Using a Violence Against Children Survey to Drive Action

A Case Study of Indonesia
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Growing concerns over increasing reports of cases on violence against children (VAC) and a lack of data regarding the problem prompted Indonesia to initiate a research response. Specifically, in 2013, Indonesia joined a number of nations working together with international organizations such as the United Nations International Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and United States (US) agencies, such as the Centers for Disease control (CDC), in implementing the first ever nation-wide assessment on Violence Against Children (VACS). While this first survey faced some methodologic challenges, findings from the survey were met with enthusiasm, validated the country’s ability to generate relevant data that would offer insight into the extent the issue and prompted requests for a second survey which took place in 2018. Results from the 2013 VACS reveal, among other important statistics, that approximately 1 in 2 boys and 1 in 3 girls, aged 18-24 years, experienced violence before they reached 18 years old. Findings from the 2013 VACS report also indicate that the Government of Indonesia had committed efforts to eliminate or reduce various forms of violence against children prior to the survey. The 2013 VACS results were thus used to strengthen prevention, protection and response efforts; some findings were integrated in relevant national policies. Despite all the limitations of the first survey, the effort was considered sufficiently successful, leading the Government of Indonesia to continue with the implementation of the second VACS in 2018. The improvements within the 2018 VACS process and the findings, which suggest that VACS issues detected in 2013 persists, have catalysed action and triggered task-sharing across multi-sectoral groups and stakeholders invested in a comprehensive response. As of 2021, a third VACS was initiated and the generation of a new report is underway. This case study reflects on the country’s experiences, challenges, and perceived potential ways forward in both implementing VACS and translating the data into actions.
Background

Context: the need for action (and better data) on violence against children

“Indonesia is in a state of emergency over violence against children,” said Dr. Yohana Susana Yembise, the then Minister of Women Empowerment and Child Protection of Indonesia, in 2015.

The statement was issued after the brutal killing of a 9-year-old girl (Septia, 2015).

Indonesia has a long history of working towards the elimination of violence against children (VAC), including Indonesia’s ratification (alongside many countries) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990. Twelve years later, the government demonstrated political commitment through Law Number 23 Year 2002 concerning Child Protection, which called for the formation of the Indonesian National Commission for Child Protection (Komisi Perlindungan Anak Indonesia - KPAI). Also in 2002, the government issued the National Action Plan for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (2002–2022). Steps to update Indonesia’s 1974 Marriage Law as to prohibit child marriage before the age of 18 were reinvigorated in 2019 (KPPPA, 2020).

Strong commitments have also come from Indonesia’s civil society. In 1997, an independent organization of child protection activists, the Indonesian Child Protection Institution (Lembaga Perlindungan Anak Indonesia - LPAI), was formed. Since its inception, LPAI has consistently and actively been fighting for and advancing children’s rights in Indonesia. LPAI also has regional Child Protection Institution partners spread across provinces, districts and cities throughout Indonesia.

Nevertheless, a report from KPAI shows in the from 2011 to 2013. KPAI data shows, there were 261 cases in 2011 and increase to 1.615 in 2013 violence incidents reported (KPAI, 2014).

Local media reports also cited statements from KPAI regarding cases of violence against children, particularly the continued increase of violence incidents at an alarming rate (SindoNews, 2014; KPAI, 2014).

In 2012, the then-President of Indonesia, Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, stated that the country was in a state of emergency over sexual violence, following a fatal case of sexual violence involving an 11-year-old girl. Later in 2014, the next President (Joko Widodo, BA) launched the National Movement for Anti-Sexual Crimes against Children under the Presidential Instruction No. 5 of 2014.
While robust action is needed to eliminate VAC, the lack of relevant data posed challenges to the country, making it difficult to design, implement, monitor, and evaluate child protection policies and programs effectively. Prior to the Violence Against Children Survey (VACS) in 2013, Indonesia relied only on data from case reports made through the administrative system by case response service providers. The main data system housing these case reports is the PPA SIMFONI (Online Information System for the Protection of Women and Children) which was initiated by the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Kementerian Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak- KPPPA) start from 2016. Apart from KPPPA, there are other institutions that also respond to cases, such as the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) and the National Commission for Child Protection (another name of LPAI), or private foundations. The national survey on child labour in 2009 (BPS, 2010) served as an additional data source of information regarding VAC. However, the information and reports from these different sources were and are still not integrated, likely resulting in under-reporting of cases in government data.

To address data gaps, in 2013, Indonesia implemented the VACS, striving for more comprehensive, nationally representative data on violence against children. In addition, Indonesia also became a Pathfinding country within the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children in July 2016.

**Indonesia’s Survey Efforts**

**Learning from the 2013 VACS**

The absence of data on estimates of violence against children to inform policy and planning was the main driver for the implementation of the first VACS in 2013. The first VACS, also known as the Child and Adolescent Social Welfare Survey, was led by the Research and Development Center for Social Welfare (Puslitbangkesos) under the Ministry of Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Development Planning (Badan Perencanaan Pembangunan Nasional – BAPPENAS), Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection (Kementerian Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak - KPPPA), and Statistics Indonesia with technical assistance from the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Indonesia, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the United States (Kurniasari, 2013).  

The Indonesia 2013 VACS used the standardized CDC-developed instrument already utilized or approved for use in other nations. Intending the results to be used for multi-country comparison, the instrument was only slightly modified with regard to the language used in questions even after field testing meant to tailor the instrument to the country’s socio-cultural context. According to a 2013 case study commissioned by UNICEF Indonesia and the Ministry of Social (Rumble et al, 2018), the limited adjustments in linguistics, combined with challenges in gaining parental/guardian consent and issues of timing of data-collection (i.e. the survey largely conducted during Ramadhan) yielded major issues with the first VACS process. Specifically, Indonesia experienced lower-than-ideal response rates (approximately 53% in females and 46% in males), which then limited data analysis and the reliability of interpretation (Rumble et al, 2018).  

Despite the process challenges, the results were alarming, there were 47.4% of boys and 35% of girls experienced at least one form of violence (physical, sexual, or emotional) before the age of 18 (among 18-24 years old) and 30% of boys and girls experienced at least one form of violence (physical, sexual, or emotional) in the last 12 months preceding the survey (among 13-17 years old)

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1 Several additional key ministries and NGOs were involved with the planning and implementation of the 2013 VACS, including Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education, Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Cultural Affairs, and Commission for The Protection of Children Indonesia (KPAI), Ministry of Communication and Informatics, and Center on Child Protection and Wellbeing at Universitas Indonesia (PUSKAPA).
To improve the second VACS, the case study was used to understand and ultimately overcome barriers to the implementation of the 2013 survey. Findings from the case study included recommendations to use self-administered questionnaires and school-based instruments rather than at-home/in-home surveys as a means of increasing participation and disclosure. Case study results also suggested the need for deeper training for data collectors and a more comprehensive pilot testing of the instrument, as expressed by the survey field staff and managers (Rumble et al., 2018).

