



Ending Violence Against Children in Nigeria



A Year of Action

Progress Report on the Implementation of
Priority Actions to End Violence Against Children
2015-2016



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US Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention



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The findings and conclusions of this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the United Nations Children's Fund

Any policy recommendations contained within this document with regard to budget allocations or statutory changes are the recommendations of the Government of Nigeria and do not reflect an endorsement of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the U.S. Government.

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Contents

0	Foreword	iv
	List of Acronyms	vi
1	Overview of the National Survey on Violence Against Children and Key Findings	1
2	Developing Priority Actions for Preventing and Responding to Violence Against Children	4
3	One Year of Action - Review of Progress on the Implementation of Priority Actions for Nigeria	7
4	Beyond the Year of Action to End Violence Against Children – End VAC by 2030 Campaign	7

Foreword

The Federal Government of Nigeria is committed to ending violence against children in all settings. The National Priority Agenda (NPA) for Vulnerable Children 2013-2020 sets as one of its six priorities that all children are safe from abuse, violence, exploitation and neglect.

As a demonstration of this commitment, His Excellency, President Buhari launched the Year of Action to End Violence Against Children on 15th September 2015, calling on all Ministries, Agencies, States, NGOs, religious and community leaders and the media, as well as every Nigerian to take action to ensure that no child has to suffer violence.

The Year of Action was launched in response to the shocking findings of the Violence Against Children Survey (VACS) in 2014 – a nationally representative survey, conducted by the National Population Commission, that covered every State in Nigeria, researching the prevalence, types, locations, perpetrators and impact of violence against children. The survey was supported technically and financially by UNICEF Nigeria, technically by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and financially by the US President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), with additional financial support from the European Union.

The Survey revealed a high prevalence of physical, sexual and emotional violence in Nigeria. It highlighted that most children do not tell anyone what happened to them and few children access the help that they need to recover. Violence has a negative impact on mental and physical health in both childhood and adulthood and perpetuates the cycle of violence, with victims more likely to become perpetrators themselves.

At the launch of the Year of Action, Priority Actions for Preventing and Responding to Violence Against Children were also launched. This multi-sectoral plan, developed by the inter-agency Technical Working Group (TWG) on Violence against Children, convened and chaired by the Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development, highlighted that ending violence against children is not just an issue for the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development. The Violence against Children Survey (VACS) was clear that this is an issue that cuts across all sectors at Federal, State and Local Government level. It is also clear that the government cannot effectively tackle violence against children on its own. Therefore, civil society organisations, faith based organisations, religious and traditional leaders and media, included their own Priority Actions for ending violence against children.

Over the past year, significant steps have been made by key Ministries, Departments and Agencies - Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Federal Ministry of Education, Federal Ministry of Health, Federal Ministry of Justice, Federal Ministry of Information, National Agency for the Control of Aids, National Human Rights Commission, National Orientation Agency, Nigeria Prisons Service, Nigeria Police Force, Attorney General of the Federation, Judiciary - State Ministries, as well as non-governmental organisations and faith-based organisations. Their unwavering commitment, energy and enthusiasm for protecting children in Nigeria from violence is impressive. I would also like to recognize and warmly congratulate Lagos (February 2016), Cross River (June 2016), Benue (August 2016) and Plateau (September 2016) for heeding the President's call for States to launch their own campaigns and priority actions.

I would like to also thank UNICEF and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through USAID, for their ongoing support for the Year of Action, as well as for the launch of the End Violence Against Children by 2030 Campaign), and to UNICEF, with funding from USAID¹ and the EU², for supporting the implementation of Priority Actions at National and State level. In particular, I would like to commend the ground breaking eight-State initiative by Benue, Cross River, Edo, Gombe, Kano, Kaduna, Lagos, Plateau, with FCT, who, under the auspices of my Federal Ministry, is developing and implementing a model for child protection system in order to translate the Child's Rights Act and Law into practice, to enhance protection of children from all forms of abuse and violence.

As was clearly stated at the beginning of the campaign, one year of action is not enough to tackle violence against children. The purpose of the campaign was to place violence against children centrally on the political agenda, to create commitment and momentum for action and create mass awareness on the silent suffering of millions of children in Nigeria. This report celebrates the important steps taken over the last 12 months, but also highlights that the Year of Action was just the start to end violence against children and there is much more that needs to be done. I am proud that the success of the Year of Action has led to the launch of the Presidential End VAC by 2030 campaign in Nigeria, linked with the global Sustainable Development Goal to end violence against children. I am also proud that Nigeria is to become as a Pathfinder Country under the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.

The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development renews its commitment to take action to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children. I take this opportunity to call on all sectors at Federal, State and Local Government level, as well as civil society, faith based organisations and the media to maintain the momentum created by the Year of Action, to renew their commitment to the goal of ending violence against children by 2030, to develop robust plans for the implementation of their priority actions and urgently invest the resources required to ensure that Nigerian children grow up free from all forms of violence.

It's time to take action!
Together, let's end violence against children by 2030



Senator Aisha Jummai Alhassan
Honourable Minister
Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

¹Support for the end violence against children campaign and the development of the model child protection system are supported under the USAID funded programme - From paper to practice – strengthening the child protection system in Nigeria

²Under two EU funded programmes: Women, Peace and Security implemented by UN Women in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development and UNICEF; and Support to Justice Sector Reform in Nigeria implemented by UNODC in partnership with UNICEF.

List of Key Acronyms

CDC	United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CORPS	Community Owned Resource Persons
CPC	Child Protection Committee
CPMIS	Child Protection Management Information System
CPN	Child Protection Network
CRA	Child's Rights Act 2003
CRL	Child Rights Law
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
ECCD	Early Childhood Care and Development
EU	European Union
FBO	Faith Based Organisation
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
FME	Federal Ministry of Education
FMoH	Federal Ministry of Health
FMWASD	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IEC	Information Education and Communication
IP	Implementing Partners
LGA	Local Government Authority
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
NAPTIP	National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NIS	Nigerian Immigration Service
NPA	National Priority Agenda for Vulnerable Children 2013–2020
NPF	Nigerian Police Force
NPS	Nigerian Prison Service
OPD	Office of the Public Defender

PEP	Post Exposure Prophylaxis
PEPFAR	United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PHC	Primary Health Care
PSS	Psychosocial Support Services
SBMC	School Based Management Committee
SCRIC	State Child Rights Implementation Committee
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SOPs	Standard-Operating Procedures
TWG	Technical Working Group (on Violence Against Children)
VAC	Violence Against Children
VACS	Violence Against Children Survey
VAPP	Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

1

Overview of the National Survey on Violence Against Children and Key Findings

Led by the National Population Commission (NPoPC) of the Federal Government of Nigeria, Nigeria is the first country in West Africa to undertake a national survey on violence against children. The Nigeria Violence Against Children Survey (VACS) continues the successful partnership between United Nations Children's Fund's (UNICEF) and the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEFPAR), as well as members of the Together for Girls Initiative to assist countries worldwide in conducting national surveys on violence against children. The Nigeria 2014 VACS follows and builds on the methodology of the surveys completed in Swaziland, Tanzania, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Haiti, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Malawi.

NPoPC authored the Nigeria VACS report. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and UNICEF provided technical support to NPoPC throughout the development and implementation of the survey.

The Nigeria VACS was commissioned between May and July 2014. The survey consisted of a cross-sectional household survey of females and males aged 13 to 24, designed to produce national-level estimates of experiences of violence.

What is Violence against Children?

