

Global Partnership to End Violence against Children

Pathfinding Country Progress Report



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CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (United States)
CONNA	National Council for Children and Adolescents (El Salvador)
CRRF	Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
CSO	civil society organization
FBO	faith-based organization
GBV	gender-based violence
HBSC	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
IMS	information management system
INGO	international non-governmental organization
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MOEYI	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information (Jamaica)
NAP	national action plan
NAPCRA	National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights and Adoption (Romania)
NGO	non-governmental organization
ODA	official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PEPFAR	(United States) President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
RPJMN	National Medium-Term Development Plan (Indonesia)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TWG	technical working group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAC	violence against children
VACS	Violence Against Children Survey
WHO	World Health Organization



Credit: UNICEF

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

While the vision of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (End Violence) can be articulated simply – a world in which no child lives in fear – in reality it is complicated to achieve. Its actions are wide-ranging, from changing norms and bringing sectors together, to building the evidence base of solutions and increasing funding.

From its launch in July 2016 to December 2017, End Violence made significant progress at the country level. This report outlines that progress and the lessons learned. Highlights include the following:

- A growing number of **national action plans** (NAPs) to end violence against children exists – at least 13 countries have developed or are in the process of developing one.
- **13 government focal persons** that lead multisectoral and multi-stakeholder groups have been appointed.
- **Data collection** has increased with results published in the UNICEF report *A Familiar Face* and in the Know Violence in Childhood initiative report *Ending Violence in Childhood*, and continues in over 20 countries led by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States (CDC), Together for Girls and UNICEF.
- INSPIRE, the set of seven **evidence-based strategies** to prevent and respond to violence against children, has been disseminated through workshops and webinars and is being implemented in pathfinding countries, along with the WHO-led Violence Prevention Information System (Violence Info), an online interactive collection of scientific information.
- **A movement** with over 300 End Violence members active in more than 100 countries that complements campaigns, such as World Vision's undertaking called It takes a world to end violence against children, is taking hold.

Although the commitments to end violence against children have been significant, the promises need to be matched by action and increased finances. End Violence recommends that governments:

1. **Strengthen stakeholder engagement** by ensuring that platforms constitute real partnerships in which decision making is shared and that they expand beyond their current constituencies to include the private sector, academia and donors;
2. **Advance multisectoral action** by identifying and promoting sustained actions across sectors that can contribute to and support the implementation of national action plans to end violence against children;
3. **Advocate for and raise awareness** of the evidence-based strategies in INSPIRE by mainstreaming them into national action plans and organizational policies; prioritize the explicit prohibition of all corporal punishment of children;
4. **Advocate for the mobilization of resources** by identifying and sharing information on existing and potential sources of finance and cooperation mechanisms at the local, national, regional and global levels to expand programmes to end violence against children; and
5. Specifically recommend that the End Violence Secretariat **ensure depth over breadth** by developing an engagement strategy for each pathfinding country with priorities and commitments for 2018 and 2019.

Countries are now primed to get on with implementing interventions and monitoring their effects on the prevalence of violence against children. If all countries do this, then the next country progress reports can build on statistics about how the problem has been reduced. End Violence is determined to play its part in ensuring that evidence-based work to prevent violence against children is systematically implemented everywhere and that results can be shown.

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Introduction

Why a progress report

Following the launch in July 2016 of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (End Violence), the Board approved *Country Engagement Guidance* in December 2016. This document provides a foundation for collaborative action at the country level. It also introduced the *Pathfinding* process, which implies a three- to five-year cycle of multisectoral efforts to end violence against children (VAC) domestically. Highlighted is the collaboration of partners – across all sectors and stakeholder groups – to create change by working together in-country, at the national and subnational levels. By December 2017, 15 governments had submitted formal expressions of interest to become pathfinding countries.

This report outlines the progress pathfinding countries have made, and the challenges and lessons learned through current practice. Most importantly, it allows governments to reassess opportunities and priorities. Noting that the pathfinding process has proven unique in each country, the Secretariat does not expect processes to be replicated in countries. However, learning from countries' experience is of paramount importance.

The first End Violence Solutions Summit brings together high-level representatives from governments, United Nations agencies, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders to share and discuss solutions to VAC. Those attending are this report's audience. Following the Solutions Summit, subsequent milestones are the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2019, which will review Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions. In September 2019, leaders will gather for the first 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development summit to review the results of the first four years across the 17 SDGs.

End Violence Theory of Change

The End Violence Secretariat offers pathfinding countries tailored support for:

- Building political will by advocating and prioritizing the issue of violence against children at the highest government levels;
- Accelerating action by helping to strengthen multi-stakeholder and multisectoral mechanisms to address violence against children, providing technical assistance and any catalytic financial support needed; and
- Strengthening collaboration by providing governments and stakeholders a global platform to share experiences and facilitate links to relevant data collection initiatives, such as those facilitated by Together for Girls.

As a platform, End Violence aims to build and strengthen the movement to end VAC and relies on the engagement of its partners at all levels. Throughout this document, reference to End Violence implies the work of partner organizations and governments as well as the Secretariat.

In addition, End Violence seeks to complement related global partnerships, such as Together for Girls, Girls Not Brides, the Global Partnership for Education, Every Woman Every Child, the Early Childhood Development Action Network, the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, and the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, which are already effectively promoting various aspects of VAC. It also builds on

existing regional networks, such as the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children, the African Partnership to End Violence Against Children and the Global Movement for Children of Latin America and the Caribbean. The participation of this range of actors is critical to multiplying their many actions and ultimately improving outcomes for children.

INSPIRE, launched in July 2016 alongside End Violence, is a set of seven evidence-based strategies to prevent and respond to VAC and adolescents. It was developed by 10 core agencies: World Health Organization (WHO), CDC, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Together for Girls, UNICEF, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank and the End Violence Secretariat. Each strategy is based on the best available evidence to help countries and communities intensify their focus on the prevention programmes and services with the greatest potential. Together they provide a framework for ending VAC.

As endorsed under End Violence’s third goal, the commitment to improving data and evidence on the prevention of VAC is strong. Examples of evidence-based INSPIRE strategies from pathfinding and non-pathfinding countries include the following:

- I**mplementation and enforcement of laws: South Africa Firearms Control Act – saved 4,500 lives over five years in five cities;
- N**orms and values: Uganda SASA! case study – reduced intimate partner violence by 52 per cent and children witnessing such violence by 64 per cent;
- S**afe environments: Cardiff Model in Australia, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States – reduced violence-related hospital admissions by 42 per cent and police-recorded woundings by 32 per cent; the programme is spreading to other countries and cities;
- P**arent and caregiver support: International Rescue Committee parenting programmes in Liberia, Myanmar, Thailand – reduced maltreatment with increases in positive parenting;
- I**ncome and economic strengthening: Mexico PROSPERA programme for income and economic strengthening – reduced adolescent intimate partner violence and increased factors that protect against youth violence;
- R**esponse and support: reasoning and rehabilitation programmes in Estonia, Latvia, Lebanon and 15 other countries – reduced repeat perpetration of violence by 14 per cent among adolescents in institutional settings and 21 per cent in community settings;
- E**ducation and life skills: Uganda Empowerment and Livelihood for Adolescents – reduced unwanted sex by 80 per cent.

As indicated in the End Violence Business Plan and Theory of Change, once political will is established, multisectoral coordination mechanisms can be set up or strengthened. This will increase the scale and geographical coverage of programmes to prevent and respond to violence against all children.

Collaboration at both the national and international levels will allow more robust data collection and programme evaluation, which in turn will strengthen government reporting. The Convention on the Rights of the Child underpins the work of End Violence. Admittedly, End Violence is not a human rights monitoring body, but it makes

recommendations to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child and other relevant human rights bodies and is at their behest. End Violence considers the offices of the United Nations Special Representatives of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and for Children and Armed Conflict to be central to efforts to keep children safe and secure in all contexts.

The commitment of governments and partners will be measured by their increased financing towards the implementation of the recommendations from the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development relating to the prevention of VAC.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN Business Plan and Theory of Change

Activities (Business plan)	Short-term Outcome (Theory of Change)	Goal and Medium-term Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1.1 Engage governments as partners in End Violence 1.2.1 Implement a communications strategy on zero tolerance of violence against children 1.2.2 Engage children and young people at all levels 1.3.1 Publish study on spending on violence against children 1.3.2 Develop methodology for tracking resources at country level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Increased commitments by governments and partners 1.2 Increased advocacy by partners and children 1.3 Increased financing at the country level 	<p>1. Build political will. Increased prioritization by governments, multilateral organizations, funders, civil society, the private sector and children of concrete dialogue and collaborative action to achieve SDG targets to end violence against children in all forms and settings.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1.1 Facilitate technical and financial support to countries 2.1.2 Develop and disseminate INSPIRE strategies 2.2.1 Facilitate technical and financial support to implement INSPIRE in pathfinding countries 2.2.2 Support the creation of multi-stakeholder mechanisms 2.3.1 Facilitate technical and financial support (and the associated adoption of INSPIRE) for countries affected by humanitarian crises and armed conflicts and for children on the move 2.3.2 Develop strategic partnerships with child-focused constituencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Improved multisectoral domestic mechanisms 2.2 Scaled implementation of INSPIRE 2.3 Increased coverage of comprehensive programmes, in particular for children in conflict settings and on the move 	<p>2. Accelerate Action in all countries. Enhanced efficiency and effectiveness of governments and End Violence partners to put in place multisectoral systems at scale to prevent and respond to violence against children, with an initial focus on countries that wish to lead the movement.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1.1 Hold a biennial solutions summit to exchange progress on the implementation of national road maps 3.2.1 Publish a biennial report on pathfinding countries 3.3.1 Synthesize evidence, communicate findings and help countries to work together in real time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Improved mechanisms for transnational actions that facilitate standard setting and reporting on progress 3.2 Strengthened mutual accountability 3.3 Improved data and evidence 	<p>3. Strengthening Collaboration. Increased collaboration within End Violence among and between countries, and with civil society, other stakeholders and children, to confront shared threats and develop solutions.</p>



Violence against children, issues and numbers

Data are essential for monitoring progress towards achieving the SDGs and shedding light on VAC. To date, for example, the evidence confirms that up to 1 billion children have experienced physical, sexual or psychological violence in the past year. One in four children suffers physical abuse, and nearly one in five girls is sexually abused at least once in their lives. Another recent estimate suggests that three in four children experience violence. Developments in data collection and methodologies focused on VAC have been significant, most notably in the last decade. Noteworthy global initiatives in 2016–2017 contributing to this substantial body of work include the following:

- **Global Prevalence of Past-year Violence Against Children: A Systematic Review and Minimum Estimates by S. Hillis et al.** provides the best available evidence to generate minimum regional and global estimates. Investigators extracted data on past-year instances of violent victimization by country, age group and type (physical, sexual, emotional or multiple types). Thirty-eight reports provided the data of 96 countries on the prevalence of past-year VAC. Base case estimates showed that at least 50 per cent of children in Africa, Asia and North America experienced past-year violence. Over half of all children worldwide – 1 billion, aged 2–17 years – experienced such violence.
- **Ending Violence in Childhood: Global Report 2017 by Know Violence in Childhood** outlines the extent of violence experienced by millions of children daily in their lives and relationships, at home, in schools and in their communities. The report is a culmination of almost three years of work by academics and practitioners from different disciplines and sectors working together to examine existing data and commissioning new research on the causes and consequences of childhood violence. It provides evidence of effective strategies for the prevention of violence.
- **A Familiar Face: Violence in the lives of children and adolescents by UNICEF** offers up-to-date data to shed light on four forms of violence: violent discipline and exposure to domestic abuse during

early childhood; violence at school; violent deaths among adolescents; and sexual violence in childhood and adolescence. This report relies principally on information gathered through internationally comparable sources. These include the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) supported by UNICEF, the Demographic and Health Surveys supported by USAID, Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) studies and the Global School-based Student Health Surveys developed by WHO, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies and CDC. With the exception of the HBSC studies, these international survey programmes have been implemented primarily in low- and middle-income countries.

