



de Kinderombudsman.



IF YOU ASK US

Children on the BES Islands

WHAT ARE OUR CONCLUSIONS?

CHILDREN ON ALL THREE ISLANDS PAINT A SIMILAR PICTURE

Each island has its own culture and its own customs. Yet the picture that children give of their lives does not differ greatly from one island to another.

IF CHILDREN WERE THE OMBUDSMAN OR OMBUDSWOMAN FOR CHILDREN, THE ISSUE THEY WOULD TACKLE IS POVERTY

On all three islands, the children say poverty is a problem and believe it is important to solve poverty.



ON ALL THREE ISLANDS, MOST CHILDREN ARE HAPPY WITH THEIR LIVES

8,9

On average, the children on the islands give their lives a score of 8.9 out of ten.



ON ALL THREE ISLANDS, CHILDREN MENTION SCHOOL AS AN AREA FOR IMPROVEMENT

The children say school could play a better part in their lives. But their comments about school do not point to one specific main problem.

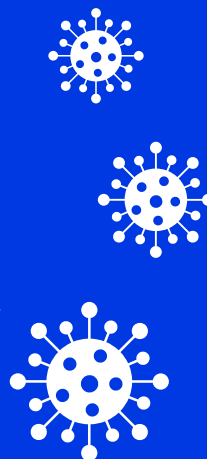
KINDEREN OP BONAIRE VERTELLEN DAT DE ONVEILIGHEID THUIS BELANGRIJK IS OM AAN TE PAKKEN VOOR DE TOEKOMST



Children on Bonaire are the least satisfied with safety at home, and want to put a stop to child abuse.

COVID-19 HAS HAD AN IMPACT, BUT CHILDREN SAY IT HAS NOT LED TO MANY ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS

Children say they have not been bothered much by the restrictions to combat the spread of Covid-19. But they did mention missing their friends, sometimes not being able to learn as much as they did at school, and sometimes more fighting at home.



WHAT ARE OUR RECOMMENDATIONS?



The main problems mentioned by children are **poverty, education** and **domestic violence**.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TACKLING CHILD ABUSE



- Giving children the opportunity to talk anonymously to organisations on the islands about child abuse and domestic violence.
- Buddies in schools and community centres so that children can talk about issues relating to violence and receive help.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TACKLING POVERTY



- Effective cooperation by all parties to fight poverty together.
- Buddies in schools and community centres so that children can talk about issues relating to poverty and receive help.
- Giving children a chance to talk about their problems anonymously, for example, by calling a children's hotline.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION

- Organisations should talk to children more often about poverty and solutions to poverty.
- Schools and other organisations should talk to children about problems in education.
- Professionals should talk to children about their experiences of child abuse and domestic violence.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Netherlands



BES Islands



Bonaire

Number of children: **59**

Gender:

27

Boy

28

Girl

4

Other

Age:

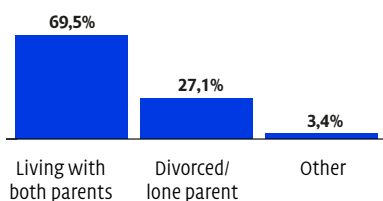
21

8-10 years

38

11-13 years

Family situation:



Saba

Number of children: **20**

Gender:

9

Boy

11

Girl

0

Other

Age:

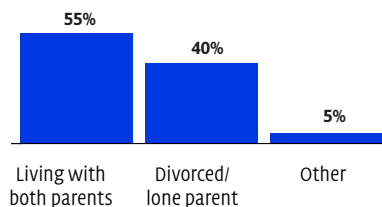
17

8-10 years

3

11-14 years

Family situation:



St. Eustatius

Number of children: **16**

Gender:

8

Boy

8

Girl

0

Other

Age:

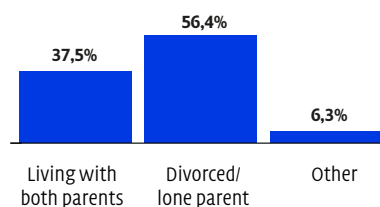
2

10 years

14

11-12 years

Family situation:



QUALITY OF LIFE

The Netherlands



BES Islands



Saba
St. Eustatius

Bonaire

Bonaire

Average life score:

8,8

Environmental condition
with the highest rating:

Care of parents



Environmental condition
with the lowest rating:

Safety at home



Saba

Average life score:

8,8

Environmental condition
with the highest rating:

School & free time



Environmental condition
with the lowest rating:

Support from other adults



St. Eustatius

Average life score:

9,1

Environmental condition
with the highest rating:

Safety at home



Environmental condition
with the lowest rating:

Respect



IMPACT OF COVID-19

The Netherlands



BES Islands



Saba
St. Eustatius

Bonaire

WHAT WERE THE MAIN CHANGES DURING LOCKDOWN?

Bonaire

1. I had more time to play
2. I missed my friends
3. My parents could help me well with my schoolwork
4. I had nice online contact with friends
5. My parents gave me more attention

Saba

1. I had more time to play
2. My parents could help me well with my schoolwork
3. I had nice online contact with friends
4. My parents gave me more attention
5. I missed my friends

St. Eustatius

1. My parents could help me well with my schoolwork
2. I had more time to play
3. I had nice online contact with friends
4. I missed my friends
5. My parents gave me more attention

THE FUTURE

The Netherlands



BES Islands



Saba
St. Eustatius

Bonaire

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE CHILDREN'S OMBUDSMAN OR -WOMAN?

Bonaire



1. More activities to do after school
2. Put an end to poverty
3. Put an end to child abuse

Saba



1. Put an end to poverty
2. More activities to do after school
3. I don't know

St. Eustatius



1. Other
2. Put an end to poverty
3. Good education

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