ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN
Research and Analysis of FY15 U.S. Government Spending to End Violence Against Children

Executive Summary

Violence against children (VAC) includes all forms of physical, sexual, and mental violence, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, harm or abuse, including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, child labor, cyber abuse, and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage. The consequences to public health, economic growth, and future development are vast. Violence in childhood can impair brain development and damage other parts of the nervous system.[1] It can also increase the risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, mental health problems, poor school performance, early dropout rates, early pregnancy, reproductive health problems, and other communicable and noncommunicable diseases.[2] Furthermore, the global economic impact resulting from physical, psychological and sexual violence against children is estimated to be as high as $7 trillion.[3]

Given its enormous costs to public health and economic growth, preventing and addressing the immediate and lifelong effects of violence is critical to future achievements in development. Violence against children undermines U.S. Government investments in education, health, and child well-being, and dramatically decreases opportunities for future generations. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) saw momentous success in curbing poverty, hunger, reducing child mortality rates, increasing the numbers of girls enrolled in school, and other critical advances in development. Today, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) chart the path forward to reach the most vulnerable people living in the hardest places. Multi-sectoral solutions to address violence against children will help achieve SDG target 16.2, which calls for ending all forms of violence, and will contribute to goals targeting poverty, health, education, gender equality, peace and security, and justice.

Counting Pennies, a report produced in 2016 by ChildFund Alliance, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages, the Office of the Special Representatives of the Secretary General on Violence Against Children, UNICEF, and World Vision found that the U.S. spent roughly $43 million— just 0.14 percent of U.S. Official Development Assistance (ODA)—on projects that were solely targeted to end violence against children in FY15. A total of $157 million—roughly 0.5 percent of ODA— went to projects containing some activities that targeted violence against children alongside other activities. The findings in this report extend the research of *Counting Pennies* and represent the first attempt to estimate the number of people who benefited from U.S. Government investments—what this study refers to as "reach"—in ending violence against children. This number sets the baseline against which future progress can be measured. The findings show that in FY15, the United States Government reached **over half a million (635, 503) children** with programs that work to prevent or respond to violence against children. These same programs reached **20,767 households with livelihood opportunities,** which allowed parents to make sufficient income for their children to attend school**.** This funding also provided training in advocacy and awareness to at least **4,856 influential adults** such as parents, community members, police, and

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[1] Felitti V. Relationship of Childhood Abuse and Household Dysfunction to Many of the Leading Causes of Death in Adults – the adverse childhood experiences (ACE) study. American Journal of Preventative Medicine, 1998.
[2] World Health Organization. *Inspire: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children.* 2016.
[3] Childfund Alliance. *The costs and economic impact of violence against children.* 2014.

government officials, who play a critical role in protecting children throughout their lives. The data presented in this report should be treated as an estimate of U.S. Government reach. Tracking efforts to end VAC children presents unique challenges as systematic reporting varies considerably depending on the type of violence, the setting, and the funding stream.

Presently, eight U.S. offices within the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Department of Labor (DOL) fund programs that focus or include a component on ending violence against children. Almost 50 percent of spending in FY15 to end violence against children came from one account: The Department of Labor's International Labor Affairs Bureau, which focuses on solutions to end child labor globally. The U.S. Government has a crucial role to play in leveraging global influence and encouraging the international community to partner on ending violence against children by 2030 with the end of the SDG's. To ensure violence is prevented and children are protected, there are a number of steps the U.S. Government can take to reform existing policy:

Maintain a Strong Commitment to Ending Violence Against Children. This could be achieved through enhanced tracking of integration, greater use of common indicators, integration into other sectors, and overall commitment to ending violence against children. Ideally, this would increase the reported percentage of ODA that addresses violence against children to two percent, or $630 million, by 2022 to reach a total of 6.4 million children— an increase of 1.5 million children in four years.

Take a Whole of Government Approach in order to ensure a coordinated and effective response. The White House should designate the USAID Administrator to convene and lead a whole-of-government approach to ending violence against children and convene an Interagency Policy Committee (IPC) or sub-committee under the National Security Council.

Join the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (GPEVAC), a global public-private partnership working to address violence against children, and commit to sharing lessons learned.

Collaborate Across Agencies on reporting structures to reduce complexity and encourage more effective multi-sectoral work to end violence against children.

Harmonize the Measurements of Impact by using common indicators to demonstrate collective effort to address violence against children. This will require multi-sectoral collaboration, and in adherence with best practices, these indicators should be disaggregated by sex, age, and disability.

Available Data should be made public, when appropriate, especially annual output reporting that can be aligned to fiscal year spending. In doing so, implementing organizations and policymakers will be better equipped to track the results of spending to end violence and track progress toward goals.

Continue to support multi-sectoral approaches that address root causes of violence. The INSPIRE[4] strategies developed by the World Health Organization, in consultation with the Center for Disease Control (CDC), USAID, and the Presidents Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR), provide a framework to end violence against children that could provide a framework for U.S. government agencies.

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[4] Seven strategies for ending violence against children that have shown success in reducing violence against children. They are: implementation and enforcement of laws; norms and values; safe environments; parent and caregiver support; income and economic strengthening; response and support services; and education and life skills.

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U.S. GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Introduction

Babu (11 years) and Sabbir (7 years) are brothers. Their mother works at a tourist location selling eggs and their father left them when they were young. To make ends meet for their family, they deliver heavy packages and bags in the main sea port in the Bagerhat District of Bangladesh along the Mongla River. They work up to 13 hours a day and both boys have been physically injured doing their jobs. When it's too dark to travel home, they sleep on empty buses that have finished their routes for the day. Their younger sister, Sumaiya, also helps earn money for the family by helping the boys gather trash, which they sell for money.

Sadly, the story of these brothers is not unique: their experiences and exposure to violence, absence from school, and other vulnerabilities illustrate the tragic reality for half of the world's children, who face violence in varying forms. Nearly **one billion children** have experienced a form of violence that puts them at higher risk of chronic health issues, anxiety disorders, and mental illness and increases their likelihood of having social problems as adults.[5] World Vision recognizes that violence prevents children from living life in all its fullness and works to holistically support children like Babu and Sabbir and their families. World Vision works with a variety of stakeholders in a child's life including parents, teachers, peers, as well as faith leaders, to address the root causes of violence in their communities.

