

The Power of Data to Action

Country experiences and lessons following
Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys

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About the landscape analysis

This presentation highlights a summary report of a landscape analysis prepared by the University Research Co., LLC (URC) and The City of New York Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy.

The report was authored by Kathleen Cravero, Steve Whittaker and Samantha Ski. The analysis of survey results was led by Diana Romero with support from L Ansley Hobbs.

For more information and to view the summary report, visit: <https://iscollab.org/global-learning/>



An aerial photograph of a residential area, likely in a developing country, showing a long, straight road running through the center. The houses are mostly single-story with corrugated metal roofs. There are trees and greenery interspersed among the buildings. In the background, there are hills and a cloudy sky. A blue semi-transparent box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the table of contents text.

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Part 1: The VACS and the Data to Action process

Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys (VACS)

- Nationally representative population-based household surveys
- 13- to 24-year-old males and females
- Generate age- and sex-disaggregated data on prevalence, risk and protective factors of physical, sexual, and emotional violence
- Led by national governments and carried out by local organizations with technical assistance and support from the CDC and TfG partners.



To date, VACS have been or are being conducted in 23 countries, providing data on 12% of the world's children, adolescents and youth.

What are post- VACS efforts ?

Post- VACS efforts include any actions taken to understand, implement or integrate VACS results into policies and programs aimed at preventing or ending violence against children. For example:

D2A Workshops that convene stakeholders to review findings and consider opportunities to address them



One or more public launches of VACS results



Development of policies and/or plans to address and prevent violence against children



Implementation, monitoring and evaluation of those actions

Each of these phases is guided by a **Multisectoral Coordination Mechanism (MSCM)** established by the government to coordinate efforts across the sectors.

Part 2: About the analysis

What was the landscape analysis?

- The first comprehensive review of post- VACS efforts in each country in which a VACS has been undertaken
- Synthesizes the views of 225 stakeholders across 20 VACS countries

225
STAKEHOLDERS
20
COUNTRIES





Multisectoral partners attended the Data to Action workshop in Côte d'Ivoire in 2019. Photo courtesy of Chrissy Hart, Together for Girls.

Who are the 225 participants in the landscape review?

- 177 stakeholders across 15 countries responded to a written survey. They represented government ministries and departments, bilateral and multilateral agencies, international NGOs and local civil society groups.
- 48 key informants participated in an in-depth interview, nine working at global level and 39 working at country level.



Government ministries and departments



Bilateral and multilateral agencies



International non-governmental organizations



10 Local civil society groups

Study limitations

- Imperfect lists for the stakeholder survey, especially in countries that conducted a VACS before 2015
- Over-representation of some groups of stakeholders among key informants
- Low levels of stakeholder response in a few countries
- Preoccupation with COVID-19 response

VACS timeline



Part 3: Key findings

Summary of key findings

1. Multisectoral coordination
2. Launches of VACS results
3. Development and implementation of national responses to VACS results
4. Use of VACS data for learning and action
5. Funding of post- VACS efforts



1. Coordination across sectors is critical to driving change

Strong, government-led multisectoral coordination is the single most important factor in translating VACS results into positive action for children.

Multisectoral coordination plays a role in every step of the VACS process.

2. VACS launches are key to raising awareness and commitment

The launch of VACS results is an event or series of events, usually led by the government, that involve the public dissemination of a report or summary of survey findings.

More than 90% of survey respondents believe that VACS launches are successful in raising awareness about violence against children.



Joseph Triikka Beugre (CDC Côte d'Ivoire), Dr. Solange Amethier (PN-OEV), Bibola Ngalamulume (PEPFAR Côte d'Ivoire), and Manuela Balliet (Together for Girls) at the high-level launch of the Côte d'Ivoire VACS report in 2020. Photo courtesy of Manuela Balliet, Together for Girls.

3. National policy/strategy responses to VACS results take a range of forms


















There is a broad range of plans, policies, and strategies developed to respond to VACS results: stand-alone national plans, integration of violence prevention measures into overall development strategies and/or the improvement of existing plans and policies related to children including those that focus on adolescent girls.



Covers of National Action Plans from six countries: Honduras, Tanzania, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Lao PDR.