In 2017, the Child Protection and Wellbeing at Universitas Indonesia (PUSKAPA) completed a literature review on the measurement of violence against children. The review aimed to compare research methodologies that can be used to examine VAC by highlighting the advantages and disadvantages of the different approaches that have been used in various countries including Indonesia (Arifiani, 2019). The literature review suggested several areas to be considered when designing VACS, including (a) the need to consider groups of children who are not included in the sampling frame, (b) the use of qualitative data to enrich survey results, (c) efforts to optimize privacy in face-to-face interviews, and (d) whether self-administered modes are feasible and reliable. The review also emphasized the importance of ensuring that the ultimate survey and research protocol undergo rigorous ethical review given the risks to children related to privacy and the challenges in achieving safe spaces for disclosure (Arifiani, 2019).

**Following Up 2018 VACS and Beyond**

**Growing political commitment and community participation** following the alarming findings of the 2013 VACS and the need to monitor changes since the first VACS motivated the Government of Indonesia to conduct the second VACS in 2018. This second survey was also titled “The National Survey of Child and Adolescent Life Experiences”, led by the KPPPA (Ministry for Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection, 2019). The two versions of VACS managed to spur the Ministry of Planning and Development to enforce multi-sectoral roles and functions within the framework of national policies to eliminate violence against children.

To develop the 2018 VACS, the Government of Indonesia built on lessons learned from the 2013 VACS referencing the PUSKAPA literature review and case studies described above. In 2017, PUSKAPA together with BAPPENAS, KPPPA RI, and UNICEF Indonesia, began to refine the 2018 VACS process. For example, these development partners approved the use of a home-based survey for data collection, due to the need for parent/guardian consent for children who are under-age and ensured that survey questions were more accessible, i.e., modified to be more culturally-sensitive.

The second survey was not constrained by the low participation issues of the first, which despite its value may not have been representative to the target population due to limited statistical power and accordingly lack of capacity to measure association between variables. Refinement efforts resulted in a higher response rate (74% in females and 78% in males) relative to the 2013 VACS (KPPPA, 2019). Compared to VACS from other countries (for example Namibia and Mozambique, each achieving higher levels of participation in excess of 80% for both males and females), Indonesia’s response rates were at moderate. Collaboration with the National Statistics Bureau was enhanced by involving them as part of the research team to ensure their full engagement in implementing a robust methodology. Topics explored during the 2018 survey were expanded to include cyber-bullying.

It is important to note, even with the improvements made in the design and administration of the second VACS, the low response rate and different sampling methodology in the first VACS, precludes some direct comparison of findings between the two surveys. That said, the 2013 and 2018 VACS were considered sufficiently similar as to illustrates some fundamental differences (e.g., rates of violence according to sex and/or gender), albeit with limited interpretability. The first two VACS were seen as successful enough by the government of Indonesia enough to repeat the process as a third VACS was announced with plans to conduct the survey in 2021.
Highlighted Survey Results
Some highlighted findings compared between first and the second VACS can be seen below.

**Figure 1.** VACS Finding in 2013 and 2018: Violence experienced before the age of 18 (among 18-24 years old)

- **Sexual violence**
  - Girls 2018: 13.2%
  - Boys 2018: 7.3%

- **Emotional violence**
  - Girls 2018: 41.4%
  - Boys 2018: 40.8%

- **Physical violence**
  - Girls 2018: 13.4%
  - Boys 2018: 13.8%

- **At least one form of violence (sexual, emotional, or physical)**
  - Girls 2018: 35.0%
  - Boys 2018: 40.6%
  - Girls 2013: 47.4%

**Figure 2.** VACS Finding in 2013 and 2018: Violence experienced in the last 12 months preceding the survey (among 13-17 years old)

- **Sexual violence**
  - Girls 2018: 7.8%
  - Boys 2018: 6.1%

- **Emotional violence**
  - Girls 2018: 39.4%
  - Boys 2018: 33.9%

- **Physical violence**
  - Girls 2018: 10.3%
  - Boys 2018: 16.5%

- **At least one form of violence (sexual, emotional, or physical)**
  - Girls 2018: 18.0%
  - Boys 2018: 29.0%
  - Girls 2013: 47.7%
Box 1. Unique results from the 2018 VACS

- Perpetrators of incidents of physical violence reported by respondents 13-17 years old
  - Three out of four children reported that the perpetrators of the emotional and physical abuse they experienced were their friends or peers.

- Non-contact sexual violence by children
  - aged 13-17 years: 6.9% in boys and 5.4% in girls.
  - before the age of 18 years: 4.8% in boys and 5.5% in girls.

- The proportion of boys and girls who knew about referral services for victim of violence services were very small; less than 15% for girls and less than 12% for boys.

- The proportion of boys and girls who used the services also show lower proportion than the proportion of people who were trying to use the service.
  - boys only 1.13% (13-17 years old) and 0.04% (18-24 years old)
  - girls 2.6% (13-17 years old) and 1.5% (18-24 years old).

- Children’s perception towards reporting the physical abuse or violence they have experienced:
  - majority of the children (ranging 33%-34% for boys and 33% - 43% for girls) were afraid that the report would cause them trouble and they perceived that the physical violence is not a problem.
  - a small proportion of the children mentioned that they do not need any help (ranging from 4% - 6% for boys and 3% for girls) and they do not know where to get help (3% for boys and 1% for girls).

Note: Direct comparison between the 2013 and 2018 VACS is limited due to the different sampling methodology and how the questions were asked.
USAID, through the HEARD Project, supported a landscape analysis of country experiences following VACS implementation to document lessons learned and make recommendations to strengthen VACS data-to-action processes. The analysis explored how countries have utilized various steps in their post-VACS process, including steps elaborated as best practices in *Linking Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys to Coordinated and Effective Action: CDC and the Together for Girls Partnership* (see examples in Box 2) to increase awareness, understanding, and use of VACS data to inform policy and program decisions. The landscape analysis covered the 21 countries that had implemented the US CDC-developed VACS as of 2020.

