



**i can.**  
**children's**  
**global**  
**summit**

**ROME**  
**27 to 30 NOVEMBER 2019**

ROMA



WITH BLESSING OF  
  
CONGREGATIO  
DE INSTITUTIONE CATHOLICA  
(DE STEUBENIUM INSTITUTIS)







- BANGLADESH
- BRAZIL
- CHILE
- COLOMBIA
- DENMARK
- DUBAI
- ECUADOR
- FRANCE
- GHANA
- INDIA
- IRELAND
- ISRAEL
- JAPAN
- JORDAN
- KENYA
- LEBANON
- LITHUANIA
- MACAU
- MALAYSIA
- MOLDOVA
- NICARAGUA
- NIGERIA
- PALESTINE
- PERU
- PHILIPPINES
- POLAND
- PORTUGAL
- ROMANIA
- SERBIA
- SINGAPORE
- SOUTH AFRICA
- SPAIN
- SUDAN
- TAIWAN
- UGANDA
- UKRAINE
- USA
- VIETNAM
- ZIMBABWE
- ITALY
- SYRIA
- SLOVAKIA
- MADAGASCAR
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

*“If we are to create peace in our world, we must begin with our children.”*

*Mahatma Gandhi*

## THE SUMMIT



**2,000+ PARTICIPANTS**  
**40+ COUNTRIES**  
**200+ SOLUTIONS**



Children from over **40 countries** around the world poured into Rome at the end of November 2019 to celebrate the first ever, all faith, inclusive 'I CAN Children's Global Summit'! More than **2,500** of these young superheroes, aged 7 to 17 years old, were the protagonists of this inspiring four-day event filled with celebration, creativity and sharing, that culminated in a special private audience with **Pope Francis** inside Vatican City's Aula Paula VI Hall.



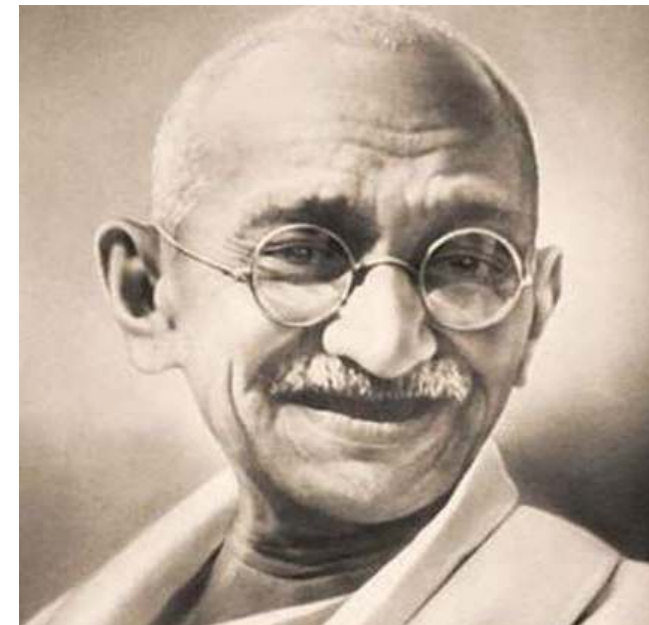


*'Students who are best prepared for the future are change agents. They can have a positive impact on their surroundings, influence the future, understand others' intentions, actions and feelings, and anticipate the short and long-term consequences of what they do'. (©OECD2018)*

## THE OPPORTUNITY



2019 marked the crossroads of four global forces for good and presented the perfect timing to host this Children's Summit. First, it responded to words of the **Laudato Si - Pope Francis's encyclical** which suggests the purpose of education should be to help young people become the builders of a more united and peaceful world. Second, it aligned with the **world's 2030 education agenda** which places student agency and well-being at the forefront. Third, it marked the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and it is only fitting that the world recommitted to his message - **Be the Change you wish to see in the world**. And finally, it celebrated 10 years of the Design for Change movement.







