



VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN & CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS:

Public Perceptions in Latin America and the Caribbean

2017 Results Report

Latin America and Caribbean Regional Results







"It Takes a World to End Violence Against Children", World Vision's 2017 global campaign, acknowledges previous research and consultations, demonstrating that Violence Against Children (VAC) is the most significant threat to the wellbeing and future of youth. Within this framework, World Vision Latin America commissioned Ipsos to conduct a regional survey on public perceptions of VAC and the effectiveness of protection systems. As well, this work aims to raise awareness and promote change towards a culture of peace and safety.

World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Its 46,000 staff members in nearly 100 countries are committed to working with the world's most vulnerable people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation.

lpsos is the third largest survey based research company in the world, and the largest such organization owned and run by researchers. Ipsos is pleased to work on projects that bring important social and policy issues to light around the world.







FOREWORD

Across Latin American and the Caribbean, we bear witness to alarming levels of violence against children. As a child-focused international development organisation, we also hear the children and youth of the region telling us directly that violence is the most pressing concern of their lives and generation.

Because of this, we feel the urgency to act at a greater scale than ever before to ensure children can feel safe and thrive in their homes, schools and communities. Accomplishing this goal will require more of us all. It calls for people and institutions from across all of society to partner together to transform the social norms and practices that devalue children and their development. We see the need to respond to root causes, inequality, social exclusion and injustice; to support parents and caregivers to create healthy and nonviolent households as their children's first protectors; and to eradicate prejudices and stereotypes that stigmatise and perpetuate violence.

World Vision's new campaign, It Takes a World to End Violence Against Children, is an unprecedented partnership to accomplish these goals. In the pages that follow, you will be introduced to the perceptions of the Latin American People regarding the state of violence against children and its costs to their lives and society as a whole.

We are aware that a shift towards a culture of peace, one that protects our children, starts by understanding our values, beliefs and behaviors. We will not tire until every adult and institution takes responsibility for the protection and care of children. We invite you to use your influence and join our efforts so that all children throughout Latin America and the Caribbean may live free from fear.





ABOUT THIS REPORT | Background & Contents

This report has been designed to help you easily understand and interpret the results of the 2017 World Vision Child Protection Survey.

Details of the methodology, sample size and the dates in which this research was carried out are included below:



METHODOLOGY:

Online & Telephone (El Salvador Only)



FIELDWORK DATES:

March and April, 2017



TOTAL SAMPLE SIZE:

5,826 Latin Americans (Age 16+)

Within this report you will see aggregate regional results for all countries surveyed. The countries included in this study are:

- Brazil
- Bolivia
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador

- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Peru

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Assess public opinion, perception, concern and understanding of violence against children;
- Measure people's awareness of and attitudes about the problem, and their perception of government and other stakeholders' responsibilities to end violence;
- · Identify the main sources of information about children affected by violence; and to
- Understand the public's perception of current causes of and solutions to violence against children.





VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN RISK INDEX

Respondents fall into one of the five categories below

Given the depth of the study, Ipsos combined individual responses from a wide range of questions to develop an aggregate understanding of the countries where violence against children is more prominent.

Index based on questions 1, 3, 3A, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 – individual respondent-level scores range from 2 to 177 – with higher being better/more empathetic

High risk = 70 or below;

Moderate risk = 71 to 90;

Low empathy = 91-110;

Moderate empathy = 111 to 130;

