Global Progress Survey on Violence against Children

2011
Introduction to the Global Survey

The United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children (A/61/299), released in 2006, provided a comprehensive picture of the nature, extent and causes of violence against children, and proposed a set of strategic recommendations for action to prevent and respond to this phenomenon.

To promote dissemination of the Study and ensure the effective follow-up to its recommendations, the General Assembly called for the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (SRSG). On 1 May 2009, the Secretary-General announced the appointment of Ms Marta Santos Pais as his Special Representative on Violence against Children, with whom she took on 1 September 2009.

General Assembly Resolution 62/141 of 22 February 2008 establishes the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children. The Special Representative is a global independent advocate in favour of prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children. She acts as a bridge builder and a catalyst of actions in all regions and across sectors and settings where violence may occur. She mobilizes the action and political support to maintain momentum around this agenda and generate renewed concern at the harmful effects of violence on children to promote behavioral and social change and to achieve effective progress.

The Special Representative is conducting the present global survey to help map and assess progress in the implementation of the UN Study recommendations, and inform future priorities. This global progress survey builds upon the 2004 questionnaire sent to Governments for the preparation of the UN Study on Violence against Children. Governments are encouraged in their replies to share information on developments that have taken place since.

How to contribute to the Global Survey

The Questionnaire is divided into twelve clusters, aligned with the twelve overarching Recommendations of the United Nations Study. Governments are requested to include all the necessary information which would reflect the situation both in law and in practice. This should include in general, for the responses under each Recommendation:

- a list of relevant legislation and policies or other measures adopted as a follow up to the UN Study and copies of the relevant provisions of such legislation or policy documents;
- information on the authorities or institutions responsible for implementation, and methods by which application is supervised and enforced;
- relevant decisions of courts of law or other tribunals; and
- statistical information and other relevant data, such as extracts or copies from reports of relevant services and officers, and the number and nature of recorded contraventions, to assess the magnitude and incidence of violence.
Whenever possible, the information should be provided in English, French, and Spanish or be accompanied by an explanatory text.

In providing responses to the questionnaire, Governments are encouraged to include information about measures adopted at national level with respect to violence generally and towards children in particular. They are also asked to take account of the fact that responses to all forms of violence against children might not be the task of one Government department only, and depending on the government structure may be within the competence of the federal, state, provincial or municipal authorities.

Governments are encouraged to provide examples of good practices and innovative approaches for preventing and responding to all forms of violence against children, as well as to highlight challenges encountered in addressing this phenomenon.

Governments that have already provided information on certain issues raised in this survey under another reporting procedure, such as in periodic reports under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, or under the Universal Period Review of the Human Rights Council, may wish to refer to the specific information provided thereunder and need not repeat it in their responses to this survey.

**Definition of Child**

For the purpose of this global survey, and in the light of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, article 1, a child is defined as every human being below the age of eighteen years.

**Definition of Violence against Children**

The UN Study defines violence against children in line with article 19 of the CRC: “all forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.”

**Submission**

Governments are requested to submit their replies to this questionnaire by 30 October 2011 by email (vacsurvey@unicef.org) or by mail to the following address:

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children  
633 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10017  
USA

Supporting documentation complementing replies sent by email which are not available in electronic format can also be forwarded to the above address.

The survey can also be downloaded at the web site of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children: [http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org](http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org).
Overall question: General assessment of the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Study

1. In light of the process of implementation of the United Nations recommendations in your country, what do you consider are the most important developments?

   The most important development in light with the process of implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Study is the harmonization of laws against the international instruments, adoption of the law against Human Trafficking and Female Genital Mutilation, preparation of the draft Law against Domestic Violence, as well as validation of the National Plan against Child Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Minors and Human Trafficking.

2. Which are the most serious gaps and persistent challenges? How do you anticipate to overcome them?

   The most serious gaps are: lack of coordination between institutions working in the field of child protection, insufficient funds to meet the demands, lack of experts in the field of protection.

   Please add any additional information you may wish to provide.
**Recommendation 1**

**Strengthen national and local commitment and action**

*General questions*

I recommend that all States develop a multi-faceted and systematic framework to respond to violence against children which is integrated into national planning processes. A national strategy, policy or plan of action on violence against children with realistic and time-bound targets, coordinated by an agency with the capacity to involve multiple sectors in a broad-based implementation strategy, should be formulated. National laws, policies, plans and programmes should fully comply with international human rights and current scientific knowledge. The implementation of the national strategy, policy or plan should be systematically evaluated according to established targets and timetables, and provided with adequate human and financial resources to support its implementation.