*I am so thankful to have had this experience with all of you, my colleagues, students, and their families! It truly was one of the most inspiring and life changing experiences I have had as an educator. I am even more dedicated and inspired to continue to do this important global work with students and I am in awe of the amazing work that students all over the world are doing.*

Tara - DFC USA

## THE EVENT

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## THE AGENDA

25  
November

Volunteer Training

26  
November

Welcome Tea' by  
the Mayoress of  
Rome

27  
November

Opening  
Ceremony at the  
Palazzao dei  
Congressi

28 & 29  
November

Mini 'Be The  
Change'  
celebrations at 13  
different venues  
across Rome

30  
November

Closing  
Ceremony at  
Aula Paula VI hall  
in Vatican City



The four days, from 27th to 30th November, gave children an opportunity to **share** and **celebrate** their stories of change, interact and learn from children from other countries, which they may otherwise not have encountered. **Friendships** were formed and **inspiration** was ignited through the activities, dances, games and ceremonies throughout their time in Italy.





Life Changing experience- Yvette, DFC Ghana

*“Life Changing experience- Yvette, DFC Ghana”*

*Yvette, DFC Ghana*

25  
November

## VOLUNTEER TRAINING



In the final build up and preparations for the event, **over 100 volunteers** from a range of backgrounds all gathered for a morning of training to equip them for the coming week. There were:

- **Teachers and alumni from The Riverside School** (birthplace of Design for Change) to conduct the mini-BTCs in 13 venues across Rome
- **Spanish** students to support the mini BTC's and help with merchandising and translating
- **Teach for India** volunteers to support the mini BTC's, merchandising and logistics
- Local **Italian** volunteers to aid teams and students make their way around Rome
- And even some all the way from **Chile** to help run the opening ceremony

During the training, Design for Change provided an insight into **how the event will unfold** and each of their roles in it, along with some **games and fun** as a sneak peek into what was in store for the kids. The **Municipality of Rome** then conducted a detailed briefing on the safety protocols within the city, followed by a training from the **Fire Department** on how to **handle any emergencies**.

With these sessions under their belts, the volunteers were ready to go!!





26  
November

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## WELCOME TEA BY THE MAYORESS OF ROME

The evening prior to the launch of the I CAN Summit, the **Mayoress of Rome**, Virginia Raggi, hosted a special 'Welcome Tea' ceremony for **170 participants** to officially receive them in Rome and show the commitment of the City to the cause of spreading the I CAN spirit and mindset.

The tea was attended by children and adults from **over 25 countries** and had speeches by several dignitaries including the Mayoress herself, who congratulated the children on the **amazing work** they have done in their communities so far and urged them to carry on **Being the Change!**



*"Something incredible has unfolded to the whole world today; life changing, inspiring and pure in its essence and form!"*

*Shirine Al Khudari, DFC Jordan*





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## OPENING CEREMONY AT THE PALAZZO DEI CONGRESSI

With **2,500 superheroes** from **40 countries** all gathered together for the first time, the Opening Ceremony gave them all a chance to **celebrate!!** The teams of children arrived waving their country flags and dressed in their traditional costumes from around the world, truly showcasing how **the power of I CAN transcends all borders, nationalities, ages and creeds.**

