THE DETERMINANTS OF VIOLENCE AFFECTING CHILDREN:
LITERATURE REVIEW AND MAPPING FOR
THE MULTI-COUNTRY STUDY

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

1. BACKGROUND

Violence against children is a major child rights issue and a public health concern in Costa Rica. Violence—sexual, physical and emotional—occurs in homes, schools and communities throughout Costa Rica.

These terms of reference describe the fundamentals and components of the first out of three stages of research, which will explore and engage the causes of violence against children and adolescents in Costa Rica. This terms of reference sets out the rationale and main components of Stage 1 of a multi-stage and multi-country study on the determinants of violence affecting children. The study will take place in Paraguay and Costa Rica based on previous experiences in: Italy, Peru, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

The increasing global evidence regarding the incidence and prevalence of violence raises questions among governments and legislators about the drivers of violence affecting children and adolescents and the strategies that could be used to reverse this situation.

It is fundamental to identify the structural determinants of violence – social, cultural, economic, juridical, organizational and political –and understand how these impact homes and communities. Better understanding of the underlying reasons of violence against children will enable the identification of strategies and national interventions for the prevention of violence against children.

The consultant or firm hired for this consultancy will be part of an international team which, will implement a research model that has already has been determined. The research will be carried out as an extensive review of literature and an analysis of secondary data.

The consultancy will center on studying the determining factor of violence – focusing equally on boys and girls in their various development and growth stages, in particular on youth aged between 10 and 14 years. The aim is to contribute to dialogue at the national level on how to focus effectively implement interventions to prevent violence.
In Costa Rica, according to data from 2013, intra-familiar violence effects on a daily basis, approximately 1500 children and adolescents; in addition, 4% of 5084 women between 15 and 49 years, who took part in the Multiple Indicator Conglomerate Survey of 2011, justified their husbands’ abuse for leaving the house without his consent, neglecting the children, engaging in discussion with them (husbands), burning the food or refusing to have sexual relations.

According to the 2011 census, the population of boys, girls and adolescents in Costa Rica reached 1310 983 persons (30.48% of the total population). The age breakdown is: 31% from 0-5 years, 39% from 6-12 years and 30% from 13-17 years. Gender-wise, 51% are males and 49% are females. Children and adolescents in Costa Rica mostly live in urban areas, with 69% (907 984), while 31% (402 999) live in rural areas.

In the indigenous population, children and adolescents constitute 31.4% (32 742) of the total indigenous population (104 143). In the migrant population (385 899 persons), close to 14.2% are children and adolescents (55 133). The census showed that of the Costa Rican population who possess some kind of disability (452 844, 10.5% of the total population), 3.6% are between 0-17 years.

There is a high rate of disengagement from education, with 31.5% of Costa Rican children and adolescents who do not use the educational services (412 959). The age group with lowest presence in the educational system is the group between 0 -5 years, which constitutes 83.5% of the those who do not attend school, followed by the group from 13-17 years (18.4% do not attend) and then those between 5-6 years old (16.8%). Geographically, 65% of the children and adolescents who do not utilize the educational services live in urban areas, while 35% of children and adolescents living in rural areas do not attend school. For the indigenous population, the percentage who do not attend schools is 8 percent points higher, at 39.6%, than the national levels already mentioned (31.5%).

According to the statistics from the National Children’s Hospital, the number of children and adolescents who received attention in the period from 2006 to 2012 due to confirmed violent abuse, increased by 184%. Negligence is the principal reason of medical attention over the last 7 years. On average, one out of every three children suffers from this type of negligence. Emotional abuse is manifested as the violence which always comes in second or third place. Physical abuse is also manifested as recurrent violence.

The Patronato Nacional de la Infancia (National Child Welfare Institute) reported that they received more than 100 000 reports of violence against children and adolescents between 2011 and 2013.

Violence against children is profoundly anchored with social norms; they are products of cultures in families impaled by gender and authoritarian patterns. A study about physical punishment carried out by UNICEF in 2009, demonstrated that almost 60% of the population in Costa Rica view physical punishment an acceptable form of discipline.

2. JUSTIFICATION

This TOR describes the rationale and main components of Stage 1 of a multi-stage approach to exploring and addressing the drivers of violence against children in Costa Rica. The goal of the TOR is to translate research and move it more effectively into the policy and practice guidelines and implementation throughout Costa Rica. UNICEF calls this the Research to Policy and Practice Process (R3P). This Costa Rica R3P will ensure that findings from Costa Rica inform the growing global dialogue.
on what triggers violence and how best to respond to it. The R3P provides a series of methodologies to provide a road map to understanding violence and how it operationalizes in society drawing on diverse sources of information.

