

Preventing youth violence – securing development

In many partner countries of German development cooperation, young people make up more than half the population.

- Young people are often the perpetrators or the direct victims of violence. To address this a balance of preventative and remedial interventions as well as sanctions are needed.
- Poverty and a lack of prospects, marginalisation and inadequate opportunities for political, economic and social participation are forms of structural violence that affect young people and that can trigger responses ranging from frustration to a propensity to engage in violence and crime.
- Youth violence is a phenomenon which occurs in conflict countries and post-conflict societies as well as in non-conflict contexts. It often stems from individuals' own experiences of violence.
- Young people offer great potential but also pose a serious challenge to the development of society as a whole.

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH is a government-owned corporation for international cooperation with worldwide operations. GTZ's aim is to positively shape the political, economic, ecological and social development in our partner countries, thereby improving people's living conditions and prospects. Through the services it provides, GTZ supports complex development and reform processes and contributes to global sustainable development.

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Systemic Prevention of Youth Violence

A tool to design and plan comprehensive violence prevention measures



On behalf of
Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

What does the tool offer?

The tool on the prevention of youth violence provides practical, context-specific support in planning systemic prevention measures. It facilitates the identification of relevant actors and strategic entry points as well as giving users a flexible toolbox of methods and strategies for the implementation of context-specific activities.



Focus on actors

The successful prevention of youth violence starts with changes in the behaviour of young people and their “significant others”.

Significant others are persons who interact with and have great influence on the young people and their lives. They impart values and shape behaviour. In addition to parents, peers, teachers, the police and social workers, this group can also include celebrities, sportspersons and musicians.

The behaviour of young people and significant others can be influenced by:

- **Direct, actor-oriented measures** that target young people and their significant others
- **Indirect structural and institution-building measures** that support, initiate or complement behavioural changes

Holistic thinking – a systemic approach

This step-by-step, process-oriented tool helps to plan preventive measures that address youth violence.

Systemic planning	
Step 1: Analysis	Situational analysis, especially of the causes of and contributing factors for violence
	Analysis of sectors
	Analysis of actors
	Analysis of levels
Step 2:	Development of scenarios for changing the behaviour of relevant significant others
Step 3:	Identification of good practices and successful methods

In the individual planning steps, the strategic entry points – actors, levels and sectors – are identified for the interventions:

- The **situational analysis** provides insights into the context-specific framework and the causes of and factors influencing violence in a country or region.
- In the **sectoral analysis**, entry points for interventions that can help change actors’ behaviour are identified in the areas below. The analysis also pinpoints where cross-sectoral cooperation is required:
 - Good governance
 - Security
 - Youth (youth policy, youth work)
 - Social policy (family, health)
 - Education
 - Employment promotion/training
 - Cooperation with the private sector

- The **actor analysis** identifies individuals, organisations and institutions of direct or indirect relevance to preventing youth violence. This in turn offers entry points for prevention measures in various sectors. Changing actors’ behaviour is the key to achieving sustainable impact.



- Through the **analysis of different intervention levels**, the potential of each level and interactions between the micro, meso and macro level are identified and relevant social discourses are incorporated into the process.

Each of these analyses is geared towards gaining additional insights as well as identifying priorities. This provides the basis for developing scenarios for behavioural change, based on the key question:

*‘Who needs to do **what** differently with **whom** in order to prevent and reduce youth violence effectively and sustainably?’*

As the next step, the tool helps to plan specific interventions with a view to achieving the desired behavioural changes. The body of tried-and-tested strategies, methodologies and good practices offers a broad choice of potential activities, while the development of clear processes and tangible impact indicators facilitate monitoring and evaluation.