12 JULY 2016 | NEW YORK The World Health Organization (WHO) and partners today launch seven interlinked strategies to reduce violence against children. The approaches have all been tested and all have shown concrete results. By bringing them together, WHO hopes to dramatically reduce instances of violence against children.
Over the past year, up to one billion children have experienced physical, sexual or psychological violence, according to a recent study published in *Pediatrics*. Homicide is among the top five causes of death for adolescents. One in four children suffer physical abuse, and nearly one in five girls is sexually abused at least once in their lives.

The seven strategies highlighted in the “INSPIRE” package are: · Implementation and enforcement of laws: such as those limiting access by young people to firearms and other weapons (South Africa) and those criminalizing the violent punishment of children by parents (many European countries);

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Norms and values: by changing beliefs and behaviours around gender roles (India, South Africa, Uganda and the United States);

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Safe environments: by targeting violent “hotspots” and enhancing the built environment, for example, by improving housing (Colombia, United Kingdom, United States);

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Parent and caregiver support: such as the provision of training in parenting (Kenya, Liberia, Myanmar, South Africa, Thailand, United States);

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Income and economic strengthening: including microfinance combined with training around gender norms (Afghanistan, Cote d’Ivoire, South Africa, Uganda, United States);

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Response and support services: such as treatment programmes for juvenile offenders (many European countries and the United States);

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Education and life skills: for example, establishing a safe school environment and improving children’s life and social skills (China, Croatia, South Africa, Uganda, United States).

“Knowledge about the extent and harms of violence against children is growing, together with evidence about effective strategies for prevention”, notes Dr Etienne Krug, Director at WHO: “Now we need to build on that knowledge to work collectively to create the safe, stable, and nurturing environments that protect children and adolescents from violent harm.”
The new package has been produced in collaboration with the US CDC, UNICEF, End

Violence Against Children, PAHO, PEPFAR, Together for Girls, UNODC, USAID and World Bank. It is being released today in the context of the worldwide launch of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. The partnership aims to bring together governments, UN agencies, civil society, the private sector, researchers and academics to build political will, promote solutions, accelerate action and strengthen collaboration to prevent violence against children. WHO is a founding member of the partnership, and will support work to implement strategies in countries.

The initiative also aims to support achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG target 16.2 to "end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children", and implementation of World Health Assembly resolution WHA69.5
on the "
WHO global plan of action to strengthen the role of the health system within a national multisectoral response to address interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children".

RELATED LINKS

INSPIRE: seven strategies for ending violence against children www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/inspire/

World Health Assembly resolution
WHA69.5

http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA69/A69_9-en.pdf