Confronted with growing global evidence on the incidence and prevalence of violence, governments and policy makers are asking: What drives violence affecting children and what can be done to address it? Identifying and analyzing how structural determinants – the social, cultural, economic, legal, organizational and policy responses – interact to affect everyday violence in children’s homes and communities will identify causal pathways to better inform national strategies and interventions for violence prevention.

The Costa Rica R3P involves grounding the study within a comprehensive literature review and secondary data analysis. Learning more and unpacking the determinants of violence – focusing on girls and boys at different stages of the life course (but with a particular focus on “very young adolescents” aged 10-14 years). It will contribute to national conversation on how to focus the subsequent stages of the process, namely testing interventions to prevent violence.

3. SCOPE OF WORK:

The Costa Rica R3P serves as the foundation for a larger three staged process for understanding and addressing violence against children. This stage will explore existing data on what is already known about violence affecting children in COSTA RICA. Researcher(s)—one international and a national team—will explore and unpack different variables associated with violence to identify areas for further exploration as well as gaps where evidence is missing.

The R3P involves two separate components: 1) Academic literature review that includes a scoping of existing “grey literature” (informally published written materials, such as research reports and briefing papers that may be difficult to locate through conventional literature searches); 2) Qualitative Interviews with stakeholders from key CP institutions or intervention mapping, whichever is more suitable to the local context; and 3) secondary analysis of existing datasets. These three components will allow for the identification of initial hypotheses around the drivers of or determinants of violence. The results of this work will be used to guide national discussions on priority areas for further exploration and interventions.

3.1. Literature Review

The literature review will analyse several key international databases such as: PubMed/Medline, PsycINFO (EBSCOhost), CINAHL-ebsco, ERIC, EmBase Social Work, Abstracts and SocIndex, to locate peer-reviewed journal articles about violence affecting children in Costa Rica. This search will employ a mix of both free text and controlled vocabulary of subject heading and keyword searches to identify articles via electronic databases.

In addition articles will be reviewed from the following journals:

- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Child Maltreatment
- Child Abuse Review, and
- Journal of Interpersonal Violence

Articles that meet the inclusion criteria will be read fully and key information extracted into an Excel file.
3.2 Grey literature review
It is expected that much of the research on violence affecting children will be found in grey literature format. Working with the national consultant, a grey literature search strategy will be developed, and will include the following components:
- Outreach to INGOs and CBOs in Costa Rica (including UNICEF country office);
- Outreach to regional or national government sources;
- Identification and outreach to key field experts and other researchers in the country;
- Outreach to other regional and international practitioners and researchers;
- Search of local and international websites.

3.3 Qualitative Stakeholder and Institutional Interviews
A key component of the R3P process that sits within the literature review stage will be conducting qualitative interviews with key stakeholders within justice, education, health and community sectors to further explore the drivers of violence affecting children. The contracted institution will work closely with the national consultant to carry out approximately 30 interviews. This qualitative data will help to triangulate with published research but also will help identify ‘gaps’ within current empirical evidence.

3.3 Interventions Mapping
The goals of this mapping exercise are to: 1) gain a better understanding of the existing and previous child maltreatment prevention interventions in each country; 2) map which interventions have been evaluated, 3) understand the theories of change and which drivers of violence the interventions sought to address and 4) to identify potential promising interventions for (re)design, implementation and testing. A separate Excel file will be created to capture important information about the interventions identified through the searches.

Grey literature that meets the inclusion criteria will undergo the same rigorous data extraction process as the journal articles (e.g. pulling out key information for the study). This process will also include reviewing evaluations that have been completed on any prevention and response issues that address some aspect of violence against children.

3.4 Secondary Data Analysis
Working in collaboration with national consultants, the R3P will include a robust secondary data analysis of the existing national data sets. National and local studies completed over the last 10 years will be collected by the national consultant in tandem with the international consultant and then subjected to a set of criteria to ascertain if the data is rigorous enough for secondary analysis. The secondary analysis will build upon the findings from literature review combined with Costa Rica’s current evidence base to explore more in-depth specific drivers and/or the risk and protective factors that affect children exposed to violence.

4. OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES FROM THE R3P
The evidence gathered in Stage 1 will provide a more detailed picture of what is known about violence affecting children in Costa Rica. More specifically, the following output/activities and deliverables\(^1\) are expected from this phase:

