Implementation of the Inter-Agency Expert Group's recommendations on data related to violence against children

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The purpose and process of performing the analysis

**Purpose:** To map and evaluate sources of administrative data on violence against children in order to contribute to strengthening the system's response to child violence in Montenegro.

**Objectives:**

- Improving the collection of data on violence against children through the review and evaluation of sources of administrative data in the sectors of health, education, social welfare, internal affairs and judiciary, with further recommendations for improving such sources;

- Assessment of relevant indicators on violence against children against international standards and guidelines;

- Supporting ministries to report on the implementation of the *Strategy for the Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence 2017-2021* (recommendations for further operationalization of the nine indicators defined by the Strategy).
Partners

The institutions included in the mapping exercise:

- Ministry of Justice,
- Judicial Council,
- Professional Service of the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office,
- Ministry of Health,
- Institute for Public Health,
- Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare,
- Institute for Social and Child Protection,
- Ministry of Interior,
- Police Directorate,
- Ministry of Education,
- Bureau for Education,
- Statistical Office of Montenegro - Monstat.
The Interagency Expert Group on SDG Indicators has defined a framework for monitoring SDG achievements globally, which includes a set of indicators for which countries are expected to collect statistics to measure progress towards SDGs.

**SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**

**16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere**
- 16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age
- 16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause
- 16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months
- 16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live

**16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children**
- 16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month
- 16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation
- 16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

**16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all**
- 16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms
- 16.3.2 Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population
The research framework

➢ UN 2030 Agenda: Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 16.1-16.3.)


➢ TransMonEE database.

➢ Inter-Agency Expert Group on Data related to Violence against Children - MONSTAT as a member.

Strategy for Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence 2017-2021

➢ The Strategy features 9 formulated indicators for monitoring the progress in achieving the goals of the Strategy.

➢ Cross-sectoral approach at each level, both local and national; the coordination of the Strategy implementation takes place on a rotating basis.

➢ Specific strategic objective no. 6: Designing a monitoring, evaluation and research system is of paramount importance in the context of collecting and processing data related to violence against children and provides a starting point for significant improvements in this area in all relevant sectors. Its two sub-objectives are:
  - (6.1) Develop and operationalize the indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the work addressing violence against children in electronic format (databases of the MLSW, MoI, JIS, MoH and MEdu)
  - (6.2) Connect and network all of the databases held by the relevant ministries, in relation to violence against children

➢ It is necessary to improve the quality of the Strategy indicators (baseline and target values), but it is commendable that they are formulated as such and cover different aspects of children.
The most important features and challenges regarding the quality of data on violence against children in Montenegro

- Definitions of violence against children
- Methodology
- Data sources
- Data collection methods
- Data quality
- Cooperation between administrative sources
Conclusions

➢ There is no unique definition of violence against children.

➢ Definitions of indicators within national crime statistics differ from those of Eurostat and UNICEF, meaning that data are not comparable at international level.

➢ There is no national level set of indicators related to violence against children.

➢ There is no established set of variables related to violence against children, but each sector routinely collects data according to its activity and the regulations governing it.

➢ Currently, there is no coordinating (centralized) body or institution which could ensure effective coordination between the various sectors and their institutions.

➢ There is limited automatic exchange of data between administrative sources.

➢ One of the Monstat’s priorities is to shift from survey methods to using administrative sources of data, as well as adoption of International Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes. (ICCS)
Recommendations

➢ Establish a coordinating (centralized) body to ensure effective coordination between different sectors and their institutions.

➢ Formulate a minimum set of national-level indicators and definitions for all sectors.

➢ Establish a cross-sectoral working group.

➢ Define the minimum of variables collected by each sector.

➢ Improve the quality of data from administrative sources.

➢ Work on prescribing data sharing practices/signing agreements on sharing information and data on violence against children at the national level to allow for automated data sharing.

➢ Work on harmonizing crime classifications with international classifications, i.e. on establishing uniform definitions in the field of crime (including violence against children).

➢ Determine baselines and targets for all 9 indicators of the Strategy for Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence 2017-2021.
Thank you for your attention!