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

Contents

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Introduction

Violence against women (VAW) and violence against children (VAC) are serious human rights violations and global health concerns that impact families across the world.[1] Globally, one in three women has experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime[2] and over half of children aged 2–17 years experience some form of violence each year.[3] There is growing global recognition of the ways in which VAW and VAC intersect.[4] VAW and VAC have shared risk factors and similar consequences for health and well-being. Furthermore, there is a high likelihood of both forms of violence occurring in the same household, in particular intimate partner violence against women and violent discipline of children.[5] These areas of intersection or overlap have led researchers and practitioners from both fields to increasingly recognize the importance of collaborating to ensure the best outcomes for both women and children.[6] Although the evidence base is growing, few studies exist on coordinated approaches to VAW and VAC globally and in the UNICEF Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.[7] This study aimed to fill that gap, and this report gives an overview of opinions, challenges and opportunities for collaborative approaches to VAW and VAC in Lebanon.

Context

Facing severe regional conflicts, and with a history of multiple internal conflicts, Lebanon experiences ongoing economic and social instability.[8] With poverty and economic crises heightening the risk of violence in the home, VAW and VAC remain major concerns in the country. While prevalence rates on VAW, particularly intimate partner violence, are limited, this form of violence is estimated to be widespread in Lebanon.[9] VAC is also prevalent in Lebanon, with 57 per cent of children in the country experiencing violent discipline in the home.[10] Findings from the UNICEF Child-focused Rapid Assessment (CfRA) – a telephone survey conducted in November 2023 among 2,153 households with at least one child – estimated that 44 per cent of respondents felt less tolerant of their children's behaviour and treated them more harshly amid the enduring crisis in Lebanon.[11] Furthermore, results indicated that 50 per cent of respondents felt that they had to scream or shout at their children. Research also indicates that social and gender norms that support the use of physical punishment against both children and women are widespread.[12] However, there is a considerable absence of rigorous research on the estimates of VAW and VAC separately in Lebanon, with the few reports that do exist only occasionally mentioning information related to the intersections between these two forms of violence.

Methodology

Aim, objectives and key research questions

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

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

The key objectives of the study were:

- to identify existing policies, action plans and programmes that address both VAC and VAW;

- to understand the challenges that hinder collaborative efforts to address VAC and VAW; and

- to identify opportunities that allow for increased collaboration between the fields of VAC and VAW.

Specific research questions included:

- To what extent do existing policies, action plans, programmes or service documents include or address both VAC and VAW?

- What are some examples of policies, action plans, programmes, collaborations, strategies or services where there is some evidence of integration of VAC and VAW (i.e., addressing both VAC and VAW at the same time)?

- To what extent and how do VAW-focused and VAC-focused stakeholders collaborate?

- What are the areas of tension or challenges (in relation to collaboration) between the work of VAC and VAW?

- What are the opportunities within the existing structures, programmes or services, where collaborative working and coordination could be introduced or enhanced?

Methodology and data collection tools

The situation analysis included the following qualitative methods:

- desk-based document analysis of plans, guidance and policy documents related to VAW and VAC; and

- key informant interviews with stakeholders working on VAW and/or VAC.

The aim of the document analysis was to identify existing multisectoral regulations and policies, services and practices where the VAW and VAC workstreams intersected. The desk-based document analysis reviewed different policies, plans, policy reports and service documents written in both English and Arabic and adopted between 2010 and present that related to the intersections of VAW and VAC. A qualitative content analysis approach was used to identify underlying themes and structures of argument used in the selected documents.[13]

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

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

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

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

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

Findings

Policy and institutional frameworks

Of over 30 policy documents reviewed (e.g., regulations, policies, plans, strategies and guidelines), only a quarter addressed VAW and VAC within the same document. Most policy documents used broad terms, such as 'violence against women and girls', 'gender-based violence' and 'child protection', but they seldom categorized further these types of violence or rarely explained the intersections between them. Table 1 presents a summary of the main documents and frameworks reviewed.

