



Ending Violence Against Children: The Global Context and Framework for Action

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Enhancing Collaboration for Violence Prevention and Social Well Being



CHILDREN HAVE THE **RIGHT**
TO BE PROTECTED FROM ALL FORMS OF
VIOLENCE IN ALL SETTINGS

Physical, Sexual, Emotional

At home, at school, in the community, online,
institutional care, detention

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)

ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against
Children (2013) and Regional Plan of Action (2016)



GLOBAL STATUS REPORT DATA 2020

1 out of **2** children or **1 billion children** suffer some form of violence each year



Nearly 3 in 4 children or **300 million children** aged 2–4 years regularly suffer physical punishment and/or psychological violence at the hands of parents & caregivers



1 in 4 children aged under 5 years live with a mother who is a victim of intimate partner violence



1 in 3 students aged 11–15 years suffered bullying in the past month:



1 in 3 students aged 13–15 years were in a physical fight in the past year:

OF THE AVAILABLE DATA IN THE EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION

- 49-92% of children (1-14) experience violent discipline on a regular basis
- Physical abuse is more prevalent for boys, and more prevalent in lower to middle income countries
- Bullying, physical fights and physical attacks ranges from 24.6% to 48.8%
- Sexual abuse is more prevalent for girls (11-22% girls vs 3-16% boys), except in low income countries (16% boys vs 13% girls) (very few countries in the region with prevalence data)
- Experience of emotional abuse ranges from 13-41%
 - 2-26% of girls and women experience intimate partner violence in last 12 months
- Online child sexual abuse referrals from NCMEC to South East Asian countries increased x3 between 2017 and 2019

Children with disabilities 3.7 times more likely to be victims of all types of violence (WHO 2012)

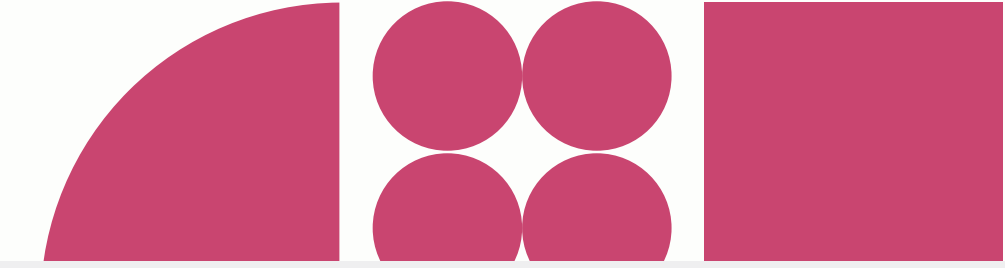
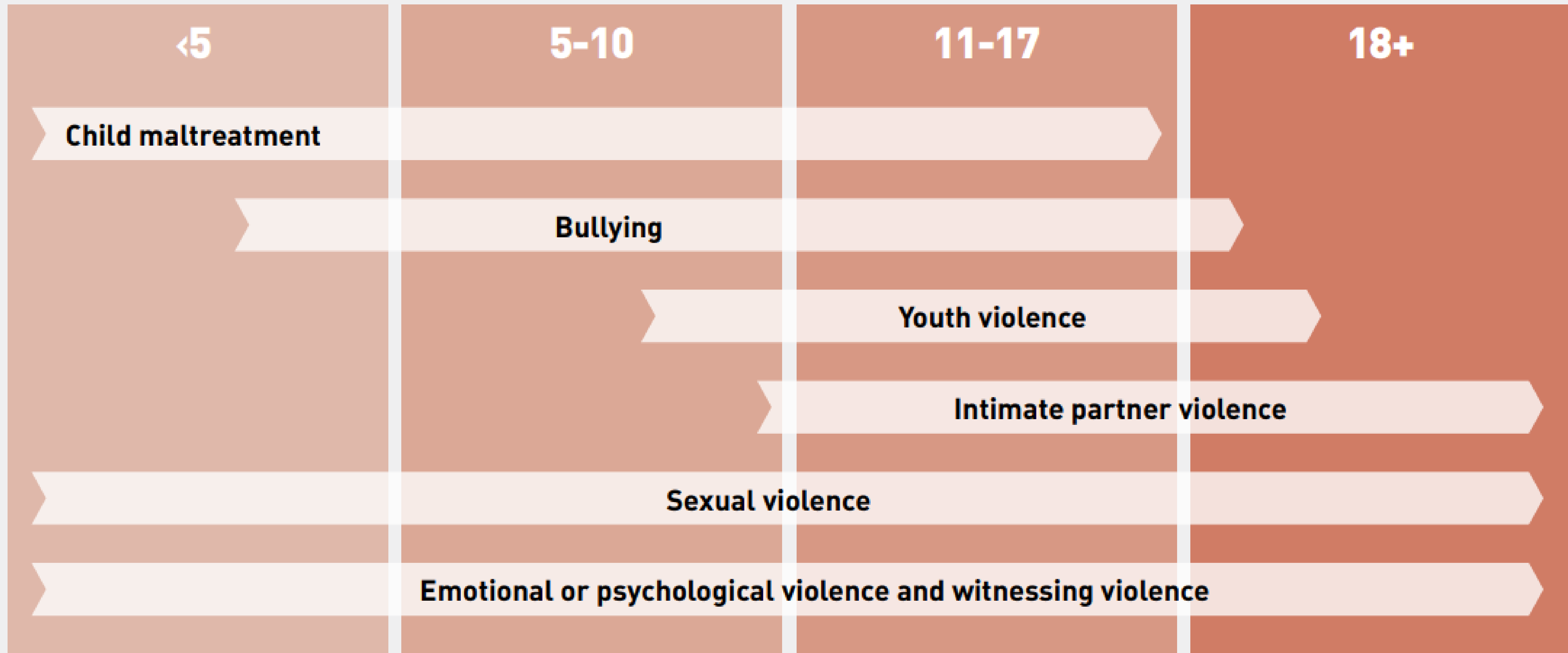