For the purpose of the Nigeria 2014 VACS:

Emotional violence was defined as being ridiculed or put down by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative, being told by them they were unloved or did not deserve to be loved, or that they wished they were dead or had never been born.

Physical violence was defined as physical acts of violence such as punching (hitting with a fist), kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening to use a gun, knife or other weapon, regardless of whether or not it resulted in obvious physical or mental injury. It is not focused on acts of discipline, although many of those perpetrating the violence may be doing so in the name of 'discipline'.

Sexual violence was used to describe all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation. This encompasses a range of acts, including unwanted completed sex acts (i.e., rape), attempted non-consensual sex acts, abusive sexual contact (i.e., unwanted touching), and pressured sex (such as through threats or tricks), by any person regardless of their relationship to the child experiencing the violence, in any setting, while some of the analyses focused on acts that may be narrowly defined as 'sexual abuse', the Summary Report of the VACS used the broad term 'sexual violence' throughout.

There is a high prevalence of violence against children in Nigeria

Before the age of 18 years:

- Approximately 6 out of every 10 children experienced some form of violence
- Half of all children experienced physical violence
- One in four girls and one in ten boys experienced sexual violence
- One in six girls and one in five boys experienced emotional violence by a parent, caregiver, or adult relative

Violence is rarely an isolated incident

- The majority of children who experienced physical, sexual or emotional violence in childhood reported multiple incidents
- Girls were significantly more likely to experience both sexual violence and physical violence than other combinations of violence. Boys were significantly more likely to experience both physical and emotional violence, than other combinations of violence

Violence starts at a young age

- Over half of children first experienced physical violence between the ages of 6 and 11. Approximately 1 in 10 children's first experience is under the age of 5
- A third of girls and nearly 1 in 6 boys experienced their first incident of sexual violence between 14 and 15, while almost a third of boys and approximately 1 in 5 girls experience their first incident of sexual violence at 13 years and younger
- Approximately half of children first experienced emotional violence before the age of 12

Perpetrators are overwhelmingly people whom children know

- A parent or adult relative was the most common perpetrator of physical violence in childhood
- Amongst adults in the neighborhood who perpetrate physical violence, male teachers were the most frequent perpetrators of the first incident of physical violence
- Girls' first experience of sexual violence was most commonly by a romantic partner, followed by a friend, neighbor, classmate and stranger. Boys' first experience of sexual violence was most commonly by a classmate or a neighbor
- Children were most likely to experience sexual violence in the perpetrator's home, followed by their own home, at school, at someone else's home and on a road
- Amongst adult caregiver or relative perpetrators of emotional violence, parents/step parents, followed by uncles/aunts, were the most common perpetrators of first incident of emotional violence

Children are not speaking out, seeking or receiving services

- Less than half of all respondents who experienced physical violence told someone about it. Respondents who experienced sexual violence had even lower rates of disclosure
- Children who told someone were much more likely to tell a friend or relative than a service provider or authority figure
- Children had a low awareness of people or services from which they can seek help. Boys have a significantly higher awareness than girls of where to seek help

- Of those who experienced sexual or physical violence, no more than 6% sought help and less than 5% receive help

Violence has serious impacts on girls' and boys' lives and future

Compared to persons who have never experienced childhood violence:

- Physical violence is associated with higher rates of mental distress, thoughts of suicide, and symptoms or diagnosis of a sexually transmitted infection (STI) among females and with mental distress, thoughts of suicide, and substance use among males
- Sexual violence is associated with higher risk for symptoms or diagnosis of sexually transmitted infections, mental distress and thoughts of suicide among females and with mental distress among males. 15% of females reported getting pregnant as a result of unwanted completed sex
- Emotional violence is associated with higher levels of mental distress and thoughts of suicide amongst females and higher levels of mental distress and drinking amongst males



2

Developing Priority Actions for Preventing and Responding to Violence Against Children

Key conclusions were drawn from the Nigeria VACS 2014 that were considered critical for the development of strategies and programmes to more effectively prevent and respond to violence against children:

- Violence against children is a significant problem in Nigeria affecting millions of children every year;
- Children start experiencing violence at a young age;
- Perpetrators of violence against children are overwhelmingly people that children know;
- Children are also perpetrators of violence against children;
- Violence most commonly happens where children should be safe – in their own homes, in neighbours' homes, in school and to and from school;
- Children are not speaking out about what is happening to them;
- Children do not know where to go for help and even when they know, they do not try to access help. When they do try to access help, they do not always receive support services. This means that children are not receiving the support they need to recover;
- The fact that children are not reporting violence, also means that perpetrators can continue committing acts of violence;
- The fact that most children who keep silent do so because they do not think what they experienced was problematic suggests a normalization of violence and low awareness of the harm that can be caused by violence, including the emotional and psychological impact. The fact that children fear that they will get into trouble or bring shame on themselves or their families suggests that social pressures and social norms are hampering children getting the help that they need;
- Violence is not just a child protection issue. Violence causes children to miss school. Violence is also linked to poorer mental and physical health outcomes for girls and boys;
- Experiencing childhood in violence makes it more likely that s/he will become a perpetrator of violence against children in childhood and adulthood; and
- Girls and boys experiences of violence are different and prevention and response programming must take this into account.

In recognition that these issues could not be tackled effectively by one Ministry or Agency or by the Government alone, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development convened the Technical Working Group on Violence Against Children (TWG) in September 2014. The TWG comprised government representatives from key MDAs – National Population Commission, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Information, National Orientation Agency, National Prisons Service, Nigeria Police Force, Judiciary, National AIDS Control Agency, National Agency for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons, National Emergency Management Agency, National Bureau of Statistics, and National Human Rights Commission. The TWG was also comprised of representatives from civil society, including over 20 legal aid providers, NGOs and FBOs, as well as actors from non traditional protection sectors – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Polio to highlight the important role that they can play in strengthening prevention initiatives and response mechanisms.

Supported by funding from UNICEF and PEPFAR through USAID and CDC, and based on the findings of the Nigeria VACS, from September 2014 to August 2015, the TWG considered how violence could be prevented, how the factors that inhibit children from speaking out could be addressed and how barriers to children accessing quality response services could be overcome. A consultation workshop was also held with State level participants from State Ministries responsible for child protection and NGOs, representing 19 States.

The TWG developed a comprehensive, holistic, and multi-sectoral response, which focused on:

- adopting and implementing laws and policies that prevent and respond to violence;
- enhancing and scaling up efforts to prevent violence through:
 - creating a protective environment for children;
 - changing perceptions of violence;
 - empowering children and young people;
- enhancing the response to violence through:
 - encouraging children to speak out and enhancing access to services;
 - improving availability and quality of services and enhancing the capacity of professionals working with children;
 - strengthening efforts to hold perpetrators accountable;
- increasing investment in child protection;
- strengthening research, monitoring and evaluation on violence against children, identifying the priority actions for each Ministry/Sector and for civil society and religious groups.

The Priority Actions document - *Priority Actions: A multi-sectoral response to the 2014 Nigeria Violence Against Children Survey* - recognized that significant steps had already been taken by many sectors and in many States in Nigeria to strengthen prevention and response mechanism, but that those efforts needed to be enhanced and scaled up throughout Nigeria – in every State, Local Government Area, Ward and community. These Priority Actions were also designed to provide a framework for States to develop their own Priority Actions based on their State specific context, taking into consideration the progress that has already been made at State and local levels.

