

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND in KAZAKHSTAN
TERMS OF REFERENCE

**For international institutional consultancy to conduct formative evaluation of the system
for prevention and response to violence against children in Kazakhstan**

1. Introduction

UNICEF Office in Kazakhstan jointly with the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, Commissioner for Child Rights and the National Commission for Women and Family Demographic Affairs under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan are commissioning an evaluation to assess the progress, enabling conditions and bottlenecks of the existing national child protection system for prevention and response to violence against children (hereinafter VAC) in Kazakhstan within the period of 2011-2020.

The evaluation aims to produce evidence-based recommendations for strengthening the overall national child protection system, to contribute to increased knowledge on the national child protection system strengths and weaknesses in Kazakhstan, and to improve national capacity to advance attainment of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

This document outlines the scope of the evaluation including research questions, the envisaged methodology, and implementation framework for the selected contractor.

The evaluation will start in 2020, with completion in 2021. UNICEF is looking for institutions with deep commitment and strong background in evaluation and relevant subject matter to undertake the evaluation which will inform the national authorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan, academic institutions, civil society and UNICEF on further areas of focus for addressing violence against children.

2. Context

Kazakhstan is an upper middle-income country and rates well on some indicators of child well-being. It has a high rate of birth registration and a low level of child labour and child marriage. However, violence against children remains an area of significant concern. The consequences of violence on children are often intergenerational, with those who have faced violence as a child more likely to become a violent adult. There is significant evidence that children who are exposed to violence at home may suffer a range of severe and lasting effects. Children who grow up in a violent home are more likely to be victims of child abuse, may have difficulties at learning and limited social skills, exhibit violent, risky behaviour, or suffer from depression or severe anxiety.

Over the last decade, recognition of the pervasive nature and impact of violence against children (hereinafter VAC) has grown both globally and in Kazakhstan. The 2019 Situation Analysis of Children in Kazakhstan and series of studies completed by UNICEF jointly with the Commissioner for Human Rights between 2010-2016 observed that in Kazakhstan violence, abuse and neglect of children takes place at home, in schools, residential care institutions and in the communities. Still, the phenomenon remains largely undocumented and underreported. This can be attributed to a variety of reasons, including the fact that some forms of violence against children are socially

accepted or not perceived as being abusive.¹ In Kazakhstan, “violence” is widely considered synonymous with gross bodily harm, rather than bullying, psychological and verbal abuse. Mental violence is not well understood. Parents may use corporal punishment – hitting or slapping a child - in some situations and non-violent discipline in other situations².

Evidence also suggests that cultural and social norms significantly influence shaping individual behaviour, including the use of violence.³ Existing social norms in Kazakhstan are supportive of violence. In total, 75.4% of adults, 46.1% of child protection and justice officials, and 54.8% of media professionals support the use of corporal punishment in families⁴. The 2015 data shows that 52.7% of children aged 1-14 years had experienced psychological or physical punishment from the adults in the household⁵. Non-reporting of violence against children was also documented: 26% of adults would not intervene if they witnessed a child being hit/beat by a parent⁶.

Child protection system in Kazakhstan heavily relies on residential care for children. In 2017, 53,793 children lived in various types of residential institutions. The rate of children living in residential care is 961.7 per 100,000 child population, the highest in the Europe and Central Asia Region, and above the regional average (666 children per 100,000 child population) and the global average (120 children per 100,000).⁷ Child abuse and neglect in the families is one of the reasons for removing the child from the family and placing in residential care. At the same time, the 2011 report informed that violent punishment of children in residential care institutions was common and reported by 41.1% of children in institutions of education for children with deviant behaviour”, 35.1% of children in orphanages and 26.8% of children in shelters⁸.

Children with disabilities in care institutions are especially vulnerable to violence. According to the 2011 study, 80.4% of staff in special correctional institutions of education, and 69.4% in institutions for children with psychoneurological and severe disabilities reported witnessing violence among children in the institution (i.e., bullying, harsh verbal abuse, psychological abuse, and physical violence)⁹. This is troubling that so many staff in both types of institutions witnessed violence against children in the institution.

Violence in schools is a serious problem in Kazakhstan as well. Of 4,207 children surveyed in 2012 (the most recent data available), 66% were exposed to psychological violence, physical violence, extortion, sexual abuse, cyber-bullying and/or discrimination¹⁰.

In addition, injury is a leading cause of death and hospitalization of children in Kazakhstan. In 2017, according to the Ministry of Health’s Electronic Health Centre, 1,283 children died from unintentional injury and 27,702 children required hospital treatment.

¹ Hidden in plain sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children. UNICEF, 2014

² A situation analysis on children in Kazakhstan, UNICEF, 2019

³ Violence prevention: the evidence. Series of briefings on violence prevention: the evidence. WHO, 2010.

⁴ Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Survey on Violence against Children in Families in Kazakhstan, Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Kazakhstan and UNICEF, 2016

⁵ Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey, Statistics Committee of the Ministry of National Economy of Kazakhstan, 2015

⁶ Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Survey on Violence against Children in Families in Kazakhstan, Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Kazakhstan and UNICEF, 2016

⁷ Analytical Note: The Need for Child Care Reform in Kazakhstan, 2019, Stella Grigoras, UNICEF ECARO consultant

⁸ Violence against children in state-run residential institutions in Kazakhstan, Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Kazakhstan and UNICEF, 2011

⁹ Violence against children in state-run residential institutions in Kazakhstan, Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Kazakhstan and UNICEF, 2011

¹⁰ Violence against children in schools in Kazakhstan, Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Kazakhstan and UNICEF, 2013

Finally, at 11.8 per 100,000 of the age group, death by suicide is one of the leading causes of 15- to 17-year-olds mortality in the country. The international literature shows that vulnerability to suicide is influenced by a variety of predisposing risk factors on which stressful life events (including violence and abuse) and other potentiating factors may act as triggers.

High rates of exposure to adverse and traumatic experiences have been reported in adolescents in the juvenile justice system. Thus in a UNICEF-supported pilot assessment of mental health needs of adolescents in conflict with the law conducted in 2017 on a sample of 511 adolescents from East Kazakhstan Region approximately 25% of respondents reported to have been hurt or in danger of being killed and approximately 6% of females reported to have been raped or in danger of getting raped.

Over the last decade, several important steps have been taken by the Government of Kazakhstan to strengthen the child protection system for prevention and response to violence against children which will be systematically assessed by the commissioned evaluation. Detailed background information on the undertaken reforms can be found in Annex I to the present Terms of Reference.

3. Purpose, objectives and type of the evaluation

The overall purpose of the evaluation is to assess to what extent the undertaken reforms in Kazakhstan have contributed to strengthening the system for prevention and response to violence, abuse, and neglect of children as well as to examine the enabling conditions and bottlenecks which will require further improvement. The evaluation is to provide the Government of Kazakhstan and UNICEF sound evidence and conclusions to inform planning the future strategies and work in this area.

The specific objectives of the evaluation are:

- To examine relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact¹¹ and sustainability of the state interventions aimed at prevention and response to VAC;
- To assess the changes and advancements in the national child protection system for prevention and response to violence against children compared to the situation mapped in the 2011 study¹²: such as regulatory framework, infrastructure, governance and coordination, procedures, services, workforce, gaps, weaknesses, accomplishments;
- To assess sustainability of the strategies applied and interventions conducted to strengthen the national child protection system for prevention and response to violence against children.
- To draw lessons learnt and inform policy formulation to create a foundation for an integrated national child protection system in support of family and child well-being, response to violence and harmful practices against children;

¹¹ During the Inception phase the evaluation team jointly with the Evaluation Reference Group will determine feasibility of evaluating impact.

¹² “Modelling for Integrated Child Protection System in Kazakhstan”, 2011, UNICEF.

- To assess the extent to which the relevant interventions were implemented with equity and gender lenses.

