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## It Takes Investment: Financing the End of Violence Against Children

Discussion Paper

## Acknowledgements

This discussion paper was written by Elena Gaia and Tamara Tutnjevic Gorman.

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Children at a World Vision-run remedial education center in Agra, India, play a math game.

# Executive Summary

This paper argues that achieving further progress in ending violence against children depends on better understanding and more effectively harnessing the resources required to finance prevention and response interventions, as well as services and systems.

The message is simple: we need more money, better spent on interventions, services and systems that work for ending violence against children.

## To get there, we propose the following six-point agenda:

- 1 Understanding and tracking current investments.
- 2 Estimating the costs of preventing and addressing violence.
- 3 Calculating the return on investment.
- 4 Evaluating the impact, effectiveness and efficiency of existing investments.
- 5 Ensuring resources are allocated where they can make the most difference.
- 6 Identifying new sources of funding through the re-allocation of existing resources and the development of new financing mechanisms.

The implementation of this agenda requires a collective and co-ordinated effort under the auspices of the End Violence – The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.

# Introduction

## Why we need to ‘talk money’ in order to end violence against children

There has never been a more propitious time to end violence against children. This extraordinary global momentum is driven by stronger data on prevalence,<sup>1</sup> a global consensus on evidence-based solutions,<sup>2</sup> as well as the recognition that ending violence against children is a fundamental step towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The establishment of End Violence – The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (End Violence) and the commitments of a growing number of pathfinding countries, are further indications of a growing political will to address the problem. The current momentum also builds on the work of several organisations and alliances over the past decade since the release of the United Nations Secretary General Study on Violence Against Children in 2006.

Three years into the implementation of Agenda 2030, i.e. the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015, now is the time to look at the state of investments needed to accelerate progress towards the goals in every country of the world. These

investments are required to support the scaling up of interventions that work to end violence against children, as well as the formal and informal systems that underpin and sustain them.

Financial resources are essential to implementing strategies, policies, programmes, partnerships and campaigns to end violence against children in any country.<sup>3</sup> Better understanding the size, composition and sources of funding for ending violence – along with solid cost and impact projections – constitutes the basis for increased and better investment. Looking at financial resources helps identify the contribution from – and can facilitate the co-ordination of – the multiple sectors (e.g. gender, child protection, education, health, justice, social welfare and protection, water and sanitation, travel and tourism) and stakeholders (national and local governments, donors, private sector, etc.) that are involved in ending violence against children. Examining financial resources also ensures that investments reach their intended beneficiaries and are locked into the most effective interventions and systems supporting these. This is particularly important in fragile and conflict-affected situations, where children’s protection from violence

is often largely compromised by the deterioration of domestic funding and overly contingent on external resources. Finally, financial investments tend to be a good indicator of political will and of national and international priorities. In many regions of the world, children themselves are demanding more transparency in the use of public funds and increased investments in services that benefit them.<sup>4</sup> As such, information on financing can strengthen the accountability mechanisms for the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and other commitments made for the protection of children from violence.

This paper articulates a research, policy and advocacy agenda related to financing the end of violence against children. The target audience is the community of policy-makers, senior officials, decision-makers, practitioners and researchers working to end violence against children. The agenda put forward by this paper complements other strategic streams of work, such as, inter alia, the mobilisation of political will and the improvement of data and evidence. As outlined in the End Violence partnership 2016-2020 Strategy,<sup>5</sup> the sum of all these efforts is expected to accelerate action and results in protecting children from violence.

# Background and status of the debate



## The cost of violence against children

Violence against children has an enormous human and economic cost; it affects 1.7 billion children globally and costs our societies up to US\$7 trillion a year.<sup>6</sup> Violence adversely impacts children's development, health and education and weakens efforts to ensure sustainable development. Violence undermines all efforts towards poverty eradication, education, health, gender equality, eradicating child labour and jeopardises peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

The devastating impact of violence on children and entire communities and countries, as well as the imperative to address it, has been recognised since the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1989, as well as the release of the ground-breaking United Nations Secretary General Study on Violence Against Children in 2006. Still, violence against children only became a global development priority with the 2015 adoption of Agenda 2030. Among all states that have ratified

the UNCRC and passed additional national legislation prohibiting violence against children, there is a consensus that protecting children from violence is both a moral imperative and a legal obligation. The economic arguments for ending violence against children have rarely been invoked so far, in contrast to action relating to other aspects of child rights – such as education and health – which were prioritised in the UN's Millennium Development Goals.

The experience from these sectors shows that there are multilateral means of increasing resources and improve these resources' effectiveness. Among them are: articulating a vision for what a system for financing should be and should do;<sup>7</sup> promoting an international system for measuring investments;<sup>8</sup> estimating the resources needed to achieve agreed global targets<sup>9</sup> and the return on investment; setting spending benchmarks;<sup>10</sup> and, having an active group of donor champions. These lessons were valuable in the fields of children's education and health and should be applied to furthering the goal of ending violence against children.