Violence against children (VAC) includes all forms of physical, sexual and mental violence, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, harm or abuse, including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, child labor and harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage. Violence against children can be perpetrated by an individual or group of people.

Violent acts against children (see Table 1) can result in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development, or dignity.[6] Violence against children has serious consequences and costly ramifications for society, resulting in loss of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), declines in health outcomes, and major setbacks on all other development goals. It exists in every corner of the world. It impacts families, communities, nations, and governments. Despite its high prevalence, violence against children is vastly underestimated in many countries. It often goes unseen or unreported, in part because of fear of reporting or lack of safe reporting mechanisms, and in part due to widespread beliefs that lead people—both survivors and perpetrators of violence— to see violence as an accepted social norm.

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[5] World Health Organization. *Inspire: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children.* 2016.
[6] World Vision Partnership Campaign to End Violence Against Children

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Table 1. Forms of Violence Against Children.

PHYSICAL	SEXUAL
➢ Severe physical punishment and torture ➢ Cruel or degrading treatment ➢ Physical bullying ➢ Female genital mutilation, binding, scarring, and branding ➢ Violent or degrading initiation rites ➢ Sex selection ➢ 'Honor' crimes ➢ Physical child labor ➢ Slavery and trafficking ➢ Use of children by armed groups, including as soldiers	➢ Commercial sexual exploitation of children ➢ Sexual slavery ➢ Child sex tourism ➢ Trafficking or selling children for sexual exploitation ➢ Visual images of child sexual abuse ➢ Inducement, coercion, or arrangement of children into forced or early marriages
EMOTIONAL	**NEGLECT**
➢ Psychological maltreatment ➢ Mental or Verbal abuse ➢ Emotional abuse or neglect ➢ Scaring, threatening, rejecting, humiliating, insulting, isolating, or ignoring ➢ The denial of emotional responsiveness or the neglect of mental health, medical, and educational needs ➢ Imposing humiliating or degrading conditions of detention, including placement in solitary confinement	➢ The deliberate failure to meet children's physical and psychological needs, protect them from danger, or obtain medical, birth registration, or other services ➢ Physical neglect ➢ Psychological or emotional neglect ➢ Neglect of a child's health or education needs ➢ Abandonment

Around the world, one in four children suffers physical abuse. Almost one in five girls and one in 13 boys suffer sexual abuse. Homicide is among the top five causes of death in adolescents.[7] Violence against children has enduring consequences that can threaten a child's well-being and can persist into adulthood. In addition to the economic toll on the global economy, violence against children has innumerable consequences across a child's lifespan and these consequences are additive, increasing as violence increases in types and severity. The immediate and long-term health and economic costs draw attention to the great need for programs that prevent violence and protect children.

The INSPIRE strategies provide a new framework to address violence against children. INSPIRE stands for **I**mplementation and Enforcement of Laws, **N**orms and Values, **S**afe Environments, **P**arents and Caregiver Support, **I**ncome and Economic Strengthening, **R**esponse and Support Services, and **E**ducation and Life Skills. The strategies were recently launched by The World Health Organization in collaboration with the Center for Disease Control (CDC), The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, the Pan American Health Organization, the President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR), Together for Girls, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the World Bank.

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[7] World Health Organization. *Inspire: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children.* 2016.

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The package of seven evidence-based strategies outlines specific holistic actions that will prevent violence against children, and support children who are impacted by violence. These strategies highlight the ways multi-sectoral interventions can address the root causes of violence against children. The strategies draw on experience from health, social welfare, education, finance, and justice sectors, but do not include all of health or all of justice sector reform. Each strategy is evidence-based, and the INSPIRE package encourages increasing the evaluation of these programs.

Methodology

The *Counting Pennies* database, shared by the researchers at the Development Institute (DI), served as a guide for this research and included grants active in FY2015, the disbursed amount, and a brief description of the program. This study examines three categories of violence against children (VAC) programming:

> The first area is projects **solely targeting violence against children.** This is all specific programming that addresses issues of violence such as child trafficking, hazardous child labor, children associated with armed forces and groups, or child, early, and forced marriage with the strategies laid out by the INSPIRE framework.

> The second category is projects **addressing violence against children and adults.** These address the same issues, but the target beneficiary population includes children and adults. These projects are usually, though not always, ones that address violence against women and girls.

> The third category is **child-related projects** that include a component on ending violence against children. These projects are focused only on children, and amongst other initiatives, include an element of protection against violence.

Counting Pennies includes a fourth definition, "VAC in Broad-based Projects," which has been excluded from this research because the number of beneficiaries of services specific to protecting children from violence are not easily identified within the larger objective of the various grants. Many of the grants in this category are listed as "social services" and "protection and solutions." Components of these grants may include measures to increase the capacity of local service and advocacy nongovernmental organizations (NGO's) or professional social workers, establish effective referral networks, or actions to incorporate protection strategies in assistance programming to reduce vulnerability and uphold human dignity for all victims of conflict and disasters. Although some aspects of these projects likely address violence against children, tracking is complex, and the estimate of U.S. Government reach, meaning the estimated number of people reached with U.S. Government investment to end violence against children, for these projects is difficult to accurately quantify. 85 percent of the grants in this category were not publicly available or were difficult to track. Most of the spending in this category was conducted in fragile contexts or as part of a larger humanitarian emergency response where monitoring and evaluation is challenging.

Within the three categories analyzed in this report, public records and foreign aid databases reflected which accounts funded each disbursement, the years the grant was implemented, and the total amount of the grant.[8] Public reports either attached to the descriptions in the database or from the NGO implementer were utilized to determine the number of children reached by each U.S. Government-funded project.[9] For some funding streams, implementing partners published

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[8] Foreign Aid Explorer (FAE), The OECD Development Assistance Committee Creditor Reporting System database, the Foreign Assistance Government website, and the Financial Tracking System (FTS)

[9] In 4.5 percent of cases, we had greater access to internal reports that gave more accurate data from World Vision and Childfund.

reports while other grants were clearly funded and verified across different databases, but the beneficiary reports were not publicly accessible. Some of these projects date back as early as 2001. Where reports for the various projects were not publicly disaggregated by year, the resulting total number of people reached during the reporting period was divided by the number of years covered by the report to calculate the number of children per year. This approach was used for 24 percent of projects.