Type of evaluation:

In addressing these objectives, the commissioned evaluation will be **formative** in its nature. It will be forward-looking and identify key lessons that can be learned from the examination of the current state of the national child protection system for prevention and response to VAC, and provide actionable and practical recommendations on how the Government can further strengthen and integrate the child protection system, combining the efforts of different ministries, departments, central and local level policies and programmes to prevent and respond to various forms of violence against children taking place at home, in schools, in care, in custody and in public spaces.

The evaluation is undertaken to inform further implementation of the relevant state strategic documents related to Violence Against Children including the 2030 National Concept of Social Development, the 2030 Family and Gender Policy Concept, SDGs as well as the next State report of Kazakhstan to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2021 and the new UNICEF and the Government of Kazakhstan country programme for 2021-2025.

4. The intended users of evaluation

Primary: Parliament, National Commission for Women and Family Demographic Affairs under the President of the RK, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour and Social protection, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Information and Public Development, Office of the General Prosecutor, national human rights institutions, national statistical offices, local authorities, UNICEF.

Secondary: academic and research institutes, international and civil society organisations.

An Evaluation Reference Group (hereinafter ERG) will be established, bringing together the representatives of the government, non-governmental service providers, and international community to contribute to the preparation and design of the evaluation, including providing feedback and comments on the Inception Report and on the technical quality of the work of the consultants. In addition, the group will assist in identifying internal and external stakeholders to be consulted during the evaluation process; participate in review meetings organized by the evaluation management team and with the evaluation team as required; play a key role in learning and knowledge sharing from the evaluation results, contributing to disseminating the findings of the evaluation and follow-up on the implementation of the management response.

5. Dissemination and use

The evaluation findings and recommendations will be presented in the form of a public report. The contractor will also be expected to deliver a public presentation of the main findings and recommendations.

UNICEF will share the evaluation findings with key stakeholders including government, academic institutions and CSOs in hard and soft copies. The report will be publicly available at designated web resource.

The results of the evaluation will be used to inform policy formulation, planning next steps for strengthening the national child protection system's prevention and response to VAC.

6. Potential limitations to the evaluation

Lack of disaggregated and consistent data on VAC including administrative data might present a constraint for evaluation. Sensitivity of VAC issue might bring a challenge for evaluators especially during data collection stage as respondents might not feel comfortable to talk openly. The identified potential limitations should be closely considered during finalization of the evaluation methodology and data collection tools.

7. Evaluation Scope

The subject of the evaluation is the national child protection system for prevention and response to violence against children. Given that prevention and addressing VAC is a key goal of the functioning child protection system, the evaluation should look (to the extent possible) into the system and interventions through the following six elements of the child protection system:

- Legal and regulatory framework, as well as specific policies related to child protection;
- Effective governance structures, including coordination across government departments, between levels of decentralization and between formal and informal actors;
- A continuum of services (spanning prevention and response);
- Minimum standards and oversight (information, monitoring and accountability mechanisms);
- Human, financial and infrastructure resources; and
- Social participation, including respect for children's own views, and an aware and supportive public¹³.

Given complexity of the VAC issue, various affected groups and fragmentation of child protection functions across different stakeholders in Kazakhstan one of the tasks of the evaluation team during the Inception stage would be in consultation with UNICEF and ERG to more precisely **define the scope and focus of the evaluation**.

The evaluation will not specifically cover child labour and trafficking of children. Although they have direct relevance to the issue of violence against children, evaluation of these aspects would require a more complex and targeted approach, which may carry away the focus of the present evaluation.

Period to be covered:

Evaluation is expected to cover period of 2011-2020.

¹³ Strengthening Child Protection Systems: Evaluation of UNICEF Strategies and Programme Performance, 2018.

The evaluation can be informed by the following relevant evaluations and assessments that took place between 2011-2020 with support of UNICEF Country Office in Kazakhstan. This include the evaluation of Primary Healthcare Impact on Infant and Child Mortality Reduction, Assessment of the Universal Progressive Home Visiting Model, Evaluation of Justice for Children in Kazakhstan, Evaluation of the programme on prevention of violence in schools (done as part of the evaluation of the project supported by Norwegian Government), etc. (refer to Annex IV).

The evaluation should employ an equity lens, and contractor may take into consideration division of analysis by such factors and determinants as:

- children exposed to violence by location: in rural or urban settings;
- children in the family
- children facing violence by type of perpetrator: peers, parents, other adults;
- children exposed to specific types of violence by age categories (0-18);
- children facing violence by setting: in schools, institutional care and other facilities (detention centres, colonies), public places, internet, etc.;
- vulnerable children: who are from low-income families; families with single parent (mother or father); or with many children in the family; with disability of the child or adult in the family; with family members who are migrants, refugees, marginalized groups as imprisoned, abusing alcohol, having a police records; and other vulnerable groups;
- other children at risk;

and other social determinants¹⁴.

The evaluation should also analyse the gender context, describing the informal gender norms, roles and expectations, thereby seeking to understand the existing disparities between boys and girls and the way the policies have affected girls and boys.

The evaluation will reflect on the national child protection system's readiness and adaptability to respond to emergency situations such as COVID-19 pandemic and its implications for the rights of children to be protected from violence and abuse.

8. Geographical coverage

The **geographical scope** of the evaluation will include the locations that should represent the diversity of central and local levels in VAC administration and decision-making by variety:

- big cities and less urbanized (more rural by nature) settlements;
- capture regional differences (north-south, etc.) in distribution of VAC scale across the country;

¹⁴ Evaluators may also refer to risk factors at individual, close-relationship, community and society levels identified in the 'INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children', page 16.

- areas or regions that have been impacted by the pilot interventions and less impacted regions and places.

Therefore, the next locations can be proposed (but will be finalized with the selected consultancy institution during the Inception Phase):

- The cities of Nur-Sultan and Almaty;
- Turkestan Oblast;
- Karaganda Oblast;
- Mangistau or Kyzylorda Oblasts.

The regions¹⁵ chosen should reflect a range of indicators, such as geographic location, population size, size of beneficiary population, etc.

9. Data and Indicators to Support Evaluation

In the course of evaluation, the evaluator should consider availability, maturity and reliability of administrative data on VAC. Performance indicators and monitoring mechanisms are part of a knowledge-generation and dissemination strategy that can support effective actions related to VAC prevention and response. The use of specific indicators on VAC and protection of child victims is recommended to improve practices and activities, and to promote accountability. In Kazakhstan, indicators related to VAC are limited at the national level and lacking at the sectoral level¹⁶. Analysis of sources of administrative data on VAC in Kazakhstan was undertaken by national statistical office with UNICEF support. The findings of this assessment along with the country thematic TransMonEE report on Children’s Access to Justice should inform the evaluation and future national efforts for strengthening the information system and data management on VAC.

Line ministries and national statistics offices keep specific data on child protection that might not be publicly available but can be accessed through official request. It is expected that the evaluator, based on the desk research and review of the literature, will suggest such a list **of indicators or additional data pertinent to the evaluation taking into account the existing global and regional indicator frameworks**. Upon concurrence with UNICEF office, the list of indicators will then be officially requested from the government by UNICEF for use as part of the evaluation.

The evaluator should help to assess the reliability and integrity of administrative data existing in the field and national systems responsible for data management, and **propose the recommendations** how to improve the below aspects and processes:

- National legislation and regulations on VAC data;
- VAC indicators used at national and sector levels;
- National guidelines, protocols, standards forms for data collection;

¹⁵ The following interventions have been carried out in the regions either with UNICEF support or independently by the national authorities: 1. Violence prevention in schools – East Kazakhstan, Mangystau, Kyzylorda regions. 2. Home-visiting programme by patronage nurses – Kyzylorda region. 3. Community based child victim support program – Mangystau region. 4. Communication campaign for VAC prevention – Nur-Sultan, Almaty, Aktobe, Kyzylorda, Mangystau, East Kazakhstan, Shymkent city. 5. Data on child disciplining with disaggregation by region is available in MICS. 6. There is also the Government run pilot programme ‘Kazakhstan without violence’ – started in Shymkent city in 2017. It is being scaled up to Nur-Sultan, East Kazakhstan, Almaty, Mangystau oblasts. The documented plans of this pilot are not available currently.

