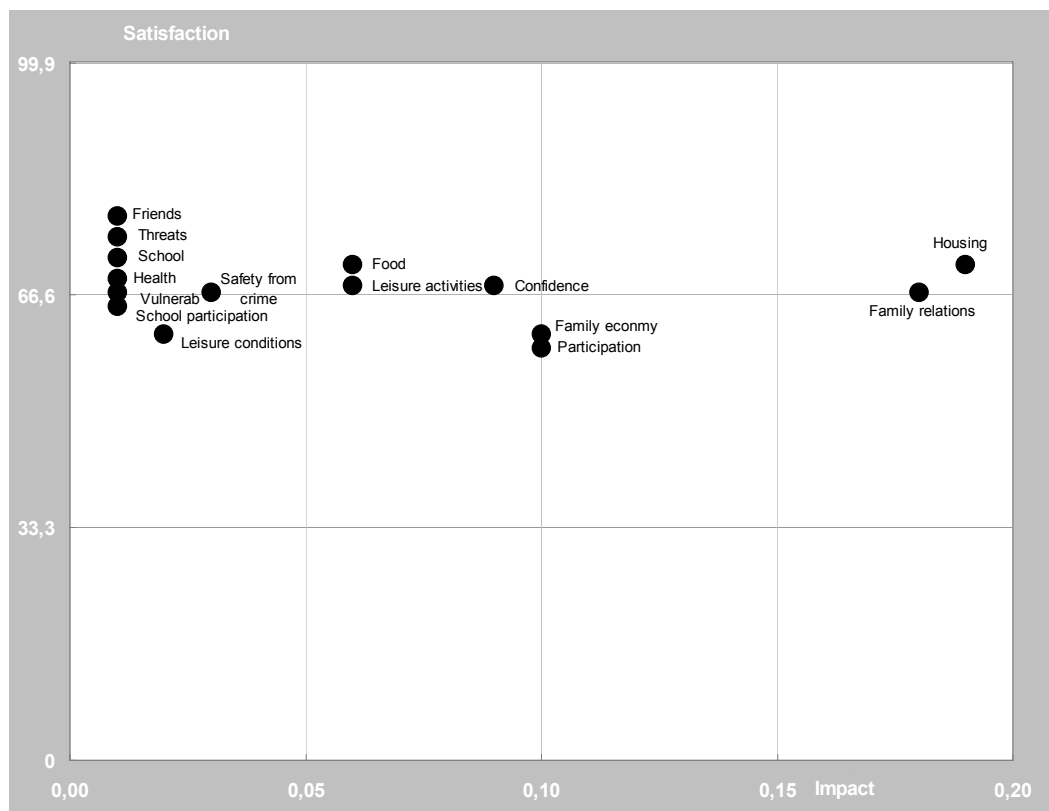
Satisfaction with life is not only determined by their current situation, but also by vulnerability. On average vulnerability is given a rating of 67 on a scale from 0 to 100. The children are more afraid of hunger, bullying and parents' divorce than physical punishment in school and at home.

Table 20. Satisfaction with different aspects of life, Peru, 2004.

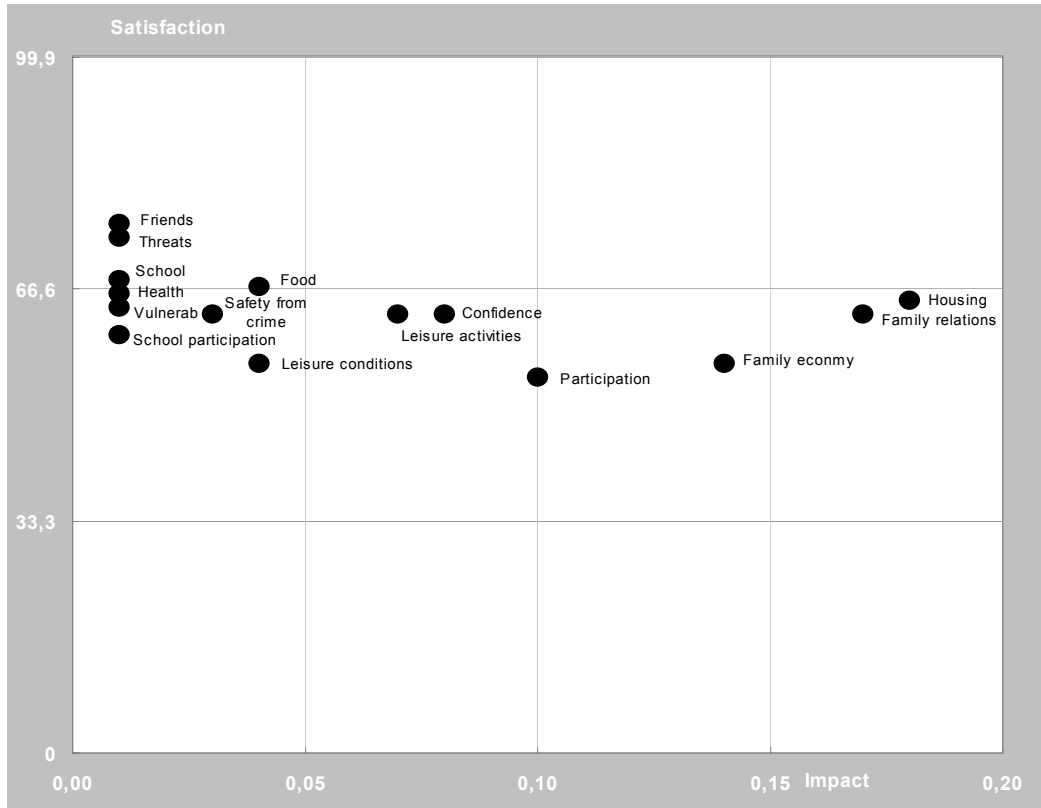
| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Friends | 78 |
| Safety from external threats | 75 |
| School | 73 |
| Housing | 71 |
| Food | 71 |
| Health | 69 |
| Leisure conditions | 68 |
| Confidence | 68 |
| Safety from criminality | 67 |
| Family relations | 67 |
| Vulnerability | 67 |
| Family economy | 61 |
| Leisure activities | 61 |
| Participation | 59 |

Housing and family relations have by far the highest impact on total satisfaction with life and living conditions. Children are, however, very satisfied with those relations.

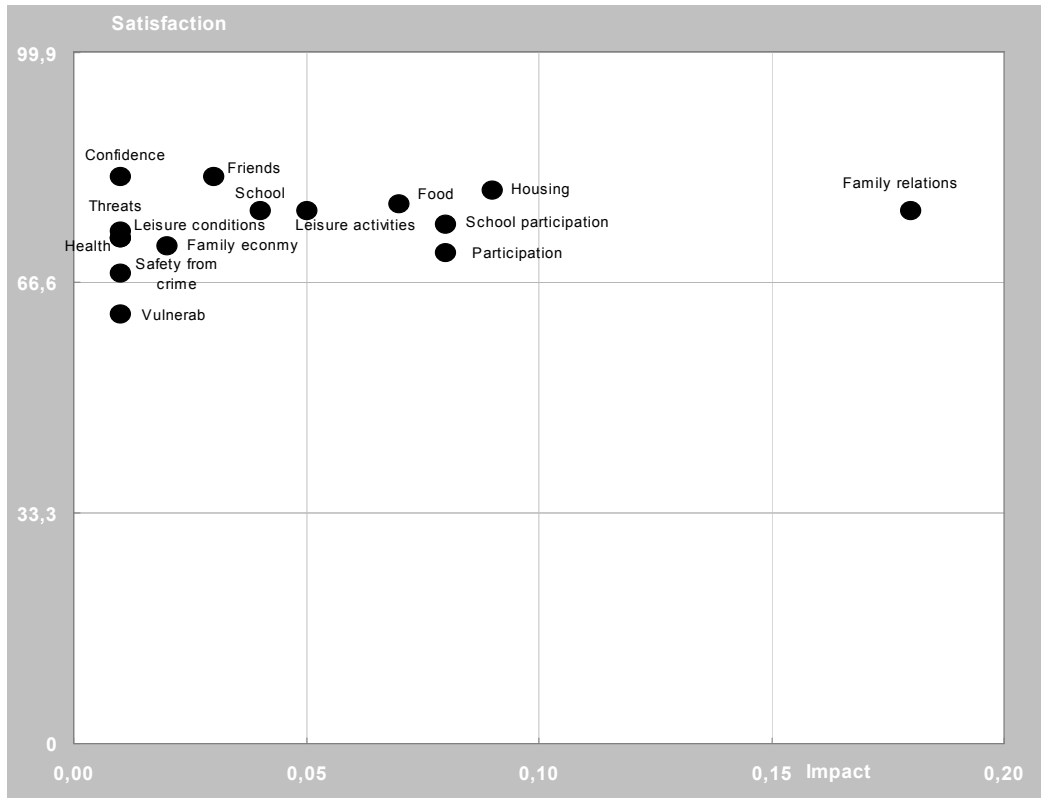
Graph 20. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction of well being components, all children in Peru, 2004



