



# IMPLEMENTING INTEGRATED STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTION OF, AND RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Improving prevention and response sustainably

## SUMMARY

Due to the multi-faceted and complex nature of violence against children (VAC), development practitioners are urged to integrate prevention and response strategies that will lead to more sustainable solutions. This reader focuses on recommendations from the INSPIRE Jamboree 2019 report and recommendations of different global organizations integrating VAC response and prevention strategies to improve outcomes for children experiencing or at risk of violence.

**Keywords:** Violence against Children, INSPIRE strategies, VACS Data to Action Tool, multi-stakeholder partnerships

## Multistakeholder collaboration: The key to integrated strategies for VAC prevention and response

*“Whole system and whole institution strengthening, combined with multi-sectoral collaboration, is almost always more effective than narrow policy changes, short-term projects and vertical programming. Interventions that are developed wholly outside the system, or in sectoral isolation, may struggle to achieve scale-up and sustainability and have limited reach.” –INSPIRE Handbook*

The INSPIRE technical package, a globally endorsed evidence-based framework for ending violence against children (VAC), highlights the importance of multisectoral actions and coordination, as a key prerequisite for successful implementation of the strategies. By inference, the cohesive efforts of multiple funding and technical resource centres, (governmental authorities, development partners, institutions, academia, and civil society actors) is likely to lead to integrated and sustainable outcomes in prevention and response to VAC.

This position is also reiterated by the United Nations Secretary-General’s study on Violence against Children (2006), which recommended that “states develop a multifaceted and systematic framework to respond to violence against children which is integrated into national planning processes.”

## Creating an enabling environment for the integration of VAC strategies

Summary recommendations from the 2019 INSPIRE Implementation Jamboree report:

- **Strengthening national government leadership (multi-sectoral committees) to increase awareness and adoption of INSPIRE** at district and national levels. This provides

## Box 1: Supporting Integrated Implementation: The VACS Data to Action Tool (VACS D2A)

The VACS D2A tool developed within the INSPIRE technical package supports multi-stakeholder collaboration for integration of INSPIRE strategies by enabling the use of data collected to develop national action plans.

The tool which captures VAC findings from national surveys brings together a task force of cross-sector actors to develop robust VAC interventions and national plans that fit the socio-cultural and economic context of children and their communities.

### Key actors for integrated VAC strategies

- Legislators and policy-makers
- Ministry and government workers
- Social service workforce
- Civil society
- Private sector
- Children and their families
- Community structures

a standardized framework within which to assess national progress and scale up interventions that are working.

Strong government leadership will also foster integration as proven VAC approaches can be embedded within existing government programmes and national and district work plans and budgets; for example, incorporating content into pre-service training for social workers, as is the case in Uganda at Makerere University, where there is a module on child protection for students in the Social Work Department.

- **VAC resource base:** Identification and commitment of resources from different stakeholders, including government, to tackle VAC within costed plans. Emphasis should be on what each stakeholder is actually able to commit to avoid 'defaulting' during the course of implementation. A multi-sectoral fundraising committee may also be set up to identify and source funds to support VAC efforts to sustain promising interventions. For example, drawing from [comprehensive research findings around VAC](#), Lucie Cluver, University of Oxford, urges practitioners to combine other technical packages with INSPIRE to create accelerator synergies for SDGs co-financing where donors contribute resources to a 'bucket fund' which can support achievement of multiple goals and targets simultaneously. (The [Girls not Brides](#) website provides a comprehensive list of diverse funding sources including foundations, UN and government agencies and crowdfunding opportunities.)
- **Building a strong advocacy strategy** that works towards the prioritization of VAC on the national agenda by engaging high level leadership to plan and allocate sufficient resources.
- **Key stakeholder identification** which should include empowering children's agency so that their issues are well-understood as well as engaging with communities as equal partners. More importantly, identifying key stakeholders allows for sustainability through "*the transfer of ownership and capacity from the 'resource team' to the 'user organization', as defined by the ExpandNet framework.*" User organizations include CSOs (civil society organizations), community based departments at the district, District Education Offices, and schools, while the resource team may include government ministries, donors and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs).
- **Mapping centres of influence** e.g. faith-based institutions, schools, and other community institutions, parents and religious leaders, through which interventions can be implemented thus avoiding the establishment of parallel structures and duplication of resources.
- **Developing harmonized tools that guide continuous adaptation of interventions** through "*collaboration between intervention developers and implementers to modify an intervention while maintaining core properties and ensuring it is feasible and cost effective.*" The tools should be agile enough to support organizations justify adaptation to development partners.

### Box 2: World Bank guidelines for public-private partnerships in achieving SDGs as they relate to VAC

The need for continuous corporate social responsibility activities presents an opportunity for CSOs to partner with the private sector by presenting development agendas e.g. SDG 16.2 (which addresses VAC) to which they can contribute.