¹⁶ Assessment of Sources of Administrative Data on Violence Against Children in Kazakhstan, Draft report prepared by prof. Robin N. Haarr, 2020.

- Disaggregation of VAC data;
- Data management systems;
- Data protection and confidentiality;
- Data sharing and data flows;
- Monitoring data;
- VAC data analysis, dissemination and use;
- And other.

The evaluator should also look into how the system produces and uses VAC prevalence (survey-based data) for decision making, monitoring and evaluation of national policies and programmes as well as tracking progress towards achieving SDGs.

10. Theory of Change

There is no explicit results frameworks or document with Theory of Change (hereinafter ToC) and respective indicators/targets that will contribute to measuring the progress of the reforms and programme interventions on overall. Results framework for the evaluation will be defined as part of the evaluation strategy. For UNICEF supported pilot projects implemented jointly with the relevant national stakeholders, Theories of Change are available. **The evaluation team jointly with UNICEF and national stakeholders is expected to construct ToC for strengthening national child protection system’s response to VAC for the period following the evaluation (2021-2030 given SDG targets and duration of the key national policy documents related to VAC).** The evaluation team will use the findings and recommendations of the commissioned evaluation while developing the ToC.

The TOC should provide a strategic vision that describes pathways of change, propose a package of evidence-based strategies and articulate a chain of results, both to prevent and respond to violence against children. It should also include results framework.

11. Evaluation questions

To guide the analysis, the evaluation will follow the criteria laid out by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development-Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC), and assess the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability of the child protection system’s prevention mechanisms and response to VAC. During the Inception phase the evaluation team jointly with the ERG will determine feasibility of evaluating impact. Per definition, **relevance** is concerned with the extent to which the programme/activity to be evaluated is suited to the priorities of the target group; coherence assesses compatibility of the intervention with other interventions in a country, sector or institution; **effectiveness** measures the extent to which the programme attains its objectives; **efficiency** measures the outputs in relation to the inputs, hence assesses whether the least costly resources are employed to achieve desired results; **impact** assesses the positive and negative changes produced by the programme – directly or indirectly, intended or unintended; and **sustainability** is concerned with measuring whether the benefits of the programme are likely to continue and are financially and environmentally stable. Moreover, in this evaluation **equity and gender equality** are included as a cross-cutting evaluation criterion and integrated in the evaluation through a differentiated analysis according to gender, age and location (urban/rural, capital/non-capital), among others, wherever possible.

Annex II to the present Terms of Reference offers the exemplary research questions per OECD-DAC criterion. These questions can be further fine-tuned and targeted by the evaluation team based on the findings of the desk research and inception mission or inception online discussion, either face-to-face or in a remote mode.

The evaluation will seek to examine the bottlenecks that currently prevent the full realization of child rights for protection from violence. To systematically identify and assess these bottlenecks, ten determinants or ‘conditions’ presented in Annex III to the present Terms of Reference could be used.

12. Evaluation design and methodology

This formative evaluation should be based on systems building approach to analyse whether and in what ways Government’s strategies and interventions have been informed by systems thinking. As a conceptual Framework, UNICEF proposes the following scheme by Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.



The evaluation design will employ a mixed-methods approach. Participatory, qualitative data collection methods could be combined with a review and analysis of existing quantitative data and information, to meet the evaluation’s aforementioned objectives and complete the described deliverables. A mixed-methods approach, integrating qualitative and quantitative research, can expand the breadth and depth of understanding and corroboration, while offsetting the weaknesses inherent to using each approach by itself. One of the most advantageous characteristics of conducting mixed methods research is the possibility of triangulation, that is, the use of several means (methods, data sources and researchers) to examine the same phenomenon.

The evaluation team is expected to elaborate the evaluation strategy, design, including ethical considerations, develop the data collection toolkit and conduct data collection in accordance with the methodology which will be finalised during the inception stage. Bidders are encouraged to demonstrate methodological expertise in using system-based approach and evaluating at the outcome level.

Desk review will be conducted during the Inception phase to start addressing evaluation issues and identifying the information gaps prior to the in-country mission. Desk review should include the review of available survey and administrative data and previously conducted relevant evaluations by UNICEF. Sources will include Transmonee database hosted at the UNICEF Regional Office, as well as National Statistical Office. Potential data gaps will need to be clearly identified and the implications are to be included into the analysis. Desk review will also include reviewing the government's rules, laws and policies that were reformed since 2011 as well as child protection procedures. It will be the first step to update the previous assessment conducted in 2011.

The methodology should clearly propose mitigation measures for the identified limitations and risks to the commissioned evaluation.

The contractor jointly with UNICEF will identify **key stakeholders/informants and appropriate data collection methods** for each informant category. The most of respondents will be government representatives who are both policy makers, ministerial staff, as well as health, education, social protection and law-enforcement staff as well as civil society representatives and service providers.

Interviews with children and their families should also be conducted to get their perspective on functioning of the system. Suggested age of children to be interviewed is 9-17 years old as it is often a recommended age threshold (Susman EJ et al., 1992; Weithorn L, Campbell SB, 1982). Suggested locations for interviewing children include schools, residential care institutions for children including Centres of adaptation of children, Child support centres, state and non-state shelters for victims of domestic violence, detention facilities, youth health centres, youth resource centres, as well as any other potential locations suggested by national authorities and NGOs working with children. As the study plans to involve children as respondents, an extensive ethical review and an approval by external ethical board will be required. To the extent possible parents/relatives/legal representatives of the interviewed children should also be interviewed.

In close cooperation with UNICEF Child Rights Systems Monitoring Specialist, the contractor will be responsible for the development of appropriate instruments/interview guides/focus group guides for each of the methods selected, in Kazakh, Russian, and English. In gathering data and views from stakeholders, the evaluation team or an individual will ensure that it considers a cross-section of stakeholders (decision makers, programme personnel, rights holders, etc.) with potentially diverse views to ensure the evaluation findings are as impartial as possible. Stakeholders will participate in the evaluation through interviews, discussions, consultations, providing comments on draft documents and making management responses to the recommendations of the evaluation.

Other appropriate data collection methods are welcome to be suggested. Taking into consideration the COVID-19 situation, the bidders are encouraged to tailor the proposed methodology and timeline in relation to inter-country and in-country movement restrictions. Online communication and distant work during inception period may be considered. The final methodology will be agreed and approved during the inception stage.

UNEG evaluation norms and standards

The Evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the 2016 United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards for Evaluation and the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria (relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, sustainability).

UNICEF brings a **human rights perspective** and strives to mainstream **gender issues** in all its work for children, with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) as a principal reference, and recognizes the mutually supportive relationship between the CRC, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability. UNICEF recognises that the empowerment of women is especially important for the realization of the rights of girls and boys, and for the creation of healthy families and society. The evaluation will be implemented in line with the **UNICEF guidance on Gender Integration in Evaluation**.

The evaluation is a part of an organisational focus on **equity** and a process of strengthening reforms that target inequities affecting the most disadvantaged children in Kazakhstan. According to UNICEF, equity means that all children have an opportunity to survive, develop, and reach their full potential, without discrimination, bias, or favouritism. This interpretation is consistent with the CRC, which guarantees the fundamental rights of every child, regardless of gender, race, religious beliefs, income, physical attributes, geographical location, or other status.

The contractor will work closely with UNICEF staff at key phases of the evaluation process to ensure that equity focus, and ethical requirements are fully met in the final Evaluation Report.