Launch of the Priority Actions and Year of Action to End Violence Against Children

In response to the shocking findings of the Nigeria VACS, His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, President of the Republic of Nigeria launched the Year of Action to End Violence Against Children on 15th September 2015, at the International Conference Centre, Abuja, calling not only on Ministries and Agencies, but also on NGOs, FBOs, religious and community leaders, the media, communities, parents and every Nigerian to play their part in preventing and responding to all forms of violence against children.

MDAs, NGOs, religious leaders and the media committed to implementing the Priority Actions, also announced on 15th September 2015.

The President also called upon States to develop their own specific priority actions and to launch their own campaigns to tackle violence against children.

While one year was acknowledged as insufficient to end violence, it was the first time that a campaign had been launched in Nigeria that brought together all sectors of society in a concerted and intensive effort to prevent and effectively respond to violence against children.

It was agreed that after one year, key government and non governmental stakeholders would come together to review the progress made and identify the next steps required on the long road to ending violence against children.



3

One Year of Action - Review of Progress on the Implementation of Priority Actions for Nigeria

The Technical Working Group on Violence Against Children, supported by UNICEF and PEPFAR through USAID, was convened by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development to the review of progress during the Year of Action to End Violence Against Children. The Priority Actions were not designed to all be implemented during a 12 month period, but provided an opportunity to identify the actions that were critical in strengthening prevention and response initiatives for all forms of violence against children.

The report captures the significant progress that has been made during the Year of Action.

3.1 Implementing Laws and Policies to Prevent and Respond to Violence

It was identified that it is essential that laws at Federal and State clearly prohibit all forms of violence against children and explicitly identify the bodies mandated to prevent and respond to violence. Adopting, implementing and enforcing laws that protect children from all forms of violence sends a strong message to society that violence is not acceptable.

It was recognized that the Child's Rights Act (CRA) 2003 was a significant step in the protection of children from violence. The CRA provides the basis for a comprehensive child protection system to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect. However, not all States have domesticated the CRA and there are significant gaps between law and practice in States which have domesticated the CRA. The adoption of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPP) 2015 was also a significant step forward – explicitly prohibiting female genital mutilation and cutting.

It was emphasized that policies need to articulate the goals for ending violence against children and the steps for implementation, including the establishment of an effective children protection system. The NPA sets as one of its six priority agendas – “All children are safe from abuse, violence, exploitation and neglect”. The priority actions identified by sectors in this document were viewed as providing the basis for the development of a national action plan. The priority actions were also intended to provide a guiding framework for States to develop their own multi-sectoral action plans for vulnerable children.

Progress by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

- In line with the Priority Actions, FMWASD:
 - engaged with States to develop their own State specific VAC Priority Actions, as well as launch their own campaigns to end violence against children. Four States launched their own campaigns – Benue, Cross River, Lagos and Plateau. Gombe State plans to launch their own campaign before the end of 2016.

- advocated with States to domesticate and effectively implement the Child's Rights Act, through missions to eight (Adamawa, Borno, Delta, Enugu, Kano, Oyo, Taraba, Yobe) States.
- advocated for the passage of the Social Welfare Professionalization Bill, through a bilateral meeting with the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The bill which had been rejected by the lower house of representatives twice was critically reviewed and finalized in line with the requirements of the lower house.
- In addition to the Priority Actions, FMWASD:
 - supported States to develop their State Priority Agenda for Vulnerable Children, to implement the National Priority Agenda for Vulnerable Children 2013-2020.

Progress on the Social Work Professionalization Bill

The Social Work Professionalization Bill was passed by the lower house (House of Representatives) on the 7th of June 2016 and forwarded to the upper House of the Senate for harmonization and final passage into law. The enactment of this bill into law will establish a clearing house for social work practice in Nigeria including the regulation of activities and conducts of certified social workers in public and private employments, government and private social work training institutions and individuals in private practice.

- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - MWASD is reviewing the options for developing a comprehensive Social Welfare Policy that clearly articulates the long term vision of establishing an effective child protection system versus a dedicated Child Protection Policy. A national consultative forum is planned before the end of the year to determine the way forward for Nigeria.
 - MWASD will spearhead the development of a multi-sectoral national plan of action for the achievement of Target 16. 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals to end violence against children, bringing together all relevant MDAs, NGOs, religious and traditional leaders and groups, the media and the private sector, with a view to launching the plan in early 2017.

States Launch Campaigns to End Violence Against Children

Heeding the call of President Buhari during the launch of the Year of Action to End Violence Against Children, the Governors of four States have launched their own campaigns and inter-sectoral Priority Actions to end violence against children - Lagos (February 2016), Cross River (June 2016), Benue (August 2016) and Plateau (September 2016). These State launches attracted significant local media coverage, raised awareness of the prevalence of violence against children at State level and elevated the importance of the issue above 'just' an issue for social welfare or women's affairs, to an issue of importance for the State as a whole and a responsibility of all key sectors, including health, education, justice, police, information.

Progress by the Ministry of Education

- In line with the Priority Actions, FME:
 - While a National Policy has not yet been developed, a Desk on VAC which is responsible for coordinating VAC free institutions in the Education Sector was established and an Intra-Ministerial Standing Committee on VAC, including relevant Departments and Agencies was instituted. The Committee meets on a quarterly basis.
- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Develop a National Policy on violence-free basic education, including instituting a mandatory reporting and referral mechanism.
 - Review the 2005 Teachers Code of Conduct to ensure it contains specific articles related to children's protection and ensure all teachers are trained and aware of sanctions on non-adherence to the Code of Conduct.

Progress by the Ministry of Health

- In line with the Priority Actions, FMoH:
 - Violence against children has been incorporated into the National Guideline for Integration of Adolescent Youth Friendly Services in the Primary Health Care.
 - Advocacy visits were conducted to six States (Bauchi, Edo, Kaduna, Kwara, Imo and Ondo) and FCT and commitment was secured for the implementation of the National Guidelines.
- In addition, to the Priority Actions, FMoH:
 - Issues on VAC were incorporated into the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness Guidelines and the Integrated Community Case Management Guidelines

Progress by the Ministry of Justice

- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - In collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission, continue to advocate for the passage and implementation of the CRA in all States.
 - Continue to advocate for the passage and implementation of the VAPP and Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015 in all States.
 - Amend relevant legislation to allow prosecutors and courts to continue criminal cases in the face of overwhelming evidence of the perpetration of violence against a child.
 - Amend the Penal Code/Criminal Code to strengthen the law on rape.

Progress by civil society

- In line with the Priority Actions, civil society:
 - Participated actively in the development of State Priority Actions in Benue, Cross River, Lagos and Plateau and committed themselves to specific Priority Actions at State level as well as their support for State level campaigns.
- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Participate in the development the National Plan of Action on achieving Target 16.2 of the SDGs to end violence against children.
 - Continue to advocate for the effective implementation of the existing laws and policies on child protection.
 - Continue to advocate for the development and effective implementation of the

National Child Protection Policy in all states, including the Federal Capital Territory.

- Continue to facilitate access to copies of the CRA/ State Child Rights Laws (CRL) to children and those with responsibility to respect, protect and fulfill their rights.
- Support the production and translation of an abridged version of the CRA and facilitate distribution of copies to children and other relevant agencies.
- Continue to support and encourage civil-society organizations to develop or adapt a child-protection policy in their respective organizations.

Progress by the media

- In line with the Priority Actions, the media:
 - Covered the process of and advocated for the domestication of the CRA in Bayelsa and Enugu, and have provided support for the ongoing processes in Gombe and Kaduna.
- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Continue advocacy for the domestication of the CRA in all States.
 - Continue advocacy for the implementation of policies that promote the prevention of and effective response to VAC.

