



Building Resilience in Vulnerable Children
19th November 2019
Draft Agenda

Vulnerable children are diverse, but they all experience high levels of adversity that challenge their capacity to develop and to thrive. Helping vulnerable children to build resilience requires investing in protective factors, such as quality early learning environments and stronger support networks. These factors allow children to benefit from positive experiences, form key capabilities and access resources in favour of good outcomes, even when facing substantial risks. Resilience building is not a singular policy intervention, but an across-childhood approach to intervening on the multiple situations affecting child well-being. Even for the most vulnerable children, there are inroads situated at the individual, family, community and school levels.

9:00-9:30 **Opening remarks and report launch of *Changing the Odds for Vulnerable Children: Building Opportunities and Resilience***

Mr. Ángel Gurría, Secretary-General to the OECD

Ms. Gabriela Ramos, Chief of Staff and Sherpa to the G20, OECD

9:30-10:15 **Keynote Addresses**

HRH Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands and Founder of Stichting Lezen & Schrijven (the Reading and Writing Foundation) (confirmed)

Mr. Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Prize winner and Founder of the Satyarthi Foundation (confirmed)

10:15- 11:45 **Panel Session 1: How do we build better policies for vulnerable children?**

Vulnerable children contend with a hold of host of adversities that they must overcome if they are to do well. Some of these are individual to the child, like a having a disability, but many come from the family and the local community. Together, they can overwhelm children's ability to cope. What are the key policies needed to support vulnerable children and their families? Are there certain times in a child's life when interventions are more important? Is what happens in the local community more important than what happens at home?

Scene Setter/ Moderator: Ms. Gabriela Ramos, Chief of Staff and Sherpa to the G20, OECD

Speakers:

Mr. Alfonso Lara Montero, Director of the European Social Network (confirmed)

Ms. Anne Hollonds, Director of the Australian Institute for Family Studies (confirmed)

Ms. Jana Hainsworth, Secretary General, Eurochild (confirmed)

Mr. Aloysius John, Secretary General, Caritas International (invited)

11:45-13:00 **Panel Session 2: How do we support children in building strong emotional and social skills?**

Childhood mental health can be adversely affected by multiple and sometimes overlapping factors: rising wealth and income inequalities, weakening family structures and support networks, internet and social media effect, perceived inferior social status, poor body image, and high academic pressures. The evidence tells us that most mental health difficulties emerge in childhood and interventions work best when they are timely and child-centred.

What are the key principles behind supporting children to build strong emotional and social skills? How is inequality shaping children's mental health?

Moderator: Ms. Romina Boarini, Senior Coordinator of the Inclusive Growth Initiative, OECD

Speakers:

Ms. Tracey Burns, Senior Analyst, Education Directorate, OECD

Mr. Dominic Richards, UNICEF Office of Research Innocenti (invited)

Dr. Tony Bates, psychologist and founder of Jigsaw the National Centre for Youth Mental Health (confirmed)

Pr. Kate Pickett, Co-founder of The Equality Trust and author of The Inner-Level (confirmed)

13:00-14:30 Lunch

Lunch-time screening of the Price of Free documentary

Mr. Kailash Satyarthi will share with the audience his work on rescuing children around the world enforced in child labour.

14:30-16:15 Panel Session 3: How do we build resilience in vulnerable children?

Particular groups of children -children in out-of-home care, homeless children and children who are maltreated- experience high levels of adversity. Building resilience in these children means improving the quality of their environments and the resources available to nurture and sustain well-being. These children can even benefit from interventions that have little effect on others. How can we take what we know about resilience to deliver better policies and programmes that close the well-being gap?

Moderator: Mr. Olivier Thévenon, Social Policy Economist, Labour and Skills Directorate

Speakers:

Pr. Jennifer Davidson, CELCIS and Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures (confirmed)

Ms. Fouzy Mathy, Repairs! Adepape (confirmed)

16:15-16:45 Coffee and Networking Break

16:45-18:00 Panel Session 4: How do we build shared responsibility for children's rights?

High poverty and patchwork social protection systems leave children in developing countries at risk of poorer outcomes and missing their potential. In part, these risks stem from a failure of growth to be inclusive. In addition, violence against children remains common and progress on child labour may be slowing down. How can we get children's rights further up the agenda- at the international and country level- and for all children to have a safe and protected childhood?

Moderator: Mr. Alexandre Kolev, Head of Unit, Social Cohesion, OECD Development Centre

Speakers:

Mr. Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Prize winner and Founder of the Satyarthi Foundation

Mr. Cyril Noirtin, Vice President, Rotary ICC Executive Council (confirmed)

Dr. Faiza Shaheen, Director of CLASS – Centre for Labour and Social Studies (confirmed)

18:00-18:10 Closing Remarks

18:10-19:00 Cocktail reception and orchestra performance by the children from Tutti les Passeurs d'Art

To register for this conference, please email <ana.fueyo@oecd.org>