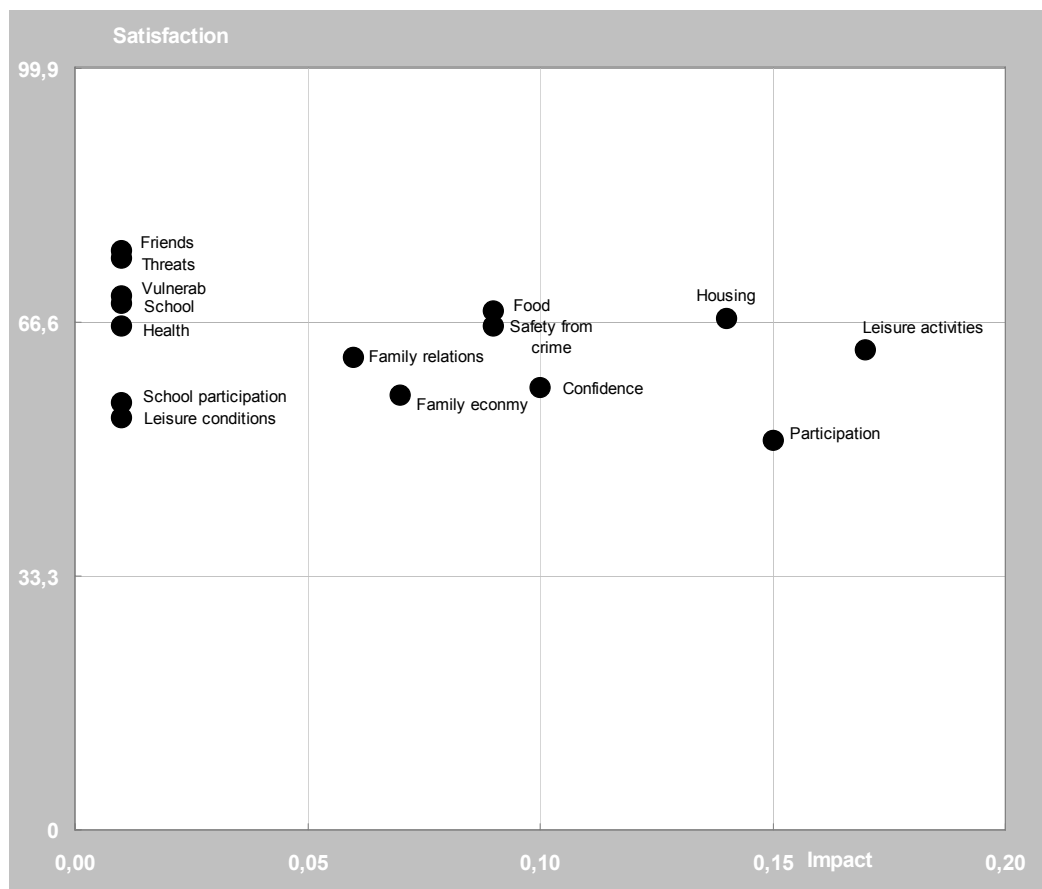
Graph 21. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction of well being components, children in poor Peruvian households, 2004



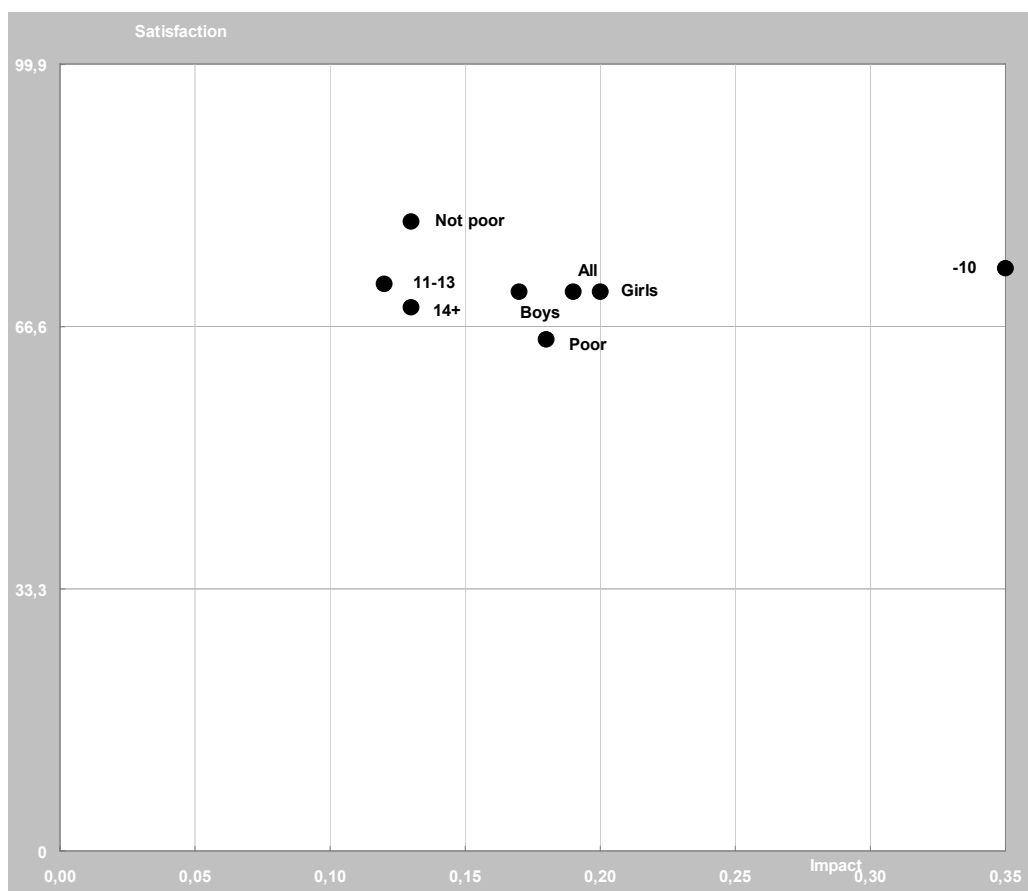
Graph 22. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction by well being components, children in the Lima region, Peru, 2004.



Graph 23. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction of well being components, children in the Northern region, Peru, 2004



Graph 24 Satisfaction with housing by sex, age and economic situation in Peru, 2004.



Housing has a stronger impact on the satisfaction with life for the youngest children than for the older children.

