

# Innocenti Research Digest Adolescence

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A quarterly research digest highlighting the most important news and resources in adolescent well-being over the last three months.

## GUEST EDITORIAL

The April 2018 issue of the Innocenti Research Digest on Adolescence features resources that focus on health and development interventions for specific groups of adolescents. I would like to take this opportunity to examine one critical factor in the effective delivery of such interventions – the person (or persons) delivering them.

In a [review of interventions to prevent unintended rapid, repeat pregnancies among adolescents](#), Norton et al. conclude that effective interventions: "... link clinical contraceptive services with non-clinical activities that build planning skills, enhance understanding of the role that contraceptives can play in determining positive life outcomes, and provide mentoring and goal setting". Interventions to help disempowered girls and young women

conceive and work towards life goals, and to make contraception part of this process, are, in fact, hugely challenging. The 'intervener' needs to identify girls, engage them, build trust, and work with them for weeks to teach them, inspire them and challenge them to take charge of their own lives. And then to slowly step back as their 'baby steps' become confident strides. What does it take to have effective 'interveners' in place in community-based initiatives?

The study by Norton et al. does not answer this question. However, a [review of 44 girls' or youth development clubs and life skills programmes](#), by Marcus et al. finds that "the most effective programmes typically provided regular in-service training to mentors, and monitored their activity to ensure they were providing good-quality programmes and support. They also made sure



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Adolescent girls participate in a traditional dance at a "Lifeskills" event in Union Development & Culture Community Centre in Djibouti. UNICEF is supporting a programme called "Lifeskills", targeting youth and adolescents with the aim of empowering them in critical thinking, negotiation and decision making to boost their self-esteem and increase their ability to take responsibility for making healthier choices and resisting negative pressures.



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mentors were adequately paid and provided refresher courses to help them improve the quality of their facilitation". Clearly, a high level of ongoing support was critical to the success of these relatively small-sized initiatives. To scale up and sustain such initiatives, two key questions must be answered: whether existing front-line workers - such as Ethiopia's health extension workers and India's Accredited Social Health Activists - would be able to take on these additional challenging tasks; and whether low- and middle-income country governments - would be able and willing to set up the support systems 'interveners' need to work effectively in community settings and in institutions, such as schools.



@UNICEF/UNI89751/Shehzad Noorani  
A 17-year-old watches as a peer youth counselor at Mitundu Youth Organization in Lilongwe, Malawi, speaks to him about safe and protected sex.

One of the many noteworthy features of the recently updated version of the [International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education](#) is that it places sexuality education within the framework of human rights and gender equality. 'Understanding gender' is one of the eight key concepts that underpin the Guidance. Developmentally appropriate learning objectives relating to the following three topics are outlined for students in the 5-8, 9-12, 12-15 and 15-18+ age groups: the social construction of gender and gender norms; gender equality, stereotypes and bias; and gender based violence. Section seven of the Guidance, titled: 'Delivering effective Comprehensive Sexuality Education Programmes (CSE)', calls for educators to be provided with "sensitization, values clarification, quality pre- and on-the-job training, and continuous professional development opportunities."

We do not yet have assessments of how the concepts outlined in the updated Guidance document are being taught but there is considerable field experience in this area. Based on a decade of implementing '[The World Starts with me](#)' programme, the Rutgers' team led by Vanwesenbeeck identified multiple barriers to CSE at the context level (such as community opposition), the school level (such as unsupportive policies), the teacher level (such as work pressure), and the student level (such as feeling unsafe). A study by Wood et al. found that intensive [training provided by feminist non-governmental organizations to teachers from resource-poor schools in Nigeria](#), developed the teachers' competence, confidence and commitment to fostering their students' critical thinking about gender issues. In this case too – a high level of ongoing support was a key to success. Can such initiatives be scaled up and sustained? If so, what will it take to do this? That is just what Rutgers hopes to learn by piloting approaches to address barriers that hinder school-based sexuality education, through its '[Whole of school approach to sexuality education](#).'

