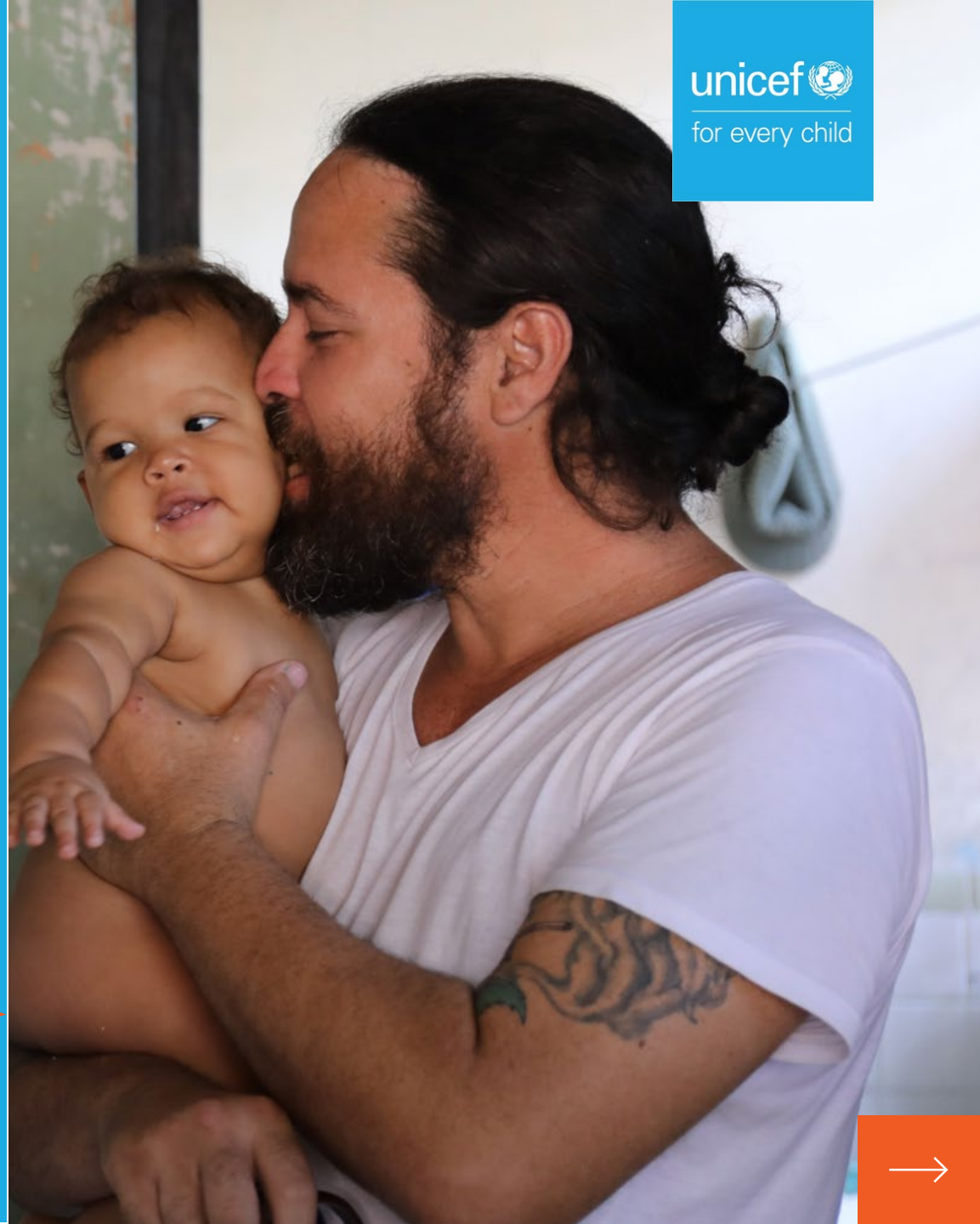# Gender-Transformative Parenting

Shreyasi Jha, Senior GenderAdvisor:
sjha@unicef.org

Stephen Blight, Senior Child Protection Advisor:
sblight@unicef.org

Alessandra Guedes, Gender & Development Research Manager:
aguedes@unicef.org

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UNICEF Vision For Elevating Parenting

UNICEF'S VISION FOR ELEVATING PARENTING

A STRATEGIC NOTE

- Promoting positive gender norms and socialization
- Strengthening enabling environments
- Supporting strengthened workforce capacities and integrated services
- Empowering parents and communities
- Raising levels of awareness

UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025

Goal area-level 3: Every child, including adolescents, is protected from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices

Number of countries with legislative and policy framework to:

(a) End the corporal punishment of children

(b) End child sexual exploitation and abuse (including technology enabled)

(c) Eliminate the worst forms of child labour

Number of mothers, fathers and caregivers reached through parenting programmes

UNICEF Child Protection Strategy 2021-2030

Objective 1: Universal prevention

To support positive and protective parenting and caregiving and prevent family - child separation, UNICEF will use gender-transformative strategies that: Empower mothers, fathers and other caregivers to adopt <u>positive parenting approaches</u> through community engagement and inclusive positive parenting support services as part of a broader approach to nurturing care through the life course.

