

Voices of practitioners working to prevent VAC at School in the global south

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Objectives:

- 1) Why VAC at school matters
- 2) Scoping study to map current evidence of programmes and what works in the Global South
- 3) What needs to happen to build momentum

Introduction

- Violence against children is a significant public health problem
- More than a billion children experience violence every year
- Violence in the lives of children are most common in the Global South
- Globally, over 90% of children attend school

Why Focus on VAC at Schools?

- 1) Opportunity and Efficiency
- 2) Can address the problem at systemic level.
- 3) VAC undermines primary purpose of schools
- 4) Schools represents collective aspiration and hope for the future

Who we are...

The Coalition for Good Schools has come together as a group of leaders from the Global South who are mutually concerned with the global debate on preventing violence against children in schools.



Our impact model



The Video

<https://we.tl/t-vYEK60AWN1>

Evidence review



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Number of studies by region



Characteristics of successful programmes

- Multi-component interventions focusing on engaging multiple stakeholders with an investment in structural changes increase sustainability.
- Addressing values, policies and practice targeting the whole school environment is more effective in reducing violence.
- Group based interventions can help develop shared values and operational culture ie. successfully shift gender roles in young people
- Teachers can be trained and empowered to improve learner behaviour.
- Targeted interventions is needed to address specific forms of violence
- The development of successful interventions is an iterative and learning process

What did we learn?

- Programmes that were developed in the Global South or adapted for socio cultural context had less problems with implementation and showed better outcomes
- Pathways to change are not linear – evaluations are important to measure effectiveness but there is limited documentation available on programme implementation
- Building partnerships with practitioners to take on the implementation can benefit the sustainability and scale up of programmes
- Urgent investment is needed to adapt the few successful and promising programmes in order to develop an evidence base of programmes that has the potential to be adapted and taken to scale

Key issues that need to be addressed to maintain momentum of our work

- Articulate a clear case for prioritizing prevention of VAC at schools.
- Enlist support of key decision makers in government and education sector.
- Create a community of practice with opportunity to share, influence and learn from each other's work (voices from Global South).
- Adequate investments, accessible to practitioners on the frontlines.



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