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T-Watoto Survey on
Violence Against
Children in Zanzibar

Communities and families are often the first and most effective structures in preventing and responding to violence against women and children. In 2017, the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, through the Planning Commission, with support from UNICEF, conducted a T-Watoto survey to generate evidence for a better understanding of communities' attitudes and practices regarding violence against children. The T-Watoto survey is a mobile phone-based participatory platform that surveyed 4,074 respondents across all districts in Unguja and Pemba.

The findings of the T-Watoto Survey will inform the implementation of the Government of Zanzibar's *National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children 2017—2022* in engaging with communities to effectively prevent and respond to violence against children.

Awareness and understanding of violence against children in the community

Violence against children is a key concern for community members.

99% of respondents reported that they are concerned that children in their communities are at risk of violence.

6 out of 10 respondents reported that violence against children is common in their communities.

Sexual violence against children is the most common form of violence **(65%)** reported by communities.

4 out of 5 respondents reported that children are most likely to be sexually abused by someone they know rather than by a stranger.

The three most common reported locations where sexual violence against children occurs are:

at home

in the neighbourhood

at school or travelling to and from school/madrassa

Attitudes towards physical violence against children

Physical violence against children is reported as common at home and in schools. However, physical punishment is often not considered by communities as violence against children and significant numbers of community members see physical punishment as a necessary child-rearing practice.

4 out of 10
respondents reported that children are often physically punished by their parents.

Over **1 in 3** respondents report that it is necessary to physically punish children to raise them well.

6 out of 10
respondents reported that children are often physically punished by their teachers.

1 in 2 respondents reported that it is necessary for teachers to physically punish children to ensure that they are well educated.

How communities respond to and report violence against children

Sexual violence is considered the most common form of violence against children and communities demonstrate good knowledge of where it happens and by whom. However, while community members demonstrate a willingness to intervene in cases of sexual violence, in practice, most cases are not reported to official authorities and are dealt with privately within communities.

9 out of 10
respondents reported that they would be willing to intervene if they heard about a case of sexual violence against a child.

The police and Sheha were reported by respondents as the two main points where respondents would seek help.

7 out of 10
respondents reported that most cases of violence against children are dealt with privately rather than being reported to official authorities.

Fear of retribution by the offender or the offender's family is the reason most commonly cited for not reporting cases of violence against children.

4 out of 10 respondents reported that sexual violence is a private matter to be handled in the family.

The way forward

Violence against children is not inevitable. It is possible to break the cycle of violence. A key focus of the new *National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children 2017–2022* is on working to support capacities at the community level to prevent and respond to violence. Six identified critical community-focused strategic interventions include:

Research — to better understand existing communities' practices and entry points for connecting informal and formal protection systems;

Support Community-based Protection Mechanisms — through the operationalization of community structures at the Shehia and village level to prevent and respond to violence;

Support Parents and Families — through the roll out of parenting and family support interventions to promote positive parenting practices including positive discipline;

Address Violence Against Children in Schools and Madrassas — by amending legislation and supporting the development of a national programme of violence prevention in educational settings;

Address Social Norms — through the development of a communication strategy and key partnerships in promoting positive social norms and addressing harmful behaviours; and

Recruit Social Welfare Officers — to provide support to families and children in their communities to prevent and respond to violence.