Research Perspectives: the Effects of Violence on Young Children

Amman
17 March, 2016

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Current Situation on Violence against Children

UN Study on Violence against Children & Role of Special Representative UN Secretary-General (SRSG)

Research on Effects of Violence against Children

Progress on UN Study Recommendations

Opportunities: Sustainable Development Agenda & High Time Initiative
Most widely ratified international human rights treaty

*Principles:*
- Best interests of the child
- Child participation in decision-making processes
- Protection from all forms of discrimination

*Prohibits all forms of violence, including:*
- Torture
- Sexual abuse and exploitation
- Harmful practices
- Sale, trafficking & economic exploitation
- School discipline inconsistent with children’s human dignity
- Safeguards children from violence within the family
Global Prevalence of Past-year Violence Against Children: A Systematic Review and Minimum Estimates
Susan Hillis, James Mercy, Adaugo Amobi and Howard Kress
Pediatrics; originally published online January 25, 2016;
DOI: 10.1542/peds.2015-4079
Current Situation on Violence against Children
UN Study on Violence against Children

“No violence is ever justifiable and all violence can be prevented”
SRSG-VAC is an independent advocate, acting as a bridge-builder and catalyst for action, in order to follow up on UN Study.

Three priority areas:

- development of comprehensive national strategies
- legislation prohibiting violence against children
- consolidating data and research
Ample evidence violence hinders social progress and human development

Linked to children’s vulnerability and deprivation
  High risks of poor health
  Poor school performance
  Long-term welfare dependency (sometimes)
  Aggressive, anti-social & violent behaviour as adults

Impact on infants is often irreversible – damages brain development
Compromises children’s physical, mental & social development
Associated with poor rule of law & enforcement
High levels of organized crime and homicide rates and impunity
Violence has major economic costs:
  Health, criminal justice and social service budgets
  Violence prevention, response services and productivity losses costs:
    US$7 trillion each year on = 8 percent of global GDP.
Progress on UN Study Recommendations

47 countries with explicit legal bans on all forms of violence against children

90 countries with national strategy to prevent & address violence against children

15 countries with comprehensive national household surveys on children’s exposure to sexual, physical and emotional violence to:

• Break the silence around violence
• Stimulate public debate
• Promote change in attitudes and behaviour
• Ensure policymaking and resource allocation are evidence-based
### SDG Targets to End Violence against Children

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>16.2</strong></td>
<td>End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5.2</strong></td>
<td>Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking, and sexual and other types of exploitation</td>
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<td><strong>5.3</strong></td>
<td>Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation</td>
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<td><strong>8.7</strong></td>
<td>Elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including slavery, human trafficking, and recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms</td>
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<td><strong>4.a</strong></td>
<td>Provide safe, non-violent, inclusive, and effective learning environments for all</td>
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<td><strong>4.7</strong></td>
<td>Ensure that all learners acquire knowledge...[for] promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence</td>
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Opportunities

High Time
to end violence against children

www.endviolenceagainstchildren.org
THANK YOU!

srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org

twitter.com/srsgvac