High empathy = 131 or higher

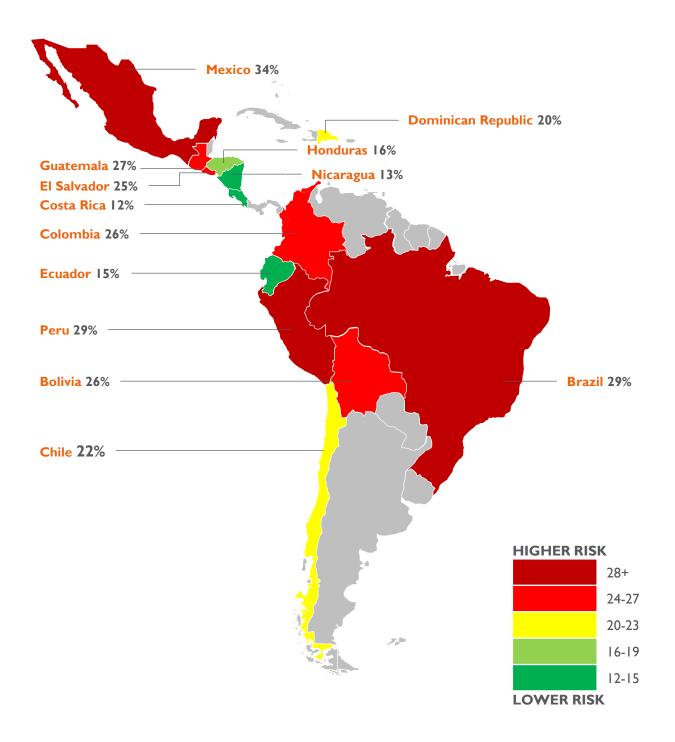
INDEX CATEGORIES	HIGH RISK	MODERATE RISK	LOW EMPATHY	MODERATE EMPATHY	HIGH EMPATHY
TOTAL	6 %	16%	43%	27%	8%
Bolivia	10%	16%	43%	27%	5%
Brazil	13%	16%	48%	18%	4%
Chile	7%	15%	41%	28%	10%
Colombia	5%	21%	47%	24%	3%
Costa Rica	2%	10%	38%	37%	14%
Ecuador	3%	12%	45%	28%	13%
El Salvador	8%	17%	35%	32%	8%
Guatemala	6%	21%	54%	15%	4%
Honduras	2%	14%	45%	29%	10%
Mexico	11%	23%	42%	21%	3%
Nicaragua	3%	10%	32%	37%	18%
Peru	10%	19%	43%	25%	3%
Dominican Republic	4%	16%	41%	27%	12%





VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN RISK INDEX

% Of each country's population that is classified as High or Medium Risk







IMPACT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Regional Report

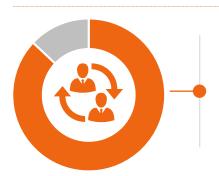
Latin Americans believe that violence against children is increasing, and that it has a significant impact on a child's social relationships, health, and education.



68%

feel that in the past five years violence against children has...

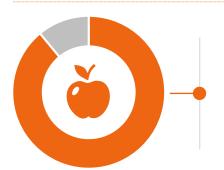
INCREASED



87%



agree that the impact of violence on children could show up in adult life in social relationships



89%



agree that violence against children has a negative effect on children's health



89%



agree that violence against children has a negative effect on children's education





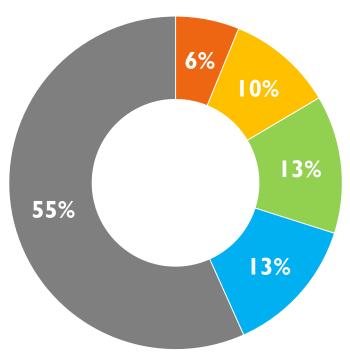
MYTH VS REALITY #1 WHERE CHILDREN ARE MOST AT RISK |

Regional Report

The belief is that children are most likely to be at risk when they're outside of the home. Few believe children are most at risk in schools, religious settings, on public transportation or when at home.



LOCATIONS WHERE CHILDREN ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE AT RISK (%)



- Religious Settings
- Home
- School
- Public Transportation
- Other public spaces



MYTH

Latin Americans believe that one of the safest places for children is their home.

REALITY

Everyday 220 children under 18 years die as a result of domestic violence, according to UNICEF





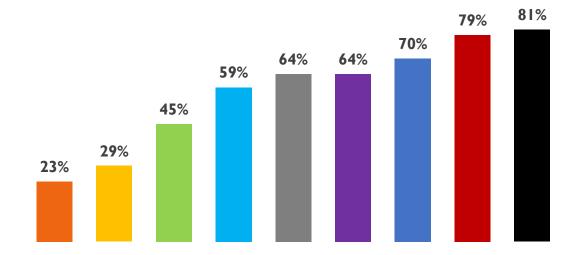
MYTHVS REALITY #2 CAUSES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Regional Report

Latin Americans believe that alcoholism and drug use is the leading cause of violence against children.



CAUSES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN



- Abuse by Armed Forces
- Terrorist/Extremist groups
- Cultural attitudes and practices
- Children Hurting other Children
- Poverty
- Organised Crime or Gangs
- Lack of Knowledge
- Abuse by Past Victims
- Alcoholism and Drug Abuse



MYTH

Latin Americans believe that alcoholism and drug use is the leading cause of violence against children.

