

THRIVES:

Core Strategies to Prevent Violence Against Children

THRIVES at a glance:

- **THRIVES** is a group of strategies that are effective in preventing violence against children.
- These multi-sector **THRIVES** strategies can help countries link national data from Violence Against Children Surveys to scalable and sustainable action.
- CDC, PEPFAR, UNICEF, USAID, and the WHO all recognize most of the **THRIVES** strategies as being critical components (see table on reverse).

THRIVES Strategies:



Training in parenting



Household and economic strengthening



Reduced violence through protective policies



Improved services



Values and norms that protect children



Education and life skills



Surveillance and

The Facts:

In 2006, the Secretary-General of the United Nations issued a call to action in all sectors—from health and education to labor and justice—to respond to and prevent violence against children. In response, a global public-private partnership called Together for Girls (TfG) was formed to end violence against children, particularly sexual violence against girls. As a part of the overall mission, the partnership carries out Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS) around the world to mobilize a response and inform evidence-based solutions. These surveys measure the physical, emotional, and sexual violence against boys and girls, as well as identify risk and protective factors and health consequences of childhood sexual violence. The members of TfG partnership include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the World Health Organization (WHO), BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company) and others. The VACS findings are tragic.

- Globally, nearly 2 of every 3 girls and 3 of 4 boys experience violence in childhood.¹
- 1 out of every 4 Cambodian children are emotionally abused.²
- In Haiti, 3 out of every 5 children have reported experiencing physical violence.³
- Data from Swaziland show that girls exposed to childhood sexual violence are nearly 4 times more likely to be infected with sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.⁴

The Fix:

THRIVES is a core group of complementary strategies that represent CDC's best judgment of critical components for preventing violence against children. These strategies cross health, social services, education, finance, and justice sectors: **T**rainning in parenting, **H**ousehold and economic strengthening, **R**educed violence through protective policies, **I**mproved services, **V**alues and norms that protect children, **E**ducation and life skills, and **S**urveillance and evaluation.

Countries Implementing VACS:

- **Completed:**
Cambodia, Haiti, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zimbabwe
- **In Progress:**
Botswana, Laos, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia

1. <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/vacs/publications.html>
2. http://www.togetherforgirls.org/wp-content/uploads/1-VAC-Cambodia_Full-Report-English-Final.pdf
3. <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/violence-haiti.pdf>
4. Reza A, et al. Sexual violence and its health consequences for female children in Swaziland: a cluster survey study. *Lancet* 2009;373(9679):1966-72.

THRIVES INTERVENTIONS: The Evidence



Training in Parenting

Parent and caregiver training programs help increase bonding between parents and children, create positive parent-child interactions, and reduce harsh and violent parenting practices, all factors that help protect children from violence. They can be delivered through home visitation, small community groups, or as part of a comprehensive approach involving both homes and schools.



Household Economic Strengthening

Beneficial programs include cash transfers and those that integrate group savings and loan associations with gender norms and/or equity training. This leads to decreased intimate partner violence and, thereby, a reduction in the likelihood that children will witness violence and suffer the consequences of such exposures.



Reduced Violence through Protective Policies

Laws that appear to help protect children from violence include those that ban violent punishment, regulate hours and sales of alcohol, prohibit sexual abuse and exploitation of children, and establish equal rights for females and males.



Improved Services

Counseling services that are effective in reducing trauma-related symptoms include individual and group cognitive behavioral therapy; other promising approaches include intimate partner violence screenings in clinical settings combined with interventions, such as support groups, shelters, and case management.



Values and Norms That Protect Children

Interventions that help change attitudes and beliefs about harmful gender and parenting norms include small group programs; bystander interventions; community mobilization programs; and campaigns.



Education and Life Skills

General programs that increase school enrollment and attendance, as well as those that build life skills by addressing girls' empowerment, dating violence prevention, and rape prevention are effective.



Surveillance and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation is critical for managing and improving the performance of THRIVES-based programs and policies after their implementation.

Organizations Supporting THRIVES Components

	CDC: Thrives	UNICEF: Ending Violence Against Children: Six Strategies for Action 2014	USAID: Gender Strategy 2012	PEPFAR: DREAMS Core Package 2015	PEPFAR: Orphans and Vulnerable Children Guidance 2012	WHO: Global Status Report on Violence Prevention 2014
T	•	•	•	•	•	•
H	•		•	•	•	
R	•	•	•		•	•
I	•	•	•	•	•	•
V	•	•	•	•	•	•
E	•	•	•	•	•	•
S	•	•	•	•	•	•

Note: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO)