Innocenti Research Digest
Adolescence

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A quarterly research digest highlighting the most important news and resources in adolescent well-being over the past three months

GUEST EDITORIAL

According to recent data, almost 20 per cent of adolescents globally experience mental disorders. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among 15–19-year-olds worldwide, while 15 per cent of adolescents in low- and middle-income countries have considered suicide. Yet child and adolescent mental health has often been overlooked in global and national health programming, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

In a joint effort to put child and adolescent mental disorders higher on the global health agenda, UNICEF and WHO co-hosted their first symposium on this topic in Florence, Italy, from 7 to 9 November 2019. The event was part of 'Leading Minds for Children and Young People', UNICEF's new annual conference series on issues affecting youth in the 21st century. The conference brought together academics, governments and policymakers, and saw the participation of a sizeable number of youth advocates.

In this final issue of the *Research Digest on Adolescence*, the Digest team interviewed two youth mental health advocates who attended 'Leading Minds', Victor Ugo (Nigeria) and Chantelle Booysen (South Africa), who gave their views on promoting mental health for children and young people.

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In November 2019, UNICEF and WHO co-hosted the inaugural Leading Minds for Children and Young People conference at UNICEF Innocenti in Florence, Italy. Leading Minds is UNICEF's new annual global conference series, designed to highlight burning issues affecting children and young people in the 21st century, and to formulate actions informed by scholars, scientists, governments, philanthropists, business, civil society and young people themselves.

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A 12-year-old makes a drawing while in the office of her former psychologist at a UNICEF supported shelter in Moldova (2018). Liza endured sexual abuse by her stepfather and recovered with the help of this shelter that provided medical, social and psychological assistance, including psycho-social support.

Interviewer: What were the highlights of 'Leading Minds' for you?

VU: It was really encouraging to see two big organizations, UNICEF and WHO, set the pace for an event about young people and engage with them from the start on all aspects of the conference. Being on that platform and seeing other young people like myself, from diverse settings and with personal experience of mental health issues, share their experiences, lead discussions and feel involved, was more than inspiring for me and, I know, for them too.

CB: Four things stood out for me: 1) a fresh approach to conferencing: the structure of the conference promoted engagement with almost everyone in the room; 2) Youth leaders who led conversations throughout the conference and set the tone all the way from the opening night right up to the final speech calling for global action; 3) Having a space to share creative ideas in order to inform discussions on what is required to establish new solutions; 4) Public pledges made by organizations and donors to support youth mental health.

Interviewer: Moving forward, what are your key recommendations for policymakers, practitioners and the UN?

VU: First, I believe that issues of young people's mental health will receive more attention and support if they align with the priorities set by the UN and its agencies. Second, policymakers need to understand the impact of investing in youth mental health and how that translates into social and economic prosperity for their communities and countries. Finally, health practitioners have to learn to apply a rights-based approach to service provision, which respects and understands that young people with mental health issues are people too and have rights to make and inform decisions about their own mental health.

CB: My recommendations are:

1) To ensure full, direct participation of young people at the beginning, middle and end of policy development and initiatives involving adolescent and child mental health.

2) To increase investment in prevention and early intervention by implementing effective policies that address social factors that influence mental health, including poverty, gender discrimination and violence, during developmentally sensitive periods.

3) To improve and support mental health literacy, promote self-care and connect access to emergency services in all education systems. This can be done by focusing on skills training; through screening for at-risk young people; and through the education of teachers, primary care physicians and the media. Youth mental health should be integrated in health curricula in the same way as physical activity programmes are.

4) To encourage institutions to support, also financially, evidence-based initiatives led by youth.

5) To bridge with supportive tools the gap between slow, traditional, formal structures and fast-moving innovations developed by young people trying to fill the void in lack of services.

Interviewer: Moving forward, what will you do personally, as an advocate, to contribute to youth mental health?

VU: Personally, I am making it a life mission to continue to elevate the youth mental health agenda and conversations across the world, to advocate for greater inclusion of youth on all fronts and from the start, and to help amplify work being done across the world by other young persons.