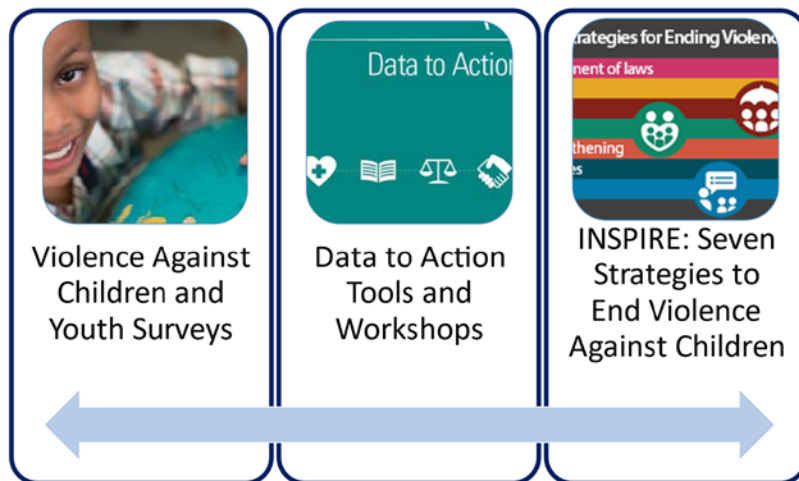
All countries that participated in the landscape analysis have undertaken action as a result of the VACS findings

Beyond NAPs, VACS results help drive broad and specific policy change

Country	Adding/ amending existing child safety laws/ regulations	Banning child marriage	Banning corporal punishment	Improved staff capacity	New initiatives addressing the safety of girls	VACS questions/ indicators in national statistics
 Botswana	●					
 Cambodia	●		●	●		●
 Colombia	●	●	●			
 Côte d'Ivoire	●	●	●	●	●	
 El Salvador	●	●	●			
 Honduras	●					●
 Kenya 2010			●			
 Kenya 2019	●	●	●	●	●	●
 Lao PDR		●				
 Lesotho		●				
 Malawi	●	●	●	●		
 Nigeria	●			●		
 Rwanda	●		●		●	
 Uganda	●	●	●			●
 Zambia	●		●	●		●
 Zimbabwe 2011		●	●		●	
 Zimbabwe 2019	●	●	●		●	

Data to Action (D2A) Workshops

95% of respondents indicate D2A workshops are effective in facilitating post-VACS action, including by raising awareness of evidence-based and evidence-informed policies and programs to prevent and respond to violence



INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children



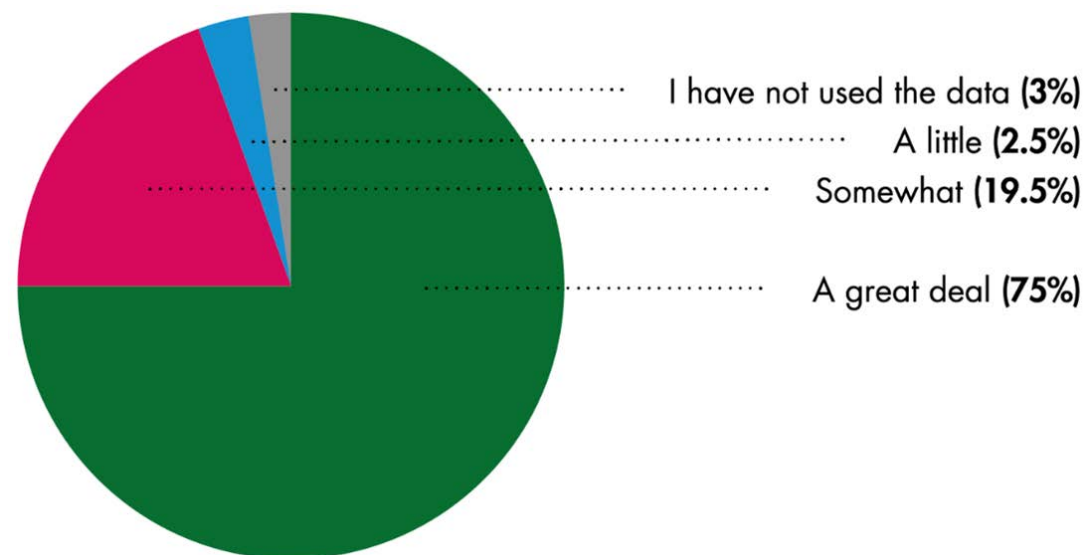
85% of respondents consider themselves knowledgeable about INSPIRE strategies

Majorities of respondents across countries reported INSPIRE had been incorporated into national plans somewhat or a 'great deal'

4. VACS data and associated capacity-building processes generate learning and action

VACS data provide detailed information on to whom, by whom, where and when violence occurs. This detailed age and sex-disaggregated data spurs awareness and action and generates interest to learn more.