In collaboration with internal and external partners from the Ending Violence Against Children Taskforce—namely, Save the Children, ChildFund, Futures Without Violence, and World Vision— the use of public foreign assistance databases, and the review of interim, final, and annual reports from implementing partners, show estimates of the number of children reached, the number of households supported with livelihoods, the number of influential adults with increased awareness and training in protecting children from violence, and the money spent on research and capacity building in 2015.

Limitations

Indicators
While there are indicators that track efforts to end violence against children across sectors (e.g. child labor, child abuse, etc.), there is not a standardized approach to aggregating these in a way that allows measurement of reductions in violence against children as a broader issue. ODA donors generally do not specifically track funding for ending violence against children because there are not specific indicators or purpose codes allowing them to do so, thus existing data is not consistently linked to ending violence against children in databases. In response to this, we chose to align with the categories used in the *Counting Pennies* study. Future efforts could build on these reports to strengthen alignment across funding sources and projects.

Period of Evaluation
This study only looks at spending and reach in FY2015, defined as October 1, 2014- September 30, 2015. When this research was conducted, monitoring and evaluation results were not available beyond 2015. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee Creditor Reporting System database only maintains funding information through FY2015. The Financial Tracking System (FTS) lists all outgoing emergency money through 2017, but without sufficiently detailed descriptions for the purposes of this report. The Foreign Aid Explorer (FAE) database shares data as soon as it is available, but not every project had submitted updated reports. For a more complete dataset, this research looks at grants disbursed in 2015.

Agency Reporting
As noted in *Counting Pennies*, "it is not possible to know what proportion of spending on ending violence against children-related projects really went to ending violence against children, and what proportion funded other unrelated activities." For this reason, the estimates of the number of children reached in categories besides "VAC-Specific" are likely much less than stated in this report. For programs with strong reporting, the number of children, adults, and families reached with services is easily quantified. However, beneficiary data for 16.6 percent of total spending to end violence against children was not publicly available, or challenging to track based on grant title. The Foreign Aid Explorer database has all grants and descriptions to date, but without documents that show the results of monitoring and evaluation (appendix 3). This required a review of the projects results, as published by each implementing agency. Some implementing agencies had more transparent and detailed reporting than others. In three percent of cases, the only data available was target data with no final results. This three percent was added to the category of grants that were not publicly available.

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Finally, the nature of the problem makes it difficult to quantify. The impact of activities to end violence against children is not regularly assessed or reported within monitoring and evaluation efforts.
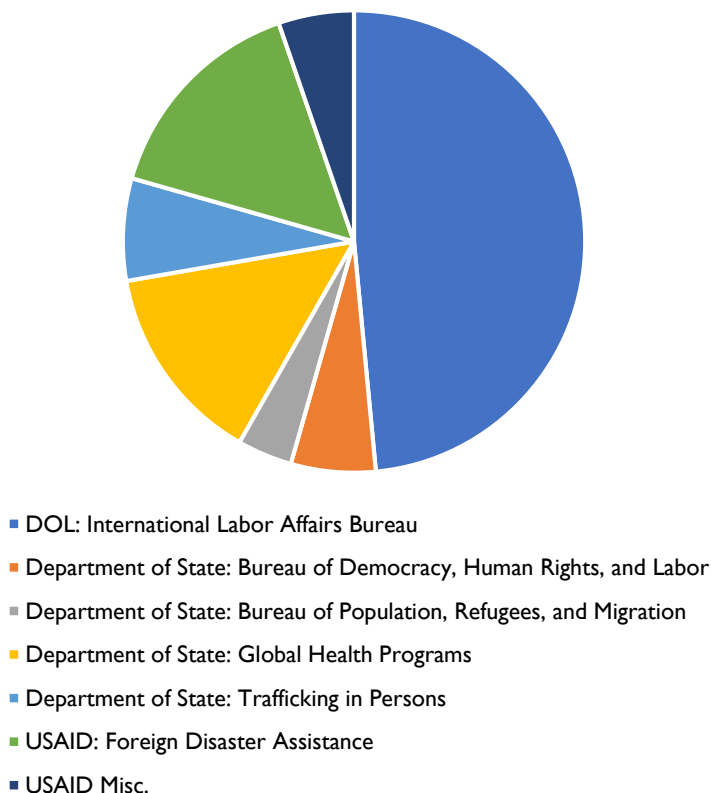
Results

Funding

The U.S. spent roughly $43 million— just 0.1 percent of U.S. ODA[10]—on projects that were solely focused on ending violence against children (VAC).[11] For reference, FY2015 spending on eradicating malaria, a small portion of the much larger Global Health budget, was two percent of U.S. ODA—roughly 15 times the amount spent on VAC-specific projects and four times the amount spent on VAC-related projects (appendix 2).

Nearly half of these grants were funded by the Department of Labor's International Labor Affairs Bureau (ILAB). **ILAB accounts for 48 percent of all U.S. Government spending on Violence Against Children projects** (see Appendix 1)**.** These projects most commonly provide education and life skills to children and youth and provide their parents with support so the children can stay in school rather than work.

Figure 1. FY15 U.S. Government Spending on EVAC by Account.

- DOL: International Labor Affairs Bureau
- Department of State: Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor
- Department of State: Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
- Department of State: Global Health Programs
- Department of State: Trafficking in Persons
- USAID: Foreign Disaster Assistance
- USAID Misc.

For example, World Vision's Project, "Combating Child Labor Through Education," was focused on withdrawing children from the worst forms of child labor. However, it also aimed to raise awareness, strengthen advocacy through training, and build the capacity of community, government, and sugar industry stakeholders to reduce exploitative child labor in 11 sugarcane producing provinces in the Philippines. The project provided educational support to help children succeed and stay in school, and assisted families in increasing agricultural productivity, finding alternative sources of income, and linking to social protection programs in order to alleviate the root causes of child labor. This project was implemented in close partnership with private partners in the sugarcane industry and the Government of the Philippines in order to integrate child labor prevention into policies, guidelines, and training to ensure that protections for children were addressed at every stage of sugarcane production. As a result, there was an 86 percent reduction in those who were participating in hazardous child labor connected to the sugar cane industry.

