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**UGANDA DEBT
NETWORK**



Investing to End Sexual Violence Against Children (SVAC): Experiences and Lessons from CSO Partners in Uganda

Technical Learning Brief

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Key definitions and concepts

Child: A “child” is defined as any person under the age of 18, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), Article 2 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and Article 257 (1) (c) of the 1995 Constitution of Uganda.

Child participation: This is informed and willing involvement of all children, including the most marginalized and those of different ages and abilities, in any matter concerning them directly or indirectly, in accordance with Articles 12 and 13 of the UNCRC.

Child protection: These are measures taken to prevent and respond to all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children and their rights.

Child rights: These are inherent fundamental entitlements and freedoms of children, which they have by virtue of being human. Child rights are fully defined in the UNCRC, the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history, to which Uganda is a signatory.

Violence against children: This is any form of physical, emotional or mental injury or abuse, neglect, maltreatment and exploitation, including sexual abuse, intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual against a child, which may result in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation.

1.1 Acknowledgement

This learning brief was developed through a consultative process, involving various advocacy organizations convened by World Vision International. These included Joining Forces Coalition (SOS Children’s Villages, Plan International, Child Fund International, Save the Children, World Vision Uganda, War Child Alliance and Terres Des Hommes), Uganda Child Rights NGO Network, Street Child, and Uganda Debt Network. This technical learning brief was inspired by the reflections of CSOs on the benchmark results of the [Safeguarding Childhood report](#) and shared learning by select SVAC actors.

1.2 About the learning brief

While efforts have been made to address SVAC, majority of the institutions mandated to prevent and respond to the problem are still constrained by the meagre resources at their

disposal. Despite the prevailing challenges, partners are doing a lot to accelerate prevention and response to SVAC.

This learning brief seeks to share experiences and key lessons from advocacy actors from the influential work they have done concerning SVAC in recent years. It is envisaged that this brief will support them in rethinking how to meaningfully engage and influence the planning and budgeting processes at local and national level, based on their previous experiences and lessons.

1.3 Introduction

Sexual violence against children remains a common problem in many Ugandan communities. According to the 2018 Violence Against Children Survey in Uganda, one in four girls (25%) and one in 10 boys (11%) aged 13-17, had reported sexual violence in the past year. SVAC is fueled by many factors including poverty, child neglect, drug and alcohol abuse, and harmful social norms and practices.

The government of Uganda through different Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) has undertaken measures to address this human rights violation at different levels. One of the notable measures is the adoption of legal and policy instruments, including strategies and programs aimed at curbing the problem. Article 34 of the 1995 Constitution of Uganda provides for the protection of children from all forms of exploitation. This is further reinforced in the Penal Code Amendment Act, Section 42 of the Children's Amendment Act (2016), the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy, and the National Child Policy 2020, including an implementation plan for 2020-2025.

The government has also established institutions, structures and systems mandated to implement the laws, policies and systems. The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) has a department of Youth and Children Affairs mandated to review and disseminate laws and policies on children and youth, build capacity for local governments and other stakeholders, and ensure children and youth participate in development processes. However, other MDAs such as the Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Health, as well as Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, also play a critical role in prevention and response efforts. The government has also established local council systems, police, courts and prisons, all of which are charged with the responsibility of ensuring that laws and policies on sexual violence are implemented.

Despite the presence of this strong legal and policy framework, this vice has continued to occur in different communities and very few survivors get justice. The 2024 Police Crime Report indicates that out of the 12,312 cases of defilement reported in 2024, only 6,584 were taken to court, 2,744 cases were not proceeded with, and 5,097 cases are still under inquiry. Out of the 6,584 cases taken to court, only 749 secured convictions.

Evidence generated through different programmatic inventions, including studies by World Vision, Child Fund International, Save the Children and most recently, the [Safeguarding Childhood report](#) by Oak Foundation, all reveal a financing gap as a major challenge to prevention and response efforts at different levels. For instance, the comprehensive implementation plan 2020-2025 of the National Child Policy has remained unfunded, and the office of the probation and social welfare officer responsible for handling all child-related matters at the district remains underfunded.