Formative research highlights problems and their determinants. Intervention research helps identify effective interventions. But that is a job only half done. This needs to be followed by implementation research to provide context-specific solutions to programmatic challenges in delivering effective interventions at scale and with quality and equity. I echo the call by Haberland et al. for such research in their excellent systematic review on [Adolescent Girl Program Implementation in LMICs](#) featured in this issue of the Digest. With support from funding mechanisms such as the Global Fund for AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria, and from initiatives such as FP2020 and the Global Programme to Accelerate and End to Child Marriage, countries are receiving technical and financial support to design, implement and monitor programmes. We must use this [never-before opportunity to nest implementation research studies](#) within these programmes so that we can do, and learn-as-we-do.

### [Chandra-Mouli Venkatraman](#)

Scientist – Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health  
Department of Reproductive Health and Research/Human  
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## LATEST RESEARCH

### HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

#### [Coming of age: the emerging science of adolescence](#)

Nature Collection, *Adolescence*, February 2018.

A landmark collection of reviews and other articles from Nature, Nature Research journals and the Scientific American, explores the emerging science of adolescence through multiple lenses, from neuroscience to policy and clinical medicine. Key articles focus on [intergenerational benefits of investing on adolescents](#); [poverty and social marginalization in low-income countries](#); [media use and brain development during adolescence](#) and [addressing harmful and unequal gender norms in early adolescence](#).

[Access Collection](#)

#### [Interventions for Preventing Unintended, Rapid Repeat Pregnancy among Adolescents: A Review of the Evidence and Lessons from High-Quality Evaluations](#)

Norton, M. et al., *Global Health: Science and Practice*, December 2017.

Rapid repeat pregnancies expose young mothers and their children to multiple health and socioeconomic risks. This review of 40 high-quality evaluations finds that effective prevention links clinical contraceptive services with non-clinical interventions that build planning skills, enhance understanding of the role that contraceptives



@UNICEF/UN071421/Shafiqul Alam Kiron  
A Medical Officer, is counseling 14-year-old on sexual and reproductive health issues at Dacope Upazila Health Complex, Bangladesh.

can play in determining positive life outcomes, and provide mentoring and goal setting. Findings highlight the importance of testing various combinations of non-clinical interventions, with access to contraception as the foundational activity.

[Download article \[pdf\]](#)

#### [A Systematic review of Adolescent Girl Program Implementation in Low- and Middle-income Countries](#)

Haberland, N.A. et al., *Journal of Adolescent Health*, February 2018.

Increasing attention to adolescent girls in Low- and Middle-income Countries (LMICs) has generated a growing number of programmes and research studies. Questions remain, however, on which implementation approaches are most effective, thereby hindering efficient resource allocation, programme scale-up, and replication across settings. This systematic review assesses the evidence base of current girl-centred programmes in LMICs, identifying substantial gaps in programme implementation. Evidence suggests that longer programme exposure and multicomponent programmes (vs. single component programmes) may be more effective.

#### [Handbook of Adolescent Development Research and Its Impact on Global Policy](#)

Lansford, E. and Banati, P. (Eds.), Oxford University Press, Oxford, February 2018.

Through the contribution of leading academics in the field of adolescence and UNICEF experts, this book brings together cutting-edge research on adolescent development, with a focus on policies and interventions in LMICs. Research pieces explore both the challenges and the promise of adolescence, by presenting research on social, emotional, behavioural, cognitive, and physical development. This volume provides actionable strategies for policy-makers and practitioners and adopts portraying young people as opportunities, rather than threats.

[Access book \[open access available August 2018\]](#)

### [Determinants of Adolescent Pregnancy in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Systematic Review](#)

Yakubu, I. and Jawula Salisu, W., *Reproductive Health*, January 2018.

This systematic review identifies factors that influence higher rates of adolescent pregnancies in sub-Saharan Africa, categorizing them around three major themes: socio-cultural and economic; individual; and health service-related. Programmatic recommendations to reduce adolescent pregnancy rates include: community sensitization; comprehensive sexuality education; and ensuring girls enrol and stay in school. Provision of adolescent-friendly health services in schools and healthcare centres and adolescent empowerment programmes have also had a positive impact.

[Download article \[pdf\]](#)

## PROTECTION

### [Who Perpetrates Violence against Children? A Systematic Analysis of Age-specific and Sex-specific Data](#)

Devries, K. et al., *BMJ Paediatrics*, February 2018.