Table 1: Lebanon – Summary of policy review

DOCUMENT TITLE	MAIN AIM	MENTIONS OF VAW AND VAC
National Strategy to Combat Violence Against Women and Girls (2019–2029)	• The strategy aims to raise awareness of the harm caused by various forms of VAW and the negative effects of VAW on the victim/survivor, family and society. Only Strategic Objective 1 (protection of women and girls against violence) and Strategic Objective 3 (response to the needs of women and children survivors of gender-based violence) have a more specific focus on addressing VAW and VAC in a combined way, although neither objective stipulates how to do that.	All gender-based violence against women and children
Strategic Plan for the Protection of Women and Children (2020–2027)	• The strategic plan is a road map towards the protection of women and children. It ensures the necessary coordination and integration between the public and private sectors, including civil society, to strengthen the national system for the prevention of, and response to, child protection violations and gender-based violence.	VAW and VAC (e.g., sexual violence, violent discipline, exploitation)
QUDWA – National Social and Behavioural Change and Communication Plan (2020–2027)* *Under Objective 4 of the Strategic Plan for the Protection of Women and Children (cited above)	• QUDWA aims to address the root causes of harmful practices against girls, boys and women, while encouraging behaviours and norms that promote the well-being, dignity and equality of women, girls and boys.	Child marriage, violence against women, girls and boys
Lebanon Crisis Response Plans (2022–2023 and 2023)	• These plans are considered to be an important milestone to enhancing the protection of women, children and boys from sexual and gender-based violence during armed conflicts. • The latest plan (2023) calls for specific actions across the various sectors (health, education, protection) to ensure coordinated responses. Violence against adolescents is highlighted, particularly in relation to child marriage.	Gender-based violence, sexual and gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, and child safeguarding

DOCUMENT TITLE	MAIN AIM	MENTIONS OF VAW AND VAC
Strategy for Protecting Students in the School Environment (2017)	• The strategy aims to protect school students from all forms of violence. It provides prevention activities for students through raising awareness of, and offering educational guidance on, the existence of any violence within or outside the school, including domestic violence. The strategy focuses mainly on protecting students from violence in schools. However, it mentions 'family dysfunction' as a risk for children witnessing domestic violence, where the home is not a safe and child-friendly environment.	Sexual violence in and outside school, including domestic violence
National Plan to Safeguard Children and Women in Lebanon (2014)	• The plan aims to improve the quality of life and reduce the risks impeding the protection of women and vulnerable children, and aims to provide a safe environment and support services directly to families.	Gender-based violence
Child Protection Guidelines for Healthcare Providers (2022)	• Although focused on VAC, the guidelines define domestic violence and gender-based violence. They also include the legal context in relation to domestic violence. The section on response tells providers to screen married adolescent pregnant women for domestic violence. It also offers hotline and helpline numbers for domestic violence that providers can use.	VAC, but also domestic violence

Services for children and women who have experienced violence

Collaborations among various institutions were found to be instrumental in addressing either VAW or VAC. These collaborations extended across a wide spectrum of governmental (e.g., the National Commission for Lebanese Women, the Ministries of Education, of Social Affairs, of Justice and of Education), national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and United Nations agencies' entities, most of which are part of the Child Protection Working Group.

Among these collaborations, efforts focused on establishing referral mechanisms, engaging central government and NGOs that implement services, and leveraging a network approach to confront and mitigate both forms of violence.

However, the study revealed limited collaboration between sectors or organizations addressing VAW and VAC. Initiatives led by stakeholders focused on child protection often did not have a gender-sensitive approach and did not take into consideration the needs of children's caregivers. Conversely, initiatives led by stakeholders focused on VAW typically did not include substantive child protection components. Yet, the findings revealed how some women's NGOs were beginning to adopt a family-oriented approach, integrating child protection components into their response initiatives (e.g., case management and hotlines for reporting VAC and VAW).

At governmental level, the study found a few examples of coordinated approaches across ministries, albeit sporadic. The Ministry of Social Affairs operated a community-based programme for early monitoring and safe referral of VAC cases. Additionally, the ministry collaborated with the Internal Security Forces Directorate hotline to report violence and refer cases, while ensuring internal coordination between staff working on child protection and gender-based VAW.