## There are no reliable data on investments in ending violence against children

While commitments and political will to end violence against children have certainly grown, the information on investments and their effectiveness is still scarce. Very few attempts have been made to systematically quantify

and analyse available data on investment in this area. The sheer complexity of the issue has obstructed the development of tangible, measurable indicators and targets on investments and their impact. Although the available data are limited (see box below), existing evidence clearly suggests not enough resources are being invested in this issue right now.<sup>11</sup>

The lack of financial data for ending violence against children is due to several factors, including:

- The lack of understanding of violence's cost to society.
- The complex nature of ending violence, its multiple definitions and understandings and the different strategies required for the prevention of and response to violence, means that multiple sectors and stakeholders become involved in the endeavour – with each party having different financing flows. This makes it difficult to estimate and track programmes and services, as well as quantifying and collating their investments.
- The lack of unified data collection mechanisms that would require the multiple institutions and sectors to collect and present financial data through an 'ending violence' lens, and the resulting failure to record some of the current funding.
- The lack of an agreed methodology for tracking investments in ending violence.
- The lack of an established benchmark for how much money is needed to end violence against children (e.g. national-level benchmarks expressed as a percentage of the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or of total government spending).
- Competing demands for financial information placed on governments and other stakeholders (e.g. tracking expenditures whilst optimising investments on multiple SDGs at the same time).

Ending violence against children is a complex and multi-layered issue, compounded by social norms and misconceptions that refute its essence as a human right and a public good; this might go a long way towards explaining the gaps in information and prioritisation around financing to end violence.

### INVESTMENTS IN ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN: STATUS OF THE EVIDENCE

#### WHAT WE KNOW:

- We know that the world's governments have committed to ending violence against children, as part of the SDGs and international human rights treaties, such as the UNCRC.
- We have evidence and a global consensus about the effectiveness of a series of solutions to end violence against children, captured under the Seven Strategies of the INSPIRE<sup>12</sup> package; these are most effective when they operate within a co-ordinated, multi-sectoral system of formal and informal stakeholders that create a protective environment for children;<sup>13</sup> at the same time, more evidence and innovative approaches are still needed.
- There is solid evidence showing that the price of violence against children (i.e. the cost to society of responding to the consequences of violence) is higher than the investment required for preventing it.<sup>14</sup>

#### WHAT WE DON'T KNOW:

- We don't know the level of investment needed to achieve the elimination of violence against children in every country by 2030.
- There is no estimate as to how much the solutions, services and systems to sustain them cost,<sup>15</sup> and what the return on this investment is.
- We do not know how much is being invested globally in ending violence against children across all sources: i.e. government budgets,<sup>16</sup> official development assistance (ODA), civil society, businesses and/or philanthropic organisations.
- We do not know how, and to what extent, interventions and investments from different sectors contribute to ending violence against children and there is no consensus on how to apportion and track sectoral contributions to this issue.
- Finally, there is very little information about the adequacy, effectiveness and impact of existing investments from all sources.

## There is no consensus on what a financing system for ending violence is and should be

The system of institutions, policies and processes by which financial resources are mobilised, planned, disbursed, controlled and accounted for to enable the efficient and effective delivery of public service goals (in health care, education, security, sanitation and so on) are referred to as Public Financial Management (PFM). Strong PFM systems can reduce fragmentation in revenue streams and funding flows and ensure higher and more predictable budget allocations, timely budget execution and better financial transparency and reporting.

Much has been written about the features of a good health/education financing system;<sup>17</sup> a definition and articulation of what a good financing system for ending violence against children could look like (with functions, flows and indicators) has not been developed to date. This approach is a necessary step in the process of better understanding and harnessing resources for ending violence against children. Such a task should be carried out through a multi-stakeholder consultation or working group to be convened by the End Violence Secretariat (see section Taking this agenda forward).

## Progress is under way to fill the gaps around investments in ending violence against children

Despite the challenges, work on estimating and monitoring domestic and foreign investments has intensified in recent years. As part of its broader work on 'investing in children',<sup>18</sup> UNICEF has developed and is testing a Child Protection Benchmarking methodology<sup>19</sup> to measure national-level expenditures. The methodology

includes a proposal on how to apportion sectoral interventions and investments towards child protection.

The Counting Pennies<sup>20</sup> report, commissioned by a consortium of NGOs and UN agencies, provided an estimate baseline of Official Development Assistance (ODA) investments in Year 0 of the SDGs. The consortium is currently working on improving the methodology for regular monitoring of ODA investments by individual donors and at a global aggregate level, as well as plans to engage on national budgeting discussions in the future.

In its business plan, the End Violence partnership includes clear targets and actions related to financing the end of violence against children. The Investors' Forum established under End Violence is hoping to bring together a variety of private and public donors to discuss common investment priorities; one member of the Forum is conducting an analysis of the philanthropic investments in this issue. Lessons could be learned from the Donor Network set up under the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) initiative, which has made strides in tracking donor spending on nutrition and has achieved more and better co-ordinated donor funding at a national level through the appointment of a donor convener in each priority country.<sup>21</sup>

These developments are promising and need to be scaled up to increase their impact.

## Where do we go next?

Achieving the commitments to end violence against children endorsed in the Agenda 2030 and in the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action on Financing for Development<sup>22</sup> requires more investments and more effective allocation of funds. In line with the examples set by other sectors and issues, answers to the following questions are needed:

- What is the current level of investments in ending violence against children from different sources?
- What is the impact of existing investments?
- What level of resources is needed? From which sources?
- Where should investments be made to yield optimal results for children?

Such information is essential for policy-makers, donors and practitioners to make informed, sound and equitable financial decisions.

