



International Conference on Child
Protection in Africa
Resilience. Innovation. Evidence



PROGRAMME AND BOOK OF ABSTRACT

**2nd International Conference on Child Protection (ICCP)
in Africa, 2023**

Theme

Ending Violence against Children Evidence to Action

Dates

22nd - 24th November 2023

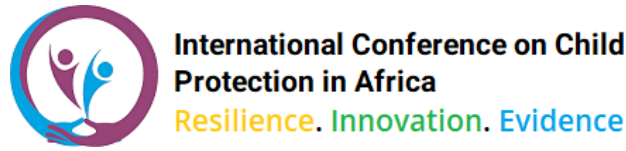
Venue

Daystar University, Nairobi Campus



Acknowledgement

The 2023 International Conference on Child Protection in Africa (ICCP) has been made successful through the support of the following organisations and institutions:



PARTNERS



MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SENIOR CITIZEN AFFAIRS





WELCOME MESSAGE

Message from the Chief Justice, Government of Kenya, Hon. Lady Justice Martha Koome

Esteemed Participants,

I am delighted to welcome you to Nairobi for the 2023 International Conference on Child Protection (ICCP) in Africa. This important event, organized by the Government of Kenya and various agencies, is a significant step in our ongoing commitment to safeguarding children's rights and welfare.

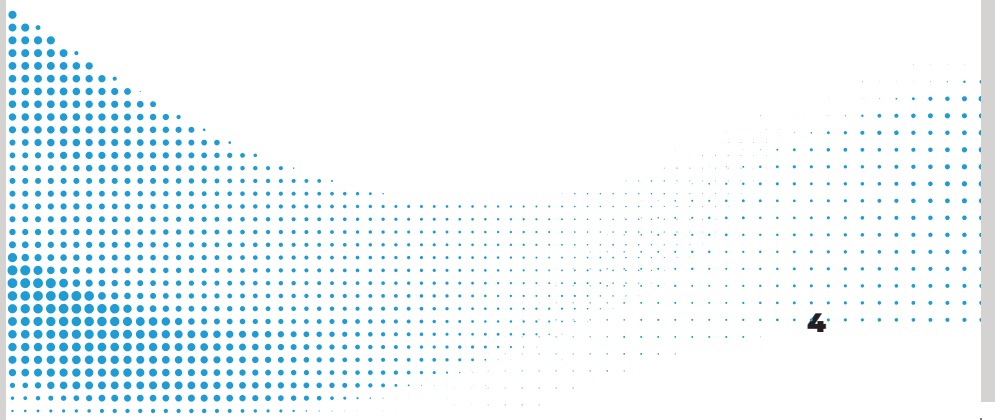
Reflecting on our journey, we have evolved from the 2016 International Conference on Best Interest for Children and the 2018 First International Conference on Child Protection in Africa. These conferences set the stage for our current focus on addressing Violence Against Children (VAC) through building resilience, innovation, and evidence-based approaches in child protection.

This year's conference is unique as it aligns with the NCAJ's Annual Child Justice Summit, creating a synergistic platform for sharing insights on child justice, particularly in addressing Violence Against Children (VAC). Our collective endeavor resonates with Kenya's vision of "Social Transformation through Access to Justice," aiming to establish a people-centered justice system that upholds the rule of law and caters to the needs of the vulnerable, including children.

As Africa houses the world's youngest population, it is crucial that our justice system is sensitive to the needs of children as victims, witnesses, or those in need of care and protection. The National Council on the Administration of Justice (NCAJ), through its child justice initiatives, emphasizes evidence-informed policies and practices in this domain. We acknowledge the challenges, notably the distressing situation of children in custody during legal proceedings. This conference seeks to address such issues and identify enduring solutions.

In conclusion, I urge a collaborative effort towards ensuring safe environments for our children. Increased partnership between academia and practitioners is vital for developing context-specific responses, especially in Africa.

Welcome to Nairobi, and let us work together towards a safer, more just world for our children.





Message by Hon. Florence Bore, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Labour & Social Protection

It is my honour to welcome you all to Kenya and to this Second International Conference on Child Protection, whose main objective is to provide a platform to practitioners and researchers to enhance professionalism, sharing of promising practices and capitalizing on strengths of diversity and associations for practice in Africa.

As you are aware, all over the world children experience violence, sometimes within safe environments while in the hands of most trusted people. To break this cycle of violence against children, we need to recreate the world our children deserve by prioritizing their well-being and safety.

We are gathered here to celebrate a remarkable journey that Kenya has undertaken in our collective commitment towards protecting the most vulnerable among us, our children. The 2010 Constitution of Kenya (Article 53) affirms that children have basic rights, including the right to education, nutrition, shelter, health care and parental care and further recognizes the need for all children to be protected from abuse, neglect, harmful cultural practices, all forms of violence, inhumane treatment, and punishment, and hazardous or exploitative labour.

In recent times, the Government of Kenya has established a robust legal framework; thus ensuring an elaborate child protection system. To achieve this has required the collaborative efforts of state and non-state actors through a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach, and this conference is one such forum.

We look forward to learning from evidence based practices and innovations that serve to reduce violence against children and enhance their survival, development, protection and participation.

Welcome to the Conference. Karibuni sana!

UNICEF works to protect the rights of every child in Kenya.

unicef 
for every child



UNICEF works in over 190 countries and territories to save children's lives, to defend their rights, and to help them fulfil their potential, from early childhood through adolescence. And we never give up.

UNICEF works to promote and protect the rights of children and women in Kenya. With 52 years of service (since 1971), we are one of the longest-serving international organizations in the country.

Our programmes in Kenya



Child Protection

Protecting children from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect



Education

Providing inclusive and equitable quality education for every child



Emergencies

Supporting children during conflicts, natural disasters and epidemics



Health

Reducing maternal, newborn and child mortality



Nutrition

Preventing and treating maternal, adolescent and child malnutrition



Social policy and protection

Helping to provide a fair chance for every child



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Improving children's access to water, sanitation and hygiene

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KEY NOTE SPEAKERS – BRIEF BIO: THE ICCP 2023



Key Note 1: Ruth Juliet Gachanja

Ms. Ruth Juliet Nyambura Gachanja, a distinguished Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and expert in child rights and anti-human trafficking, holds an LLM in International Children's Rights and an LLM in Minorities, Rights, and the Law. With a career spanning two decades, she has significantly contributed to impactful projects addressing policy gaps in children's rights. Her global engagement includes reporting to UN bodies, and she plays a pivotal role in shaping future legal professionals as a Lecturer at Kabarak University and Child Justice Advisor to the Chief Justice of Kenya. Beyond academia, she has influenced legislative initiatives, chaired the Justice Working Group under Alliance 8.7, and led Love Justice International-Kenya. Ms. Gachanja's commitment to child rights exemplifies her dedication to creating a safer world for children.



Key Note 2: Andréa Santos Souza

Ms. Ruth Juliet Nyambura Gachanja, a distinguished Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and expert in child rights and anti-human trafficking, holds an LLM in International Children's Rights and an LLM in Minorities, Rights, and the Law. With a career spanning two decades, she has significantly contributed to impactful projects addressing policy gaps in children's rights. Her global engagement includes reporting to UN bodies, and she plays a pivotal role in shaping future legal professionals as a Lecturer at Kabarak University and Child Justice Advisor to the Chief Justice of Kenya. Beyond academia, she has influenced legislative initiatives, chaired the Justice Working Group under Alliance 8.7, and led Love Justice International-Kenya. Ms. Gachanja's commitment to child rights exemplifies her dedication to creating a safer world for children.



Key Note 3: Deepak Raj Sapkota

Deepak Raj Sapkota, the Executive Director of Karuna Foundation Nepal and Honorary Consul of the Netherlands to Nepal, is a distinguished advocate for child welfare and inclusive development. Serving as a key member of the Central Child Justice Committee of Nepal, his extensive career includes leadership roles at Karuna Foundation Netherlands and the Association of International Non-Governmental Organizations in Nepal. With eight years at the Nepal Children's Organization and a pioneering term as the first Executive Director of the Central Child Welfare Board, Deepak brings unparalleled expertise to the field. His areas of impact span children's rights, disability prevention, community-based rehabilitation, public health, and inclusive development policymaking. He holds a Masters in Advanced Studies in Children's Rights from the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. Mr. Sapkota seamlessly blends academic rigor with hands-on experience, making him an invaluable keynote speaker for the International Conference on Child Protection, sharing insights and perspectives crucial for advancing the cause of child well-being globally.



Key Note 4: Dr. Lina Digolo

Dr. Lina Digolo is a paediatrician and clinical epidemiologist with over 15 years of experience as a technical expert in health system strengthening, research, policy development, and service delivery. She has a strong interest in bridging the gap between research evidence and practical implementation.

Lina possesses extensive expertise in assisting national governments, civil society organizations, bilateral and philanthropic donors, and UN agencies in utilizing evidence for policymaking and designing programs, primarily in the Global South. She has conducted several on violence against women and children in Kenya, most of which have been pivotal in shaping policy and service delivery guidelines.

Lina has actively contributed to developing, reviewing, and disseminating various national and international policies and guidelines related to the prevention of violence against children and women.



Key Note 5: Dr. Chi-Chi Undie

Senior Associate and Technical Director (International Programs Division of the Population Council)
Dr. Chi-Chi Undie, a distinguished Senior Associate and Technical Director at the Population Council's International Programs Division, is renowned for her groundbreaking work in sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and girls' education. Over a decade, she spearheaded the 'Africa Regional SGBV Network', driving multi-country research and intervention initiatives across diverse African regions. Her efforts have significantly shaped policy and practice, leading to the implementation of regionally adopted, evidence-based interventions. Dr. Undie also co-led the data collection for Kenya's Violence Against Children and Youth Survey and is pioneering the first such survey in a humanitarian context. As the inaugural Board Chair of the Sexual Violence Research Initiative and a Board Member of Together for Girls, her influence extends globally. Currently, she directs two major FCDO-funded research consortia, focusing on sexual health in refugee settings and female genital mutilation/cutting, further cementing her status as a leader in her field.



Key Note 6: Andy Brooks

UNICEF Regional Advisor for Child Protection for East & Southern Africa

Andy Brooks, a distinguished expert in child protection, has been the UNICEF Regional Advisor for Child Protection for East and Southern Africa since September 2021. His career, spanning over two decades, started in the United Kingdom as a Social Worker and Team Manager in Nottingham. Brooks transitioned to international roles, notably as the Child Protection Chief for UNICEF in Sri Lanka (2006-2009) and Tanzania (2009-2013), and later as a Regional Child Protection Advisor in West and Central Africa (2013-2021). He also contributed significantly to Save the Children in Cote d'Ivoire (2001-2003). Academically, Brooks is equipped with a Masters in Social Work from Nottingham University and an M.A. in English Literature from Cambridge University, underlining his comprehensive expertise in both academic and practical realms of child welfare.



Key Note 7: Dr. Daniela Ligiero

CEO & President of Together for Girls (USA)

Dr. Daniela Ligiero, as the CEO and President of Together for Girls, leads a global crusade against violence targeting children and adolescents, with a special focus on sexual violence. Her organization collaborates with governments, UN agencies, and civil societies across over twenty countries, utilizing data-driven advocacy to effect change. In 2022, she amplified her commitment to this cause by co-founding the Brave Movement, a global advocacy movement aimed at policy reforms to address childhood sexual violence. Her extensive background includes a transformative role as the Vice President of Girls and Women's Strategy at the UN Foundation, where she developed groundbreaking gender integration strategies. At the U.S. Department of State, she was instrumental in weaving gender concerns into foreign policy and played a pivotal role in formulating the U.S. Government's strategy to combat gender-based violence and the PEPFAR DREAMS program, which focused on adolescent girls' health. A survivor of childhood sexual violence herself, Dr. Ligiero openly shares her experiences to advocate for change. She holds a doctoral degree in counseling psychology and is fluent in English, Portuguese, Spanish, and French. Daniela, a Brazilian American, enjoys family life, creative pursuits like furniture making, and ocean-related activities in Bethesda, MD.

Changing the Way We CareSM

[Changing the Way We CareSM](#) (CTWWC) is a global initiative funded by a Global Development Alliance (GDA), which includes [USAID](#), the [GHR](#) and [MacArthur](#) Foundations and other donors, and implemented by Catholic Relief Services, Maestral International along with other *global*, national and local partners working together to change the way we care for children around the world such as national governments, Better Care Network, Lumos Foundation, and Faith to Action.

Our vision is to be a bold global initiative designed to promote safe, nurturing family care for children. This includes reforming national systems of care for children, strengthening families, family reunification, and preventing child-family separation, which can have harmful, long-term consequences, and development of alternative family-based care – and influencing to build momentum towards a tipping point of change.

The **project's goal** is to influence a global movement to prevent children from entering institutions and to reintegrate them into safe nurturing families. This includes strengthening families and reforming national systems of care for children, including family reunification and reintegration, and the development of alternative family-based care (in keeping with the United Nations Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children).

Our objectives:

For people worldwide to commit to family-based care through global, regional, and national advocacy to raise awareness and advance policies, best practices, and the redirection of resources by global and regional bodies, civil society (faith organizations, philanthropic communities, and individuals);

For governments to advocate for family care through the improvement and implementation of policies, workforce investment, national and community systems strengthening, and redirection of resources; and

For children to stay in or return to families through various family-strengthening interventions that consider the wants and needs of children and families, the engagement of children in care, care leavers, families, and the local communities, and the transition or closure of orphanages.

Implementation Strategy: since its launch in 2018, *Changing the Way We CareSM* has worked to influence the global movement in its commitment to children's care, which is critical to long-term, sustainable change for children and families.

Moving Forward: Changing the We Care is currently in Year Six of implementation, moving into the next phase of the initiative, building on the demonstration county work and learning and moving towards models of scaling and sustaining the work of the initiative in a more focused and more conservative resource setting. The initiative is at a critical stage where the knowledge base is being enhanced to ensure that more information and evidence is collected and documented to inform replication, collaboration, and sustainability of the care systems supportive of family and community-based care.

For more information please contact Rebecca.Hallam@crs.org | 020 42 0000 | www.crs.org | www.changingthewaywecare.org





MESSAGE FROM VICE-CHANCELLOR, DAYSTAR UNIVERSITY, PROFESSOR LABAN AYIRO

I extend a heartfelt welcome to each one of you attending the 2nd International Child Protection Conference hosted here at Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya, from November 22nd to 24th, 2023.

Under the theme “Ending Violence against Children: Evidence to Action,” this conference provides a crucial platform to address the global issue of child maltreatment. I am delighted to welcome you on behalf of Daystar University and express our collective commitment to making a difference in the lives of children.

Daystar University, dedicated to its vision of being a distinguished Christ-centered institution, takes great pride in hosting this transformative event. Our Institute of Child Development, founded in 2000 and officially launched in 2008, stands as a guiding light in the fight against child abuse. Grounded in the belief that the scientific study of child development is vital for promoting child welfare, the institute equips practitioners and academicians with the knowledge to intervene and respond to cases of violence against children. Daystar has made contributions to national policies, given support for Civil Society Organizations, and conducted impactful collaborations with child-focused institutions. The dedication to the mission that emanates from top management to the Daystar community has been a driving force in our pursuit of world-class, value-based education.

The Institute of Child Development strives to equip child caregivers and practitioners with knowledge to help children suffering the effects of early trauma, abuse, neglect, and social deprivation. The Institute endeavors to work towards developing children who are strong in character, and who will be able to bring influence in the society. Graduates from the Institute are able to offer psychosocial support to children to reduce trauma and increase child wellbeing. Further, they can formulate and implement child and family intervention programs in different spaces of their career.

The Institute has had various opportunities to make contributions to the national policy and support Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) including: Development of the National guidelines for Psychosocial Support of Orphans and vulnerable children, National guidelines for Psychosocial Support of Orphans and vulnerable children (Popular Version: Caregiver), Preparation and validation of the National Plan of Action, finalizing the Nairobi Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, and Planning and hosting conferences. Furthermore, The Institute of Child Development has had privileges to partner and collaborate with various child-focused institutions to promote the children's agenda in this country and beyond.

I encourage each of you to engage wholeheartedly in the discussions and actions that will unfold during the conference. Together, let us strive to ensure the well-being of every child and contribute to meaningful and lasting change.

Warm regards,
Prof. Laban P. Ayiro,
Vice Chancellor,
Daystar University



Our Programmes

Our Intakes: January, May & September



Admission Requirements

Certificate Programmes: A KCSE mean grade of D+ (plus) or 3 Credits in IGCSE or its equivalent.

Diploma Programmes: A KCSE mean grade of C-(minus) or C (plain) or one principal pass in 'A' levels or 4 credits or better in IGCSE or a graded certificate.

Undergraduate Programmes: A mean grade of C+ (plus) and above in KCSE, or at least 4 credits in IGCSE with at least 2 Credit passes at 'A' level/GCE.

School of Law Requirements: A minimum mean grade of C+(Plus) in KCSE or its equivalent with a minimum grade of B(plain) in English or Kiswahili; OR a minimum of three(3) Principals at Advanced Level(A-Level); institution; OR a Diploma in Law with a minimum of Credit Pass OR a degree in any other field from an accredited institution with at least a B(Plain) in English or Kiswahili at KCSE; OR any other qualification considered by the Kenya National Qualifications Authority or the Council of Legal Education to be equivalent to any of the above. In addition, applicants will be required to pass an entrance examination administered by the Daystar University School of Law.

Masters Programmes: A Bachelor's degree from an accredited university with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 on a 4.00 scale, or an Upper Second Class Honours. A Lower Second Class Honours with 2 years' relevant work experience may be considered.

PhD Programmes: A Master's degree in Counseling, Clinical Psychology, Communication, Business or any other related field with a GPA of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale. A GPA of 3.00 is equivalent to a B in other Universities.

1 School of Arts and Social Sciences

DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

- International Relations
- Theology

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Bachelor of Arts

- Peace & Conflict Transformation
- International Relations & Security Studies (IRSS)

Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) - Arts

- English/Literature
- Kiswahili/CRE (Bible)
- Kiswahili/Music
- Christian Religious Education (Bible)
- Kiswahili/Business Studies
- CRE/Business Studies
- Early Childhood Development & Education (ECDE)

Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) - Science

- Mathematics & Physics
- Mathematics/Computer Science
- Physics/Chemistry
- Physics/Computer Science
- Mathematics/Business Studies
- Computer Science/Business Studies

Bachelor of Theology

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Master of Arts

- Diplomacy, Development & International Security (DDIS)
- Christian Ministries
- M.Ed in Leadership Policy (Online)

Postgraduate Diploma in Education

2 School of Business & Economics

DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

- Human Resource Management
- Business Administration & Management
- Entrepreneurship
- Purchasing & Business Logistics
- Marketing

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Bachelor of Commerce (BCom)

- Accounting
- Business Administration & Management
- Marketing
- Purchasing & Business Logistics
- Management Information Systems

Bachelor of Science (BSc)

- Economics

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Master of Science (MSc) in Economics

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

- Strategic Management
- Human Resource Management
- Finance
- Marketing
- Project Management
- Supply Chain Management

PhD in Business Administration

3 School of Communication

DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

- Music
- Communication - requires C (Plain) in English

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Bachelor of Arts

- Music
- English
- Kiswahili
- French
- Technical & Professional Communication
- Communication- requires C+ (plus) in English
 - Electronic Media
 - Print Media
 - Advertising

Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

M.A. Communication

- Media Studies
- Development Communication
- Corporate Communication

PhD in Communication

- Media Studies
- Development Communication
- Corporate Communication
- Human Communication

4 School of Applied Human Sciences

DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

- Counselling Psychology
- Community Development
- Agriculture

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Bachelor of Arts

- Psychology & Counselling
- Community Development (Integrated Option)
- Social Work
- Monitoring & Evaluation

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Master of Arts

- Counselling Psychology
- Community Development
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Child Development with concentrations;
 - Integrated Studies,
 - Family Studies and
 - Child Therapy

Masters in Clinical Psychology

PhD in Clinical Psychology

PhD in Development Studies

5 School of Law

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B)

6 School of Nursing

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME

Bachelor of Science (BSc) Nursing

- Direct Entry
- Diploma to BSc.N

Master of Science (MSc) in Nursing Education

7 School of Science, Engineering & Health

- Diploma in Information Communication Technology (ICT)

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Bachelor of Science

- Applied Computer Science
- Environmental Health
- Actuarial Science
- Biomedical Science

8 Leadership & Professional Development Institute

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMMES

- Business Management
- Theology for Ministry
- Community Development
- Information Communication Technology-ICT
- Peace & International Relations
- Counselling Psychology
- Media Studies
- Graded Certificate Course in Music-GCCM
- Online Teaching
- Child Protection
- Agriculture

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WELCOME REMARKS BY SAMUEL MUNYWINY, CO-CHAIR OF THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE,

Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to the 2023 International Conference on Child Protection in Africa in Nairobi. Your participation here reflects a deep commitment to child protection, and we are profoundly grateful.

This conference has overcome significant challenges, notably the COVID-19 pandemic, which necessitated the postponement of our 2020 and 2022 events. Despite these hurdles, we've worked tirelessly to make this year's conference exceptional. The impressive turnout today is a testament to our collective resilience and dedication.

Over the past year, the organizing committee has focused on creating a conference driven by evidence, informed by policy and interventions. We understand the critical need to base these policies on a robust blend of empirical evidence and your rich, varied experiences.

In my role as the founder and executive director of the African Institute for Children Studies, I've been keenly aware of the necessity to bridge gaps in documenting local knowledge, especially in addressing violence against children in diverse contexts. This conference marks a crucial step in our journey towards collaborative, Africa-wide initiatives.

We are confronted with numerous challenges, including the ongoing impacts of the pandemic, climate change, and various socio-political and economic issues. This conference offers a pivotal platform for networking, sharing insights, and developing culturally appropriate strategies to safeguard our children.

The African proverb, "The child who is not embraced by the village will burn it down to feel its warmth," resonates deeply with our mission. It highlights our shared responsibility to nurture and protect every child. As a community, every action we take shapes a better, safer world for our children.

To my co-chair and the entire team from the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, with a big representation from the Directorate of Children's Services, I say thank you for your tireless effort and hard work to ensure the partners work closely with the government. Your commitment seamlessly created bridges to ensure we work as a team.

To my team, the planning committee, comprising of over twenty-two (22) partners from Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organisations, Institutions of Higher Learning, among others – your exceptional efforts have made this possible – Thank you. Steering this team brought to the fore the significant value of the government, practitioners and academicians working together to enhance the welfare of children. Indeed, it is true that protection and safeguarding of children requires a multi-stakeholder engagement. As a team, we seek to see evidence-based interventions and creation of an early-warning system that provides a safe environment for children. I believe together we can make a difference in the lives of children to ensure that they survive, thrive and transform their world.

To the participants, Welcome to Nairobi. Let's unite in learning and action and drive the transformative change we envision for our children.



EMPOWERING DREAMS, TRANSFORMING LIVES

Embark on a journey of impact with the
African Institute for Children Studies (AICS)!



ABOUT US

AICS, born in 2009 and spanning across Kenya, South Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe, and the USA, is a beacon of hope for children.



OUR MISSION

Creating a responsive and nurturing world through research, training, and advocacy.

OUR UNPARALLELED IMPACT



ADVOCACY LEADERSHIP: AICS serves as the secretariat for the Children Agenda Forum, steering progress towards child-related SDGs. We also champion the Forum for the African Child, addressing and reporting on issues impacting African children.



GLOBAL CATALYST

As the secretariat for the Consortium for Re-Imagining Humanitarian Action, we advance the Localisation agenda in East and South Africa.



INNOVATIVE INTERVENTIONS

AICS pioneers in combatting Online Child Sexual Exploitation, offers community-based mental health interventions, and has piloted the Juvenile Justice Information Management System with Kenya's judicial agencies.



CONSULTING AUTHORITY

AICS Consulting is at the forefront of child-focused research studies, contributing to evidence-based policies.



EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT

Our Scholar Leader Program runs a provident fund, supported by a portion of AICS consulting income, enabling children from vulnerable homes to access education.



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

AICS collaborates with local and international NGOs, government agencies, civil society organizations, and academic institutions across Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and the United States.

JOIN THE IMPACT



501(3)C Certified: AICS is a registered 501(3)C organization in the US, ensuring transparency and trust.



Scholarship Opportunities: Partner with us and donate to support an African Child through our Scholar Leader Program.

BE THE CHANGE

Visit our Booth during the conference or explore more at www.aics.org. Together, let's empower dreams and build a future where every child thrives.

