

THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT – PREVALENCE AND ATTITUDINAL RESEARCH IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA



Global Initiative to
**End All Corporal Punishment
of Children**

Summaries prepared by the Global Initiative to
End All Corporal Punishment of Children
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Note: No prevalence research identified for Cape Verde, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Mauritania.

BENIN

A 2009 study involving interviews with girls aged 6-14 and the mothers of girls aged 2-5 and a survey of 4,649 women and 1,550 men found that corporal punishment at home and in schools was very common and that 88.5% of girls aged 2-5, 88% of girls aged 5-9 and 87.7% of girls aged 10-14 had been beaten. When asked about the reasons for violence experienced by girls, 85.5% of interviewees said that it was for “education”. Half of interviewees said that violence to girls resulted in “submission”, 32.9% “scars on the body”, 9.9% “timidity” and 1.7% “death”.

(Ministère de la Famille et de la Solidarité National, 2009, *Les Violences Faites aux Femmes au Bénin*)

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 47% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

BURKINA FASO

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 83% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Over 60% experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (38%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 82% of children. More than one child in five experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 84% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Children aged 5-9 were slightly more likely to experience violent discipline than those of other ages: 91% of children aged 5-9 compared to 84% of children aged 2-4 and 87% of children aged 10-14. No significant differences in children’s experience of violent discipline were found according to sex, household size, level of education of adults in the household, or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

A study by the African Child Policy Forum in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Senegal found that hitting, beating and forced hard work were the most prevalent forms of violence against girls, and that most of the physical violence experienced by girls was corporal punishment. The study involved a survey of 3,025 young women (nearly 600 per country) aged 18-24 about the violence they had experienced in their childhood. In Burkina Faso, 91% of respondents had been hit during their childhood, 88% had been beaten, 51% kicked, 51% denied food, 27% choked or burned and 43% forced to do hard work. Parents and close relatives were the most common perpetrators of physical violence.

(The African Child Policy Forum, 2010, *Childhood Scars in Africa: A Retrospective Study on Violence Against Girls in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Senegal*, Addis Ababa: The African Child Policy Forum)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 seventy-one per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

CAMEROON

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 93% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Nearly eight in ten experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (44%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 82% of children. Nearly three children in ten experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 87% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Children engaged in child labour experienced violent discipline more than those who were not engaged in child labour: 96% compared to 93%. No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to sex, age, household size or level of education of adults in the household.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

A 2010 African Child Policy Forum report on violence against children with disabilities in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia documented a very high level of violence. Nearly a thousand 18-24 year olds took part in the study across the five countries, reporting on their experiences as children. In Cameroon, over 50% of respondents had been hit, punched, kicked or beaten, over 25% of respondents had been made to eat hot chilli, pepper or very bitter food or drink, and over 25% of respondents had been choked, burnt or stabbed. Across the five countries, 23% of the young people said that they had experienced physical violence which was “mostly discipline, reasonable and

justified” and 27% said that they had experienced physical violence which was “mostly discipline but not reasonable or justified”. Twenty-six per cent said that they had experienced emotional violence which was “discipline, but not reasonable or justified”, and 22% that they had experienced emotional violence that was “disciplinary, reasonable and justified”. Across all five countries, more than half (54%) of those who had been physically beaten said they had suffered broken bones, teeth, bleeding or bruising; 2% had been permanently disabled; 21% required medical attention; 13% had to miss school or work; and 20% had needed rest at home. For all five countries, the majority of respondents with physical, visual and intellectual disabilities experienced physical violence more than 10 times. The report recommends prohibition of all corporal punishment, including in the home, as a way to minimise the risk of violence against children with disabilities.

(The African Child Policy Forum, 2010, *Violence Against Children With Disabilities in Africa: Field Studies from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia*, Addis Ababa: The African Child Policy Forum)

A study by the African Child Policy Forum in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Senegal found that hitting, beating and forced hard work were the most prevalent forms of violence against girls, and that most of the physical violence experienced by girls was corporal punishment. The study involved a survey of 3,025 young women (nearly 600 per country) aged 18-24 about the violence they had experienced in their childhood. In Cameroon, 43% of respondents had been hit during their childhood, 66% had been beaten, 21% kicked, 31% denied food, 7% choked or burned and 18% forced to do hard work. Parents and close relatives were the most common perpetrators of physical violence.

