

Child Protection in the post 2015 agenda

Background:

Thanks to the efforts of national governments and the international community, more children than ever before are being saved from preventable diseases. More children are in schools and in safe, permanent environments – their access to clean water and sanitary facilities improving dramatically. As countries develop economically, children’s “basics” are increasingly being better met.

But what are we saving children from, unless we can guarantee their protection, so they can grow, thrive and engage as active citizens in their families and communities across every stage of the lifecycle? The protection of children and the promotion of their well-being is closely linked to the development of any society

115 million children are working in the worst forms of child labour (ILO 2010) and an estimated 150 million girls and 73 million boys under 18 have experienced forced sexual intercourse or others forms of sexual violence involving physical contact (Pinheiro 2006). Three out of four children experience violent discipline at home. Over 2 million children around the world live in care institutions. At least 80% of these have one or both parents who are alive. This global crisis will only be resolved if governments, UN agencies and other actors engaged in the framework to develop the Post 2015 Agenda ensure that the protection of children from violence, abuse and exploitation is realized.

Statement:

We the undersigned child rights agencies welcome the opportunity to input into the Post 2015 Agenda process.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have galvanized the global community around a discrete set of goals, which has yielded significant development outcomes that impact the lives of billions. However, there is still much more to be done to address extreme poverty, disease and environmental crises and protection, particularly for children.

Taking into account the progress made, the period after 2015 must continue to build while confronting persistent inequalities and new challenges facing children and their families.

With children making up a significant portion of the world’s population, they must be central to the Post 2015 Agenda.

We urge the High Level Panel and national governments to continue to build on the progress achieved for children in the areas of child survival, HIV and AIDS, education and gender inequality with the aim that all children, particularly those who suffer the worst deprivations in society, have access to education, health care, sanitation, clean water, protection and other services necessary for their survival, growth and development.

But survival is not enough – children need to be supported, helped to thrive and grow into their full potential. This development may be hampered by violence¹ – encountered in the home, schools, care institutions, online and in communities. Violence against children takes place in every country and has serious effects on a child’s development.

If the Post-2015 Agenda sets global, or for that matter, regional or national goals it is vital that the issue of violence perpetrated against children be explicitly included therein. As a possible goal we suggest *all children live in a life free from all forms of violence, are protected in conflicts and disasters and thrive in a safe family environment*. The post-2015 development agenda should address inequalities that heighten the risks for certain children to experience violence, while also addressing the root causes of violence and not just its effects and manifestations

The experience of the MDG process has shown the importance of clear and measurable targets to improve the lives of children. While we look forward to working together with the international community to further develop common list of targets –we set out below a suggested list covering different manifestations of violence perpetrated against girls and boys.

- Halve the number of children who are subject to sexual violence and abuse of any form
- Halve the number of children subjected to violent discipline at home, in other care settings and in school
- Halve the number of children unnecessarily living outside family care and end the placement of all children in harmful institutional care²
- End the hazardous forms of child labour
- End child marriage
- Birth registration for all children, without discrimination

Each of these targets will have indicators to ensure that we can measure the impact of our commitments to keeping children safe. Finally, we call upon Governments and UN agencies to establish increased funding for the development of a comprehensive framework for prevention of and response to violence and exploitation against children.



¹ The definition of violence is that of Article 19 of the CRC: “all forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.”

² Institutional care is defined as referring to collective living arrangements for large groups of children who are looked after by staff working in shift systems. It does not encompass all forms of residential care for children.