13. Ethical considerations

The evaluation design and implementation should consider ethical safeguards where appropriate, including protection of confidentiality, dignity, rights and welfare of human subjects particularly children, and respect of the values of the local community. Please refer to UNEG ethical guidance for evaluation¹⁷ which outlines the ethical principles in part of evaluation intentionality, obligations of evaluators, obligations to participants and evaluation process and product as well as the UNICEF Procedure for Ethical Standards in Research, Evaluation, Data Collection and Analysis¹⁸.

The contractor should also adhere to UNICEF's Evaluation Policy and to UNICEF Reporting Standards. Evaluation team members will sign a no conflict of interest attestation.

Given the nature and purpose of this evaluation, an ethical review is mandatory and will be organized by UNICEF using an agreement with an international ethical review facility.

14. Existing information sources

¹⁷ <http://www.unevaluation.org/ethicalguidelines>

¹⁸ <https://www.unicef.org/media/54796/file>

The consultants should elaborate a specific indicative list of information sources with the following categories for informing the evaluation (initial reference material is provided in Annex IV to the present Terms of Reference):

- National and local policies, strategy and planning documents as well as legislative framework;
- Sectoral plans and concept documents;
- Census, administrative, household survey data e.g. MICS;
- International guidelines for prevention and addressing VAC (e.g INSPIRE strategy), strengthening family support services, developing social service workforce etc.;
- UNICEF global and country-based publications and reports;
- UNICEF global research and evaluations on system strengthening and violence against children;
- UNICEF Kazakhstan relevant evaluations (in areas of Justice for Children, Health, ECD/ECE; evaluation of the supported by the Government of Norway programme on developing a sustained and operational ombudsman’s child protection mechanism that prevents and responds to child abuse, exploitation and family separation in line with international standards);
- Materials from local academic and research institutes and civil society organisations.

15. Key tasks and deliverables

In order to deliver this assignment, the contractor will have to make arrangement for contracting at least one national consultant or institute to assist in evaluation design, to undertake the field data collection and data entry, and to provide raw data for analysis and interpretation in close cooperation with national stakeholders.

The evaluation process will consist of 4 key phases including design, field work, preparation of the report and presentation and dissemination of the findings and recommendations. Key tasks and deliverables of the evaluation team are provided in the below table.

<i>Table 1. Key Tasks and Deliverables.</i>			
Major tasks	Envisaged International consultancy days	Envisaged National consultancy days	Deliverable

Design phase	<p><i>Desk review of reference material</i></p> <p>- The evaluation team will conduct desk review of relevant materials for the evaluation. UNICEF will compile a list of most important background material, documents, and reports for review by the evaluation team.</p>	5	5	<p>- Completed Inception visit (or online consultations with national stakeholders)</p> <p>- Inception report including detailed evaluation strategy, <i>results framework</i>, methodology, data collection toolkit, and work plan, cleared by ERG and the external ethical review board</p> <p>-</p>
	<p><i>Consultations with national stakeholders (face-to-face or online, depending on situation with COVID19) on the scope and evaluation strategy</i></p> <p>- Consultations will include multi-lateral and bi-lateral meetings and interviews with national stakeholders for shaping the scope of the evaluation and informing development of the evaluation strategy including results framework to guide the evaluation.</p>	2	2	
	<p><i>Stakeholder mapping through desk review and inception visit</i></p> <p>- The evaluation team will prepare a mapping of stakeholders relevant to the evaluation. The mapping will include but not limited to the government agencies, development partners, civil society organizations, academic institutions, think tanks, children and families, and other stakeholders.</p> <p>- Inception visit will include meetings with national stakeholders in Nur-Sultan and in selected regions, visits to intuitions and service providers for children. The evaluation team will elaborate Inception visit agenda in consultation with UNICEF.</p>	8	8	
	<p><i>Implementation plan and methodology</i></p> <p>- Evaluation strategy will be developed based on mixed method design. Efforts will be made to reconstruct a suitable basis for assessment (results framework) to guide the evaluation.</p> <p>- The set of evaluation questions will be finalized, and the data collection instruments developed and tested in Kazakh and Russian languages.</p> <p>- Field work schedule and approach will be presented</p> <p>Review of Inception Report by the Evaluation Reference Group and by External Ethical Review board.</p>	8	5	

Field phase	<p><i>Data collection and analysis</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collection of evaluation data (primary and secondary) will be carried out through different techniques, such as desk-reviews, in-depth, informal and semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions and observations. - The analysis will be based on collected raw data (recordings and transcriptions of the recordings or digitalized data collection, or detailed notes of interviews and focus group discussions where recording would not be possible) 	10	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Successfully completed data collection visit to the agreed regions in Kazakhstan, -Data collected for analysis - Debriefing meeting will be organized with the Evaluation Reference Group - Theory of Change session with national stakeholders - Theory of Change for strengthening national child protection system's response to VAC based on findings of the evaluation and consultations with national stakeholders
	<p><i>Debriefing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Debriefing meeting will be organized with the Evaluation Reference Group on the preliminary findings, testing elements of conclusions and tentative recommendations. 	10	5	
	<p><i>Theory of Change</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The evaluation team will conduct a Theory of Change session with national stakeholders and UNICEF (based on problem tree analysis) to jointly construct Theory of Change for strengthening national child protection system's response to VAC for the period following the evaluation (2021-2030 given SDG targets and duration of the key national policy documents related to VAC). Agreeing on relevant indicators would be part of the session and produced Theory of Change. 	1	1	
Reporting phase	<p><i>Evaluation report</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drafting the evaluation report (first draft), validation of the data used in the report 	3	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First Draft report - Second draft report based on feedback from UNICEF, ERG and External research quality assurance entity - Final report incorporating feedback from review by the Evaluation Reference Group and an External research quality assurance entity accompanied by a matrix detailing the status of addressing feedback from UNICEF, ERG, and External research quality assurance entity - Final report accompanied by a matrix detailing the status of addressing feedback from UNICEF, ERG, and External research quality assurance entity - Evaluation related data/documents e.g., Excel/Word files containing the data collected and analysed (tabulations, etc.)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of the second draft report based on feedback from UNICEF, ERG and External research quality assurance entity- 	2	1	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final report 	1	1	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final report incorporating feedback from review by the Evaluation Reference Group and an External research quality assurance entity accompanied by a matrix detailing the status of addressing feedback from UNICEF, ERG, and External research quality assurance entity 	1	1	

Dissemination and Follow-up	<i>Presentation</i> - Presentation of key findings of the evaluation to major stakeholders and partners.	1 Total 65 days	1 Total 45 days	- Face-to-face presentation for partners during validation meeting in Nur-Sultan (or online, depending on situation with COVID19) - PPT with key findings and recommendations.

All submissions should be electronic in English (Word, Excel and Power Point). UNICEF reserves the right to withhold all or a portion of payment if performance is unsatisfactory, if work/outputs is incomplete, not delivered or for failure to meet deadlines (fees reduced due to late submission: 20 days - 10%; 1 month - 20%; 2 months - 50%; more 2 months – payment withheld). All materials developed will remain the copyright of UNICEF and that UNICEF will be free to adapt and modify them in the future. These ToRs are an integral part of the contract (SSA) signed with the institution.

16. Timeline of the Evaluation

The Evaluation is planned to take place from September 2020 until April 2021. The exact schedule of the activities will be agreed with the selected consultancy based on the consultancy implementation progress as well as the current COVID-19 situation resulting in the national state of emergency and restricted movement to/from and within the country

17. Evaluation Management

The evaluation will be managed by UNICEF Kazakhstan Child Rights Monitoring Specialist with a regular de-briefing on the progress of the assignment to the UNICEF Deputy Representative and will work on a regular basis with all involved staff of UNICEF CO and identified national and sub-national stakeholders/partners.