For more information, contact us info@institutechildstudies.org

Follow us on social media @AChildStudies






PROGRAMME

DAY 1

DAY ONE: 22ND NOV 2023 – OPENING CEREMONY

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
8:00am – 8:10am	Hall 1: Auditorium Moderator: Mr. Maurice Tsuma, Director Children Services	Daystar University Chaplain (Rev. Miano Weche)	Devotion And Opening Prayer
8.10am - 8.20am		Afrizo – Hellen Mtawali & team	Entertainment
8.20am – 8.25 am		Vice-Chancellor, Daystar University (Prof. Laban P. Ayiro)	Welcoming Remarks
8:25am – 8.30 am		Child Representative	Welcoming Remarks
8:30am – 8.55 am		PS - Social Protection (Mr. Joseph Mogosi Motari, MBS)	Conference Overview
8.55am – 9.05am		Chief Justice of Kenya Hon. Justice Martha Koome	Conference Overview
9.05am – 9.15am		Ms Shaheen Nilofer UNICEF Kenya, Country Representative	Addressing VAC in Kenya
9.15am-9.25am		Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Government of Kenya (Hon Florence Bore)	Official Opening Of ICCP 2023

DAY ONE: 22ND NOV 2023: KEYNOTE SPEAKERS - PANEL DISCUSSION SESSION

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
9.20am-9.40am	Hall 1: Auditorium Moderator: Mr. Samuel Muniwiny, African Institute for Children Studies (AICS)	Andy Brooks UNICEF Regional Advisor for Child Protection for East & Southern Africa	Regional Perspectives on Violence Against Children
9.40am -10.15am		All Key Note Speakers	Panel Discussion
10.15am – 10.30am	Tented Space at Parking Lot	Gallery Walk	Sharing Learning from Art Work on VAC
10.30am – 11.00am			Tea/ Coffee Break

DAY 1

DAY ONE: 22ND NOV 2023 – BREAKOUT SESSION 1

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
Day 1: 11.00am – 1.00pm	Hall 1 (Auditorium) Sub-Theme: Evidence, Programs & Services Moderator: Dr. Roseline Olumbe, Daystar University	Presenter 1: Peter Olewe, Azadi Kenya	Paper 1: Meaningful Engagement of Child Survivors of Trafficking
		Presenter 2: Beatrice Ogutu and Nancy Njeru, Investing in Children and their Societies (ICS SP)	Paper 2: Whole School Approach intervention to prevent violence against children in and around public schools in Kenya
		Presenter 3: Dr. Kipchumba Byron	Paper 3: Sport and empowerment: Examining the Role of sports in building self-esteem and resilience to prevent Violence against Children in Kerio Valley Region
		Presenter 4: Dr. Emily Sitati, Dr. Rogers Cherui, Dr. Susan Wandera	Paper 4: Responsive interventions by the society to child sexual abuse in Kenya. A critical review
		Presenter 5: Esther Ingolo, Michael Gaiho	Paper 5: Fostering Resilience Through Art: Unveiling Art Therapy's Dynamic Impact on Childhood Violence in Mombasa County.
		Presenter 6: Dennis Ratemo	Paper 6: Reduction in prevalence of Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation among children
Day 1: 11.00am – 1.00pm	Hall 2 (5th Floor, Room 502) Sub-Themes: Understanding VAC Culture & Politics Humanitarian Action Moderator: Dr. Susan Wandera, Daystar University	Presenter 1: Calvin O. Ouko; Wilson A.P. Otengah and Taji Isindu Shivachi	Paper 1: The Conundrum of Child Marriage: Attitudes and Perceptions of Child Spouses in Homabay County, Kenya
		Presenter 2: Dr Kate McAlpine, Dr Mathew Senga, Mathias Mkude, Raphael Dennis, Janeth Semwene & Sia Maro	Paper 1: The Conundrum of Child Marriage: Attitudes and Perceptions of Child Spouses in Homabay County, Kenya
		Presenter 3: Maureen Ayodi	Paper 3: Retrogressive cultures a burden in ending violence against children
		Presenter 4: Irene Wali	Paper 4: Child protection needs assessment in Wajir, Mandera, Garissa and Turkana

DAY 1

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
Day 1: 11.00am – 1.00pm	Hall 2 (5th Floor, Room 502) Sub-Theme: Understanding VAC Culture & Politics Humanitarian Action	Presenter 5: Nkatha Florah Mugao	Paper 5: Protecting childhood: innovative approaches to prevent and respond to violence against children in humanitarian crises
		Presenter 6: Eudiah Cheruiyot, Rael Toroitich	Paper 6: Effective Programs and Services for Preventing and Responding to Violence Against Children in Kenya.
Day 1: 11.00am – 1.00pm	Hall 3: (5th Floor, Room 503) Sub-Theme: Technology Sustainable Funding Moderator: Khadija Karama CRS, CTWWC	Presenter 1: Agnes Mutonyi Wasike	Paper 1: Harnessing technology towards increased evidence-based practice and reduction in violence against children in East Africa: Case Study of Impact and Innovations Development Centre (IIDC) VaCNets virtual Hub: 0
		Presenter 2: A. Yugi ^{1,2} , R. Mbayaki ^{1,2} , J. Mukabi ^{1,3} , R. Barine, N. WASWA ⁴ , R. Mokaya ⁵ Affiliation: USAID Tumikia Mtoto	Paper 2: Optimizing the Use of Child Protection Information Management Systems in the Prevention and Response to Violence Against Children (VAC)
		Presenter 3: Tabitha Awuor Affiliation: DCS Kenya	Paper 3: Data Demand and Use by the Directorate of Children Services in Western Kenya
		Presenter 4: Richard Mugata, Rose Kebut, Simon Makori	Paper 4: Technology as an enabler and intervention of violence against children: a case of Uasin Gishu county
		Presenter 5: Martha Sunda	Paper 5: Child Helplines: Technological Innovation for Child Protection and Empowerment
		Presenter 6: Liz Amandla Busisa	Paper 6: Technology and VAC: How Safe are Children in Africa Online
Day 1: 11.00am – 1.00pm	Hall 4: (5th Floor, Room 504) Sub-Theme: VAC in Alternative Care Moderator: Stephen Ucembe	Presenter 1: Victor Vedasto, Mabula Nkuba & Joyce Mkongo	Paper 1: Reintegration of Orphaned Children from Orphanages into their Families of Origin: Experiences from Caregivers in Tanzania
		Presenter 2: Muraguri Phyllis G.	Paper 2: Transition from residential care to community-based support as a key strategy towards ending vac in kenya
		Presenter 3: Tobias Hecker Getrude Mkinga, Eva Hartmann, Mabula Nkuba, Katharin Hermenau	Paper 3: Improving care and preventing maltreatment in orphanages: One-year follow-up of a cluster-randomized controlled trial in orphanages in East Africa

DAY 1

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
Day 1: 11.00am – 1.00pm	Hall 4: (5th Floor, Room 504) Sub-Theme: VAC in Alternative Care Moderator: Stephen Ucembe, Hope & Homes	Presenter 4: Lilian Kisienya	Paper 4: Social Workforce Capacity to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children in Kenya
		Presenter 5: Leon Muwoni	Paper 5: The Role of Community-Based Volunteers in Promoting Safe Alternative Care in Rwanda
		Presenter 6: Rosemary Nambooze	Paper 6: Social inclusion of children with special needs in Uganda – a photovoice study
Day 1: 11.00am – 1.00pm	Hall 5: (5th Floor, Room 505) Sub-Theme: Legal Policy Collaborations Moderator: Martin Munyoto, Strathmore University	Presenter 1: Teddy Muya	Paper 1: Environmental Degradation, Climate Change and Violence Against Children
		Presenter 2: Paul Mukiibi	Paper 2: Detention Of Child Offenders in Adult Prisons and Its Effect on Rights of Children in Uganda
		Presenter 3: Dennis Menya, Hilary Ngeso, Wayne Otieno	Paper 3: Breaking The Silence: Building Community Sustainable Structures and Resilience to Mitigate Sexual Gender-based Violence in Gem, Kenya.
		Presenter 4: Jedidah Waruhiu, Lydia Muleyi and Everlyne Arisi	Paper 4: Promoting Special Protection Measures for Threatened and Intimidated Witnesses who are Children and Exposed to Sexual Violence in Kenya.
		Presenter 5: Dr Priscilla Mugambi	Paper 5: Assessing Psychosocial Impact Of Female Genital Mutilation Among The Rescued Adolescent Girls: A Case Of Pokot Outreach Ministries Rescue Centers In Pokot County, Kenya

1.00pm – 2.00pm



Lunch

DAY 1

DAY ONE: 22ND NOV 2023: KEYNOTE SPEAKER SESSION

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
Day 1: 2.00pm – 2.30pm	Hall 1: Auditorium Moderator: Divina James, Regional Psychosocial Support Initiatives (REPPSI)	Dr. Daniela Ligiero Chief Executive Officer and President of Together for Girls. She also serves on the Executive Committee of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children Sub-Theme: Prevalence, Nature, Effects and Drivers of Violence Against Children	Paper 1: Extent and Drivers of VAC - Global Trends

DAY ONE: 22ND NOV 2023 – BREAKOUT SESSION 2

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
Day 1: 2.30pm – 4.30pm	Hall 1 Sub-Theme: Evidence, Programs & Services Moderator: Vivienne Mang'oli Directorate of Children's Services	Presenter 1: Kelvin Moses	Paper 1: Evidence on 4R+P program and services that effectively prevent and respond to VAC
		Presenter 2: Godlove Miho Mtwara-Mikindani Municipal Council	Paper 2: Effectiveness of the Child Protection Interventions Implemented by the Mtwara- Mikindani Municipal Council in Reducing Violence Against Children
		Presenter 3: Beatrice Ogutu, Moureen Ochieng	Paper 3: Gender transformative skilful parenting programmes to address child maltreatment and intimate partner violence in low resource settings in Kenya
		Presenter 4: Mercy Nyakang'i	Paper 4: Ending teen pregnancy: best practices and challenges from Kakamega county
		Presenter 5: Lilian Osero	Paper 5: Interventions for reducing violence against children in Kenya
		Presenter 6: Dr Funke Baffour	Paper 6: Nurturing a Culture of Child Protection: A Holistic Curriculum Approach in an International School in Ghana

DAY 1

DAY ONE: 22ND NOV 2023 – BREAKOUT SESSION 2

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
Day 1: 2.30pm – 4.30pm	Hall 2: (5th Floor, Room 506) Sub-Theme: Understanding VAC Culture Politics Humanitarian Action Moderator: Eunice Kilundo, ChildFund	Presenter 1: Hope Mwangi	Paper 1: Addressing the Menace of Violence Against Children: A Multidimensional Analysis and Prevention Strategy
		Presenter 2: Jacinta Mueni Mwinzi Affiliation: Directorate of Children Services, (Ministry of Labor and social protection, Kenya)	Paper 2: Violence Against Children: A Lifelong Threat to Child’s Development
		Presenter 3: Rajiv Roy	Paper 3: Caring for Boys: How Social Norms on Masculinity and Sexuality Affect the Sexual Violence Against Boys - A Multi-Country Qualitative Study
		Presenter 4: Chiara Ceriotti	Paper 4: Preventing harm to children in humanitarian settings
		Presenter 5: Martha Njuguna	Paper 5: Prevention and response to VAC in humanitarian and emergency context
		Presenter 6: Juddy Mboo	Paper 6: Prevention of violence against children – targeting boys through sports
Day 1: 2.30pm – 4.30pm	Hall 3: (5th Floor, Room 507) Sub-Theme: Technology Sustainable Funding Moderator: Dr. Elizabeth Kithuka, Daystar University	Presenter 1: C. Mwangi, J.; Ayieko, R.; Mbayaki, J.; Mukabi, R.; and Mokaya Affiliation: USAID Tumikia Mtoto; World Vision Kenya and USAID KEA	Paper 1: Promoting Economic Resilience for Improved Caregiving to Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Nairobi and Kiambu Counties Sub-Theme: Sustainable Funding

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
Breakout Session II			
Day 1: 2.30pm – 4.30pm	Hall 3: (5th Floor, Room 507) Sub-Theme: Technology Sustainable Funding Moderator: Dr. Elizabeth Kithuka, Daystar University	Presenter 2: Liliane Mutuku	Paper 2: Safety for Children and their rights
		Presenter 3: Sarah Halima	Paper 3: Enhancing child protection using Vurugu Mapper
		Presenter 4: Brenta Muli	Paper 4: Child Protection Volunteers Involvement in Digitalized Child Protection Data Collection and Reporting Processes in Nairobi County, Kenya
		Presenter 5: Hezron Z. Onditi (PhD)	Paper 5: Adolescents’ motivation for cyberbullying behavior: Evidence from Tanzania
		Presenter 6: Stacy Njeri	Paper 6: Utilization Of Child Protection Information Management System In Analyzing Prevalance Of Defilement In Nairobi County, Kenya
Day 1: 2.30pm – 4.30pm	Hall 4: (6th Floor, Room 606) Sub-Theme: VAC in Alternative Care Moderator: Martha Sunda, Childline Kenya	Presenter 1: June Wachira	Paper 1: Foster Care in Kenya: A Gatekeeping Mechanism for Child Well-being and Development
		Presenter 2: Janet Nyakwaka	Paper 2: Alternative Family Care In Relation To The Prevention And Countering Of Child Abuse
		Presenter 3: Grace Njeri	Paper 3: The Quest for Comprehensive Supportive Solutions for Children in Alternative Care
		Presenter 4: Genevieve Uwamariya, UNICEF; Leon Muwoni, UNICEF and Monique Mukamana, National Child Development Agency	Paper 4: The Role of Community-Based Volunteers in Promoting Safe Alternative Care in Rwanda
		Presenter 5: Millicent Oluteyo	Paper 5: Alternative Family And Community-Based Care As A Pathway To Prevent And Respond To Vac Survivors
		Presenter 6: Nellys Koyoo	Paper 5: The calamitous divide retarding effective child protection in Kenya: Call to action of child protection practitioners

DAY 1

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
Day 1: 2.30pm – 4.30pm	Hall 5: (6th Floor, Room 607) Sub-Theme: Legal Policy Collaborations Moderator: Chrispinus Aben , Probation Department	Presenter 1: R. Mbayaki, C. Mwangi, P. Kerubo,, A. Yugi, J. Kariuki, R. Barine, J. Mukabi, R. Mokaya	Paper 1: Employing Multifaceted and Collaborative Strategy to Accelerate OVC Acquisition of Birth Certificates among USAID Tumikia Mtoto Project Beneficiaries in Kiambu County, Kenya
		Presenter 2: Karama Khadija	Paper 2: The importance of supportive supervision in preparing the community level workforce for effective prevention and response to VAC during the COVID-19 pandemic in Kenya.
		Presenter 3: Mrs Suzanne Clulow Co-Authors: Mr Jonathan Kojo Anderson , Mr Tesfaye Ebabye Mr Pierre Marie Coulibaly	Paper 3: Together we are stronger: collaborating regionally to improve the protection of children on the move in Ethiopia, Ghana, Senegal and South Africa
		Presenter 4: Joan Njagi	Paper 4: Collaborative research agenda setting brings stakeholders together to end violence against children
		Presenter 5: Dr Daniel Mutunga	Paper 5: Assessing the effects of nurturing care framework on children in ECD: A case of Pre-schools in Ugunja subcounty, Siaya
		Presenter 6: Mateo Fatsani	Paper 6: Embedding the Nordic Barnahus Model into Malawi's Survivor-centred Multi-sectoral Response to Gender-based Violence: Towards an Effective Chikwanekwane 'Children's House' to Child Survivors

4.30pm



Tea/ Coffee Break


DAY 2

DAY TWO: 23RD NOV 2023 – KEYNOTE SPEAKERS SESSION

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
8.30am – 9.00am	Hall 1: (Auditorium)	Dr. Lina Digolo Paediatrician & Clinical Epidemiologist (Kenya)	Preventing Violence against children in LMIC: An Overview of Promising Interventions and Emerging Lessons
9.00am – 9.30am		Moderator: Khadija Karama CRS, CTWWC	<p>Key Note Speaker 3: Sub-Theme: Evidence on Programs and Services that Effectively Prevent and Respond to VAC</p> <p>Ms. Ruth Juliet Nyambura Gachanja Child Justice Advisor to the Chief Justice & Lecturer, Kabarak University (Kenya)</p> <p>Affiliation: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)</p>

DAY TWO: 23RD NOV 2023 – CONCURRENT SEMINARS SESSION

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
9.30am – 10.30am	Seminar 1: Hall 1 (Auditorium)	Child Led seminar	Perspectives from Children on Effective VAC Interventions
	Moderator: Divina James		
	Seminar 2: Hall 2 (5th Floor, Room 506)	Freedom Fund & NIA Movement Partners	Movements vs project Based Approach to Advocating against Exploitative Child Domestic Work & Modern Slavery
	Moderator: Dr. Emily Sitati, Daystar University		
	Seminar 3 Hall 3 (5th Floor, Room 507)	National Crime Research Centre (NCRC)	Understanding the Impact of a Robust Juvenile Justice System: Insights from the National Crime Research Centre's Data in Kenya
	Moderator: Catherine Kimemia, USAID Tumikia Mtoto, World Vision		

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
9.30am – 10.30am	Seminar 4 Hall 4: (6th Floor, Room 606) Moderator: Veronica Mwangi, Kenya National Commission for Human Rights	National Council for Administration of Justice - the Standing Committee on Administration and Access to Justice for Children	Child Justice Side Event: Roadmap to Child-Centered Justice System in Kenya: NCAJ SCC
10.30am – 11.00am			Tea/ Coffee Break

DAY 2

DAY TWO: 23RD NOV 2023 – BREAKOUT SESSION 1

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
11.00am – 1.00pm	Hall 1 (Auditorium) Sub-Theme: Evidence, Programs & Services Moderator: Sidney Paul Achia, Director Children Services	Presenter 1: C. Mwangi, D. Yator, R. Mbayaki, J. Mukabi, R. Mokaya	Paper 1: The Use of Positive Parenting Skills Program to Improve Caregiving Practices and Reduce Violence Among Families: An Experience of USAID Tumikia Mtoto Project- Nairobi County
		Presenter 2: M. Malel, B. Jakait; & I. Wainaina	Paper 2: Assessing Mitigation Measures to Cases of Child Neglect Among Vulnerable Children in Uasin Gishu County
		Presenter 3: Dr. Susan Wandera, Dr. Emmily Sitati & Dr. Rodgers Cherui	Paper 3: Psychosocial Services to Male Child Sexual Abuse Survivors in Kenya: A critical review
		Presenter 4: Faustine Bwire	Paper 4: Reducing Violent Discipline by Teachers: A Matched Cluster-Randomized Controlled Trial in Tanzanian Public Primary Schools
		Presenter 5: Dennis Menya, Hilary Ngeso ² , James Kisia ³ , Wayne Otieno ⁴	Paper 5: Evoking Local Solutions: Leveraging on Community Mobile Response to Sexual Gender-Based Violence Survivors for Enhanced Access to Psychosocial Support in Siaya, Kenya.
		Presenter 6: Alice Atemo	Paper 6: Paper 6: mitigating child vulnerability
11.00am – 1.00pm	Hall 2 (5th Floor, Room 506) Sub-Theme: Understanding VAC Culture Politics Humanitarian Action Moderator: Anne Ngunjiri, LVCT	Presenter 1: Jared Atsyia	Paper 1: The plight of the Turkana Girl Child
		Presenter 2: Jane W. Kinuthia	Paper 2: Understanding the Prevalence and Effects of Child Sexual Abuse in Embu County

DAY 2

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
11.00am – 1.00pm	Hall 2 (5th Floor, Room 506) Sub-Theme: Understanding VAC Culture Politics Humanitarian Action Moderator: Anne Ngunjiri	Presenter 3: Samuel Ngure	Paper 3: Impact of Political Outcomes on Children aged 10 to 13 Years in Public Primary Schools in Nairobi County
		Presenter 4: Roseline Olumbe PhD and Ciriaka Gitonga PhD	Paper 4: Data protection v safeguarding: sacrificing children for the privacy of predator teachers
		Presenter 5: Dr. Neema Lema	Paper 5: Violence against children with invisible disorders
		Presenter 6: Madeleine Joy Omungalah	Paper 6: Beneath the surface. Understanding the complex factors driving violence against children and their multifaceted nature
	Hall 3: (5th Floor, Room 507) Sub-Theme: Technology Sustainable Funding Moderator: Irene Wali, Save the Children	Presenter 1: Adoyo Maureen 2, Newton Mugaya 1 John Odhiambo 3, Joan Kirui 1, Joseph Mugah 1, Hannah Wanjiru 1, Peter Waiganjo 1, Raphael Pundo 1.	Paper 1: The Role of CPIMS in illuminating Violence Against Children in Migori County.
		Presenter 2: Milly Ibanda	Paper 2: Economic reintegration in a security context: role and impact of entrepreneurship in the reintegration of former child soldiers from armed groups in Goma, Eastern Congo DRC.
		Presenter 3: Dr Waruinge Muhindi	Paper 3: Information technology and communication as enabler and intervention for addressing violence against children in Africa
		Presenter 4: Shadrack Cheruiyot	Paper 4: Data driven early warning systems for child protection in Africa
		Presenter 5: Jennifer Kaberi	Paper 5: Securing African Children Voices in age of Artificial Intelligence: Ain't no machine gonna speak on my place.
		Presenter 6: Kipchumba Rutto	Paper 6: Tech-Savvy Safeguards: Harnessing Technology To Combat Violence Against Children.

DAY 2

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
11.00am – 1.00pm	Hall 4: (6th Floor, Room 606) Sub-Theme: VAC in Alternative Care Moderator: Dr. Jared Menecha, Daystar University	Presenter 1: Grace Chege	Paper 1: Empowering tomorrow's hope: Addressing the care and protection needs
		Presenter 2: Nukhba Zia, Joanna Wakia, Edith Apiyo, Abdul Bachani	Paper 2: Disability measurement in residential care facilities in Kenya and its role within case management
		Presenter 3: Philip Nzenge	Paper 3: Assessment of the effectiveness role of men in the protection of the boy child within the community: A case of Kiambu county, Kenya
		Presenter 4: Grace J. Kipkech	Paper 4: Child Participation response to Violence Against Children: a case of children in institutional care
		Presenter 5: Phyllis Muraguri	Paper 5: Implementation of de-institutionalization of children in Kenya as a key strategy towards reducing violence against children
		Presenter 6: Valentine Kathambi Muriungi	Paper 6: The relationship between parenting styles and attachment style

DAY 2

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
11.00am – 1.00pm	Hall 5: (6th Floor, Room 607) Sub-Theme: Legal Policy Collaborations Moderator: Dr. Rogers Cherui, Daystar University	Presenter 1: Dickson Gitonga Njiru; Mark Shiundu Washisino	Paper 1: Efficacy and Adequacy of Criminal Justice Agencies in Kenya: The Case of Children in Conflict with the Law
		Presenter 2: Daisy Wanjira Gachoki	Paper 2: Towards child-centered justice: Experiences of child victims of sexual and gender-based violence at the Kakamega Law Courts, Kenya
		Presenter 3: Jackson Ulira, Tabitha Ojwang USAID 4 the child	Paper 3: Multi – Sectoral Stakeholders Engagement in Identification & Response to GBV: DREAMS Experience in Kisumu County, Kenya
		Presenter 4: Milka Wahu	Paper 4: Child Domestic Labour, the Invisible Violence against Children: Addressing the Disjuncture of Policy and Practice in Africa
		Presenter 5: Liz Amandla Busisa	Paper 5: Legal and Policy Framework for the Prevention and Response to Violence Against Children
		Presenter 6: Khadija Karama	Paper 5: The importance of supportive supervision for the workforce supporting children who are reintegrating, and those at risk of separation, during the COVID-19 pandemic in Kenya

1.00pm – 2.00pm



Lunch

DAY TWO: 23RD NOV 2023 KEYNOTE SPEAKER SESSION

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
2.00pm – 2.30pm	<p>Hall 1: (Auditorium)</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Muhindi Waruinge, Directorate of Children's Services</p>	<p>Dr. Chi-Chi Undie</p> <p>Senior Associate and Technical Director, International Programs Division of the Population Council</p>	<p>Culture and politics: promoters or preventive contexts for VAC</p>
Breakout Session II			
2.30pm – 4.30pm	<p>Hall 1 (Auditorium)</p> <p>Sub-Theme: Evidence, Programs & Services</p> <p>Moderator: Ruth Juliet Nyambura Gachanja, Judiciary</p>	<p>Presenter 1: Nukhba Zia, Joanna Wakia, Edith Apiyo, Abdul Bachani</p>	<p>Paper 1: Utilizing cash transfers to reduce vulnerability, improve agency of caregivers of children with disabilities to support their families: A case study in Siaya County, Kenya</p>
		<p>Presenter 2: Florence W. Kagweru</p>	<p>Paper 2: Issues Impeding Efforts to Mitigate Vulnerabilities Predisposing Children to Violence: The Context of Kenya's Low Income level Setting</p>
		<p>Presenter 3: Fidelis Muthoni</p>	<p>Paper 3: Preventing family separation and promoting reintegration through positive parenting</p>
		<p>Presenter 4: Teresia Nyaoro</p>	<p>Paper 4: Beyond the bars: Clean start Africa's approach to supporting children of imprisoned mothers in Kenya</p>
		<p>Presenter 5: Julia Enoi</p>	<p>Paper 5: Addressing Violence Against Children In Kisumu County: A Focus On Family Strengthening.</p>
2.30pm – 4.30pm	<p>Hall 2 (5th Floor, Room 506)</p> <p>Sub-Theme: Understanding VAC Culture Politics Humanitarian Action</p> <p>Moderator: Dickson Gitonga, National Crime Research Center</p>	<p>Presenter 1: Peter Mutua</p>	<p>Paper 1: Investigating aspects of the African Culture derailing the fight on violence against children in Africa</p>

DAY 2

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
2.30pm – 4.30pm	Hall 2 (5th Floor, Room 506) Sub-Theme: Understanding VAC Culture Politics Humanitarian Action Moderator: Dickson Gitonga	Presenter 2: Dennis Ratemo	Paper 5: Nature, prevalence and distinguishing characteristics of child sexual exploitation in Naivasha and Gilgil, Kenya
		Presenter 3: Alex Alienata	Paper 3: Child Labour In The Coffee Industry In Eastern Uganda Study
		Presenter 4: Elizabeth Kithuka, PhD	Paper 4: Investigating Socio Ecological Approach To Epidemiology Of Violence Against Children In Kenya
		Presenter 5: Michael Omondi Odhiambo	Paper 5: The Inescapable Reality: A Critical Analysis To Violence Against Children
		Presenter 6: Lucy Omondi	Paper 6: Assessment of Risk Factors of Abuse and Neglect in ECD Centres. A descriptive study in Mathare sub-county in Nairobi, Kenya.
2.30pm – 4.30pm	Hall 3: (5th Floor, Room 507) Sub-Theme: Technology Sustainable Funding Moderator: Dr. Joab Namai, Daystar University	Presenter 1: Peter Muthondu Mwangi	Paper 1: The Role Of Child Protection Information Management System In Strengthening Child Protection Referral Network In Samburu County.
		Presenter 2: Jackline Muthoni Ikuwa	Paper 2: Technology and its effect on detection and response to Online child Sexual Exploitation and abuse
		Presenter 3: Hilda Chebet	Paper 3: Digital parenting: digital literacy skills gap in parents and its role in online child violence
		Presenter 4: Rose Mwangi	Paper 4: Hashing Technology as an Effective Solution to Combat Proliferation of Child Sexual Abuse Materials (CSAM) Online
		Presenter 5: Rose Mwangi and Jackline Ikuwa	Paper 5: Assessment of the National Response to Child Online Sexual Exploitation in Kenya

DAY 2

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
2.00pm – 2.30pm	Hall 4: (6th Floor, Room 606) Sub-Theme: VAC in Alternative Care Moderator: Mr. Noah Sang'anyi, HSC	Presenter 1: Margaret Kagwiria, Dr. Roseline Olumbe, Dr. Priscillah Mugambi	Paper 1: Assessing The Effects Of Institutionalization on The Social-Emotional Development of Children In Statutory Institutions: A Case Study of Thika Children's Rescue Center.
		Presenter 2: Emmanuel Kayitana	Paper 2: Harnessing VAC interventions through the utilization of Community-based Structures at FXB Rwanda: Case of Inshuti z'Umuryango (Friends of the Family)
		Presenter 3: Lebohng Mulaudzi	Paper 3: Addressing violence against children in alternative and community based care
		Presenter 4: Florence Koenderink	Paper 4: Understanding the Trauma of Children from Institutions
		Presenter 5: Norah Mwangi	Paper 5: The integrated interventions to strengthen family unit to mitigate violence against children. Case study in Mombasa, Kenya
2.30pm – 4.30pm	Hall 5: (6th Floor, Room 607) Theme: Legal Policy Collaborations Moderator: Hope Kemama - UNODC	Presenter 1: Linda Mbeyu, Michael Gaitho, Stephen Wagude	Paper 1: Fostering Child Protection: The Crucial Role of Inter-Agency Collaboration in VAC Prevention and Response
		Presenter 2: Martha Mbatia	Paper 2: The Rights of Child Offenders Safeguarding in The Criminal Justice System in Nyamira County, Kenya
		Presenter 3: Chrstine Onyango	Paper 3: The Role of Technology in the Criminal Justice System for Child Offenders in Children Remand Homes in Kenya
		Presenter 4: Pilot Khaemba	Paper 4: Access to Legal Representation for Child Victims/ Complainants
		Presenter 5: Florence Mueni Muema	Paper 5: Perceptions of Justice Involved Children on the Child Justice System in Nairobi County, Kenya

4.30pm



Tea/ Coffee Break

DAY 3

DAY THREE: 24TH NOV 2023 – KEY NOTE SPEAKERS

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
8.30am – 9.00am	Hall 1: (Auditorium) Moderator: Dr. Erick Ater Onyango Masinde Muliro University of	Ms. Andréa Santos Souza District Attorney of São Paulo State, (Brazil)	Experiences in preventing recidivism in cases involving children deprived of parental care and in difficult family situations in Brazil.
9.00am – 9.30am	Hall 1: (Auditorium) Moderator: Dr. Erick Ater Onyango	Deepak Raj Sapkota Founder and Current Executive Director of Karuna Foundation (Nepal)	Technology and VAC: Opportunity and Gaps in the international and National legal framework for protection of children with disability - Lessons from Nepal, Asia

DAY THREE: 24TH NOV 2023 – CONCURRENT SEMINAR

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
9.30am – 10.30am	Seminar 1: Hall 1 (Auditorium) Moderator: Grusha Vashnedza KWF – Sickle Cell Foundation	Save the Children	Domestic resource mobilization for children
9.30am – 10.30am	Seminar 2: Hall 2 (5th Floor, Room 506) Moderator: Mercy Mwanzana, Daystar University	Mtoto News	Childhood in the Age of AI. Protection, Participation, Development and Survival
9.30am – 10.30am	Seminar 3 Hall 3 (5th Floor, Room 507) Moderator: Alice Yugi, USAID Tumikia Mtoto, World Vision	SVRI & AICS	Why and How to increase African led Research

10.30am-11.00am



Tea/ Coffee Break

DAY 3

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
Day 3: 11.00am – 1.00pm	Hall 1 (Auditorium) Sub-Theme: Evidence, Programs & Services Moderator: Mr. Peter Ogindo, Directorate of Children's Services	Presenter 1: Nakinai Margaret	Paper 1: Household Economic Strengthening and Care Reform in Kenya
		Presenter 2: Trizah Ouma, J Kiboche, J Thoya	Paper 2: Systems approach in addressing child protection issues; a case of USAID Nuru Ya Mtoto project
		Presenter 3: Edith Opiyo	Paper 3: Utilizing cash transfers to reduce vulnerability and improve agency of caregivers of children with disabilities to support their families: A case study in Siaya County, Kenya.
		Presenter 4: Evans Munga	Paper 4: Action against Child labour in the service industry in Kenya.
		Presenter 5: Florence Mueni	Paper 5: Assessment and treatment and rehabilitation of justice involved children who are survivors of violence
		Presenter 6: Mwanajuma Hamisi, Esther Mokeira & Sylvia Odhiambo.	Paper 6: Transformative Approach to address inadequate reporting of violent incidents involving Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Tononoka Ward, Mombasa
Day 3: 11.00am – 1.00pm	Hall 2 (5th Floor, Room 506) Sub-Theme: Understanding VAC Culture Politics Humanitarian Action Moderator: Okari Magati, Pendekezo Letu	Presenter 1: Purity Kamonya	Paper 1: Factors Hindering Effective Reporting of Violence Against Children Cases In Kabete Sub-County- Kenya
		Presenter 2: S. Makori1, M. Malel 1, B. Jakait 1 I. Wainaina 1	Paper 2: Assessing mitigation measures to cases of child neglect among vulnerable children in Uasin Gishu County
		Presenter 3: Mercy Mwanzana, Dr Roseline Olumbe, Dr Geoffrey Kinuthia	Paper 3: COVID-19 containment measures potential to exacerbate violence against children: perceptions of children in Kajiado County