According to the Counting Pennies report, in 2015 total ODA spending across the globe was US\$174 billion and of that, less than 0.6% was allocated to ending violence against children. US\$238m was spent globally on projects that fully address violence against children – just over 0.1% of total aid. US\$837m – 0.5% of total aid – went to projects targeting violence against children alongside other issues.

Around 38% of total ODA spending on ending violence against children (US\$412m) came from humanitarian aid. Of this, US\$12m was spent on humanitarian projects that fully address ending violence against children, while US\$400m went to projects that included ending violence against children alongside other relief activities. Spending on humanitarian projects that mention ending violence against children represented only 2% of the US\$20 billion total humanitarian aid in 2015.

# More money, better spent for ending violence against children: Six strategies to get there

Governments and other stakeholders such as donors, United Nations agencies, civil society organisations and business must invest in the proven interventions (and systems that underpin them) that work in preventing, responding to and reducing violence to ensure that children – particularly the most vulnerable – are protected. These investment decisions need to be based on solid evidence about the success and efficiency of past/existing investments – as well as the projected costs of proven interventions and the systems to roll these out at a national scale. As new evidence on prevalence and

effectiveness is gathered, governments and other stakeholders need to be able to track, adjust, increase and report on these investments and their impact over time.

This section outlines **six strategies** to ensure greater and more impactful investments for ending violence against children. These strategies can be implemented in any order, concurrently or consecutively, depending on opportunities and context (i.e. the order in which they are presented below is purely indicative).



## Strategy I: Understand the level of current investments

It is critical to better understand – and to map – the volume and nature of existing investments in ending violence against children from all sources (national and local governments, civil society organisations, business and the philanthropic community) and all sectors involved (see Introduction). Ideally, a baseline for each of these sources should be established by 2019 (in time for the first high-level review of SDG 16.2 and other violence-related goals and targets<sup>23</sup>). As part of this work, it will be essential to test a variety of solutions and progressively generate a consensus on how to account for sectoral interventions and investments that directly and indirectly support ending violence against children.

At a national and local level, budget and expenditures reviews<sup>24</sup> can be conducted between 2018 and 2020. Some scoping analysis is under way on budgeting for child protection<sup>25</sup> and for specific issues, such as child marriage.<sup>26</sup> Children, parents, carers and communities can – and should – be involved in such monitoring efforts to provide information, carry out some research and strengthen their participation in the budgetary processes that affect their lives. Building on these efforts, national baselines can help

determine the level and composition of current national-level investments in ending violence, as well as identify potential gaps. This process can start with a selected number of countries (such as the Pathfinding Countries of the End Violence partnership) and ideally should work under the leadership of national governments, with the technical support of UNICEF and other partners.

Six child-focused civil society agencies<sup>27</sup> have already come together to discuss how they can measure their current investments in ending violence, with a view to increase investments in the coming years. This work can be accelerated – perhaps under the leadership of World Vision, which already measures its annual investment in child protection – with a goal of having a baseline covering the major agencies to be presented at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2019.

When engaging with businesses, the End Violence Secretariat (and a group of engaged members) could convene and provide technical support (together with the UN, civil society partners and other stakeholders, such as the UN Global Compact) for its major private sector members to voluntarily report on their investments towards this issue for the first time during the HLPF in July 2019. An international donor conference could drive assessments of existing investments and pledging of new ones.



## **Strategy 2: Establish mechanisms for regular monitoring of investments from different sources**

A global tracking system is necessary to regularly monitor the level of investment as it relates to the agreed goals to end violence against children. This will enable policy-makers and practitioners to estimate the effectiveness and impact of resources invested (see Strategy 5), to better inform policy decisions and map investments against the SDG targets.<sup>28</sup>

At a national level, an international standardised methodology may be agreed to report annually on expenditures related to ending violence against children.<sup>29</sup> These methods could be harmonised and integrated into existing initiatives, such as the Government Finance Statistics<sup>30</sup> or the System of National Accounts<sup>31</sup> methodologies and/or with other initiatives to track spending on child protection, as well as spending on children in general.<sup>32</sup> The INSPIRE strategies could be used to help determine what qualifies as spending specifically targeting ending violence against children (and/or related to it). As in Strategy 1, the international

methodology should include clear guidelines on how to account for sectoral interventions and investments that directly and indirectly support ending violence against children. End Violence pathfinding countries could lead the way in voluntarily reporting on the expenditures to end violence, using the agreed methodology. This data could be made available through the International Monetary Fund's Government Finance Statistics<sup>33</sup> data platform or another platform created and managed by the End Violence Secretariat,<sup>34</sup> for use by policy-makers, researchers, citizens (particularly children) and the media.