Efforts to address VAW and VAC intersections were also conducted in direct partnership with various United Nations organizations, including UNICEF. The findings identified various examples of prevention programmes, including community-based mobilization, parenting programmes, youth involvement initiatives and school-based interventions. Most of these prevention initiatives at community level focused on children's protection from violence. Numerous NGOs had also established outreach prevention programmes for children and young people, to prevent violence against children and adolescents. Results also revealed school-based activities that were implemented to increase students' protection from sexual and gender-based violence within schools, but also at home.

VAW and VAC framing among stakeholders interviewed

Findings from the interviews conducted revealed that almost all stakeholders referred to child protection when discussing the need to protect children from violence and referred to gender-based violence when discussing violence against women and girls. VAC was defined as encompassing various forms of direct physical, sexual and psychological violence, with some respondents also including children witnessing domestic violence.

Results highlighted several key factors influencing the definitions and subsequent handling of VAW and VAC by stakeholders. These factors included the legal framework, the age of the survivor and community norms and perceptions surrounding violence. Some participants pointed out the particular categorization of VAC and gender-based violence in Lebanon, where specific laws such as 293 (Domestic Violence) and 422 (Violence Against Children) take into account the marital status of the survivors/victims when addressing these issues. This categorization resulted in a distinct classification adopted by stakeholders: if an unmarried girl was affected, she could benefit from protection under Law 422; however, if she was married, she would need to resort to Law 293 to have protection orders issued as a result of domestic violence. Law 422 cannot issue protection measures for married girls.

Findings also illustrated stakeholders' emphasis on framing interventions around VAW and VAC within a 'family protection' approach, which aimed to preserve the family unit rather than isolating the issue of VAW by focusing on women's empowerment. Such an approach was also identified as being more accepted by communities and less threatening to prevailing societal and gender roles.*

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*   Findings from the interviews highlighted how communities seemed to perceive women's empowerment as an imported Western concept threatening traditional family values, as it is perceived as empowering women against men, thus jeopardizing the family unit.

Views on VAW and VAC collaboration

Findings underscored stakeholders' recognition that addressing VAW and VAC necessitates a coordinated effort due to their interconnectedness. Specifically, women's NGOs indicated the importance of implementing joint outreach and prevention programmes that address both VAW and VAC through an integrated approach. Importantly, this perspective was not exclusive to NGO workers; stakeholders within governmental sectors also supported an integrated family approach.

Child protection was recognized as a starting point for addressing family violence by some NGOs. Initiating discussions on VAC was seen as more acceptable within communities (as mentioned earlier), given that stakeholders indicated that VAW was often perceived to be associated with women's empowerment, which was commonly perceived to be related to challenging men's control.

Due to the shared risk factors, many stakeholders emphasized the critical necessity of a coordinated approach and collaborative efforts among various actors addressing gender-based violence and child protection. When addressing cases of violence within the same family, coordination was considered crucial to prevent conflicting service responses, overlap or duplication. While endorsing the idea of coordination between child protection and gender-based violence, two key collaborative approaches emerged from respondents: one, having two distinct specialists who undergo joint training and awareness to facilitate collaboration; and two, having a single case manager addressing both forms of violence within the same family.

Understanding barriers to VAW and VAC collaboration

Several challenges were reported, spanning from organizational constraints to limited service capacity and resource allocation. These challenges are outlined below.

Organizational constraints

- One barrier that was reported was the constrained capacity of health providers to identify cases of violence. The absence of training and available guidelines on understanding the intersections between VAW and VAC, particularly within the medical sector, was also highlighted as a major barrier to effective collaboration.

- Findings also revealed that lack of coordination, communication and infrastructure across institutions working on various forms of violence often led to fragmented responses.

- Challenges with referral systems for both VAW and VAC were also reported, accompanied by limited monitoring of available referral services on either form of violence. Participants mentioned the existing referral pathways that are used. However, they explained that these lack systematization or a 'unified system', which would help achieve better coordination.

- Lastly, challenges related to the absence of robust infrastructure and sustainability measures were evident, with much of the work relying primarily on individual motivation and efforts, according to feedback from some governmental and NGO participants.

Structural constraints

- All respondents highlighted financial constraints as a major impediment to collaboration, attributing these constraints to the current political and economic situation in Lebanon. The ongoing economic crisis has resulted in reduced resources and intense competition for funding.

