

Using Data to Drive Change: Improving Violence against Children Policy and Programmes

Workshop leads

Chair: Minister Paraguay

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Workshop objectives

The aim of the workshop is to discuss how countries can accelerate action to meet SDG target 16.2 and other violence related targets. Participants will:

- Identify different types of data currently used for evidence-based programming, monitoring of progress and advocacy in their national contexts (e.g. survey, administrative and other forms of data- how do these speak to each other);
- Identify what data gaps exist and suggest actions to address these gaps;
- Identify priority actions moving forward using data and evidence to achieve.

Suggested questions to guide the discussion:

- ✓ What data is needed to support improved advocacy, evidence-based programming and monitoring of progress to fulfil the SDG targets?
- ✓ What steps can be taken nationally, regionally and globally to address existing data gaps?
- ✓ How can existing data be used more effectively to guide national policy and programmes?

Background

The 2006 United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children (VAC) recommended that States develop and implement systemic, national data collection and research efforts in order to identify vulnerable sub-groups, inform policy and programming at all levels, and track progress towards the goal of preventing VAC. Over the past decade, more data have become available on VAC, resulting in a better understanding of children's experiences of violence and countries' responses to it. These data have provided a solid basis for the development of evidence-based policies, strategies and plans of action to prevent and respond to VAC in many countries, though important gaps remain.

With the adoption of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, the importance of investing in national data collection and research efforts on VAC to inform policy and programming, has gained renewed importance, with States being held accountable to report on the SDG targets.

Key facts

Results from national surveys and studies show that children worldwide experience high levels of violence in their daily lives:¹

- Close to 300 million (3 in 4) children aged 2 to 4 experience violent discipline² by their caregivers on a regular basis; 250 million (around 6 in 10) are punished by physical means.³
- 1 in 4 (176 million) children under age 5 live with a mother who is a victim of intimate partner violence.
- Close to 130 million (slightly more than 1 in 3) students between the ages of 13 and 15 experience bullying.⁴
- Around 15 million adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 have experienced forced sex in their lifetime, 9 million of these girls were victimized within the past year.
- Every 7 minutes, somewhere in the world, an adolescent is killed by an act of violence.

Gaps

Despite progress made, the availability of comparable data on VAC remains limited, hampering the ability of countries to report on the SDGs. By the end 2017⁵:

- 79 countries have collected data on SDG indicator 16.2.1 on violent discipline, compared with 39 in 2005.
- 40 countries have collected data on SDG indicator 16.2.3 on sexual violence experienced by girls before age 18, compared with 3 in 2005. Only seven countries collected data on sexual violence experienced by boys before age 18.
- 57 countries have collected data on SDG indicator 5.2.1 on intimate partner violence experienced among adolescent girls aged 15 to 19, compared with 21 countries in 2015.
- 42 countries have collected data on SDG indicator 5.2.2 on non-partner sexual violence experienced among adolescent girls aged 15 to 19, as compared with 14 countries in 2014.

Action

Dedicated investments will be required by countries to report back on SDG 16.2 and other violence-related targets. *INSPIRE* recognizes 'Monitoring and Evaluation' as a cross cutting strategy. To assist governments in this process, *INSPIRE* partners have developed a Core Indicator Guide and Results Framework (see Annex Solutions Summit Guide Annex).

Notes

¹ Ibid.

² Violent discipline is any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by a caregiver or authority figure, including physical punishment and psychological aggression.

³ Physical punishment is any physical act intended to cause pain or discomfort, however light. Includes acts such as shaking, hitting, or slapping on the hand/arm/leg, hitting on the bottom or elsewhere on the body with a hard object, spanking or hitting on the bottom with a bare hand, hitting or slapping on the face, head or ears, and hitting or beating hard and repeatedly.

⁴ Bullying may include pushing and hitting; making fun of people for their race, religion or appearance, or with sexual comments or jokes; repeatedly leaving people out or ignoring them; and sending hurtful messages or posting them online, etc.

⁵ Ibid.

