

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

---

Krishna Belbase  
Evaluation Office  
UNICEF, New York

**UNEG EPE**  
**2017**  
**Vienna**



# 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.**

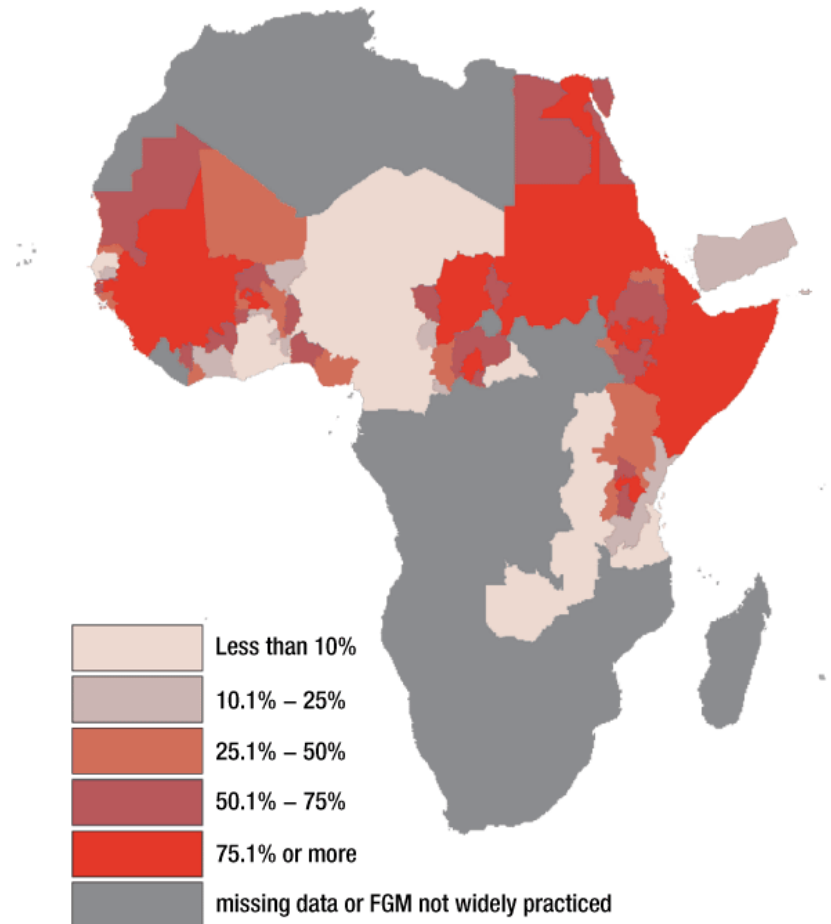
**1 in 3 adolescents aged 11 to 15 in Europe and North America admit to having bullied others at school**

**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...

---

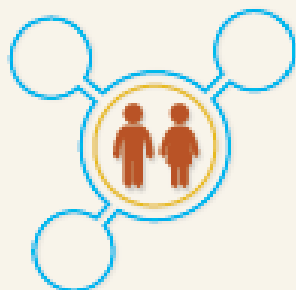
- UNICEF has invested in preventing and responding to violence against children (VAC) for several decades but it has never before been evaluated in a comprehensive manner
- UNICEF Programmes in over 100 countries include a focus on VAC; all emergency responses have child protection response
- New global initiatives such as EndViolence require solid evidence
- Corporate decision to prioritise evaluation of 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)
- UNFPA/UNICEF Joint FGM/C Programme Evaluation (2014)
- Comprehensive evaluation of UNICEF VAC strategies and programmes (2015)
- Evaluation of Gender-based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) Programmes (2016)  
(considerable evidence/learning generated)

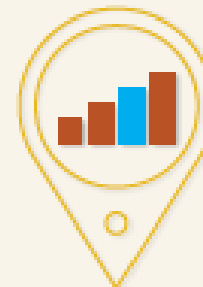
# Evaluation Focus / Criteria (VAC Evaluation)



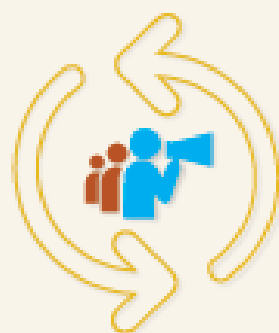
**Systems Strengthening**  
(KRA 1)



