

Why Children's Protection from Violence should be at the Heart of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

A Review of Consultations with Children on the Post-2015 Development Agenda



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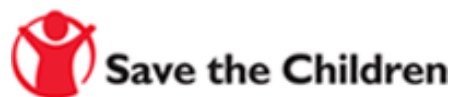
Caption: Twelve year old Shivasankari, who is children's representative gestures as she speaks during the Panchayat Level Convergence Committee (PLCC) being held in village Koothapadi, Block Pennagaram, Dharmapuri district in Tamil Nadu. India has the highest number of working children in the world - an estimated 29 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 go to work. Child labour is illegal in India for children under 14 years of age. Girls often work in informal sectors such as domestic work or as paid house helps, which are not counted in official statistics. Most of these children belong to the poorest, most marginalized communities - including Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Children who fall through the gaps and do not have a quality education or who drop out of school - have a higher susceptibility to violence, abuse and exploitation - including a higher risk of entering the child labour workforce, and have a higher risk of being married off as children. 53% of adolescents drop out of school before they are 15 years old. 43% of adolescent girls are married before they are 18 years old. Being outside of the school system means that children are at prime risk of abuse, vulnerability and violence, and particularly at risk of child marriage. Child marriage is illegal in India.

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October 2014

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New York, 2014

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FOREWORD

Freedom from violence is critical to achieving a sustainable future in which every child can grow up healthy, well-nourished, resilient, well-educated, culturally sensitive and effectively protected from neglect, abuse and exploitation.

As the target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) draws near, the international community is discussing how to shape a sustainable development agenda beyond 2015.

This year we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child. As United Nations Member States intensify their efforts to agree on the next generation development framework, we have a golden opportunity to tackle violence against children.

In recent consultations around the world, organized to help inform the post-2015 agenda, violence was recognized both as a human rights violation in itself and as a major barrier to progress in education, health and other development goals. Stakeholders highlighted children's particular vulnerability to poverty and violence, and the message was clear - violence must end!

This report highlights children's own identification of violence as one of the biggest obstacles to their healthy development. Governments, local decision-makers, parents, civil society organisations and businesses need to respond to children by taking decisive action to protect them from violence in all settings and at all times. Children need to participate in the shaping of a future sustainable development agenda and have a critical role to play in creating non-violent societies and preventing violence.

We cannot afford to ignore the voices of the world's children: they will lead the societies of tomorrow.


As an ethical and human rights imperative, as a matter of good governance and sound economics, the protection of children from violence needs to be treated both as a stand-alone concern and a cross-cutting priority in the post-2015 development agenda. We look forward to further strengthening our collaboration and joining hands with all partners to ensure that children's voices and recommendations are reflected in the new Sustainable Development Goals.



Nigel Chapman
Chief Executive Officer
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Save the Children
International



Marta Santos Pais
Special Representative of the
UN Secretary General
on Violence against Children

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The protection of girls and boys from all forms of violence is a concern the international community cannot afford to omit from the post-2015 development agenda: this is a human rights imperative and it is also a question of good governance and sound economics. Despite important progress made in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the knowledge that the protection of children from violence and the promotion of their well-being is closely linked to the development and well-being of societies, violence remains a harsh reality for millions of children around the world. Moreover, the impact of violence on children's health, education and socialisation remains largely invisible and unaddressed. A major reason for this is the fact that no clear goal, targets or indicators were identified in the MDGs to mobilize action and to monitor progress in children's protection from violence.


The urgency of addressing violence against children has emerged as a strong concern in regional and thematic consultations as well as in the numerous national consultations held across the world in preparation for the new global development framework. Children and young people, as well as other stakeholders involved in these consultations have highlighted a constant and clear concern: **violence is a major obstacle to child development and it needs to be brought to an end!**

From the consultations held with children three major issues have emerged:

1. Across regions children express **deep concern at the high levels of violence affecting their lives**: in the community; in schools; in the work place and also within the home.
2. In children's views, **some manifestations of violence have a special incidence in certain regions**, while **some groups of children are particularly marginalized and exposed** to violence, including those belonging to minorities.
3. Children perceive violence not only as a crucial and distinct priority in the Post 2015 agenda, but also a concern that needs to be addressed in **other development goals**—especially those set for education, health, gender equality and poverty eradication.

Guided by this important process, three crucial actions are needed to address violence against children in the new sustainable development agenda.

First, **the protection of children from violence, including the most vulnerable and marginalized girls and boys, must be made an explicit priority and recognized as a cross-cutting concern**. Second, it is essential to identify concrete benchmarks and tools to monitor progress over time in this area. Third, genuine opportunities and platforms to involve children and young people in the shaping of this agenda and in its future implementation must be established and sustained.



“Peace and stability are fundamental development outcomes, especially in the realm of personal security and enabling people to feel safe as they go about their daily lives. (...)

Sadly, violence is a global phenomenon. Violence against women and children occurs in all countries. Homicide too, is global.

The UN My World survey on the post-2015 development agenda showed that protection against crime and violence ranks high among all population groups in all regions.

Let us therefore work together to develop a post-2015 development agenda that will address the underlying causes of violence and conflict wherever they occur.

Let us use sustainable development and human rights to provide the foundations for lasting peace.

And let us build effective and trustworthy institutions, promote the rule of law and pay closer, earlier attention to human rights abuses.”

***United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon,
New York, 24 April 2014***¹

¹ United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, New York, 24 April 2014
<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=7614>

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INTRODUCTION

In the fourteen years since the Millennium Declaration and the establishment of the MDGs, children continue to be victims of all forms of violence including neglect, physical aggression, emotional abuse and sexual violence as well as forced into marriage, killed in the name of honour, and exploited through begging and bonded labour, targeted by gang and community violence, tortured, and are victims of enforced disappearances and inhumane sentencing. Violence against children is widespread and pervasive and continues to compromise social progress and development. It is strongly associated with poor rule of law and weak enforcement, high levels of organized crime and homicide rates, and a culture of impunity. For children, violence in their daily lives goes hand in hand with vulnerability and deprivation, high risks of poor health, poor school performance, and long-term welfare dependency. In today's world, violence against children remains pervasive and concealed. Its impact is often irreversible, damaging the development of the brain, especially in younger children, and compromises children's physical, mental and social development, health and education.

Beyond the negative impact on individual child victims and their families, violence is associated with far-reaching costs for society. It diverts billions of dollars from social spending, slows economic development and erodes nations' human and social capital. In the USA alone, the total lifetime costs of child maltreatment, including health care, child welfare, criminal justice, and the value of lost future productivity and earnings are thought to be US\$124 billion every year.² Put simply: violence can destroy social and economic gains that took years and decades to build. Without freedom from violence, in all its forms and manifestations, the sustainable social and economic development of nations cannot be fully achieved.

The protection of children from violence has been voiced as a special concern by the many consultations held around the world in the lead up to the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Similarly, the report by the High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda recognized the importance of ensuring both protection against and the elimination of all forms of violence against children. As stressed by the High Level Panel, "to fulfil our vision of promoting sustainable development, we must go beyond the MDGs; they did not focus enough on reaching the very poorest and most excluded people; and they were silent on the devastating effects of (...) violence on development."

In this regard, the High Level Panel suggested the consideration of strategic goals and targets, including the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against girls, ending child marriage, and promoting the elimination of all forms of violence against children in the context of security. Echoing the crucial relevance of the High Level Panel's report, many child protection actors emphasised the urgent need of ensuring an explicit priority to children's protection from violence. Moreover, they underlined the decisive importance of

² Toward a World Free from Violence. *Global Survey on Violence against Children*, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (OSRSG VAC), New York 2013. P xiv.

mainstreaming this phenomenon as a cross-cutting concern, with clear benchmarks and tools to monitor progress over time, covering all forms of violence against girls and boys in all settings.

A distinct priority on children's protection from violence is needed in order to ensure the necessary leverage to effectively address violence against children as a development priority.

For this reason child focused agencies are joining hands to ensure that this opportunity is not missed. This report is the outcome of a strong partnership promoted between the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children (SRSG VAC) and child-focused agencies following a meeting held in Sweden in November 2013 organized by Plan International, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages, Children's Fund, UNICEF and CONCORD. This report has been jointly developed by Plan International and Save the Children, in close cooperation with the SRSG VAC.

Joint statement by UN Child Rights Experts: Kirsten Sandberg, Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child; Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children; Leila Zerrougui, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict; Najat Maalla M'jid, UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography; and Susan Bissell, UNICEF's Chief of Child Protection

New York and Geneva, 20 November 2013

Governments should make children's protection from violence a priority in the post-2015 development agenda and back their commitments with proper funding

"Every day, millions of children are affected by conflict, suffer from violence, neglect, abuse and exploitation at home, in schools, in institutions, in the community and in places where they work. These situations are not inevitable and they can be effectively prevented," the experts said in a call to mark Universal Children's Day on 20th November.

The post-2015 framework is a renewed opportunity to ensure that children's rights are front and centre in the global development agenda to effectively prevent and address violence against children and fight impunity for crimes committed against them.

"To achieve sustainable development, protecting children from violence needs to be a priority and a cross-cutting concern in the post 2015 agenda," the five experts stressed.

Countries affected by violence tend to lag behind, with higher levels of poverty and malnutrition, poor health and school performance and special risks for vulnerable children including those who migrate or belong to minorities. Violence is often associated with poor rule of law and a culture of impunity. It has far-reaching costs for society, slowing economic development and eroding nations' human and social capital.

"The post-2015 development agenda should address inequalities that heighten the risks of violence, abuse and exploitation of children. Governments should meet their obligation to protect children from violence," the experts emphasized.

"The post-2015 agenda should include a strategic goal and indicators on child protection to prevent and address all forms of violence against girls and boys, and to bring to justice those responsible for these acts, including physical and emotional violence, child sexual abuse and exploitation and the recruitment of children in armed conflict. Without freedom from violence, sustainable development cannot be fully achieved," the experts added.

"We urge national governments and the international community to support this process and to provide adequate resources to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation, in development and emergency situations. Inclusive, sustainable and duly funded child protection systems should be established in all countries, supported by sound investment in social protection programmes to address the root causes of child rights violations, to promote universal access to basic social services that help families care for and protect their children, and to safeguard the rights of children in need of assistance and alternative care," they added.³

³ Access at: http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/story/2013-11-20_930#sthash.eGKyzhBc.dpuf

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BACKGROUND

METHOD

This report is informed by a desk literature review of a wide range of reports and contributions pertaining to the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. These include: the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) outcome report; the High-Level Panel Report; the work of the UN System Task Team (UNSTT) on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda; the work of the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (OWG on SDGs), as well as the National Consultation processes for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, including consultation reports and focus group materials; Global Thematic Consultations and Regional Thematic Consultations.

The main focus of this report is the review of the National Consultations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and children's call for the inclusion of child protection from violence as a priority and cross-cutting concern in the new Sustainable Development Goals. The report highlights the national priorities identified and most importantly children's own perspectives on their protection from violence, as well as recommendations and commitments which have been made toward ensuring children's protection from violence in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. A full list of the national consultations reviewed is provided in Annex 2.

THE NATIONAL CONSULTATION PROCESS

National consultations have been conducted all over the world in preparation for the new global development framework. They included broad multi-stakeholder dialogues, designed to particularly target and engage the active participation of vulnerable populations, who otherwise might risk not being heard or marginalised in national consultation processes.⁴ The national consultations included the participation of a range of civil society organisations, NGOs, UN organisations, private sector representatives, labour and trade unions, as well as governments, parliamentarians, local decision makers, academia and expert groups. Countries were selected on a broad spectrum: including regional and geographic distribution, country typology and also based on a number of different development challenges.⁵

The national dialogues included a variety of consultative methods, such as online surveys (My World); one on one interviews; focus group discussions, consultation tours;⁶ regional and local consultations; and thematic consultations with expert groups. Children and young

⁴ United Nations Development Group (UNDG), *The Global Conversation Begins: Emerging Views for a New Development Agenda*, 2013. (Access at: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/MDG/english/global-conversation-begins-web.pdf>).

⁵ *ibid.*

⁶ United Nations in Indonesia, *The World Indonesia Wants, Report on the UN-led Post-2015 Consultations in Indonesia*, August 2013.

people were selected as a central focus group in most national dialogues. Groups of particularly vulnerable children were also included and consulted, such as: orphans; children from disadvantaged backgrounds in rural and urban settings; children with disabilities; children who are heads of households; child victims of violence; children deprived of their liberty; indigenous children; and children belonging to minorities.

The national consultations provide a unique opportunity to capitalise on the significant recommendations put forward by children and young people on their expectations for the future, on challenges that need to be overcome to safeguard their well-being and required actions to address those same challenges.

Why it is crucial to place the protection of children from violence at the center of the global sustainable development agenda

“The protection of children from violence has been voiced as a special concern by the many national consultations held around the world to inform the post 2015 global development agenda (...) Similarly, the significant intergovernmental process currently underway reaffirms this concern. It reiterates strong commitments to prevent and address violence in schools and in public spaces; to end violence against girls and incidents associated with child, early and forced marriage; to reduce crime, violence and exploitation of children, as well as to eliminate discriminatory laws, policies and practices, and secure a culture of non-violence; and it calls for effective, accountable and transparent institutions and justice systems which are crucial to safeguard children's right to freedom from violence and to fight impunity (...).The protection of children from violence, including the most vulnerable and marginalized girls and boys, must be made an explicit priority and recognized as a cross-cutting concern across relevant focus areas of the global development agenda. This process needs to be supported by inclusive, sustainable and duly funded child protection systems, and sound investment to ensure children's universal access to basic social services to help families care for and protect their children”.

***Marta Santos Pais,
Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children***⁷

⁷ Access at: http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/story/2014-04-24_988#sthash.RqvHkUel.dpuf

Why it is crucial to place the protection of children from violence at the center of the global sustainable development agenda

"We need a goal on ending Violence against Children. This needs to be a truly universal agenda. We missed it in the MDGs and continue to neglect children today. We must combine legislation with social change. This is the only way to transform power relations and norms related to violence at all levels. I wish to emphasize the urgency to address violence against girls. They are subject to specific forms of violence that occur in childhood such as FGM and child marriage. But do not leave boys out of this equation. They are partners in solutions to discriminatory practices and experience specific forms of violence and neglect as a result of gender discrimination.

It should not be taken for granted that children are included in adolescents and/or youth groups. Doing so will be a major setback to children who have been central in the Millennium Declaration and most recently in the Rio+20 outcome document. We must recapture the World Fit for Children plan of action and be accountable to the fact that we have unfinished business with children that has been lagging for decades".

Charles Badenoch, World Vision's Vice-President for Global Advocacy, World Vision during the High Level Event of the president of the General Assembly on "The Contribution of Women, the Young and Civil Society to the Post-2015 Development Agenda", 6 March 2014, New York

"We strongly recommend that the promotion and protection of the rights and well-being of children be well reflected in the post-2015 development agenda, including the issue of elimination of any form of violence and discrimination against children".

Costa Rica, on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States, Statement made during the High Level Event of the President of the General Assembly on "The Contribution of Women, the Young and Civil Society to the Post-2015 Development Agenda". 6th March 2014, New York

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MAIN FINDINGS OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

VIOLENCE - A PRIORITY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Countless children and young people have been involved in the consultations on the post 2015 agenda. Time and time again, children's message was strong and clear: **violence is a major obstacle to child development and it urgently needs to be brought to an end!** Across regions children express **deep concern at the high levels of violence affecting their lives:** in the community; in schools; in the work place and also within the home.

For children, violence constitutes a major barrier to their development and well-being, and to the ability of leading a good life. Girls are at particularly high risk of sexual violence, and boys at special risk of more severe forms of domestic violence,⁸ crime related violence and homicide.

This explains why **children themselves rank protection from violence as their second highest development priority, immediately after education.** In turn, education is recognized as indispensable to prevent and address violence. In children's views, education strengthens life skills and healthy life styles and helps to prevent violence, counter intolerance, and enhance dialogue and critical thinking, helping to prevent fear and violence related drop-outs – such as those associated with early pregnancy, early and forced marriage and child labour.

In children's views, various manifestations of violence have a special incidence in certain regions, while some groups of children are particularly marginalized and exposed to violence. This regional perspective is further detailed in section 4 below.

Violence is identified as a priority by children in all regions, in all social groups, including in conflict-affected countries, as well as those not affected by conflict. In this regard, it is important to recall that 90% of violent deaths occurring every year take place in non-conflict situations.⁹ **Thus, children's protection from violence needs to be secured at all times and in all countries and not only in war affected nations.**

Throughout the national consultations, **violence was more frequently identified as a major development concern by children and women,** than any other focus groups. There is a consensus among children themselves that violence is a major obstacle to their

⁸ Domestic violence' for the purpose of this report refers to violence perpetrated by an intimate partner or by a family member, usually referring to violence that occurs within the home setting. This includes violence against women, girls and boys. It includes all forms of violence, including physical punishment and sexual violence. **Children identified domestic violence as a major concern and obstacle to their healthy development and well-being.** The review of the national consultations concluded that **children referred to domestic violence as violence that occurred within the family and in the home setting,** intrafamilial violence was a synonymous term used to reference this type of violence in the context of the national consultations.

⁹ Geneva Declaration, *Global Burden of Armed Violence*, 2011. (Access at: <http://www.genevadeclaration.org/measurability/global-burden-of-armed-violence/global-burden-of-armed-violence-2011.html>).

healthy development. However, other focus groups, such as the private sector, labour organisations and civil society organisations, did not always reflect this in their discussions and recommendations.

In order to reflect the importance and urgency of protecting children from violence, children themselves are calling for the development agenda to explicitly incorporate their protection from violence.

Children perceive violence not only as a crucial priority in and of itself for the Post 2015 agenda, but also as a cross-cutting concern that many other goals need to effectively address – especially under education, health, gender equality and poverty eradication.

The interrelated nature and obstacles created by violence in various settings and in relation to different themes will be discussed in the subsequent sections of this report.

“In the World we want there will be no domestic violence”

Child group number 1, provincial meeting Dok. South, Angola

“I dream to finish school, get a job, get married, have two kids, have a house, have a car and have some peace at home without violence in the family...”

Student from Tete, Mozambique

“I don’t think us (we are) focusing enough on abuse against children. They are (not) trying but instead they are turning a blind eye. And while they are not paying attention more children are dying...”

