



Government focal points

Mr Simon Masenga
 Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public
 Service, Labour and Social Welfare
 (MoPSLSW)
 Pathfinding since October 2019



**Government
Contacts and
References**

Recent developments: National Action Plans, Laws, and Budget

2013

The National Baseline Survey on the Life Experiences of Adolescents (NBSLEA), the first VACS survey is launched in Zimbabwe. In 2014, Zimbabwe officially joins the Multi-Country Study on the Drivers of Violence Affecting Children, led by UNICEF's Office of Research – Innocenti.

2016

*Launch of the **National Action Plan III for orphans and vulnerable children (2016-2020)** informed by the first VACS and drivers of violence study.*

2016

Release of the report 'Addressing Social Norms that Underpin Violence Against Children in Zimbabwe: Findings and Strategic Planning Document. Harare: Ministry of Public Services, Labour and Social Welfare, 2016. The study was conducted to better inform prevention interventions.

2019

Idai cyclone and a severe drought affects Zimbabwe, further impacting on the already deteriorated socio-economic situation.

Launch of the second VAC survey initiated in 2017 by the Ministry of Health and Child Care.

A national multisectoral coordination committee on online safety is launched (ZICOP).

2019

Participation in the regional ToT training on INSPIRE in Namibia- draft INSPIRE implementation plan developed by the MoPSLW.

Zimbabwe joins the Global Partnership to End Violence against children- official announcement during the CRC ceremony.

Bill banning corporal punishment in schools under discussion in Parliament.

A National Action Plan for ending Child Marriages 2019-2021 is launched.



**Multistakeholder
Collaboration and
Consultation
with Children**

The coordination body for VAC in Zimbabwe is the 'Working Party of Officials' ('WPO) which coordinates the NAP for OVC. The WPO is chaired by the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (MoPSLSW) and includes justice, health, education sectors, UNICEF and various CSOs. For the development of the more comprehensive EVAC NAP, a dedicated committee will be formed under the WPO, composed of relevant Government, CSOs and UN stakeholders.

Zimbabwe has also additional coordination for a Victim Friendly System (VFS)- discussion on sexual violence which brings social and justice sectors together as well as coordination body around justice which is called Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS). The later discusses justice and law enforcement policy and programmes and includes the MoJ, Police, Prosecution, justice and rights CSOs. In addition, a Task Force has been established in 2019 on online safety, co-chaired by UNICEF and the Zimbabwean Police (ZRP) which includes the ICT Ministry, MoPSLSW, SC and other key stakeholders to address this emerging issue.

Plans for strengthening child participation are underway.

- In 2013, a Violence against children national survey ('National Baseline Survey of Life Experiences of Adolescents Report') was released. It indicated that both boys and girls experienced unacceptable high level of sexual and physical violence, with girls at higher risk of sexual violence, and that only a small percentage of those experiencing violence
- were accessing services. The results of the study informed a multi-sectoral protocol to address child abuse and sexual violence. In October 2014, the Government of Zimbabwe and the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development launched a National Girls' and Young Women's Empowerment Framework, which detailed the
- Government's commitment to empowering girls and young women to contribute to the country's economic future and development. The findings also informed the review of other existing National Action plans such as the National Action plan for Orphans and Vulnerable children. In 2014, Zimbabwe joined a multi-country study on the drivers of
- violence to understand the underlying causes of violence. This led to the adoption of a social norm strategy as well strengthening the Harmonized Cash Transfer Program with complementary child protection interventions.



Data Collection and Situation Analysis

In 2019, the second VACS was released by the Ministry of health and childcare. While there had been some improvements in terms of VAC, it remains a concern. Both girls and boys still experience unacceptably high rates of sexual and physical violence. Access to services remains a concern with only 14% of girls telling someone about experiencing sexual violence receiving services.

In 2019, the MoPSLW participated in the regional ToT training on INSPIRE in Namibia and drafted an INSPIRE implementation plan. Additional in-country training for the coordination body and partners was contemplated in 2020 but was postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic. However, some of the INSPIRE strategies are already included into the OVC NAP 2016-2020 and will be included into the development of the comprehensive EVAC NAP which is in progress.



Collective Action and INSPIRE

Reporting into CRCs and SDG

Reported to the CRC in 2016.
Underwent UPR in 2016.



Reported to the High-Level Political Forum in 2017.



Will undergo its next UPR in 2021.



Opportunities for 2020 where End Violence will engage (on hold due to COVID-19 situation)

Build political will

1. Setting-up of an inter-ministerial committee to coordinate the implementation of the INSPIRE and development of a comprehensive NAP for Ending Violence Against Children.

Development of a comprehensive EVAC NAP which incorporates and builds on existing NAP and INSPIRE framework, including violence against women and girls, emergency preparedness, violence in schools and online safety.

Resource mobilization

4. Support budgeting and resource mobilization for the national action plan.

Equip practitioners

5. Organize a training on INSPIRE for the EVAC coordination body and partners to support the development of a comprehensive NAP.

Ensure child participation in the development of the NAP and comprehensive EVAC NAP plan through the development of a Child participation tool.

Compilation of existing VAC evidence generation, learning and VAC-related data to guide responses