1. Please provide your country’s policy framework to prevent and respond to incidents of violence against children. Please describe the main initiatives promoted and in what way they address violence against children. Please include information on coordination with significant civil society initiatives addressing violence against children in your country, including the type of institutions involved, and whether your Government provided support for such initiatives. Please provide information on existing obstacles. If any, to the adoption and implementation of measures to respond to violence against children and on measures taken or envisaged to overcome them.

**Policy Framework** – On the year 2000 it was founded the WCI – Women and Children’s Institute, that is a Government body specializing in the issue of defense and protection of the child and is responsible by the coordination with international and non-governmental organizations working in this field with support from the Government, such as: Associação Amigos da Criança; SOS Crianças Talibe; Aldeia SOS; Casa Emanuel; REJE; UNICEF; ILO; IOM; Plan Internacional;

The great impediments are connected with insufficient financial, material and human resources and also due to the institutional and political instability.

2. Please describe any progress made in the implementation of the three time-bound goals adopted in the Rio de Janeiro Declaration and Call for Action to Prevent and Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, namely the establishment by 2013 of:

   a) An effective and accessible system for reporting, follow-up an support for child victims of suspected or actual incidents of sexual exploitation;

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1 Such as academic institutions, professional associations, women’s associations, student associations, community-based groups, faith-based groups, child and youth-led groups, trade unions, employers organizations, national non-governmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations.
The system exists despite still functioning with many difficulties, mainly from lack of coordination and working means. Likewise, the lack of specialized human resources in the protection of the child victims is a reality in the country (especially psychologists and social workers). The Ministry of Women, Family, Social Integration, recently established partnership agreements with the ministries of Health and Justice (specially the minors brigade of the Judiciary Police) in order to implement the exposure and referral system, through the WCI and the NGOs partners of this institution responsible for child protection in GB. When the exposure is made to the WCI or to a NGO, the WCI issues a referral note to the national hospital Simão Mendes and to the judiciary police and the Minors Curatorship (Public Prosecutor). The WCI’ social workers register the case and ensure psychosocial assistance to the victim as well as referral. Under the partnership agreement, the medical assistance is free but the medication treatment is not. Presently the WCI is undertaking efforts to involve a larger number of organizations.

b) concrete mechanisms and/or processes to facilitate coordination at national, regional and international levels for enhanced cooperation among government ministries, funding bodies, UN agencies, NGOs, the private sector, workers’ and employers’ organizations, the media, children’s organizations and other representatives of civil society with a view to enabling and supporting concrete action to prevent and stop the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents;

The MMFCSLP/WCI defined a national strategy and plan of action for the prevention of abuse and sexual exploitation of children, in which are included all government and non-government actors. The WCI is the institution responsible for the coordination of the implementation of this plan of action but this coordination has been very difficult. Partners, namely the NGOs, implement many activities, without informing the coordinating body, many times establishing partnerships with supporting development agencies without the knowledge of the WCI. However, there have been visible efforts to ensure the involvement of the private sector, trade unions, media (especially the community radios), children organizations and religious and community leaders, in order to ensure a greater involvement of these structures in coordinated actions and in sharing information at the level of the country regions (rural regions).

c) independent children’s rights institutions such as children’s ombudspersons or equivalents or focal points on children’s rights in existing human rights institutions.

These institutions exist and they have been essential partners in the implementation of the national plan of action. The national children’s parliament and the children and youths associations defending child rights (as Rede de Crianças and Jovens Jornalistas and the Child-youth association for the defense of children) collaborate with the WCI and national NGOs in information and sensitizing activities among their pares and in radio programs and school talks. The Child Parliament undertakes advocacy activities among political decision makers and parliamentarians at both national and regional levels (regional child parliaments).

Specific questions (Please attach any relevant information in support of your reply)

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<th>Yes</th>
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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Short detail (Please attach relevant documentation)</th>
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</table>
| 3. Does your country have a comprehensive policy, strategy or plan of action on violence against children? | X   | National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking - Annex 1  
National Plan of Action against Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of children - Annex 2  
Social Protection Strategy for Vulnerable Children – Annex 3  
Minimum Standards for Sheltering Children in Residential Regime. – Annex 4 |    |             |
| 4. Are there sectoral policies or plans dealing with violence against children in the five key settings identified by the United Nations Study? | X   | National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking - Annex 1  
National Plan of Action against Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of children - Annex 2  
Social Protection Strategy for Vulnerable Children – Annex 3  
Minimum Standards for Sheltering Children in Residential Regime. – Annex 4 |    |             |
| 5. Is there a lead Government institution or authority tasked with the coordination of action addressing violence against children, including cross departmental cooperation and coordination between central and subnational authorities? | X   | Women and Children Institute and National Committee for Abandonment of Harmful Practices  
Annex 5 – WCI Statute  
Annex 6 – NCAHP Statute  
Public Prosecutor – Minors Curatorship. These structures are present in all the regions of the country (within the courts). |    |             |
| 6. Are there any other governmental authorities, structures and mechanism at federal, state/provincial, municipal and local levels which are currently responsible for addressing violence against | X   |                                                     |    |             |