Bayelsa becomes the 23rd State to domesticate the Child's Rights Act during Year of Action

- Bayelsa became the 23rd State in Nigeria to domesticate the Child's Rights Act in May 2015, enshrining the rights of children at State level and introducing a comprehensive framework for the child protection system to enhance response and support for children who have experienced violence and abuse. Enugu State took a step closer to becoming the 24th State to domesticate the Act in August 2016 when the National Assembly passed the Child's Rights Law.

3.2. Escalating Efforts to Prevent Violence

Creating a Protective Environment for Children

The importance of creating a protective environment for children at home, in schools, and in the community, in which children enjoy safe, stable and nurturing environments and relationships with their parents and caregivers was recognized as fundamental to the prevention of violence against children.

Progress by Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Review and popularize the National Caregivers' Training Manual to include children's protection from violence and to promote parenting-education programs.
 - Promote the establishment of community care centers that are standardized, regulated, and affordable for parents, using the National Guidelines for the Establishment and Management of Care Centers in Nigeria.

- Build the capacity of personnel at child service points to provide child friendly services
- In addition to the Priority Actions, the FMWASD:
 - Set up a Technical Working Group to launch the campaign to end child marriage in Nigeria

Progress by the Ministry of Health

- In line with the Priority Actions, the FMoH:
 - Developed behavior change communication materials - leaflets, posters, billboards, calendars on key household practices and Integrated Childhood Case management – and distributed these to Abia, Borno, Kebbi, Niger and Yobe States.
- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Develop a parent-child-communication training manual on sexuality and on the health implications of violence against children.

Progress by the Ministry of Education

- In line with the Priority Actions, FME:
 - Scaled up the implementation of the Early Childhood Care and Development Policy by providing a workshop for caregivers, mothers and child minders on Early Childhood Care and Development Education Against Violence Against Children
- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Promote sensitization and awareness of violence against children through School Based Management Committees, teachers, parents and the community at large

Progress by the Justice Sector

- In line with the Priority Actions, the Office of the Public Defender (OPD) in Lagos:
 - Provided 149 detained children (141 boys, 8 girls) with legal aid. As a result of OPD's intervention, 48 boys were released from detention and 101 (96 boys & 5 girls) with on-going cases in courts are receiving legal representation free of charge.
- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Continued provision of legal assistance for children in detention
 - In collaboration with the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, continue to ensure children who are in need of care and protection are not prosecuted by the justice system and detained
 - In collaboration with the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development and the Nigerian Prison Service advocate for the upgrading of borstals and the establishment of under-18 detention centers in every State. Budgetary constraints did not enable the upgrading of the three existing Borstal institutions or to implement plans to establish new Borstals in other geopolitical areas in Nigeria.

Progress by the National Human Rights Commission

- In line with the Priority Actions, NHRC:
 - In collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, undertakes regular inspection visits to all places of detention, as part of the National Prisons Audit exercise, to ascertain the conditions of prisons, as well as those of children young persons who are incarcerated in prisons and borstal homes.
 - In addition, in December 2015, NHRC organised a Stakeholders Interactive Forum on Violence Against Children in Residential Institutions. Participants were drawn from NGOs, CSOs, social workers and staff of the NHRC. Decisions reached and needs identified at this interactive forum to end violence against children in residential homes are : the need for the Commission to develop a tool for assessing residential homes for children to ensure human rights compliance; medical experts to examine children in residential homes and ensure documentation of medical reports of all children; develop and institutionalize a monitoring mechanism across the country; conduct an assessment and identify gaps in existing policies, procedures and practices relating to childcare institutions in order to strengthen protection of children in residential care.

Progress by civil society

- In line with the Priority Actions, civil society:
 - strengthened community structures that promote child protection, including community-improvement teams, child-protection committees, and school-based management committees.
- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Continue to strengthen community structures that promote child protection, including community-improvement teams, child-protection committees, and school-based management committees.
 - Strengthen the role of caregivers to prevent (and respond) to violence against children.
 - Advocate for and ensure that all States and/or Governors create budget lines and assign resources to the strengthening of the social-protection programs, in order to support vulnerable families in caring for and protecting their children.

Progress by faith-based organizations and religious leaders

- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Encourage and support parents in bringing up their children, especially the care and protection of particularly vulnerable children, such as those with disabilities

Progress by non traditional child protection sectors (e.g. WASH and polio sectors)

- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Promote provision of access to water sources and sanitation facilities in safe areas for use by children that do not expose children to risk of sexual and physical violence.

Changing Perceptions of Violence

Changing the attitudes and social norms that normalize and hide violence was identified as vital in preventing violence from occurring in the first place. As revealed by the Nigeria VACS, differences in gender behaviors and roles can create unequal power relations between females and males. This increases the vulnerability of girls and young women to violence by males. At the same time, the stigma around violence against boys must be challenged so that they are also protected from violence and can seek and receive services and support if they are harmed.

Priority Actions highlighted the urgent need for widespread campaigns and targeted programs that both raised awareness on violence against children and challenged negative social norms.

Progress by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

- In line with the Priority Actions, FMWASD:
 - Ran public awareness and sensitization campaigns on violence against children during National Children's Day. National Children's Day was dedicated to VAC - "Protecting the Rights of the Child in the Face of Violence and Insecurity; End Child Marriage". Under this theme the Honourable Minister's Press Briefing and Symposium for school children was organized by the Child Development Department, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development. The event brought together key MDAs, Security Agencies, two law makers representing both chambers of the National Assembly, members of the FCT Children's Parliament, teachers/students from surrounding schools and development partners. The media was also invited to be part of the event to raise awareness on the prevalence of VAC, with a view to promoting positive actions by duty bearers.
 - Held an interactive session with children and the leadership of the Senate to discuss issues relating to violence against children as part of the programme of activities in National Children's Day
- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - FMWASD will actively engage men and boys, along with women and girls, to address negative gender norms that encourage gender discrimination, violence against children and domestic violence, in addition to continuing to raise public awareness through sensitization campaigns.

Progress by the Ministry of Health

- In line with the Priority Actions, the FMoH:
 - Behaviour Change Communication materials were printed and distributed in Abia, Borno, Kebbi, Niger and Yobe to create awareness amongst community leaders before commencement of Integrated Child Case Management and KHP
- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Develop public health messages on violence against children and implement a public campaign to promote awareness-raising about the negative impact of violence on children's health, including through engagement with community leaders and existing community-owned resource persons

Progress by civil society

- In line with the Priority Actions:
 - On National Children's Day, marches, under the banner iMarch4Children, were organized in 10 States and FCT to break the culture of silence around violence against children, accompanied by 26 days of social media tweets, tweet meets, Facebook posts and appearances in print and electronic media in May leading up to the 27th May 2016
- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Deliver sensitization and awareness-raising campaigns and programs on child rights, which engage school children and caregivers
 - Support the production and dissemination of VAC information materials

