



# **TRAINING ON MONITORING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN WITH INDICATORS**

## **Participant's Manual**



Protecting children  
from violence  
in South East Europe



THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UNICEF





# TRAINING ON MONITORING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN WITH INDICATORS

## Participant's Manual

"No violence against children is justifiable, acceptable and all violence against children in all settings is preventable."

**UN Study on Violence Against Children 2006**

Prepared by  
**Prof. Dr. Betül Ulukol ve Dr. Arzu Köseli**

Edited by  
**Adem Arkadas-Thibert**

April 2013

**Illustration** Gülru Höyük Tasarım & Danışmanlık  
**Design and Layout** Kurtuluş Karaşın - MTR Tanıtım

**United Nations Children's Fund - UNICEF**

BM Binası Birlik Mah. 2. Cadde No: 11  
06610 Çankaya / ANKARA  
Phone: +90 312 454 10 00  
[www.unicef.org.tr](http://www.unicef.org.tr)

© **UNICEF Turkey 2013**

All rights reserved.

The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the authors and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

Not for sale.

# Acknowledgement

Together with other three country offices in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, UNICEF-Turkey is conducting a project aiming to develop cooperation between government and civil society organizations in monitoring violence against children. The Participant's Manual which is part of training materials developed under this project is the outcome of valuable inputs by many.

The Participant's Manual was prepared on the basis two main works: "Violence against Children: Literature Survey on Monitoring and Indicators" by Selin Berghan and "Indicators for Monitoring Violence against Children: A Guide for Civil Society Organizations in Turkey" by Adem Arkadaş-Thibert and H. Feray Salman.

UNICEF-Turkey is indebted to Prof. Betül Ulukol and Dr. Arzu Köseli who prepared this Manual; Selin Berghan, Dilek Kumcu and Şahin Antakyaloğlu and Severine Jacomy-Vite, Eylen Şavur and Sinem Bayraktar from the Child Protection Department of UNICEF for their valuable feedback in the process of reviewing the text; members of the Partnership Network for Preventing Violence against Children and particularly to participants to the pilot training of the network. We are especially grateful to Adem Arkadaş-Thibert who supplied other written materials used in the preparation of the manual and who managed and oversaw the whole process.

The address of our special thanks is children whose rights we desire to be respected more and translated into practice.

Finally we also acknowledge contribution of the European Union which supplied funding for progress in such a significant area.



# Contents

Acronyms.....	7
Glossary of Terms.....	9
<b>Module 1.</b> Introduction.....	11
Learning Objectives.....	12
For What Purpose was the Participant's Manual Prepared?.....	13
For Whom was the Participant's Manual Prepared?.....	13
How to Use Participant's Manual?.....	14
<b>Module 2.</b> Definitions.....	15
2.1 Child Rights.....	16
2.2 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).....	16
2.3 Violence against children.....	20
2.4 Legal obligations of States.....	22
2.5 Responsibilities of Civil Society Organizations.....	23
<b>Module 3.</b> Monitoring Violence.....	25
3.1 What is Monitoring Violence?.....	26
3.2 Why is it Necessary to Monitor Violence?.....	27
3.3 Monitoring Work by Civil Society Organizations.....	27
3.4 What Can Civil Society Organizations Monitor?.....	29
<b>Module 4.</b> Use of Indicators Monitoring Violence Against Children at Local Level.....	31
4.1 Criteria that can be Used by Civil Society Organizations.....	32
4.2 What is Local Monitoring of Violence against Children on Indicator Basis?.....	36
4.3 Why Allocate Time and Resources to Monitoring Violence against Children by Indicators?.....	36
<b>Module 5.</b> Monitoring Violence against Children at Local Level on the Basis of Indicators: Implementation and Reporting.....	39
<b>Annexes</b> .....	47
<b>Annex 1.</b> Checklist for Monitoring Violence against Children by Indicators.....	48
<b>Annex 2.</b> VAC Monitoring Flowchart.....	49
References.....	51





# Acronyms

<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>CRC</b>	UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>VAC</b>	Violence against Children
<b>CSO</b>	Civil society organization



# Glossary of Terms

**Child:** All human beings under the age of 18 as stated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**Child Rights:** It is the universal concept referring to rights including education, health, housing; protection from physical, psychological or sexual abuse that legally all children in the world are entitled to by birth.

**United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child:** It is the body entrusted the following tasks: ensuring and monitoring the full implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; working to ensure higher priority to children and promoting positive attitudes towards; influencing legislation, policies and practices by actively expressing things that must be changed; ensuring the coordination of States' efforts in relation to children at all levels; ensuring efficient utilisation of resources allocated to children; Providing channels for listening to children and reflecting their opinion; ensuring that sufficient data is published in relation to the state of children; enhancing awareness in both children and adults about the rights of children; and conducting or having other to conduct necessary studies, researches and investigations in issues related to child rights.

**United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC):** It is a human rights law text agreed upon by the member countries of the United Nations including Turkey and a binding instrument for those who ratified it. It was unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989 to safeguard civil, political, economic and cultural rights of children with due regard to their evolving capacities and to facilitate the realization of these rights

**Indicator:** An indicator for preventing violence against children is unique information concerning an object, event, activity or outcome which can be associated with child rights norms and standards. This indicator reflects principles of child rights, areas of concern and suggests hints for solution. It is used to give effect to, monitor and evaluate the rights of the child to be free from violence (Adapted from: UN Guide to Human Rights Indicators, 2012)

**Monitoring:** It is active collection and confirmation of information necessary to wage struggle for definitive periods in the field of human and child rights and use of such information for purposes of advocacy. Monitoring work involves the assessment of national level activities with inputs from the United Nations. Activities geared to collecting first hand information from the field also constitute a part of monitoring.

**Reporting:** It is the presentation in either written or unwritten formats of information and documents which are obtained from the examination, disaggregation and analysis of data collected in the process of monitoring violence against children on the basis of indicators.

**Civil Society Organization (CSO):** An independent, non-governmental and non-profit organization supported by donations and or membership fees whose staff and members consist of volunteers engaged in such activities as advocacy, training, capacity and information building and awareness raising in line with some political, social, cultural, legal or environmental objectives.

**Violence:** All forms of physical or emotional maltreatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent behaviour, economic or other kinds of exploitation in the context of responsibility, trust or power relations that pose potential or actual harm to the health, survival, development or dignity of the child.



# Module 1

## Introduction

Module 2

Module 3

Module 4

Module 5



Together with other three country offices in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, UNICEF-Turkey is conducting a project aiming to develop cooperation between government and civil society organizations in monitoring violence against children (VAC). The project also seeks to contribute to information and experience sharing among inter-State organizations, independent monitoring networks and civil society platforms.

The project focuses on the accountability and responsiveness of governmental organizations through an active and institutionalized cooperation of civil society organizations (CSO) in Turkey. In this respect, the aim is to strengthen civil society organizations at both national and local level in terms of participation, data collection, monitoring and evaluation vis-à-vis policy making in relation to violence against children through trainings in awareness and capacity building.

As a part of the project, the Network of Partnership for Preventing Violence against Children was created in Turkey with the wide participation of civil society organizations. Another component of the project focuses on the need to develop indicators and a training programme in order to fill gaps in the accountability and responsiveness of governmental organizations providing services in cases of violence against children and this need was clearly expressed at the meetings of the partnership network. As a result, a series of capacity building and training materials was developed.

The participant's manual as one of these materials was prepared to assist civil society organisations working in the field of violence against children at the stages of monitoring violence against children by using indicators and developing suggestions for the problem.

**The Participant's Manual is not a training material intended to be used as an instrument in itself. It was prepared to be used in trainings together with "Indicators for Monitoring Violence against Children: A Guide for Civil Society Organizations in Turkey". As a part of the training module, presentations and trainers' manual as well accompany the present document.**

## Learning Objectives

When you complete the two-day programme TRAINING IN MONITORING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN ON THE BASIS OF INDICATORS, you will be equipped with necessary information and skills to develop a plan for monitoring cases of violence against children at local level, carry out monitoring work at this level, report cases in your community by using findings obtained and to contribute and participate to both national and international monitoring work with your reports.

The "Training in Monitoring Violence against Children with Indicators" refers to training organized to ensure the monitoring of violence against children at local level on the basis of indicators. Specific objectives of the training are as follows:

At the end of this training participants should be able to:

- describe the monitoring violence against children on the basis of indicators,
- grasp the meaning and significance of monitoring violence against children on the basis of indicators in the context of child rights,
- take steps for monitoring violence against children on the basis of indicators,
- use the principles reporting on the monitoring violence against children on the basis of indicators,
- develop suggestions in line with outcomes of monitoring violence against children on the basis of indicators,
- share information and experience obtained as a result of monitoring violence against children on the basis of indicators.

## For What Purpose was the Participant's Manual Prepared?

The "Training in Monitoring Violence against Children by Indicators: The Participant's Manual" and "Indicators for Monitoring Violence against Children: A Guide for Civil Society Organizations in Turkey" are documents prepared to help CSO representatives participating to trainings. These are also training tools to strengthen actual practice in the field.

The Participant's Manual was developed with the following in mind:

- By developing a tool for monitoring violence against children by specific indicators, to help civil society organizations to contribute more to local and national efforts in struggle waged against violence against children;
- By informing civil society organizations better concerning child rights related legislation, policies, programmes and projects, to help civil society organizations to access full information in this field.