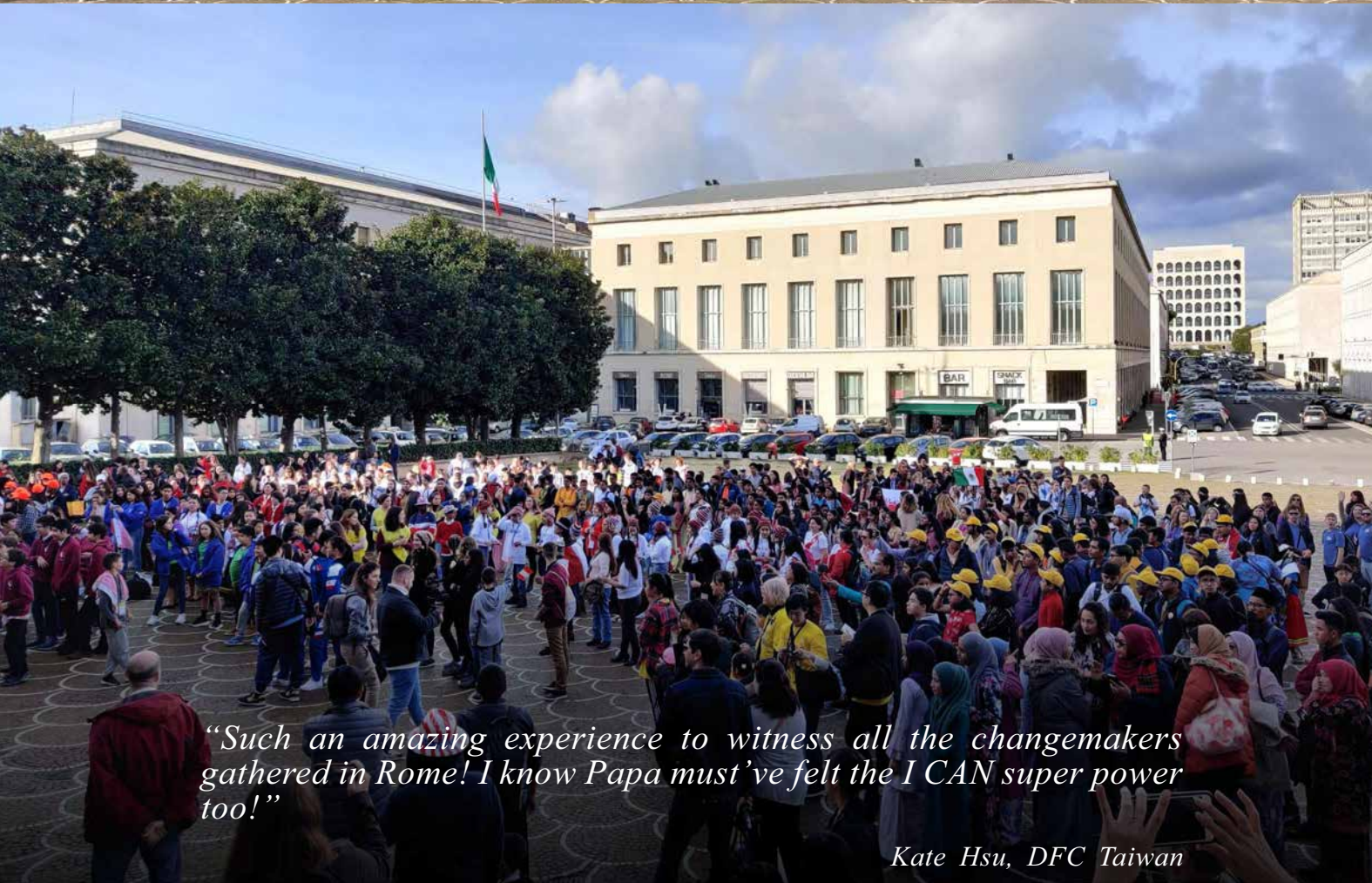
Each child was welcomed as they arrived at the 'Palace of Congress' venue by **music, dancing, cheering and chanting.** The event was anchored by students from our Students Global Council.



*“The summit gave us an opportunity to reconnect with partners around the world and to glimpse the opportunity to do something beyond Design for Change”*

*Miguel, DFC Spain*





The ceremony was filled with games and activities that allowed the children to meet other **superheroes from different countries** and exchange names, high fives and I CAN in their own languages. A synchronised I CAN Flash mob also filled the venue as thousands of people showed how they CAN through dance. For the adults in the crowd, there were also speeches by a range of **dignitaries**:

- President of FIDAE - Virginia Kaladich
- Indian Ambassador for Italy - Reenat Sandhu
- President of OIEC - Phillippe Richard
- Academic Project Director for OIEC - Brother Juan Antonio
- Design for Change founder - Kiran Bir Sethi

At the opening ceremony - the audience was welcomed by messages from DFC wellwishers from around the world - such as:



