

Ending violence against children in Kazakhstan



The scale of the problem



Findings of the formative evaluation of Violence against Children in Kazakhstan reveal that **violence in childhood is a common reality in Kazakhstan.**



Corporal punishment is still lawful at home, in pre-school day care centers for children.

There is still **33%** of child protection professionals who support the use of corporal punishment to discipline and control children.



Three out of four or 74.3 percent of parents/adults used violence to discipline children in the home.

72.2% of parents/adults used psychological violence. **30.6%** used physical violence to discipline their children.



One out of four or 28.6 percent of parents/adults used both psychological and physical violence to discipline children in their home in the past two years.

Challenges

1

The experience of violence, abuse, and neglect does not trigger direct eligibility for special social services, but only if violence leads to social deprivation and social maladjustment.

2

Social workforce across the sectors has low salaries and low status. Incentives, performance management and supervision are unequal across the sectors.

3

There is emerging training on VAC by the initiative of different universities, training centres; UN agencies and NGOs, but these are not certified and are not equally provided across all the disciplines and grades.

4

The legislation lacks definitions of child abuse, psychological violence, abuse, insult, bullying and self-harm.

5

Domestic violence de-facto focuses on women and not really on women and children.

6

Kazakhstan does not have a centralized and unifying policy on child protection/violence against children.

7

Specialized services for child victims of violence do not exist under the law.

The evaluation



Based on the results of the Formative evaluation of the system for prevention and response to violence against children in Kazakhstan from 2011 to 2020.



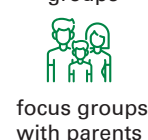
The object of the evaluation is the Kazakh system for the prevention and response to violence, abuse, and neglect of children.

METHODOLOGY. The study is based in:

An extensive review of secondary sources.

A legislative and policy review, as well as primary research tools.

A methodological choice was taken to base the primary investigation in this evaluation principally on qualitative tools, such as:



Why is this evaluation important?

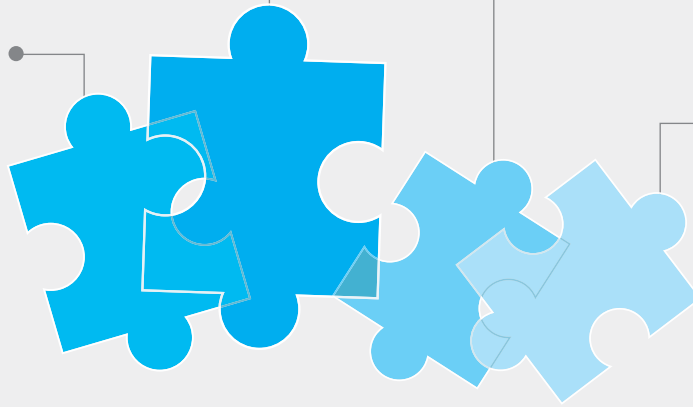
The effects of violence on children are commonly passed down through generations, with those who have been exposed to violence as a youngster being more likely to grow up to be violent adults.

Children who grow up in a violent family are more likely:

- to be abused as children
- to have learning challenges and limited social skills
- to engage in violent, dangerous conduct, or
- to suffer from depression or severe anxiety.

Violence against children in Kazakhstan continues to be a major source of concern.

There is substantial evidence that children who are exposed to domestic abuse may experience a variety of serious and long-term consequences.



Key findings



Two components require priority investment and attention by the President and the Government: these are **(1) prevention and response services** and **(2) governance at central and sub-national level.**

The CPS in Kazakhstan has made remarkable progress in the last 10 years: high number of national laws, policies, protocols, and standard operating adopted.



Strengthening and establishing new services is urgently needed as the ones that exist do provide just some elements of prevention, support and rehabilitation.



There is lack of a common vision and plan to adequately address violence against children with enough cross-sectoral consultation, coordination and learning.



Strengthening the governance of the CPS both at central and sub-national levels is urgent.



The system is still too fragmented to be able to provide to children at risk or victims of violence the multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary support.

Top priority recommendations

Prevention and Response Services



1

Improve the availability, coverage, and access to primary prevention services across the sector.

2

Improve the availability, coverage and access of integrated services for the care and support to child victims/survivors of violence and their families.

Governance of the CPS



1

Strengthening cross-ministerial and multi-agency coordination and accountability for policy development, advocacy, and implementation (central level).

2

Strengthen the coordination of Oblast, District and Municipal Akimats to plan and deliver services that prevent and respond to VAC.

Second priority recommendations



Laws and policies

Strengthen the legal protection of children from corporal punishment in the home and kindergartens, from psychological violence and bullying.