- **The Violence Prevention Information System (Violence Info) launched by WHO** is an online interactive collection of scientific information about the prevalence, consequences, risk factors and preventability of interpersonal violence. The information is extracted from published scientific studies using a systematic review process. It covers child maltreatment, youth violence, intimate partner violence, elder abuse, homicide and sexual violence. Violence Info is updated on an ongoing basis as new scientific studies become available. The launch version is a beta edition that will remain online in the coming months to allow troubleshooting and entering additional evidence.

Effectively using all available data at the country level to drive action requires a coordinated and collaborative approach, with a sound methodology to guide the way. The Data to Action tool, developed by CDC and PEPFAR as part of the Together for Girls partnership, provides a process to help countries move from collecting data via Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS) to developing and implementing NAPs to prevent and respond to VAC.

While data collection, methodologies and analyses have been impressive, the field of violence prevention is still young and gaps remain. One of the core goals of End Violence is to act as a strategic and knowledge exchange platform for all partners and users. Working in close collaboration with such key partners as UNICEF, CDC and WHO, End Violence will continue to encourage the collection of comparable statistics on VAC and bridge the gap between the statistics and the entities responsible for programme design and implementation.



50%
of children in Africa, Asia and Northern America experienced violence in the past year





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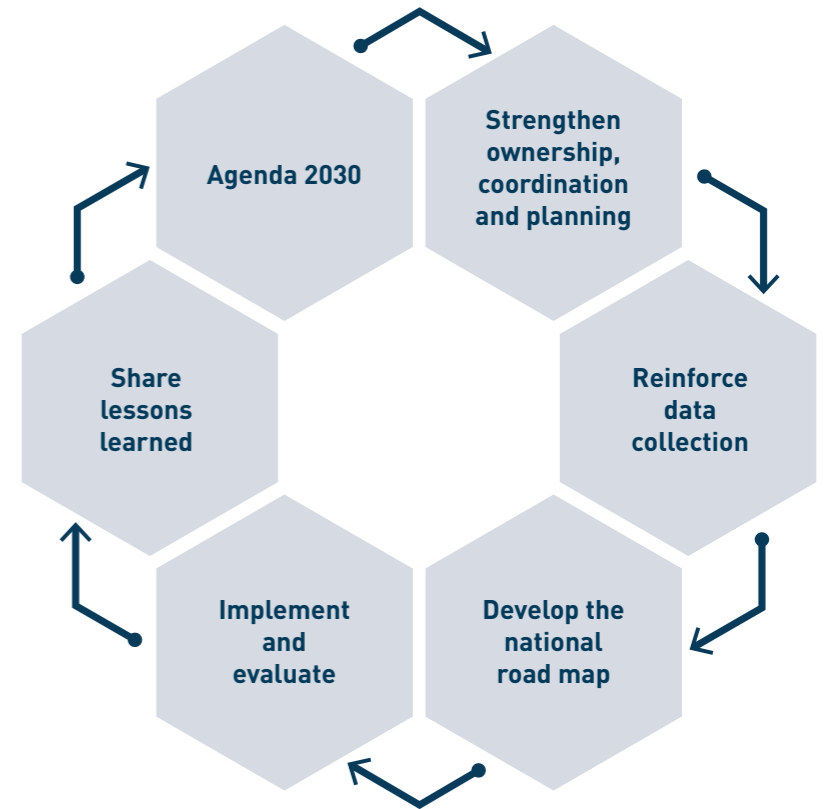
Updates from pathfinding countries

As outlined in the End Violence document *Country Engagement Guidance*, the diagram below provides the steps for countries to accelerate action.

Pathfinding countries are those that commit to accelerating action to end VAC. Every country is eligible to be a pathfinding country. The process implies a commitment of three to five years of accelerated action during which it receives intensified support from the End Violence Secretariat and relevant partners. In addition to assessing itself against the End Violence principles, to qualify as a pathfinding country it must:

- Send an expression of interest to the Secretariat from a responsible minister or ministerial team;
- Appoint a senior government official to lead the process;
- Establish and support a multi-stakeholder platform to plan, deliver and evaluate actions;
- Reinforce data collection by publishing an updated national study or survey;
- Develop a road map that sets out commitments to two-year and five-year goals;
- Identify the resources needed to implement the road map and determine how they will be mobilized; and
- Commit to higher levels of analysis throughout the process and in particular to:
 - Monitoring the delivery of the commitments in the road map;
 - Reporting annually and setting targets for the coming year; and
 - Sharing lessons and celebrating successes during Solutions Summits.

The pathfinding countries, highlighted in the following section, have accomplished remarkable achievements throughout the past year. They will continue to be monitored regularly against their commitments, including at Solutions Summits. In addition, the countries are involved in the United Nations Universal Periodic Review (UPR) state-driven process to assess their human rights records. UPRs provide an opportunity to strengthen recommendations for the prevention of VAC.





El Salvador



CRC selected recommendations from February 2010:

1. The complete abolition of corporal punishment from all the settings of a child's life;
2. The thorough and effective investigation and prosecution of perpetrators that assault, violate or kill children, and the creation of support services for child victims;
3. The renewal and evaluation of the National Plan of Action for Children in light of the Convention and the ratified Protocols.

Political will and coordination

The high prevalence of VAC led the Government to prioritize services and programmes for children in its Five-Year Development Plan 2014–2019, and to highlight the protection of their rights. The adoption of the Law of Integral Protection of Children and Adolescents created the national child protection system. Under this law, the National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONNA) is responsible for the coordination of the system and the protection of the rights of children and adolescents. CONNA was tasked with developing the National Policy on Children and Adolescents 2013–2023 and is responsible for its implementation. The National Policy on Children and Adolescents is complemented by other initiatives that set out short-, medium- and long-term strategies and concrete actions to reduce VAC. The National Council for Citizen Security and Peaceful Coexistence, a mechanism comprised of public and private institutions, which promotes civic engagement, implements the Plan El Salvador Seguro in partnership with the Government. This Plan includes elements related to the protection of children and adolescents. Since 2016, the National Education Council has developed and monitored the implementation of the Plan El Salvador Educado.

Consultation

The child protection system comprises, among other bodies, a specialized judiciary, 16 protection boards that investigate threats and violations of the rights of children, and the Shared Care Network, formed by civil society organizations (CSOs) that work for children and child-centred public institutions. In terms of conducting the VACS, key actors are USAID, PAHO, CDC, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Promundo and the Instituto Universitario de Opinión Pública (El Salvador).

Data collection

Yearly, CONNA elaborates a state of children's situation report that describes aspects of their development and life, such as health, education, recreation and participation. A National Health Survey was carried out in 2014 by the Ministry of Health–National Health Institute, in collaboration with the General Directorate of Statistics and Censuses as part of the UNICEF MICS programme. The survey contains topics of early childhood development and child protection. In 2017, the VACS was launched under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice and the International Organization for Migration with the support of CDC and Together for Girls; data are being collected and the report will be available in 2018.

National road map/action plan

As part of the Law for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents and the National Policy for Children and Adolescents, El Salvador had a National Plan on the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents, which ended in 2017. Based on an evaluation of the plan and the findings of the VACS, the National Action Plan to End Violence against Children is to be developed in 2018.

Implementation and evaluation

In August 2017, El Salvador approved an amendment to the Family Code prohibiting child marriage and, in November of the same year, the National Intersectoral Strategy for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy was approved. The strategy prioritizes short-term interventions in 25 municipalities with a high prevalence of pregnancies in girls under 14 years of age and longer-term interventions to be implemented over the next 10 years in the rest of the country's municipalities. In addition, CONNA has implemented three national communication campaigns to prevent violence and promote a culture of peace in family settings: Marca mi vida (2014–2015), Protection Begins in the Home, with Good Treatment and Positive Discipline (2015–2016) and Protection Begins at Home with Comprehensive Education for Sexuality (2017). Also, since 2015, the radio programme Talk With Me has been aired to guide families and society on positive discipline. In addition, the first national helpline to improve children's access to protective services will be launched in 2018.

Migration dynamics, particularly irregular migration, have generated new needs and concerns for the protection, care and development of children and adolescents in El Salvador. Recent studies on migration have revealed that violence – in particular gang-related and gender-based violence – in addition to limited access to social services, family reunification and the lack of opportunities are among the leading causes of child migration.

Opportunities

1. Establish an effective multi-stakeholder platform under CONNA, building on the Shared Care Network and the platform set up for the VACS, and thereby actively support the engagement of groups from the health, justice, social inclusion and education sectors, including representatives from the Government, United Nations agencies, civil society, the private sector, academia, faith-based organizations (FBOs) and children;
2. Ensure that reforms to the Law for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents 2009 currently under discussion in the parliament include the prohibition of all forms of VAC, including the explicit prohibition of all corporal punishment and the repeal of all legal defences for its use, and ensure these reforms are appropriately resourced and implemented, including through awareness-raising campaigns and training on positive discipline for parents and professionals;
3. Based on an evaluation of the existing plan and the findings of the VACS, develop the National Action Plan to End Violence against Children through multisectoral and multi-stakeholder consultation; and
4. Develop a transition strategy that will ensure that upcoming candidates (congressional in 2018 and presidential in 2019) from all parties seriously commit to preventing VAC.

References

Encuesta Nacional de Salud-MICS 2014, Resultados Principales
https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS5/Latin%20America%20and%20Caribbean/El%20Salvador/2014/Key%20findings/El%20Salvador%202014%20MICS%20KFR_Spanish.pdf

Reporting into SDGs

El Salvador reported to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2017.

Government contact

Zaira Navas, Executive Director of the National Council for Children and Adolescents



Indonesia



CRC selected recommendations from July 2014:

1. The complete abolition of corporal punishment from all the settings of a child's life;
2. The creation and implementation of the national strategic plan for the promotion of child welfare and protection;
3. The thorough and effective investigation and prosecution of perpetrators that assault, violate or kill children, and the creation of support services for child victims.

Political will and coordination

The commitment of the Government of Indonesia to fulfil and protect child rights is visible in its National Mid-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2015-2019 in which milestones of child welfare and protection are set. Comprehensive policies and programs can be divided into prevention and child protection. In terms of prevention, the country launched a holistic strategy to prevent child rights violations. The strategy, translated into a measurable program called *child friendly district/city*, covers family learning centres, child friendly schools, children's fora and community-based child protection initiatives. Achievements include 68% coverage; 349 out of 516 districts/cities were considered child friendly in 2017. In terms of protection, Government of Indonesia currently enacts Law No. 17/2016 to weighting down penalties for perpetrators of violence against children. This law adds the already established legal documents enacted particularly to protect children such as Law No. 23/2002 on Child Protection, Law No. 11/2012 on Juvenile Justice System and Law No. 35/2014 on the Revision of Child Protection law No. 23/2002. To translate the laws, Government of Indonesia created the National Strategy to Eliminate Violence against Children 2016-2020. The strategy focuses on cross-sector partnership and collecting initiatives from both government institutions as well as community organizations to determine key principles, priority interventions and coordination and monitoring mechanisms. The strategy emphasizes six areas which include: supporting legislation and policy implementation, contesting social norms and values in favour of violence, enhancing loving and supporting child care, providing accessible and quality services for victims, and improving data and evidence. The Government of Indonesia, through the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection currently has a flagship program called 'Three Ends', which stands for ending violence against women and children, ending women and children trafficking and ending economic barriers for women. These three-ending programs are inter-connected, each contributing to one another.

Consultation

The development and implementation of both strategies involves all relevant national ministries, local government agencies, various national and sub-national non-government organizations (NGOs), private sectors, media, religious and community groups, youth and children forum as well as face-to-face and on-line consultation with children.

Data collection

Data collection is carried out using an online system called '*Simfoni*' by which local governments across Indonesia submit their data on cases of violence against children, services provided and progress report of the cases. This system also maps the status of child friendly districts/cities across the country. A systematic literature review and data analysis was also conducted. Moreover, the Government has committed resources to conduct a VACS in 2018 and to continue evaluating the child-friendly district/city program annually.

National road map/action plan

The Government revitalized the Intervention Strategy since 2010 and launched the National Strategy in 2016. These Strategies create links to other existing policies, list priority actions and set out concrete indicators based on the RPJMN.

