

Together to #ENDviolence

Global Policy Briefing

Key Messages

More investment, better spent

2030 Policy Objectives

More investment, better spent: National governments, donors and the private sector progressively increase their investment in **proven solutions** to end all forms of violence against children, providing consistent, and adequate funding to keep children safe at home, online and within their communities.

KEY MESSAGES

- One billion children are experiencing violence each year and the long-term consequences of such violence amount to a staggering US\$7 trillion annually.
- Governments and donors have made strong commitments to end violence against children but these commitments have not been followed up by the corresponding investments. This gap jeopardises the progress in ending violence against children and undermines achievement of other development objectives such as poverty reduction, early child development, health, education, promoting gender equality and reducing conflict.
- Governments and donors should ensure that COVID recovery plans include measures and funding to address the increased risks of violence against children resulting from the pandemic and its associated economic and social impacts.
- To meet the SDG related to ending violence against children by 2030, the global development community needs to better track resources and increase overall investments in ending violence against children.
- All governments should commit to having, costing and adequately funding the implementation of national action plans to end violence against children.
- All donors should increase funding in evidence based interventions to address violence against children in all settings.
- The private sector has a responsibility to do its utmost to protect children from violence resulting from, or enabled by, its operations. It should make new financial commitments to address violence against children, including to prevent and respond to online harm to children.
- Donors should agree on standardised methodology for tracking donor investments in ending violence against children that can be integrated in the OECD-DAC CRS database.

KEY STATISTICS

- Data covering 80% of countries with National Plans of Action to end violence against children indicates that only 20% of those countries have fully funded their implementation.
- The total ODA spending on ending violence against children in 2018 was US\$1,886.5 million, out of which only 0.26% is dedicated to projects focusing exclusively on ending violence against children.
- Less than a 1% of ODA spending is targeted at ending violence against children in spite of 65% of increase in funding to end violence against children between 2015 and 2018.
- Top ten donors make 86% of total ODA to end violence against children.

WHY AND WHY NOW?

Every year, more than one billion children – or half of the world’s children – experience some form of violence, which often has long-lasting consequences on their wellbeing. Exposure to violence compromises a child’s mental, physical and social development, hampers educational outcomes and reduces opportunities for gainful employment. The long-term consequences of violence against children already costs US\$7 trillion annually. Despite the scale of the problem, there is a very significant shortfall in the financial investment required to end it. Recent estimates show that only a small fraction of total ODA spending is targeted at ending violence against children – just 0.96% of the total ODA investment (less than 1 USA dollar per child in ODA recipient countries). While data on domestic resource mobilisation is still largely absent, the existing reports show that national budgets to end violence against children also grossly under-funded in low and middle income countries. For example, according to the WHO’s *Global Status Report on Preventing Violence against Children*, of the 80% of governments that have national plans of action to end violence against children, only one fifth has put adequate budgets behind them.

COVID -19 and associated measures to manage it have increased the risks of violence at home, online and in communities. The long term economic impacts of the pandemic on jobs and livelihoods are likely to increase many forms of violence against children and incentivize negative coping mechanisms such as child labour and child marriage. It is estimated that violence against children as a result of the pandemic may make up to 85 million more children vulnerable to violence¹. At the same time governments will be experiencing sharply reduced tax and other revenues and increased pressures to intervene and spend to rebuild their economies. In this context of increased fiscal pressures, funding for protection of children from violence, by national governments and donors, which was already inadequate, may be significantly affected resulting in immediate and life-long damage to children.

HOW?

When compared to actual needs and the numbers of children annually exposed to violence against children, there was already a large funding gap in what is needed to protect all children in every context. This means that governments, donors and private sector must urgently scale up funding in the face of the COVID 19 pandemic to protect children from harm and to have any chance of meeting SDGs to end violence against children by 2030.

National governments should:

- Commit to costing and adequately funding the implementation of their national action plans to end violence against children.
- Increase and protect investment in basic social services for children including child protection including through their COVID recovery plans.
- Ensure that COVID recovery plans include measures and funding to address the increased risks of violence against children resulting from the pandemic and its associated economic and social impacts.
- Prioritise funding for evidence-based approaches to ending violence against children across different sectors and integrate them in medium-term expenditure frameworks at national and subnational levels.
- Integrate prevention of violence against children into national development plans to strengthen national capacity, political will and domestic resources for EVAC.

¹www.wvi.org/publications/report/coronavirus-health-crisis/covid-19-aftershocks-perfect-storm

All donors should:

- Increase funding in evidence based interventions to address violence against children in all settings.
- Agree on standardised methodology for tracking donor investments in ending violence against children that can be integrated in the OECD-DAC CRS database.

The private sector should:

- Strengthen their actions and financial commitments to protect children from violence resulting from, or enabled by its operations, including online violence.

Resources available

wvi.org/publication/counting-pennies-review-official-development-assistance-end-violence-against-children

odi.org/en/publications/the-costs-and-economic-impact-of-violence-against-children/

wvi.org/counting-pennies

who.int/teams/social-determinants-of-health/violence-prevention/global-status-report-on-violence-against-children-2020

resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/unprotected-crisis-humanitarian-funding-child-protection

resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/still-unprotected-humanitarian-funding-child-protection

reliefweb.int/report/world/it-takes-investment-financing-end-violence-against-children

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