Strengthening the Social Welfare Workforce to address Violence against Children in care
Help-seeking behavior reported by 18 to 24 year olds* who experienced childhood sexual violence

received services for sexual violence:

% Females

Kenya: 3
Tanzania: 13
Zimbabwe: 3

% Males

Kenya: <1
Tanzania: 4
Zimbabwe: 2

sought services for sexual violence:

% Females

Kenya: 7
Tanzania: 22
Zimbabwe: 4

% Males

Kenya: 2
Tanzania: 12
Zimbabwe: 2

told someone about sexual violence:

Kenya: 46
Tanzania: 52
Zimbabwe: 52

Kenya: 36
Tanzania: 31
Zimbabwe: 45

* Reported by 13-24 year olds in Tanzania
What works in VAC prevention and response

- Violence against girls and boys is preventable
- Action is required at all levels of the ecological model

Whole system/institution strengthening is more effective than narrow policy changes, short-term projects, and vertical programming
## Strengthening the Social Welfare Workforce

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<th>Capacity Development</th>
<th>National education and training institutions (have good coverage and quality courses)</th>
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<td>Public Financial Management</td>
<td>Government budgeting and financial planning of social welfare workforce</td>
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| Quality Assurance | Part of the child protection normative framework  
  - protection functions clearly defined,  
  - licensing/accreditation for social workers and auxiliary professionals,  
  - supervision/support to staff,  
  - data collection on type and quantity of case work to inform further policy making |
| Advocacy | Citizens and policy makers recognition of the social welfare workforce as critical for the protection of vulnerable members of society |
Example from Rwanda

- Since 2012 the Rwanda has been engaged in a child care reform aiming at promoting family based care and reducing children living in residential care facilities.
- Using social welfare workforce to prevent and respond to VAC in all care settings, but using the deinstitutionalization as an entry point.
- GoR strengthening the professional and volunteer social workforce to work with communities, children and families to prevent cases of violence and separation, and to provide referrals to appropriate services.
- National Commission for Children absorbed 60 social workers and psychologists into the government system demonstrating a commitment to supporting child protection and violence prevention.
- 29,674 volunteers called ‘friends of the family’, also under the NCC have been deployed across the country, 2 per village. This cadre has received pre-service training and will be working directly with families and children in communities to mitigate and prevent violence.
For more information, please contact
Jonna Karlsson
UNICEF ESAR Child Protection
jkarlsson@unicef.org

United Nations Children’s Fund
Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office
P.O.Box 44145 - 00100 Nairobi, Kenya

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