

# Innocenti Research Digest | Adolescence

Issue 08 | December 2017

A quarterly research digest highlighting the most important news and resources in adolescent well-being over the last three months.

## GUEST EDITORIAL

2017 has been a year in which we have seen increased visibility and vibrancy in the research and practice communities, who work to advance adolescent development and well-being. Highlights have ranged from a sharper focus on the needs of adolescents in the [FP2020 Global Family Planning Summit](#), and the resultant [Global Adolescent Data Commitment](#), the launch of UNICEF's [Gender Action Plan](#), which includes five targeted priorities for adolescent girls' well-being and empowerment, to the [BMGF's Gender Strategy](#) in which adolescent healthy transitions are a key pillar. Other highlights include the Delhi [IAAH meeting](#) in October, the launch of Ethiopia's new Youth Strategy and Action Plan, [the Independent Accountability Panel for Every Woman, Every Child, Every Adolescent's inaugural report](#) focusing on accountability for

adolescent health, and the [UCL Global Adolescent Wellbeing Conference](#), showcasing cutting-edge research and evidence from the global north and south.

As recognition of the importance of the second decade of life grows – both as a window of critical development in the lifecycle and for intervention it is an opportune moment to take stock of the pathways towards impact that we hope to advance as a community of researchers and practitioners, and the ways to achieve such impact. In October, the DFID-funded [Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence \(GAGE\)](#) research programme (2015-2024) and the UNICEF Office of Research - Innocenti jointly hosted a workshop to do exactly this bringing together thought-leaders working on questions of research uptake and impact in the adolescent development and well-being sphere.



@UNICEF/UNI194517/Lindsay Mackenzie

Bushra, 16, (L), is attending a UNICEF-supported photography workshop that helps empower Yazidi girls and women in a camp for internally displaced people near Dohuk, Kurdistan region of Iraq. The experience has been transformative, and she now hopes to become a photojournalist.

A key theme that emerged was the critical need to pay more attention to the interface between adolescent empowerment, focusing on adolescent's emerging autonomy, but also simultaneously their continued rights to protection. As children's rights expert Gerison Lansdown underscored, despite [formal commitments to young people's voice and participation](#) in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, there is still a dearth of evidence on what works, in terms of ensuring the fundamental right of adolescents to provide input into decisions that affect their lives. This is also reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): while the SDGs have been heralded for sharpening the focus on what it means for young people to thrive rather than just survive as was the case of the MDGs – there is not a single SDG indicator that relates to adolescent voice, agency and participation.

If agendas are to be more reflective of young people's perspectives, we need to think carefully about knowledge creation processes, and the power relations and norms that shape whose voices are heard and whose are excluded in international development, as underscored during the workshop by Dr. Lata Naragyanaswamy from the School of Politics and International Studies at the University of Leeds. In fact, the politics of evidence was also emphasized by Layne Robinson, Head of Programmes, Youth Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat, who concurred that investing in better age-disaggregated data was essential but not sufficient. Breaking down silos by fostering partnerships among political leaders, statistical offices and experts is also vital in order to cultivate an appetite and culture of evidence-informed policy-making, for and with young people.

To contribute to this growing call to listen more carefully to what adolescents have to say about what it would mean to achieve their potential, and to determine what sorts of support is most effective in enhancing adolescent development trajectories and in which contexts, within the framework of the SDGs (and beyond), GAGE is embarking on a multi-year longitudinal mixed methods research and impact evaluation programme with a strong [participatory research component](#), following the lives of 18,000 adolescent girls and boys in seven countries spanning Africa, Asia and the Middle East. As part of this programme, we are delighted to have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNICEF, which will enable us to work closely with regional and country offices in our focal countries to share evidence and methodological insights. We will be engaging through peer-to-peer interviews and participatory photography and video a cohort of very young (10-12) and mid-adolescent (15-17) girls and boys, some of whom are part of adolescent empowerment programming, and others who are not, in order to understand their evolving perspectives and experiences of the services and support they currently access, and to understand what else could allow them to thrive both now and as they move through adolescence and into early adulthood.