Socio-cultural constraints

- Existing social and cultural norms influence service delivery and the interpretation of prevention messages around VAW and VAC within the community. For example, as reported by a few participants, there is a sentiment to not report cases of violence and to stay in abusive relationships. Respondents also expressed how some societal norms, such as ones that normalize violence, further contribute to such sentiments.

- While engagement with religious leaders is happening at community level, there is a need for increased understanding among religious and community leaders of the consequences and risk factors of domestic violence.

Key considerations

The findings revealed that a coordinated approach was the most practical option reported among stakeholders encouraging collaboration among NGO actors and civil servants working on either VAW or child protection, while maintaining specialised response services and legal frameworks as needed. Stakeholders also acknowledged the importance of continued financial investment in prevention strategies for VAC and VAW, emphasizing the need for carefully designed and evaluated programmes. Gender-transformative strategies to challenge harmful gender norms that normalize violence are critical to the effectiveness of all coordinated programmes and policies and Lebanon is well placed in this regard given government endorsement for this approach. Moving forward, a focus should be placed on the implementation of gender-transformative approaches and ensuring that different actors and sectors adopt strategies that address social norms and harmful practices. Additional guidance from global frameworks, such as INSPIRE[14] and RESPECT,[15] can also provide valuable insights to inform coordinated solutions in Lebanon.

Evidence from various countries has shown the need for better collaboration between child protection and services for women who experience intimate partner violence.[16] Importantly, however, it is crucial to note that child protection systems occasionally do not take into account other forms of family violence, which in some instances can put women's safety at risk, by, for example, assuming that women can leave abusive environments, or assigning blame to women for not being able to prevent or 'manage' men's abusive behaviour.[17]

Additional recommendations for establishing and enhancing cohesive strategies between child protection sectors and organizations and services dedicated to supporting women facing violence are provided below.

- **Convene regular meetings between different sectors and organizations** that work on violence to facilitate dialogue and communication. This would involve strengthening accountability mechanisms and reinforcing the authority of the Ministry of Social Affairs as the primary coordinating body for violence-related issues. Building networks across sectors could encourage collaboration between organizations working on child protection and organizations working on women's rights and VAW.

- **Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Social Affairs** to fulfil its mandate on the protection of women and children and implement the strategies that have been developed in the last 4–5 years. High-level collaboration and support from various ministries are required to advance efforts to address VAW and VAC.

- **Leverage child protection as an entry point** for addressing VAW within the family. Women's NGOs highlighted the pivotal role of focusing on children in gaining community acceptance on prevention of violence and VAW projects. Findings from the present report revealed that women's NGOs opted for an 'instrumental' family-based case management approach to ensure holistic support for women and children. Notably, some stakeholders also emphasized the importance of using community-based advocacy when seeking to address the intersections between VAW and VAC at community level. This approach focuses on promoting social and behavioural change: integrating messages against the normalization of gender-based violence while

addressing broader child protection issues. The strategy adopted by some organizations involved reshaping social norms and leveraging religious values to illustrate that preventing VAC begins with protecting women. A family-based case management approach can ensure holistic support for women and children. However, it is important to recognize that the safety of women who experience abuse is also paramount and should not be jeopardized at the expense of children's best interests.