Youth focus group participant, Jamaica

Between 2012-2013 more than 12'000 children and young people, between the ages of 8 to 17 years old, participated in consultations organised by child focused agencies around the world. They identified that “violence against children was prioritised by boys and girls as one of their most significant concerns that must be addressed in the Post-2015 agenda.

They found that girls and boys want to end:

“Physical and humiliating punishment in homes, schools, care institutions and other settings

Sexual violence and abuse in homes, schools, care institutions and other settings

Harmful child work

Child marriage, trafficking and other harmful practices”.¹⁰

VIOLENCE - A CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITY ACROSS MULTIPLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The national consultations brought to light children’s perception of violence as a major standalone priority, as well as a cross-cutting concern, which a number of development goals need to effectively address. As violence against children is multidimensional and cannot be dealt with as a single cause and effect relationship, this section looks at violence as a cross-cutting issue under a number of sectors, in line with the current proposal for Sustainable Development Goals¹¹. It is based on findings from the comprehensive consultation process, including both the national consultations and the 11 Thematic Consultations.

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Poverty and violence against children are highly interconnected, and the links between the two are multifaceted. Violence and deprivation have a cumulative impact on children’s development, increasing the risks of poor health, poor school performance and long-term welfare dependency.¹² The interlinkages between poverty and violence were frequently discussed during the national consultations for the post-2015 development

¹⁰ Source: *A World Without Violence against Children: Children and Young People’s Voices and Recommendations for the Post 2015 Agenda*, Joint report by Plan International, Save the Children, UNICEF, Child Fund, Child Link, Terre des Hommes, Every Child, Family for Every Child, SOS Children’s villages, Butterflies, World Vision, SOLWODI, CH, Pendekezo Letu, Partners for Every Child, Movimiento Mundial por la Infancia de Latinamerica, y El Caribe.

¹¹ Outcome of United Nations General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, July 2014.

¹² Toward a World Free from Violence. *Global Survey on Violence against Children*, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (OSRSG VAC), New York 2013. p11.

agenda. Stakeholders, including children, identified the obstacles that exist to their development and well-being, the underlying reasons and their proposed solutions to these problems. In this context, **participants identified violence as an underlying cause of poverty, in the same manner poverty was commonly identified as an underlying cause of violence.**

Child labour and the sexual exploitation of children, for example, were seen to follow in the footsteps of poverty. Indeed, children are often required or forced to contribute to the family income, perpetuating a cycle of poverty and they may drop out of school to engage in fulltime labour that will most probably be under paid and hazardous to the development and health of the child.

In the national consultations, children reported being subjected to multiple forms of violence, discrimination, exploitation and hazards in the work place, and expressed the wish to stay in school, identifying it as a means of attaining a higher level of life quality, and as a means to break the cycle of poverty.

The interlinkage between poverty and violence calls for concerted multi-stakeholder action, affecting a multitude of thematic development areas such as inclusive and quality education, protection against discrimination, universal access to basic social services, food security and the effective protection from violence. The consultations highlight children's particular vulnerability to poverty and violence, and as such recommendations were made by all groups of stakeholders in most countries to particularly address children and young people in national and international development plans.

Violence, abuse and exploitation are reinforcing dimensions of poverty¹³ and cannot be addressed separately but rather should be addressed in a holistic manner.

Promoting Equality and Protection from Discrimination

The challenges to child protection as a result of poverty and inequality are more difficult to overcome when they are compounded by social exclusion and discrimination. Children, as well as other stakeholders, in many of the consultations highlighted discrimination against children with disabilities, children belonging to minorities and disadvantaged children, as a major concern. Marginalisation and discrimination take place in the community, in schools, in homes, in the workplace, and perpetrators were identified as the general public, teachers and peers in schools, family members and public institutions such as health care service providers and judicial bodies.

Wide discrepancies between rural and urban service provision was identified as a particular development concern in Moldova, Senegal, Angola, Algeria, among other countries. Stakeholders called for the safeguard of equitable access to basic services, such as health care, education and justice and called for increased presence of civil

¹³ See also: Recommendations for a Post-2015 Development Agenda, *Recapturing the vision of a 'World Fit for Children*, Joint Position Paper, Child Fund Alliance, Plan International, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages, UNICEF and World Vision.

society organisations, NGOs and UN agencies in rural areas to ensure that children can access the services they need, and are entitled to. These services are also deemed as essential to prevent risky behaviour among adolescents and children in rural areas affected by poverty. Such risky behaviour was deemed in the consultations to lead to, or be the result of, violence, and to be strongly associated with the continuance of a culture of violence in many countries.

Equity was recognised by a wide range of stakeholders as an underlying prerequisite to ensure stable and peaceful communities, as large social divides are seen to negatively affect social cohesion and solidarity, as well as aggravating a sense of frustration among impoverished populations.

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all

In most countries, children spend more time in the care of adults in educational settings than anywhere else outside of their homes. Schools have a responsibility to protect children from violence, therefore adults who oversee and work in schools are required to ensure a safe non-violent environment that supports and promotes children's dignity and development. In this connection, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) calls on States Parties to ensure that school discipline is administered in a manner consistent with the child's human dignity and in conformity with the principles and provisions of the Convention.¹⁴ Despite this, in schools around the world many children are exposed to sexual, physical and emotional violence, and are surrounded by a culture of violence.

Overall, education was ranked the highest priority among all focus groups in the national consultations, across all regions, including by children themselves. Children identified education as the best opportunity to improve their well-being, and recognized the potential of education to develop their talents and abilities, to strengthen their life skills and provide them with the necessary skills to lead non-violent and productive lives. However, in the consultations **children also highlighted violence in schools as a major obstacle to their well-being and development.**¹⁵ Children recognised being subject to many manifestations of violence in schools:¹⁶ these include bullying, gender based violence, discrimination, violence by teachers and other staff. An emerging concern among children in school is the enormous pressure they are under to succeed academically, and at times pushing children to commit suicide.

¹⁴ CRC article 28, § 2. As cited in "Toward a World Free from Violence. *Global Survey on Violence against Children*". Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (OSRSG VAC), New York 2013. p.34.

¹⁵ The following national consultations identified violence in schools as a special concern: Brazil; Costa Rica; Peru; Honduras; Saint Lucia; Albania; Serbia; Turkey; Tajikistan; Iraq; Egypt; Yemen; India; Indonesia; Vietnam; Bangladesh; Malawi; Mozambique; Nigeria, Senegal, Gabon, Togo, Tanzania and Rwanda.

¹⁶ Brazil, Costa Rica, Peru, Honduras, Saint Lucia, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Gabon, Togo, Rwanda, Zambia

The effects of violence in school cannot be ignored and they include; fear, perpetration of violence, disengaged students, learning impairments, mental health problems, physical problems (in cases where the violence is very severe) and also children dropping out of school.

In Egypt, most children in the focus group who had dropped out of school identified violence perpetrated by teachers as the main reason for leaving school.

The Costa Rica Consultation addressed the issue of violence against children in schools and recommended improving relations and ties between families and schools. Children called for teachers' increased responsibility to address bullying through preventive action, including responsible parenting, providing assistance to children who bully, identifying causes of bullying and organising projects to prevent this form of violence.¹⁷

In Vietnam children called for greater protection from violence in schools, including bullying, which children and youth identified as a widespread problem. "I am looking forward to a future when school violence no longer exists. I wish my school mates and students in general would be more friendly to one another",
Male student, 14 years old, Long An, Vietnam.¹⁸

Some of the most commonly identified reasons for girls dropping out of school was early or forced marriage and early pregnancy, most commonly resulting from sexual violence.¹⁹

"One of the main reasons for gender inequality is child marriage which deprives girls from elementary and secondary education. This leads to uneducated mothers and uneducated children. It is a vicious cycle."
A girl 20 years old, from an urban area
National youth consultation in Shirvan, Azerbaijan.

The national consultations show a wide consensus on the importance of quality education which provides children and young people with a curricula that encompasses a holistic approach to education, that teaches life-skills, including sexual education, and which is adapted to national and local circumstances. Education is seen as key to overcome social acceptance of violence against children and to address gender inequality through gender sensitive education that is inclusive and non-discriminatory toward girls, towards persons with disabilities as well as children belonging to minorities and marginalised groups. Focus groups and stakeholders recognized that academic learning is not sufficient to provide children with the necessary skills to become well-functioning citizens, or active professionals. **Children and young people are calling for a curriculum**

¹⁷ UN Country Team, the Ministry of Planning of Costa Rica, *Building a development agenda*, Costa Rica's National Post 2015 Consultation, April 2013.

¹⁸ United Nations Viet Nam, *Consolidated Report on Viet Nam's Post-2015 Consultation Process*, 2013.

¹⁹ Consultations that identified early marriage and early pregnancy as a main reason for girls dropping out of school: Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Albania, Turkey, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iraq, Yemen, Senegal, Uganda, Gabon, Niger, Rwanda, Zambia, Mozambique, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Tanzania.

that strengthens and emphasises inclusion, human rights, peace and peaceful communication, and provides children with the skills necessary to address violence and other challenges in life. Children and all stakeholders are also calling for quality education that teaches healthy life skills, including the effects of drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

The Thematic e-discussions recognized that education should “equip citizens with skills in dialogue and critical thinking, enabling them to counter messages of intolerance and all forms of violence.”²⁰ The Thematic Consultation on Education also stressed the need to ensure a **safe and healthy learning environment as essential to quality education.**

The interconnected benefits of investments in quality education are immeasurable - generating greater economic returns and growth for individuals and societies, creating lasting impact on health and gender equality, and leading to safer, more resilient and stable societies. It plays a crucial role in shaping personal and collective identities, promoting social capital and cohesiveness, and in the formation of responsible citizenship, based on principles of respect for life.

Education also has a key role to play in conflict prevention and peacebuilding as well as in disaster preparedness and risk reduction.

“Equitable, Quality Education and Lifelong Learning for All” is proposed as the overarching goal for education.²¹

In Zambia, Women’s groups identified violence against women and girls as a result of a lack of education, age-old social practices, and inadequate policy and implementation measures. They highlighted that those most affected were girls, as well as women, with a low level of education. They identified as solutions: education and life-skills; governance and accountability; policy and interventions to address gender-based violence.

School children identified school drop out as a major impediment to development. Child marriage and teenage pregnancies were identified to be the most common reasons for dropping out.²²

Early childhood development (ECD) was raised by several national consultations as important to address poverty and rural-urban disparities, both of which are underlying causes of violence. In Tanzania, representatives from universities and research institutions identified ECD as a cross-cutting concern, and an effective tool to addressing poverty reduction especially in rural areas, and to ensure that those children do not fall behind.

²⁰ UNESCO, UNICEF and the UN, *Post-2015 Global Thematic Consultation on Education, Summary Report of the e-discussion on Equitable Access to Education, The World We Want*, p 8.

²¹ Executive Summary of the *Education Global Thematic Consultation*.

²² Zambia National Consultation on the post-2015 Development Agenda.

The Turkey Consultation

“The cross-cutting issue of Early Childhood Development (ECD)-which spans health, social protection and education-has been discussed as part of the inequalities theme. The reason why ECD is included in *Inequalities*, is because global research has identified ECD as a powerful equalizer. Social inequalities in early life contribute to inequities in health later on, through ECD and educational attainment. Children from disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to do poorly in school and subsequently as adults are more likely to have lower incomes and higher fertility rates, and be less empowered to provide good health, nutrition and stimulation to their own children, thus contributing to the inter-generational transmission of disadvantage. The seeds of adult gender inequity are also sown in early childhood. Gender socialization and gender biases in the early years of life have impacts on child development, particularly among girls. Reducing health inequalities within a generation requires a new way of thinking about child development. An approach is needed that embraces a more comprehensive understanding of the development of young children, including not just physical survival but also social/emotional and language/cognitive development.”

“The Istanbul consultations on ECD mentioned the following priorities for the national and global levels: ensure funded, inclusive and integrated ECD policies and (promote) protective programs for all young children 0-8 years, especially the most disadvantaged, by 2020: ensure national and subnational data is routinely collected to monitor trends and disparities in the ECD and generate evidence based knowledge to inform budgeting and policies; support the expansion of a global alliance with a portal and clearinghouse for the generation, sharing and dissemination of knowledge and for research development and networking; create an innovative global funding mechanism for early childhood development that will support the above at all levels, with an increased role for local government”.

“Everything is based on education. If we want peace in the world, if we want a sustainable environment and future, if we desire resources to be used efficiently, it all depends on education. Each of these depends on the values we teach to human beings who are in early childhood. If we can achieve this, the problem will be solved anyway.”²³

Mayor of Istanbul²⁴

²³ United Nations Egypt, *Egypt Post-2015 National Consultations*, May 2013.

²⁴ See also the *Istanbul Declaration*.

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Violence against women and children, and gender-based discrimination, were the most commonly identified forms of violence, among all national consultations reviewed. They were identified as important obstacles to development in all regions and by all categories of stakeholders, including children. Multiple forms of violence against women and children were identified, these include: gender based sexual violence, sexual harassment, child marriage, teen pregnancy, FGM/C, domestic violence, verbal and physical abuse, and sexual violence as a weapon of war.

A further concern highlighted by women and girl victims of violence in the consultations was the existence of social practices and beliefs that inhibit women and girls from reporting incidences of violence, particularly sexual violence. In Egypt, women and girls revealed that they are reluctant to report incidences of sexual harassment and rape because they are perceived as being partially or totally responsible for having been attacked, due to being 'inappropriately' dressed or having been out on the streets at 'inappropriate' hours.²⁵ Victims of sexual abuse in Malawi spoke of the cultural beliefs that prevent them from speaking out when a male member of the family abuses them, as it is deemed disrespectful. Based on this, most girls take a long time to reveal abuse to the authorities.²⁶

The post-2015 consultations reiterate global research findings²⁷ that show that many manifestations of violence have a gender-dimension, with girls particularly at risk of sexual violence and boys of physical punishment and gang-related violence.

In order to address gender-based violence, stakeholders pointed at the need to change the mind-set of people and to ensure women's and children's (girls and boys) active participation in decision-making, education and the work force. In Asia, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, the need to eradicate the social barriers to women's and girls' freedom of mobility was highlighted as a means of furthering women's empowerment and addressing gender-based violence.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Europe and the CIS countries, the need to address and change the norms of masculinity and male culture that perpetuate gender based violence was highlighted. Among the recommendations made were: the adoption of **a legal prohibition of all forms of violence against women and girls in all settings**; ensuring effective implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and removing all reservations towards its complete implementation; include gender sensitisation and the rights of women and

²⁵ United Nations Egypt, *Egypt Post-2015 National Consultations*, May 2013.

²⁶ Government of the Republic of Malawi and the UN, *Malawi Post 2015 Development Agenda, National Consultations on the Post MDGs*, Report, May 2013.

²⁷ Toward a World Free from Violence. *Global Survey on Violence against Children*, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (OSRSG VAC), New York 2013, p. xv.

children into the school curriculum from an early age; promote and disseminate information on the rights of women and girls in rural areas; and strengthen the legal protection from discrimination to provide stronger protection of women and children from gender based discrimination.

The national consultations in all regions highlighted the need to include boys and men in gender sensitisation processes and education programmes, giving particular priority to the matter of transforming male norms as a means of addressing violence and building peaceful and stable social interactions in all settings.

In Egypt, women pointed out that the dissemination of information and awareness raising campaigns aimed at strengthening the rights of women and girls, should be led by the government and the media in order to be effective.²⁸

In different regions, including Latin America and the Caribbean²⁹, stakeholders also called for increased access to sexual reproductive health services for women, children and adolescents, including family planning services and sexual reproductive information and education to address the problem of sexual violence toward women and children.

The Thematic Consultation on Education confirmed the effects of gender discrimination and violence on the education of girls, identifying sexual and reproductive issues such as teenage pregnancy and sexual violence as factors leading to greater dropout rates of girls from schools, leading to further disadvantage and inhibiting girls' empowerment. *"In the absence of effective sexual and reproductive health education, adolescent girls are especially vulnerable to pregnancy and sexual violence, which negatively impact school participation and attainment."*³⁰

The High Level Dialogue on Health held in Gaborone, in March of 2013, recognized that "Sexual and reproductive health and rights (and in particular delivering on universal access to contraceptives) must be addressed. Special attention is required for adolescents and youth, including comprehensive sexuality education, as well as protection from sexual violence and abuse"³¹. Children and adolescents in all regions³², along with civil society, NGOs and UN Agencies, similarly called for the need to address teen pregnancies through the use of sexual reproductive education for children and young people.

Overall, the consultations highlight an urgent need for greater sensitivity toward the gender dimensions of violence, including, very importantly, the recognition that addressing gender-based violence means working with boys and men as well as girls and women.

²⁸ *Egypt Post-2015 National Consultations.*

²⁹ Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jamaica Saint Lucia, Jamaica.

³⁰ *Executive summary of the Education Global Thematic Consultation*, p 4.

³¹ *Meeting Report, High Level Dialogue on Health in the post-2015 Development Agenda*, Gaborone, 4-6 March 2013.

³² Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Jamaica, Turkey, Bangladesh, Iraq, Senegal; Zambia, Mozambique, Bangladesh, among others.

Recommendations made to protect and strengthen sexual reproductive rights of women and girls, and invest in sexual reproductive health education

Pakistan: “Proper legislation and their implementation mechanisms should be put in place to discourage and prevent child marriages and other forms of child abuse.”

“The new (development) framework should provide a greater focus on sexual and reproductive rights for women. The right of women to the use of contraceptives and family planning should be reinforced in the new framework.”

Bolivia - Thematic priorities for the development agenda included: Sexual reproductive rights, health and education; eradicating all forms of violence against women and increase the budget dedicated to sexual violence.

Dominican Republic: Children identified love, family, protection, protecting family and life in peace as their main priority concerns. They pointed out that their sexual rights were not being respected.

Indonesia: The Expert group on population dynamics made the following recommendation: Address and harness population dynamics through rights based and gender-responsive policies, which ensure the sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, eliminate discrimination, coercion and violence, and promote inclusive and participatory approaches to development planning.

Gabon: Family planning is an essential tool to ensure that girls and women attain sexual reproductive empowerment.