2 The five key settings are: the family and home environment; educational settings; institutional care and juvenile justice institutions; workplaces, and the community.
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<th>Yes</th>
<th>Short detail (Please attach relevant documentation)</th>
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<td>children? Which and at what level?</td>
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<td>7. Has there been an evaluation of the impact of policies and programmes directed towards violence against children? Please indicate relevant monitoring mechanisms to assess progress in this area.</td>
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<td>8. Are there specific financial and/or human resources allocated to address violence against children?</td>
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<td>9. Are there any particular parliamentary structures (for example special committees) or initiatives to address violence against children?</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>Specialized Committee for Women and Children’s Issues – Popular National Assembly.</td>
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<td>10. Is there an independent national institution on children’s rights dealing with incidents of violence?</td>
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Recommendation 2

Prohibit by law all violence against children

I urge States to ensure that no person below 18 years of age should be subjected to the death penalty and sentences of life imprisonment without possibility of release. I recommend that States take all necessary measures to immediately suspend the execution of all death penalties imposed on persons for having committed a crime before the age of 18, and take the appropriate legal measures to convert them into penalties in conformity with international human rights standards. Death penalty as a sentence imposed on persons for crimes committed before the age of 18 should be abolished as a matter of highest priority. I urge States to prohibit all forms of violence against children, in all settings, including all corporal punishment, harmful traditional practices, such as early and forced marriages, female genital mutilation and so-called honour crimes, sexual violence, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and treatment, as required by international treaties, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. I draw attention to General Comment No. 8 (2006) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment (articles 19. 28, para 2 and 37, inter alia) (CRC/C/GC/8).

General questions

1. Please describe how violence against children is addressed in your country’s legal framework, including in the Constitution, legislation and subsidiary legislation, and, where appropriate, if religious and customary law. Please include information on challenges identified towards the adoption of a comprehensive legal ban of all forms of violence against children, and measures taken or envisaged to overcome them.

At the legal framework level there is a diploma that created the Institute for Women and children, specialized government department responsible for defense and protection of children and promotion of women. The legal framework of Guinea Bissau includes articles related to violence against children, and were recently adopted specific legal measures to combat trafficking and FGM with the approval of laws condemning these two situations. Presently the country is reviewing the national legal structure, including the harmonization of the legislation in view of the CRC and CDEAW. The Ministry of Justice and its partners have defined that, owing to the complexity in ensuring the coordination of the procedures of the legislation review at national level, they will opt by the elaboration of a child protection code, where it will be attained a more holistic legislation in view of the prohibition and assistance to cases of violence against children.

Annex 8 - Law against FGM
Annex 9 - PC - Art. 113, 114 and 115 (articles of the penal code related to violence against children)
Annex 10 - PC - Art. 133 to 136 (articles of the penal code related to violence against children)
Annex 11 - Study on access to justice, customary law (M. Justice / UNDP).
Annex 21 – PC Art 110

2. Please provide information on any studies and surveys which have been undertaken to assess the impact of legal measures to address violence against children.

Annex 12 - A study on child trafficking
Annex 13 - Situation Analysis of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Guinea-Bissau
Annex 14 - Study on Child Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children in Guinea Bissau

Specific questions (please attach any relevant information is support of your replies)

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<th>Yes</th>
<th>Short detail (Please attach relevant documentation)</th>
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<td>11. Does the legal framework contain any specific legislative provisions on:</td>
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<td>a. Prohibition of all forms of violence, including physical, mental, and sexual violence, injury on abuse, neglect or negligent treatment and exploitation?</td>
<td>☑ PC Art- 114, 115, 133 a 134 e 113 – Annex 9 and 10</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Prevention of all forms of physical, sexual and mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment and exploitation?</td>
<td>☑ PC Art- 114, 115, 133 a 134 e 113 – Annex 9 and 10</td>
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<td>e. Penalties for perpetrators of violence against children?</td>
<td>☑ Lei 12/2011 Art. 4 - Annex 7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

12. Does the legal framework contain any specific legislative provisions which address all forms of violence including physical, sexual and psychological violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment and sexual exploitation against children which take place in:
11. Is corporal punishment of children, in all or some settings, including in the home, explicitly prohibited by law?