CB: I will expand my already active youth mental health advocacy. I am currently involved in global, national, provincial and regional platforms with varied degrees of online and offline activity. I would like to see young people create the same collective voice for #mentalhealth as they have for #climatechange – a difficult task for a complicated subject – but I'm positive we can mobilize in a way that creates real change.

Victor Ugo, Youth Mental Health Advocate, Lived Experience Lead, Nigeria

Chantelle Booysen, Youth Leader, The Lancet Commission for Global Mental Health, South Africa

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LATEST RESEARCH

MENTAL HEALTH

A Systematic Review of the Evidence for Family and Parenting Interventions in Low- and Middle-income Countries: Child and Youth Mental Health Outcomes
Pedersen, G. et al., *Journal of Child and Family Studies,* August 2019

Children and youth in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are at greater risk of poor mental health, with adverse circumstances like poverty, violence and lack of available psychological treatments increasing their vulnerability. This review presents evidence for family- and parent-focused interventions on mental health outcomes for youth in LMICs and identifies treatment components present in promising interventions. Parenting interventions showed positive outcomes for children's and adolescents' mental health and well-being, as well as better parenting behaviours and family functioning. Most effective parenting implementation packages combine caregiver psycho-education, caregiver coping skills, processes of providing between-session homework, and service accessibility promotion. More research is needed to identify causal links between individual programme components and outcomes, and how to best adapt interventions to different cultural contexts.

Download article [pdf]

Mental health: in the spotlight but a long way to go
Patel, V., *International Health,* September 2019

Childhood and adolescent experiences are strong predictors of adult mental health, and most mental health problems emerge during youth. Actions to prevent mental health problems therefore need to focus on these early years and on transforming developmentally appropriate environments (home, schools, neighbouhoods) for nurturing children and preventing 'toxic stress'. Based on findings from the Lancet Commission on global mental health and sustainable development, this review recommends moving away from narrow, biomedical, disease models to recognize the multidimensional nature of mental health, to adopt a life course perspective and to implement evidence-based community delivered care for the care and prevention of mental disorders, embedded in a universal health coverage and empowerment framework.

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School-based Interventions to Prevent Anxiety and Depression in Children and Young People: A Systematic Review and Network Meta-analysis
Caldwell, D. et al., *The Lancet Psychiatry*, November 2019

Globally, education settings are a key entry point for preventing anxiety and depression in children. This systematic review examines the impact of school-based interventions, including a network meta-analysis, to identify whether there are any interventions that are more effective in preventing anxiety and depression in children aged 4–18. Overall, it finds insufficient evidence to conclude that educational setting-based interventions are effective for the prevention of anxiety and depression in children and young people. Although previous studies have found beneficial effects, the authors observe that many studies have unclear risk bias, probable small study effects and conflating control conditions. The study recommends that future research focus on multilevel, systems-based interventions for preventing children's anxiety and depression.

Download paper (pdf)

Do restrictive gender attitudes and norms influence physical and mental health during very young Adolescence? Evidence from Bangladesh and Ethiopia
Baird, S. et al., *Population Health,* December 2019

Adolescence is generally seen as a window of opportunity for intervention but also as a time during which restrictive gender attitudes and norms become more salient. Using quantitative data on 6,500 young adolescents (aged 10–12) from the Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) programme, this paper analyses the association between restrictive gender attitudes (RGAs) at the individual level, restrictive gender norms (RGNs) at the community level and physical and mental health, in Bangladesh and Ethiopia. Significant associations are found between RGAs and RGNs and height-for-age z-scores, body mass index z-scores, self-reported health, adolescent hunger, psychological well-being and self-esteem. Results point to the powerful role that distal factors such as culture and beliefs, as manifested through RGAs and RGNs, can play in shaping health outcomes for both boys and girls and suggest relevant next steps for future research and policy.