**Social Norms Change**  
(KRA 2)

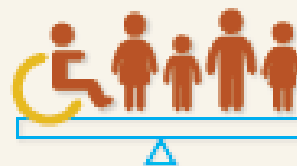


**Use of Data and Knowledge Management**  
(KRA 4)



## 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



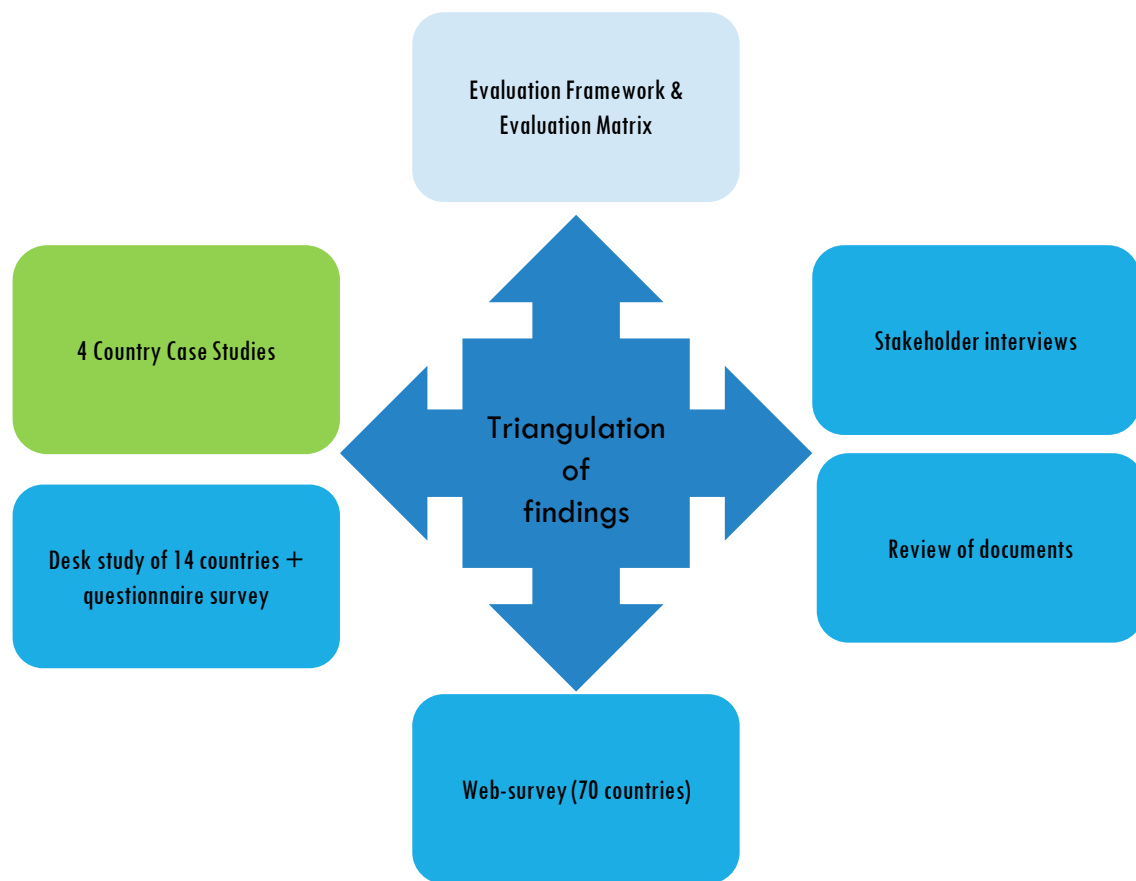
### 4 Sustainability



# Evaluation Methodology

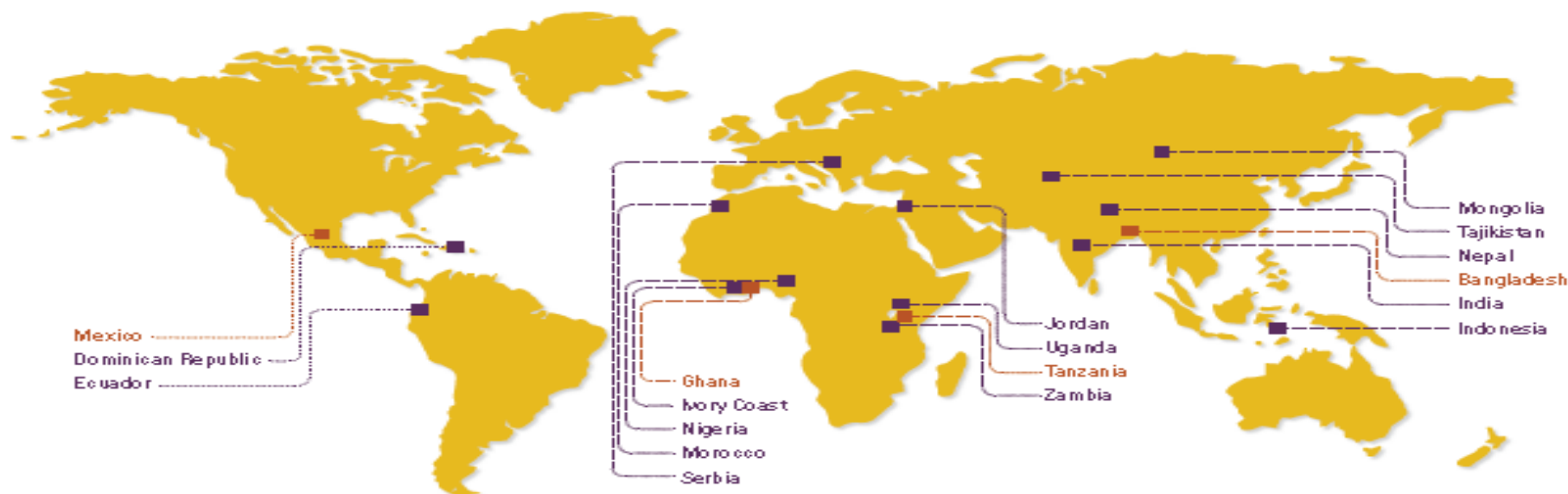
---

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





# Evidence Base for the VAC Evaluation



- **4** Country case studies  
Site visits/observation; focus groups/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.



# 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)
  - Activity groups with 477 adolescents receiving services (259 f/218 m)
- UNFPA/UNICEF Joint FGM/C Programme Evaluation
  - Group discussions to unearth perceptions of change (152 f/47 m)
- VAC Evaluation (2014)
  - Focus groups with “hundreds” of children (mainly female) on types of violence, action taken, reporting, change witnessed in community
- GBViE Programme Evaluation (2017)
  - 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 !