14. Does the penal code permit corporal punishment, life imprisonment and/or capital punishment as a sentence for crimes committed by children under 18 years?

15. Does the legal framework address or prohibit harmful/violent traditional practices, including but not limited to female genital mutilation, early or forced marriage, witchcraft rituals or honour crimes?

16. Does the law apply equally to all children, including non-citizens and stateless children?

17. Does the law prohibit the sexual exploitation of children, including through prostitution and other unlawful sexual activities?

18. Does the law prohibit the use of children in criminal activities?
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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Short detail (Please attach relevant documentation)</th>
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<tr>
<td>19. Does the law prohibit all forms of sale or trafficking in children?</td>
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<td>Law n-12/2011, Annex 7</td>
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<td>20. Does the law prohibit the use, procuring or offering of a child for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances?</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>Art.º 4 and Art.º 5 of Law 12/2011-Annex 7</td>
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### Recommendation 3

**Prioritize prevention**

1. Please provide an overview of programmes delivered by your Government aimed at preventing violence against children focusing on the risks and factors identified in this Recommendation, and / or programmes directly supported by the Government for delivery by other agencies. Please provide details, including on resource allocation (in national currency) to ensure universal access to basic social services of quality, and targeted social protection for those at risk.

   At the level of the program for protection, the Institute for Women and Child has partnerships with several child protection organizations, as well as partnership agreements with the Ministries of Justice and Health respectively. There is an AWP with UNICEF, UNFPA and a program with IOM and ILO in the field of prevention and fight against Trafficking in Human Beings in particular the Child.

2. Please provide information on any policy, legislation or guidelines to protect children from injurious information and material transmitted through the media, internet, videos, electronic games, and to empower children to prevent such risks.


   Art. 3, point b and c, and art. 9 of Law No. 12/2011 – Annex 7
I recommend that States and civil society should strive to transform attitudes that condone or normalise violence against children, including stereotypical gender roles and discrimination, acceptance of corporal punishment, and other harmful traditional practices. States should ensure that children’s rights are disseminated and understood, including by children. Public information campaigns should be used to sensitize the public about the harmful effects that violence has on children. States should encourage the media to promote non-violent values and implement guidelines to ensure full respect for the rights of the child in all media coverage.

Recommendation 4

Promote non-violent values and awareness-raising

1. Has your Government conducted or commissioned any campaigns for raising awareness of children’s right to freedom from violence, and preventing violence against children? If YES, please describe any recent campaigns, the settings and types of violence covered and the target audience (general public, caregivers, teachers, etc.), including specific initiatives for children, as well as the impact measured.

The WCI has undertaken several information and sensitization campaigns (always in partnership with NGOs and children and youths associations). The most recent campaigns took place in Bissau and also in some regions of the country where the problematic of the violence against children is more recurrent. In Bissau, campaigns took place at the level of residential quarters with the participation of parents and caregivers of the child and were about sexual violence. At the level of the regions, the target groups were tabanca chiefs, religious leaders and families. Campaigns at school level are being programmed for 2012, in partnership with the Ministry of Education. In
which concerns initiatives for children the WCI has undertaken in cooperation with the National Children’s Parliament (NCP) information campaigns, especially during the sessions of the NCP in the regions and in the presence of the children. The Ministry of Justice has developed annually information and raises awareness seminars to Judges, Lawyers, Police for Public Protection, Judiciary Police, NGO’s, Traditional Power and Religious Leaders. The seminars are part of the policy of the Government in terms of child protection namely regarding techniques to face cases of children in conflict with the law and victims of violence. The last activity was held in 2010 in Bissau, Gabu, and Bafata.

2. Please indicate how the campaign messages and information were disseminated (e.g. printed media, radio and television, theatre, schools, etc.). Describe the role played by the media in addressing violence against children

The campaigns were disseminated through the radio and through “Djunbais” in the communities. The teams composed by elements of the WCI and partner NGOs, address the families directly, especially in the residential quarters, where are reported the larger number of cases of violence against children. The media, mainly the community radios of the interior of the country have collaborated but not to the desired extent. The costs of utilization of such communication channels, many times are and impediment to reach more comprehensive results. In GB, the role of the media in the structure of violence against children has been improving as a result of several training sessions held for the media aiming to a better treatment by them of the case of violence against children especially sexual violence. The same is being done for FGM and other harmful practices (premature forced marriages). A mapping was conducted at national level of the communication approaches used by community radios and other media concerning the FGM. The objective is to ensure only one form of communication of the problematic issue. However there is still a lot of work to be done with the media, which is going to be strengthened in 2012.