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PROTECTION

Violence against Children in Latin America and the Caribbean: What do Available Data Reveal about Prevalence and Perpetrators?
Devries, K. et al., *Rev Panam Salud Publica*, October 2019

Analysis of survey data from 34 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean demonstrates the widespread nature of physical and emotional violence by caregivers, students at school, and intimate partners on older adolescent girls. Within surveys that met inclusion criteria, past-year physical and emotional violence by caregivers and by other students were common exposures across ages in childhood—both among boys and girls. Physical violence by caregivers and students appeared to decline slightly with age, while emotional violence remained fairly constant. IPV against girls aged 15–19 years was also substantial, with 15–20 per cent of ever-partnered girls reporting past-year physical violence, 15–20 per cent reporting emotional violence, and roughly 4 per cent reporting sexual violence. Recommendations are to expand high-quality data collection efforts to monitor progress toward achieving the SDGs; to inform prevention efforts in school, home and community settings; and to provide insight into forms of violence not yet adequately captured, such as crime- and gang-related activity.

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Milca Ventura and her daughters in Rosas Pata, Peru (2015). Milca is an early childhood development teacher and a recovering victim of domestic violence. She actively works in her community to reduce violence.

Children and Peace. From Research to Action
Balvin N. and Christie, D.J., *Springer Peace Psychology Book Series,* December 2019

This open access book brings together discourse on children and peace from the 15th International Symposium on the Contributions of Psychology to Peace, covering issues pertinent to children and peace and approaches to making their world safer, fairer and more sustainable. The book is divided into nine sections that examine traditional themes (social construction and deconstruction of diversity, intergenerational transitions and memories of war, and multiculturalism), as well as contemporary issues such as Europe's 'migration crisis', radicalization and violent extremism, and violence in families, schools and communities. Chapters contextualize each issue within specific social ecological frameworks, in order to reflect on the multiplicity of influences that affect outcomes in differing contexts. Policy recommendations are offered, leveraging youth empowerment and peacebuilding programmes for children and families.

Access full Publication

Correlates of youth violence in low- and middle-income countries: A meta-analysis
Sánchez de Ribera et al., *Aggression and Violent Behavior,* December 2019

The highest rates of serious interpersonal violence occur in LMICs, especially in Latin America, the Caribbean, and sub-Saharan Africa. However, previous reviews of risk factors for youth violence focused almost entirely on high-income countries (HICs). This meta-analysis looked at 86 studies including 480,898 individuals from 60 countries. Violent outcomes included fighting, carrying a weapon and other interpersonal violent behaviours (e.g. assault). The strongest correlates of youth violence were: male sex, impulsivity, conduct problems, sexual intercourse at an early age, smoking, alcohol use, using illicit drugs, being bullied, suffering criminal victimization, having deviant/delinquent peers and watching violent television. The study concludes that many correlates of youth violence in LMICs are similar to those that have been identified in HICs, but other biological, psychological and cultural predictors remain to be tested in LMICs.

Not Open Access – Available on request

EDUCATION AND TRANSITIONS TO WORK

Ending school-related gender-based violence: a series of thematic briefs
Beadle,S. and Bordoloi, S., *UNESCO, UNIGEI and UNICEF Report,* November 2019

This series of briefs summarizes the key learnings to emerge from two regional workshops on approaches to preventing and responding to school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV). The challenges and recommendations highlighted in the publication are relevant to all forms of school violence and form a valuable resource for policymakers and practitioners working in this field. The briefs in this series include: 1. Applying a whole school approach to preventing SRGBV; 2. Engaging teachers to create safe and gender-responsive learning environments; 3. Shifting harmful gender norms through curricular approaches; 4. Establishing safe and confidential reporting mechanisms; 5. Investing in data and evidence to inform the response to SRGBV; and 6. Integrating SRGBV in national policies and education sector plans.

