

General Comment 26 in Practice

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS, HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

A workbook from youth to youth
Environmental harm caused by extractive industries or severe environmental pollution



Photo @Marco Garro

GENERAL COMMENT NO.26 IN PRACTICE

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS, HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

A Practical Workbook for Young People,
Communities and Advocates

**When pollution harms
children, it is not only an
environmental problem: It is a
human rights issue.**



**2025/2026
Draft**

WHY THIS WORKBOOK?

1

ANALYZE

the environment in your community.
What is it happening?

2

UNDERSTAND

the problems, challenges and abuses that children, youth and other community members are suffering.
How is my community doing?

3

RECOGNIZE

the rights that children have and how they are violated.
What are the rights of children?
Are they fully enjoying them?

4

DOCUMENT

Evidences are fundamental.
Try to collect them as much as possible, with different modalities, in a safe manner.
How can I prove those violations?

5

TAKE ACTION

plan your advocacy plan to bring change.
How can I show what is happening in my community?





Consultations at the Congress on Justice with Children (2025)

Showcasing the case study of Cerro de Pasco:

Environmental harm from extractive industries and heavy metal intoxication affecting children and adolescents.

A global webinar engaged a wider audience, including Special Rapporteur Elisa Morgera, exploring the value and structure of a practical workbook for youth, adolescents, and communities.



A DIALOGUE ACROSS CONTEXTS:

CENTERING CHILDREN'S VIEWS FOR CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

ONLINE WORKSHOP
3-4:30 CET
17 SEPTEMBER 2025

SCAN FOR CONCEPT NOTE, VIDEOS, CASE STUDIES

REGISTER HERE



- Meet with other children and young people from around the world to exchange ideas on climate change and environmental harm
- Hear from Elisa Morgera, UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human Rights
- Listen to experiences of children and youth from Cerro de Pasco (Peru) and the Sundarbans (Bangladesh)
- Explore how to use General Comment No. 26 to protect your rights and help us create a child- and youth-led toolkit for action



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Built a workbook with youth & experts (GC26)
Tested it through interviews, group discussions
& observation
Engaged communities, teachers & students

We explored:

rights awareness • environmental harm • health impacts •
toolkit feasibility

→ Piloted with adolescents

→ Set up a local taskforce for follow-up

Scaling the approach:

Methodology adapted to different contexts:

- Italy (toxic metal pollution)
- Peru – Cerro de Pasco (extractive industries)
- Bangladesh (climate-related impacts)



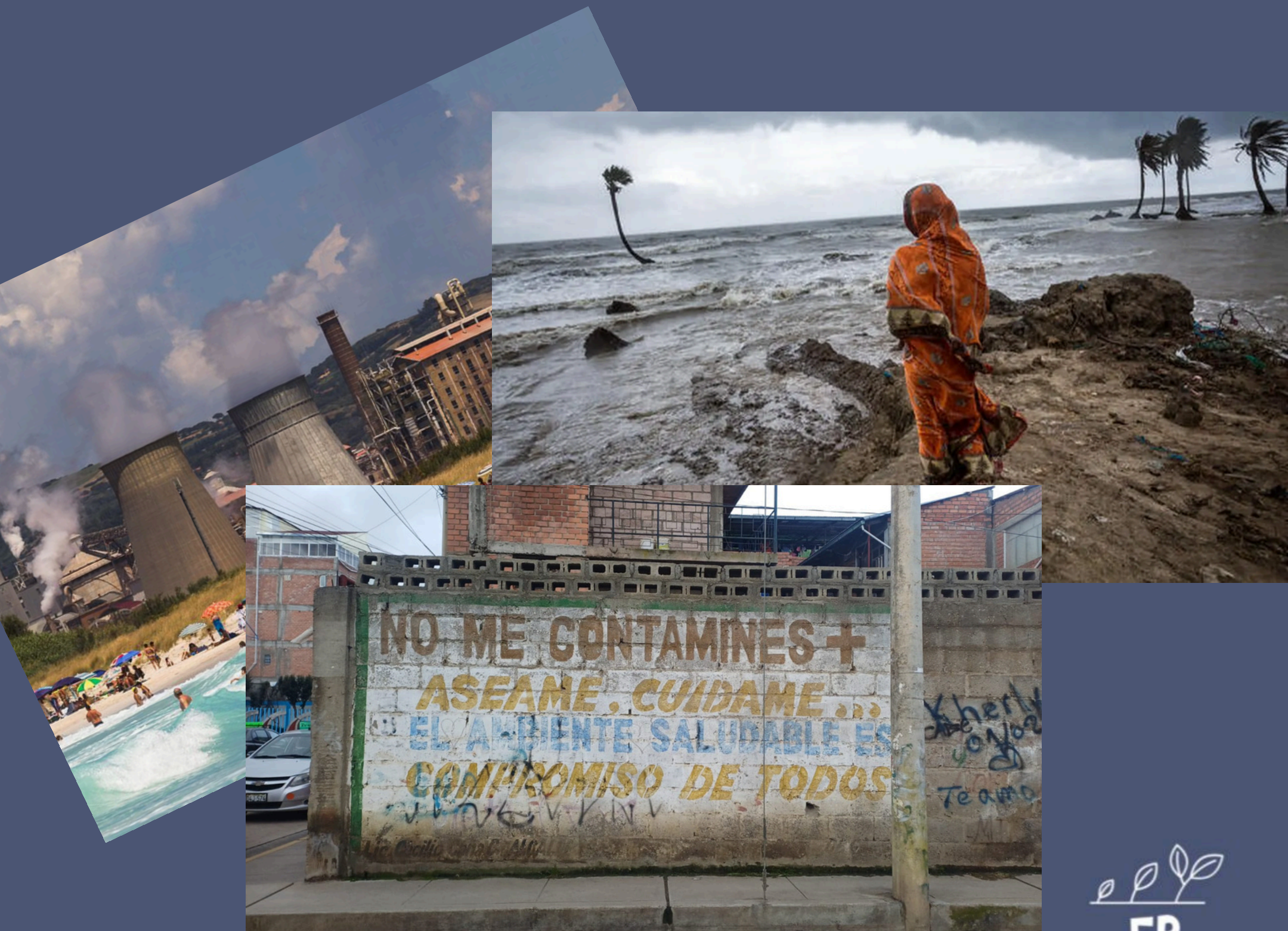
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Translation of the workbook (Spanish & Italian)