**Box 2.** The CDC and Together for Girls have laid out best practices for achieving data to action following VACS in *Linking Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys to Coordinated and Effective Action*

This include best practices within survey preparation, data collection and analysis, and post-survey activities (Massetti, at al., 2020). The preparation phase helps each country to adopt the survey protocol, questionnaire, and response plan to meet the needs of the nation and ensure cultural relevance through field testing and assessment of data collection procedures, questionnaire administration, and interview and response plan processes. After collecting the data (which typically takes 8-12 weeks), analysing the data yields meaningful information for key stakeholders. To then support stakeholder understanding of the data resulting from the survey analysis, conducting a Data-to-Action activity and launching a report of VACS results are two important steps.

- **A Data-to-Action (D2A) Workshop** provides stakeholder opportunities to connect findings from the VACS with evidence-based and evidence-informed policies and programs to prevent and respond to violence and form the basis for a National Action Plan. The country government should lead with assistance from coordinating, implementing, and leading statistical agencies, UNICEF, members of the multi-sector task force, and CDC. The workshop should ideally be held between the release of preliminary findings from the VACS and the launch of the final VACS report.

- **The launch of the final VACS report** is intended to increase awareness and attention to violence against children and youth and incorporate country-specific interventions across sectors, including health, social welfare, justice, and education. However, the launching of the survey report is not the end goal of the VACS process. There are several things to increase support for national coordination, multi-sectoral action to respond to the data with high-level engagement after the public visibility through the launch.
As a complement to that Landscape Analysis, this country-focused case study examines Indonesia’s experience following its two first VACS with brief comment on the third effort. While each survey was informed by the CDC-developed instrument, the process and products were considered to be distinct, especially in the case of the 2018 VACS given alterations made to the questionnaire and the fact that the Government of Indonesia oversaw implementation almost exclusively. These distinctions notwithstanding, the Indonesia experience presents as a unique and important example of a middle-income country that has achieved multiple VACS through country-driven leadership and commitment, with domestic financing, and largely without support from international partners.

The process for this case study adapted methods used for the larger 21-country report, including a review of secondary analyses (including peer-reviewed articles and grey literature), key informant interviews (KII), and gathering inputs from key in-country VACS stakeholders via a stakeholder survey. Selection of informants for both KII and online survey used snow-balling method. Authors firstly identified the key agency who supported the government in implementing VACS, i.e., UNICEF. We then interviewed a focal person in UNICEF Indonesia who then provided information about individuals/agencies who played key role in VACS. The selected informants further suggested other informant(s), both from government and non-government agencies.
In Indonesia, eight (8) key informants were interviewed, representing the perspectives of government institutions, multi-lateral organizations, and researchers/academics. Additionally, an online survey solicited information from sixteen (16) respondents, mainly from the government (n=11), and the remaining from non-government national/local partners (n=4) and a multi-lateral organization (n=1). Of the survey respondents, ten (10) were involved solely or mainly in the 2013 VACS, while the remainder (n=6) were engaged in the 2018 survey. This report brings together findings from both the stakeholder survey and the KIIs.

**Multi-Sectoral Coordination Mechanism (MSCM)**

Profiles of participants involved in multi-sectoral coordination mechanism (MSCM) are summarized in Table 1 below.

Multiple sectors are important in addressing the problem of violence against children, including health, education, justice, religion affairs, police department. In many countries, including Indonesia, coordinating action across sectors is an important yet challenging priority. In the future, Indonesia will also need to consider child participation in policy making and program planning since youth are the ones directly impacted by the policies and program.

### Table 1. Multi-sectoral coordination mechanism (MSCM) participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role, Responsibility or Additional Assignment</th>
<th>No. of Survey Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General member</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government representative</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-governmental representative</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclusively tasked with the development and implementation of the VACS leading up to the D2A workshop</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 3 illustrates the sectors that were perceived to be engaged in the multi-sectoral coordination mechanism (MSCM). Approximately 68.8% of the respondents identified child welfare/protection services as a major sector. Other primary sectors included health, education, and gender issues (according to 6 respondents or 37.5%), and the remaining were data/statistical agency and finance. Only one respondent (not shown) indicated that community was also involved.

The majority of our survey respondents (11 of 16) perceived the multi-sectoral coordination around post-VACS efforts to be either difficult or very difficult (Figure 4). Many of the informants who classified the multi-coordination as either difficult or very difficult were from the government (n=8).

Among other barriers, lack of funding and collaboration among institutions are perceived to have strong influences that could hinder the engagement of other sectors. Figure 5 illustrates.

**Figure 3.** Top Five Percentage of sectors that engaged in the MSCM (task force, working group, or steering committee) who responsible for post-VACS efforts, n=16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Justice/Security</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data/statistical agency</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender issues</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child welfare/protection services</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 4.** The levels of ease or difficulty in multi-sectoral coordination around post-VACS efforts been, n=16

- Very difficult (18.8%)
- Difficult (50.0%)
- Easy (6.3%)
- Don't know/unsure (18.8%)
- ?? (6.3%)

**Figure 5.** Extent of barriers (n=11) & facilitators (n=16)* in engaging other sectors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barriers</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Outreach by host ministry</th>
<th>Collaboration among institutions</th>
<th>Low priority by lead ministry</th>
<th>Facilitators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very much</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>54.5%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know/not applicable</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out reach by host ministry</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaboration among institutions</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low priority by lead ministry</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: The numbers of answers are different due to the skip pattern
One important input regarding multi-sectoral coordination is that engagement of different institutions should be formally set forth from the inception phase, as expressed in one of the KII. This can be done, for example, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which outlines the roles and responsibilities of each party and also data use agreement. However, referring to the country’s experience with the first VACS, formalizing the MoU was not easy having involved high level officials and complex, protracted legal processes. Referring specifically to the 2013 VACS experience, the lead Ministry and other institution, could have, while waiting for the MOU approval, collaborated to developing some survey activities in parallel with MoU preparation.

Another challenge with coordination, as explained by some KII respondents, was getting all the key stakeholders on the same page and moving at the same pace. This was challenging especially for the 2013 VACS which was supported by UNICEF and CDC. Respondents from the non-governmental organizations pointed out that there was an unmet need to ensure that the leading government institutions possessed adequate research capacity and training to implement and monitor survey implementation and maintain good data quality.

“So, the bar (standard for the recruitment of field staff) was lowered, and thus, some of them can passed (the selection easier). So, the whole thing ended up being a formality.”