Nicola Jones

Director, [Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence](#) (GAGE) research programme and Principal Research Fellow, [Overseas Development Institute \(ODI\)](#)

## LATEST RESEARCH

### PROTECTION

#### [A Familiar Face: Violence in the Lives of Children and Adolescents](#)

UNICEF Division of Data, Research and Policy, November 2017

UNICEF's latest report 'A Familiar face' uncovers the prevalence of violence against children and adolescents occurring in familiar environments, such as home, school, and communities. Close to 300 million children aged 2 to 4 worldwide experience violent discipline by their caregivers on a regular basis. Moreover, data from 28 countries indicate that 9 in 10 adolescent girls, who have experienced forced sex, report being victimized by someone known to them. Large-scale data analysis is presented on four forms of violence – violent discipline and exposure to domestic abuse during early childhood; violence at school; violent deaths among adolescents; and sexual violence in childhood and adolescence. In connection with this report, UNICEF has launched a call to action targeting governments and a [Campaign on Ending Violence against Children and Adolescents](#).

[Download report \[pdf\]](#)

#### [Ending Violence in Childhood: Global Report 2017](#)

Know Violence in Childhood: A Global Learning Initiative, September 2017

A mixed-method report by the [Know Violence in Childhood](#) Initiative complements the above study, by documenting the nature and scale of violence experienced by children in their everyday lives and relationships. Drawing on a multidisciplinary group of experts, this research makes recommendations for ending childhood violence based on a synthesis of global evidence on effective [violence-prevention strategies](#). Suggested public [actions to prevent childhood violence](#) include: breaking the silence; strengthening violence-prevention systems; and improving knowledge and evidence. Selected research papers from the Know Violence working group are also available in a special issue of the [Journal of Psychology, Health and Medicine](#).

[View report synthesis and data visualization](#)

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#### [Child Homicide Perpetrators Worldwide: A Systematic Review](#)

Stöckl, H. et al., *BMJ Paediatrics*, August 2017

This first global review on child homicide perpetrators, confirms that children face the highest risk of homicide at the hands of caregivers and people they know. Most adolescent homicides are perpetrated by acquaintances (37%), family members (18%) or strangers (7%). However, data are still fragmented across regions, with only 35 countries disclosing data on all child homicides and only 10 countries presenting specific data on parental homicide against adolescents. Increased investment in data collection is recommended in order to understand and ultimately reduce child homicide worldwide.

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@UNICEF/UN0149684/Frank Dejongh  
Grace's parents believed she was a witch child. After tying her hands and feet they left her on a dumpsite to die. They are now in prison and she is being taken care of by social services in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire. In Côte d'Ivoire, 20% of children are victims of violence so intense that it leaves permanent marks.



### [Journey to Extremism in Africa: Drivers, Incentives and the Tipping Point for Recruitment](#)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), September 2017

Based on qualitative interviews with 495 volunteer recruits from Al-Shabaab and Boko Haram, this UNDP report finds that the trajectories that drive African youth towards violent extremism are often characterised by parental neglect, poverty and deprivation. 71% of interviewees identified government action namely the witnessing or experiencing abuses of power as the final trigger that motivated them to actively join an extremist group. Recommended programming entry points include parenting interventions, strengthening institutions, and creating pathways to economic empowerment.

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@UNICEF/UN0149460/ Vlad Sokhin

Children gather at the school in Ndenga village, Central African Republic. The village hosts a programme for local children formerly associated with the anti-balaka armed group. The local school has more than 700 children, with only one certified teacher. 136 pupils were formerly associated with the group.

### [Global Estimates of Child Labour: Results and Trends, 2012-2016](#)

International Labour Organization (ILO), September 2017

According to the ILO, a total of 152 million children are in child labour globally, accounting for almost

one in ten of all children worldwide. Nearly half of all those in child labour are in hazardous work that directly endangers their health, safety, and moral development. The report highlights gender inequalities in unpaid domestic work and investment gaps in policy making, particularly as regards the 15-17 age group. Policy responses to child labour should be integrated into broader national development efforts, particularly in the areas of education, social protection, labour markets and labour standards.

[Download report \[pdf\]](#)

## **HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

### [Child and Adolescent Health and Development](#)

World Bank, *Disease Control Priorities*, 3rd Edition (DCP3), December 2017

Achieving full potential as an adult requires condition specific development support throughout the first 8,000 days of life, according to new findings from the DCP3 volume on Child and Adolescent Health and Development. This publication presents packages of essential and scalable interventions across three development stages: middle childhood growth and consolidation (5-9 years), adolescent growth spurt (10-14 years), and adolescent growth and consolidation (15-19 years). A review of impact of interventions on [Health and Development during Adolescence](#) is provided in areas of: [Health and Disease](#); [Cash Transfers](#); [Education Programmes](#); [Puberty and Developmental Processes](#); [Brain Development](#); and [Nutrition](#).