This global systematic analysis presents the first prevalence estimates by perpetrator type, for physical, sexual and emotional violence against children. Findings indicate that violence within the home perpetrated by a caregiver or other household members is the most common form of violence experienced by both boys and girls. While prevalence of both emotional and physical violence is above 50% for most ages, emotional violence



@UNICEF/UN0199611/Shehzad Noorani  
A 6-year-old from Ethiopia makes crafts from recyclable materials at the Caritas Centre for Children in the city of Djibouti. Most girls visiting the centre have been victims of unimaginable violence, such as rape, incest, exploitation and prostitution. The centre offers psychosocial support services to cope with the impact of violence they face in life.

is more widespread than physical violence. Boys are more likely to report school-based physical violence at the hands of peers. However, even at ages as low as 15–19, girls suffer significant rates of intimate partner violence. Finally, children are at high-risk of violence from teachers and other authority figures. Further investment in data generation on exposure to violence from multiple perpetrators and on violence against boys is needed to address the gaps and monitor progress towards violence-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

[Download article \[pdf\]](#)  
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### [Empowering Adolescent Girls in Developing Countries. Gender Justice and Norm Change](#)

Harper, C., et al. (Eds.), Routledge, London, February 2018.

This open access book explores the detrimental impact of discriminatory gender norms on adolescent girls' lives across Ethiopia, Nepal, Uganda and Viet Nam. By analysing the theory of gendered norm change, the research identifies the patriarchal vested interests in power, authority and moral privilege, which combine in attempts to restrict and control girls' lives. This book demonstrates how efforts to develop more egalitarian gender norms can enable disadvantaged adolescent girls to change the course of their lives and contribute to societal change.

[Download book \[pdf\]](#) or [Read Online](#)

### [Addressing Gender Socialization and Masculinity Norms Among Adolescent Boys: Policy and Programmatic Implications](#)

Amin, A. et al., *Journal of Adolescent Health*, March 2018.

The behaviours of boys during adolescence and as they become adults, have a profound impact on the well-being of adolescent girls, particularly in relation to sexual and reproductive health. In addition, male perpetration of sexual violence starts, in many settings, during adolescence, with adverse physical and mental health outcomes for women and girls. Approaches that show promise in changing boys' gender attitudes include small group participatory curricula to generate critical reflection about unequal power relations.

These interventions result more effective when combined with actions aimed to empower girls and build their self-esteem and agency; and when incorporated into more holistic programmes that target not only individual boys but also peers, parents, schools and communities.

### [Making Sense of Child, Early and Forced Marriage among Syrian Refugee Girls: A Mixed Methods Study in Lebanon](#)

Bartels, S. et al., *BMJ Global Health*, January 2018.

A complex range of factors contribute to early marriage amongst Syrian refugees in Lebanon, particularly economic insecurity, a lack of educational opportunities, and unstable living conditions. This mixed-methods research offers new insight on the gendered perceptions of what drives early marriage; men believe that a girl's decision to marry is primarily a financial coping strategy, whereas girls prioritize being protected from gender-based violence and harassment. As such, while engagement at the community-level is essential for sustained progress on this issue, policy and programmes should be informed by tailored, gender-sensitive and gender-specific approaches.

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@UNICEF/UNI177569/Jordi Matas

Nour, 16, who lives in Za'atari refugee camp, Jordan, fled Syria 1 year and 6 months ago. She married at the age of 14 and is now 7 months pregnant. She attends a UNICEF supported centre that provides psychosocial support for girls married at an early age.

### [Psychosocial Support for Adolescent Girls in Post-Conflict Settings: Beyond a Health Systems Approach](#)

Samuels, F. et al., *Health Policy and Planning*, December 2017.

Drawing on qualitative fieldwork in Gaza, Liberia and Sri Lanka, this paper highlights the importance of providing psychosocial support services for adolescent girls in fragile contexts, alongside biomedical services. Effective interventions encompass approaches to tackle discriminatory gendered norms, such as: tailoring services to ensure gender and age-sensitivity; investing in capacity building of service providers to promote service uptake; and enhancing strategies to regulate and coordinate actors providing mental health and psychosocial support services.

[Download article \[pdf\]](#)

## YOUTH AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

### [Youth and Violent Extremism on Social Media: Mapping the Research](#)

Alava, S. et al., UNESCO, December 2017.

