End Violence
Roundtable on Parenting as Pathway to Violence Prevention

Ms. Mayke Huijbregts, UNICEF, Chief Social Policy and Child Protection, South Africa
• Over the course of their childhood, 1 in 4 children suffers physical abuse.
• Almost 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 13 boys suffer sexual abuse.
• Self-reported child sexual abuse is 30 times higher and physical abuse 75 times higher than official reports.
• Homicide is among the top five causes of death in adolescents.

1 in 2 children under age 18 experienced violence in the past year

Statistics pertaining to VAC in South Africa

Violence is a daily reality for many children in South Africa

- **Between 1 in 3 and 1 in 5 girls and boys experience some form of violence** prior to age 18, with 35% of girls experience sexual violence;
- 58 children per day are victims of sexual offences (21 170 sexual offences reported per year)
- **113 violent crimes per day are committed** against children (41 245 violent crimes reported per year)
- 82 per cent reported experiencing some form of violent victimisation, such as criminal victimisation or exposure to family or community violence;
- Over **34 per cent of children are hit, kicked or physically hurt** by an adult who was supposed to be taking care of them;
- 50 per cent of these children **experienced violence more than once**.
Studies pertaining to VAC in South Africa

- South Africa Kids Online – a digital toolkit to promote quality
- Violence Unwrapped – a study that determined VAC costs the country R238 billion
- UNICEF supported the government of SA, with:
  - UCT on structural determinants of violence
  - DPME: the Diagnostic review
Health consequences

Direct effect

Indirect effect due to adoption of high-risk behaviour

Violence Against Children

Mental Health Problems

Suicide

Depression and Anxiety

PTSD

Injury

Internal Injury

Head Injury

Fractures

Burns

Health

Injury

Stroke

Heart Disease

Diabetes

Cancer

Chronic Lung Disease

Non-Communicable Disease

Obesity

Physical Inactivity

Alcohol

Smoking

Alcohol And Drugs

STDs

Multiple Partners

Unsafe Sexual Practices

Communicable Disease and Risk Behaviors

Maternal and Child Health

Unintended and Adolescent Pregnancy

Pregnancy Complications

Death (including fetal death)
Agenda 2030: Ending Violence against Children
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SDG</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>16.2</strong></td>
<td>End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5.2</strong></td>
<td>Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking, and sexual and other types of exploitation</td>
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<td><strong>5.3</strong></td>
<td>Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation</td>
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<td><strong>8.7</strong></td>
<td>Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms</td>
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<td><strong>4.7</strong></td>
<td>...ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge... [for] promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence...</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4.a</strong></td>
<td>...provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all</td>
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### SDGs on prevention of VAC and access to justice

...reduce the impact of violence in families, communities and all settings...

| 16.1 | Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere |
| 11.2 | ...provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all... |
| 11.7 | ...provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children... |

...and ensure access to fair and effective institutions and to justice for all...

| 16.3 | Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all |
| 16.9 | By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration |
| 16.a | Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime |
INSPIRE

Partners in the world with input from South African experts developed this package based on a long history of galvanizing a consistent, evidence-based approach to preventing violence against children.
INSPIRE Working Group

Develop Implementation Handbook

**INSPIRE technical package**
- Implementation and enforcement of laws
- Norms and values
- Safe environments
- Parent and caregiver support
- Income and economic strengthening
- Response and support services
- Education and life skills

**Violence Against Children Surveys Data-to-Action tool**
- Planning
- Partnerships
- Implementation
- Adaptation
- Policy
- Evaluation

**Strategy-specific Modules**
South Africa – stakeholder engagement

- Inter-ministerial Committee on VAWC: 8 line ministries (2012)
- TTT: technical representatives from these ministries. The secretariat of the TTT is with the department of Social Development
- NPOA on VAWC (2013-18)
  In consultative process of revision
- The Dialogue Forum, ISS
- She Conquers
- EU TWG on VAWC

Need for consolidated coordination framework with articulated roles and responsibilities of all actors aligned at all levels
Challenges remain – need for accelerated investment in violence prevention
Why a behavior change lens?

Institutions
Organizations
Networks

Communities
Families
Caregivers
Parents: women and men

Harmful or violent behavior

Protective or supportive behavior
Involve men in child care

• High numbers of father absence in South Africa

• Well-established link between inequitable gender norms and violence, how the role of women are perceived and the role of fathers in care

• Clear link between father involvement and better outcomes for women and children and the reduction of child poverty
Statistics on parental presence in child rearing

- 64% children do not have present fathers
- 33% live with both parents
- 38.6% live with mother
- 3.2% live with father
- 24.4% with neither parent
- More than 5 million women in South Africa are single mothers
Effective parenting programmes

Evidence-based positive parenting programmes

- Youth more likely to stay in school
- Improved youth employability
- Youth less likely to use drugs and alcohol
- Reduced youth violence
- Reduced child maltreatment
RCT Findings of the Sinovuyo parenting programme

- Immediate post – test results from intervention group compared to control group – only primary outcomes

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<tr>
<th>Primary Outcome</th>
<th>Caregivers</th>
<th>Teenagers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Physical abuse reduced by</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>48%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emotional abuse reduced by</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Involved parenting improved by</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Positive parenting improved by</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor monitoring improved by</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>23%</td>
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Primary, secondary and exploratory outcomes 4-9 months post intervention being processed
Justice needs to be done and seen to be done

- It is important to emphasise that a swift response to a violence case is vital as a signal for prevention.
- Victims of VAC should have access to legal aid and justice within 72 hours.
- Cases brought to court successfully and sentenced, should be made public so that perpetrators of violence can not continue their violent acts and society knows that justice will be done.
Thank you! Siyabonga

Let’s unite to END Violence against Children

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