Points of concern and opportunities

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

Table 2: Key points of concern and opportunities

POINTS OF CONCERN	OPPORTUNITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS
Intersections of VAW and VAC in policies	
• There is a lack of attention to the intersections between various forms of VAW and VAC in current national policy and regulatory documents.	• **Develop and update policies and plans on VAW and VAC that acknowledge the impact of intimate partner violence on both women and children** and facilitate effective prevention and response systems for both. These policies can be integrated or separate. However, when developed separately they should consider the needs of children, adolescents and women and guarantee protection from all forms of violence.
• The categorization of VAW and VAC in legal documents is problematic, with insufficient attention given to the specific needs of adolescents. Adolescent girls under the age of 18 years – who may either be married or have already started childbearing – may fall between systems designed for children or adults. For example, VAW services may not consider the specific needs of married adolescent girls, instead treating them in the same way as adult women.	• **Ensure that age-appropriate and gender-responsive considerations, taking into account the specific needs of adolescents**, are included in existing laws related to protection. • **Develop standard operating procedures** that define specific processes and actions for providers in the fields of VAW and VAC to ensure a coordinated approach in assisting women, adolescents and children affected by violence.
Funding	
• Limited financial allocations impact on VAW and VAC collaborative approaches, especially as both sectors often must compete for the same limited budgetary resources.	• **Advocate for increased public fund allocations as well as multi-year funding and support from donors and government** to strengthen the capacity of the social welfare sector, including governmental and non-governmental entities, to improve collaborations on VAW and VAC. • **Build a financial case about the impact of violence on health and educational outcomes** as a strategy to engage those sectors involved in the prevention of and response to VAW and VAC.
Systems training, delivery and coordination	
• The implementation of coordinated approaches between child protection systems and programmes or services for VAW at the national level is deficient.	• **Establish a platform for dialogue and communication among ministries and high-level officials** to ensure coordinated efforts in addressing various forms of violence. Long-term sustainable improvements in violence prevention require changes across whole systems and institutions. Investments in systems and workforce strengthening have been shown to make a difference in a range of contexts.[18]

POINTS OF CONCERN	OPPORTUNITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS
• There is insufficient capacity among NGOs working on VAW, healthcare providers, social workers and child protection officers to work in a coordinated manner.	• **Ensure that the social workforce working on both VAW and VAC receive comprehensive training** encompassing the intersections between various forms of VAW and VAC. These intersections include common risk factors for both forms of violence and the implications for the health and well-being of women, adolescents and children. This should be complemented with specialised training tailored to individuals' specific responsibilities and roles on VAW or VAC. This entails an understanding of reporting laws, navigating interactions with child protection systems and facilitating access to alternative care services when necessary and suitable, and other services such as those offering parenting support. • **Deliver pre-service training** to health professionals, social workers and educators covering common child protection and gender-based violence core concepts and guiding principles, as well as intersections between various forms of VAW and VAC. • **Tailor prevention and response programmes for different age groups and ensure that gender dimensions are integrated in child protection programmes**: organizations should tailor curricula to specific age groups, such as the Psycho-Social Support (PSS) Curriculum, designed for women aged 18 years and above, and a separate manual specifically crafted for girls under the age of 18 years.
• Limited and separate referral systems do not facilitate coordination between child protection systems and services for women who experience violence.	• **Streamline the existing referral system and a centralized database of experts** in VAW and VAC, making the referral process accessible and uniform for all stakeholders, thereby allowing for more robust monitoring. A centralized database of VAW and VAC experts and services would ensure comprehensive assistance when organizations are handling cases involving women and children separately.
• Options for safety and protection are very limited and may deter women from reporting family violence.	• **Collaborate with MOSA and other relevant stakeholders to increase safe and sustainable options for safety** and protection for survivors and their families who are at risk of further violence and who wish to be protected. This can include safe shelters, police or community security, relocation or, in the case of children, alternative care arrangements. It is also important to invest in programmes that contribute to removing the economic/financial as well as social barriers that limit the ability and willingness of women to leave abusive relationships.

POINTS OF CONCERN	OPPORTUNITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Prevention and awareness programmes

- Social and cultural norms that support traditional gender roles (such as beliefs where men are considered dominant figures in households and women are considered carers) can reinforce harmful beliefs and attitudes towards violence within the family, by reinforcing power imbalances and fostering an environment where dominance and control are normalized. Critical reflection of harmful gender norms and the promotion of positive norms can be addressed within communities through various programmes and institutions, by focusing on the implementation of existing government strategies and gender-transformative intiatives

- **Integrate gender-transformative approaches and VAW prevention within existing parenting programmes implemented by NGOs**. Parenting programmes offer a comprehensive approach to addressing family violence, with potential to disrupt the cycle of intergenerational violence by fostering gender-equitable and non-violent family interactions.