3. Please provide any information on programmes implemented aimed at parents and other direct caregivers designed to promote parenting skills and non-violent child rearing, and where available, information on impact and results. Please provide copies of evaluations if conducted.

Programme “Learn without fear, learn without suti”! “Because I am a girl!”
Recommendation 5

Enhance the capacity of all who work with and for children

I recommend that the capacity of all those who work with and for children to contribute to eliminate all violence against them must be developed. Initial and in-service training which imparts knowledge and respect for children’s rights should be provided. States should invest in systematic education and training programmes both for professionals and non-professionals who work with or for children and families to prevent, detect and respond to violence against children. Codes of conduct and clear standards of practice, incorporating the prohibition and rejection of all forms of violence, should be formulated and implemented.

1. Please indicate and describe efforts made to improve the capacity of professionals who work with and for children to detect, refer and follow up on incidents of violence against children. Please also indicate any measures taken to build capacity to ensure child-sensitive support to children in the context of counseling, complaint and reporting mechanisms, including through the adoption of codes of conducts and standards of practice.

There is still a lot of work to be done in this area, as the existing human resources in the area of child protection are, mostly voluntary, and without adequate training. The trainings undertaken to build the capacity of professionals and community workers, have been limited to generic areas of child protection and also about issues of prevention of child traffic, prevention of abuse and sexual exploitations. Despite the fact that many trainings and capacity building were undertaken on the issue of prevention, we must strengthen the capacity of the professionals on the areas of response, referral and follow-up of cases, as well as psychosocial support.

Under the framework of the strengthening of the existing programmes, the MMFCSLP/WCI defined a set of measures (minimum standards) to be implemented by all institutions that assist child victims in residential regime (including temporary shelter centres). Since 2010 we have initiated a pilot phase of implementation of this minimum standards and follow-up measures.

Training was provided to professionals of the Shelter Centres in the areas of shelter, Follow-up and referral.
Training was provided about the Minimum Standards of Shelter of the temporary/residential centres.
Training was provided about identification of victims of violence.
Training was provided in the areas of counseling and exposure.

2. Please indicate whether your Government has commissioned or sponsored training programmes in the area of violence against children? If YES, indicate which provider groups were targeted by such training programmes and received training (check all that apply).
Medical professionals (including pediatricians, nurses, psychiatrists, and dentists)
Public health practitioners
Social workers and psychologists
Teachers and other educators and other school staff
Court officials (including judges)
Law enforcement officials, including the police
Prison officers
Juvenile offenders personnel
Residential care personnel
Migration officers
Families and Caregivers
Border control and migration personnel
Others (Please specify)

Religious Authorities/Traditional Authorities/Local Government

Please provide details.

The trainings always include the above mentioned authorities, considering that they have considerable power in the communities in Guinea-Bissau.
Recommendation 6

Provide recovery and social reintegration services

I recommend that States provide accessible, child-sensitive and universal health and social services, including pre-hospital and emergency care, legal assistance to children and, where appropriate, their families when violence is detected or disclosed. Health, criminal justice, and social service systems should be designed to meet the special needs of children.

1. Please describe any initiatives, programmes and services to provide support for children who have been victims of violence, whether these programmes and services are delivered by governmental services, non-governmental organizations or national independent institutions, and whether these services are available throughout the country, or only in certain cities or regions. Where available, please provide relevant reports and internet links of these programmes and services.

The existing services in the country are very poor. We can say that, at government organizations level, only the Women and Children Institute offers psychosocial support and follow-up of the victims provided by other specialized institutions. The WCI has 2 social workers (voluntary workers), two permanent social technicians and one lawyer. The WCI does not have a children’s temporary shelter centre and, many times, the victims end up being sheltered in the houses of this institution’s staff. Some national NGOs (AMIC, SOS Criança Talibe) have shelter centres for child victims but the physical and staff conditions are not yet in line with the minimum international standards of assistance and shelter of children victims of violence. These centres are located at Bafata and Gabu (eastern area of the country) and in Bissau (still in the phase of being equipped for operation). The religious organizations (catholic and evangelical churches) also support child victims but in a very small scale. In Bissau and in the south of the country, child victims of forced and premature marriages are assisted and sheltered in some evangelical missions.

2. Indicate whether these cover the settings and forms of violence listed in the box below:

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<th>Psychological</th>
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<td>Institutions</td>
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<td>Workplace</td>
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3Harmful Traditional Practices.
3. Please indicate whether there are data on the percentage of children utilizing these services, if possible disaggregated by sex.