## For Whom was the Participant's Manual Prepared?

The Participant's Manual was prepared to help CSO representatives in their trainings in monitoring violence against children on the basis of indicators. CSO representatives taking part in trainings are mainly volunteers, managers and personnel of civil society organizations who work, at local level, with different governmental units and child protection boards, and who are engaged in monitoring and/or advocacy activities at local or national level.

Other groups including the following may find it yielding to use the Participant's Manual on Monitoring Violence against Children by Indicators;

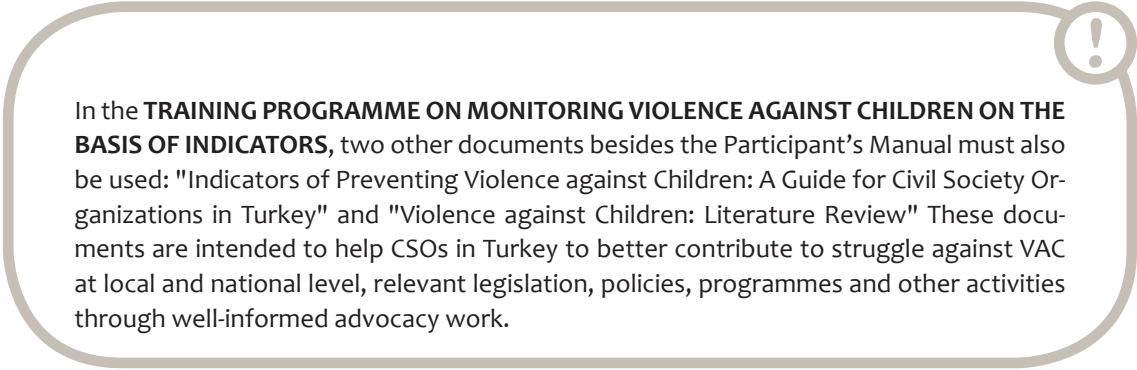
- Coalitions of CSOs that monitor practices in the field of child rights and deliver alternative reports to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child;
- Representatives of ministries or state departments in family and social policies, development, finance, employment, education-training and health;
- Academics and students studying in such fields as child rights and child welfare;
- Staff of such international organizations as United Nations, UNICEF and EU Delegation;
- CSOs not engaged in preparing reports and individuals engaged in voluntary or professional work in civil sphere (i.e. child rights, youth, etc).

## How to Use Participant's Manual?

Each section in this book contains learning objectives, general information and references to additional sources. To display these components, the following headings are used on page margins:

**Learning Objectives** - Objectives that are listed in each section of this toolkit and that must have been attained when read and corresponding practices are completed.

**General Information** - Basic information that supports the learning objectives of the section concerned.



In the **TRAINING PROGRAMME ON MONITORING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN ON THE BASIS OF INDICATORS**, two other documents besides the Participant's Manual must also be used: "Indicators of Preventing Violence against Children: A Guide for Civil Society Organizations in Turkey" and "Violence against Children: Literature Review" These documents are intended to help CSOs in Turkey to better contribute to struggle against VAC at local and national level, relevant legislation, policies, programmes and other activities through well-informed advocacy work.



# Module 2 Definitions



## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this session participants should be able to:

- identify and describe child rights,
- grasp the foundations of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child,
- identify and describe what constitutes violence against children,
- have an idea about the legal obligations of the State,
- grasp the responsibilities of civil society.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**See** → Conceptual Framework of the document "Indicators of Preventing Violence against Children: A Guide for Civil Society Organizations in Turkey".

# 2.1

## Child Rights

Child rights should be conceived in the context of human rights. Human rights are based on respect to the dignity and value of each person both as an individual and as a member of a society, community or a group. All are entitled to these rights regardless of such factors as age, gender, race, faith, ethnicity and others.

As adults, children as well have their human rights. However, since they are vulnerable and have special protection needs, they have their special rights. In this context, "child rights" is a universal concept used in defining the rights of all children, whether legally or morally, including rights to education, health, shelter and protection from physical, psychological or sexual abuse.

The rights that children are entitled to under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child are frequently compared to their needs and, in times, also confused with them. In fact, rights are those needs that the internationally accepted system of governance deems universally valid for individuals and groups and that countries strive to translate into life through their states as required by respect to human dignity.

# 2.2

## United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is the first legally binding international instrument that encompasses all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and aims at the realization of the full potential of the child in environments of freedom, dignity and justice.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child encompasses the rights of individuals under age 18. Both the Convention itself and its Optional Protocols suggest the highest possible standards that any international instrument can provide in terms of protecting and supporting children. Beyond usual safeguards in health, education and well-being, the standards of protection also guarantees for civil and political rights including child's personality, freedom of expression, faith, association and assembly and privacy.

The UNCRC was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989 and it took effect the next year. Ratified by 193 countries, it is the most widely accepted human rights convention. The Conven-

tion is ratified even by countries that are not members to the United Nations. In 2000, two Optional Protocols to the Convention, one on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts and the other on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography were adopted and these protocols took effect in 2002.

### CHILD RIGHTS MILESTONES

- 1924** ..... Geneva Declaration on the Rights of the Child adopted by the League of Nations
- 1948** ..... Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations
- 1959** ..... Declaration on the Rights of the Child adopted by the United Nations
- 1979 – 1989** ..... International Decade of the Child adopted by the United Nations
- 1989** ..... Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the United Nations
- 1990** ..... World Summit for Children held at the United Nations
- 1990** ..... Turkey signed the UNCRC
- 1995** ..... Turkey ratified the UNCRC
- 2000** ..... Optional Protocols to the CRC are adopted by the United Nations, specifically on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts; and on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
- 2002** ..... "A World Fit for Children" is agreed to as a consensus document at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children
- 2002** ..... Turkey ratified the Optional Protocol to the UNCRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
- 2004** ..... Turkey ratified the Optional Protocol to the UNCRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts
- 2011** ..... UN General Assembly adopted the Optional Protocol to the UNCRC on Individual Complaints Mechanism for Children
- 2012** ..... Turkey signed the Optional Protocol to the UNCRC on Individual Complaints Mechanism for Children.

Turkey placed reservation to Articles 17, 29 and 30 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on education, freedom of expression, native culture and language citing the Treaty of Lausanne. In its concluding observations in 2012, the UN Committee on the Rights of the child expressed its concerns about these reservations pointing out that they may have a negative impact on children in terms of education, freedom of expression and the right to enjoy one's own culture and encouraged Turkey to consider withdrawing these reservations.

The UNCRC reflects the new vision of children. Children are neither the property of their families nor helpless objects of charity. They are human beings having their rights.

The Convention sets minimum standards in observing the rights of the child, supports children's care by their own families in the first place and stipulates that children's views in matters concerning themselves have to be solicited and taken into account. In this context, the Convention confers responsibilities to parents in the first place and then to a range of actors including family, community, teachers, health workers, lawyers, police, states, governments and non-governmental organizations. It urges

ratifying States to provide environments conducive to children’s creative and participatory involvement in the social and political life of their countries.

While the UNCRC obliges States Parties to uphold the Convention and implement its articles to the best interest of the child, it also envisages civil society organizations as specialized agencies to follow the process (Article 45).

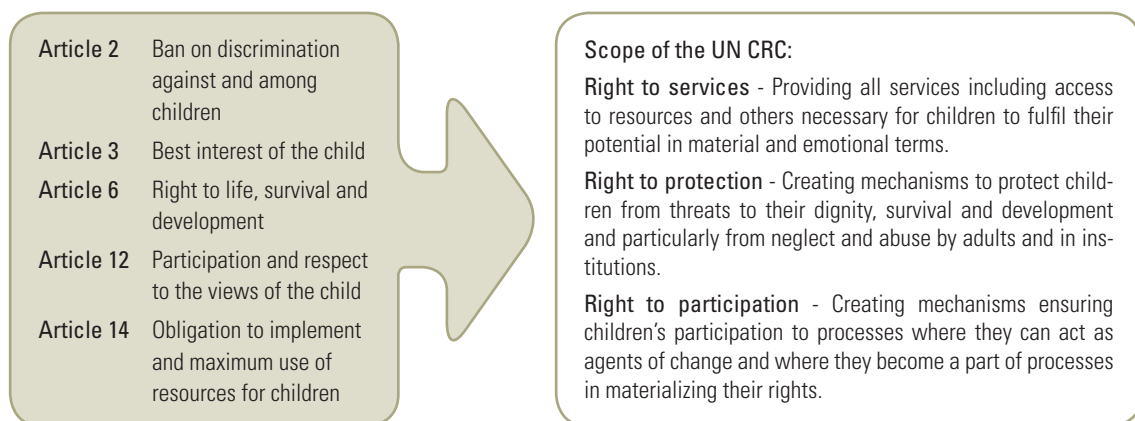
## The structure and general principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The text of the Convention consists of four parts

- **Preamble** sets the overall framework of the CRC,
- **Part I** Articles 1 to 41 describe the fundamental rights of the child,
- **Part II** Articles 42 to 45 describe the monitoring system of the Convention and how reporting is to be made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and States Parties,
- **Part III** Articles 46 to 54 describe arrangements related to the taking effect of the Convention.