REALITY

Causes of violence have several manifestations, for example, according to <u>UNICEF</u>, I out of 2 children under 15 years old are subject to corporal punishment at home, I out of 4 girls get married before they turn 18 years old, these shows that **cultural attitudes and practices** bring violence against children.



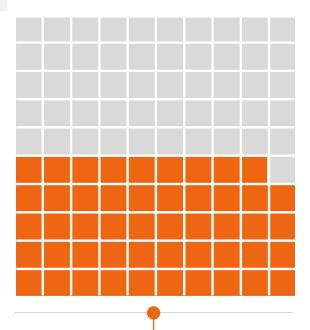


MYTHVS REALITY #3 ECONOMIC EFFECTS | Regional Report

Just 49% of Latin Americans believe that the consequences of violence against children can be seen through economic effects.



Economic effects



49% ⇒



Less than half of the respondents (49%) believe that violence against children will have economic effects.

REALITY

Violence against children and its effects can consume between 7% and 11% of a Latin American countries' GDP (as cited in LACs Regional Strategy).

Further, <u>UNICEF states that</u> youth unemployment, teenage pregnancies, and drug abuse can reduce the GDP of a country by up to 1.4%.





TAKING ACTION TO END VIOLENCE

Regional Report

Given the perception that violence is becoming more prevalent and that it has a significant impact on children, most Latin Americans want to see more action to protect children.





believe that more needs to be done to protect children from violence in their community



69%

say that governments are unwilling to take enough action to end violence against children





think that governments don't have the means to address violence against children, no matter what the laws are





EFFECTIVENESS OF INSTITUTIONS

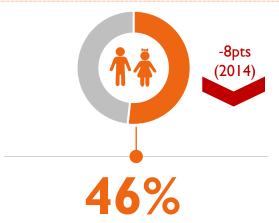
Regional Report

While most Latin Americans want to see collaboration to help address violence against children, a declining proportion believe that any institution is effective at protecting children. Moreover, a minority believe that parents and children in their country have access to services to help them when in crisis.

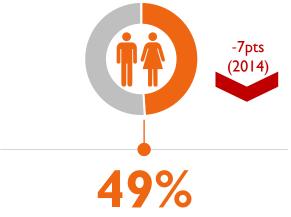


86%-

agree that governments, not-for-profits, religious communities and local communities need to collaborate to address violence against children, rather than each acting independently



agree that children in their country have access to services and organizations that will help them if they are in crisis



agree that parents in their country have access to services and organizations to turn for help if their family or children are in crisis

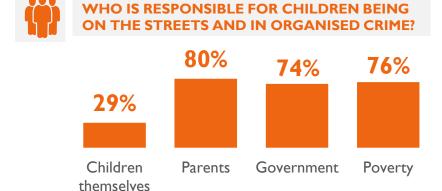






THE WAY FORWARD | Regional Report

Most point their finger at parents, governments, and poverty when children are on the streets and involved in organised crime. Despite failing children, most believe that violence can be reduced, and that prevention and education is the key.



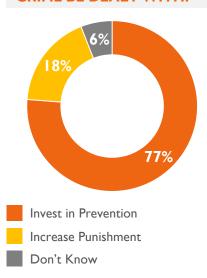


are optimistic that violence against children can be reduced in their lifetime

Respondents 16-34 LESS LIKELY than those 55+ to believe that violence can be reduced (83% vs. 89%).

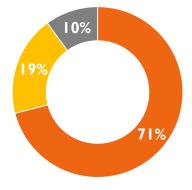


HOW SHOULD CHILDREN'S INVOLVEMENT IN ORGANISED CRIME BE DEALT WITH?





WHAT IS YOUR VIEW?



- Increasing awareness of violence against children in the media helps to prevent violence against children in the future
- Increasing awareness of violence against children in the media only serves to increase the incidence of violence against children in the future
- Don't Know





DEFINING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Regional Report

In order to better understand how violence against children is perceived in Latin America, respondents in each country surveyed were asked to rate a list of various forms of violence against children. They were presented with a list generated by Ipsos and World Vision to mirror the forms of violence defined by the United Nations.

Each form of violence was rated by the respondent on its harmfulness, lasting impact on the victim's life, which gender they feel is most affected by that form of violence, and how common they perceive the form of violence to be in their country.