“In our opinion, it is actually a matter of capacity for data collection. There was problem (with the data quality), which may [have] resulted from the training but it could also be from the low capacity.”

At least one informant felt that they needed more time, including for the training of interviewer, but the timeline given was considered too short and acceptance from the CDC was quite difficult to accommodate the government’s pre-requisite. Also, as mentioned before, the tight timeline resulted in data collection being conducted during the month of Ramadhan, a non-ideal time.

Government informants offered a related yet still distinct perspective with regard to lack of capacity, instead emphasizing the overlooked importance of incorporating local language, local context, especially given that the VACS involves asking sensitive questions. More specifically, the imbalance between following the CDC-standardized VACS methodology and adjustments based on the local situation was an additional and profound challenge which yielded expressions of dissatisfaction by government key informants.
Across the board, VACS was definitely viewed as a large scale of work, which could not be implemented by a single Ministry/agency or without trust within and across partners. The high burden to implement a nation-wide VACS for the first time (in 2013) was also admittedly a challenge according to the informants from the lead Ministry.

“At that time, it was quite hard. The team kept changing because the work was heavy… but because we were told that we should work it out, we (did it) persistently. This is also a matter of trust [in our capacity to do the work] and obligation for us [the implementation team]… We of course felt challenged because this is new and a very large scale survey to us.”

That said, despite expected and experienced challenges in coordination between sectors, by all accounts, MSCM presents as one of the critical factors to successful VACS implementation.

Data-to-Action (D2A) Workshop

There was no documentation of an official D2A Workshop in Indonesia specific to the 2013 or 2018 VACS. There were, however, workshop activities related to the efforts for child protection. For example, the development of the National Mid-Term Development Plan involves multisectoral workshop where it is likely that relevant data, including VACS results, were discussed in the workshop to inform the Development Plan. Five of the survey respondents (31.3%) participated in some of these post-VACS workshop.

There were mixed responses on whether the workshops enhanced post-VACS efforts. Out of 5 respondents, 2 answered “Yes”, the other 2 answered “No”, and 1 did not respond. There were also mixed responses on the effectiveness of workshop activities to facilitate the identification of initiatives and efforts to be undertaken in the country post VACS. Figure 6 shows how the proportion of respondents perceived the effectiveness of the workshop activities.

Findings from KIIs suggest that there were differences between how the government and non-government informants perceived the Indonesia versions of the data-to-action workshop(s). Informants from the government reported that since the 2013 VACS, there were workshops discussing findings from the surveys, estimating the prevalence, and how the figures can translate into development planning. However, one
non-government informant from who was reported heavy involvement in the 2013 VACS, offered a different view, explaining that the data-to-policy workshop did not specifically or rather exclusively discuss VACS findings.

“Now in Indonesia, actually we have held one (workshop)...twice even if I'm not mistaken, with the government, regarding data selection, data to policy.. but it (the workshops) were not specific for VACS.”

**Publication and Dissemination of the VACS**

Findings from each VACS were launched at a high-level meeting held by the lead minister and other high-ranking officials from other participating key Ministries or institutions. For the first VACS, the launch was held in 2014, with the survey summary results published on the lead Ministry’s website in the same year (Puslitbangkesos, 2014). For the second VACS, the launch was held in May 2019 on a relatively larger scale than the 2014 release event with more than 100 attendees from multiple sectors, including representatives of the parliament and civil society organizations (CSOs). The 2019 event was also highly covered by the media. During the second release, the lead Ministry presented the 2018 VACS findings using infographics (Ministry for Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, 2019; Patricia, Y, 2019). The full report, however, was not published until 2020.

Most of the survey respondents (n=12) agree that the main purpose of the launch was to increase awareness and commitment among public officials (Figure 7). Although the launch was held as a high-level event, five survey respondents (31.3%) felt that this event was not at all successful, whereas more than half of respondent reported it to be somewhat or very successful (Figure 8).

**Figure 7.** The perceived primary purpose of the high-level launch of VACS results, n=16

- To increase awareness and commitment among public officials (75%)
- To increase public awareness (13%)
- Don’t know (6%)
- Not answered (6%)

**Figure 8.** The perceived successful of the launch in creating awareness of the VACS results, n=16

- Very successful (6%)
- Somewhat successful (50%)
- Not at all successful (31%)
- Not answered (13%)
The lack of success perhaps stemmed from the fact that the launch only disseminated VACS findings in a form of infographics. Also, the report itself, was never made publicly accessible, at least until 2021, requiring persons to contact the lead Ministry in order to obtain the report. Additionally, the larger (main) launch event was not followed by other activities to further disseminate findings or trigger actions. According to some stakeholders, this was distinct from the first VACS, which despite lacking a main launch of the first survey’s results, findings were disseminated through multiple events, such as seminar at various settings (e.g. academic events). Nevertheless, both the first and second VACS suffered similar issues with the publication not being easily accessible to the public and data use a challenge.

According to stakeholder survey respondents, participation of high-level government officials, participation of various sectors, strong coordination, and funding (to some extent) would have facilitated and/or improved the success of the launch of VACS result. Local media coverage is seen as playing a stronger role in supporting a successful release. On the other hand, lack of coordination is considered very much a barrier to the success of the launch of VACS results. Figure 9 illustrates.

**Figure 9.** Factors perceived to facilitate and/or act as barriers to the success of the launch of VACS results (n=16)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barriers to the success of the launch</th>
<th>Facilitators to the success of the launch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of coordination (by a multisectoral mechanism)</td>
<td>Coordination (by a multisectoral mechanism)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of local media coverage</td>
<td>Local media coverage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of participation of various sectors</td>
<td>Funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of participation of high-level government officials</td>
<td>Participation of various sectors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of participation of high-level government officials</td>
<td>Participation of high-level government officials</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One informant framed the launch as more of a ceremonial activity rather than an advocacy activity regarding VAC and child protection. According to the informant, the workshop should at least have had discussion sessions to accommodate follow up actions or activities needed based on the data.

“… at that time (of the launch) many were invited, definitely those who have been involved in advocacy for (elimination of) violence against children or for child protection... but when it comes to the launch event, (it was) ceremonial. There was no discussion either…”
Ensuring Data Use

Among various goals, VACS was intended to inform actions and effective prevention strategies. Most (11 of the 16) survey respondents claimed that, in response to the VACS, the country developed a new National Action Plan (NAP) or policy related to ending violence against children and/or improved or updated existing NAPs or policies related to ending violence against children. However, three respondents (one from the government and two from non-government institutions) indicated the opposite, while two respondents did not provide answer. Findings from the KII s show that, although interviewees mentioned that there have been at least a few discussions post-VACS to inform specific program/policy to violence against children, those discussions do not seem to achieve its intended outcomes of specific VAC-reducing action or policy development.