## General Principles and Umbrella Rights in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

**Figure 1:** UNCRC principles, umbrella rights and their scope



"Umbrella Rights" which are also known as "General Principles" function as a guide in interpreting and implementing all rights that children are entitled to. These principles constitute the essence of 4 rights as expressed in Article 2, Article 3, Article 6 and Article 12. Neither of these rights or principles can be taken as isolated from others. Each must be considered together with others as well as in their interaction. It is crucial to grasp the meaning behind this interaction and to put it in effect in programmes.

- **Non-discrimination:** All rights apply to all children without any exclusion whatsoever.

"States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status." **Article 2 (1)**

- **Best interests of the child:** In all activities concerning children, best interests of all should be the primary concern regardless of gender.

"In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration." **Article 3(1)**

- **Right to life, survival and development:** This article goes beyond the right to life and encompasses rights to survival and development.

"States Parties recognize that every child has the inherent right to life and ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child." Article 6.

- **Participation and respect to the views of the child:** It is necessary to listen to and take due account of their views in determining the best interests of children.

"The child shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice." Article 12 (1)

### Some articles in the UNCRC establishing child's freedom from violence

- **Article 5;** Supporting parents, extended family and community
- **Article 7;** Birth registration and identity
- **Article 9;** Separation from parents
- **Article 10;** Family reunification across borders
- **Article 11;** Illicit transfer of children
- **Article 13;** Freedom of expression
- **Article 14;** Freedom of thought, conscience and religion
- **Article 15;** Freedom of association and peaceful assembly
- **Article 16;** Right to privacy, respect and dignity
- **Article 17;** Freedom to access information
- **Article 18;** Parents' responsibilities
- **Article 19;** Protection from violence, injury, abuse, neglect, maltreatment or exploitation
- **Article 20;** Alternative (institutional) care
- **Article 21;** Adoption
- **Article 22;** Refugee children
- **Article 23;** Children with disabilities
- **Article 24;** Harmful activities (health services)
- **Article 25;** Periodic review of alternative care
- **Article 26;** Social security
- **Article 27;** Standard of living and social protection
- **Article 28;** and **Article 29;** Education
- **Article 31;** Play and leisure
- **Article 32;** Economic exploitation
- **Article 34;** Sexual abuse and exploitation
- **Article 35;** Abduction, sale and trafficking of children
- **Article 36;** Protection from other forms of exploitation
- **Article 37;** Protection from torture, cruel, inhuman and humiliating treatment or punishment
- **Article 38;** Protection from armed conflict
- **Article 39;** Rehabilitation and integration with society
- **Article 40;** Children in conflict with law

## 2.3

### Violence against Children

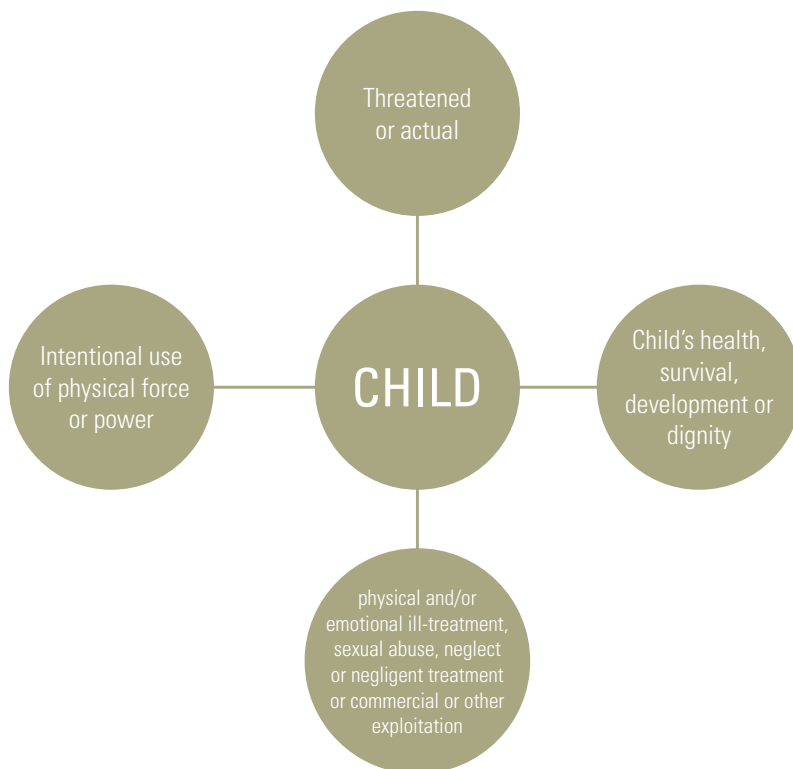
There are various definitions of violence against children. Nevertheless, all definitions point out to an unequal power relationship that takes various forms and involves economic and social status, physical and mental state, gender roles and cultural and religious traditions.

In its plainest definition, violence against children is the violation of child rights. According to UNCRC Article 19, "violence" is defined as all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation including sexual abuse. This definition covers all forms of violence that a child may experience at home or in other places. Moreover, violence may take place not only between adults and children but among children themselves as well.

Violence against children covers "all forms of physical or emotional maltreatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent behaviour and exploitation for commercial and other purposes which involves potential or actual harm to child's health, survival, development or dignity."

**UN Study on Violence against Children, 2006**

**Figure 2:** Main Components of Violence against Children



**Table 1:** Categories of violence

Forms of violence	Manifestations of violence
Physical and Psychological Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detainment</li> <li>• Bullying (including in virtual/internet environments)</li> <li>• Capital punishment</li> <li>• Domestic violence</li> <li>• Summary execution</li> <li>• Gang violence</li> <li>• Harmful traditional practices (i.e. too early marriage)</li> <li>• Honour killings</li> <li>• Infanticide</li> <li>• Use of physical punishment at home, school, institutions, judiciary, streets and community</li> <li>• Abduction</li> <li>• Physical abuse</li> <li>• Psychological abuse</li> <li>• Psychological punishment</li> <li>• Torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment</li> </ul>
Neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abandonment</li> <li>• Employment or ignoring employment in harmful or hazardous works</li> <li>• Disregard to basic, emotional, social and educational needs</li> <li>• Neglect by Legislation, Executive and Judiciary</li> </ul>
Exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pornography</li> <li>• Sex tourism</li> <li>• Sexual exploitation</li> <li>• Slavery</li> <li>• Human trafficking</li> <li>• Violence at workplace</li> </ul>

## Environments where violence emerges

Violence emerges in five environments where children are. The term ‘environment’ refers to places and spaces where the event of violence occurs.

- 1. Domestic/family violence against children:** Physical violence (fatal or non-fatal), neglect, sexual violence, violence observed in intimate relations and child marriages, harmful traditional practices and psychological violence.
- 2. Violence against children at schools and education environments:** Physical and psychological punishment, discrimination and gender based violence, sexual violence, bullying, beating, physical assault, arms, homicide and serious injuries at schools.
- 3. Violence against children while in institutional care and judiciary:** Violence in orphanages, shelters and other institutional care facilities; violence while in custody, violence in penitentiaries and other institutions or places under the control of the state (violence against child refugees and asylum-seekers, migrant children, unaccompanied children, children in prisons and those recruited to armed forces).
- 4. Violence against children at workplaces:** Violence against children in home-based economic activities, forced labour, traditional and modern forms of slavery, commercial sexual exploitation, and child labour in hazardous jobs.
- 5. Violence against children in the community:** Physical and sexual violence by police or other officials to adolescents, street children, children with HIV/AIDS; violence against refugee children, internally displaced children and violence on the basis of sexual orientation and gender.

All forms of violence against children may take place in such diverse environments as the media, internet, chat rooms and social networks, mobile phones and other similar devices.

## Consequences of violence against children

Consequences of violence against children become manifest both immediately as physical or psychosocial injury and damage and also in longer term as negatively affecting the cognitive, physical, emotional and social development of the child. Hence, violence against children has its medical, social, economic, political and cultural consequences. Some scientifically proven, widely known and visible consequences are:

- Fatal or non-fatal injuries,
- Distorted physical, cognitive and emotional development,
- Malnutrition,
- Feeling of having been refused or abandoned,
- Affiliation problems,
- Fear, unease, depression,
- Mistrust and lowered self-respect,
- Risky health behaviour,
- Difficulties in interacting with others,
- Loss of faith in law and legal system when justice is not ensured,
- Withdrawal from social life and democratic decision making processes.

## 2.4

### Legal obligations of States

Child rights constitute a vital and inseparable part of human rights geared to ensuring that each child leads a "dignified, respectable, equal and fair life" and to safeguarding children and protecting them from violence. It is also the building stone of human rights culture and foundation of safeguards for human rights in a society. Without any exception, all people have rights solely for being "human". Therefore, the existence of rights is not deniable and rights are for all in equal terms. Duties emanating from the existence of human rights rest not directly with individuals but states and public administration.

