

Including children with disabilities in community-based child protection mechanisms: A school-based intervention in Uganda

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Violence against disabled children

- 150 million children live with disabilities globally
- Data show 3 to 4 times the levels of violence versus non-disabled children in high income countries, but little known about the rest of the world
- Children with disabilities less likely to attend school, but majority do
- Some data from Ugandan primary school children:

**Main
perpetrators**
among disabled students

For boys with disabilities:

Physical: male peers

Sexual: 'others'

Emotional: school staff

➤ **School is a key location**

For girls with disabilities:

Physical: school staff

Sexual: 'others', male peers

Emotional: school staff

School is a key location

Can we reduce violence in schools?



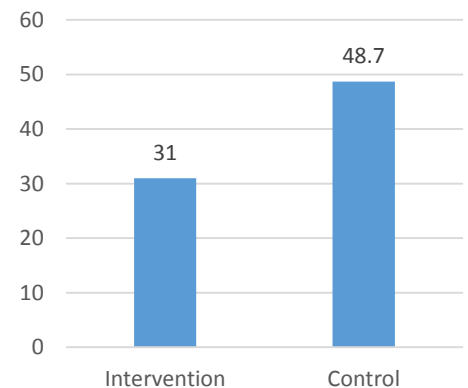
The Good School Toolkit, by Raising Voices...a whole-school intervention to:

- prevent violence against children
- to improve teaching techniques
- to change school culture

The Good Schools Study design:

- Cluster randomised trial in 42 primary schools in one district in Uganda
 - Surveyed more than 3700 primary students and 500 staff in 2012 and 2014
- The Toolkit reduced physical violence from staff to students

➤ (OR=0.40, 95%CI p<0.0001)



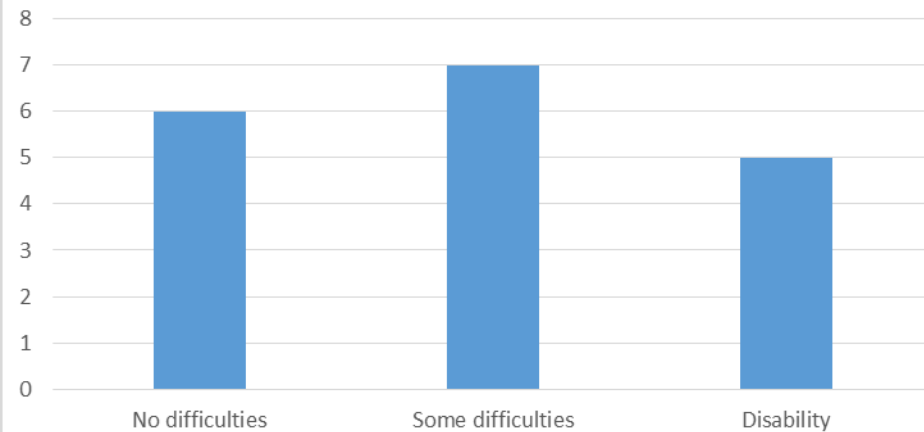
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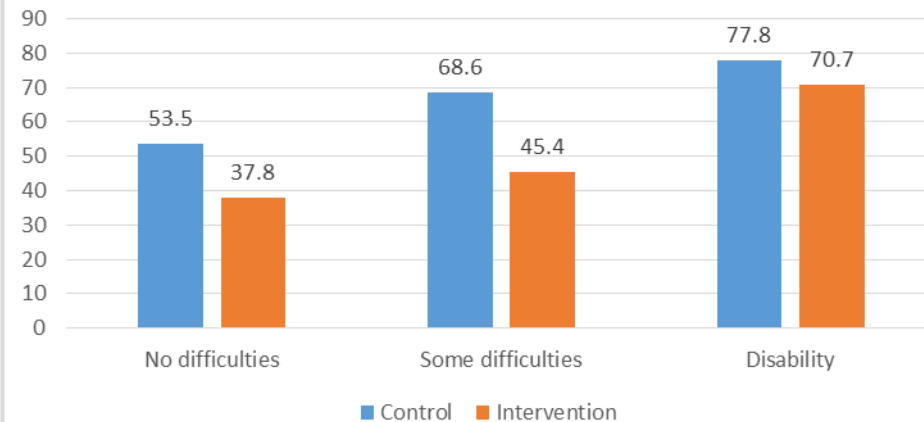


Does it work for disabled children too?

Participation in intervention activities, median score (range 0-10)



Any violence from school staff or peers, past week



Children with some difficulties engage more than children with more severe difficulties, but not much practical difference between groups

The intervention reduces violence across all groups (no statistical difference)

Conclusions:

- The Good School Toolkit is a promising strategy for reducing violence against children, INCLUDING children with disabilities
- It is possible to design universally targeted violence prevention interventions which also include children with disabilities!

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Raising Voices team: Willington Sseskade and the implementation team, Janet Nakuti, Angel Miriembe

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Good Schools Publications:

Devries K, Knight L, Allen, E et al. The Good School Toolkit for reducing physical violence from school staff to primary school students: a cluster-randomised controlled trial in Uganda. *Lancet Global Health*, 2015; 3:e378–e386

•Devries K, Kyegombe N, Zuurmond M et al. Violence against primary school children with disabilities in Uganda: A cross-sectional study. *BMC Public Health*. 2014, 14:1017

•Devries K, Allen E, Child J, et al. The Good Schools Toolkit to prevent violence against children in Ugandan primary schools: study protocol for cluster-randomised controlled trial. *Trials*. 2013;14:232.

•Devries K, Child J, Allen E, et al. School violence, mental health and educational performance in Ugandan primary school children: A cross-sectional survey. *Pediatrics*. 2014;133(1):1-9.

•Child J, Naker D, Horton J, Walakira E, Devries K. Responding to abuse: Children's experiences of child protection in a central district, Uganda. *Child Abuse and Neglect* 2014. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2014.06.009>

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