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Youth and jobs in rural Africa: Beyond stylized facts
Mueller, V., and Thurlow, J.*,* International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Oxford University Press, December 2019

The share of working-age young people in Africa south of the Sahara has risen due to past declines in mortality coupled with high fertility. This 'youth bulge' has created a sense of urgency among national governments and the international development community, as the prospect of widespread youth unemployment in Africa, and the social instability and political unrest it could bring, looms closer. As a result, African governments are under pressure to create more and better jobs for the region's young and rapidly-growing population. Current policies often fall short of addressing the constraints facing young jobseekers. While the scale of policy reform and actions needed to address Africa's youth bulge is daunting, there is fortunately an increasing alignment of interests and incentives: African governments have made youth employment a policy priority, and African youth are demanding policies that improve their job prospects. This creates promising opportunities to enact policies that effectively address rural youth employment—policies that are grounded in local evidence rather than stylized facts.
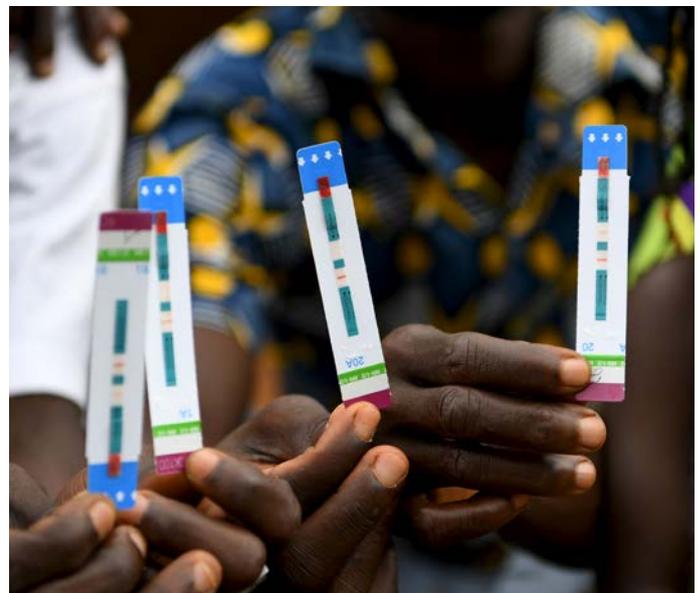
Access full publication

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Recent Levels and Trends in HIV Incidence Rates among Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Ten High-prevalence African Countries: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis
Birdthistle, I. et al., *The Lancet Global Health*, November 2019

Adolescent girls and young people are a population group at high risk of HIV infection in Africa. This review examines whether HIV incidence rates have changed for young people since the roll-out of antiretroviral therapy (ART). Although HIV incidence has declined in some settings, there is little evidence that ART availability is stopping HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women in the highest risk groups and settings. There remain strong gender disparities, with HIV risk up to six times higher for females than males aged 15–19 in southern Africa, and three times higher in eastern Africa. The paper recommends that programmes tackle the underlying gender inequalities during adolescence and early adulthood that drive disproportionately high risks of HIV infection among girls.

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A family displays the results of their HIV tests, in Benjaminkro, Côte d'Ivoire (2019). The parents have been seropositive for over 10 years. To the family's delight, the tests showed that all the children are HIV negative. The father has become a social mobilizer to inform people in the village about the importance of being tested.

Evaluation of a School Based Comprehensive Sexuality Education Program among Very Young Adolescents in Rural Uganda

Kemigisha, E. et al., *BMC Public Health,* October 2019

A mixed-method impact evaluation of a Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) programme for adolescents aged 10–14 in Uganda, found positive effects on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) knowledge, but no effect on gender equitable norms, self-esteem, body image or sexual activity. There was also no evidence of gender effects on any of the outcomes. Although there were no differences in sexual behaviour from the quantitative data, the qualitative data suggested increased perception of SRH-related risks combined with increased intentions to delay sexual debut. These results further emphasize the importance of initiating sexuality education before most adolescents have started engaging in sexual activity, enabling them to make informed decisions in the future.