**Dr Howard Gardner**  
Harvard Graduate School  
of Education



**Sir Ken Robinson**  
Author, Speaker and  
International Advisor on  
Education



**Sandy Speicher**  
CEO  
IDEO



**Andreas Schleicher**  
Director for the Directorate  
of Education and Skills  
OECD



**Rahul Bose**  
Actor/Activist  
DFC Brand Ambassador,  
India



**Marcelo Suarez**  
Wasserman Dean, GSE&IS



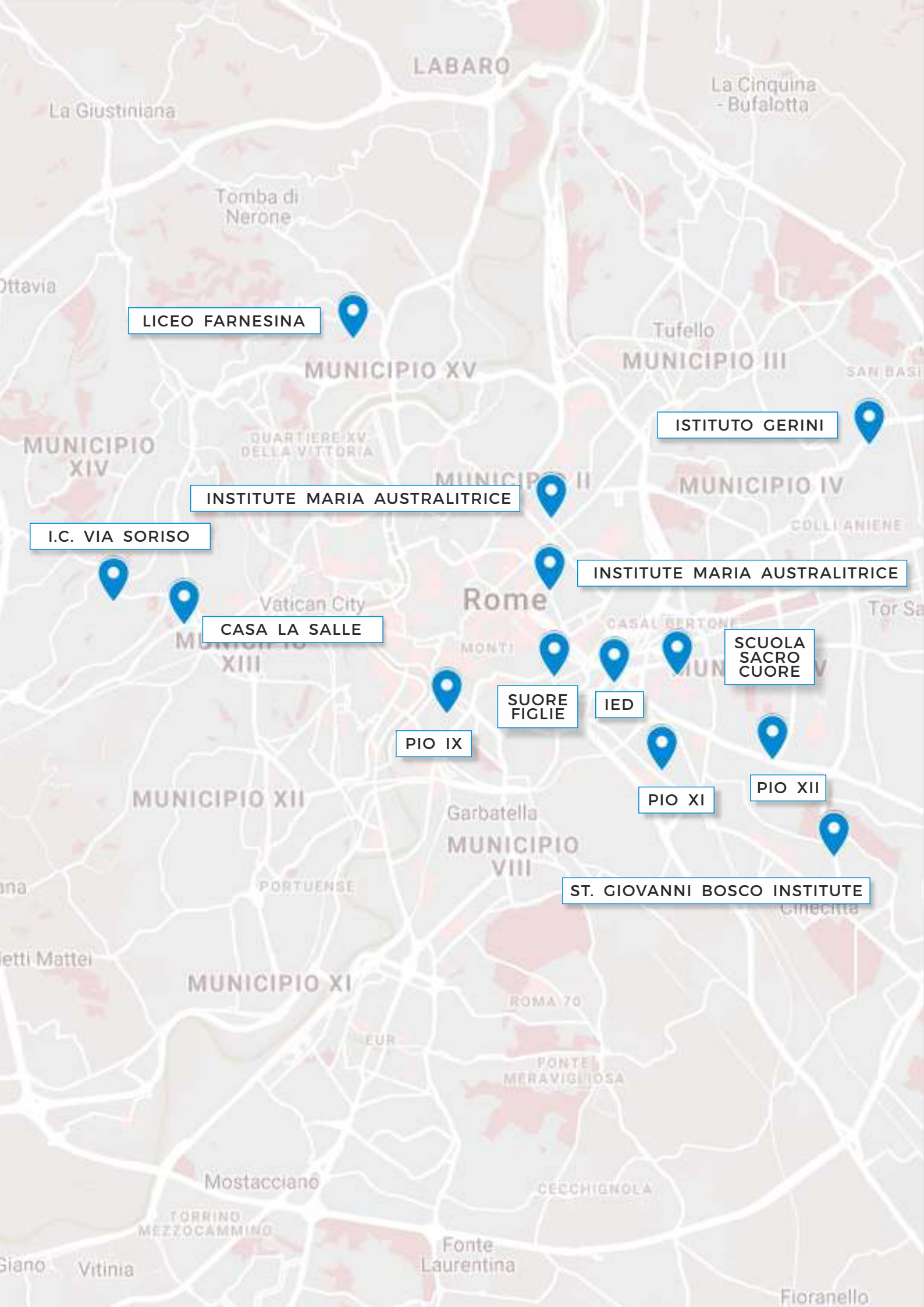
**Carolina Schmidt**  
Minister of Environment  
of Chile

The spark was ignited and the remaining three days of **ideas, inspiration and impact** then flowed onwards from the opening ceremony.