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[Download individual chapters](#)

### [Systematic Review: A Review of Adolescent Behavior Change Interventions \[BCI\] and their Effectiveness in HIV and AIDS Prevention in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

Mwale, M. and Muula, A., *BMC Public Health*, September 2017

Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest burden of HIV globally, with 70% of all infections occurring in the region, and 80% of new infections affecting young



@UNICEF/UN0148029/FrankDejongh

A 13-year-old girl holds her teddy bear in Odienné, Côte d'Ivoire. Her parents died of AIDS. When her aunt took over parenting, she had her tested for HIV. Since then she took QRV medication. In Côte d'Ivoire, less than 20% of seropositive children are under antiretroviral treatment.

people. Despite a wide range of programmes targeting sexual and reproductive health, there has been minimal uptake in concrete behaviour change for adolescents. This systematic review identifies the core challenges contributing to this 'efficacy gap', which range from a narrow focus on the individual determinants of sexual behaviour, to the limited relevance of interventions models to the sub-Saharan context. Among the interventions that registered positive outcomes, peer education stands out as being most effective in facilitating HIV risk reduction.

[Download article \[pdf\]](#)

### [Economic Incentives for HIV Testing by Adolescents in Zimbabwe: a Randomised Controlled Trial](#)

Kranzer, K. et al., *The Lancet HIV*, November 2017

A recent Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT) in Harare, Zimbabwe, investigated the effect of economic incentives provided to caregivers of children aged 8–17 years on the uptake of HIV testing and counselling. Eligible households were randomly assigned to either receive no incentive, receive a fixed US\$2 incentive, or participate in a lottery for \$5 or \$10 if the participant presented for HIV testing and counselling at a local primary healthcare centre. Fixed incentives and lottery-based incentives increased the uptake of HIV testing by older children and adolescents, a key hard-to-reach population. This strategy would be sustainable in the context of vertical HIV infection, since repeated testing would not be necessary until sexual debut.

[Download article \[pdf\]](#)

### [Preventive Mental Health Interventions for Refugee Children and Adolescents in High-income Settings](#)

Fazel, M. and Betancourt, T. *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health*, November 2017

The current state of interventions to address mental health problems in refugee children and adolescents is limited and prevention programmes are even more limited. This review examines a range of interventions delivered in high-income settings to individuals, through parenting and school programmes, and through broader socio-economic interventions aimed at improving post-migration environment and at facilitating access to services. A continuum of care and multi-level, cross-sectoral intervention models are recommended in order to address the multitude of acculturative and resettlement stressors that resettled refugees face.

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## EDUCATION AND LEARNING

### World Development Report 2018: Learning to Realize Education's Promise

World Bank, November 2018

Despite gains in education access, recent learning assessments show that many young people around the world, especially from poor households, are leaving school unequipped with the foundational skills they need for life. At the same time, comparative data show that skills in many middle-income countries lag far behind those countries' aspirations. Drawn from brain science, pedagogical innovations, and school management, this report identifies effective interventions to promote learning. In addition, it calls for action in three areas: (1) stronger learning assessments; (2) acting on evidence of how students learn most effectively; and (3) mobilizing a strong social movement to push for education changes that champion 'learning for all'.

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### UNHCR's 'Left Behind: Refugees Education in Crisis' Report

Education data on refugee enrolments from UNHCR and UNESCO show that in 2016, only 2.9 million children were enrolled in primary or secondary education, while 3.5 million did not go to school. This UNHCR report looks at the educational aspirations of refugee youth and examines the conditions under which those who teach refugees carry out their work. Education in emergencies is proven to provide fundamental protection to children and youth in displacement contexts, while providing life-saving skills and basic psycho-social support. In connection with this study, UNHCR has issued a [call to action](#) for sustained investment to support education systems in refugee-hosting countries.

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@UNICEF/UN0141027/Roger Le Moyné

Students look at an inflatable globe, part of the educational supplies contained in a School-in-a-Box, at a new Transitional Learning Centre in the Uchprang refugee camp, near Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, October 2017.