An Evaluation Reference Group will be established to guide and oversee the implementation of the Evaluation. The ERG will include representatives of UNICEF Kazakhstan, UNICER ECARO as well as external experts and representatives. The ERG is expected to provide feedback during the evaluation planning and implementation process and on the deliverables; comment on the evaluation approach and methods and facilitate access to data and information.

18. Structure of the Evaluation Report

The evaluation report structure must be compliant with the UNICEF-Adapted UNEG Evaluation Reports Standards, 2010 (refer to UNEG_UNICEF_Eval_Report_Standards.pdf¹⁹ and Unicef_Revised_evaluation_policy.pdf²⁰ and the GEROS²¹) and include:

- The title page and opening pages;
- Executive Summary (3-5 pages);
- Object of Evaluation;
- Evaluation Purpose, Objective(s) and Scope;
- Evaluation Methodology;
- Findings;
- Conclusions and Lessons Learned;
- Recommendations;
- Gender and Human Rights, including child rights
- Annexes;

UNICEF will keep the right to share the shorter (external) version of the report with the Government and make it public.

19. Qualifications or Specialized Knowledge/Experience required

The Evaluation is expected to be undertaken by an **institution of international evaluators with a national consultant(s)/institute** to produce the expected results. Experts undertaking this Evaluation should either individually or as a team have the following qualifications:

- Advanced university degrees in social sciences including the proposed national consultants/institute
- Proposed team has extensive experience in evaluation of development programmes, preferably, in child protection area including system strengthening and violence against children;
- Strong and proven level of expertise on gender equality, child/human rights and child protection;
- Demonstrated expertise in data collection, analysis and reporting of quantitative and qualitative data;
- At least 3 (three) years of work experience and/or technical knowledge of child protection issues in the Europe and Central Asia region. Field experience in Europe and Central Asia countries is an asset;
- Good communication and advocacy skills;
- Record of evaluation and research experience and/or written publications on a similar subject (child protection, violence against children);
- Excellent written English language skills, demonstrable with samples of publications. Knowledge of Russian and Kazakh is an asset;
- Excellent drafting skills and ability to synthesise complex information and issues;
- Strong analytical and conceptual thinking;
- Ability to organise and plan complex work following the established timeframes.

The detailed profile of national consultant(s)/institute should be provided in the proposal along with the profile of the international team of experts. National consultancy cost should be included in the financial proposal.

¹⁹ https://www.unicef.org/evaluation/files/UNICEF_adapted_reporting_standards_updated_June_2017.pdf

²⁰ https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/files/May31_Brief_EvalPolicy_FINAL.pdf

²¹ https://www.unicef.org/evaluation/files/GEROS_Methodology_v7.pdf

20. Budget, Procedures and Logistics

Travel arrangements including purchase of the air tickets is the responsibility of the selected contractor and estimated cost of travel should be clearly indicated in the financial proposal. Calculations of travel costs should be based on economy class travel regardless of the length of the travel. UNICEF does not provide or arrange health insurance coverage.

UNICEF does not take financial responsibility for visa costs. UNICEF does not provide or arrange health insurance coverage for consultants.

The interested candidates should estimate the budget for undertaking the evaluation including international experts costs, national consultancy/institution costs, international and in-country travel. UNICEF will bear the costs of External Ethical Review and External research quality assurance.

21. Software and Equipment (servers and license)

UNICEF does not provide equipment, software (including servers and license) needed for conducting the evaluation. Interested candidates should ensure availability of equipment and software necessary for conducting the evaluation.

22. Payment Modality

Applicants should submit a financial proposal for their services based on the schedule of deliverables. Payments will be made upon successful completion of deliverables as defined by payment schedule.

Provisional payment schedule is below.

	% Payment
Upon submission and UNICEF acceptance and certification of the Inception Report including detailed methodology, data collection toolkit and work plan, results framework cleared by External Evaluation Facility review and ERB review (if needed)	20%
Upon completion of data collection stage and submission and UNICEF acceptance and certification of the first draft report; Theory of Change session with national stakeholders and produced Theory of Change for strengthening national child protection system's response to VAC including indicator framework	20%
Upon submission and UNICEF acceptance and certification of the second draft report based on feedback from UNICEF, ERG, External research quality assurance entity and other stakeholders; Face-to-face presentation for partners during validation meeting in Nur-Sultan (or online, depending on situation with COVID19); PPT with key findings and recommendations.	20%
Upon submission and UNICEF acceptance and certification of the final report accompanied by a matrix detailing the status of addressing feedback from UNICEF, ERG, and External research quality assurance entity and final Approval	30%

by UNICEF CO Evaluation Management Group; Evaluation related data/documents e.g., Excel /Word files containing the data collected and analysed (tabulations, spreadsheets, etc.)	
Upon presentation of findings and Evaluation brief	10%

23. Proposal Evaluation Process and Criteria

Technical proposal should address all aspects of the above terms of reference. It will be evaluated against the pre-established technical evaluation criteria. As a minimum, the technical proposal should include the following:

- a) Complete technical proposal, taking into account objectives and conditions of this TOR, including methodology, workplan, timeline, budget;
- b) Organisational background
- c) CVs of experts/personnel mentioned in the proposal as key to execution of this Evaluation;
- d) Three Samples of relevant research/evaluation experience.

Please make sure to provide sufficient information/supporting documentation to address all technical evaluation criteria. The assessed technical score must be equal to or exceed 70 of the total 120 points allocated to the technical evaluation in order to be considered technically compliant and for consideration in the financial evaluation.

Technical Criteria	Technical Sub-Criteria	Maximum Points
Overall Response.	Completeness of response	10
	Understanding of objectives and how they propose to perform the tasks in order to meet the objectives and requirements of the ToR	20
Points		30
Institution & Key Personnel	Range and depth of candidates' experience with similar projects	15
	Previous experience of work in Europe and Central Asia region	10
	Samples of previous work in relevant field/subject	10
	Key personnel: relevant experience and qualifications of the evaluation team members for the assignment	15
Points		50
Proposed Methodology and Approach	Description of approach/methodology/workplan/timeline	25
	Description of approach to ensure quality of services, absence of conflict of interest and respect of ethical standards	15
Points		40

24. UNICEF General Terms and Conditions

UNICEF's general terms and conditions will apply to the contract awarded to the selected contractor. Please note that, in the evaluation of the technical merits of each proposal, UNICEF will take into consideration any proposed amendments to the UNICEF General Terms and Conditions. Proposed amendments to the UNICEF general terms and conditions may negatively affect the evaluation of the technical merits of the proposal.

UNICEF reserves the right to withhold all or a portion of payment if performance is unsatisfactory, if work/outputs is incomplete and not provided timely as indicated in the individual work plan of the contractor. This ToR is an integral part of the contract (PO) signed with the consultant.

UNICEF retains the right to patent any intellectual rights, as well as copyright and other similar intellectual property rights for any discoveries, inventions, products or works arising specifically from the implementation of the project in cooperation with UNICEF. The right to reproduce or use materials shall be transferred with a written approval of UNICEF based on the consideration of each separate case.

ANNEX I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Understanding of Violence Against Children in UNICEF

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) that came into force in 1990 defines all forms of violent actions against children infringing on their rights as well as the roles of the State Parties in addressing them.

The Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states:

“1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

2. Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programmes to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement.”

The Article 39 of the Convention further states:

“States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of a child victim of: any form of neglect, exploitation, or abuse; torture or any other form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; or armed conflicts. Such recovery and reintegration shall take place in an environment which fosters the health, self-respect and dignity of the child.”

According to the common understanding and the existing research there are four major categories of violence against children: neglect, physical abuse, psychological/ emotional abuse, and child sexual abuse²².

In concordance with the endeavours and principles of the Convention of the Rights of the Child that was signed by the Republic of Kazakhstan in 1994, with ratifying a number of essential international treaties and documents in the following decades, the country has been able to establish and advance the legal and institutional framework for implementation of children’s rights, including for prevention, protection, and response to violence against children.