Strengthen the legal basis for specialised services for child victims of violence.

Strengthening and consolidating a high-level, unified vision for the next 10 years on violence against children.



Oversight and monitoring

Strengthening the government capacity to use VAC data and indicators to inform and monitor national policies and programmes on VAC.

Developing common cross-sectoral minimum standards and procedures for all services preventing and responding to VAC.



Human and financial resources

Strengthening the Government capacity to allocate the necessary financial resources to services and programmes on VAC and to assess their cost-effectiveness.

Strengthening the number, capacities and harmonising social workforce across sectors.

Theory of change



2030 VISION: Kazakhstan free of violence against girls, boys and adolescents.



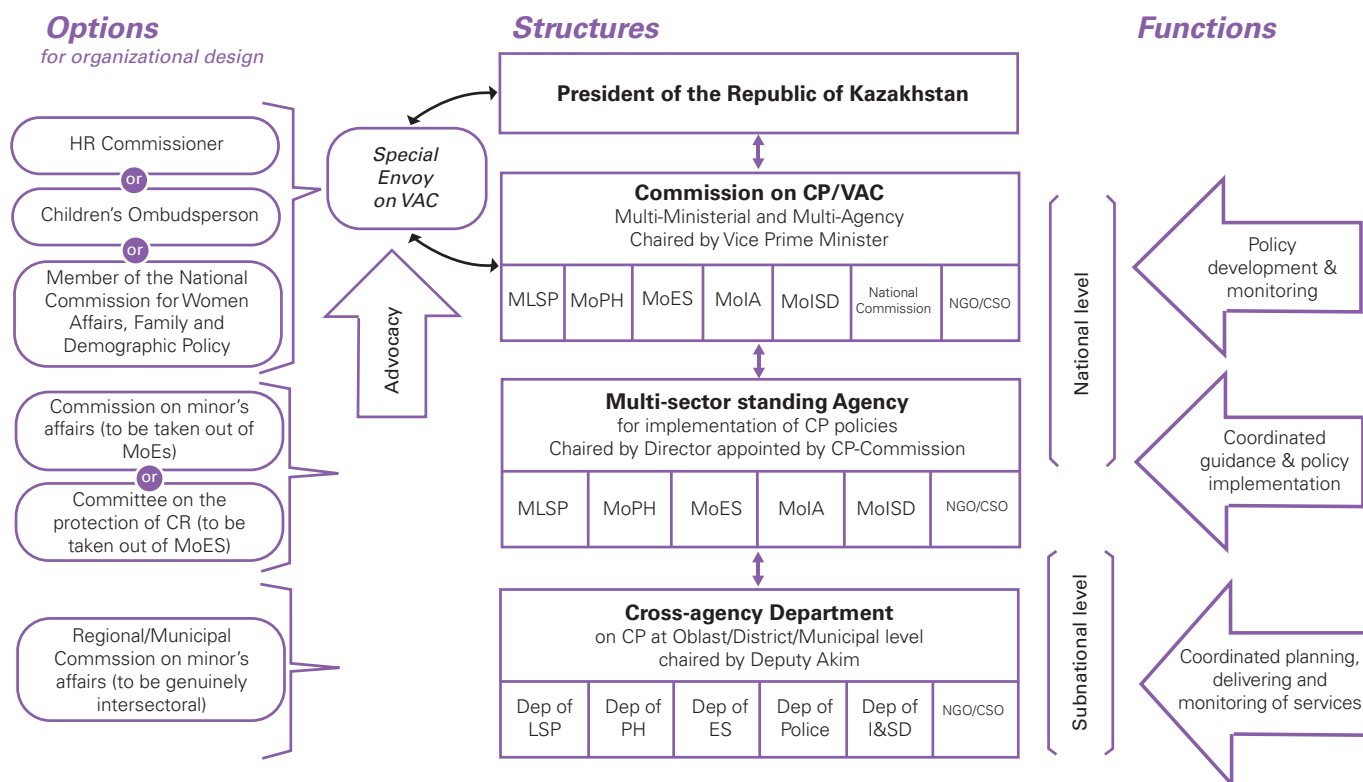
IMPACT: All girls, boys and adolescents in Kazakhstan grow up with greater freedom from all forms of violence; and those who do experience violence benefit from greater access to care, support, justice and other services needed to ensure physical, mental and social well-being.



CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME: A MULTI-SECTORAL CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM that multiplies the existing CAPACITIES of its individual components and actors to achieve better protection of children from violence.

New proposed governance structure of the child protection system in Kazakhstan

To prevent and respond to violence against children, multiple sectors of society must work together.



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