\(^1\) Deliverables and the number of days involved will depend on the state of the available data and its quality.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output/Activity</th>
<th>Deliverable</th>
<th>Start time</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Onsite²</th>
<th>Offsite³</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Briefing session with the Office of Research, UNICEF Costa Rica and the research partner, via Skype</td>
<td>Deliverable 1: notes from the call with follow-up and plan of action inclusive of timeline</td>
<td>15 August 2014</td>
<td>20 August 2014</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Submission of draft qualitative instruments for stakeholder interviews for peer review</td>
<td>Deliverable 2: guidelines and protocol for carrying out qualitative research submitted including 3 in-country training days including ethical approval through the contracted institution</td>
<td>22 August 2014</td>
<td>30 Sept 2014</td>
<td>3 days</td>
<td>6 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Technical assistance for the analysis of qualitative interviews</td>
<td>Deliverable 3: Short report of the synthesis of main themes from qualitative interviews</td>
<td>1 October 2014</td>
<td>1 January 2015</td>
<td>3 days</td>
<td>7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Submission of the first draft of the systematic literature review report for peer review</td>
<td>Deliverable 4: draft literature review with inclusion of secondary analysis, where available</td>
<td>15 August 2014</td>
<td>01 February 2015</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Submission of the final systematic literature review report, which incorporates findings of the statistical analysis (raw/secondary)</td>
<td>Deliverable 5: final report for Costa Rica, inclusive of potential publication plan</td>
<td>15 February 2015</td>
<td>15 April 2015</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Policy brief and power point presentation for National Stakeholders’ meeting</td>
<td>Deliverable 6: Power point and policy brief (1 page 2-sided)</td>
<td>1 April 2015</td>
<td>1 May 2015</td>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>2 days</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

² Refers to work in COSTA RICA  
³ Refers to work outside of COSTA RICA
Research to Policy and Practice Process: R3P

| 7. Documentation of the process for learning and replication in other country sites | Deliverable 7: report on documentation of the Costa Rica process. | 15 August 2014 | 1 May 2015 | - | 5 days |

### Secondary Data Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output/Activity</th>
<th>Deliverable</th>
<th>Start time</th>
<th>End Time</th>
<th>Onsite</th>
<th>Offsite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Submission of draft research processes and plans for Stage 1, analysis plan template/strategy for national review</td>
<td>Deliverable 1: research plan inclusive statistical analysis plan</td>
<td>15 August 2014</td>
<td>1 October 2014</td>
<td>3 days</td>
<td>2 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Statistical analysis (raw/secondary) reviewed</td>
<td>Deliverable 2: statistical analysis in a draft report</td>
<td>1 October 2014</td>
<td>1 January 2015</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15 days (estimated depending on datasets available and readiness for analysis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Submission of the literature review, evaluation review and data analyses integrated</td>
<td>Deliverable 3: integrated report</td>
<td>1 January 2015</td>
<td>1 February 2015</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Policy brief and power point presentation on the findings for National Stakeholders</td>
<td>Deliverable 4: Power point and policy brief (1 page 2-sided)</td>
<td>1 April 2015</td>
<td>1 May 2015</td>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>1 day</td>
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4 It will be important to ensure that data is cleaned and readied for analysis with full approval from data owners facilitated by UNICEF.
5. DESIRED BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

- An established research institution with the ability to deliver a detailed research and analysis on drivers of violence against children.
- Team leader will have an advanced university degree in social sciences with at least eight years professional experience in the field of social science research.
- Current expertise in the field of violence against children demonstrated through up-to-date published reports and/or research.
- Knowledge and familiarity with child rights concepts, with international children’s legislative frameworks, and with the programming environment in relation to child protection.
- Demonstrated ability to write effectively in a highly engaging format accessible to wider public and also policy makers.
- Experience in the development of communications-for-development/behavioural change communications strategies.
- Previous experience of working with UNICEF on child protection research (optional)

6. CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Prospective bidders shall submit:

- A technical proposal detailing evaluation approach, design and methods, including research questions, data collection and analysis methods, scope and evaluation plan.
- A company profile (including the proposed core staff and their areas of expertise and experience).
- Past successful experiences in work of a similar nature.
- Curriculum vitae of proposed evaluation team members.
- A separate financial proposal.
- Fluency in English and Spanish: speak, read and write perfectly.

7. EVALUATION

80% technical
20% financial

8. CONDITIONS

- The contractor will work on its own computer(s) and use its own office resources and materials in the execution of this assignment. The contractor’s fee shall be inclusive of all office administrative costs.
- Local travel (outside Costa Rica) and airport transfers (where applicable) will be covered in accordance with UNICEF’s rules.
- Flight costs will be covered at economy class rate as per UNICEF policies.
- Any air tickets for travel, will be authorized by and paid for by UNICEF directly, and will be for the attendance of meetings and workshops (if contractor is based outside COSTA RICA).
- Please also see UNICEF’s Standard Terms and Conditions attached.
- Due date by COB, August 11th, 2014.

9. ENQUIRIES:

Please direct any enquiries to: Georgina Zamora, Child Protection Officer, gzamora@unicef.org
Proposals with all supporting documents should be addressed to: Melissa Paniagua, Program Assistant, mpaniagua@unicef.org (copy to gzamora@unicef.org).