Children’s protection from harmful practices, including female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C)

Harmful practices, including FGM/C, were raised as a development concern both under the theme of *Gender equality*, and under *Health* in many of the national consultations. Harmful practices were identified broadly across the African continent and also in Asia and the Middle East³³ as an obstacle to social development, and especially the empowerment of women and girls.

FGM/C and other harmful practices, such as honour killings, early and forced marriage, degrading initiation rites, son preference and witchcraft rituals, greatly impact children’s health and development, and instil a deep fear of violence in their everyday lives. In the consultations, **both boys and girls voiced concerns about these practices in all regions,**

³³ Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Gambia, Gabon, Uganda, Liberia, Senegal, Mozambique, Nigeria, Egypt, Iraq, Morocco, India and Indonesia.

pointing at the negative effects these practices have on their development, but also at **the negative impacts these practices have on their sense of security within their families and communities**. Supporting the proactive role of the family and a clear legal ban on these practises are essential to ensure children’s effective protection.³⁴ Promoting good examples of how families and communities are strengthened by opting to eliminate harmful practices, and other forms of violence against children, is a good way to positively address and overcome these practices.

Women, girls and boys, civil society, Governments, UN agencies, health experts, academia, NGOs and UN Agencies, participating in the national consultations called for the prohibition of FGM/C and other harmful practices. Among the recommendations and suggestions made were to engage in awareness raising campaigns, particularly in poverty stricken rural areas, as part of basic health care services in order to ensure that the ban on the practice of FGM/C is enforced.

In the Egyptian consultation, there was concern among women and girls that conservative discourse has led to the questioning of the criminalization of FGM/C, which is seen as a dire regression of the gender cause.

“The African Group believes that it is important to adopt and accelerate the effective implementation of laws and policy measures that would remove discriminatory provisions in legal frameworks and promote women and girls’ access to justice; furthermore, to work with community leaders, men and boys as strategic partners in the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls; by understanding and addressing the root causes of gender inequality such as unequal power relations, social norms, practises and stereotypes that perpetuate discrimination against women and girls which include among others, harmful practises, child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, commercial sexual exploitation, child pornography, domestic violence and trafficking in persons.”

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Joao Soares Da Gama, Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau to the UN, on behalf of the African Group during the 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. New York, 2014

³⁴ Office of the SRSV VAC and Plan International, *Protecting Children from Harmful Practices in Plural Legal Systems*, New York, 2012.

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Nearly two-thirds of premature deaths and one-third of the total disease burden in adults are associated with conditions or behaviours that began in their youth, including: tobacco use, a lack of physical activity, unprotected sex or exposure to violence.

Promoting healthy practices during adolescence, and taking steps to better protect young people from health risks is critical to the future of countries' health and social infrastructure and to the prevention of health problems in adulthood.³⁵

Health was identified as one of the top priority areas in the consultations. Globally, the consequences of violence on children's health and development are well documented.³⁶ Violence has a devastating impact upon children, threatening both their survival and development and can lead to:

- Fatal or non-fatal injury (possibly leading to disability).
- Health problems (including failure to thrive, and lung, heart and liver disease and sexually transmitted infections in later life).
- Cognitive impairment (including impaired school and work performance).
- Psychological and emotional consequences (feelings of rejection, impaired attachment, trauma, fear, anxiety, insecurity and shattered self-esteem).
- Mental health problems (anxiety and depression, hallucinations, memory disturbances and suicide attempts).
- Risky behaviours (substance abuse and early initiation of sexual activity).
- Developmental and behavioural consequences, such as non-attendance at school, and antisocial and destructive behaviour, leading to poor relationships, school exclusion and conflict with the law.
- The risk of further victimization and an accumulation of violent experiences, including violent relationships in later life.

Every year, violence affects millions of children of all ages and stages of development. An estimated 430 children and young people aged 10-24 years die every day due to interpersonal violence alone.³⁷

³⁵ WHO 2013, *Young People: Health Risks and Solutions*.

³⁶ *Toward a World Free from Violence. Global Survey on Violence against Children*, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (OSRSG VAC), New York 2013. p.2.

³⁷ WHO 2013, *Young people: health risks and solutions*. (Access at: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs345/en/>).

In a written submission to the Thematic Consultation on Health, **domestic violence**³⁸ contextualized with reference to women’s rights and status, and gender relations- was identified as a key issue to be addressed by the post-2015 framework.³⁹ In the consultations, several stakeholders adopted this approach of identifying domestic violence- **violence against women and children**- as a growing health concern.

Child and teenage pregnancy was also a major health challenge identified in the consultations in all regions. The main causes of child and teenage pregnancies were identified by the majority of stakeholders as child marriage and sexual violence. The WHO has identified early pregnancy and childbirth as one of the major health problems faced by young people, and estimates that it affects 16 million girls aged 15-19 years of age annually.⁴⁰ Therefore protecting women and girls from sexual violence ensures that young girls will not die due to the complications and risks that they face while pregnant and during child birth, due to the fact that their bodies are not fully developed.⁴¹

Stakeholders participating in the national consultations called for a more holistic approach to health, including preventive healthcare, violence prevention plans, mental healthcare services as well as sexual reproductive education and services. During the Tenth Open Working Group session on Sustainable Development Goals, Ethiopia called for the incorporation of a health target on ending all forms of violence against women and children emphasising that **violence is not only a human rights concern- but also a crucial public health question.**

Youth bulge

In the consultations, a commonly addressed *health and population dynamics* concern was a growing “youth bulge”. Turkey for example has a population of which more than 50 per cent is comprised of persons below the age of 29⁴². Some countries such as Sudan⁴³ and Yemen⁴⁴ have populations with close to, or above, 50 per cent being below the age of 18. The median age in Sub Saharan Africa is 18 years.

³⁸ ‘**Domestic violence**’ for the purpose of this report refers to violence perpetrated by an intimate partner or by a family member, and usually referring to violence that occurs within the home setting. This includes violence against women, girls and boys. It includes all forms of violence, including physical punishment and sexual violence. **Children identified domestic violence as a major concern and obstacle to their healthy development and well-being.** The review of the national consultations concluded that **children referred to domestic violence as violence that occurred within the family and in the home setting**, intrafamilial violence was a synonymous term used to reference this type of violence in the context of the national consultations.

³⁹ *Health in the post 2015 agenda*, Report on the Global Thematic Consultation on Health, April 2013, p 99.

⁴⁰ This estimate was made in 2002 by the WHO.

⁴¹ WHO 2013, *Young People: health risks and solutions*.

⁴² United Nations Turkey Country Team, *Development Agenda of Turkey for Post 2015, National Consultations Report*, 2013.

⁴³ In Sudan 47% of the population was under the age of 16, in 2008. “*Sudan Views*” *Contribution to Post-2015 Global Development Agenda*, February 2013.

⁴⁴ Half of the population of Yemen is under 15. United Nations Yemen, *Post 2015 Country Consultation*, August 2013.

In Yemen, as is also the case in other countries, youth unemployment calls for an increased and meaningful participation of young people in decision making processes, as a way of ensuring social stability. In the case of Yemen, youth unemployment of 15-24 year olds, was at 52.9 per cent in 2012. This, combined with youth's limited influence in decision-making, was identified as a significant source of frustration and a cause of violent behaviour among young people.⁴⁵

In Turkey, where every one-in-two people is a child or a young person, the need to address youth as a population dynamics priority was highlighted during the HABITAT Youth Consultation held in 2013. The consultation called for the implementation of youth specific policies that are developed in a holistic manner, and recommended the provision of comprehensive and informative services as a priority concern, including accessible and inclusive youth-friendly health care services, especially in the field of adolescent health. The consultation suggested structuring human rights education and sexual health education by age and integrating these dimensions into the curricula from primary school and onward.⁴⁶

Preventive healthcare, including violence prevention

Violence was identified as a serious health concern in the consultations, with particular attention being given to the effects of sexual violence and gender based discrimination, domestic violence, crime and the interrelation between substance abuse and violence affecting children's lives. The national consultations call for a broad approach to improving health, and **prioritising preventive health approaches as a long-term solution to violence against children and women.**

In Europe and the CIS, consultations identified "risky behaviour" as both a major health concern for young people and children, as they become involved in substance abuse, including nicotine and alcohol dependency, as well as risky sexual behaviour. This behaviour and "risky lifestyle" is interrelated with various forms of violence, such as: sexual violence; sexual exploitation; peer violence; gang violence; and homicide.⁴⁷

The elimination of gender based violence, particularly sexual violence, was clearly identified as a health prerogative in relation to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, as sexual violence toward women and children are identified drivers of the epidemic.

The Papua New Guinea consultation called for the **integration of child protection measures into the national health services.** In Montenegro, children and youth, civil society and NGOs, recommended incorporating child protection mechanisms such as child and youth friendly counselling, complaint and reporting mechanisms into already existing health care service provision.

⁴⁵ *ibid.*

⁴⁶ *Development Agenda of Turkey for Post 2015.*

⁴⁷ WHO further identifies the increase of these behavioural risk factors as a result of having been a victim of child abuse.

Children and young people expressed the need to have permanent places to which they can turn with their worries, both in cases involving their physical health, but also their mental health, including as a result of violence. It was seen as necessary to provide both women and children with safe and easily accessible places to report incidences of violence. Screening programs as part of primary health care services were also recommended as a means of identifying and addressing violence as a health concern, and were seen to have great potential to improve data collection on violence.

From the national consultations, it is clear that children and young people are calling for systematic support systems to prevent falling into substance abuse, and also services to help those children and young people that have become substance abusers. Recommendations made included preventive health approaches, such as lifestyle coaching in the school curricula, to teach about healthy lifestyles and the effects and dangers of substance abuse. Children and youth in Brazil recommended creating more facilities for culture, leisure and sports and other measures to reduce drug trafficking and drug use. This was a suggestion brought up by several stakeholders also as a means of reducing children and youth's incentive to engage in crime, violence and gang activity, as part of a holistic approach to child protection and health.

Children in Peru, Costa Rica, India, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Angola, Gabon, Azerbaijan and Moldova identified alcohol related violence as a form of violence to which they are frequently subjected, and from which they call for protection. In Peru, children feel that parents are not being good role models, that they are often drunk and violent. In Djibouti, young people identified violence against women and children as a health concern, identifying poverty as the underlying cause, and that in order to address the problem good governance within the health sector is necessary.

The national development plan for 2013-2017, jointly developed by UNDP and the Government of Djibouti, encompasses a priority area aimed at improving access to basic social services, with particular focus on vulnerable groups such as women and children, adolescents and youth. Within this thematic priority, the national development plan identifies women and children's protection from violence as a target.

Many consultations across the regions also highlight the need to ensure that health goals and targets do not purely reflect quantitative measurements. As part of this rationale, the concern for the mental health of the population, and particularly of children, has become an emerging concern among stakeholders. In Mali, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Azerbaijan, among others, stakeholders made recommendations to include targets on the implementation of special psychological support services for children. The Azerbaijan consultation recommended including psychological support services in schools, so that they are easily accessible to children. **These recommendations highlight the broad support for a holistic approach to addressing the effects and causes of violence against children across and within key sectors in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.**

“Regardless of its phrasing, the argument for an overarching development goal aimed at improving health and well-being is that it addresses the need for action on the underlying determinants of health and well-being, including the root causes of ill health, poverty, gender inequality, violence, etc.

This will require cooperation and policy coherence across sectors to maximise synergies between their different goals.

Discrimination against women and girls, including gender-based violence, economic discrimination, reproductive health inequalities, and harmful traditional practices, remains one of the most pervasive forms of inequalities and one of the most important underlying causes of poor health outcomes for women and children.”⁴⁸

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The Education Consultation identified the provision of education as a catalyst for inclusive economic growth, minimizing social inequalities and contributing to the eradication of discrimination. Quality education that offers life skills training, as well as vocational training, was also identified as an important means of addressing youth unemployment.

In a number of the consultations reviewed,⁴⁹ youth unemployment was identified as a risk factor for increased levels of violence and insecurity, which has devastating effects on the lives of children and the development of society as a whole. In Egypt, civil society identified:

“The idleness and frustration of young people has given rise to unprecedented hooliganism and sexual harassment in a region which was always calm and cohesive. Drug use and trade are on the rise. As the sense of insecurity is rising, protective families are placing more restrictions on the mobility of women and girls who are often discouraged from pursuing education and encouraged to marry early.”

The effects of young people’s involvement in gang violence echoes throughout all levels of society and has adverse effects on the lives of the children and young people that are constantly surrounded by fear of violence, forced involvement in crime and violent crime, as well as being recruited by armed forces. Children, NGOs and civil society organisations

⁴⁸ Source: *Health in the post-2015 Agenda, Report on the Global Thematic Consultation on Health, April 2013*

⁴⁹ Brazil, Jamaica, Peru, Costa Rica, Uganda, Tanzania, Turkey, Sudan, among others.

participating in the national consultations recommended targeted interventions to ensure that children and young people have meaningful extra-curricular activities to engage in and to minimize youth unemployment, as prerogatives to ensure children's protection from violence.

Child labour

Brazil and Nicaragua stated during the tenth Open Working Group Session that "...we need to address slave and forced work as well as the elimination of child labour as a priority. We suggest creating a new item [...] which would read: *"end child labor, forced labor, human trafficking and slavery"*.⁵⁰

In the national consultations, human trafficking and child labour were identified as development concerns in Asia, the Arab States, Latin America and the CIS countries, reflecting findings from key UN reports.⁵¹

Like many countries in the world, Azerbaijan is a country of origin, transit and destination for men, women and children who are victims of trafficking. Women and children are exploited sexually, while men's labour is exploited in Azerbaijan and abroad. The government increased law enforcement efforts against labour trafficking of Azerbaijanis, provides protection and reintegration services to identified trafficking victims, and continues to raise awareness of trafficking crimes. There is need to further identify foreign victims of human trafficking as well as to investigate companies presumed to engage in forced labour of migrant workers. In order to be able to provide the required assistance to migrants and vulnerable migrants (such as victims of trafficking, unaccompanied minors and migrants with health problems) it is critical to establish and implement SOPs including specific roles, responsibilities and resource allocated to identify and refer migrants within the varied migration scenarios to appropriate services.⁵²

In many countries, child labour is still a pervasive phenomenon, limiting opportunities for these children for the rest of their lives.⁵³

⁵⁰ 10th Open Working Group Session on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Education, Employment and Decent Work for All, Health and Population Dynamics

⁵¹ According to the ILO, there are 168 million child labourers around the world – almost half of whom (73m) are in primary school age, below 11; 85 million are involved in hazardous activities and more than 11 million girls in domestic work, often enduring physical, emotional and sexual abuse. According to UNODC, child trafficking is pervasive and on the increase – it rose by 27% between 2007 and 2010 and in some regions child victims represent more than 60% of all those detected

⁵² Source: *Azerbaijan National Consultation*

⁵³ Source: *Final report, Thematic Consultation on Growth and Employment*

As previously mentioned, children reported that they have to work in order to contribute to the family income, as parents were unable to provide for their families due to poverty. In Bangladesh and other countries, children that have dropped out of school to work expressed that they wish to return to school, and that they wish that their parents or guardians would manage to care for their families without the children having to work.

Working children and young people also expressed that they wished to be protected from verbal and physical abuse in the work place and reported that they were subjected to such abuse on a regular basis. Children reported verbal abuse as particularly socially accepted, and also expressed that they recognized, as children, that they were particularly exposed to verbal abuse, and other forms of discrimination due to their age.

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Emerging issues noted in the Sudan, Indonesia and Vietnam consultations were the challenges posed by rapid urbanisation. In Sudan it was noted that the rate of urbanisation poses serious threats to development, security and health, due to the acute deficiencies in infrastructure and the capacity to provide basic social services. In Latin America and the Caribbean, peripheral urban areas were noted as particularly affected by violence, drugs and crime. **Children and young people in these areas identify violence as their main concern, and are calling for effective programs to eliminate violence in their communities.**

The national consultations iterated concerns that urban areas have become a particular focus of violence, of all kinds, particularly affecting children, including gang and drug violence, with devastating consequences for children's survival and development.

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Creating peaceful and inclusive societies

“Children’s freedom from violence is a fundamental human right recognised by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, and addressed by other important legal standards. The ratification and effective implementation of these treaties constitutes a crucial step in promoting the prevention and elimination of violence and protecting children from all forms of violence. We believe that as the international community considers the future global development agenda beyond 2015, violence against children, including the most vulnerable and marginalised girls and boys, should be recognised as a priority. In addition, restorative justice mechanisms should be in place to protect the best interest of children. They provide an alternative for addressing offending and promoting accountability for the offence, while shielding children from the harmful effects of their involvement with the criminal justice system...(..)..We urge states to strengthen mainstreaming of children’s protection into national laws and policies.”

Statement by Pakistan, Ambassador Mr Maric-Dordevic, Clustered interactive dialogue with the SRSB VAC, Human Rights Council 25th session, Geneva 12th March 2014

“Child protection in the post-2015 development agenda: to address violence and prevent future armed conflicts we encourage UN Member States to call for the inclusion of a child protection goal in the post-2015 development agenda, with specific targets and indicators addressing both child protection in conflict and non-conflict settings.”

Joint NGO Oral Statement: Save the Children, Terre des Hommes, World Vision, War Child Holland, Defence for Children International, SOS-Torture Network, Geneva Call

“First, a goal on peaceful societies would be a truly universal goal. No country is free from violence – not my own country - and all countries therefore have an interest in promoting freedom from violence and peaceful societies..(..) In addition, promoting freedom from violence is a way of addressing the most vulnerable populations and situations and ensuring that no one is left behind. We suggest the following measurable universal targets as the most transformational:

1. Reduce the number of violent deaths by x % by 2030.
2. Eliminate all forms of violence and exploitation against women and children.”

Swedish statement at OWG 11, Ambassador Anna Brandt, May 2014

Achieving stability and social cohesion was a top priority concern among most national consultations reviewed. This view has also been reflected in subsequent discussions on the post-2015 agenda, during the tenth OWG session on the SDGs, Australia, the Netherlands and the UK pointed out that: “1.6 million people who voted in the MyWorld survey put “honest and accountable government” and “freedom from crime and violence” among the top seven issues they want the SDGs to address”.

