

Researching Children's Rights in the Digital Age

Violence against Children Surveys



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VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN SURVEYS (VACS)

- **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

TOGETHER FOR GIRLS (TFG)



Five UN agencies, the U.S. Government and the private sector



Violence against Children Surveys



- **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**

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN SURVEYS (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**

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN SURVEYS (VACS)

Measure childhood violence through the lens of:

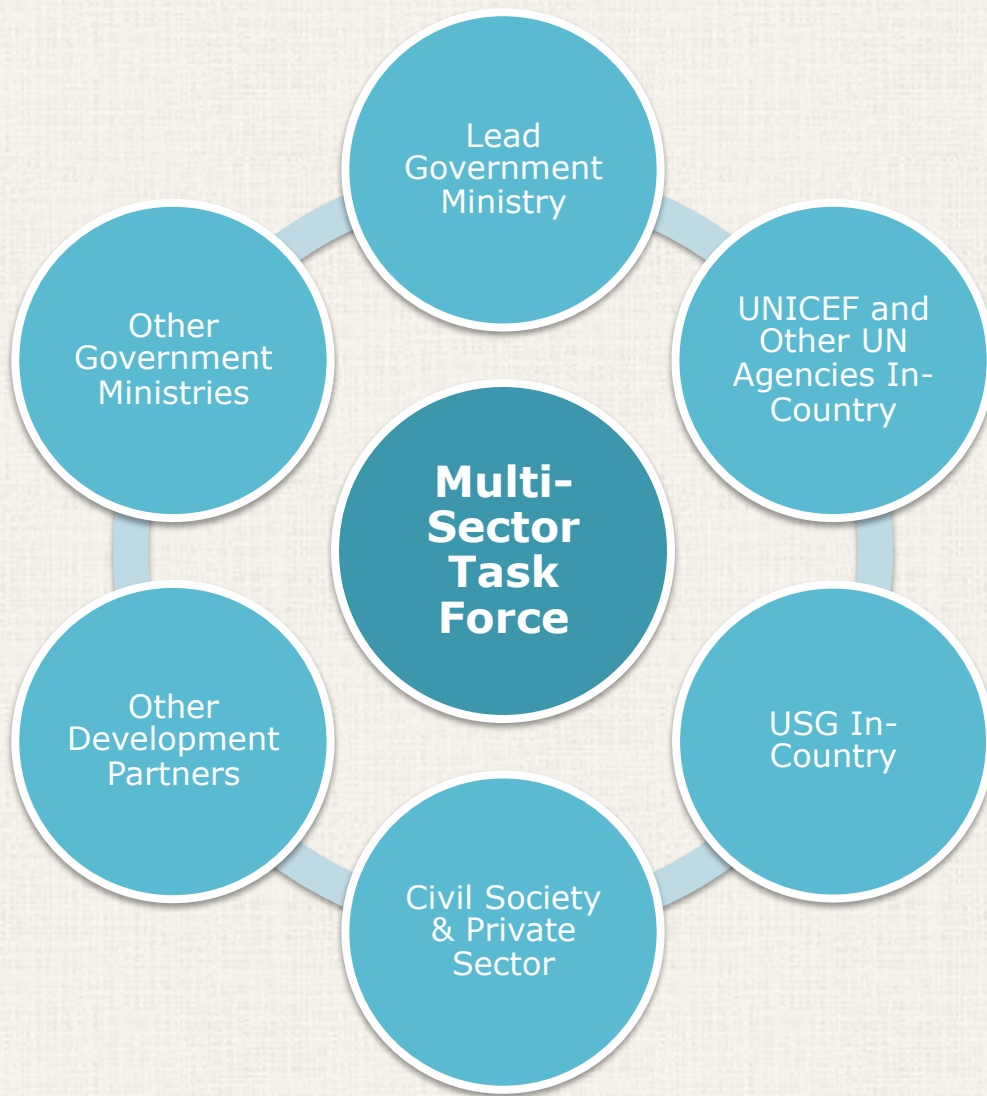
- **Overall prevalence: 18-24 year olds as reported by an event before the age of 18**
- **Current pattern: 13-17 year olds as reported by events in the past year prior to the survey implementation**
- **Includes a few questions about child sexual abuse through the use of ICTs**

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN SURVEYS (VACS)

- **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**

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN SURVEYS (VACS)

- Led by country governments via national **Multi-Sector Task Forces (MSTF)** – National Bureau of Statistics, Ministries of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Health, Education, Justice, Planning, Civil Society, Academia, UNICEF and development partners



The Model

Government Led

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



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 !