The following pages outline a summary of the harmfulness, impact and frequency by category of violence. The categories of violence represent an aggregate of multiple forms of violence centered as described in the table below.

First we will look overall at a comparison between the categories to identify key priority areas, followed by a look within each category specifically against key comparators.

CATEGORIES OF VIOLENCE	FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN
Physical and Psychological Abuse	Physical abuse that is hard enough to injure a child Physical punishment, such as spanking, which is not hard enough to injure a child Punishment that humiliates, threatens, scares or ridicules a child When a parent or other caregiver fails to meet a child's physical, psychological, developmental or educational needs even when they can afford to do so Punishing a child in solitary confinement, isolation or degrading conditions of detention Child neglect (parents not providing proper care for their children)
Traditional practices	Binding, scarring, burning or branding children for cultural reasons Arranged marriage of a child at an early age Acts of physical punishment towards children for the sake of retribution or family and community's honour Accusing a child of witchcraft or performing an exorcism on a child
Sexual Behaviours	When an adult or another child forces intercourse or other forms of sex on a child Forcing children into prostitution or using children in pornography
Behaviours Among Children	Gang violence Bullying or harassment online or over mobile devices (known as "cyberbullying") Cyber-bullying (online through social media)
Child Labour	Making a child do work that may disrupt their education and/or physical, mental or social development Making a child work to pay off family debts
Online Threats	Exposing a child to violence, pornography or hate-speech online Tricking or luring a child on the internet into meeting strangers off-line for sex





FORMS OF VIOLENCE | Regional Report

While behaviours among children, child labour, as well as physical and psychological abuse are thought to be more common, sexual abuse, and online threats are believed to be more harmful. All of these are considered to be key priorities.



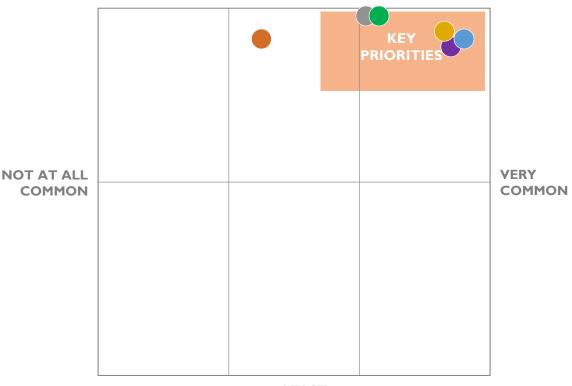
KEY PRIORITY AREAS

- Physical and Psychological Abuse
 Traditional Practices
- Sexual Abuse
- Child Labour

Online Threats

Behaviours Among Children

MOST HARMFUL



LEAST HARMFUL





FORMS OF VIOLENCE | Regional Report

Sexual abuse is seen as the most harmful form of violence, but physical and psychological abuse are seen as more common.

On average, respondents 16-24 are LESS LIKELY than those 55+ to say that the mentioned forms of violence are HARMFUL (88% vs. 96%).

PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE (Average % Score)







VERY HARMFUL

VERY COMMON

VERY HIGH IMPACT

TRADITIONAL PRACTICES (Average % Score)

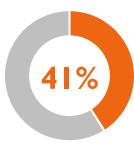






SEXUAL ABUSE (Average % Score)





94%
VERY HIGH IMPACT

VERY HARMFUL VERY COMMON

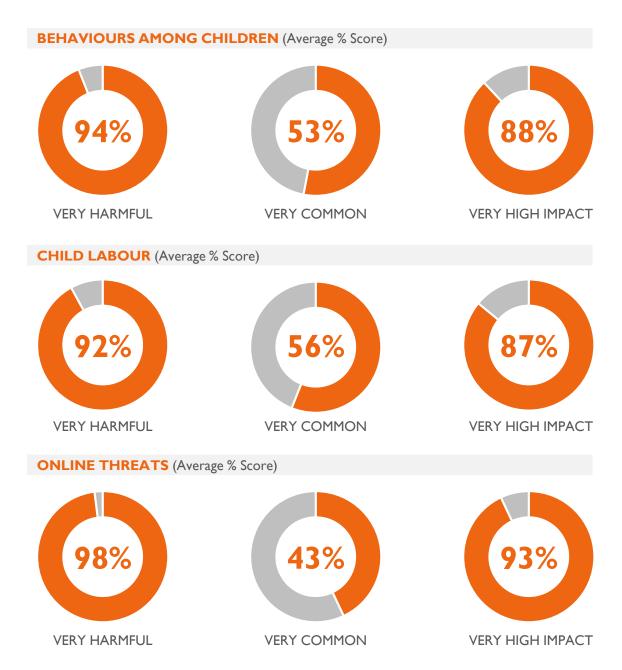






FORMS OF VIOLENCE | Regional Report

While online threats are seen as being most harmful and potentially impactful, the belief among most is that it is not yet all that commonplace. Child labour, and children perpetrating violence on other children is seen as more commonplace.







