



Paraguay



**End Violence
Against Children**
THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

Government focal points

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Adolescence (SNNA)

Pathfinding since December 2016



**Government
Contacts and
References**

Recent developments: National Action Plans, Laws, and Budget

2004

Paraguay's President formally adopted 20 Commitments to Improve the Quantity and Efficiency of Investment in Childhood and Adolescence, with support and leadership from UNICEF. Progress towards the eradication of VAC is one of its goals.

2006

As a follow-up to the recommendations of the United Nations Study on Violence against Children and a sub-regional meeting held in 2011, a presidential decree was issued to create the National Commission for Prevention and Response to Violence against Children and Adolescents.

2007

Law No. 5659 on the Promotion of Good Treatment, Positive Parenting and Protection of Children and Adolescents against Corporal Punishment or Any Type of Violence as a Method of Correction or Discipline was passed, which prohibits corporal punishment of children in all settings.

2017

In parallel to the publication of the Drivers report, the Government of Paraguay launched the National Plan of Action for the Protection of Children from All Forms of Violence (2017–2021).

2018

On 16 August 2018 (Children's Day), as his first act of government, President Mario Abdo Benítez ratified the 20 commitments in favor of children and adolescents, promoted by more than 20 organizations from civil society.



**Multi-stakeholder
Collaboration and
Consultation
with Children**

- The National Commission for Prevention and Response to Violence against Children and Adolescents is a multisectoral commission, comprised of representatives from government ministries and agencies, local government, the justice sector and civil society, and is coordinated by the Ministry for Children and Adolescents. Over the last five years, the commission has spearheaded important advances to eradicate VAC, including strengthening intersectoral coordination among response services and raising the visibility of VAC on the public agenda, especially with regards to sexual violence against girls.
- A coalition of child-focused agencies signed a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Childhood and Adolescence to provide technical support and develop actions to implement SDG 16.2 and related targets. These agencies have worked closely with the government and civil society, including children, to develop Paraguay's Action Plan to End Violence Against Children.
- In May 2018, an international seminar on child and adolescent participation and the eradication of violence against them, 'Toward Compliance with SDG 16.2 and Related Targets', was held. The seminar gathered representatives from government, civil society organizations (CSOs), and regional bodies. Participating organizations signed a statement to disseminate and replicate the initiatives and processes presented in the seminar within the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

- In 2011, the first representative research sample on this topic at the national level was published.
- In May 2017, a follow-up report was launched, entitled *The Drivers of Violence Affecting Children in Paraguay*. The report synthesizes key findings available in the literature, as well as community perceptions that perpetuate VAC.
- In November 2017, with support from UNICEF, the Government launched the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, which covered nearly 8,000 homes across Paraguay. The survey, the first of its kind in the country, found that nearly 50 per cent of those interviewed used violence as a form of discipline, highlighting the pressing need to work with families and caretakers to reduce VAC.



Data Collection and Situation Analysis



Collective Action and INSPIRE

- In Paraguay, child-friendly accountability initiatives aim to improve child protection systems at the local, regional and national level by holding governments and local leaders accountable for their obligations to end all violence against children, in accordance with target 16.2. CSOs have developed an open-source child-friendly accountability mechanism, as well as an information and communications technology platform, to connect and scale up community-based action. This allows for regional and national monitoring of child protection and joint action to improve it. The initiative uses an open-source format that local CSOs can adapt. A coalition of child-focused agencies signed a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Childhood and Adolescence to provide technical support and develop actions to implement SDG 16.2 and related targets. This includes the National Network of Childhood and Adolescence (REDNNA), which is now in charge of the technical monitoring of commitments related to child protection.
- The National Action Plan contains a roadmap and priorities for guaranteeing the right of children to protection from VAC, with the first phase (2017-2018) having recently ended. Several of the INSPIRE strategies are included in the plan. The cost of Paraguay's National Plan of Action is estimated to be US\$50 million for a five-year period. The current budget for the direct care of children and adolescents is US\$12,000. With additional support from NGOs and cooperation agencies, only 5 per cent of the annual funding for care is available.
- Paraguay is an active member of the Permanent Commission of the NiñoSur Initiative from Mercosur. Paraguay, as President Pro Tempore of the bloc, hosted the XXXI Meeting of Human Rights Authorities of Mercosur RAADHH in June 2018, where CSOs, including children and adolescents organized through REDNNA, presented advances and their experiences on ending violence against children.

Reporting into CRCs and SDGs



Reported to the CRC in 2014.
Underwent UPR in 2017.



Reported to the High-Level Political Forum in 2017.



Opportunities for 2019 where End Violence will engage

Build political will/ global movement

1. Encourage reporting and documentation on the first phase of the action plan, which ended in 2018, and then review the National Plan of Action against the findings from the *Drivers of Violence Affecting Children in Paraguay* study.
2. Undertake a mapping of programs to prevent violence against children, broadly categorized using the INSPIRE strategies.
3. Establish a Network of the Americas in the Mercosur Agenda to pursue compliance with SDG 16.2 and related targets, and promote the Pathfinding Country status among other member states of Mercosur.

Resource mobilization

4. Organize a donor roundtable in support of the activities in the national action plan.

Equip practitioners

5. Document Paraguay's work around youth engagement as an example for other countries in the region.
6. Expand and strengthen Case Referral Centers of the SNNA equipped with human resources, adequate technology and budgets in all the departments of Paraguay.
7. Ensure that the law prohibiting corporal punishment is implemented, including training on parenting programs (e.g. parenting for lifelong health) to policy makers and professionals.