Progress by faith-based organizations and religious leaders

- In line with the Priority Actions, FBOs and religious leaders:
 - The Christian Council of Nigeria launched its own Year of Action to End Violence Against Children and placed violence against children on the agenda of
 - The Christian Association of Nigeria placed the issue of ending Violence Against Children on their Annual General Meeting
- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Hold a Week of Enlightenment on Ending VAC to coincide with the Day of Prayer (20th November 2016)
 - Thoroughly examine the holy books and institute a code of conduct to change attitudes and social norms that promote or condone all forms of violence against children and women
 - Employ the medium of worship services to instruct on actions to prevent violence
 - Encourage the education of all segments of the membership on their perceptions of occurrences of the incidences of violence against children, using special days and special programs
 - Continue to place issues on VAC on the agenda of forthcoming conferences (and in all National and Regional Conferences) organized by religious communities - and particularly at the following forthcoming conferences: CAN NEC meetings and quarterly Regional meetings; WCC/CCN Conference; WOWICAN Annual Convention; WOCCIN Annual Conference; FOMWAN Annual Conference; FOMWAN Zonal State Youth Camps; and FOMWAN TOT meetings – and develop strategies for increasing knowledge and awareness on VAC
 - Include strategies for ending VAC explored during these Conferences in statements made by high level religious leaders. These statements to be widely publicized in collaboration with print and electronic media
 - Distribute VAC materials through these conferences
 - Create programs in places of worship to show available films that raise awareness on VAC

Towards a Week of an Enlightenment and Beyond – the role of Religious Leaders in ending VAC

Religious leaders from key Muslim and Christian blocs and Traditional Leaders gathered for a National Consultative Forum on VAC in Lagos in February 2016 to consider the role of religious leaders and groups in preventing and responding to violence against children. National and Lagos State representatives from the World Council of Churches, Anglican Community, Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN), The Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria, The Methodist Church of Nigeria, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Jama'atul Nasril Islam (JNI), Nigeria Supreme Council on Islamic Affairs (NSCIA), Ansar-ud Deen Society of Nigeria, Women Wing of Christian Association of Nigeria (WOWICAN), Evangelical Church of West Africa (ECWA) Women, Center for Global Peace Initiative (CGPI), Pure Heart Foundation, Nasrul-Lahi-L-Fatih (NASFAT) Society, Nigerian Inter-Religious Council (NIREC), Inter-Faith Kaduna, FOMWAN, Baptist, government officials, traditional leaders and Child Protection Network (CPN) attended this groundbreaking meeting. The representative of His Eminence, the President of the Christian Association of Nigeria and the representative of His Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto, were the special guests, along with the Special Representative to the United Nations Secretary General on Violence Against Children.

The consultative forum resulted in a communique which acknowledged the prevalence of violence against children in Nigeria and committed the religious groups gathered to: using sermons to address issues of VAC; utilising social media to disseminate messages on VAC; engaging with parents to address issues of VAC; disseminating end VAC materials through schools and churches; capitalising on significant days, such as the Day of the African Child, 16 days of Activism and the Day of Prayer to raise awareness on VAC. The consultative forum also committed to running a Week of Enlightenment on VAC around the Day of Prayer, in order to engage in intensive awareness raising activities through the churches and mosques including during Friday and Sunday sermons, schools, social media, and print and electronic media.

Progress by non traditional child protection sectors (e.g. WASH and polio sectors)

- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Contribute to creating awareness on violence against children through community networks

Progress by the media

- In line with the Priority Actions, the media:
 - Provided huge coverage to launch of the Year of Actions to End Violence Against Children and the findings of the VACS
 - Increased coverage of VAC, including on radio, on TV and in print and electronic media. In particular, to mark Nigerian Children's Day on 27th May 2016, NTA (Good Morning Nigeria), AIT (Kaikai and), Wazobia, WE FM, Vision FM and Kiss FM, all dedicated programmes, or segments of their programme to the issue of

- violence against children.
- Attended media workshops and dialogues in advance of the launches in Lagos, Cross River and Plateau and fulfilled their commitment to cover the State launches, providing very good coverage of all State launches of their campaigns to end VAC, including by NTA, AIT and Channels TV and republished the data from the Nigeria VACS on the occasion of each State launch.
- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Develop messages combating violence against children and engage the media to influence society, challenge harmful practices, encourage children to speak out and promote social norms that care for and protect children
 - Disseminate key messages on VAC, including through social media, using hashtags that cut across all social media platforms
 - Disseminate edutainment materials on VAC
 - Support the Federal and State Information Centers to engage rural and urban communities on VAC
 - Document campaigns for awareness-creation at community levels

Empowering Children and Young People

Giving children and adolescents the skills to cope and manage risks and challenges without the use of violence and to seek appropriate support when violence does occur was recognized as crucial for reducing violence at home, in schools and communities.

Progress by the Ministry of Education

- In line with the Priority Actions, FME:
 - Implemented gender-sensitive child participation activities in all primary and secondary schools, empowering children to know their rights – sensitized female students in reproductive health (child early marriage, VVF, genital mutation etc.) and life skills, empowering them to know their rights. It is envisaged that some course materials used by NTI students for academic purposes that have focus on G&C issues can be introduced in schools in line with NCE 4 Education Module 6-8.
- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - In addition to expanding life skills education and sensitization of female students, there will be a review the Family Life and Health Education curriculum and implement it in all primary and secondary schools focusing on children's life skills

Progress by the National Human Rights Commission

- In line with the Priority Actions, NHRC:
 - Launched and established human rights clubs in primary and secondary schools.
 - In addition, the NHRC carried out human rights education and a schools' sensitization exercise for primary and secondary schools in selected government and private schools, in order to educate children on the Child's Rights Act. A total of thirty schools were reached in the FCT and 48 schools were sensitized in the 6 Zonal Offices, representing the six geo-political zones.

- In addition, the NHRC produced simplified leaflets containing key provisions of the Child's Rights Act and distributed to these schools to raise awareness amongst children on their rights.

Progress by civil society

- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Build capacity on life skills for both in and out of school adolescents
 - Mainstream life-skills education as co-curriculum activity at all levels (schools, communities, and religious/social institutions)

3.3. Enhancing the Response to Violence

The Nigeria VACS revealed that children were reluctant to disclose experiences of violence, had low awareness of where to go for help, had low rates of reporting violence, and received a poor response from service providers. This resulted in children never receiving the help that they needed to recover and perpetrators remaining free to continue abusing children.

Encouraging Children to Speak Out and Enhancing Access to Services

Encouraging children to seek high-quality professional support and report incidents of violence was recognized as critical to helping them to better cope with and resolve experiences of violence.

Progress by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

- In line with the Priority Actions, FMWASD:
 - Undertook a mapping of child protection services in Cross River and Gombe, in collaboration with State Ministries as part of the assessment and mapping of child protection systems.
- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Nationwide mapping of the child protection services.

Progress by the Ministry of Education

- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Introduce and strengthen Guidance and Counseling Units in all primary and secondary schools to support children on issues related to violence and increase awareness of available support services

Progress by the Ministry of Health

- In line with the Priority Actions, the FMoH;
 - Strengthened the implementation of school health services, in order to address issues of violence against children, by training both in and out-of-school young people in 18 States trained on Peer-to-Peer Youth Health Education.
- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Integrate free-of-charge violence-against-children-related health services (e.g., counseling, post-rape care) for victims under the Primary Health Care

- component of the National Health Insurance Scheme.
- Establish One Stop Centers for effective VAC (and gender based violence) service provision and case management in hospitals and health facilities
- Develop a protocol for accessing post-exposure preventive (PEP) treatment kits, especially during humanitarian situations

Progress by the Justice Sector and Police

- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Strengthen the emergency Police line to report cases and seek immediate assistance;
 - Implement the “Speak Out!” communications campaign to encourage reporting to the Police
 - Establish and strengthen complaints mechanisms for children in all forms of detention.

