

Indicators for “Youth and their Wellbeing” (Youth Affected by Armed Conflict)

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Youth and Armed Conflict

Complexity of where and when to begin the assessment

- Young people who are in vicinity of, perpetrate, are directly or indirectly affected by these forms of violence, but not just open warfare.
- YAAC are more often than not, physically injured and psychologically scared, have lost years of schooling and socialization.
- In the aftermath of the conflict, some are shunned and others are expected to resume their roles as students, siblings, parents, community members, and workers.
- Not always a cross-cutting issue, some issues are regional/country specific.

YAAC/ Displacement Situation, indicators

Displacement and level of integration (IDPs)

- Freedom of movement.
- Ability to work.
- Right to own property.
- Access to school, healthcare, and other social amenities
- Incidence of diseases.
- incidence of rape/abuse in camps.
- Proliferation of arms and light weapons.
- systems of early warning signals and prevention of impunity.

Social-Political indicators

- existence of prevention strategies and policies that address root causes of conflict, e.g., promoting the revival and strengthening of local norms and value systems for protection.
- Participation in power and decision making
 - number of returnees elected for office
 - existence of advocacy strategy
 - leadership roles by Youth in post conflict peace building
 - Level of social inclusion
 - nature and level of mainstreaming of YAAC activities in national plans and policies
- existence of feasible and continuous efforts to reduce poverty (*adequate resourced structures and institutional measures*).
- availability and sustainable local resources and knowledge, e.g. DDDR (Vigorous family reunifications-monitoring and reporting, as well as follow –up services).

Source

- DDDR policies (National plans, statistics, UN, WB, NGO)
- Family income per capita
- Evaluation reports of YAAC activities

Economic Indicators

- favorable global and national policies that embrace youth development and pay particular attention to the challenges faced by YAAC.
- availability of alternative economic activities for youth, access to skills training and employment opportunities, as well as entrepreneurship.
- Visible multidimensional approach that integrates employability, equal opportunities, saving, and job creation

Education Indicators

- literacy levels
- School enrollment
- quality of education

Source:

(Ministry of education statistics, UNESCO, UNICEF, formal or vocational schools)

Health Indicators

- psychosocial recovery programs.
- HIV/AIDS prevalence and awareness.
- Access to health services.
- availability of national policies to address the economic desperation that forces young girls to engage in sex for survival.
- strategic initiatives to deal with mass displacement, unsafe camp structures, violence and high levels of sexual activity , which exacerbate the spread of the virus.

Source:

Surveys; National statistics, UN Agencies, NGOs

Monitoring Reports Continuation

- **Security Council Working Group, Task force on CAAC.**
- **Periodicity of the Reports**
- *Regular by monthly reports on grave violations, January 31, 2006*
- *Annual monitoring and compliance country report, June 30, 2006*

Existing Tools for Data Collection

- **Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism Reports**

Implementation and enforcement structures/guidelines in place provided through myriad of UN Security Council Resolutions could be a firm basis for development of indicators for this group, especially, UNSCRES, 1379, 1539, and recently, the landmark resolution 1612 that established a Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism.

- **Periodicity of the Reports**

Regular by monthly reports on grave violations, January 31, 2006
Annual monitoring and compliance country report, June 30, 2006

- **Partnership (Reports)**

OSRSG/CAAC, UNICEF, UNCT, Regional Organizations, States, NGO's

Peace making Databank

OSRSG/CAAC /DPA

- Peacemaking Databank, available to both UN and non UN mediators
- (To be launched soon)

Research consortium

- Established under the coordination of the Social Science Research Council of New York
- Focuses on filling knowledge gaps in the following key areas: reliable data on children and armed conflict; current trends in warfare affecting children; cultural National values concerning the protection of children in times of armed conflict; use of the local/traditional value systems; assessment of program interventions and responses - including program-effectiveness, "best practices" and "lessons learnt" indicators.

Regional Initiatives (Reports)

- **ECOWAS** ---Plan of action for war affected Children and youth.
- **OAS**---Called upon parties to respect IHL and support rehabilitation programs, Inter-American Institute for Human Rights integrates this agenda into their activities.
- **The Commonwealth** --- Durban Communiqué.
- **European Union institutions**---were urged to make the protection of young people a significant aspect of its own agenda, to incorporate the issue in bilateral cooperation arrangements and aid policies, as well as to solicit support for research and information projects.
- **NGOs** ---encourage and support initiatives to strengthen advocacy_and develop programs for war-affected children and Youth.

Youth engagements

- **Youth Zones** (mechanism established and strengthened to address and to involve youth in decision making and peace building)
- **Global Peace Schools programs** (helps youth to understand the problem of the peers involved in conflict)
- **Radio Programs** (give youth a voice to engage in national issues.)