Reviewing more than 550 published studies from scientific and 'grey literature' covering titles in English, French, Arabic and Chinese, this research finds that violent extremists are heavily spread throughout the Internet and that there is a growing body of knowledge about how terrorists use cyberspace. This work provides a global mapping of research on the assumed roles played by social media in violent radicalization processes, especially as they affect youth and women across all the regions of the world.

[Download report \[pdf\]](#)

### [Cradled By Conflict: Child Involvement With Armed Groups In Contemporary Conflict](#)

O'Neil, S. and Van Broeckhoven, K., United Nations University (UNU), January 2018.

This edited collection analyses evidence on how children become associated with armed groups and considers how the international community can improve its efforts to prevent and respond to child recruitment. Findings challenge the conventional misconception that violent extremism ideology is predominantly responsible for driving children into

armed groups, which can result in poorly suited – and potentially counterproductive – policy and programmatic responses. The volume proposes principles for more effective international efforts to prevent and respond to child recruitment and use by armed groups.

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@UNICEF/UN064927/Gwenn Dubourthoumieu  
Demobilized child soldiers from the militia of the traditional chief Kamuina Nsapu make biscuits in a Transit and Orientation Centre run by the local NGO Children Catholic National Bureau, supported by UNICEF, in Kananga, Democratic Republic of Congo.

## EDUCATION AND TRANSITION TO WORK

### [Disability and School Attendance in 15 Low- and Middle-income Countries](#)

Mizunoya, S. et al., *World Development*, April 2018

Using data from 15 countries, this paper finds that disability reduces significantly the probability of school attendance by a median 30.9 percentage points. General poverty reduction policies seem unlikely to close the disability gap in schooling. More policy attention and programming is needed to ensure schooling is disability-inclusive, ensuring specific international commitments, national education policies and sector plans.

[Download article \[not open access\]](#)

### [Barriers to voluntary participation in sport for children: a systematic review](#)

Somerset, S. and Hoare, D. J., *BMC Pediatrics*, February 2018.

A growing body of research highlights the benefits of sport education on children physical and mental health. However, despite the benefits, there is

evidence that young people are leading increasingly sedentary lifestyles and are at greater risk of chronic diseases than those with active lifestyles. This systematic review examines the barriers to children's participation in sport and identifies time, cost, and location as the most prominent bottlenecks. Schools and local clubs are encouraged to work together to provide more varied and affordable local opportunities to increase young people's participation in sport.

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## PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

### [Youth Engagement in the Realm of Local Governance: Opportunities for Peace?](#)

Oosterom, M., Institute of Development Studies *Working Paper*, February 2018

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security endorses a view of young people as contributors to peace. While local governance might be an entry point for youth participation, little is documented about the specifics of young people's participation in local governance in fragile and conflict affected settings. Based on a review of existing literature, this paper discusses the ways in which youth engage in local governance processes through formal and informal mechanisms, and the politics and power dynamics that shape their engagement.

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## RESOURCES

### **Lancet commentaries on Children's rights and social media**

On the occasion of the [Safer Internet Day](#) (6 February 2018) the Lancet featured new research released by the Children's Commissioner for England, Anne Longfield, which explores the [social media experience of children aged 8–12](#). This report can be helpfully read alongside two additional studies by the Children's Commissioner published in 2017: [Growing up Digital](#) and [The Case for a UNCRC General Comment on Children's Rights and Digital Media](#). Another recent editorial from The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health offers a useful discussion on the [benefits and risks of growing up in a digital world](#).



@UNICEF/UN0185847/Vincent Tremeau

Agnes, 16, at the Centre de Transit et d'Orientation (CTO), a UNICEF-supported reintegration centre for children associated with armed groups, in Kananga, Kasai region, Democratic Republic of the Congo. "War for me, is lack of peace. It is the lack of opportunity and leadership, creating poverty", she says.

### UNESCO Guidelines on Sexuality Education

UNESCO has launched an updated [International Technical Guidelines on Sexuality Education](#).

Drawing on new research on what works, the guidelines emphasize promoting a positive, broad understanding of what can be included in comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), with a focus on rights, gender and avoiding early pregnancy. Another UNESCO report in French *Éducation Sexuelle Complète Nouveaux Éléments d'information, Enseignements et Pratique: Une Etude Mondiale* examines the integration of CSE into school curricula, investment in monitoring systems, community engagement and development of effective teacher training.

