



# **Positive Youth Development: A Framework for Youth PVE/CVE Programming**

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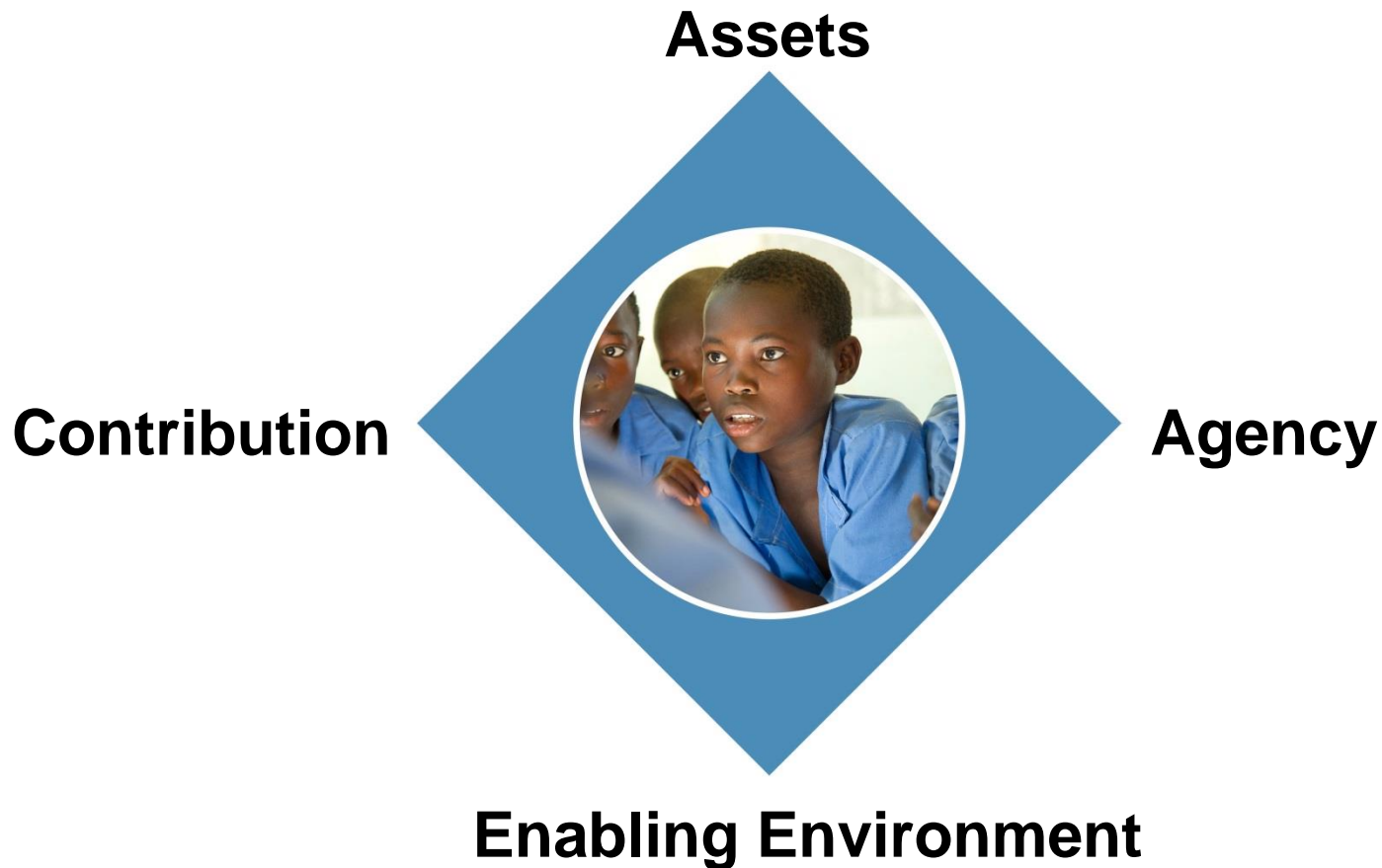


## Positive Youth Development (PYD)

“...the intentional process of providing all youth with the support, relationships, experiences, resources, and opportunities they need to become successful and competent adults.

PYD engages youth in their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in ways that recognizes and enhances young people’s strengths.”

# Positive Youth Development





## Complex relationships between youth and drivers of violence



2016 March, Belega, Gombe, Nigeria. Mustafa, 15, stands in front of the house where his family lives since they were forced to flee their home in Yobe. They live in a half-constructed house in Belega, ever since Boko Haram killed their father.  
Courtesy: Kishore / Mercy Corps

### “MOTIVATIONS AND EMPTY PROMISES”

**Voices of Former Boko Haram Combatants and Nigerian Youth**

APRIL 2016



### WHY YOUTH FIGHT: Making Sense of Youth Political Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa

#### Overview

Though the number of civil wars and violent battles has decreased worldwide since the 1990s, our everyday news is still filled with accounts of political violence. In recent months, we've seen widespread violence in the Central African Republic (CAR) and South Sudan, and attacks by Boko Haram in Nigeria and by Al Shabaab in Kenya and Somalia. Youth are often at the center of these violent incidences, but there is mixed evidence on what leads them to participate. Given the contradictory findings in the literature and in practice, Mercy Corps collaborated with Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy (MSPP) to research key drivers of youth's propensity toward political violence in Sub-Saharan Africa. The study focused on two research questions:

- What factors correlate with youth propensity toward political violence?
- How do those factors differ according to country context?

The results of our research challenge several core assumptions that underlie many youth programs in fragile and conflict-affected states, and reaffirm the importance of context. Our findings imply that traditional interventions, such as job training and civic education, should not claim universality, and signals the large role institutions and governance play in understanding violence.

#### Key Findings

- 1. Civic Participation:** A history of political action, frequent contact with government officials and being an active member in community groups were positively correlated with both participation or willingness to participate in and support for political violence in at least half of the countries.
- 2. Governance:** Experiences with corruption and perceived unfairness of the law (or exclusion) were often associated with a greater risk of political violence.
- 3. Economic Conditions:** The connections between support for violence and economic factors were mixed. An individual's employment status had no effect on participation or willingness to participate in violence in a most countries, but absolute and relative poverty were strong predictors of violence.
- 4. Insecurity and Victimization:** A history of attack in the household was consistently positively associated with participation or willingness to participate in political violence.

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