(The African Child Policy Forum, 2010, *Childhood Scars in Africa: A Retrospective Study on Violence Against Girls in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Senegal*, Addis Ababa: The African Child Policy Forum)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 children with disabilities were more likely to experience severe physical punishment: 30% of disabled children aged 2-9 were hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or hit over and over as hard as possible with an implement, compared with 24% of non-disabled children. Fifty-six per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

A study of children who had lost their parent(s) due to HIV-related illnesses exposed a high level of physical violence and corporal punishment in the home. The study involved 180 children: 70% of boys without a mother reported experiencing physical violence in the month before the study, as did 62% of non-orphan boys. Between 60% and 70% of non-orphan girls reported suffering physical punishment during the same period.

(Morgan, J. and Behrendt, A., 2007, *Silent Suffering: The psychological impact of war, HIV and other high-risk situations on girls and boys in West and Central Africa: Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cameroon, Burkina Faso*, Dakar: Plan West Africa)

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 89% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Seventy-eight per cent experienced physical punishment, while a much smaller percentage (25%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 90% of children. A third of children experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 83% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Boys were slightly more likely than girls to experience violent discipline: 90% compared to 88%. Children aged 5-9 were more likely to experience violent discipline than those of other ages: 91% of children aged 5-9 compared to 85% of children aged 2-4 and 90% of children aged 10-14. Children living in larger households were more likely to experience violent discipline: 90% of children in households of 6 or more people compared to 83% of children in households of 2-3 people. The statistics also suggest that children with more siblings are more likely to experience violent discipline in most countries involved in the study (p. 72). No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to level of education of adults in the household or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 children with disabilities were more likely to experience severe physical punishment: 36% of disabled children aged 2-9 were hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or hit over and over as hard as possible with an implement, compared with 28% of non-disabled children.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

CONGO, REPUBLIC OF

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 76% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

COTE D'IVOIRE

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 91% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Nearly three quarters experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (39%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 91% of children. More than one child in five experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 88% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to sex, age, household size, level of education of adults in the household or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 nearly two thirds (65%) of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

A study by the African Child Policy Forum in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Senegal found that hitting, beating and forced hard work were the most prevalent forms of violence against girls, and that most of the physical violence experienced by girls was corporal punishment. The study involved a survey of 3,025 young women (nearly 600 per country) aged 18-24 about the violence they had experienced in their childhood. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 74% of respondents had been hit during their childhood, 83% had been beaten, 25% kicked, 48% denied food, 7% choked or burned and 29% forced to do hard work. Parents and close relatives were the most common perpetrators of physical violence.

(The African Child Policy Forum, 2010, *Childhood Scars in Africa: A Retrospective Study on Violence Against Girls in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Senegal*, Addis Ababa: The African Child Policy Forum)

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 76% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

GAMBIA

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 87% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Nearly three quarters experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (32%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 90% of children. Nearly a quarter of children experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 77% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Children aged 5-9 were slightly more likely to experience violent discipline than younger children: 88% of children aged 5-9 compared to 83% of children aged 2-4. Children living in larger households were more likely to experience violent discipline: 88% of children in households of 6 or more people compared to 75% of children in households of 2-3 people. The statistics also suggest that children with more siblings are more likely to experience violent discipline in most countries involved in the study (p. 72). Children living in households with adults with a higher average level of education were less likely to experience violent discipline than those living with less educated adults. Children engaged in child labour experienced violent discipline slightly more than those who were not engaged

in child labour: 93% compared to 89%. No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to sex.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 nearly three quarters of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