*"Such an amazing experience to witness all the changemakers gathered in Rome! I know Papa must've felt the I CAN super power too!"*

*Kate Hsu, DFC Taiwan*

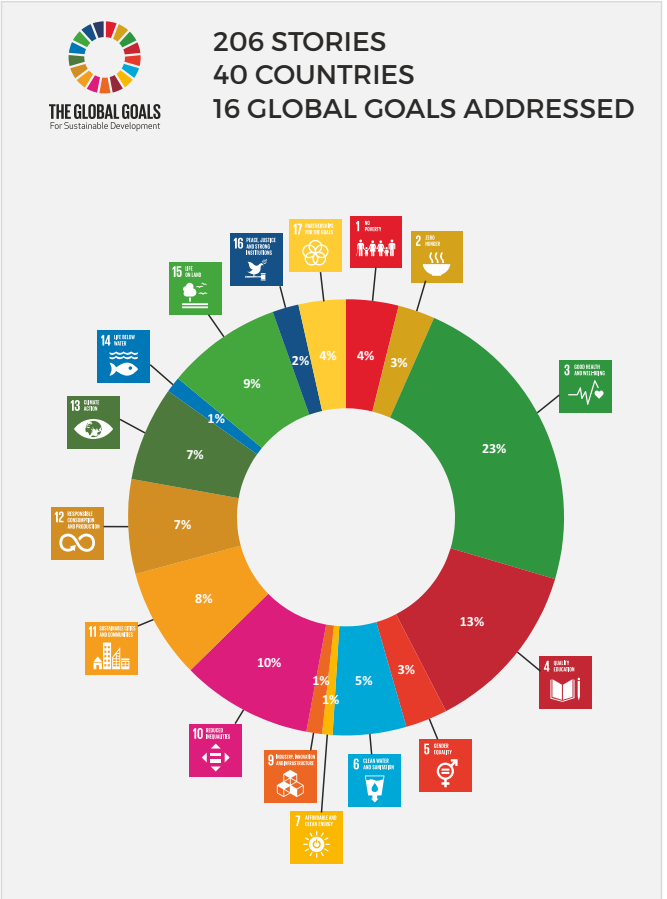




# MINI 'BE THE CHANGE'

CELEBRATIONS AT 13 DIFFERENT VENUES ACROSS ROME

Each superhero came with their own story of change. Their story of how they made an impact on THEIR world. These two days were an opportunity for each and every one of them to share their stories with THE world. There were a total of 207 projects offering solutions for 16 Global Goals! (show the pie chart here)



2,500 children were split into 13 different venues across Rome, allowing them to tell their stories in a more intimate environment ranging between 100 to 500 people. The focus of these days was not only to share their stories, but also hear other stories of change from children all over the world and exchange ideas and inspiration!







my superpower is  
*kindness*



my superpower is  
*courage*





Again, it was children running the show ( alongside the facilitators from The Riverside School and ably supported by the Spanish volunteers ) - introducing each of the stories and conducting interviews with the superheroes on stage. Scattered between the stories there were also games, activities and dances that allowed children to be in their natural element throughout the days.

Whilst the 2 days were filled with inspiration from the sharing of great solutions - more than that, the two days allowed friendships to be formed, which showed the children that there are plenty of other like-minded superheroes in the world and they are not alone in their desire to change the future.



*“The trip was really fun and amazing! I can never get anything like it anywhere else. The best part of it was not when touring Rome but having made new friends is the best part.”*

*Abdul (Student from Malaysia)*







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November

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## CLOSING CEREMONY

Aula Paula VI

The final day of the Summit brought 2,500 children from Design for Change along with 1,000 children from Italian schools to have an audience **Pope Francis** himself. It was held in the Pope's Aula Paula VI hall within the Vatican City, which is used only for his private audiences.

