

Identifying Opportunities for Coordination Between Violence Against Children and Violence Against Women Efforts in Iraq

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Introduction

Violence against women (VAW) and violence against children (VAC) are serious global health concerns and human rights violations.¹ Globally, one in three women has experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime, leading to immediate and long-term harm to their physical and mental health.²

Over 50 per cent of children aged 2–17 years worldwide experience some form of violence each year.³ There is increasing awareness of the ways in which VAW and VAC interconnect.⁴ Areas of overlap include shared risk factors, similar health consequences and co-occurrence of both forms of violence in the same household.⁵ Awareness of these intersections has led researchers and practitioners from both fields to increasingly recognize the importance of collaborating to address both forms of violence.⁶ Although the evidence base is growing, there is limited research on coordinated approaches in the UNICEF Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.⁷ The present research seeks to fill this gap and offers an overview on opinions, challenges and opportunities for collaborative approaches to VAW and VAC in Iraq.

Context

VAW and VAC are highly prevalent in Iraq. Recent figures published by the World Health Organization (WHO) indicate that 26 per cent of women aged 15–49 years in Iraq who have ever been married or partnered have experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime.⁸ A recent review on prevalence rates in the region found that one in three women attending health services in Iraq experienced emotional violence by a husband or a family member.⁹ The ongoing conflict, forced displacement and humanitarian crises that Iraq has faced since 2013 have contributed to the high rates of violence against women and gender-based violence in the country.¹⁰ These challenges remain, even with the explicit prohibition of all forms of violence and abuse within family and society by the Iraqi Constitution (2005).¹¹ Combined with deeply rooted patriarchal social norms, structures and practices (such as honour killings and child marriage),¹² these factors create barriers to reporting incidents of violence and prosecuting perpetrators. VAC is also widespread, including abduction and sexual violence, with prevalence rates exacerbated by conflict and displacement.¹³ According to Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey data, 80.9 per cent of children aged 1–14 years in Iraq are subjected to violent discipline, with 30.8 per cent exposed to severe physical punishment.¹⁴



CHAPTER 1

Methodology

Aim, objectives and key research questions

UNICEF's Child Protection Strategy 2021–2030 calls for a fundamental shift to the organization's work on child protection VAC prevention, including a focus on addressing the intersections between VAC and VAW. This study was undertaken as a response to that call and is intended to support greater coordination across these areas of work in the MENA region.

Specifically, this study aimed to conduct an analysis of the extent to which efforts to address VAC and VAW were coordinated. The study was conducted in three countries, namely Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon. This report focuses on Iraq.

The key objectives of the study were:

- to identify existing policies, action plans and programmes that address both VAW and VAC;
- to understand the challenges that hinder collaborative efforts to address VAC and VAC; and
- to identify opportunities that allow for increased collaboration between the fields of VAC and VAW.

Specific research questions included:

- To what extent do existing policies, action plans, programmes or service documents include or address both VAC and VAW?
- What are some examples of policies, action plans, programmes, collaborations, strategies or services where there is some evidence of integration of VAC and VAW (i.e., addressing both VAC and VAW at the same time)?
- To what extent and how do VAW-focused and VAC-focused stakeholders collaborate?
- What are the areas of tension or challenges (in relation to collaboration) between the work of VAC and VAW?
- What are the opportunities within the existing structures, programmes or services, where collaborative working and coordination could be introduced or enhanced?

Methodology and data collection tools

The situation analysis included the following qualitative methods:

- desk-based document analysis of plans, guidance and policy documents related to VAW and VAC; and
- key informant interviews with stakeholders working on VAW and/or VAC.

The aim of the document analysis was to identify existing multisectoral regulations and policies, services and practices where the VAW and VAC workstreams intersected. The desk-based document analysis reviewed different policies, plans, policy reports and service documents related to the intersections of VAW and VAC. They were adopted between 2010 and present and written in both English and Arabic. A qualitative content analysis approach was used to identify underlying themes and structures of argument used in the selected documents.¹⁵

The key informant interviews aimed to help map programmes, services and activities where VAW and VAC were addressed in collaboration and to understand barriers and facilitators to implementing coordinated initiatives for VAW and VAC. Respondents were purposively selected based on their work experience on VAW and/or VAC. Interviews were conducted face to face in Arabic and Kurdish by local UNICEF staff. Detailed summaries of the interviews were transcribed, and data analysis was conducted using a thematic approach. Data analysis workshops were subsequently held to identify emerging themes, along with validation workshops to ensure the validity and contextual relevance of the findings.

