



Violence Against Children Survey (VACS):
Providing knowledge to protect children in Uganda

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Presentation outline

1. VACS goals
2. VACS process
3. Population selection criteria
4. VACS Uganda status
5. Current VACS activity plan
6. VACS implementing partners
7. Acknowledgement

VACS goals

- Provide accurate, generalizable information on:
 - The prevalence of sexual, physical and emotional violence against children, including vulnerable subpopulations of children in Uganda
 - Factors that protect some children from violence and that put other children at higher risk for violence
 - The effects that different forms of violence have on children
 - Knowledge and utilization of services for children who have experienced violence, and barriers to accessing those services
- This data will be used to:
 - Provide information to guide strategies to identify, respond to, and prevent violence against children
 - Build capacity of local, national and international agencies

VACS Process

Stage 1

- VACS Orientation
- Protocol Finalization & IRB

Stage 2

- Pilot test
- VACS partners ready

Stage 3

- Study implementation (September-October 2015)
- Fieldwork & data management

Stage 4

- Weighting, Q/A, & Reporting
- Dissemination
- Program & Policy change

Survey strategy

- Data collection took place immediately after end of school break
 - Students in boarding schools were not eligible
 - Interviewers conducted interviews during weekends, and before and after school during the school week
 - We avoided conducting interviews during school holidays because many students may not have been at home with parents/guardians during this time
- Questionnaire was adapted from a core questionnaire that had undergone cognitive testing and refined through VACS in other countries

Population selection criteria

- All female and males between 13-24 years in Uganda
- Informed consent were provided by participant (and parent if participant is 13-17)
- Rationale for Targeting 13-24 year olds
 - *Old enough to provide consent and understand survey*
 - *Young enough to reduce the likelihood of recall bias (24 years)*
- ❑ **Participation Criteria**
 - *Speak language approved by survey design*
 - *Physically and mentally capable of participating*

VACS Uganda status

- Partner agencies have been working since 2013
 - Partner agency roles and responsibilities have been decided
 - Protocol, questionnaires, budget, MOU, data sharing agreement, sampling plan, and response plan for participants who need assistance completed
 - The VACS team has secured \$500,000 from DREAMS to oversample 4 clusters with high HIV prevalence for 15-24 for girls and young women and UNICEF has provided \$200,000 for boys and young men in the same regions.
 - Even without a regional-analysis sample size, this will still be the first national study of the type in Uganda

Current VACS activity plan

❖ June – July 2016 activities

- Data weighting analysis – CDC and UBOS
- Data writing workshop – including all VACS partners interested in manuscript writing
- Preliminary report
- **August 2016**
- Data to action workshop

VACS Implementing partners

- Implementing Partners
 - Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD)
 - Multi-sectoral Task Force or Steering Committee (Government, Non-governmental, bilateral & multilateral organization)
 - Coordinating Agency (UNICEF)
 - Implementing Agency (Makarere University School of Public Health through ChildFund/AfriChild)
 - CDC – Division of Violence Prevention
 - PEPFAR Uganda (CDC, USAID and other USG agencies)
 - Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)

THANK YOU