In a study involving questionnaires with 878 children, 265 teachers and 426 parents, children reported that corporal punishment is used in 70% of schools. Sixty-eight per cent of students were beaten at school "sometimes", 8% "often", 11% "very often" and 13% "rarely". Students were beaten with belts, canes and rulers. At home, 55% of children reported that parents or guardians beat them "sometimes", 22% "rarely", 8% "often" and 14% "very often". Children were beaten on the back, buttocks, head, face and all over their bodies. Girls were more likely to be beaten on the face - 62% of children beaten on the face were girls - while boys were more likely to be beaten on the buttocks - 61% of children beaten on the buttocks were boys. Younger children were more likely to be beaten on the face, with 18% of children aged 7 and under beaten on the face compared to 10% of 8-12 year olds, 6% of 13-15 year olds and 5% of 16-19 year olds. Nearly half (47%) of children had been injured by a punishment: of these, 31% were bruised, 17% cut, 25% suffered internal bleeding, 12% lost a tooth and 10% had an arm dislocated or fractured. Four children in ten had at some time decided not to go to school for fear of being beaten or punished by a teacher and 47% of children know of another child who left school because of corporal punishment or fear of a teacher. Seven children in ten believed that corporal punishment makes children fear their teachers or parents instead of respecting them. Half of children said that if they became teachers, they would not beat their students. Children who had been beaten by teachers were much more likely to say that they would beat their students than children who had not been beaten (38% compared to 7%). Similarly, more children who were beaten by parents or guardians at home said that they would beat their children when they grew up than those who were not beaten at home (61% compared to 37%). Nearly three quarters (73%) of teachers reported beating students "rarely", 17% "often" and 9% "very often". Corporal punishment was more likely to be used in schools for younger children: 80% of kindergarten teachers reported using corporal punishment, compared to 27% of senior secondary school teachers. Almost all teachers (97%) were beaten when they were students; however, 71% of those who were not beaten said that they would in turn not beat their students, while 59% of teachers who were beaten would beat their students. Forty-five per cent of teachers believed that corporal punishment can negatively impact on a child's ability to learn and concentrate in class, and 71% of teachers reported feeling bad or very bad after using corporal punishment. Of parents, 83% reported that corporal punishment was used in their families, and 92% had experienced it themselves as children. The report recommends prohibition of all corporal punishment.

(Tang, J., 2005, *Beating the Misconceptions, Not the Children*, The Gambia: The Child Protection Alliance)

A survey carried out by Action Aid in collaboration with Songtaba in 2009 found that seven boys in eight thought that corporal punishment, such as being caned, having their ears pulled or forced to kneel, weed or dig pits, was necessary, while more than a quarter of the girls interviewed said they would absent themselves from school because of the fear of punishment.

(Reported in *Modern Ghana*, 6 September 2011, www.modernghana.com)

A survey of 2,314 parents, students and graduates carried out by the Campaign for Female Education found that 94% of parents, 92% of students and 89% of female graduates supported corporal punishment in schools and 64% of teachers said that it must be tolerated.

(Reported in *GhanaWeb*, 18 August 2011)

A government report involving 4,164 children found that 81% of children experienced corporal punishment in the home and that at school, caning was the main punishment, experienced by 71% of children.

(Reported in “Eighty-nine percent of children believe in correction when at fault - IRAD Report”, *Business Ghana*, 1 Feb 2011)

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 90% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Seven children in ten experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (46%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 88% of children. One child in ten experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 84% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). No significant differences in children’s experience of violent discipline were found according to sex, age, household size, level of education of adults in the household or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

Investigations into care institutions and schools in Ghana revealed that corporal punishment of children was widely used by caregivers and teachers. Types of corporal punishment included caning, kicking and slapping. As a result of corporal punishment, some children had developed fear and dislike for their caregivers, with many others playing truant to escape corporal punishment at school.

(Reported in “Scarred With Whips: The agony of Osu Children’s Home inmates”, *MyJoyOnline*, 10 Sept 2010, www.myjoyonline.com)

A study on children’s perceptions of physical punishment which used interviews, diaries and a questionnaire found a high prevalence of physical punishment. Of the 158 children in private schools who completed a questionnaire, 61.4% experienced some physical punishment at the hands of parents or primary caregivers, with 30.4% experiencing only physical methods of punishment at home. Seven in ten (70.9%) of survey respondents said that school was the place in which they were most likely to

be physically punished. Caning was the most common method of physical punishment at home and at school.

