**Title:** UNITE - Adaptation and testing of scalable psychological intervention for children experiencing psychological distress in an urban area of Sweden

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**Background**: Community violence not only impacts those directly involved but is associated with increases in posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and internalizing symptoms in children growing up in these areas. There is a lack of preventive interventions for children in areas where they experience severe events. Given the substantial number of children affected and the existing gap in interventions, urgent action is needed. In this study, we will adapt a publicly available potentially scalable psychological intervention, Early Adolescent Skills for Emotions (EASE), to the Swedish context.

**Objective**: To adapt and subsequently establish the feasibility, safety, and acceptability of a universal intervention delivered by civil society to children affected by community violence in Sweden.

**Method**: A systematic approach was taken to adapt the manual, including workshops, and ongoing communication with stakeholders. A pre-post pilot study will be conducted to investigate the feasibility, safety, and acceptability of the intervention. All interested children aged 9-15 residing in locations affected by increased community violence will be included. Symptoms of PTSD, anxiety, and depression will be assessed.

**Results**: Following the adaptation of the manual, the intervention was shortened, with the active ingredients apart from behavioral activation being maintained. Adjacent material, including workbooks for children, were adapted to be more relevant to the Swedish context. Preliminary results on the feasibility and acceptability of the intervention will be presented.

**Conclusions**: Results will be discussed in relation to the Swedish context, and more generally to the potential public health impact of a preventative intervention implemented in a high-income setting.