Children’s exposure to violence is well documented by UN reports. According to the recent UNODC global study on homicide, 8% of victims of violent deaths are children below 15 years of age; and 50% of all victims of homicides are between 15 and 30 years of age.⁵⁴ **All focus groups that participated in the national consultations, including children, identify freedom from crime, violence and fear as a priority concern and recommendations were made to integrate the elimination of all forms of violence into the post 2015 development agenda.**

The problem of violence against children was often identified as a national priority concern in countries affected by high rates of organised crime and homicide.⁵⁵ The consultations found that crime and social violence adversely affect children, as they are more vulnerable to exploitation and poverty. Children therefore need special protection from crime, organised crime, exploitation and deadly violence.

The Thematic Consultation on Violence, Citizen Security and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, held in Panama City in February of 2013, recognized the “far-reaching impacts of violence” and the devastating effects of violence on development. The Panama Consultation also recognized the visibility of youth violence in Latin America and the Caribbean, and pointed at the need to provide equal attention to reducing violence against women, girls and boys.

The Papua New Guinea national consultation identified “Peace and Safety” as a stand-alone emerging priority, and “Acting on gender based violence, tribal warfare, *child abuse and all other forms of violence and exploitation*” as the first issue to be addressed under this theme. For children to live well in the future, the youth group in this consultation said that it was most important to have a stable family, parents to have good parenting skills, and for children to receive an education. Children reemphasised that maintaining a peaceful and safe environment, free from alcohol abuse and drugs, domestic violence and tribal fighting were key aspects of well-being in their community. The survey conducted among school children revealed that 50 per cent of the responses by girls indicated that they wanted law and order to be improved to protect women and girls from violence.

Several consultations highlighted the need to increase children’s access to recreation spaces and activities. In Kazakhstan such programmes were suggested as a means of addressing children and adolescent’s involvement in “risky behaviour” including crime,

⁵⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), *Global Study on Homicide*, 2013.

⁵⁵ Examples include; Jamaica, Brazil, Uganda, Mali, Sudan, Dominican Republic, Bolivia.

violence and gang related activities.⁵⁶ Similar recommendations were made in Latin America and the Caribbean, where young people are to a great extent involved in criminal and violent acts and lifestyles. Youth unemployment, the lack of incentives to attend school, drug addiction, peer pressure and forceful gang involvement, have all been pointed out as underlying reasons as to why children and adolescents are drawn to “risky behaviours”. In Brazil, children and adolescents point to violence between, and committed by, children and adolescents as a great fear and as a great risk in their everyday lives.

In the Montenegro consultation, participants identified that quality social services and effective child protection mechanisms can improve the social and economic situation of a country: 68.7 per cent of participants recognized that the quality of life was dependent on the quality of social and child welfare and protection services.

In the consultations, personal security was a major concern across all focus groups and stakeholders, in all regions. The effects of various forms of violence on the lives of people and the cost implications for the community is immense. **In the consultations, children identified the need to protect them from violence in all settings, and that child protection is a tool to ensure that cycles of violence are not perpetuated throughout communities and across generations. Effective child protection policies and mechanisms were recognized in the consultations as key tools in addressing violence in the community, and in shaping non-violent social connections, through a life-cycle based approach.**

“Stronger commitment is needed regarding the prevention and reduction of violent deaths, safeguarding universal access to independent justice, and independent national human rights institutions, as well as the professionalism and accountability of the security forces, as proposed in the Report of the High Level Panel on the post-2015 development agenda. It is also of utmost importance to include consideration of the reduction of crime, giving particular attention to the protection of children and women from violence in this new framework. We would therefore welcome targets in these specific thematic areas supporting a goal on peaceful societies.”

Statement made by Portugal during the 10th Open Working Group Session on the Sustainable Development Goals, March 31-April 4, 2014, New York.

⁵⁶ United Nations Country Team in Kazakhstan, *Post 2015 The Future We Want: National Consultations in Kazakhstan*, May 2013.

Rule of law, capable institutions

“Sadly, violence is a global phenomenon. Violence against women and children occurs in all countries.

Homicide too, is global (...)

Let us build effective and trustworthy institutions, promote the rule of law and pay closer, earlier attention to human rights abuses.”

***United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon
New York, April 2014***

During the Global Thematic Consultation on Conflict, Violence and Disaster,⁵⁷ speakers voiced a consensus on the need for “inclusive and accountable governance, justice, and gender equality as core building blocks for a post-2015 framework”.⁵⁸

Stakeholders in the consultations recognize the multidimensional nature of addressing social cohesion and identify the elimination of violence, corruption, the strengthening of good governance, ensuring effective access to justice for all people, and vulnerable groups’ active social participation as central concerns that need to be addressed.

The need for effective, accountable and transparent public institutions has been systematically echoed by the initiatives and reports promoted in the post 2015 development agenda, reiterating findings from the many national consultations⁵⁹ of the need to have trust in institutions, especially when reporting human rights abuses.

State Secretary for International Development Cooperation, Sweden, noted that disagreement exists in every society, and reiterated achieving freedom from violence in the post-2015 framework requires, inter alia: **implementing the rule of law; strong political institutions that can facilitate inclusive and transparent dialogue processes; robust indicators to track the impacts of conflict and fragility on development; and prioritizing violence against women and girls that has a detrimental impact on overall development.**

“Addressing governance and institutional challenges are universal responsibilities - all countries have areas that need to improve in terms of transparency and accountability to citizens, including my own”

Ambassador Anna Brandt, Swedish Statement at OWG 11, May 2014

⁵⁷ Global Thematic Consultation on Conflict Violence and Disaster, Finland, March 2013. (Access at: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/conflict>).

⁵⁸ Post 2015 Development Agenda Bulletin, *Summary of the Post-2015 Development Agenda Consultation on Conflict, Violence and Disaster*, Volume 208, Number 5, Friday 15 March 2013.

⁵⁹ Global Thematic Consultation on Conflict, Violence and Disaster.

Governance and human rights are inextricably linked (.....); inefficient and weak governance and rights abuses can cause conflict which can weaken governance and human rights protection.

Weak governance may cause conflict and violence at the local as well as national and international levels. It has therefore been stressed that a post-2015 agenda also needs to ensure personal or people's security-for example, legal reforms are necessary to prohibit different forms of violence against children such as sexual or other abuse.⁶⁰

Access to justice and reporting abuse

The Justice sector has a critical role to play in developing the legal framework for the protection of children from abuse, and ensuring victims of violence can access and receive timely justice, in a sensitive manner that avoids re-victimization, and where perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.

In the Mali consultation, girl victims of sexual abuse highlighted the fact that although there are some legal support mechanisms in place to protect them when they report sexual violence, civic education is also needed in rural areas in order to educate rural communities on how to handle sexual abuse cases. Girls spoke not only of the infrastructure deficits of the judicial system, but also of the social barriers to reporting, and pointed to the need to equally address the cultural beliefs that prohibit girls from reporting perpetrators of sexual violence. Barriers to reporting are often compounded by stigma and community pressure which can dissuade children and their families from lodging cases. Sometimes the community prefers that the case be handled outside the justice system, this is partly due to a lack of confidence in the justice system.

Throughout the review of the national consultations, it was found that children and youth have very **limited access to justice**, owing to a **lack of judicial infrastructure**; a **lack of trust in the justice system**; hostile judicial institutions and **widespread violence and discrimination when they come into contact with the law**, whether as victims or as perpetrators. Children and youth in the Brazil and Lebanon consultations are calling for separate detention facilities for children in conflict with the law, as well as child friendly justice mechanisms.

In Egypt, children identified protection against violence as their top development priority. They called for: the development of a hotline and establishment of shelters for abused

⁶⁰ Source: *Final Report of the Global Thematic Consultation on Governance and the Post-2015 Development Agenda*

children; promoting peace, human rights and gender equality in the community through schools and civil society; and enforcing the law to make the streets safer and drug free.

Participation

Given the importance of youths to the post-2015 agenda, there can be no relevant development framework that fails to include and address the key concerns of young people.⁶¹

The Thematic Consultation on Governance and the Post-2015 Development Agenda identified that empowerment and participation are necessary to tackle inequality and promote social inclusion,⁶² within which the participation of vulnerable populations such as women and children was recognized. The report further recognized the need to ensure people their right to participation and the need to ensure effective protection of vulnerable groups' rights to freedom of expression and access to information. The consultation highlighted the opportunities provided by information and communication technologies (ICTs) for people's increased participation, as well as the opportunities they provide to report incidences of violence and human rights violations, pointing out the affordability, accessibility and networking outreach of ICTs.⁶³

Children and youth identify the protection from violence as a top priority and have highlighted the negative impact that all forms of violence and conflict have on their lives. In the consultations, they highlighted that they want to be an active part of finding solutions and promoting violence prevention through their active participation in civil life. Children and young people identify their inclusion, and having their voices heard as a means of addressing and preventing violence.

⁶¹ Source: *Final Report of the Global Thematic Consultation on Governance and the Post-2015 Development Agenda*.

⁶² OHCHR, UNDP, UN and the Federal Republic of Germany, *Global Thematic Consultation on Governance and the Post-2015 Development Framework: Report*, March 2013, p 34.

⁶³ *Ibid.* p. 36.

4

VIOLENCE IN DIFFERENT REGIONS AND SETTINGS

In children's views, some manifestations of violence have a special incidence in certain regions, while some groups of children are particularly marginalized and exposed to violence:

- In Africa and the Middle East, early pregnancy and harmful practices, such as child marriage and FGM/C were frequently voiced as special concerns by children; and in Africa, children with disabilities were recognized as being particularly vulnerable to violence and discrimination in schools.
- In Latin America and the Caribbean, domestic and family violence ranked the highest after gender based violence, followed by sexual abuse and corporal punishment; violent crime, gang violence and homicides were special areas of concern. At the same time, indigenous and afro-descendent children were recognized as the most vulnerable to violence in schools and on the street.
- In Asia, trafficking, child labour and incidents of violence associated with drugs and alcohol abuse were especially highlighted by children.
- Across the European and Central Asian wide region, violence in schools, domestic violence, early pregnancy and child marriage ranked high amongst children's concerns. In this region, children belonging to ethnic minorities, including the Roma community, were recognized as being at special risk of violence and discrimination.

Overall, GBV is the most commonly mentioned form of violence against children across all regions by all stakeholders. It is notable in this context that other interrelated violence themes, such as child marriage, child pregnancy, and domestic violence are very commonly identified as important concerns⁶⁴ in Africa, Asia and Europe, whereas these issues were identified as only moderate concerns in Latin America and the Caribbean. Domestic and family violence is the runner up to GBV, and is an important concern or a moderate concern in all regions.

Personal security and safety, followed by education, were top priorities in both conflict and non-conflict affected countries in the national consultations. Also, countries that have recently been pacified, where fear of conflict and violence is still very much present, violence against children and the need to fight harmful practices, were identified as important concerns.⁶⁵

It is important to note that in conflict affected countries, where children identified violence as a top priority concern, they did not only point to community violence and

⁶⁴ The regional findings are based on the number of mentions that a certain form of violence against children has received in a particular area or region.

⁶⁵ Examples include: Angola, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Gambia, Ghana, Burkina Faso, and Morocco.

crime, but also, and more frequently, violence in the family was identified as a major obstacle to their well-being.

Furthermore, in conflict affected countries, protection against crime and violence, as well as safety and security, was identified as top priority concerns among all focus groups and stakeholders, including children. Many consultations also focused on the effects of widespread violence against children and women; direct and indirect effects deriving from the proliferation of small arms; gang involvement; drug abuse; recruitment into armed groups and forces; as well as widespread gender based violence in the community. In these countries, peace and security ranked high as a development priority, and among these there were many countries in which violence against children was only referenced as a consequence of conflict or generalised violence, and not as a standalone priority goal.⁶⁶

Across all regions, conflict and non-conflict affected countries, there was clear consensus among children that violence is a major obstacle to their development, and protection from violence ranked the second highest development priority among children in all consultations, coming in after education.

⁶⁶ This includes: The Philippines, Timor-Leste, Costa-Rica, Colombia, India, Pakistan and Ecuador.

5

RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD

All girls and boys have the right to be protected from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect. There can be no doubt that violence against children is a significant obstacle to the development of societies and economies. The effects of violence against children echo throughout lifetimes and on all levels of society. A sustainable development agenda that hopes to be effective therefore needs to encompass children's right to protection from violence at its very core.

The UNSTT, the High Level panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Open Working Group, as well as children themselves, identified violence as a major concern and a priority for development.

The present report highlights the need to encompass children's protection from violence across a number of development goals as a cross-cutting priority, as well as a clear and distinct priority with clear benchmarks and tools to monitor progress over time.

WHY VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN MUST BE RECOGNISED AS A CLEAR AND DISTINCT PRIORITY⁶⁷

Violence is recognized both as a human rights violation and a hindrance to positive development in a wide range of areas such as education, health and poverty reduction. Freedom from violence is indispensable to a sustainable future in which children can grow up healthy, well-nourished, resilient, well-educated, culturally sensitive and effectively protected from neglect, abuse and exploitation. **A distinct priority on children's protection must seek to wholly eliminate all forms of violence against children in all settings, in developing and developed countries, as well as conflict and non-conflict settings, including in war affected countries.** Such a priority must emphasize the right to freedom from fear recognised by the Universal Declaration as well as obligations enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, from which derives a child's basic right to live free from violence and fear.⁶⁸

Furthermore, a clear priority on children's protection from violence is needed in the post-2015 development agenda in order to ensure the necessary leverage to effectively address violence against children as a development concern. An absolute "zero" benchmark to eliminate all forms of violence against children would provide strong incentive for governments to actively address violence as a development concern and ensure children's effective protection in all settings, everywhere and at all times. This

⁶⁷ Child Fund, Plan International, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages, UNICEF and World Vision, Recommendations for a Post-2015 Development Agenda, *Recapturing the vision of a "World fit for children"*.

⁶⁸ UN General Assembly, Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20 November 1989, Treaty Series, vol 1577, Article 19.

would also ensure that the most vulnerable and hard to reach children would be included, protected, and not forgotten in the development agenda beyond 2015.

WHY VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN MUST BE RECOGNIZED AS A CROSS-CUTTING CONCERN IN THE POST- 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

The cross-cutting nature of violence, as highlighted by the consultation findings, means that in addition to being a standalone priority many violence related benchmarks and indicators must be included under several goals or focus areas.

Children identified the need to protect them from violence in all settings, and see that child protection is key to ensure that cycles of violence are not perpetuated throughout communities and across generations. Effective child protection policies and mechanisms were recognized in the consultations as important tools in addressing violence in the community, and in shaping non-violent social connections, through a life-cycle based approach. National child protection systems were identified to be crucial to ensure healthy overall social development and recommendations were made to effectively integrate child protection mechanisms- including child friendly counselling, complaint and reporting mechanisms - into health care, education and justice services, in order to increase accessibility for children in all areas.

The consultations highlight children's particular vulnerability to poverty and violence, and as such recommendations were made by all stakeholders in all regions to particularly target children and youth in national and international development plans.

Stakeholders called for the need to ensure equitable access to basic services, such as health care, education, child protection and justice, across the countries, and called for increased presence of civil society organisations, NGOs and UN agencies to ensure that children can access the services they need, and are entitled to. These services are also deemed as essential to prevent the proliferation of risky behaviour among adolescents and children in rural areas affected by poverty.

Children identified quality education as their top priority for the post-2015 development agenda. Consultation participants stressed the need to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment-free from fear and violence- as essential to quality education. Children identified violence as a major obstacle to their education and called for interventions to ensure the elimination of violence and discrimination from schools, including physical and psychological violence perpetuated by teachers and by other children. Children also identified vulnerable groups of children that are particularly targets of violence and discrimination in schools, and called for specific interventions to ensure their protection, such groups include children with disabilities, children from minority groups and children particularly affected by poverty.

Stakeholders also identified quality education as a key tool in addressing and preventing violence. Children and all stakeholders are calling for quality education that teaches healthy life skills, including the effects of drugs, alcohol and tobacco, as well as communication skills that teach non-violent conflict resolution. Children and young people are calling for a curriculum that strengthens and emphasises inclusion, human rights, peace, peaceful communication, and provides children with the skills necessary to address violence and other challenges in life.

Children, NGOs and civil society organisations participating in the national consultations recommended targeted interventions to ensure that children and young people have meaningful extra-curricular activities to engage in and to minimize youth unemployment, as prerogatives to ensure children's protection from violence.

Recognising that violence is a public health concern the national consultations called for a broad approach to improving health, and prioritising preventive health approaches as a long-term solution in the prevention of violence against children and women. Stakeholders participating in the national consultations called for a more holistic approach to health, including; preventive healthcare, sexual and reproductive health education and services, violence prevention plans, as well as mental healthcare services.

Stakeholders called for increased access to sexual reproductive health services for women, children and adolescents, including family planning services; sexual reproductive information and education, to address the problem of sexual violence toward women and children. It was widely recognized that such a holistic approach to sexual and reproductive health would be an effective means of addressing and reducing teenage pregnancies as a result of sexual violence, as well as preventing early marriage. Screening programs as part of primary health care services was also recommended as a means of identifying and addressing violence as a health concern, and was recognized as having great potential to improve data collection on violence.

The national consultations in all regions highlighted the need to include boys and particularly men in gender sensitisation processes and education programmes, giving particular priority to the matter of transforming male norms as a means of addressing violence and building peaceful and stable social interactions in all settings. Stakeholders also pointed at the need to provide equal attention to reducing violence against women, girls and boys.

To address social norms that inhibit women and children (boys and girls) to report sexual violence, it was recommended to address and change the norms of masculinity and male culture that perpetuate gender based violence. Among the recommendations made was to include a legal prohibition on all forms of violence against women and girls in all settings; ensuring effective implementation of laws and policies and promoting women's and girls' access to justice. Women, children (girls and boys), civil society, health experts, academia, NGOs and UN Agencies, participating in the national consultations called for the prohibition of FGMC and other harmful practices, identifying the strengthening of laws as essential to addressing social norms that support violence and harmful practices against children.

Children and other stakeholders called for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour. Children highlighted that they were often forced to leave school prematurely to engage in paid labour in order to support the family income. Children called for interventions aimed at ensuring that families have the socio-economic capacity to keep their children in school, to enable them to improve their lives and the lives of their families later on. Children also highlighted that they are subjected to multiple forms of violence in the work place, including physical and psychological violence, and called for ending violence and discrimination against children in the workplace.

