



The Costs and Economic Impact of Violence against Children

Ending Violence Against
Children: Developing a
Roadmap to a Healthy
Childhood and Adolescence

Icahn School of Medicine
at Mount Sinai, New York, NY
22 March 2018



ChildFund Alliance

ChildFund Alliance is a global network of 11 child-centered development organizations. We work in more than 60 countries around the world.

We help more than 14 million children and their families to overcome poverty and the underlying conditions that prevent children from achieving their potential.

We work in partnership with local communities.





Violence against Children

Every day, millions of children throughout the world are subjected to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence – in their homes, schools, communities and at work. This affects their physical and mental health, their education and their overall quality of life.

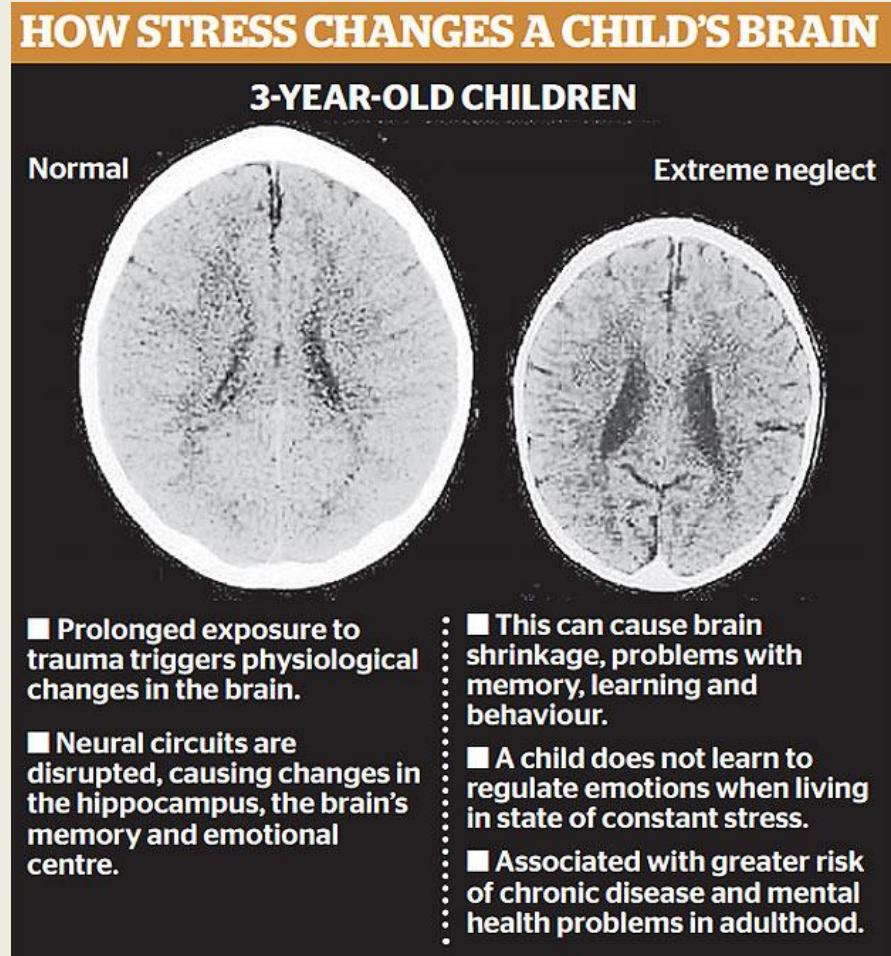
These consequences are often intergenerational, with those who have faced violence as a child more likely to become violent adults.





Violence against Children

- Violence against very young children results in long-term exposure to toxic stress and is known to inhibit optimal brain development.
- This irreversible impact on the young developing brain can lead to a failure to thrive among affected children and poorer performance once the child enters the educational system.





Violence against Children

The economic costs of violence against children (VAC) can be broadly divided into two kinds: direct and indirect.

The direct costs of VAC are more immediate and less measurable.

- Health care systems incur costs in treating the short- and long-term physical impact of the injuries caused by VAC.
- Health care systems also incur costs as a result of treating psychological and behavioral problems among adults that arise from the experience of violence in childhood.
- Social welfare systems incur costs in monitoring, preventing, protecting and responding to VAC.
- Criminal justice systems incur costs in ensuring that perpetrators of VAC are punished and real or potential victims are protected.





Violence against Children

Less immediate though potentially much larger are the indirect future costs arising from the impact VAC:

- The most significant indirect costs are productivity losses arising from the ways violence can impede child development.
- Adults exposed to violence in childhood have lower levels of education, employment, earnings and fewer assets.





ODI Report: The Costs & Economic Impact of Violence against Children

September 2014

ODI

**ChildFund®
Alliance**

Report

**The costs and economic impact of violence
against children**

Paola Pereznieta, Andres Montes, Solveig Routier and Lara Langston

Key messages

- This study estimates that the global economic impacts and costs resulting from the consequences of physical, psychological and sexual violence against children can be as high as \$7 trillion. This massive cost is higher than the investment required to prevent much of that violence.
- The annual global costs of the worst forms of child labour are approximately \$97 billion, and those resulting from children's association with armed forces or groups can be up to \$144 million annually.
- The evidence clearly shows that 'prevention pays', but current levels of government spending on preventive and responsive actions in relation to violence against children remain very low. Research and advocacy efforts need to continue, with a focus on promoting good practices for prevention. Funding for this should be scaled up.
- More specific data and in-depth primary research needs to be generated on the different forms of violence against children, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. Calculating and reporting the economic costs will lead to stronger arguments for policy-making.