Table 21. Satisfaction with life and different aspects of life, by gender, age and economic situation in 2004, on a scale from 0 to 100, Peru.

| | All | Boys | Girls | 8-10 | 11-13 | 14+ | Poor | Not poor |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Life (CCI) | 66 | 66 | 66 | 70 | 67 | 63 | 61 | 69 |
| Food | 71 | 71 | 70 | 73 | 71 | 68 | 67 | 75 |
| Housing | 71 | 71 | 71 | 74 | 70 | 69 | 65 | 80 |
| Health | 69 | 69 | 69 | 74 | 70 | 61 | 66 | 74 |
| Family economy | 61 | 61 | 61 | 64 | 63 | 58 | 56 | 69 |
| Family relations | 67 | 67 | 67 | 71 | 68 | 64 | 63 | 74 |
| Friends | 78 | 79 | 78 | 79 | 78 | 80 | 76 | 82 |
| Leisure conditions | 61 | 61 | 61 | 65 | 62 | 57 | 56 | 68 |
| Leisure activities | 68 | 68 | 67 | 70 | 67 | 75 | 63 | 74 |
| School | 73 | 73 | 73 | 77 | 74 | 70 | 71 | 76 |
| Participation | 59 | 59 | 59 | 62 | 59 | 57 | 54 | 66 |
| Safety from crime | 67 | 65 | 69 | 69 | 65 | 66 | 63 | 70 |
| Fear of war, disasters | 75 | 71 | 79 | 80 | 74 | 71 | 74 | 77 |
| Vulnerability | 67 | 65 | 70 | 70 | 63 | 68 | 64 | 68 |
| Confidence | 68 | 68 | 68 | 75 | 69 | 63 | 63 | 76 |
| <i>Explanation rate</i> | <i>0.48</i> | <i>0.49</i> | <i>0.48</i> | <i>0.48</i> | <i>0.47</i> | <i>0.51</i> | <i>0.50</i> | <i>0.36</i> |
| <i>Respondents</i> | <i>1936</i> | <i>964</i> | <i>972</i> | <i>565</i> | <i>615</i> | <i>761</i> | <i>1162</i> | <i>765</i> |

The children in Sri Lanka

| Some facts | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Births per 1,000 population | 18 |
| Life expectancy at birth | 75 |
| Infant deaths per 1,000 live births | 20 |
| Under-fives underweight | 29 % |
| Population under 18 /Total pop. | 37 % |
| Number of children and young people represented in the survey | 3.7 million (estimated) |
| Sources: UN Statistical Division, UNICEF and US Census Bureau | |

The youngest children are a little more satisfied than the older children, a similar pattern to most countries. Boys and girls are equally happy (the difference is not statistically significant). There are also small differences between children in urban and rural areas and those living on estates. Internally displaced children are much less happy.

Table 22. Satisfaction with life and living conditions in different groups, Sri Lanka, 2004.

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| All children | 72 |
| Boys | 72 |
| Girls | 71 |
| 8–10 years old | 73 |
| 11–13 years old | 74 |
| 14–16 years old | 71 |
| Urban | 71 |
| Rural | 73 |
| Estate | 71 |
| Internally displaced children | 53 |

Children in Sri Lanka are most satisfied with school, friends and family relations. They are somewhat less satisfied with housing, leisure and family economy. They are least satisfied with their possibilities to be heard.

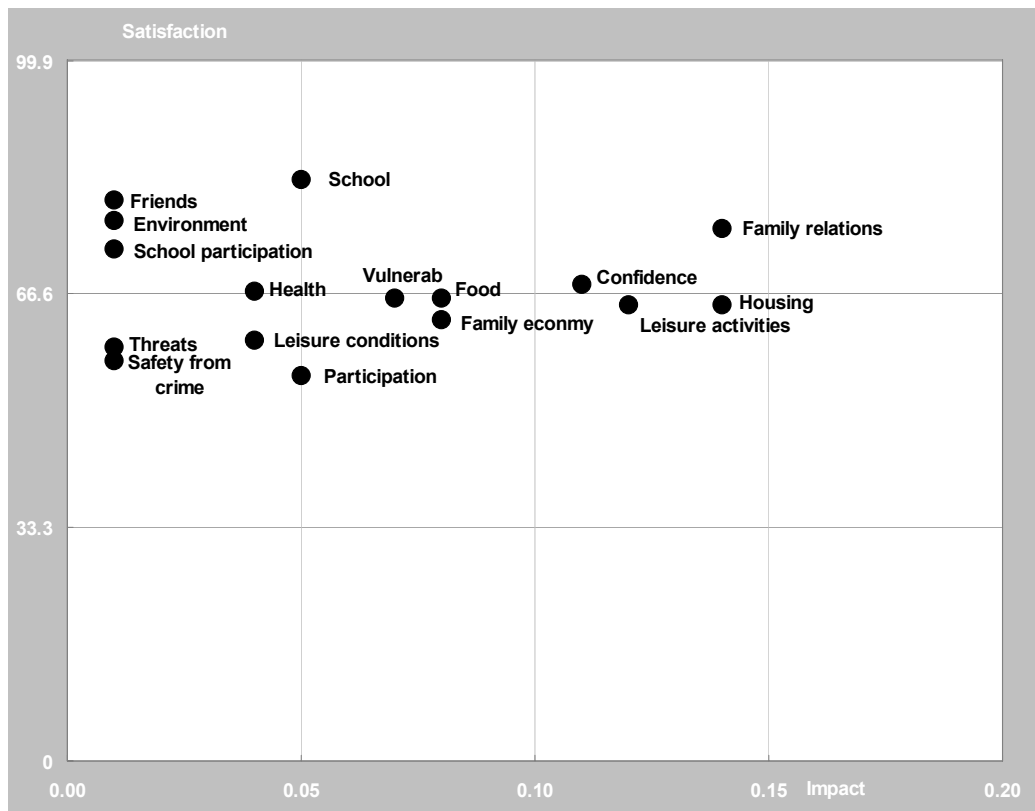
Satisfaction with life is not only determined by their current situation, but also by vulnerability. On average, vulnerability is given a rating of 66 on a scale from 0 to 100. They are less afraid of hunger, sex abuse and being forced to work, but more afraid of economic shortages/poverty. The external threat they are most afraid of is war. They are not so very afraid of natural disasters according to the survey, but it must be remembered that it was conducted long before the tsunami disaster.

Table 23. Satisfaction with different aspects of life, Sri Lanka, 2004.

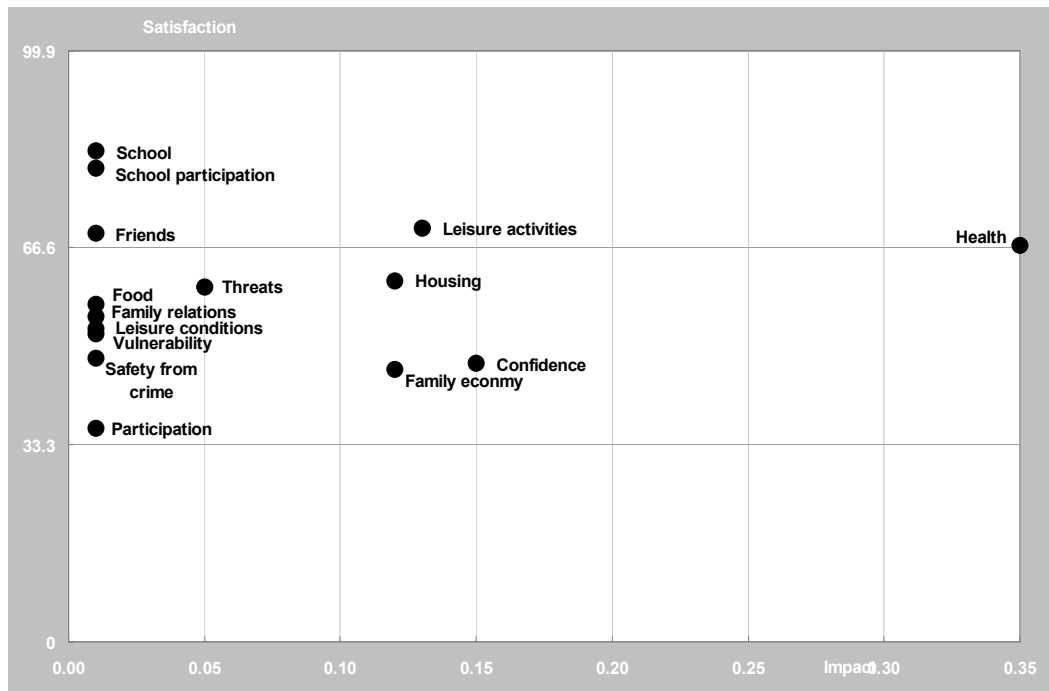
| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| School | 83 |
| Friends | 80 |
| Family relations | 75 |
| Confidence | 68 |
| Health | 67 |
| Food | 66 |
| Vulnerability | 66 |
| Housing | 65 |
| Leisure activities | 65 |
| Family economy | 63 |
| Leisure conditions | 60 |
| Safety from external threats | 59 |
| Safety from criminality | 57 |
| Participation | 55 |

Family relations and housing have by far the greatest impact on total satisfaction with life and living conditions. Children are, however, very satisfied with these. Participation has both a rather low satisfaction level and some degree of impact on total satisfaction.