1.4 Prioritizing children’s rights in budgets

The 2020 National Child Policy demonstrates the commitment by the government to ensure the well-being of all children as well as the country’s efforts to uphold children’s rights and protect them from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence.

Because children form one of the largest groups dependent on public services, government actions and decisions – or lack thereof – can significantly undermine the potential for all children, including the most deprived and marginalized, to be protected from all forms of violence.

It is key to note that the majority of government decisions and policies have an effect on children’s lives, both immediate and long-term, as well as directly and indirectly. Therefore, government decisions on public funds are profoundly relevant to the well-being of children.

Prioritizing children’s rights in budgets, at both national and subnational level, as required by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, contributes not only to realizing those rights, but also to long-lasting positive impacts on future economic growth, sustainable and inclusive development, and social cohesion.

Government budgets have the power to advance or undermine the realization of children’s rights, including SVAC. For public budgets to serve the best interests of children, capacity building and strategic advocacy efforts are needed that are adaptive, partnership-driven, experimental and sustained overtime.

~ Save the Children International ~

1.5 Key experiences and lessons from partners

1.5.1 The need for compelling evidence on gains and cost of inaction of public investment in SVAC prevention

If there is no strong evidence on both the possible gains, and the cost of inaction towards adequate financing for SVAC prevention on the economy, the relevant stakeholders may not take the necessary actions to address the gaps therein.

Over the years, child rights actors in Uganda have generated substantial evidence as to why the government should invest in child-focused interventions. Despite these efforts, the actors have not been as deliberate in highlighting the potential gains and sounding the alarm about the cost of inaction the government could incur if child-focused interventions are not prioritized.

Advocacy actors therefore need to rethink their approach towards generating evidence if they are to get the attention of key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, who play a critical role in allocating the required resources. Other stakeholders include the relevant committees of Parliament mandated with the role of appropriation of the budget on behalf of their constituents. These include the budget committee, gender and social development committee, health committee, education committee, as well as advocacy platforms like the Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Children.

Decision-makers need credible, contextualized and timely evidence presented in digestible formats such as fact sheets, presentations and policy briefs. These documents should include costs for implementation plans, best practices and opportunities for civil society engagement. This is because while CSOs have made tremendous efforts to generate and disseminate evidence on sexual violence against children, more still needs to be done in terms of costing the plans or strategies established to address SVAC. The evidence also needs to be user-friendly (especially child-friendly) with a child rights lens in all the relevant sectors. To do this effectively, there is need for CSOs to continuously partner with the MGLSD and academia to conduct periodic research studies on SVAC.

Failing to prevent and effectively respond to violence against children can have life-long consequences on health, well-being, and ability of children to have meaningful relationships. The financial impact of physical, psychological and sexual violence against children on the global economy comes with a hefty price tag of up to \$7 trillion.
~ World Vision International 2024 ~

1.5.2 Capacity strengthening necessary for effective planning and budgeting for

SVAC

Many of the capacity building efforts by CSOs lack the much-needed in-depth content that is contextualized, to equip key decision-makers on understanding the intricacies of SVAC components and what it means to plan and budget for the necessary interventions. The CSOs also have internal inadequacies in understanding government planning and budgeting processes which tend to be complex.

To address this, CSOs need to deliberately strengthen their internal capacities to help them understand these government processes. This can be followed by organizing tailor-made capacity strengthening sessions targeting key decision-makers. The trainings need to focus on aiding these stakeholders to appreciate the value of public investment in SVAC prevention from both a social and economic perspective.

For easier buy-in from the government, the trainings need to be done in collaboration with relevant government technocrats like planners and economists from MDAs such as the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, MGLSD, and local governments.

Furthermore, the timing of these training sessions and workshops needs to be in consideration of the planning and budgeting process calendar, to enable smooth implementation of the knowledge shared with the participants. Having these trainings done on a periodic basis, i.e. quarterly or bi-annually would be ideal as it would ensure the sustainability of implementation within government entities in the long run — especially at local government level,.

Case Story 1: Mainstreaming child protection in planning and budgeting

In 2025, SOS Children’s Villages Uganda — under its 4-year project titled “Grow Equal, Her Right to a Sustainable Life” — organized a two-day capacity development workshop, bringing together participants from the local governments of Wakiso, Kamwenge and Kabarole. The workshop sought to equip participants with skills and knowledge in child protection and gender equality sensitive planning and budgeting processes, so as to enhance district local government prioritization of resources and budget allocations during the national budgeting processes.

