



Public Event: A holistic approach to young people’s psychosocial wellbeing

22 November 2016, [Overseas Development Institute](#), 203 Blackfriars Road
London SE1 8NJ

Despite increased awareness of young people’s mental health needs, interventions that target their psychosocial wellbeing remain largely medicalised. In reality, young people's wellbeing is often tied to that of their family, relationships with their peers and resource constraints within communities. By recognising and engaging the complex social dynamics that surround young people, the psychosocial approach to wellbeing can have significant positive impacts on their social lives, educational outcomes and future potential.

This event explores different approaches to young people's psychosocial wellbeing in the Global South, and shares good practice in advancing support for young people, families and communities. It coincides with [Children’s Grief Awareness Week UK](#), raising awareness of bereaved children and young people, which provides an opportunity to explore learning from the Global North.

Chair: [Dr. Nicola Ansell](#), Brunel University

Panel speakers:

- Richard Boden, Policy Advisor, Disability Team, Department for International Development
- [Dr. Fiona Samuels](#), Senior Research Fellow, ODI
- [Dr. Ruth Evans](#), Associate Professor, University of Reading

Discussants:

- Lynette Mudekunye, Acting Chief Executive Officer, REPSSI
- [Alison Penny](#), Co-ordinator, UK Childhood Bereavement Network

9.30-11.30am

Time	Session
9.30-10.00	Registration, tea and coffee
10.00–10.05	Welcome and introduction by Chair
10.05-10.35	Presentations: why is the 'social' important in young people's psychosocial wellbeing, care and support?
10.35-11.00	Discussants and panel responses
11.00-11.25	Questions and discussion with the audience
11.30	Event close Concluding remarks and wrap-up by chair

Hashtag: #MakeTime2Listen

@ODIdev





Putting the 'social' back into young people's psychosocial wellbeing, care and support

A global policy workshop

22 November 2016

9.30am – 5pm

[Overseas Development Institute](#)

203 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NJ

Hosted by ODI and the University of Reading

Mental health and psychosocial wellbeing have risen up the development policy agenda in recent years. Despite positive advances, interventions targeting mental health and psychosocial wellbeing remain largely medicalised, often focusing on the individual and neglecting the complex social contexts of young people's lives in the Global South. Interventions often do not engage with existing sources of care, support and resilience within families and communities or take account of socio-cultural understandings of health, illness, loss and death in different places. Similarly, the impacts of wider structural constraints such as poverty, gender and generational inequalities may not be adequately addressed.

This interactive policy workshop, which includes a public panel discussion, will bring together policymakers, practitioners and researchers to re-think the social dimensions of young people's psychosocial wellbeing and explore contemporary pressures, 'troubles' and changes that young people experience in a range of global contexts.

Presentations and discussions will focus on how globalisation and bereavement affect young people's psychosocial wellbeing and how policy and practice can best support young people, families and communities.

This event also coincides with [Children's Grief Awareness Week UK](#), designed to raise awareness of bereaved children and young people, which provides an opportunity to explore learning from the Global North.

Speakers include:

- Lynette Mudekunye, Acting Chief Executive Officer, REPSSI
- [Alison Penny](#), Co-ordinator, Childhood Bereavement Network
- [Dr. Gina Crivello](#) and Patricia Espinoza, Young Lives, University of Oxford
- [Dr. Ruth Evans](#), University of Reading
- [Dr. Fiona Samuels](#), ODI
- Karin Tengnäs, Child Protection Advisor, Save the Children Denmark.

Hashtag: #MakeTime2Listen

@ODIdev



Programme

Time	Session
9.30-11.30am	<p>Public Event: A holistic approach to young people's psychosocial wellbeing</p> <p>See programme above (https://www.odi.org/events/4416-holistic-approach-young-people-s-psychosocial-wellbeing)</p>
11.30-11.45	Break , tea/coffee
11:45-1.00	<p>Pressures, 'troubles' and changes in young people's everyday lives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiona Samuels, ODI: 'If we lose our friends, we're done': mental health and psychosocial wellbeing amongst children and young people in Viet Nam • Ruth Evans, University of Reading: Young People's Experiences of a Family Death: Bereavement and Care in Urban Senegal • Gina Crivello and Patricia Espinoza, Young Lives, University of Oxford: Tracing Young People's Wellbeing, Care and Support in Contexts of Orphanhood in Ethiopia <p>Chair and discussant: Nicola Jones, ODI and discussant: Desiree Stewart, Senior Health Programmes Adviser, World Vision UK</p> <p>Audience questions and comments</p>
1.00- 1.45pm	Lunch
1.45-3.15pm	<p>Policy and practice responses that work with the 'social' in young people's psychosocial wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lynette Mudekunye, Acting Chief Executive Officer, REPSSI: Enabling School (Psychosocial) Environments promote Social Connections for Young People • Karin Tengnäs, Child Protection Advisor, Save the Children Denmark: Stronger together – Children's and Youth Resilience Programmes • Alison Penny, Coordinator, Childhood Bereavement Network: Children facing Bereavement in the Global North: the Social Context <p>Chair: Ruth Evans. Discussant: Liam Sollis, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Young Health Programme, Plan International UK</p> <p>Audience questions and comments</p>
3.15-3.25	Break , tea, coffee
3.25-4.30	<p>Workshop discussions, facilitator: Morten Skovdal</p> <p>Q: Why is it important to put the 'social' back into young people's psychosocial wellbeing, care and support?</p> <p>Q: How is/ can the social context be considered and integrated into policy and practices responses?</p>
4.30-4.45pm	Next steps: Taking the learning forward

For more information, contact:

Dr. Ruth Evans, Department of Geography & Environmental Science, University of Reading
Whiteknights PO Box 227, Reading RG6 6AB, UK.

Email: r.evans@reading.ac.uk Twitter: [@DrRuth_Evans](https://twitter.com/DrRuth_Evans)

<https://blogs.reading.ac.uk/deathinthefamilyinsenegal/>

<https://blogs.reading.ac.uk/participation-lab/>