Shaping policy for development

odi.org

In 2014, ChildFund Alliance commissioned the UK Overseas Development Institute to explore the economic impacts and costs of violence against children.

The basis for this research is that the current state of affairs regarding violence and exploitation against children at the global level entails economic costs that far exceed the costs of implementing policies and programs to address the issues.

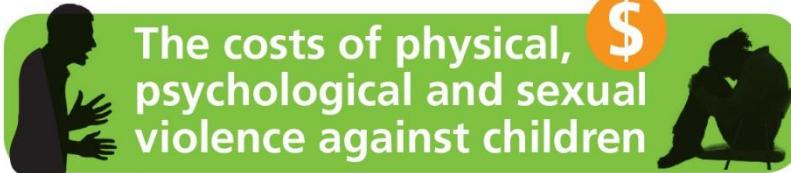
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ODI Report: The Costs & Economic Impact of Violence against Children



Global costs of violence against children



Can be as high as ▲ **us\$7 trillion**

= **8%** of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

= GDPs of Australia, Canada, India and Mexico combined*

*Source: Overseas Development Institute (2014). "The costs and economic impact of violence against children."

The annual costs of hazardous forms of child labour



Can be as high as ▲ **us\$97 billion**
= **7X** GDP of Iceland*

The annual costs of children associated with armed forces or groups



Can be as high as ▲ **us\$114 million***



How This Number Was Calculated

Global figures on violence against children



Children with a disability are 4x more likely to experience violence than children without a disability

At least 275 million children worldwide are exposed to violence in the home

worldwide 150 million girls 73 million boys have been subjected to sexual violence in a single year

ODI looked at the global number of children who suffered violence in a given year, and using previous research on the costs of violence against children in some high- and middle-income countries, calculated the global costs of violence against children



How This Number Was Calculated

This number was calculated using a **loss of productivity approach**. This means that for these children, the costs in terms of productivity over their lifetimes can amount to US\$7 trillion.

This number does not take into account other substantial costs, such as those accrued to the healthcare and justice systems, which are not globally available.





Major Findings



More specific data and in-depth primary research needs to be generated on the different forms of violence against children, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

Calculating and reporting the economic costs will lead to stronger arguments for policy making.



Impact of the Report

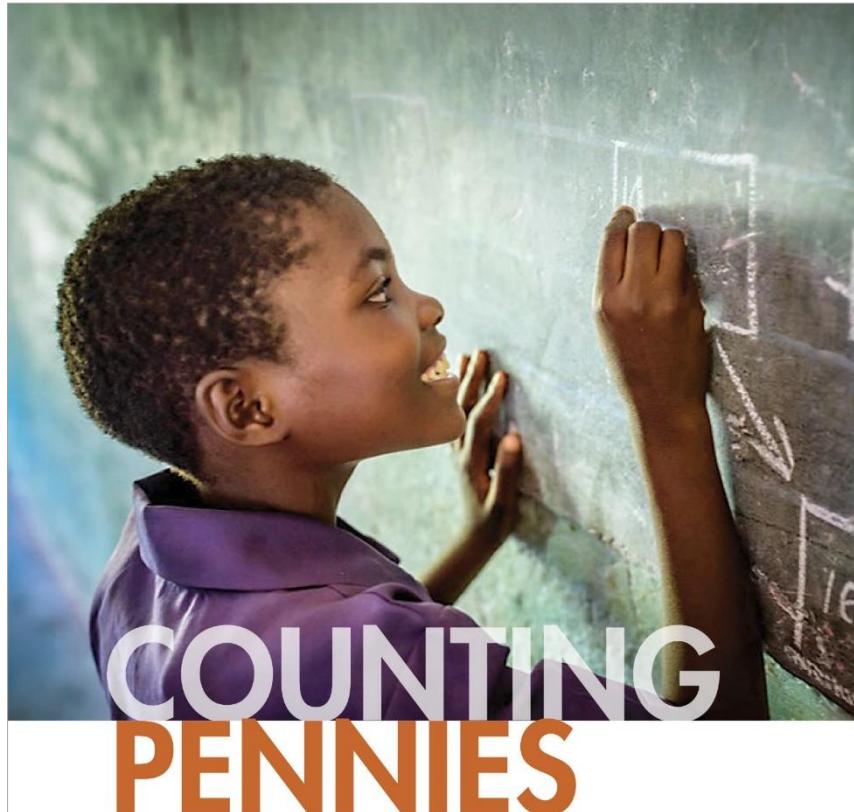
Bolstered by this research, ChildFund Alliance played a key role in getting a target on violence against children included in *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

SDG Target 16.2 is a commitment to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

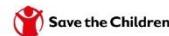




Counting Pennies: A review of official development assistance to end violence against children



A review of Official Development Assistance
to end violence against children





Counting Pennies

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ODA to end violence
against children is less
than 0.6% of global ODA
**(less than US\$1.1 billion
out of US\$174 billion)**





Counting Pennies

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In the **107 recipient countries**
of ODA for ending violence
against children,
the **average
investment** per
child is around
US\$0.65 a year





Counting Pennies

Main recommendation:

ODA donors should systematically track what is being spent on ending violence against children.





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free from violence and exploitation