IMPLICATIONS | Regional Report

The findings demonstrate that Latin Americans are increasingly relying on digital and online mediums for obtaining information relating to violence against children. Most respondents said that their main exposure to issues of violence against children was through television, newspaper, magazines or radio, while the share of attention paid through social media is also increasing. With news about violence against children becoming more available through a wider variety of sources, it could be that Latin Americans are becoming more desensitized to the issue. However, significantly more Latin Americans believe that increased attention to the issue in the media helps to prevent the spread of violence rather than perpetuate it. With this in mind, authorities, and other protection systems, including the media, should leverage their influence and credibility to become an important vehicle in promoting a culture of peace and eliminating violence.

2

Just 22% of Latin Americans perceive institutions to be effective in protecting children against violence, and that effectiveness is declining over time, suggesting an inability to keep up and a lack of resources. Rather than relying on a sole institution to protect their children, a majority are in favour of institutions collaborating their efforts to ensure a network of safe ecosystems for children. Given this, a multidisciplinary and inter-sectorial approach on preventing and eliminating violence against children is needed and necessary. The collaborate effort could include assistance from faith-based organizations, families, media, and even businesses, all of which can plan an integral role in the lives of Latin American families and in protecting children from violence.

3

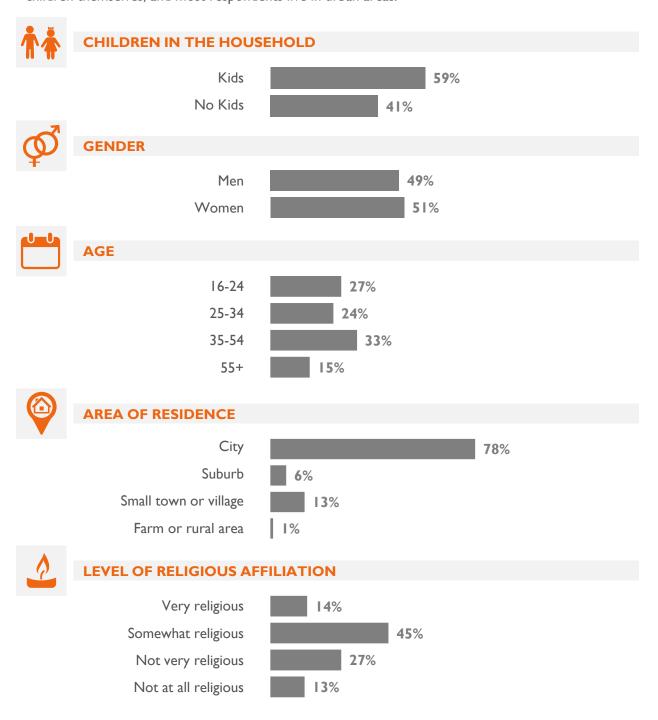
The study revealed that many Latin Americans believe that their governments are either unable or unwilling to do more to help stop violence against children. Yet, most are optimistic that the issue can be addressed in their lifetime, and that prevention should be the focus going forward. This desire furthers the need for a collaborative approach among the private sector, public sector and NGOs. Non-governmental organisations such as World Vision are among those who are more trusted in Latin America, given its presence and impact in communities. Recently, World Vision Brazil was named one of the top 100 NGOs among 300,000 by an independent evaluation. World Vision's contributions to eliminating violence requires partners to provide financial, strategic and political support to amplify the reach of these efforts and expand them into the public-school system.





DEMOGRAPHICS | Regional Population Profile

Below is the detailed breakdown of respondent demographics. Most respondents were parents of children themselves, and most respondents live in urban areas.





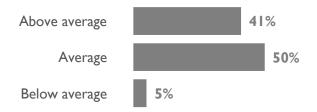


DEMOGRAPHICS | Regional Population Profile

Most respondents describe themselves as being of average education and income, with a moderate-sized household.