Conceptualizing coordination and integration of laws, policies, systems, services and programmes

When thinking about bringing together the fields of VAC and VAW, collaboration can take place at various levels and can range from minimal to active coordination through to full integration.

A coordinated approach means promoting, recognizing and ensuring alignment and synergies between laws, policies, systems and/or services, and programmes to meet the needs of both victims/survivors of VAC and victims/survivors of VAW, while recognizing that there will be times when specialized prevention and response efforts are justified and preferable. In some instances, it may be feasible and desirable to promote integration of efforts to address VAW and VAC. An integrated approach would mean that laws, policies, systems and/or services, and programmes are merged together to address both VAW and VAC.

It is likely that a combination of coordination and integration may be needed in different settings, depending on the availability of resources and other characteristics. For the purposes of this study, we focused on identifying opportunities for coordination of efforts, understanding that these would need to precede any attempt to integrate laws, policies, systems, services and programmes.



CHAPTER 2

Findings

How VAW and VAC intersect within policy and regulatory frameworks

Despite the existence of recently adopted policies, laws and regulations individually targeting either VAW or VAC (see Table 1), we identified four documents mentioning both VAW and VAC concurrently. Two of these documents related to Iraq, while two were specific to the Kurdistan Region. In these documents, the terminology used was generic, with terms such as ‘violence against women and girls’ or ‘gender-based violence against women and children’. However, the documents collectively established a national framework for the protection against violence targeting both women and children. Most of the legal and policy documents reviewed cited domestic violence against women and children within the same household, although some also mentioned child marriage as a form of domestic violence (intersecting between VAW and VAC).

Despite the approval of the National Strategy to Combat Violence Against Women (2018–30) and the establishment of the Family and Child Protection Against Domestic Violence Directorate within the Ministry of Interior in 2009, there is still substantial progress to be made in addressing gender-based violence within the country. Within the legislative framework, Article 41 of the Iraqi Penal Code mentions VAW and VAC within the family. However, it reveals a complex and contradictory stance concerning VAW and VAC in contrast with the 2005 constitutional commitment to prohibit all forms of violence and abuse against women.¹⁶ Article 41 explicitly permits the punishment of a wife by her husband within certain limits, raising concerns about the protection of women's rights and safety within the home. This provision highlights a potential gap in the protection of women's rights within familial relationships. The absence of legislation specifically addressing domestic violence at federal level, despite the efforts of civil society organizations through advocacy campaigns, results in women experiencing violence being unable to report incidents or lodge complaints against their perpetrators. Regarding VAC, the law suggests that parents and teachers are allowed to discipline children under their authority within specified limits. The absence of a clear prohibition against all forms of corporal punishment in child-rearing, despite constitutional commitments against violence and abuse, raises concerns about the well-being and protection of children in the domestic sphere. The legal ambiguity regarding VAW and VAC underscores the intersecting vulnerabilities of these groups (women and children) within familial relationships.

In the Kurdistan Region, the Domestic Violence Act No. 8 2011 on VAW provides a comprehensive analysis of the intersections between VAW and VAC within the family sphere. It outlines the prohibition of domestic violence within families (but does not regulate violence in the public sphere) and uses a very broad understanding of acts considered as domestic violence to also include child marriage, female genital mutilation, and physical and psychological abuse by family members and parents. This categorization reflects a recognition of the multifaceted nature of violence within familial contexts. These acts illustrate the wide spectrum of violence that women may endure within the familial sphere, reaffirming the need for targeted interventions and legal provisions. Forms of VAC mentioned in the

Act include preventing family members from working or going to school, forcing children to work or beg, dropping out from school, and subjecting children and family members to physical violence (battering) under any justification. This acknowledgement of VAC under the categories of forms of violence within families recognizes the intersections between VAW and VAC within the household and emphasizes the importance of adopting a holistic approach to address family violence.