The obligation of States to protect children from violence can be summarized under three headings:

1. **Respect (no violation):** This obligation means respecting the right of the child to be free from violence. Institutions representing the State and public administration should not apply violence to the child and States should avoid cases that violate the rights of the child to be free from violence. The state and public administration is obliged to prevent violence by laws, policies and programmes and to work with children to ensure these.
2. **Protection:** This obligation requires the State to take measures to prevent the violation by others of the right of the child to be free from violence.
3. **Provision:** This obligation means that the State has to adopt measures specified in human rights instruments and provide environments in order to protect the right of children under its jurisdiction to be free from violence.



## 2.5

### Responsibilities of Civil Society Organizations

Besides those engaged in work to protect children and others who deliver services in this area, scientific community and activists too try to understand problems in protecting children from violence, monitor related developments and develop solutions by employing various indicators and tools for measurement and assessment. They may be acting as supervisors, advocates and service providers in this process.

As overseeing organizations, CSOs pursue policies deriving from problems that they have identified. As advocates they develop suggestions for the solution of problems and make efforts to have these suggestions translated into life. As service providers they develop solutions to the problem at hand and may apply them at smaller scales. Their efforts to have these models implemented at larger scales (local, national and international) may be considered as advocacy by service delivery.



# Module 3

## Monitoring Violence



## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this session participants should be able to:

- define what is meant by monitoring violence,
- grasp why it is necessary to monitor violence,
- penetrate into the role and responsibility of civil society organizations in monitoring,
- define indicators for monitoring violence,
- explain ethic rules to be observed during monitoring,
- classify indicators for monitoring violence,
- use indicators for monitoring violence,
- monitor violence by using indicator.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**See** → "Violence against Children: Literature Review", parts on Monitoring Work and Monitoring for Children and Violence!

Also, **Annex 2**. Flowchart in Monitoring Violence against Children

# 3.1

## What is Monitoring Violence?

Consisting of inquiry, research and documentation processes, monitoring is a powerful tool for advocacy. No CSO initiative can reach success without information that proves what is purported. Monitoring means close observation conducted for the purpose of identifying measures/initiatives that must be taken in relation to a situation or phenomenon. As such, monitoring involves gathering information about events, conducting observations, visiting such places as detainment and refugees centres and having interviews with authorities to collect information on issues that need urgent scrutiny.

**Monitoring consists of the following elements:**

1. Monitoring requires a long period of time.
2. It involves the collection of large body of data.
3. It is given effect through close observance of events, continuous or periodic controls or studies and documentation of relevant developments.
4. Specific standards and norms are used in objectively assessing any given situation or case and particularly in determining what is going wrong.
5. Various tools are used to determine how to check a given situation against specified standards or norms.
6. The output of monitoring is often a report in either written or unwritten format.
7. The report contains a situation analysis to be used in advocacy activities.

In the context of item 5 above, one of the most effective tools is indicators. Indicators refer to the explanation of simple evidence as a fact exposing and defining a given situation and to digital and/or non-digital expressions that display change/tendency in a given period of time. There is need to use a

tool (criterion/indicator) to assess the situation at societal level, evaluate the effectiveness of interventions made and to launch comparisons among groups on the issue under examination.

The main objectives of monitoring include the following: helping to ensure the success and sustainability of official practices in relation to child rights and identifying, documenting and reporting violations of the right of children to be free from violence. Political, social and economic circumstances of a given country play an important role in protecting children from violence and monitoring related practices. During monitoring, there must be a common perspective to basic objectives. Otherwise, any contrasted communication that may emerge during joint work with the government may negatively affect progress towards the desired outcome.

Civil society organizations play an important guiding role in the implementation of rights and in identifying priorities and areas in which policies must concentrate. CSO can launch their activities on the basis of what indicators suggest. Thus, monitoring must absolutely have its place in advocacy work.

## 3.2

### Why is it Necessary to Monitor Violence?

The international community has mostly defined standards related to the safeguarding of child rights enshrined in international human rights instruments and to children's protection from violence. Child rights defenders, advocates and activists use various criteria and indicators to help measure the progress made in the process of acknowledging and monitoring violence against children, identify steps to be taken in this area and to come up with solutions to sustain achievements made so far. In this context, in order to conduct monitoring to measure changes and to manage the process leading to desired goals, there is need to effectively use relevant tools and to identify appropriate policy instruments and mechanisms.

## 3.3

### Monitoring Work by Civil Society Organizations

It is important to ensure that the State follows initiatives launched to keep children free from violence. While it is the duty of States to ensure and monitor that rights are effectively implemented, CSOs, on their part, have their duty as supporting this process of implementation by monitoring and reporting whether States fulfil their responsibilities and obligations.

For preventing violence against children in communities, civil society organizations can monitor the implementation of child rights more deeply, they may, through their community based nature, reach population groups that the State cannot, and more easily identify violations of child rights in disadvantaged population groups. It may be considered as among the responsibilities of civil society organizations to assess to what extent States are successful in fulfilling their obligation to safeguard children from violence.

In specific, information pertaining to the following fields may be gathered in monitoring:

- Which rights are effectively and widely implemented in the context of the right of children to be free from violence,
- Problems, obstacles and difficulties encountered in implementation,
- Practices pursued against the violation of rights in cases of violence against children.

The most important point that lies at the basis of monitoring is collecting data systematically about a given situation and to assess this data according to established standards. An effective monitoring can be possible only with accurate, systematic and evidence-based findings and analysis of available information. In short, there is need to reach accurate information, establish the relationship that exists between this information and violations in the context of violence against children and to examine the situation also in reference to the responsibilities of the State in this regard.

**There are three major steps in monitoring:**

1. Identifying and reaching accurate and valid data,
2. Gathering accurate and valid data,
3. Analyzing, interpreting and reporting data

The main objectives of monitoring violence against children include ensuring that the State successfully and sustainably safeguards the right of the child to be free from violence and identifying, documenting and reporting cases where this right is violated. Since civil society organizations play an important role in guiding States in their work to ensure the full implementation of rights, monitoring needs to be a part of advocacy activities.

### Ethic Rules in Monitoring and Reporting

Before starting the process of inquiring and documenting human rights violations, it must be made sure that all participants to the process comply with certain principles. These principles can be listed as follows:

**Accuracy:** It is the backbone of monitoring and information collection. An evaluation mechanism must be in place to be positive what you assert corresponds to a reality. Governments and other bodies may look for some methodological mistakes to launch campaigns against your reports and people who prepared them. In cases where it is impossible to precisely ascertain what is stated, there are ways of overcoming such barriers. The language to be used in reports is important in this regard.

**Confidentiality:** Confidentiality of information sources must be protected unless these sources permit the disclosure of their identity. Information sources are generally those who are victimized by cases of violence, have witnessed such cases or others who run the risk to be victimized. Information sources who want to remain anonymous should not be disclosed and sensitive information concerning some individuals must not be made public unless their full, free and informed consent is obtained. Otherwise, your monitoring activity may unintentionally violate the rights of others. Confidentiality protects information suppliers from being victimized as a result of information they supplied.

**Impartiality:** In inquiring and documenting human rights violations, there should be no discrimination on the basis of nationality, race, language, religion, ethnic origin, gender, political convictions, etc. Adopting a non-discriminatory approach will both facilitate the process of information building and also built trust and respect.

**Gender sensitivity:** Human rights violations involving women and girls cannot be documented mostly for their roles in family and community. Adopting a gender-based approach to information collection will yield a more holistic picture of the reality that is to be disclosed.

(Source: Manual for Non-governmental Organizations in Monitoring of and Reporting on the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 2008)

# 3.4

## What Can Civil Society Organizations Monitor?

Civil society organizations must identify their fields of monitoring first with respect to their specific themes. To determine their scope in monitoring, they must consider their capacity, strengths and resources. Given these, their monitoring can cover the following areas:

- Actions of the part of the State to fulfil its responsibility to give effect to the right of children to be free from violence;
- Instances of discrimination against and denial of fundamental rights of vulnerable children and children from disadvantaged groups. Since there are frequently emerging problems especially in developing countries for disadvantaged groups to enjoy their rights, it is of particular importance for civil society organizations to focus on this area;
- More and effective legal sanctions to raise human rights standards;
- Monitoring vital statistics and indicators.

Civil society organizations may come to notice and identify issues that require intensive work in the process of monitoring and employ different methods in doing this. Therefore a civil society organization must clearly identify the goal and objectives of its work and also make a clear decision about working in the field of violence against children. In case the decision is for collecting evidence at regional or national level, this will bring along the necessity to collect information through different methods. This will also have its impact on strategy to be used in the process of monitoring violence.