Implementation and evaluation

Both strategies are in-line with INSPIRE. They are based on the implementation and enforcement of laws, take into account current existing norms and values, promote safe and supporting environments, focus on parenting and caregiving, enhance economic and income generating of women which results in better care of children, emphasize prompt response and support services and acknowledge the importance of education and life skills of children. The evaluation process will take place under the coordination of the Ministry of National Development Planning, in cooperation with the Ministry for Women's Empowerment and Child Protection and the Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Cultural Affairs. With the establishment of SDG Secretariat at the Ministry of National Development Planning, relevant programs and targets are integrated in monitoring relevant SDG targets.

Budget

Significant funds have been allocated across ministries, namely with the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection. The Ministry has experienced an increase of more than 400% in 2015, with 30% allocated to prevention and protection programs.

- Opportunities**
1. Strong and active local NGOs deliver interventions in various parts of Indonesia and establish a National Task Force on Child-Friendly District/City Program and a CSO Alliance on Elimination of Violence against Children. Indonesia child friendly companies, child friendly media network and national and sub-national children forums have also been established and they actively contribute to current child policy development and implementation. This ensures that interventions and coordination are inclusive, multi-sectoral and responsive in Indonesia's decentralized context;
 2. Pilot interventions have been implemented. Many are documented and evaluated for scale up interventions throughout the country;
 3. The Government has embarked on financial benchmarking for child protection studies and has evidence to shift towards prevention programmes;
 4. Availability of funding, appetite for data, and commitment to monitor SDG target 16.2. will lead to a violence against children survey;
 5. Existence of evidence, evaluated model programmes and political commitment set the ground to prohibit all forms of violence against children. This will include child-friendly schools to ensure prohibition is appropriately resourced and implemented, including through awareness-raising campaigns and training on positive discipline for teachers, parents, caregiver institutions and professionals.

- References**
- Act No. 35 Year 2014;
 - Act No. 17 Year 2016;
 - National Mid-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2015-2019;
 - National Strategy on the Elimination of Violence Against Children 2016–2020 www.endviolenceagainstchildren.org/assets/uploads/2016/05/Indonesian-VAC-Strategy-2016-2020.pdf

Reporting into SDGs Indonesia reported to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2017.

Government contact Pribudiarta Nur Sitepu, Ministerial Secretary of the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection





Jamaica

CRC selected recommendations from March 2015:

1. The implementation of a national strategy with a coordinated and organized approach to address including prevention activities and awareness campaigns;
2. The amendment of its legislation to prohibit corporal punishment and the approval of the National Safe School Policy which addresses the issue of violence in schools;
3. The formulation of a national strategy to establish an easy accessible mechanism for children to report cases of violence, and the subsequent protection services for the child—victims.

Political will and coordination

Prime Minister Andrew Holness stressed the need for urgent and combined commitment to deal with the threat of violence: “As a pathfinder country, Jamaica is committed to providing comprehensive, coordinated and multisectoral services for preventing and responding to violence. We are prepared to strengthen legislation to protect children from all forms of violence and exploitation by bringing all sectors together in a movement to end violence and provide children with a meaningful role at the heart of that movement. Through this partnership, we are making use of a key opportunity to take the lead in making a difference and we owe it to our beloved children to do so.” The lead ministry, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information (MOEYI) of Jamaica, with support from UNICEF, has appointed a senior coordinator (consultant at the University of the West Indies Institute of Criminal Justice and Security) to the technical working group (TWG) on VAC. The group includes representatives from the prime minister’s office and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Health, Education, Labour and Social Security, as well as from child-focused NGOs and foundations.

Consultation

The Jamaican Government decided to review existing interventions, policies and legislation to enable greater combined action guided by the global INSPIRE strategies. In November 2016, close to 100 stakeholders from six ministries and key government line agencies, the United Nations, the private sector, academia, youth and civil society representatives met at the Office of the Prime Minister, for a high-level launch of the Jamaican initiative. In addition to the TWG on VAC, the Violence Prevention Alliance in Jamaica continues to provide guidance and information on all forms of violence to government agencies, NGOs, FBOs, community-based organizations and the media and is working to finalize Jamaica’s Pathfinder Road Map, coordinated by MOEYI.

Data collection

The World Bank/UNICEF supported Crime Observatory Project combines data about crime and violence from several organizations, including the Jamaica Constabulary Force and the University of the West Indies Institute of Criminal Justice and Security. These data are being used by UNICEF, the Jamaica Umbrella Group of Churches and other agencies to target interventions for children. In addition, Jamaica published its first multi-stakeholder national study on bullying and peer abuse, *Investigating the Prevalence and Impact of Peer Abuse (Bullying) on the Development of Jamaica’s Children* (UNICEF Jamaica, 2015).

National road map/action plan

The Government of Jamaica has been working on evidence-informed policy initiatives and programmes, including prohibiting corporal punishment in early childhood institutions; passing the Child Care and Protection Act; supporting the National Plan of Action for Child Justice; and establishing the Office of Children Advocate, the Office of Children Registry and the Early Childhood and Parenting Support Commissions. In addition, the MOEYI is spearheading the development of the National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence. Cabinet approved the National Plan of Action on Gender based Violence which was launched on 6 December 2017.

Implementation and evaluation

Key initiatives to end VAC in Jamaica include the following interventions within the INSPIRE strategies: (I) set up separate lock-ups for children, separating males and females, and legislation allowing video evidence in court; (R) establish a hospital-based child abuse mitigation programme (CAMP Cornwall) in a region experiencing high levels of violence; (N) support the Behaviour Modification and Corporal Punishment in Schools task force; and (E) scale up the UNICEF-supported School-wide Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support framework in government schools.

Budget

The Government of Jamaica currently spends JM\$14 billion (US\$110 million). An additional JM\$3.26 billion (US\$26 million) per year is needed, representing an additional JM\$3,800 (US\$30) per day for each child in Jamaica.

Opportunities

1. Finalize the National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence based on data being collected in the country;
2. Conduct a study on the economic impacts and costs resulting from the consequences of physical, psychological and sexual VAC;
3. Ensure ongoing support for the coordination of a multi-stakeholder group on VAC; and
4. Expand programmes, such as the Child Resiliency/Peace Management programme, and the School-wide Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support framework to ensure prohibition is appropriately resourced and implemented, including through awareness-raising campaigns and training on positive discipline for parents and professionals

References

Summary of Activities—10 Years of Working for a Violence-Free Jamaica, Violence Prevention Alliance, 2015

Reporting into SDGs

Jamaica will report to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2018 (July).

Government contact

Kamina Johnson-Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and Floyd Green, Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information.



Mexico

CRC selected recommendations from July 2015:

1. The implementation of stronger preventive measures to ensure the appearance of campaigns, state initiatives and road maps;
2. The creation of assistance programmes for street children with the purpose of educating, reconciling and reintegrating these victims within the society;
3. The establishment of child-friendly complaint mechanisms in educational establishments, health centres, juvenile detention centres and any other child-usable setting.

Political will and coordination

Mexico took an important step forward in the realization of children's rights in 2014 by approving the General Law on the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents. The law enshrines the rights and principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in national legislation and established the National System for the Comprehensive Protection of Children – a policy coordination mechanism operating at different levels of government – and Child Protection Authorities, which are mandated to develop childcare and restitution plans in cases of violence and other child rights violations. Subsequently, in December 2016, to institutionalize the development and implementation of the NAP, an Intersectoral Commission on Violence was created within the National System for the Comprehensive Protection of Children's existing framework. The Commission's work is organized through seven subgroups that respond to each of the INSPIRE strategies. The Government adopted the Central American Regional Roadmap on Violence against Children in 2011, which includes a commitment to prohibit all corporal punishment of children.

Consultation

The process to develop the NAP took six months and was highly participatory. It involved 31 institutions of the federal government, 24 CSOs, 3 autonomous bodies, the chambers of the National Congress, academia, WHO and UNICEF. Children and adolescents were also consulted through participatory methodologies.

Data collection

Over the last few years, Mexico has significantly increased its understanding of VAC – especially on corporal punishment, physical and sexual violence suffered by adolescents, violence in schools and homicides, and perceptions of violence – through several data collection exercises, including four censuses, four administrative records and six national surveys. In addition, a mapping exercise of the interventions currently implemented by the Government, CSOs and other actors was carried out through a desk review and questionnaire designed by UNICEF Mexico. This exercise was well received as it allowed the organizations to present their areas of expertise.

National road map/action plan

The Mexico National Action Plan to End and Respond to Violence Against Girls, Boys and Adolescents was launched in August 2017, linked to the implementation of the General Law of the Rights of Children and Adolescents of December 2014. The NAP includes 31 concrete actions articulated around the seven INSPIRE strategies and cross-cutting activities, which define the goals to be reached by the end of 2018 (when this administration will end) and the accountable institutions. The first phase

of implementation focuses on strengthening current Government interventions. The second phase aims to reinforce implementation and coordination in three Federal Entities of Mexico through pilot projects: Baja California Sur, Guerrero and Tamaulipas. The subnational governments will receive technical support. The third and last phase will provide the opportunity to further define actions until 2030.

Implementation and evaluation

Key initiatives to end VAC in Mexico include the following interventions within the INSPIRE strategies: (I) legalize the prohibition of corporal punishment; (N) establish a national media campaign; (R) strengthen Child Protection Authorities and other protection mechanisms, as well as detection mechanisms (e.g., the 911 helpline and hospitals); and (S) expand ongoing life skills and violence prevention programmes in schools. Cross-cutting actions include strengthening data to fill gaps, particularly in terms of determining the prevalence of violence in the age span of 0 to 18 years.

Budget

The National Action Plan was launched on 2 August 2017 by the ex-Minister of Interior, Miguel Angel Osorio Chong. A range of sectors, among them media, civil society, academia, local governments and private-sector organizations, made commitments to implement the NAP through specific contributions.

Opportunities

1. Ensure the strong mobilization of civil society in the pilot states (Tamaulipas, Guerrero, Baja California Sur) and undertake a VACS in each to strengthen future programme evaluations;
2. Develop a transition strategy to ensure upcoming candidates from all parties seriously commit to preventing VAC;
3. Develop a financing strategy that involves the private sector; and
4. Enact bills currently under discussion in the parliament that aim to prohibit all corporal punishment of children, and ensure prohibition is appropriately resourced and implemented, including through awareness-raising campaigns and training on positive discipline for parents and professionals.

References

Plan de acción de México para prevenir y atender la violencia contra niñas, niños y adolescentes
www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/244447/PLAN_DE_ACCI_N_DE_M_XICO_resumen.pdf

Reporting into SDGs

Mexico will report to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2018 (July).

Government contact

Alfonso Navarrete Prida, Minister of Interior and Ricardo Bucio Mujica, Executive Secretary of the National System for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents





Montenegro

CRC selected recommendations from October 2010:

1. The adoption of a new National Plan of Action for Children in light of the Convention and the ratified Protocols;
2. The implementation of an Anti-Violence Strategy for the reduction of child abuse/ violence, which stresses the need to utilize awareness-campaigns;
3. The augmentation of the quality of the school in terms of interactive teaching methods, better equipment of school and acknowledgement of child violence.

Political will and coordination

The Government recently adopted the first-ever Strategy for the Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence 2017–2021 to achieve a Montenegro free of VAC. With the same aim, in 2016, the Family Law of Montenegro was amended, prohibiting all forms of VAC, including corporal punishment. In January 2016, the Government of Montenegro instigated annual high-level inter-ministerial meetings on the protection of children from violence and exploitation, with the objective of fostering intersectoral cooperation, facilitating dialogue on the problem at the highest political level and directing government policy in this area. Reiterating the Government's commitment to end VAC and to promote systematic efforts to prevent it, a multi-year campaign, End Violence, was launched by the Prime Minister of Montenegro in July 2016. The first phase addressed online violence, while the second phase, initiated at a high-level conference in February 2017, focuses on family violence and all forms of childhood adversity. This conference, as well as public talks about children and parents held in 22 of 23 municipalities, sparked a public debate on the protection of children from all forms of violence.

Consultation

Montenegro's national Action Plan 2017–2021 to prevent and protect children from violence was developed through multi-stakeholder, multisectoral consultations that included the Government, UNICEF, NGOs, academia, the media and youth networks.

