

# Violence against children of the world Burden, consequences and recommendations for action

Collaboration between ISSOP, ISPCAN, IPA, Know Violence in Childhood and the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children



# Why focus on Violence?



*No violence against children is justifiable, and all violence against children is preventable.*



# Why focus on Violence?

- Why not....Violence increasingly visible
- Scale of the problem is Huge, common drivers
- Violence against children (VAC) is both a human-rights violation and a public health problem
- Evidence: neuroscience, developmental psychology, social science & epidemiology confirm that VAC has far reaching consequences
- Violence against Women: has had successful partnership of women's health and violence prevention initiatives working together



# End violence against children...Sustainable Development Goals

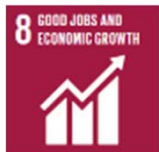


**16.2** End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children



**5.2** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking, and sexual and other types of exploitation

**5.3** Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation



**8.7** 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



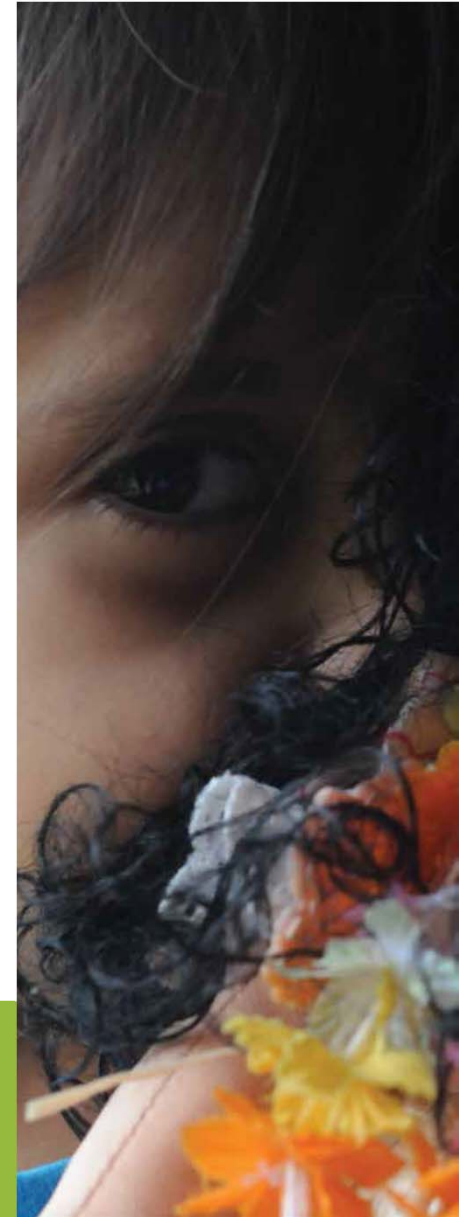
**4.a** Provide safe, non-violent, inclusive, and effective learning environments for all