On a global level, an April 2018 report by Development Initiatives on tracking spending on ending violence against children (commissioned by the same consortium of NGOs and UN agencies that worked on the Counting Pennies report, see earlier section) recommended the adoption of a new 'ending violence against children' policy marker within the database of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)-Development Assistance Committee (DAC). The process of adopting this recommendation would require the endorsement and approval by the DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics (WP-STAT). Partners are discussing the proposal for a policy

marker with the OECD-Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD) – the body that serves as the Secretariat to the WP-STAT and makes proposals for new classifications – and with the DAC, in the context of the ongoing reforms of the DAC classification system. Specifically, the WP-STAT has proposed in 2018 the adoption of a new 'field' to report on the Sustainable Development Goals,<sup>35</sup> which would include target 16.2 and others related to ending violence against children. In addition, the new Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD)<sup>36</sup> framework is expected to track different types of external finance (grants and loans, resources from private sector and civil society), whether they are delivered through bilateral or multilateral channels. TOSSD will also track international support for issues that go beyond national borders and interests such as climate change, peace and security, safe international migration, human rights protection and others. Ongoing dialogue with the OECD will help clarify the extent to which these initiatives could provide an appropriate solution for tracking ODA to end violence, and whether a policy marker would still be needed once these reforms enter into force.<sup>37</sup>

Once an appropriate tracking system is agreed and in place, donors (governments, UN agencies and

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private philanthropy) reporting into the DAC database (and even those that report outside of it) would be able to systematically and regularly track investments in ending violence against children. Any new standards adopted in the DAC database would also be automatically reflected in the database of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), where several donors, UN agencies and civil society organisations also report. These developments would facilitate an annual consolidated report and analysis of ODA flows to the issue.

The implementation of any of the abovementioned changes in the OECD-DAC database, which would presumably facilitate the tracking of ODA to end violence, may take time (and their application may not happen until 2021/22). Specifically, reporting on the new SDG field will be voluntary (and any aid project could only be associated with a maximum of 10 SDG targets); it will therefore be necessary to support a group of donors to pioneer the implementation of the changes in a way that ensures the prioritisation of the SDG targets related to ending violence against children. ChildFund, Save the Children, World Vision, the End Violence Secretariat, UNICEF and the SRSG on Violence Against Children are already joining forces to identify 'champion donor' governments which

could lead the way in reporting about their ODA investments to end violence against children. The End Violence Secretariat and/or the Investors' Forum could convene such a group of donors to generate a critical mass.

Civil society and businesses working to end violence against children could also be regularly reporting on their expenditures related to the issue. Ideally, they should contribute information to the IATI database, or they could report separately and individually using a similar methodology to that which will be agreed globally for broader ODA (or a specially adapted one). The data would be released publicly once a year on an international platform (e.g. managed by the IATI, or by the End Violence Secretariat). As in Strategy 1, World Vision could be leading this process for civil society, starting with regular reporting from 2019-20, while the End Violence Secretariat could convene the business partners. Depending on the progressive implementation of the TOSSD framework, in conjunction with the new SDG field or/and a potential policy marker, information about private flows (from business, organisations, remittances, etc.) to end violence against children in aid-recipient countries may also become available (from 2020) through the OECD-DAC system.



### Strategy 3: Estimate the required level of investment to end violence

If we are to successfully advocate for the implementation and financing of the INSPIRE solutions to end violence (along with the systemic changes required to sustain these at scale), it is imperative to first know the cost of the solutions and systems. Estimating the level of investment required is a necessary step in ensuring that the right interventions are made at a sufficient scale – and are sustained by the right systems and infrastructure to address violence against children. This process can build on the costing of the solutions-based strategies to end violence currently embedded in the INSPIRE framework, or can utilise some other method that would yield adequate projections. As for the previous two strategies, an essential part of this work will be to cost the interventions and systems across the different sectors that directly and indirectly support ending violence against children.

At a national level, costing exercises could be conducted from 2018 to 2020, starting with the End Violence pathfinding countries and in one or two additional countries representing fragile and conflict-affected contexts. These exercises can be implemented with support from UNICEF and other UN agencies, the World Bank, civil society, academia and the private sector (e.g. global accounting and finance firms). Existing methodologies (such as those developed by UN Women on violence against women and girls) could be adapted and used.<sup>38</sup> Partners could agree on a common methodology,

through the convening role of the End Violence Secretariat and could then split the support to different (and more) countries to ensure a sizeable sample. Children, parents, carers and communities can and should be involved in estimating the needs and costs of preventing and responding to violence at local and national level.

Based on the national costing of solutions and systemic changes, the next step would be to estimate the total amount of resources required at national and global levels to achieve the SDG targets related to ending violence against children by 2030. As an indication, similar estimates have recently been made in relation to health goals.<sup>39</sup>

These estimates would form the basis for collective agreements among governments and relevant stakeholders on a set of national, regional and global financial targets (e.g. percentage of a country's GDP/public expenditure required to prevent and respond to violence, or minimum spending per child per year needed to provide violence-related preventative and response services).

An example of similar targets from the health sector is the Abuja Declaration in 2001, when the African Union countries pledged to allocate at least 15% of their annual budget to improve health. Though they may not accurately reflect the actual spending needs in different localities, these targets can be extremely useful as benchmarks to track the level of investments needed and the resources effectively allocated by countries. Looking at efforts in the health sector<sup>40</sup>, children, parents, carers and communities can use these benchmarks and the reporting on them

to inform dialogue with their national and local governments. This will lead to improvements in the finances allocated to services and to improved efficiency and impact of existing spending. As the Abuja experience showed, such targets work best when there is a designated institution, platform or space that can monitor and support countries in meeting their financing commitments. In the case of ending violence against children, the High-Level Political Forum, with its annual process of SDG review, the Financing for Development Annual Forum, and eventually the periodic Solutions Summits of the End Violence partnership, could play such a role. For instance, in all or one of these spaces, there could be a session (annually or every two years) dedicated only to reviewing the latest figures on spending to end violence against children from donors, CSOs, and governments associated with the End Violence Partnerships. This could be combined with an annual written summary note of available evidence published by the End Violence Secretariat.

