Researching Children’s Rights in the Digital Age
Violence against Children Surveys

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National household surveys documenting sexual, physical and emotional violence against girls and boys

Interviewing females and males 13-24 years old about childhood experiences

Government surveys implemented with support from UNICEF, CDC and PEPFAR within the Together for Girls initiative
Together for Girls

Global public-private sector partnership to create a global movement to end violence against children

**NATIONAL SURVEYS & DATA**
Conduct national violence against children surveys (VACS)

**COUNTRY-LED RESPONSE**
Support national government-led multi-sectoral programs and policies

**GLOBAL ADVOCACY**
Engage in advocacy and public awareness raising at the global level
Five UN agencies, the U.S. Government and the private sector
• Swaziland first country to conduct the survey in 2007
• February 2015: Studies completed in 9 countries; in process in 7 countries
• 15 more countries considering VACS
Objectives:

- Describe magnitude and nature of childhood violence
- Assess health and social impact of childhood violence
- Identify potential risk and protective factors
- Assess reporting, service seeking and utilization
- Help guide prevention programs and policies aimed at reducing childhood violence
Measure childhood violence through the lens of:

- Overall prevalence: 18-24 year olds as reported by an event before the age of 18

- Current pattern: 13-17 year olds as reported by events in the past year prior to the survey implementation

- Includes a few questions about child sexual abuse through the use of ICTs
• Standardized, core questionnaire developed at global level and tested in different cultural context - used in all countries

• Adapted locally to country context and translated into different languages (e.g. Haiti restaveks, Kenya political violence)

• Observing ethical standards and protocols

• Using standardized methodology – development of standardized methodological toolkit in process
The Model

Government Led

Multi-Sector Task Force

- Lead Government Ministry
- UNICEF and Other UN Agencies In-Country
- USG In-Country
- Civil Society & Private Sector
- Other Development Partners
- Other Government Ministries

VACS breaks the silence

Mobilizes action and policies

Establishes an accountability framework
RESULTS

• Comparable data on violence against children across countries

• VACS catalysed action to address violence against children in all countries

• Studies have been launched with national priority responses/commitments in Swaziland, Tanzania, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Cambodia, Haiti and in process in Malawi and Nigeria
Moving from Research to Action

• **Multi-stakeholder priority actions** with clearly defined **roles and responsibilities** across sectors/line Ministries and associated stakeholders including civil society and other actors in community.

• **Different approaches depending on country context**

• **Learning across countries – Global Meeting in Swaziland May 2014**
MULTI-SECTOR INTERVENTIONS

HEALTH
Child abuse screening; post-rape care

JUSTICE & POLICE
Child-friendly stations and courts; legal aid

SOCIAL SERVICES
Crisis reporting; child protection centers

COMMUNITY
Parenting support; safe spaces; engaging children

EDUCATION
Training teachers; early childhood education
Call to Action: Tanzania

• Costed Multi-Sector Plan National Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence against Children (July 2013 - June 2016) launched 2013

• Monitoring and Evaluation framework with targets and indicators, is part of the three year plan and the information system is in place

• Quarterly review process of the indicators/targets identified in the 3 year plan
Thank You !