DAY 3

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
Day 3: 11.00am – 1.00pm	Hall 2 (5th Floor, Room 506) Sub-Theme: Understanding VAC Culture Politics Humanitarian Action Moderator: Okari Magati, Pendekezo Letu	Presenter 4: Loise Wanjiru Rukwaro	Paper 4: An Assessment Of The Relationship Between Parenting Styles And Self-Esteem Among Children In Late Childhood And Adolescence: A Case Of Tumaini Primary School In Kayole Zone, Embakasi West Sub-County, Nairobi County, Kenya
		Presenter 5: Loyce Anzigale	Paper 5: Mental health status for children in CCI in Kasarani Nairobi
Day 3: 11.00am – 1.00pm	Hall 3: (5th Floor, Room 507) Sub-Theme: Technology Sustainable Funding Moderator: Mary Munyao, Daystar University	Presenter 1 Carol Temko Kuwaka	Paper 1: Effectiveness Of Child Protection Information System On Child Protection Cases In North Rift Region, Kenya
		Presenter 2: Policap Otieno and Erick Ater Onyango	Paper 2: Child Protection Information Management System: Data use today and beyond
		Presenter 3 Jennifer Kaberi	Paper 3: The Players Digital Parenting Strategy
		Presenter 4 Violet Mastamet	Paper 4: Information and Communication Technology for Child Protection Case Management in Emergencies
		Presenter 5 :Policap Otieno and Dr. Erick Ater Onyango	Paper 5: Child Protection Information Management System: Reflections on development and use
		Presenter 5: A. Yugi; R. Mbayaki; C. Mwangi; H. Githakwa; S. Chemtai; T. Munyoki; B. Muli; Rose Mokaya	Paper 5: Strengthening Organizational Safeguarding Requirements Through a Child-Friendly Version of The Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

DAY 3

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
Day 3: 11.00am – 1.00pm	Hall 4: (6th Floor, Room 606) Sub-Theme: VAC in Alternative Care Moderator: Dr. Daniel Mutunga, Daystar University	Presenter 1: Blessing Mutama	Paper 1: The role of kinship care as a pathway to prevent and respond to the risk of VAC
		Presenter 2: Elizabeth Kithuka; Claire Samoka; Beatrice Kiarie; Charity Waweru; Lynn Wacu Omol; Catherine Nyakio	Paper 2: Critical analysis on the implementation of the 2022 national care reform strategy as a form of ending violence against children
		Presenter 3: Millicent Oluteyo; Prof. Robinson Ocharo; Dr. Mohammed Sheikh; Benard Kiprotich	Paper 3: Evaluating childcare arrangement in Kenya: the case of Kwale and Murang'a Counties
		Presenter 4: Justus Ken Odoro	Paper 4: Evidence on Programs and Services for Preventing and Responding to Violence Against Children (VAC) in Kenya: Formative Evaluation of Child Protection Centres (CPC) in Kenya
		Presenter 5: Michele Mutanu	Paper 5: Rethinking Child Protection: A Holistic Approach To Ending Violence Against Children.
Day 3: 11.00am – 1.00pm	Hall 5: (6th Floor, Room 607) Sub-Theme: Legal Policy Collaborations Moderator: Dr. Phyllis Muraguri, Technical University of Kenya	Presenter 1 : Victor Sakwah, Charles Ombonya, Tobias Aulo	Paper 1: Harnessing Faith-Based Collaborations and ECD Promoters' Engagement for Child Protection and Positive Discipline: A Comprehensive Study in Awasi-Onjiko Ward, Kisumu County
		Presenter 2 : Emmanuel Kayitana	Paper 2: PLAY Collaborative Approach: A response to VAC interventions implementation challenges
		Presenter 3 : Leonard Chumo Falex, Mercy Mwanzana, Mary Munyao, Dr. Elizabeth Kithuka, Lucy Omondi, Dr. Roseline Olumbe	Paper 3: The Role of Higher Educational Institutions in the Promotion of Child Protection and Safeguarding
		Presenter 4 : Nzia Ndolo	Paper 4: When two bulls fight it's the grass that suffers
		Presenter 4 : Amandla Busisa, Jenniffer Kaberi	Paper 4: Participation as a Tool for the Prevention of VAC

1.00pm – 2.00pm



Lunch

DAY THREE: 24TH NOV 2023 – KEY NOTE SPEAKERS

TIME	VENUE & MODERATOR	ACTIVITY / SPEAKER	TOPIC
2:00pm - 2:15pm	Hall 1: (Auditorium) Moderator: Mark Keya, Directorate of Children's Services	Afrizo - Hellen Mtawali & team	Entertainment
2:15pm - 2:45pm		Chairperson, ICCP 2023 Conference Planning Committee	Introductions of the Conference Organizing Committee Vote of Thanks & Gifts to Key Note Speakers
2:45pm - 3:00pm		Child Representative	Presents Memorandum to Principal Secretary
3:00pm - 3:15pm		Vice-Chancellor, Daystar University (Prof. Laban Peter Ayiro)	Closing remarks
3:15pm - 3:30pm		PS Social Protection	Official Closing of ICCP 2023

4.30pm



Tea/ Coffee Break

End of Conference



BOOK OF ABSTRACT

A FAMILY CARE MODEL TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Author: Kisienya Lilian | **Affiliation:** United Kenya Rising | **Country:** Kenya
Conference Sub-Theme: VAC in the context of Alternative and Community based care

Type: Practice Based Paper

Problem Statement: Violence against children, both visible and invisible, is a significant problem in Kenya, particularly in Kakamega and Vihiga counties. This violence often leads to aggression and academic struggles in children, risking a perpetuating cycle of community-wide violence impacting future generations.

Intervention/Method: United Kenya Rising (UKR), previously Kakamega Orphan Care Center, addresses this through a Family Care Model. This approach encompasses Positive Parenting Training, Startup Business Grants, Agricultural Support, and Advocacy. These initiatives aim to promote child development, economic stability, food security, and awareness about child violence.

Findings: UKR's study with 50 families in the region revealed that children often confide in peers rather than adults about violence, who are typically unable to help. Additionally, the CDC reports that nearly 50% of Kenyan children experience some form of violence.

Conclusion: UKR plays a crucial role in both preventing and responding to violence against children (VAC). Its comprehensive strategy addresses the root causes of VAC and is pivotal in building a resilient social workforce capable of identifying and mitigating child violence. Through these efforts, UKR significantly contributes to creating safer environments for children in Kakamega and Vihiga counties.

ALTERNATIVE FAMILY CARE IN RELATION TO THE PREVENTION AND COUNTERING OF CHILD ABUSE

Author: Janet Nyakwaka | **Affiliation:** Directorate for Children Services (Kenya) - Gem Sub-County Children Officer | **Country:** Kenya
Conference Sub-Theme: VAC in the context of alternative and community based care

Type: Practice Based Paper

Problem Statement: Kenya has seen an increase in child abuse cases within institutions, leading to a government shift towards de-institutionalization policies. These policies aim to protect children from abuse and prioritize alternative family care, addressing the detrimental effects of institutionalization.

Intervention/Method: This policy shift involves alternative family care options like foster care, kinship care, adoption, and guardianship, aligned with the National Guidelines for Alternative Family Care for Children. These options emphasize children's best interests and rights, with community and stakeholder sensitization about non-institutional care.

Findings: Data from CPIMS and Gem sub-county institutions reveal inadequate care in these settings, impacting children's development and leading to rights violations, including abuse and lack of education and sanitation.

Conclusion: Implementing alternative family care is essential for creating nurturing, stable environments for children. The National Government should support families to prevent separation, while the County Government should develop programs and action plans for sustainable family care. These efforts, integral to The National Care Reform Strategy for Children in Kenya (2022-2032), aim to mobilize resources and raise awareness about the benefits of family-based care over institutionalization.

ACCESS TO LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR CHILD VICTIMS/COMPLAINANTS

Authors: Pilot Khaemba | **Country:** Kenya
Conference Sub-Theme: Legal, Policy and Practices for responding to and preventing VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Despite the mandate of the Legal Aid Fund under Kenya's Children Act No. 29 of 2022 to ensure legal representation for child victims/complainants, the extent of its implementation at Narok Law Court, especially in defilement cases since 2022, remains unclear.

Intervention/Method: The study systematically reviews 30% of defilement case files from Narok Law Court between July 2022 and July 2023, and employs questionnaires for Investigating Officers and structured interviews with legal stakeholders and child victims/complainants. This approach aims to evaluate the provision of legal representation for these children.

Findings: Preliminary results will illuminate how section 96(1) and (2) of the Children Act, 2022, are applied, focusing on court-ordered legal representation in defilement cases. Attention will be given to cases withdrawn under section 87(a) of the Criminal Procedure Code, highlighting the challenges faced by child victims/complainants in Narok Law Court.

Conclusion: The findings will inform strategies to improve legal representation for child victims/complainants, in line with the Children Act, 2022. By examining the causes behind withdrawn defilement cases, the study aims to strengthen the protection of child victims within Kenya's legal system and promote a more effective response to such cases in Narok Law Court.



Overview of The Freedom Fund and the 'NIA' Program

The Freedom Fund is a global fund with the sole aim of helping end modern slavery. We are a catalyst in the global effort to end modern slavery, working in the countries and sectors where it is most prevalent. We invest in and partner with organisations and communities on the frontlines of ending slavery and exploitation.



By partnering with survivors and those at risk of slavery as well as visionary investors, governments and anti-slavery organisations, we bring together the knowledge, capital and will needed to dismantle the systems that allow slavery to exist and thrive. Through our investments and support, we aim to shift power, so that frontline organisations and communities can shape and drive the change required to bring modern slavery to an end.



The Freedom Fund launched a new hotspot in Kenya seeking to increase the visibility of Child Domestic Workers (CDWs) and protect them from hazardous work. Child Domestic Work is the second largest contributor to the number of working children in Kenya, second only to the agriculture sector.



Most publicly available literature indicates that CDWs are often exposed to physical violence, sexual abuse/defilement, are often paid lower than minimum wage, work long hours, often without a break, risk being trafficked and end up in bonded labour. In the same breath, there are also reports of good outcomes such as creating opportunities for employment of those above 16 years, providing safety nets for orphans, creating opportunities for continuing education and/or vocational skills provided by employers. The Kenya Hotspot program therefore aims to initiate change by fostering multi-sectoral initiatives that impact everything from policy and social protection to education and labour markets, integrating a larger national and developmental agenda, and by supporting data-driven program development to better understand and address child domestic labour.

The 'NIA' initiative stands for 'Not Invisible Anymore,' a title reflecting both its mission and its meaning in Swahili—'intention' or 'purpose.' The program aims to tackle the severe issues surrounding child domestic work, which involves the employment of children in the household work sector by external employers or third parties.

NIA seeks to create an empowered collective of CDWs, their allies, civic organisations and government institutions with strengthened capacity to transition communities away from child domestic work and to protect children in domestic work from abuse and exploitation. The NIA program prioritises working with the most vulnerable children with lived experience of child domestic work, and those at risk of engaging in child domestic work. This includes children who are orphaned, child mothers, adolescents in educational transition, and children in female-headed households. Geographically, NIA zeroes in on four Kenyan regions with significant incidence of this issue: Nairobi, Kisumu, Busia, and Kakamega.



ADDRESSING THE MENACE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE .

Authors: Hope Mwangi

Conference Sub-Theme: Understanding the prevalence nature, effects and drivers of VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: This abstract examines the critical issue of violence against children, a global problem with deep impacts across physical, emotional, and psychological dimensions. It transcends socio-economic, cultural, and geographical boundaries, highlighting the urgency for effective interventions.

Intervention/Method: Addressing the far-reaching consequences of violence against children, the study adopts a multidisciplinary approach, merging psychology, sociology, and criminology. The social-ecological model is used to analyze individual, relational, community, and societal factors contributing to child violence. A mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative analysis and quantitative surveys, provides insights into prevalence, risk factors, and societal attitudes.

Findings: Preliminary findings reveal a high prevalence of child violence globally, calling for coordinated international efforts. Qualitative data show a complex relationship between socio-economic, cultural factors, and systemic flaws in promoting violence. Quantitative surveys link childhood violence exposure to long-term adverse effects. These statistics highlight the critical need for comprehensive solutions.

Conclusion: The abstract underscores the need for global and regional collaboration to tackle child violence. It advocates for combined efforts among various stakeholders to create a safer environment for children worldwide. The provided data stress the importance of immediate and sustained intervention for the welfare of future generations.

ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN ALTERNATIVE AND COMMUNITY BASED CARE

Authors: Lebohang Mulaudzi | **Country:** Tanzania |

Conference Sub-Theme: VAC in the context of alternative and community-based care

Type: Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: This study addresses the critical concern of violence against children in alternative and community-based care settings, where the prevalence of such violence challenges the safety and efficacy of these environments designed to support children outside their biological families.

Intervention/Method: Grounded in child protection principles and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the research investigates the roles and responsibilities of governments, child welfare agencies, and communities in safeguarding children in these settings. A mixed-methods approach merges quantitative data on the prevalence of violence with qualitative case studies, providing a comprehensive perspective on the issue.

Findings: The research reveals a significant disparity in violence rates between kinship care and institutional group homes, with the former showing lower instances of violence. This discrepancy underscores the need for targeted interventions in different care settings, as informed by the combination of statistical and qualitative data.

Conclusion: The study underscores the urgent need for action to mitigate violence in alternative and community-based care settings. It advocates for stronger oversight, increased support for caregivers, and more comprehensive awareness campaigns. The aim is to ensure safe and nurturing environments for children, meeting not only moral but also legal and human rights obligations. The integration of statistical evidence emphasizes the pressing need for these interventions.

ADOLESCENTS' MOTIVATION FOR CYBERBULLYING BEHAVIOR: EVIDENCE FROM TANZANIA

Authors: Hezron Z. Onditi (PhD) | **Affiliation:** University of Dar es Salaam

Country: Tanzania | **Conference Sub-Theme:** Technology as enabler to VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: This study investigates cyberbullying among Tanzanian adolescents, a growing concern with the rapid adoption of mobile and internet technologies. Unlike extensive research in Western settings, the motivations for cyberbullying in the African context, particularly in Tanzania, are largely unexplored.

Intervention/Method: Engaging 778 adolescents (49% female, aged 14-18) from Dar es Salaam and Mwanza, Tanzania, the study utilizes a 15-item scale to identify cyberbullying motivations: Fun, Reactive, and Proactive. The Cyber-Aggression and Victimization Scale measures cyberbullying instances, and regression analysis assesses the influence of age and gender.

Findings: Tanzanian adolescents predominantly exhibit cyberbullying for reactive and proactive reasons, with a notable inclusion of fun motives, differing from Western studies. Gender significantly influences cyberbullying motivations, particularly for fun and proactive motives. These findings suggest a complex interplay of motivations and demographic factors in Tanzanian cyberbullying scenarios.

Conclusion: This research provides crucial insights into cyberbullying motivations among Tanzanian adolescents, emphasizing the need for culturally sensitive and gender-specific interventions. The discovery of fun motives as a factor and the role of gender highlight the necessity for a holistic approach to combat cyberbullying. This study lays the groundwork for future research and effective, culturally adapted strategies to address this digital-age challenge.



About Us:

ChildFund is an international child focused non-governmental organization. Our impact across the areas we implement in Kenya has been felt since 1960. As a community centered organization, we currently have program and sponsorship activities across 27 counties in Kenya.

Our main goal is to help children and youth living in deprived, excluded, and vulnerable conditions to grow up healthy, educated, skilled and safe to realize their full potential.

We implement programs that focus on Child Protection, Education, WASH, Health and Nutrition, Food Security, Early Childhood Development & Education, Household Economic Strengthening, Disaster Risk Reduction, Advocacy, and Emergency response.



Our Vision:

A world where every child realizes their rights and achieves their potential.

Our Mission:

HELP children who live in deprived, excluded and vulnerable conditions to have the capacity to improve their lives and the opportunity to become young adults, parents and leaders who bring lasting and positive change in their communities.

PROMOTE societies whose individuals and institutions participate in valuing, protecting, and advancing the worth and rights of children.

ENRICH supporters' lives through their support of our cause.

Our Core Belief:

All children have rights to the support, protection and care they need to grow up healthy and strong. As a child-focused international development organization, ChildFund exists to change underlying factors that prevent children from fully experiencing these rights.

What we do:

- We work with partners around the world to change the underlying conditions that prevent children from realizing their rights.
- We place children's experiences at the center of our policy and practice.
- We create opportunities for people to become agents of change.

ChildFund Kenya is located off Waiyaki Way, Westlands.

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ALTERNATIVE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY-BASED CARE AS A PATHWAY TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO VAC

Authors: Millicent Oluteyo | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: VAC in the context of Alternative and Community based care

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Gem sub-county faces a high prevalence of children, especially girls aged 5 to 15, in alternative family care, often due to familial separation and abuse. A concerning number are in charitable institutions, facing sexual, physical, emotional abuse, or neglect, highlighting a critical need for intervention.

Intervention/Method: The study emphasizes community and authority sensitization on alternative family care, aligning with the National Government's campaign. It advocates addressing challenges like cultic activities, human trafficking, and various forms of abuse. A key intervention is discouraging family separation by offering stipends from the Child Welfare Fund to support vulnerable families and caregivers.

Findings: Statistics indicate a worrying trend of child separation and abuse in charitable institutions. The research stresses the importance of comprehensive sensitization and financial support to prevent family separation and promote alternative care.

Conclusions: The study urges the Kenyan National Government to implement measures against family separation and provide financial aid through the Child Welfare Fund. It calls for county-level involvement to broaden the impact of alternative care initiatives. The research recommends transforming children's homes into training and rescue centers, aiming to shift towards better family care practices and improve the well-being of vulnerable children in the sub-county.

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTING STYLES AND SELF-ESTEEM AMONG CHILDREN IN LATE CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE: A CASE OF TUMAINI PRIMARY SCHOOL IN KAYOLE ZONE, EMBAKASI WEST SUB-COUNTY, NAIROBI COUNTY, KENYA

Authors: Loise Wanjiru Rukwaro | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Understanding the prevalence nature, effects and drivers of VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: This research at Tumaini Primary School, Kayole Zone, Nairobi, examines the link between parenting styles and self-esteem in children aged 9-15. The high occurrence of authoritarian parenting (70.4%) and the fact that over half the children (50.2%) hide their self-esteem levels highlight the need for deeper understanding of these dynamics.

Intervention/Method: Employing a correlational and descriptive design, the study surveyed all 1201 pupils using questionnaires, including the Parenting Style Dimension Questionnaire (PSDQ) and the Self-Esteem Inventory (CSEI). Data analysis was conducted using SPSS version 20.

Findings: The research identifies a predominant authoritarian parenting style (70.4%), which negatively correlates with self-esteem (Mean=34.02 ± 5.38, $r=-0.51$). A significant number of participants conceal their self-esteem, suggesting complex psychological issues. Additionally, authoritarian and dismissive parenting styles correlate with high defensiveness. Parental age, especially of mothers ($p=0.005$) and fathers ($p=0.000$), and single-mother households ($p=0.001$) significantly influence both parenting styles and self-esteem.

Conclusions: The study emphasizes the detrimental impact of authoritarian parenting on children's self-esteem, advocating for accessible counseling services for affected age groups and parental education on the implications of various parenting styles. These efforts aim to improve parenting practices and enhance children's self-esteem in the community.

ASSESSING PSYCHOSOCIAL IMPACT OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION AMONG THE RESCUED ADOLESCENT GIRLS: A CASE OF POKOT OUTREACH MINISTRIES RESCUE CENTERS IN POKOT COUNTY, KENYA

Authors: Dr Priscilla Mugambi | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: VAC in the context of culture and politics

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) remains a deeply entrenched practice in parts of Africa, including Pokot County, Kenya, causing significant physical and psychological harm to girls and women. Despite global efforts to end FGM, many girls still face this ordeal, turning to places like the Pokot Outreach Ministries (POM) Rescue Centers for safety. This study aims to explore the psychosocial impact of FGM on adolescent girls residing in these centers.

Intervention/Method: Grounded in cognitive-behavioral theory, the study employs a descriptive research design and a mixed-methods approach. Data collection involves questionnaires for adolescent girls and in-depth interviews with POM Rescue Center staff, combining quantitative and qualitative insights.

Findings: The research is expected to reveal the complex psychosocial challenges faced by girls who reject FGM, including emotional, mental, and social effects. These findings will be vital for guiding policy and advocacy efforts to protect girls from harmful practices.

Conclusions: This study will provide valuable insights into the psychosocial consequences of FGM on adolescent girls at POM Rescue Centers. It aims to inform intervention strategies and policy development to protect and support girls who resist FGM, contributing to global efforts to eradicate this harmful practice and foster supportive environments for these brave girls.

ASSESSING THE EFFECTS OF INSTITUTIONALIZATION ON THE SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN IN STATUTORY INSTITUTIONS: A CASE STUDY OF THIKA CHILDREN'S RESCUE CENTER

Authors: Margaret Kagwiria, | Co-Authors: Dr. Roseline Olumbe, Dr. Priscillah Mugambi

Affiliation: Daystar University | Country: Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: VAC in Alternative Care

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: In developing countries, many children still live in institutional care despite evidence of its negative effects on their development. The study examines the influence of caregivers' abilities in these settings on the socio-emotional well-being of children.

Intervention/Method: Conducted at Thika Children's Rescue Centre, this research, grounded in social learning and attachment theories, assesses the social-emotional impact of institutionalization. The study involves 74 children and 12 staff members, using questionnaires and focused group discussions for data collection.

Findings: Findings indicate that children in these institutions primarily need love, self-worth, a sense of belonging, affectionate touch, and knowledgeable caregivers. Addressing these needs is essential in reducing violence against children (VAC) linked to the caregivers' nurturing abilities.

Conclusion: The study recommends a child protection approach centered on meeting children's social-emotional needs, fostering openness, discipline, and friendliness to diminish VAC impacts. Key recommendations include programs that enhance emotional

ASSESSING THE EFFECTS OF INSTITUTIONALIZATION ON THE SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN IN STATUTORY INSTITUTIONS: A CASE STUDY OF THIKA CHILDREN'S RESCUE CENTER

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Conclusion: The study recommends a child protection approach centered on meeting children's social-emotional needs, fostering openness, discipline, and friendliness to diminish VAC impacts. Key recommendations include programs that enhance emotional bonding, offer affectionate touch, and develop a sense of belonging, alongside continuous caregiver training in child protection. These findings offer critical guidance for child protection practitioners, policymakers, and institutions to ensure the holistic well-being of children in institutional care.

ASSESSING THE EFFECTS OF NURTURING CARE FRAMEWORK ON CHILDREN IN ECD: A CASE OF PRE-SCHOOLS IN UGUNJA SUBCOUNTY, SIIYA

Authors: Dr Daniel Mutunga | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on programs and services that effectively prevent and respond to VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Over 200 million children in low and middle-income families, as identified by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), face barriers in accessing essential services crucial for holistic child development. Factors such as lack of care, poverty, nutritional deficiencies, and inadequate learning opportunities hinder their early childhood development (ECD). The World Health Organization (WHO) emphasizes the significance of caregiving in ECD, stating that healthy nurturing interactions between caregivers and children are pivotal. However, in low- and medium-income countries like Kenya, this critical interaction is often disrupted by insufficient resources and a lack of comprehensive data on the population of children in these circumstances. Children born into impoverished or disadvantaged families in Kenya are especially at risk, facing challenges in accessing the necessary resources for growth and development. Social and economic factors compromise their safety and security, leaving them vulnerable to abuse and neglect, creating a cycle of poverty from an early age.

Intervention/Method: This study explores existing literature to understand how the nurturing care framework contributes to enhancing early childhood development. By reviewing available information, the research aims to identify the factors that influence nurturing care and its impact on the overall well-being of children, particularly those born into challenging socio-economic conditions.

Findings: The findings of the study will provide insights into the role of nurturing care in early childhood development, shedding light on the factors that contribute to or hinder it. This exploration will contribute to the understanding of the challenges faced by children in low- and medium-income families and communities in Kenya and how nurturing care can potentially mitigate these challenges.

Conclusions: The study's conclusions and recommendations will be crucial in guiding policy formulation to ensure child safety, especially for those born into disadvantaged circumstances. By identifying the importance of nurturing care in early childhood development, the research aims to contribute to broader initiatives aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty and providing a foundation for the optimal growth and well-being of vulnerable children.

ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF JUSTICE INVOLVED CHILDREN WHO ARE SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

Authors: Florence Mueni | **Affiliation:** United States International University (Africa)

Conference Sub-Theme: Sub-theme 3: Evidence on Programs and Services that Effectively Prevent and Respond to VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: This study investigates the mental health needs of children interacting with the justice system, particularly those exposed to violence. It evaluates the current assessment and treatment programs in child justice agencies, focusing on children's complex experiences and trauma.

Intervention/Method: The research encompassed children in care and protection units, remand homes, and rescue centers in Nairobi County. It involved 193 practitioners from various justice services. The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (Kiswahili version) was used for mental health screening, and interviews with practitioners provided insights into assessment and treatment methods.

Findings: Children showed high emotional (Mean=5.41, SD=1.78) and peer problem scores (Mean=3.24, SD=1.97). Significant associations were found between institution type and hyperactivity ($p=0.034$), ethnicity and conduct issues ($p=0.009$), and family type and prosocial behavior ($p=0.001$). The research revealed limited assessment tool usage and a primary reliance on counseling and cognitive-behavioral therapy for mental health interventions.

Conclusions: The study highlights the need for comprehensive mental health assessments and the development of evidence-based treatments for children in the justice system. It emphasizes a holistic approach to mental health care, acknowledging the diverse needs and experiences of these children. The findings advocate for enhancing mental health interventions and support mechanisms within the justice system.

ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS ROLE OF MEN IN THE PROTECTION OF THE BOY CHILD WITHIN THE COMMUNITY: A CASE OF KIAMBU COUNTY, KENYA

Authors: Philip Nzenge | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: VAC in the context of alternative and community based care

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Despite international, regional, and Kenyan legal provisions emphasizing child care and protection, Kiambu County, Kenya, faces a gap in community awareness and implementation, particularly regarding the boy child. This research aims to explore the role of men in raising boys and develop strategies to enhance care and protection in the county.

Intervention/Method: The study utilized a desk review of boy child protection issues, CPIMS reports, and in-depth interviews with children's officers and child practitioners in Kiambu. Data analysis was conducted using MS Office Excel.

Findings: A notable disconnect between the legal framework and community awareness leads to ineffective boy child protection measures in Kiambu County. The research identifies the need for men's involvement in mentoring, coaching, and role modeling. It highlights the importance of cultural and behavioral change and emphasizes educating on adolescence issues for effective boy child care.

Conclusions: The research advocates for the implementation of a 'Men for Boy Child' program (Men4B Programme), focusing on mentorship, role modeling, and behavioral change. This program is designed to bridge the gap between legal frameworks and community understanding, ensuring effective boy child protection and care in Kiambu County. The study underlines the necessity of comprehensive approaches in boy child care, in alignment with international and local laws.

ASSESSMENT OF THE NATIONAL RESPONSE TO CHILD ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN KENYA

Authors: Rose Mwangi and Jackline Ikua | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Technology as an Enabler and Intervention for Addressing VAC Technology and VAC

Type: Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: The surge in internet use in Kenya, particularly among children using smartphones and computers, has escalated exposure to risks like online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA), cyberbullying, and access to inappropriate content. The digital environment poses unique challenges, exacerbated by a lack of awareness and skills among children, parents, and caregivers.

Intervention/Method: This study evaluates Kenya's National Response to Child Online Sexual Exploitation, utilizing a review of online child protection issues and in-depth interviews with key stakeholders. The aim is to assess the effectiveness of current child online safety measures.