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[10] OECD Tableau Workbook: DAC Aid at a Glance

[11] The *Counting Pennies* study names four categories of spending. Due to the difficulty in isolating the funds focused specifically on children or specifically in violence, this research addresses only the first three categories: (1) projects solely targeting violence against children, (2) projects addressing violence against children and adults, (3) and projects that address Violence Against Children within other child-related projects.

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FIGURE 2. FY15 U.S. GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON EVAC BY AGENCY.

USAID 21%

Dept. of State 31%

Dept. of Labor 48%
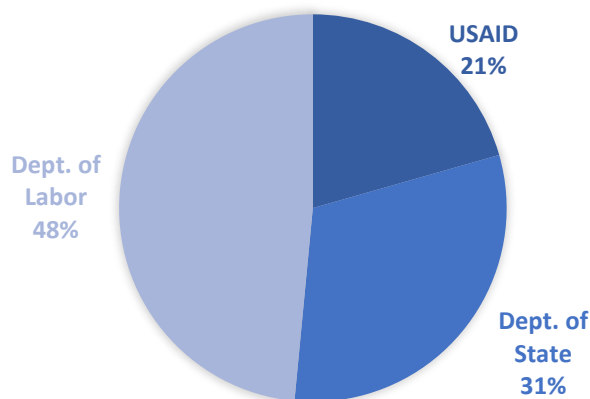
If included, the fourth category of *Counting Pennies* could shift the proportions (see Figure 2) to each be closer to a third. As addressed in the limitations section of this report, this spending was difficult to tie to its benficiaries, primarily because the projects did not serve only children or they were not soley targeting issues of violence or the humanitarian context limited public reporting.

Even without this fourth category, USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) contributed the second largest amount to projects that seek to end violence against children. This is primarily due to 2015 disaster assistance for those affected by the Nepal Earthquake. Directly following the disaster, Nepal's school children urgently needed safe learning spaces to restart their education and prevent exposure to other vulnerabilities such as child labor, human trafficking, child marriage, and gender-based violence. The psychological impact on children, parents, teachers, and the community needed to be addressed as well. Learning spaces were necessary since long breaks from school could lead to increased dropout rates. The FY15 assistance also funded gender-sensitive water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities, educational and recreational supplies, training for teachers on psychosocial support for children, disaster risk management, school safety, hygiene promotion, and district and community engagement to facilitate local recovery and reconstruction efforts.[12] This holistic project represents several INSPIRE strategies, including education and life skills, response and support services, and safe environments.

The third largest contribution to VAC was from the Department of State's Global Health programs. An example of VAC in this area is the development of the Isibindi model in partnership with The National Association of Child Care Workers (NACCW) in South Africa. In light of the HIV and AIDS epidemic and its effect on children, the Isibindi Model holistically responded to the needs of vulnerable children and families, utilitzing the parent and caregiver support, education and life skills, response and support services, and income and economic strengthening INSPIRE strategies. The Isibindi model provided accredited child and youth care training for unemployed people and employed them to support vulnerable children and families in their own communities. In the home, these care workers provided practical assistance such as meal preparation in addition to therapeutic services and counseling, HIV and AIDS awareness, an assesment of future needs, and referral options. The program included support for child and women-headed households and a disability program, which consisted of an assesment of needs and appropriate treatment and therapy.[13]

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[12] USAID. NEPAL FACT SHEET EMERGENCY EDUCATION RESPONSE - PHASE I & II. 2015
[13] NACCW. ISIBINDI – Creating circles of care. 2015.

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Reach

Table 2. Number of Children Reached with USD in FY15[14]

	Children Reached	Households Supported	Influential Adults Reached	USD spent on Research/ Capacity Building	# of children estimated from spending not publicly available
VAC-Specific	412,882	17,767	4,856.0	$3,780,000.00	39,949.53
Violence, Children & Others	6,800.0	0.0	0.0	$359,073.00	13,290.00
VAC & Other Child-Related	91,109.0	3,000	0.0	$16,993,368.00	71,472.63
Total	**510,791**	**20,767**	**4,856.0**	**$21,132,441.00**	**124,712.16**
Total *including the impact of reports not public*	**635,503**				

Children Reached represents the total number of children reached with programming who were at risk of violence or who experienced violence in FY15. These children were reached with a variety of programs under the umbrella of INSPIRE, whether through psychosocial services, enrollment in safe and quality education, strengthening of laws and policies through advocacy, life skills and job training, child friendly spaces, home visits, or positive parenting classes.

The majority of these children (58.7 percent) benefited from school enrollment or received education in combination with economic strengthening for their households in development settings. In the classroom, children primarily benefited from the quality education and technical skills they acquired, but they also learned social skills and benefited from the safe environment that schools commonly provide— a space where they can play, make friends, and acquire positive role models and mentors. The acquisition of life skills, paired with a safe environment and livelihood support for families can help prevent future violence from occurring. This is consistent with the INSPIRE strategies around safe environments, education and life Skills, and economic strengthening.

It is important to note that children counted in this category did not all receive the same method of "reach." When it comes to violence against children, services vary in cost and type, dependent on the severity of the violence or its prevalence, amongst other factors. The stated number of children "reached" by VAC programming is inclusive of many multi-sectoral approaches and the ratio of dollars spent per child varies within this category.

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[14] The data in this table reflects an expansion of the database created in the *Counting Pennies* study. The data in this table shows the *Counting Pennies* research on ODA spending to end violence against children, isolates the funding from USG, and reflects new findings on the number of children reached by each dollar spent.

U.S. GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

For example, a child protection initiative by the Department of State in the Kakuma Refugee camp in Kenya stationed security personnel at the four registration points in the camp and established two child protection desks which reached 8,803 children in transit. It also enhanced family tracking and reunification for 12,818 unaccompanied and separated children and provided a total of 10,242 children with psychosocial support. All activities included, roughly $33.25 was spent per child. In a different project, combatting child labor in indigenous communities in Bolivia, the cost per child was closer to $200 including income and economic strengthening and parent support. Both measures of "reach" contributed significantly to the child's overall safety, well-being, and protection from violence. The money spent per child is highly contextual and differs across this category.