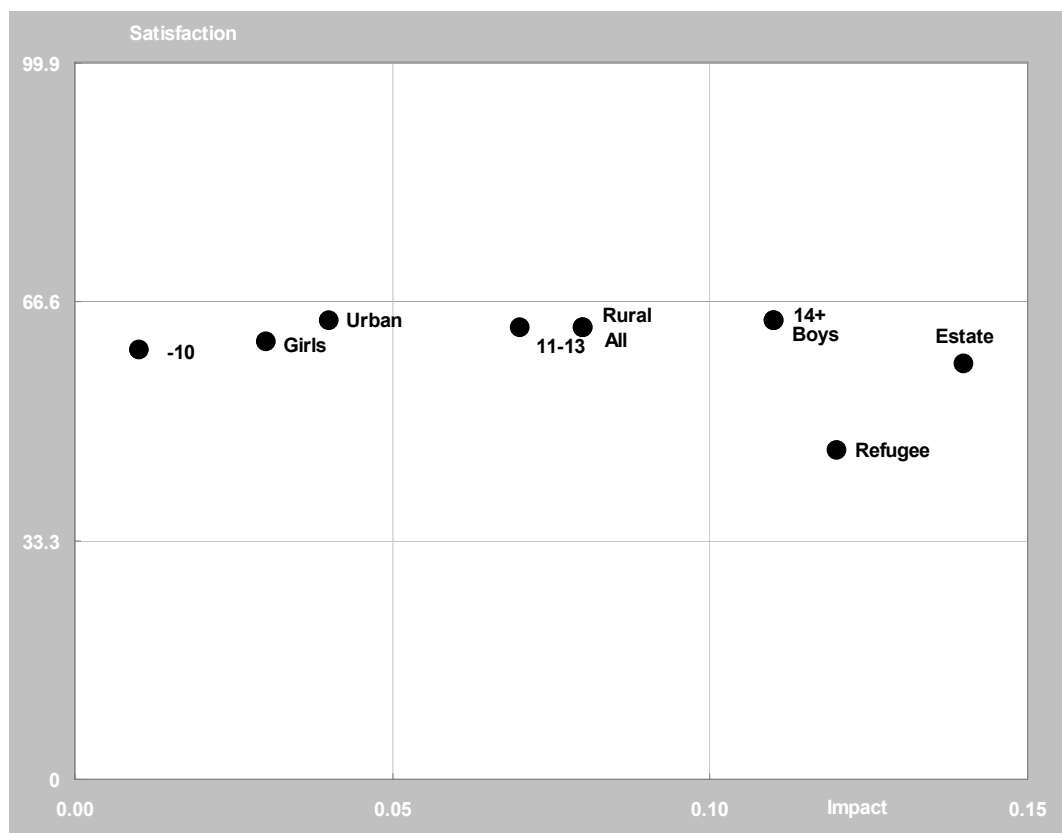
Graph 24. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction of well being components, all children in Sri Lanka, 2004



Graph 25. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction of well being components, refugees in Sri Lanka, 2004



Graph 26. Satisfaction with family economy by sex, age and area, Sri Lanka, 2004.



Graph 27 Satisfaction with housing by sex, age and area, Sri Lanka, 2004.

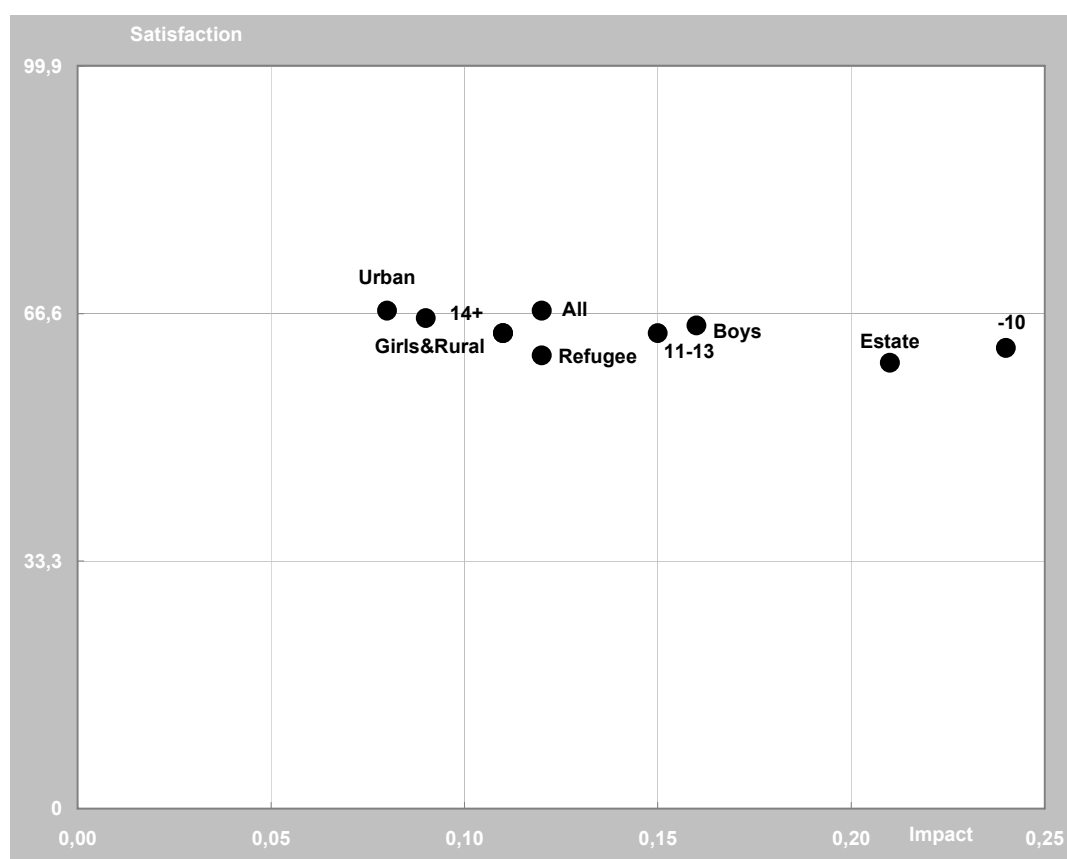


Table 24. Satisfaction with life and different aspects of life, by gender, age and area in 2004, on a scale from 0 to 100

| | All | Boys | Girls | 8-10 | 11-13 | 14+ | Urban | Rural | Estate | Refugee |
|-------------------------|------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|--------|---------|
| Life (CCI) | 72 | 72 | 71 | 73 | 74 | 71 | 71 | 73 | 71 | 53 |
| Food | 66 | 67 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 66 | 69 | 65 | 67 | 57 |
| Housing | 65 | 65 | 64 | 62 | 64 | 66 | 67 | 64 | 60 | 61 |
| Health | 67 | 68 | 66 | 65 | 67 | 67 | 69 | 66 | 63 | 67 |
| Family economy | 63 | 64 | 61 | 60 | 63 | 64 | 64 | 63 | 58 | 46 |
| Family relations | 76 | 77 | 75 | 71 | 76 | 77 | 75 | 77 | 74 | 55 |
| Friends | 80 | 81 | 79 | 76 | 81 | 81 | 81 | 80 | 73 | 69 |
| Leisure conditions | 60 | 59 | 60 | 57 | 60 | 60 | 65 | 59 | 47 | 53 |
| Leisure activities | 65 | 66 | 65 | 61 | 67 | 65 | 66 | 65 | 57 | 70 |
| School conditions | 83 | 84 | 82 | 85 | 83 | 82 | 85 | 82 | 76 | 83 |
| School participation | 73 | 75 | 71 | 67 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 72 | 70 | 80 |
| Other participation | 55 | 57 | 54 | 46 | 57 | 58 | 56 | 56 | 44 | 36 |
| Safety from crime | 57 | 57 | 58 | 46 | 58 | 60 | 61 | 58 | 50 | 48 |
| Fear of threats | 59 | 59 | 61 | 56 | 58 | 61 | 64 | 58 | 46 | 60 |
| Vulnerability | 66 | 66 | 66 | 64 | 66 | 66 | 70 | 66 | 56 | 52 |
| Confidence | 68 | 69 | 67 | 66 | 71 | 68 | 68 | 69 | 60 | 47 |
| <i>Explanation rate</i> | 0.48 | 0.51 | 0.46 | 0.50 | 0.52 | 0.48 | 0.58 | 0.47 | 0.44 | 0.89 |
| <i>Respondents</i> | 1966 | 1043 | 905 | 294 | 547 | 1115 | 390 | 1442 | 74 | 15 |

The children in Sweden

| Some facts | |
|--|-----------|
| Births per 1,000 population | 10 |
| Life expectancy at birth | 80 |
| Infant deaths per 1,000 live births | 3 |
| Under-fives underweight | – |
| Population under 18 /Total pop. | 22 % |
| Number of children and young people represented in the survey (2002, Statistics Sweden) | 1 million |
| Sources: UN Statistical Division, UNICEF and US Census Bureau | |

The youngest children are a little more satisfied than the older children, a similar pattern to most countries. Boys and girls are equally happy (the difference is not statistically significant). Disabled children are less satisfied.