Findings: Findings reveal alarming levels of risk, with 55% of children accessing adult pornography and 88.4% recognizing OCSEA as a major threat. Despite this, 57.8% had only basic knowledge about online abuse, and 83.3% had no training in this area. Respondents recommend focusing on victims' well-being (53%) and call for better legislation, regulation, reporting systems, and case management.

Conclusions: The study highlights the urgent need for comprehensive education and training to equip children, parents, and caregivers for safe online navigation. It advocates for improved legal frameworks and case management to address the multifaceted challenges of child online safety in Kenya effectively.

BENEATH THE SURFACE: UNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEX FACTORS DRIVING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND THEIR MULTIFACETED NATURE

Authors: Madeleine Joy Omungalah | **Affiliation:** Clean Start Africa

Conference Sub-Theme: Understanding the prevalence nature, effects and drivers of VAC

Type: Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: This research addresses the grave human rights violation posed by violence against children, aiming to understand the diverse forms, prevalence, and impacts of such violence on children, families, and communities. The focus is on unraveling the complex factors perpetuating this issue.

Intervention/Method: Utilizing ecological systems theory, the study explores the interrelated influences at individual, family, community, and societal levels in either promoting or mitigating violence against children. A mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative analyses, is used to investigate the prevalence and to comprehend the experiences of survivors and perpetrators across various demographics.

Findings: Initial findings reveal a distressing prevalence and variety of violence against children, covering physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. This violence leaves lasting impacts on health, hinders social development, and perpetuates trauma. Key drivers identified include entrenched cultural norms, economic and gender disparities, and weak legal enforcement, all contributing to the issue.

Conclusion: The study emphasizes the need for targeted interventions and prevention strategies to address the complex layers of violence against children. Its findings advocate for a comprehensive approach that not only breaks existing cycles of violence but also prevents future occurrences. This holistic strategy, encompassing diverse perspectives and tackling interconnected drivers, is crucial for creating a safer environment for children and fostering societal progress.

BEYOND THE BARS: CLEAN START AFRICA'S APPROACH TO SUPPORTING CHILDREN OF IMPRISONED MOTHERS IN KENYA

Authors: Teresia Nayoro | **Affiliation:** Clean Start Africa | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on programs and services that effectively prevent and respond to VAC

Type: Practice Based Paper

Problem Statement: In Kenya, children can legally stay with their imprisoned mothers until age four, presenting developmental challenges within the prison environment. Clean Start Africa, in collaboration with Kenya Prisons Service, initiated a 'Prison Nannies' program to support these children by training imprisoned mothers as caregivers.

Intervention/Method: The Responsive Caregiving program focused on child-centric care, using virtual training due to pandemic restrictions. It involved officers from five prisons, emphasizing self-awareness, creating a safe environment, and optimal care for children in prison.

Findings: The program successfully sensitized 25 Officers in Charge across five prisons, fostering a shift in attitudes towards children's care and promoting a unified approach in handling children irrespective of their mothers' circumstances. However, challenges such as limited follow-up, officer transfers, and virtual training limitations were encountered.

Recommendations: Suggested improvements include consistent officer training, institutional support, hybrid training models, in-person follow-ups, practical sessions, celebrating success stories, and a feedback mechanism.

Conclusion: The program's positive impact on officers demonstrates its effectiveness in equipping caregivers with necessary skills and fostering a positive environment for children in prisons. Continued collaboration with prison institutions is vital for the program's expansion and success, ensuring better care for children in the context of maternal imprisonment.

BOYS INTO MEN: PREVENTIVE STRATEGY FOR GBV IN THE COMMUNITY

Authors: Simon Wasike | **Affiliation:** Children of God Relief Institute (Nyumbani) | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on programs and services that effectively prevent and respond to VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Gender-based violence (GBV) is a deeply rooted issue, necessitating interventions that challenge established gender biases and promote positive behavioral changes, especially among boys and men, to reshape cultural attitudes toward GBV.

Intervention/Method: The Children of God Relief Institute implemented the 'Coaching Boys Into Men' (CBIM) program, an evidence-based intervention targeting adolescent athletes. Delivered by sports coaches over 12 weeks using a Card Series toolkit, CBIM facilitates weekly 15-minute discussions to encourage respect and nonviolent attitudes among boys toward girls and women. The program focuses on recognizing GBV, promoting positive bystander interventions, and managing violent behaviors.

Findings: Implemented among 3750 boys aged 9-14 in Nairobi, CBIM led to notable behavioral improvements, particularly in respect for females. The program received endorsements from community stakeholders, including parents, religious leaders, and government officials, highlighting its effectiveness in modifying behaviors and potentially altering long-standing cultural norms.

Conclusion: CBIM's impact in changing boys' perceptions and behaviors toward GBV represents a significant advance in GBV prevention strategies. This intervention lays a foundation for a generation capable of recognizing, preventing, and addressing GBV. Continued implementation of such programs is key to transforming cultural attitudes, promoting respect, and reducing violence in future generations.



About LVCT Health

LVCT Health is a national Kenyan organization registered in 2002. Through its vision of **Healthy Empowered and Resilient Communities**, LVCT Health has built a unique capacity to implement a [Research-Policy- Practice model](#) that facilitates the generation and utilization of evidence from research and practice to inform national policies and programmes and strengthen health systems for effective health response, focusing on HIV, Gender-based violence (GBV), sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and mental health programs reaching the most vulnerable populations in Kenya and beyond.

LVCT Health works with government and other stakeholders at national and county levels to scale up access to health services; undertakes advocacy and provides technical support for the development of national and international standards and guidelines; and develops provider and organizational capacities.



What we do

LVCT Health is dedicated to **facilitating universal access to equitable integrated health services for vulnerable and marginalized and at-risk populations**. We offer comprehensive HIV and TB prevention, treatment and related services, Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), Gender Based Violence (GBV) and mental health programming, in **facility and community settings** while strengthening health systems.

Summary of what we do

- Use our research, policy, and practice approach
- Focus on vulnerable and marginalized populations
- Use our position and voice to advocate for the health rights of supported groups
- Capacity development for individuals and institutions
- Working with and through the government at national and county level
- Investing in our own institutional capacity, including our systems

Our presence in Kenya

LVCT Health implements programs in 34 of the 47 counties in Kenya and is the lead PEPFAR implementing partner in 10 counties (Homa Bay, Kisii, Kiambu, Muranga, Kirinyaga, Nyeri, Mombasa, Kilifi, Kwale and Taita Taveta). LVCT Health has its headquarters in Nairobi with regional offices in Mombasa, Homa Bay, and Kiambu.



Populations we serve

LVCT Health gives special attention to those with greatest vulnerability to HIV/TB infection and or with special service needs. These include for instance Adolescents and Young People (AYP), Adolescents, Girls, and Young Women (AGYW), survivors of sexual violence, persons living with disabilities, Female Sex Workers (FSWs), People who Inject Drugs (PWID), Men who have sex With Men (MSM), Prisoners and fishing communities.

BREAKING THE SILENCE: BUILDING SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITY STRUCTURES TO MITIGATE SEXUAL GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN GEM, KENYA.

Authors: Dennis Menya | Co-Authors: Hilary Ngeso², Wayne Otieno³

Affiliation: Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB) | Country: Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on programs and services that effectively prevent and respond to VAC

Type: Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: In Gem, Siaya County, the pressing challenge of sexual gender-based violence (SGBV), particularly affecting children, highlights the need for timely and effective support mechanisms. CMMB has introduced Violence Prevention and Response Teams (VPRTs) to bolster community-level interventions against violence against women and girls (VAWG).

Intervention/Method: The VPRTs, comprising ten members from diverse backgrounds including local authorities, educators, healthcare workers, and religious leaders, were set up in each ward. They received a three-day training to enhance SGBV response capabilities and establish efficient referral pathways. Coordination and reporting were facilitated through Ward-based WhatsApp groups, with specific monthly and quarterly workplans for VPRT operations.

Findings: Over a five-month period, significant progress was observed in SGBV prevention, reporting, and response in Gem Subcounty. VPRTs effectively managed 323 human rights violation cases, with 70% of sexual abuse reports processed within 72 hours, leading to appropriate referrals. Challenges remained, notably limited post-rape care services and insufficient community awareness.

Conclusion: The VPRT initiative has shown effectiveness in managing SGBV at the community level in Gem Subcounty, providing a model that can be replicated in other Kenyan regions. To enhance the program's impact, addressing challenges like increasing community awareness and improving support services for survivors is essential. This model paves the way for stronger community-based strategies to combat SGBV.

CARING FOR BOYS: HOW SOCIAL NORMS ON MASCULINITY AND SEXUALITY AFFECT THE SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST BOYS – A MULTI-COUNTRY QUALITATIVE STUDY

Authors: Rajiv Ro | **Affiliation:** FOST

Conference Sub Understanding the prevalence, nature, effects and drivers of VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Prevailing social norms around masculinity impose unrealistic expectations on boys, pressuring them to adhere to traditional notions of manhood. This environment often prevents boys from reporting sexual violence due to fear of ridicule and being perceived as weak.

Intervention/Method: Conducted from 2018 to 2021 across India, Nepal, Cambodia, the Philippines, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Guyana, this multi-country qualitative study explored the experiences of boys as victims of sexual violence and their engagement in problematic sexual behaviors. Children, key informants, and parents participated in the research, shedding light on the impact of societal norms on boys' experiences of sexual violence.

Findings: The research revealed a widespread denial of the possibility of boys being sexual abuse victims, leading to under-reporting and isolation for those affected. This skepticism among caregivers and policymakers results in significant gaps in child protection services and policies tailored to address boys' vulnerability to sexual violence.

Conclusion: To effectively support boys affected by sexual violence, there is a need for public awareness campaigns and accessible support services. Gender-neutral policies and gender-sensitive approaches are vital in protecting both boys and girls. Initiatives like Blue Umbrella Day demonstrate the potential for change in combating stereotypes and enhancing protection systems for boys. Continued efforts are essential in challenging detrimental norms, improving understanding, and strengthening protective measures for boys experiencing sexual violence

CHILD LABOUR EXPLOITATION IN BUSIA, KENYA – "TOWARDS A MULT-SECTORAL BASED INTERVENTIONS APPROACH"

Authors: Evans Munga | **Affiliation:** Terre des Hommes Netherlands (TdH NL) **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Understanding the Prevalence, Nature, Effects and Drivers of Violence Against Children (VAC)

Type: Practice Based Paper

Problem Statement: Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest incidence of child labor globally, with 86.6 million children (23.9% of the child population) engaged in labor. In Kenya's Busia County, characterized by an 83% poverty index, about 80% of children are multi-dimensionally poor, resulting in 45% of in-school and 55% of out-of-school children involved in child labor.

Intervention/Method: The Action Against Child Labour (AACL) project by Terre des Hommes Netherlands and Investing in Children and their Societies aims to eradicate child labor in Busia's service industry. It employs strategies like peer-to-peer involvement, mentorship, life skills training, apprenticeships, family and community engagement, and policy coordination at county and national levels.

Findings: Terre des Hommes' baseline assessment shows significant impact: 795 children gained essential life skills, and 82 Child Rights Club members influenced County Integrated Development Plans. This reflects the effectiveness of AACL's multifaceted approach.

Conclusion: AACL has successfully operationalized the Busia County Child Labour Committee and collaborated with national committees to influence policy. Its comprehensive strategy, engaging children, families, communities, and government, serves as a potential model for eliminating child labor beyond Busia County, showcasing a pathway for broader application and impact.

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CHILD DOMESTIC LABOUR: THE INVISIBLE VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN - ADDRESSING THE DISJUNCTURE OF POLICY AND PRACTICE IN AFRICA

Authors: Milka Wahu Kuria | **Affiliation:** Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology School of Law

Country: Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Child Domestic Labour, the Invisible Violence against Children: Addressing the Disjuncture of Policy and Practice in Africa

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Africa faces a significant challenge with 72.1 million child laborers, of which many are involved in hazardous work. Child domestic labor, a hidden form of child violence, is especially concerning with 15.5 million children worldwide employed in this sector, half of them in dangerous conditions. The situation worsened with the COVID-19 pandemic, putting an additional 9 million children at risk.

Intervention/Method: This paper examines the gap between policy and practice in addressing child domestic labor in Africa. It explores legal aspects, prevalence of violence, root causes, and barriers to effective implementation of protective laws. The study utilizes African human rights frameworks and international law to identify viable legal and non-legal solutions.

Findings: The study uncovers widespread violence against child domestic workers in Kenya and highlights a stark contrast between existing policies and their practical application. Key issues include exploitative working conditions and inadequate legal enforcement.

Conclusion: Addressing child domestic labor in Africa requires a multifaceted approach that goes beyond current legal frameworks. The paper suggests policy changes and highlights examples of successful practices. Its goal is to spark a transformative conversation aimed at eradicating child domestic labor through effective policy implementation and broader protective measures.

CHILD HELPLINES: TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION FOR CHILD PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT

Authors: Martha Sunda | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Technology and VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Child helplines are vital in advancing global child protection services. However, they face challenges like data privacy, cybersecurity, and accessibility for vulnerable populations. This study examines the role of these helplines in empowering children, while addressing these technological hurdles.

Intervention/Method: The research involves analyzing how child helplines use communication technologies, such as phone lines, online platforms, and mobile apps, to assist children and caregivers. It also explores the use of data analytics, AI, social media, VR, and chatbots in improving helpline services.

Findings: Child helplines effectively employ technology to respond to children in need, analyze data to identify trends, and customize services. Despite their advancements, issues with data privacy, cybersecurity, and digital access among vulnerable groups remain. Enhancing digital literacy and ensuring safe online environments are crucial for helpline success.

Conclusion: Child helplines, as technological innovations, play a critical role in reshaping child protection globally. They offer key tools for safeguarding children, amplifying their voices, and helping them confront digital-era challenges. To maximize their effectiveness, addressing digital literacy gaps and reinforcing data protection is essential. These improvements will ensure child helplines continue to be a cornerstone in the fight against violence towards children.

CHILD LABOUR IN THE COFFEE INDUSTRY IN EASTERN UGANDA

Authors: Alex Alinaitwe | **Affiliation** Understanding the prevalence, nature, effects and drivers of VAC | **Country:** Uganda
Conference Sub-Theme: AfriChild Centre

Type: Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Child labor in Eastern Uganda's coffee industry is alarmingly high at 48%, surpassing the national average. This study investigates the underlying causes, examines regulatory frameworks, and evaluates stakeholder roles and intervention strategies within the coffee supply chain.

Intervention/Method: Employing a mixed-methods approach, the research encompassed surveys of 771 households and 1871 children aged 5-17, alongside focus groups, key informant interviews, and survivor-led advisory boards. This methodology provided a comprehensive view of the extent, nature, and driving factors of child labor in the region's coffee sector.

Findings: Results show that 43% of children engage in hazardous work, often exceeding permissible working hours for their age and facing risks like chemical exposure and heavy lifting. These conditions significantly disrupt their education, despite their contribution to family income. The prevalence of child labor in this sector is notably higher than the national average, highlighting a critical need for intervention.

Conclusion: Combatting child labor in Eastern Uganda's coffee industry requires a combination of strategies. Solutions include addressing economic hardships, enhancing monitoring, advocating for ethical sourcing, and improving legal regulations and enforcement. Collaboration among government entities, businesses, and civil society is essential to ensure occupational safety for children, uphold their rights, and foster educational and developmental opportunities.

CHILD PARTICIPATION RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN: A CASE OF CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE

Authors: Grace J. Kipkech | **Affiliation:** Save the Children | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: VAC in the context of alternative and community based care

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Children in institutional care settings often experience violence from peers and caregivers, exacerbating the impact of violence within confined spaces. The structural nature of these facilities contributes to heightened conflict risks and increased incidents of bullying and violence among children. Despite efforts outlined in the Violence Against Children (VAC) Survey Report 2019, addressing violence against children requires a comprehensive approach, especially within institutional care settings, where children themselves become victims and perpetrators. The need for child participation in identification, reporting, and response to VAC in these institutions is crucial for effective intervention.

Intervention/Method: This study aims to explore child-led responses to Violence Against Children (VAC) in institutional care through desk research and institutional surveys. Focused on statutory children's institutions, the research seeks to understand the effectiveness of child involvement in VAC response implementation, assessing the impact and success of child participation in addressing violence.

Findings: Children actively involved in responding to VAC within institutional care play a vital role in providing support to their peers facing violence. Their participation transforms them from passive recipients to active participants in safeguarding their own welfare. This study sheds light on the experiences and outcomes of child-led responses, offering insights for practitioners and policymakers in addressing violence against children in institutional care settings.

Conclusion: The study underscores the significance of child participation in responding to VAC in institutional care. Empowering children to actively engage in identifying, reporting, and addressing violence not only protects them but also cultivates a sense of agency and ownership in creating safer environments. This research serves as a crucial resource for enhancing strategies, policies, and interventions aimed at curbing violence against children in institutional care, fostering a safer and more supportive environment for their growth and well-being.

OUR MISSION

We build families for children in need, we help them shape their own futures, and share in the development of their communities.

OUR VISION

Every child belongs to a family and grows with love, respect and security

OUR CORE VALUES

- **Courage:** We take action
- **Commitment:** We keep our promises
- **Trust:** We believe in each other
- **Accountability:** We are reliable partners

OUR PRINCIPLES

- **Child** - every child is unique and respected
- **Parent** - every child needs a caring and stable parent
- **Family** - every child grows up in a supportive family
- **Community** - every child is part of a safe and supportive community

Our Work In Kenya:



Our Programs - What we do

1. Alternative Care

We care for vulnerable children in various forms of alternative care. Cumulatively, the alternative care program has impacted more than 1,700 children and young people.

2. Family Strengthening

We strengthen families to prevent the abandonment and neglect of children

Since its inception, the Family Strengthening programs have supported 6,711 families/ households, reaching 19,370 children and young persons with quality care, protection and livelihood support.

3. Advocacy

We advocate for the rights of all children without parental care, or at risk of losing it, and the rights of their families

More than 113 children in SOS Children's Villages in Kenya have been involved in Children's Councils and other child participation platforms.

6. Youth Empowerment Program

Our youth empowerment program provides care, nurturing, life skills and employability skills and related support to more than 5,000 youth in Kenya.



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WHO WE ARE

SOS Children's Villages in Kenya is a member of SOS - Kinderdorf International, the world's largest private child welfare organization.

We are a child-focused, non-governmental organization providing care and support to children and young people who have lost or are at risk of losing their biological family's care.

SOS Children's Villages was founded in 1949 by Hermann Gmeiner, a German philanthropist who after having experienced the horrors of the Second World War as a child welfare worker, was confronted with the isolation and suffering of the many war orphans and homeless children.

A loving home for every child

CHILD PROTECTION NEEDS ASSESSMENT IN WAJIR, MANDERA, GARISSA AND TURKANA

Authors: Irene Wali | **Affiliation:** Save the Children | **Country:** Kenya |
Conference Sub-Theme: Understanding the prevalence, nature, effects and drivers of VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: The arid regions of Wajir, Mandera, Garissa, and Turkana face multifaceted challenges affecting children and adolescents, exacerbated by droughts and other emergencies. Understanding the vulnerabilities, risks, coping mechanisms, and emerging concerns for children in these areas is crucial to inform interventions by Save the Children, Development Partners, and government ministries.

Methodology: Utilizing a mixed-methods approach, the study combined quantitative and qualitative methodologies to comprehensively address study objectives. A multi-stage cluster sampling method was employed to survey 300 households with children aged 0-17 years. The quantitative data collection was supplemented by qualitative approaches for corroboration and deeper insights into specific study objectives.

Key Findings: The assessment revealed alarming realities: nearly half of the households had children aged 5-17 not attending school, with high prevalence rates of FGM in Wajir (79%). Child labor was reported by 63% of households, while drug and substance abuse affected 328 adolescents. Regional variations emerged, with drug abuse and criminal offenses prominent in Turkana and pornography prevalence in Mandera. Moreover, entrenched social and gender norms limit opportunities for girls, perpetuating inequality. Astonishingly, awareness of existing child protection committees was minimal, with only 2% acknowledging their existence.

Conclusion: The findings underscore critical issues affecting children and adolescents in these arid counties, demanding immediate interventions. Addressing barriers to education, combating harmful practices like FGM and child labor, tackling substance abuse, and empowering girls are crucial priorities. Moreover, the lack of awareness about child protection committees highlights the urgent need for community engagement and awareness campaigns to strengthen child protection mechanisms. The assessment provides vital insights for stakeholders to tailor interventions effectively, emphasizing the importance of holistic and collaborative efforts in safeguarding children in these vulnerable regions.

CHILD PROTECTION VOLUNTEERS INVOLVEMENT IN DIGITALIZED CHILD PROTECTION DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING PROCESSES IN NAIROBI COUNTY, KENYA.

Authors: Brenta Muli | **Country:** Kenya |
Conference Sub-Theme: Technology as an enabler and intervention for Addressing VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Nairobi County's Child Protection Volunteers play a pivotal role in community child protection mechanisms. However, their engagement in digitized data collection using the Child Protection Management Information System (CPIMS) remains underexplored. The study aims to assess their capacities and engagement strategies within data collection and reporting processes.

Intervention/Method: Using a mixed-method design involving focus group discussions and questionnaires, the study explored volunteers' capabilities and challenges. Findings revealed that volunteers are well-informed and actively involved in child protection case management. However, they face connectivity and resource challenges despite access to smartphones and computers.

Key Findings: Statistics unveiled critical aspects: 44% of Child Protection Volunteers face network challenges, hindering effective data reporting. Yet, they serve as crucial frontline responders in child protection, underscoring their potential in CPIMS.

Conclusion: Empowering these volunteers and addressing connectivity hurdles is essential for effective CPIMS utilization. Leveraging their insights can aid in strategizing for better community support and partnerships, vital for holistic child protection initiatives in Nairobi County. Targeted support for volunteers in employing efficient data collection techniques is paramount for CPIMS success.

CLOSURE OF CHURCHES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AS DRIVER OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN: PERCEPTIONS OF CHILDREN IN KAJIADO COUNTY

Authors: Mercy M Mwanzana | **Country:** Kenya |
Conference Sub-Theme: Understanding the prevalence nature, effects and drivers of VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: The indiscriminate closure of churches amid the COVID-19 pandemic challenged children's access to crucial spiritual support, posing potential risks for their emotional well-being. Understanding children's perceptions regarding this closure is vital.

Intervention/Method: Employing a transcendental phenomenological design, the study engaged 33 participants, including children, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and parents. Interviews and focus group discussions unearthed diverse viewpoints.

Findings: Statistics showcased a predominant negative sentiment, with 72% of children expressing adverse perceptions. They highlighted oppressive actions, citing excessive use of force by authorities and a lack of access to counseling services. The closure drove some children toward negative influences like gangs and child labor.

Conclusion: The study underscores how government measures, despite intending to protect children, can inadvertently heighten risks, notably through excessive force. Policy recommendations emphasize the crucial need for sustained spiritual nurture and psychosocial support for children during crises to prevent exacerbating violence and negative outcomes.

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AGENDA SETTING BRINGS STAKEHOLDERS TOGETHER TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Authors: Ms. Joan Njagi | **Affiliation:** Sexual Violence Research Initiative, Safe Futures Hub, Together for Girls, We Protect Global Alliance | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Strengthening collaboration coordination and oversight of VAC interventions

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Research on violence against children often reflects priorities set by senior academics, potentially overlooking critical perspectives from stakeholders actively involved in addressing these issues. Collaborative research agenda setting, involving diverse stakeholders, is crucial to ensure a comprehensive understanding of violence against children, redress research inequalities, and address priorities across different contexts.

Intervention/Method: The SVRI has facilitated participatory agenda-setting processes, using an adapted CHNRI method, inclusive of practitioners, activists, survivors, children, funders, and decision-makers. The methodology ensures equitable representation, gathering diverse views, and ensuring contextual relevance. These collaborative efforts have shaped global and regional research agendas on violence against women and children.

Findings: Shared research agendas have been crafted globally and regionally, focusing on violence against women and the intersections with violence against children. Ongoing processes aim to develop additional research agendas for different regions and thematic areas, enhancing understanding and addressing critical gaps in knowledge and policy. The collaborative process itself has proven invaluable, fostering engagement and understanding diverse perspectives.

Conclusion: Collaborative research agenda setting proves vital, ensuring inclusive and equitable representation of diverse stakeholders. The process itself contributes significantly to understanding priorities and fostering engagement. Learning from these collaborative processes underscores the importance of meaningful engagement and continual improvement in research methodologies.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2022 NATIONAL CARE REFORM STRATEGY AS A FORM OF ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN.

Authors: Elizabeth Kithuka, Claire Samoka, Beatrice Kiarie, Charity Waweru, Lynn Wacu, Catherine Nyakio

Country: Kenya | **Conference Sub-Theme:** VAC in the context of Alternative and Community based care

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement:

Despite legislative efforts such as the National Care Reform Strategy 2022 in Kenya, violence against children persists, impacting those residing in institutional care settings. Though institutions aim to provide care, evidence suggests long-term adverse effects on children's holistic development, necessitating a shift towards community and family-based care.

Intervention/Method: This study, utilizing an ecological model, aims to explore stakeholder experiences regarding the National Care Reform Strategy's implementation. Employing a descriptive research design and thematic analysis of existing literature, the research intends to gather insights for effective interventions in the fight against violence towards children.

Findings: Existing literature review and thematic analysis will illuminate the successes and challenges of the National Care Reform Strategy, highlighting its impact on violence prevention for children. The study will advocate for community and family-based care approaches over institutionalized settings, emphasizing the need for holistic child development.

Conclusion: The study underscores the importance of transitioning from residential care to family and community-based care, aligning with the National Care Reform Strategy's pillars. By exploring stakeholder experiences and existing literature, this research aims to contribute to more effective interventions, prioritizing children's safety and well-being.

CRITICAL ROLE OF USAID STAWISHA PWANI IN PREVENTING, IDENTIFYING AND ADDRESSING VAC IN KWALE COUNTY

Authors: Linda Mbeyu, Michael Gatho, Stephen Wagude | **Affiliation:** USAID Stawisha Pwani | **Country:** Kenya
Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on programs and services that effectively prevent and respond to VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Before 2021, Kwale County faced limited structures to address Violence Against Children (VAC), leading to low identification of abuse cases, particularly in health facilities. However, through the implementation of USAID Stawisha Pwani activities, there has been a notable increase in reported cases, indicating a critical need for effective interventions to prevent and respond to VAC.

Intervention/Method: The project engaged in multifaceted approaches to prevent and respond to VAC, collaborating with key stakeholders. Activities included community sensitization campaigns, capacity-building sessions for duty bearers, support for child rights awareness in and out of school settings, and the establishment of forums involving parents, teachers, community leaders, and law enforcement agencies. Health care workers were trained in abuse identification, and safeguarding policies and committees were instituted in health facilities.

Findings: The project's initiatives led to a substantial increase in identified sexual abuse cases, rising from 296 to 516 by August 2023. All affected children received initial support from health facilities, and additional forms of abuse were uncovered through enhanced screening practices. Notably, reduced pregnancy rates in schools reflected the positive impact of these interventions and highlighted the strengthened collaboration between community and facility teams.

Conclusion: The success in VAC prevention and response hinges on collaborative efforts involving multiple agencies. Future endeavors should prioritize further strengthening inter-agency coordination and collaboration, ensuring sustained resource allocation to expand and maintain effective child protection interventions in Kwale County. The USAID Stawisha Pwani project serves as a model for comprehensive and collaborative approaches in addressing VAC, highlighting the potential for significant impact through coordinated efforts across various sectors.

DATA DEMAND AND USE BY THE DCS IN WESTERN KENYA

Authors: Tabitha Awuor

Affiliation: Directorate of Children Services | **Country:** Kenya

Problem Statement: Child protection is a global concern, with an estimated 1 billion minors facing physical, emotional, or sexual violence globally. In Kenya, as highlighted in the Violence against Children Survey, a multitude of child protection issues necessitates data-informed decision-making for effective service delivery. Understanding the factors influencing data demand and use by Child Protection Officers (CPOs) is crucial in addressing the unique challenges faced by children and families in Western Kenya.

Intervention/Method: This study employs a mixed-method approach to evaluate the factors influencing data demand and use by CPOs in Western Kenya. Focusing on technical, individual, and organizational factors, the research utilized a cross-sectional household survey involving child protection officers. Data was collected through questionnaires and observation checklists, and both descriptive and inferential statistical analyses were applied.