Progress by the National Human Rights Commission

- In line with the Priority Actions, the NHRC:
 - During the schools sensitization and human rights education exercises in selected government and private schools in the FCT and in states where the Commission has state/zonal offices, children are encouraged to speak out, are provided with information on steps to follow when their rights have been violated and are given advice on steps they can take to protect themselves from violence. During these sessions, NHRC collaborates or partners with NGOs and CSOs, including to promote referral mechanisms to support services.
 - Continue to provide a complaints mechanism for children who experience VAC – the Commission has prioritized intervention for the protection of children in domestic violence cases
- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Continue to provide sensitization and human rights education sessions for children and provide effective complaints and investigation mechanism for children who have experienced violence

Progress by civil society

- The following priority actions will continue to be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Create and promote safe spaces (children's clubs, youth clubs, and child parliaments) for children in communities to speak out
 - Develop and implement strategies to increase knowledge and awareness on violence-against-children services
 - Work with the children's parliament to promote access to child-protection services
 - Strengthen the capacity of caregivers and children to respond to violence against children
 - Facilitate access to justice for children and the provision of legal aid
 - Map Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) services and disseminate the OVC Service Providers' Directory to communities

Progress by faith-based organizations and religious leaders

- The following priority actions will continue to be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Integrate proposal for establishing safe spaces in places of worship for children to report/speak out in forthcoming conferences organized by religious communities.
 - FBCs institute and strengthen gender-friendly counseling services to facilitate the reporting of abuse by children.
 - FBCs place boxed in boxes in places of worship to encourage children affected to make reports.

Progress by the media

- The following priority actions will to be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Develop messages to create awareness on available social-welfare and child-protection services.
 - Create awareness on existing hotlines and short codes to report violence against children.
 - Link victims, whose stories are covered in the media, with government and non-government support services.

Improving Availability and Quality of Services and Enhancing the Capacity of Professionals Working with Children

To ensure services are child-friendly and that reports of violence can be acted upon effectively, it was recognized as essential that the work force, institutions, and networks charged with the responsibility of addressing violence against children have the capacity to fulfil their mandate. An increase in the numbers of social welfare officers and an enhancement of their skills was seen as critical to contribute to more effectively responding to violence against children. Building the capacity of other professionals who have contact with children, such as teachers, health workers, and caregivers, was also highlighted as necessary to ensure they have a basic knowledge and skills of child protection and are empowered to refer concerns they may have about a child.

Progress by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

- In line with the Priority Actions, FMWASD:
 - The National Board for Technical Education in collaboration with the National Steering Committee on Social Welfare to develop the social welfare training curriculum incorporating current trends and international best practices in social work for the award of national diploma (ND) and higher national diploma (HND) in Social Welfare.
 - Built the capacity of State Directors of Child Development, State Desk Officers on Child Development, and child focused NGOs from all States on the Child's Rights Act, the National Priority Agenda and case management for child protection and orphans and vulnerable children
- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Advocate for the implementation of the Social Welfare Workforce Strategy and for sufficient numbers of social-welfare officers and para-social welfare officers to be employed in all states.

- Enhance working conditions for social welfare officers to attract and retain qualified personnel.
- Strengthen social-welfare services focusing on: community care centers; child-care services parenting-education programs; provision of emergency and alternate care (e.g., foster care); reintegration; and psychosocial support as part of a minimum package of social-work services in Nigeria.
- Strengthen the coordination role of state ministries responsible for social welfare and child development on violence against children including working with civil-society organizations and traditional leaders.

Progress by the Ministry of Health

- In line with the Priority Actions, FMoH
 - Topics on violence against children were incorporated into National Guidelines for the Integration of Youth Friendly Health Services, Integrated Management of Childhood Illness and 128 CORPs on Integrated Management of Childhood Illness and on Integrated Community Case Management to promote identification of cases of violence against children as part of routine health services.
 - Trained public and private health care providers on the use of the National Guidelines for the Integration of Youth Friendly Health Services
 - Trained 65 service providers trained on Glo Mobile Project and adolescent and youth friendly health services.
 - Developed and distributed 2000 copies each of the Youth Friendly Health Services Job Aids, Cue Cards, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). The logo for Youth Friendly Health Services was also developed.
 - Trained 24 health workers on Integrated Management of Childhood Illness and 128 CORPs on Integrated Management of Childhood Illness and on Integrated Community Case Management.
- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Establish One-Stop Centers for effective violence-against-children and gender-based service provision and case management in hospitals and health facilities
 - Strengthen the mental-health system and psychosocial services to be able to respond to cases of violence against children.
 - Preposition HIV test kits and PEP kits in hospitals and health facilities, especially for during humanitarian situations.
 - Develop standard-operating procedures (SOPs) to establish clear reporting and referral protocols and for managing cases of violence against children and gender-based violence in the health sector.

Progress by the Ministry of Justice, Justice Sector and Police

- In line with the Priority Actions:
 - The National Judicial Institute was supported to develop two training manuals – one for Family Court Judges and Magistrates and one for Assessors and Social Welfare Officers in order to equip family court personnel with the skills and capacity to adjudicate on children's cases and to uphold the rights and protect the welfare of children going through the court system as victims, witnesses and defendants.

- The training was delivered to 21 trainers from the National Judicial Institute, as well as 15 Judges, Magistrates and Social Workers from Abuja, Lagos, Plateau and Cross River states in January 2016. The training was cascaded to 18 Judges and Magistrates and four officials from Lagos and Benue State Ministries responsible for Social Welfare in April 2016.
- To complement this training, a separate three-day training pack was developed for family court social welfare officers and assessors and delivered to 54 participants (47 social welfare officers and 5 assessors) from Lagos and 41 participants (23 social welfare officers, 16 assessors, 1 chief registrar, and 1 reporter) from Cross River in June.
- In line with the Priority Actions, Nigeria Prisons Service:
 - Introduced a module on child rights, child protection and protection of children against violence was incorporated into the National Prison Service Academy Human Rights Training Manual and a ToT was delivered to 24 Prison Academy instructors in November 2015.
- In line with the Priority Actions:
 - At State level, with a focus on Lagos, Cross River and Plateau, working protocols have started to be developed to govern case management between justice, social welfare and health
- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Continue to equip frontline workers (including those assisting children through the justice sector/family-courts process) with the skills and capacity handle children's cases, through pre- and in-service training
 - In collaboration with the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, equip frontline workers with the skills and capacity handle cases of child trafficking
 - In collaboration with the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, build the capacity of all detention-center personnel and establish linkages and referral mechanisms between detention centers, social welfare, and legal services for children in detention (Nigeria Prisons Service)

Progress by civil society

- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Build capacity in health workers so that they are better equipped to provide child-friendly services
 - Advocate for the establishment of community-based psychosocial support for children who have experienced violence and their caregiver
 - Provide technical support for the development and implementation of SOPs to address violence against children in conflict and post-conflict situations
 - Strengthen the technical and organizational capacities of civil-society organizations, their networks, and non-state actors in integrated-case management process, monitoring, and reporting

Progress by faith-based organizations and religious leaders

- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Strengthen the capacity of Sunday school teachers/ulamas/imams to identify and respond to violence against children
 - FBCs institute and strengthen gender-friendly counseling services in places of

worship for children and adolescents who have experienced violence, and for their families and perpetrators

Progress by non traditional child protection sectors (e.g. WASH and polio sectors)

- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Train and sensitize structures with appropriate information on how to seek justice, redress, and services for children affected by violence
 - Train environmental-health clubs in schools to build interpersonal skills on how to identify and report cases of violence
 - Network with other structures to track, refer, and report incidences of violence against children in communities
 - Mobilize communities and formal institutions to provide water and sanitation where cases of violence against children occur

Strengthening Efforts to Hold Perpetrators Accountable

To establish norms of acceptable and unacceptable behavior in a society and create safe and peaceful societies, it was recognized as important to enforce legislation on crime and violence. This included strengthening institutional mechanisms and resources and increasing the human capacity needed to ensure enacted legislation protects people from violence and holds perpetrators to account.