The problem of violence against children was often identified as a national priority concern in countries affected by high rates of organised crime and homicide.⁶⁹ The consultations found that crime and social violence adversely affect children, as they are more vulnerable to exploitation and poverty. Children therefore need special protection from crime, organised crime, exploitation and all forms of violence.

Children recognized the negative effects of weak justice systems that are not child sensitive, and are difficult to access.

Children, and other stakeholders, called for ensuring child sensitive reporting mechanisms as well as child friendly police and justice facilities with standard operation procedures. Children highlighted that they want to be an active part of finding solutions and promoting violence prevention through their active participation in civil life. Children and youth identify their inclusion, and having their voices heard, as a means of addressing and preventing violence.

THE WAY FORWARD

From the consultations, three crucial actions are needed to address violence against children in the post-2015 development agenda. First, the protection of children from violence, including the most vulnerable and marginalized girls and boys, must be made an explicit priority and recognized as a cross-cutting concern. Second, it is essential moving forward that all partners join hands to identify clear and concrete benchmarks and tools to monitor progress over time in this area. Third, genuine opportunities and platforms to involve children and young people in the shaping and monitoring of this agenda must be established. Building on successful experiences such as the Child and Youth Advisory Boards on Violence against Children in West Africa, to capture children's views at a global level, children's opinions and suggestions would be justly recognized as indispensable to ensure sustainable development in the post-2015 era.

⁶⁹ Examples include; Jamaica, Brazil, Uganda, Mali, Sudan, Dominican Republic, Bolivia.

ANNEXES

VIOLENCE IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Violence against children is not a new topic in the development agenda. It was central to the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Summit, and it has been systematically echoed by the initiatives and reports promoted on the post 2015 agenda.

2011

In September of 2011 the UN Secretary-General constituted a UN System Task Team (UNSTT), mandated to coordinate, in a consultative manner, the preparations for developing a Post-2015 Development Agenda. The UNSTT clearly identified that the prevention and reduction of all forms of violence and abuse “should be at the heart of any agenda which fully recognizes the centrality of human security, both as a human rights imperative and as integral to development”, with particular emphasis on the need to end all forms of violence against women and girls.⁷⁰ The UNSTT also recognized the imperative of ensuring peace and security as being most urgent for vulnerable populations, including children, women and girls.⁷¹

2012

In July 2012 the Secretary-General appointed the High-Level Panel (HLP) of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the HLP was tasked with developing a set of recommendations on the post-2015 Development Agenda in order to respond to global challenges in the 21st century.⁷²

The High-Level Panel recognized ***“Freedom from conflict and violence is the most fundamental human entitlement, and the essential foundation for building peaceful and prosperous societies”***.⁷³ It identified in its report **the particular vulnerability of children to all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse, and the importance of child protection as a specific development concern. The Panel identified child protection as a cross-cutting issue under several of its twelve proposed development goals.**⁷⁴ Goal 11 -entitled “Ensure Stable and Peaceful Societies”- recognized a target to *“Reduce violent*

⁷⁰ UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, *Realizing the Future We Want for All*, Report to the Secretary-General, New York, June 2012, §91. (UNSTT Report).

⁷¹ Ibid. §90.

⁷² The United Nations, *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development*, The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, New York, 2013, p1.

⁷³ The Report of the High-Level Panel p9.

⁷⁴ The High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda originally proposed 12 development goals or focus areas. However, as the post-2015 Development discussions have continued the Open Working Group proposed 19 focus areas in its tenth session, that were then reduced to 16 focus areas as the basis of the discussions moving forward for its eleventh session on 5-9th May 2014.

deaths per 100'000 by x and eliminate all forms of violence against children”⁷⁵ this target was set against the recognition of peace and justice not only as one of the “fundamental human aspirations but cornerstones of sustainable development”.⁷⁶ Goal 2 -“Empower girls and Women and Achieve Gender Equality”- also incorporated two targets on children’s protection from violence- “Prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against girls and women” and “End child marriage”.⁷⁷

2013 Thematic and National Consultations

In order to develop a more comprehensive sustainable development agenda that was based on a broad consultation process, the UN Development Group (UNDG) launched a project of national and thematic consultations. As well as 88 national consultations, the UNDG initiated 11 multi-stakeholder *thematic* consultations on: inequalities; education; health; governance; conflict and fragility; growth and employment; environmental sustainability; hunger; nutrition and food security; population dynamics; energy; and water. These themes were selected to reflect development challenges faced around the world, and the thematic consultations were led by various UN Agencies based on the suitability of their mandates. The thematic consultations complimented the national consultation process.

To take all the work of the consultations forward, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG⁷⁸) was mandated by the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (rio+20) to prepare a more detailed set of goals for the post 2015 Development Agenda for the 68th session of the UN General Assembly based on the consultation process.

2014

Throughout 2014 the OWG has been working toward clarifying and identifying focus areas and goals for the post-2015 development agenda. In July of 2014, the Open Working Group proposed 17 goals,⁷⁹ which replaced the original 12 development goals identified by the High-Level Panel. Proposed goal 16 - **Promote peaceful and inclusive**

⁷⁵ The Report of the High-Level Panel p 54.

⁷⁶ *ibid.*

⁷⁷ *ibid.* p 35.

⁷⁸ The Open Working Group was established on 22nd of January 2013 by decision 67/555 (see A/67/L.48/rev.1) of the General Assembly. The Member States have decided to use an innovative, constituency-based system of representation that is new to limited membership bodies of the General Assembly. This means that most of the seats in the OWG are shared by several countries.

⁷⁹ The 17 proposed goals are: (1) End poverty in all its forms everywhere; (2) End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture; (3) Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; (4) Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all; (5) Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; (6) Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; (7) Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all; (8) Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; (9) Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation; (10) Reduce inequality within and among countries; (11) Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; (12) Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns; (13) Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; (14) Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development; (15) Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss; (16) Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; (17) Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels-includes a target on children's protection from violence as a priority concern, through ending the "abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children".

This reiterates the consensus that has been created throughout the consultation process on the recognition of violence against children as an obstacle to the well-being and development of societies.

Going forward, it is important to retain the momentum created and identify concrete benchmarks and tools to monitor progress over time, to ensure that children's protection is not overlooked, and that the post-2015 framework clearly identifies the imperative to completely eliminate all forms of violence against children in all settings.

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NATIONAL CONSULTATION SUMMARY TABLES

Africa

| STAKEHOLDER(S) | FORMS OF VIOLENCE IDENTIFIED | NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| ANGOLA | | |
| Youth, Children, Civil Society | Domestic violence, violence against children, sexual exploitation, drugs and alcohol | “In the world we want there will be no domestic violence.” Child group number 1, provincial meeting Dok. South |
| Government | Social and national cohesion. | <p>The promotion of human rights and family protection are cross-cutting priorities without which democratic and other advances are not possible.</p> <p><i>“The fight against violence, in particular violence against children, is a top priority of the Angolan government which is why the promotion and protection of children is one of the priorities in the National Development Program for the period 2013-2017. The Angolan Government has ratified the Convention of the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, as well as the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Accordingly, in the implementation of these programs of action at the national level, the Angolan State has created a series of laws that guarantee the protection of children, such as Decree 20/07, which established the National Council for Children, which is an organ of social counselling, monitoring and control of public policies for the promotion and protection of the child, enacted Law 25/11 on domestic violence, which seeks to punish perpetrators of various crimes of violence and guarantee more protection for victims. Also enacted Law 25/12 on the protection and development of children with the aim of implementing the 11 commitments made on the issue of children’s rights”⁸⁰.</i></p> |
| BURKINA FASO | | |
| Youth and Women | Violence against children, violence against women and girls, sexual violence against women and girls, early pregnancies, FGMC, violence against vulnerable people, organized crime, drug abuse, youth delinquency. | Security was raised as a major concern by all focus groups, as a hindrance to the wellbeing of the population. 66% of those consulted stressed this issue. |
| All focus groups | | <p>To address gender based sexual violence and its consequences, focus needs to be on access to sexual reproductive health services and family planning.</p> <p>Civic and moral education were brought up as important development priorities.</p> |
| GABON | | |

⁸⁰ Statement by Angola, Clustered interactive dialogue with the SRSG on Violence against Children and the SRSG CAC, Geneva 12th March 2014

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| Women | GBV: early marriage, harmful practices, sexual and reproductive rights, sexual harassment in schools. | Protection against crime and violence is a top priority identified by the consultation. |
| Youth | Early marriage, early pregnancies, child protection, juvenile delinquency, sexual violence, substance abuse, violence in schools, ritual crimes and sorcery, sexual harassment, cybercriminality, violence against children deprived of their liberty. s | <p>Recommendations made to overcoming GBV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -dissemination and popularisation of legislation protecting women and children -developing tools for monitoring and evaluation of public policies put in place to protect women and children. <p>Gabon's gender strategy for the post 2015 agenda includes the promotion of inclusive and equitable political participation, as well as the promotion and protection of the rights of women and the elimination of violence.</p> <p>The law needs to include protection from sexual harassment in schools.</p> <p>For the youth focus group the dissemination of the African Youth Charter is essential. They also call for the protection of youth deprived of their liberty, and separate detention facilities for children and youth.</p> |
| GAMBIA | | |
| Youth, children organisations, NGOs, clubs and associations, CBOs | Violence against children, harmful practices, gender based violence. | <p>The National consultation identified violence as a cross-cutting priority, including violence against children. Even though this was not identified specifically by decision-makers.</p> <p>Addressing and avoiding conflict and fragility, safeguarding peace and stability, were identified as cross-cutting priorities.</p> <p>GBV can be overcome through the enforcement of laws already in place to protect women and children against discrimination.</p> <p>Women leaders and counsellors (young and old) recommend the support of reactive health inspections in all schools to spot early signs and symptoms of disease.</p> |
| Legislators | Conflict and fragility. | |
| GHANA | | |
| MDG Ambassadors ⁸¹ UNICEF UNAIDS CSOs | Eliminating child abuse and gender based violence. Child and maternal health. | MDG Ambassadors, UNICEF, UNAIDS and CSOs expressed firmly the need to eliminate violence against children and gender based violence. However, VAC was not a focus of the National Consultation. |
| All stakeholders | Security was a cross-cutting issue for all stakeholders and an identified priority area. | |
| MALAWI | | |
| Women, girls and children, CSOs and NGOs Orphaned and disadvantaged children | Violence against children, child labour, domestic violence, societal negligence and discrimination of vulnerable children, violent forms of parental discipline/corporal punishment, discrimination and violence against children with disabilities and children with HIV/AIDS, violence against orphan | <p>Children called for a good home environment. Boys and girls between 6-11 years of age, named friendly parents as a necessary element for a good home environment.</p> <p>The protection against gender based violence against women and girls emerged as a cross-cutting key issue.</p> |

⁸¹ Annex 2, Ghana National Consultation Report/

children under the care of guardians, violence against street children.

The national consultation report called for addressing men's violence in the home and societal tolerance toward sexual violence against girls and orphan children.

Violence against women and girls (identified to be a key cross cutting issue):sexual reproductive health (vulnerability to HIV and poverty), early pregnancies and early/forced marriage, incest, rape, sexual abuse of sex workers, domestic violence, intra-familial violence, selling women's bodies for sex to pay debts or as bribes.

The need to implement intensive sensitisation programmes to raise awareness of the rights of women and children.

Women and girls called for stiffer penalties for convicts of sexual abuse and rape.

Education and the need for civic education were identified development priorities.

MALI

Government, public institutions, locally elected dignitaries, political parties, women's organisations, youth, technical partners, labour organisations, religious groups, traditional communicators, researchers, CSO, the private sector and NGOs

Child labour, effects of political and security crises on children, violence against children.

Protection of the rights of the child is identified as a stand-alone priority area. This includes child protection.

Peace and security was rated a top priority among all stakeholders.

Violence against women and girls:

The National consultation called for a need to:

-FGMC (89% of women and girls have undergone FGMC)

-reinforce the structures of child protection

-early marriage (23% of women marry before the age of 15)

-eliminate the worst forms of child labour

-ensure the respect of the rights of vulnerable persons, promotion and protection of the rights of girls and women

Peace and security.

-ensure reliable data and statistics especially concerning vulnerable groups

- adopt a law to prohibit all forms of violence against women and girls.

-end violence against women

-better access to effective and equitable justice

Final recommendations of the report included:

-it is essential to adopt a law to ensure equality and total socioeconomic integration of women and girls and protect them against all forms of violence

-necessary to ensure the protection of and psychological support as social education to youth

-peace is a necessary condition to be integrated into conflict prevention policies and the consolidation of peace, and has to be integrated into the post 2015 development agenda.

MAURITIUS

All stakeholders

Child protection, family welfare.

The My World Survey concluded that child protection was a top 10 priority issue in Mauritius.

Youth

Sexual and reproductive health, substance abuse, trafficking

The national consultation recommended:

The promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women should include family welfare, men's engagement on gender issues and the protection of women from all forms of violence and discrimination.

Universal health coverage should include access to maternal and child health, family planning, sexual reproductive health education, prevention and treatment for substance abuse, occupational and other health hazards, mental health, HIV/AIDS malaria and emerging diseases.

| MOZAMBIQUE | | |
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| Children | Domestic violence, violence in schools, child labour, trafficking of minors, | “Children want to see in the next Development Agenda, concrete actions that ensure that they will have friendly teachers, learning and teaching conditions.” |
| Women and Girls | violence against children, harmful traditional practices, generalised violence and abuse in the community | Children aspire to have their rights protected, secured and performed. They aspire to live in peace, security and without violence, to have space for leisure, recreation and to be able to develop skills that will ensure their integrated and harmonious development without any restrictions. |
| CSOs ⁸² | Gender based violence: early marriages, harmful traditional practices. | Girls in particular aspire to a post 2015 world where they are respected and have the freedom and ability to express their feelings. A society where they do not feel oppressed by traditional practices and customs of their community but are protected by their families, the communities where they live and the institutions they attend in situations of abuse and violence. |
| | Political instability and armed conflict. | CSOs working with children, claim that the post 2015 agenda must engage states and Mozambique in particular, to continue to strengthen the conditions that ensure an environment of peace and security, free from violence against children, where children can recreate and develop their skills to ensure their integrated and harmonious development without restrictions. Concrete recommendations by CSOs were to address early marriages, child labour and trafficking of minors. |
| NIGERIA | | |
| Youth, children organisations, NGOs, clubs and associations, CBOs | Violence against children, harmful practices, gender based violence. | The National consultation identified violence as a cross-cutting priority, including violence against children. Despite the fact that this was not identified specifically by decision-makers. |
| Legislators | Conflict and fragility. | Addressing and avoiding conflict and fragility, safeguarding peace and stability, were identified as cross-cutting priorities. GBV can be overcome through the enforcement of laws already in place to protect women and children against discrimination. Women leaders and counsellors (young and old) recommend the support of reactive health inspections in all schools to spot early signs and symptoms of disease. |
| SENEGAL | | |
| All stakeholders in regional consultations | Violence against women and girls, including sexual violence, harmful traditional practices and customs, early marriage, early pregnancy, boy preference. Worst forms of child labour, child vulnerability, children’s deprivation of rights claims, sexual tourism/prostitution, discrimination against children with disabilities in schools, child mortality due to lacking | Achieving a culture of peace and security is an overarching priority in Senegal. The “My World” Survey ranked protection against violence and crime at number 7. Youth call for the elaboration of a separate Youth Development Plan, which includes the promotion of good governance and the execution of youth centred projects and programmes. Their vision for the post 2015 development agenda includes the respect for human rights and the rights of the child, including equality for all. |

⁸² CSO contribution to the National Consultation Process, Mozambique.

parental skills and neglect, boarder insecurities.

Recommendations for the post 2015 made by the national consultation:

-promote good governance

-promote peace and security

The rule of law, particularly to fight corruption, security of private property and the protection against crimes and physical violence, is deemed essential for the development of private enterprise and investment.

“In respect to their commitments, Senegal has to continue to ensure children, girls and women, a life free from all forms of violence.”

TANZANIA

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| Government officials, private sector and academia | Did not directly address violence, but emphasized the need for security and peace. | Representatives from Universities and Research Institutions, identified security as a cornerstone of development. They pointed at the quality of delivered social services as a means of ensuring sustainable economic growth. |
| Children ⁸³ | Violence in schools, early marriage, sexual abuse, bullying, early pregnancy, violence and abuse on public transportation, gender based violence, discrimination and violence against children with disabilities, drugs, sexual exploitation. | Early Childhood Development was seen as a cross-cutting issue, and Early Childhood Development was identified as an important tool to reduce poverty as well as addressing rural-urban inequality, by targeting rural children who would otherwise be left behind. Furthermore, they pointed at the lack of social security as an underlying reason for parents having large numbers of children in order to ensure economic security in their old age. |
| Youth | Violence against girls, violence against albinos | The consultations held with government officials, the private sector and academia did not identify violence against children as a direct priority concern. |
| CSOs | GBV, sexual harassment | Children are calling for quality education and safe school environments. Children identify that girls are discouraged to perform well in standard seven and encouraged to be married off early. Children were very critical to the great discrepancies in quality between private schools and public schools. |
| | | Children identified safety in schools to be a concern, and pointed out that most schools are not safe for children. “Adults have changed school buildings to places for smoking weed, rape and abominable acts on children; children are bullying each other and sometimes they are threatening teachers. Children are calling for the government to build police posts closer to the schools.” |
| | | Children discussed child pregnancy as the second reason for the school dropout of girls in Tanzania. They called for the provision of the sexual and reproductive health and rights education to girls and boys, without excluding members of the community; construction of boarding schools for the girls and dormitories for girls in the cities as well as enactment of the laws and policies that clearly protect girls from being impregnated. Furthermore, they said pregnant girls should be allowed to resume their studies after delivering. |

⁸³ National Post-MDGs Development Agenda Consultation Report: On CSOs, LGAs and Vulnerable Groups, United Republic of Tanzania, President’s Office Planning Commission, Economic and Social Research Foundation, January 2013, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Children discussed and called for the government to provide protection to children against violence, abuse, exploitation and more priority to be given to disabled children. Children complained that they were being harassed when boarding public transport to schools, and girls were being mistreated by bus conductors.

