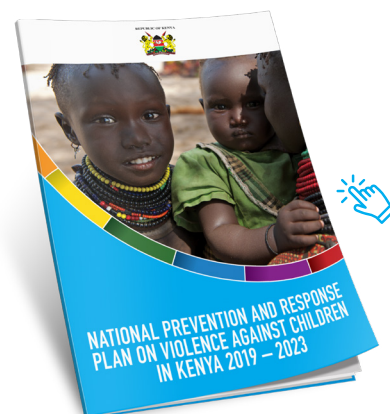


# The 2019 VAC Survey and the NPRP on VAC



This policy brief is the first in a series for the National Prevention and Response Plan on Violence against Children 2019 – 2023 (NPRP on VAC). The brief highlights overall findings from the 2019 Violence against Children Survey (the 2019 VAC Survey) and key aspects of the NPRP on VAC.



This household-based survey of children and youth (13 – 24 years) measured the prevalence, circumstances, consequences of sexual, physical, and emotional

There are additional five policy briefs for a specific sector, highlighting key findings from the VAC survey, strategic actions these sectors have committed to lead in the NPRP on VAC, corresponding result matrix, and cost estimates for these actions.

- ✓ **2ND POLICY BRIEF:** Social Protection, Culture and Recreation Sector
- ✓ **3RD POLICY BRIEF:** Social Protection, Culture and Recreation Sector focusing on Gender
- ✓ **4TH POLICY BRIEF:** Governance, Justice and Law and Order Sector
- ✓ **5TH POLICY BRIEF:** Health Sector
- ✓ **6TH POLICY BRIEF:** Education Sector

violence against children and youth in Kenya. The survey was designed to determine: (i) the national prevalence of childhood violence (physical, sexual and emotional violence defined as violence occurring before the age of 18) and (ii) the prevalence of violence in the past 12 months among children aged 13 – 17 and youth aged 18 – 24.



Almost half of the females (48.2%) and males (41.7%) aged 13-17 experienced **physical discipline or verbal aggression** by parents or caregivers in the past 12 months.

The 2019 VAC Survey used the National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme 5th frame (NASSEP-V) developed and maintained by KNBS, applying a 3-stage cluster sample survey design (cluster, household, respondent level) in all 47 counties in Kenya. In total, 1,344 females and 788 males aged 13-24 completed the interview<sup>1</sup>. The 2019 VAC Survey is the second survey on violence against children in Kenya following the 2010 survey.

Key findings are:

- ✓ Nearly **half** of females (45.9%) and more than half of males (56.1%) experienced **childhood violence**.
- ✓ **Physical violence** is the most common type of violence in childhood, with nearly two out of five females (38.8%) and half of males (51.9%) affected. Parents and caregivers are the most common perpetrators.

## KEY FINDINGS FROM THE 2019 VAC SURVEY\*

The Government of Kenya carried out a nationally representative survey on violence against children in 2018 and 2019, which resulted in **the 2019 Violence against Children Survey Report**. The 2019 VAC Survey was carried out by the Department of Children Services, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, through LVCT Health and Population Council, in collaboration with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). Technical assistance was provided by CDC, University of California San Francisco, and UNICEF.



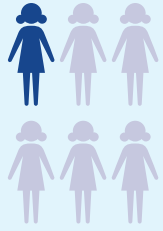
Nearly half of females (45.9%) and more than half of males (56.1%) experienced **childhood violence** in Kenya.



Nearly one out of three females (34.3%) and males (32.2%) children aged 13-17 experienced **emotional violence** by a peer in the past 12 months.

\* Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Kenya, Department of Children's Services. Violence against Children in Kenya: Findings from a National Survey, 2019. Nairobi, Kenya: 2019.

<sup>1</sup> After data collection, weighting (a method used to obtain parameters from the data set in order to represent the total population) was done to ensure data collected was nationally representative.



Nearly one in six females (15.6 %) experienced **childhood sexual violence**,

✓ Nearly one in six females (15.6 %) experienced **childhood sexual violence**, and among them, almost two-thirds (62.6 %) experienced multiple incidents before age 18. A lower percentage (6.4 %) of males experienced childhood sexual violence.

✓ Nearly one out of three females (34.3 %) and males (32.2 %) children aged 13-17 experienced **emotional violence** by a peer in the past 12 months. More than 1 in ten females (12.3 %) aged 13-17 experienced emotional violence by a parent, caregiver, or adult relative in the past 12 months.

✓ **Witnessing physical violence in the home** is common. Half of the females (52.0%) and males (51.5%) ages 18-24 witnessed violence in the home before age 18. Witnessing violence at home in childhood was found to be significantly associated with violence victimization in childhood as well as in young adulthood.