Parenting within UNICEF's Mandates

Goal area 1: Access to nutritious diets, quality primary health care, nurturing practices and essential supplies.

•Maternal health and nutrition, including HIV testing, counselling and care

•Scaling up parenting and caregiving support strategies, including through SBC to promote more gender-equitable household decision-making and nurturing care.

Goal area 3: Protection from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices

Addressing violence against girls, boys and women and ending female genital mutilation

Gender-sensitive parenting support strategies to:

•Emphasize positive expressions of gender and care within families

•Promote co-parenting and male involvement in child development and care

•Encourage non-violent discipline

•Supporting positive behaviours among parents and caregivers of adolescents.

UNICEF Gender Action Plan 2022-2025

What is Gender-Transformative Parenting?

Gender-responsive parenting is parenting that infuses key normative principles such as gender equality and inclusion and promotes positive gender norms and socialization to transform power structures in future generations.

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What is Gender-Transformative Parenting?

Key Strategies

Training of parents & frontline workers

Encouraging fathers' engagement

Equitable distribution of resources

Ending harmful practices at home

Family friendly policies & advocacy

Gender Responsive Parenting and Violence Prevention

Globally, 3 of 4 young children under five years of age experience violent discipline (corporal punishment & psychological aggression) from their caregivers on a regular basis.

Experience of abuse and neglect in childhood is the leading preventable cause of mental disorders, intergenerational violence and other poor life outcomes.

Families everywhere face exceptional challenges in caring for their children during the pandemic, with many parents with young children battling with severe stress.

The quality of parental attachment with their children is the single most protective factor against abuse and neglect

The delivery of a core content of quality parenting support can...

Strengthen positive parent-child interactions
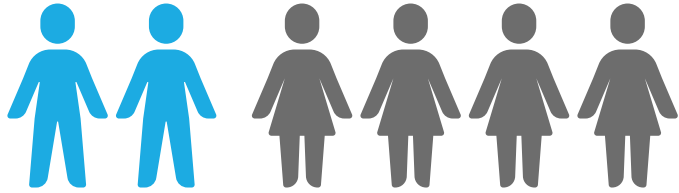

Reduce harsh or dysfunctional parenting

Improve caregiver mental health

All factors that reduce violence against children.

UNICEF and Parenting Programmes

3,017,374 mothers, fathers and caregivers across 94 countries

were reached by UNICEF-supported parenting programmes in 2021.

30%

of participants were fathers

where disaggregated data is available.

Can parenting programmes reduce IPV?

Unintended impacts (e.g. Philippines).

Intentional impacts (e.g. Papua New Guinea).

Targeting the developmental origins of violent behaviour.

→

Examples of Innovation & Scale

Mainstreaming of digital tools.

Integration with social protection.

Reaching adolescents.

Engaging fathers.

Parents of children with disabilities.

Universal progressive home visiting.

Community health service delivery.

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Key Violence Priorities for UNICEF's Office of Research Innocenti

01

Produce and promote the use of evidence on gender transformative approaches to violence prevention.

02

Explore emerging issues for UNICEF's work on violence prevention + response.

03

Strengthen networks and capacities for generating and using evidence.

Produce and promote the use of evidence on gender transformative approaches to violence prevention.

How do violence against children and violence against women intersect?

- [The co-occurrence of intimate partner violence and child maltreatment: a systematic review of the common contributing factors](#) (with LSHTM)
- [Co-occurring violent discipline of children and intimate partner violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean: A systematic search and secondary analysis of national datasets.](#)

What are the implications of these intersections to policy and practice?

- [What are promising and/or effective interventions that seek to prevent and/or respond to intimate partner violence against women and child maltreatment?](#) (with LSHTM)
- [Ending Violence against Women and Children in Asia and the Pacific: Opportunities and challenges for collaborative and integrative approaches](#) (with UNFPA, UN Women)

What are the priorities for research on VAW / VAC intersections?

- [Global Shared Research Agenda on the Intersections of Violence against Children and Violence against Women](#) (w/ WHO + SVRI) Join our global expert group [here.](#)

Key Violence Priorities for UNICEF's Office of Research Innocenti

UNICEF Key Resources on Parenting

- A UNICEF Vision for Parents: Elevating parenting in existing UNICEF programmes
- UNICEF Technical Note on gender-responsive parenting
- What is gender responsive parenting?
- Tip-sheet for gender responsive parenting
- Tips for parentings of adolescents
- Family-friendly policies and other good workplace practices in the context of COVID-19: Key steps employers can take
- Gender Dimensions of Violence Against Children and Adolescents
- Designing parenting programmes for violence prevention: A guidance note
- Universal parenting support to prevent abuse and neglect: A policy call for national governments