



African regional consultation: Ending VAC in All Care Settings

Global developments , persisting challenges and how the African region can advance progress

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- **UN Study on Violence against Children -2006 (VAC in different settings, including in care)**
- **Mandate of the Special Representative -2009**
appointment of SRSG
- **Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children-2009**
- **First Regional Expert consultation on VAC and Care- Brazil 2014**
- **Start of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development- 2015**



SDG Targets to End Violence against Children



- 16.1** Reduce all forms of violence and related deaths
 - 16.2** **End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children**
 - 16.3** Promote the rule of law and ensure access to justice
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- 5.2** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking, and sexual and other types of exploitation
 - 5.3** Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation
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- 8.7** Elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including slavery, human trafficking, and recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms
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- 4.a** Provide safe, non-violent, inclusive, and effective learning environments for all
- 4.7** Ensure that all learners acquire knowledge...[for] promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence

Global efforts and developments: growing evidence base

Evidence has been steadily strengthened with valuable **research and guidance, e.g.:**

- Estimating the number of children in formal alternative care (2017)
- The science of early adversity: is there a role for large institutions in the care of vulnerable children? Lancet, 2015
- FROM A WHISPER TO A SHOUT: A Call to end Violence Against Children in alternative care- 2014
- Implementation Handbook for the Guidelines on the Alternative Care of Children- 2012

Global efforts and developments

- Development of evidenced-based tools to support states in national implementation efforts: **e.g. INSPIRE**
- **Global partnerships** established to support achievement of the SDG targets: Global Partnership to End VAC, Alliance 8.7 to end child labour



Global efforts and developments:

regional level

Adoption of strong Regional Political Declarations and Regional Action Plans:

- the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Council of Europe (CoE) adopted new regional plans on violence against children aligned with the 2030 Agenda.**
- League of Arab States (LAS), the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC) and the High-level Authorities on Human Rights of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), AU 2063 + Children's Agenda 2040 promoting similar efforts**

Latin America and the Caribbean

- Advocacy with States to prioritize this issue, including in the 21st Pan American Child Congress, held in Brazil (every 5 years)
- Brasilia, December 2014: first regional expert consultation on the elimination of violence against children in alternative care.
- Thematic Report on the Right of the Child to a Family issued by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

as a result.....

- The 21st Pan American Child Congress **Resolution prioritizes the implementation of the Guidelines for Alternative Care** and the recommendations of the UNVAC study. Goals and indicators takes into account the recommendations of the Thematic Report on the Right of the Child to a Family
- **Key action was the promotion of the de-institutionalisation of children under three years of age**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- First Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Children launched in 2016. Covering Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam for a period of ten years (2016-2025).
- Recognises children not living with their biological parents and in various forms of alternative care
- Includes a commitment to develop an ASEAN Guideline on non-violent approach to nurture, care, and development of children in all settings which has been concluded (led by Thailand)

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- **Prioritises prevention policies** and intervention measures to mitigate and address the underlying causes of all forms of violence against children and develop programmes to ensure all children receive appropriate care either from their own families, caregivers, or community/faith-based alternatives.
- **Promotes the deinstitutionalisation** of children especially those aged three years and under to reduce violence by strengthening the implementation of alternative family care services (e.g. adoption, foster and kinship care, and legal guardianship)
- Progress reviewed **periodically** by representatives from ASEAN Member States / Ministries for social affairs and welfare/ development through appropriate instruments and actions

Persisting global challenges

- **Breaking the invisibility of violence (social acceptance)**
- **Weak focus on prevention, reactive and fragmented action**
- **Poor investments in human and financial resources**
- **Weak monitoring and evaluation of progress**
- **Weak national statistical capacity**



Opportunities.....

Primary responsibility for implementation lies with governments, who are expected to *promote a participatory, transparent and integrated process of **follow-up and review of progress at national, regional and global level***

High Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the central inter-governmental platform for follow-up and review at the global level

Follow-up and review processes at the HLPF must complement and be informed by national and regional reviews of progress



Provide support to country-level implementation: regional and sub-regional frameworks can facilitate the effective translation of policies into concrete action at national level

Promote identification of trends, lessons learned, good practices, gaps, and issues specific to the regions

Help boost regional cooperation and partnerships

Regional action indispensable to share experience, provide opportunities for mutual learning, and expertise and studies to assist national implementation processes and review progress

Products of regional reviews a key input for global HLPF review of progress

Using existing regional review mechanisms where possible, e.g. through regional entities and commissions

And.....

Regional human rights mechanisms (e.g. ACERWC + African Commission on Human and People's Rights) but the **SDGs need to be effectively mainstreamed in their work and in concluding observations/recommendations to states parties**



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- **Outcome** of this meeting will help build on regional lessons learned to support global understanding of the problem – and more importantly- what is being done to address it
- **Recommendations** and **Call to Action** will be an important contribution to the global effort



THANK YOU!

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