The workshop sessions centered on equipping district officials with insights on understanding government budgeting from a child rights perspective, understanding the importance of purposeful public investment in preventing violence against children, and approaches to budgeting for SVAC prevention interventions. **Key notable actions** that were agreed upon across all the districts included the following.

- Department heads to discuss and agree on key child protection and gender equity interventions for consideration in the Financial Year 2025/26 budget and beyond.

- District leaders in collaboration with CSOs to use all available platforms to continually advocate for the need to prioritize child protection and gender equity considerations.

- District leadership to have more periodic capacity building workshops to enhance their competences in planning and budgeting for child protection and gender equity interventions.

Key outcome: Post evaluation of the workshops revealed improved understanding of children and gender mainstreaming among participants. They were able to appreciate the need to prioritize issues concerning gender and child protection with a special focus on increased budget allocation in the upcoming budget processes.

Conclusion: Overall, there was consensus amongst the participants on the importance of mainstreaming child protection and gender equity considerations in the district planning and budgeting processes. To do this effectively, there is need for continuous training of district officials to help them understand how to design the appropriate interventions to address the existing funding gaps for child protection and gender equity issues in accordance with the national policy and legal provisions.

1.5.3 Child participation in the planning and budgeting processes is key

Children’s right to participate is clearly articulated in international and regional policy instruments, to which Uganda is a signatory, as well as in several national legal frameworks and policy documents. Article 12 of the UNCRC states that “Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them.” Article 36 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda affirms that minorities have a right to participate in decision-making processes, and their views and interests shall be considered in the making of national plans and programs.

The principle of child participation under Article 7 of the UNCRC is essential for planning and budgeting for children. The Charter provides that every child is given a chance to express their view in all matters. Given the direct impact of public planning and budgeting on children, it is critical to consult children during all the processes including budget preparation, formulation, allocation and accountability.

Section 8 of the third schedule of the Local Government Act (Cap.243) provides for the right of children to play an active role within local communities. For consultations to be meaningful, information about national planning and budgeting should be made available to children in a child-friendly manner. The government in partnership with child rights advocacy partners should create dedicated child-participation platforms which are representative, to discuss and reflect on programs and budgets. These views should be compiled to inform the process and approval of planning and budgeting.

Children's views should be considered in assessing the impact of government planning and budgeting. Without ensuring child participation, a child rights-based planning and budgeting cannot be achieved.

~ African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child ~

Case story 2: Engaging Ugandan children in budgetary processes

In 2025, the Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN) facilitated a session titled “Child-Led Engagement on Child-Focused Budgeting” during the Children’s Annual Camp (CAC25). The aim was to empower children to participate in national budgeting and to raise their priorities across districts. Their views were also incorporated into the children’s manifesto that was presented during the Day of the African Child 2025 at Kyabende Primary School in Kamwenge District. Drawing on census data, child poverty findings and participatory activities, the session highlighted how budgeting directly shapes children’s rights and daily realities.

Core Learnings from the session included the following.

- **Understanding budgeting:** Children described budgeting as more than numbers; it is about planning, saving and allocating resources to meet needs now and in future.
- **Importance of budgeting:** The children connected budgeting to financial resilience and success at personal, family, community and national level.
- **Creating a budget:** The process starts with forecasting income, followed by estimating expenses to determine surplus or deficit. A surplus was seen as preferable to avoid borrowing for essential activities.
- **Child-focused budgeting:** Emphasis was on having children’s issues explicitly included in the national budget, not merely as an afterthought.
- **Stages of the national budget:** The four key stages of the budgeting process were identified as planning, approval (district level), implementation/execution, and monitoring/evaluation.
- **Government progress and gaps:** Uganda’s commitments to the UNCRC and child participation guidelines show progress toward protective environments, but genuine participation and influence in budgeting remain limited. The session argued for expanding meaningful child engagement in budgeting processes.

Group discussions: 10 district scenarios

Children formed 10 groups representing districts across Uganda and drafted mini-budgets focused on the top three priorities, linking them to specific child rights and budgeting allocations. Below are some of the key issues that were raised.

