



WHAT IS THE ICVAC?

The **International Classification of Violence Against Children (ICVAC)** was developed by UNICEF to address the pressing need for internationally aligned definitions, principles, and standards in measuring and monitoring violence against children (VAC).

- **Global Standard to Measure VAC:** The ICVAC establishes internationally agreed operational concepts, definitions, and principles to ensure a standardized and consistent approach to producing statistical data on VAC, irrespective of a national legal context.
- **Comprehensive Tool for All Types of Data:** The ICVAC is applicable to all types of data on VAC, including administrative records as well as data collected in dedicated surveys on VAC or generic surveys that include questions on such violence.
- **Catalyst for Enhances Understanding and Action:** The ICVAC incorporates a set of policy-relevant disaggregating variables based on victim, perpetrator and circumstances of the act, that greatly assist cross-national analysis of patterns and trends in VAC and its enabling and mitigating factors.

KEY FEATURES OF THE ICVAC

Level 1 Categories of the Classification

1	Violent killing of a child
2	Physical violence against a child
3	Sexual violence against a child
4	Psychological violence against a child
5	Neglect of a child
9	Other acts of violence against a child not elsewhere classified

Key Disaggregating Variables

Victim descriptions	Perpetrator descriptions	Circumstances of the act
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- The ICVAC defines violence against children as “any **deliberate, unwanted and non-essential** act, threatened or actual, against a child or against multiple children that results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in **death, injury** or other forms of physical and psychological **suffering**”.
- The ICVAC covers **interpersonal** and **collective violence** against children, including state violence, in both peace and conflict situations.
- The **unit of classification** of the ICVAC is a **violent act** committed against a child or multiple children. Violent acts are therefore classified into different, mutually exclusive and exhaustive sets of categories.
- The **structure of the classification** includes six Level 1 categories. Level 2 represent sub-categories of Level 1 acts of the same nature but categorized by additional elements such as severity and frequency/recurrence.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICVAC

- Implementing the ICVAC serves as an **enabling initiative to improve the quality and availability of VAC data**, enhancing comparability and facilitating the monitoring of progress towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets.
- The process of implementing the ICVAC will depend on a country's **existing capabilities, available resources, national priorities**, and **institutional landscape**.
- The ICVAC at the national level can be used in multiple ways to **design or improve a national data collection and monitoring system**.
- Implementing the ICVAC requires involvement of **multiple stakeholders**. Besides national statistical agencies, this includes **government entities, agencies** and **other actors** accountable for the prevention of and response to VAC and those interested in accessing **high-quality data** for policymaking, planning, research and advocacy.

Benefits of Implementation

• Strengthens cross-sectoral collaboration • Improves data-sharing mechanisms • Builds technical capacities At Sectoral Level	• Harmonizes data across different sectors • Harmonizes data across different data sources • Improve coordination At National Level	• Provides a comprehensive framework to measure VAC • Enhances comparability • Facilitates monitoring of SDGs At International Level	• Enhances national data systems • Strengthens evidence-based policymaking to prevent and respond to VAC • Promotes accountability Over Time
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Learn More & Take Action!

Access tools, resources, and training on implementing the ICVAC at <https://data.unicef.org/resources/international-classification-of-violence-against-children/>

Contact Us:

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Let's work together to ensure that every child counts.