The extent to which VACS data informs the design of national plans, policies and programs to end violence against children, as reported by survey respondents (n = 165)



5. Gaps in funding are a major obstacle to post- VACS efforts

There is broad consensus that the funding available for post- VACS efforts is highly insufficient in both scale and flexibility. Almost 90% of survey respondents cite inadequate funding as a barrier to post- VACS efforts.

Factors that hinder the funding of post- VACS efforts include:

- Lack of a clear budget
- Emergencies that occur at critical points in post- VACS processes
- Competition from other areas that capture government attention and support
- Lack of government commitment and/or capacity
- Lack of donor interest in the implementation of VACS results

6. Country Examples

Kenya

- VACS implemented in 2010 and 2019; significant reductions measured in overall sexual, physical, and emotional violence in childhood since the first VACS
- D2A Workshop in 2019, VACS Report Launch in 2020
- National Prevention Response Plan (NPRP) on Violence Against Children, informed by the INSPIRE framework, was launched in 2019
- Recent priorities:
 - Coordination across Ministry representatives on national-level NPRP implementation
 - County-level VACS survey and NPRP dissemination and work planning
 - Community engagement through the Spot It Stop It! campaign
 - Qualitative study of policy and program efforts between the two VACS

6. Country Examples

Cote d'Ivoire

- VACS implemented in 2018
- Report Launch in 2020

Part 4: Recommendations

Multisectoral coordination should have strong government ownership, participation across sectors and adequate funding

#1

- Authority and mechanisms to hold stakeholders accountable for post- VACS commitments.
- Engagement of government entities with sufficient authority and political influence and those with technical skills and specific responsibilities for children.



#2

The launch of VACS results should be celebrated as a critical step to catalyze action and raise awareness

The organization of multiple, decentralized launches enhances their impact and effectiveness.

National responses to VACS results should continue to be encouraged in a range of forms

- The decentralization of these plans is key to the sustainability of post-VACS efforts, as is strengthening the capacity of local actors in their design and implementation.
- Lead ministries should be supported to secure the authority and financial and human resources to implement multi sectoral plans and strategies.

#3

#4

Civil society should be more engaged in post-VACS efforts

Especially survivor-led and -centered organizations, in order to increase the reach and impact of post-VACS processes and leverage the experience and perspectives of front-line practitioners and advocates.

Greater emphasis on the use of VACS results to generate systems-based learning and action

- Context-specific and user-friendly materials and tools
- Strengthen capacity in technical and operational areas
- Address wide disparities among national and subnational levels in designing, implementing and monitoring the quality of programs and services.

#5

#6

Funding for post-VACS actions should increase

- In scale, to ensure full implementation of post-VACS actions
- In duration, to facilitate continuity
- Advocacy for funding in subnational and national budgets is needed
- Funding should be flexible to allow local actors to decide on priorities.



Cambodia Deputy Prime Minister, H.E. Mrs. Men Sam An, spoke at the launch of Cambodia's VACS report in 2014. Photo courtesy of Sofia Ollvid, UNICEF Cambodia.

**Building on the Global
Landscape Analysis:
Next Steps for USAID
HEARD/ISC
Investments in
Support of Country
Post- VACS Efforts**

1

Target direct support for key post- VACS priorities in small group of countries (Kenya, Namibia, Moldova, Colombia, Honduras)

2

Continued focus on **best practice documentation** in the form of knowledge resources, including webinars and regional landscape analyses

3

Ongoing learning exchange led by Sub-Regional Anchor Partners, ECSA-HC and Universidad de los Andes, including through a Country Support Collaborative



**History will judge us by the difference
we make in the everyday lives of children.**

Nelson Mandela

Thank you

To learn more and read the full summary report of the landscape analysis, visit <https://iscollab.org/global-learning/>

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