

The Global EVAC Knowledge Network: A Forum for Users and Producers of Evidence

WHAT?

2017-2018: A Multi-Stakeholder Forum (the Forum) was proposed as a platform for technical discussions relating to data and evidence. ToRs were drawn with OSRSG-VAC, TfG, UNICEF and GP EVAC as the convener.

2019: A kick-off consultation held at UNICEF Innocenti in March highlighted key areas of action around data, evidence and learning with recommended steps forward.

WHY?

The Forum allows for UN-mandated SDG monitoring processes to be discussed alongside findings from other VAC data, monitoring, evaluation and research initiatives, with the aim to discuss and share findings, strengthen methodology and build consensus.

Critical questions considered for VAC prevention

- *What data and evidence resources are needed to support countries working to end violence against children?
- *What tools are currently being used across agencies/places to collect data? How can this be streamlined to assure quality and better standardization?
- *What are the gaps in data, evidence and learning?
- *How can current resources/platforms be linked and enhanced to create a dynamic and useful resource and avoid duplication?
- *How should the evidence community work together to achieve these goals and keep the agenda moving forward?
- *What kind of agreement or approach could help strengthen the evidence architecture for ending violence against children?

HOW?

Representatives from [OSRSG-VAC](#), UNICEF, CDC, TfG, GPEVAC, WHO, UNESCO and DFID formed a core working group both prior and post-consultation.

During the consultation, over 40 participants joined by a host of VAC academics and Joining Forces (representing INGOs), **unanimously agreed on the importance of the Forum and its continued activities.** It was also agreed that the:

- *Forum continue to be chaired by Ex Comm members and hosted and convened by GPEVAC
- *GPEVAC will be home to an online platform for knowledge networking.

GOOD PRACTICE

As a Forum designed to develop the field and ensure that countries taking action to end violence against children have the data and evidence they need, good practice will be essential to all future activities.

Good practice for VAC prevention

- *Shared understanding of approaches and gaps in evidence and how to address them
- * A clear commitment and plan for developing the evidence architecture
- *Demonstrating how organisations take forward the work both together and separately
- *Making the links that reflect stated unmet needs of in-country actors
- *More support for research from the global South
- *Wider diversity of stakeholders across all SDGs

KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM

The GPEVAC website, launched in Q3 2019, will serve as a virtual point bridging existing platforms, networks and knowledge sources while also serving as home to products delivered by Forum members.

Recommendations for the Forum, including a work plan are underway.

Three products will be generated in 2019:

- * **A Methods Menu**—offering a selection of rigorous approaches for baselines and surveillance
- * **An Evidence Gap Map** for future research planning
- * **A Resource Pack: Child participation in VAC research**