Yes, but unfortunately there is no centralized database which would provide detailed information.
Recommendation 7

Ensure the participation of children

I recommend that States actively engage with children and respect their views in all aspects of prevention, response and monitoring of violence against them, taking into account article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Children’s organisations and child-led initiatives to address violence, guided by the best interests of the child, should be supported and encouraged.

1. Please provide information on the involvement and consultation of children in advocacy, and in designing and in implementing laws and activities, programmes and policies to prevent and respond to violence against them. Is consultation of children mandatory in such cases? Please provide details, including age groups and other details of the children involved and contexts within which such activities have been promoted (for example, schools, the community, regional or national levels).

The Children’s Parliament always participates in all the important decision that involves children, although its participation is not governed by law.

The participation of the National Children’s Parliament and other child-youth institutions (ACDC and RCJJ) has been guaranteed in all processes involving the elaboration and discussion of laws related to child protection, as well as in its dissemination. Adolescents in school and out of the school system are part of the NCP and are represented in all the regions of the country.

2. Describe any public or official support given to the creation and maintenance of special children’s organization and forums for the protection of child rights.

Besides the financial support given directly by the WCI to children’s organizations, in the case of the National Children’s Parliament an annual amount is allocated directly (as well as the assignation of an office in the premises of that government body).

Financial support from the Government and International Organizations for the Children’s Parliament, GPR and for the Minors Curatorship.

3. Describe the amount and type of resources made available to support children’s participation in activities to address violence against children.

15% of the resources are made available for the participation of children.

The type of available resources are: financial resources and equipment.

4. Describe the involvement, if any, of children in the development of child-friendly materials raise awareness on violence against children, and to provide information on counseling, reporting and complaints mechanisms, including court proceedings.

There is participation from the children in terms of design of learning and educational materials on violence against children, namely the Campaign Say Yes to Children; the
Sensitization Campaign on Child Labour; the Child’s Fortnight. The WCI provides counseling, registry and exposure mechanisms.
Recommendation 8

Create accessible and child-friendly reporting systems and

I recommend that States should establish safe, well-publicised, confidential and accessible mechanisms for children, their representatives and others to report violence against children. All children, including those in care and justice institutions, should be aware of the existence of mechanisms of complaint. Mechanisms such as telephone helplines through which children can report violence, speak to a trained counselor in confidence and ask for support and advice should be established and the creation of other ways of reporting violence through new technologies should be considered.

1. Please describe the legal, policy and institutional arrangements in place for providing child-sensitive counseling, complaint and reporting mechanisms, including in confined spaces such as orphanages, residential care institutions and prisons. Provide details or references, or attach.

   WCI/AMIC/Judiciary Police/CNDH/Human Rights League/REJE

2. Has there been any guidance issued for professionals involved in counseling and reporting mechanisms? Have any complaints procedures, reporting procedures or counseling programmes been evaluated for effectiveness and/or child-sensitivity? If YES, provide details or references, or attach.

   NO

Reporting on violence (by a third persons, not the victim)

3. Is mandatory reporting of violence against children foreseen in the law? If YES indicate for whom mandatory reporting is foreseen (e.g., teachers, health workers, social or child welfare workers, law enforcement officers, the public) and provide relevant documentation. Please also indicate which types of violence are subject to mandatory reporting (e.g., sexual abuse, physical violence, or other).

   The exposure of violence against children is not compulsory, but there are two legal documents, namely against human trafficking and FGM that are public. Presently, work is being done to ensure that exposure is public and not semi-public (actual legislation).

Complaints mechanisms

4. Please indicate any existing mechanisms or institutions specifically designed to receive complaints about acts of violence against children and whether children can access these procedures or persons acting on their behalf. Please indicate whether legal aid is available.
to facilitate submission of complaints, and the circumstances in which legal aid will be available.

There are several institutions specifically designed to receive denounces: the Minors Brigade of the JP; the Cabinet for Protection of Minors of the POP; the Minor Curatorship; the WCI; *(Cabinet for Legal Assistance to Children and Mothers – Human Rights Guinea League)*

The access exists and legal assistance is available although it is poor on account of lack of means.

*Counseling for child victims*

5. Do children who have experienced physical, sexual, psychological or other violence have a legal right to counseling? Have any changes to the law or operational protocols been made with a view to making investigations by relevant institutions, including social workers, law enforcement officers or forensic specialists child-sensitive? Please provide relevant information, including on whether these mechanisms exist at the national level and/or in specific departments, how they can be assessed and how these mechanisms are funded.