Figure 2: Type of violence by age group affected.





The impact of violence against children

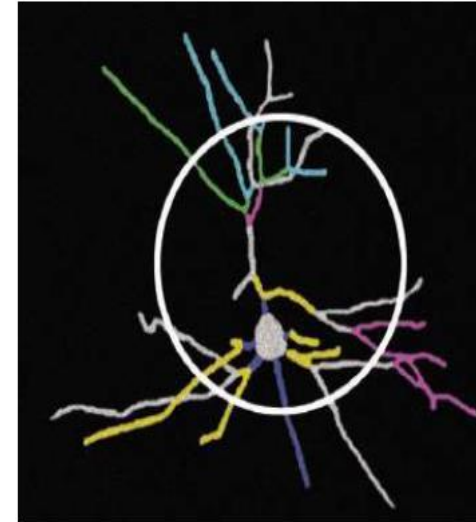


Impact on Early Childhood Development

Typical healthy
brain development



Weakened
architecture linked to
toxic stress



- **Violence and neglect, and witnessing violence, especially in the early years, can impact attachment, brain development and early childhood development**
- Toxic stress linked with persistent fear and anxiety during the early years can alter brain architecture
- Damage can manifest in adolescent through problems in self regulation
- Harsh corporal punishment, verbal abuse and witnessing domestic violence may cause visible abnormalities in brain development



Impact on Health

Violence against children can have short, medium term and severe lifelong impacts on health:

- Injury, disability and death
- Noncommunicable disease
 - Stroke, diabetes, cancer, chronic lung disease, heart disease, obesity
- Communicable disease and risk behaviours
 - Substance abuse, unsafe sexual practices, STDs/HIV
- Maternal and child health problems
 - Death, unintended adolescent pregnancy



Impact on Mental Health

- **Childhood violence can lead to depression, anxiety, post traumatic stress disorder, suicide**
- Globally 1 in 7 adolescents has a mental disorder (State of the World's Children)
- 1 adolescent dies from suicide every 11 minutes (State of the World's Children)
- Globally, adults who experienced four or more adverse childhood experiences are x30 more likely to attempt suicide (Global Status Report)
- 25% of mental disorders in East Asia and the Pacific are attributable to child's experience of emotional abuse (Fang et al., 2015)



Impact on Education

Children aged 11–15 years who
are bullied at school are:

13% less likely to
graduate from school



- **Violence in and out of school impacts attendance, completion and, according to emerging evidence, learning attainment**
 - Correlations between perception of violent classrooms (perpetrated by teachers and peers) and reduction in scores in reading, writing and science
- Violence in schools impacts teaching effectiveness, skills development, decreases self esteem and fosters aggressive and anti social behaviours
- Children who are not in school are at higher risk of child labour, sexual exploitation, early marriage, teenage pregnancy, family separation



Cycle of violence



- **Adults who were sexually and physically abused as a child**
 - Women - 16 times more likely to be involved in abusive adult relationships as victims
 - Men - 14 times more likely to be perpetrators
- **Adults who experience 4 or more adverse childhood experiences**
 - 7 times more likely to be involved in intimate partner violence as a perpetrator or a victim
- Evidence indicates that children in households affected by intimate partner violence are more likely than other children to experience violent discipline by both male and female caregivers



