



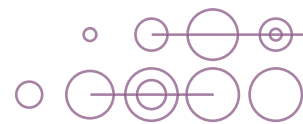
Zimbabwe's Statement

Zimbabwe became a pathfinding country in October of 2019. As part of the Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit series, the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare of Zimbabwe has made commitments to end violence against children and issued the Leaders Statement.

Key highlights from the Leaders statement are as follows:

1. Cross-sectoral training on the INSPIRE framework.
2. Review, update and development of a consolidated National Action Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children including dedicated section on Ending Violence Against Children.
3. Advocate for the enactment of the Cyber Security Bill to foster online safety.





Solutions Summit 2020: Zimbabwe update

Post becoming the 27th Pathfinding Country in October 2019, Zimbabwe has moved with speed in the implementation of pathfinding obligations. The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare, Mr. Simon Masanga was appointed as the face of prevention of Violence Against Children in Zimbabwe. Through his leadership, the country is progressing in the implementation of the VAC prevention including the INPIRE framework.

Successes

Zimbabwe efforts to realise SDG goal 16.2 on eradication of all forms of violence is progressing. Tangible successes, along the long road, have been realised. Key highlights include;

- Ongoing review and alignment of laws with the Zimbabwe's Constitution Section 81 - Children's Bill of Rights. Some of the key legislations include review of the Children's Act, the Child Justice Act and the Harmonized Marriages Act.
- Zimbabwe is in the process of reviewing the NAP III and development of a National Action Plan on Ending Violence Against Children. The two plans will be integrated, with dedicated sections on Ending VAC. The plan will heavily draw from the INSPIRE framework.
- Zimbabwe conducted a Qualitative Rapid Assessment of Online Sexual Violence against Women and Children in Zimbabwe. From the findings, Zimbabwe is modelling response strategies along the "We Protect" Model National Response.
- To support sustainable Child Protection funding, Zimbabwe has included child protection in the National Development Strategy 1 (2021-2025). The NDS1 is the channel through which government funds will be channeled for the next five years.
- Zimbabwe was able to adapt service delivery to respond to the COVID-19. Through online reporting using hotlines, safe and reporting mechanisms were maintained during the lockdown. Prevention of Gender Based Violence and Violence Against Children were designated as essential services- thus allowed to continue during the lockdown period.
- Zimbabwe is also pushing with a systems and integrated approach to VAC prevention, with clear linkages being established and supported across key Ministries of Health, Justice, Education and Social Welfare to allow for synchronized prevention and response.

Gaps

Zimbabwe, inspite of successes, still has notable gaps in the prevention of VAC. The main ones include;

- The pace of Harmonization of laws and their alignment with the Constitution has not moved at a fast pace. This impede prompt implementation of some of the protection laws and implementation of rights guaranteed in the Constitution.





- Limited VAC prevention has made it impossible to implement, nationally, some of the INSPIRE strategies. The Global Status report (2020) shows that Zimbabwe has attempted to implement most of the INPIRE strategies, but the coverage is localized.
- The absence of a Volunteer Policy and adequate funding to support the Volunteers, has resulted in volunteer fatigue affecting functionality of the crucial child protection volunteer extension workers.
- Coordinated case management and tracking of referrals across ministries is still low. The absence of inter- connected MIS makes it hard to coordinate actors. Zimbabwe therefore still needs to harness VAC efforts across actors for both improved service delivery and optimum use of the existing resources.

Key priorities

Zimbabwe VAC prevention priorities include;

- Capacitating of the Department of Social Development to deliver on mandate (manpower, vehicles and internet).
- Cross sectoral training on the INSPIRE framework.
- Review, update and development of a consolidated National Action Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children including dedicated section on Ending Violence Against Children.
- Review and update of National Case Management tools.
- Advocate for the enactment of the Cyber Security Bill to foster online safety.
- Capacity Building of communities to understand online violence.
- Building capacity of the Justice, Law and Order Officers to understand online violence, how to investigate and prosecute.
- Prioritize implementation of safe schools' concept.

In 2021, Zimbabwe will ensure that all plans include clear determination of VAC prevention targets in objective and measurable ways. Further the government, working with partners, will ensure that a realistic mapping of service expansion is done towards national coverage of VAC prevention initiatives.