The World Bank notes in its SDG Compass: Guide for Business Action on the SDGs: "*The SDGs can help bring together partners around a shared set of goals and priorities.*" It makes the following recommendations for sustainable development partnerships:

- Shared goals
- Leverage core competences
- Well-defined roles and responsibilities
- Clear governance structures
- Single monitoring, evaluation and learning framework
- Focus on impacts
- Forecast future resource needs
- Process for knowledge management

*"For new partnerships, it is recommended to start small but to design for scale."*

- **Establishing standard monitoring and evaluation systems** that support robust data collection and knowledge management processes where “*translating data into action and ensuring that information is unpacked for policy makers and other stakeholders, and data is packaged for different sectors and audiences.*”

## Case study: Integrating VAC prevention and response within the HIV continuum of care

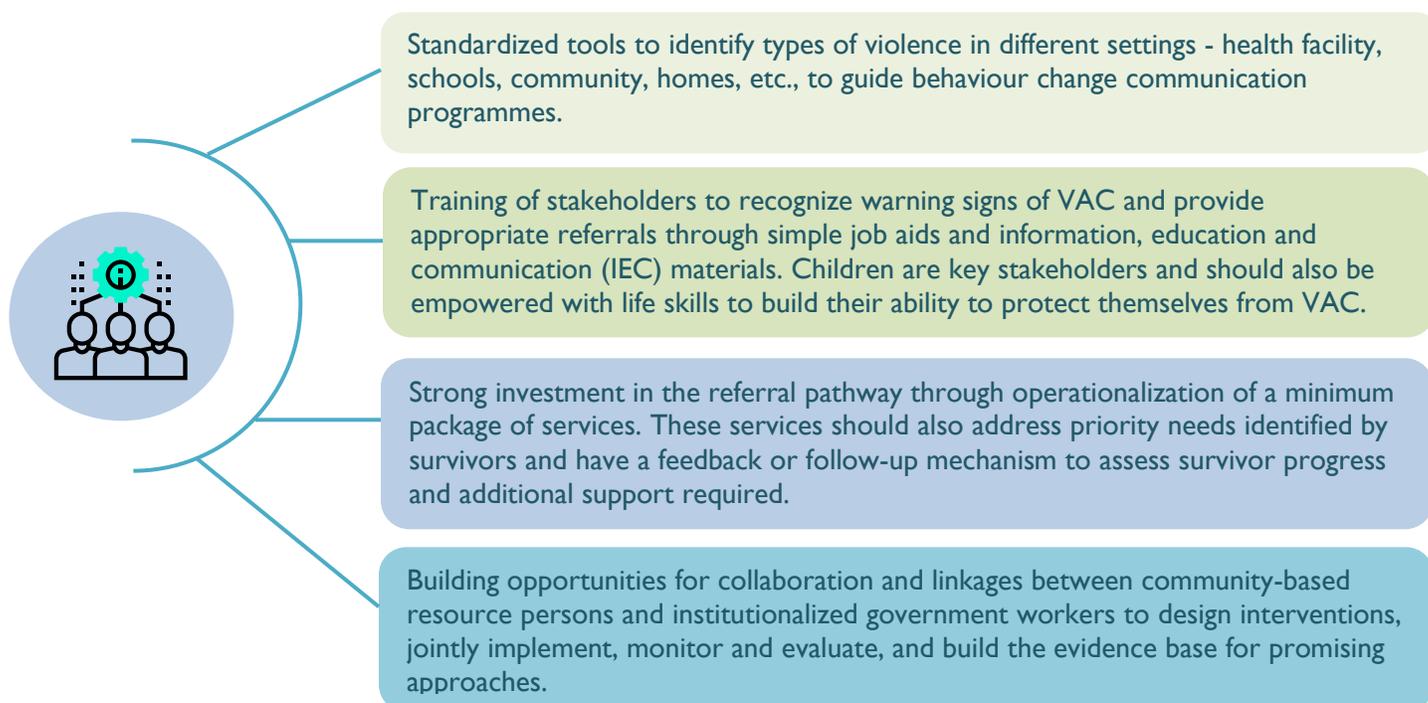
Against the backdrop of the 2014 Global Partners Forum’s “*Call to Action for Protection, Care and Support for an AIDS-Free Generation*”, a project was undertaken by 4Children to identify opportunities for integrating VAC prevention and response as a key strategy for reducing new infections among children. A key assertion of the Global Partners (UNICEF, PEPFAR, UNAIDS, USAID, The World Bank, The Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS) was that targets for preventing new infections and scaling up treatment could not be achieved without addressing the multiple forms of VAC.

*[The full report is available at <https://bettercarenetwork.org/sites/default/files/Integrating-Violence-Against-Children.pdf>]*

### Opportunities: Summary findings for integration

Although the project focused on integrating VAC prevention and response strategies within HIV testing and services (HTS) and pediatric care and treatment, the opportunities and recommendations can be broadly applied to other VAC prevention/response integration efforts. The project covered Botswana, Côte d’Ivoire, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

**Key observation: Successful integration focuses on embedding VAC prevention and response mechanisms within all sectors starting from the national level and trickling down interventions to the lower levels to mitigate VAC risk factors more broadly and sustainably through structures while leveraging government programmes that already exist.**



## References and Further Reading

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Prevention of VAC and GBV

[https://aidsfree.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2017.5.16\\_gbv-vac-mod3.pdf](https://aidsfree.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2017.5.16_gbv-vac-mod3.pdf)

INSPIRE Jamboree report 2019

<http://www.cpcnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Jamboree-Report.pdf>

A Business Guide to Development Actors. World Business Council on Sustainable Development.  
[www.wbcd.org/web/publications/sl-devactors.pdf](http://www.wbcd.org/web/publications/sl-devactors.pdf).

World Bank SDG Compass: Guide for Business Action on the SDGs

[https://sdgcompass.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/019104\\_SDG\\_Compass\\_Guide\\_2015.pdf](https://sdgcompass.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/019104_SDG_Compass_Guide_2015.pdf)

Parenting for Lifelong Health

[https://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/violence/child/plh/en/](https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/child/plh/en/)

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