EDUCATION



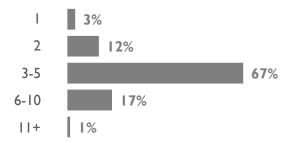


INCOME





NUMBER IN HOUSEHOLD







#	Question
QI	How harmful to children would you consider each of the following to be on a scale of I to 7, where I means not at all harmful and 7 means very harmful?
	Forms of Violence List (See Page 27)
Q2	In which of the following locations do you think children are most likely to be at risk of violence? And, in which do you think children are least likely to be at risk of violence? In the home School Religious settings Public transportation In other public settings outside the home Don't Know
Q3	How much impact do you think each of the following forms of violence have on children in your country? By impact, we mean the extent to which it has a lasting effect on the children in your country who experience that form of violence. Please rate your view on a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 means very little impact and 7 means very high impact. Forms of Violence List (See Page 27)
Q3a	How often do each of the following forms of violence happen in your country?
	By often, we mean is it something that commonly occurs or almost never happens. Please rate your view on a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 means almost never happens and 7 means it is very common.
	Forms of Violence List (See Page 27)
Q4	And, how do you think each of the following forms of violence against children affects boy and girls in your country? Please indicate whether each form of violence affects boys, mostly affect girls, or does it affect both boys and girls equally? Forms of Violence List (See Page 27)
0.5	
Q5	How effective are the following institutions in protecting children against violence. Please rate your view on a scale of 1 to 7, where means completely ineffective and 7 means very effective. Government The justice system (police and courts) Social workers or organizations for social welfare, not-for-profits, non-government organizations (NGO) and civil society Clan/tribal leaders and cultural organizations or other community groups Religious communities Schools and health centres or clinics Families Children protecting themselves





#	Question
Q5a	And which of these is <u>the most</u> important in protecting children against violence? Which is <u>the least</u> important?
Q6	Through which of the following ways have you heard about violence against children in the past? Please choose all that apply. Directly from my friends, family, co-workers or neighbors Television, newspapers, magazines or radio Twitter, Facebook or other forms of social media Online news or information sources other than social media Information provided by governments Information provided by religious communities Information provided by my clan/tribal leaders and cultural organizations Information provided by the school in my community Not-for-profits, Non-Government Organizations (NGO) and Civil Society None of the above
Q7	Please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with each of the following statements. a) A main cause of violence against children is a lack of knowledge among people who are close enough to prevent it. b) A main cause of violence against children in my country is poverty c) Dealing with violence against children is something that families should do on their own; others do not need to get involved. d) The main causes of violence against children in my country are cultural attitudes and practices that make it acceptable to many. e) A main cause of violence against children in my country is organized crime or gang activity. f) A main cause of violence against children in my country is terrorist and extremist groups. g) Most violence against children goes unreported so it is hard for anyone to know the extent of the problem. h) Violence against children has a negative effect on children's' education. i) Violence against children has a negative effect on children's' health.

Violence against children has large social and economic costs. The impact of violence on children could show up in adult life in social

m) A main cause of violence against children in my country is abuse by

Children hurting other children is a big problem in my country. Child violence is often committed by adults who were victims of child

A main cause of violence against children in my country is alcoholism





relationships.

and drug use.

violence as children.

Quo	
#	Question
Q8	Which of the following statements best describes your personal view when it comes to violence against children? Violence against children is common and cultural, it will take generations to address and I'm not very hopeful that we will see it get better in my lifetime. Violence against children can be reduced in the short term and eventually eliminated if people work together to prevent it and do more to raise awareness of the issue.
Q9	Which of the following statements best describes your personal view when it comes to violence against children? Violence against children has become more frequent in the past 5 years. There have been fewer incidents of violence against children in the past 5 years. Don't know
QIO	To the best of your knowledge would you say that there is a lot being done to prevent violence against children or would you say that not very much is being done to prevent violence against children? A lot Something Not very much Nothing at all Don't know
QII	Please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with each of the following statements. a) I think the children I personally know (including your own if you have children) are safe from violence. b) More needs to be done to protect children from violence in my community. c) Governments often don't have the means to address violence against children, no matter what the laws are.