Findings: The study revealed that data demand and use by CPOs are significantly influenced by technical factors such as inadequate infrastructure, skills gaps in data collection, analysis, interpretation, and utilization, as well as a lack of frameworks for data exchange. Individual factors, including capacity limitations in identifying information needs, and organizational factors, such as inadequate frameworks for linking data with action, were identified as key contributors to the challenges in data demand and use within the child protection sector.

Conclusions: The findings emphasize the urgent need for addressing technical, individual, and organizational factors to enhance data demand and use in child protection efforts. Improving infrastructure, building skills, establishing effective frameworks for data exchange, and linking data with actionable steps are crucial for optimizing the impact of child protection initiatives in Western Kenya. This study contributes valuable insights to the field, emphasizing the significance of informed decision-making through robust data practices for more effective child protection outcomes.

DIGITAL PARENTING: DIGITAL LITERACY SKILLS GAP IN PARENTS AND ITS ROLE IN ONLINE CHILD VIOLENCE

Authors: Hilda Chebet | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Technology as an enabler and intervention for addressing VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: The escalating prevalence of technology and internet use among children in Kenya has underscored the critical role of parental responsibility in safeguarding children from online violence. However, a widening digital literacy skills gap among parents has emerged as a substantial barrier, impeding their ability to guide and protect their children effectively in the digital realm. This knowledge divide exposes children to the inherent risks associated with online violence, necessitating urgent attention and intervention.

Intervention/Method: This paper relies on research conducted by Eveminet Communication Solution Limited, employing a structured questionnaire to gather data on parental digital literacy and children's online experiences. The survey assessed parental knowledge of online risks, online safety practices, and the extent of their children's exposure to online violence. The research involved 100 parents across five counties in Kenya—Nakuru, Mombasa, Kisumu, Nairobi, and Kiambu. In-person interviews and focus groups were utilized for data collection.

Findings: The paper's findings illuminate a pronounced digital literacy skills gap among parents, pointing to a significant challenge in their capacity to shield children from online violence. The research underscores the urgency of addressing this knowledge divide to enhance parents' effectiveness in guiding their children's online experiences and ensuring their safety in the digital environment.

Conclusions: In conclusion, the paper advocates for targeted interventions to bridge the digital literacy skills gap among parents. The evidence presented emphasizes the need for comprehensive initiatives, such as educational programs and resources, aimed at empowering parents with the knowledge and skills required to navigate and mitigate the risks of online violence. Ultimately, closing this gap is crucial for fostering a safer online environment for children in Kenya.



The Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSI) is a pan-African regional organization headquartered in Johannesburg, South Africa. With the vision that all girls, boys and youth enjoy psychosocial and mental wellbeing and mission leads in innovative Mental Health and Psychosocial Support interventions to transform policy and practice for girls, boys and youth in Africa to reach their potential; REPSI is recognized as Africa's leading mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) organization, renowned provider of psychosocial support services, technical support and resources across East and Southern Africa, working directly in 13 countries. REPSI benefits from a memorandum of understanding with SADC, a close relationship with the EAC and observer status with the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. REPSI works in collaboration with governments and civil society organizations.

REPSI is renowned for developing high-quality, evidence-based resources to integrate psychosocial support into programs that support children, youth, families and communities. It has produced a repository of more than 70 training manuals, tools and other resources.

Our work focuses on the following thematic areas.

1. Rights to health and sexual and reproductive health
2. Protection and sustainable livelihoods
3. Education and Early Childhood Development
4. Disaster Risk, Reduction Conflict and Climate Change

Our interventions are at three levels

1. Technical assistance through capacity building and or subgrant for implementation.
2. Community systems strengthening
3. Advocacy and policies influencing

Biannual Mental Health and Psychosocial support forum

Since the year 2011 REPSI has convened the Regional Psychosocial Support forum every two years to emphasize the need for locally designed solutions that will enable sustainable access to essential Mental Health and Psychosocial Support services while considering the socio-cultural context and existing barriers that children and youth in the region face in accessing mental healthcare.

In Kenya, since the year 2008 REPSI has been operating through partners directly from head office in South Africa working closely with the Department of children's services. Currently we are engaging with the Ministry of Health, Division of Maternal and Reproductive Health. We are also working with collaborators such as; Hope worldwide Kenya, Child Fund Kenya and Population Council among others

REPSI Kenya has implemented a three years project on Improving HIV outcomes in Kibera Nairobi and Matayos Sub- County in Busia. See the online results through the link below;
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JgWnb6FKIITv_LjAzXBIAVDmZ8Mr047l/view?usp=sharing

DATA DRIVEN EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN AFRICA

Authors: Shadrack Cheruiyot | **Conference Sub-Theme:** Technology and VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: The removal of confidentiality in hiring references for teachers accused of sexual predation, as mandated by data protection regulations such as the General Data Protection Regulations of 2016 (GDPR), raises concerns about the potential chilling effect on safeguarding children. The GDPR, adopted globally, including in Kenya through the Data Protection Act of 2019, asserts the right of candidates to access confidential references, potentially leading to defamation or libel suits. This shift poses a significant challenge in preventing the rehiring of teachers accused of sexual violence, contributing to the estimated 11.8% incidence rate of such violence against children. Transfers between schools, often the consequence for perpetrators, result in a lack of evidence for conviction and potential recidivism.

Intervention/Method: The research employs the doctrinal method and comparative constitutionalism to investigate the conflict between the rights-based approach to data protection introduced by the GDPR and theories of safeguarding, specifically the respondeat superior doctrine. This analysis is crucial in understanding the implications of the GDPR on the ability to safeguard children from sexual violence perpetrated by teachers.

Findings: The paper reveals that the stance taken by the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC), prioritizing the data subject's right to access confidential references, is not only unconstitutional but also contradicts globally accepted best practices. This finding emphasizes the potential negative consequences on child safety and the prevention of sexual violence by teachers. The conflict between data protection rights and safeguarding principles, particularly in the negligent hiring theory, highlights the complexity of balancing individual rights with the broader societal interest in protecting children.

Conclusions: The research concludes that the ODPC's stance, influenced by GDPR principles, poses a threat to the best interests of the child and deviates from established global best practices. The tension between data protection rights and safeguarding principles requires careful consideration and potential revisions to ensure that child safety remains a top priority, even in the context of hiring practices and references for teachers accused of sexual predation.

DATA PROTECTION V SAFEGUARDING: SACRIFICING CHILDREN FOR THE PRIVACY OF PREDATOR TEACHERS

Authors: Samuel Ngure

Conference Sub-Theme: Understanding the prevalence nature, effects and drivers of VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Despite comprehensive international, regional, and domestic legislation, the detention of juvenile offenders in adult prisons persists, posing a violation of their rights. The UN Model Law on Juvenile Justice emphasizes the need for separate facilities for child detainees, a principle reiterated by the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. In Uganda, which has ratified these international instruments, evidence from court decisions, such as *Uganda vs AYW* (HCT-00-CR-SC-0422-2020), reveals an alarming trend of detaining juvenile offenders in adult prisons, in contravention of existing legal safeguards.

Intervention/Method: This study adopts a documentary review approach, focusing on existing legislation and court decisions related to the detention of juvenile offenders in Uganda. By analyzing legal frameworks, court verdicts, and the implementation challenges faced by stakeholders, including the Uganda Police Force, Office of the Directorate of Public Prosecutions, and the Uganda Prison Service, the research aims to identify the root causes of the abuse of juvenile rights and propose recommendations for an effective juvenile justice system.

Findings: The study anticipates uncovering evidence showcasing the persistence of detaining juvenile offenders in adult prisons, despite legal safeguards. Court decisions and legislative reviews will contribute to understanding the factors contributing to this violation. The findings will shed light on the challenges faced by stakeholders in the administration of juvenile justice in Uganda.

Conclusions: The research concludes by emphasizing the urgent need for comprehensive reforms in the administration of juvenile justice in Uganda. By identifying and addressing the root causes of the abuse of juvenile rights, the study aims to contribute to the development of national policies and interventions that promote the proper and lawful treatment of juvenile offenders, aligning with international standards and ensuring the effective separation of child detainees from adult facilities.

DETENTION OF CHILD OFFENDERS IN ADULT PRISONS AND ITS EFFECT IN ADMINISTRATION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE IN UGANDA

Authors: Paul Mukiibi | **Country:** Uganda

Conference Sub-Theme: legal, policy and practices for responding to and preventing VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Despite comprehensive international, regional, and domestic legislation aimed at safeguarding the rights of juvenile offenders, evidence from court records in Uganda, particularly the case of Uganda vs AYW (HCT-00-CR-SC-0422-2020), reveals a significant violation of these protections. The UN Model Law on Juvenile Justice and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child emphasize the necessity of detaining children separately from adults, ensuring the shortest appropriate period of confinement, and considering the child's age in their treatment and conditions. Despite Uganda's ratification of these conventions and the presence of robust national legislation, there is a growing trend of violating the rights of juvenile offenders, with courts acknowledging this breach.

Intervention/Method: This study employs a documentary review approach, focusing on existing international, regional, and domestic legislations related to juvenile justice. The analysis includes court decisions, such as Uganda vs AYW, to provide evidence of the increasing violation of juvenile rights in the country. The study will specifically assess the challenges faced by key stakeholders in the administration of juvenile justice, including the Uganda Police Force, the Office of the Directorate of Public Prosecutions, and the Uganda Prison Service.

Findings: Anticipated findings include evidence substantiating the rise in violations of juvenile rights, as observed in court decisions. The analysis of existing legislations and court records will contribute to understanding the root causes and challenges faced by stakeholders in administering juvenile justice in Uganda.

Conclusions: The study concludes by emphasizing the urgent need for reforms in Uganda's juvenile justice system. The evidence presented will inform recommendations for policy changes aimed at addressing the root causes of juvenile rights violations, ensuring compliance with international standards, and enhancing the proper administration of justice for juvenile offenders.

DISABILITY MEASUREMENT IN RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES IN KENYA AND ITS ROLE WITHIN CASE MANAGEMENT

Authors: Edith Apiyo | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: VAC in the context of Alternative and Community based care

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Residential care facilities (RCFs) in Kenya have long been associated with detrimental effects on the well-being of children, encompassing physical growth disruption, neglect, delayed motor skills, and heightened vulnerability to various forms of abuse. Despite the Kenyan government's 2017 moratorium on new facilities and the initiation of the National Care Reform Strategy in 2022, the specific needs and experiences of children with disabilities within RCFs remain inadequately understood. This knowledge gap hinders the formulation of targeted interventions and compromises the overall success of care reform efforts.

Intervention/Method: To address the dearth of data on disability prevalence and the experiences of children with disabilities in RCFs, Changing the Way We Care, a global care reform initiative, conducted a mixed methods study. This initiative employed the Child Functioning Module (CFM) to assess disability among 471 children in 18 RCFs in Kenya. Additionally, key informant interviews were conducted with various stakeholders, including government officials, organizations representing people with disabilities, and caretakers.

Findings: The study revealed a spectrum of enablers and barriers affecting children with disabilities, spanning policy, RCF, family, and community levels. RCFs were found to lack the capacity to adequately cater to the needs of children with disabilities. The CFM emerged as a valuable tool for case management, aiding in the reintegration of children into families and communities. Among children aged 2-4 years, 42% exhibited mild functional limitations, while 4% faced severe limitations. In the 5-17 age group, 19% had mild limitations, 6% had moderate limitations, and 4% had severe limitations.

Conclusions: The initial data on children with disabilities in RCFs present a pivotal opportunity to engage governmental bodies and service providers in meeting the unique needs of this demographic. The CFM, having demonstrated its efficacy, stands as a promising tool for case management and monitoring the implementation of care reforms. The study emphasizes the imperative commitment to ensuring that children with disabilities are not marginalized but rather actively included in care reform initiatives for a more comprehensive and inclusive approach.

EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN KENYA

Authors: Carol Temko Kuwaka | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Technology and VAC / **Type:** Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Violence against children (VAC) is a global concern, with Kenya experiencing alarming rates. A 2018-19 national survey highlighted the prevalence of physical, emotional, and sexual violence against children, necessitating the formulation of a response plan. This abstract aims to examine evidence-based programs and services implemented in Kenya to prevent and respond to VAC.

Intervention/Method: The study employs the trauma-resilient communities (TRC) model, focusing on healing post-trauma and violence within communities and organizations. A literature review methodology is utilized, drawing from diverse sources such as research studies, reports, and governmental initiatives. The selected interventions are tailored to the Kenyan context and cover a range of strategies.

Findings: Key programs and services include culturally sensitive parenting and caregiver initiatives promoting positive discipline, communication, and familial relationships. School-based interventions address bullying while fostering life skills among children. Legislative reforms, such as child protection laws, contribute to a protective environment. Child helplines offer immediate assistance, victim support services aid recovery, and professional training enhances identification and response capabilities.

Challenges: Despite the effectiveness of these interventions, challenges persist. Limited awareness, resource constraints, and cultural barriers hinder the successful implementation of prevention and response strategies. Coordination among various stakeholders and sustaining long-term impact pose additional challenges.

Conclusions: This review underscores the importance of evidence-based programs and services in mitigating VAC in Kenya. While acknowledging the progress made, there is a need for sustained efforts, increased awareness, and resource allocation to overcome existing challenges. Recommendations include fostering collaboration, resource mobilization, and ongoing evaluation to refine and strengthen interventions.

As Kenya strives to create safer environments for its children, this comprehensive analysis provides valuable insights for policymakers, practitioners, and organizations dedicated to eradicating violence against children.

Keywords: Violence Against Children, Prevention, Intervention, Environment

EFFECTIVENESS OF CHILD PROTECTION INFORMATION SYSTEM ON CHILD PROTECTION CASES IN NORTH RIFT REGION, KENYA

Authors: Shyaka Constantin | **Affiliation:** Caritas Rwanda | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on Programs and Services that Effectively Prevent and Respond to VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Violence against children (VAC) is a global concern, with Kenya experiencing alarming rates. A 2018-19 national survey highlighted the prevalence of physical, emotional, and sexual violence against children, necessitating the formulation of a response plan. This abstract aims to examine evidence-based programs and services implemented in Kenya to prevent and respond to VAC.

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As Kenya strives to create safer environments for its children, this comprehensive analysis provides valuable insights for policymakers, practitioners, and organizations dedicated to eradicating violence against children.

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CHILD PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTED BY THE MTWARA-MIKINDANI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL IN REDUCING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Authors: Godlove Miho | **Affiliation:** Mtwara-Mikindani Municipal Council | **Country:** Tanzania

Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on Programs and Services that Effectively Prevent and Respond to VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: In the Mtwara-Mikindani Municipal Council, there is a pressing challenge of violence against children. This multifaceted problem encompasses physical, sexual, neglect, and emotional abuses. In the financial year 2022-2023, the Council recorded 212 cases of Violence Against Children in Need of Emergency (VANE), 16 instances where children were in conflict with the law and required legal support, and 4 cases of child trafficking.

Intervention Method: To address this critical issue, the government, with backing from UNICEF, initiated a series of comprehensive child protection systems and interventions. These efforts were coordinated by the Department of Social Welfare and included key initiatives such as training 18 Ward Child Protection Committees and 30 school guidance counselors and child protection teachers. Additionally, 579 positive parenting groups were established across 43 streets, involving 878 members (422 females and 456 males). The Council also set up community rehabilitation services, guardian Ad Litem services, and bolstered paralegal services. A significant focus was placed on the core case management of all VANE and CICL cases. Future initiatives include training 120 school board members in counseling and child protection, improving identification and repatriation for child trafficking victims, and providing child protection orientation to all teachers. Innovative ideas like establishing 'Happy' and 'Sad' Boxes in schools for children's emotional expression, setting up child protection desks, and conducting regular supervisions in schools, wards, and streets are also part of the forward plan.

Findings and Conclusion: The implementation of these interventions marks a proactive step towards tackling the issue of child violence in the Mtwara-Mikindani Municipal Council. The combination of educational programs, legal support, and community-based strategies reflect the Council's commitment to safeguarding children's welfare and rights. Through these diverse and innovative practices, there is a clear demonstration of a comprehensive approach to addressing the complex nature of child violence. The council's ongoing and future plans indicate a continued dedication to enhancing child protection services, ensuring a safer and more supportive environment for children in the community. The effectiveness of these initiatives will be crucial in shaping long-term strategies for combating violence against children in the region.

EFFECTIVENESS OF SERVICES AND PROGRAMS IN PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO VAC IN WESTERN PROVINCE, RWANDA

Authors: Shyaka Constantin | **Affiliation:** Country: Rwanda

Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on Programs and Services that Effectively Prevent and Respond to VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Violence Against Children (VAC) poses a pervasive global threat, impacting children's physical, emotional, and psychological well-being. Caritas Rwanda's IGIRE-GIMBUKA program, funded by USAID/PEPFAR, addresses this critical issue.

Intervention/Method: Comprehensive strategies like Coaching Boys Into Men (CBIM) in schools, benefitting 800+ boys across five districts, demonstrated reduced bullying and violence through promoting social skills and gender equality. Similarly, the Family Matter! Program (FMP) involving 1,500+ parents and caregivers, emphasized positive parenting to prevent child abuse.

Findings: CBIM significantly decreased harmful behaviors, as evidenced by boys' testimonials of refraining from abusive actions toward their sisters. FMP effectively raised awareness, evidenced by trained participants obtaining certificates in preventing abuse and neglect.

Conclusion: A holistic approach, integrating community-based and school-centered programs, alongside legal frameworks and support services, proved vital in preventing and responding to VAC. Continuous evaluation and collaboration among stakeholders remain pivotal in safeguarding children's rights and well-being.

ENDING TEEN PREGNANCY: BEST PRACTICES AND CHALLENGES FROM KAKAMEGA COUNTY

Author: Mercy Nyakang'i | **Affiliation:** Office of the First Lady, Kakamega County | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on Programs and Services that Effectively Prevent and Respond to VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Teenage pregnancy, especially among 10-19-year-olds, poses a significant challenge in Kenya, with poverty (15%) and lack of education (38% with no education) identified as major contributing factors. This issue is compounded by the prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV) and high rates of new HIV cases (61%) among teen mothers. Kakamega County is among the top five with a high number of teenage pregnancies, reporting approximately 13,000 cases in 2022, primarily resulting from sexual violence and abuse within family and school contexts.

Intervention/Method: The "A Helping Hand to Teen Mothers' Initiative," launched under the first lady's office in Kakamega County in January 2023, targets the 60 most vulnerable teen mothers from each ward, aiming to reintegrate them into learning institutions. The program provides financial and socio-economic support, mentorship, and advocacy against teen pregnancy, GBV, and other child vices.

Findings: The initiative has demonstrated the protective effect of education in mitigating violence and inherent risks faced by teen mothers. While successfully reintegrating vulnerable teens, the program faces limitations in scope coverage due to financial constraints, with current expenditure at KES3 million against a budget of KES12.1 million.

Conclusion: The "A Helping Hand to Teen Mothers' Initiative" addresses the pressing issue of teenage pregnancy in Kakamega County. Despite financial constraints, the program aims to reach 4,000 teens through mentorship and campaigns, prevent over 100 teen mothers from forced marriages, and reintegrate 200 teen mothers back into school with support from partners. This initiative underscores the urgent need to continue and expand efforts to protect vulnerable teens, emphasizing the crucial role of education in breaking the cycle of violence and improving the prospects of teen mothers in Kakamega County.

EMPLOYING MULTIFACETED AND COLLABORATION STRATEGY TO ACCELERATE OVC ACQUISITION OF BIRTH CERTIFICATES AMONG USAID TUMIKIA MTOTO PROJECT BENEFICIARIES IN KIAMBU COUNTY, KENYA

Authors: Regina Mbayaki^{1,2} | Co-Authors: C. Mwangi, P. Kerubo, A. Yugi¹, J. Kariuki, R. Barine, J. Mukabi, R. Mokaya

Affiliation: 1. USAID Tumikia Mtoto, World Vision Kenya, Kiambu County, USAID KEA | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Strengthening collaboration coordination and oversight of VAC interventions

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: In Kiambu County, orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) face challenges in obtaining essential birth certificates, impacting their access to vital services. Birth registration, a fundamental human right, is particularly critical for the well-being of Children and Adolescents Living with HIV (CALHIV). Despite the introduction of the National Unique Patient Identifier (NUPI) by the National AIDS Sexually Transmitted Diseases Control Program (NASCO) to streamline patient data exchange in health facilities, only 56% of OVC and 62% of CALHIV in the USAID Tumikia Mtoto project had birth certificates as of December 2022, hindering their access to necessary services.

Intervention/Method: This initiative addresses the challenges hindering OVC from obtaining birth certificates through inter-agency collaboration. The approach involves identifying children without birth certificates, engaging stakeholders, educating caregivers, conducting registration drives, and enhancing the skills of county officials, healthcare workers, and volunteers. A total of 5,706 children lacking birth certificates were identified, and three stakeholder meetings were organized. Sensitization efforts reached 715 caregivers, and 73 county officials were trained on the birth certificate process. Additionally, 3,543 children were assisted in obtaining birth certificates.

Findings: The project yielded positive results, increasing the acquisition of birth certificates from 56% to 71% for OVC and from 62% to 78% for CALHIV by the end of September 2023. The multifaceted strategy effectively addressed obstacles in obtaining birth certificates, highlighting the impact of inter-agency collaboration and community engagement.

Conclusion: A comprehensive strategy is crucial in overcoming challenges related to birth certificate acquisition, ensuring birth registration for every child, irrespective of their situation, for a more promising future. The recommendation includes simplifying birth registration procedures and normalizing mobile registration outreaches to reach the vulnerable population. This initiative demonstrates the potential for collaborative efforts to make significant strides in improving access to birth certificates for OVC and CALHIV, ultimately enhancing their overall well-being.

EVIDENCE ON 4R+P PROGRAM AND SERVICES THAT EFFECTIVELY PREVENT AND RESPOND TO VAC

Authors: Kelvin Moses | **Affiliation:** SODZO Kenya (NGO) | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on programs and services that effectively prevent and respond to VAC

Type: Practice Based Paper

Problem Statement: Violence against children, particularly those living on the streets, leads to severe consequences on physical health, social mobility, mental health, and an increased risk for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. The 2018 National Census of Street Families Report highlights the gravity of this issue in Kenya. Key findings revealed that 92% of male street children cited fear of reprimand, 86% cited corporal punishment and lack of school fees, 81% mistreatment by relatives, and 72% death of parents as reasons for living on the streets. Among females, 50% reported domestic violence as a major cause.

Innovation Practice: Addressing the needs of these street children, a novel intervention model has been introduced. This model integrates two coordinated programs: one focuses on the rescue, rehabilitation, reintegration, and resocialization of street children, while the other concentrates on empowering families and communities to provide better care for children, particularly those reintegrating from street life. This dual approach is in line with current national and global policy interests.

Results: The intervention aims to prevent violence and foster societal norms that ensure safe and protective environments for young people. By focusing on both individual support for street children and community empowerment, the program seeks to help these children reach their fullest potential in life, away from the dangers and adversities of street living.

Conclusion: The combination of rehabilitative support for street children and strengthening community and family support systems presents a holistic approach to tackling the challenges faced by street children in Kenya. This strategy not only addresses the immediate needs of these children but also works towards creating a sustainable environment for their continued safety, growth, and development. The statistics from the 2018 report serve as a crucial reminder of the urgency and importance of such interventions.

- Building Brighter Futures -



USAID TUMIKIA MTOTO

USAID Tumikia Mtoto is a World Vision Kenya-led initiative funded by PEPFAR/USAID, dedicated to advancing HIV prevention and providing comprehensive health and social services for orphans, vulnerable children (OVC), adolescent girls, young women (AGYW), and their families. Working in partnership with Nairobi and Kiambu County Governments, and in collaboration with local implementing partners (LIPs), the project focuses on a continuum of care, protection, and capacity building for self-reliance. The project has made significant strides in enhancing child safeguarding measures and protecting vulnerable children and adolescents through:

DREAMS: USAID Tumikia Mtoto empowers adolescent girls and young women (10–24 years old) by addressing HIV risk factors and delivering economic empowerment, access to quality health services, education, and mentorship interventions thereby reducing vulnerabilities to HIV.

The OVC Program: The Project supports children (0–17 years old) living with HIV, orphans, those under HIV-positive caregivers, and survivors of violence against children (VAC). USAID Tumikia Mtoto utilizes the case management approach to improve health, education, protection, and socio-economic outcomes for OVC and their families.

WORLD VISION KENYA

World Vision is a Christian, relief, advocacy and development organisation that is committed to improving the well-being of children, families and communities in Kenya.



GBV and VAC
Prevention



Resilient
Households



Data Driven
Programming



HIV Awareness
& Prevention



FOSTERING RESILIENCE THROUGH ART: UNVEILING ART THERAPY'S DYNAMIC IMPACT ON CHILDHOOD VIOLENCE IN MOMBASA COUNTY.

Authors: Esther Ingolo | **Co-Authors:** Michael Gaiho | **Affiliation:** USAID Stawisha Pwani (LVCT Health) | **Country:** Kenya
Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on programs and services that effectively prevent and respond to VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper
The Abstract: (300 words):

Problem Statement:

Childhood exposure to Violence Against Children (VAC) in Mombasa County necessitates innovative and effective interventions to address the emotional impact of trauma on survivors. Verbalizing complex emotions related to traumatic events can be challenging for children. This abstract explores the potential of art therapy as a dynamic and trauma-informed practice to foster resilience among child survivors of VAC in Mombasa County.

Intervention/Method:

Innovative Practices:

- Maisha Bora Recovery Program: Designed for survivors, engaging 265 out of 1472 survivors of VAC. The program involved 11 VAC champions, 8 social workers, and 2 psychologists providing support.
- Art Therapy Integration: Art therapy was seamlessly incorporated into the comprehensive approach to address multifaceted challenges of VAC, creating a safe space for emotional expression.
- Hybrid Counseling and Referrals: Utilizing a virtual toll-free line (0800720587) and one-on-one services for counseling and referrals.

Community Engagement: Mapping VAC hotspots, community sensitization, and robust stakeholder involvement were integral components.

Findings:

- The program facilitated reintegration and economic empowerment for 66 families.
- Significant positive changes were observed, including increased referrals for psychosocial support (265 cases attended).
- 'Maisha Bora Recovery Program' produced champions advocating for survivors, and social worker capacity was augmented.
- Art therapy drawings were effectively used in court, aiding child survivor testimony and contributing to the determination of a case at the Tononoka Children's court.

Conclusion: The transformative potential of art therapy in addressing the emotional needs of child survivors of VAC is evident. Integrating art therapy into trauma-informed practices offers a pathway for emotional recovery and resilience. The creative expression through art contributes to reducing the impact of violence, fostering recovery, and aligns with broader efforts to combat VAC. This intervention demonstrates the dynamic impact of art therapy in creating a supportive environment for children to process and overcome the effects of violence.

FOSTERING RESILIENCE THROUGH ART: UNVEILING ART THERAPY'S DYNAMIC IMPACT ON CHILDHOOD VIOLENCE IN MOMBASA COUNTY.

Authors: Esther Ingolo | **Co-Authors:** Michael Gaiho | **Affiliation:** USAID Stawisha Pwani (LVCT Health) | **Country:** Kenya
Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on programs and services that effectively prevent and respond to VAC

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GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE SKILFUL PARENTING PROGRAMMES TO ADDRESS CHILD MALTREATMENT AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN LOW RESOURCE SETTINGS IN KENYA

Authors: Beatrice Ogutu | **Co-Authors:** Moureen Ochieng | **Affiliation:** Investing in Children and their Societies (ICS-SP)

Country: Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on programs and services that effectively prevent and respond to VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: In low-resource settings, parents/caregivers often face challenges in promoting positive parenting practices and maintaining healthy family relationships, leading to the co-occurrence of child maltreatment and intimate partner violence. The need for effective interventions that address these issues is evident, especially in regions like Kenya, Tanzania, and Cote d'Ivoire.

Intervention/Method: The Skilful Parenting (SP) program, an evidence-based parenting intervention, integrates with economic strengthening activities and targets parents/caregivers with children aged 0-18. The curriculum consists of 10 modules delivered in groups of 18-24 participants over 14 weekly sessions of 2 hours each, facilitated by trained and certified local facilitators. The program aims to foster positive, respectful, and gender-equitable parenting practices, ultimately preventing the co-occurrence of child maltreatment and intimate partner violence while promoting positive child development in family settings.