Data collection

The first survey on adverse childhood experiences was carried out in 2013; it reported a high prevalence of violence and other adversity in childhood at a policy dialogue supported by WHO. In the same year, the research institute Ipsos carried out a survey on the awareness, attitudes and practices of VAC. In 2016, the SOS helpline for women and children victims of violence Niksic, the Centre for Women's Rights and UNICEF conducted a similar survey among the public related to VAC. In addition, research was conducted on the online experiences of children and parents within the Global Kids Online research network developed by UNICEF Innocenti in collaboration with the London School of Economics.

National road map/action plan

In 2017, the Government launched the first Montenegro Strategy for the Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence and the Action Plan 2017–2021. It sets out the vision, goal and strategic objectives with a multidisciplinary response, and covers key areas, such as schools, primary health care centres, social services and the judicial system. Community-based operational multidisciplinary teams for protection from family violence and VAC, now operating in 17 municipalities, have created a comprehensive multisectoral approach to the protection of children from all forms of neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation..

Implementation and evaluation

Designing a system to monitor and evaluate is one of the strategic objectives of the Action Plan. It aims to implement six INSPIRE strategies; the proposed interventions include: (I) amend the Labour Code to incorporate provisions stipulating a record of no prior convictions for severe VAC, in particular sexual exploitation or abuse, as a job requirement for people working with children; (S) eliminate the repeated victimization of child victims and witnesses by setting up separate child-friendly rooms in the courts and prosecution offices, separating the child from the perpetrator, using video links to interview children in separate rooms and upgrading the equipment; (P) enhance the quality and frequency of home visits by nurses to families with newborn babies; and (R) set up child and adolescent psychiatric wards and develop quality services to work with the perpetrators of VAC.

Within the WePROTECT global programme on fighting online child sexual exploitation, the Net Friend educative mobile app for children was launched to raise awareness of online safety among children, the general public and professionals.

Budget

The cost of each intervention is estimated on a yearly or one-time basis.

Opportunities

1. Quantify the key performance indicators and organize an effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism; and
2. Ensure the implementation of the 2016 ban on corporal punishment, including awareness-raising campaigns and training on positive discipline for parents and professionals.

References

Montenegro Strategy for the Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence and the Action Plan 2017–2021

Reporting into SDGs

Montenegro reported to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2016.

Government contact

Kemal Purišić, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare



Nigeria



CRC selected recommendations from June 2010:

1. The effective prohibition of the application of the death penalty to persons under 18 years of age;
2. The adoption of child violence awareness-raising activities and dialogues with traditional leaders and training for adults and children;
3. The adoption of a bill to outlaw torture and ensure that no person under the age of 18 is subject to torture or other forms of inhuman, degrading or cruel treatment.

Political will and coordination

The Nigerian National Population Commission conducted the VACS in 2014. The findings galvanized a strong political reaction at the federal and state levels. Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari committed to ending VAC and launched the Presidential Year of Action to End VAC in 2015, coupled with the publication of *Ending Violence Against Children in Nigeria – Priority Actions*, developed by a high-level TWG comprised of government agencies, civil society and FBOs. The President renewed his Government's commitments in 2016 by launching the Presidential Campaign to End Violence Against Children by 2030 in line with the SDGs, alongside a *Road Map for Ending Violence Against Children*, which includes a commitment to develop a comprehensive NAP. Seven federal states have also launched their own campaigns to end VAC, developing similar *Priority Actions*. The campaign is supported by UNICEF and PEPFAR, with financial support from USAID, CDC and the European Union. For the parts of the country affected by humanitarian efforts, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs convenes monthly Humanitarian Coordination Meetings in Borno and supports the government-led State Humanitarian Coordination Forum, including the Protection Sector Working Group and its subgroups on child protection and gender-based violence.

Consultation

The TWG is convened and chaired by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development. Seven federal states have established TWGs. The TWGs at the federal and state levels include representatives from key government institutions and civil society entities, including legal aid providers, NGOs and religious groups. The TWG led consultations to develop the *Priority Actions*, the *Road Map* and the *Annual Progress Review* documents involving ministries and NGOs from 19 states and religious leaders representing 24 groups in Nigeria. The findings of the Drivers of Violence Against Children and different assessments of public investment also engaged the TWG.

Data collection

Nigeria was the first country in West Africa to undertake a VACS (2014). Led by the National Population Commission of the Federal Government of Nigeria, the survey was technically supported by CDC and UNICEF. It consisted of a cross-sectional household survey of females and males aged 13–24 years, designed to produce national-level estimates of experiences of violence. The Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development is leading the expansion of child protection information management systems in both development and emergency contexts, producing regular data on providing services to children victims of VAC.

National road map/action plan

Nigeria's Road Map for Ending Violence Against Children by 2030 was published in October 2016. It states that the Government of Nigeria is committed to ending VAC in all settings. The Road Map addresses the most serious forms of violence, including corporal punishment, but does not specifically commit to eliminating all forms of corporal punishment. The TWG is currently developing a National Action Plan and Social Norms Change Strategy.

Implementation and evaluation

National priority focus areas in the Road Map include the following: 1) implementing laws and policies to prevent and respond to violence; 2) escalating efforts to prevent violence and enhancing the response to violence; 3) increasing investment in child protection; 4) improving research, monitoring and evaluation on VAC; and 5) modelling the child protection system. *Ending Violence Against Children in Nigeria – Priority Actions* is a key document that identifies the main partners and actions to undertake under each strategy. Recognizing that the *Priority Actions* do not contain budget allocations, a time frame or a monitoring and evaluation framework, the Government of Nigeria has committed to developing the NAP in 2018.

Budget

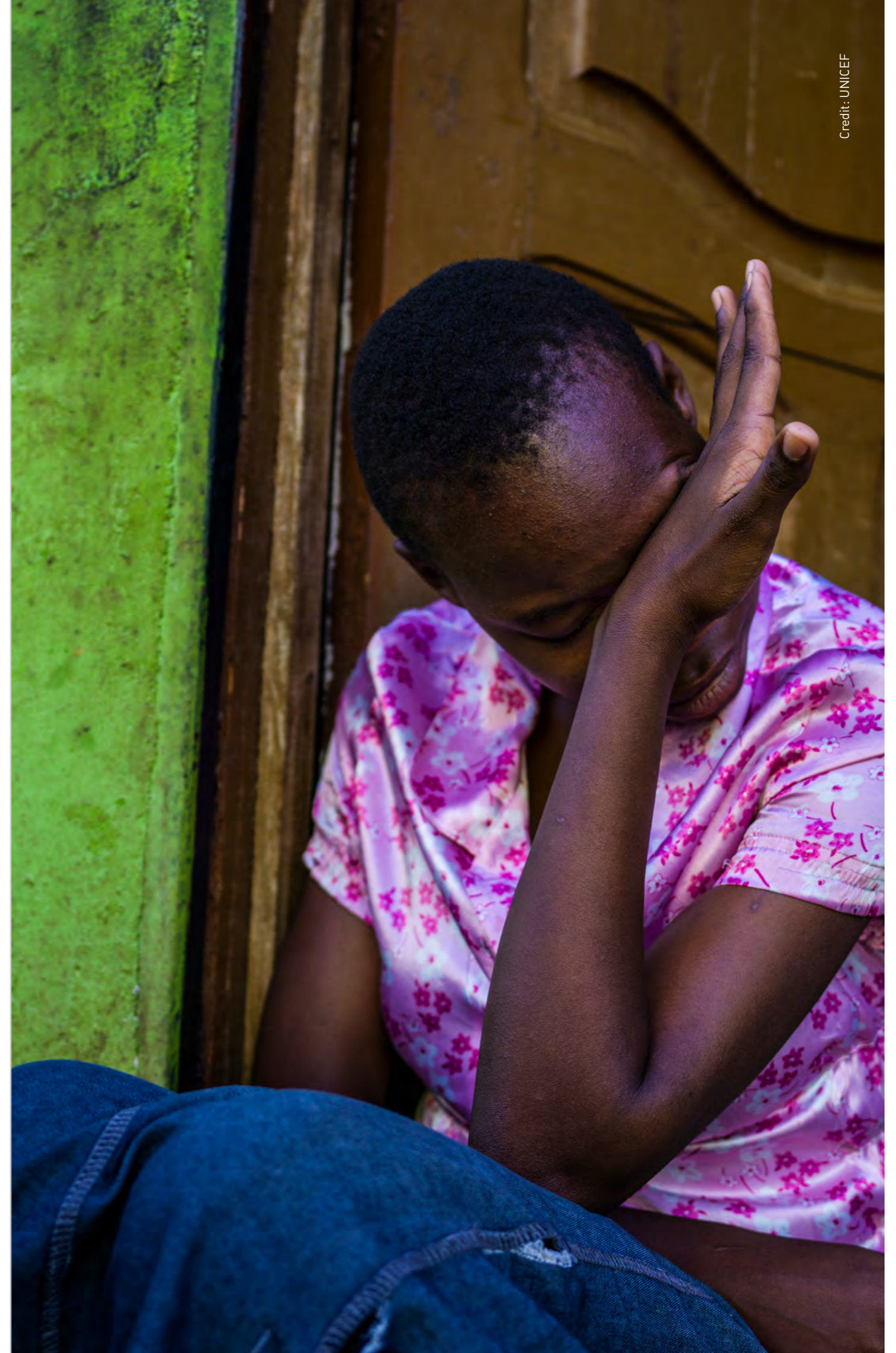
In 2017, UNICEF supported the Government of Nigeria in its first baseline assessment of child protection expenditure, the *Child Protection Financial Benchmark*, and started analysing the costs and budgets of child protection services; results should be available in the first quarter of 2018. These studies materialize the presidential commitment made in the *Road Map* and are expected to inform the development of a sound budget for the implementation of the *Priority Actions*.

- Opportunities**
1. Develop a comprehensive national plan to end VAC with an associated timeline, budget, identification of clear responsibilities and national targets in view of the baseline obtained from the VACS;
 2. Develop a Social Norms Change National Strategy addressing VAC, linked to the NAP;
 3. Conduct a study on the economic impacts and costs resulting from the consequences of physical, psychological and sexual VAC, which will constitute a powerful advocacy tool along with the *Financial Benchmark* and costing of the child protection services;
 4. Continue to promote the Child Rights Act of 2003 which, to date, has been enacted in 24 states (out of 36 in the Federation); the state Child Rights Laws specifically prohibit all forms of VAC and corporal punishment;
 5. Continue modelling the government-led comprehensive programme to end VAC in Nigeria in nine states by building sustainable child protection systems for replication across the country; enhance integrated service delivery and information management systems that have garnered promising results (an initial 25 per cent increase in services provided to children reporting cases was recorded in Cross River, one of the model states). This compares to the VACS findings indicating that less than 5 per cent of children (2 per cent of boys) reporting VAC cases actually receive any type of support; and
 6. Use lessons from the humanitarian response in the north-east of the country to cross-fertilize programmes in development and in emergency affected states.

References *Nigeria – a Pathfinding Country: A Road Map for Ending Violence Against Children*
www.unicef.org/nigeria/resources_11014.html
Ending Violence Against Children in Nigeria – Priority Actions
www.unicef.org/nigeria/resources_11013.html

Reporting into SDGs Nigeria reported to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2017.

Government contact Jummai Mohammed, Child Development Director, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development





Paraguay



CRC selected recommendations from February 2010:

1. The harmonization of its legislation with the principles and provisions of the Convention and the strengthening of its current domestic legislation;
2. The empowerment and coordination of the National Council for Childhood and Adolescence to ensure the efficiency of the national system for child protection. Hence, the designation within municipalities of respective councils for children;
3. The implementation of a new national plan of action in accordance with the Convention and the ratified Protocols.

Political will and coordination

In 2013, the President of Paraguay formally adopted 20 *Commitments to Improve the Quantity and Efficiency of Investment in Childhood and Adolescence*, with support and leadership from UNICEF. Progress towards the eradication of VAC is one of the goals of this document, elevating its importance to the highest political level. Every year, government agencies are held accountable for these promises, reporting to children and NGOs on their progress on the indicators. In the same year – and as a follow-up to the recommendations of the United Nations Study on Violence against Children and a subregional meeting held in 2011 – a presidential decree was issued to create the National Commission for Prevention and Response to Violence against Children and Adolescents.