Dolly, Napoleon and Giovanni ( our student anchors ) were the three children running the ceremony, which saw **highlights** from the previous three days of the I CAN summit and videos from **well-wishers** around the world praising the children's **power to change the world** and encouraging them to keep going.

After entering, the children presented Pope Francis with an **I CAN quilt** - created from 40 different I CAN textiles, one from each country in their traditional material and with I CAN stitched in their native language.



*"Dear Children, please don't just observe life from the balcony! Meet the challenges... You must make noise; YOU are the seed of change of this society." Pope Francis*

POPE FRANCIS





The ceremony also witnessed the launch of the I CAN Marketplace - an initiative that addresses the Global Goals by offering a curated set of solutions by children that can be scaled. Also launched was the new 'Rainforest Kids Challenge', that offers children, aged between 8 and 13 years, the chance to be at the forefront of rainforest protection, developing projects and solutions according to the Design for Change's methodology.

The pope was then graced by a performance from the 11 year old star Jorge Lamelas of the Billy Elliot musical and a speech from the President of FIDAE - before himself addressing the mass of children with a **moving speech** in Italian, and officially concluding the I CAN Summit with one final blessing.



*Design for Change helps teachers empower student leadership. Students, as well as teachers, grow as leaders by using the 'FIDS' framework.*

*Wendy Kopp | CEO, Co-Founder Teach for All*





*“Attending the I can global summit and listening to other people’s stories of change has enabled me to believe that everyone is capable of making a difference and every story of change is important no matter how big or small.”*

*Student from Israel*

# NEW GLOBAL INITIATIVES



## DESIGN for CHANGE **i can** MARKETPLACE OF SOLUTIONS

During the Summit, Design for Change announced the 'I Can Marketplace', an initiative that addresses the Global Goals by offering a curated set of solutions by children that can be scaled.

## RAINFOREST KIDS CHALLENGE

Also launched was the new 'Rainforest Kids Challenge', that offers children, aged between 8 and 13 years, the chance to be at the forefront of rainforest protection, developing projects and solutions according to the Design for Change's methodology.





*“The summit was a bright and bold reminder that when we listen to our children, we rediscover that they embody the wisdom and courage to face our global challenges head on and with hearts and minds wide open. - Juanita Naidu, DFC South Africa, Sudan, Philippines.”*

*- Juanita Naidu, DFC South Africa, Sudan, Philippines.*

# THE OUTCOME



Why is this message so urgent and important for our children?

It encouraged them to believe that the tiny corner of the planet that they inhabit can be made more beautiful, more just and more equal.

More importantly, it taught them that they do not need to be mere spectators to change. They are the initiators, the participants and the overseers of it.

**Very simply – they CAN! TODAY**

# THE PARTNERS

The ambitious event was organized by FIDAE (Federazione Istituti di Attività Educative), the OIEC (Catholic International Education Office), the USG (Unione Superiori Generali), the City of Rome, the Vatican and Design for Change.



STRATEGIC PARTNERS



SUPPORTED BY







*“ I propose a goal for every one of you, in these four days you should either develop a new idea – and then think about going from I CAN, to I WILL, and even better from I WILL to WE WILL, because all important things need many people working on them together.”*

*Howard Gardener, Harvard Graduate School of Education*

# THE MOVEMENT



**2 MILLION+**  
CHILDREN

**31,000+**  
STORIES OF CHANGE

**65+**  
COUNTRIES & REGIONS

**76,000+**  
TEACHERS



All of these empowered change agents came as a part of Design for Change (DFC), the international movement, born in Ahmedabad, India, by Kiran Bir Sethi, that offers children a simple 4 step framework (**Feel-Imagine-Do-Share**) to put into practice their ideas to **change the world**. Over the past 10 years, DFC have received over 30,000 solutions from children using FIDS to design solutions to some of their greatest challenges. ([www.dfcworld.com](http://www.dfcworld.com))



FEEL



IMAGINE



DO



SHARE







[www.dfcworld.com](http://www.dfcworld.com)

   /icandfc