Findings: Evaluations, including Randomized Control Trials (RCTs) conducted in collaboration with the University of Utrecht (2014-2015), University of Oxford, University of Glasgow & NIMR (2014-2018), and Innovation Poverty Action (IPA 2018-2019), demonstrate the cultural acceptability and effectiveness of the Skilful Parenting program. The findings indicate a reduction in child maltreatment, improved family relationships, enhanced child development, strengthened spousal relationships, and increased service uptake in low- and middle-income countries.

Conclusion: This innovative practice suggests that embedding parenting support in existing farmer groups can engage higher proportions of fathers compared to stand-alone programs. Gender-transformative parenting programs show promise in addressing both child maltreatment and intimate partner violence within family settings. Further structured research is essential to gain insights into the effects of parenting programs on family violence, advance discourse on integrating child maltreatment and intimate partner violence prevention through gender-transformative parenting programs, and influence the successful national scaling of the program across diverse contexts.

HARNESSING FAITH-BASED COLLABORATIONS AND ECD ENGAGEMENT FOR CHILD PROTECTION AND POSITIVE DISCIPLINE: A STUDY IN AWASI-ONJIKO WARD, KISUMU COUNTY.

Authors: Victor Sakwah | **Co-Authors:** Charles Ombonya, Tobias Aulo | **Affiliation:** ACK Development Service Nyanza (ADS-Nyanza) |

Country: Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: VAC in the context of Alternative and Community-based care

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: The study addressed challenges in implementing positive disciplinary methods in the Awasi-Onjiko Ward, Kisumu County, where cultural and religious influences posed obstacles. Recognizing these complexities, a collaborative initiative was launched to engage caregivers, faith leaders, and Early Childhood Development (ECD) promoters in integrating faith, culture, child protection, and evidence-based parenting methods.

Intervention/Method: The collaborative initiative, guided by the Moments that Matter Theory of Change, involved 102 caregivers, 38 faith leaders, and 78 ECD promoters. Qualitative methods, including in-depth interviews and focus groups, along with quantitative pre- and post-program assessments, were employed. Innovative practices included pulpit exchanges by faith leaders, ECD promoters-led support groups, and the integration of faith, culture, and evidence-based parenting methods within the "Early Childhood Development Moment that Matter" (MTM) program.

Findings: Data collection methods provided comprehensive insights, revealing significant positive shifts in attitudes, behaviors, and community norms related to child-rearing practices. The initiative effectively reduced exposure to non-positive discipline methods, with faith leaders' pulpit exchanges playing a crucial role. ECD Promoters-led support groups fostered a supportive community for child protection, and the holistic integration of faith, culture, and evidence-based parenting methods addressed unique challenges in the Awasi-Onjiko Ward.

Conclusion: This study substantially contributes to effective strategies for promoting positive discipline and child protection in culturally and religiously diverse communities. The observed positive shifts, acceptance of positive discipline, enhanced community support, and successful integration of cultural and faith perspectives underscore the initiative's efficacy. The recommendations, focusing on program expansion, local communication, cultural responsiveness, policy advocacy, partnerships, awareness campaigns, dynamic evaluation metrics, and community feedback mechanisms, collectively aim to fortify child protection measures within the community. Ultimately, this study advocates for and contributes to the creation of healthier, more supportive environments for child development, firmly rooted in the principles of child protection.

HARNESSING VAC INTERVENTIONS THROUGH THE UTILIZATION OF COMMUNITY-BASED STRUCTURES AT FXB RWANDA: CASE OF INSHUTI Z'UMURYANGO (FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY)

Authors: Emmanuel Kayitana

Co-Authors: Nadine Mujawamariya, Jean Aime Nsabimana, Ismael Ntakinanirimana, Solange Imanishimwe

Affiliation: FXB Rwanda

Country: Rwanda, Southern Province, Kamonyi-Ruyenzi

Conference Sub-Theme: Strengthening Collaboration, Coordination and Oversight of VAC Interventions

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Effective interventions against Violence Against Children (VAC) demand active involvement of community stakeholders throughout program phases. Engaging communities is crucial for tailoring interventions to meet specific family needs and enhancing prevention, response, and support related to VAC. The importance of a proper community engagement approach lies in fostering sustainable, community-driven responses and support systems.

Intervention/Method: Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) adapt their strategies to prevent and respond to VAC. FXB Rwanda, aligning with its mission of creating a child-friendly world, has implemented child protection and VAC interventions in 40% of the country. This has been achieved through strategic collaboration with Inshuti z'Umuryango (IZU). IZU, translated as Friends of Family, is a decentralized community structure established by the Rwandan government in 2016. Mandated to protect children and their families from violence, exploitation, and neglect, IZU is integral to Rwanda's efforts to strengthen the national child protection system and care reform led by the National Child Development Agency (NCDA).

Findings: Benefiting from collaboration with NCDA and other government agencies, IZU has played a significant role in VAC prevention, response, and support interventions since 2019. Engaging 2,824 community-based Friends of Family, FXB Rwanda reached 13,961 households (hosting 23,170 caregivers and 18,554 children). Through capacity building, these communities gained the capabilities to prevent, identify, respond, and support VAC cases, contributing to community resilience in VAC prevention.

Conclusion: IZU, operating at the village level, effectively manages community outreach and handles family violence cases from identification to response. Their close proximity and regular visits build trust with beneficiary families, ensuring efficient monitoring of VAC incidents. By providing advocacy and support, IZU facilitates crucial referrals and linkages, strengthening community understanding and feedback. This collaborative approach ensures sustained ownership post-program, marking a significant step toward combating VAC in Rwanda.

IMPROVING CARE AND PREVENTING MALTREATMENT IN ORPHANAGES: ONE-YEAR FOLLOW-UP OF A CLUSTER-RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL IN ORPHANAGES IN EAST AFRICA

Authors: Mabula Nkuba | **Co-Authors:** Tobias Hecker Getrude Mkinga, Eva Hartmann and Katharin Hermenau |

Affiliation: University of Dar es Salaam | **Country:** Tanzania

Conference Sub-Theme: Legal, Policy and Practices for responding to and preventing VAC

Type: Academic / Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: In East Africa, many orphans living in institutional care facilities face low-quality parental care and are exposed to maltreatment. This issue is linked to factors such as inadequate parenting skills among caregivers, high caregiver turnover rates due to poor employment conditions, caregiver stress, and inflexible care settings. Understanding and addressing these challenges is crucial for improving the quality of care provided to these vulnerable children.

Intervention/Method: This study extends a cluster randomized controlled trial to evaluate the long-term effects and sustainability of the Interaction Competencies with Children – for Caregivers (ICC-C) intervention. A robust 2x3 analysis of variance was used to assess changes over time in waitlist orphanages (n = 75, 62.7% female) and initial intervention orphanages (n = 81, 61.7% female). Data was collected through a survey conducted in 22 orphanages in one city, using a supervised questionnaire.

Findings: The study revealed significant positive outcomes. Caregivers in the waitlist orphanages reported a decrease in maltreatment use (d = -0.09), less positive attitudes towards violent discipline (d = -0.44), and increased childcare knowledge (d = 1.26). These improvements were also maintained in the initial intervention orphanages. Additionally, long-term improvements were observed in negative caregiver-child relationships (d = -0.83), caregivers' stress levels (d = -0.98), and mental health problems (d = -0.61).

Conclusion: The ICC-C intervention's replicated and sustained effects, along with additional long-term benefits, highlight its efficacy in enhancing parenting in institutional care settings. While the ultimate goal is to provide alternative care for all children in need, this study demonstrates that compact caregiver trainings can significantly improve institutionalized care quality, characterized by reduced maltreatment. This intervention offers a viable solution to improve the lives of many children in institutional care facilities across East Africa.



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ISSUES IMPEDING EFFORTS TO MITIGATE VULNERABILITIES PREDISPOSING CHILDREN TO VIOLENCE: THE CONTEXT OF KENYA'S MIDDLE LEVEL SETTING

Authors: Florence W. Kagweru **Affiliation:** Technical University of Kenya **Country:** Kenya
Conference Sub-Theme: Understanding the prevalence nature, effects and drivers of VAC

Type: Academic/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: UNICEF's 2022 report highlights that among Kenya's 23.5 million children, 12.3 million are vulnerable and 11.7 million suffer from multidimensional poverty, lacking access to basic necessities. The Covid-19 pandemic and insufficient national resources to combat poverty have exacerbated these issues, especially in low-income settings. Children's vulnerability arises from various individual and environmental factors, predisposing them to violence and risks.

Intervention/Method: This study, grounded in Urie Bronfenbrenner's Ecological System Theory, investigates vulnerabilities exposing children to risks and abuse in Kenya. It examines existing policies, strategies, systems, and legal frameworks aimed at eradicating violence against children (VAC). The mixed-methods approach, involving primary and secondary data collection through official reports, journal articles, and in-depth interviews using the snowball technique, allows for a comprehensive understanding of the issue.

Findings: The research identifies poverty, harmful cultural practices, and inherent vulnerabilities as key factors contributing to child vulnerability. While the Kenyan government has implemented various policies and systems to protect children from violence, there are significant impediments to these efforts in low-income settings. These include poor policy adoption, inadequate funding, and lack of comprehensive data on VAC.

Conclusion: The study's findings are critical for informing policies and developing effective strategies to address the vulnerabilities that undermine the child protection system in Kenya. By highlighting the specific challenges in low-income settings, the study emphasizes the need for tailored interventions that consider the unique environmental and individual factors impacting children's well-being. It underscores the importance of policy implementation, adequate funding, and data collection for effective child protection strategies in Kenya.

LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR THE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Authors: Liz Amandla Busisa | **Affiliation:** Mtoto Newz international | **Country:** Kenya and Malawi
Conference Sub-Theme: Legal, Policy, and and practices for Responding to and Preventing VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement:

Addressing violence against children (VAC) necessitates a comprehensive legal and policy framework at national and international levels. This paper examines the existing legal and policy structures in Kenya and Malawi, including those established by the African Union and the United Nations to prevent and respond to VAC.

Intervention/Method: Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Africa are advocating for child-friendly language in policies and laws related to VAC. This innovative approach aims to enhance public understanding, with existing child-friendly versions of key conventions. Advocacy campaigns on social media and within communities further contribute to public sensitization. Child participation engagements provide a platform for children to express their views on laws addressing their issues.

Findings: The evidence supporting the effectiveness of legal and policy frameworks is substantial. The existence of a convicted sexual offenders electronic register in Kenya, documenting all offenders, particularly those involved in sexual violence against children, exemplifies a concrete measure. National laws, including the Penal Codes, Children Acts, and Sexual Offences Acts in both Kenya and Malawi, criminalize and punish VAC. The wealth of laws, policies, and reports is made publicly accessible.

Conclusion: In conclusion, the legal and policy framework for preventing and responding to VAC is robust, with innovative practices ensuring accessibility and understanding. Child-friendly language, advocacy campaigns, and child participation contribute to a more inclusive and informed approach. The existence of electronic registers and national laws underscores the commitment to addressing VAC in both Kenya and Malawi. This comprehensive strategy establishes a foundation for a safer environment for children and ensures accountability for perpetrators.

MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT OF CHILD SURVIVORS OF TRAFFICKING

Author: Peter Olewe | **Affiliation:** Azadi Kenya | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on programs and services that effectively prevent and respond to VAC Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Child labor, a grave violation of children's rights, hinders education and healthcare, curbing their potential and future opportunities. A June 2021 report from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF revealed a concerning increase in child labor among those aged 5 to 11. Factors such as economic pressures, orphanhood, female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and lack of awareness of their rights contribute to children being forced into domestic work.

Intervention/Method: Azadi, a survivor-led counter-trafficking organization, addresses the lack of support for survivors of trafficking during their reintegration into society. In collaboration with the Freedom Fund, Azadi implemented a project targeting child survivors of domestic servitude. The focus is on nurturing safe spaces, fostering community building, and providing long-term, community-based psychosocial support. The project aims to cultivate a culture of wellbeing among survivors by enhancing their leadership skills through training, life skills development, and awareness programs on child rights and responsibilities.

Findings: The project has resulted in significant positive changes among child domestic workers. These individuals have developed leadership skills, enabling them to advocate for themselves and their peers. Observable improvements include increased independence, self-awareness, self-management, and responsible decision-making. Azadi's approach of co-creating activities with the children, embracing the principle of "Nothing for us, without us," stands out. This practical application of considering children's agency in interventions is a noteworthy aspect that has contributed to the project's success.

Conclusion: Azadi's intervention has demonstrated that empowering child survivors of domestic servitude through leadership training, life skills development, and awareness programs positively influences their independence and decision-making. The emphasis on co-creating activities with the children reflects a model of intervention that prioritizes the agency of the children involved. The lessons learned from this project are valuable and can be shared with other stakeholders in the field of child protection in Africa to promote effective and empowering interventions for child survivors.

MITIGATING CHILD VULNERABILITY

Authors: Alice Atemo | **Affiliation:** Metread Community Based Organisation | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Sustainable Funding for Enhancing Prevention and Response to VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Child abuse, manifesting in various forms, poses a significant threat to children's well-being, occurring in homes, online, and within communities. The need to create safe environments for children is emphasized by the United Nations special representative. Understanding the concerns and circumstances of children is crucial for mitigating the risk of violence against them.

Intervention/Method: Mitigating child vulnerability involves listening to children, providing knowledge and skills to those responsible for their care, and organizing mentorship programs focused on life and social skills training. By creating a protective environment and imparting essential skills, the impact of violence on children can be reduced.

Findings: The consequences of child vulnerability are evident in health issues such as disabilities, pregnancy complications, sexually transmitted infections, sleeping, and eating disorders. The exposure to violence often leads to drug addiction, resulting in depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts. Negative coping mechanisms and health risk behaviors become prevalent, leading to premature mortality.

Conclusion: To address the issue of child vulnerability, it is crucial for parents, relatives, caregivers, and guardians to actively examine child behavior, educate them about their rights, support prevention programs, and understand the signs of child abuse. Disciplining children thoughtfully and fostering a supportive environment are essential components of reducing the risks associated with violence against children. This comprehensive approach aims to create a safer and healthier future for children.

MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT OF CHILD SURVIVORS OF TRAFFICKING

Nurturing A Culture Of Child Protection: A Holistic Curriculum Approach In An International School In Ghana

Authors: Dr Funke Baffour | **Affiliation:** Al Rayan International School | **Country:** Ghana

Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on challenges/effective prevention and response to VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Despite global efforts, child protection in educational settings remains a challenge. This abstract addresses the need for innovative approaches to embed child protection principles within the educational system, particularly in an international school in Africa.

Intervention/Method: The transformative journey outlined in this presentation involves implementing a holistic curriculum approach. A passionate psychologist and educator lead this initiative, integrating child protection principles throughout the curriculum. The approach includes interactive workshops, online training modules, and open dialogues to empower students, educators, and parents. **Findings:** The presentation showcases positive outcomes, emphasizing increased awareness, improved reporting mechanisms, and a collective commitment to safeguarding within the school community. The approach empowers young people, fostering personal agency, resilience, and self-advocacy. The findings highlight the effectiveness of this holistic curriculum model in cultivating a culture where child protection is ingrained in everyday practices.

Conclusion: The abstract challenges conventional child protection approaches in educational settings, advocating for a shift towards holistic curriculum models. Attendees will gain insights into evidence-based practices and innovative strategies, inspiring them to consider similar approaches in their contexts. The presentation encourages reflection on the potential of education to drive positive change and emphasizes the role of holistic curriculum in fostering a culture of child protection.

PLAY COLLABORATIVE APPROACH: A RESPONSE TO VAC INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

Authors: Emmanuel Kayitana

Co-Authors: Jean Marie Vianney Havugimana, Nadine Mujawamariya, Jean Aime Nsabimana, Ismael Ntakinanirimana, Solange Imanishimwe | **Affiliation:** FXB Rwanda | **Country:** Rwanda

Conference Sub-Theme: VAC in the context of Alternative and Community-based care

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Child protection and violence against children (VAC) present significant challenges, necessitating effective interventions. FXB Rwanda implemented the Sugira Muryango (SM) Program, an evidence-based home visiting intervention, to address these issues. However, there was a need for a collaborative strategy to enhance knowledge-sharing, problem-solving, and cross-site learning among Early Childhood Development (ECD) and child protection stakeholders.

Intervention/Method: The PLAY Collaborative, a multinational stakeholders' engagement strategy, was employed to create a community of practice. Utilizing the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycle, collaborative meetings aimed to reinforce knowledge and implement solutions. Through this approach, 373 risk of harm cases within families were addressed.

Findings: The PLAY Collaborative significantly improved the capacity of child protection community volunteers, enabling the training of 2,608 workforce members and 6,285 stakeholders. The program reached 9,483 children. Findings from an embedded study revealed substantial positive impacts. SM children were 65% less likely to be exposed to non-physical harsh punishment compared to the control group (OR=0.35, p=.018). Specifically, SM children were significantly less likely to experience deprivation as punishment (OR=0.23, p<.01) and were 50% less likely to encounter psychological aggression (OR=0.51, p=.08). Caregivers in the program were more involved in children's activities (coefficient=0.44, p<.01) and less likely to endorse physical punishment (OR=0.41, p<.05).

Conclusion: The PLAY Collaborative approach garnered substantial support from stakeholders, who appreciated its effectiveness. The intervention is recommended for replication across all districts, highlighting its potential to positively impact child protection, reduce violence, and promote nurturing care within households. The statistically significant improvements underscore the program's efficacy in creating positive outcomes for children and families.

PREVENTING FAMILY SEPARATION AND PROMOTING REINTEGRATION THROUGH POSITIVE PARENTING

Author: Fidelis Muthoni

Affiliation: National Council For Population And Development (NCPD) | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: VAC in the context of Alternative and Community based care

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Existing evidence-based parenting programs often fall short in targeting families at risk of separation or those with children in alternative care. To address this gap, the Child Trauma and Wellbeing Center (CTWWC) developed the Families Together curriculum, aiming to promote positive parenting practices and strengthen family relationships, particularly for families at risk of separation and those reintegrating from residential care.

Intervention/Method: Built upon the Skillful Parenting framework by ICS-SP, the Families Together curriculum comprises eight core modules and two non-core modules. Key content areas include stimulation, communication, attachment, drivers and impact of institutionalization, prevention of violence against children, and a focus on children with disabilities. Pre and post-tests are administered, and caregivers demonstrate increased knowledge on identifying, preventing, and reporting violence based on the results.

Findings: The pre and post-test results indicate positive changes in caregivers' attitudes and behaviors:

- Seeking adult support during stress/overwhelm increased by 12%.
- The belief in the importance of being strict or punishing children decreased by 3%.
- Understanding that hitting or humiliating children may cause permanent emotional harm increased by 20%.
- Acknowledgment of children's right to say 'no' in unsafe situations increased by 24%.
- Knowledge about reporting cases of abuse improved by 7%.

A 2021 household survey revealed that 76.4% of caregivers identified parenting as the second most helpful reintegration support. The Alabama Parenting Questionnaire showed a 21% adoption rate of desired positive parenting practices among caregivers. Of the 2,981 enrolled caregivers, 2,166 completed sessions, reporting increased parent-child communication and reduced use of harsh discipline. This positive shift contributed to preventing the separation and re-separation of 8,943 children from their families.

Conclusion: The Families Together curriculum has proven effective in positively influencing caregivers' knowledge, attitudes, and practices, as evidenced by the pre and post-test results. The survey and questionnaire findings further support the program's impact, emphasizing the importance of targeted parenting interventions in preventing family separation and re-separation. The success of this comprehensive approach highlights the potential for similar programs to contribute to family stability and child well-being.

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Save the Children has been providing support to children in Kenya through our development and humanitarian programmes since the 1950s. We have operational presence in counties with the highest number of deprived children: Nairobi, Dadaab, Garissa, Mandera, Samburu, Turkana, Wajir, Bungoma, Baringo, Kajiado, Embu, Kisumu, Kakamega, Kitui and in Madagascar.



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PROMOTING ECONOMIC RESILIENCE FOR IMPROVED CAREGIVING TO ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN NAIROBI AND KIAMBU COUNTIES

Authors: C. Mwangi

Co-Authors: J. Ayieko, R. Mbayaki, J. Mukabi, R. Mokaya | **Affiliation:** 1. USAID Tumikia Mtoto, 2. World Vision Kenya. 3. USAID KEA |

Country: Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on programs and services that effectively prevent and respond to VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Global statistics reveal that around 333 million children experience extreme poverty. In Kenya, 36.1% of households live below the poverty line, hindering their ability to fulfill basic family needs and elevating the risk of violence. This is particularly critical for populations vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and social exclusion, emphasizing the urgency to address these disparities. Despite diverse backgrounds, all children possess the right to healthcare, education, and social protections, essential for mitigating the enduring impacts of poverty.

Intervention/Method: To address the health and social needs of vulnerable populations in Kenya, the USAID Tumikia Mtoto project, supported by the PEPFAR/USAID HIV prevention initiative, conducted household surveys. The objective was to pinpoint vulnerabilities related to health, protection, education, and economic stability. Based on the identified vulnerabilities, the project concentrated on providing resilience-building interventions to households categorized as low and medium-vulnerable. The interventions included entrepreneurship skills training for 5,893 caregivers, business grants for 2,986 caregivers, and support for 20,007 in savings and loan activities.

Findings: The outcomes were remarkable, with 5,381 households supporting 12,558 orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) successfully generating sustainable income. This income facilitated the provision of good nutrition, medical care, education support, and legal document acquisition like birth certificates. Notably, the program witnessed a 40% increase in caregivers engaging in saving and loaning activities. Loans accessed were predominantly utilized to expand income-generating activities (65%), support educational needs (30%), and cover food and medical costs (5%).

Conclusion: These findings underscore the transformative impact of financial stability on vulnerable families, enabling them to meet the basic needs of their children and ultimately enhancing child welfare. The success of the USAID Tumikia Mtoto project demonstrates the efficacy of targeted interventions in breaking the cycle of poverty and promoting sustainable development in vulnerable communities.

PSYCHO-SOCIAL SERVICES TO MALE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE SURVIVORS IN KENYA: A CRITICAL REVIEW

Authors: Susan Wandera

Co-Authors: Emmily Sitati, Rodgers Cherui | **Affiliation:** Daystar University | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on programs and services that effectively prevent and respond to VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Childhood sexual abuse (CSA) is not only a community abomination but also a crime against humanity, violating the dignity of the abused and undermining the very essence of human existence. Despite being a form of Gender-Based Violence, psychosocial support is recognized as a crucial factor for the expedited healing of survivors. This study critically examines the Psychosocial Services Offered to Male Child Sexual Abuse Survivors in Kenya, addressing the inadequate attention and support for this demographic.

Intervention/Method: The study, guided by the Crisis Intervention Theory, aims to explore the types of psychosocial support services provided to male survivors and assess the community's response to male child sexual abuse in Kenya. Data collection involved a critical review of both qualitative and quantitative articles and publications. The analysis was conducted through both quantitative and qualitative methods, presenting results statistically and thematically.

Findings: The study exposes a disparity between established rules and the practical implementation of protection and support for child survivors of sexual abuse, with a noticeable inclination towards the girl child in program interventions. Counseling services, long-term support mechanisms, and the creation of protective environments are similarly biased. The community's response to male child sexual abuse suggests the necessity of a whole-of-society approach to curtail the escalating rates of such abuse in Kenya. This approach is crucial for enhancing the psychosocial well-being not only of male child sexual abuse survivors but society as a whole. The study emphasizes the need for deliberate efforts to allocate specific intervention programs and resources for male survivors, urging policy reviews to incorporate guidelines tailored to the unique challenges faced by male victims of sexual abuse.

Conclusion: The study underscores the urgency of addressing the gender-based disparities in psychosocial support for male child sexual abuse survivors. By recommending a comprehensive, whole-of-society approach and advocating for specific interventions and policy guidelines, the research seeks to improve the psychosocial well-being of male survivors and contribute to a more inclusive and effective response to childhood sexual abuse in Kenya.

REDUCING VIOLENT DISCIPLINE BY TEACHERS: A MATCHED CLUSTER-RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL IN TANZANIAN PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Authors: Faustine Bwire Masath | **Co-Authors:** Katharina Mattonet, Katharin Hermenau, Mabula Nkuba, Tobias Hecker
| Country: Tanzania

Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on programs and services that effectively prevent and respond to VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Violent discipline in schools not only violates children's rights but is also linked to adverse developmental consequences for students. Addressing this issue is crucial, especially in countries with a high prevalence of violent discipline in schools. This study focuses on the need for maltreatment prevention and the improvement of teacher-child relationships to create a positive learning environment.

Intervention/Method: The intervention, Interaction Competencies with Children—for Teachers (ICC-T), is guided by attachment, behavioral, and social learning theories. Recognizing that societal attitudes towards violence play a significant role, the study aimed to change attitudes to achieve behavioral transformation. The effectiveness of ICC-T was tested through a two-arm matched cluster-randomized controlled trial involving teachers and students from 12 public primary schools in six regions of Tanzania. The intervention group (6 schools) received ICC-T, while the control group (6 schools) received no intervention. Teachers were aware of the intervention, while students and blinded research assistants conducted the follow-up assessment.

Findings: Analysis using multivariate multilevel models demonstrated significant time*intervention effects on physical violent discipline reported by both teachers and students, as well as on teachers' favorable attitudes towards physical violent discipline (FDRs < .05). A spill-over effect was observed on peer-to-peer violence and students' externalizing behaviors (ps < .05). However, no significant effects were found on emotional violent discipline, teachers' favorable attitudes towards emotional violent discipline, or students' internalizing problems and academic performance (ps > .05). The results provide compelling evidence that ICC-T positively influences changes in teachers' violent disciplining behavior and their attitudes towards violent discipline.

Conclusion: The study concludes that ICC-T has a positive impact on reducing teachers' physical violent discipline and fostering favorable attitudes towards non-violent discipline. While spill-over effects were observed in certain areas, further research is needed to explore the broader implications of ICC-T on emotional discipline and students' internalizing problems. Nevertheless, these findings support the potential of ICC-T as an effective tool in transforming teacher behavior and attitudes, contributing to a safer and more nurturing school environment.

SAFETY FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR RIGHTS ONLINE

Authors: Lilliane Mutuku | **Affiliation:** Terre des Hommes Netherlands

Conference Sub-Theme: Understanding the Prevalence, Nature, Effects and Drivers of Violence Against Children

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Violence against children, including Online Child Sexual Exploitation (OCSE), is a pervasive human rights violation amplified by gaps in capacity and structures. Kenya's SCROL Project, operating in OCSE hotspots, strives to protect children from online risks in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Intervention/Method: The SCROL Project in Nairobi, Kisumu, and Kilifi targets OCSE hotspots. It collaborates extensively with stakeholders, sensitizing children, capacitating communities, and advocating for policy frameworks. Children's education on identifying, preventing, and reporting OCSEA cases, continuous capacity building, multisectoral collaboration, and joint advocacy efforts form the core initiatives.

Findings: Despite high internet access, children lack parental guidance on online safety measures. Limited family discussions on OCSE create vulnerabilities, and children fear reporting due to potential retaliation and mistrust in handling cases, hampering protection efforts.

Conclusion: Terre des Hommes' SCROL Project highlights critical gaps in parental understanding, family discussions, and trust in reporting OCSE cases. To ensure children's online safety, robust parental guidance, open family dialogues, and trustworthy reporting mechanisms are imperative. Collaborative efforts must persist to bridge these gaps and safeguard children's rights online.

SECURING AFRICAN CHILDREN VOICES IN AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: AIN'T NO MACHINE GONNA SPEAK ON MY PLACE.

Authors: Jennifer Kaberi

Conference Sub-Theme: Technology as an enabler and intervention for Addressing VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Generative AI's rise, notably its conversational capabilities, sparks concerns about overshadowing African children's voices. Gen AI's user-friendly content creation risks substituting genuine child perspectives, especially in social media and journalism, aggravating the issue. AI bias against African children due to insufficient data and developers' backgrounds compounds this problem.

Intervention/Method: This paper initiates discourse to protect African children's voices from AI dominance. It addresses AI-generated content overshadowing genuine experiences, advocating for safeguarding children's narratives from algorithmic replacement. Gen AI's pervasive use diminishes authentic child voices, particularly in journalism and media representation. Biases in AI models, rooted in data insufficiency and developer biases, further marginalize African communities.

Conclusion: This paper prompts action to prevent AI from eclipsing African children's voices. Prioritizing authentic representation, advocating for inclusive datasets, and fostering ethical AI development are vital. Upholding genuine experiences amid AI advancement is imperative.