They have access to the right of counting on legal assistance (Minors Curatorship) but, unfortunately, the coverage is not at national level by lack of working means. Besides, no legal review of working protocols has been done to ensure the sensitivity of the investigations.
Recommendation 9

I recommend that States should build community confidence in the justice system by, inter alia, bringing all perpetrators of violence against children to justice and ensure that they are held accountable through appropriate criminal, civil, administrative and professional proceedings and sanctions. Persons convicted of violent offences and sexual abuse of children should be prevented from working with children.

Ensure accountability and end impunity

1. Are regular (e.g. annual) reports published providing statistical and analytical information on reported cases of violence against children? If YES, please provide details or references, or attach.

   Reports exist, but their preparation and collection of information is still very poor

2. Please provide the total number of reported cases and conviction of crimes of violence recorded against children since 2009. Where possible, provide a breakdown by types of crime or by setting (home, community, school, workplace, institutions), and by age and gender of the victim.

   Woman and Children Institute

   Registration Data on Violations Against Children - Year 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Violations</th>
<th>Number of cases by sex</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Abuse</td>
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### Woman and Children Institute

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<tr>
<td>Refusal of the Assumption of Parenthood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family abandonment</td>
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<tr>
<td>FGM</td>
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</table>

### Woman and Children Institute

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<td>Trafficking</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abuse</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Please indicate the measures taken or envisaged to prevent person convicted of violent offenses and sexual abuse of children from working with children. **There are no specific measures for these cases, but a conviction may prevent the exercise of a profession.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kidnapping</td>
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<td>Pedophilia</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family abandonment</td>
<td>06 03</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Recommendation 10

I recommend that States ensure that anti-violence policies and programmes are designed and implemented from a gender perspective, taking into account the different risks facing girls and boys in respect of violence. States should promote and protect the human rights of women and girls, and address all forms of gender discrimination as part of a comprehensive violence prevention strategy.

Address the gender dimension of violence against children

1. Please indicate any gender-specific provisions included in national initiatives – e.g. laws, policies and advocacy efforts – concerning violence against children, and any special measures taken to address violence against girls.

The Gender Equality and Equity Policy is in its final phase of development, the law on FGM has recently been approved and published, and the Child Protection Law is being reviewed and takes into account the gender factor.

2. Indicate whether these policies address harmful traditional practices affecting girls, such as FGM/C, force and/or early, marriages, and/or other harmful traditional practices. Yes

3. Indicate whether since 2009 there has been any changes in the following:
   • Minimum age of marriage age for women and men, to prevent early and/or forced marriage and overcome discrimination on the basis of gender? Yes
   • Minimum age required for valid consent to sexual activity. Is this age different for girls and boys? No

4. Please provide any existing data on violence against children, disaggregated by sex, and attach relevant documentation.

   See data from the MICS 2010 - Annex 17
   Early Marriage and Polygamy - pg. 125 to 128
   FGM - pg. 131 to 135
   Domestic Violence - Page. 137

5. Please provide information on existing research released since 2009 on violence against children taking into account the special characteristics and vulnerabilities of girls and boys, and attach relevant documentation.

   Study on child trafficking (Annex 12)
   Situation Analysis of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Guinea-Bissau (Annex 13)
   Study on Child Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children in Guinea Bissau (Annex 14)
   Study of Koranic Schools, Children and Madrassa Talibé (Guinea-Bissau) (Annex 18)
   A picture of violence against women in Guinea-Bissau (Annex 19)
Recommendation 11

I recommend that States improve data collection and information systems in order to identify vulnerable sub-groups, inform policy and programming at all levels, and track progress towards the goal of preventing violence against children. States should use national indicators based on internationally agreed standards, and ensure that data are compiled, analysed and disseminated to monitor progress over time. Where not currently in place, birth, death and marriage data registries with full national coverage should be created and maintained. States should also create and maintain data on children without parental care, and on children in the criminal justice system. Data should be disaggregated by sex, age, urban/rural, household and family characteristics, education and ethnicity. States should also develop a national research agenda on violence against children across settings where violence occurs, including through interview studies with children and parents, with particular attention to vulnerable groups of girls and boys.