Stakeholders outside the government raised the issue of lacking capacity in interpreting the data in depth. Hence, the discussions were perceived to be rather superficial and focused more on the prevalence estimate without notable efforts to understand the cause of the problem. Without at least sufficient understanding around the root of the problem, the data will likely not translate into effective actions.

From the stakeholder survey, there were also mixed opinions about how effectively MSCM led the process of developing a new NAP or policy related to ending violence against children. Three respondents (mostly from the government institutions) indicated that there was some effectiveness. However, four respondents held at least a somewhat opposing view.

“Actually, what was included in the RPJMN\textsuperscript{2} is only the prevalence. There were actually plenty that we wanted to analyse to be more [comprehensive]... to sharpen the child protection programs of fulfilment of children rights, there were actually many {data). Nevertheless, the policy makers only asked for that data...the prevalence (estimate), although we tried to [make] the report as complete as can be... but only the data in the VACS (infographics) that were brought here and there, socialized and all, but the book (complete report) is never published.”

\textsuperscript{2} Medium-term National Development Planning
One non-government informant mentioned that the need to strengthen data system and enhance data use were actually pinpointed in the Pathfinding countries’ main issue. The informant added that Indonesia should work to strengthen its data systems including for case management, administrative data and to generation of important statistics such as prevalence number.

“Well… of course the reference is … global...from [Pathfinding] countries or global partnership [to end violence including]…. INSPIRE [strategies] .. And that is actually the benchmark that Indonesia should [use to] strengthen its data system for case management, administrative data and also prevalence.”

From the surveys, interviews and reports, it became apparent that the challenge of data analysis and subsequently communication was exacerbated by the limited or unclear access to the raw data. Lack of access to data makes it difficult to conduct more in-depth analysis, which otherwise would be very helpful to inform policy. The data use issue expressed consistently by informants from both the government agencies and non-government institutions. During the second VACS, the lead Ministry had planned for in-depth analysis, involving the parties that had participated in VACS. The plan, however, could not be carried out due to the limited financial resources.

It is important to note that, unlike the Indonesia VACS data, other national datasets, such as Indonesia Demographic and Health Survey (IDHS) and Basic Health Research, are open for public access, and can be used by researchers, academics, and students. Thus, despite the value of the VACS data, analyses, evidence policy development, knowledge-generation and capacity-building are constrained by the limited access. Many countries have, by comparison, made their VACS data publicly available for these reasons. However, according to one informant from the lead Ministry, the sensitivity of the matter and issues with confidentiality in Indonesia may be factors that continue to hinder public access.

**Impact of the Data**

Communicating the general or overall impact of VACS data remains a challenge. Respondents from the government claimed that VACS findings have been used by the government to monitor progress in efforts to ending violence against children, incorporated under the Medium-Term National Development Planning (RPJMN). However, respondents from non-government organizations raised the concern that the RPJMN only features limited statistics (i.e., the prevalence of violence against children). VACS data, ideally, should inform the country beyond raw rates of violence, be used to identify the most important factors that lead to violence against children and what would be the best way to tackle the problem.

Majority of the survey respondents pointed out that VACS also had impact on the improvement of National Action Plan and policies related to ending violence against children. However, different views were expressed by the KII’s for whom the impact of VACS on the NAP or policies was less clear.

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3 Together for Girls hosts on online repository of publicly available VACS datasets, which includes Cambodia, Colombia, Cote d’Ivoire, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Moldova, Nigeria, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. [https://www.togetherforgirls.org/request-access-vacs/](https://www.togetherforgirls.org/request-access-vacs/)
“Prevalence is indeed important, for example to see whether the scale of the problem is large or small. ... more important, actually, is what we understand about who become the victims, what are the factors, what is the biggest problem for us to solve exploitation, sexual violence, physical violence, and others. Those have never been discussed to understand what are the policies and interventions [needed].”

The impact of VACS on programs were relatively more evident. Two programs that participants claimed to be developed as response to VACS findings were the Telepon Sahabat Anak (TESA) or Call the for Children Best friends and the Temu Penguatan Anak dan Keluarga (TEPAK) or Family and Child Strengthening Session. TESA is a toll-free service for children who seek protection, emergency care and or counselling. TEPAK is a program that holds meeting sessions with parents to strengthen the family’s capacity in caring for their child survivors. For the children, the meeting sessions are aimed at providing guidance and support to children so that children have the capacity to better recognize avoid acts of violence.

All things considered, despite the lack of clarity and detail around the VACS findings and impacts of the NAP or relevant policies, the 2013 and 2018 surveys did successfully raise awareness of the violence against youth. That said, engagement, post-awareness raising did vary.

Specifically with regard to NAP development, (as shown in Figure 10,) only 36% of the stakeholder respondents indicated that bi-lateral government agencies are somewhat active or engaged in the improvement of an existing NAP. Notably a child protection NAP in Indonesia had been developed prior the VACS survey. For other Ministries/agencies, most of the respondents answered that NGO/local partners, multi-lateral organizations and international NGOs are very active in the improvement of the pre-existing NAP as part to respond the VACS results.

For the specific Ministries/agencies, almost all of our respondents (91%) answered that Ministries or agencies with child welfare/protection services were the most actively engaged in the improvement of NAP. Figure 11 shows the level of activity and engagement.

From Figure 11, the Education sector has been engaged at a higher extent than the other sectors. However this sector needs to be engaged more, especially because bullying and sexual harassment at schools are among the major issues in the country’s education system. Based on the results from 2018 VACS, school serves as the main source of information about services for victim of violence as stated by 59% (girls) and 55% (boys) of the respondents aged 13-17 years. One of KII informants who is from the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection indicates that seeing pornography content is not uncommon among school children through their mobile phone, even among the 3rd and 4th graders. Therefore, it is essential to strengthen the role of Ministry of Education through schools to safeguard children from pornography that could lead to sexual violence. The Minister of Education even pledges to eliminate intolerance, bullying, and sexual harassment in the education system. This common goals between the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection and Ministry of Education, dictates close collaboration between the two Ministries.
Figure 10. Perceived level of activity and/or engagement of key groups in improving an existing plan/policy/program to respond to VACS results (n=11)

Figure 11. Extent of activity/engagement of various government Ministries/agencies in developing a NAP or improving an existing plan/policy/program to respond to VACS results (n=11)
The Finance Ministry was, to some extent, considered to be the least active or engaged (27%) in the improvement of the NAP. This finding aligns with the perspective of the respondents who mentioned that funding was difficult to obtain and therefore considered involving the Finance Ministry as critical to improving the NAP and ensuring that the VACS results would be used for better planning.