Households Supported refers to income and economic strengthening through livelihoods given to support families who are at risk of removing their children from school to work. As previously mentioned, ILAB funding comprises nearly 50 percent of this spending to end violence against children. The vast majority of these projects include two components of INSPIRE: an "education and life skills" component paired with "income and economic strengthening." This category reflects the reach of the income and economic strengthening activities.

Influential Adults Reached refers to teachers, police officers, faith leaders, social workers, community members, and parents who played a significant role in the child's life reached by VAC programming. This count reflects the number of those adults who received training and information on how to prevent and protect children from experiencing various forms of violence. This number reflects the adults who benefited from technical training, community awareness, or advocacy training.
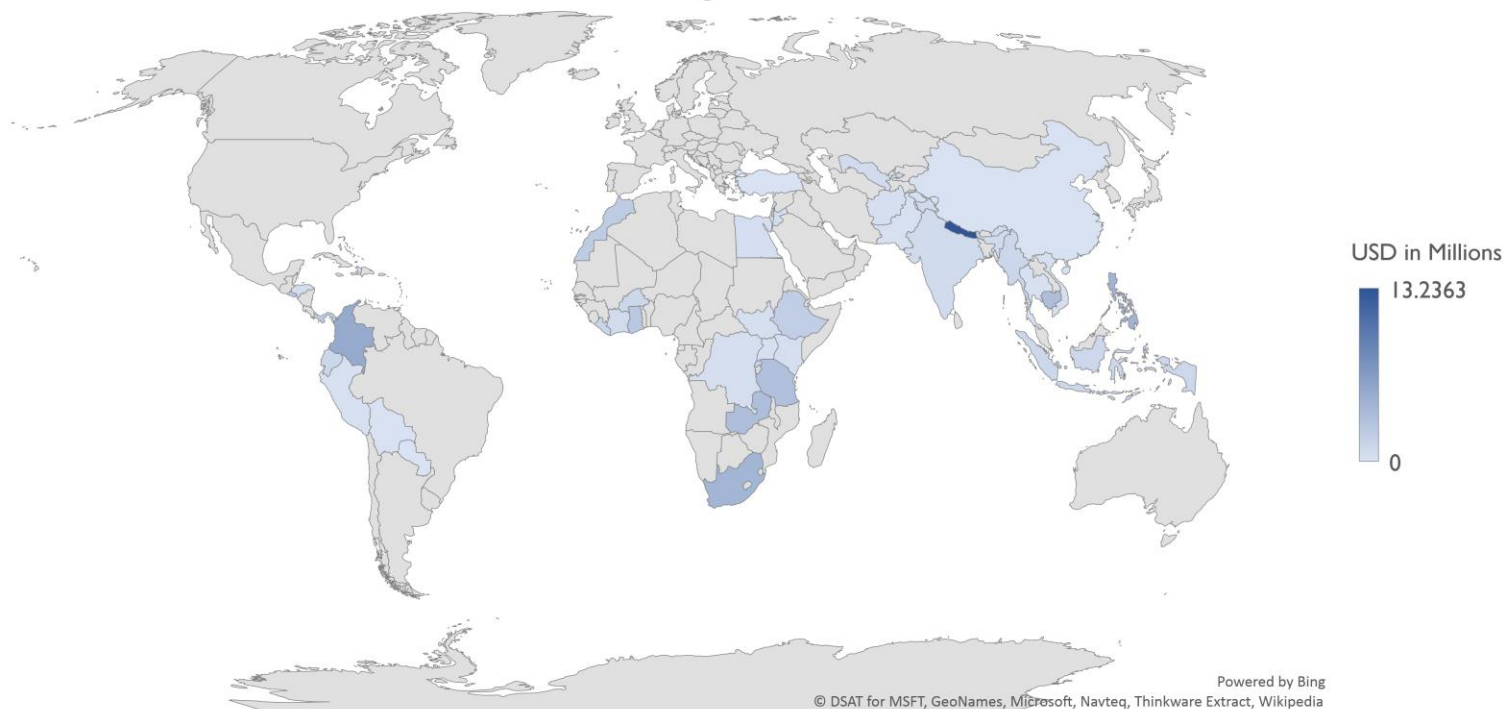
For example, the project to combat child labor in the Philippines was focused on eliminating the worst forms of child labor, to do this it raised awareness amongst the community, strengthened their advocacy efforts, and built the capacity of the community, government, and private sector to reduce exploitative child labor. At the end of the project, 73 sugar industry institutions adopted policies and annual programs to reduce child labor and 97 percent of provinces, municipalities, and districts covered by the project passed new policies and funded new programs to combat child labor.

Research and Capacity Building refers to the amount of money spent to improve best practices in the fight to end violence against children. For example, the Global Estimates of Child Labor, released by the International Labor Organization every five years, was partially funded within these categories.

Spending Not Publicly Available is the category for funding that was difficult to track and link to specific interim or final reports. 16.6 percent of total spending could not be tied to a specific report. To estimate the total number of children reached, the average dollar to child ratio (excluding the amount spent on research and missing reports) in each category was extrapolated to estimate the reach of the missing percentage. The first number (510,791) represents the data without extrapolation. The second number (635, 503) estimates the reach of the spending not publicly available.

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FY15 U.S. Government Spending on Violence Against Children

USD in Millions

13.2363

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Children Reached with U.S. Government FY15 Funding

of Children Reached

363000

0

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U.S. Government's Global Footprint

When comparing the two maps (above) for children reached and global spending, there is a close correlation. In FY15, the largest numbers of both reach and spending appear in Nepal and Colombia. With the funds in Nepal, USAID provided safe learning spaces in emergency situations for children and youth facing psychological distress, injury, exploitation and abuse during and immediately following the earthquake. USAID supported four partner organizations to establish 1,045 Temporary Learning Centers that provided education to more than 93,000 students, as well as learning materials and school supplies to over 270,000 children. USAID-supported learning centers included temporary water and sanitation facilities, early childhood development, school supplies, teaching and learning materials, recreational activities, and teacher training on providing psychosocial support to students and parents.