### Tracking progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

A series of resources on tracking progress of the SDGs have been released in the last quarter by UNICEF, UN Women and the International AIDS Society. UNICEF's Division of Data and Analytics has published the report [Progress for Children in the SDG Era](#) which monitors five dimensions of

children's rights: to survive and thrive, to learn, to be protected from violence, to live in a safe and clean environment, and to have an equal opportunity to succeed. The reports comes with [country profile](#) factsheets and an [interactive country dashboards](#). UNICEF's related research [Countdown to 2030: Tracking progress towards universal coverage for women's, children's and adolescents' health](#) focuses on adolescent girls' reproductive health in conflict settings.

UN women new flagship report [Turning Promises into Action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) provides practical guidance for the implementation of gender-responsive policies and accountability processes.

Finally, the International AIDS Society has published the edited collection [Paediatric and Adolescent HIV and the Sustainable Development Goals: the road ahead to 2030](#), including the piece by Chamla, D. et al. on [Children, HIV, emergencies and Sustainable Development Goals: roadblocks ahead and possible solutions](#).

## Evidence Gap Map in Adolescent Wellbeing Interventions in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

UNICEF Office of Research-Innocenti has published an [Evidence Gap Map \(EGM\) on Adolescent Well-being in Low- and Middle-income Countries](#). The objective of this EGM is to provide an overview of the existing evidence on the effectiveness of interventions aimed at improving adolescent well-being in LMICs. Its focus is on the outcome domains of protection, participation, financial/material well-being and enabling environment. The study includes an [interactive tool](#) which visually maps the evidence to show where it is strong and where the gaps lie.

## Influencing behaviours and practices: What works?

A recent article by Oxfam analyses best practices and lessons learned from [behavioural change and communication for development](#) campaigns. Among the effective examples analysed are Oxfam country programmes which use a combination of influencing tactics to tackle [violence against women and girls](#). A full discussion paper on [Influencing Behaviours and Practices to Tackle Poverty and Injustice](#) is available for download on Oxfam's website.

## Child Soldiers World Index

The [Child Soldiers World Index](#), developed by human rights group [Child Soldiers International](#), is the first comprehensive worldwide resource on child recruitment. Database covers all 197 UN Member States and includes more than 10,000 data points, as well as authoritative data on national laws, policies and child recruitment practices worldwide.

## Safe Spaces in Refugee Camps: lessons learned from the COMPASS programme

A resource package from the International rescue committee summarises evaluation findings from the three-year [Creating Opportunities through Mentoring, Parental Involvement and Safe Spaces](#) programme (COMPASS) implemented in refugee camps in Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and Pakistan. COMPASS included adolescent girls' life skills sessions, parent/caregiver discussion groups, and targeted support to service providers around gender-based violence (GBV). Based on programme learnings, IRC has developed a [results report](#), a toolkit called [Girl Shine](#) and a series of [factsheets and papers](#).

## Plan International's Girls Rights Platform

The [Girls Rights Platform](#) is a one-stop shop for information on girls' rights. It includes a comprehensive human rights database, training tools for girls' rights advocates, and a United Nations debate tracker to hold States to account.

## NEWS

### [End Violence Solutions Summit](#)

Aiming to inspire a global, national and local movement to protect children from violence, the first End Violence Solutions Summit was held on 14-15 February 2018 in Stockholm, Sweden. The Government of Sweden, the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, and the WePROTECT Global Alliance invite people to share the [Stockholm Solutions Summit Proclamation](#) with stakeholders globally. More [conference outputs and resources](#) are available on the Summit website.

### [Expanding the Age of Adolescence?](#)

A new viewpoint piece from The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health discusses how the transition period from childhood to adulthood occupies a greater portion of the life course than ever before. Delayed timing of transitions, such as the completion of education, marriage and parenthood, has impacted on perceptions of when adulthood starts. As such, an expanded and more inclusive definition of adolescence from 10-24 years as opposed to 10-19 years, is needed to appropriately frame laws, social policies, and service systems. This Lancet think piece has stimulated a large discussion in the [media](#).