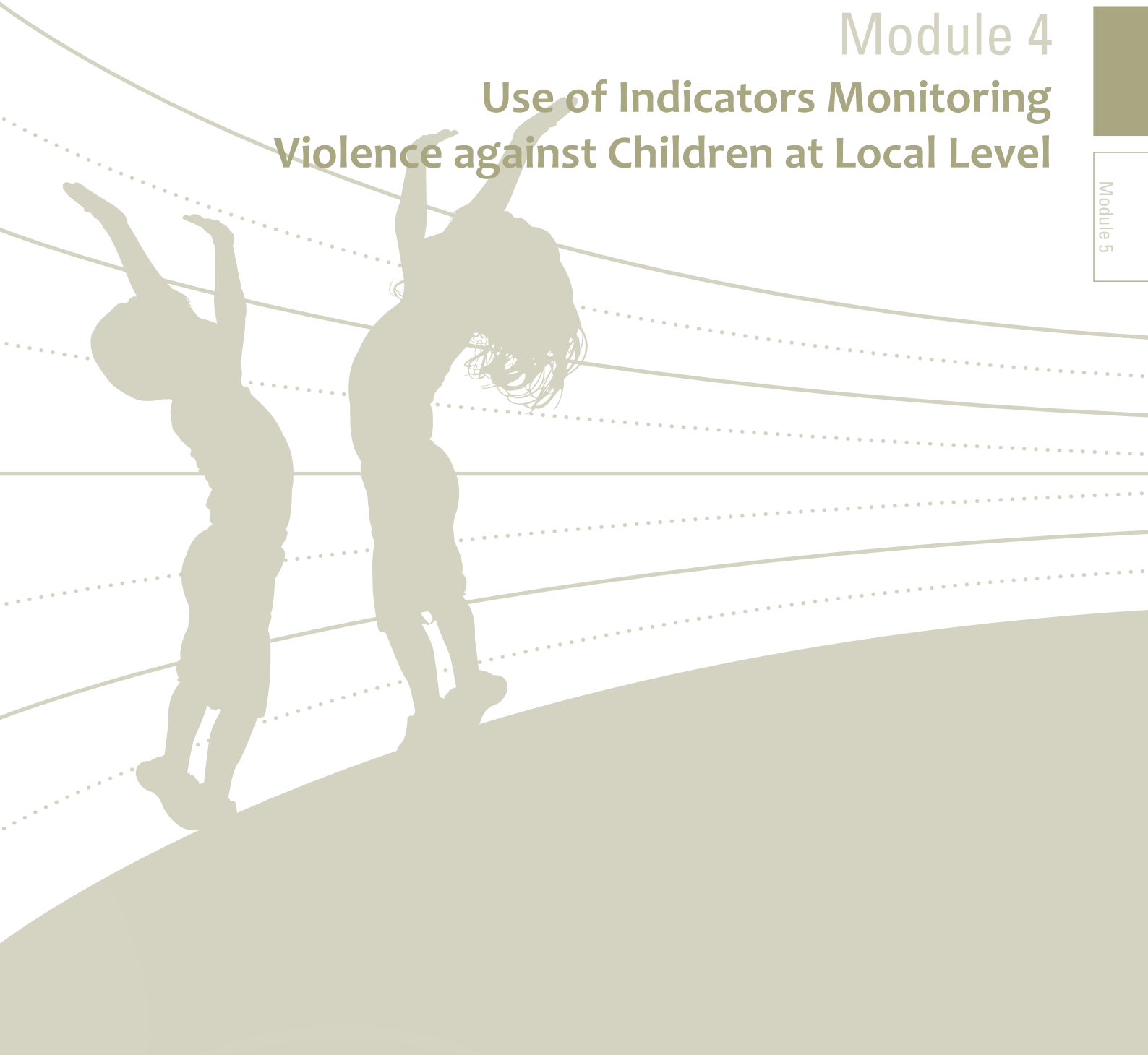
(Module 3 is based on the document "Manual for Non-governmental Organizations in Monitoring of and Reporting on the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child" prepared by the International Child Centre, Ankara Bar Association and Agenda Children Association, 2008).





# Module 4

## Use of Indicators Monitoring Violence against Children at Local Level



## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this section participants should be able to:

- know criteria used in selecting indicators
- define indicators that can be used by civil society organizations
- know how to use indicators in monitoring cases of violence
- have the skills in using indicators in community monitoring.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**See** → "Indicators of Preventing Violence against Children: A Guide for Civil Society Organizations in Turkey", the part on Indicator Sets for Violence against Children and "Violence against Children: Literature Review", parts on Monitoring Work and Monitoring for Children and Violence!

Also, **Annex 2**. Flowchart in Monitoring Violence against Children

An indicator is defined as digital or non-digital expressions that display change/tendency in a given time period and that is stated as data relating to the authenticity of a simple evidence and used to define an existing situation. An indicator for the prevention of violence against children is unique information concerning the status of an object, event, activity or outcome that can be associated with norms and standards on child rights. This information reflects child rights principles and areas of concern and provides clues for solution. It is used to monitor and evaluate the implementation and promotion of the right of the child to be free from violence.

In evaluations at community level, different quantitative indicators are calculated including numbers, rates, ratios, percentages and proportions. However, qualitative tools too may be preferred in monitoring child rights at individual level and violations in the field of violence against the child.

### Criteria Used in Selecting Indicators

Indicators may be used for various purposes from advocacy to monitoring violations of rights and effectiveness of implementation. Besides the experience of the civil society organization concerned, primary factors that guide the selection of indicators include applicability, relevance and comparability with other indicators. Hence, the listing of indicators should be made with the objectives of monitoring work in mind.

While selecting indicators, human rights approach must be incorporated and this approach must be structured in the context of economic, social and cultural rights. The selected indicator must help raise the level of public awareness and encourage decision makers to focus on priority issues.

While monitoring, indicators that were developed in accordance with the provisions of international conventions may be used. For example, health indicators may include those related to the existence of a national health policy, state of physical and mental health of people in general, share of health in total budget and international cooperation in the field of health.

## 4.1

### Criteria that can be Used by Civil Society Organizations

National, regional and local targets must also be used as indicators in monitoring violence against children. By assessing the situation in each field, countries set targets to be attained in a specific peri-

od of time and introduce necessary modifications when the target year or the target itself is reached. While monitoring nationally set targets, civil society organizations must focus on the targeted year and target itself without omitting the process and progress made in that process.

Policy indicators constitute one set of indicators used in monitoring. These indicators are for monitoring the policies of the State geared to attaining certain objectives. Showing the main approach of the State and the course of events, the source of these indicators includes legislation as well as policy and budgetary documents of the State.

Statistical data plays a major role in assessing implementation and getting information about violations. Sources of statistical data include vital statistics, agencies delivering services and places where services are delivered. In developing countries, vital statistics are used by the State to set priorities. In monitoring, disadvantaged groups must be given priority and focus must be on these groups. This, in turn, requires that data is collected in a way to identify disadvantaged groups. Data relating to disadvantaged groups points out in particular to those that must be reached and corresponding service areas and where there is need to make investment.

Generally, civil society organizations may not have sufficient time and resources to collect primary data. Therefore they must try to use secondary sources of information as effectively as possible. Secondary sources may be used to gather quantitative data needed to monitor vulnerable groups. In case secondary sources of information are not accessible or reliable or if they are incoherent and insufficient, then primary sources of information may be used to obtain data needed.

Primary Sources of Information	Secondary Sources of Information
In-depth interviews	National and vital statistics/registries
Population based surveys	Institutional registries, general population censuses, surveys and reports
Focus group work	Statistics published by United Nations agencies or international organizations
General interviews	Country reports submitted to monitoring committees of international conventions and shadow reports submitted by civil society organizations
Direct observation	Studies conducted by academic institutions Annual activity reports of public/private organizations extending routine services to children News features from national and local press Internet (safe blogs, personal encyclopaedia and web pages.)

While identifying indicators to be used in monitoring violence against children, the following criteria may be used:

1. The indicator must assess the direct and indirect impact on public health and welfare in general.
2. The indicator must also measure the impact on children and vulnerable groups.
3. The source of the problem must be identifiable.
4. The indicator must be adaptable and usable by other organizations as well.
5. The indicator must expose the difference between national practices and what is stated in international guides.

Table 2 gives examples to indicators that may be used in monitoring violence against children.