In September 2015, the Republic of Kazakhstan, among other UN member states, adopted the 2030 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the period 2015-2030.

²² Child neglect is where the responsible adult fails to provide adequately for various needs, including physical (failure to provide adequate food, clothing, or hygiene), emotional (failure to provide nurturing or affection), educational (failure to enroll a child in school), or medical (failure to medicate the child or take him or her to the doctor). Physical abuse includes kicking, shoving, hitting, slapping, punching, burning, bruising, pulling ears or hair, choking or shaking a child, and other ways of inflicting pain or injury such as poisoning (perhaps with harmful drugs or alcohol), drowning or smothering. Child sexual abuse occurs when an adult or older adolescent abuses a child for sexual stimulation, and includes asking or pressuring a child to engage in sexual activities (regardless of the outcome), indecent exposure of the genitals to a child, displaying pornography to a child, actual sexual contact against a child, physical contact with the child’s genitals, viewing of the child’s genitalia without physical contact, or using a child to produce child pornography. Emotional abuse is the hardest to define, but usually includes; name-calling, ridicule, degradation, destruction of personal belongings, torture or destruction of a pet, excessive criticism, inappropriate or excessive demands, withholding communication, and routine labeling or humiliation.

The Sustainable Development Goals aim to eliminate all forms of violence and harmful practices disrupting child wellbeing, health, psycho-emotional state, causing various traumas, injuries, or deaths; resulting in other immediate effects and long-term consequences that children carry well into adulthood, and explicitly target the following areas:

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Target 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

Target 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Target 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere SDG

Target 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

Government initiatives on policy and legislation change for prevention and addressing VAC

Addressing violence against children is prioritized in the state strategic documents including the National Concept of Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Priority 3. Effective inter-sectoral mechanisms for children in difficult life situations; functional mechanisms for the protection of children victims of violence, abuse and trafficking; special focus on social vulnerability of children, prevention of violence against children and protection of children's rights) and Family and Gender Policy Concept until 2030, (Enhanced quality and coverage of social support services for families with children; and addressing violence against children). The newly adopted State Education Programme for period 2020-2025 has included some provisions related to prevention and addressing violence against children in schools. The new State Healthcare Development Programme for period 2020-2025 also included plans for capacitating parents on prevention of violence, service provision to victims of violence through youth resource centres and development of roadmap for prevention of injuries and accidents including violence. Several inter-agency short term roadmaps to address VAC were implemented in Kazakhstan, but their results were not independently assessed.

'Kazakhstan without Violence' pilot initiative by the Government of Kazakhstan was initiated in 2016 in Shymkent city and South Kazakhstan region with focus on inter-agency prevention and response to violence in the family, service provision and establishment of pilot local Department of Family and Youth Affairs. Consideration is given by the Government of Kazakhstan to scale-up this initiative to additional four locations: Nur-Sultan city, Almaty, East Kazakhstan and Mangystau oblasts.

In 2020, the Decree of the Government of the RK №156²³ approved the 2020-2023 Roadmap for Strengthening Protection of Child Rights, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Solving the Issues of Suicides Among Teenagers. Among others, it prioritized legislative revisions (strengthening the functions of social pedagogues and psychologist and the role of patronage home-visiting services

²³ Retrieved from <http://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/P2000000156/history>, 20 May 2020

in prevention and addressing VAC), inter-agency collaboration, Child Well-Being Index and child budget development, studying international experience on prohibiting corporal punishment of children in the family and in education and child protection organizations, development of rehabilitation measures for child victims of crimes, introducing mobile violence and suicides response groups, and other.

Legislation of the RK related to violence including VAC has been continuously updated during the last decade. The key related legislative acts include the 2009 Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence, the 2008 Law on Special Social Services, the 2011 Code of Marriage and Family, the 2014 Code on Administrative Offences, the 2014 Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes and others. However, Kazakhstan's legislation does not explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in the family, preschool and care institutions. In 2015, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern about it and recommended to take immediate measures to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all its forms in the home, care institutions and day care facilities and take measures to foster positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing and discipline among parents, teachers, staff of care institutions and day care facilities and other professionals working with and for children²⁴.

Government initiatives in changing service delivery

Child protection functions on central and local levels in Kazakhstan are split across education, health, justice, social protection and security sectors. By adopting the Law on Special Social Services in 2008 the Government of Kazakhstan has established a general framework for developing services to protect vulnerable populations including children.

Children in difficult life situations due to abuse, leading to social disadaptation and social deprivation are placed and receive services in the Centres of Adaptation of Children (hereinafter CAC).²⁵ CACs support children to reside for up to three months while a durable solution to their situation is sought. As of end 2018, there were 19 CACs across Kazakhstan that had collectively hosted 5,266 children over the course of the year²⁶. By end 2019, the number of children hosted in either a CAC or a child support center²⁷ had drastically increased to 8,526. CACs admit children falling within four categories. The first are children left without parental care—essentially those children picked up during sweeps of public areas by the juvenile police who were without a parent or guardian after curfew. The second category are neglected children, those who had been referred to the CAC due to a parent/guardian providing insufficient care. The third category are children in difficult life situations, which includes children who had experienced intra-family violence. The fourth and final category are children referred to special educational institutions or facilities. As demonstrated in the figure below, the largest category of children admitted to the CACs in 2018 had experienced neglect. The second-largest share of children (14%) had been left without parental

²⁴ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Kazakhstan, CRC/C/KAZ/CO/04, 2015

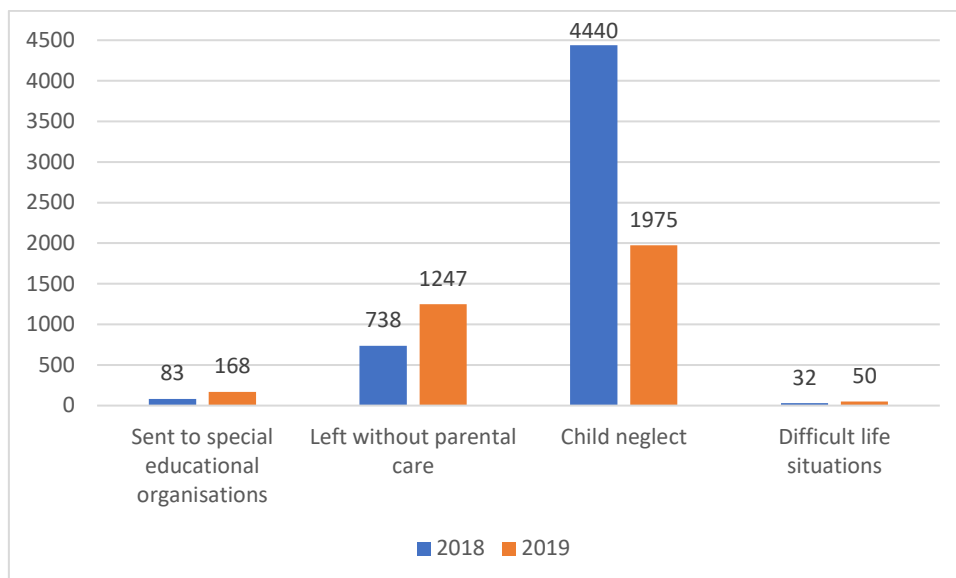
²⁵ Model rules on minors' stay in Centers of Adaptation of Minors, Annex 6 to the order of the Minister of education and science of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated June 18, 2013, No. 229

²⁶ Data provided to UNICEF by Ministry of Education and Science of the RK, 2018-2019

²⁷ Child support centers are being established across Kazakhstan. In contrast to CACs, which focus on short-term accommodation while a child's further placement is decided, child support centers provide more holistic support to children in difficult life situations. The support centers are run by educational authorities and provide day accommodation (both permanent and temporary) to children and act as information and consultation service hubs for other stakeholders involved in the prevention of violation of children's rights.

care, and small shares of children had been referred to special education facilities (1.5%) or had experience acute violence (0.6%). Data for 2019 were not completely disaggregated by reasons for admission. Nevertheless, it seems that a greater number of children in 2019 compared to 2018 were admitted on the basis of being left without parental care.