Table 1: Key documents mentioning VAW and VAC concurrently

DOCUMENT TITLE	MAIN AIM	MENTIONS OF VAW AND VAC
Legal level		
Iraqi Penal Code 111/1969	- The code allows physical violence against a wife or a child: “The punishment of a wife by her husband, the disciplining by parents and teachers of children under their authority within certain limits prescribed by law or by custom...” (Article 41). - Minor assault or injury that leaves no trace on the victim’s body is punishable (Article 415).	- Domestic violence against women and child corporal punishment by parents. - Iraqi penal code permits ‘honor’ as mitigation for crimes of violence committed against family members and distinguishes such crimes from murder.
KRI Domestic Violence (DV) Act No 8 2011	- The Act discusses the prohibition of domestic violence within families and provides examples of acts considered as domestic violence. - It uses a very broad understanding of acts considered as domestic violence to also include child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM): “Every act and speech or threat of doing so based on gender within family relationships constituted on marriage or blood to the fourth degree or whoever if legally included in the family, which may harm an individual physically, sexually and psychologically and deprive his/her freedom and liberties.”	- VAW: forced marriage, child marriage, FGM, forced divorce, disowning family members, forcing prostitution, causing suicide or abortion due to domestic violence, physical and psychological abuse. - VAC: preventing family members from working or going to school, forcing children to work or beg and drop out from school, beating children and family members under any justification.

DOCUMENT TITLE	MAIN AIM	MENTIONS OF VAW AND VAC
Policy level		
National Strategy to Combat VAWG (2018–2030)	The strategy focuses mainly on VAW, though it also mentions VAC. The updated version (since 2013) ensures coverage for all women, including internally displaced people and those with special needs. The strategy: • provides long-term strategic planning • identifies gaps within the legal framework • ensures an effective coordination and monitoring mechanism • emphasizes the importance of combatting violence against women and children to ensure safety, well-being and empowerment • sets up Family and Child Protection Units (by the Ministry of Interior) and strengthens the responses of health systems (through referrals and standard operating procedures). Under Objective 2 on promoting social norms, it includes some implementation activities, such as: i) community awareness, educational and training programmes on violence against women and girls; ii) integration of gender equality and gender-based violence prevention in the educational curriculum. It mentions engagement of men and boys to prevent and respond to gender-based violence (e.g., male gender-based violence champions).	• Physical violence • Sexual violence • Psychological violence • Economic violence • FGM • Child maltreatment, including mistreatment at home and at school, in juvenile facilities
National Strategy to Confront VAW in Kurdistan (2017–2027)	Second strategy – updated in 2017. It focuses on violence against women and girls and is divided across four pillars: 1. Legal: Eliminate legal discrimination and provide legal protection. 2. Prevention: Raise awareness of VAW 3. Protection: Support and protect 4. Care: Improve services for survivors.	• Forms of VAW: child and forced marriages; honor killings; domestic violence; FGM and burning. • VAC is only mentioned in relation to the forced marriage of teenage girls (girls being married at 15 years and younger).

Services for children and women who have experienced violence

Overall, medical and legal services and psycho-social counselling programmes offered by governmental entities, and the expertise of their gender-based violence and VAC service providers and professionals, remain limited.¹⁷ In contrast, local women's organizations provide a strong network and offer good-quality, comprehensive services as a stopgap measure to other partial service provisions. While government-led shelters and a formalized referral system for addressing violence against women and children remain limited, particularly in the Kurdistan Region, it was possible to identify several specific programmes and services that are actively working to address both forms of violence.

Governmental stakeholders in Iraq are engaged in various initiatives to address violence against women and children. The Ministry of Interior has established Family and Child Protection Units at police stations, in collaboration with community police, to resolve domestic disputes.¹⁸ This integrated framework signifies a concerted effort to address and mitigate the impact of domestic violence, demonstrating a holistic approach in safeguarding the welfare of individuals in Iraq. However, these units tend to focus on facilitating family reconciliation, rather than on supporting survivors' needs. Additionally, they often face resource constraints, including limited access to female staff, and lack a consistent referral system for legal aid or shelter.¹⁹

Non-governmental stakeholders in Iraq play crucial roles in addressing violence against women and children. Response interventions centre primarily around case management, provision of psycho-social support and referral to legal aid. There are also prevention initiatives led by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which range from behavioural change training for mothers to economic empowerment programmes for women and youth centres for boys and girls, where they learn to advocate for the rights, protection and well-being of children. This youth advocacy effort is particularly significant given the widespread lack of awareness about children's rights. There are also organizations that work with religious leaders, local authorities and schools to raise awareness about VAW and VAC.