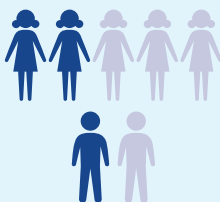
✓ The prevalence of **violent discipline, including corporal punishment and psychological aggression** against children, is high. Almost half of the females (48.2%) and males (41.7%) aged 13-17 experienced physical discipline or verbal aggression by parents or caregivers in the past 12 months.

✓ **Disclosure, knowledge, and service-seeking** for violence are **low**. However, for sexual violence, there were observed differences between boys and girls in service-seeking behaviour.

✓ **The consequences of violence** are **mental health problems** and **violence perpetration**.

✓ **Comparison with the 2010 VAC Survey data:** Childhood physical violence decreased for both males and females from 2010 to 2019. Childhood sexual violence decreased for females from 2010 to 2019. Emotional violence perpetrated by parents, caregivers, and adult relatives also decreased for females from 2010 to 2019 <sup>2</sup> At the same time, the prevalence of

<sup>2</sup> The prevalence of any childhood physical violence among female was significantly lower in 2019 (38.8%) compared to 2010 (66.0%) as well as among males (51.9 % in 2019 and 73.1% in 2010). The prevalence of any childhood sexual violence was significantly lower in 2019 (15.6 %) compared to 2010 (31.9%) among females. The prevalence of emotional violence perpetrated by a parent, caregiver or other adult relatives among female was lower in 2019 (7.3 %) compared to 2019 (14 %).



**Physical violence** is the most common type of violence in childhood, with nearly two out of five females (38.8 %) and half of males (51.9%) affected.

certain forms of physical and sexual violence suffered by 13-17-year-old females in the past 12 months increased from 2010 to 2019.<sup>3</sup>

## THE 2019-2023 NATIONAL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PLAN ON VAC

A 5-year national plan on violence against children, **the National Prevention and Response Plan on Violence against Children 2019-2023 (NPRP on VAC)**, was developed by the Government of Kenya, based on key findings from the 2019 VAC Survey as well as globally available evidence-based strategies and good practices in the county to address violence against children.

NPRP on VAC consists of 6 strategic areas – (i) Laws and Policies, (ii) Family support – parenting skills and economic strengthening, (iii) Education and life skills, (iv) Community norms and values, (v) Response and support services, and (vi) Coordination. In addition, the Plan emphasizes the importance of the whole of society approach to address violence against children, involving families, parents, caregivers, children, communities, teachers, and various government sectors at all levels.

The development of NPRP on VAC was led by the multi-sectoral Technical Working Group, which consists of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Teachers Service Commission, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government (National Police Service), Office of Director of Public Persecutions, Office of the Attorney General, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (Department of Children Services, National Council for Children Services, Department of Social Development, Social Assistance Unit, Social Protection Secretariat), Ministry of Public Service and Gender (Anti-FGM Board, State Department of Gender), National Gender Equality Commission, Several CSOs and UNICEF. The Department of Children Services, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection led and coordinated the process.

The 2019 VAC Survey and the NPRP on VAC were jointly launched on 16 July 2020. In addition, the social behavioral change **Campaign to end Violence against Children, ‘Spot it Stop it’** was also launched at the same time to kick start a movement to end violence against children in Kenya.

While the survey was carried out in 2018 and 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the fore specific concerns regarding sexual gender-based violence, teenage pregnancy, female genital mutilation and all forms of violence children

<sup>3</sup> Among 13-17-year-old females, the prevalence of physical violence in the past 12 months perpetrated by parents or adult relatives was lower in 2010 (15.9 %) compared to 2019 (19.8 %). Among females aged 13-17, the prevalence of unwanted attempted sex in the past 12 months was lower in 2010 (3.3%) compared to 2019 (8.5%)

suffer in the home. Findings from the VAC Survey and the 5-year multi-sectoral national response plan will guide an evidence-based approach to address violence against children in the context of COVID 19 and beyond. High-level, political buy-in from all concerned Ministries and the government at all levels, including county and sub-county level, is essential for implementing NPRP on VAC.

## COSTING MODEL AND COST ESTIMATES OF THE NPRP ON VAC

To guide budget requirements, a costing estimate to implement NPRP on VAC was commissioned. The main outputs of this costing exercise are (i) **the NPRP on VAC Costing Tool** – an MS Excel costing tool that departments can use to develop multi-annual implementation budgets

and (ii) **Baseline cost estimates** as below. The Costing Tool enables the user to explore the cost of the NPRP on VAC activities under the following scenarios and develop a costed Implementation Plan that can feed into the budget proposals.

