Social Protection and Childhood Violence: Expert Roundtable

Know Violence in Childhood
UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti

12-13th May, Firenze
UNICEF Childhood Violence: Prevalence, drivers and UNICEF’s landscape of priority prevention strategies

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Sustainable Development Goals

Direct SDG violence targets

SDG Target 5.2
Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls

SDG Target 5.3
Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilations

SDG Target 16.1
Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

SDG Target 16.2
End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children

SDGs with targets that address risk factors

1. No Poverty
2. Good Health
3. Quality Education
4. Gender Equality
5. Reduced Inequalities
6. Peace and Justice
Fact n. 1

Violence is a leading cause of injuries and death among children
More than half of young homicide victims are between the ages of 15 and 19

Number of homicide victims among children and adolescents aged 0 to 19 years in 2012, by age group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 to 19 years</td>
<td>54,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 14 years</td>
<td>11,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 9 years</td>
<td>11,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 to 4 years</td>
<td>19,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in this table have been rounded.

Latin America and the Caribbean has the largest share of homicides among children and adolescents in the world

Number of homicide victims among children and adolescents aged 0 to 19 years and number of homicide victims among children and adolescents aged 0 to 19 years per 100,000 population in 2012, by region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number of homicide victims</th>
<th>Homicide rate per 100,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>25,400</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West and Central Africa</td>
<td>23,400</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern and Southern Africa</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>3,700</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries outside of these regions</td>
<td>3,800</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS)</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>7,100</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>94,900</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in this table have been rounded.
Fact n. 2

The most common form of violence against children occurs at home
On average, about 8 in 10 children experience some form of violent discipline in the home.

Percentage of children aged 2 to 14 years who experienced any violent discipline, psychological aggression and physical punishment in the past month.

- **Any violent discipline:** 85%
- **Psychological aggression:** 74%
- **Physical punishment:** 64%

**Note:** These are weighted averages based on comparable data for 62 countries or areas.

**Source:** UNICEF global databases, 2014, based on DHS, MICS and other nationally representative surveys, 2005-2013.
Fact n. 3

Bullying, physical fights and physical attacks are common occurrences in the lives of children.
Bullying, a problem worldwide, is experienced by a large proportion of teens in many low-, middle- and high-income countries.

Percentage of adolescents aged 13 to 15 years who reported being bullied at least once in the past couple of months, in the 10 countries with the highest prevalence of bullying worldwide and in the 10 countries in Europe and North America with the highest prevalence of bullying.

Notes: Data for State of Palestine and Zimbabwe are not national but have been recalculated on the basis of subnational surveys that took place in selected cities in each country or area. Data for Ghana refer to students in junior high school only. Data for Belgium are a weighted average of the Flemish and French samples.

Over half of all children experience physical violence before age 18

Percentage of individuals aged 18-24 who experienced physical violence prior to age 18

*Updated denominator for Tanzania lifetime prevalence indicators of childhood violence uses 18-24 year olds prior to age 18; lifetime prevalence indicators from 2011 Tanzania VACS report use the denominator of 13-24 year olds prior to age 18.
Fact n. 4

120 million girls have been subjected to forced sexual intercourse and other forced sexual acts.
Selected country facts on sexual violence

Percentage of girls aged 15 to 19 years who have ever experienced forced sexual intercourse or any other forced sexual acts (including in childhood)

- Malawi: 18%
- Zimbabwe: 18%
- Uganda: 19%
- Democratic Republic of the Congo: 21%
- Cameroon: 22%
Girls and boys are affected by violence, but the vast majority are girls . . .

Percentage of individuals 18-24 years old who experienced sexual violence prior to age 18

*Only girls interviewed in Swaziland

**Updated denominator for Tanzania lifetime prevalence indicators of childhood violence uses 18-24 year olds prior to age 18; lifetime prevalence indicators from 2011 Tanzania VACS report use the denominator of 13-24 year olds prior to age 18.
Fact n. 5

Most victims never disclose their experiences
More than half of victims never tell anyone about their experiences of abuse nor do they seek help to end the violence

Percentage of girls aged 15 to 19 years who ever experienced physical and/or sexual violence and never told anyone about it and percentage who never sought help from any source to end the violence, in a selection of countries with available data

Notes: Data for Jordan refer to ever-married girls and are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. Data for Pakistan refer to ever-married girls who have ever experienced physical violence and are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

Fact n. 6

Condoning attitudes and social norms place children at risks
Nearly half of adolescent girls worldwide say wife-beating can be justified under certain circumstances

Percentage of girls aged 15 to 19 years who think that a husband/partner is justified in hitting or beating his wife or partner under certain circumstances, by region

- In 28 of 60 countries with data on both sexes, a larger proportion of girls than boys believe wife-beating is sometimes justified
Where are some of the gaps?