One of the respondents mentioned that most of the budget had been used up out in the last period, which yielded apparent challenges in the planning.

“… there was no progress, the budget was all-out in the last year.”

Regarding effective coordination, more than half (55%) of the current stakeholder respondents answered that the lead Ministry has the authority to coordinate the task force. However, respondents also indicated that human and financial resources were suboptimal. As such, in addition to greater authority, the leading Ministry needs support with adequate skilled labour and funding, thus enhancing the opportunity to better coordinate the task force. Figure 12 shows the effective coordination as perceived by a subset of the respondents.

Per the KII findings, one of the interviewees also highlighted limitations with regard to human resources. The informant offered an example, specifically that, although the government of Indonesia has been aware of the process of developing an evidence-based policy; the administrative and technical capacities for interpreting data were inadequate.

“In my opinion, in general, our ecosystem for evidence-based policy is not strong... even though in the RPJMN, in the government strategic plan, we talk about evidence-based policy. But the ecosystem is not ready. … our bureaucrats are people who do not understand data.”
With regard to the degree to which INSPIRE strategies to end violence against children were being incorporated in the Indonesian NAP, half of the respondents indicated that there was a great deal of involvement. The Ministry of Planning and Development and UNICEF as the multi-lateral organization were most perceived to have been involved a great deal in the improvement of existing program related to VACS results. Figure 13 further illustrates.

To the extent that the NAP or other post-VACS efforts generated policy recommendations or contributed to specific policy interventions, 27% of the stakeholder survey respondents indicated activities yielded results (for example, updates to the 1974 Marriage Law). Figure 14 shows some results regarding perceived extent of change and or contributions.

Regarding the funding of post VACS efforts in Indonesia, more than half of survey respondents identified the government or a government Ministry as a major funder, more specifically, the Ministry for Women Empowerment and Child Protection (56%). However, challenges in ensuring sufficient funding persist. More than half of the respondents (56%) considered the budget was insufficient to support post VACS efforts.

In addition to the limited funding to support post-VACS efforts, each respondent offered the top three barriers and top three facilitators with regard to funding VACS efforts. The lack of government commitment, lack of public awareness of the problem and other priority areas that were taking precedence over VACS were ranked the highest by at least 30% of survey participants. A quarter of the respondents also identified lack of a clear budget for post-VACS efforts as one of the barriers.

Against the perceived barriers to post-VACS efforts, respondents, the majority of the respondents (75%) identified that government commitment was a successful contributor to the efforts. Following the commitment, the existence of a national plan or policy was also ranked as one of the top three positive contributors to the post VACS efforts, while the third factor was a clear budget of post-VACS efforts.
Figures 15 and 16 illustrate these perspectives.

Regarding change-making processes, survey participants reported that the VACS datasets were being used to inform policies and programs. Respondents mentioned that the VACS data were used for “advocacy, socialization, media campaign[s], research publication[s], seminar[s], advocacy to the Ministry or other stakeholders” to prevent violence against children in families, schools, and other public places. However, with regard to other factors affecting post-VACS efforts, one respondent also reported that there were no formal post-VACS efforts made after the 2019 data launch, and that their organization was not involved in the post VACS efforts discussion. This finding suggests that coordination and clear communication remain an issue that needs to be addressed by the leading Ministry. A clear follow-up strategy is also perceived as a critical requirement to ensure all stakeholders involved in the post-VACS efforts and action plan.

Some survey respondents, similar to the non-government informants, highlighted the limited capacity of government officials regarding data collection, data understanding, and data analysis when considering translating data to actionable policy. The limited capacity in data management apparently contributed to the minimum use of VACS data in Indonesia. The need for enhanced multi-sectoral efforts and collaboration were also identified by one of the respondents as a factor that could improve post-VACS efforts in Indonesia.

Pertaining specifically to learning materials used to develop of post VACS activities, half of the respondents reported that they sought information on evidence-based interventions for violence against children in their working area. However, 6% of respondents reported that they did not pursue any research regarding evidence-based interventions for violence against children in their field(s). Additionally, the capacity of stakeholders at large in Indonesia for using the available media and platforms to seek information and evidence-based interventions is perceived to be limited by some respondents.

Figure 17 illustrates the pursuit of information among respondents.
Lesson learned and/or lessons that could be leveraged to facilitate awareness and/or application of VACS results are summarized in Box 4.

**Keys to uptake of VACS findings**

- Strong leadership from the government to foster partnership across multiple sectors in the government and non-government stakeholders across the country, including academics, researchers, and development partners
- Close collaboration with Ministry of Education is a must to achieve the common goals
- Well-mapped dissemination plan and post-VACS activities, involving cross-sectoral partners
- Adequate funding to implement post-VACS activities and evaluate its progress
- Strong capacity to analyze and interpret meaningful evidence needed not only to identify problems but also to drive action at national and sub-national level

Box 4.
Challenges and Opportunities to Overcome

Data-to-action

Transforming data to actionable policy and program implementation would require quality data that are representative down to sub-national level; identification of the root of the problem, beyond the prevalence estimates; and easily accessible documentation of the findings and data for further analysis to provide evidence. However, for Indonesia to arrive at that stage, various challenges remain.

1. **Navigating socio-cultural structures and ensuring respondent privacy will be a challenge in future surveys.** Methodologically, conducting a large-scale survey in the area of VAC, is not an easy task. Social and cultural structures in the community pose a major barrier in obtaining the information from the respondent and their families. Ensuring privacy during interviews is also an issue, especially in rural areas or among low socio-economic level households where most of them do not have separate rooms. Without proper preparations, the methodological challenges could severely compromise data quality. Furthermore, the recommendation from a published case study reviewing the first VACS to switch to self-administered questionnaire and school-based rather than home-based survey may not be feasible due to the need of parental consent.

