

**WEBINAR
REPORT**

Action & impact: Using data to end violence against children in Africa

Part of the Evidence-to-Policy Webinar Series

November 29, 2023

8:00 am U.S. EST, 4:00 pm East Africa Time

1. Introduction

The webinar was the second in the Implementation Science Collaborative's Evidence to Policy series exploring efforts to protect children from violence in low-resource settings globally. The objective of the event was to share key achievements and lessons learned in efforts to implement governments' national strategies to end violence against children – strategies which have been informed by critical data from Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys (VACS). Facilitated by the East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC), an inter-governmental organization composed of nine Member States (Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe), whose Ministers of Health passed a resolution in February 2023 during their Health Ministers Conference urging Member States to use VAC data to inform and drive action in preventing children from violence. The webinar took a regional focus.

To watch the webinar recording visit the Implementation Science Collaborative YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/@implementationsciencecolla1688/featured>

WEBINAR CO-HOSTS, MODERATORS, PRESENTERS AND SPEAKERS

Co-hosts East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC) and Together for Girls (TfG)

Implementation Science Collaborative Secretariat Samantha Ski, University Research Co., LLC (URC)

Moderators

- Andrew Silumesii (ECSA-HC)
- Manuela Balliet Ahogo (TfG)

Presenters

- Anne Ngunjiri, Senior Technical Advisor at LVCT Health in Kenya.
- Peninah Jerono, Project Officer – Child Protection and Participation, World Vision Kenya Big Dream Program
- Nicolette Bessinger, Director at Lifeline/Childline in Namibia.
- Robert Pendapala Haihambo, Economic Strengthening and Public Private Partnership Officer at Project Hope Namibia.

Government Representatives

- Beatrice Muyambango, Zambia Directorate of Child Development, Ministry of Community Development and Social Services
- Vivienne Mang’oli, Kenya Department of Child Services, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection
- Alice Umurerwa, Chief Social Worker, Namibia Ministry of Health and Social Services

USAID representative Jeniffer Wasianga, USAID Kenya

2. Presentations

- **“Enhancing Child Protection through Support to National and County-level Child Protection Stakeholders in Kenya”.**
Presented by Anne Ngunjiri, Senior Technical Advisor at LVCT Health in Kenya.
- **“Enhancing Child Protection through Support to National and County-level Child Protection Stakeholders in Kenya”.**
Presented by Peninah Jerono, Project Officer – Child Protection and Participation Program, World Vision Kenya
- **Strengthening Parenting and Caregiver Interventions in Namibia.**
Presented by Nicolette Bessinger, Director at Lifeline/Childline in Namibia.
- **Strengthening Violence Prevention Capacity in Namibia’s Schools.**
Presented by Robert Pendapala Haihambo, Economic Strengthening and Public Private Partnership Officer at Project Hope Namibia.

3. Question and Answer Session (Panel Discussion)

Some questions asked by the moderator/audience included:

- How important were VACS data in mobilizing action against VAC?
- How were organizations ensuring that they avoided under-reporting?

4. Remarks from Government Representatives

Kenya: The official shared Kenya’s experience in developing a National prevention and Response Plan (NPRP) following the VACS as a blueprint for coordinating interventions to address the identified gaps. She cited coordination as an important requirement for implementing the NPRP. She also indicated that, like Namibia, Kenya was also implementing a national parenting programme which was now ready to be scaled up in addition to VAC prevention activities in the school system.

Zambia: The official shared Zambia’s progress in enhancing the legal framework for child protection through the recent enactment of the Children’s Code Act. She also underscored the need for all relevant sectors working in child protection to devise frameworks for sector-specific interventions, particularly in service delivery.

Namibia: The official from Namibia pointed out that all the presentations revealed that the experiences from each country were similar and therefore it was important that there is continued peer-learning among countries. She also called for enhanced collaboration among different sectors in-country as well as for increased budgetary allocations towards child protection interventions.

5. Key Take-aways



The discussions reinforced the importance of using Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys (VACS) data to inform and guide child protection strategies.



They also underscored the necessity of government-led initiatives and adherence to international and national legal frameworks on child protection.



The role of multi-sectoral collaboration in ensuring effective child protection was emphasized.



There is a need to continue to advocate for long-term sustainable budgetary allocations for child protection initiatives.



Align child protection strategies with existing social welfare initiatives.



Implementation of a parenting programme can contribute to reducing violence against children.



The agenda for ending violence in schools should include teachers.

6. Closing Remarks & Conclusions

USAID colleague's remarks emphasized the need for ensuring that all players align to government priorities and strategies and that there is continued information-sharing among various stakeholders through a common, government-led reporting system. It is an important contribution to advocacy for ending violence against children as well as enhancing the knowledge of practitioners in this field through peer-learning and sharing promising practices.

7. Acknowledgements

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