Economic impact

ECONOMIC IMPACT

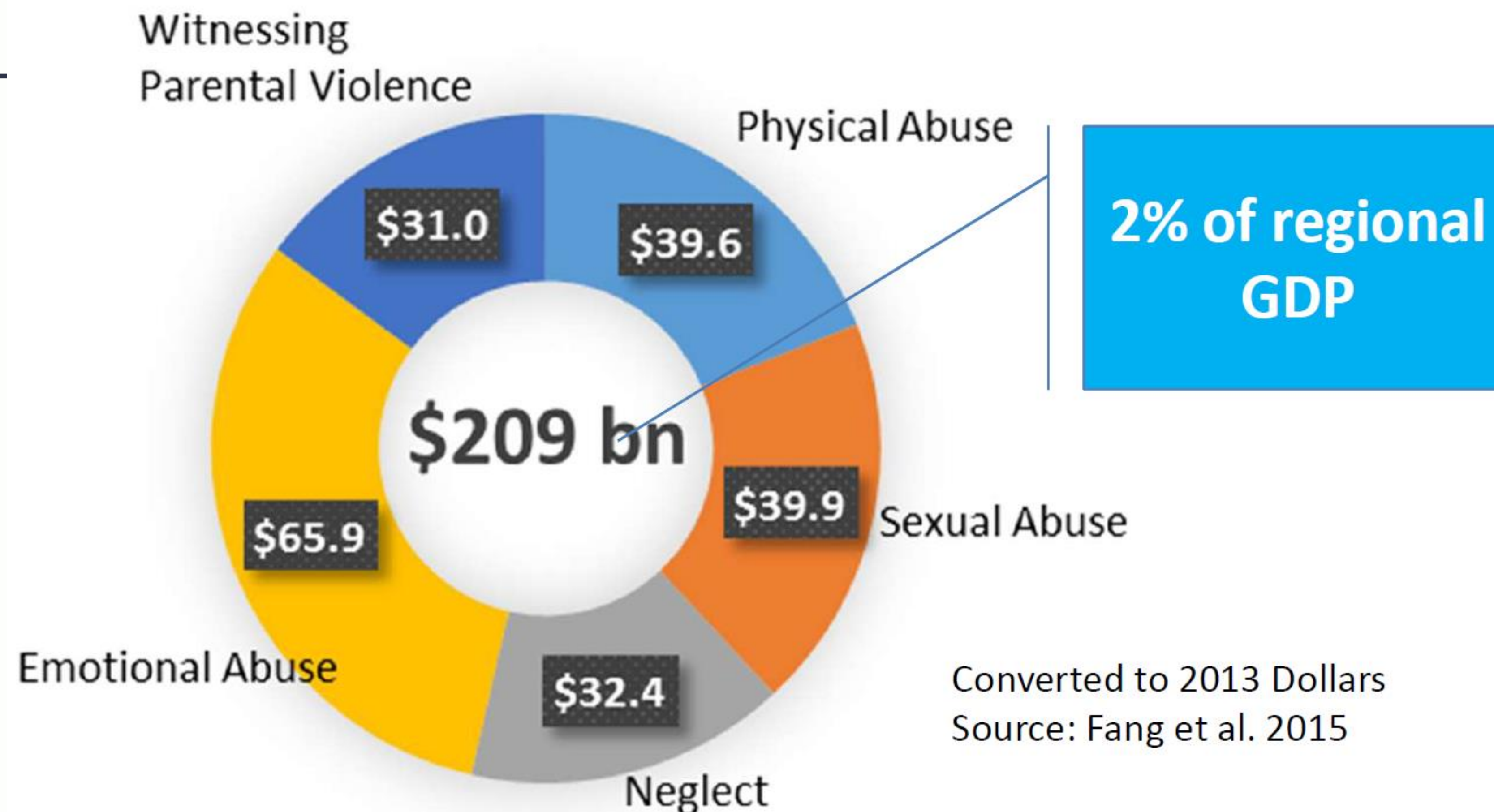
Costs resulting from the consequences of physical, emotional and sexual violence against children

est 7 trillion globally

= 8% of world GDP (2013)

Higher than the investment required to prevent violence

Economic value of Disability Adjusted Life Years Lost (DALY) in East Asia and the Pacific





Collaboration for ending violence against children: the global framework



INSPIRE

Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children



INSPIRE: SEVEN STRATEGIES FOR ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

INSPIRE is a technical package. The seven strategies are based on the best available evidence.