  - **Global evidence** shows that, while community-based parenting programmes show promise in reducing intimate partner violence and VAC, they often overlook the gendered aspects of parenting and women's caregiving burden.[19] Parenting programmes can be strengthened by simultaneously addressing VAC and reducing intimate partner violence through the inclusion of components on gender norms that underpin VAW and VAC and non-violent tools for conflict resolution within families.[20]

  - Within the Lebanese context, **expand existing parenting programmes offered by NGOs to include other household members** – and influential community members – to sustain improvements in gender inequality and reductions in violence within the community. Furthermore, considering the high prevalence of child marriage, parenting programmes that address the needs of adolescent parents and young women who are parenting in the context of intimate partner violence should also be promoted.

- **Non-governmental organizations working on VAW and VAC should liaise closely with faith-based organizations** and encourage them to integrate gender-transformative approaches into their community-based work. Religion plays a fundamental role in the social and cultural dynamics of communities, and **faith-based organizations could have a potential influence within the communities they service**, particularly with families.

  - **Global evidence**: Evidence[21] from interventions with faith-based organizations is limited and indicates the complexity of working with faith-based organizations, as they must both collaborate with local communities and respect local customs, while also challenging cultural norms that normalize gender-based violence. More research is needed to better understand the potential role for faith-based organizations in addressing VAW and VAC.

POINTS OF CONCERN	OPPORTUNITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS
	• **Integrate gender awareness into school-based violence programmes**. Lebanese school policies from the Ministry of Education address institutional violence while also allowing a reporting mechanism for family violence. The school policy – and the related programme – also includes prevention activities for students through raising awareness and giving educational guidance on the existence of any violence within or outside the school, including domestic violence. This provides opportunities to integrate the prevention of VAC and VAW into general education systems, especially through whole-school approaches, which have proven to be effective in reducing violence within schools,[22] but little evidence exists on violence perpetrated by caregivers (outside schools).[23]
	• **Engage and build a good rapport with the local community, including youth.** This can involve actively engaging the youth in initiatives that promote inclusivity and address broader social issues beyond violence (e.g., child marriage). Such efforts could help alleviate community perceptions of judgement or attack when discussing family violence.
	• **Leverage community support by emphasizing the health impact on children who witness violence against their mothers**. This can serve as a crucial starting point to engage key stakeholders. Using child protection as an entry point for discussing violence prevention and VAW when working with communities could help stakeholders recognize the significant harms experienced by children living in violent households, potentially fostering broader understanding and support for addressing both women's and children's needs within the context of violence. However, it is important to be cautious when adopting an approach solely focused on outcomes that prioritize the well-being of children over women.

Build research evidence

• While some community-based initiatives are tackling both VAW and VAC concurrently, there is a scarcity of evidence regarding their outcomes. Evaluation data is needed to determine the most effective ways to address the intersections between VAW and VAC.	• **Evaluate and document lessons learned from existing community-based programmes** implemented by NGOs that are jointly addressing VAW and VAC. There is also a need to identify funding to develop and test new integrated approaches to addressing VAW and VAC.
• There is paucity of data on the views and experiences of service providers involved in VAW and VAC collaboration. This report only captured the views of high-level government and NGO stakeholders.	• **Conduct further research to evaluate the perspectives and experiences of frontline workers** on collaborative VAW and VAC approaches to services and justice.

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Acknowledgements

About us

UNICEF works in the world's toughest places to reach the most disadvantaged children and adolescents and to protect the rights of every child, everywhere. Across 190 countries and territories, we do whatever it takes to help children survive, thrive and fulfil their potential, from early childhood through adolescence.

And we never give up.

UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight tackles the current and emerging questions of greatest importance for children. It drives change through research and foresight on a wide range of child rights issues, sparking global discourse and actively engaging young people in its work.

UNICEF Innocenti equips thought leaders and decision-makers with the evidence they need to build a better, safer world for children. The office undertakes research on unresolved and emerging issues, using primary and secondary data that represent the voices of children and families themselves. It uses foresight to set the agenda for children, including horizon scanning, trends analysis and scenario development.

The office produces a diverse and dynamic library of high-level reports, analyses and policy papers, and provides a platform for debate and advocacy on a wide range of child rights issues.

UNICEF Innocenti provides, for every child, answers to their most pressing concerns.

for every child, answers