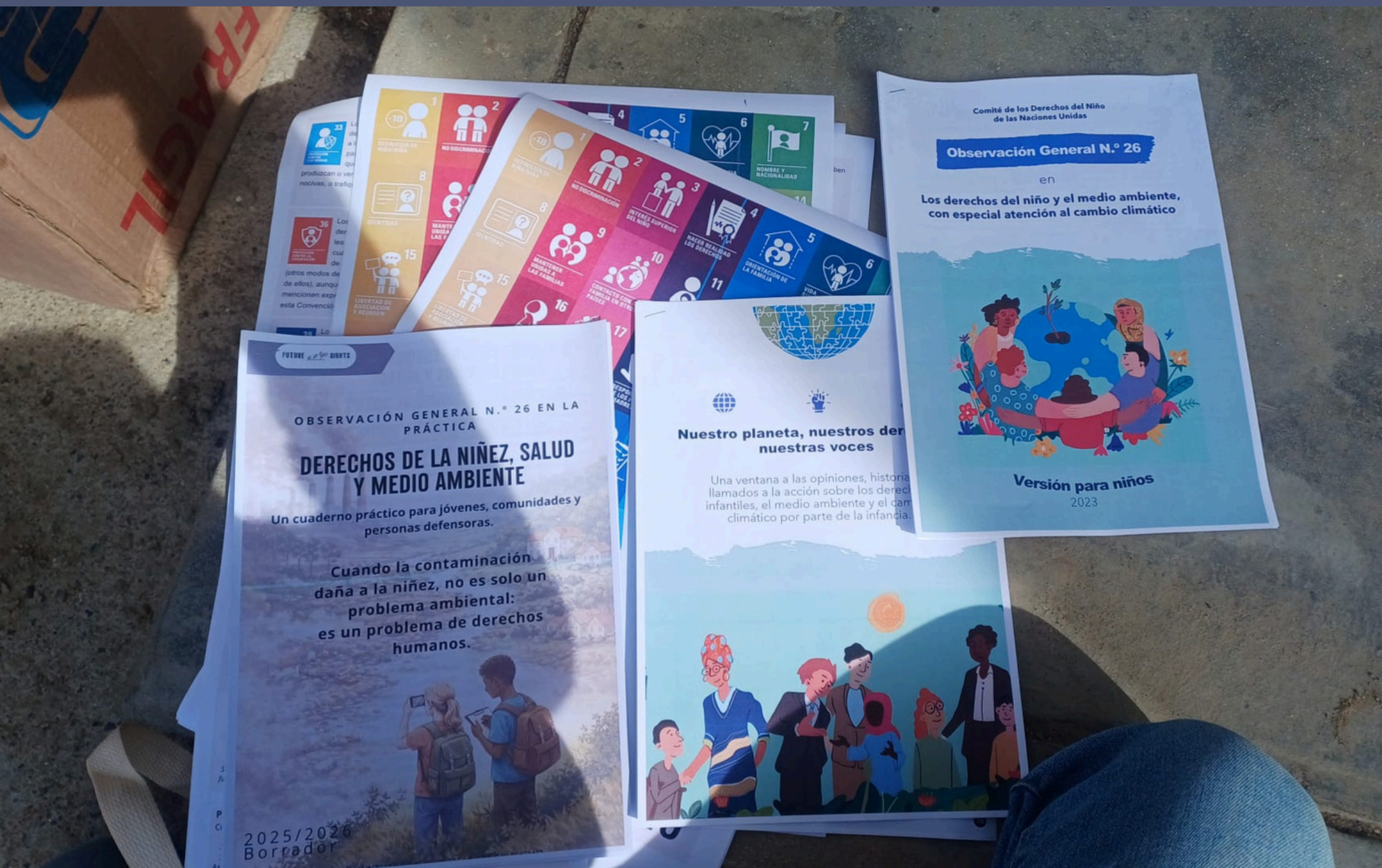
- Local testing with youth
- Pro bono legal support to design advocacy strategies

→ grounded in collected evidence

Scaling in Italy, Perú and Bangladesh



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"Dal Toolkit al Territorio: Giustizia Ambientale e
Infanzia"

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR YOUTH FROM YOUTH



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