Table 25. Satisfaction with life and living conditions in different groups, Sweden, 2002.

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| All children | 88 |
| Boys | 88 |
| Girls | 87 |
| 8–9 years old | 92 |
| 10–12 years old | 90 |
| 13 – 15 years old | 84 |
| Disabled children | 82 |
| Children with foreign background | 88 |

Children are most satisfied with themselves and their close environment. They are somewhat less satisfied with their participation role, school and conditions for leisure. They are rather afraid of external threats (war, natural disasters and dangerous diseases) and violence.

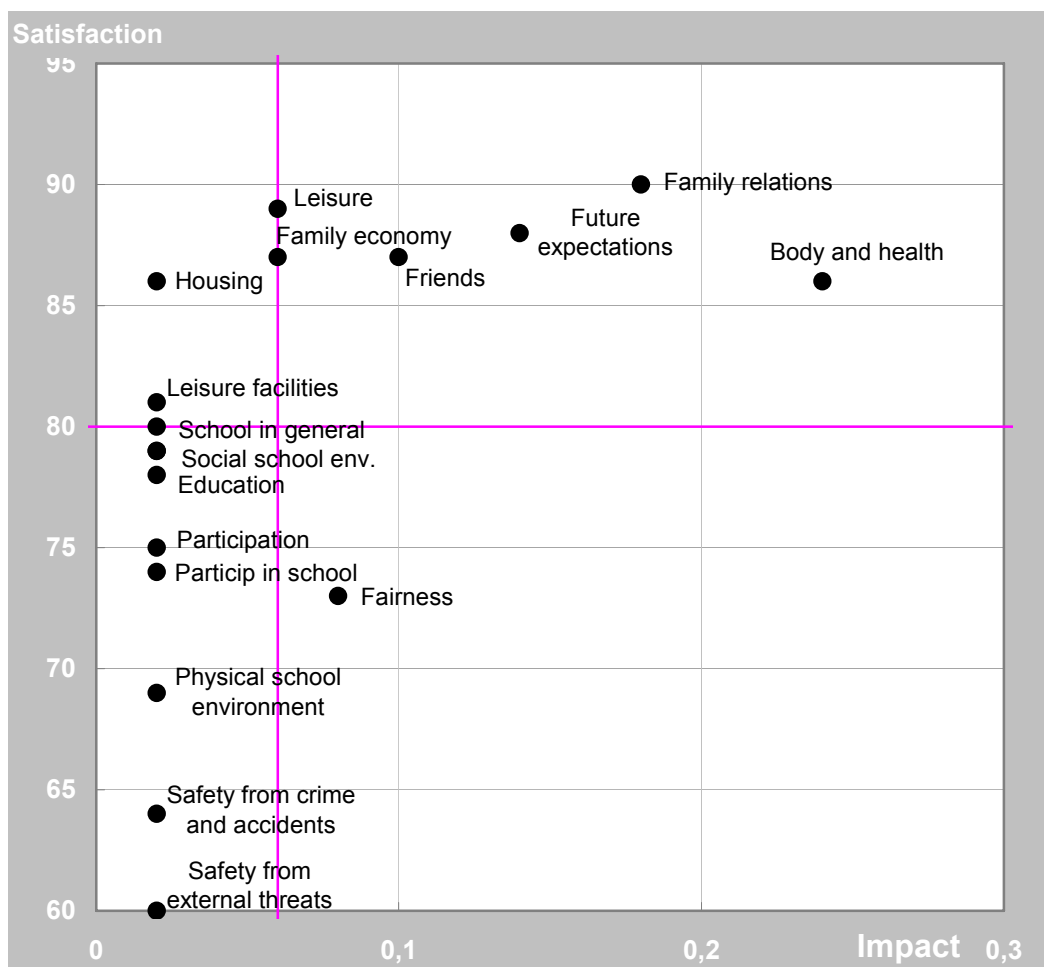
Children are confident (index 88), i.e. they expect to get a job, earn money and have a house of their own.

Table 26. Satisfaction with different aspects of life, Sweden, 2002.

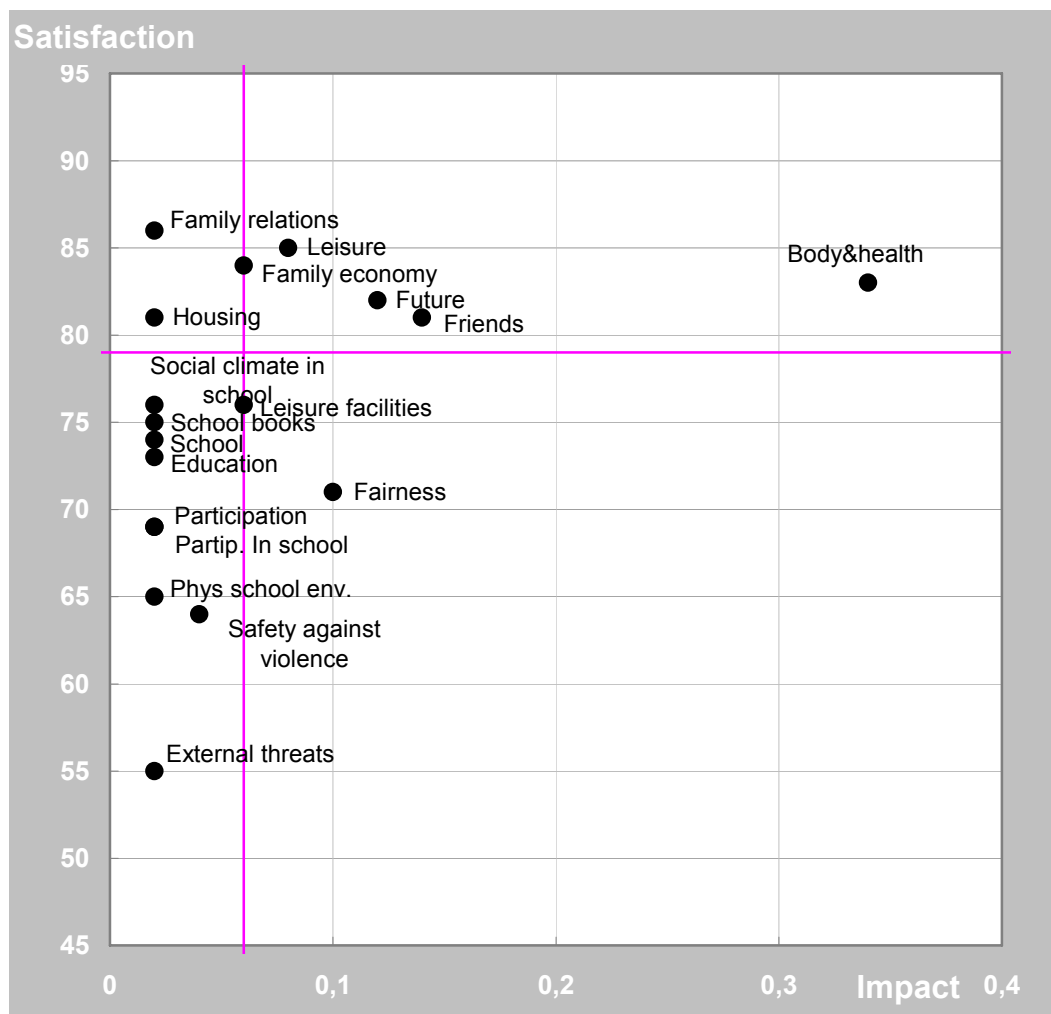
| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Family relations | 90 |
| Leisure activity | 89 |
| Confidence | 88 |
| Family economy | 87 |
| Friends | 87 |
| Housing | 86 |
| Health | 86 |
| Leisure conditions | 81 |
| School | 80 |
| Participation | 75 |
| Fairness | 73 |
| Safety from violence | 64 |
| Safety from external threats | 60 |

Body and health has the greatest impact on total satisfaction with life and living conditions, followed by family relations. Children are, however, very satisfied with these components. The aspects they are not happy with (external threats and crime) have fairly limited impact on total satisfaction.