**Table 2: Indicators of Violence against Children at Home and in Family**

Indicators		Steps to be Taken	National Level	Local Level
<p><b>Foundations of the field of indicator in human rights law:</b> CRC articles 18.1, 18.2, 19 and 37; GC8; GC13; ICCPR articles 4(1), 23(1, 4), 24(1), GC 3, 17 and 18; ICESCR articles 10(1, 3), 12(1), 23(1), 24(1), 25(1), 26, 11(2) 13, 14, GC 5, 11, 13, 17, 18; CAT Article 10, European Social Charter (revised) articles 7 and 17, European Council Lanzarote Convention (sexual abuse).</p> <p><b>INDICATORS:</b> Questions to be asked to see whether necessary conditions are satisfied</p> <p><b>Note:</b> All indicators must be defined separately with respect to features and positions that may lay the ground for discrimination such as gender, age, disability, ethnicity, social status, urban/rural etc. Without this distinction it is impossible to see the difficulties that disadvantaged groups experience.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> CSOs may use one, some or all of these indicators in their monitoring work. It depends on their respective financial and human resources capacity, what is required by their specific position, goals and objectives and fields of work.</p>				
<p><b>STRUCTURAL INDICATORS</b> (Legislation, national action plans, institutional/field action plans, strategy documents, institutional established national and local mechanisms, provincial action plans, national budget, local budget etc.)</p>	<p><b>Prevention</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the government action plan to combat violence against children is periodically reviewed with the participation of CSOs?</li> <li>Budget allocated to trainings in non-violent discipline methods and in positive/non-violent parenting?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there a provincial committee in your province as envisaged by the Circular on Child Rights Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (Prime Ministerial Circular dated 3 April 2012)? What are the CSOs represented in this committee?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there a provincial committee in your province as envisaged by the Circular on Child Rights Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (Prime Ministerial Circular dated 3 April 2012)? What are the CSOs represented in this committee?</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Protection</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the participation of bar associations and CSOs envisaged in the structuring of the Central Coordination of Child Protection Law?</li> <li>Is there a special institutional arrangement for child victims of domestic violence? (as in the case of female victims of violence)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do bar associations and CSOs take part in provincial coordination for the Child Protection Law?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do bar associations and CSOs take part in provincial coordination for the Child Protection Law?</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Accountability</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 23§2 maintains the authority of adults in discipline practices and does not explicitly ban physical punishment at home. Is there any step taken to revoke this part of the legislation as required by the decisions of the European Committee of Social Rights and UN Committee on the Rights of the Child?</li> <li>Are necessary confidentiality and protection mechanisms set to prevent any retaliation by perpetrators of violence or others to authorities who are in charge of reporting violence including domestic/family violence under the Penal Code (Articles 278, 279, 280)?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do local governments and provincial units of the Central Government have complaint mechanisms on domestic violence against children which are easily accessible by children and which do not pose the risk of retaliation by perpetrators? (i.e. boxes in neighbourhoods, hotlines, complaint desks in municipalities, governorates, schools and other institutions)</li> <li>Is there a guide for those in charge of reporting (teachers, health workers, social workers, neighbourhood/village headmen, etc) giving information about procedures to be followed in reporting, whom to report and steps to be taken after reporting?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do local governments and provincial units of the Central Government have complaint mechanisms on domestic violence against children which are easily accessible by children and which do not pose the risk of retaliation by perpetrators? (i.e. boxes in neighbourhoods, hotlines, complaint desks in municipalities, governorates, schools and other institutions)</li> <li>Is there a guide for those in charge of reporting (teachers, health workers, social workers, neighbourhood/village headmen, etc) giving information about procedures to be followed in reporting, whom to report and steps to be taken after reporting?</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Rehabilitation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are minimum standards set for rehabilitation centres where child victims of domestic/family violence are referred to?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are there institutions in your province that can deliver rehabilitation services to child victims of domestic violence?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are there institutions in your province that can deliver rehabilitation services to child victims of domestic violence?</li> </ul>
<p><b>PROCESS INDICATORS</b> (Efforts to translate into life those rights which are safeguarded by law and have their relevant implementation plans) Change within the last year/ reporting period</p>	<p><b>Prevention</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there any national level campaign to prevent domestic/family violence?</li> <li>Number of statements by legislators/policy makers that domestic/family violence against children is acceptable/unacceptable?</li> <li>Budget allocated to trainings in non-violent methods of discipline and positive/non-violent parenting?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are the Provincial Child Committee of Child Rights and Provincial Child Committee engaged in activities to enhance awareness on domestic violence against children?</li> <li>Number of statements made by deputies from your province/district, governors and district governors and mayors that domestic violence against children is acceptable/unacceptable?</li> <li>Budget allocated at province/district level to trainings in non-violent methods of discipline and positive/non-violent parenting?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are the Provincial Child Committee of Child Rights and Provincial Child Committee engaged in activities to enhance awareness on domestic violence against children?</li> <li>Number of statements made by deputies from your province/district, governors and district governors and mayors that domestic violence against children is acceptable/unacceptable?</li> <li>Budget allocated at province/district level to trainings in non-violent methods of discipline and positive/non-violent parenting?</li> </ul>

<p><b>PROCESS INDICATORS</b> <i>(continued...)</i></p>	<p><b>Protection</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there guidelines for those working with children or who are supposed to protect children from domestic violence (i.e. physicians, teachers, family consultants, police etc) that facilitate their work in identifying cases of violence and taking protective measures? If there are, are they sufficiently disseminated?</li> <li>• Are there measures to protect those working with children or those who are in charge of protecting children from domestic violence after their reporting and to ensure the anonymity of reporting? Are these measures given effect?</li> <li>• Are there widely disseminated information materials in non-violent discipline methods and positive/non-violent parenting?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To facilitate the identification of cases of domestic violence against children and adoption of protective measures, how many trainings have been delivered to those working with children or who are supposed to protect children from domestic violence (i.e. physicians, teachers, family consultants, police etc), how many of such persons have been reached?</li> <li>• Are there measures to protect those working with children or those who are in charge of protecting children from domestic violence after their reporting and to ensure the anonymity of reporting? Are these measures given effect?</li> <li>• Number of families who have been reached with trainings and information materials on non-violent methods of discipline and positive/non-violent parenting? (Parents, children, persons with disabilities etc in provinces, districts, villages and hamlets).</li> <li>• Relevant figures at province/district/local levels.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Accountability</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of officials who are inquired for not officially reporting cases of domestic/family violence against children?</li> <li>• Number of officials such as police, prosecutors and judges who are inquired for not processing reported cases of domestic/family violence against children and failing to take protective measures?</li> <li>• Number of legal proceedings, trials, punishments and convictions related to cases of domestic/family violence?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant figures at province/district/local levels.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Rehabilitation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of institutions and/or personnel in each province/district who can extend psycho-social support and rehabilitation services to child victims of domestic/family violence?</li> <li>• Trainings and materials related to domestic/family violence delivered to those involved in extending health care and social support services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant figures at province/district/local levels.</li> </ul>
<p><b>OUTCOME INDICATORS</b> (How does the structural framework and efforts made in the process for ensuring it look in the actual life of children and supporting framework? Has it brought along any positive change in the lives of children?) Change within the last year/ reporting period</p>	<p><b>Prevention</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change over years in the number of identified and reported cases of domestic/family VAC by systems of justice, education, health, social services etc</li> <li>• Detering judiciary decisions/average periods of conviction in cases of domestic/family violence including sexual abuse in particular</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant figures at province/district/local levels.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Protection</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change over years in the number of cases of domestic/family VAC in the light of information derived from hospital and security statistics</li> <li>• Change over years in the number of girls and boys getting married while under age 18?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant figures at province/district/local levels.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Accountability</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the average period between the reporting of domestic VAC and action taken by security and other authorities? How is the situation compared to the year before?</li> <li>• The proportion of the number of officially "re-reported" domestic/family VAC to the number of total reported (for the first time and re-reported) domestic/family VAC? What is the change over the previous year?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant figures at province/district/local levels.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Rehabilitation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of child victims of domestic/family VAC who were referred to rehabilitation and psycho-social service centres/professionals?</li> <li>• The proportion of the number of child victims of domestic/family VAC re-referred (more than once for the same child) to rehabilitation and psycho-social service centres/professionals to total number of child victims of domestic/family VAC?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant figures at province/district/local levels.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sources and instruments to be used in collecting necessary information</b></p>	<p>Reports by official institutions, statistics published at national and provincial levels, Ministry of Justice Statistics, Ministry of Justice Statistics, reports by the National Human Rights Institution, reports by the Security Directorate, reports by the Ministry for the Family and Social Policies (at central and provincial levels), judicial information, information from court files, civil society reports, reports from universities, academic studies on family/domestic violence, media features.</p>		

## 4.2

### **What is Local Monitoring of Violence against Children on Indicator Basis?**

Monitoring violence against children at national level makes it possible to expose the situation throughout the country and for a longer term. At local level or community based monitoring, on the other hand, the focus is on local scale.

The term "local" (community) in Monitoring Violence against Children at Local Level on the Basis of Indicators refers what members of a community share in common –mostly a common identity- and specifically constructed totality of social relations.

The concept "monitoring" in the same expression define the capacity of community-based organization or groups to accurately grasp the unique characteristics of children, youth, parents, elderly, and other members in their community.

The objective in monitoring violence against children at local level by using indicators is to have civil society organizations or groups go to identified communities to assess the state of children with concrete facts and report their findings. They are also expected to expose changes taking place in the community and to update their community monitoring reports periodically. Monitoring violence against children at local level by indicators may be an important instrument in mobilizing the community and making it authoritative.

## 4.3

### **Why Allocate Time and Resources to Monitoring Violence against Children by Indicators?**

The initiative to monitor violence against children at local level with indicators offer civil society organizations working for and with children a unique opportunity to identify the existing situation at local level and to plan for activities geared to preventing violations. Consequently, so long as information obtained from local level monitoring is reported appropriately and in a reliable manner it will have positive responses at national and international levels and thus bring about a positive change in preventing violence against children. Also, local level monitoring of violence against children will strengthen civil society organizations in their national level observations and evaluations.

Monitoring of violence against children by civil society organizations is of vital importance in terms of ensuring a safe environment for children and translating into life their right to be free from violence. One way of ensuring that States fulfil their responsibilities in preventing violence against children and improve legislation, policies and practices to this end is the reporting of observations and monitoring results. Reporting is an important factor to keep the State accountable in this respect. In addition to keeping the State accountable, ensuring the active involvement of the State as the duty bearer, the community as the stakeholder and children as the rights holders will consolidate political commitment in efforts to prevent violence against children.

Furthermore, the very work on monitoring violence against children by indicators may bring many benefits to children, their families and groups in the community and organizations supporting them. These benefits include:

1. Participants establish new connections with individuals and organizations sharing similar ideas and find chances of learning about their information and experience.
2. Individuals, groups and organizations in a community may assist each other in supporting children by establishing new coalitions/partnerships or improving existing ones.
3. By preparing reports on violence against children and preventive measures adopted, communities may have their voices heard better by other communities/society, other civil society organizations, the State and national/local media.