### Do Conditional Cash Transfers Lead to Better Secondary Schools? Evidence from Jamaica's PATH

Stampini, M. et al., *World Development*, January 2018

Conditional cash transfers (CCT) have been successful in increasing school enrolment and attendance. This study is the first in the literature to take a comprehensive look at the impacts of a CCT programme on educational aspirations, school performance, and placement. Data from Jamaica's CCT programme find that urban male beneficiaries score higher in the Grade Six Achievement Test, consequently, they are placed in better secondary schools. In contrast, no significant impact was found on educational aspirations or on any outcome indicators for urban girls, possibly because girls outperform boys in school attainment in Jamaica.

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## TRANSITION TO WORK

### Gender and Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Review of Constraints and Effective Interventions

Chakravarty, S. et al., *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper*, November 2017

This paper synthesizes lessons from a growing evidence base on interventions that aim to support young women's employment in Sub-Saharan Africa. Positive evidence is found on the effectiveness of grants, safe spaces, empowerment programmes, and delayed marriage/childbearing through support for education and cash transfers. Conversely, there is mixed evidence on the impacts of technical and business training, microcredit, and reproductive interventions. Insufficient evidence is reported on childcare provision, savings programmes, recruiting services and information to improve on occupational choice, safety and mobility programming, and peer-learning.

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### Coyuntura Laboral en América Latina y el Caribe: La Transición de los Jóvenes de la Escuela al Mercado Laboral [Labour Situation in Latin America and the Caribbean: The Transition of Young People from School to the Labour Market]

Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL), October 2017

Analysis of household surveys and the ILO's School-to-Work Transition Surveys (SWTS) shows that 39.5% of Latin American adolescents aged 15 - 19 both study and work. These rates increase in countries with a lower GDP such as Bolivia, Paraguay and Peru, where adolescents are required to contribute to family agricultural activities, or earn money to support the cost of studying. Due to the gendered provision of care and household work, girls tend to take longer to transition into employment than boys. Youth employment and education policies should be gender- and age-tailored, and consider the possible negative impacts of working while studying.

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## PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

### Girls' Clubs and Life Skills Programmes: Positive Potential, Unanswered Questions

Marcus, R. et al., September 2017, Gender and Adolescence Global Evidence (GAGE) programme

Girls' clubs, or youth development clubs, have become an increasingly common component of school-based and community-based programmes that aim to improve capability outcomes and broader well-being of girls in developing countries. While some in the development community are enthusiastic about the potential of such clubs to empower girls, others raise questions about their impact, reach, sustainability and cost-effectiveness. GAGE's review the first of its kind to synthesize existing evaluations of girls' clubs finds substantial evidence of the positive impact of these programmes in changing gender norms and practices, as well as in increasing confidence, knowledge, educational achievement, and civic engagement. It also highlights knowledge gaps and lessons learned, particularly in the areas of programme sustainability and boys' engagement.

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[Download policy brief \[pdf\]](#)

[The State of the World's Children 2017: Children in a Digital World](#) presents UNICEF's first comprehensive look at the different ways digital technology is affecting children's lives and life chances, identifying both dangers and opportunities. The publication makes use of evidence generated by [Global Kids Online \(GKO\)](#), a research project that supports worldwide efforts to conduct rigorous, comparable research on children's use of digital technology. The report proposes [six priority actions](#) for governments and telecommunications industries to create policies, practices and products that can help children harness digital opportunities and protect them from harm. A digital online campaign has been launched in parallel, including the Digital report "[Growing Up Online](#)" and the Youth Activation Kit "[Think before you click](#)" linked to the [#EndViolenceonline](#) campaign.

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@UNICEF/UN0153300/Omesh Matta

In the context of the launch of *The State of the World's Children 2017: Children in a digital world*, which presents UNICEF's first comprehensive look at the ways digital technology affects children's lives, children from 15 of the 16 states in which UNICEF India works and from the national capital Delhi, came up with some digital solutions to two problems facing children in India - participation in and access to the online space and staying safe online.

## RESOURCES

### [World Health Organisation \(WHO\) Violence Prevention Information System](#)

The Violence Prevention Information System, "Violence Info", is a new global knowledge platform with over 3,000 studies and country-level data on violence prevention. It covers child maltreatment, youth violence, intimate partner violence, elder abuse, and sexual violence.