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (SEC): NATURE, PREVALENCE AND DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS.

Authors: Dennis Ratemo | **Affiliation:** Terre des Hommes Netherlands

| **Conference Sub-Theme:** Understanding the Prevalence, Nature, Effects and Drivers of Violence Against Children

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Sexual exploitation of children (SEC) is a pressing concern, evolving from a concealed issue to a focal point of public and political attention. Understanding drivers and identifying vulnerabilities in Naivasha and Gilgil children is crucial to combat SEC effectively.

Intervention/Method: Employing a cross-sectional, participatory, qualitative approach, the research engaged children and at-risk youth in workshops, interviews, and discussions. The methodology also involved a transect walk to gather comprehensive data.

Findings: Drivers of SEC encompassed poverty, lack of protective policies, orphanhood, and limited access to child-friendly services. SEC prevailed notably during large events like safari rallies, where tourists exposed children to sexual behaviors in guest rooms and restaurants. Truck transit routes enabled drivers to solicit sexual favors, while female-employed children in flower fields were coerced into sexual transactions.

Conclusion: To address SEC, a multi-sectoral approach is vital. Recommendations include community sensitization, capacity building for stakeholders in psycho-social support, aligning Sub County strategies with the National Plan of Action on SEC, and adopting codes of conduct in the tourism and hospitality sectors to protect children. Collaboration across sectors is essential for effective prevention and response strategies.

SOCIAL INCLUSION OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN UGANDA – A PHOTOVOICE STUDY

Authors: Rosemary Namboozie | **Affiliation:** Angel's Center for Children with Special Needs, University of Antwerp

Conference Sub-Theme: VAC in the context of culture and politics

Type: Academic/ Research paper

Existing research on disability views it as a blend of health and social environmental factors, emphasizing the role of the household in social inclusion. However, limited insight exists regarding the household's influence on the social inclusion of children with special needs.

Intervention/Method: Employing Photovoice, we engaged 12 parents from a local NGO in Wakiso district, Uganda. Parents visually depicted aspects of their children's lives concerning social inclusion and the household's role, followed by in-depth qualitative interviews using these visuals as prompts. Thematic analysis via NVivo software was conducted on interview transcripts and observational notes.

Findings: Household dynamics, socio-economic status, and social capital significantly impact the social inclusion of children with special needs in Ugandan society. Positive household conditions serve as buffers against societal biases and promote social inclusion for these children.

Conclusion: This study bridges a gap in understanding the barriers to social inclusion among children with disabilities in resource-limited settings. Its findings advocate for policy initiatives that emphasize enhancing household culture, improving socio-economic status, and bolstering social capital to foster social inclusion for these children. This research supports awareness-building efforts and informs strategies to mitigate exclusionary societal views.

CHILDLINE KENYA

Childline Kenya exists to keep children safe at all times by promoting child rights and enhancing child protection through ICT innovations. Our guiding vision is a society where children's rights and dignity are upheld at all times.

Childline Kenya operates the national Child Helpline 116 Service, together with the Directorate of Children Services in a strong public-private partnership model.



CHILDLINE KENYA'S PROGRAMMATIC APPROACHES:

1. Informing and educating the public (including children) on keeping children safe and everyone's role in it and on the fact that child abuse is not normal and must be stopped.
2. Optimized access to Child Protection services - Childline commits to keep the child helpline service accessible all the time and through multiple channels, so that all children can access these services, whenever they require to do so.
3. Strengthened response to reported cases- It is not enough to receive reports of children's concerns. Efficient and effective response to reported cases is critical. Childline keeps an updated directory of its credible child protection service providers to whom cases are reported for quick and good-quality case resolution. Childline's commitment is that children in need of care and protection will be linked to the services they require and that these services will be effective and of high quality.



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SPORT AND EMPOWERMENT: EXAMINING THE ROLE OF SPORTS IN BUILDING SELF-ESTEEM AND RESILIENCE TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN KERIO VALLEY

Authors: Dr. Kipchumba Byron | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on programs and services that effectively prevent and respond to VAC

Type: Practice Based Paper

Problem Statement: Violence against children in Kerio Valley, exacerbated by cattle rustling and banditry, pervades various spheres regardless of cultural, educational, or socio-economic boundaries. Despite governmental efforts, challenges like child soldiers and educational disruptions persist, demanding innovative solutions.

Intervention/Method: Sports interventions are implemented to counteract these effects. These initiatives aim to foster unity, divert children from violence, and build self-esteem through sports participation. The approach serves as a platform for youth empowerment, exemplified by the Tegla Lorupe Peace Foundation's success with Peace Runs in reducing cross-border conflicts.

Findings: Sports programs exhibit promise in fostering unity, resilience, and positive social skills among children. They effectively transform cultural practices, replacing cattle rustling with constructive sports engagement, improving living conditions, and attracting investments in education and sports facilities.

Conclusion: Combining sports programs with security measures offers a transformative approach to curb violence against children in Kerio Valley. By replacing traditional practices with sports engagement, the region can cultivate a society rich in sports talents, fostering societal transformation and youth empowerment while addressing immediate violence concerns.

STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT IN ADDRESSING GBV RESPONSE: DREAMS EXPERIENCE IN KISUMU COUNTY, KENYA

Authors: Tabitha Ojwang- emails bounced

Conference Sub-Theme: Strengthening collaboration coordination, and oversight of VAC interventions

Type: Practice Based

Problem Statement: Kisumu County witnesses underreported Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases due to fear of stigma, hindering the identification of Post Gender-Based Violence Care (PGBV) eligible girls. The USAID 4TheChild DREAMS project faced challenges in identifying survivors, with only 4 out of 717 targeted PGBV survivors identified in Q1 FY22.

Methodology: The DREAMS project employed a multi-pronged approach:

- Training 15 TOTs and 239 mentors on SASA! and LIVES for GBV prevention and response.
- Engaging 26 AGYW ambassadors for peer support and GBV identification.
- Establishing an AGYW Advisory Council for program feedback.
- Deploying 13 paralegals for community sensitization and referral pathway strengthening.
- Partnering for logistical support during court sessions.
- Engaging multiple sectors to fortify the referral pathway.

Results: The multi-sectoral collaboration empowered paralegals, mentors, and ambassadors to facilitate escorted referrals, strengthening ties with key institutions. Out of 15,964 AGYW screened, 626 survivors were linked for PGBV services, exceeding the project target by 87%. Notably, successful legal support resulted in a life imprisonment ruling in one defilement case within 3 months.

Conclusion: A multi-sectoral approach, involving AGYWs and community paralegals, significantly enhances GBV survivor identification and service linkage. Strengthening community paralegal responses and supporting survivors' access to justice fosters greater openness in seeking support, highlighting the efficacy of inclusive engagement strategies.

STRENGTHENING ORGANIZATIONAL SAFEGUARDING REQUIREMENTS THROUGH A CHILD-FRIENDLY VERSION OF THE CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING POLICY.

Authors: A. Yugi; R. Mbayaki; | **Co-Authors:** C. Mwangi; H. Githakwa; S. Chemtai; T. Munyoki; B. Muli; Rose Mokaya
Affiliation: USAID Tumikia Mtoto, World Vision Kenya, Fahari Ya Jamii, University of Nairobi, Nairobi City County, USAID KEA
Conference Sub-Theme: Legal, Policy and Practices for responding to and preventing VAC

Type: Practice Based Paper

Problem Statement: Globally, over 1 billion children experience violence annually, with 45.9% females and 56.1% males in Kenya facing childhood violence. Organizational responsibility demands creating safe environments. USAID Tumikia Mtoto's project aims to ensure child safety, aligning with PEPFAR guidance.

Intervention/Method: Project discussions led to the creation of a child-friendly version of the safeguarding policy. Key stakeholders formed a drafting team, simplifying language, incorporating visual aids, real-life scenarios, and reporting procedures. The policy targets 65,596 vulnerable children, establishing reporting systems comprehensible to them, resulting in timely handling of three safeguarding incidents in FY23.

Findings: The child-friendly policy, disseminated among vulnerable children, empowers them to understand their rights, stay safe, and report abuse effectively. Six implementing partners established responsive systems, ensuring children's comprehension and timely incident management.

Conclusion: Developing a child-friendly safeguarding policy is vital for children's safety and awareness. Continuous review, distribution, education among children, parents, and caregivers, and fostering reporting culture are imperative next steps for sustained child protection.

Acknowledgement: This work is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the terms of Cooperative Agreement Number: 72061521CA00002. The authors' views expressed in this abstract do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

SYSTEMS APPROACH IN ADDRESSING CHILD PROTECTION ISSUES; A CASE OF USAID NURU YA MTOTO PROJECT.

Authors: Trizah Ouma | **Co-Authors:** J Kiboche1, J Thoya | **Affiliation:** USAID Nuru Ya Mtoto; PATH | **Country:** Kenya
Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on programs and services that effectively prevent and respond to VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Despite national efforts, violence against children persists in Kenya's Lake Region, particularly impacting HIV-affected children. USAID Nuru Ya Mtoto aligns with Kenya's laws to urgently protect children from abuse, violence, and exploitative conditions.

Intervention/Method: USAID Nuru Ya Mtoto implements a comprehensive systems approach across five counties, emphasizing cooperation, capacity building, and policy development. It collaborates with county entities, develops child protection policies, engages volunteers, promotes economic empowerment, and educates communities on children's rights.

Findings: The project collaborates with county departments and services, fostering child protection policies. It engages Child Protection Volunteers, empowers caregivers economically, and educates on positive parenting, benefiting thousands. Over 43,000 individuals are sensitized on children's rights, enhancing the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) database for better reporting. Increased child participation addresses their issues, improving community awareness on harmful practices.

Conclusion: USAID Nuru Ya Mtoto's systems approach effectively addresses child protection holistically. It emphasizes prevention, strengthens key actors' roles, and assets, fostering a comprehensive strategy at county and community levels to protect children.

TECHNOLOGY AND VAC: HOW SAFE ARE CHILDREN IN AFRICA ONLINE?

Author: Liz Amandla Busisa | **Affiliation:** Mtoto Newz International | **Conference Sub-Theme:** Technology as an Enabler and Intervention for Addressing VAC

Problem Statement: This paper investigates the online safety of African children in the context of Violence Against Children (VAC) and explores how technology contributes to the manifestation of violence in digital spaces. With over half of Africa's population being children and young people, their substantial use of technology poses risks, including the inadvertent sharing of personal information online, creating a breeding ground for VAC on major social media, education, and gaming platforms.

Intervention/Method: The study highlights the impact of technology on children's digital rights, emphasizing the need for proper design and use. It delves into legal frameworks at both continental and national levels aimed at addressing VAC in the digital space and providing remedies to victims. The research draws evidence from reports like VACS and the Disrupting Harm report 2021, showcasing innovative practices and shedding light on mechanisms for reporting incidents that perpetuate VAC.

Findings: Children's online engagement exposes them to various forms of VAC, including sexual exploitation, cyberbullying, and exposure to harmful materials. The study emphasizes existing legal frameworks and evidence from reports, underlining practices that enhance online safety for children.

Conclusion: This paper emphasizes the need for enhanced online safety for African children by addressing the risks posed by technology in fueling VAC. The findings underscore the importance of legal frameworks, innovative practices, and reporting mechanisms to keep children safe online, calling for a comprehensive approach to protect their digital rights.

TECHNOLOGY AS AN ENABLER AND INTERVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN, A CASE OF UASIN GISHU COUNTY

Authors: Richard Mugata , Rose Kebut, Simon Makori | **Affiliation:** Directorate of Children Services Uasin Gishu
Country: Kenya, USAID AMPATH Uzima Orphans and Vulnerable Children
Conference Sub-Theme: Technology and VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: As Information and Communications Technology (ICT) increasingly permeates daily activities, its widespread use, particularly on the internet, exposes children to risks like encountering harmful content and potential exploitation. The anonymity of online interactions emboldens perpetrators, facilitating the targeting of vulnerable children, leading to emotional, psychological, and physical harm.

Intervention/Method: This study aims to enhance the understanding of ICT's role in child protection by presenting global, national, and local initiatives in partnerships. It explores diverse tools such as Child Protection Information Management System, mobile money apps for cash transfers, instant messaging, online access to court sessions, hotlines, e-government services, websites for reporting, teleconferencing, blogging, online petitions, and artificial intelligence content filtering systems. The objective is to advocate for an ICT-strengthened, child-centered system for case identification and management, consolidating lessons from existing systems and examining best practices in design and strengthening.

Findings: The research highlights the need for comprehensive ICT-based child protection systems, showcasing successful tools and initiatives. It emphasizes the importance of global, national, and local collaborations and identifies proven solutions, guiding future implementations.

Conclusion: This paper underscores the urgency of implementing ICT-strengthened, child-centered systems for effective child protection. By consolidating lessons learned and advocating for best practices, it aims to ensure the safety of children online, leveraging existing solutions with proven utility and efficacy.

THE CONUNDRUM OF CHILD MARRIAGE: ATTITUDES AND PERCEPTIONS OF CHILD SPOUSES IN HOMABAY COUNTY, KENYA

Authors: Calvin.O.Ouko, Wilson, Wilson. A.P.Otengah | **Co-Authors:** Taji Isindu Shivachi | **Affiliation:** Rongo University
Country: Kenya | **Conference Sub-Theme:** VAC in the context of culture and politics

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Child marriage persists as a significant 21st-century challenge, highlighted in target 5.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Despite overall progress, Homabay County, Kenya, grapples with an alarming prevalence rate of 40%, nearly double the national average of 23%. This study aims to unravel the conundrum by exploring the attitudes and perceptions of child spouses towards this persistent issue.

Intervention/Method: Guided by Social Constructionism Theory, the study adopts a mixed-method approach, conducting a cross-sectional household survey involving 384 child spouses (under 18 years). Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews with local authorities, teachers, and healthcare workers complement the research. Data undergo both descriptive and inferential statistical analysis to uncover nuanced insights.

Findings: The study suggests the actual prevalence of child marriage in Homabay County might surpass the reported 40%. Remarkably, many child mothers do not perceive child marriage as a negative phenomenon. Socialization emerges as a critical factor shaping attitudes towards sexuality, femininity, and masculinity, influencing the perception of sexual maturity.

Conclusion: Child marriage in Homabay County presents a complex challenge influenced by deeply ingrained attitudes. The findings underscore the necessity for targeted interventions addressing societal perceptions and emphasizing the significance of cultural context in combatting this issue.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORTIVE SUPERVISION FOR THE WORKFORCE SUPPORTING CHILDREN WHO ARE REINTEGRATING, AND THOSE AT RISK OF SEPARATION, DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN KENYA

Authors: Khadija Karama | **Country:** Kenya
Conference Sub-Theme: Strengthening Collaboration, coordination, and oversight of VAC interventions

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement : Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the global child protection workforce has faced trauma, loss, and devastation while providing essential services. In Kenya, where community-based child protection workers were not initially recognized as key workers, caseworkers experienced increased pressure and stress. This presentation addresses the critical need for supporting frontline workers and explores the role of supervision in mitigating challenges faced by caseworkers during the pandemic.

Intervention/Method : The Child Protection organization, CTWWC, supports 104 caseworkers managing 942 children in 650 families. Responding to increased pressure, CTWWC implemented innovative supportive supervision guidelines, tools, and virtual case management training. This included group reflective discussions, regular case conferencing, and on-the-job coaching using shadowing and observation. Caregivers rated this support as extremely helpful in caring for children.

Findings: Supportive and reflective supervision improved caseworkers' retention and performance. The provided time and space for critical reflection increased confidence and work quality, resulting in enhanced services and support for children and families.

Conclusion: Supervision proved instrumental in supporting caseworkers during the pandemic. The success of this approach highlights the importance of ongoing collaboration and learning forums to strengthen the child protection workforce and integrate supportive supervision into government-led child protection initiatives.

Next Steps: CTWWC plans to collaborate with Directorate Children's Services representatives for joint supportive supervision on all reintegration work. Learning forums will be organized to promote the inclusion of supportive supervision in government-led child protection efforts.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORTIVE SUPERVISION IN PREPARING THE COMMUNITY LEVEL WORKFORCE FOR EFFECTIVE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO VAC DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN KENYA.

Authors: Khadija Karama | **Affiliation:** Catholic Relief Services, CTWWC Initiative | **Country:** Kenya
Conference Sub-Theme: Strengthening Collaboration, coordination, and oversight of VAC interventions

Type: Practice Based Paper

Problem Statement: Amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the global child protection workforce has demonstrated resilience in delivering essential services. However, the frontline workers themselves require critical support, especially in regions like Kenya. This presentation delves into the pivotal role of supervision in bolstering caseworkers during the pandemic.

Intervention/Method: In Kenya, the Child Protection Workforce Consortium (CTWWC) supports 104 caseworkers/managers overseeing 942 children in 650 families. Facing increased pressure due to government directives releasing children from residential care and the initial oversight of community-based child protection workers, CTWWC responded innovatively. They developed supportive supervision guidelines, introduced monitoring components, and conducted virtual case management training for 19 case managers. Direct support methods included group reflective discussions, regular case conferencing, and on-the-job coaching through shadowing and observation.

Findings: Caregivers rated the support as extremely helpful. Supportive and reflective supervision proved instrumental in improving caseworkers' retention and performance. The dedicated time for critical reflection increased confidence and the quality of their work, ensuring better services and support for children and families.

Conclusion: The success of the supportive supervision approach highlights its effectiveness in addressing the challenges faced by the child protection workforce. To strengthen the sector further, CTWWC plans collaborative efforts for joint supportive supervision on reintegration work and aims to advocate for the incorporation of this approach in all government child protection initiatives.

THE INESCAPABLE REALITY: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS TO VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Authors: Michael Omondi Odiambo | **Country:** Kenya
Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on Programs and Services that Effectively Prevent and Respond to VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Despite constitutional guarantees promoting children's rights in Kenya, violence against children persists, contradicting established rules. The prevalence of violence, especially within households, remains a stark reality, undermining the protective framework outlined in the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, and the Children's Act, 2022.

Intervention/Method: This paper, through a review of scholarly materials, aims to unveil the true extent of violence against children in Kenya and the broader African continent. The focus includes the insufficient availability of safe houses, particularly for children facing or having faced violence, exacerbated when the threat comes from someone within the child's household. The analysis underscores the inadequacies of existing safe houses, which are both understaffed and underfunded.

Findings: The review exposes a disconcerting reality where children often remain in close proximity to their perpetrators due to the lack of safe alternatives. Existing safe houses, when available, struggle with resource constraints, perpetuating the cycle of violence.

Conclusion: While acknowledging the gravity of the issue, this paper emphasizes collaborative efforts among stakeholders to address the dire situation of violence against children. It calls for a solution-oriented approach rather than engaging in a blame game.

Recommendations: The paper concludes by recommending various strategies to reduce violence against children, urging concerted efforts from relevant stakeholders.

THE INTEGRATED INTERVENTIONS TO STRENGTHEN FAMILY UNIT TO MITIGATE VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN. CASE STUDY IN MOMBASA, KENYA.

Authors: Norah Mwangi | **Co-Authors:** Abigael Sidi, Patricia Owira.

Affiliation: International Centre for Reproductive Health Kenya. | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on Programs and Services that Effectively Prevent and Respond to VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement:

Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) poses a pervasive global threat, impacting the physical and mental health of children. Recognizing the crucial role caregivers play in preventing and addressing CSEC within households, this intervention seeks to empower caregivers to safeguard their children from exploitation.

Intervention/Method: Implemented by ICRHK, the intervention comprises family therapy, positive parenting, and resource mobilization, coupled with capacity building on child protection. Over two years (January 2021 - December 2022), caregivers underwent training sessions on income generation avenues, positive parenting, and child protection. Family therapy sessions were conducted in clusters, ensuring confidentiality and comfort. Follow-up included focus group discussions (FGDs) with caregivers and their children, providing valuable insights.

Findings: 105 caregivers, predominantly female, underwent training on income generation, forming six active Self-Help Groups. 53 family therapy sessions were conducted. FGDs revealed positive outcomes: caregivers expanded businesses, meeting basic needs, and children reported a significant reduction in abusive language, fostering improved self-esteem and increased involvement in family decisions.

Conclusion: The integrated caregiver intervention effectively mitigates violence against children, demonstrating the potential of a collective, multifaceted approach. The positive results advocate for the adoption of such models in addressing CSEC, emphasizing collaborative efforts.

Recommendations: The integrated approach proves successful, suggesting its potential replication and expansion in combating CSEC and violence against children more broadly.

THE PLAYERS DIGITAL PARENTING STRATEGY

Authors: Jennifer Kaberi | **Country:** Kenya | **Conference Sub-Theme:** Technology as an enabler and Intervention for Addressing VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: With internet access now available to an estimated one in every three children, there's a surge in scaremongering, prompting diverse parental strategies in managing their children's online experiences. This literature study delves into the spectrum of strategies, from "seeing no evil" to legal action against internet service providers, exploring their pros and cons. The effectiveness and relevance of these strategies in the African context are scrutinized.

Intervention/Method: Conducting an in-depth literature study, this research analyzes parental strategies, considering their strengths and weaknesses. The paper proposes a comprehensive strategy, amalgamating various approaches, seeking input from participants. The study is part of the Rebooting Social Media Fellowship project.

Findings: Examining diverse parental strategies reveals a nuanced landscape. While each strategy has merits, none is without drawbacks. The proposal to integrate multiple strategies aims for a holistic approach, recognizing the complexities of safeguarding children in the digital realm.

Conclusion: The paper aims to stimulate dialogue on optimizing child safety in the digital world. By considering and amalgamating diverse strategies, it advocates for an inclusive approach that encourages exploration and learning while ensuring online safety.

Recommendations: This study proposes a blended strategy and calls for collaborative discussions on enhancing child safety in the digital space. The research is integral to the Rebooting Social Media Fellowship project.

THE PLIGHT OF TURKANA GIRL CHILD: MITIGATING VULNERABILITIES PREDISPOSING CHILDREN TO VIOLENCE

Authors: Jared Atsiaya | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Understanding the prevalence, nature, effects and drivers of VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Turkana County grapples with the compounding challenges of drought, famine, banditry, insecurity, illiteracy, and a regressive culture allowing the community to marry off girls without political condemnation. This situation perpetuates sexual gender-based violence and the harmful practice of beading girls for marriage, resulting in the economic, social, and academic disempowerment of 75% of women. Child mothers, constituting 48% of the population, face complications, high malnutrition rates (35.2%), and increased mortality, perpetuating household poverty.

Intervention/Method: The intervention aims at public education, community awareness, and capacity building of key stakeholders on child protection and legal instruments. The goal is to enhance family and child protection strategies and improve school enrolment, retention, transition, and completion of free and compulsory basic education.

Findings: Projected project outputs include secure families and children accessing basic needs, with communities developing sustainable family and child protection strategies. Success indicators encompass improved school enrollment, empowered families, and the establishment of child protection strategies.

Conclusion: Despite potential risks such as resistance from elders, the intervention assumes supportive government policies and a receptive community, urging sustained support for women and girl children through targeted training sessions for key stakeholders.

THE QUEST FOR COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORTIVE SOLUTIONS FOR CARE LEAVERS

Authors: Grace Njeri | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: VAC in the context of alternative and community-based care

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Global studies indicate that individuals who experience separation from parental care often encounter significant challenges in adulthood, leading to adverse long-term outcomes. Care leavers, upon reaching adulthood, face heightened risks, including mental health issues, substance abuse, criminal behavior, poor education, unemployment, prostitution, and increased poverty. Support for care leavers is frequently minimal, exacerbating difficulties such as obtaining legal documentation, facing stigma and discrimination, and lacking supportive social networks.

Intervention/Method: This presentation advocates for the development of comprehensive interventions and high-quality support services to address the multifaceted challenges faced by care leavers. Emphasizing the critical need for support throughout the transition to adulthood, the presentation underscores the importance of this investment for societal socio-economic well-being. It calls for collaborative, interdisciplinary interventions to tackle structural and systemic issues, urging the enhancement of practices, policies, and legislative frameworks.

Finding: The need for collaborative, interdisciplinary interventions is highlighted as an effective approach to address structural and systemic problems experienced by care leavers. It stresses the importance of developing and enhancing practices, policies, and legislative frameworks to respond to their challenges. Additionally, the presentation underscores the significance of prevention programs to keep children from entering alternative care and advocates for involving care leavers in shaping research, practice, and policy based on their unique knowledge and experiences.

Conclusion: Addressing the plight of care leavers requires a multifaceted and collaborative approach, emphasizing comprehensive support services, enhanced policies, and the active involvement of care leavers in shaping solutions. The presentation urges prioritizing prevention programs and underscores the critical nature of ongoing support through the transition to adulthood.

THE RIGHTS OF CHILD OFFENDERS SAFEGUARDING IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN NYAMIRA COUNTY

Authors: Mbatia Martha | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Legal policy and practices for responding to preventing VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement : The study investigates the safeguarding of rights for child offenders within Nyamira County, Kenya. **Three key objectives guide the research:** understanding the nature and extent of child offending, assessing the role of criminal justice actors in protecting child offenders' rights, and identifying challenges and opportunities in safeguarding these rights.

Intervention/Method : Utilizing a descriptive cross-sectional research design and qualitative data, the study focuses on child offender data extracted from the CPIMS database and key informants, including juvenile criminal justice actors. Raw data is collected through questionnaire-based interviews and analyzed using descriptive statistics, highlighting frequencies, percentages, and means.

Findings : The study reveals that, despite challenges, criminal justice actors in Nyamira County have implemented safeguards for child offenders. However, there's a need to align service delivery with the Child Act of 2022, emphasizing the establishment of Child Protection Units (CPUs) and the practical application of diversion.

Conclusion : Criminal justice actors in Nyamira County have initiated safeguards for child offenders, yet improvements are essential. The study emphasizes the urgency of aligning service delivery with legal provisions, specifically focusing on CPUs and the effective implementation of diversion. Recommendations include the use of paralegals, legal awareness clinics, and regular training for juvenile justice actors to address gaps in procedural knowledge and ensure the protection of child offenders' rights.

THE ROLE OF CHILD PROTECTION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION REFERRAL NETWORK IN SAMBURU COUNTY.

Authors: Peter Muthondu Mwangi | **Affiliation:** Directorate of Children Services | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Technology as an enabler and Intervention for addressing VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: The successful implementation of child protection and social welfare services relies on relevant data. Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) is an online portal aimed at collecting and managing information on child protection issues, offering statistics on various forms of abuse and exploitation. Despite Kenya's pioneering efforts in launching CPIMS, there is a need to assess its effectiveness in strengthening the child protection referral network, particularly in Laikipia County.

Intervention/Method: CPIMS, established after ratifying international conventions and enacting national laws, serves as a vital tool for effective coordination, policy formulation, and evidence-based decision-making. This paper analyzes cases reported and handled by sub-county children's offices in Laikipia County through CPIMS. Approximately 70% of reported cases end up in the referral system. The paper explores the potential of strengthening CPIMS to revitalize the child protection referral system in Laikipia County, emphasizing the involvement of various stakeholders.

Findings: The analysis reveals that CPIMS plays a crucial role in networking among stakeholders, contributing to positive outcomes in addressing retrogressive cultural practices. The paper showcases the significance of CPIMS in creating an official accountability and linkage system among stakeholders, ensuring prompt and coordinated action to prevent further abuse against children.

Conclusion: CPIMS, aligned with the established child protection framework in Kenya, has a key role in forming Child Protection Committees and Area Advisory Councils at the local level. These entities aim to raise awareness and share information among stakeholders about child protection issues. The paper concludes that CPIMS is instrumental in demonstrating how networking among various stakeholders can yield positive outcomes in addressing child rights abuses in Laikipia County.

THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY-BASED VOLUNTEERS IN PROMOTING SAFE ALTERNATIVE CARE IN RWANDA

Authors: Genevieve Uwamariya, UNICEF; Leon Muwoni, UNICEF and Monique Mukamana, National Child Development Agency |
Affiliation: National Child Development Agency, UNICEF | **Country:** Rwanda

Conference Sub-Theme: VAC in the context of Alternative and community based care
Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement:

Rwanda's commitment to prioritizing family and community-based care over institutionalization is commendable, particularly for children with disabilities. Central to this transformation are community-based volunteers, known as Friends of the Family (Inshuti z'Umuryango – IZU). With 29,764 IZU nationwide, their role in preventing family separation and ensuring child protection is vital.