Graph 28. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction of well being components, all children in Sweden, 2002.



Graph 29. Children with physical disorders and their satisfaction with different aspects of life and the aspects' impact on total satisfaction, Sweden, 2002



6 percent of the children see themselves as having a physical disorder. Body and health has an even greater impact on total satisfaction for this group. Family relations have less impact.

Graph 30. Satisfaction with body and health by sex, age and physical disorder, Sweden, 2002.

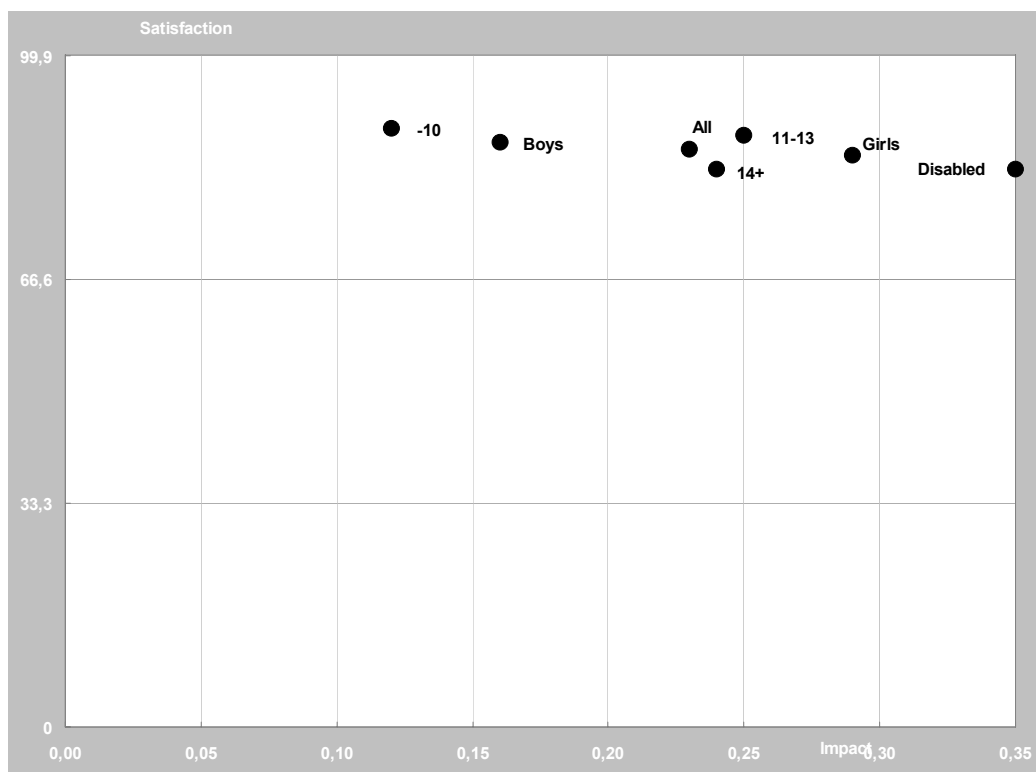


Table 27. Satisfaction with life and different aspects of life, by gender, age and physical disorder 2002, on a scale from 0 to 100, Sweden.

| | All | Boys | Girls | 8-9 | 10-12 | 13+ | Physical disorder |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Life (CCI) | 88 | 88 | 87 | 92 | 90 | 84 | 82 |
| Housing | 86 | 85 | 87 | 88 | 88 | 83 | 81 |
| Health | 86 | 87 | 85 | 89 | 88 | 82 | 83 |
| Family economy | 87 | 87 | 87 | 88 | 88 | 85 | 84 |
| Family relations | 90 | 89 | 90 | 90 | 91 | 88 | 86 |
| Friends | 87 | 87 | 88 | 88 | 89 | 86 | 81 |
| Leisure conditions | 81 | 82 | 81 | 87 | 84 | 75 | 76 |
| Leisure activities | 90 | 90 | 90 | 91 | 91 | 88 | 85 |
| School | 80 | 78 | 81 | 88 | 82 | 72 | 74 |
| Participation | 75 | 75 | 75 | 78 | 78 | 70 | 69 |
| Fairness | 73 | 76 | 70 | 81 | 75 | 66 | 71 |
| Safety from violence/acid | 64 | 71 | 55 | 52 | 65 | 69 | 64 |
| Fear of war, disasters | 60 | 67 | 42 | 48 | 62 | 65 | 53 |
| Confidence | 88 | 77 | 79 | 90 | 89 | 84 | 79 |
| <i>Explanation rate</i> | <i>0.57</i> | <i>0.54</i> | <i>0.60</i> | <i>0.49</i> | <i>0.55</i> | <i>0.60</i> | <i>0.75</i> |
| <i>Respondents</i> | <i>1836</i> | <i>916</i> | <i>906</i> | <i>388</i> | <i>780</i> | <i>664</i> | <i>112</i> |

The children in Vietnam

| Some facts | |
|---|------------------------|
| Births per 1,000 population | 17 |
| Life expectancy at birth | 71 |
| Infant deaths per 1,000 live births | 26 |
| Under-fives underweight | 28 % |
| Population under 18 years/Total pop. | 37 % |
| Number of children and young people represented in the survey | 14 million (estimated) |
| Sources: UN Statistical Division, UNICEF and US Census Bureau | |

The youngest children are a little more satisfied than the older children, a similar pattern to most countries. Boys and girls are equally happy (the difference is not statistically significant). As expected, children in poor households are less satisfied.

Table 28. Satisfaction with life and living conditions in different groups, Vietnam, 2004.

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| All children | 74 |
| Boys | 74 |
| Girls | 73 |
| 9–10 years old | 76 |
| 11–13 years old | 75 |
| 14–16 years old | 72 |
| In poor households | 59 |
| In not poor households | 76 |

Children are most satisfied with their close environment. They are some less satisfied with their participation role, school and the conditions for leisure. They are rather afraid of external threats (war, natural disasters and dangerous diseases) and criminality.

Satisfaction with life is not only determined by their current situation, but also by vulnerability. On average vulnerability is given a rating of 54 on a scale from 0 to 100. They are less afraid of traffic, discrimination, hunger, violence at home and trouble from other children, but more afraid of trouble with the law within the family, drug abuse, sexual abuse, criminality and parents' divorce.