## **Strategy 4: Calculate the return on investment to facilitate greater buy-in**

There is overwhelming evidence surrounding the negative impact, consequences and costs that violence has on children, society, economies and entire countries (see box on page 6). Despite this, policy-makers and leaders might still not be convinced of the economic value of investing in this issue compared to other pressing social and economic demands.

To address these concerns, it is critical to calculate the return on investment towards violence prevention and response programmes. Showing how these investments can have larger direct and indirect social, economic and political benefits and trickle-down positive effects can be a key argument to unlock the necessary commitments and resources.

For example, UNICEF pioneered return on investment (RoI) calculations for child-focused interventions,<sup>41</sup> as well as sectors such as maternal, newborn and child health,<sup>42</sup> education,<sup>43</sup> social protection<sup>44</sup> and emergency-preparedness.<sup>45</sup> The Post-2015 Copenhagen Consensus has attempted a first assessment of the benefit-to-cost ratio of the SDG targets related to violence against children (alongside those related to violence against women, violent deaths, and general violence and conflict).<sup>46</sup> This research provides estimates for only a few specific interventions (such as parenting programmes to reduce violent disciplinary practices in the home) rather than aggregate figures.<sup>47</sup> The RoI for ending violence against children may be calculated, for instance, under a Lancet Commission, or by another internationally recognised academic or private sector institution. The key in all calculations, including RoI, is to ensure that figures are credible and endorsed by all major stakeholders. The End Violence Secretariat (supported by a group of End Violence members) will be leading the development of a RoI study in the period 2018 to 2020.

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### **Strategy 5: Estimate the impact of current investments**

However large or small – and especially in resource-constrained environments – existing and future investments from different sources should maximise results in preventing and responding to violence against children. This strategy is about examining the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of current spending. The analyses mentioned below would allow governments, donors and other stakeholders to identify inefficiencies and surpluses in existing investments in ending violence and other sectors. They would also help redirect funding to interventions and systems that yield proven results.

At a government level, public expenditure reviews, benefit/expenditure incidence analysis and other research<sup>48</sup> on the impact, effectiveness and efficiency of existing national investments in ending violence are required. This would help link spending to specific outcomes in terms of ending violence and different groups of children reached (equity). Similarly, donor countries, civil society organisations, businesses and philanthropic organisations should conduct their own comprehensive reviews of the impact, effectiveness and efficiency of their investments in ending violence. These analyses should cover individual donors (country or institution) and then be compared with investments in other sectors.<sup>49</sup> The key in estimating the impact of any investment in ending violence

against children is to ensure the views of children, parents, carers and communities are included in the design and implementation of such research.

While financial analysis can highlight gaps and inefficiencies in spending, it will not suffice alone to identify which of the evidence-based strategies are most effective – and in which contexts they are effective. Therefore, it will be necessary to conduct impact assessments which can identify the effectiveness of existing investments, as well as the strength of different interventions and strategies. Such evaluations should also include the effectiveness and efficiency of the systems that underpin and sustain specific programmes, services and interventions. This information would help identify where better pooling and collaboration across sectors and funders for ending violence could improve the impact of the overall investment.

The End Violence partnership (Secretariat and relevant members), as part of the efforts to catalyse more resources for the sector, can advocate for more specific funding pools to be made available for conducting impact evaluations and randomised control trials in this area. Governments, United Nations agencies and civil society organisations implementing interventions and programmes can promote consortia with leading academic institutions to promote the production of cutting-edge evidence, possibly based on the model of what has been done around cash transfers for children<sup>50</sup> or child-friendly spaces in humanitarian action.<sup>51</sup>

## **Strategy 6: Identify new sources of funding (and protect existing funding)**

Like all sustainable development issues in the SDGs,<sup>52</sup> ending violence against children is – and should continue to be – funded from a variety of sources and stakeholders: governments, donors, UN agencies, civil society organisations, philanthropic circles, businesses, communities, families and children. It would be useful to map the current share of different sources<sup>53</sup> of investment in ending violence – per country and across countries – and compare it with the share received in other sectors, or even as a proportion within the overall GDP. This information could help inform a public debate about who is currently bearing the cost of preventing and responding to violence and start a discussion on how these could be sustainably shared between the state, families and communities, as well as the private sector and external stakeholders.

Some areas of ending violence could be funded through innovative business and private investments, while others will most likely continue to remain public goods that require public resources. This should include the possibility of reallocating existing government resources from other sectors of public expenditure, such as the military or infrastructure,<sup>54</sup> towards ending violence. Innovations are very much needed; the End Violence Secretariat could convene a conversation among

businesses to generate and fund catalytic ideas in this domain.

With the evidence collected through the previous strategies, it would also be possible to engage in discussions with the key public sectors that contribute to ending violence against children, such as health, education, social protection and others listed in the Introduction, on how they could maximise the protective effects of their existing interventions and investments. In addition, at times of crisis, only spending in certain sectors might be considered a priority by governments and by the international institutions providing concessional finance to support national development reforms.<sup>55</sup> Therefore, any interventions and investments from ending violence against children which are not included in the priority sectors are likely to be among the first ones to be cut – with potentially disastrous consequences for children.

