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On Presidents' Day, Children Share Priorities as Future Leaders

Richmond, Va. – Feb. 17, 2014 – As America observes Presidents' Day, ChildFund International, a global child development and protection agency working in 30 countries, shares the answers from children around the world to this question: "If you were the leader of your country, what is the one thing you would do to protect the children of your country?"

Despite socioeconomic, geographical, gender and religious differences, the answers from children were consistent in developed and developing countries. In order to protect children, tighter laws and a firmer stance on gun control are needed. Improving education and stopping abuse were also important.

Globally, if given a position of power, children said they would increase law and order to protect children (30%). Twenty-two percent of children living in the U.S. agreed with their international peers. In fact, increasing law and order was the top response from children from all developed countries. In developing countries, this was particularly important to Zambian children (66%), while children in Afghanistan (1%) felt differently.

Children in developing countries (17%) are more likely to see education as a way leaders can protect children than those in developed countries (6%). Building schools is important to children in Afghanistan (26%) and The Gambia (21%), while it is barely mentioned in developed countries. Stopping domestic violence and abuse is the highest priority for children in Vietnam (28%) and the second highest in Mexico (21%).

The question ChildFund asked is just one of five from its Small Voices, Big Dreams annual survey. To learn more about the concerns of children around the world, view the survey at <http://www.childfund.org/dreams2013/>.

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ChildFund International is a global child development and protection agency serving more than 18.1 million children and family members in 30 countries. For 75 years, we have helped the world's deprived, excluded and vulnerable children survive and thrive to reach their full potential and become leaders of enduring change. As a member of ChildFund Alliance, we create supportive environments in which children can flourish. [To sponsor a child in need, visit the ChildFund website.](http://www.childfund.org)