Young Lives is led by a team at the University of Oxford in collaboration with research and policy partners in the four countries. The Office of Research—Innocenti, in partnership with Young Lives, is exploring the role of protective and risk factors for violence in these countries. Young Lives data has been rigorously mined for the Health, Nutrition and Education sectors, but issues around children’s risk and protective factors that may (or may not) determine well-being warrants exploration.

The work generated from this collaboration feeds into the Multi-Country Study on the Drivers of Violence affecting children. The Young Lives analysis will contribute to global, regional and national level dialogues and interventions on violence prevention.
THE RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Proposed are three separate, but complementary strands of analysis. These questions explore the diverging trajectories of children experiencing different forms of violence (physical, psychological/emotional, abuse or exploitation). Also addressed are the intersections between structural forces such as a given political economy of a country and children’s agency. Importantly, the combined analyses explore why some children experience violence but do not appear to have negative outcomes compared with other children.

? What are the key risk factors associated with children reporting experiencing violence in schools and what is the effect on later cognitive development and psycho-social well-being?

OBJECTIVES
To identify the key structural and individual risk factors associated with children’s reports of corporal punishment and bullying in schools at age 8.

To provide evidence on how early experience of corporal punishment and bullying in schools at age 8 affects children’s later cognitive development and psychosocial well-being during early adolescence.

? What are children’s diverging life paths after experiencing violence?

OBJECTIVES
To explore how children’s experiences of physical and emotional violence, whether directly or indirectly (i.e. where parents, other family members or peers are the primary victim) in different settings (e.g. home, school, community) interact with one another.

To analyse how these experiences affect children’s life chances and key transitions (e.g. schooling, friendships, emotional well-being etc.) with particular attention to early interactions in intimate relationships.

? Where and how do young people access support networks, information and services and for what purposes?

OBJECTIVES
To analyse the actions undertaken by young adolescents to access information, services and support and the barriers that prevent them from doing so. This analysis will explore the links between structural factors and everyday experiences.

To identify how access, support and barriers vary within and across different social, economic and cultural contexts.

The results of this research will be used globally and nationally to inform work on violence prevention and advocate for enhanced policy addressing children’s well-being.

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