### [UNICEF's Rapid Review on the Rohingya Emergency in Bangladesh](#)

As part of UNICEF's support to the emergency response in Bangladesh, a [Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform](#) was activated to conduct rapid review around the protection of children, adolescents and women, in a humanitarian context.

### [Menstrual Hygiene Management \(MHM\) in Emergencies Toolkit](#)

Produced by Columbia University and International Rescue Committee, this toolkit provides streamlined guidance to organizations and agencies seeking to rapidly integrate MHM into existing programming across sectors and phases. It is based on formative research in Myanmar and Lebanon two humanitarian response settings and has been piloted in refugee camps in Tanzania.

### [World Health Organization \(WHO\) Clinical Guidelines: Responding to Children and Adolescents who have been Sexually Abused](#)

WHO has published new guidelines to help frontline health care providers, primarily in low resource settings, respond to children and adolescents who have experienced sexual abuse. It contains evidence-based recommendations for quality clinical care including post-rape and mental health care.

### [Global Initiative on Decent Job's Case Studies on Youth Employment in Fragile Situations](#)

This joint study by the ILO, UNDP, and UNHCR showcases ten innovative approaches to employing young people in fragile and conflict affected situations. Case studies include [MADE51](#) which connects young refugees who produce



hand-crafted goods with the global market, and [Youthquake!](#), a youth innovation challenge fund for earthquake preparedness in Bangladesh.

### [UNICEF's Toolkit on Promising Practices in Adolescent Programming](#)

UNICEF Indonesia has released a [Guide for Planning and Measuring Promising Practices in Programming for Adolescent Wellbeing](#), a practical toolkit to identify effective strategies which can contribute towards achieving better outcomes for adolescents. A full report including an [evidence review](#) of promising practices in adolescent programming in Indonesia is also available.

### [Girl Effect and John Hopkins University's Adolescence: Age and Stage Report](#)

The Girl Effect project combines biological and cognitive science with international development expertise to provide new insight on the development stages of adolescents, as well as age specific [policy recommendations](#). This work is related to the previous publication '[A Conceptual Framework for Early Adolescence](#)'.

### [The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\)'s Evidence-based Policy Making for Youth Well-being: A Toolkit](#)

This toolkit consists of step-by-step modules to help perform a youth well-being diagnosis and includes practical examples of common youth policies and programmes in the areas of employment, education and skills, health and civic participation.

### [Very Young Adolescent \(VYA\) Sexual and Reproductive Health Resource Library](#)

This online library offers resources on transition into puberty, comprehensive sexuality education, anaemia prevention, gender norms, and sexual and reproductive health. The library was created by Save the Children and Georgetown University's Institute for Reproductive Health (IRH) on behalf of the [VYA Alliance](#).

### [Together for Girls' Interactive Map on Violence Against Children \(VAC\) Surveys](#)

This interactive map allows users to browse global data from the Violence Against Children (VAC) surveys. Country pages provide an in-depth look at their status in the VACS process, with links to download public datasets, reports, and action plans. It includes the [newly released Nigeria dataset and reports](#).

### [Evidence Gap Map on Social, Behavioural and Community Engagement \(SBCE\) for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health](#)

This toolkit provides an evidence map of existing research into a set of selected SBCE interventions for reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health, the fruit of a collaboration between the WHO, the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH) and the International Initiative for Impact Evaluations (3ie). The [evidence map](#) and [full report](#) are available online.

### [GIRL Center's Research Brief: Global State of Evidence on Interventions to Prevent Child Marriage](#)

This research brief summarises rigorously evaluated child marriage prevention interventions conducted over the past 20 years and advances key recommendations for future programming on empowerment.

## NEWS

### [Leaders of 27 African Countries Pledge to End Child Marriage by 2030](#)

The [High-Level Meeting on Ending Child Marriage](#), hosted in Dakar, Senegal in 23-25 October 2017, was the first gathering of its kind to include politicians, civil society groups, and UN agencies (UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA). The Meeting produced a [call to action](#) to strengthen legal and policy frameworks, and scale up efforts to prevent child marriage and support married girls.