Intervention/Method : Two volunteers, one male and one female, are selected per village, receiving extensive training in child protection, violence prevention, emergency response, and disability inclusion. Evaluations highlight IZU's transformative role, providing counseling, family mediation, bonding visit supervision, and referrals. In 2019–2020, 18,705 child-headed households received IZU support, including monitoring visits and psychosocial counseling.

Findings: IZU's impact is evident in the smooth transition during reunification, especially in supporting child-headed households. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, IZU reached 489,789 children from January to August 2021, providing psychosocial support to 153,086. These figures underscore the frontline IZU cadre's value and extensive reach.

Conclusion: The role of IZU in Rwanda's alternative care models is crucial, demonstrating the effectiveness of community-based volunteers in safeguarding children's well-being. Their contribution in family support, especially during challenging times like the COVID-19 pandemic, emphasizes the sustainability and importance of community-driven care initiatives.

THE ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE PROMOTION OF CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING

Authors: Leonard Chumo Falex | **Co-Authors:** Mercy Mwanzana, Mary Munyao , Elizabeth Kithuka , Lucy Omondi, Roseline Olumbe |
Country: Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on programs and services that effectively prevent and respond to VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Child protection and safeguarding are crucial for ensuring the well-being of children and adolescents. In an evolving world, Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) play a pivotal role in fostering awareness, prevention, and action related to child protection. This paper aims to explore the multifaceted role of HEIs in promoting child protection and safeguarding.

Intervention/Method: Through a desk review, this paper emphasizes integrating child protection principles into academic programs, research, and institutional practices. It discusses how HEIs contribute by infusing child protection concepts into educational programs, conducting research for evidence-based policies, and acting as hubs for community outreach and partnerships.

Findings: HEIs contribute significantly to child protection through research initiatives, understanding maltreatment dynamics, assessing intervention effectiveness, and developing resources. Student-led projects, campaigns, and clubs within HEIs further raise awareness and engage in advocacy efforts. Preliminary findings indicate HEIs advocating for child protection policies at various levels and offering training programs for professionals in the field.

Conclusion: HEIs, through collaboration with policymakers, practitioners, and researchers, can create a safer environment for children. The multifaceted contributions of HEIs, from integrating child protection principles into education to conducting impactful research and community outreach, highlight their unique position in advancing child protection and safeguarding.

THE ROLE OF KINSHIP CARE AS A PATHWAY TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO THE RISK OF VAC

Authors: Blessing Mutama
Affiliation: FOST

Conference Sub-Theme: VAC in the context of alternative and community based care

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Despite the prevalence of kinship care (KC) worldwide, research indicates that it is often informal, unrecognized, and insufficiently supported, posing risks of violence to children. Family for Every Child (Family) responded by developing global guidance to enhance KC support.

Intervention/Method: The guidance development involved a comprehensive methodology, including a global literature review, key informant interviews, stakeholder engagements, and consultations with children and carers. Contributions from Egypt, Liberia, Tanzania, South Africa, and Zimbabwe in Africa enriched the research.

Findings: While many children in KC receive adequate care, some face violence risks, especially in situations involving more distant relatives or friends as caregivers. Vulnerability increases in forced or obligated caregiving situations, with higher instances of child marriage or early sexual debut in certain contexts. Strategies to reduce violence risk include poverty reduction, support for stressed carers, psychosocial interventions, community monitoring, social service support, and changing social norms.

Conclusion: KC offers multiple benefits, but risks vary based on factors like relatedness, voluntariness, entry reasons, caregiver age, and parental involvement. Sufficient, appropriate support is crucial to minimizing violence risks. Policymaking and practices for KC should be tailored and responsive, acknowledging the diversity of circumstances.

THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR CHILD OFFENDERS IN CHILDREN REMAND HOMES IN KENYA.

Authors: Christine Onyango | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Legal, Policy and practices for responding to and preventing VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Child offenders in Kenya, often labeled as “rogues,” historically faced alienation and limited contact with family while in Remand Homes. However, technology’s transformative role in case management presents an opportunity to alleviate their isolation.

Intervention/Method : This article explores the positive impacts of technology on case management for child offenders in Kenyan Children Remand Homes. It delves into the use of various technologies, such as mobile phones and virtual sessions, to facilitate communication, expedite court proceedings, and enhance data management through the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS).

Findings: The introduction of mobile phones allows child offenders to engage with families, counsellors, and legal representatives through phone and video calls. Virtual court sessions contribute to case expediency and offer a platform for children’s voices within the justice system. Child protection professionals utilize virtual methods for interviews, conferences, and meetings, while CPIMS provides valuable data for research, advocacy, and policy influence.

Conclusion: Technological advancements have significantly improved the protection of child offenders in Kenya, breaking their isolation within Remand Homes. Mobile phones, virtual sessions, and CPIMS collectively contribute to better communication, expedited legal processes, and comprehensive data management, fostering a more supportive and informed approach to child offender case management.

HE USE OF POSITIVE PARENTING SKILLS PROGRAM TO IMPROVE CARE GIVING PRACTICES AND REDUCE VIOLENCE AMONG FAMILIES: AN EXPERIENCE OF USAID TUMIKIA MTOTO PROJECT- NAIROBI COUNTY

Authors: C. Mwangi | Co-Authors: D. Yator, R. Mbayaki, J. Mukabi, R. Mokaya

Affiliation: 1. USAID Tumikia Mtoto, 2. World Vision Kenya, 3. USAID KEAN | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on programs and services that effectively prevent and respond to VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: The Kenya 2019 Violence Against Children (VAC) survey highlights a concerning prevalence of violence within households, revealing that a significant number of children experience their first encounter with physical violence from parents or adult relatives. Violent discipline is particularly prevalent among orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), with almost half of adolescents reporting physical discipline or verbal aggression. Witnessing violence in childhood is also widespread, emphasizing the urgent need for intervention to address the alarming rates of violence in Kenyan households.

Intervention/Method: In response to this pressing issue, USAID Tumikia Mtoto, a PEPFAR/USAID-funded HIV prevention project, implemented the Sinovuyo Positive Parenting Program, part of the evidence-based intervention known as Parenting for Lifelong Health (PLH). This program specifically targets teenagers aged 10-14 and their caregivers through a 14-week intervention. The primary objective is to enhance communication and problem-solving skills to prevent negative health and social outcomes among adolescents.

Findings: The project successfully supported 4,432 caregiver-teen pairs in completing the 14 PLH sessions. A post-program assessment involving 900 teenagers demonstrated a substantial reduction in physical punishment, dropping from 90% to 32%. Notably, there was a significant improvement in caregivers spending quality time discussing education progress and sensitive topics like sex, increasing from 45% to 91%. The study also revealed an enhancement in conflict resolution skills, with caregivers and teens adept at resolving issues without conflict increasing from 44% to 90%. Caregiver-focused group discussions underscored the critical role of open and timely communication in reducing the use of harsh discipline.

Conclusion: The findings emphasize the effectiveness of providing positive parenting skills through Evidence-Based Interventions (EBIs) in improving family relationships, reducing violence, and preventing harsh punishment and maltreatment of children. The Sinovuyo Positive Parenting Program within the USAID Tumikia Mtoto project showcases promising outcomes, offering a viable solution to address and mitigate the alarming rates of violence observed in Kenyan households.

TRANSITION FROM RESIDENTIAL CARE TO COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORT AS A KEY STRATEGY TOWARDS ENDING VAC IN KENYA

Authors: Muraguri Phyllis G | **Affiliation:** Technical University of Kenya | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: VAC in the context of Alternative and Community based care

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: The Kenya 2019 Violence Against Children (VAC) survey exposes alarming rates of violence within households, particularly among orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), with a significant number experiencing initial encounters with physical violence from parents or adult relatives. Urgent intervention is crucial to address this pervasive issue.

Intervention/Method: USAID Tumikia Mtoto, a PEPFAR/USAID-funded project, implemented the Sinovuyo Positive Parenting Program targeting teenagers (10-14) and their caregivers. The 14-week intervention aims to enhance communication and problem-solving skills to prevent negative health and social outcomes among adolescents.

Findings: 4,432 caregiver-teen pairs completed the 14 PLH sessions. Post-program assessments of 900 teenagers revealed a remarkable reduction in physical punishment from 90% to 32%. Quality time spent discussing education and sensitive topics surged from 45% to 91%, enhancing conflict resolution skills from 44% to 90%. Caregiver-focused discussions emphasized the role of communication in reducing harsh discipline.

Conclusion: Positive parenting skills offered through Evidence-Based Interventions (EBIs) significantly improve family relationships, reducing violence and harsh punishment. The Sinovuyo Positive Parenting Program within USAID Tumikia Mtoto demonstrates promising outcomes, offering a viable solution to mitigate the prevalent violence in Kenyan households.

TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACH TO ADDRESS INADEQUATE REPORTING OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS INVOLVING ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN IN TONONOKA WARD, MOMBASA

Authors: Mwanajuma Hamisi | **Co-Authors:** Esther Mokeira, Sylvia Odhiambo

Affiliation: USAID Tujitegemee project (DREAMS)

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: The DREAMS Program in Tononoka ward aims to combat HIV risk and violence among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW). Under-reporting of violent experiences presents a significant challenge, evident in Q1 FY23 where no violence cases were reported, exposing critical gaps in support-seeking behavior.

Intervention/Method: Comprehensive measures were introduced to encourage safe violence disclosure, including awareness campaigns, peer-led discussions, and survivor-centered services. Despite 134 reports of violence among AGYW, only 15 attended post-violence care sessions, highlighting stigma as a major barrier. Engaging a counselor trained in youth-friendly services and utilizing peer ambassadors fostered open discussions in safe spaces.

Findings & Conclusion: Following interventions, 68 AGYW were screened for psychosocial support, with 52 receiving care. Violence hotspots were identified, revealing 54% occurring at home, 37% in school, and 4% in the community. Sexual violence reports were evenly distributed, while physical (71%) and emotional (67%) violence were predominantly reported in schools and homes, respectively.

Lessons Learned: Increased awareness and community outreach improved reporting and prevention strategies. Training for service providers and peer leaders enhanced care quality. Continuous monitoring allowed tailored improvements to meet AGYW needs.

Implications: Awareness initiatives, peer discussions, and survivor-focused services effectively address under-reporting of violence, empowering AGYW to seek help. USAID Tujitegemee plans to expand this model, collaborating with local stakeholders for broader reach and continuous secure reporting environments.

TOWARDS CHILD-CENTERED JUSTICE: EXPERIENCES OF CHILD VICTIMS OF SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AT THE KAKAMEGA LAW

Authors: Daisy Wanjira Gachoki | **Affiliation:** Department of Criminology and Social Work, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology | **Country:** Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Legal, policy and practices for responding to and preventing VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Effective interventions for child victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) hinge on understanding their experiences within the justice system. The lack of attention to children's unique needs in legal proceedings creates challenges for their recovery and access to justice.

Intervention/Method: A qualitative study at Kakamega Law Courts in Kenya delved into the experiences of 50 child victims of SGBV. Semi-structured interviews were conducted to explore their perceptions and encounters with the legal processes related to SGBV cases.

Findings: Insights from the study illuminated challenges faced by child victims navigating the justice system. Notably, 62% reported delays in case proceedings, exacerbating distress, and trauma. About 48% expressed dissatisfaction with the courtroom environment, citing intimidation. Moreover, 76% emphasized the need for enhanced support services, including counseling and legal guidance, highlighting gaps in comprehensive assistance for child survivors.

Conclusion: The findings emphasize the immediate need to reform the justice system to address the specific needs of child victims of SGBV. Mitigating delays, creating child-friendly court environments, and integrating support services are critical steps toward enhancing access to justice. Implementing child-centered approaches within the justice system is vital for ensuring the well-being and rights of vulnerable child victims of SGBV in Kakamega and beyond.

TRAUMA INFORMED EDUCATION: CREATING TRAUMA-SENSITIVE CLASSROOMS.

Authors: Dr. Bukola Ogunkua | **Affiliation:** BATO, Inc DBA, Suburbancare

Conference Sub-Theme: Understanding the Prevalence, Nature, Effects and Drivers of Violence Against Children

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Recognizing the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) on student performance and teacher-student relationships is crucial. The lack of training in childhood trauma among educators leads to unpreparedness in handling behavioral and mental health challenges in classrooms.

Intervention/Method: Trauma Informed Education (TIE) workshops were conducted across multiple cities in Southwestern Nigeria from 2014 to 2016. These workshops aimed to enhance educators' comprehension of the effects of ACEs, toxic stress, and trauma on student behavior and relationships. An ACEs questionnaire comprising ten dichotomic (yes/no) questions was self-administered anonymously, with 826 educators participating.

Findings: The ACEs data from Nigeria exhibited elevated scores in abuse and neglect categories but lower scores in mental health and substance use compared to the original ACEs Study. Notably, 23% had zero ACE score, 77% scored one, 35% had a score of two or three, and 20.34% scored 4 or higher. Among the respondents, emotional abuse was reported by 45.04%, physical abuse by 42.13%, sexual abuse by 25.06%, emotional neglect by 25.67%, and physical neglect by 1.62%.

Conclusion: Understanding the prevalence of ACEs among educators highlights the urgent need for trauma-informed approaches in educational systems. These findings emphasize the significance of equipping teachers with skills to create trauma-sensitive classrooms, fostering environments conducive to learning while supporting students coping with adverse experiences. Further research and comprehensive TIE implementations are imperative to mitigate the repercussions of childhood trauma on education.

ABOUT FADV - TREE OF LIFE KENYA

Fondazione L'Albero della Vita - Tree of Life Kenya is registered as a trust with a vision of a world without poverty where children can enjoy their rights; grow up in a safe family environment, protected from all kinds of violence and with access to equal opportunities. It began operations in Kenya in 2010, and has since implemented projects focusing on child protection, education, emergency and development.

We implement a number of projects within the care reform framework:

TRACING, REINTEGRATION AND TRANSITIONING TO FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BASED CARE

- ***“RISE - Strengthening Inclusion, Health, and Education for Children and Youth, both Vulnerable and in Conflict with the Law”*** a project funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), responding to the needs of children and youth in 29 government institutions in Kenya comprising of; 1 Reception Center, 4 Children’s Remand Homes, 9 Rehabilitation Schools, 5 Correctional Centers, 6 Probation Hostels, and 4 Public Primary Schools. It is implemented in 11 counties in partnership with the Kenyan government and non-state actors.
- ***“Empowering girls to realize their Rights: Transitioning Rescue Dada Centre for street connected girls and GBV survivors in Kenya”*** improving living conditions of the girl child in Kenya

ALTERNATIVE CARE

- ***“Every child deserves a family” Foster care in Kenya to protect the rights of children out of parental care”*** ...*An act of love that can bring a lasting change into a child’s life.*

PREVENTION OF SEPERATION AND FAMILY STRENGTHENING

- ***“The House of Philanthropy TUCHEZE Children programme: Playing opportunities for vulnerable children”*** exploring the potential found in every child.

Karibu tusafiri Pamoja!



UNDERSTANDING THE PREVALENCE AND EFFECTS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN EMBU COUNTY

Authors: Jane Wamatha Kinuthia | **Affiliation:** Directorate of Children Services | **Country:** Kenya

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Childhood sexual abuse (CSA), a global social and health challenge, inflicts millions of children with trauma and various emotional and behavioral reactions. The prevalence rates, estimated globally at 8% to 31% for girls and 3% to 17% for boys (UNICEF, 2017), underscore the urgent need to address this pervasive issue. In Embu County, Kenya, the prevalence and effects of CSA pose a significant concern, demanding attention and intervention.

Intervention/Method: This study investigates the prevalence and effects of child sexual abuse in Embu County. The traumatogenic model by Finkelhor (1987) guides the theoretical framework, suggesting that CSA induces immediate psychological effects and subsequent behavioral changes. Employing both qualitative (literature review) and quantitative methods (Child Protection Information Management System, police, school, and hospital data), the study aims to provide insights that can inform intervention measures.

Findings: The study reveals alarming statistics, with four CSA cases reported daily in Embu County. The effects on victims encompass anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, post-traumatic stress, school dropout due to stigma, and teenage pregnancy. These findings underscore the urgency of addressing CSA and implementing measures to mitigate its profound impact on the well-being of children.

Conclusion: To address the challenges posed by CSA, the study recommends the establishment of counseling centers dedicated to assisting child victims. Additionally, there is a crucial need for public sensitization on reporting mechanisms to enhance awareness and promote prompt reporting. By shedding light on the prevalence and effects of CSA, this study contributes to the broader effort of safeguarding the physical and psychological well-being of children not only in Embu County but throughout the entire country.

UNDERSTANDING THE TRAUMA OF CHILDREN FROM INSTITUTIONS

Authors: Florence Koenderink | **Affiliation:** Independent Consultant Child Protection and Alternative Care Reform |
Country: Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Sub-theme 8: VAC in the context of Alternative and Community-based care

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Growing up in institutional settings significantly affects children's physical, psychological, and brain development, leading to challenging behaviors and stress responses. Transitioning these children into family environments, without proper preparation, often results in difficulties for both the child and the receiving family. This unpreparedness contributes to breakdowns in placement and potential violence against the child.

Intervention/Method: To mitigate these challenges, it is imperative for social workers to recognize the effects of institutionalization during assessments, incorporate this understanding into care plans, and provide comprehensive support and preparation for families. Training for both social workers and families is crucial in preventing adverse outcomes.

Findings: Institutionalization induces challenging behaviors rooted in abnormal brain development, increasing the risk of violence against children. Effective support and preparation for families during a child's transition from an institution are key to averting these negative consequences.

Conclusion: The presentation provides a concise overview of how institutionalization impacts behavior and brain development, leading to potential violence against children. It emphasizes the necessity of supporting families during a child's transition from an institution to prevent such adverse outcomes. Insights from 'Understanding the Trauma of Institutionalized Children: A training manual for case workers' inform this approach, condensed to its core model for potential publication in the ICCP Journal.

UNLEASHING PEOPLE'S "POWER WITHIN" AND "WITH" TO CHALLENGE PATRIARCHY AND EVERYDAY VIOLENCE IN SHINYANGA DISTRICT, TANZANIA.

Authors: Dr Kate McAlpine, Dr Mathew Senga, Mathias Mkude, Raphael Dennis, Janeth Semwene & Sia Maro |

Country: Tanzania

Conference Sub-Theme: VAC in the context of culture and politics

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: This paper outlines a participatory action research project carried out between 2021 and 2023 in collaboration with Women Fund Tanzania-Trust. It delves into the community-driven strategies in Shinyanga district aimed at addressing the pervasive issue of violence against women and children. Grounded in Gaventa's Powercube framework (2007) and employing Scharmer's Theory U (2009), the research aimed to comprehend the intricate dynamics of power as experienced by over 900 participants, including women, children, men, and government representatives.

Intervention/Method: Utilizing a grounded theory approach (Glaser & Strauss, 1967), researchers facilitated dialogues to unearth the lived experiences of power within this community. The primary concern identified was the urgent need to renegotiate the entrenched patriarchal structure, marked by unbridled male privilege and a pervasive atmosphere of fear among all community members.

Findings: The research revealed that the internal workings of patriarchy are deeply rooted in coercion. However, the system's fragility became evident as its coercive nature conflicted starkly with the community's professed values of collaboration, respect, and collective effort.

Conclusion: The study concludes by proposing a theory of action aimed at unleashing the latent "power within" and "with" the community to challenge the existing patriarchal norms and combat everyday violence. Additionally, the paper presents seven prototypes developed by the community, offering innovative and cost-effective social practices designed to curtail violence. These prototypes signify grassroots efforts toward reducing violence and fostering a more equitable society in Shinyanga district.

UTILIZATION OF CHILD PROTECTION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN ANALYZING PREVALENCE OF DEFILEMENT IN NAIROBI COUNTY, KENYA

Authors: Stacy Njeri | **Affiliation:** Directorate of Children Services | **Country:** Kenya
Conference Sub-Theme: Technology and VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Violence against children, encompassing maltreatment and defilement, poses a grave threat, with girls being particularly vulnerable to sexual abuse. Despite efforts to address this, defilement cases persist in Nairobi, leading to dire consequences such as death, mental health issues, and HIV/AIDS infections among affected children. The absence of accurate and consistent reporting mechanisms exacerbates this issue, hampering effective intervention and policy formulation.

Intervention/Method: The Directorate of Children Services implemented the Child Protection Information Management System in 2016 to comprehensively capture, process, and manage child protection data. This system aims to enhance the accuracy, completeness, and availability of defilement cases. Its primary goal is to facilitate effective monitoring, evaluation, and case management for vulnerable children.

Findings: Previously, the lack of mechanisms for tracking and reporting defilement cases resulted in a lack of accuracy and consistency in data reporting. However, the introduction of the Child Protection Information Management System has provided a structured approach to data collection and management, improving the tracking and reporting of defilement cases in Nairobi County.

Conclusion: The implementation of the Child Protection Information Management System marks a pivotal step in addressing the deficiencies in tracking and reporting defilement cases. This system offers a platform for enhanced monitoring, evaluation, and intervention strategies, crucial for safeguarding children against defilement. Its adoption signifies a promising approach toward more accurate and consistent reporting, thereby supporting better-informed policies and interventions to protect children in Nairobi County from the scourge of defilement.

UTILIZING CASH TRANSFERS TO REDUCE VULNERABILITY, IMPROVE AGENCY OF CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES TO SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES: A CASE STUDY IN SIAYA COUNTY, KENYA

Authors: Edith Apiyo | **Affiliation:** Catholic Relief Services | **Country:** Kenya
Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on programs and services that effectively prevent and respond to VAC

Type: Practice Based Paper

Problem Statement: Caregivers of children with disabilities in Kenya face economic vulnerabilities, increasing the risk of family separation and hindering the reintegration of children into family care. This issue calls for interventions that support these families, especially in regions like Kisumu, Kilifi, Mombasa, Nyamira, and Siaya counties.

Intervention/Method: The 'Changing the Way We Care' (CTWWC) initiative, aligning with the United Nations Convention on the Protection and Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCPRD), introduced unconditional cash transfers to empower caregivers in supporting their families. CTWWC identified 304 caregivers of children with disabilities in Siaya County, Ugunja Sub County, and provided them with one-time cash transfers averaging \$214 per family. The use of these funds was monitored through post-distribution interviews conducted fifteen days after disbursement.

Findings: The cash transfers were primarily utilized for food, education, medical supplies, shelter renovation, and business start-ups. A significant outcome was that 213 caregivers purchased assistive devices, enhancing their children's participation in the community. Caregivers reported reduced economic vulnerability and an increase in livelihood activities. The intervention demonstrated a reduction in family vulnerability, improved access to nutrition, health, education services, economic strengthening activities, and increased community participation for children with disabilities.

Conclusion: The CTWWC cash transfer intervention showed promising results in reducing short-term vulnerabilities for caregivers of children with disabilities. It effectively empowered caregivers, enabling them to better support their children, thus upholding the principles of the UNCPRD. This intervention suggests that cash transfers can be a viable method to alleviate immediate economic pressures on families with disabled children. However, further research is needed to understand the long-term impacts of such interventions on caregiver decision-making and family strengthening outcomes.

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN WITH INVISIBLE DISORDERS

Authors: Dr. Neema Lema | **Affiliation:** Autism Voice For Children

Conference Sub-Theme: Understanding the prevalence nature, effects and drivers of VAC

Type: Practice Based/ Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Children with disabilities, especially those with invisible disorders, face heightened risks of violence, neglect, and abuse. Stigma, misconceptions, and communication barriers exacerbate their vulnerability. Existing studies on violence often overlook these children due to communication and comprehension challenges, leading to underreported cases and disbelief when incidents are disclosed.

Intervention/Method: An innovative approach involves leveraging social behaviour change communication to tackle violence against children with invisible disabilities. This strategy aims to transform societal attitudes, increase awareness, and empower communities, families, educators, and caregivers. By employing communication tools, it seeks to redefine perceptions, educate on recognizing violence, and foster safe environments.

Findings: Social behavior change communication proves instrumental in:

- Enhancing understanding of violence against children (VAC)
- Equipping individuals with skills to prevent and address violence
- Challenging societal norms that perpetuate violence
- Breaking the silence surrounding abuse
- Cultivating safe spaces in homes, schools, and communities
- Advocating for policy reforms to safeguard vulnerable children

Conclusion: Implementing social behaviour change communication represents a promising strategy to combat violence against children with invisible disabilities. By addressing misconceptions, improving knowledge, and fostering supportive environments, this approach stands as a proactive step towards ensuring the safety and well-being of these marginalized children globally.

WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH INTERVENTION TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN AND AROUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN KENYA

Authors: Beatrice Ogutu | **Co-Authors:** Nancy Njeru | **Affiliation:** International Child Support - School Program (ICS-SP) |

Country: Kenya

Conference Sub-Theme: Evidence on programs and services that effectively prevent and respond to VAC

Type: Practice Based Paper

Violence against children (VAC) in and around public schools in Kenya is a significant issue. To address this, the International Child Support - School Program (ICS-SP) developed the Whole School Approach (WSA) intervention. This comprehensive intervention targets various stakeholders, including community and school leadership, teaching and non-teaching staff, parents, pupils, and child protection service providers. It aims to address the multifaceted nature of VAC through individual and group dynamics behavior-change strategies.

Intervention/ Method: The WSA model includes life skills and values education for learners, training for teachers and support staff, support for school leadership, engagement and training for parents and caregivers, and strengthening community partnerships and child protection mechanisms. This method focuses on empowering and building the capacity of the entire school community to create a shared vision of reducing violence in and around schools.

Findings: An evaluation study conducted in 2022 assessed the effectiveness of the WSA intervention. Four public primary schools participated, with two serving as intervention schools and two as controls. The study used a controlled before-and-after mixed-methods design. Results showed a significant decrease in physical violence, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse against children. Pupils gained a clear understanding of different forms of violence and where to seek help. Parents and caregivers reported improved parenting skills, leading to better parent-child relationships and reduced VAC at home. Teachers and parents also demonstrated a thorough understanding of VAC, positive discipline mechanisms, and awareness of child maltreatment, its manifestations, consequences, and risk factors.

Conclusion: The WSA intervention has been effective in reducing violence against children in and around schools in Kenya. The study recommends enhancing the intervention curriculum with illustrated books, visual materials, and participatory exercises for more effective dissemination of information and training. These measures can further strengthen the approach's effectiveness in preventing child maltreatment.

ASSESSING MITIGATION MEASURES TO CASES OF CHILD NEGLECT AMONG VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN UASIN GISHU COUNTY.

Authors: S. Makori | **Co-Authors:** M. Malel, B. Jakait, I. Wainaina | **Affiliation:** Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital – AMPATH Uzima | **Country:** Kenya | **Conference Sub-Theme:** Understanding the Prevalence, Nature, Effects and Drivers of Violence against Children (VAC)

Type: Research Based Paper

Problem Statement: Child neglect, characterized by insufficient care, accountability, and protection, stands as a prevalent form of child abuse. Its detrimental impact on a child's development, spanning health, emotional, cognitive, academic, and social dimensions, necessitates urgent attention. In the fiscal year 22/23, Uasin Gishu County reported a concerning 1,801 cases of child neglect, emphasizing the urgency for effective interventions.

Intervention/Method: Drawing on Albert Bandura's social learning theory, which posits that victims learn and adapt to their social environment, and complemented by the cognitive learning theory focusing on thinking, communication, and problem-solving, this study aimed to assess the interventions provided to survivors of child neglect in Uasin Gishu County. A chart review was conducted on 1,801 cases reported between June 2022 and July 2023 at the Directorate of Children Services (DCS). The analysis focused on interventions provided, employing descriptive statistics for age, gender, and the types of interventions administered.

Findings: Of the total cases, 92% (1,659 out of 1,801) received interventions, with a median age of 9.6. Notably, the distribution of services was equitable between males and females. The interventions included case conferencing (26.2%), legal aid support (26.0%), joint parental agreement (16.0%), placement in school (13.9%), access to medical services (10.0%), economic strengthening (6.0%), and foster care (1.8%). These findings underscore the multifaceted nature of interventions required to address the diverse needs of neglected children.

Conclusion: In conclusion, interventions tailored to a child's specific needs are pivotal in creating a secure, reliable, and nurturing environment. The emphasis on younger children, given their cognitive abilities and higher representation in neglect cases, highlights the importance of early and targeted interventions. Moving forward, addressing child neglect demands a comprehensive approach that considers the unique circumstances and requirements of each case, with a focus on fostering a supportive environment for the well-being of vulnerable children.

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