

Safe to Learn

Ending violence in, around and through schools

When children are not safe, they cannot learn.

Schools should provide a safe space for children to learn and grow. Yet, **over half a billion children globally experience violence in and around schools every year**. Children who are marginalized due to intersectional factors such as gender, race, disability and sexual orientation, and children living in conflict-affected areas are at even higher risk. For example, girls with disabilities are up to 10 times more likely to face gender-based violence than those without disabilities.

Violence in schools in numbers

- **793 million school-aged children** live in countries where corporal punishment at school is not fully prohibited
- Over **150 million children** and youth experience school-related gender-based violence every year
- **1 in 3 students** aged 13 -15 experience bullying
- Violence in schools leads to **US\$11 trillion** in lost lifetime earnings

Violence happens in all settings: in schools, in the home, in communities, and online, with lifelong consequences for children's learning and emotional well-being. Violence is detrimental to academic performance and can lead to higher drop-out rates. Evidence shows that corporal punishment is consistently associated with poorer

literacy and numeracy skills. Children who experience violence are more likely to re-enact violence or be victimized again as adults. Exposure to violence causes both immediate and longer-term physiological and psychological stress and can have a severe impact on children's brain development and mental health.



The opportunity

Every child has the right to be safe to learn which makes learning possible. **Safe to Learn** – backed by a powerful coalition of 16 partners – is working with parents, youth, communities, and governments to implement interventions that effectively address the problem. We have the knowledge and evidence of what

works. To take these solutions to scale and truly end violence in schools, we need the right investment, commitment, and partnerships.

With your support, we can ensure a world where every child is safe to learn.

How it works - 5 key areas of action

Over the next 4 years, the Safe to Learn coalition will work with governments and national stakeholders in 10 countries to implement these actions.



Implement policy and legislation



Invest resources effectively



Strengthen prevention, risk mitigation, and response in education systems and schools



Generate and use evidence



Shift social and gender norms

Our comparative advantage

- Our work is inspired by the voices of young people around the world and responds to the lived experience of children and young people.
- Safe to Learn is a multi-sectoral global initiative uniquely positioned to deliver results by bringing key technical expertise in education, child protection, health, gender and social and behaviour change at global, regional and national levels.
- UNICEF's unique convening power with governmental, non-governmental, civil society, and private sector partners to influence change for children at the highest levels.
- UNICEF's operational presence in 190 countries and our ability to access children in the world's most remote and most marginalized communities.

Programme targets

- Increase the number of countries implementing education policies, plans, and legislation that protects children from violence in and around schools.
- Increase the number of schools with prevention and response measures in place to address violence.
- Shift social and gender norms and behaviours that drive violence and create a positive learning environment.
- Increase donor and domestic investments to address violence in and around schools.
- Enhance the generation and use of evidence to inform programming on ending violence in, around, and through schools.



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Funding

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