



**IMPROVING  
EFFORTS TO  
PREVENT  
CHILDREN'S  
EXPOSURE  
TO VIOLENCE**



**A handbook to support  
the evaluation of child  
maltreatment prevention  
programmes**



# **Improving efforts to prevent children's exposure to violence**

A HANDBOOK FOR DEFINING  
PROGRAMME THEORY AND PLANNING  
FOR EVALUATION IN THE NEW  
EVIDENCE-BASED CULTURE



WHO Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data :

Improving efforts to prevent children's exposure to violence:  
a handbook for defining program theory and planning for  
evaluation in the new evidence-based culture.

1.Violence – prevention and control. 2.Child. 3.Stress Disorders,  
Traumatic. 4.Child Abuse. 5.Program Development. I.Jones,  
Lisa M. II.World Health Organization. III.University of New  
Hampshire. Crimes against Children Research Center.

ISBN 978 92 4 150788 2

(NLM classification: WA 325)

© **World Health Organization 2014**

All rights reserved. Publications of the World Health Organization are available on the WHO website ([www.who.int](http://www.who.int)) or can be purchased from WHO Press, World Health Organization, 20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland (tel.: +41 22 791 3264; fax: +41 22 791 4857; e-mail: [bookorders@who.int](mailto:bookorders@who.int)). Requests for permission to reproduce or translate WHO publications – whether for sale or for non-commercial distribution – should be addressed to WHO Press through the WHO website ([www.who.int/about/licensing/copyright\\_form/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/about/licensing/copyright_form/en/index.html)).

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers' products does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by the World Health Organization in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. Errors and omissions excepted, the names of proprietary products are distinguished by initial capital letters.

All reasonable precautions have been taken by the World Health Organization to verify the information contained in this publication. However, the published material is being distributed without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader. In no event shall the World Health Organization be liable for damages arising from its use.

Designed by minimum graphics

Printed in Luxembourg

# Contents

Acknowledgements	iv
Preface	v
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
Purpose of the handbook	1
Structure and content of the handbook	2
<b>1. Why research and evaluation is critical to preventing children's exposure to violence</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Partnering with research and evaluation specialists</b>	<b>9</b>
Collaborating with outside consultants or research partners	9
Finding an evaluation partner	11
Working with your evaluation partners	11
Budgeting for evaluation	12
Ethical issues	12
<b>3. Defining your programme theory</b>	<b>14</b>
Programme theory: the basic concepts	14
Extending your programme theory model to include causal and risk factors	17
Finding the research on your programme theory elements	21
<b>4. Choosing and measuring outcomes</b>	<b>22</b>
Defining outcomes: common pitfalls	22
Outcome measurement strategies and tools	24
Additional considerations	26
<b>5. Understanding programme evaluation</b>	<b>28</b>
What does it mean to have an evidence-based programme?	28
Preparing for evaluation	29
Different kinds of evaluation	29
Types of outcome evaluation	30
<b>6. Applying this handbook to your programmes</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Appendix: Evaluation resources</b>	<b>39</b>

# Acknowledgements

This report was written by Lisa M. Jones, Ph.D., Research Associate Professor of Psychology at the Crimes Against Children Research Center (CCRC), University of New Hampshire (UNH). Special thanks to Dr. Chris Mikton at the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Lucie Cluver at the Department of Social Policy & Intervention, Oxford University and the Department of Psychiatry & Mental Health, University of Cape Town, Dr. David Finkelhor at the Crimes Against Children Research Center, UNH and Patricia Lannen at UBS Optimus Foundation for critical feedback on earlier versions of this report. Funds for completion of this report were provided by UBS Optimus Foundation. The report was produced by WHO and edited by Ann Morgan.

Cite as: Jones L. *Improving efforts to prevent children's exposure to violence: A handbook for defining program theory and planning for evaluation in the evidence-based culture*. Geneva, Switzerland, World Health Organization, 2014.

# Introduction

As part of a global movement to direct greater attention and resources to child protection, programmes aimed at reducing children's exposure to violence are being implemented with increasing frequency across the world. These programmes are diverse and range from raising public awareness of the issues to widening and strengthening government policies and protective structures, improving children's and families' access to medical, therapeutic and legal support, and increasing children's and parents' protective skills.

Over the last several decades a substantial body of research has accumulated, providing much needed information about the experience of violence in childhood. We now know that child abuse, neglect, peer violence, sexual victimization and exposure to domestic and community violence are suffered by very large numbers of children. We understand much more about the serious negative consequences of violence exposure on children's physical and mental health, effects that can carry through from generation to generation. In addition, we have come to appreciate that children's health and safety concerns often cluster together, and that children and families with the fewest resources often suffer from disproportionate levels of exposure to violence.

Evaluation research has also helped us to identify which prevention and intervention strategies work well and make the biggest difference to children's well-being. What is needed now is a global movement to build on this knowledge in order to channel programme efforts in increasingly effective ways. Given the seriousness of the problem of children's exposure to violence and the scarcity of resources with which to tackle it, our focus should be to ensure that:

- new programmes and initiatives are grounded in research knowledge;
- programmes are routinely evaluated so that we continue to learn more about what works and what does not.

It is only by sharing, using and growing the evidence base that we will hasten our positive impact on the lives and well-being of children worldwide.

## Purpose of the handbook

This handbook is intended to help implementing agencies (e.g. nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), development/foreign aid agencies, community-based organizations, not-for-profit agencies) make better use of existing research and plan for evaluation when designing and implementing child violence prevention programmes, and also to convey these intentions to potential funding organizations.

In recent years, those who are funding programme work in child protection have come to recognize the importance of identifying and building on proven solutions. They are increasingly

asking applicants to explain how their proposed programme is informed by current research and to outline their plans to evaluate the effectiveness of their programme. Funding bodies are also aware that some evaluation study designs are better – more robust and therefore more informative – than others, and that it can be difficult for programme implementers, who typically do not have experience in research and evaluation, to meet all of these expectations by themselves. For this reason, there is a trend among funders to look more favourably on agencies that partner with researchers to help design research-based interventions and to assist with evaluation studies.

Thus, the principal aim of this handbook is to serve as a reference for agencies seeking to improve their ability to meet the current expectations of funding agencies. While they are primarily written for those who implement programmes aimed at reducing children's exposure to violence, the information contained herein is applicable to a wide range of social problem interventions.

### Structure and content of the handbook

The handbook opens with a discussion of the reasons why evidence and research are considered so important in the context of advancing efforts to improve children's safety and reduce their exposure to violence. In **SECTION 1: *Why research and evaluation is critical to preventing children's exposure to violence***, we address common questions and concerns that many people have about the need for evaluation: Why spend time and money on evaluation? Can it really help us improve children's safety and well-being? Does it provide implementing agencies with useable information?

In **SECTION 2** of the handbook, *Partnering with research and evaluation specialists*, we explain how research advisors and partners can support and guide agencies through the process of designing a programme and applying for funding; we also offer advice on how to go about establishing such a partnership.

**SECTION 3: *Defining your programme theory*** provides step-by-step guidance, illustrated with examples, on formulating a research-based programme theory model and explains why developing such a model is so important. It also outlines the advantages of working with research partners who can help you identify relevant research to support your programme theory linkages.

In **SECTION 4: *Choosing and measuring outcomes*** we guide you through the process of choosing appropriate programme outcomes – information that you can use to judge progress towards your programme's stated aims and objectives. Defining specific and measurable programme outcomes and choosing sound measurement strategies is an important prerequisite to a

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_27924](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_27924)

