

## Press Release

# The Good School Toolkit is effective at preventing violence against children at school

The Good School Toolkit, an innovative program used in Ugandan primary schools has succeeded in reducing physical violence by teachers against children by **42%**, Raising Voices can announce.

According to new research published in The Lancet Global Health today 16th June, the Day of the African Child ([www.thelancet.com/lancetgh](http://www.thelancet.com/lancetgh)), the Good School Toolkit has demonstrated ability to significantly **reduce violence against children by almost half in just 18 months.**

Raising Voices, in partnership with the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Makerere University and the Luwero District Education Department, conducted a randomised controlled trial (RCT) in primary schools in Luwero District. The trial took place over 18 months with 21 intervention schools and 21 control schools (i.e. comparable nearby schools with no intervention).

The study found that the Toolkit produced a large reduction in physical violence from school staff – **42%** – as reported by students. Students in intervention schools reported improved feelings of well-being and safety at school, suggesting that the Toolkit succeeded in changing the school environment.

In intervention schools, **50%** fewer teachers (compared to control) report using physical violence against students. In addition, the Toolkit promoted students' identification with their school, as well as their sense of safety and belonging at school.

The Good School Toolkit contains a set of ideas and activities that help educators and students explore what makes a good school, and guides them through

the process of creating one. The Toolkit takes about 18 months to implement and does not require specific expertise or resources from the school.

Willington Ssekadde, Manager, Good School Program said, "To our knowledge, this is the first study of its kind. No other intervention has been shown to have this large of an effect on reducing violence through such a rigorous evaluation method."

Study lead author, Dr Karen Devries from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, said: "What's notable about these results is that we found a very large reduction. We don't normally see a shift of such magnitude. That said, levels of school violence remain high. We need to do more."

The research was funded by the UK Medical Research Council (MRC), UKaid through the Department for International Development (DfID), the Wellcome Trust via the Joint Global Health Trials Scheme, and the Hewlett Foundation. University College London - Institute of Education and Makerere University were partners in the research.

For more information about the Toolkit see attached materials or contact Raising Voices:

Write to [goodschools@raisingvoices.org](mailto:goodschools@raisingvoices.org) or

call **0414-531186** or

visit our website: <http://raisingvoices.org>

The logo for Raising Voices, featuring a stylized orange and red figure that resembles a person or a flame, followed by the text "Raising Voices" in a red, cursive font.