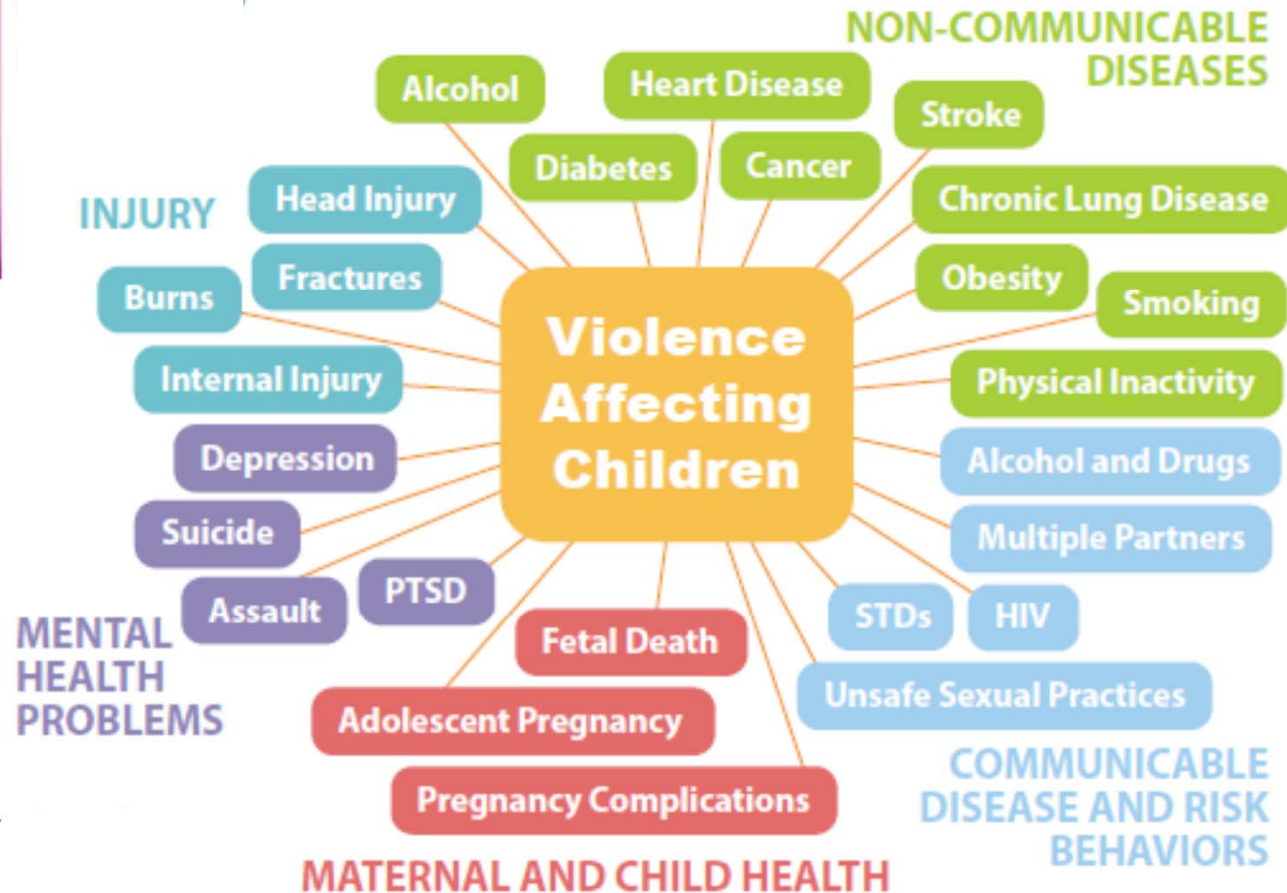
**4.7** Ensure that all learners acquire knowledge...[for] promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence



# The facts

- *Homicide* – In 2012, homicide took the lives of about **95,000 children and adolescents** – almost **1 in 5** of all homicide victims that year
- *Physical punishment* – **6 in 10 children** regularly subjected to physical punishment by carers
- *Bullying* – **> 1 in 3 students** between the ages of 13 and 15 regularly experience bullying
- *Forced sex* – **120 million girls** < 20 years (about **1 in 10**) have been subjected to forced sexual intercourse or other sexual acts at some point in their lives
- *Intimate partner violence (IPV)* – **1 in 3 adolescent girls** worldwide have been the victims of emotional, physical or sexual violence committed by their intimate partners





## Violence against children— effects on health and wellbeing



# Specific typologies of VAC

- Guided by typologies in *World report on violence and health*
- Focused on typologies pertinent to children and young people globally
- Interpersonal violence
  - family and intimate partner violence
  - Community violence
- Collective violence
  - Armed conflict



# Child maltreatment

- Henry Kempe described battered child syndrome 1962
- Variation over time and between cultures about what is deemed abusive to children
- 4 main types
- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Emotional abuse



# Domestic/Family Violence

- ‘Domestic violence’ or family violence mainly refers to intimate partner violence (IPV)
- WHO definition: “any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes, physical, or sexual harm to those in the relationship”
- 3 forms of childhood violence (physical abuse, sexual abuse, and witnessing IPV) are highly predictive of adulthood IPV
- Children are at risk of IPV: as victims of abuse and as witnesses to it
- Exposure to IPV has negative impact on children’s development

# Schools: bullying, corporal punishment

Bullying: only recently recognised, widespread

- Bullying can take many forms including:
  - physical assault
  - teasing
  - making threats
  - name calling
  - cyber bullying
- Globally 1 in 3 teenagers between 13 and 15 are regularly bullied