- Group 1 (Wakiso): Rapid urbanization (which strains basic services such as education and health), sanitation challenges, and a shortage of qualified teachers.
- Group 2 (Gulu): High levels of child abuse and labor, refugee-related displacement, pregnant/young mothers with limited healthcare, school dropout due to poverty and climate change impact.
- Group 3 (Moroto): Barriers to education for disadvantaged children, limited healthcare access, and weak protective services.
- Group 4 (Kitgum): Forced child marriage, weak child protection, school access gaps, high school dropout,

and limited counselling for pregnant adolescents.

- Group 5 (Kamuli): Inadequate educational materials and infrastructure, and limited assistive devices for disabled children.
- Group 6 (Nakapiripirit): Limited healthcare facilities, poor school infrastructure, and few skilling

opportunities.

- Group 7 (Bushenyi): Low child participation in decision-making, unsafe engagement spaces, and unaffordable school fees.
- Group 8 (Kasese): Recurrent natural disasters, few free counselling spaces, and high school fees.
- Group 9 (Kalangala): Island district with limited education and healthcare access and transportation barriers.
- Group 10 (Napak): Very few schools, widespread malnutrition, and distant health facilities.

Each group identified their top three budget priorities, the rights they touch, and proposed allocations. Across districts, recurring themes emerged: Education quality and access, child protection services, health care and nutrition, safe spaces for children’s participation, climate resilience and disaster preparedness, and affordability of education.

Results and impact

- **Enhanced budget literacy and participation:** Children demonstrated increased understanding of budget processes and actively engaged policymakers with clear and evidence-based positions.

- **Strengthened advocacy platforms:** Structured and institutionalized platforms—such as the Children’s Parliament and Prime TV simulations—served as effective spaces for children’s expression and advocacy.

- **Policy influence:** Children’s perspectives are increasingly being reflected in national and sub-national policy dialogues, with several MPs calling for more structured inclusion of children in formal planning frameworks.

- **Leadership development:** Through the election of child representatives and establishment of planning committees, Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN) is cultivating young, informed and confident advocates.

Conclusion

The session demonstrated that children are both capable of articulating budget priorities and being essential partners in shaping a more just and effective budget. By translating children’s insights into practical allocations and robust participation mechanisms, Uganda can advance toward universal children’s rights, improve well-being and align national budgets with the realities of its predominantly young population. The Day of the African Child 2025 theme, “Planning and budgeting for children’s rights: Progress since 2010”, provided a timely banner under which these child-led budgeting efforts can scale and sustain impact.

1.5.4 Strengthen financing strategies to end SVAC

Uganda’s current financing landscape for SVAC illustrates a pressing need for reform in both public funding and coordination. Budget allocations for child protection remain critically low. In Financial Year 2024/25, the Youth and Children Affairs sub-program under the MGLSD received only 10% of its parent ministry’s budget and 0.07% of the national budget.

SVAC responses are further hindered by the lack of dedicated budget lines. Most funding for child protection is buried within social development or education programs, making SVAC expenditure opaque and difficult to monitor. This often necessitates reliance on development partners and

NGOs, resulting in unstable, fragmented financing and constrained government ownership.

Despite steady increases in Uganda's national budget from UGX 48.1 trillion in FY2022/23 to UGX 72.4 trillion in FY 2025/26, the share to the MGLSD has remained disproportionately low, hovering around just 0.5 to 0.6% of the total. This marginal share undermines the ministry's capacity to address critical social protection, gender equality and labor issues that directly affect the nation's most vulnerable populations.

In order to sustainably tackle SVAC, it is imperative to strengthen and align financing strategies. Increased and targeted investments are essential not only to expand coverage of interventions but to also build a resilient system, capable of delivering long-term impact and accountability for child protection.

1.5.5 Empower communities to advocate for policy change

Several international and local organizations in Uganda are leveraging social accountability programs to empower communities to advocate for fiscal policy changes at the local and national level. Through these programs, communities are equipped with the relevant knowledge on key legal and policy frameworks including expected service standards. Communities are then supported to engage and influence local government leaders to prioritize funding towards the critical issues affecting the well-being of children.