Domestic fiscal space assessments are imperative when addressing the balance between external and domestic funding, to ensure that international assistance only tops up existing funds and provides incentives for governments to increase domestic spending commitments. ODA should leverage – not overtake – domestic resources in this sector, especially in countries which already have resources in the short and medium term but are choosing not to spend them on ending violence.

External assistance is likely to continue to be a major source of funding for ending-violence work in a few countries with contexts of fragility, conflict and

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resource constraint and which are highly dependent on external aid. This financial situation may continue up until 2030. The End Violence Secretariat and a group of interested members of End Violence could support the identification of the right balance between international and domestic resources in different countries. Mapping and comparing existing international and domestic investments in ending violence with the revenue-generation capacity in each country would help identify where more could be invested from existing and increased domestic resources.

# Taking this agenda forward

Ending violence against children requires the efforts and co-operation of multiple stakeholders, sectors and disciplines. Likewise, increasing and improving investments in ending violence against children – more money, better spent – should be a collective and co-ordinated effort.

Based on the successes of the efforts made in the global education sector,<sup>56</sup> this paper proposes that a multi-stakeholder consultation or working group be convened by the End Violence Secretariat to:

- Conceptualise a financing system for ending violence against children, with functions, flows, and indicators.
- Create a common understanding of the knowledge-gaps in financing the end of violence.
- Articulate and implement a co-ordinated research agenda to fill those gaps.
- Review and revise as needed the above-proposed 6 Strategies, with a view to agreeing on a set of common actions and monitoring progress over time.
- Generate and sustain political commitment from governments, UN

agencies, civil society, businesses, philanthropic groups and other relevant institutions, to prioritise the end of violence against children in their investment decisions.

These groups must be encouraged to collaborate with each other, track spending and its impact and make financial data publicly available. This can be achieved through identifying 'champions', convening high-level meetings and other advocacy initiatives.

- Identify global moments for mobilisation and advocacy,<sup>57</sup> bring together allies, lead high-level advocacy and gather political will to generate financing and tracking commitments from all relevant stakeholders.
- Co-ordinate with and help inform the investment decisions of the Investors' Forum, donors, governments and all stakeholders that invest in ending violence against children.

The End Violence partnership (Secretariat and members) can become the platform that brings together all concerned actors on ending violence as part of the actions to implement its

strategy and business plan. The SRSG on Violence Against Children can also be a key leader of this discussion, given the mandate's track record of mobilising political will at a national level. UNICEF, the World Bank and other international actors have been leading different global efforts to track and influence investments in children and have the expertise and resources to provide the necessary technical reinforcement.

The key stakeholders to be invited to this process should include: representatives from the constituencies that form the End Violence partnership (governments, UN agencies, especially UNICEF and the UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs, civil society and faith-based organisations, businesses, philanthropic groups, academia and children); the OECD; the IATI; the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund; health and education financing experts; and public finance management experts. At local and national level, children, parents, carers and communities can and should be involved in the conversation around financing for ending violence.



# Conclusion

Achieving the SDGs and targets to end violence against children requires investments.

The stakes for ending violence against children could not be higher. If we do not end violence against children now, we risk jeopardising the progress and losing the investments made in child survival, health and education, as well as overall social and economic development and prosperity. Violence against children already costs the world up to US\$7 trillion a year; it can cost us our future as well. Getting the investment right is paramount to move the agenda forward and the strategies articulated in this paper should help secure it.

The time has come for the global End Violence Against Children movement to confront the complex but essential issue of how to mobilise and harness the resources to finance the interventions, services and systems needed to protect and support children affected by, or vulnerable to, violence.

**It takes investments from multiple sources to end violence against children and the time to mobilise and monitor those resources is right now.**