Progress by the Ministry of Health

- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Strengthen the capacity of health workers to collect forensic evidence for cases of sexual violence involving children and to give evidence in court cases

Progress by the Nigeria Police Force

- In line with the Priority Actions, Nigeria Police Force:
 - Undertook a mapping of specialized police desks in 10 states and FCT in order to identify the gaps in capacity of the Nigeria Police Force to handle children's cases. The mapping assessed the staffing, training and infrastructure needs and identified areas of collaboration with other stakeholders including social welfare, health and education sectors in handling children's cases. The findings of the mapping will inform the development of a common vision and harmonized framework for specialized children's police units and the development of training packs for investigators and police officers staffing the units. Consultations on the development of the harmonized framework and standardized training pack have commenced and are expected to be ready by November 2016. The standardized training pack will first be delivered to Lagos and Cross River states in November and December 2016.
- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Finalise a harmonized vision for specialist units at police stations for handling children's cases and develop harmonized operating procedures for these units
 - Develop and implement uniform in service training pack training for police

- officers staffing these specialist units
- Develop and implement a specialist training module on investigative techniques and forensics for children's cases, for the police academies; and
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development and Nigerian Prison Service, appropriately discipline perpetrators of violence against children in detention.

Progress by the Ministry of Justice and the Justice Sector

- In line with the Priority Actions:
 - The National Judicial Institute was supported to develop two training manuals – one for Family Court Judges and Magistrates and one for Assessors and Social Welfare Officers in order to equip family court personnel with the skills and capacity to adjudicate on children's cases and to uphold the rights and protect the welfare of children going through the court system as victims, witnesses and defendants.
 - The training was delivered to 21 trainers from the National Judicial Institute, as well as 15 Judges, Magistrates and Social Workers from Abuja, Lagos, Plateau and Cross River states in January 2016. The training was cascaded to 18 Judges and Magistrates and four officials from Lagos and Benue State Ministries responsible for Social Welfare in April 2016.
 - To complement this training, a separate three-day training pack was developed for family court social welfare officers and assessors and delivered to 54 participants (47 social welfare officers and 5 assessors) from Lagos and 41 participants (23 social welfare officers, 16 assessors, 1 chief registrar, and 1 reporter) from Cross River in June
 - Ministry of Justice establish a Child Rights Protection and Enforcement Unit in the Citizens' Rights Department of the Ministry of Justice
- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Develop specialized training for prosecutors handling cases of violence against children and counsellors handling cases of violence against children
 - Issue a practice direction to all courts to ensure privacy (e.g., maintaining a closed court room) for cases concerning violence against children
 - Continue to advocate for the establishment and operation of Family Courts in every State and monitor implementation
 - Continue to train Family Court magistrates and judges on handling children's cases
 - Continue to train judicial workers (i.e., court staff, registrars, bailiff, etc.) on the need to bring cases of violence against children to the immediate attention of the judicial officer so that such cases may be expedited
 - Establish a data registry of perpetrators of violence, especially perpetrators of sexual violence against children

Progress by civil society

- The following priority actions will continue to be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Advocate for the strengthening of specialized police units that respond to crimes against children, in order that to enhance service delivery

- Advocate for the establishment and functionality of the Family Courts and specialized child justice systems

Progress by faith-based organizations and religious leaders

- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Provide support to parents and caregivers of children who have been victims of violence to pursue justice in order to hold perpetrators accountable in the justice system

Progress by the media

- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Actively seek out reported cases and issues of violence against children and appropriately follow up to promote justice and protection for children

Progress by non traditional child protection sectors (e.g. WASH and polio sectors)

- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Mobilize communities to support and bring perpetrators to account through the justice system

3.4 Increasing Investment in Child Protection

Resource allocation for child protection is inadequate to meet the huge needs highlighted in the Nigeria VACS. The VACS provides an opportunity to advocate for additional resources to prevent and respond to violence against children. This needs to be backed up by a costing of the system, an analysis of current allocation and monitoring of allocation. It would also be useful to understand the cost of violence against children to Nigeria.

Progress by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Collaborate with the Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Commission to undertake a study on the cost of violence against children to Nigeria
 - Collaborate with the Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Commission to develop budgeting guidelines on child protection and monitor resource allocation
 - Support States to undertake a Social Welfare Services Costing exercise to be able to accurately budget for child protection services

3.5. Improving Research, Monitoring and Evaluation on Violence against Children

The Nigeria VACS provided groundbreaking data on violence against children. However, there is no system in place for the continuous monitoring of the prevalence of and response to violence through State and Federal collection, collation and analysis of data from different sectors handling children's cases. Carrying out data collection and research was recognized as

essential to planning and designing intervention strategies, to setting numerical and time-bound targets to monitor progress and end violence and to evaluate progress of programs and initiatives to prevent and respond to violence against children. There was also a recognized need to delve deeper into the findings of the Nigeria VACS to understand the drivers of violence and barriers that prevent children speaking out and seeking support in order to strengthen programming.

Progress by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

- In line with the Priority Actions, the FMWASD:
 - Convened a series of meetings with child protection and OVC partners on the upgrading of the National OVC Management Information System to explore how to include child-protection indicators, and/or develop the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS). CPIMS units have been equipped at Federal level and in Adamawa, Borno, Yobe, Plateau and Gombe and data clerks have been trained in Adamawa, Borno, Yobe and at Federal level.
 - Has been working to strengthen the system of inter agency case management and inter state reporting. Case management tools that have been utilized in the States of Emergency are being reviewed for applicability to the rest of Nigeria. These are being reviewed in conjunction with the review of case management tools developed for cases of OVC, in order to develop a unified and harmonized system for case management for State and non state actors.
 - Has strengthened coordination for the delivery of child-protection services in the North East through regular meetings of the Child Protection Working Group at Federal level and in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe.
- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Finalise development of the harmonised case management system and Child Protection information Management System.
 - Commission a gender-focused study on the drivers of violence, factors fueling sexual violence against children, and barriers to accessing services in all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory.

Progress by the National Human Rights Commission

- In line with the Priority Actions, the NHRC:
 - Maintains a data base on cases of violence against children handled by the Commission and monitors the outcome of the cases.

Progress by the Nigeria Police Force

- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Develop a police case-management system on violence against children and gender-based violence, linked with the CPMIS.

Progress by the Nigeria Prisons Services

- In addition to the Priority Actions, NPS:
 - Has entered a dialogue with NPoPC and FMWASD for a possible collaboration on a survey on children accommodated in places of detention.