- Consistently disaggregated data—by age and gender
- Is child neglect violence?
- Potential impacts of children’s involvement in research on violence
- Exploitation and trafficking of children
- Violence against certain groups of children (refugees, IDPs, emergency situations, disabilities, living in institutional care...)
Drivers of Violence Affecting Children: Multi-Country Study preliminary findings from 4 countries

**INTERPERSONAL**
- Early experience of violence and conflict before adolescence, such as witnessing domestic violence
- Sex selection
- Family stress such as poverty and unemployment
- Family structure such as marital status, parental absence, double-orphanhood
- Family context such as parents’ histories of abuse, substance use, education, occupation(s), financial status, illness/health
- Quality of peer relationships inclusion/exclusion from same age networks
- Quality of family relationships inclusion/exclusion from family and kin networks
- Isolation or degree of family isolation

**INDIVIDUAL**
- Beliefs about gender roles or on the acceptability of punishment and violence
- Vulnerability due to age, minority, or disability
- Behavioural problems such as a lack of empathy and externalising these behaviours among children
- Biological sex
Interventions Landscape: UNICEF’s Six Strategies for Action

**Six strategies to prevent and respond to violence against children**

1. **Supporting parents, caregivers and families**
   Educating families, caregivers and parents on their child’s early development increases the likelihood that they will use positive disciplining methods. This reduces the risk of violence within the home.

2. **Helping children and adolescents manage risks and challenges**
   Giving children and adolescents the skills to cope and manage risks and challenges without the use of violence and to seek appropriate support when violence does occur is crucial for reducing violence in schools and communities.

3. **Changing attitudes and social norms that encourage violence and discrimination**
   Changing the attitudes and social norms that hide violence in plain sight is the surest way to prevent violence from occurring in the first place.

4. **Promoting and providing support services for children**
   Encouraging children to seek quality professional support and report incidents of violence helps them to better cope with and resolve experiences of violence.

5. **Implementing laws and policies that protect children**
   Implementing and enforcing laws and policies that protect children sends a strong message to society that violence is unacceptable and will be punished.

6. **Carrying out data collection and research**
   Knowing about violence – where it occurs, in what forms, and which age groups and communities of children are most affected – is essential to planning and designing intervention strategies, and setting numerical and time-bound targets to monitor progress and end violence.
## Priority Prevention Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNICEF</th>
<th>INSPIRE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Parents, Caregivers and families</td>
<td>Parental Strengthening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helping Children and adolescents manage risks and challenges</td>
<td>Education and life skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changing attitudes and social norms that encourage violence and discrimination</td>
<td>Norms and values change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoting and providing support services for children</td>
<td>Response services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementing Laws and policies that protect children</td>
<td>Implementation and Enforcement of Laws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrying out data collection and research</td>
<td>Monitoring &amp; EVAL + Multi-sectoral coordination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Income Strengthening (new)</td>
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<td>Safe Environments (new)</td>
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Income Strengthening

Contributes to and is supported by SDG Targets 1.3, 1.4 and 10.2

Objective: *Improve families’ economic security and stability, reduce intimate partner violence and stress*

❖ **Potential Outcomes**

*Countries have helped households and families attain:*

- Greater economic security and stability
- Greater access to social protection
- More gender equitable and non-violent norms
- Reduced child exposure to intimate partner violence in the home
- Reduced level of intimate partner violence

*Adolescents have:*

- Higher or sustained school enrolment and gender parity
- Livelihood and other skills for adulthood
- Lower levels of early marriage, childbearing and sexual debut

❖ **What Works? Interventions**

1) Cash transfers
2) Group savings and loans associations combines with training on equitable gender roles and norms
3) Microfinance for women combined with training