The program in Colombia was the third phase of an ongoing project working with the Government of Colombia. For decades, the conflict in Colombia has had a significant impact on children. Over the course of the conflict, children have been recruited into armed groups. In some cases, children have been kidnapped, trafficked, and abused.[15] USAID responded to the basic needs (health, education, stable family environment, and security) of children formerly associated with armed groups. The program also worked to prevent the further recruitment of children. The 13-year program was a U.S. $19 million cooperative agreement with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The U.S. Government has a program to prevent and respond to violence against children on nearly every continent, except Europe and Australia, with the greatest presence in Asia. There is a surprising gap in Central Africa, North Africa, and the Middle East. However, *Counting Pennies* found that most of global ODA spending to end violence against children goes to Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. It is possible that other international actors are contributing to those regions more than the U.S. Government. It is also possible that the gap in funding for the Middle East is likely due to operational security concerns for humanitarian actors. According to *Counting Pennies*, three-quarters of estimated global ODA spending to end violence against children in th Middle East was classed as "humanitarian aid" by donors. The reporting mechanisms for humanitarian projects differ from those in development contexts and may not be shared with the public with the same level of detail.

The gap in U.S. Government spending in parts of West, Central, and North Africa is consistent with global ODA spending. There is a need for greater funding for this region. The ongoing conflicts in Libya, extreme poverty across the region, famine, and high rates of child marriage and gender-based violence in Chad and Niger, among other conflicts, merit a stronger response to children in that region. Rates of violence against children often intensify in contexts that are prone to conflict or natural disaster because formal systems are weakened.

Panny is 11 years old. She lives in a rural town in Cambodia. Panny's sister, Simean, and her cousin, Savouen, dropped out of school at age 12 to earn money for their family by working in a sewing factory.

In Cambodia, like many developing countries, adolescent girls and boys face daunting challenges in pursuing an education. For many families, the cost of education is too high. In addition to typical school fees, children are needed to work in the household or elsewhere, girls are commonly married early for their safety, or the quality of the education is so low that children are not benefiting. World Vision used U.S. Government grant funds in Cambodia to provide quality education in combination with livelihood opportunities to families who struggled to keep their children in school.

For example, the project, "Cambodians Excel," implemented by World Vision and funded by the Department of Labor. In addition to supporting education and livelihoods for families, this program met significant success in influencing national level policy in child labor, engaging high-level government support, and integrating child labor concerns into both local and national structures. Projects like this one utilize multi-sectoral solutions to have long-lasting impact on the lives of children. At the completion of this program, World Vision saw a 45 percent reduction in child labor.

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[15] Sheena McKenzie and Rachel Clarke, CNN. *Colombia's FARC rebels release child soldiers in potential peace deal.* Sept. 2016.

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Use of INSPIRE Strategies
91 percent of VAC funding used two or more strategies outline in the INSPIRE package. The remaining nine percent was primaily a result of isolated programming that only focused on one type of service, rather than holistically addressing violence. As previously mentioned, almost 60 percent of VAC-specific and VAC-related projects addressed education
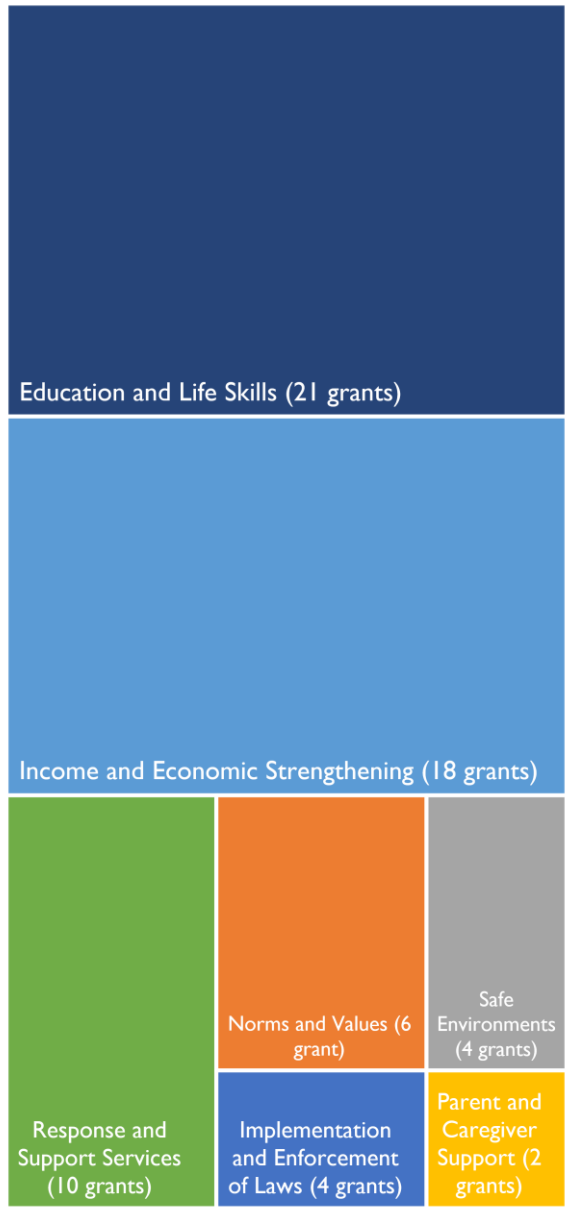

Figure 3. Prevalence of INSPIRE Strategies in U.S. FY15 Spending

Education and Life Skills (21 grants)

Income and Economic Strengthening (18 grants)

Response and Support Services (10 grants)

Norms and Values (6 grant)

Implementation and Enforcement of Laws (4 grants)

Safe Environments (4 grants)

Parent and Caregiver Support (2 grants)

Table 3. INSPIRE Strategies[16]

Implementation and Enforcement of Laws	**Objective**: Ensure the implementation and enforcement of laws to prevent violent behaviors, reduce excessive alcohol use, and limit youth access to firearms and other weapons.
Norms and Values	**Objective**: Strengthen norms and values that support non-violent, respectful, nurturing, positive, and gender equitable relationships for all children and adolescents.
Safe Environments	**Objective**: Create and sustain safe streets and other environments where children and youth gather and spend time.
Parent and Caregiver Support	**Objective**: Reduce harsh parenting practices and create positive parent-child relationships.
Income and Economic Strengthening	**Objective**: Improve families' economic security and stability, reduce child maltreatment and intimate partner violence.
Response and Support Services	**Objective**: Improve access to good-quality health, social welfare, and criminal justice support services for all children who need them – including for reporting violence – to reduce the long-term impact of violence.
Education and Life Skills	**Objective**: Increase children's access to more effective, gender-equitable education and social-emotional learning and life-skills training, and ensure that school environments are safe and enabling.