(Twum-Danso, A., 2010, *Children's Perceptions of Physical Punishment in Ghana*, Nuffield Foundation)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 children with disabilities were more likely to experience severe physical punishment: 15% of disabled children aged 2-9 were hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or hit over and over as hard as possible with an implement, compared with 8% of non-disabled children. Forty-seven per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

GUINEA

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 86% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

GUINEA-BISSAU

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 82% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Nearly three quarters experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (25%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also very widely used: experienced by 93% of children. Three children in ten experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 68% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Children aged 5-9 were slightly more likely to experience violent discipline than those of other ages: 85% of children aged 5-9 compared to 76% of children aged 2-4 and 83% of children aged 10-14. Children living in larger households were more likely to experience violent discipline: 83% of children in households of 6 or more people compared to 70% of children in households of 2-3 people. The statistics also suggest that children with more siblings are more likely to experience violent discipline in most countries involved in the study (p. 72). No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to sex, level of education of adults in the household or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 more than half (52%) of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

LIBERIA

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 59% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

Research by the NGO Cherish the Kids has shown that corporal punishment of children is common in most homes. In a 1999 survey of 18,000 parents of children aged 5-15 years, 85% approved of corporal punishment. Of these, 46% approved of severe beating of children in cases of “gross misbehaviour”. The same organisation undertook a survey of school chapters in 1999-2000, which found that of 24,000 children from 41 schools in rural and urban areas, 81% said they had been physically punished or severely flogged by their parents. A large scale interview study of parents and children in rural areas showed that one third of children (38%) were disciplined by beating and flogging, and children reported that harsh discipline caused injuries.

(All studies reported by Cherish the Kids in correspondence with the Global Initiative, July 2004)

MALI

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 75% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

NIGER

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 70% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

NIGERIA

In a survey of 172 elementary school teachers in Ilorin State, 80% of respondents had seen pupils being punished by elementary school teachers with a cane. Forty-six per cent had seen pupils being punished with a horse-whip (“koboko”), and 30% with a hand. Sixty-one per cent had seen pupils being hit on the buttocks, 49% on the back, 52% on the palm of the hand, 20% on the head and 16% on the face. Twenty-nine per cent of respondents said that they favoured the use of corporal punishment by elementary school teachers.

(Mahmoud, A. O, Ayanniyi, A. A. & Salman, M. F., 2011, “Observations of teachers in Ilorin, Nigeria on practices of corporal punishment that are potentially injurious to their pupils’ eyes”, *Annals of African Medicine* vol. 10, no. 2)

A study by the African Child Policy Forum in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Senegal found that hitting, beating and forced hard work were the most prevalent forms of violence against girls, and that most of the physical violence experienced by girls was corporal punishment. The study involved a survey of 3,025 young women (nearly 600 per country) aged 18-24 about the violence they had experienced in their childhood. In Nigeria, 84% of respondents had been hit during their childhood, 90% had been beaten, 55% kicked, 71% denied food and 17% choked or burned. Parents and close relatives were the most common perpetrators of physical violence.

(The African Child Policy Forum, 2010, *Childhood Scars in Africa: A Retrospective Study on Violence Against Girls in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Senegal*, Addis Ababa: The African Child Policy Forum)

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 65% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 32% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

SENEGAL

A report by Human Rights Watch documented physical punishment and other severe violations of the rights of at least 50,000 children (talibés), mostly boys under twelve years old, attending residential Quranic schools in Senegal. The report found that the children, who were forced by the teachers who serve as their guardians (marabouts) to beg on the streets, experienced severe physical punishment including being beaten with electric cables or clubs for not bringing back the quota of money and food set by the marabouts.

