

## **Children and youth facing violence in Africa: What do we know? What can we do? Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 16-17 May 2018**

This is a call for expressions of interest to attend and present at a two-day workshop convened by Young Lives in Ethiopia and UCL Institute of Education, UK.

### **Overview**

Developing more effective, evidence based policies and programmes to prevent and respond to violence affecting children is becoming a key global priority, as signified by targets on ending all forms of violence against children by 2030 as part of the Global Goals. On the African continent increasing attention is being directed towards developing regional and national action plans for preventing violence affecting children (see ACPF, EGVS and the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, 2016). Around the continent research studies have generated insights into the multiple ways in which violence affects the lives of children, and the ways in which diverse contexts may protect from or enhance risks. However, there has been a disconnect between research and policy, with insufficient sharing of the implications of research evidence for policy and practice, and few studies focused on policy processes linked to violence against children and young people. This proposed two-day workshop planned to be held 16-17 May 2018 in Addis Ababa brings together researchers and policy actors to share evidence on what we know and what we can do to address violence faced by young people from diverse contexts across the region.

### **Focal areas**

The workshop aims to share knowledge about contexts of violence, such as how and why violence manifests in the diverse lives of children and youth and how this is experienced in varying circumstances and settings, as well as approaches for preventing and responding to violence affecting children and youth. The three interlinked focal areas are:

- Understanding connections and intersections between violence and structural vulnerabilities related to poverty, gender and other dimensions of exclusion
- Creating bridges between different siloed approaches to violence affecting children and youth, across the fields of child protection, social protection, education and gender-based violence
- Learning from diverse contexts with a view to considering the potential of regional and context-specific interventions to address violence against children and youth

### **Format**

A two-day workshop with 20-25 participants, to include plenary panels with time for discussion and breakout groups.

### **Participants**

We welcome participants who are able to present and share evidence from research, policy or practice that addresses one/some of the focal areas above.

We will be inviting and anticipate active participation from a range of stakeholders including: government organisations such as Ministry of Women and Child Affairs (MoWCA); UN organisations notably UNICEF and UNFPA; regional organisations such as African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) and the African Union; research organisations such as Population Council and NGOs working on violence affecting children such as Save the Children and Retrak.

We have some funding for the workshop and are in the process of seeking additional funding. We will prioritise participants on the basis of 1) who has done interesting research, 2) who has examples of interesting best practices in addressing VAC, 3) availability and willingness to submit an abstract and deliver a presentation. We will ask for papers afterwards, either for publication and/or to inform the dissemination work.

### **Location and timing**

To be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Suggested dates 16-17 May 2018.

### **Organization**

The workshop is being organized by a core steering group comprising Young Lives, UCL and the Ethiopian Centre for Child Research.

Young Lives: is a longitudinal study of childhood poverty ([www.younglives.org.uk](http://www.younglives.org.uk)) and has been funded by Oak Foundation to conduct a qualitative study on violence affecting children in Ethiopia and use the findings to inform violence prevention and response policy and practice at the national and regional level.

End Gender Violence in Schools (EGVS) is an initiative led by UNICEF, with support from GPE and UNGEI, that aims to strengthen evidence-based policy and practice on school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV). Using an action research approach over three years (2014-2017), UCL Institute of Education, UNICEF and governments in Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Zambia and Ethiopia have reviewed the issues relating to SRGBV globally and in their country contexts, and developed evidence based national action plans.

### **Deadline**

If you are interested in participating please could you email **Kirrily Pells** ([k.pells@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:k.pells@ucl.ac.uk)) by **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January** including:

- a) an abstract (300 words max) for your presentation
- b) whether you would require full, partial, or no funding in order to participate

Alula Pankhurst

Jenny Parkes

Kirrily Pells