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[16] World Health Organization. http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/207717/9789241565356-eng.pdf?sequence=1

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paired with a livelihood component. In Figure 3[17], it is clear that the overwhelming majority of VAC projects that were able to be tracked focus on the education and life skills component. Less common in integration of VAC work was the implementation of laws or the support of parents and caregivers through comprehensive programs.

Conclusions

General Conclusions

Every five minutes a child dies as a result of violence and millions more are at risk of experiencing physical, emotional, and sexual violence. [18] The consequences of violence against children to public health, economic growth, and future development are enormous. Violence in childhood has been proven to impair brain development, increase the risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, and result in mental health problems, poor school performance, early dropout rates, early pregnancy, reproductive health problems, and other communicable and noncommunicable diseases.[19] Furthermore, the global economic impact resulting from physical, psychological, and sexual violence against children is estimated to be as high as $7 trillion.

Experiencing violence disrupts and diminishes opportunities for children and can dramatically affect a child's health, wellbeing, and future. The U.S. Government has been a leader in ending specific types of violence against children, but reaching the most vulnerable children requires a stronger holistic and multi-sectoral response. There is still a great need for the international community to unite to protect children from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence.

In FY15, the U.S. Government reached just over **600,000 children, 20,000 families,** and **4,800 influential adults**. An increase in tracking and funding to equal two percent of the budget by 2022 would allow the U.S. government to prevent and respond to violence against an additional three million children. It is in the interest of the United States to focus limited resources on ending violence against children as part of larger development efforts. What the United States invests in children now, it will benefit from in the future. Children who do not experience violence have greater potential to become productive members of society and to lead the next generation.

Future Engagement

Any future research on the topic should be conducted when more accurate measurements are in place for studying violence against children in both development and humanitarian contexts. When this is made possible, another study could replicate this research as FY16 and FY17 data become availability. Although the results of projects in this timeframe are still unknown, the strides made in recent years to end violence against children are positive.

For instance, there are high expectations for the number of children reached as a result of new Central American Regional Security Initiative (CARSI) funding to address the drivers of migration in the Northern Triangle. In addition to new funding streams, there are several ongoing NGO projects that are utilizing INSPIRE strategies to end violence against children. For example, a FY16 $40 million project, funded by USAID and implemented by World Vision and RTI International, called "Community Roots" will address violence and migration in disadvantaged communities in Guatemala through holistic prevention approaches.

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[17] This chart shows how many grants included the named INSPIRE strategy. This graphic does not reflect the dollar amount spent on each strategy, as it is challenging to determine which portion of each grant went towards which activity named in INSPIRE. It is purposed to show how often USG has utilized the strategies in conjunction in grant spending to end violence against children.
[18] End Violence Against Children: The Global Partnership. 2016.
[19] World Health Organization. *Inspire: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children.* 2016.

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Recently, World Vision's *Campos de Esperanza* project launched in Mexico with funding from ILAB. This project aims to combat child labor and foster positive change that will benefit families and communities. The project incorporates the involvement of different actors such as government agencies, schools, and employers to monitor and enforce laws around child labor so that children can access primary and secondary education and have greater opportunities beyond. The project will also collaborate with participating business partners to increase their capacity to reduce child labor, refer families to government social programs, and remediate unacceptable conditions of work in their workplaces and supply chains. The project's approach also involves raising awareness to change families' frequently-held beliefs that child labor is either necessary or beneficial, and to make them aware of their rights under the law.

Recommendations

To more effectively address the issue of violence against children, the U.S. Government should:

1. **Maintain a Strong Commitment to Ending Violence Against Children:** This could be achieved through enhanced tracking, greater use of common indicators, integration into other sectors, and overall commitment to ending violence against children. Ideally, this commitment would increase the reported percentage of United States ODA that addresses violence against children to two percent, or $630 million, by 2022, reaching a total of 6.4 million children— an increase of 1.5 million children in four years. According to *Counting Pennies*, the United States is a global leader on spending to end violence against children. However, the U.S. does not place in the top 10 donors to end violence against children as a portion of gross ODA, due to the large scale of overall U.S. Government disbursements. If the U.S. seeks to create strong and lasting development, it must reflect its commitment to ending violence against children.

2. **Take a Whole of Government Approach:** In order to ensure a coordinated and effective foreign policy and assistance response, the White House should designate the USAID Administrator to convene and lead a whole-of-government approach to ending violence against children and convene an Interagency Policy Committee (IPC) or sub-committee under the National Security Council. The USAID Administrator should designate the Assistant Administrator of a functional bureau as coordinator to ensure coordination and reporting across the U.S. government.

3. **Join the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children**: Ending violence requires collective and unified action. The Global Partnership to End Violence against Children is partnering with stakeholders across the world to build political will, accelerate action and strengthen collaboration towards preventing and ending violence against children. The United States should join the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and commit to sharing lessons, technical support and integrate the INSPIRE package across U.S. Government foreign assistance priorities