VAW and VAC framing

Findings from the interviews conducted revealed that many respondents acknowledged the intersections between VAW and VAC and were aware of the negative impact of intimate partner violence on children. They emphasized the need to address not only mothers' exposure to abuse, but also the impact on their children due to the psychological effects of witnessing violence towards their mothers. The interviews also revealed that husbands were reported to be violent towards their wives as well as their children. Many believed that the safety and well-being of children are significantly influenced by the family environment, particularly the safety of mothers. The importance of addressing both VAW and VAC within the same family was highlighted by respondents, citing several reasons, including ensuring children's protection and welfare, and reducing referrals to external organizations, which come with associated costs.

Views on VAW and VAC collaboration

Findings from the present study highlight the existence of joint VAW and VAC work in the country, with some organizations working with women and VAW also extending their work to children. To be able to engage also on VAC, some participants recommended strengthening the organizational capacity of women's organizations to address child abuse, thereby enabling them to engage effectively in combatting VAC. This broader focus was deemed crucial for providing holistic support and intervention. Some respondents mentioned that implementing a collaborative approach necessitated time and a meticulous process, ensuring the best interests of the child and prioritizing safety, particularly when the perpetrator was a family member.

Understanding barriers to VAW and VAC collaboration

Findings highlighted numerous barriers to collaborative efforts in addressing VAW and VAC. Key barriers identified by various stakeholders are reported below.

Lack of child protection law and law enforcement

- This challenge led to low reporting of VAC. Respondents stated that most cases of VAC were reported by the mother or a neighbour. However, many of these cases were not reported to the government: this is due to challenges related to tribal accountability against those reporting on such cases to the government with lack of legal protection for them.

Limited training on integrated approaches

- A disparity in the levels of confidentiality and sensitivity among child protection actors was reported when dealing with cases of violence against girls, highlighting a need for increased awareness and training, especially around adolescents (both boys and girls). Moreover, there also appears to be a need for an enhanced understanding of key principles for responding to violence cases across relevant fields, which could strengthen the capacity to provide comprehensive support for survivors. The absence of joint training guidance, especially concerning adolescent cases, further exacerbated these challenges.

Limited guidance on coordination in relation to VAW and VAC

- It was reported that no guidelines existed to support coordinated approaches between child protection services and gender-based violence actors. Some key informants felt a lack of clarity regarding specific needs and approaches for each type of case (gender-based violence/child protection) and noted that the boundary between the two can sometimes be unclear.

Limited resources

- The persistent barrier of low funding restricted the capacity of both governmental agencies and NGOs to expand their services and collaborate effectively. Findings revealed that there were only sufficient resources available to focus on specific areas of violence and many service providers were leaving the sector. Competition for funding and support was said to add another layer

of tension within the NGO community. Respondents expressed that expansion of women's NGO efforts into VAC initiatives could sometimes strain relationships with other NGOs already operating in the VAC field, as some may perceive it as impacting their funding opportunities.

- Critical support, including capacity strengthening and funding, is needed from United Nations agencies to enable NGOs to effectively work with both mothers and children. Many said that United Nations agencies played a pivotal role in funding NGOs to address both forms of violence in a collaborative way. Limited government support to NGOs working in the field of violence against women and children was also noted as a barrier. Some reported there were challenges with government agencies investing in continuing programmes and services offered by NGOs.

Limited coordination across government agencies due to challenges with independent areas of operation

- Some respondents indicated that there is room for improvement in collaboration and role clarity among governmental institutions, particularly regarding existing legal frameworks and specific mandates. Despite mandates requiring responses to cases of violence involving women and families, ambiguity seemed to arise when it came to handling cases involving children.
- Another reported challenge was the tendency for government agencies to operate within distinct mandates, often with limited coordination. This approach can lead to duplication of effort and fragmented services, particularly when agencies with similar mandates operate independently, resulting in less cohesive responses to cases.
- There is a noticeable lack of NGOs dedicated to child protection and addressing VAC, especially when compared with the significantly higher number of organizations focused on women's issues and combatting VAW.

- It was recognized that facilitating collaboration between VAW and VAC actors requires each field to develop a better understanding of each other's roles and approaches to addressing each form of violence. This includes a fundamental understanding of the most important skills required when dealing with VAW and VAC, and the need for confidentiality when dealing with joint cases to avoid causing harm.