Children called for the government to look for the parents who are denying the rights of disabled children to go to school and health services. Disabled students and other children must be provided with enough support in terms of school equipment and other facilities.

CSOs emphasised the importance of quality education, starting from primary education and onward, calling for measures to ensure enrolment levels increase and that children stay in school. Quality health care services were also identified as a development concern. Addressing youth unemployment was identified to be a priority concern to ensure sustainable economic growth. The need for civic education was emphasised as a means of attaining a curricula aimed at lifelong learning. CSOS pointed at the need to specially focus on and target persons with disabilities, orphans and children living in harsh conditions.

| UGANDA | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| Youth | Violence against children, child labour, child sacrifice, trafficking, discrimination against children with disabilities, drug abuse. | The national consultation was critical to highlight the lack of a child protection system in Uganda. The national consultation concluded that: |
| All stakeholders | Gender based violence: early marriage, early pregnancy, sexual violence. | <p>“The post 2015 agenda must explicitly include issues of child protection. These were omitted in the MDGs and should be non-negotiable in the Post-2015 Agenda.”</p> <p>Youth and children called for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -strong measures to protect children against violence, child labour, early marriages, child sacrifice and trafficking. Enhance justice for children and forge measures to protect children with disabilities and to include them in national development. -promote youth empowerment and active participation in development by enhancing youth access to reproductive health information and services, creating employment opportunities, developing skills and talents, providing the youth with guidance and mentoring and combating drug abuse. |

The national consultations held in the Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, Liberia, Niger, Togo, Rwanda, and Zambia, all recognized violence against women and girls as a cross cutting priority theme, and identified peace and security as a standalone priority goal for the post 2015 development agenda. These national consultations did not focus specifically on violence against children, a reason for this is that these national consultations did not all include the participation of children.

Arab States

| STAKEHOLDER(S) | FORMS OF VIOLENCE IDENTIFIED | NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS |
|---|---|---|
| ALGERIA | | |
| CSOs Women, youth and children, persons with disabilities, government, academia | Violence as a security general concern, GBV, delinquency, drugs. No stakeholders directly addressed violence against children. | <p>Peace and security was identified as a main priority. The participants highlighted that focus should be on addressing social problems such as drugs and delinquency. Privileging a politics of prevention and synergy between multiple actors. On an international level the fight against terrorism organised crime are prioritised. Peaceful coexistence based on the respect of human rights is considered the ultimate objective.</p> <p>Children and youth identify national and international security as priority concerns. They are concerned with security and peace and the fight against certain social problems, including violence, drugs, illegal immigration, gang violence and HIV, they believe that social justice and equality are important factors in addressing these problems. They highlighted the importance of rule of law and good governance, particularly the need to respect personal liberties and equal application of the law. They identify this to be important to maintain social cohesion. Equality before the law and accountability of elected officials, along with fighting corruption are necessary to achieve well-being and to address root causes of the marginalisation of youth.</p> <p>Women also identify security as a central development concern, recognizing that it is a prerequisite to ensure a good quality of life. Therefore it is important to fight against factors that threaten security, such as terrorism, delinquency, drugs, and violence against women. Women are deeply concerned with the obstacles that exist to their freedom of movement, and particularly to safely participate in public life. Women therefore highlight the need to focus on coordinated preventive action in order to address these problems. Other areas of concern that women identified were, quality education and social justice, including fighting corruption.</p> <p>Civil Society identified the need to strengthen governance and to improve social justice, improve management of public services and establish good relations between elected officials and civilians. Particularly pointing at the need to fight corruption for this purpose as well as addressing social problems that would increase peace and security. Furthermore quality education and better coordination and cooperation between a wide range of actors was called upon to improve life for particularly vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Persons living with disabilities particularly highlighted the need to strengthen a culture of monitoring and evaluation in order to hold those responsible accountable, and in order to ensure that programmes are effectively implemented.</p> |

Academia highlighted the need of transparency of governance and bureaucracy, in order to ensure accountability. Furthermore they highlighted the need to ensure peace and security, by effectively addressing social problems that impact the lives of Algerians.

Government identified security and peace as top development concerns, including violence, drugs and delinquency. In relation to children and youth the government highlighted the efforts being made particularly within health, education children and youth programmes. Social protection systems and specialised aid for youth, women and children as well as other vulnerable groups, was identified as a development priority area. The government also recognizes the importance of citizen participation, social dialogue including a broad set of stakeholders, in order to ensure social cohesion, peace and security.

None of the stakeholders directly addressed the issue of violence against children, rather violence and juvenile delinquency were identified as priority development concerns.

| DJIBOUTI | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Youth, women, UNDP and the government | Domestic violence, sexual violence against women and girls, FGMC | Protection from crime and violence was ranked the second most important priority concern after nutritious and affordable food. The consultation found the protection from crime and violence entails that every person can live in a community that protects them from the threat of crime and violence. |
| Youth | Violence against women and girls | This must include family violence and sexual violence against women and girls. Every person should be able to access justice before a court or other judicial body if he or she is a victim of a crime. |
| Women | GBV, FGMC | Youth identifies violence against women and girls as a health concern, and identifies poverty as the underlying cause, and in order to address the problem good governance within the health sector is necessary. |
| Government | Vulnerability of children and youth | Women identified the need to promote awareness raising and strengthen the fight against FGMC. They pointed out the particular vulnerability of rural impoverished communities, and the absence of NGO engagement in the interior regions. They emphasised the need for the state to improve health services, in particular paediatric care, and the need to incentivize health personnel. They also highlighted the need to raise awareness among young girls on their rights, in order to protect them from violence. |
| | | The national development plan for 2013-2017, jointly developed by the UNDP and the Government of Djibouti, encompasses a priority area aimed at improving access to basic social services, with particular focus on vulnerable groups such as women and children, adolescents and youth. Within this thematic priority, the plan identifies as a target that women and children should be better protected against all forms of violence and exploitation. |

“The protection of children from violence appears as an essential element in the post-2015 agenda

-According to the recommendation of the CRC Committee, Djibouti is aiming at establishing an independent human rights institution to oversee the realization of children's rights and to adopt an action plan for children (in making)

-Djibouti is taking special measures to actively fight against FGM⁸⁴

| EGYPT | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| Children, youth, women, CSOs | <p>Violence against women and girls, sexual violence, social insecurity, community violence, drug use and trade, women and girls are deprived their mobility, sexual harassment, rape, FGMC, beatings, bullying, verbal abuse, within families, by teachers, by peers, drug dealers and law enforcement officials, by employers,</p> <p>Girls and boys reported being beaten by their fathers mostly, seldom by their mothers. The children are beaten by their fathers so hard that sometimes they suffer injuries. Boys are beaten harder than girls.</p> <p>Verbal abuse is common, and according to the children considered "normal" by parents, teachers and employers, who insult children.</p> <p>Most of the street children said that they had escaped from home because they were beaten savagely. Still they think of home as a refuge. Some of the street children returned home after the revolution as the streets became increasingly unsafe. Sexual abuse and drugs are rampant in the streets. Children report that girls are especially</p> | <p>Young people acknowledge the unfair treatment of women and the increased violence and sexual harassment that they have been subjected to during the past two years. According to young people the media have an important role to play "women must be represented as equal to men". "Egypt's female role models need to become more visible and efforts to increase awareness of gender rights must address both men and women."</p> <p>CSOs identify the rising unemployment of youth as a safety risk. "The idleness and frustration of young people has given rise to unprecedented hooliganism and sexual harassment in a region which was always been calm and cohesive. Drug use and trade are on the rise. As the sense of insecurity is rising, protective families are placing more restrictions on the mobility of women and girls who are often discouraged from pursuing education and encouraged to marry early."</p> <p>Women identified that GBV is on the rise, especially in the public spheres. Sexual harassment and rape are seen as an intimidation tactic to exclude women from the public sphere.</p> <p>Women believe that the attacks against them are not sufficiently or effectively addressed by the system. There is no precise definition for sexual harassment in the law and enforcement mechanisms are heavily biased toward men. Women are discouraged from reporting sexual harassment or even rape because they are perceived to be partially or totally responsible for having been attacked either because of the "inappropriate dress code" or because they were out on the streets at "inappropriate hours". There is also concern among women about the questioning of the criminalisation of FGM as regressions of the gender cause. Women are therefore calling for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -address the conservative discourse that encourages gender based discrimination and gender based violence. Awareness raising campaigns and messages disseminated by the government and media. -confirming in the constitution the commitment of the government to all international declarations and conventions on gender and human rights. <p>Children 10-15 from low income neighbourhoods</p> <p>Identified the protection from violence and abuse as their main priority. Their dream on the personal level was to establish a family and have children that they</p> |

⁸⁴ Statement by Djibouti, Clustered interactive dialogue with the SRSV VAC and CAC, Human Rights Council 25th session, Geneva 12th March, 2014

vulnerable although boys are also exposed. All street children had tried some form of drugs.

Most children that have dropped out of school said that they did so because of ill treatment from teachers, as well as a learning environment not conducive to learning.

would love and care for, and their dream for Egypt was that it becomes a society in which children are protected from violence at home, in school and on the streets.

All of the children reported that they were beaten, bullied and verbally abuse on a regular basis by their families, teachers and in the case of street children by older children, drug dealers and law enforcement officers.

Children identify as top priorities:

-developing a hot line and establishing shelters for abused children

-improving the school environment for children

promoting peace, human rights and gender equality in the community through schools and CSOs

-enforcing the law to make the streets safer and drug free

The government representatives did not directly address VAC.

Neither did the civil society representatives.

All stakeholders identified human security as a major concern. The increased security threats are considered to be significant and a main development priority. Fear and violence was identified to be curtailing people's mobility.

IRAQ

Violence against women and girls, teenage pregnancy and early marriage, FGMC, effects of conflict and war

Human security and safety were identified priority areas.

"Polygamy will deny girls their right to education" CSO representative in Kerbala

Children face malnutrition, which could be decreased if free nutritious meals were provided at school for children from low-income families. There is a need for reproductive health education, particularly for women. Controls preventing female circumcisions should be enhanced.

Over 80 per cent of schools are in need of basic services such as water and sanitation, resulting in health challenges, including a high rate of urinary infections in girls who do not have access to lavatories all day.

Girls who marry young subsequently drop out of school, and other children drop out and spend their days as beggars. These realities make it important to apply the law on compulsory education to reduce drop-out rates, and to integrate gender as a core component within the educational sector to affirm commitments to gender equality.

The consultation recommends under the theme of health that protecting children physically and prohibiting the use of children as beggars, as well as actively addressing these practice, as health priorities.

Under education a target identified was the reduction of student drop outs, including reducing children who beg, and reducing the drop out of female students due to early marriage. Indicators were suggested as the percentage of married girls under 18, proportion of dropout of female students to male students, reduction of average of beggars and homeless children, number of child labourers, who are not enrolled to education.

JORDAN

All stakeholders

Gender based violence, violence against children

Strategic messages:

Palestinian students from the UNRWA camps

-Overcome inequalities and combat poverty and invisible barriers such as persisting stereotypes and cultural attitudes, which are considered the main causes of economic and social inequalities, when it comes to women, persons living with disabilities, and vulnerable groups.

-The urgency of improving quality education and expand access to secondary educational levels; establish robust linkages with the labour market for qualified youth employment, and to advance towards a more informed society.

Although the majority of women complete (and excel in) the school cycle, only a limited number below the age of 20 actually join the work force, due to economic, social and cultural barriers. Gender based violence is also seen by many stakeholders as a societal issue that often finds tacit cultural acceptance.

Stakeholders agreed that the national legislation on the rights of women and of persons living with disabilities should be revisited to be fully aligned with Jordan commitments to international charters and treaties.

Palestinian students from the UNRWA camps were also consulted, and mainly conveyed the need to address their challenges in terms of job opportunities. On a global perspective, they stated that the fight against violence against women and children should be priorities worldwide.

LEBANON

All stakeholders

Child protection and the protection of women's rights

Concerning child protection the participants identified a gap in the implementation of already existing laws, especially regarding juvenile justice. Recommendations from the participating experts included the implementation of mechanisms to ensure children's protection against violence and abuses. In this regard, a safety network policy could help identify the most vulnerable persons, and contribute to a better protection of infancy and childhood, pursuant to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

To tackle the challenges identified, education was praised as multidimensional solution to achieve higher development standards, and to establish a citizenship culture where conflict prevention is introduced together with accountability issues.

On the issue of gender equality, participants called for the enforcement of Lebanon's commitments under the CEDAW and other international conventions with

regards to the adoption of a gender quota, the removal of Lebanon’s reservations on some CEDAW provisions, as well as the empowerment of women and the adoption of measures that aim at changing the stereotyped image of women in school books and mass media.

MOROCCO

Children, CSOs, women victims of violence, housewives, children in schools

Violence against women and girls violence, violence against children, discrimination based on ethnic or group affiliation perpetrated by public institutions

Children identified child protection as a priority. Including the protection of their rights, creation of support centres for children as well as equality and equity.

Housewives have noted the rise of delinquency.

38 year old female victim of violence: “There is the will to change...but corruption, the lack of awareness and the mentalities...make such a change difficult.”

School children identified a set of social problems among which was included:

-the weakening of social (family) and state institutions in the development process.

A commentary to this was: “violence within the family,...,divorce...”⁸⁵

Children in the municipality of Ouisselsate called for addressing and eliminating violence.⁸⁶

SUDAN

UN agencies, academia, CSOs, NGOs, community leaders, media, IDPs legislators and civic unions.

Effects of conflict, interrelation between conflict and violence against children, violence against women, child labour (aggravated by the need for children to contribute to household income due to the effects of conflict)

Among the developmental costs of conflicts, were identified the widespread violence against women and children.

Conflict is identified to impoverish people and areas.

The war along with the devastation of HIV/AIDS, has left many children as orphans and head of households. These children are less likely to attend school and more likely to drop out if already enrolled.

Children were not consulted

Three pillars were identified to encompass the crosscutting issues, including: protection, gender, environment and climate change, emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction, and HIV/AIDS.

In particular, the priorities include support towards transferring authority for allocation of resources, planning and management to state and local levels, with capacity development at sub-national levels in effectively exercising delegated powers; strengthening of civil registration and **child protection systems**; to building and/or strengthening capacities in population analysis, projection and planning as well as qualitative data collection, analysis and dissemination; and to capacity development for a gender-responsive Constitutions and gender-responsive planning and budgeting in national and sub-national policies, plans,

⁸⁵ “Priorités de Développement de l’après 2015: Les Marocains s’expriment sur “L’avenir que nous voulons”, Consultation “Focus group” avec des jeunes scolarisés/Tanger, Nations Unies, Maroc, 22 March 2013.

⁸⁶ Priorités de Développement de l’après 2015, Les Marocains s’expriment sur “l’avenir que nous voulons”, Consultation avec des enfants de la commune Ouisselsate, Nations Unies, Maroc, 23 February 2013.

programmes, laws and budgets. Strengthening accountability and citizen participation and capacities of courts, prisons, police and juvenile justice will also be addressed.

The rapid and unplanned urban growth poses serious development, health and security problems. Urban centres suffer acute infrastructural and capacity deficiencies to provide for the housing, employment, health and education and protection needs of a continuously increasing population.

YEMEN

Women, children and adolescents

Violence against women and girls, violence in schools, child trafficking, child labour, child marriage, children in contact with the law, armed violence, recruitment of children to armed forces and armed groups

Protection against crime and violence in various forms is an issue that was widely identified as a priority. Results so far on the My World survey show that this ranks 5th among male, 6 among women, and 5 among respondents under 35 years. Frequent spats of violent conflict around the country highlights the need for better protection of civilians of both sexes and all age groups.

Enhancing the role of youth in the decision making process is identified as crucial for social stability in Yemen.

Emerging issues from consultations with children and adolescents included:

-Better education for all children in Yemen including improving quality education, violence in schools and awareness of the importance of education among parents.

-Protecting children from various child protection issues, especially violence in schools, child marriage, child trafficking, child labour, children in contact with the law.

Children mentioned the existence of social norms and values that exacerbates the issues (ie child marriage) including children's participation on societal values goes against promoting children's participation in Yemen.

Children pointed at armed conflict where schools have been at the centre of attacks, and causing children to drop out of school. Children also identified worsened family economy as a reason for dropping out of school, to work, and leaving children vulnerable to recruitment into armed forces.