4. **Collaboration:** Currently, multi-sectoral programs receive funding from multiple funding sources requiring different reporting structures. This complex funding matrix creates additional work for implementing agencies and USAID and discourages effective, multi-sectoral collaboration. Missions should be given oversight on how funding is packaged and awarded to reduce complexity and drive resources to outcomes. The forthcoming implementation guidance for INSPIRE will include indicators for most contexts and could likely be integrated across U.S. Government foreign assistance programs to demonstrate outcome level collective effort.
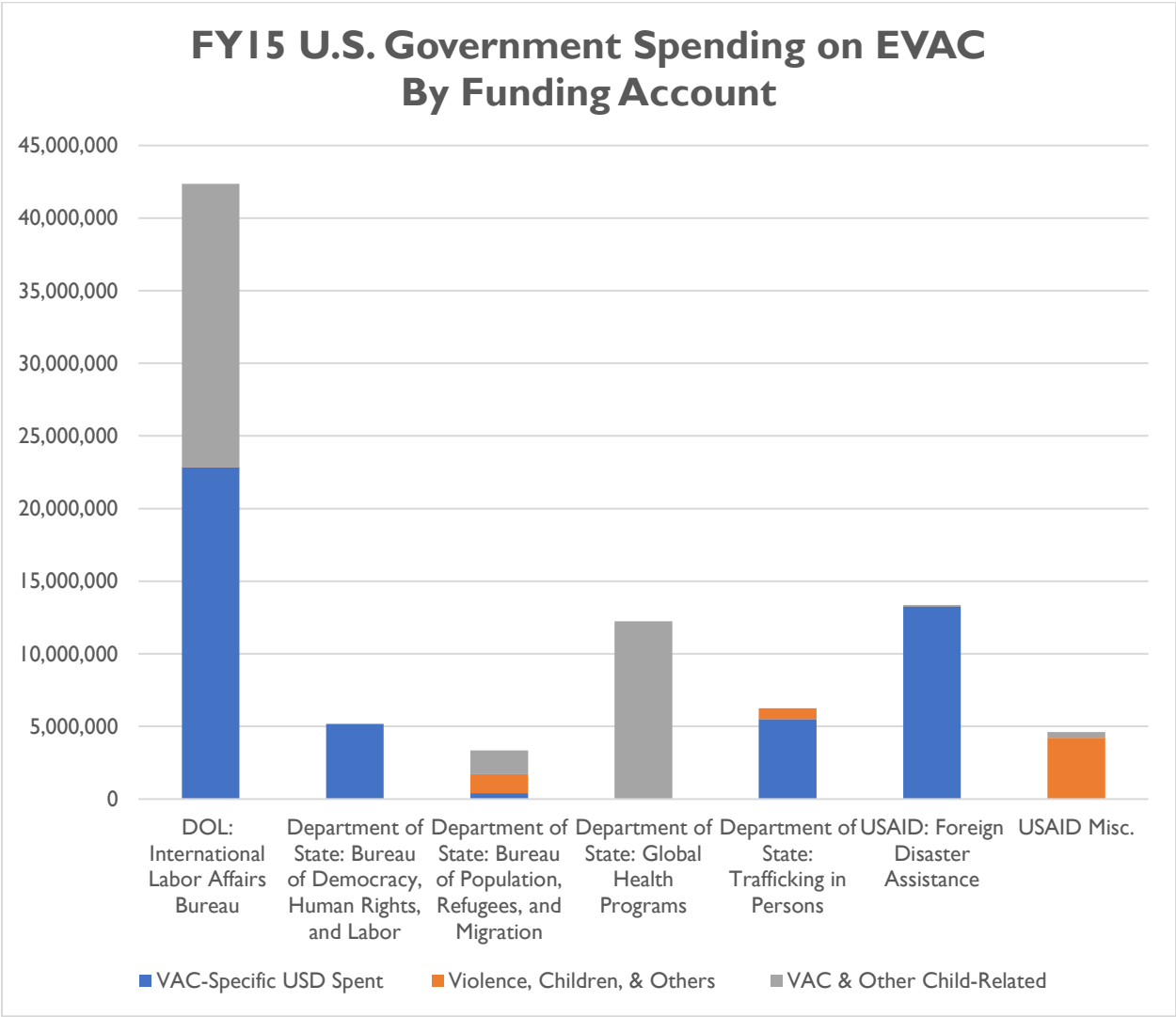
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5. **Harmonize the Measurement of Impact:** As different agencies and offices focus on violence against children issues, the U.S. Government should seek to harmonize measurement and set indicators to demonstrate collective effort to address violence against children. The forthcoming INSPIRE framework indicators could provide useful guidance toward standardizing common measures of effectiveness of VAC reduction programming and to demonstrate outcome level collective effort. The ability to demonstrate outcome level collective effort also requires the use of baselines and end lines in all U.S. Government-funded programs. The U.S. Government should seek to increase transparency and accountability of U.S. taxpayer dollars by adding the outcome level indicators on the U.S. Government effort to address violence against children to foreignassistance.gov.

6. **Publicly Available Data:** Even though agencies have platforms for sharing monitoring and evaluation with the public, many of the reports for EVAC projects are not posted. Donor agencies should increase transparency by ensuring that reports are made public, especially annual output reporting that can be aligned to fiscal year spending. In doing so, implementing organizations and policymakers will be better equipped to track the results of EVAC spending and progress toward goals.

7. **Continue to support multi-sectoral approaches:** It is important to support multi-sectoral approaches that address the root causes of violence against children. Effective efforts to end violence against children require a multi-sectoral response. As such, the INSPIRE strategies developed by the World Health Organization, in consultation with CDC, USAID, and PEPFAR, provide an evidence-based, multi-sectoral framework to end violence against children that should be adopted across U.S. government agencies.

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Appendices

Appendix 1

**FY15 U.S. Government Spending on EVAC
By Funding Account**

Legend: ■ VAC-Specific USD Spent ■ Violence, Children, & Others ■ VAC & Other Child-Related

Appendix 2 **-** FY15 Global Health Budget for comparison – U.S. Global Leadership Coalition Budget Update from 12/08/15

Global Health*	FY15 Enacted	FY16 Request	FY16 Enacted
Bilateral PEPFAR	$4.32 billion	$4.32 billion	$4.32 billion
Global Fund	$1.35 billion	$1.1 billion	$1.35 billion
HIV/AIDS	$330 million	$330 million	$330 million
Malaria	$670 million	$674 million	$674 million

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Tuberculosis	$236 million	$191 million	$236 million
Maternal/Child Health	$715 million	$770 million	$750 million
Vulnerable Children	$22 million	$15 million	$22 million
Nutrition	$115 million	$101 million	$125 million
Family Planning	$610 million	$613 million	$608 million
NTDs	$100 million	$87 million	$100 million
Global Health Security	$73 million	$50 million	$73 million
Total	**$8.45 billion**	**$8.18 billion**	**$8.50 billion**

*State Department and USAID Global Health accounts only, except for family planning.

Appendix 3 **-** Screenshot of Foreign Aid Database Public Facing Documents (January 2018)

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