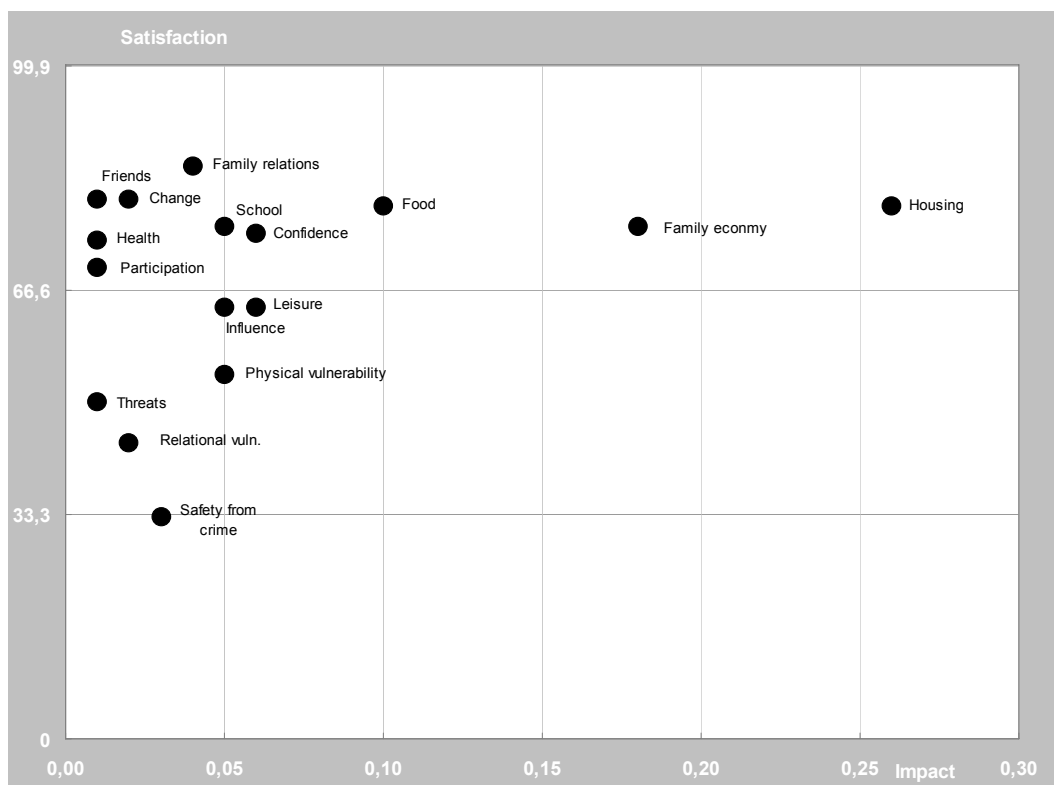
On the other hand, children are rather confident (index 76), i.e. they expect to get a job, earn money and have a house of their own. They are eager to continue to learn, exercise for better health and protect nature and animals. Such efforts are rated 80.

Table 29. Satisfaction with different aspects of life, Vietnam, 2004.

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Family relations | 85 |
| Housing | 80 |
| Friends | 80 |
| Food | 80 |
| Home environment | 78 |
| Family economy | 77 |
| School | 77 |
| Confidence for the future | 76 |
| Health | 75 |
| Life as a whole | 74 |
| Participation | 71 |
| Leisure | 66 |
| Influence | 64 |
| Physical vulnerability | 54 |
| Safety from external threats | 50 |
| Safety from criminality | 32 |
| Eagerness to see change | 80 |

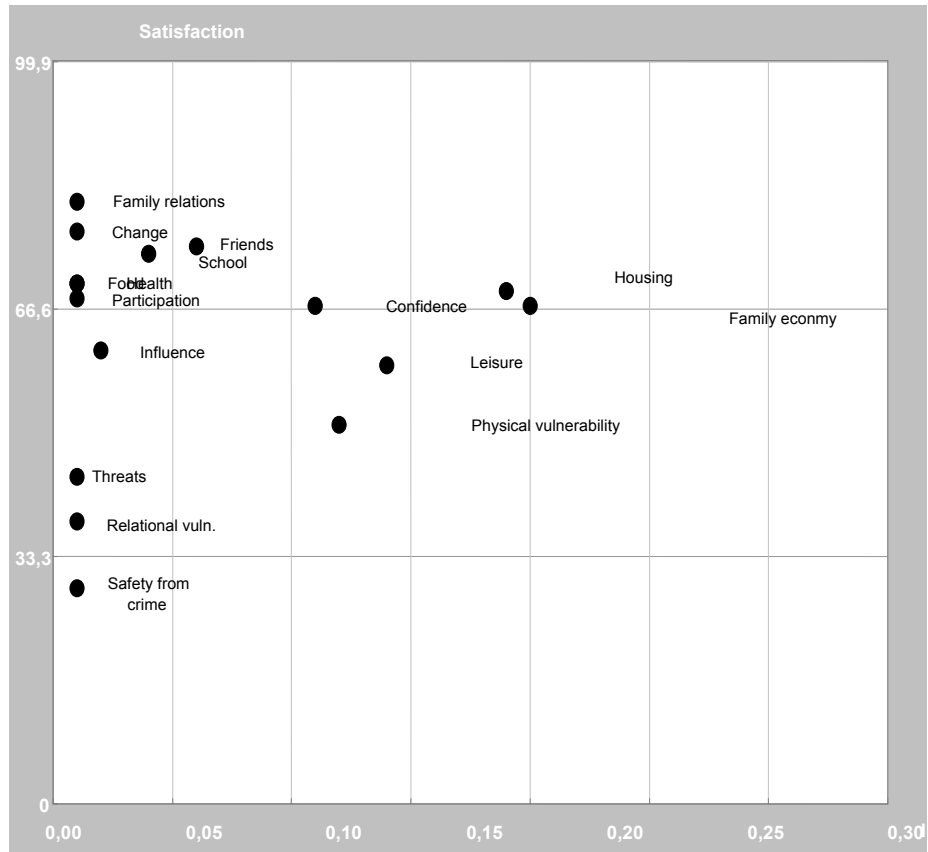
Housing has by far the highest impact on total satisfaction with life and living conditions in Vietnam, followed by family economy. The average child is rather satisfied with those components, but the best way to improve the general conditions for Vietnamese children is to improve housing and family economy for children with low satisfaction in those areas. Physical and relational vulnerability should also be addressed, even if they have limited impact on total satisfaction.

Graph 31. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction of well being components, all children in Vietnam, 2004.



Housing and family economy are also most important for children in poor families, but leisure and physical vulnerability have significant impact on total satisfaction. Children in poor families are most afraid of hunger, smoking at home, being forced to work and diseases.

Graph 32. Satisfaction and impact on total satisfaction of well being components for children in poor Vietnamese families, 2004.



Graph 33. Satisfaction with housing and impact on total satisfaction of well being components by categories of children, Vietnam, 2004.

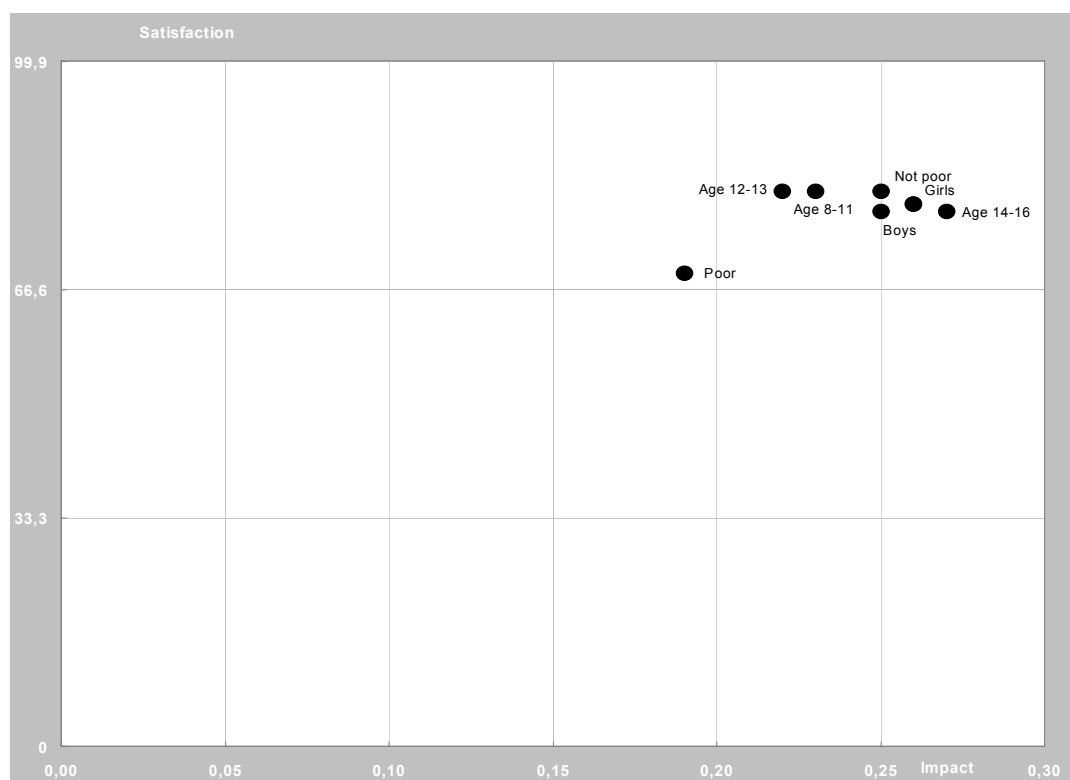


Table 30. Satisfaction with life and different aspects of life, by gender, age and economic situation in 2004, on a scale from 0 to 100, Vietnam.

