Child Abuse and Neglect: Situation in the World

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62nd Turkish National Pediatric Congress
International Workshop on Child Abuse and Neglect
Belek/Antalya, 14 November 2018

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UNCRC

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

- International/Regional treaties or protocols

- Article 19: **Right of the Child to freedom from all forms of violence**

- General Comment 13: The Right of the Child to Freedom from All Forms of Violence (2011)

(http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/CRC.C.GC.13_en.pdf)

The facts

- *Homicide* – In 2012, homicide took the lives of about **95,000 children and adolescents** – almost **1 in 5** of all homicide victims that year

- *Physical punishment* – **6 in 10 children** regularly subjected to physical punishment by carers

- *Bullying* – > **1 in 3 students** between the ages of 13 and 15 regularly experience bullying

- *Forced sex* –**120 million girls** < 20 years (about **1 in 10**) have been subjected to forced sexual intercourse or other sexual acts at some point in their lives

- *Intimate partner violence (IPV)* – **1 in 3 adolescent girls** worldwide have been the victims of emotional, physical or sexual violence committed by their intimate partners

Source: *Hidden in Plain Sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children*. (2014) UNICEF.

effects on health and well-being

Impact of maltreatment: Brief summary

The **burden** on the life of a child is potentially extensive, with a major impact on the individual, on future family life, and is a burden on the community.

Many children who have been maltreated develop **psychiatric and medical disorders** at significantly higher rates than non-victimised children.

The **long-term negative health consequences** of extensive victimisation can last well into adult life, at risk of mental health and medical disorders,

There is an **associated impairment** in various aspects of cognitive, social and emotional development. poorer educational achievements, lower earnings risks of criminal activities.

Child and Family Training (2018)

Adverse Childhood Experiences

Studies on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs):

Conclude that abuse and neglect during childhood may have long lasting and severe impacts on both later childhood and adult functioning

See: https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/

The costs of child maltreatment

- Maria Santos Pais (2016) stated "… with relatively modest investments in proven strategies for violence prevention, a long-lasting difference can be made to protecting children from violence."

- The EU has calculated that "every euro invested in preventing violence produces a social return of 87 euros"

- Maria Santos Pais (2013) makes the all important point that "In a time of austerity, investing in violence prevention is a question of good economics"

Sources: Maria Santos Pais (2013) *Toward a world free from violence. Global study on violence against children. (*p. xiv); Maria Santos Pais (2016) *Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against children (p. 5).*

BUT *...*

- While it is evident that low income countries face "huge challenges, which compromise children's well-being and protection" ...

- Middle and high income countries "are also grossly lacking in resources..."

Source: *World Perspectives on Child Abuse. 13th Edition* (2018) Denver: ISPCAN, p.10.

Resources

- Financial and human resources are required to support work with children and families

- Too often financial decisions are made without considering the consequences for children: short term financial gains can have very serious consequences for children's outcomes

- Securing investment in early intervention can lead to cost savings but the benefits for children take time to be able to be demonstrated

End Violence

The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children

AGENDA 2030:
ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Responding to Agenda 2030's vision, goals and targets

End violence against children…

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

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

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

8.7 Elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including slavery, human trafficking, and recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

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

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

...reduce the impact of violence in families, communities and all settings...

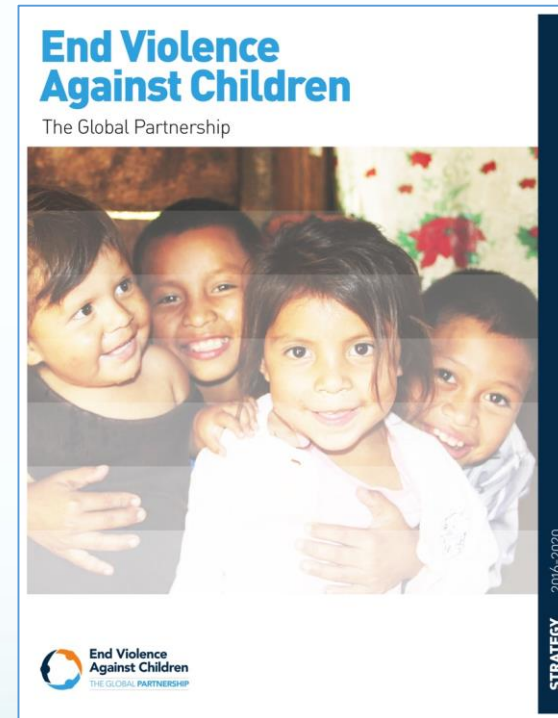|		
	16.1	Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
	11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

...and ensure access to fair and effective institutions and to justice for all

	16.3	Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and ensure equal access to justice for all
	16.9	Provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
	16.a	Strengthen relevant institutions... to prevent violence