**See** → Annex 1. Local Level Community Monitoring of Violence against Children by Indicators, checklist

Benefits may be realized from monitoring violence against children by indicators as the capacity of the community involved is strengthened in three main areas:

1. **Local advocacy and support** - Defending children at local level against violence.
2. **Support in law and government policy making** - Advocating for children by waging struggle to eliminate violence against children and facilitating participation to province and district level committees for child rights.
3. **Programme development and best practices** - Developing at local level programmes and practices that would have their long-term positive impacts on efforts to prevent violence against children.

The actual benefits of monitoring violence against children by indicators at local level are first more apparent at this level before their possible effects at country and international level. Therefore, when civil society organizations use this toolkit to gather information about children in their community and devise a plan for gathering, disseminating and sharing results through joint working groups this will further increase expected benefits., Efforts to this end may scale up to national and international levels through the dissemination and sharing of best practices. Impacts at local level will also be sustained if good coordination and support are both in place.

(Module 4 is based on the following sources: "Manual for Non-governmental Organizations in Monitoring of and Reporting on the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child" prepared by the International Child Centre, Ankara Bar Association and Agenda Children Association, 2008 and "Monitoring Children's Rights, A Toolkit for Community-Based Organizations, 2003" by the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children).







Module 5  
**Monitoring Violence against Children  
at Local Level on the Basis of Indicators:  
Implementation and Reporting**

This part includes steps that need to be taken by the civil society organization that will lead the initiative for monitoring violence against children on the basis of indicators. These instructions are designed so as to support the monitoring framework mentioned earlier.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

**At the end of this section participants should be able to:**

- List the steps to be followed in preparing the report on monitoring violence against children on the basis of indicators,
- Use relevant sources for preparing the report, and
- Draft the report

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**See** → Indicators of Preventing Violence against Children: A Guide for Civil Society Organizations in Turkey, Part on Written Sources, reporting guides in Additional Reading List in Turkish and parts related to reporting in Supporting tools!

The following are of particular importance in Additional Reading List in Turkish:

"Monitoring Children's Rights, A Toolkit for Community-Based Organizations, 2003" prepared by the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children.

"Guide for non-Governmental organizations reporting on violence against children to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child" prepared by the NGO group, and

Manual for Non-governmental Organizations in Monitoring of and Reporting on the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child" prepared by the International Child Centre, Ankara Bar Association and "Agenda Children"

To prevent violence against children and therefore to contribute to monitoring of the right of the child to be free of violence as stated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child', there is need to mobilize the time, resources and knowledge of different individuals and civil society organizations in the community.

Before starting, there must first be clarity on which indicators will be used, what kind of information will be collected and what kind of support is needed to collect this information.

This section is for those who will prepare for the first time a report on monitoring violence against children by indicators. Below are some steps suggested in preparing a report whether written or in some other format. There will be fewer steps in consecutive follow-up reports that will be submitted after the initial report.

### Step 1

## Invite community members to participate

We recommend that you reach out to your community to establish a monitoring team that draws from existing strengths that can help you complete the various parts of the template. It is suggested to establish a monitoring team capable of contributing to the report as a whole by reaching as many persons as possible at local level.

In some cases, "who" should be on the team may seem obvious. For example, you may be a staff member within an existing coalition or association that shares common goals for children and works with them on an ongoing basis. In this case your community monitoring initiative may be organized as a natural extension to work already in progress. In other cases, some outreach may be required to gather up the support you will need and ensure the monitoring team represents your community appropriately. For example, if there is no possibility of reaching and interviewing children, parents or their supporters to obtain data, then it is necessary to identify other individuals or organizations to work with in order to obtain this data.

A single page information text explaining the objectives of monitoring violence against children by indicators may be prepared to inform and ensure the active participation of those persons whose team membership is desired. This material can be communicated by telephone conversation or by posting, e-mailing. To provide more detailed and explanatory information, a copy of indicator sets may also be shared.

**See** → "Indicators of Preventing Violence against Children: A Guide for Civil Society Organizations in Turkey", the parts "Conceptual Framework" and "Indicator Sets".

## Step 2

### Educate Participants on Monitoring Violence against Children by Indicators and the Right of Children to be Free from Violence

Once your monitoring team has been established and lines of communication have been opened, you are ready to educate your team members on Monitoring Violence against Children by Indicators and the Right of Children to be Free from Violence.

Sources that were prepared within the framework of training in "Monitoring Violence against Children by Indicators" can be used in this training as well. They were prepared in a manner to provide basic information that the monitoring team needs to contribute actively to monitoring work.

In addition to these training materials, a local trainer or facilitator may be found to help the monitoring team learn how to monitor violence against children in particular. A good facilitator would help in better grasping the objective of this work, implementation, steps in implementation and content of training materials.

The most important step at this stage is to inform the group about violence against children in the light of existing information and documents. For example, informing the group about the content of the last evaluation reports of existing organizations in the area will lay the basis for the group to determine the focus of its monitoring initiative.

**See** → "Indicators for Monitoring Violence against Children: A Guide for Civil Society Organizations in Turkey", information boxes: A non-exhaustive list of governmental organizations in Turkey which have information about violence against children and possible information sources for local governments.

## Step 3

### Establish Your Community's CRC Focus

**The focal point at this stage should be determined with respect to the composition of the group and geographical distance of its members;**

The list of monitoring targets developed at the 1st step should be reviewed.

2. It should be checked whether there is any change in targets as a result of information obtained at Step 1 (In this context, it may be reviewed what exists in most recent province and national level reports).

After basic information building, the local monitoring group now has a better sense of commitment involved and resources required to undertake monitoring violence against children by indicators at local level.

To make the most of your resources, we recommend that you focus your monitoring efforts on situations that are most pressing at local level.

The term "situation" here reforms to a clearly defined set of circumstances, whether characterized by events, actions, policies, practices and/or political environments that shape how interventions to prevent violence against children take place. A situation may denote that a specific act of violence has happened or that an act of violence has been effectively prevented. If there is any debate about the direction of monitoring initiative, this point may be discussed under the guidance of a facilitator.

To clarify the strategy to be followed in collecting information with the monitoring team, the following questions may be addressed:

1. What are the forms of violence against children that are of specific concern for the community or the organization, that correspond to priority objectives for families and that specifically calls for monitoring?
2. Where are cases of violence against children observed most frequently
3. In which groups are cases of violence against children observed most frequently?
4. What changes that can be effective in preventing violence against children are taking place or will take place?

Interrelations between the work on monitoring violence against children by indicators on the one hand and questions used in gathering data/information and reporting must be stated (for details, see Steps 4 and 5 below).

Depending on resources, the nature of the monitoring group and the nature of the given situation, you may choose to develop a number of interrelated reports or focus on one report that accurately captures the key elements of your situation. The following few questions may facilitate focusing:

- In your community, which situations exist in the context of violence against children?
- In your community, which group of children need urgent support in the context of violence against children?
- In your community, in which areas children need support most in the context of violence against children?
- What recent events, changes to legislation, policy or practices (if any) have affected the rights in question?

- What future changes will have an impact on the rights in question?
- What supports and strategies are needed to overcome barriers to preventing violence against children
- What actions have group members taken (or could take) to monitor and prevent violence against children?
- How successful they have been?
- How success was measured?

## Step 4

### Devise a Plan to Monitor Violence against Children at Local Level by Indicators

At this point the group is clearer about where to focus and ready to devise a plan for monitoring violence against children by indicators.

#### Planning;

- You have indicators for monitoring violence against children.
- You already know which of these you will be using in monitoring.
- You have identified the monitoring focus.
- You have identified which sources, how much time and which partners you need for selecting criteria, gathering information and reporting and you have your division of work within the monitoring group.

A team that prepares a "Report on Local Monitoring of Violence against Children" for the first time is also supposed to develop a plan for long term monitoring at this state. The following questions are important in this context:

- How much time is needed to prepare a follow-up report on the basis of data sources and to identify changes that occur?
- What can be important events or changes that the group may be monitoring in longer term?
- Who, in the group, can lead a long-term initiative?

## Step 5

### Examine, Analyze and Report your Data

With information collected back in Step 2 which first built information on violence against children, reporting can be made in written or other formats. Outcomes will be ready for reporting when gathering and documenting monitoring information is completed.

While results obtained as a result of monitoring work may be clear enough to deem any discussion unnecessary in some communities, in others there may be need to discuss and analyze further. In either case, results must be gone over by the group and re-arranged if necessary.

**See** → "Indicators of Preventing Violence against Children: A Guide for Civil Society Organizations in Turkey, parts related to reporting in "Supporting Instruments" and "Manual for Non-governmental Organizations in Monitoring of and Reporting on the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child" prepared by the International Child Centre, Ankara Bar Association and "Agenda Children".

## Step 6

### Publish, Present and Share your Results

At this step the report is now ready for one last round of reviews and revisions by the team.

At this stage, the objective of the review is to compare the information documented in each section to ensure it is written up in a consistent manner throughout. Foremost, the report should contain consistent words and concepts to describe results, whether from the perspective of children and youth, caregivers or other community members.