Consultation

This multisectoral commission is comprised of representatives from government ministries and agencies, local government, the justice sector and civil society, and is coordinated by the National Secretariat for Children and Adolescents. Over the last five years, the commission has spearheaded important advances to eradicate VAC, including: strengthening intersectoral coordination among response services; raising the visibility of VAC on the public agenda, especially with regard to sexual violence against girls; and, in 2016, passing Law 5659, which prohibits corporal punishment of children.

Data collection

The first representative research sample on this topic at the national level was published in 2011. In May 2017, a follow-up report was launched, entitled *The Drivers of Violence Affecting Children in Paraguay*. The report synthesizes key findings available in the literature, as well as community perceptions that perpetuate VAC. In November

2017, with support from UNICEF, the Government launched the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, which covered nearly 8,000 homes across Paraguay. The survey, the first of its kind in the country, found that nearly 50 per cent of those interviewed used violence as a form of discipline, highlighting the pressing need to work with families and caretakers to reduce VAC.

National road map/action plan

In 2017, in parallel to the publication of the Drivers report, the Government of Paraguay launched the National Plan of Action for the Protection of Children from All Forms of Violence (2017–2021). It contains a road map and priorities for guaranteeing the right of children to protection from VAC.

Implementation and evaluation

The National Plan of Action aims to implement all seven INSPIRE strategies; the proposed interventions include the following: (I) follow up on the legislative initiatives on violence; (N) initiate a communications campaign to raise awareness of the prevention of sexual VAC and adolescents, namely on the distortion of the use of power between adults and children; (P) create spaces for caregivers to socialize experiences and receive specialized attention from psychologists; (I) establish partnerships with combined savings and credit associations of Paraguay; and (R) train the Case Referral Center staff on comprehensive care for children and adolescent victims of sexual violence.

Budget

The cost of the National Plan of Action is estimated at US\$50 million for a five-year period. The current budget for the direct care of children and adolescents is US\$12,000. With additional support from NGOs and cooperation agencies, only 5 per cent of the annual funding for care is available.

Opportunities

1. Review the National Plan of Action in 2018 to align it with the evidence gathered for the study published in *The Drivers of Violence Affecting Children in Paraguay* report;
2. Map all existing stakeholders and coordinate efforts in an effective way;
3. Report on the implementation of the National Plan of Action in June 2018; and
4. Ensure the implementation of the ban on corporal punishment, including awareness-raising campaigns and training on positive discipline for parents and professionals.

References

National Plan of Action for the Protection of Children from All Forms of Violence (2017–2021); *The Drivers of Violence Affecting Children in Paraguay*, Asunción: UNICEF

Reporting into SDGs

Paraguay will report to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2018 (July).

Government contact

Ricardo Gonzalez Borgne, Executive Secretary of the National Secretariat for Children and Adolescents



Philippines

CRC selected recommendations from October 2009:

1. The harmonization of its legislation with the principles and provisions of the Convention and the strengthening of its current domestic legislation;
2. The ascertainment of an adequate mechanism to ensure implementation of the national plan and the collaboration of municipalities;
3. The strengthening of its awareness-raising campaigns, especially in remote and rural areas. In addition, ensure the utilization of media to develop more child-oriented products.

Political will and coordination

The Secretary of Social Welfare and Development is the appointed focal point for ending VAC in the Philippines. In 2016, the Council for the Welfare of Children, the national agency for children's issues, took the lead on developing the Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence against Children.

Consultation

The Council for the Welfare of Children led a multi-stakeholder consultation actively involving 43 government agencies, international and local NGOs, FBOs, CSOs, academia and 75 children and their caregivers from different regions of the country.

Data collection

A national survey on VAC was conducted in 2015 in the Philippines, the first country in the region to begin this process. Subsequently, the National Baseline Study on Violence against Children: Philippines was published in 2016. Meanwhile, A Systematic Literature Review of the Drivers of Violence Affecting Children: the Philippines was also released in 2016. The report draws from 149 research studies to explore risk and protective factors and how they interact to create drivers of violence in the country.

National road map/action plan

The Government finalized the Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence against Children in December 2017. This Plan of Action translates the findings of the two studies into action and focuses on breaking the cycle of violence by addressing its root causes. The six key results that serve as preconditions for reducing VAC by 2022 are the following:

- 1) Parents and caregivers are aware of and practising evidence-based parenting skills and positive discipline with a view to building a safe, nurturing and protective environment;
- 2) Children and adolescents demonstrate personal skills in managing risks, protecting themselves from violence, reporting their experience of violence and seeking professional help when needed;
- 3) Children in need of special protection have access to appropriate and quality protective, social, mental, health, legal, economic and judicial services, ensuring that violence and trauma are prevented from recurring;
- 4) A well-developed and effectively managed monitoring and evaluation system for the Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence against Children is in place;
- 5) All VAC-related laws are in place and successfully enforced; and
- 6) Multi-stakeholder child protection structures and systems at the national, provincial, municipal, city and barangay levels are operational and effectively functioning.

Implementation and evaluation

Lead and implementing agencies have been identified for each measure. A national workshop will be conducted to determine how the Plan of Action will be evaluated. This Plan of Action aims to implement five INSPIRE strategies; the proposed interventions include: (N) advocate the passage and effective enforcement of laws and policies on VAC (e.g., the Positive Parenting Bill, the localization of child protection policies); (R) deliver free legal counselling and aid for child victims of abuse, exploitation and neglect, and provide a child-sensitive and popularized helpline for children to report all forms of violence and exploitation and receive counsel; and (E) integrate age-appropriate life skills and personal safety lessons in the preschool, elementary and high-school curricula of public and private schools, and promote evidence-based parenting skills.

Budget

The cost of around 80 per cent of the measures in the Plan of Action has been estimated, but the budget is inadequate to accomplish the key objectives. In addition, the total budget and sources of finance are unclear.

Opportunities

1. Finalize the Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence against Children advocacy and communications plan and secure funding;
2. Ensure that the Plan of Action is mainstreamed within the Third National Plan of Action for Children;
3. Quantify the key performance indicators and organize an effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism, linked to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and SDG reporting;
4. Craft an implementation plan in local government units and areas; and
5. Enact legislation as a matter of priority to promote the positive and non-violent discipline of children.

References

The Philippines: An Historic Opportunity to End Violence Against Children
www.aidsdatahub.org/sites/default/files/publication/Philippines_Pathfinder_to_end_violence_against_children_2016.pdf

Reporting into SDGs

The Philippines reported to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2016.

Government contact

Mary Mitzi Cajayon-Uy, Executive Director, Council for the Welfare of Children



Romania

CRC selected recommendations from July 2017:

1. The development of awareness-raising programmes of different types of violence affecting children, including campaigns addressing social norms and beliefs around violence against children, for the general public and professionals;
2. The thorough investigation of all cases of violence of children, the holding of perpetrators accountable and the strengthening of social reintegration programmes for child victims;
3. The promotion of positive and non-violent forms of child discipline against corporal punishment.

Political will and coordination

The National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights and Adoption (NAPCRA), within the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, is the appointed focal point for End Violence in Romania. The committee focusing on violence, a subcommittee under the National Coordination Committee, includes members of the Government, UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision and a federation of 70 NGOs. To reinforce the high-profile political agenda, the End Violence campaign was launched nationally in March 2017, in the presence of the prime minister, key ministries and civil society. During the launch, all participants firmly committed to combating VAC, making it a priority issue on the agenda to promote children's rights in Romania. The country's efforts to tackle VAC have grown progressively over the last two decades and resulted in noticeable effects in policies and practices at all levels and in all relevant areas. Further steps were taken through successive national legislation to ban, prevent and combat all forms of abuse, neglect, trafficking or exploitation. In 2004, Romania became one of 54 countries to fully ban all forms of physical punishment of children through the Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Child. The institutional capacity of social services was boosted and local intersectoral cooperation mechanisms were established to provide intervention in all forms of VAC.

Consultation

Romania's National Strategy for the Protection of the Rights of the Child 2014–2020 was developed through multi-stakeholder, multisectoral consultation, including NGOs, academia and children. The subcommittee benefits from direct dialogue with representatives of various ministries (e.g., the Ministries of Interior, Public Administration, Justice, National Education, and Health) as well as the Ombudsman.

Data collection

In addition to the primary data on VAC provided by the National Statistics Institute, further data were collected through a second national study on the abuse and neglect of children (2013), an Adverse Childhood Experiences survey (2012) and three HBSC surveys (2006, 2010, 2014). The situation of children in state care was also systematically analysed in a 2016 NAPCRA, UNICEF Romania and World Bank national study. With support from WHO, the first adverse childhood experiences survey was conducted in 2013, and the high prevalence of VAC and other hardship in childhood was reported at a policy dialogue. World Vision Romania conducted a national survey on VAC in 2016, the first segmentation study on the issue of VAC in Romania and possibly in the world. Furthermore, the Child Protection Index was developed, a regional initiative originating in Romania that measures the gaps between the principles of the

Convention on the Rights of the Child and the reality on the ground. Lastly, Save the Children Romania is mapping the partners working on VAC and updating a 2014 situation analysis.

National road map/action plan

National road map/action plan: Romania is committed to closing all remaining conventional residential care facilities by 2020 and thus to provide one third of the institutionalized children with family-based care alternatives. It is one of very few countries that have banned the institutionalization of children less than 3 years of age. In terms of a road map, a self-assessment of the situation of VAC was first conducted by the NAPCRA, with technical assistance from UNICEF Romania in consultation with the established VAC subcommittee. Based on its findings, a National Road Map with Annual Action Plans will be submitted in early 2018. Romania will chair the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2019.

Opportunities

1. Develop annual action plans based on self-assessment findings; and
2. Ensure the implementation of the National Strategy for the Protection of the Rights of the Child, with a strong focus on measures banning any form of VAC and on preventing and combating such violence.

References

References: *Governmental Decision for the approval of the National Strategy for the Protection of the Rights of the Child 2014-2020*
[www.copii.ro/categorii_legislatie/hotarari-de-guvern/ nr 1113 in 2014](http://www.copii.ro/categorii_legislatie/hotarari-de-guvern/nr_1113_in_2014)
Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Child
[www.copii.ro/categorii_legislatie/legi-si-ordonante/ nr 272 republished in 2004](http://www.copii.ro/categorii_legislatie/legi-si-ordonante/nr_272_republicat_in_2004)

Reporting into SDGs

Romania will report to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2018 (July).

Government contact

Gabriela Coman, President, National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption





Sri Lanka

CRC selected recommendations from October 2010:

1. The participation and the involvement of all of the society in the designation and implementation of preventive strategies against child violence;
2. The implementation of a national strategy to prevent, combat and punish child abuse and violence. This comprehends the undertaking of broad awareness programmes and trainings of officials who are in direct contact with the victims and the public at large;
3. The creation of adequate protection mechanisms for victim-children through the imposition of restraining and removal orders against the alleged perpetrators.

Political will and coordination

In March 2017, the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs of Sri Lanka set up a secretariat to operationalize the pathfinding process in the country, further strengthening the Government's commitment as well as its coordination with UNICEF, CSOs and other national partners. The Ministry then revived the multi-stakeholder coordination group (i.e., the National Committee for the Monitoring of the Rights of the Child established in 1993 to verify the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child). The Committee, chaired by the Ministry, is the highest authority to make collaborative decisions for the realization of children's rights. Along with six members appointed by the President of Sri Lanka, the Committee is comprised of secretaries or heads of departments from 17 ministries and government agencies with a child rights mandate. With support from UNICEF, the Ministry developed the 'Preventing Violence Against Children in Sri Lanka Country Discussion Paper', which lays out a situation analysis including key issues, opportunities and next steps. The paper was presented at the launch of the National Partnership to End Violence Against Children by 2030 by the Government and partners in June 2017. Sri Lanka committed to protecting its children from violence, for example prohibiting the corporal punishment of children, the most prevalent form of violence against them, at the July 2006 meeting of the South Asia Forum and, during the UPR of Sri Lanka in 2017, it clearly accepted a recommendation to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings. However, prohibition has yet to be achieved in the home, alternative care settings, day-care centres, schools and certain penal institutions.