Children pointed at child trafficking and children coming into contact with the law, and pointed out the weak role of civil society organisations, as a reason that the problem is worsening.

| STAKEHOLDER | FORMS OF VIOLENCE MENTIONED | RECOMMENDATIONS AND IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES |
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| BANGLADESH | | |
| (not disaggregated) | <p>Gender based violence including early pregnancy, sexual violence, dowry related violence, sexual harassment of girls in schools and on their way to school</p> <p>Violence in schools including, sexual harassment and physical abuse.</p> <p>Domestic violence, child labour (2.5 million or 7% of children in Bangladesh aged 5-14 are engaged in employment and do not attend school), dangers related to child labour in informal labour,</p> | <p>Gender based violence is emerging as a basic health issue.</p> <p>Enrolment and school completion were identified priorities. Unlike enrolment which constitutes a single-focus target, primary cycle completion requires coordinated and holistic action on a number of factors, including teacher quality, classroom environment, sexual harassment and physical abuse, student interest and after class support.</p> <p>The report found that continuing improvements in the education sector will be difficult without coordinated efforts from other sectors including overall poverty reduction strategies, nutrition, health, water and sanitation, child protection and agriculture.</p> <p>“The issue of insecurity and freedom from fear has particular bearing on the situation of women and children as well as groups of communities marginalised by ethnicity, geography, or other factors. Persistently high levels of violence against women and girls are a special concern. Overall, insecurity is a compounded outcome of three factors, crime incidence, perception of risk and insecurity, and confidence in redress. Ensuring freedom from fear requires addressing all three. “</p> <p>Legislation has been introduced to tackle domestic violence and the government is consulting on legislation that will improve the protection of the rights of children and the rights of persons with disabilities.</p> <p>The consultation report proposes the following goals and targets for the post 2015 development agenda:</p> <p>Goal 4: Achieve equality between women men.</p> <p>Target 1: eliminate violence against women and girls.</p> <p>Target 2: Promote the human rights of adolescent girls.</p> <p>Goal 13: strengthen the rule of law, access to justice and promotion and protection of human rights.</p> <p>Target 1: timely and effective formal and informal justice systems, equally accessible to women and other vulnerable groups</p> <p>Target 3: a reduction in the number of human rights violations, particularly against women and marginalised groups.</p> |
| CHINA | | |
| <p>NGOs and UN agencies</p> <p>(Children were not consulted)</p> | <p>Violence against children, domestic violence, child labour, trafficking, gender based violence, suicide among young</p> | <p>The following suggestions/recommendations were made during the consultation:</p> <p>Focus on the rights of children. Eliminate the violence against children and sexual abuse. Fight against child labour. Focus on the right to education and the right to health problems, especially for girls and left-behind children (NGO).</p> |

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| women, boy child preference | <p>Eliminate violence against women, including social and domestic violence. In terms of social violence rights to fight against sexual harassment of women in the workplace should be further strengthened. In terms of domestic violence, women need protection not only in aspects of law but also in aspects of support and protection. (NGO)</p> <p>Take action to eliminate women and children trafficking and reduce illiteracy of women. Set sex ratio at birth as an indicator (UNFPA, NGO)</p> <p>The consultation also highlighted the need to pay attention to the mental health and development of children.</p> <p>The concepts of gender equality and protection of children's rights were embedded into the national Eleventh Five Year Plan and the Twelfth Five Year Plan. A number of laws were enacted in the context of protection and promotion of women and children's rights.</p> |
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INDIA

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| <p>NGOs, CSOs, Women's organisations, Researchers, youth</p> <p>(Children were not consulted or interviewed)</p> | <p>Gender based violence and discrimination (2/3 of women are subjected to violence), women from particularly vulnerable groups are subjected to the worst forms of violence, boy preference.</p> <p>Caste and religious-based violence and discrimination in schools and the community at large, discrimination against migrant and disabled children, trafficking of women, girls and children, alcohol related incidences of violence perpetrated by men, conflict related violence against women and girls, harmful traditional practices (such as Devadashi), child prostitution, child marriage, forced marriage, lack of mobility of girls, child soldiers/forced engagement of children in insurgency and terrorism, terrorist extortion and violence, substance abuse, child labour, crime, youth crime,</p> | <p>In the past decade, India has passed laws against pre-natal sex selection, dowry, bigamy, domestic violence, rape and sexual assault as part of its commitment to directly address the cause of gender disempowerment.</p> <p>The government expressed that the "conflict and insecurity equally cannot be part of the developmental narrative per se."</p> <p>Security and peace, was identified as a top priority among all focus groups.</p> <p>CSOs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -comprehensive services for survivors of violence, among others must be ensured. Excluded communities, especially women, must be involved in planning and setting their agendas, engaged in budget formulations and also of development schemes that are of benefit to the community and focus on the most vulnerable such as single women, survivors of violence and children. -a free world where women claim their dignity autonomy and bodily integrity and where prevailing masculinity norms are challenged is sought. |
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INDONESIA

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| Youth (UNFPA Road to Bali, Youth Dialogues), UNFPA, expert group on population dynamics | Violence in schools, bullying, domestic violence, gender based violence, forced and early marriage, harmful practices, customs and traditions, violence related to the effects of rapid urbanisation, conflict related violence adversely affecting women and children, prostitution, crime, vulnerability of young people as targets of terrorism, religious and ethnic violence. | <p>Recommendations made by youth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -increased awareness of the positive and negative impact that local customs and traditions can have on the health of young people; this should be incorporated into the development of any new (or existing) policies or programmes. -there is an increasing need for data based on sex, age and gender that is further classified into categories based on economic status. There is a need for on-going research and socialisation of this research on the life of young people. <p>Expert group on population dynamics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Address and harness population dynamics through rights-based and gender-responsive policies, which ensure the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all, eliminate discrimination, coercion and violence, and promote inclusive and participatory approaches to development planning. <p>My World Survey results: ranked Protection against crime and violence at number 5.</p> |
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PAKISTAN

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| Youth and students at college, marginalized youth (no children were consulted) | Gender based violence, child marriages, child abuse, sexual abuse, armed violence and adverse effects of natural disasters, violence against women and girls when using public transportation, terrorism | <p>Peace justice and human security was ranked the top priority in Pakistan.</p> <p>For the post 2015 agenda, the participants proposed climate change, democratic governance, health education and peace and security as the most urgent priorities for Pakistan.</p> <p>Key messages under the theme “Inclusive social development”:</p> <p>“Proper legislation and their implementation mechanisms should be put in place to discourage and prevent child marriages and other forms of child abuse.”</p> <p>“The new framework should provide a greater focus on sexual and reproductive rights for women. The right of women to the use of contraceptives and family planning should be reinforced in the new framework.”</p> <p>Key messages under the theme “population dynamics”:</p> <p>Accelerate family planning</p> <p>Address the needs of adolescents and youth and provide them access to sexual and reproductive health rights and services.</p> <p>Government did not mention violence as a central priority issue during the consultation process.</p> <p><i>“Children’s freedom from violence is a fundamental human right recognised by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, and addressed by other important legal standards. The ratification and effective implementation of these treaties constitutes a crucial step in promoting the prevention and elimination of violence and protecting children from all forms of violence. We believe that as the international community considers the future global development agenda beyond 2015, violence against children, including the most vulnerable and marginalised girls and boys, should be recognised as a priority. In addition, restorative justice mechanisms should be in place to protect the best</i></p> |
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*interest of children. They provide an alternative for addressing offending and promoting accountability for the offence, while shielding children from the harmful effects of their involvement with the criminal justice system...(..).We urge states to strengthen mainstreaming of children’s protection into national laws and policies”.*⁸⁷

| PAPUA NEW GUINEA | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Women, children, youth, people living with disabilities, child oriented NGOs and CBOs</p> | <p>Gender based violence, violence against children, violence against children in connection with the ingestion of drugs and alcohol by family members, domestic violence, child marriage, child desertion, neglect, tribal fighting disrupting the lives of children, substance abuse by children and youth, children with disabilities are forced to beg, corporal punishment</p> | <p>The Lukautim Pikinini Act (2009) provides a legal framework for child protection but still requires concerted efforts for full implementation.</p> <p>Gender based violence is identified to be one of the key factors driving the HIV/AIDS epidemic in PNG.</p> <p>Family Sexual Violence Action Committee, under the Consultative Implementation Monitoring Council, coordinate over 100 public and civil society organizations to promote and bring awareness of addressing gender based violence.</p> <p>Women stressed freedom from fear and insecurity as priority issues.</p> <p>Children identified violence as the most significant obstacle to their well-being. Children called for the government to support child protection work and ensure children’s rights; work with the community to care for orphans and deserted children. The consultation with children highlights a clear concern for child protection in various settings and the fulfilment of their rights as defined by the CRC.</p> <p>For children to live well in the future, the youth group said that it was most important to have a stable family, parents to have good parenting skills, and for children to receive education. As to what aspects of their community should be protected to ensure that people live well, they reemphasised maintaining a peaceful and safe environment, free from alcohol abuse and drugs, domestic violence and tribal fighting.</p> <p>The survey conducted among school children revealed that 50 per cent of the responses by females indicated that they wanted law and order to be improved to improve protection mechanisms in place to protect women and girls from violence.</p> <p>The consultation with government bodies, civil society organisations and NGOs that work on child protection issues, made several key recommendations related to violence. Child protection is an important issue, thus the PNG government needs to set up mechanisms to ensure adequate support for children in need of child protection. Better integration of child protection issues into health and education policies and programs must be addressed. Key government departments should be supported in implementing these. The groups also recommended that public-private partnerships should be strengthened to achieve child protection goals. An awareness component is also important in alerting communities of this issue at national, regional and local levels. Data collection must be improved to support implementation of programs to support this important issue.</p> <p>The consultation report identified “Peace and Safety” as a stand-alone emerging priority, and “Acting on gender based violence, tribal warfare, child abuse and all other forms of violence and exploitation” as the first issue to be addressed under this theme.</p> |
| | <p>2/3 of women report being victims of gender based violence. PNG ranks in the bottom ten countries on the Gender Inequality Index.</p> | |

⁸⁷ Statement by Pakistan, Ambassador Mr Maric-Dordevic, Clustered interactive dialogue with the SRSV VAC and CAC, Human Rights Council 25th session, Geneva 12th March 2014

This issue was further deemed of “High priority” for the post 2015 development agenda.

| THE PHILIPPINES | | |
|---|---|---|
| (not disaggregated by focus groups) | Trafficking of women and children, domestic violence and sexual violence against women and children, re-victimization from investigation and judicial process, violent crime, political conflict and instability, increasing culture of violence indicated by the proliferation of loose firearms | <p>Peace and security goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -protect and include vulnerable sectors: vulnerable sectors such as women, children, indigenous peoples as well as former combatants and their families will need attention and representation in the political system. -promote national security, internal stability and international accord: address criminality-research and combat criminality in the informal economy; protect women and children who are most vulnerable to domestic and sexual violence; address fear of re-victimization from investigation and judicial process; support a comprehensive and integrated system of addressing safety and security at the local level. -strengthen the culture of and for peace: education for peace-strengthen people’s peace abilities, to emphasize with the other, value differences, build and amplify social cohesion, and manage conflicts through dialogue. <p>Among the recommendations made in the thematic development focus areas:</p> <p>Justice peace and security: integrate peace education in school curriculum; improve access to justice for vulnerable and marginalised sectors (children, women, youth and persons living with disabilities) and integrate the traditional justice system and conflict-resolution mechanisms of the IP and Bangsamoro within their territories.</p> <p>Equality, equity, people empowerment, social cohesion and justice: includes addressing the situation of basic social sectors that are especially marginalised, among which include: women, children, youth and students, senior citizens and persons with disabilities.</p> |
| SOLOMON ISLANDS | | |
| (not disaggregated by focus group) | Violence in homes and the community | People want a peaceful Solomon Islands in the future where law and order is maintained and their security enhanced. This encompasses police presence at community level, stop violence in homes and in communities with links to reduction of land disputes |
| TIMOR-LESTE | | |
| All stakeholders | | <p>Peace and stability were ranked the top priority, and security was ranked the second priority.</p> <p>Gender inequality was a cross-cutting issue of importance for development.</p> <p>The protection of persons with disabilities from discrimination was a frequently discussed issue.</p> |
| VIETNAM | | |
| Youth, children, persons living with disabilities, urban poor | Domestic violence, sexual harassment, violence in schools, drugs, discrimination, pressure to succeed in schools, sexual abuse, preference for boys, discrimination | <p>Young men and women, and girls and boys, called for greater protection from school violence, sexual abuse, domestic violence and drugs. They expressed a strong wish to be able to participate in decision-making processes, and a demand for social equity and gender equality.</p> <p>Young people identified better youth and child protection, as a priority issue. The consultation also highlighted young people’s</p> |

against girl children
in families.

awareness of the problems caused by drugs, and their wish for better education on the danger of drugs as well as protection from drugs.

They called for greater protection from school violence and bullying, which was considered a widespread problem.

“I am looking forward to a future when school violence no longer exists. I wish my school mates and students in general would be more friendly to one another.” (Male student, 14 years old, Long An province)

Youth and children as well as the urban poor, were the only groups consulted that identified VAC as a priority issue. However, it was identified by them as a top development priority.

Latin America and the Caribbean

| STAKEHOLDER(S) | FORMS OF VIOLENCE MENTIONED | RECOMMENDATIONS AND IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES |
|--|--|---|
| BOLIVIA | | |
| All stakeholders | Family violence, gender based violence | <p>Violence is referenced in the context of family stability and creating non-violent and harmonious settings, as well as in the area of inclusion and non-discrimination. Secure environments and protection from violence are priority areas, however VAC was not directly addressed.</p> <p>The identified thematic priorities for the development agenda included:</p> <p>Sexual reproductive health and education; eradicating all forms of violence against women and increase the budget dedicated to sexual violence; rights, including sexual and reproductive rights.</p> |
| BRAZIL | | |
| Youth, young girls, afro-descendant population, homeless people, CSOs working with victims of violence | Violent crimes, violence and discrimination in schools, child labour, crime and gang related, adolescent homicide, abuse, sexual violence, violence against children and adolescents by security staff, police violence, gender based violence | <p>The South region consultation identified:</p> <p>“Education is responsible for strengthening and building social fabric; with education it is possible to become a citizen with critical awareness, reduce health and violence problems preventively, restore family values and the role of families in society: it is a condition for fully exercising human rights”</p> |
| Government and academia | Generalised violence | <p>Youth from public schools call for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -support for people who are unable to work, as a means of preventing child labour -protect youth from crime and violence, prevent death of youth caused by violent crime. -eliminate prejudice and discrimination; end discrimination in schools, confront abuse and sexual violence -strengthen the rights enforcement system: the reality is that children’s and adolescents’ rights are constantly violated, therefore it is important to ensure effective enforcement of the Statue of Children and Adolescents. <p>Youth from the MJPOP Social Movement (Monitoramento Jovem de Políticas Públicas) made the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -education: as a means of addressing public insecurities. Identified child protection agencies as crucial partners in improving the education system, as well as NGOs, community assistance groups and student councils. -In order to address violence: the government and judiciary organs, schools, international organisations, community leaders, churches and religious organisations, are possible partners. -create more facilities for culture, leisure and sports and other measures to reduce drug traffic and use; demilitarize the police and create preventative and restorative security measures, |

create and train community police forces, invest in youth offender recovery facilities, reduce the sense of impunity for crimes that occur in the peripheries of large cities and in smaller communities, create public policy that fosters a culture of peace, monitor human rights and violence treaties of which Brazil is signatory, creation of more police stations dedicated to protecting women.

The Brazilian Government identified public security and the reduction of violence/the protection against violence and crime as a main development priority.

COLOMBIA

Youth and children,
Women

Child labour, GBV, discrimination against afro-descendent and indigenous persons,

The women suggested strengthening new masculinities oriented toward positive democratic relations and being more flexible toward the roles imposed by society. The necessary elimination of gender based violence and the participation of women, as protagonists in development and peacebuilding.

The consultation made broad recommendations within the following focus areas:

-promote an agenda that can respond to the differentiated and particular needs of the afrodescendent population and the indigenous populations.

-quality education and healthcare services: these need to respond to the differentiated needs of the population.

-ensuring equality between rural and urban areas: on an institutional and social level.

COSTA RICA

Children, teenagers, experts, women, persons from poverty stricken areas

Assault in public places, community violence, homicide of children and adolescents, drugs, bullying, discrimination against indigenous children, children with disabilities and afrodescendent children, child and adolescent pregnancies, gender based violence, physical abuse by parents, sexual abuse of children under 6 years old, discrimination against pregnant teenagers, bullying, alcohol related incidences of violence, neglect,

Increasing citizen security and the establishment of recreation spaces and opportunities came out very strongly in the National Consultation. These issues were mentioned by children, adolescents, young people, older people, women, and indigenous people from different parts of the country.

Children in vulnerable communities, such as those living in Barrio Cuba, a neighbourhood that is stricken by poverty and violence, identified drugs and bullying, as priority problems that they would like to solve for having a better future.

Children and adolescents identified safety as the respect of peace and living without fear, citizen collaboration and less bullying.

The national consultation recommended the following in order to eradicate violence against children and adolescents and preventing teen pregnancies:

-Address male chauvinism

-preventive actions to reduce the risk of abuse, monitoring by the ministry of education of adolescent pregnancies

-increased sexual education

-improve the relationship between schools and family

-address bullying: teachers should pay more attention, preventive action through responsabilising parents, provide assistance to children who practice bullying, identify causes of bullying, projects to prevent bullying.

Children and adolescents identified the following as stand-alone priority goals:

-decrease teen pregnancy, sexual education

-Decrease the manifestation of violence in communities, schools and families. (was not to be of particular importance)

-decrease drug use and trafficking

These goals have all been included in the National Development Plan as well as in the UN Development Assistance Framework.

"We strongly recommend that the promotion and protection of the rights and well-being of children be well reflected in the post-2015 development agenda, including the issue of elimination of any form of violence and discrimination against children".⁸⁸

CUBA

NGOs, researchers

Multiple forms of violence against children, corporal punishment and other degrading forms of punishment

Cuban NGOs expressed appreciation for programs that eliminate gender patterns and traditional gender stereotypes that undermine gender equity as well as the persistence of multiple forms of violence against children and harmful and degrading forms of punishment of children and adolescents.

Representatives of research institutes stressed that public policies must be updated and refined based on the differentiated needs of adolescent and youth populations.

The consultation recommendations included:

-Include the perspective of gender equity in all thematic areas, guarantee the rights of children, adolescents and youth and other population groups.

-include the recognition and guarantees of sexual and reproductive rights as human rights.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Women, children, youth, vulnerable children (street children, orphans, children with disabilities)

Gender based violence, violence against girls, family violence, abortions by children, substance abuse by children, early pregnancies

Crime and security is a priority concern for all stakeholders.

Family violence and police violence were identified as emerging trends. Intrafamilial violence was identified as a priority concern.

Vulnerable children and other children identified love, family, protection, protecting family and life in peace as main priority concerns. They pointed out that their sexual rights are not being respected.

In order to address the issue of gender based violence the following recommendations were made:

-sexual and reproductive education including family planning

-construction of educational programs for a new masculinity

EL SALVADOR

⁸⁸ Statement by Costa Rica, during the High Level Event of the President of the General Assembly on "The Contribution of Women, the Young and Civil Society to the Post-2015 Development Agenda", 6th March, 2014, New York.