Divergent approaches between government services and NGOs working on VAW and VAC

- NGOs perceived that some government professionals may benefit from additional capacity-building and training in violence response to better align with survivor-centred approaches. This discrepancy in approaching cases has, at times, led to challenges in communication and hampered collaboration, often leaving women's NGOs to navigate cases independently, even though certain situations require coordination with governmental institutions, such as hospitals. Additionally, some health professionals' preferences for involving law enforcement and judicial processes, often without women's consent, can increase risks for survivors, particularly women, who might face social isolation and further harm when seeking official assistance.²⁰



CHAPTER 3

Key considerations

While findings indicate some support from women's NGOs for integrated approaches to addressing domestic violence against women and children within the same household, other stakeholders expressed caution, emphasizing the need to ensure protection and safety for both women and children. It is critical to establish entry points for violence prevention awareness that feel safe and confidential for both women and children. For instance, women and girls, safe spaces are female-only environments where women can meet safely and are permitted to frequent. In contrast, Child Friendly Services are not suitable for adolescent girls, who may be too old for these spaces, and Youth Friendly Services often exclude girls due to the presence of boys.

Before discussing the recommendations below, it is important to acknowledge the broader context surrounding gender-based violence service provision in Iraq. This report recognizes that there are significant challenges, including the need to expand and build capacity among government facilities. Therefore, it is essential to understand this challenging environment within which NGOs are operating when considering the following recommendations.

Points of concern and opportunities

Table 2 summarizes key points of concern and some of the identified opportunities raised during discussions with stakeholders and with UNICEF. Some of the recommendations are considered within the context of existing global evidence and guidance. While not exhaustive, these points aim to stimulate discussion on specific issues.

Table 2: Key points of concern and opportunities

POINTS OF CONCERN	OPPORTUNITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS
Legal clarity on VAW and VAC	
Lack of clarity in the legal realm concerning VAW and VAC could potentially foster a culture that either tolerates or even condones violence within family settings.	Advocate for the inclusion of the intersections between domestic violence and VAC within the Child Protection draft law, ensuring that the law does not discriminate on gender, race, ethnicity, religion or disability. Include new provisions against practices harmful to the rights of girls, such as child marriage and FGM. - Ensure that the draft law calls for coordinated approaches. Advocate for the adoption of the Anti-Domestic Violence Law at federal level.
Coordination and collaboration on VAW and VAC	
Uneven collaboration between government agencies can lead to overlap in effort, segmented services and less cohesive responses. Institutions operate within specific legal mandates, sometimes creating difficulties for effective collaboration in cases of violence against women and children, despite the police having sole jurisdiction.	Establish a platform or mechanism for coordination and/or communication among mandated ministries to ensure coordinated efforts in addressing various forms of violence. Secure commitment from key government ministries to reconsider legal mandates for violence response (e.g., Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs).
Service delivery: Guidance, training and collaboration	
Guidance on coordinated approaches between domestic violence and VAC stakeholders	
There is limited guidance for health professionals and child protection professionals on how to collaborate on domestic violence and VAC cases.	Develop guidance for government-led services, with clear roles and responsibilities to be used in training for child protection and gender-based violence actors, NGOs and health service providers.

POINTS OF CONCERN	OPPORTUNITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS
Training of NGOs, health providers and child protection officers	
Some women's NGOs extend their work to domestic VAC, despite their limited organizational capacity to address violence against children.	Offer training on VAC and child protection case management to women's NGOs. Offer training on how to support gender-based violence survivors to child protection NGOs.
Government services (health services, law enforcement, including the judiciary, and shelters) have limited capacity to respond to violence against women and children.	Strengthen integrated guidance on VAW and VAC/child protection approaches for training child protection and gender-based violence officers, NGOs, health service providers and law enforcement to ensure consistent and effective responses within families. Establish new one-stop centres* to provide multisectorial gender-based violence services to women and girls, though global evidence on their effectiveness (especially in rural and district-level hospitals) is limited.²¹
Confidentiality challenges in joint domestic violence and child protection cases: in some instances, joint cases in government-led services involving both VAW and VAC have encountered issues related to confidentiality, which in certain situations have inadvertently compromised the safety of survivors. This is particularly sensitive in situations involving VAW, where child protection actors may not be aware of the sensitivities, such as the need to avoid increasing the risk of violence and the importance of maintaining confidentiality.	Train government-led service providers working on child protection and VAW on the importance of maintaining confidentiality and data protection protocols to avoid causing harm.
Collaboration between NGOs and government services	
- There is limited collaboration between NGOs and government services for addressing VAW and VAC, and increased risks for women's NGOs, which adversely affects the sustainability of services and programmes delivered by NGOs. - Public funding for NGOs delivering services remains limited, even while they often manage a larger number of cases compared to public services.	Strengthen NGOs' partnerships to ensure collaboration on VAW and VAC cases. Increase funding to NGO services. Strengthen communication across government agencies working on VAW and VAC to ensure that cases are dealt with by the correct department/ agency to avoid causing harm. Also, to ensure that government institutions are aware of each other's services and what they offer through establishing the VAW and VAC coordination mechanism.