Once the team is comfortable with the wording of the report, it is ready to be used for defending the rights of children in the community, whether locally, regionally or nationally.

The report is also ready for sharing with other civil society organizations, sending to the Provincial Child Rights Committee and to relevant COS to contribute to the Shadow Report to be submitted to international committees.

At local level, the report will:

- Provide important qualitative monitoring data for national reports.
- Add key discussion points to the dialogue surrounding policies, programmes and practices geared to preventing violence against children.
- Add key insight into the development of children's rights indicators given specified policy and program areas

The monitoring results may also be helpful in finding partners from across the country to help in advocacy activities



### To sum it up,

basic steps in preparing a local report on violence against children are the same with methods used in participatory research:

1. Draft a plan on situation analysis related to the right of children to be free from violence. As yourself the question “you are writing this report to change or affect what?” and answer it. Decide which information is important for you. At this stage, the indicators set you have will guide you on what information needs to be collected.
2. Go over your documents, printed materials and information files.
3. Identify issues where there are information/data gaps and gather more information if necessary.
4. Analyze data/information you have.
5. If you feel it necessary, gather more information and deepen your analysis.
6. Draft your report on the situation analysis of the right of children to be free from violence.
7. Consult to all relevant parties with your draft report and check the accuracy of your analysis.
8. Finalize your situation analysis report on the right of children to be free from violence and start thinking about the plan and strategy to guide what you will be doing after reporting. Think about actions to change/promote your report, to record progress in critical issues. Don’t forget that you can use your report in more than one way!

(Module 5 is developed by using “Monitoring Children’s Rights, A Toolkit for Community-Based Organizations, 2003” published by the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children)







# Annexes

## Annex 1

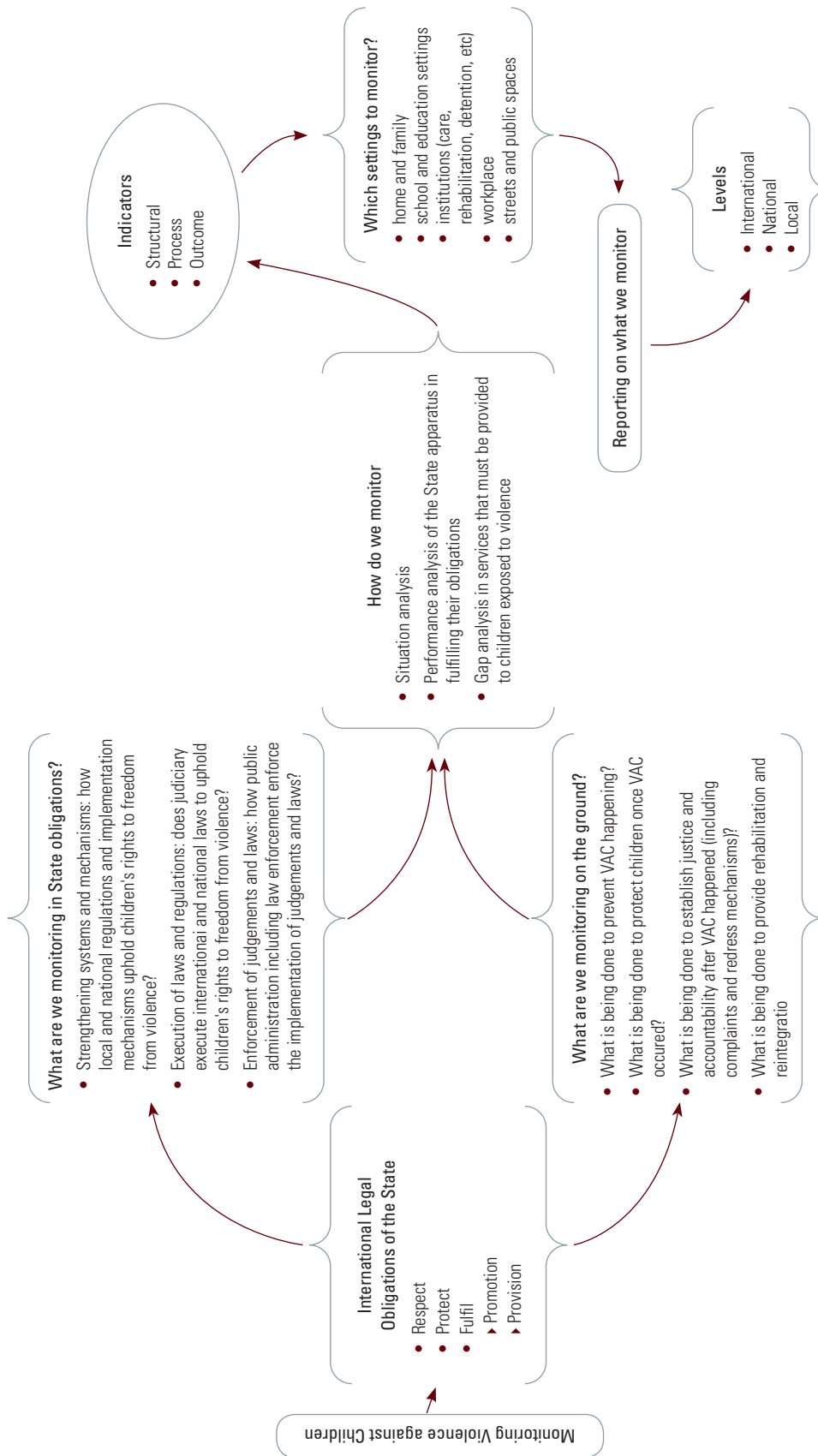
### Checklist for Monitoring Violence against Children by Indicators

The following is a summary checklist of activities necessary to produce a community monitoring report:

- Grub
- Inform your group about the tools to be used and the way to be followed for the purpose of monitoring violence against children on the basis of indicators.
- Set up a monitoring team capable of monitoring violence against children by using indicators.
- Inform all team members about principles and processes related to monitoring violence against children on the basis of indicators.
- Identify the focal point in monitoring violence against children on the basis of indicators and document the status of your community in relation to this focal point.
- Using your team's existing strengths, allocate resources and plan for the development of your monitoring report(s).
- Report the characteristics of your team, the characteristics of your community and the CRC focus / situation being monitored.
- Report key background information on the legislation, policy and practices that have an impact on your situation.
- Report objectively about what community members are saying about the situation and how it can be improved.
- Document your community's assets, strengths and challenges in providing for the rights of children given the situation you have described.
- Develop a local communications strategy. Discuss ways of sharing the information your group has collected and ways to ensure that your work has an impact not only at the national level but also at the community/local level.

## Annex 2

# VAC Monitoring Flowchart







## References

- Action for the rights of children, resource pack 2009, ARC Study Material 2009. <http://www.arc-online.org>
- Guide for non-Governmental organizations reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on the Implementation of the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography  
<http://www.cocukhaklariizleme.org/wp-docs/28.doc>
- Guide for non-Governmental organizations reporting on violence against children to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child  
<http://www.cocukhaklariizleme.org/wp-docs/icc-violence.doc>
- Monitoring Children's Rights, A Toolkit for Community-Based Organizations (Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children)  
<http://www.cocukhaklariizleme.org/wp-docs/26.doc>
- Guide for Non-governmental organization reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child  
<http://www.cocukhaklariizleme.org/wp-docs/27.doc>
- Minimum Standards in Consulting to Children  
<http://www.cocukhaklariizleme.org/wp-docs/icc-minimum-standards.doc>
- Manual for Children for Monitoring and Reporting on the Implementation of Child Rights  
<http://www.cocukhaklariizleme.org/wp-docs/67.pdf>
- Children as Change Agents: Guidelines for child participation in periodic reporting on the Convention on the Rights of the Child  
<http://www.cocukhaklariizleme.org/wp-docs/child-participation-guide-for-reporting.docx>
- General Comment No. 8 (2008) The Right of the Child to Protection from Corporal Punishment and Other Cruel or Degrading Forms of Punishment  
<http://www.cocukhaklariizleme.org/wp-content/uploads/UN-CHK-Genel-Yorumlar-2006-2008.pdf>
- General Comment No. 13 (2011) Article 19: The right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence (UN Committee on the Rights of the Child)  
<http://www.cocukhaklariizleme.org/wp-content/uploads/GCs-11-12-13-2008-2011.pdf>
- Manual for Non-governmental Organizations for Monitoring of and Reporting on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child <http://www.cocukhaklariizleme.org/wp-docs/69.pdf>
- ICC - Manual for Non-governmental Organizations for Monitoring of and Reporting on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, [www.cocukhaklariizleme.org](http://www.cocukhaklariizleme.org)
- Lansdown, G. & UNICEF. Innocenti Research Centre. (2005). The evolving capacities of the child. Florence, Italy: Save the Children : UNICEF. p. 3.
- Monitoring Children's Rights, A Toolkit for Community-Based Organizations, [www.rightsofchildren.ca](http://www.rightsofchildren.ca)
- UN. Independent Expert for the United Nations Study on Violence against Children., & Pinheiro, P. (2006). World report on violence against children. Geneva: UN. pp 63-66.
- UNICEF Turkey (2013). Violence against Children Monitoring Indicators: A Guide for Civil Society Organizations in Turkey.





Partnership Network  
for Preventing Violence  
Against the Child