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SOCIAL PROTECTION

Special Issue: Social Protection in Contexts of Fragility and Forced Displacement
Journal of Development Studies, December 2019

As conflict-related crises and the movement of people across the globe continue, there is a growing need to support vulnerable populations who have been uprooted or are on the move. A newly published special issue of the Journal of Development Studies aims to inform and support the design of social protection programmes in these humanitarian contexts. Significant challenges arise in conducting research in fragile contexts. The studies in this special edition aim to close the evidence gaps by exploring: the impact of cash transfers on the school participation of displaced Syrian children in Lebanon; intended and unintended education and child labour impacts of food assistance in Mali; the nutrition impacts of food and asset transfers in Niger; productive impacts of in-kind and cash transfers in Yemen; ways to effectively identify social protection recipients in Niger; the costs of reforming Iraq's

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A Syrian refugee stands in a flooded informal tented settlement, in the Bekaa Valley. It is estimated that some 11,300 people, over half of them children, in more than 360 sites were affected by the flooding in January 2019.

public distribution system; and whether social protection affects social cohesion among Colombian refugees and poor segments of the Ecuadorian host community.

Access full publication

Gender equality in rural Africa: From commitments to outcomes
Quisumbing, Agnes R., et al., *IFPRI ReSAKSS Annual Trends Report,* December 2019

Gender-sensitive policy and programming have an integral role to play in fostering inclusive agricultural growth to meet the commitments of African countries to the Malabo Declaration goals. The 2019 Annual Trends and Outlook Report from ReSAKSS applies a gender lens to key issues that must be addressed to fully achieve these goals. Chapters examine the intersections between gender and (1) the context and institutions within which rural people operate; (2) the natural resources that men and women depend on for agriculture, sources of vulnerability, and resilience to shocks; (3) assets and income; and (4) livelihood strategies and well-being, including youth livelihoods. Policy recommendations include encouraging interventions to target productive and reproductive roles of young women and men; and developing better data on rural African women and girls to help improve productivity, food security and nutrition.

Download Report [pdf]

The politics of gender-responsive social protection
Holmes, R. et al., *ODI Working and discussion papers*, November 2019

Social protection coverage for women of working age, and for children and adolescents – especially in Africa, Asia and the Pacific – has improved over the past two decades but nevertheless remains limited. A gendered political economy analysis approach can help us to understand why and how progress has (or has not) been made in promoting gender equality objectives in social protection design, implementation and outcomes, and identify entry points for priority action. While each context is different, according to this analysis, progress in advancing gender-responsive social protection is more likely where: (1) there is a combination of pro-poor and inclusive national government institutions and influential political elites championing gender-responsive social protection; (2) advocates influence informal decision-making arenas and sub-national political institutions; (3) there is a broad coalition of skilled and resourced actors;

and (4) the framing of social protection goes beyond seeing women as mothers and carers, but instead, as recipients of social protection in their own right.

RESOURCES

Knowledge for children in Africa 2019
The 2019 edition of the Knowledge for Children in Africa Publications Catalogue features 107 studies on the situation of children, young people and women in Africa. The report represents the collective knowledge produced by UNICEF Country and Regional Offices across Africa and highlights evidence essential to informing the development, monitoring and implementation of policies and programmes for the realization of children's rights across the continent.

Gender and social protection in South Asia: assessment of the design of non-contributory programmes
The International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG) and UNICEF's Regional Office for South Asia have partnered to analyse the extent to which South Asia's non-contributory social protection programmes have been designed in a gender-sensitive way. A total of 50 programmes are reviewed across the eight countries in South Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Strengthening the collection and use of data about disability in humanitarian situations
This UNICEF report documents progress in policies and guidelines related to disability data in the humanitarian sector and reviews the existing tools for gathering data on youth with disabilities. Four case studies are presented: the 2015 Nepal earthquake, the humanitarian response in Somalia, the Rohingya refugee operation in Bangladesh, and the European migrant and refugee crisis.