Strategy

INSPIRE

Investing in Children: the European Child Maltreatment Prevention Action Plan 2015 - 2010

Dinesh Sethi et al.
Violence and Injury Prevention Programme
World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe

WHO Regional Office for Europe - overall goal

- "to reduce the prevalence of child maltreatment by implementing preventive programmes that address risk and protective factors, including social determinants"

Source: *Investing in Children: the European Child Maltreatment Prevention Action Plan 2015 - 2010*

Related target

- "To reduce the prevalence of child maltreatment and child homicide rates by 20% by 2020"

Three objectives to reduce maltreatment by prevention

- Make health risks such as child maltreatment more visible by setting up information systems in member states

- To strengthen governance for the prevention of child maltreatment through partnerships and multi-sectorial action by developing national plans

- Reduce risks for child maltreatment and its consequences through prevention by strengthening health systems in member states

Related WHO Europe publications

- *European report on preventing child maltreatment*

- *Implementing child maltreatment prevention programmes: what the experts say*

- *Measuring and monitoring national prevalence of child maltreatment: a practical handbook*

- *Handbook for the development of national action plans on the prevention of child maltreatment*

Key messages to policy makers and members of civil society

- States have clear obligations to address child abuse and neglect

- Explicit polices and an associated action plan are essential for the prevention of child maltreatment

- Child maltreatment is not inevitable: It can be prevented by taking the multi-sectorial, multi-factorial public health approach to prevention advocated in *Investing in Children: the European Child Maltreatment Prevention Action Plan 2015 - 2010*

European status report on preventing child maltreatment (2018)

Progress on Objective 1: making child maltreatment more "visible":

- Child homicide is decreasing across the Region, but rates in low and middle-income countries are 1.6x higher than high income countries

- Strong information systems and surveillance to inform prevention are lacking in many countries e.g data from child protection agencies and hospital admissions

- National surveys using standardized, validated instruments to determine prevalence are lacking in many countries

European status report on preventing child maltreatment

Progress on Objective 2: are countries developing national action plans to coordinate action against child maltreatment?

- Since 2013, 30% increase in proportion of countries with a national action plan to prevent child maltreatment

- But improvements are needed in setting clear objectives with measurable targets and ensuring plans are fully funded; also links are needed to related policies to prevent violence, poverty, gender inequality and non-communicable disease

- Countries are encouraged to extend and enforce legislation to ban corporal punishment in all settings

European status report on preventing child maltreatment

Progress on Objective 3: are countries implementing prevention programmes?

- 57% of countries have home-visiting programmes on a large scale

- Various types of parenting programmes are being implemented, with scope for improvement e.g. Programmes to prevent abusive head trauma are least widely implemented (10% on a large scale)

- 43% undertake programmes in primary schools to strengthen protective factors such as recognition of abuse and proactive disclosure to trusted adults. Countries need to evaluate their programmes they develop

- Substantial rise in proportion of countries implementing large scale services for prenatal assessment of risk of child maltreatment or intimate-partner violence – requires well trained staff

- Counties are urged to tailor prevention programmes to meet the needs of children with disabilities

Summary of research on intervention

- There is strong evidence that improvement in **positive parenting,** rather than **reductions in harsh or negative parenting, is the key factor mediating change in child behaviour** problem behaviour