At the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2018 in Switzerland, and in coincidence with the #MeToo campaign, Promundo presented new analysis on the drivers of male harassment in the research brief [Unmasking Sexual Harassment: How Toxic Masculinities Drive Men's Abuse and What We Can Do to End It](#). The study included representative samples of more than 1,000 young men in the US, UK, and Mexico, across rural and urban areas and all educational and income levels. [Full research report](#) and [video](#) from the conference panel "How Do We Stop Sexual Harassment" are available online.

### [A Call to Action: Protecting Children on the Move Starts with Better Data](#)

Member States are currently working towards the [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) and the [Global Compact on Refugees](#), but there continues to be significant gaps across laws, policies and services, which leave children and adolescents unprotected and unable to access the services they need. UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM, Eurostat and OECD are calling for a fresh commitment to prioritize actions to address data gaps, and ensure child-specific considerations are integrated in both agreements.

### [Call for papers: Adolescent Transitions](#)

The [International Journal of Public Health \(IJPH\)](#) invites articles and systematic reviews relevant to the topic of adolescent transitions. IJPH has a particular interest in: changes from pre-puberty through adolescence and their impacts on health-related outcomes; the developmental trajectories sub-groups/minority populations; cohort effects in adolescent health; interventions to improve health trajectories during the adolescent years. Deadline for submission is 15 April. IJPH editorial office contact: [ijph@ispm.unibe.ch](mailto:ijph@ispm.unibe.ch)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### [Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation Global Summit](#)

This summit will discuss the latest research and innovations around ending sexual exploitation, including pornography, sex trafficking, prostitution, child sexual abuse, sexual violence, and sexualized media.

Organizers: National Center on Sexual Exploitation  
Date: 4-7 April 2018

Location: Washington D.C., USA

[Registration](#)

### [World Congress on Justice for Children](#)

The theme of this year's congress is 'Strengthening justice systems for children: Challenges, including disengagement from violent extremism'. It will focus on three major issues: (1) children's involvement in violent extremism and possible responses; (2) how to reduce juvenile offending and recidivism; and (3) how to improve protection mechanisms for vulnerable children, including early prevention.

Organizers: International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates (IAYFJM), Terre des

hommes Foundation, Penal Reform International (PRI) with Child Rights International Network (CRIN), Defence for Children International (DCI), Judicial Training Institute of Belgium (IGO-IFJ) and the Information for All Programme (IFAP) of UNESCO.

Date: 28-30 May 2018

Location: Paris, France

[Registration](#)

### [III Bienal Latinoamericana y Caribena de Infancias y Juventudes \(III Bi-annual Latin American and Caribbean Childhood and Youth Conference\)](#)

The conference will feature presentations, workshops, courses and working groups across seven thematic areas including: violence, conflict, memories and peace building; collective action, participation, public policies and the State; and cultural narratives and hegemonies.

Organizers: Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO), Red Iberoamericana de Posgrados en Infancia y Juventud (RedINJU), el Centro de Estudios Avanzados en Niñez y Juventud (CINDE), Universidad de Manizales.

Date: 30 July – 3 August 2018

Location: Manizales, Colombia

[Registration](#)

### [XVI European Association for Research on Adolescence \(EARA\) Conference](#)

EARA's next conference 'Nurturing adolescent growth' will focus on positive youth development, particularly on adaptive development and contextual support for adolescent development.

Organizers: EARA and Ghent University

Date: 12-15 September 2018

Location: Ghent, Belgium

[Registration](#)

[UNICEF Mozambique](#) is calling for papers for the International Conference "Evidence on Children and Adolescents' Well-being in Mozambique: Research, Policy and Practice". Early career and leading researchers, as well as policy practitioners, are invited to apply for individual, panel and poster presentations on the following themes: ECD and pre-school education, child health, HIV/AIDS, child nutrition, child protection policies, urbanization and child friendly cities, water and sanitation, ethics and research with children, child well-being in the context of culture and norms, child poverty, public finance for children. Deadline for submitting

abstracts or panels is 25 April. For inquiries, contact: [childconfmoz@gmail.com](mailto:childconfmoz@gmail.com).

Organizers: UNICEF Mozambique, Universidade Pedagógica Quelimane

Date: 6-8 November

Location: Quelimane

[Registration](#)

### [Online Course on Global Adolescent Health](#)

Taught by Lancet commissioners Susan Sawyer and George Patton, this open access course will explore the dynamic factors affecting the health and wellbeing of young people around the world, and how important it is for individuals, communities and nations to improve the health and life chances of this important population group.