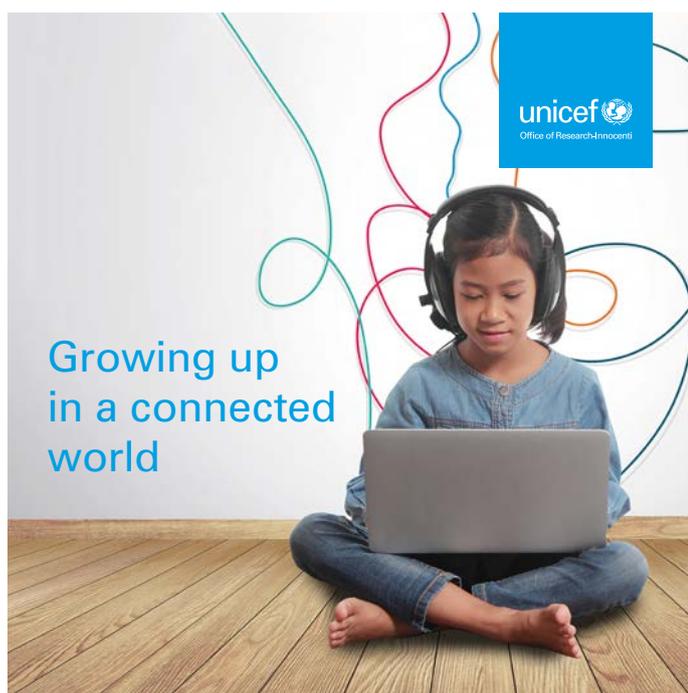### Transitions from School to Work: UNICEF Technical Note
UNICEF has developed guidance on how to support government and partners to help adolescents transition from school to decent work. The report provides advice on tackling barriers, programming principles, and evidence-based strategies for a smooth transition from school to work, including services for the most vulnerable young people.

School-to-work Transitions SitAn

A situational analysis from Laterite, an Africa based data firm, explores the school-to-work transition in sub-Saharan Africa, based on research in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Senegal. The brief provides a framework on how best to support young people with the skills needed to find jobs.

Growing up in a connected world

Global Kids Online (GKO) is a collaborative initiative between UNICEF, the London School of Economics and Political Science, and the EU Kids Online network. GKO has developed a toolkit that researchers can use to frame discussions about risks and opportunities for children online. A summary report is now available based on survey results from 11 countries: Albania, Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Ghana, Italy, Montenegro, the Philippines, South Africa and Uruguay. More information on GKO is available at http://www.globalkidsonline.net.

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Cover of Growing up in a connected world, the UNICEF Innocenti summary report launched in November 2019. Photo: IStock.com/graphicnoi

Young People's Participation in Community-based Responses to HIV

This UNAIDS report is based on peer research undertaken in Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nepal, Uganda and Zambia to support the #Uproot youth-led political agenda to end AIDS by 2030. The report emphasizes the importance of young people being meaningfully involved in community response, demand creation and service uptake of HIV interventions.

MEASURE Evaluation of Male Sexual Partners of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) in Haiti

This brief summarizes the findings from a survey of male sexual partners of AGYW in Haiti to inform HIV programming. Recommendations include the need for programmes to emphasize peer norms in messaging and collect more data on antiretroviral therapy adherence and sexual risk behaviour for HIV positive men. Full report and French version also available.

Making the Most of Mentors: Mentor Toolkit

This Population Council toolkit provides practical advice on recruitment, training and support of mentors for programming for adolescent girls. It is based on materials from programmes for girls aged 7–24 years in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kenya, Mexico and Zambia.

More than a Backdrop: Community Action Guide

The Population Council has also produced a guide on how to use community-level insights for action for adolescent girls. It was written for people who design, manage and assess community-based programming, through girls' clubs and schools, and can also be used for community-based programming with boys and parents.

Adolescence Indicators Within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

This policy note by the Gender and Adolescent Global Evidence (GAGE) research programme considers progress on the SDGs. Of the 232 SDG indicators, only 18 explicitly call for disaggregation by gender and age. The paper calls for four priority actions: (1) integrate gender- and age-disaggregated indicators into existing surveys; (2) disaggregate data into three age bands (10–14; 15–19; 20–24); (3) harmonize country reporting; and (4) include gender/adolescence age disaggregation in more SDG targets.