# Endnotes

- 1 <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/overview/>; <https://www.togetherforgirls.org/violence-children-surveys/>; <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/early/2016/01/25/peds.2015-4079.full.pdf>; <http://www.knowviolenceinchildhood.org/publication/flagship-report>.
- 2 [http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/violence/inspire/en/](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/inspire/en/)
- 3 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2016, General Comment No.19 (2016) on Public Budgeting for the Realisation of Children's Rights (art. 4); Human Rights Council, 2015, Rights of the Child: Towards better investment in the rights of the child, Resolution A/HRC/28/L.28.
- 4 <https://twitter.com/acerwc/status/990170284979351552>; <https://twitter.com/acerwc/status/985906865950339073>; World Vision Bangladesh, May 2017, Report on Child-led Budget Dialogue.
- 5 <http://www.end-violence.org/take-action/strategy>
- 6 <http://childfundalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/ODI-Policy-Brief-The-cost-and-economic-impact-of-violence-against-children.pdf>
- 7 [https://www.hfgproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/HSAA\\_Manual\\_Version\\_2\\_Sept\\_20121.pdf](https://www.hfgproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/HSAA_Manual_Version_2_Sept_20121.pdf)
- 8 <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002457/245752e.pdf>
- 9 <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002321/232197E.pdf>; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(17\)30263-2/abstract](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(17)30263-2/abstract)
- 10 <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002321/232197E.pdf>; <http://www.globalpartnership.org/funding/education-costs-per-child>
- 11 See also the 2011 report of the former Child Protection Working Group covering funding for child protection in emergencies <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/too-little-too-late-child-protection-funding-emergencies>
- 12 [http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/violence/inspire/en/](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/inspire/en/)
- 13 [https://www.unicef.org/protection/files/Adapting\\_Systems\\_Child\\_Protection\\_Jan\\_\\_2010.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/protection/files/Adapting_Systems_Child_Protection_Jan__2010.pdf); [https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/Systems\\_Approach\\_to\\_Child\\_Protection.pdf](https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/Systems_Approach_to_Child_Protection.pdf)
- 14 <http://childfundalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/ODI-Policy-Brief-The-cost-and-economic-impact-of-violence-against-children.pdf>; [https://www.unicef.org/eapro/Economic\\_Burden\\_in\\_East\\_Asia\\_Pacific.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/eapro/Economic_Burden_in_East_Asia_Pacific.pdf); <http://gh.bmj.com/content/3/1/e000573>; <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190740916304297>; <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0145213415000575>; <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25757367>; <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4371492/>
- 15 This refers to the cost of setting up systems, services and programmes and the long-term recurring expenditures needed to sustain them.
- 16 According to a global survey in 2013, only 4% of governments indicated that they provide full resources for policies and programmes to address violence against children, while 10% said that resources were not allocated. Up to two-thirds of governments did not respond to this question. See: [https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/sites/violenceagainstchildren.un.org/files/global\\_survey/toward\\_a\\_world\\_free\\_from\\_violence\\_02\\_23\\_2016.pdf](https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/sites/violenceagainstchildren.un.org/files/global_survey/toward_a_world_free_from_violence_02_23_2016.pdf)
- 17 A good health financing system has been defined as one that "raises adequate funds for health, in ways that ensure people can use needed services, and are protected from financial catastrophe or impoverishment associated with having to pay for them. It provides incentives for providers and users to be efficient". Health financing has three key functions: revenue collection, pooling of resources, and purchasing of services. [https://www.hfgproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/HSAA\\_Manual\\_Version\\_2\\_Sept\\_20121.pdf](https://www.hfgproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/HSAA_Manual_Version_2_Sept_20121.pdf) Similarly, education finance usually refers to "governmental and organisational processes by which revenues are generated (through taxation, tuition, fees, and philanthropy), distributed, and expended for the operational and capital support of formal schooling". <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199756810/obo-9780199756810-0012.xml>. Both sectors have provided useful visualisations of the financial flows from source to expenditure point and have elaborated globally agreed financial performance indicators that are tracked by individual governments and international institutions, such as the World Health Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
- 18 [https://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index\\_53294.html](https://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_53294.html); <http://www.childrightsconnect.org/child-rights-issues/investmentinchildren/>
- 19 [https://www.unicef.org/protection/files/UNICEF\\_CP\\_Benchmark\\_proposal\\_integrated\\_final\\_report\\_rev.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/protection/files/UNICEF_CP_Benchmark_proposal_integrated_final_report_rev.pdf)
- 20 <https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/Counting%20Pennies%20Report%20Web.pdf>
- 21 <http://scalingupnutrition.org/sun-supporters/sun-donor-network/>
- 22 [http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA\\_Outcome.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf)
- 23 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children; 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation; 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early, and forced marriage and female genital mutilation; 8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking, and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms; 4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote[...] a culture of peace and non-violence [...]; 4.A Build and upgrade education facilities that... provide safe, non-violent, inclusive, and effective learning environments for all. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>
- 24 Such as Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys (PETS), Public Expenditure Reviews (PERs) and Child Protection Benchmarking.
- 25 [https://www.unicef.org/esaro/resources\\_20893.html](https://www.unicef.org/esaro/resources_20893.html)
- 26 [https://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/ECM\\_Budget\\_Scoping\\_Analysis\\_-\\_February\\_2018.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/ECM_Budget_Scoping_Analysis_-_February_2018.pdf)
- 27 Child Fund Alliance; Plan International; Save the Children; SOS Children's Villages; Terre des Hommes; World Vision International