Consultation

Spearheaded by the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and UNICEF, consultation to develop the 'Country Discussion Paper' involved representatives from World Vision, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages, LEADS, ChildFund Alliance, the Foundation for Innovative Social Development, WHO, the United Nations Population Fund, UNDP, the Employers' Federation of Ceylon, the private sector (including Cargills Bank and the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce), USAID, the Open University of Sri Lanka at Nawala, the University of Colombo, and Development Pathways. The process also entailed consultations with children and adolescents.

Data collection

Given the scale of change experienced in Sri Lanka over the past decade, including the end of the civil war in the northern and eastern parts of the country in 2009, studies more than 10 years old may already be outdated. Sri Lanka is a diverse country, and national data can easily mask disparities between and within regions; for example, health and education statistics differ sharply from region to region. In addition, administrative data are an important – but underutilized – source of information. The 'Country Discussion Paper' provides the available evidence that children in Sri Lanka are at risk of violence in many forms, but further investigation into the prevalence and drivers of violence is needed.

National road map/action plan

In contrast to other documents, the 'Country Discussion Paper' bases its recommendations on empirical evidence. According to its findings, Sri Lanka is developing a national road map that will outline key milestones to achieve its SDG targets for 2030. The next immediate step is to develop the Sri Lanka National Plan of Action to End Violence against Children, which is already in progress.

Implementation and evaluation

The 'Country Discussion Paper' affirms the aim to implement all seven INSPIRE strategies; the proposed interventions include: (I) provide training and systems to manage cases and monitor child victims throughout the justice system; (N) implement training and minimum standards to protect children from harmful media reporting, which often reinforces ethnic and gender stereotypes, promotes violence as a conflict-resolution tool, sensationalizes sexual violence and stigmatizes victims; (P) strengthen programmes with the health sector to help vulnerable parents to prevent child abuse and violence in the home; and (E) work with the country's 3,867 Children's Clubs as entry points for building children's life skills, knowledge and participation.

Budget

The approximate annual cost of the National Plan of Action will be estimated after the work plan is finalized.

Opportunities

1. Undertake a VAC prevalence study in 2018 with the Department of Census and Statistics of Sri Lanka;
2. Develop partnerships with the private sector; and
3. Explicitly prohibit all forms of VAC, including all corporal punishment, in the home and in alternative settings, and ensure prohibition is appropriately resourced and implemented, including through awareness-raising campaigns and training on positive discipline for parents and professionals.

References

Preventing Violence Against Children in Sri Lanka Country Discussion Paper
www.unicef.org/srilanka/Sri_Lanka_Report_WEB.pdf

Reporting into SDGs

Sri Lanka will report to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2018 (July).

Government contact

Chandrani Senarathna, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs



Sweden

Implementation and evaluation

The measures outlined in the action plan and strategy are aligned with the seven INSPIRE strategies. Some of the key initiatives to prevent and respond to VAC include the following: (I) as the first country in the world to ban corporal punishment in the home, also adopt legislation to protect children from other forms of violence, including sexual abuse and exploitation, female genital mutilation and child marriage (an important step in further strengthening legislative protection of children's rights is the ongoing initiative to incorporate the Convention on the Rights of the Child into domestic law); (N) increase children's knowledge about where to seek help and support through materials on social services designed by the National Board of Health and Welfare and the Ombudsman for Children, produced in collaboration with children themselves (available at www.kollpasoc.se); (R) build the capacity of key professionals and sectors, such as social workers, the health care sector and the judicial system (the Government has also appointed a national coordinator to improve support services for children and young people, working in coordination with municipalities); and (E) improve student's ability to identify and prevent violence, and take effective measures to address it (the Government has amended the degree descriptions in the Higher Education Ordinance to include instruction on violence against women and domestic violence in education and training for relevant professional groups). The Government continuously monitors the action plan to protect children from human trafficking, exploitation and sexual abuse, and the strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women.

Budget

The approximate annual cost of the Action Plan to Protect Children from Human Trafficking, Exploitation and Sexual Abuse 2016–2018 is SEK 11 million. The Government has commissioned various agencies to strengthen research and knowledge sharing on VAC to inform policy and programming (e.g., research on children's experiences and parents' attitudes towards corporal punishment, children's exposure to sexual exploitation on the Internet, children with disabilities' risk of exposure to violence, and a knowledge centre for issues concerning unaccompanied children).

Opportunities

1. Raise awareness of VAC and inform baseline assessments, using existing data compiled through recent studies;
2. Review the progress made against existing action plans and other government measures to end VAC, and develop a road map to end the violence beyond 2018 through a participatory process using existing multi-stakeholder platforms;
3. Continue work to review sex education and investigate relationships in schools as a preventive measure to combat violence; and
4. Continue to lead the way, as the first pathfinding country prohibiting the corporal punishment of children in all settings, and support countries in their efforts to end this practice and to establish comprehensive prevention and responses to VAC, including strengthening the child protection system.

References

About what must not happen – a roadmap: The Swedish Government's Action Plan to Protect Children from Human Trafficking, Exploitation and Sexual Abuse 2016–2018 (English summary)
www.government.se/4a18d0/contentassets/81ce0fc0eaa4d09a9f807b5c0017f21/about-what-must-not-happen.pdf

Reporting into SDGs

Sweden reported to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2017.

Government contact

Pernilla Baralt, State Secretary to the Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality

CRC selected recommendations from March 2015:

1. The undertaking of awareness-raising programmes and campaigns specifically targeted at children to eliminate all forms of discrimination and abuse;
2. The implementation of policies to ensure that no refugee child is deported with parents or guardians if the former have suffered violence and abuse under their case. The adoption of practices that provide the refugee-child's best interests;
3. The adaptation of the domestic laws in line with the Convention and the ratified Protocols, and the understanding that the Convention is supreme once the provisions of domestic laws conflict with the Convention.

Political will and coordination

Ensuring children's rights is a key priority for the Government of Sweden. The State Secretary to the Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality of Sweden is the appointed focal point for End Violence. In 2017, a multi-stakeholder coordination platform to end VAC was established with government authorities, NGOs, academia, the private sector and faith-based communities.

Consultation

The Child Welfare Delegation and the multi-stakeholder coordination platform to end VAC serve as structures for the consultation, collaboration, coordination and monitoring of key government measures to end VAC in all settings.

Data collection

Various agencies and authorities, such as the national knowledge centre on VAC, the Children's Welfare Foundation, the Ombudsman for Children and the National Board of Health and Welfare, conduct research and share knowledge on the issue of VAC. For example, the Government has granted funding to the Children's Welfare Foundation to carry out the Violence against Children 2016 Swedish National Survey to deepen its understanding of children's experiences of corporal punishment, sexual violence, psychological violence, neglect, domestic violence and bullying.

National road map/action plan

In June 2016, the Government adopted an updated action plan for 2016–2018 to protect children from human trafficking, exploitation and sexual abuse. The action plan contains 23 measures aimed at preventing abuse, protecting and supporting children, and creating the conditions to effectively prosecute the perpetrators of such abuse. In November 2016, the Government adopted a 10-year strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women. The strategy calls for greater protection of and support for children who have witnessed or experienced violence; improved capacity to combat honour-related violence and oppression; and an evaluation of the 2014 legislative amendments on forced and child marriage.



Uganda

CRC selected recommendations from November 2005:

1. The abolishment in the law of corporal punishment in all settings concerning the child;
2. The implementation and development of a new Uganda National Programme of Action for Children under the auspices of the Convention and the ratified Protocols;
3. The strengthening of its efforts to ensure that the provisions of the Convention and the ratified Protocols are widely acknowledged by adults and children. Therefore, this stresses the need to reinforce systematic training of all concerned professional groups.

Political will and coordination

The Permanent Secretary of Gender, Labour and Social Development is the appointed focal point to prevent and respond to VAC in Uganda. The focal point person coordinates multisectoral and partner efforts to end VAC in the country. The National Action Plan for Child Well-Being 2016–2021 acknowledges that individuals, families, communities and government leaders all have a role to play to create a social safety net for children. The Children's Act was amended in 2016 to ban corporal punishment in schools, among other actions. The Amendment Bill, however, fell short of a full ban also in the home. Uganda accepted several recommendations in the UPR of 2016 to protect children from all forms of violence, so a clear opportunity to proceed to full prohibition of corporal punishment exists.

Consultation

In 2012, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development established the national Child Protection Working Group, which operates within its institutional framework and mandate. The Working Group draws on the expertise and resources of child protection agencies. By the close of 2014, the Working Group comprised 40 active national child protection stakeholders drawn from government institutions, the United Nations and civil society, led by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. Members meet bimonthly while the Working Group standing committees organized around particular focus areas meet at least once a month to deliberate on the implementation of activities within the Working Group annual work plan.

Data collection

The Uganda VACS was conducted under the leadership of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development with funding from PEPFAR through USAID and CDC, Wellspring Advisors and UNICEF. A technical working group led the planning process and adapted the survey from a core protocol. The AfriChild Centre for Excellence, through ChildFund International and the Makerere University School of Public Health, led the survey implementation, while UNICEF coordinated the study, CDC provided technical assistance and TPO Uganda (Transcultural Psychosocial Organization) managed the response plan. The preliminary survey findings can be found in a document entitled Uganda VACS Preliminary Report. The results were discussed in a data-to-action workshop and went through a process of local interpretation. The full report is expected in 2018.

National road map/action plan

Uganda is currently developing the Child Policy, which is in its advanced stages. The Policy and its accompanying NAP is informed by the VACS data. Other child protection policies being developed include provisions banning VAC and a framework for girl and adolescent health.

Implementation and evaluation

Key initiatives for ending VAC in Uganda include the following actions within the INSPIRE strategies: (I) implement the amended Children Act; (R) promote the Reporting, Tracking, Referral and Response Guidelines on Violence against Children in Schools to create violence-free learning environments; (E) build a positive school climate and prevent school-related gender-based violence through activities outlined in *Journeys: Activity Handbook for Teachers and School Staff*; and (P) strengthen families using the Parenting Guidelines and undertake the development of an action plan to address and prevent online child sexual abuse. The Refugee and Host Population Empowerment strategic framework, a key component of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), is a transformative approach to bring together a wide range of stakeholders to ensure more effective programming to support the humanitarian/development nexus.

Opportunities

1. Disseminate the VACS findings and uniform messages on preventing and responding to VAC;
2. Improve health care services for child victims of violence, as well as referral to and among other service providers, such as social workers, psychologists and lawyers;
3. Create safe spaces for disclosure and providing services in the community and schools;
4. Engage leaders, service providers and community members in a campaign to change social norms; and
5. Explicitly prohibit all forms of VAC, including all corporal punishment, and ensure prohibition is appropriately resourced and implemented, including through awareness-raising campaigns and training on positive discipline for parents and professionals.

References

Uganda National Action Plan for Child Well-being 2016–2021
<https://eprcug.org/children/publications/national-action-plan-for-child-well-being-2016-2021-goals-objectives-and-actions>

Reporting into SDGs

Uganda reported to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2016.

Government contact

Lydia Wasula, National Coordinator, Orphans and Vulnerable Children, National Implementation Unit, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development



United Republic of Tanzania



CRC selected recommendations from March 2015:

1. The abolition of corporal punishment within the law in all settings that concern the child;
2. The establishment of a body at inter-ministerial level with a mandate and authority to coordinate all sectors relevant to child violence;
3. The strengthening of its efforts to disseminate the principles of the provisions of Convention and the ratified Protocols in the local communities.