Figure 1 Children admitted to CACs by reason, 2018 & 2019



Source: Children’s Rights Protection Committee of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan (2018/2019).

In 2014, in accordance with the Law of the Republic of “On Special Social Services” criteria for assessing the existence of ill-treatment that led to social maladaptation and deprivation were adopted to enable service provision to victims of ill-treatment including children²⁸. Further in 2016, then the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the RK adopted Standards of Special Social Services Provision to Victims of Domestic Violence²⁹ which included children as subjects for receiving the services if come with parents-survivors of domestic violence.

In 2019, the Government of Kazakhstan has adopted legislation³⁰ which puts administrative responsibility on health, education, social protection specialists for non-reporting of suspected cases of violations of child rights to local police. There is little evidence on how these amendments impacted the system of reporting the cases of VAC, however, it is clear that police on their own cannot comprehensively address such cases. The same legislative act has introduced a medical-social registry system as an entry point for integrated social service provision to children in difficult life situation (medical, psychological and social assistance). But there is also lack of

²⁸ Joint order of the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated September 22, 2014 No. 630, the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated September 26, 2014 No. 399 and the Minister of Health and Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated November 19, 2014 No. 240. Registered in the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan December 25, 2014 No. 10013 ‘On the approval of the criteria for assessing the presence of abuse leading to social maladaptation and social deprivation’

²⁹ Approved by the Decree of the Minister of Health and Social Development of the RK on 21 December 2016, №1079

³⁰ The Law dated April 1, 2019 "On Amendments to Some Legislative Acts on Issues Related to the Activities of the Organizations on Protection of Child Rights"

information on how the medical-social registry is being operationalized and how it affects vulnerable children.

The main authorized body for coordination of protection of children's rights in the Republic of Kazakhstan remains the Committee on the Rights of the Child under the Ministry of Education and Science of the RK. This Ministry coordinates the work of the Inter-Agency Commission on Minors' Affairs and Protection of their Rights (hereinafter referred to as the IAC). It consists of representatives of all interested ministries, departments, local executive bodies, and the non-governmental sector. The 2019 Law "On Amendments to Some Legislative Acts on Issues Related to the Activities of the Organizations on Protection of Child Rights" extended the IAC's competence for protection of minors from violence and abuse, coordination of state authorities in this direction, including through medical-social registry, and introducing standards of rendering special social services on protection of children's rights.

Since 2020, all regions of the country have introduced positions of Deputy Directors of Departments for Ensuring the Quality of Education to take prompt measures to eliminate violations of children's rights, who also became members of the Regional Commissions for Minors Affairs and Protection of Their Rights. Changes have been introduced into model regulations of the Commission on Minors' Affairs and Protection of their Rights extending their competence to protect children from violence and ill-treatment and ensure their social rehabilitation³¹.

UNICEF Program Context and Background

The last two UNICEF Country Programme Documents for the Republic of Kazakhstan (2010-2015, 2016-2020) intended, among others, to contribute to establishing Child-friendly social environment (Program Component 2) and accomplish the related Outcomes:

Outcome 2: Systems strengthening for a protective environment for children (CPD 2010-2015)

Outcome 2: Children, especially those in difficult life circumstances, suffer, witness and practice less psychological and physical maltreatment, including all forms of harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation at home, in school, in care, in custody and in public spaces (CPD 2016-2020).

The activities that took place under **Child-friendly social environment component of the 2016-2020 CPD** intended:

- ✓ To contribute to efforts by the Government and other national actors, including civil society organizations, to reduce the prevalence of all forms of violence, abuse and neglect against children with particular attention given to children living in families in difficult life situations, as defined in national policies: families and children with multiple social vulnerabilities, which includes inter alia children with disabilities, children in State institutions and out-of-school children.

³¹ Information provide to UNICEF by Ministry of Education and Science of the RK, May 2020.

- ✓ To support children's referral to appropriate services in cases of exposure to violence, abuse and neglect, and reduce the inflow of children into State institutions, including residential care, while improving access to child-friendly and gender-sensitive justice proceedings.
- ✓ To invest in the reform of national child care systems, aiming to reduce the inflow of children into residential State and non-State care, and leveraging resources to strengthen alternatives to institutionalization, such as family-based community care and foster care. Complemented by initiatives to strengthen linkages between primary healthcare and social services, efforts also should support transformation of existing institutions to provide services to prevent family separation, particularly for CWD.
- ✓ To strengthen the performance of justice professionals and promote innovative models of community-based alternatives and diversion measures to inform policy development that will increase the proportion of children in conflict with the law who benefit from diversion and alternative measures, etc.

UNICEF support to Government to prevent and address VAC

UNICEF supported the Government of Kazakhstan in generating evidence on the extent and nature of VAC in Kazakhstan, strengthening national legislation, establishing mechanisms to prevent and respond to violence against children including in schools, developing child friendly victim support mechanisms, addressing negative social norms to prevent VAC, strengthening administrative data on violence against children.

- 1) Jointly with the Ministry of Education and Science a programme on prevention and addressing violence in schools was piloted and is being scaled-up in several regions (2013-2018, East Kazakhstan, Kyzylorda and Mangystau regions).
- 2) Identification, reporting and addressing the risk factors faced by children including violence and neglect of children was part of the UNICEF supported pilot programme on home-visiting by patronage-nurses. In 2018, this programme was approved for national scale up by a special decree as well as by the new State Healthcare Development Programme for 2020-2025.
- 3) Pilot programme on community-based support and rehabilitation of child victims and witnesses of crime in Mangystau region was implemented with UNICEF support during 2016-2017. The pilot programme was supported by establishing child friendly environment in police and court and guided by local coordination mechanism. Results of the pilot programme contributed to the knowledge on service provision to child victims of crime and development of the Law of the RK amending legislation concerning organizations ensuring protection of children's rights in Kazakhstan adopted in April 2019.
- 4) In 2017, UNICEF and national authorities launched Communication for Social Norms and Behavior Change campaign for prevention of VAC. The campaign is focused on raising awareness on negative consequences of VAC and positive parenting. While achieving social norms change is a long-term process the campaign has contributed to a more open dialogue on VAC in Kazakhstan in national media and among public, addressing VAC was included in new state health and education programmes.
- 5) With support and advocacy of UNICEF, the mandate of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) established in Kazakhstan under Optional Protocol to the Convention

against Torture was expanded to cover all types of closed institutions for children including for children with disabilities. The expanded mandate sets conditions for monitoring and prevention of violations of the rights of the child. During 2012-2019 UNICEF provided support to the NPM through capacity building. Due to NPM monitoring visits and follow-up actions, conditions in some institutions for children are improving while some institutions were strongly recommended to be closed with arranging alternative family-based care for children. Despite these recommendations, most of the institutions continue operation.

- 6) During 2019-2020, UNICEF has been providing technical support to health and education sectors in elaborating operating procedures for specialists aimed at identification and response to cases of violence against children. Development and testing of the operating procedures is underway.
- 7) In 2020, UNICEF in collaboration with national statistical office commissioned analysis of sources of administrative data on violence against children in Kazakhstan. This includes assessing the data collection and reporting processes, quality assurance processes, data flow and feedback practices, and data dissemination and use. The aim is to draw upon existing resources and guidance on how to use and improve administrative data related to VAC across sectors, ministries and agencies.

In summary, the child protection system agenda has progressed markedly through the Government's adoption of policies and regulations. The shift towards building the child protection system marks a conceptual move towards a holistic response, and away from a focus on single issues only.

