Evaluating Programmes Addressing Protection of Children and Women from Violence: *Use of Participatory Approaches Involving Vulnerable Groups*

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Outline

1. Violence Against Children: Some facts
2. UNICEF’s strategies and programme focus
3. Recent evaluations
4. Scope and methods (example)
5. Sources of complexity
6. Examples of participatory methods
7. Challenges and lessons
Violence Against Children (VAC) – Some Facts

6 in 10 children worldwide are regularly subjected to physical punishment by their caregivers

1 in 10 girls have experienced forced sexual acts at some point in their lives; A significant proportion of the victims are young children.

1 in 3 adolescents aged 11 to 15 in Europe and North America admit to having bullied others at school

3 in 10 adults worldwide believe that physical punishment is necessary to properly raise or educate children

...A major concern within the 2030 SDGs Agenda... Target 16.2 calls for “end[ing] abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children”
Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (women aged 15-49)
UNICEF’s programme focus and need for evaluative evidence...

- UNICEF has invested in preventing and responding to violence against children (VAC) for several decades but it has never before been evaluated in a comprehensive manner.

- UNICEF Programmes in over 100 countries include a focus on VAC; all emergency responses have child protection response.

- New global initiatives such as EndViolence require solid evidence.

- Corporate decision to prioritise evaluation if UNICEF’s strategies and programme performance in Child Protection / VAC.
Recent evaluations (UNICEF + Joint)

- Meta-synthesis of evaluations focusing on violence against children (2012)
- Evaluation of UNICEF’s work to protect children in emergencies (CPiE) (2014)
- Comprehensive evaluation of UNICEF VAC strategies and programmes (2015)
- Evaluation of Gender-based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) Programmes (2016)

(considerable evidence/learning generated)
Evaluation Focus / Criteria (VAC Evaluation)

Systems Strengthening (KRA 1)

Social Norms Change (KRA 2)

Use of Data and Knowledge Management (KRA 4)

Leadership/Advocacy
Effective UNICEF advocacy, leadership, leveraging, convening and partnerships at the global, regional and country levels support achievement of KRAs.

Gender/Equity
Effective integration of cross-cutting themes, including human rights, equity, gender, disability, and child participation, support achievement of the KRAs.

Evaluation Criteria
1. Relevance and Coherence
2. Effectiveness
3. Efficiency
4. Sustainability
Evaluation Methodology

- Mixed methods
- Case study approach
- Most significant change
- Participatory (FGDs)

Evaluation Framework & Evaluation Matrix

- Triangulation of findings
- Web-survey (70 countries)
- Review of documents
- Stakeholder interviews

Desk study of 14 countries + questionnaire survey

4 Country Case Studies
Evidence Base for the VAC Evaluation

4 Country case studies
Site visits/observation; focus group/interviews with beneficiaries; key informant interviews with UNICEF staff and national partners; document review.

14 Desk review countries
Detailed review of VAC programme documents/results frameworks and annual reports; long questionnaire with open-ended questions; selected follow-up interviews.

Online survey of UNICEF country offices (n=70)

Document review

Key informant interviews with global and regional-level stakeholders

TRIANGULATION
Sources of complexity: VAC programme evaluations...

- Programme context: (formal/informal actors; cultural factors/social norms; variety of situations; state role vs. family/parental care)

- Nature of the change process (lack of proven solution; weak system/capacity to influence change; weak ownership of the problem)

- Interaction among stakeholders (multitude of agencies involved; weak coordination by state; fragmented systems)

- Difficulty to capture change (poor data and monitoring systems; lack of survey data; indicator/measurement issues for outputs & outcomes >>> output/process focus)

- Nature of the evaluation process (lack of standard ToC; fragmented programming; weak data/monitoring culture; limited literature/methods; emerging area of work; mixing of mixed methods)
Use of participatory approaches (FGDs) in recent evaluations

- CPIE Evaluation (2012)

- UNFPA/UNICEF Joint FGM/C Programme Evaluation

- VAC Evaluation (2014)

- GBViE Programme Evaluation (2017)

- Activity groups with 477 adolescents receiving services (259 f/218 m)

- Group discussions to unearth perceptions of change (152 f/47 m)

- Focus groups with “hundreds” of children (mainly female) on types of violence, action taken, reporting, change witnessed in community

- FGDs with 670 participants (beneficiaries) mostly adolescents girls and women
Participatory FGDs: Who and how (VAC Evaluation 2015 example)

- **Who:** Awareness raising group members, peer educators, victims (mainly girls 15-18 years old)

- **How:** In focus group discussions in case study countries, use of games and discussion (up to 2 hrs)

- **Topics discussed:**
  - Types of violence
  - Action taken – change witnessed (or not)
  - Gender issues
  - Improvements needed

- Illustrative use in reports *(insufficient sample!)*
Key challenges / lessons...

- Selection of field sites (sampling)
- Selection of children and women (sampling)
- Involving younger children (manageability)
- Ethical concerns (anonymity, sensitivity, consider what and how)
- Data reliability/analysis (triangulation !)
- Training/reliance on local field assistants
- Evaluator motivation and skills
- Management arrangements (time, logistics)
Thank you!