### [Best of UNICEF Research 2017](#)

The [Best of UNICEF Research](#) competition selects each year the top 12 research papers produced across the global organization, following a review process managed by the Office of Research - Innocenti. The electronic version of the Best of UNICEF Research 2017 was released in December and is available online. It features, inter alia, a cross country comparison on [alternative measures to detention](#) for adolescents in East Asia and the Pacific and a mixed-method study on understanding the needs of [youth with disabilities in the State of Palestine](#).



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The latest edition of the Best of UNICEF Research is now available. Now in its fifth year of existence, the Best of UNICEF Research competition has become an important part of UNICEF's annual knowledge and evidence calendar.

## LATEST RESEARCH CONFERENCES ON ADOLESCENT WELL-BEING

The [11th World Congress on Adolescent Health](#), held New Delhi in October, focused on the theme of Investing in Adolescent Health, featuring sessions on programming for adolescents in India, sexual and reproductive health for girls, mental health in adolescence. [Congress Videos](#) and [Speakers Presentations](#) can be found on the event [website](#).

[Putting Children First: Identifying Solutions and Taking Action to Tackle Poverty and Inequality in Africa](#), a three-day meeting held in Addis Ababa, engaged government, UN officials and policy makers around the issue of youth poverty and inequality in Africa. Evidence synthesis, conference papers, and the conclusive commitment to action towards fighting child poverty and inequality in Africa can be found on the [Impact Initiative website](#).

The [Child Dignity in the Digital World](#) congress, hosted at the Vatican by the [WeProtect Global Alliance](#) and the Pontifical Gregorian University, has produced a Declaration of Rome entitled "[Declaration on Child Dignity in the Digital World](#)," a call to action comprising 13 agenda items to further the cause of ending online child exploitation.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### [End Violence Solutions Summit](#)

This Summit aims to identify effective solutions for preventing and responding to violence against boys and girls. It will bring together governments, the UN, the private sector, researchers and children to catalyse action to end violence. Priority areas for discussion include online violence, children in crisis and conflict, corporal punishment, social protection, gender-sensitive approaches, and children's rights and participation.

Organizers: Government Offices of Sweden, End Violence against Children Global Partnership, We PROTECT Global Alliance

Date: 14-15 February 2018

Location: Stockholm, Sweden

[Registration](#)

### 2018 International Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) Summit

The theme of this Summit is 'Shifting Norms, Changing Behaviour, Amplifying Voice: What Works?' The Summit will also have an emphasis on innovative entertainment-education approaches.

Organizers: Secretariat group consisting of UNICEF, Johns Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs, BBC Media Action; Communication Initiative, and Soul City

Date: 16-20 April 2018  
Location: Bali, Indonesia

[Registration](#)

### Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM) 2018 Annual Meeting

The theme for the SAHM 2018 meeting is 'Global Adolescent Health Equity'. Priority topics include understanding risk, gender equity, technology, mental health and psychological well-being.

Organizers: Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine

Date: 14-17 March 2018  
Location: Seattle, United States

[Registration](#)

### The Cuban Center for Youth Studies' International Congress of Youth Researchers

The international congress will discuss different approaches to youth studies and their potential to improve public policy on youth. It will also be an opportunity to establish links between institutions and researchers working with young populations. Organizers: Center for Youth Studies, Cuba

Date: 26-30 March 2018  
Location: Palacio de Convenciones, La Habana, Cuba

[Registration](#)

### United Nations Youth-dedicated Days and Events

6 February is [International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Gender Mutilation](#). 11 February is [International Day of Women and Girls in Science](#) to inspire the full and equal access to science. 20 February is [World Day of Social Justice](#) to promote efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion and unemployment. 8 March is [International Women's Day](#), and the 2018 theme is [#PressforProgress](#) – a strong call to action to press ahead and make progress towards gender parity.

The [UN Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW62\)](#) will meet on 12-23 March 2018 in New York, USA. The priority theme is 'Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls'.

Adolescent-related UN actions and useful resources can be consulted on these organizations' respective websites.

### **ONLINE COURSES**

#### Improving the Health of Women, Children and Adolescents: From Evidence to Action

This e-learning course will examine the latest data, priorities and debates about the health of mothers, children, and adolescents. Contributors include Professor Joy Lawn, Director of the Centre for Maternal, Adolescent, Reproductive, and Child Health (MARCH) and Professor David Ross from the World Health Organisation Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health. Organizers: MARCH Centre, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Date: 15 January 2018 (Duration: 6 weeks)  
Location: Online

[Registration](#)

#### **A youth's perspective on the Innocenti research Digest on Adolescence**

In our final 2017 issue, we asked '[Voices of Youth](#)' intern Domitilla De Luca Bossa to review our Digest from a youth perspective. Domitilla an 18-year-old Italian Student volunteered with the UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti's Programme Manager for Adolescent Well-being Research in July 2017 and has recently joined UNICEF's campaign at "Voices of Youth", with a focus on refugees, migration and uprooted children.

