What thriving looks like to girls

Our research brought thirty-one girls aged 13–20 years together in four virtual, geography-based workshops with participants living in Brazil, Guatemala, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Morocco, Palestine, Jordan, Sudan, and Yemen to imagine a world where girls can thrive. We asked, what would a funding ecosystem in this imagined world *look like, feel like, and practically do* with and for girls.

This is a summary of their vision: Girls visualized different places: both rural and urban, but always with a strong sense of community and allies at a communal level. The sensations and emotions they described when imagining this world are **power, freedom, success, protection, safety, a strong cultural identity, confidence, love, and joy.**

One of the most important aspects of an ecosystem is **the safety and protection** provided to girls so they can organize. Girls envision participating in public spaces where they feel safe and protected by their allies, creating a sense of freedom for them to continue to advocate for themselves and other girls – as well as to **speak their minds, grow, and connect to new experiences.**

Girls expressed their need to have **confidence and self-esteem** in order to speak up and interact with all the different actors in the funding ecosystem, such as teachers, community leaders, governments and funders. This confidence was linked to their protection from harassment and violence within their communities and public spaces.

Envisioning women in power in the ecosystem supported them even further to feel this sense of safety and protection. **Girls imagined having a say in every aspect of their lives.** They imagined expressing themselves through how they dress, speak and have relationships with freedom and non-discrimination. This includes **freedom to relate to funders in a way that feels natural to them and authentic to their lived experiences**, rather than in formal and adult-centric ways.

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