POINTS OF CONCERN	OPPORTUNITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS
Prevention and community engagement	
• Lack of community awareness of the links between domestic violence against women and against children • Social and gender norms normalizing domestic violence against women and against children	• Leverage women and adolescent girls' safe spaces, child-friendly spaces, youth centres, parenting programmes and outreach programmes to address violence prevention. Leverage existing violence prevention initiatives, such as: • the Communities Care programme, which aims to create safer communities for women and girls through transforming harmful social norms that contribute to sexual violence into social norms that uphold women and girls' equality, safety and dignity (aiming to create safer communities for women and girls through transforming harmful social norms);²² • youth awareness on children's rights aimed at children and parents – to address VAW and VAC intersections. • Raise awareness and community engagement: a. There is recognition that one-off and awareness-raising interventions alone are no longer enough and not effective in preventing violence. b. There is a need for a holistic context-specific approach for working on the entire community, based on an ecological framework to comprehensively interact and address the multiple and interacting levels (e.g., individual, family, community, institution and social), with specific attention to be given to religious men to make sure Sharia laws are in line with the enacting laws of the country. c. Use innovative ways to raise awareness of the community, especially new platforms, social media, virtual safe spaces, youth and women networks, to make sure the messages are delivered in a sensitive way to avoid causing unintentional harm. • Work with community and religious leaders to raise awareness about VAW and VAC at community meetings – starting with child marriage.

POINTS OF CONCERN	OPPORTUNITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS
Prevention and community engagement	• Raise awareness among religious leaders of the adverse health impact of VAW and VAC through a guidance manual and existing training programmes (organized by the National Council for Family Affairs and supported by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs), and work with them to raise community awareness on the adverse impacts on VAW and VAC. • Organise community dialogues and workshops aimed at promoting gender equality, non-violent conflict resolution and positive parenting practices. • Use pre-marital youth programmes on healthy marriage (which use child marriage as an entry point for discussion) and parental awareness programmes (supported by the Ministries of Education, Health and Social Development) as an opportunity to address intersections between VAW and VAC. • Global evidence and guidance: • While working with religious groups could have significant influence within the communities and families they service, global evidence from interventions involving faith-based organizations is limited.²³ Further research is essential to comprehend the potential role of religious leaders in addressing violence prevention. • Parenting programmes: Research shows that parenting programmes can help reduce intimate partner violence and VAC, but they frequently overlook the gender dynamics of parenting and the caregiving responsibilities placed on women.²⁴ Enhancing these programmes by incorporating elements on gender norms and non-violent conflict resolution within families could improve their effectiveness in addressing violent child discipline and intimate partner violence. • Invest in secondary school education programmes to raise awareness of VAW and VAC intersections. • Ensure that working with perpetrators through mobile outreach teams includes violence prevention messages and raises awareness of the negative health, social, financial and psychological impacts of VAW and VAC.

POINTS OF CONCERN	OPPORTUNITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS
Build research evidence	
• There is limited research on current prevention and response services and programmes addressing VAW and VAC.	• Conduct an exploratory study to understand the views and experiences of frontline workers and providers across various sectors with regards to how they address VAW and VAC/child protection cases within the same households. • Explore how current programmes impact child outcomes known to be associated with VAC and child exposure to intimate partner violence, and explore what outcomes are important to measure. • Analyse data from the General Directorate for Combatting Violence Against Women (GDCVAW), health facilities, NGOs and government-operated hotline numbers.

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