2. **Ensuring that data comparability between VACS prior to or during the inception phase is lacking.** Given that the government is aiming to implement VACS as routine measure to monitor progress toward child protection over time, there is a need to make sure that that the VACS methodology are designed in such way that allows comparison being made between the VACS beyond the recent 2021 process.

3. **Public access of the data remains difficult or limited.** Increasing and/or simplifying access would lead to improvement in policy formulation, yet the sensitive nature of the data may hinder the access. To improve data-to-action, we expect that the VACS data could be accessed publicly as is the case for other national surveys data. More analysis can be done by different stakeholders may lead to broader perspectives, which will result in better policies/recommendations. Indeed, since the nature of the information is sensitive, data security should be highly maintained through strict and enforceable data use agreements. However, Indonesian authorities need to balance data use opportunities and privileges against strict of data use agreements.

4. **Sub-national level program planning is constrained due to absence/over-aggregation of sub-national level data.** Indonesia has fortunately embarked on decentralization in which the local governments have the authority and responsibilities on nearly all sectors. The decentralized system provides opportunities for the local government to create policies that are suitable for the problems in their area. However, this will require data that are representative at the sub-national level (i.e., district level), which is not always sought, or disaggregated if even accessible.

5. **Substantial (portions of) VACS funding largely allocated to survey implementation with less focus on post-VACS action to address violence.** Unfortunately, financial resources are not guaranteed for all phases of VACS including post-VACS activities. Lack of funding to support post-VACS activities undermines the efforts to
strengthen use of data to inform and advocate for better evidence-based programming. This could, to a great extent, widen the know-do gap. Government commitment solely is not enough to push for adequate funding allocation for post-VACS activities. Good understanding about the importance of post-VACS activities for translating evidence into action is crucial and needs adequate funding.

6. **Data analytical and interpretation skills are constrained in-country.** Indonesia needs to enhance its analysis and interpretation capacity to generate and communicate meaningful findings. To produce data-driven decisions, there is a need for some elevated level of understanding and increased skills to interpret and communicate data across key stakeholders, especially on the government side. Despite the reported use of data for the medium-term national development planning, there is a lack of data use beyond the prevalence estimates. This situation could lead to other important data being not well-analysed or meaningful findings not being acted on to the level that could drive changes.

7. **Child participation is not represented in policy making and program planning.** Children should be considered the primary stakeholders who are directly impacted from child protection policies and program. In a country where violence against children is not openly discussed in public nor domestic space, there is a huge challenge in ensuring child participation for policy-making and program planning. There is a need to raise awareness of the key stakeholders that using solely the adults’ point of view to tackle this issue will not work.

8. **Coordinated planning and implementation across relevant sectors of government and civil society is not always consistent.** Multi-sectoral coordination is vital to the success of data-to-action. Coordination is needed to alleviate ego-sectoral which has led to fragmented policies/recommendations. There is a need to establish an ‘umbrella’ agreement to ensure that the coordination will effectively take place.

9. **Comparison of Indonesian VACS results to other countries are possible but currently should be made with caution** given the fact that the way the questions were asked, and the sampling methodology was different. Future iterations of VACS activities will likely still be unique in process and product to Indonesia.

10. **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) during and between VACS are unclear, incomplete, or inconsistent.** There was no official, comprehensive documentation of M&E processes during the 2013 or 2018 VACS in Indonesia or in between the two surveys. Lead stakeholders, including government agencies and supporting international organizations, should, in future, make concerted, scheduled efforts to observe and review relevant VACS activities as to ensure that valuable information is collected and used at the appropriate opportunities to inform best practices for activities key to addressing violence against children.

11. **Capturing perspectives of the processes of post-VACS data-to-action was constrained due to changes in administrative roles and responsibilities.** The change in leadership between the 2013 and 2018 VACS created an issue of fragmentation or discontinuity between and within surveys, thus making the process of identifying key informants and collecting sufficient data challenging. Snowballing, while typically a convenient and effective approach thus had to be complemented using multiple communication channels beyond official emails (i.e., phone and WhatsApp). Researchers interested in similar retroactive summary should consider multiple communication channels to identify and select key informants and to probe for missing information. Additional time to refine the informant search and data collection process might also be necessary.
Survey implementation

Outside the methodological issues, challenges to successful VACS implementation include:

1. **Response plan for victims of violence:** VACS encompasses major ethics consideration. Among them, is the ethical responsibility to offer services to children who are the victims of violence without compromising protection to those children and their confidentiality. Unfortunately, the availability of such services across the country is still limited. Field workers will also need to be heavily trained on measures to be taken to protect the children once they are identified as victims or perpetrators.

2. **Coverage beyond children at the home setting:** VACS remains predominantly a household survey. While the country is making progress toward implementing VACS, the next challenge in measuring problem with VAC would be to assess problems among children outside the home setting, such as children in institutional care.

3. **Multi-lateral collaboration:** In the first VACS (2013), Indonesia was among the cohort of countries conducting VACS with multi-lateral supports. There was room for adjustment and the methodology was guided to allow for comparison across countries. However, this first survey could have been better tailored to the Indonesia. More specifically, the sensitive nature of the questions being asked in the survey requires careful consideration of the local context, not only in how the questions are phrased and asked, but also in the data collection approach. Keeping balance between adjusting to local context and methodological consideration for multi-countries comparison continues to pose its own challenge.
VACS Implementation

The Government of Indonesia envisions to implement VACS as a routine survey to track progress in the implementation of child protection policies/programs and to inform the medium-term national development planning. The government plans to conduct the survey every three years, but due to the pandemic and budgeting issue, it is not clear yet whether the plan can be implemented. The survey is also aligned with the government efforts to strengthen data as well as to inform evidence-based planning and policies. The government recently prepared to implement the third VACS, which will be implemented in conjunction with the survey on violence against women. Results from the third VACS will offer a good opportunity to evaluate (if any) the effect of pandemic to the incidence of violence against children.

Although the 2021 survey preparation was behind schedule due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the government has committed to completing the survey and releasing key findings by the end of the year. The report is not yet accessible, but the press release indicated that the prevalence of violence against children has declined by about half among boys, and about three-fourth among girls, compared to those of 2018 findings (KPPPA, 2021). Results comparison between 2021 and 2018 VACS could not be done because, according to one of the informants, the sampling procedures were different. Furthermore, given the pandemic situation, the data collection approach and response rates in 2021 VACS may also be different. Unfortunately, the 2021 report is not yet available publicly, and thus, review of the 2021 VACS methodology could not be done. During the launching of the most recent VACS results on the 27th December 2021, an official from the lead Ministry pointed out the plan to do a follow-up review to understand factors associated with the decreasing prevalence which was different from their routine report (SIMFONI) (KPPA, 2021).