[Read review](#)



## ADDITIONAL READING

Other interesting reading selected by our team  
(\* = not open access).

Adu Boahen, E. and Yamauchi, C., [The Effect of Female Education on Adolescent Fertility and Early Marriage: Evidence from Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education in Ghana](#), *Journal of African Economics*, November 2017.\*

Cherewick, M. and Glass, N., [Caregiver and Community Insights on Coping Strategies used by Adolescents Living in Conflict-affected Communities](#), *Global Public Health*, October 2017.\*

Cho, H. et al., [School Support as Structural HIV Prevention for Adolescent Orphans in Western Kenya](#), *Journal of Adolescent Health*, November 2017.\*

Colacce, M. et al., [Gasto Público Social en la Infancia y Adolescencia en el Uruguay](#) [Public Social Expenditure on Children and Adolescents in Uruguay], CEPAL / UNICEF, October 2017.

Daruwalla, N. et al., [Good Girls and Boys: Findings from a Cross-sectional Survey on Adolescent Rights, Relationships, and Sexuality in an Urban Informal Settlement in India](#), *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth*, September 2017.

Dennis, M. et al., [Pathways to Increased Coverage: An Analysis of Time Trends in Contraceptive Need and Use among Adolescents and Young Women in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda](#), *Reproductive Health*, October 2017.

do Amaral e Melo, G et al., [Nutritional Interventions for Adolescents using Information and Communication Technologies \(ICTs\): A Systematic Review](#), *PLoS One*, September 2017.

Ferrand, R. et al., [The Effect of Community-based Support for Caregivers on the Risk of Virological Failure in Children and Adolescents with HIV in Harare, Zimbabwe \(ZENITH\): an Open-label, Randomised Controlled Trial](#), *The Lancet Child Adolescent Health*, November 2017.

Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence Programme (GAGE), [Exploring Adolescents' Gendered Experiences and Perspectives](#), October 2017. Formative reports from: [Nepal](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Rwanda](#), and [Bangladesh](#).

Gilbert, L. et al., [The Experience of Violence against Children in Domestic Servitude in Haiti: Results from the Violence against Children Survey, Haiti 2012](#), *Child Abuse & Neglect*, February 2018.

Hill, L. et al., [Hope, the Household Environment, and Sexual Risk Behaviors Among Young Women in Rural South Africa \(HPTN 068\)](#), *AIDS and Behavior*, October 2017.\*

International Labour Organization (ILO), [El Futuro del Trabajo que Queremos: La Voz de los Jóvenes y Diferentes Miradas desde América Latina y el Caribe](#) [The Future of the Work We Want: The Voice of Young People and Different Perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean], ILO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, October 2017.

International Labour Organization (ILO), [Les Jeunes et l'emploi en Afrique du Nord: Rapport de Synthèse](#) [Youth and Employment in North Africa: A Regional Overview], September 2017

Jain, A. et al., [Understanding Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health-seeking Behaviors in Ethiopia: Implications for Youth Friendly Service Programming](#), The Evidence Project: Population Council, October 2017.

Juaristi, M., [Nuevas Estrategias para la Integración Social de los Jóvenes Migrantes no Acompañados](#), [New Strategies for Social Integration of Unaccompanied Young Foreigners], *Revista Sobre la Infancia y la Adolescencia*, October 2017.

Kagawa, R et al., [Effects of a Parenting Program Among Women Who Began Childbearing as Adolescents and Young Adults](#), *Journal of Adolescent Health*, November 2017.\*

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Ahmed Soumahoro, 13 years old, is working on a car wreck. He says he disassembles cars. His dad works in the wood sector, his mother stays at the village. Ahmed lives here in the town of San Pedro, in the South West of Côte d'Ivoire, with his uncle and has been working here for three years now. Every Saturday he receives 200 CFA (less the 0.5 US dollars). 'I give my earnings to my mother.'

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