ANNEX II. EVALUATION QUESTIONS

The evaluation will focus on, but will not be limited to the following key questions which can be revised following the consultations during the Inception Phase:

Proposed key evaluation questions.

<p style="text-align: center;">Relevance</p>	<p>The extent to which the policy and programmes are suited to the priorities and needs of the affected populations, vulnerable groups and at-risk groups, families with children, especially the most disadvantaged, and other social institutions caring for children.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How relevant are the Government policy and programmes to the needs of the most vulnerable children and their families? 2. Are the child protection/ VAC prevention and response programmes and strategies appropriate for achieving the intended results and outcomes? 3. To what extent do national reforms and pilots correspond to needs and expectations of children and families including the most vulnerable and at-risk groups? 4. To what extent do current reforms of child protection and VAC policies contribute to eliminating all forms of violence, harmful practices, significantly reducing violence and related death rates (SDG Goals 5, 17)? 5. Are policies and programmes designed to take into account the age and gender dimensions, rural/urban disparities, other variables on disadvantaged groups? 6. How relevant were the government interventions in relation to VAC during the 2020 COVID-19 outbreak? Was child protection system response to violence against children considered essential and continued to operate? Are the policies and programmes designed in a way to quickly adapt to changing situation of children and families?
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<p style="text-align: center;">Effectiveness</p>	<p>The extent to which the child protection/ VAC programmes are implemented in a comprehensive manner and effectively protect children and their families, prevent and respond to VAC.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To what extent policies and programs aimed at prevention and addressing VAC are implemented in a comprehensive manner? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Have the policy/legislation changes been systematically put into practice at the national level, i.e. has there been an increase in national budget allocations for child protection system prevention and response to VAC; increased human resources; increased level of trained human resources, etc.? b. What are the coordination mechanisms put in place between allied sectors related to child protection such as: health, education, social protection and law enforcement, if any? c. How is the system being strengthened at the national and local levels in addressing VAC issues? d. What are the changes in the collaboration between health, education, social protection and law enforcement services? 2. To what extent existing system, services, social services workforce are adequate, and equity focused? 3. Has the early detection of VAC cases been improved after the intervention? How and/or why not? 4. Is there any improvements in practices of prevention, referral, and follow up? 5. To what extent is the existing environment (institutional, political and legislative context) for child protection conducive to effective protection of disadvantaged, at-risk, poor and vulnerable children? 6. To what extent the Government can allocate additional resources to strengthen the child protection system response during crisis period such as COVID-19 outbreak? Are additional mechanisms and social service workforce introduced to identify and respond to VAC in this period?
<p style="text-align: center;">Efficiency</p>	<p>To measure the outputs – qualitative and quantitative – in relation to the inputs, to assess the efficiency of the child protection system.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have government budgets and resources (human, financial, technical) been adequately and efficiently used to address priority bottlenecks? 2. Have allocations of resources for the child protection /VAC strategies and programmes been done in the most cost-efficient manner? 3. Which government strategies and programmes were the most efficient in prevention and response to violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and vulnerability among children and their families? And which have been the most efficient in meeting the needs of the children?
<p style="text-align: center;">Coherence/Integration</p>	<p>How well an integrated approach to national child protection systems has been implemented.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To what extent interventions undertaken by different stakeholders (parliament, line ministries, national human rights institutions, law enforcement, judiciary and civil society) support each other? 2. What are the key synergies and interlinkages or lack of thereof between the interventions undertaken by various stakeholders involved in identification, reporting, referral and following up of VAC cases? 3. Have complementarity, harmonisation and co-ordination between stakeholders improved over the period covered by the evaluation? If yes, what were the enabling factors? 4. Are there any duplicating, unattended or inappropriately assigned functions among the key stakeholders? 5. How integrated are the data management systems, what are the existing policies and guidelines for complete and consistent data collection, information sharing and exchange of best practices?

Impact	To assess the impacts of the child protection programmes and reforms on children's protection coverage.	1. How the government interventions, as adoption of relevant legislation, increased punishment for various types of VAC including sexual violence, introduction of special social services to victims of domestic violence, modernizing the home-visiting services by patronage nurses, bringing in National Preventive Mechanism under OPCAT for closed institutions, reforming institutions such as Centres of adaptation of children and developing Child Support Centres have impacted the children and their VAC protection in the country? What are the intended and unintended consequences, positive and negative results?
Sustainability	To assess whether the policies and programmes are financially, legally and institutionally sustainable and positive achievements can be sustained over the longer term.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are legal, institutional and financial mechanisms established to ensure sustainability of planned and achieved results including those reached with UNICEF support? Are conditions established to ensure quality of the child protection services (social service workforce, service standards, training, supervision mechanisms, etc.)? 2. To what extent the Government is committed, motivated and resourced to continue reforms for prevention and addressing VAC? 3. Is there any potential to expand the existing services or introduce new ones? 4. What should be the next steps for the Government of Kazakhstan for sustaining the identified by the evaluation positive achievements? 5. What should be the next steps for the Government of Kazakhstan for sustaining positive achievements for prevention and response to VAC as identified by the evaluation?

ANNEX III. DETERMINANTS OF BOTTLENECKS

Determinants of bottlenecks in full realisation of child rights.

Determinants	Description
Social norms	Widely followed social rules of behaviour that are followed within a society
Legislation/policy	Adequacy of laws and policies to reduce/avoid barriers
Budget/expenditure	Allocation & disbursement of required resources that constrain effective coverage
Management/coordination	Bottlenecks that obstruct accountability and transparency, as well the impediments to coordination and partnership
Availability of essential commodities/inputs	Essential commodities/inputs required to deliver a service
Access to adequately staffed services, facilities and information	Target population's physical access to the relevant services, facilities and information
Financial access	Direct and indirect costs that prevent target group from utilizing available services or adopting certain practices
Social and cultural practices and beliefs	Individual/community beliefs, behaviours, practices, attitudes
Timing and continuity of use	Completion/continuity in service, practice that undermine the effectiveness of such service, practice, or other intervention
Quality of care	Adherence to quality standards (national or international)

ANNEX IV. REFERENCE MATERIAL

National strategies and documents

1. 2030 Nationwide Concept of Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan
2. 2030 Concept for Family and Gender Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
3. 2020-2025 State Education Development Programme of the Republic of Kazakhstan
4. 2020-20215 State Healthcare Development Programme of the Republic of Kazakhstan
5. 2020-2023 Roadmap for Strengthening Protection of Child Rights, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Solving the Issues of Suicides Among Teenagers

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3. UNICEF Country Programme Document for the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2010-2015
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8. Factors influencing health and well-being of children and adolescents in Kazakhstan. Key findings from the Health Behavior In School-Aged Children (HBSC) Study in the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2018.

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1. Kazakhstan: Evaluation of Norway-supported Project "Strengthening the Ombudsman's Child Protection System in Kazakhstan", 2014
https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/index_80807.html
2. Evaluation of the reform in the area of Justice for Children in Kazakhstan, Synergies Cooperation, 2018, https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/index_103481.html
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4. Evaluation of Primary Health Care (PHC) Impact on Infant and Child Mortality Reduction 2000-2017, 2019
5. <https://www.unicef.org/kazakhstan/sites/unicef.org.kazakhstan/files/2019-12/D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B3%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%B9%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8%D0%B9.pdf>
6. Assessment of the patronage nursing system with equity analysis in Kazakhstan, 2015
7. <https://www.unicef.org/kazakhstan/en/reports/assessment-patronage-nursing-system-equity-analysis-kazakhstan>

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1. Revised Evaluation Policy (2018),
https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/files/May31_Brief_EvalPolicy_FINAL.pdf
2. UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation, 2008,
file:///C:/Users/abekmussa/Downloads/UNEG_FN_ETH_2008_EthicalGuidelines.pdf
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