Implementation and enforcement of laws



Norms and values



Safe environments



Parent and caregiver support



Income and economic strengthening



Response and support services



Education and life skills







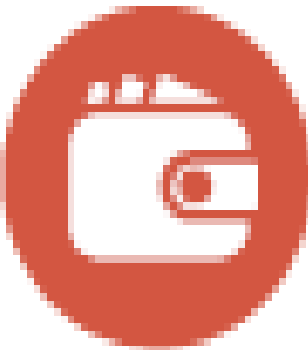


To learn more visit:

Website: www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/inspire

Facebook: www.facebook.com/whoviolenenceprevention

Twitter: twitter.com/WHOviolenceews

Strategy	Approach	Sectors	Cross-cutting activities
 Implementation and enforcement of laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laws banning violent punishment of children by parents, teachers or other caregivers • Laws criminalizing sexual abuse and exploitation of children • Laws that prevent alcohol misuse • Laws limiting youth access to firearms and other weapons 	Justice	Multisectoral actions and coordination
 Norms and values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing adherence to restrictive and harmful gender and social norms • Community mobilization programmes • Bystander interventions 	Health, Education, Social Welfare	
 Safe environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing violence by addressing “hotspots” • Interrupting the spread of violence • Improving the built environment 	Interior, Planning	
 Parent and caregiver support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered through home visits • Delivered in groups in community settings • Delivered through comprehensive programmes 	Social Welfare, Health	

 Income and economic strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash transfers • Group saving and loans combined with gender equity training • Microfinance combined with gender norm training 	Finance, Labour	
 Response and support services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling and therapeutic approaches • Screening combined with interventions • Treatment programmes for juvenile offenders in the criminal justice system • Foster care interventions involving social welfare services 	Health, Justice, Social Welfare	Monitoring and evaluation
 Education and life skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase enrolment in pre-school, primary and secondary schools • Establish a safe and enabling school environment • Improve children's knowledge about sexual abuse and how to protect themselves against it • Life and social skills training • Adolescent intimate partner violence prevention programmes 	Education	



Ending Violence Against Children During COVID-19 and Beyond

Virtual Regional Conference to Strengthen Implementation of the INSPIRE Strategies

East Asia and the Pacific
1-5 November 2021





The criticality of parenting programmes for violence prevention

Parenting programmes have been shown to create positive parent-child interactions and reduce harsh parenting, neglect and toxic stress

Parenting programmes are cost effective -> 1 dollar spent delivers 13% return on investment per annum





Issues for consideration – lessons learned

Universal minimum package of service AND targeted/more intensive support to parents, including those with children with specific needs

Provide parenting support throughout childhood, including for parents of adolescents

Ensure both male and female caregivers are targeted

Caregivers need care

There is a need for more than knowledge – skills acquisition and behaviour change need practice

Social norms change is also critical to support individual behaviour change





Issues for consideration – delivery platforms

Collaboration with private sector, NGOs and faith based organisation can expand reach and delivery but sustainability in the public sector is key for sustainability

Multi sectoral approach is critical

Digital platforms have huge potential but face-to-face support, especially for higher risk families is crucial



CLOSING SESSION

INSPIRE



Ending Violence
Against Children
During COVID-19
and Beyond

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SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

WE MUST ENSURE
SAFETY &
EMPOWERMENT
ONLINE



NORMS & VALUES



WE MUST CHALLENGE
the CULTURAL BELIEFS
THAT JUSTIFY
CORPORAL
PUNISHMENT

IMPLEMENTATION

WE MUST PLUG
the DATA &
EVIDENCE GAP
ON VIOLENCE
AGAINST
CHILDREN



WE MUST ENSURE WE
CAN EFFECTIVELY RESPOND TO
VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN
FUTURE CRISES/ EMERGENCIES

PARENT & CAREGIVER SUPPORT

WE MUST REDUCE
VIOLENCE *through*
POSITIVE PARENTING
PROGRAMS AT SCALE

KEY STRATEGY
for PRIMARY
PREVENTION



VIEWS of
CHILDREN
& YOUNG
PEOPLE
MUST BE
CENTRAL



SECTORS MUST
COLLABORATE & COORDINATE
to EFFECTIVELY TACKLE VIOLENCE
AGAINST BOTH CHILDREN & WOMEN

RESPONSE

WE MUST
STRENGTHEN...



SOCIAL
SERVICE
WORKFORCE



HEALTH
SECTOR
CAPACITY



WE MUST TRANSFORM
MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT
for CHILDREN &
YOUNG PEOPLE

VIOLENCE & MENTAL HEALTH
ARE INEXTRICABLY LINKED

EDUCATION & LIFE SKILLS

WE MUST ENSURE
SAFETY & WELL BEING
IN SCHOOLS, INCLUDING
AS SCHOOLS REOPEN



PROMOTE
ZERO TOLERANCE
for VIOLENCE
& ABUSE

POSITIVE
SOCIAL NORMS
& MENTAL
WELL BEING



ENDING
VIOLENCE
MUST BE PART
of the COVID-19
RECOVERY AGENDA

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN
IS **PREVENTABLE**
AND WE HAVE THE TOOLS TO
PREVENT IT





Thank you

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