Organizer: University of Melbourne Start

Date: 21 May 2018

[Registration](#)

## UNITED NATIONS YOUTH-DEDICATED DAYS AND EVENTS

15 May is the [UN's International Day of Families](#) - this year, the theme centres on 'Families and inclusive societies'. Parents also receive specific recognition on 1 June on the [UN Global Day of Parents](#). 4 June marks [International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression](#), affirming the UN's commitment to protect the rights of children. Launched in 2002 by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to focus attention on the global extent of child labour, 12 June marks the [World Day Against Child Labour](#). Chosen to commemorate the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1820 (2008), UN [International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict](#) is on 19 June. 20 June marks [World Refugee Day](#) - UNHCR launched the #WithRefugees petition back in June 2016. Adolescent-related UN actions and useful resources can be consulted on the respective websites.

## ADDITIONAL READING

Other interesting readings selected by our team (\*= not open access).

Asad, N. et al., [The Intersection of Adolescent Depression and Peer Violence: Baseline Results from a Randomized Controlled Trial of 1,752 Youth in Pakistan](#), *Child and Adolescent Mental Health*, November 2017.

Berry, J. et al., [The Impact of Financial Education for Youth in Ghana](#), *World Development*, February 2018.

Blok, A. and Pehle, H., [Girls' Rights are Human Rights: An In-depth Study of the Status of Girls in the International Human Rights Framework](#), Plan International, February 2018.

Bonner, K. et al., [HPV Vaccination Strategies Targeting Hard-to-Reach Populations: Out-of-School Girls in LMICs](#), *Vaccine*, January 2018.

Brun, D. [Men and Boys in Displacement: Assistance and Protection Challenges for Unaccompanied Boys and Men in Refugee Contexts](#), Care and Promundo, December 2017.

Budhathoki, S. et al., [Menstrual Hygiene Management among Women and Adolescent Girls in the Aftermath of the Earthquake in Nepal](#), *BMC Women's Health*, February 2018.

Camilletti, E., [Realizing an Enabling Environment for Adolescent Well-being: An inventory of laws and policies for adolescents in South Asia](#), UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti, February 2018.

Chen, S., [Education and Transition to Work: Evidence from Vietnam, Cambodia and Nepal](#) *International Journal of Educational Development*, July 2018.\*

CTB Niger, [Valorisation des Messages Clés Livrés par des Jeunes Filles Scolarisées dans des Collèges Ruraux au Niger](#) (Report Final SenseMaker) [Valuing Key Messages Delivered by Young Girls Schooled in Rural Colleges in Niger], Projet Sarraouiunia, Agence belge de développement, December 2017.

Darney, B.G. and Saavedra-Avendaño, B. [Quality Measurement Is Key to Improving Family Planning Services and Outcomes for Adolescents in Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#), *Journal of Adolescent Health*, March 2018 .

- De Groot et al., [Child marriage and Associated Outcomes in Northern Ghana: A cross-sectional study](#), *BMC Public Health*, February 2018.
- Doubt, J. et al., [“It Has Changed”: Understanding Change in a Parenting Program in South Africa](#), *Annals of Global Health*, December 2017.\*
- Figueroa-Grenett, C. [La Acción Política de Niños, Niñas y Jóvenes en Chile: Cuerpos, Performatividad y Producción de Subjetividad](#) [The Political Action of Children and Young People in Chile: Bodies, Performativity and Production of Subjectivity], *Revista Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, Niñez y Juventud*, January 2018.
- Freudberg, H. et al., [Process and Impact Evaluation of a Community Gender Equality Intervention with Young Men in Rajasthan, India](#), *Culture, Health and Sexuality*, February 2018.\*
- Himaz, R. [Stunting Later in Childhood and Outcomes as a Young Adult: Evidence from India](#), *World Development*, April 2018.\*
- Kapungu. C. et al., [Gendered Influences on Adolescent Mental Health in Low-income and Middle-income Countries: Recommendations from an Expert Convening](#), *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health*, Vol. 2, November 2017.
- Kirollos, M. et al., [The War on Children, Time to End Grave Violations against Children in Conflict](#), Save the Children, January 2018.
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