Political will and coordination

In 2016, new NAPs to address violence against women and children were developed and launched, one for mainland Tanzania and one for Zanzibar. These NAPs recognize that violence cuts across many sectors and thus requires a multi-stakeholder coordination system to oversee the implementation at the national and subnational levels. The Permanent Secretary to the Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children is the appointed focal point to end VAC in mainland Tanzania, while the Permanent Secretary in the ministry responsible for children in Zanzibar is the focal person. A working group came together in 2016 to compose the National Plan of Action to End Violence against Women and Children in mainland Tanzania 2017/18–2021/22 and a parallel group was formed in Zanzibar. The National Plan of Action calls for one, unified multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism, with accountability at the most senior level in the Office of the Prime Minister. Linking the coordination platform to the Office of the Prime Minister ensures responsive collaboration across ministries.

Consultation

The National Plan of Action was developed by consolidating eight government action plans addressing violence against women and children into one single comprehensive plan to eradicate such violence, and by undergoing a rigorous consultation process. Eight government ministries, CSOs, development partners, FBOs, children and young people participated in the multi-stakeholder platform. The participation of all stakeholders in the review and consultations has heightened ownership in the new National Plan of Action across ministerial and civil society partners.

Data collection

The most recent national VACS for the United Republic of Tanzania was conducted in 2009, with results published in 2011. In 2017, the Government of Zanzibar conducted a mobile-phone-based national survey to collect data on attitudes towards violence and violent practices. The findings of the national survey were presented to the President of Zanzibar during a special cabinet meeting in October 2017 and are intended to inform the implementation of the National Plan of Action and engagement with communities to effectively prevent and respond to VAC. The National Plans of Action for mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar establish coordinated monitoring mechanisms to ensure robust data collection and reporting on the plans' implementation from the local to the national level.

National road map/action plan

Mainland Tanzania published its *National Roadmap to End Violence against Children* in July 2016. The road map clearly states the Government's commitments to develop the National Plan of Action to reduce violence against women and children; articulate critical national actions, priorities and milestones; establish effective senior government oversight; identify sector and stakeholder roles and responsibilities; promote the role of children as main stakeholders; invest in ending violence; and track and assess progress over time. The Governments of the mainland and Zanzibar launched their National Plans of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children in December 2016 and August 2017, respectively. These plans set out the overall national vision, their costs and the evidence-based actions required to comprehensively address violence against women and children. They are specifically informed by the INSPIRE strategy and focus on the prevention of violence, with particular emphasis on working directly with communities and families to break the cycle of violence experienced by women and children.

Implementation and evaluation

The National Plans of Action in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar aim to implement all seven INSPIRE strategies; the proposed interventions include: (N) develop a communication strategy to promote positive norms and values and address gender inequalities; (S) create and sustain safe and accessible spaces for women and children throughout communities; (P) develop a national parenting framework, guidelines and a Care Action Plan; and (E) support the training of women and promote economic groups, Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies and Village Community Banks/Community Savings and Investment Promotion. The United Republic of Tanzania has adopted a CRRF that supports the inclusion of refugees into national systems of service delivery, such as education and health. The CRRF also builds on the United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP II) 2016–2021, centred on the SDG approach of 'leaving no one behind'.

Budget

The costs of the National Plans of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children in the United Republic of Tanzania have been estimated for a period of five years to be US\$117.4 million for the mainland and US\$19.9 million for Zanzibar.

Opportunities

1. Increase both plans' focus on violence prevention through primary prevention and early intervention efforts, and generate evidence-based strategies to support prevention programming;
2. Develop and implement a National Plan of Action communication strategy and monitoring and evaluation plan;
3. Under the National Plans of Action, establish an integrated coordination mechanism at the national and subnational levels; and
4. Validate the estimated costs of the plans to provide a clear picture of the financial and human resources required to comprehensively address VAC.

References

National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children in Tanzania 2017/18–2021/22
www.mcdgc.go.tz/data/NPA_VAWC.pdf
National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children in Zanzibar
<http://bit.ly/2nqIFBY>

Reporting into SDGs

The United Republic of Tanzania will report to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2019 (date to be confirmed).

Government contact

Sihaba Nkinga, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children

Countries in discussion

Recently, the Governments of Mongolia and South Africa formally expressed their commitment to become pathfinding countries. The Government of Mongolia has endorsed the mission and principles of End Violence and committed to a range of activities to end VAC as part of the pathfinding process. The Government of South Africa is in the process of identifying a high-level government official to lead the pathfinding process. More information on these countries' efforts will be communicated in the next progress report.

Countries currently considering becoming pathfinding countries include the following:

- **Africa:** Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi
- **America:** Belize, Brazil, Canada, Dominican Republic, Peru, Uruguay
- **Asia:** Cambodia, Japan, Malaysia, Viet Nam
- **Europe:** Estonia, Georgia, Malta, Switzerland
- **Middle East:** Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates

While progress has been remarkable, the obstacles to becoming pathfinding countries are threefold:

1. **Lack of political will.** In some countries, while CSOs or certain sectors, such as health or social services, are strongly advocating for a multisectoral and multi-stakeholder initiative, the government has not made the prevention of VAC a priority. In other countries, the issue is considered a priority in theory but in practice the effort has not been effectively supported with required financing. Strategies to overcome the lack of political will are to identify governments' previous achievements and propose strengthening concrete areas, based on commitments towards the SDGs and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
2. **Decentralization.** Countries that adopt a federalist approach are characterized by self-governing states or regions under a central (federal) government. Sovereign power is formally divided between a central authority and a number of constituent regions so that each region retains some degree of control over its internal affairs. The advantage of federal states in violence prevention is that regions can advance on programming effectively and share lessons. The disadvantage is that, unless the prevention of VAC is raised politically at the federal level, certain regions may choose not to prioritize the issue. A strategy to overcome this challenge is to support 'pathfinding regions' while advocating for a national coordination platform.
3. **Lack of visibility and perceived worth.** Obstacles related to the internal operations of End Violence, as a new and emerging initiative, include the need to better demonstrate the added value of becoming a pathfinding country. Some countries, such as Namibia, have shown great progress in terms of political will and programming but are not showcasing their work at the global level. A strategy to overcome this hurdle is to encourage countries to present their work, provide them with technical support and encourage donors to support their efforts to end VAC.

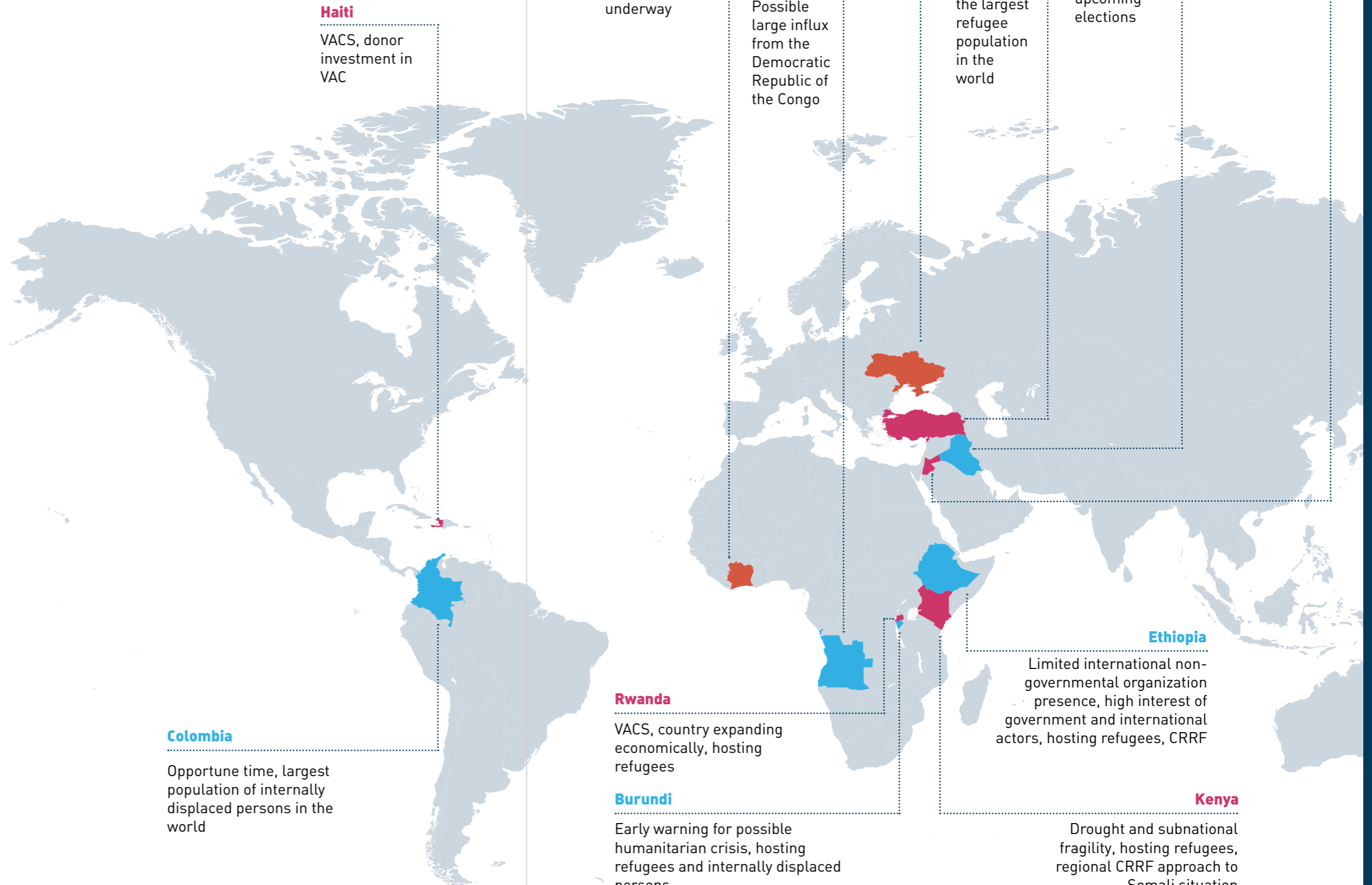


Humanitarian settings

The engagement of End Violence in humanitarian situations is to:

1. Support existing pathfinding countries to end violence against all children on their respective territories, regardless of their nationality or displacement status;
2. Actively reach out to additional countries affected by migration or humanitarian crises impacting children;
3. Work with humanitarian actors to explore opportunities to modify, adapt and implement INSPIRE strategies as part of the broader child protection response; and
4. Raise attention to the specific needs of children in the context of migration and humanitarian settings, and fundraise in support of existing mechanisms, to prevent VAC.

Linked to the second engagement, End Violence will work in close collaboration with key stakeholders, including UNHCR, the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Settings and the Special Representatives of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children and for Children and Armed Conflict, and will reach out to five of the following nations with the aim of making them pathfinding countries.