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Children, adolescents, women | Violence against children | <p>Adolescents identify public security as a priority.</p> <p>Children identify Security and the prevention from violence as their top priority.</p> <p>Women and women's groups identify violence as a top priority theme.</p> <p>Civil society, the public sector and labour organisations, identify violence, conflict and fragility, violence prevention as a top priority.</p> |
| ECUADOR | | |
| Women, general public | GBV, sexual violence, gender based discrimination, exclusion | <p>Academia, armed forces, private sector, CSOs, public servants, local authorities: identify human rights, equity and security as priority areas.</p> <p>Indigenous persons, afro-descendent persons, persons living with disabilities, LGBT, persons deprived of their liberty: all pointed out security as a priority development goal, as well as discrimination. The survey also identified protection against crime and violence as a priority issue.</p> |
| Labour Unions | Child labour | <p>Cross-border, and transnational security issues are a concern, including human trafficking.</p> <p>Labour Unions addressed the issue of child labour.</p> |
| HONDURAS | | |
| Boys, girls, adolescents, UNOs, women | Community violence, violence in schools, crime, homicide, organized crime | <p>Levels of public insecurities have been increasing due to the increase of crime afflicting the country and has put Honduras in the group of countries with the highest homicide rates per 100'000 inhabitants.</p> <p>One of the main priority goals is the "Construction of citizenship and social cohesion" within which was identified a need to strengthening culture through dialogue and peaceful negotiation of differences, the promotion of civic culture of adherence to values such as honesty, solidarity, honour and the fulfilment of commitments made, the construction of a culture of volunteerism and community service and strengthening national identity.</p> |
| JAMAICA | | |
| Youth (15-39), women | Violence against women and girls, sexual violence toward children, crime, class based discrimination, neglect, corporal punishment, exposure to violence, transactional sex by/between minors (sex in exchange for gifts), domestic violence, small arms related violence, drugs, human trafficking of women and girls, child | <p>Among the key messages emerging from the consultations were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Investment in Children and Youth must be a key area of focus in the Post 2015 Agenda. -the level of insecurity in Jamaica calls for a dedicated target for reduction in crime and violence on the Post 2015 agenda for Jamaica <p>The youth focus group identified violence against children and youth as a top priority concern. One youth focus group participant suggested: "I don't think us (we are) focusing enough on abuse against children. They are (not) trying but instead they are turning a blind eye. And while they are not paying attention more children are dying...either by sickness, either by malnutrition...". In this case, the abuse of children highlights the multidimensional nature of abuse beyond commonly referenced instances of corporal punishment or sexual abuse but also</p> |

prostitution (girls are groomed by their mothers)/sexual exploitation of girls as a means of family income,

encapsulates mistreatment of children with respect to denial of their health rights.

Other child accounts points to the need to manage child exposure to violence in addition to working towards eliminating the instances of violence against children and youth.

The young people involved in the focus group discussion called for a specific goal to be developed in the Post 2015 agenda on reducing levels of crime and violence.

Intricate link between violence and HIV/AIDS and the vulnerabilities of young women were a highlighted health concern. Plan indicates that girls 15-24 are three times more likely to be infected with HIV than their male counterparts.

79% of survey respondents are dissatisfied with their safety and security. 66% indicate that crime and violence is the reason people do not live well, the same number believes that it is the reason that the gap is growing between those who live well and those who don't. Jamaica's per capita homicide rate has been on an upward trend since 1990 and the country is ranked among the most violent in the world. Young men (18-34) are more likely to be the victims and perpetrators of violence, although women are those most likely to be victims of domestic violence.

Under the themes social protection the National Consultation recommended:

-strengthen family life and parenting skills as a key source of building self-esteem and promoting youth empowerment.

PERU

Girls, boys, youth, Women, local leaders, population living with HIV/AIDS, interregional consultations

Violence, crime, parental neglect, domestic violence, alcohol related violence against children perpetrated by parents, violence in schools perpetrated by teachers, gang related violence, substance abuse among adolescents and youth, teen pregnancies, child labour, violence against children in their place of work, violence against women and girls,

Women of African descent and other women groups identified violence and discrimination as the main obstacle to leading good lives. However there is discrepancy between the identification of violence as a main obstacle and as a priority area. This is due to the view of violence as a consequence of other developmental challenges. Leaders and expert focus groups also identified the need to change evaluative and ethical patterns in certain sectors of Peruvian society, particularly of the male population around how they treat their families and women.

Local leaders identified that change will only come with a change in ethics and values. Public and private investment need to generate more jobs and also respect the rights of children and adolescents. They also identified the need for youth to be able to lodge complaints.

The interregional consultations identified protection of children and older adults, respect for human rights, as a stand-alone development priority area. These consultations also highlighted the lack of child protection in the MDGs.

All focus groups identified the elimination of violence and the promotion of a culture of peace in the family and the community, as top development goals. As no limits were set for the range of issues that could be discussed and prioritized by the workshop participants and no precise definitions for the suggested topics were given, this points to a rather stable consensus. Of six priority goals identified overall the number 4 priority "Security" contained violence, violence in families as sub targets.

Girls and boys identified violence and crime, as well as education as top priorities. Identified as the main obstacle to leading good lives as being the fact that parents leave their children alone making them vulnerable. Also, children feel that parents are not good role models, and are often violent and come home drunk. Children identify violence perpetrated in schools by teachers. Gang activity and crime are identified as factors in the community, as well as ill functioning police and judiciary wrought with corruption and a lack of access to justice.

SAINT LUCIA

Men, women, youth, older persons, health experts, education sector experts, persons living with disabilities, Children, health consultations,

Violence against children, violence in schools including bullying, juvenile offending, intrafamilial violence, gender based violence, sexual violence, corporal punishment

Men, women, youth, older persons, children, health experts, education sector experts, persons with disabilities: all identified that poor parenting can have a negative impact on children's health. Knowledge of food and nutrition, sexual and reproductive health practices, and other positive stimuli contribute to a good foundation for the future.

Men, women, youth, older persons, children, education sector experts, persons with disabilities: Recommended the implementation of non-violent approaches to discipline children in schools, homes and state institutions.

Children called for:

-an increase of the dissemination and use of data for the promotion of children's rights and well-being

-address the causes of violence against children with special emphasis on child sexual abuse, bullying and juvenile offending

The National consultation on Health as well as other national consultations identify interfamilial violence and violence against women, and the need for improved parenting skills as a health priority area.

Under the priority theme "Provide safe and secure environment for citizens to function optimally in their communities" recommendations were made to address bullying, juvenile offending and child sexual abuse, but also to change the practice of child punishment and discipline to more positive, less punitive didactic methods.

80 per cent of sexual offences are committed against women and children.

Eastern Europe and the CIS

| STAKEHOLDER(S) | FORMS OF VIOLENCE MENTIONED | RECOMMENDATIONS AND IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES |
|-------------------|---|--|
| ALBANIA | | |
| Children | GBV, family blood feuds, ethnic discrimination in schools, particular discrimination of and discrimination of the Roma community, birth sex selection (decreasing birth rate of girls), early marriages, discriminatory offences perpetrated by teachers, | <p>“Economic empowerment of women is interrelated with the level of education, resulting in unemployment, poverty and other correlated social problems like domestic violence etc.”</p> <p>Discrimination against women and girls and lack of genuine gender empowerment have come out very strongly as a cross cutting concern with such issues as sex-selective abortions and widespread domestic violence being extreme symptoms of grave social problems.</p> |
| AZERBAIJAN | | |
| All stakeholders | Child marriage, domestic violence, trafficking, risky behaviour, discrimination, discrimination against youth with disabilities, boy preference, gender based violence | <p>The Law on Youth Policy adopted in April 2002 and updated in 2007, addresses concerns and provides guidance on such issues as values, behaviour codes, youth employment, health care and youth organisations. The Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence was adopted in 2010.</p> <p>Risky behaviour is a challenge for youth. Young people who are demobilized from the army or leaving institutional care need particular support to prevent engagement in risky activities that lead to tobacco, alcohol and drug addiction, and behaviours such as unsafe sex. There is a lack of information about these problems through school.</p> <p>It is important that community programmes aimed to address norms and attitudes and also to empower girls are introduced and measures are undertaken to improve the socio-economic standing of women. Since the fall of the soviet union the practice of child marriage has resurfaced and the State Statistics Committee identified that 30 per cent of women aged 16-49 were married by the age of 18. In 2011, over 5 per cent of registered marriages were to girls aged under 18. Many more unregistered marriages for children are likely. Or particular concern is the fact that the religious leaders in Azerbaijan constitute the major group that contributes to the preservation of the practice of child marriages</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <p>Stakeholders suggest that the school psychologist system be revitalized to become a place for school children to receive guidance and counselling. All schools should be required to teach modules on healthy lifestyles so no one who goes to school will be ignorant of the risks of risky behaviour.</p> <p>The consultation recommended that the trafficking of women, children and men should be combatted in Azerbaijan through information dissemination in cities and rural areas, awareness</p> |

raising including targeted campaigns addressed to migrant workers and law enforcement efforts to identify potential victims of trafficking, refer them to appropriate services as well as to further investigate and prosecute trafficking offenders.

“One of the main reasons for gender inequality is child marriage which deprives the girls from the elementary and secondary education. This leads to uneducated mothers and uneducated children. It is a vicious cycle.” – A girl 20 years old, from an urban area National youth consultation in Shirvan

KAZAKHSTAN

(Not disaggregated)

Violence against children, violence against girls, children and adolescents engaging in risky behaviour, juvenile delinquency

Government’s protective policies for women were highly praised, and it was strongly recommended that children are similarly afforded legal protection and that measures are put in place to address violence against children. Participants asked for implementation of such programmes to be closely monitored, promoting behavioural changes and access to adequate services in order to reduce repeated violence.

Discussions revealed increasing rates of violence against girls.

Under Health the consultation report recommended under the target on education, that the psychological and emotional state of children remains a concern, and measuring these areas will help to better address the well-being of children.

Under the section “Support to vulnerable people” the elimination of domestic violence was ranked as number 4. Under social services, psychological health as a priority concern was ranked number 9. Ethical and moral upbringing of young people was ranked number 5. Reproductive health of women was ranked 8. Under Security juvenile delinquency and the protection against and reduction of crime were identified as priorities.

KYRGYZSTAN

Women and youth

Violence was not mentioned under any thematic area.

The thematic area of Peace and Stability, was identified as a priority area. The responses indicated that there is a need to improve interethnic relations and address the worsening moral values of the population.

Most of the recommendations indicated that there is a need to promote tolerance and understanding that “we are one people”.

Improving values and culture was addressed as a priority theme. Participants indicated that there is a need to engage people, more specifically the youth. In the formulation of the development agenda, which in many ways can tie into a desire for increased volunteerism that can empower youth, transform the often passive relationship between citizen and state in addressing development challenges, and provide work skills.

MOLDOVA

Children, youth and women

Ethnic, social and religious discrimination (high levels of intolerance),

The participants mentioned that they want to live in an educated society that is tolerant and respectful. These aspects were mentioned more often by children, youth and women.

domestic violence, the negative effects of parents emigrating for financial reasons

Intolerance of the population was identified as a major concern. This includes discrimination and intolerance toward people living with HIV, the Roma population, LGBTI persons, drug abusers, certain religions, and ethnic groups.

Domestic violence was mentioned by women, but also other groups of the population, especially representatives of CSOs. Some of them stated that the main reason for domestic violence derives from poverty, although lifestyle risk factors which may lead to alcoholism for instance (also could be identified during the discussions as reason for domestic violence).

Recommended solutions:

Implementation of the right policies. Some reference was made to the ratification and enforcement of conventions against the discrimination of women during the consultations. Indeed, not all conventions are ratified by Moldova and the enforcement is weak.

MONTENEGRO

All stakeholders

Child protection as a development priority

More than three-quarters of respondents think that social services and child protection mechanisms can reduce the negative effects of the bad economic and social situation. Furthermore, when asked to what extent quality of life depends on the quality of social and child welfare protection, two thirds said that it does (68.7 per cent).

Under healthcare the consultation identified preventive healthcare as the priority approach and included target recommendations on addressing risk factors; education about the prevention and strengthening awareness about the importance of the healthy lifestyle. The consultation further recommends opening youth counselling centres, within already existing primary healthcare centres. They also recommend the increased use of screening programs, as an effective method of prevention.

“Violence against children is a growing problem. It often goes unseen, unheard and unreported. We encourage new ideas to focus on collective actions to ensure the right of the child to live free from violence. The Government of Montenegro has undertaken numerous steps for more efficient implementation of laws concerning the protection of children’s rights. We accepted the recommendations made during the Country UPR review to prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including at home. In that regard, my country is preparing a number of legal amendments to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings. In addition, a comprehensive media outreach will be launched in enhancing awareness of the consequences of corporal punishment of children. Montenegro has recognised the need to establish a mechanism for monitoring the number of cases and scope of abuse, negligence and maltreatment, including within the family, schools and child care institutions; to ensure that professionals who work for and with children, including teachers, social workers, health workers, police and judiciary,

*are properly trained to recognise the early signals of child abuse or neglect and to strengthen child support victim services. In addition...(...), Montenegro has also launched activities towards a comprehensive child care database and a new National Action Plan for care and protection of children”.*⁸⁹

SERBIA

Children, street involved children, children with autism, youth from rural areas, children and youth in conflict with the law, high school children, general population, Roma population, Feminists, journalists, local politicians, health experts

Domestic violence, physical and psychological violence against children in the home, peer violence in schools, trafficking, drug abuse, child prostitution

54% of women have experienced some form of domestic violence after the age of 15. Children are exposed to the psychological violence in the family, 57% of cases and to physical in 37% of cases. They are exposed to peer violence in schools in 56% of cases.

Violence against women and children were identified as priority concerns across all groups consulted. The questions were open ended and not prescribed. All groups identified the lack of a culture of social cohesion as being the underlying reason.

The survey revealed that if disaggregated by age, young people identify protection against crime and violence as being their second top priority, whilst the middle-aged category (35-54) and the 55+ categories have it as their top priority.

During the consultations aspects of social exclusion were emphasized, such as obstacles to access education, health care, social protection, the judicial system, culture and to participate fully in local community without stigma and prejudices. This was particularly the case with the Roma population, street involved children, IDPs and children in conflict with the law.

Children in conflict with the law, indicated problems of weak support to families. They complained about the conditions of institutionalisation and required much better support to families that would prevent their troubles.

Recommended solutions:

Better quality of services, for example education that fosters not only knowledge, but also civic values and educates new generations to be responsible, more tolerant but also competitive and cooperative at the same time. Better quality of services in the context of health care and prevention, particularly in the case of various forms of risky behaviour by young people and the reproductive health of women.

TAJKISTAN (focus on GBV)

Women, youth and civil society

Violence against women and girls, domestic violence, discrimination against children with disabilities in schools, discrimination against girls in schools, early marriage

Women, youth and civil society participants put particular emphasis on gender inequalities in the access to education. Early marriage and societal gender norms and values are highlighted as key reasons underlying this problem. Youth in Sughd also mentioned the fact that the hijab is banned in schools as a potential barrier for girls' education.

To address the stigma and discrimination experienced by children with disabilities in schools, the participants highlighted the need to promote a positive attitude focused on ability.

When it comes to girls' access to education, women suggest that one option to encourage girls to stay in school beyond grade 9 would be to extend compulsory education to grade 11. They also argue that specific steps need to be taken to address early marriage.

⁸⁹ Statement by the Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the UN in Geneva, Ambassador Mr Maric-Dordevic, Clustered interactive dialogue with the SRSB VAC and CAC, Human Rights Council 25th session, Geneva 12th March, 2014

Youth and civil society representatives also highlighted the need for the curriculum to address topics such as rights awareness. Youth also indicated a need for values such as peace, tolerance and dialogue to be incorporated into the curriculum.

TURKEY

CSOs, Habitat Youth Consultation, violence in schools

Child marriage, sexual violence, GBV and discrimination, gender based discrimination, violence in schools and preschools, discrimination and violence against learning disabled children in schools

Early childhood development was added as a 10th priority theme, besides the 10 themes identified by the Rio +20.

Recommendations and priority concerns were thematically identified:

Inequalities

- eradicate all forms of violence against women
- ensure early childhood development for young children between 0-8 years of age.

Health

- expand user friendly reproductive health services for young people
- tailor health services for young people, women and the elderly

Education

- ensuring 12 year compulsory school
- compulsory pre-school education

Population dynamics

- development of policies to targeting women, young people, children and migrants on all areas
- development of policies to prevent child/early marriages and early pregnancies

Also emphasized were the obstacles to the women's use of their reproductive rights, the insufficiency of shelters and social protection units for women who are subjected to violence. Special urgency is attached to women's participation in economic and social life and to effectively combating violence against women.

Effectively fighting inequalities faced by children was treated as a priority area at all meetings. The participants attached priority to the need for legal measures to guarantee the protection of children. The insecurity in schools and preschools in particular, poses a life-threatening situation. Moreover, physical and social inequalities in public space are viewed as a fact which aggravates child poverty.

Recommendations made by the consultation report:

- adoption of all possible legislative, institutional and practical measures to put an end to all forms of violence against women
- adoption of funded, inclusive and integrated ECD policies and implementation of supportive and protective programs for all young children 0-8 years, especially the most disadvantaged by 2020

-routine collection of data at national and sub-national levels to monitor trends and disparities in the ECD and generate evidence-based knowledge to inform budgeting and policies.

-revision of all existing binding laws on discrimination is such a way as to include young people in particular

-adequate importance should be attached to guidance and psychological counselling in efforts to reach out to disadvantaged children and families and to identify and eliminate the problems which they face at school, cooperation among families, teachers managers, psychological counsellors and guidance teachers, should be promoted

-child development should be taken within a holistic approach and effective policies developed in the area of Early childhood education, which is the most important factor in eradicating inequality in education.

-early childhood learning indicators should be developed and indicators should be used to detect learning problems at an early stage (IMP since learning impaired children to a greater extent experience violence in schools)

-special policies should be developed for the prevention of early marriages and pregnancies.

Health:

Traffic accidents and violence should also be considered as directly relevant to public health and related services should be integrated into preventive efforts. Violence against women was identified as a priority health issue.



The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children is an independent global advocate in favour of the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children, mobilizing action and political support to achieve progress the world over. The mandate of the SRSG is anchored in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international human rights instruments and framed by the UN Study on Violence against Children.

<http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org>
<http://facebook.com/martasantospaispage>
<http://twitter/srsgvac>
<http://youtube.com/srsgvac>



Plan is one of the oldest and largest children's development organisations in the world. Plan works in 50 developing countries in Africa, Asia and the Americas to promote child rights and lift millions of children out of poverty, societies that respect people's rights and dignity. Plan's vision is of a world in which all children realise their full potential in societies that respect people's rights and dignity.

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Save the Children

Save the Children is the world's leading independent organisation for children. We work in over 120 countries. We save children's lives; we fight for their rights; we help them fulfil their potential. We work to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

<http://savethechildren.net>
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<http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/>