- d) Governments are unwilling to take enough action to end violence against children.
- e) It is important that religious communities and their leaders do more to address violence against children where governments have failed.
- f) Governments, Not-for-profits, religious communities and local communities need to collaborate to address violence against children, rather than each acting independently.
- My government is doing enough to punish those who commit violence against children.
- h) Children in my country have access to services and organizations that will help them if they are in crisis.
- i) Parents in my country have access to services and organizations to turn for help if their family or children are in crisis.
- j) The news media needs to do more to raise awareness of the issue and inform people about the actions they can take on their own to stop violence against children.





#	Question
QII cont'd	 a) We need laws that prohibit all forms of physical punishment against children. b) Violence against children is never justifiable. c) It is the responsibility of governments to protect all children and to take steps to prevent violence. d) Children and families should have more say in the policies and programs designed to prevent violence against children. e) Religious communities should be compelled by government or law to address violence against children.
Q12	How safe do you consider your country in terms of each of the following concerns? Please rate your view from a scale of I to 7, where I-means not at all safe and 7 means completely safe. Early child marriage Child labour Female genital mutilation Physical punishment Child sexual exploitation Early pregnancy
QI3	Which of the following statements best describes you personally? I know of family members, friends or neighbors who have been the victims of violence against children. I have heard about violence against children in my community but I don't personally know of anyone involved. I am not aware of any violence against children in my community.
Q14	Do you think addressing violence and exploitation perpetrated against children should be a global priority –the same as health and education? Yes No Don't Know
Q15	The following issues may all be considered important. Which of the following issues would most attract you to a politician or other political leader? One who promotes an agenda with a focus on Organized crime and general violence Economic development and inequality Health Education Child Protection





#	Question
Q16	How much responsibility does each of the following have for children being on the streets and for children getting involved in organized crime? That is, who is to blame for their situation? Please rate your view from a scale of I to 4, where I means not at all responsible and 4 means very responsible. The children themselves: they are rebellious, and run away to seek their own future Parents who do not take care of their children A lack of support for children and families from government Poverty and the lack of economic opportunities
Q17	Which of the following best reflects your view? Punishments for children involved in organized crime should be increased so that they learn their lesson and straighten out their lives. More should be invested in preventing children from getting involved in organized crime; sending them to penitentiaries will only teach them to be better criminals.
Q18	Which of the following best reflects your view? Increasing awareness of violence against children in the media only serves to increase the incidence of violence against children in the future. Increasing awareness of violence against children in the media helps to prevent violence against children in the future.





#	Demographics
DEMI	Gender
DEM2	Age
DEM3	Please indicate whether your level of income is above average, average or below average compared to the rest of your country.
DEM4	Please indicate whether your level of education is above average, average or below average compared to the rest of your country.
DEM5	Please indicate whether you live in a city, small town, village or farm. City Suburb Small town or village Farm or Rural Area Don't know
DEM6	To what extent would you say that you are a religious person? Very religious Somewhat religious Not very religious Not at all religious Don't know
DEM7	Please answer the following for each of the people who live with you: Enter 0 if the child in your household is under 1 year old. Gender Age





#	FORMS OF VIOLENCE FOR Q1, Q3, Q3a, Q4		
	Physical abuse that is hard enough to injure a child		
	Physical punishment, such as spanking, which is not hard enough to injure a child		
D	Punishment that humiliates, threatens, scares or ridicules a child		
Physical and Psychological Abuse	When a parent or other caregiver fails to meet a child's physical, psychological, developmental or educational needs even when they can afford to do so		
	Punishing a child in solitary confinement, isolation or degrading conditions of detention		
	Child neglect (parents not providing proper care for their children)		
	Binding, scarring, burning or branding children for cultural reasons		
	Arranged marriage of a child at an early age		
Traditional practices	Acts of physical punishment towards children for the sake of retribution or family and community's honour		
	Accusing a child of witchcraft or performing an exorcism on a child		
Sexual Behaviours	When an adult or another child forces intercourse or other forms of sex on a child		
	Forcing children into prostitution or using children in pornography		
	Gang violence		
Behaviours Among Children	Bullying or harassment online or over mobile devices (known as "cyberbullying")		
	Cyber-bullying (online bullying through social media)		
Child Labor	Making a child do work that may disrupt their education and/or physical, mental or social development		
	Making a child work to pay off family debts		
Online Predators	Exposing a child to violence, pornography or hate-speech online, on television or through other media		
	Tricking or luring a child on the internet into meeting strangers off-line for sex		



