



State of the World's Street Children: Violence

1. THE REPORT ON VIOLENCE

The *State of the World's Street Children: Violence* report has been a collaborative effort to promote a better understanding of street children's lives and to encourage policy makers, activists, community leaders and service providers to take effective actions to prevent and reduce violence experienced by street children.

In 2005 the Consortium for Street Children identified several gaps in the resources available on street children. The lack of data on the problems affecting street children had become, and continues to be, a major hurdle to understanding and assisting them. The Consortium began investigating these gaps by commissioning 69 country reports.

In December 2005 the Consortium appointed Sarah Thomas de Benítez to lead the report. The Consortium's Violence Working Group provided specialist advice on behalf of the Consortium's 53 members and a separate, independent task force was established to support the report.

Many organisations and individuals have contributed to the report since its inception in 2005:

- 38 researchers wrote 69 country reports on developed and developing countries focusing on seven themes; violence against children, formal and informal education, health and access to health services, HIV & AIDS, child participation, street girls, and prevention and early intervention.
- 6 consultations involving the Violence Working Group, with representatives from 10 member organisations, provided guidance and direction on understanding violence against street children in different cultural contexts and assisted in the development of the report recommendations.
- More than 20 organisations provided 16 Case Studies on key themes affecting street children worldwide.
- The report was distributed on three occasions to the 53 members of the Consortium for Street Children and to other non-members and independent experts to allow for a comprehensive review.
- An independent task force of five experts was assembled in January 2007 to provide guidance on specialist topics and recommendations.
- A panel of 5 experts in their field reviewed the final draft of the report and provided feedback on coverage and recommendations.

The report will be launched in the UK Houses of Parliament on 20 November 2007. It is available in hardcopy and can be downloaded as a pdf from www.streetchildren.org.uk.

While the report has broken new ground to examine the affects of violence against children across the world, it is important that governments and policy makers focus upon these recommendations and fulfil their responsibility to protect children. It is equally important that we remind government officials to keep their promises.