
mini
COP

Global Mutirão: step-by-step guide to organizing a MINI-COP

To work toward expanding the leading role that children and adolescents can play during key moments of global attention to climate issues (such as during a COP) **we are proposing a global mobilization – the Mutirão – by asking each school or territory to work with children and adolescents to organize a MINI-COP.**

Holding a MINI-COP with children and adolescents is a way to learn, teach, inspire, and promote conversations about the climate in a different way.

It isn't enough to simply create opportunities for participation — we must be open to learning from them too. And a MINI-COP is the perfect space to do this: it is another opportunity to listen and participate.

1. Talk to kids about what a COP is, how it is structured, and who participates

Think about who the children or adolescents are that you will be working with and how much they already know about this topic. Try to use different types of language that are friendly and inclusive of multiple childhoods. **The United Nations Climate Change Conference or "COP"** is a meeting that has taken place every year since 1995, where country representatives gather to discuss and decide how to act on the climate emergency. In 2025, the 30th COP will take place in Belém, Pará, from November 10–21.

The COP is divided into two spaces:

Blue Zone: *the area where official and formal negotiations happen. Only accredited country representatives and official observers (who influence but do not participate in voting) may enter this zone. It is where ideas are proposed, negotiations take place, and final documents are drafted.*

Green Zone: *an open space for public participation, with events, exhibitions, workshops, and other activities involving NGOs, businesses, and civil society.*

2. Create a MINI-COP along with children and adolescents

Involve children and adolescents from the very beginning to create the best possible environment. Ask them how they would like to organize their MINI-COP, what they think about how the adults' COP is structured, how the process could be more engaging, how they would like to participate, and which topics they would like to discuss. These questions help give them a stronger leading role in the process.

TIP: When choosing the people who will support you in listening and organizing, be sure they are sensitive to and familiar with the different ways of communicating and interacting with children and adolescents.

3. Build bridges between kids' perceptions of the climate and the territories where they live

The climate emergency is being experienced differently everywhere in Brazil (and in the world). That is why a key part of the MINI-COP is to look at what is happening locally. Here are some questions to help kick-start the conversation:

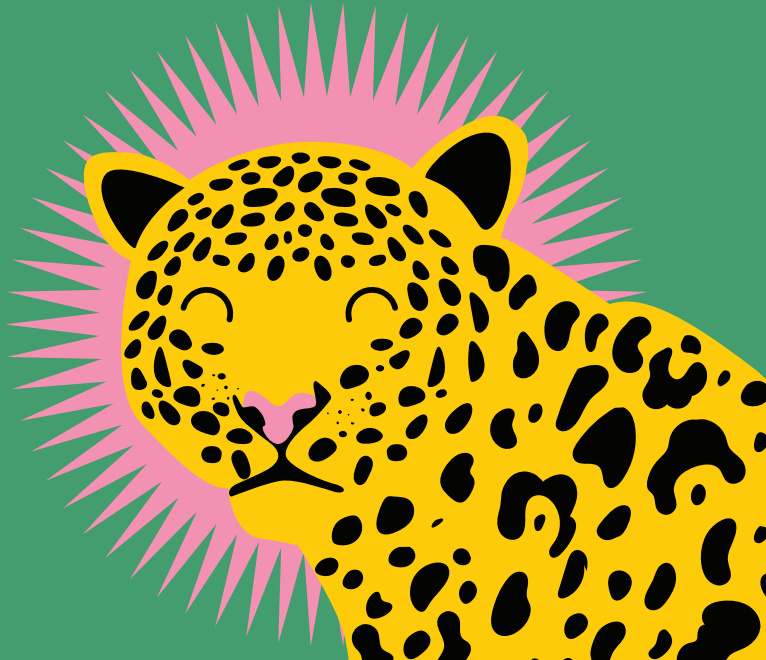
- **What changes in the weather have you noticed in recent years? Is there more or less rain? Are temperatures hotter or colder? Have there been climate disasters like floods, droughts, landslides, or fires?**
- **How do these changes affect the lives of the people, animals, and plants where we live? Do they impact the water we drink? Do they affect our food, leisure activities, health, or housing?**
- **What is the condition of rivers, beaches, and forests? What is air quality like?**

Discussing these questions helps children and adolescents explore and build a local diagnosis of their school and neighborhood.