- ✓ **SCENARIO 1 BASIC** specifies the minimum level of inputs required to deliver the necessary activities at an acceptable level of quality, recognizing that the Government of Kenya is facing real fiscal constraints.
- ✓ **SCENARIO 2 ENHANCED** specifies a higher level of inputs to ensure better quality delivery of the activities than Scenario 1 Basic.
- ✓ **SCENARIO 3 IDEAL** specifies the input level one would ideally like to see allocated to implementing the different key activities if there were no budget constraints.

## STRATEGIC AREAS AND OUTCOMES OF THE NATIONAL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PLAN

### STRATEGIC AREA 1: LAWS AND POLICIES

- 1.1 Children have increased access and protection through laws and policies.

### STRATEGIC AREA 2: FAMILY SUPPORT – PARENTING SKILLS AND ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING

- 2.1 Children have built more positive and supporting parent-child relationships.
- 2.2 Vulnerable families have greater financial stability.

### STRATEGIC AREA 3: EDUCATION AND LIFE SKILLS

- 3.1 Schools have safer and more enabling environments for children free from violence.
- 3.2 Children have life skills that protect them from violence.

### STRATEGIC AREA 4: COMMUNITY NORMS AND VALUES

- 4.1 Community members, leaders and community-based institutions are sensitized and mobilized to appropriately respond to violence and harmful practices.

### STRATEGIC AREA 5: RESPONSE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

- 5.1 Child survivors and child perpetrators of violence receive comprehensive child-friendly protection and response services in the justice sector.
- 5.2 Child survivors of violence have improved access to essential health services.
- 5.3 Child survivors of violence and children at risk of violence have improved access to essential social services for child protection.
- 5.4 Child survivors of violence have improved access and utilise essential support services through multi-sectoral referral mechanisms established at the county and sub-county levels.



### STRATEGIC AREA 6: COORDINATION

- 6.1 State and non-state actors have improved coordination to disseminate, implement and monitor the National Prevention and Response Plan on Violence Against Children (NPRP on VAC) at the national, county and sub-county levels.
- 6.2 Non-state actors working in child protection are regulated through a functional accreditation system.
- 6.3 The Government has improved financial and human capacities to implement and coordinate activities for prevention and response to violence against children.

## 1: COST OF THE NPRP ON VAC – BASELINE COSTING RESULT

### OVERALL COST OF THE NPRP ON VAC IN KES (ENHANCED SCENARIO) *(Below costs in Kenyan shilling)*

Once-off activities	1,999,176,533
Ongoing activities	3,189,007,260

Using exchange rate of USD to KES 108 (as of 31 July 2020)

Source: Baseline costing in NPRP on VAC 2019–2023 Costing Tool

## 2: SUMMARY BY COST ESTIMATES BY STRATEGIC AREA *(All costs in USD)*

APPROACHES	SCENARIO 1 BASIC	SCENARIO 2 ENHANCED	SCENARIO 3 IDEAL
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>			
Once-off activities*	13,329,868	18,510,894	25,873,737
Ongoing activities	13,408,802	29,527,845	47,615,646



### STRATEGIC AREA 1: LAWS AND POLICIES

Once-off activities*	1,456,290	2,391,990	3,452,700
Ongoing activities	662,478	1,488,361	2,684,352



### STRATEGIC AREA 2: FAMILY SUPPORT – PARENTING SKILLS AND ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING

Once-off activities*	954,960	1,734,720	2,657,940
Ongoing activities	995,947	2,428,474	4,722,668



### STRATEGIC AREA 3: EDUCATION AND LIFE SKILLS

Once-off activities*	9,151,377	11,935,103	16,621,026
Ongoing activities	4,703,520	14,521,535	23,428,665



### STRATEGIC AREA 4: COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS ADDRESSING NORMS AND VALUES

Once-off activities*	-	-	-
Ongoing activities	2,185,482	3,440,898	5,000,396



### STRATEGIC AREA 5: RESPONSE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Once-off activities*	1,200,000	1,500,000	1,800,000
Ongoing activities	4,691,425	7,469,627	11,600,615



### STRATEGIC AREA 6: COORDINATION

Once-off activities*	567,241	949,081	1,342,071
Ongoing activities	169,950	178,950	178,950

Source: Baseline costing in NPRP on VAC 2019–2023 Costing Tool \*Once-off activities include: (i) developing policies, laws and plans and (ii) infrastructure spend