PRESENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION
ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

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Type of Event:	Open

In 2015, with the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the global community made a commitment to end all forms of violence against children by 2030. Although this draws much needed attention to the importance of preventing and responding to violence against children, the availability of comparable data remains limited. There is currently no international consensus on what constitutes violence against children. This makes it difficult to measure and compare the prevalence and nature of violence against children.

In response, UNICEF has developed the international classification of violence against children (ICVAC) with inputs from more than 200 experts from national statistical offices, academia, and international organizations. The ICVAC addresses the fundamental need for internationally agreed upon operational concepts, definitions, and principles on violence against children. This will ensure a consistent approach to classifying statistical data on violence against children.

At the international level, the ICVAC aims to enhance comparability of statistics among countries. It will provide a consistent and comprehensive framework of the various forms of violence against children, irrespective of changes in legislation across countries. At the national level, the ICVAC aims to be used as a model to organize statistical data on violence against children across different data sources (i.e., administrative records, criminal records, and statistical surveys). It will also provide the basis for disaggregating data, help raise the capacities of national statistical offices, and improve data quality on violence against children. Importantly, the ICVAC changes the basis of national statistics on violence against children from law-based to act-based definitions of violence. This will help create data that can lead to better policies and programmes to prevent violence against children, especially for children who belong to groups that are especially vulnerable to violence.

National statistical organizations as well as line ministries that collect data on violence against children have been involved in the development of the ICVAC. They will be the primary users and implementers of this classification at the national level. They will play the key role in the production and coordination of statistical information on violence against children. UNICEF, as the custodian agency of the ICVAC, will aid and support to national statistical organizations, ministries, and other relevant national actors, recognizing differences in readiness and capacity at the national level.

It is anticipated that the implementation of the ICVAC at the national level will be a phased approach that will consider the maturity of data collection systems in each country. To support the process, UNICEF will develop implementation tools and supporting documents aimed at:

1. Facilitating the mapping of existing national statistical definitions into the ICVAC framework and identifying implementation gaps and needs
2. Facilitating the transition from core and minimum disaggregating variables to additional disaggregating variables
3. Developing a national implementation action plan
4. Setting up multisectoral implementation task forces at the country level.

UNICEF is also planning to produce substantive guidance on:

1. Minimum requirements needed to integrate the ICVAC, with increasing levels depending on the level of statistical maturity of countries
2. How to harmonize population-based survey questions on violence against children with the ICVAC
3. How to strengthen administrative data on violence against children and to harmonize that data with the ICVAC
4. Counting rules for different statistical units such as violent acts and child victims or perpetrators, considering counting rules of similar statistical classifications
5. How to use the ICVAC to collect data on specific manifestations of violence against children such as online violence, dating violence, school-based violence and sexual exploitation of children.

The side event will provide an opportunity to learn about the ICVAC and the plans for its implementation.