



# State of the World's Street Children: Violence

## 3. REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

**CHILDREN** at the centre: Policy makers, community leaders and service providers must work to secure a social protection system with a wide variety of options for supporting street and other children who have experienced multiple abuses and created a variety of coping strategies. Services should be personalized, offer protection from violence, counselling to address past violence and strategies to protect themselves from future violence. Communities should work with all stakeholders to foment an inclusive approach to child protection in the locality.

Support for **FAMILIES**: A culture of violence-free households should be a central goal. Public policies need to prepare and support people for parenting and ban all violence in the home. Safe houses are needed for victims of home-based violence and so are services which help families create supportive home environments. Families and street children should be supported to prepare for and achieve reunification. Communities should facilitate reintegration of street children and promote inclusive practices for those children unable or unwilling to return home.

Connected **COMMUNITIES**: Investment to develop community-based organizations and linkages between them in poor neighbourhoods is fundamental to reducing local violence. Schools should be inclusive, affordable and violence-free. Community-based organizations should foster neighbourhood social connectedness, working to ensure access to local support services by children and families who do not access them on their own.

**STATE** protection: A culture of respect for children must be introduced and sustained in institutional services and public spaces. Police and staff at all levels of the juvenile justice and welfare systems need adequate training. Sanctions should be imposed against individual officials who infringe children's rights. A national Ombudsperson for children should pursue and publicize reports of state violence against children in detention, care and public spaces. Legal aid should similarly be provided to press successfully for resolution of accusations of violence against street children. Street children should be supported to build positive support networks to reduce their exposure to violence in dynamic and unprotected environments.

Inclusive **SOCIETY**: Poverty and inequality in wider society need to be addressed to reduce violence and prevent children from needing to work or survive on the streets. Integrated schemes involving reallocation of resources from wealthier groups and regions should develop poor neighbourhoods and protect excluded families from external shocks. Community-based organizations and service providers should be instrumental in supporting families and protecting children, including new arrivals, in times of instability in wider society.

Strengthened **RESEARCH**: An international body should be charged with coordinating and improving the availability of data associated with street children and risks of violence. Country-level data collection and analysis should measure outcomes that matter to street children. Service providers should record information about individual children's exposure to and involvement in violence. Mechanisms for hearing children's voices should be resourced to research and make recommendations about street children and violence.