Allowing Children to Measure and Report on their Perceived Level of Safety within their Households, Schools and Communities

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Assessing children’s perceived level of safety in their household, schools and in communities?
CHILDREN SAY “NOT SAFE” and MADE RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE

Children from 15 city districts and three provincial districts in Herat City, Herat Province in Afghanistan feel generally “NOT SAFE” at school and in their communities.

1,536 children were surveyed (724 boys and 812 girls, including 12 children with disability). Two separate focus group discussions (FGDs) were also conducted with 60 boys and girls.

This Child Safety Report Card (CSRC) Survey is developed by War Child UK as part of the wider “Capacity building and community sensitisation to reduce violence against children in Herat Province, focusing on children in detention and in conflict with the law” project funded by the European Commission.

In its entirety, the CSRC hopes to vividly create a picture of the feelings of children with regards safety and security.

CHILD SAFETY REPORT CARD 2014 in CONCLUSION

Conclusions derived from the study revealed that of the 1,536 children surveyed, most of their answers to the questions were “SOMEHOW SAFE”, “NOT SAFE”, or “SCARED”. It is generally observed that within their homes and extended families, the children have a sense of security and relative ease. However, when the children were asked to rate play areas, busy roads, walking on the streets from home to school, and sharing problems with community leaders, they rated “NOT SAFE”. When asked about moving around at night, abductions, and explosions, the children gave a rating of “SCARED” and in the Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) conducted, children wanted the government to be more responsible in providing more security on the streets - such as more checkpoints and lamplights - and catching the “bad” people.

This Child Safety Report Card is produced by War Child UK as part of a European Commission-funded project. For more information, visit www.warchild.org.uk.
Children Don’t Feel Safe

- **Uganda:**
  - 3,200 children participated
  - Children’s safety concerns were:
    - abuse, defilement and early marriage

- **DRC**
  - 665 children participated.
  - Children’s safety concerns were:
    - Getting abducted, fetching water and physical punishment in schools

- **Afghanistan:**
  - A total of 1,526 children participated
  - Children’s safety concerns were:
    - Physical, emotional, mental, sexual violence and neglect
    - Corporal punishment at school.
    - Children felt unsafe in schools but safer at home.

- **CAR:** ?
How children advocated for change
How did we disseminate this study/tool

• IDEAS General Assembly in October 2015
• CPWG conference in November 2015
• Child Protection M&E Reference Group, February 2016

• Resources produced and published for sharing:
  • CSRC Learning Paper
  • CSRC Toolkit
7 Key Take Aways...

1. Involve children throughout the design, implementation, analysis and advocacy
2. Literacy is a key consideration
3. Preparing children properly and keeping them safe
4. Availability of an adult and/or a PSS specialist
5. Keep the wider community involved in the process
6. Accountability and sustainability
7. Technology
Thanks

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