Progress by civil society

- In line with the Priority Actions, NGOs:
 - Supported FMWASD to review NOMIS and feed into the development of the CPMIS.
 - Strengthened the capacity of Child Protection Networks to prevent, monitor/respond, report, and advocate for effective child-protection systems in all states. The What's App groups for child protection are a vibrant example of how social media can contribute the reporting, handling and referral of child protection cases.
- In addition to the Priority Actions, NACCRAN:
 - Constituted a Committee with Child Focused Civil Society Groups in all 36 States and FCT with the following organizations - Relevant MDAs viz, FMWASD, community leaders, faith leaders, Traditional Rulers, Development Partners, and NGOs such as - Betneely Charity Foundation(BCF), CRIBS, Habitation of Hope (HoH), Peaceful Women Foundation, Infinity Humanitarian Foundation, , FAWE, Breakthrough Global, Girl up, Nigerdev International, Voluntary Aid Initiative (VAI), , Sewo Tamani Organisation, Eze Poverty Eradication Foundation (EPEF), Megastar foundation, African Mission Global Foundation, Newlife Child protection Initiative, Jene Nodjije Foundation, Makanza Youth Foundation, Taaf, Gateway Humanitarian Initiative, Smile Again African Initiative, Allied Care for Human Development Initiative, Deminers Charity Foundation, Amponma Development Foundation, Muva community Suzan's Foundation, Blanky for the needy, John Pofi Foundation Development Initiative for African Women (DIFAW), Hope Afresh Foundation. FADLAH multipurpose community organization, Grass root Movement for women, Vulnerable Children and Orphan Rights Initiative (VCORI), Foundation for Family Values, Health Orientation & Empowerment (FFVHOE), Total Child Care Initiative (TCCI), Markanze Youth Development.
- The following priority actions will be pursued during the End VAC by 2030 campaign:
 - Continue to support the FMAWSD to develop and finalise the CPIMS
 - Develop a database on incidence and trends of child-protection concerns through the CPMIS
 - Monitor the implementation of the CRA/CRL and National Child Protection Policy
 - Monitor and review operation of the justice sector and family courts in handling children's cases

Global recognition of Nigeria's progress on ending VAC

In recognition of the progress made by Nigeria in fight against VAC, the Special Representative to the United National Secretary General on Violence Against Children, visited Nigeria in February 2016 to meet with key Government and non government stakeholders and to attend the official launch of the Nigeria Violence Against Children: Full Technical Report by the Chairman of the National Population Commission. This coincided with the launch of the first State End Violence Against Children campaign in Lagos State.

3.6. Modelling the Child Protection System

It was recognized that it was critical that the policy and regulatory framework established at Federal level was translated into action at State level. There was no clear vision as to how that could be accomplished at State level. To provide guidance and support to States and to demonstrate the impact of a child protection system which is implementing the components envisaged under the Child's Rights Act, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development has spearheaded a child protection modelling process in eight States - Benue, Cross River, Edo, Gombe, Kano, Kaduna, Lagos and Plateau – and FCT, in partnership with the State Ministries responsible for child development and social welfare, with support from UNICEF, PEPFAR through USAID and CDC and the European Union. This process has also involved the education, health, justice and non traditional child protection sectors, as well as civil society, FBOs and the media at State level.

The group of nine States and the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, which comprise the Child Protection System Learning Group, was inaugurated in June 2015. Since then the group has developed a harmonized vision and model for the child protection system, with agreed essential and desirable components, and a monitoring and evaluation system to be able to track whether components of the system are in place and the effectiveness of these components.

Each state has selected between two and four Local Government Areas (LGA) to ensure implementation of all the essential components of the system and the desirable components that are applicable to their State and LGA context. State, ward and community level child protection mechanisms will be established/strengthened to prevent, identify, refer and respond to child protection concerns. Front line workers, including social welfare officers/assistants, the police, health workers and school counsellors/teachers, as well as members of the community child protection committees are being trained on how to handle child protection cases. Working protocols are being developed to govern case management and referral between social welfare, health, justice and education actors. Coordination mechanisms between state and non state bodies are being strengthened. Specialist police desks and Family Courts are being established/strengthened to hold perpetrators accountable. Social norms campaigns are being developed, primarily through religious leaders, to disseminate key message on ending VAC and to tackle social norms that perpetuate violence and the culture of silence. The Child Protection Information Management System is being established to monitor the impact of the child protection model.

The purpose of this groundbreaking initiative is to produce minimum standards for child protection country wide and a standard set of tools and guidance to support the operationalization of the child protection model nationwide (in both States that have and have not domesticated the CRA) based on the experience of implementing the model in a diverse range of states and local contexts. The purpose is not to insist the same approach is taken in each State, but to have an agreed core child protection system that can be adjusted for the realities of each State.

4

Beyond the Year of Action to End Violence Against Children – End VAC by 2030 Campaign

When announcing the launch of the Year of Action, President Buhari emphasized that the campaign was just the beginning of Nigeria's sustained efforts to end violence against children.

Violence against children is not 'just' a child protection or child rights issue and a moral imperative. Failure to invest in tackling violence against children leads to substantial social and economic losses (estimated at 2-8% of Gross Domestic Product). There is also a growing evidence base to demonstrate that preventing violence can promote economic growth.

For the first time, in 2013, the prevention of and effective response to violence against children was linked to the sustainable development of Nigeria as a nation: "All children are safe from abuse, violence, exploitation, and neglect" is one of the six commitments of the National Priority Agenda for Vulnerable Children 2013–2020 (NPA). These six core commitments of Nigeria's government will, if fulfilled, contribute to the achievement of the strategic objectives of Nigeria's Vision 20:2020. This elevated the importance of tackling violence against children, recognizing that reducing children's vulnerability to violence, and thereby improving their wellbeing, will positively and directly impact Nigeria's economic and social well-being and development.

The recognition by Nigeria that effectively addressing violence against children would contribute to sustainable development, pre dated the adoption of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 in September 2015, which for the first time made this critical linkage at a global level. The Sustainable Development Goals called upon all States around the world to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children (Target 16.2).

President Buhari launched the End VAC by 2030 Campaign on 25th October 2016, reaffirming Nigeria's commitment to achieve Target 16.2 of the SDGs and revitalising its efforts to tackle violence against children. It was announced that a national plan of action would be developed, translating the Priority Actions into concrete, timebound activities and commitments for all relevant Ministries and Agencies, as well as non governmental bodies, religious and traditional leaders and the media, in order to achieve Target 16.2 by 2030.

The TWG VAC will convene every year to review progress on implementing the national plan of action, ensuring that the momentum for achieving Target 16.2 by 2030 is maintained.

4.1 Nigeria – A Pathfinding Country for Ending VAC

To help contribute to the achievement of the shared goal of children living free from violence and exploitation, a Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children was launched on 12th July, 2016. This Partnership is supported by governments, civil society, foundations, private sector and UN agencies. It intends to accelerate real action for children in their homes, schools, and

communities and strengthen collaboration among relevant actors. A group of countries stepped forward as 'Pathfinding' countries. These are the countries that have shown real commitment to ending violence against children and have made concrete steps to more effectively prevent and respond to violence e.g. through undertaking a national survey, launching a national campaign and launching priority actions. To date Indonesia, Mexico, Sweden and Tanzania have taken decisive action as Pathfinder Countries.

Given its significant progress in tackling violence against children, Nigeria's status as a Pathfinder Country was also announced during the launch of the End VAC by 2030 campaign, giving Nigeria global recognition for its progress in ending VAC and identifying Nigeria as a source of learning regionally and further afield.

With this global recognition comes responsibility. Achieving Target 16.2 SDG will only be possible with renewed commitment, momentum and sustained energy from every Government Sector, Ministry and Agency, by NGOs, FBOs, religious and traditional leaders, the media, the private sector and every Nigerian.

Together, let's end violence against children by 2030
It's time to take action



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