Manifesto on Adolescent Health

Plan International talked to adolescents in Kenya, India and Brazil and invited them to express their views directly to world leaders through writing 'postcards'. This manifesto presents some of the adolescents' ideas about key health challenges, solutions and how they want to be part of them.

NEWS

20 November was World Children's Day – the global day of action for child rights. This year, it marked 30 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child – the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history. The Convention sets strict standards for signatory governments to protect the rights of every child. Published in connection with the 30th anniversary of the Convention, this UNICEF report advocates for all stakeholders to recommit to the Convention, stepping up their efforts to fulfil their promise over the next 30 years.

In October, UNICEF launched its new Global Social Protection Programme Framework. The framework outlines UNICEF's conceptual approach to social protection, why it is vital for children and adolescents, and the key elements of a child-sensitive social protection system. It also identifies ten key action areas on social protection, as well as providing a selection of tools and resources.

More than one in three young people reported being a victim of online bullying in a recent UNICEF survey in 30 countries. Over 170,000 young people aged 13–24 completed a poll using the youth engagement tool U-Report. The findings were shared by UNICEF and the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, who called for greater partnership between governments, internet service providers and young people to end cyberbullying and violence.

One in four children in Africa live in a conflict zone. In October, the inaugural Pan-African Conference on Children and Armed Conflict was organized by Save the Children and the African Child Policy Forum, with funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. Children and youth from Ethiopia, Mali, South Sudan, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo also joined the conference in Addis Ababa, calling on decision makers to better protect children in times of conflict.

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On 20 November 2019, children and young people participated in a fun-filled event celebrating the 30 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in Patan Durbar Square, Lalitpur District, Nepal. The event, organized by UNICEF, included games, arts, comic exhibition, film screening, musical performance by children with visual impairment, and lighting up the Patan Museum in blue.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Education World Forum 2020

In January each year, the EWF brings together policy makers and education experts, with many sessions given by education ministers as part of a realistic assessment of common issues and challenges. The 2020 theme is One generation – what does it take to transform education?

Organizers: UK Department for Education, Department for International Trade, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for International Development, British Council, BESA
Date: 19–22 January 2020
Location: London, UK

Registration

4th International conference on Childhood and Adolescence

Anchored on a participative approach, in which the audience may take part in the debate, ICCA cultivates a meeting between knowledge and know-how in an array of areas, from Psychology to Medicine, Law, Arts, Sports, Social Service, Nursing, and Nutrition amongst others.

Organizers: Portuguese Paediatric Society, Portuguese Society for the Study of Abused and Neglected Children (SPECAN), EventQualia
Date: 23–25 January 2020
Location: Lisbon, Portugal

Registration

XIV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

This intergovernmental forum will discuss women's rights and gender equality in the Latin America and Caribbean region, including for adolescent girls. There will also be a range of side events for participants to share initiatives regarding the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda and the Beijing Platform for Action in its 25th year.

Organizers: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), UN Women, Government of Chile
Date: 27–31 January 2020
Location: Santiago, Chile

Registration

ISPCAN 2020 International Congress

Conference themes are: Child Protection in the Digital Age; Child Protection Systems and the Role of Religion in Child Protection; Child Protection in Domestic and Educational Settings; Psycho-Social Support for Families, Victims and Perpetrators of Child Abuse; The Role of Medical Care Systems in Preventing Child Maltreatment; Sports and Child Safety; Care of Refugees and Children in Conflict Zones; Children with Special Needs.

Organizers: ISPCAN, UNICEF, Global Partnership to end Violence against Children, Qatar Tourism Authority
Date: 15–17 February 2020
Location: Doha, Qatar

Registration

ICSC 2020: 14. International Conference on Sports and Children

The International Conference on Sports and Children is an interdisciplinary forum for the presentation of new advances and research results in the fields of Sports and Children. Topics of interest for submission include: Children's team sports; Philosophy and objectives of children's sports; Sports skills patterns; Children's sports learning experience.