- **Reduction in punishment is a necessary but not sufficient condition for improvement**, whereas **positive parenting** is a necessary change
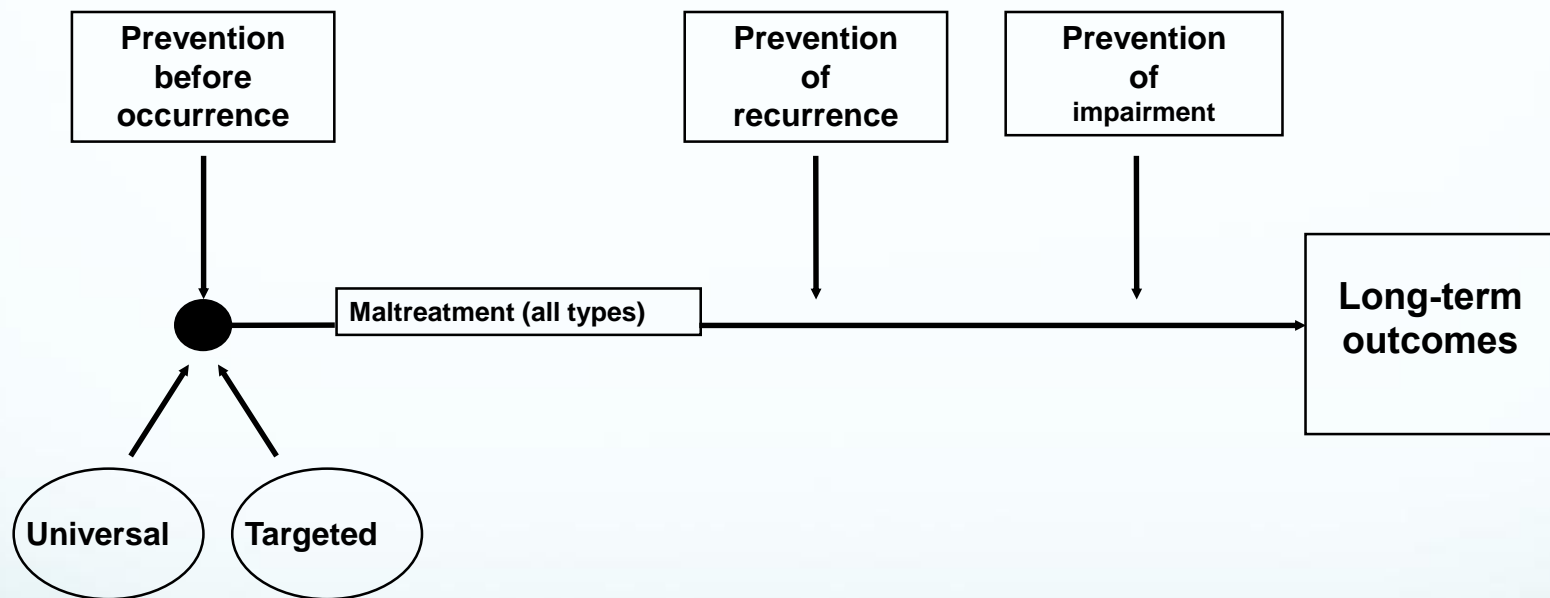
Source: Fonagy P. et al., 2016

Positive Parenting: An essential element of violence prevention strategies

- Providing parenting support through the first years of a child's life is strongly supported by evidence and can improve parenting, reduce parental stress, enhance the resilience of children, and prevent child maltreatment.

- Parenting programmes result in positive effects in low-, middle- and high-income countries and can be effective in reducing child maltreatment when applied as primary, secondary or tertiary interventions.

- The promotion of positive non-violent parenting should therefore form a key element of each country's strategies to prevent violence against children and improve their developmental outcomes.

Source: ISPCAN, 2016

Framework for intervention and prevention of child maltreatment

From: MacMillan HL, Wathen CN, Barlow J, Fergusson DM, Leventhal JM, Taussig HN. *Interventions to prevent child maltreatment and associated impairment*. Lancet 2009;373:250-266.

Evidence-based interventions: 3 levels

- **Primary prevention** i.e. prevention the occurrence of maltreatment

- **Secondary prevention** i.e. prevention of recurrence

- **Tertiary prevention** i.e. prevention of impairment to the health and development of children who have been maltreated

For further information see: Sethi D. et al. (eds) (2013) *European report on preventing child maltreatment.* Copenhagen: World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe; Hardcastle K. A. et al (2015) *Implementing child maltreatment programs*: *what the experts say.* Copenhagen: WH0 Regional Office for Europe; National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. (2017) *NICE guideline. Child abuse and Neglect.* London: Author.

Focus of Interventions

- Child or young person

- Parents/caregivers

- Family

- Perpetrator of abuse or neglect

- Wider family

- Community

Summary of evidence for the effectiveness of universal and selective programmes

	Impact on		Tested in European Region?
	Child maltreatment	Risk factors	
Universal programmes			
Sexual abuse prevention programmes	✧	◆	✓
Media-based public awareness	✧	❖	✓
Abusive head trauma prevention	❖	❖	
Changing social norms	✧	✧	✓
Reducing the availability of alcohol	✧	❖	✓
Reducing poverty	✧	✧	
Community interventions	✧	❖	
Preventing exposure to intimate partner violence	✧	✧	
Selective programmes			
Home visiting	❖	◆	
Parenting programmes	❖	◆	✓
Multi-components preschool programmes	❖	❖	✓
Enhanced paediatric care	❖	❖	
Support and mutual aid groups	✧	✧	

From: Sethi D. et al. (eds) (2013) *European Report on Preventing Child Maltreatment*, p. 62.

The focus on the prevention of violence against children

- Has identified the importance of working with parents and caregivers

- The public health approaches to prevention of violence against children have identified various levels of prevention

- Primary

- Secondary

- Tertiary

Services to parents and caregivers should include all three levels

Recommendations for action on violence against children

Prevention, prevention, prevention

- Global coordination

- Regional coordination

- National coordination

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

endviolence

Cok tesekkur ederim
Thank you very much!

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