

# Joining or leading, Cooperating



## Working together, Indonesia

Members of the Kelapa Jatinagara Child Forum meet to discuss and plan upcoming activities. Child forums are run by children or young people and they decide on the group's focus and purpose. Forum members meet once a month to discuss any social issues affecting their community and plan activities to spread awareness about child protection. This forum was started by World Vision Indonesia as a way of empowering young people to influence their own situation. World Vision is also working with their wider community on other poverty and development challenges they face.

Photo: Annila Harris / World Vision

## JOINING OR LEADING

Being part of a group or organisation and taking on responsibilities. This may include becoming a member, participating in meetings, volunteering skills or resources, contributing to the planning and direction, joining a working group or committee, becoming a representative, taking a leadership role in a youth organisation. *Examples: School council; Youth membership of a political party; Student representative on school Board of Trustees; Kiwi Conservation Club, Forest and Bird; Youth advocate, Amnesty International; Youth reporters – UNICEF U-Report NZ; Coaching a younger sports team; Neighbourhood Watch group; Schoolwork buddy or mentor; Youthline volunteer; Organising school 40 Hour Famine.*

## COOPERATING

Working alongside a group or organisation (service provider, local government or authority) to influence/ improve how they address an issue. This may include team work, finding agreement, liaising or mediating between different groups to find workable solutions. This includes 'interest' groups that collaborate with a decision-making organisation. *Examples: Leadership through Peer Mediation, The Peace Foundation; School council; Parent Teacher Association; Waitua Committees (fresh water quality), Greater Wellington Regional Council.*

## TIPS FOR TAKING ACTION

Decide on your main area of interest and opportunity to be part of:

- (i) a group or organisation helping to meet children's practical needs
- (ii) a group or organisation seeking to bring change on child rights issues.

**Joining or leading** – attend meetings, participate in discussions and activities, become a member, contribute skills and experience, take part in decision-making, use your skills to contribute or lead.

**Cooperating** – liaise with decision-making groups or organisations, understand what each one seeks to achieve, look for common ground, build communication, seek agreement, mediate for workable solutions.

**Skills focus: communication, cooperation, participation, negotiation, leadership, teamwork.**

### Main features

May vary for different actions.

- ✓ Regular, ongoing, over time
- ✓ Information and facts
- ✓ Collaborate
- ✓ Behind the scenes
- ✓ High personal involvement
- ✓ Action

Social action continuums  
(Student sheet 1)