Haiti

VACS, donor investment in VAC

Colombia

Opportune time, largest population of internally displaced persons in the world

Côte d'Ivoire

Significant government commitment to ending VAC, discussions already underway

Rwanda

VACS, country expanding economically, hosting refugees

Burundi

Early warning for possible humanitarian crisis, hosting refugees and internally displaced persons

Angola

Possible large influx from the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Ukraine

Problems to include internally displaced persons in the national social system, strong coordination

Turkey

Hosting the largest refugee population in the world

Iraq

Large displacement (refugees and internally displaced persons), strong coordination, upcoming elections

Jordan

Willingness to work towards SDGs, high interest of government and international actors, hosting refugees

Ethiopia

Limited international non-governmental organization presence, high interest of government and international actors, hosting refugees, CRRF

Kenya

Drought and subnational fragility, hosting refugees, regional CRRF approach to Somali situation

3

Analysis of overall progress and gaps

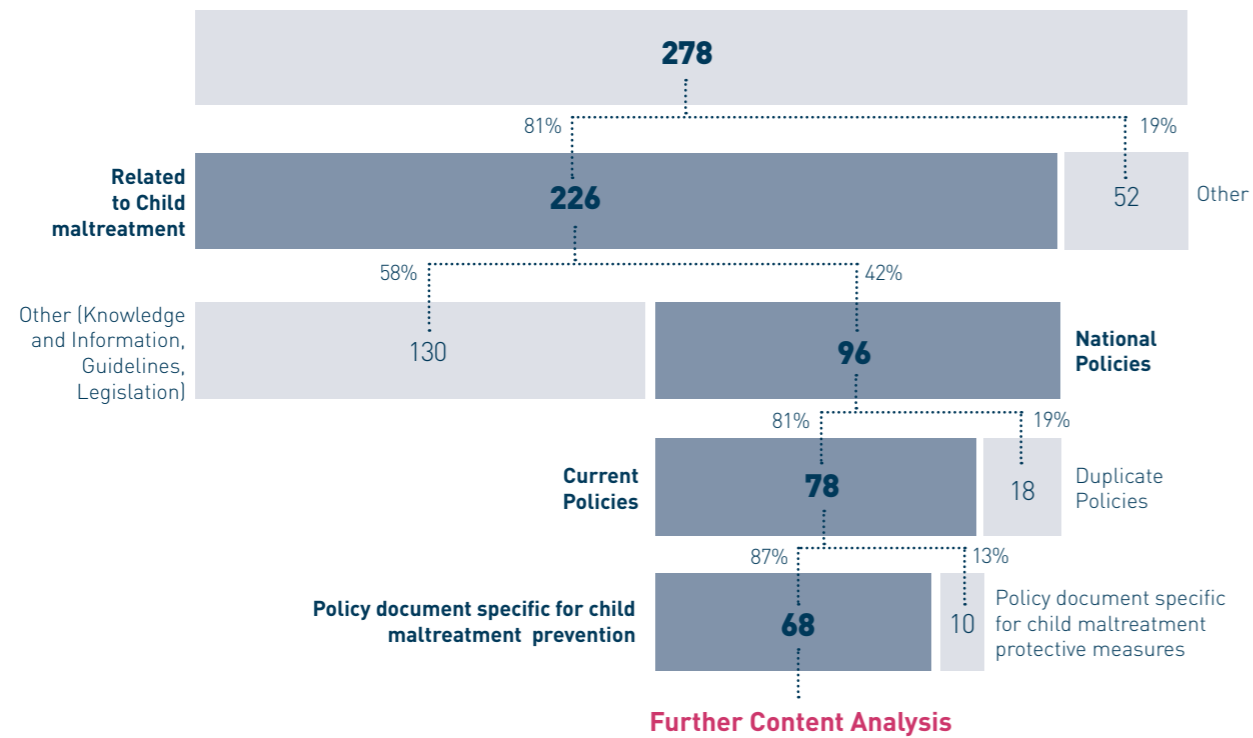
Galvanizing political commitment

Strong foundations In many cases, the Ministry of Social Affairs remains the line ministry in charge of efforts to end VAC, and other sectors follow without elevating the prevention of violence to a higher priority. A government's genuine and complete leadership is central to the success of ending VAC at the national level. A senior inter-ministerial focal point is essential to drive the process forward. Many pathfinding countries also need greater strategic, technical, research and financial support to maximize their chances of success. All will benefit from strengthened platforms for learning and mutual accountability.

Key partners The role of three key actors is critical to the success of the pathfinding process at the national level: the government, UNICEF and CSOs. When one actor does not engage in a meaningful way, the process slows and implementation weakens. While UNICEF has been the local focal point for the pathfinding process in most countries, CSOs have also taken that role in some cases and used their influence and resources to advance the process in some countries. Excellent coordination and results occur in countries where both UNICEF and CSOs work together under strong government leadership.

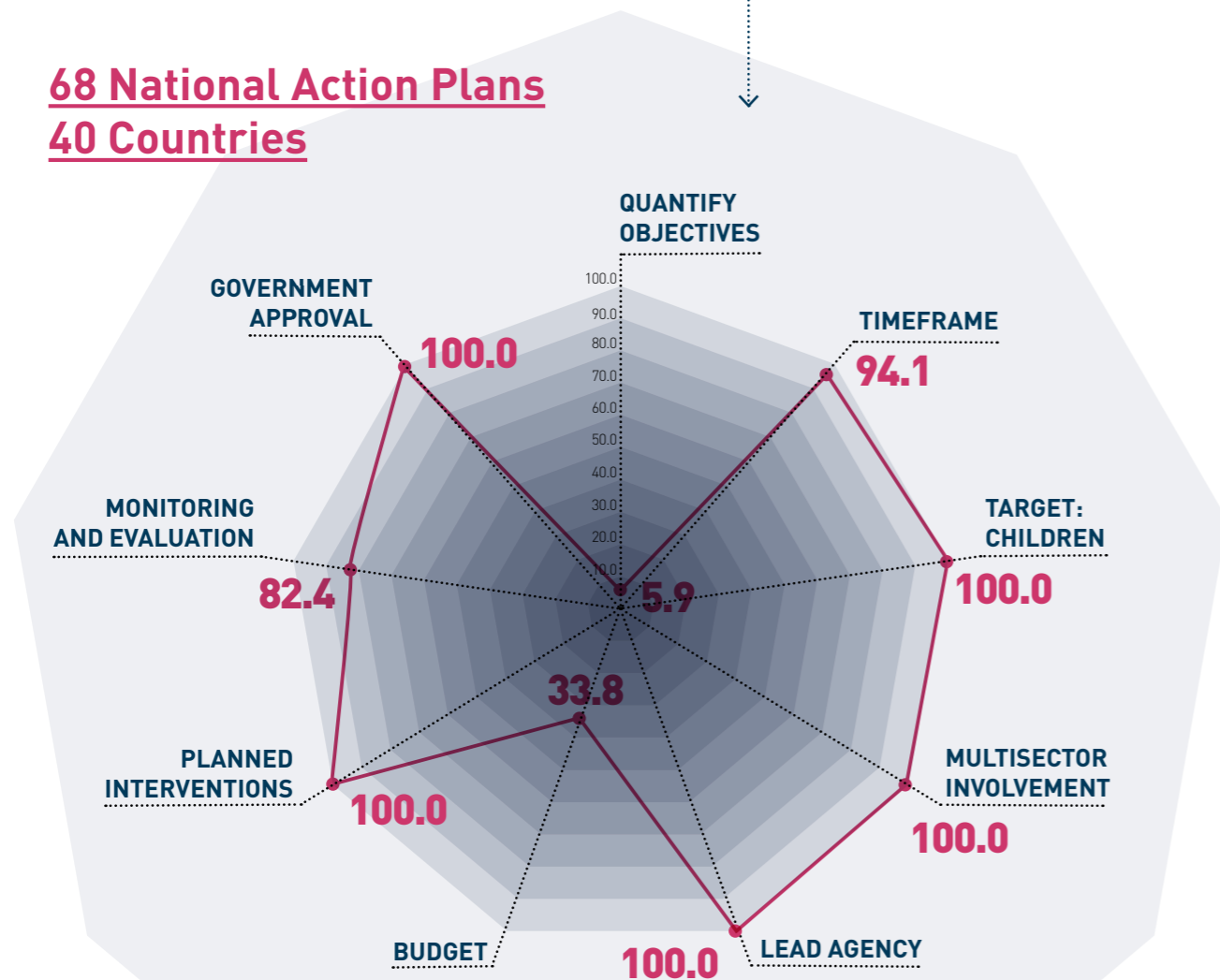
Streamlining national action plans Two models for developing a NAP are carrying over an existing plan or starting the plan from scratch. The World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe conducted a desk review of national policy documents related to child maltreatment in 40 European countries; the results are shown below. Building on existing plans is cost-effective, but starting from afresh has allowed renewed commitments and new actors to join in developing and implementing the plan.

278 National Documents relating to VAC 40 Countries



Further Content Analysis

68 National Action Plans 40 Countries



Accelerating country actions

Urgency and data

In most countries, data on the prevalence, drivers and/or impacts of different forms of VAC are available and clearly show that many children are exposed to various forms of violence. Gaps in data exist but action can be taken on the basis of the best available data. Additional information must be built in stages. This also allows governments to move ahead with plans and stakeholders to agree on the urgent need to act to protect children accordingly.

Multi-stakeholder platforms

In most countries, a coordination body linked to the prevention of violence already exists. End Violence takes advantage of these mechanisms and further strengthens them by improving coordination and capacity and/or inviting additional stakeholders and partners, including from the media and private sector. If no coordination body exists, a country's government and partners are requested to establish one before developing any plans or implementing strategies.

Civil society engagement

CSOs are the largest constituency at the national level and are very diverse, ranging from small national NGOs to large international non-governmental organizations (INGOs). Key CSOs include INGOs, NGOs, FBOs, parents and children. If individual CSOs are not forthcoming or do not successfully organize themselves to engage in the pathfinding process, the government and/or UNICEF may decide which partners to solicit.

Prevention

All stakeholders agree on the need to increase focus on the prevention of VAC. The INSPIRE package for the prevention of VAC, which is based on validated global evidence, is an excellent tool to justify an increased investment in preventing – and not just responding to – VAC.

Capacity building

Capacity building and training local actors in communities are critical to violence prevention. Strengthening the skills of local players in various organizations and institutions as well as existing projects embeds violence prevention at the grass-roots level.

Implementing INSPIRE

To date, most national road maps and action plans have aligned their narrative to INSPIRE strategies. An important step before allocating further resources to their implementation is to assess what is already in place by mapping the existing and ongoing activities, programmes and projects at the local, provincial or national level to clearly understand the gaps and ensure the most efficient use of resources.

Sharing lessons learned

- Learning** Governments and partners around the world are implementing programmes but most have not been monitored or evaluated, and the culture of sharing lessons between stakeholders is not strong. A more robust approach to evidence-informed programming based on good monitoring, evaluation, learning and sharing of information and experience will help to make existing initiatives and investments more effective.
- Sharing lessons** Countries are keen to share the lessons they have learned throughout the pathfinding process. According to one country representative after a virtual exchange of lessons between Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Tanzania, one of the many strengths of End Violence is “linking layers across the globe to share experiences on ending violence against children”.

Funding for the field

To date, despite recognition of the human and economic costs of the problem and its overall scale, very little is known about how much is spent and when and how funding is allocated to prevent, or respond to, VAC. In terms of official development assistance (ODA), most donors make no systematic effort to track how much is spent on this effort. In contrast to other issues, such as gender equality or reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, no internationally agreed methods of tracking and recording expenditures related to ending VAC yet exist.

For the first time in history, through a 2017 World Vision-managed effort culminating in the publication *Counting Pennies, A Review of Official Development Assistance to End Violence Against Children*, a global estimate of annual investment through ODA on ending VAC is provided. The report is the result of a detailed study of ODA data available through the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Total ODA spending for 2015 was US\$174 billion. Of that, less than 0.6 per cent was allocated to ending VAC. The 107 recipient countries had a total of 1.66 billion children in the reference

year, yielding an average investment of less than US\$0.65 per child that year. The report identified Australia, Canada, European Union institutions, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States as the largest ODA funders to end VAC. Together they provided the bulk of the US\$1.1 billion in ODA allocated to initiatives addressing VAC in 2015.

Further assessments of individual countries' current level of domestic investment and of the effectiveness of current ODA investments, coupled with existing estimates of the scale of violence and cost of proven solutions to end it, would help donors to better allocate resources to the areas of greatest need. This study's main recommendations are that individual donors should systematically track spending to end VAC as a separate category, and that the OECD Development Assistance Committee database should explore the inclusion of a specific marker. Donors tracking their spending on this issue would make it possible to monitor the annual contribution of global ODA to achieving the SDG targets to end VAC.



Guided by progress to date, End Violence recommends that governments:

- 1. Strengthen stakeholder engagement** by ensuring that platforms are empowered to make collective decisions and expand beyond their current constituencies to include the private sector, academia and donors;
- 2. Advance multisectoral action** by identifying and promoting sustained actions across sectors that can contribute to and support the implementation of national action plans to end violence against children;
- 3. Advocate for and raise awareness** of the evidence-based strategies in INSPIRE by mainstreaming them into national action plans and organizational policies; prioritize the explicit prohibition in legislation, and the elimination in practice, of all corporal punishment of children – the most common form of violence against them – in all settings, including in the home;
- 4. Advocate for the mobilization of resources** by identifying and sharing information on existing and potential sources of finance and cooperation mechanisms at the local, national, regional and global levels to expand programmes to end violence against children; and
- 5. Specifically recommend** that the End Violence Secretariat **ensure depth over breadth** by developing an engagement strategy for each pathfinding country with priorities and commitments for 2018 and 2019.

4

Recommendations