

Save the Children UK/ Childhood Poverty Research & Policy Centre  
and the World Bank Children and Youth team present

# Breaking poverty cycles: the importance of action in childhood

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September  
3.30-5.30pm

Civil society conference room, Main Building,  
World Bank, 1818 H Street, Washington DC

The importance of investment in childhood as a critical period in life must not only be recognised by donors, governments, civil society and others – it must be followed through with strategic and comprehensive action. Without a clear strategy, life course and intergenerational poverty will continue, and the MDGs and other national and international poverty reduction targets will not be reached. The interplay between social and economic policies remains a critical factor in obtaining good policy for the poor of all ages.

Yet, comprehensive approaches to tackling childhood poverty are missing from PRSPs. Children are frequently regarded as a ‘sector’, often leading to further marginalisation - and many donor representatives, when asked, stated that they “*do not do child poverty*”. This seminar outlines the actions required to tackle childhood poverty, illustrated with evidence from Save the Children UK’s Childhood Poverty Research and Policy Centre and its programs in Tanzania, Vietnam and Honduras, as well as from the World Bank’s own analysis.

Presentations include:

- **A brief introduction to the World Bank’s Framework for Action on Children and Youth** Viviana Mangiaterra, World Bank Children and Youth Advisor
- **Intergenerational Poverty Transfers: the rationale for investing in childhood** Caroline Harper, Director, Childhood Poverty Research and Policy Centre
- **Breaking poverty cycles: crucial contexts for effective social policy** Santosh Mehrotra, Senior Advisor, UNDP
- **Tackling childhood poverty through PRSPs: taking an inclusion approach** Rakesh Rajani, Executive Director, Haki Elimu, Tanzania and Martine Billanou, Save the Children UK Tanzania
- **Breaking poverty cycles: how the donor community should respond** Jenni Marshall, Poverty Policy Advisor, Save the Children UK

**Breaking poverty cycles: the importance of action in childhood**  
**30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2004**

Time	Presentation
15.30	<b>The World Bank and the strategic importance of investing in childhood</b> Dr Viviana Mangiaterra, Advisor Children and Youth, Human Development Network
15.35	<b>Intergenerational Poverty Transfers: the rationale for action in childhood</b> Dr Caroline Harper, Director, Childhood Poverty Research and Policy Centre/SCUK
15.45	<b>Breaking poverty cycles: crucial contexts for effective social policy</b> Dr Santosh Mehrotra, Senior Advisor, UNDP
16.00	<b>Getting childhood poverty onto the PRS agenda and ensuring implementation</b> Dr Rakesh Rajani, Executive Director, Haki Elimu, Tanzania; Martine Billanou, SC UK in Tanzania.
16.15	<b>Breaking poverty cycles: how should aid policy respond?</b> Jenni Marshall, Poverty Policy Advisor, Save the Children UK
16.25	<b>Discussants' responses:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Paul Gertler, Chief Economist, Human Development Network, World Bank</li> <li>• Donald Cohen, Managing Director for International Development, Plan USA</li> <li>• Alberto Minujin, Senior Policy Analyst, Global Policy Section, UNICEF</li> </ul>
16.45	<b>Discussion: the challenges and some solutions</b>
17.30	<b>Close</b>

### Supporting papers

- Marcus, R., 2003, "We were born poor and we'll die poor" *Escaping poverty cycles*. ID21 Insights 46 <http://www.id21.org/insights/insights46/insights-iss46-art02.html>
- Mehrotra, S., 2004, *Improving child wellbeing in developing countries: what do we know? what can be done?* CHIP Report 9, London: CHIP
- *Economic policies: How can they contribute to child wellbeing?* CHIP Briefing 3
- Marshall, J., 2004, *Donors and childhood poverty: approaches and aid mechanisms in Ghana and Tanzania*, CHIP Report 12, London: CHIP OR Marcus, R. and J. Marshall, *Tackling childhood poverty in Central and East Asia: Donor approaches in Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia*, CHIP Report 13, London: CHIP
- *The role of cash transfers in tackling childhood poverty*, CHIP Briefing 2

#### Additional reading

- *Child ill health and mortality - How can we prevent the preventable?* CHIP Briefing 7
- *Early Childhood Care and Development (ECD) – an inoculation against poverty or a day-care refuge for the very poor?* CHIP Briefing 4
- *Promoting disadvantaged young people's employment - What can be done?* CHIP Briefing 60

Further information can be obtained from our website: [www.childhoodpoverty.org](http://www.childhoodpoverty.org)