The third VACS was designed to be implemented with improved methodology while still ensuring that comparison can be made between its results and the previous 2018 VACS. The survey methodology is designed to produce the estimates representative down to sub-national level. The survey topic is widened to include more in-depth assessment on (1) violence among children with disabilities, (2) prevalence of children who committed criminal acts or dealt with the law, (3) prevalence of drug abuse among children, (4) mental health, and (5) violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. To ensure that the data is used to the fullest extent to inform policy and planning, the findings from the third VACS will be presented in thematic reports, with possible policy briefs to be produced for each theme. This improvement is a good sign towards more effective data-to-action in the future. Nevertheless, without access to the report, it is difficult to assess to what extent did the goals were achieved.
Data to Drive Action

From various sources, including survey responses, KII and published reports, close collaboration across sectors should be well-mapped out and fostered to ensure that the data would translate into actions. As such, as early as the inception phase, the lead Ministry should identify key Ministries/Agencies that should be engaged. In Indonesia, for example, collaboration with the Ministry of Education is key to achieve the common goals for the elimination of violence against children and as such should be among the first sectors engaged.

Increasing data use would also require providing data access to academics and researchers, certainly by maximum efforts to protect data confidentiality. Collaboration between the government and academics/researchers will help to fill in the data skills gap, while ensuring the data can be utilized to the fullest extent to inform policies.
Magnitude of the violence against children as an issue

Victims who turn into perpetrators and violent peers

Not only highlighting the high prevalence of violence experienced by the children, results of the 2018 VACS show that children are not only the victims of violence, but some of them also become perpetrators of the violence. Three out of four children reported that the perpetrators of the emotional and physical abuse they experienced were their friends or peers.

**Figure 18.** Perpetrators of first incidents of physical violence reported by respondents 13-17 years old, VACS 2018
Figure 19. Perpetrators of incidents within one year of physical violence reported by respondents 13-17 years old, VACS 2018

Figure 20. Perpetrators of incidents of physical violence experienced before 18 years of age, reported by respondents 18-24 years old, VACS 2018
**Non-contact sexual violence**

Due to the increasing concerns over non-contact sexual violence (also referred to as online sexual violence), the 2018 VACS sought information in this topic. Based on the 2018 VACS findings, the prevalence of non-contact sexual violence experienced by children aged 13-17 years throughout their lifetime was about 6.9% in boys and 5.4% in girls. The prevalence of non-contact sexual violence experienced before the age of 18 years (the question was asked to respondents aged 18-24 years) was 4.8% in boys and 5.5% in girls.

The most common non-contact sexual violence was being forced to watch sexual content or offenses although not taking part in it (of about slightly more than 60% among boys and girls). Among boys, within the last 12 months, the second most common non-contact sexual violence was being forced to take part in pornography (52.4%), while among girls involved sending photos/videos (38.0%).

**Figure 21.** Non-contact sexual violence experienced by children aged 13-17 years through lifetime, VACS 2018

- **Witnessing**
  - Boys: 66.6%
  - Girls: 63.2%

- **Being forced to take part in pornography**
  - Boys: 34.5%
  - Girls: 25.0%

- **Sending photos/videos**
  - Boys: 38.3%
  - Girls: 39.1%

**Figure 22.** Non-contact sexual violence experienced by children aged 13-17 years through in the last 12 months, VACS 2018

- **Witnessing**
  - Boys
  - Girls

- **Being forced to take part in pornography**
  - Boys
  - Girls

- **Sending photos/videos**
  - Boys
  - Girls
Use of referral services

Data from the 2018 survey show only one in three respondents had any awareness of the availability of the referral services for victim of violence.

The proportion of individuals, having experienced childhood sexual violence, who attempted to use the services are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Proportion of child survivors, who attempted to use the referral and/or support services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13-17 years</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regarding the services obtained by the respondents, they perceived that the services unnecessary helpful for those who experienced violence. For girls who received services for physical violence, about 11% reported no benefits from the services compared to boys, 14% indicating no gains. Both girls and boys perceived that their report was not followed up properly. In sexual violence cases, a higher proportion of boys (40%) perceived the services to be useless relative to girls (8%) who saw no value. The main reasons they mentioned for the perception of low benefits: (1) no helpful services available; 2) service providers considering the violence is not a problem; (3) service providers expressing doubt about the occurrence or seriousness of violent incidence; and (4) fears held by the users and/or providers over the protracted process, i.e., that that addressing the issue will last un-preferably long(er).
ANNEX 2
Development/Improvement of the National Action Plan

Figure 23 illustrates that almost half (45%) of the 11 respondents who provided answers stated that the implementation of the NAP already involved children and/or youth groups and affected population (women, young men/women who were victims or violence).

Some respondents perceived that the VACS result have improved plan/policy/program, such as outline sector-specific activities (27%) and monitoring and evaluation plan to track progress (36%). However, almost half stated that there was no budget with costed/itemized activities. Figure 24 demonstrates.

To the extent to which national plans of action were established or enhanced effectively, more than half of the survey respondents (55%) perceived that the NAP or improved plan/policy/program related to VACS results was a little successful in implementation (Figure 25).

Figure 23. Meaningful involvement of various groups in the implementation of the NAP/improved policy or plan, n=11

- **Marginalized populations (e.g., people with disabilities, indigenous ethnicities, etc.)**
  - 27%

- **Affected populations (women, young men/women who were victims of violence)**
  - 45%

- **Children and/or youth**
  - 45%
Figure 24. Perceived Features of or included in a NAP or improved plan/policy/program related to VACS results, n=11

- Inclusion of a budget with costed/itemized activities
  - Not answered (55%)
  - No (45%)

- Inclusion of monitoring and evaluation plan to track progress
  - Not answered (55%)
  - No (9%)
  - Yes (36%)

- Inclusion of outline of sector-specific activities
  - Not answered (55%)
  - No (18%)
  - Yes (27%)

Figure 25. Perceived extent to which the NAP or improved plan/policy/program related to VACS results occurred, n=11

- A little (55%)
- Somewhat (27%)
- A great deal (9%)
- Don’t know (9%)
- No (45%)
- Not answered (55%)
References

- Patricia, Y. (2019). Launching Survei Nasional Pengalaman Nasional Anak dan Remaja (SNPHAR) Tahun


