

Existing as *Gbonhi*

Adolescents and youth, so-called
“microbes”, engaging in violence
in Abobo

(Abidjan, Ivory Coast)

February 2017

Illustrated Synthesis

With support from



What we learn about the phenomenon of youths and (pre)adolescents known as microbes

1

Urban dwellers in the margins of the city and society:

The urban environment plays a defining role in promoting their violent trajectory.



Who are they?

2

Do not confuse microbes with street children:

The majority of youngsters known as microbes maintain an emotional bond with their families.



3

Young adults lead the way:

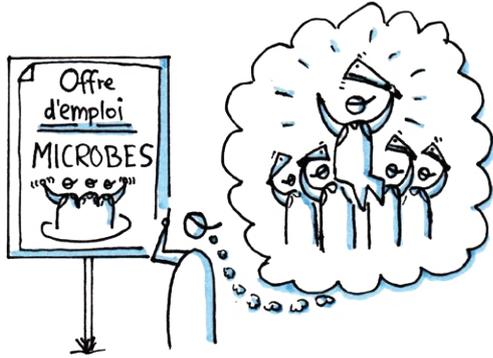
The majority of microbes are between 8 and 25 years old.



4

Beyond poverty, the quest for social recognition:

The group offers these youths the opportunity “to become somebody”.



What motivates them?

5

Succeeding through violence:

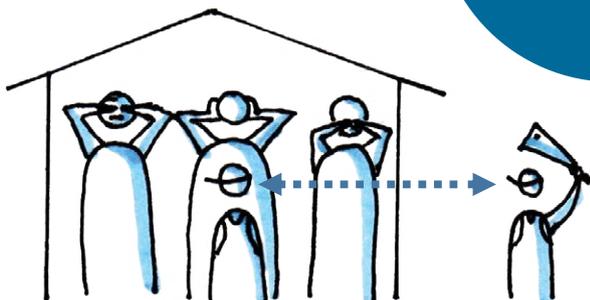
The use of violence is seen as a springboard for social and economic success.



7

Between denial and ignorance:

Very few parents are aware and/or willing to acknowledge that their child is a microbe.

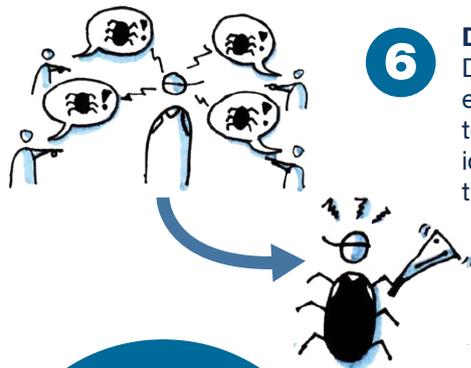


What reactions and responses do they generate?

6

Dangerous stigmatization:

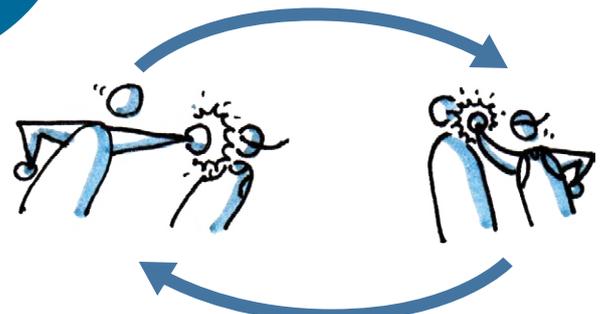
Dehumanising these youths will encourage them to fall back on their given identities as microbes and confine them to society's periphery.



8

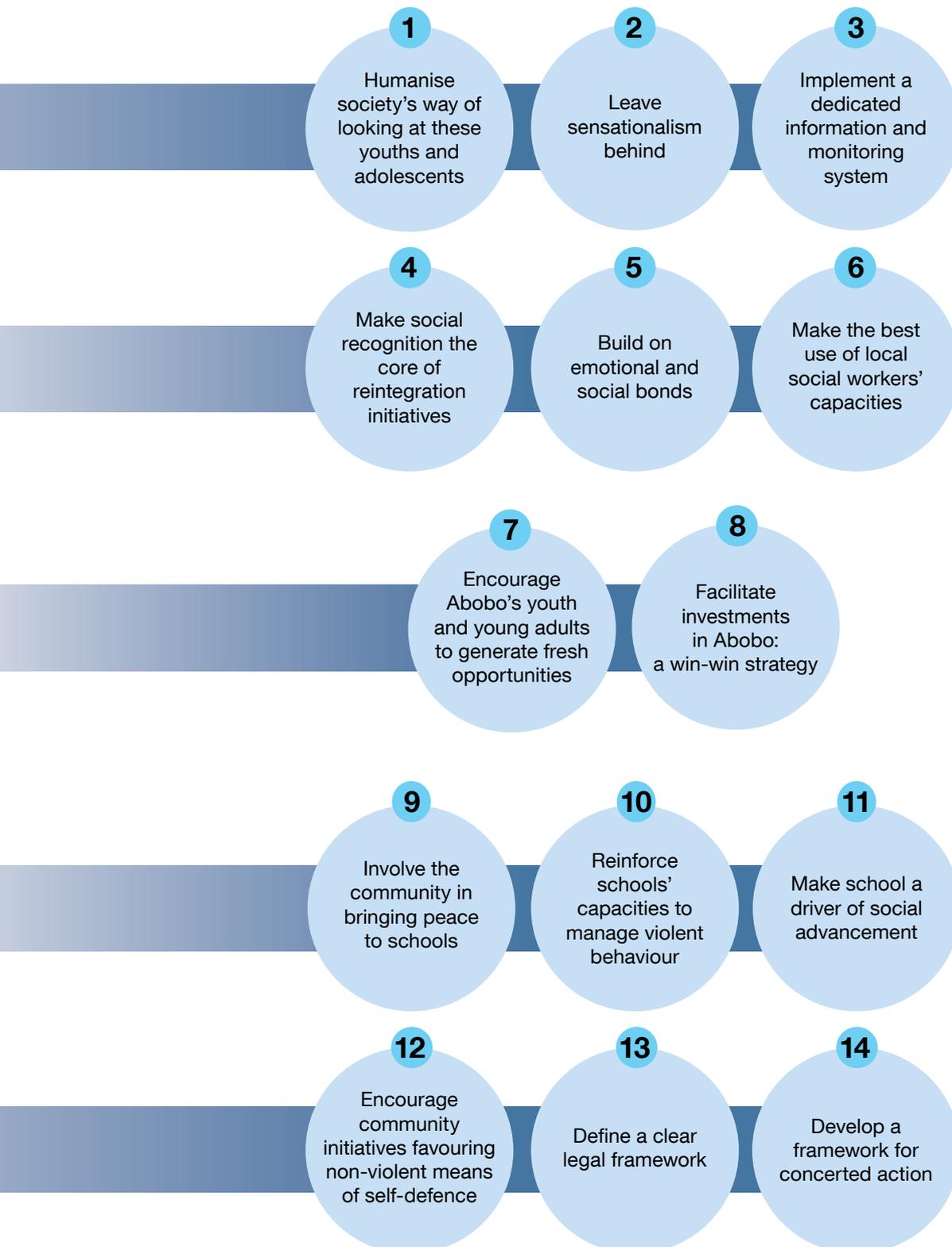
Repression fuels violence:

Essentially repressive by nature, the community and policy response fuels the cycle of violence



Ce que cela implique en termes de réponses







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