Develop and implement systematic national data collection and research efforts

1. Does your country maintain any national, regional, or local data system on violence against children? How and how often is information made public? What kind of information can be obtained in these systems? **Does not exist**

2. Is the available information disaggregated by:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
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<td>☑X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
<td>☑X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
<td>☑X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature of injury or death</td>
<td></td>
<td>☑X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cause of injury or death</td>
<td></td>
<td>☑X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographical location of incident of violence</td>
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<td>☑X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Context of the incident</td>
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<td>☑X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date and time of the incident</td>
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<td>☑X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship between the victim and perpetrator</td>
<td></td>
<td>☑X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other information, namely...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Please indicate whether your Country maintains any of the following:
- ☐ Registries of birth, death and marriage **YES**
- ☑ Systems to capture data on children without parental care **NO**
☐ Systems to capture data on children deprived of liberty, including in the criminal justice system, administrative detention, and pretrial detention. NO
☐ Systems to capture data on specific forms of violence against children NO

4. Please indicate whether since 2009, any of the following data collection and research activities have been carried on violence against children:

☐ Population-based surveys of any form YES, MICS 2010 –Annex 17 (pg. 120 and 121)
☐ Qualitative studies or surveys based on interviews with parents/caregivers and children. NO
☐ Studies or surveys to assess the impact of legal measures. NO
☐ Any other specific research on violence against children, including on particularly vulnerable groups? YES

If YES, indicate the subject of this research and where the findings of these projects may be consulted in more detail.

Study on abuse and sexual exploitation of children (Annex 14)
Study on child trafficking (Annex 12)

5. Are regular (e.g. annual) reports published providing statistical information on violence against children? If YES, provide details or references, or attach. YES, MICS. 2000 (Annex 20), 2006 e 2010 (Annex 17)

6. Please indicate any measures taken since 2009 or envisaged to implement the use of indicators based on internationally agreed standards on violence against children, and the responsible agency.

The adoption of the Plan of Action to Fight Trafficking, the Plan of Action to Ban FGM and the Plan of Action to Prevent Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children. All of these plans have developed follow-up indicators based on international standards. However, the follow-up mechanisms for the indicators and the treatment of the same are not being properly implemented, mainly due to lack of coordination of some of the actions and among some implementation partners.
The body in charge is the WCI.

7. Is there a research agenda on violence against children, across settings? How are vulnerable children addressed? (suggest delete. Too open question)? NO

8. Have national studies been developed on violence against children, or on violence against children in a particular setting (the family and home environment; educational settings; institutional care and juvenile justice institutions; workplaces, and the community)
YES
I recommend that all States should ratify and implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. All reservations which are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention and the Optional Protocols should be withdrawn in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights of 1993. States should ratify all relevant international and regional human rights instruments that provide protection for children including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol; the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol; ILO Conventions No. 138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment and No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour; and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. States should implement all their international legal obligations and strengthen their cooperation with the treaty bodies. I recommend that States act in conformity with their commitments on the prevention of violence made at the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children, and in the context of the WHO Health Assembly resolution on implementing the recommendations of the World Report on Violence and Health and other regional public health resolutions that reinforce this resolution.

Recommendation 12

1. Strengthen international commitment

1. In as far as your country has not already ratified the instruments below, please indicate any steps taken or envisaged towards ratifying the following instruments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Not ratified</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>ratified</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>ratified</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict</td>
<td>☐ X</td>
<td>The protocol was internally ratified but the the deposit procedure has not been finalized.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>ratified</td>
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</table>
and its Optional Protocol
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
and its Optional Protocol
ILO Convention No. 138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment
ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

2. Please indicate if any reservations made at the time of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols have since been withdrawn, or whether any steps have been taken or are envisaged to withdraw such reservations. NO

3. Please indicate any activities undertaken in cooperation with treaty bodies listed below, and any responses given to their recommendations, with concrete examples of how these affect the elimination at the national level of violence against children.

- Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- Human Rights Committee (CCPR)
- Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)
- Committee against Torture (CAT)
- Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW)
- Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- ILO Committee of Experts, overseeing the implementation of ILO Conventions Nos. 138 and 182

4. Please indicate any activities undertaken or envisaged to promote implementation of the recommendations of the UN Study – including allocated resources – through cooperation with other partner(s) at the:

- International level – With the support of UNICEF, sessions were held to disseminate the Study’s recommendations at national level (confirm with Vitoria). The activities envisaged in the National Plan of Action are based in the Study’s recommendations. The allocation of partners resources (UNICEF, IOM, ILO, CPLP and others) is annually planed and, in some cases, by specific activity.

- Regional level – ECOWAS, ILO, IOM (the country’s participation in planning meetings, the reporting of performance in training and skills)

- Bilateral level – Portugal - program of the Ministry of Solidarity of Portugal and Guinea Bissau in assistance to vulnerable children
5. Please indicate whether any multilateral, regional or bilateral arrangements have been developed to prevent and address violence against children.

*Multilateral agreement to assist victims of trafficking of 2006*