Corporal punishment: still a long way to go

- Many short and long term negative effects of both forms of violence



# Institutional violence

- Millions of children spend varying lengths of time in institutional care
- Many reasons for children to get into institutions
  - Foster care
  - Physical and mental health conditions that require institutional care
  - Juvenile justice
  - Militaries that conscript children
  - Children displaced by war and conflict
- Many profound short and long term negative effects of institutional care

# Child labour (Rajeev Seth)

- Work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity--harmful to their physical, mental development
- 168 million children work, many full-time worldwide
- Child trafficking: 50% of victims worldwide are children
- Trafficking: includes labour, domestic work, sexual exploitation, military conscription, marriage, illicit adoption, sport, begging and organ harvesting
- Best response: language of CRC to guide recognition, response and advocacy campaigns against it





# Practices based on tradition, culture, religion or superstition

- Violations based on tradition, culture, religion or superstition and are perpetrated/ condoned by child's parents or community
- CRC Article 24(3): "take all effective and appropriate measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children
- Examples: **Acid attacks; Treatment of children with albinism; male circumcision; Child 'witches'; FGM; honour killings**
- Harmful traditional practices harm both boys and girls
- But gender-based discrimination-include son preference, early and forced marriage and FGM.



# Exercise—typologies of VAC

- What typologies are important to stress in the global context?
- What issues are particularly pertinent to children/YP in the majority world
- What typologies are important in your backyard?



# Intersections between Violence against Children and Violence against Women

- VAC and VAW have many shared risk factors;
- Social norms often support VAW and VAC and discourage help-seeking;
- Child maltreatment and partner violence often co-occur within the same household;
- Both VAC and VAW can produce intergenerational effects;
- Many forms of VAC and VAW have common and compounding consequences across the lifespan;
- VAC and VAW intersect during adolescence, a time of heightened vulnerability to certain kinds of violence.



# So what can be done to end violence against children?



## VISION

A world in which every child grows up free from violence

## MISSION

To make societies safer for children and end violence against children everywhere.

## PRINCIPLES

Rights Focused • Child Centered • Universal • Gender Sensitive • Inclusive • Transparent • Evidence Based • Result Oriented

### Goal 1: BUILD POLITICAL WILL

- 1.1** All countries commit to action to end violence against all children.
- 1.2** Violence against children and the actions needed to prevent them is part of national, regional and global discourse.
- 1.3** All countries see an increase in finances put towards ending violence and exploitation in all settings.

### Goal 2: ACCELERATE ACTION

- 2.1** All countries adopt national legislation, policies and programmes to protect children from violence and exploitation, including online violence.
- 2.2** Pathfinder countries provide increased access for children to comprehensive, coordinated and multi-sectoral services.
- 2.3** Children affected by violence, including those in conflict settings and on the move, can access child centered services and programs.

### Goal 3: STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION

- 3.1** Support platforms for sustained transnational action and learning.
- 3.2** Serve as the global forum to facilitate and accelerate learning and mutual accountability, make recommendations for standard setting and report on progress.
- 3.3** Generate and disseminate knowledge, evidence and data.

## DRIVERS

Movement Building | Finance and Resources | Data and Evidence | Monitoring and Evaluation

# INSPIRE: 7 strategies to end violence against children

## Integrated & Strategic Approach to Ending Violence



Implementation and enforcement of laws



Norms and value change



Safe environments



Parental and caregiver support



Income and economic strengthening



Response and support services



Education and life skills

# Recommendations for action on violence against children

Prevention, prevention, prevention

- Global coordination
- Regional coordination
- National coordination

Specific role for professional societies: need to endorse and ensure mandatory **violence against children** training at the national level available as part of core curriculum in their professional streams.

# A call to action on Violence Against Children

- Addressing children living in humanitarian contexts
- A public health model for population-based studies, monitoring and surveillance
- Intergrate more effectively the common concerns between the distinct, yet similar concerns of Violence against Women and VAC
- At the program and systems levels, hospitals and other health care facilities can serve as useful settings for interventions
- At the policy level, inter-sectoral action across all levels is needed



# Exercise— Recommendations for Action

- What prevention interventions are important and relevant in the global context?
- What evidence-based interventions should be included in this document?
- What are achievable actions for a Coalition of the Willing?!!