Organizers: ICSC
Date: 2–3 March 2020
Location: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Registration

International Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) Summit

The 2020 SBCC Summit is organized around three key themes: 1) how to accelerate 'transformational change on agendas of urgency', including climate change, gender equity, community engagement, health access and equity, and humanitarian action; 2). where the field is now and how SBCC can be 'future forward'; and 3) 'connecting the dots' that explores how to increase collaboration and collective action.

Organizers: UNICEF, Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs, Soul City Institute for Social Justice, Digital Green, Social Change Factory, Puntos de Encuentro, American University of Beirut
Date: 30 March – 3 April 2020
Location: Marrakesh, Morocco

Registration

12th IAHH World Congress of Adolescent Health
The 2020 World Congress focuses on the theme, 'Meeting the Challenge of Global Change'. Participants will share experiences of how to shape adolescent health and develop responses to global challenges.

Organizers: International Association for Adolescent Health (IAHH) and the Sociedad Peruana de Adolescencia y Juventud (SPAJ)
Date: 5–7 November 2020
Location: Lima, Peru

Registration

COURSES

Adolescent Nutrition and Anaemia Course
This free 15-module online course focuses on how to improve nutrition for adolescents. It includes a discussion on the impacts of anaemia, interventions to improve adolescent nutrition, and best practice in engaging adolescents.

Organizer: Nutrition International
Date: Available now
Location: Online

Registration

Improving the Health of Women, Children and Adolescents: from Evidence to Action
This free six-week online course explores the latest data, priorities and debates on health from birth to adulthood. The course includes a focus on adolescent health and it relates to different lifecycle stages.

Organizer: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Date: Available now
Location: Online

Registration

UNITED NATIONS YOUTH-DEDICATED DAYS AND EVENTS

6 February is International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Gender Mutilation, which comprises all procedures that involve altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical reasons, recognized as a violation of the human rights of girls and women. 11 February is International Day of Women and Girls in Science to inspire the full and equal access to, and participation in, science for women and girls. 8 March marks International Women's Day, an opportunity to consider how to accelerate the 2030 Agenda, including goal number five on achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls. The UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW64) will meet on 9–20 March 2020 in New York, USA. The priority theme is Beijing+25 to mark the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Adolescent-related UN actions and useful resources can be consulted on the respective websites.

ADDITIONAL READING

Other interesting reading selected by our team (= not open access).*

Abekah-Nkrumah, G. et al., Duration of High School Education and Youth Labour Market Outcomes: Evidence from a Policy Experiment in Ghana, *Journal of International Development*, October 2019.*

Ainul, S. et al., Marriage and Sexual and Reproductive Health of Rohingya Adolescents and Youth in Bangladesh: A qualitative study, Population Council and UNFPA Report, September 2018.

Amoah, P., Perceptions of Neglect and Well-Being among Independent Child Migrants in Ghana, *Child Indicators Research*, October 2019.

Bain, L. et al., To Keep or Not to Keep? Decision Making in Adolescent Pregnancies in Jamestown, Ghana, *PLOS ONE,* September 2019.

Bello, A. et al., Small Voices, Big Dreams 2019: Violence Against Children as Explained by Children, ChildFund Alliance, September 2019.

Bennett, S.D., et al., Practitioner Review: Unguided and guided self-help interventions for common mental health disorders in children and adolescents: a systematic review and meta-analysis, *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, August 2019.*

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Bhan, N. et al., Effects of Parent–Child Relationships on Child Marriage of Girls in Ethiopia, India, Peru, and Vietnam: Evidence from a Prospective Cohort, *Journal of Adolescent Health*, October 2019.*

Chan, C., Using Digital Storytelling to Facilitate Critical Thinking Disposition in Youth Civic Engagement: A Randomised Control Trial, *Children and Youth Services Review*, December 2019.

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