| | All | Boys | Girls | 8-10 | 11-13 | 14+ | Poor | Not poor |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Life (CCI) | 73 | 74 | 73 | 76 | 75 | 72 | 59 | 76 |
| Food | 79 | 79 | 79 | 81 | 82 | 76 | 70 | 81 |
| Housing | 79 | 78 | 79 | 81 | 81 | 78 | 69 | 81 |
| Health | 74 | 75 | 73 | 77 | 78 | 71 | 70 | 74 |
| Family economy | 76 | 76 | 76 | 79 | 80 | 75 | 67 | 78 |
| Family relations | 85 | 85 | 85 | 85 | 84 | 85 | 81 | 85 |
| Friends | 80 | 80 | 80 | 81 | 79 | 80 | 75 | 81 |
| Leisure | 64 | 65 | 64 | 69 | 71 | 60 | 59 | 65 |
| School | 76 | 76 | 76 | 80 | 78 | 75 | 74 | 76 |
| Participation | 70 | 70 | 71 | 73 | 74 | 68 | 68 | 71 |
| Influence | 64 | 64 | 63 | 64 | 67 | 62 | 61 | 65 |
| Safety from crime | 33 | 39 | 29 | 30 | 33 | 32 | 29 | 34 |
| Fear of war, disasters | 50 | 53 | 48 | 50 | 52 | 48 | 44 | 51 |
| Physical vulnerability | 54 | 59 | 51 | 55 | 6 | 53 | 51 | 54 |
| Relational vulnerability | 44 | 50 | 41 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 38 | 46 |
| Willing to change | 80 | 81 | 79 | 80 | 79 | 79 | 77 | 80 |
| Confidence | 75 | 75 | 75 | 77 | 78 | 74 | 67 | 77 |
| <i>Explanation rate</i> | <i>0.49</i> | <i>0.53</i> | <i>0.49</i> | <i>0.45</i> | <i>0.52</i> | <i>0.48</i> | <i>0.52</i> | <i>0.46</i> |
| <i>Respondents</i> | <i>1951</i> | <i>778</i> | <i>1165</i> | <i>1173</i> | <i>744</i> | <i>1207</i> | <i>331</i> | <i>1594</i> |

Conclusions

The results show a very positive and optimistic picture of childhood in general. To some researchers children's development is the most typical thing about childhood: growing and learning, knowing more and understanding better. This makes optimism necessary, together with the ability to reshape a problematic world through play and joy. Part of their optimism can perhaps be explained by children's ability to be just children.

There are two findings common to all the participating countries with about 26 million children represented. The differences between boys and girls are small as regards both total satisfaction and different components of life. The other common finding is declining satisfaction as children grow older. One suggestion is that children are more protected when they are very young and encounter less pleasant environments as they grow and seek new, more external, experiences. Another suggestion is that satisfaction is relative and you are rather satisfied when you do not know better. The survey cannot tell us, but one question is whether most of children today are well aware of many things at an early age through the influence of TV and other media.

Another general finding is that their closest environment – the home with housing conditions and family relations – has the greatest impact on total satisfaction with life and living conditions. From a social perspective, these areas should be prioritised by policy makers if they want to improve children's total satisfaction, by improving the home conditions for those with bad conditions. From the child perspective, freedom of choice and friendship have most impact on total life satisfaction, a perspective that policy makers should also integrate.

One conclusion from the project is that children really are worth listening to. Many adults involved in the survey work were surprised at the children's insight as regards their own life and possibilities to communicate it. Children can be seen as positive subjects, not merely problematic objects.

Though the average child is rather satisfied, as most children are, the almost 3.5 million unhappy children in the surveyed countries should not be forgotten. No child deserves to be unhappy.

Annex

Welfare – as we perceive it ourselves

There is a great and pressing need for comprehensive measurements of welfare. Traditionally, most researchers use different ways of weighting indicators together to form a combined measurement. The choice of indicators and weighting system typically depends on the researcher and such a subjective choice will naturally be open to criticism from other experts.

Most surveys of welfare also focus on measuring the citizen's access to resources and service rendered by society. There is another way that has been used in a number of countries: a statistical methodology based on a structural model for creating welfare. This methodology is often used to measure customer perceived quality in the private and public sectors, and is also commonly used in staff satisfaction surveys.

The methodology applied to measuring welfare includes the entire process from access to service provided by the society (including information about service and possibility to affect the service) to willingness to use it. The methodology produces an index, which measures the individual's own perception of welfare in different respects and confidence in society and other resources.

The totality and the components of the totality.

The method can be applied whenever you want to measure the levels of a "totality" and the components that make up the totality and also want to measure to what extent the different parts of the totality have an impact on the totality. Instead of, as in traditional indexes, first measuring the components and then trying to weave them together into a comprehensive measure, one measures the levels of the totality and the components and then computes the impacts of the components on the totality. Welfare, quality of life and its lower part, poverty, are entities that can be broken down, for example into access to food, health, education, relations, safety, economic opportunities and so on. A representative sample of citizens are interviewed about how they perceive their living conditions both in general and specifically with respect to the different components. The levels of the different components and overall welfare and the components' impacts on the totality are calculated using a sophisticated statistical methodology. The methodology aims at finding a best fitting solution given reality as it is shown in the responses to the questionnaire.

Selecting indicators of welfare

A first step is to gather stakeholders to choose the components that are considered to be relevant parts for explaining the overall perception of welfare. Each component that is part of the model has to be specified by means of a number of specific questions (indicators). Taken together, the questions define the contents of the component. Representatives of different stakeholders like organizations, governmental authorities, experts and ordinary citizens (children) are required to give suggestions of good and bad things in the living conditions. This is a sort of brainstorming in so-called focus groups. Each suggestion is thoroughly discussed to arrive at a clear understanding of the concepts, which will later facilitate interpretation of the results of the analysis. The final questionnaire will often consist of 2 to 4 pages with questions of the following type: How satisfied are you with your possibilities to influence politics? The answers are given using a 10-point scale, where

10 represents “completely satisfied” and 1 represents “not satisfied at all”. The data can normally be collected quickly, simply and relatively cheaply. Usually the survey can be added to existing national surveys as an add-on module.

High degree of explanation

The index of welfare is measured in the same way in different countries. It is thus possible to compare the scores from different countries. By weighting the three indicators – satisfaction with present living conditions as a whole, to what degree last year’s expectations have been realized, and how well present living conditions match the conditions of a ideal situation – an overall welfare index has been calculated for some supposedly rich and poor countries. The weights are automatically provided by the statistical method. The degree of explanation is a measure of how well the model fitted the representative response set. It is often the case that about 60–70percent of the variation in responses can be explained in small homogenous groups and about 50 percent in larger groups. For comparison, other similar surveys often have an explanation degree of around 20 percent.

The methodology is also very flexible. In order to try other perspectives it is possible to modify the components after the data has been collected. For example, the traditional partition into sectors like health, education and so on, can be used in one type of analysis and another partition based on the Maslow hierarchy of needs. The methodology can also be used as an interactive instrument for better understanding of the relations in a complex environment.

The methodology fulfills most reasonable demands for a comprehensive welfare index. The difference compared to other welfare indexes is that there is no need for expert judgments for weighting the components. The weighting is done by the representative sample of citizens in conjunction with statistical science.

Last but not least, the results obtained from the analysis offer an instrument for giving priority to official measures on different levels based on science. Because the analysis simultaneously measures both the levels of the components and their impact on the overall perceived welfare, it can be used to prioritise measures that are most effective for raising citizens’ perception of their living conditions. The components that should be given priority are those that have low scores but strong impacts. Looking at the diagrams it is clear that boys and girls value the different components with respect both to the present level and the impact the component has on the overall perceived welfare. The methodology is therefore clearly policy relevant for governments.