- 28 Examples of analysis and visualisations of expenditures from the health sector: <https://www.nature.com/articles/sdata201738>; <http://datacompass.lshrm.ac.uk/320/>; <https://public.tableau.com/profile/ardito#1/vizhome/WorldRMNCH/DisbursementsRMNCH>
- 29 In other words, in Strategy 2 governments would agree on such standards before spending and accounting for the resources, leading to reporting by governments themselves; conversely, in Strategy 1 the analysis is done ex-post, retrofitting a methodology to capture expenditures on ending violence onto a government financial reporting structure that does provide by itself any information on this issue.
- 30 <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/aboutgfs.htm>
- 31 <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/docs/SNA2008.pdf>
- 32 [https://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/files/C-PEM\\_Compendium\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/files/C-PEM_Compendium_FINAL.pdf)
- 33 <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/aboutgfs.htm>
- 34 The health sector uses different measurement systems and platforms; health expenditures are recorded in the Government Finance Statistics, managed by the International Monetary Fund and also in a separate and different system of National Health Accounts (managed by the World Health Organisation): <http://apps.who.int/nha/database/Home/Index/en/>
- 35 [http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC/STAT\(2018\)41/REV1&docLanguage=En](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC/STAT(2018)41/REV1&docLanguage=En)
- 36 <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/Updated%20TOSSD%20Flyer%20with%20TOSSD%20Task%20Force%20Inserted%201%20May%202017.pdf>
- 37 It is interesting to note that in the area of nutrition, in June 2018 the WP-STAT approved a new nutrition policy marker, in addition to a series of existing purpose codes also focused on nutrition. The objective of the marker is to capture cross-cutting spending from a variety of sectors. On top of these two tracking methods, the new 'SDG field' will also allow the coding of aid activities to the SDG targets related to nutrition. It is unclear, from the documentation available so far, the extent to which the WP-STAT has discussed the overlaps and complementarity between these three methods. Given the similarities between nutrition and ending violence against children, these discussions are extremely relevant to developing the best tracking solutions for ending violence [http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC/STAT\(2018\)38/REV1&docLanguage=En](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC/STAT(2018)38/REV1&docLanguage=En)
- 38 UN Women has produced useful costing tools for ending violence against women and girls that could be adapted. See: <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2016/06/un-women-costing-tools-have-led-to-improved-essential-services>; [http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/~media/Field%20Office%20ESEA/Docs/Publications/2014/1/UNW\\_The\\_Costs\\_of\\_Violence\\_FINAL%20pdf.pdf](http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/~media/Field%20Office%20ESEA/Docs/Publications/2014/1/UNW_The_Costs_of_Violence_FINAL%20pdf.pdf); <http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20eseasia/docs/publications/2016/06/a-costing-tool-for-action.pdf?la=en&vs=5917>; <http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20eseasia/docs/publications/2016/06/estimating-cost-requirements-vaw-r3.pdf?la=en&vs=802>
- 39 [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(17\)30263-2/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(17)30263-2/fulltext)
- 40 Among many examples from a variety of organisations, see World Vision's work in health [https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/ChildHealthNow\\_Sept-2016\\_Full-Report.pdf](https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/ChildHealthNow_Sept-2016_Full-Report.pdf) and [http://static1.squarespace.com/static/54d0f2c0e4b081a66404a5fb/t/560273e3e4b03fc4a33c4c80/1443001714114/FULL\\_REPORT\\_WEB.pdf](http://static1.squarespace.com/static/54d0f2c0e4b081a66404a5fb/t/560273e3e4b03fc4a33c4c80/1443001714114/FULL_REPORT_WEB.pdf)
- 41 [https://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/files/RIGHT\\_IN\\_PRINCIPLE\\_AND\\_IN\\_PRACTICE.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/files/RIGHT_IN_PRINCIPLE_AND_IN_PRACTICE.pdf); [https://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/files/Investing\\_in\\_Children\\_19June2012\\_e-version\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/files/Investing_in_Children_19June2012_e-version_FINAL.pdf)
- 42 [https://www.unicef.org/health/index\\_90618.html](https://www.unicef.org/health/index_90618.html); <http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/infantfeeding/global-bf-collective-investmentcase.pdf>
- 43 [https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Investment\\_Case\\_for\\_Education\\_and\\_Equity\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Investment_Case_for_Education_and_Equity_FINAL.pdf)
- 44 <https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/694-making-the-investment-case-for-social-protection-methodological-challenges-with-lessons.html>
- 45 [https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF\\_WFP\\_ROI\\_study\\_Appendix.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF_WFP_ROI_study_Appendix.pdf)
- 46 <https://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/post-2015-consensus/conflictandviolence>
- 47 [https://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/sites/default/files/conflict\\_assessment\\_-\\_hoeffler\\_and\\_fearon\\_0.pdf](https://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/sites/default/files/conflict_assessment_-_hoeffler_and_fearon_0.pdf)
- 48 List of methodologies: <http://wbi.worldbank.org/boost/tools-resources/boost/application-boost>; [https://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/files/C-PEM\\_Compendium\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/files/C-PEM_Compendium_FINAL.pdf)
- 49 Education sector: [http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/who-pays-for-what-in-education-national-revealed-through-accounts-2016-en\\_0.pdf](http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/who-pays-for-what-in-education-national-revealed-through-accounts-2016-en_0.pdf)
- 50 <https://www.unicef-irc.org/research/social-protection-cash-transfers/>
- 51 <https://www.wvi.org/global-engagement/article/child-friendly-spaces-research-collaboration>
- 52 Education sector examples: [http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/who-pays-for-what-in-education-national-revealed-through-accounts-2016-en\\_0.pdf](http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/who-pays-for-what-in-education-national-revealed-through-accounts-2016-en_0.pdf); [http://www.educationcannotwait.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Education\\_Financing-Mechanisms.pdf](http://www.educationcannotwait.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Education_Financing-Mechanisms.pdf)
- 53 This should include estimates of the economic value of unpaid care and volunteer work undertaken in the prevention and response to violence against children.
- 54 [https://www.unicef.org/esaro/resources\\_fiscal-space-analysis.html](https://www.unicef.org/esaro/resources_fiscal-space-analysis.html)
- 55 For instance, the International Monetary Fund's Social Safeguards standards to protect social spending and the most vulnerable only include spending on health, education and social safety nets, see <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Policy-Papers/Issues/2017/06/01/pp042117social-safeguards-and-program-design-in-prgt-and-psi>
- 56 <http://educationcommission.org/>; [http://report.educationcommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Learning\\_Generation\\_Full\\_Report.pdf](http://report.educationcommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Learning_Generation_Full_Report.pdf)
- 57 Such as the Spring Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, or the Financing for Development process.

World Vision believes a world without violence against children is possible. No one person, group or organisation can solve this problem alone. It takes investments from multiple sources to end violence against children and the time to mobilise and monitor those resources is right now.