(Human Rights Watch, 2010, *Off the Backs of the Children: Forced Begging and Other Abuses against Talibés in Senegal*)

A 2010 African Child Policy Forum report on violence against children with disabilities in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia documented a very high level of violence. Nearly a thousand 18-24 year olds took part in the study across the five countries, reporting on their experiences as children. In Senegal, 60% of the sample had experienced at least one type of physical violence during their childhood. The most commonly experienced type of physical violence was being hit, punched, kicked or beaten, followed by being choked, burnt or stabbed. The most common perpetrators of physical violence were mothers (20.5%) and fathers (15.8%). Across the five countries, 23% of the young people said that they had experienced physical violence which was “mostly discipline, reasonable and justified” and 27% said that they had experienced physical violence which was “mostly discipline but not reasonable or justified”. Twenty-six per cent said that they had experienced emotional violence which was “discipline, but not reasonable or justified”, and 22% that they had experienced emotional violence that was “disciplinary, reasonable and justified”. Across all five

countries, more than half (54%) of those who had been physically beaten said they had suffered broken bones, teeth, bleeding or bruising; 2% had been permanently disabled; 21% required medical attention; 13% had to miss school or work; and 20% had needed rest at home. For all five countries, the majority of respondents with physical, visual and intellectual disabilities experienced physical violence more than 10 times. The report recommends prohibition of all corporal punishment, including in the home, as a way to minimise the risk of violence against children with disabilities.

(The African Child Policy Forum, 2010, *Violence Against Children With Disabilities in Africa: Field Studies from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia*, Addis Ababa: The African Child Policy Forum)

A study by the African Child Policy Forum in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Senegal found that hitting, beating and forced hard work were the most prevalent forms of violence against girls, and that most of the physical violence experienced by girls was corporal punishment. The study involved a survey of 3,025 young women (nearly 600 per country) aged 18-24 about the violence they had experienced in their childhood. In Senegal, 52% of respondents had been hit during their childhood, 79% had been beaten, 21% kicked, 25% denied food and 16% choked or burned. Parents and close relatives were the most common perpetrators of physical violence.

(The African Child Policy Forum, 2010, *Childhood Scars in Africa: A Retrospective Study on Violence Against Girls in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Senegal*, Addis Ababa: The African Child Policy Forum)

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 65% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

SIERRA LEONE

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 92% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Nearly eight in ten experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (56%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 93% of children. One quarter of children experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 83% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Children aged 10-14 were slightly more likely to experience violent discipline than younger children: 94% of children aged 10-14 compared to 88% of children aged 2-4 and 93% of children aged 5-9. Children living in households with adults with a higher average level of education were less likely to experience violent discipline than those living with less educated adults. No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to sex, household size or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 children with disabilities were more likely to experience severe physical punishment: 24% of disabled children aged 2-9 were hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or hit over and over as hard as possible with an implement, compared with 21% of non-disabled children. Eighty-five per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

TOGO

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 91% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. More than three quarters experienced physical punishment. Non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 90% of children. More than a quarter of children experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 83% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Children aged 5-9 were slightly more likely to experience violent discipline than younger children: 92% of children aged 5-9 compared to 87% of children aged 2-4. No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to sex, household size, level of education of adults in the household or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 more than half (53%) of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

From mid-2005, Plan Togo commissioned research into violence and abuse in schools (Plan Togo, 2006). This included a joint study with the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) which involved interviews with 1,000 schoolchildren in 35 villages and with more than 500 mothers of school aged children, teachers, traditional chiefs, members of security services, social workers and others, a case study on violence and abuse in Togolese schools comprising 19 first-person narratives and observations based on interviews with children, parents and teachers in 7 villages and 2 towns, and a discussion of structural violence in the education system in Togo. In the FAWE research, children in their last 3 years of primary school were interviewed: 88% of the girls and 87% of the boys reported experiencing physical violence at school; 52% of girls and 48% of boys reported experiencing threatening behaviour or psychological violence.

(Plan Togo, 2006, *Suffering to Succeed? Violence and abuse in schools in Togo*, Lome: Plan Togo)

A 2003 Human Rights Watch report on child trafficking in Togo noted that many boys had been recruited into agricultural labour and worked very long hours, with many recalling that taking time off for sickness or injury would lead to longer working hours or corporal punishment. Most boys

interviewed reported suffering physical injuries on the job and some of these were from corporal punishment by employers. The report notes that girls trafficked for domestic or market labour also experienced frequent beatings, carried out by bosses or by other neighbours.

(Human Rights Watch, 2003, *Borderline Slavery: Child Trafficking in Togo*)