

10 FACTS ABOUT ARMED VIOLENCE, CHILDREN & YOUTH

- 1** Children exposed to gun violence often **suffer** from both short-term and long-term psychological effects.
- 2** The **proliferation of armed conflict** has led to an increase in youth recruitment by violent extremist groups. This means that more and more children are exposed to gender-based violence, gun violence, and war.
- 3** Nearly half (an estimated 47 percent) of all **direct conflict deaths** occur in persons 0 to 29 years of age.
- 4** The vast majority of direct conflict deaths of young people occur in **young males** 15 to 29 years old (approximately 73 percent).
- 5** Children are **indirectly affected** by armed violence through displacement, death or injuries in their family, and reduced access to social services such as hospitals and schools.
- 6** Nearly 2,900 American children and teens are shot and killed each year, while an additional 15,600 are shot and injured annually. In the United States, **firearms are the second-leading cause of death** for children and teens.
- 7** Keeping a gun in the home **increases the risk of suicide** among adolescents. A gun in the home is 43 times more likely to kill a friend or family member than a burglar or other criminal.
- 8** **Stress related** to gun violence affects student performance and well-being in schools.
- 9** Different stages of adolescence (early, middle, and late) **affect** the impact of gun violence on both girls and boys in different ways.
- 10** Schools and universities are often **abandoned and repurposed** for military use in times of armed conflict, leaving children and adolescents without a place to receive an education during and after conflict.



Funded by
the United Nations through
financial contributions received
from the European Union

This document was produced with the financial assistance of the United Nations through contributions received from the European Union.

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