THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS ARE NEEDED TO ELIMINATE SRGBV

PREVENT AND RESPOND TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN AND AROUND SCHOOLS, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER SECTORS AND WITH SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

- Governments should adopt comprehensive, integrated and multi-sectoral action plans to prevent and respond to violence in and around schools. These plans should be gender transformative to take into account the diversity of experiences and support the needs of all girls and boys, including the most marginalized.

- Improving school governance is central, with guidelines and action plans eliminating violence in schools, including physical punishment, developed and enforced with the support of teachers, parents and children.

- Strategies to eliminate SRGBV should be integrated into other school-based initiatives such as violence prevention in schools, children’s rights, gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment, HIV and comprehensive sexuality education, life skills or citizenship education, disaster preparedness and peace-building.

- Education content, including curricula, textbooks, geography and classroom practices can be designed to be gender-transformative and promote peace, gender equitable norms, attitudes and behaviors.

- Reporting and response mechanisms and protocols should be strengthened within educational institutions.

- Violence prevention programs should address gender norms, power inequalities and dynamics that interact with poverty, disability, sexual identity and orientation, race and ethnicity in the manifestation of violence.

- Children experiencing violence at home are more at risk of bullying others in a school environment. Addressing SRGBV requires working in partnership with communities, including parents, and stakeholders at all levels, including the judiciary, child protection authorities and the transportation sector.

- Listening to children’s voices is critical in understanding the nature and causes of violence; girls and boys must be recognized as key participants in developing solutions to SRGBV and in accountability mechanisms.

STRENGTHEN RELIABLE DATA, EVIDENCE AND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT WHAT WORKS TO END SRGBV

- Wide-ranging research is needed that addresses gaps in knowledge on the drivers of SRGBV including vulnerability of children marginalized by poverty, ethnicity, language, caste, disability, religion, refugee status, their sex, sexual orientation or gender identity;

- Integrated programs and policy evaluations are needed to better understand SRGBV: effective interventions to eliminate it; and its impact on psychological and physical wellbeing and learning outcomes;

- Systematic reporting and data collection on SRGBV should form part of education sector plans;

- Donors and partners should invest in interventions that address SRGBV through coordinated responses and poverty, displacement and social development actions and strategies;

- Support formal and informal learning environments that are safe and free from gender-based violence, including conflict and fragile settings.

WHY ENDING SCHOOL-RELATED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SRGBV) IS CRITICAL TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

While no SRGBV-specific indicators have yet been agreed at international level, a number of these indicators are included in Agenda 2030 which offers an opportunity to track progress on violence against children and adolescents.

- % of students experiencing bullying, corporal punishment, harassment, violence, sexual discrimination and abuse (4.a)

- Proportion of girls 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the last 12 months, by age group and place of occurrence (5)

- % of children 1-17 years who experienced any physical and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month (16.2)

- % of young women and men 18-29 who experienced sexual violence by age 18 (16.2)

PRIORITIZE AND EXPAND FINANCING TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS ADDressing SRGBV, ESPECIALLY AMONG MARGINALIZED AND UNDER-SERVED POPULATIONS

- Support formal and informal learning environments that are safe and free from gender-based violence, including conflict and fragile settings.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GLOBAL WORKING GROUP TO END SCHOOL-RELATED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, GO TO: http://www.ungei.org/srgbv/index.html
A BOLD NEW AGENDA FOR ACTION ON GENDER EQUALITY AND EDUCATION

Gender equality and women’s education is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Guided and inspired by the women and girls who have already learned and fought to achieve an education, the Agenda includes gender equality and women’s education in all its dimensions, rights and benefits of education.

An estimated 246 million children experience violence in and around school every year and in 2015, 246 million children experienced violence at school. 67% of children who experienced some form of violence at school experienced violence against them. Of those children, 67% experienced verbal abuse, 43% experienced humiliating treatment, and 21% experienced physical abuse.

A new global partnership for education, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will end this cycle of violence by promoting a world guided by human rights, a world where education is universal, a world where children and young people and provide them with the nurturing environment for the full realization of their rights.

SEXUAL, RELIGIOUS AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SRGBV) A GLOBAL CRISIS

Sexual, religious and gender-based violence are violations of children’s human rights and include violence that occurs in family, domestic, and other school settings.

Violence against girls and boys is a cross-sectoral concern, and includes concrete commitments under a number of Goals and Targets which, in particular, under Goal 4, on inclusive and equitable quality education, explicitly highlights the importance of knowledge and evidence on violence against girls and boys, in particular, as a form of quality education.

While school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) affects all children, girls are particularly vulnerable. School violence, in all its forms, affects girls and boys. While the data collected so far is primarily focused on girls, we know that boys also experience violence.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of interlinked and interdependent goals that work in tandem to eliminate SRGBV: goal 4 on inclusive and equitable quality education, goal 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence.

THE IMPACT OF SRGBV ON CHILDREN AND THEIR DEVELOPMENT

Several reports, studies and research papers have shown the immediate and longer-term consequences of violence in childhood. It impacts are irreversible, impeding the optimal development of the young brain, and compromising children’s development and well-being. Children who have been severely abused or neglected can become increasingly fearful of leaving difficulties and perform poorly at school, and are more likely to be dropouts.

The evidence for at least 20 countries shows that violence in childhood has been linked with less education, cancer, diabetes, schizophrenia, alcohol, and drug addiction, among others [2].

Put simply: violence undermines the sustainable development agendas of education and health for all and the promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment.

CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN SEVERELY ABUSED OR NEGLECTED ARE MORE LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE LEARNING DIFFICULTIES AND PERFORM POORLY AT SCHOOL.

THE HEART OF THE MATTER: UNLOCKING THE 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA TO ADDRESS ROOT CAUSE OF VIOLENCES

United Nations Women’sAddr.(5) addressed, from gender and sexual norms and deportment to systemic inequities and unequal power dynamics, children and young people will continue to be denied their fundamental right to quality education.

The Agenda now begins to implement. Agenda 2030 and looks towards a world “free from fear and violence”, a world of "universal literacy… a world which invests in children and in which every child grows up free from violence and exploitation”, our recent report on the country case experiences of violence and unique power dynamics, children and young people will continue to be denied their fundamental right to quality education.

For all, the root causes of SRGBV are addressed, from gender and sexual norms and deportment to systemic inequities and unequal power dynamics, children and young people will continue to be denied their fundamental right to quality education.

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