When communities are empowered, they are in position to effectively engage in decision-making processes and demand for improved service delivery.

These social accountability programs are supported by established community structures that routinely engage and mobilize community members to demand and influence local government to improve services. The communities use citizen-generated data based on their lived experiences and realities to highlight critical service gaps and formulate key policy recommendations that are brought to the attention of decision-makers and service providers.

Case Study 3: Using Citizen Voice and Action model to influence local government budget allocation towards prevention and response to SVAC

Over the years, World Vision Uganda has used Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) model to influence improved services delivery for the well-being of children in Uganda. CVA is a local level advocacy and social accountability approach that empowers the communities to hold their governments accountable for providing quality public services in sectors such as child protection, health care, education, and access to clean water among others, that contribute to the well-being of children and their families. Using non-confrontational dialogue between community members and government officials, communities use standardized tools like community scorecards to monitor service delivery against existing government standards.

During the strategy period 2021-2025, World Vision Uganda used this approach in over 50 districts of operation. This initiative played a pivotal role in influencing local government budget allocations, particularly towards prevention, protection and response to all forms of violence against children including sexual violence. This has supported the community to point out issues affecting them, and draft/draw action plans for implementation.

Paya Area Program in Tororo District, Eastern Uganda, is one of the communities that has made significant milestones in promoting advocacy efforts to protect, prevent, and respond to sexual violence against children and other forms of violence against children and women. Since 2021, the program has supported capacity building of CVA working teams, equipping them with skills in policy and budget advocacy. This initiative has enabled the community to champion advocacy interventions at district level, driving meaningful change in addressing violence against vulnerable groups.

The organization has also conducted review meetings with the Paya and Sopsop sub-counties' child well-being committees to track progress toward child well-being targets. These meetings aim to empower the community to take ownership of child protection and development initiatives, ensuring they are actively involved in promoting the well-being of children. World Vision supported the community in creating informed and strategic briefs on key issues, which were presented to decision-makers during review and follow-up meetings. This ensured that agreed-upon actions were implemented, holding duty bearers accountable for their commitments.

Communities formed strong partnerships with key stakeholders, including Legal Aid Uganda, religious leaders from Tororo Diocese, and the CVA working team, garnering support and strong voices on issues affecting children. In addition, they used citizen-generated data using the CVA database for data-driven discussions.

The identified issues were included in briefs presented to the sub-counties (Paya and Sopsop) and district council of Tororo, seeking solutions and action.

Through effective partnerships and collaboration, the CVA working team members gained access to key technical planning committee meetings. This enabled them to advocate for and prioritize community-identified issues to be considered for funding, during the planning process. This saw increments in the budget for community-based services department grow from UGX 1,205,338,000 in FY23/24, to UGX 1,327,119,000 in FY 24/25, (according to FY 24/25 approved budget for Tororo District). An increase was registered the following year from UGX 1,327,119,000 in FY 24/25 to UGX 1,483,059,000 in FY25/26, (according to FY 25/26 approved budget for the district). These achievements were made possible through a thorough analysis of the district's budget framework papers, which identified key priorities and allocations. A position paper was then presented to the technical planning committee. It highlighted proposed adjustments and justifications, and advocated for changes that would improve community-based services.

Due to the strengthened capacity of the working team in monitoring budgets of the Paya and Sopsop sub-counties, the budget performance assessment scores have improved greatly. With these budgetary increments, the two sub-counties and Tororo District were able to support many child protection interventions. Consequently, additional funds have been allocated to support income-generating activities for People with Disabilities (PWDs), enabling them to access employment opportunities, increase their income, and ultimately enhance their welfare and that of their children.

The increased budget has also enabled community mobilization and empowerment programs, providing residents with essential skills, knowledge and information to actively participate in development processes and drive positive change.

Additionally, the care and protection of orphans and vulnerable children, including those in conflict with the law, have been enhanced in the two sub-counties and across the district.

Key lessons/best practices

- Empowering communities with accurate information and skills enables them to effectively engage with and influence policymakers to address critical gaps in services related to preventing and responding to SVAC.
- Involving religious leaders in budget advocacy is crucial, as they can influence various stakeholders and often have a receptive audience among policymakers.
- By leveraging citizen-generated data collected from the database, communities can provide evidence-based information to highlight critical service gaps and persuade decision-makers to take action.