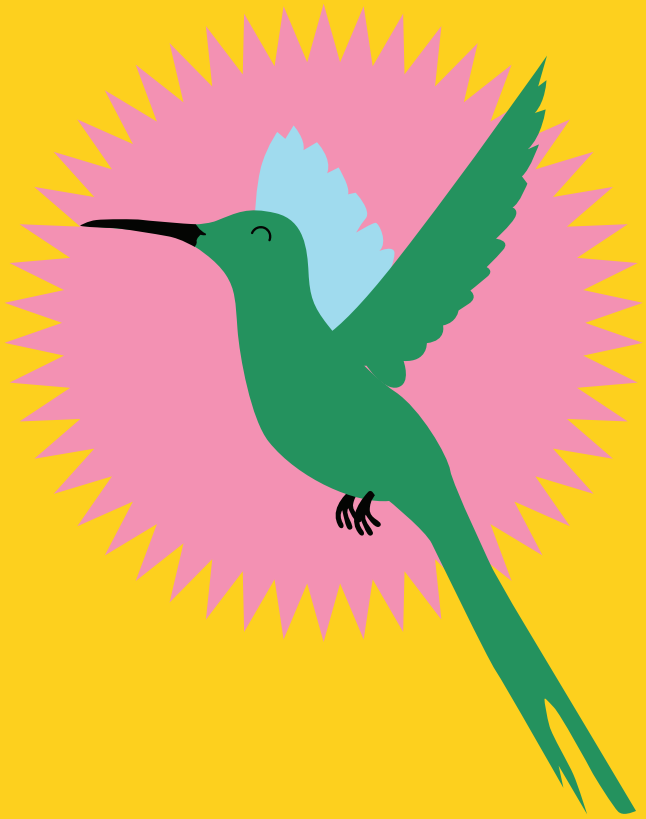
They can talk to longtime residents and document their findings, grounding the debate and making it more real.

Next, collectively list the ideas that children and adolescents come up with to solve these problems. Are they individual or collective solutions? Who needs to be involved? Who are the community leaders?

The goal is to understand that taking care of our territory also means taking care of the planet — and that in thinking from the local to the global level, addressing climate change depends on guaranteeing basic rights like health, housing, food and play.



4. Connect the climate conversation to the territory where they are



Decide how to organize spaces along with kids and adolescents. If you plan to follow the official COP model, create a dedicated space for key discussions. It could be a separate room, a conversation circle (so everyone can see and hear each other), or even a tent with cushions or mats. This is where they will discuss important topics that have been raised, such as: How does climate change affect our neighborhood? How can we hold adults and leaders accountable?

One approach for adolescents is to simulate a formal UN-style meeting where each group represents a country, discusses proposals, and negotiates climate solutions. This helps in developing critical thinking, respect for diversity, and debate skills.

A space can be opened for additional activities (similar to the Green Zone) and can include interactive, educational, and creative activities, like workshops on drawing the city's (or planet's) future, climate-themed trivia games or puzzles, cultural showcases, sharing of traditional knowledge, or planting activities.

If the children and adolescents involved choose a different format, co-create the setup and rules of the spaces with them.

REMEMBER: all of these activities are also opportunities to observe and listen to what children and adolescents have to say about climate change. Consider assigning someone to mediate and take notes during these moments.

5. Promote the event to bring in more people

Think about whether there will be guests — and if so, who they will be. If the group decides to invite others outside of the group of students directly involved in the MINI-COP, talk to the children and adolescents about which methods will work best in your territory, such as posters, street art, loudspeakers, or social media.

6. Ensure listening, diversity, and expression

Invite more children and adolescents! The greater the diversity, the richer the exchange of ideas. The MINI-COP is a space to genuinely hear what they think and how they feel about the ways the climate affects their lives. For this to happen, it is essential to create an environment where they can express themselves freely and creatively — in ways that make sense for each of them.

Encourage multiple forms of expression: not every child or teen enjoys public speaking or writing. Some communicate better through drawing, playing, singing, acting, or storytelling. Make room for different types of expression — like outdoor play, drawing, or writing. Provide materials such as pencils, paper, modeling clay, or natural elements they can use creatively.

And don't forget: the goal isn't to attain "adult-like" opinions through this process. The MINI-COP is meant to reflect the unique perspectives of kids and adolescents.

Try not to ask leading questions and avoid posing questions that already contain an answer, such as: "Why do you think children should be at the COP?" Stick to open-ended and neutral questions. The goal is for ideas, opinions, feelings, and solutions to genuinely come from children and adolescents.

7. Wrap up by celebrating the outcomes

Just like the final documents at the official COPs, it is important to decide — along with the children and adolescents — what the outcome of the MINI-COP will be and to then share it with the world. Together, explore what format they would like to use: a text, poem, song, game, photo album, video, or collective letter.

The idea is to have a record of both the process and accomplishments of the MINI-COP!

These records can also be used to highlight problems and can be shared with the school, neighborhood association, city hall, government departments, or regional agencies.

8. Did you organize a MINI-COP? Tell us about it!

We would love to hear all about the initiatives happening everywhere. So, after you organize your MINI-COP, share photos, videos, stories, and everything created during the event.

Remember to be mindful of how children's images and data are used and shared whenever you post anything (in line with the LGPD — Brazil's General Data Protection Regulation), especially when sharing photos, videos, or other records.

And don't forget to use the hashtags **#COPforChildren** to be part of this growing network of mobilization!

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DID YOU ORGANIZE A MINICOP?
Scan the QR Code and share your experience with us!

bit.ly/share-your-minicop