1.5.6 Meaningful coordinated action among advocacy actors amplifies voices

By forming partnerships and coalitions with both state and non-state actors, advocates can amplify their voices to create more powerful and impactful campaigns for policy reform, increased funding, and public awareness on prevention of SVAC. Working together allows various actors to develop integrated strategies for preventing and responding to SVAC issues, ensuring a more effective support system for children and families.

In addition, when stakeholders collaborate, they can combine financial, human and material resources for more efficient utilization of funds. Collaboration facilitates the sharing of best practices, research, and expertise among different actors, enhancing the quality and reach of SVAC prevention efforts.

Collaborative frameworks, such as the Joining Forces Coalition Uganda, also ensure timely information sharing on child protection issues and the implementation of interventions, creating a more coordinated and responsive system. Several partners have agreed on a number of actions meant to accelerate prevention and response to SVAC despite the prevailing challenges.

In consideration of this, the government has gradually embraced a multisectoral approach in its delivery mechanisms in prevention and response to SVAC. As such, state actors are continually realizing the value of partnering with non-state actors like civil society in mobilizing funds to address SVAC.

“You need to have a number of other partners to be able to prevent and respond to SVAC. Indeed, we have limited resources, and when it comes to the social sector, it is one of the least funded.”

~ Mr. Mondo Kyateka, Assistant Commissioner, Youth and Children, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. ~

Challenges

- Domestic resource mobilization for child protection is low. Despite children making up over 50% of Uganda’s population, only a small fraction of the national budget is proactively dedicated to their protection. Tracking is virtually non-existent, as cases are not clearly funded or monitored by separate budget lines.
- The available resources are largely channeled into reactive case handling rather than prevention of sexual violence, with minimal investment in community mobilization or mindset-change programs that could mitigate abuse before it occurs.
- Coordination amongst the human capital development stakeholders in the areas of health,

education, justice and community development is weak, undermining holistic and timely response mechanisms.

Overall, Uganda's public financing framework struggles with persistent underfunding, limited domestic resources, weak budget visibility, poor inter-sectoral coordination, and overemphasis on reactive responses, leaving prevention and systemic SVAC strategies severely under-resourced.

What needs to be done

- There is a critical need to increase and ring-fence public expenditure for child protection by advocating for a dedicated SVAC budget line within the MGLSD. This should be complemented by inter-ministerial budget coordination involving sectors like health, education, justice and internal affairs to ensure comprehensive programmatic support.
- Improving budget transparency and tracking is equally essential. The development of child-sensitive budget tracking tools and public expenditure reviews can help identify financing gaps, improve accountability and enhance the impact of investments.
- Stakeholders should leverage community-driven child protection committees to serve as a cost-effective and sustainable financing strategy to combat sexual violence against children. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) contributions towards community-based child protection initiatives should also be encouraged.
- Sustained investment in preventive measures such as parenting programs, school safety campaigns, and capacity building for social workers is key if there is to be long-term impact.

The best practices

- Uganda can draw practical lessons from countries that have effectively implemented such strategies. For instance, South Africa has demonstrated strong political commitment through its National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (2020–2030), that is backed by dedicated presidential funding and co-financed by civil society, with specific budget allocations for survivor support services and public awareness.
- Similarly, Tanzania has operationalized a National Plan of Action to End Violence against women and children with coordinated, performance-based financing mechanisms, and localized budgeting to address region-specific vulnerabilities.
- In Kenya, community-driven child protection committees have shown that training local actors leads to increased reporting and prevention, reducing the financial burden on formal justice systems. This proactive approach turns limited resources into high-impact interventions by leveraging existing community structures.

1.6 Conclusion

The growing body of evidence on what works in the prevention and response to violence makes it our duty to apply the lessons learned – whether it is in our communities or at a national level. The wealth of existing research and proven interventions can and should be used to develop and implement violence prevention and response strategies that will help end violence against children. As highlighted in our policies, investing in children is a cornerstone of the nation’s human capital development and the government cannot afford the cost of inaction.