



Save the Children



SCSC Endline Report

**END OF PROJECT EVALUATION FOR SAVE THE CHILDREN'S SAFE COMMUNITIES,
SAFE CHILDREN PROJECT IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA (2017–2021)**



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ANCP	Australian NGO Cooperation Program
ARoB	Autonomous Region of Bougainville
CHW	Community health worker
CO	Country office
CP	Child Protection
DFAT	(Australian) Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
FGD	Focus group discussion
GBV	Gender-based violence
GEDSI	Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion
HEO	Health extension officer
INGO	International non-governmental organisation
KI	Key informant
KII	Key informant interview(s)
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PwV	Parenting without Violence
SC	Save the Children
SCiPNG	Save the Children in Papua New Guinea
SCSC	Safe Communities, Safe Children project
ToR	Terms of reference
UN	United Nations

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Child abuse

Child abuse consists of anything which individuals, institutions or processes do or fail to do which directly or indirectly harms a child or damages their prospect of safe and healthy development into adulthood. The main categories of abuse as defined by WHO are physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect and negligent treatment, sexual abuse and exploitation

Domestic violence

More commonly known today as Intimate Partner Violence to highlight the distinction from family violence, and due to recognition that violence experienced in most households is perpetuated by intimate partners. It includes all forms of violence perpetrated against an intimate partner for example, but not limited to, physical, sexual and emotional violence

Emotional abuse / Emotional violence

Emotional or psychological abuse includes humiliating and degrading treatment such as bad name calling, constant criticism, belittling, persistent shaming, solitary confinement and isolation

Exploitation Sexual or economic

Any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power or trust, for sexual or economic purposes, including, but not limited to profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual or economic exploitation of a child

Family violence

Family violence includes violence that occurs within family networks, including but not limited to parents, aunties, uncles, grandparents, siblings

Gender Based Violence

Violence directed at an individual based on his or her sex, gender identity or expression of socially defined norms of masculinity and femininity. Both men and women can experience GBV, but because rates among women are significantly greater, the term GBV and violence against women are often used interchangeably

Neglect and negligent treatment

A failure to meet a child's basic human rights; access to healthcare when needed (including immunisations), access to education, suitable clothing, adequate housing, adequate nutrition

Parenting without Violence

The Parenting without Violence approach has been designed by SCI as a universal preventative program for use in development and humanitarian contexts to prevent physical and humiliating punishment of children and to improve positive parenting capacities of fathers, mothers, and caregivers of girls and boys of all ages. Parenting without Violence is a gender-sensitive, inclusive approach implemented by Save the Children (SC) teams around the world to promote home environments that are safe, respectful, loving and nurturing places for children to grow. SC teams work with parents, communities and children to transform power dynamics, gender norms and parenting/caregiving practices in the home. They also work with governments to strengthen systems and mechanisms that protect children.

Physical abuse / Physical violence

Physical abuse involves the use of violent physical force, or threat of force, so as to cause actual or likely physical injury or suffering (e.g. hitting, shaking, burning, torture)

Physical and humiliating punishment

Physical and humiliating punishment describes a wide array of disciplining methods used by adults towards children, which may include corporal or physical punishment, and the threat of it, as well as psychological punishment that belittles, scares or ridicules the child.

Positive discipline

Positive discipline is defined by the Save the Children's Child Protection Global Theme as an approach to parenting that teaches children and guides their behaviour, while respecting their right to healthy development, protection from violence and participation in their learning.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Context of the evaluation

Papua New Guinea (PNG) has taken significant strides in the last five years towards building a national child protection system which is founded on legal and policy frameworks that enable the protection of children¹. Growing commitment to child protection within government authorities such as the PNG Office for Child and Family Services, is evidenced by Papua New Guinea's recent entry in 2021 into the ranks of the global End Violence Against Children initiative as a Pathfinding country. This represents a clear and demonstrable commitment towards augmenting the official understanding of drivers of violence against children, as well as building an integrated response that will enhance the lives of children and young people in PNG².

Such commitment is not only welcome but essential in a context where children's lived reality continues to be characterised by pervasive physical, emotional and sexual violence, both witnessed and directly experienced, in the form of domestic gender-based violence, intimate partner violence, child abuse and neglect, within the home as well as in the community³. Save the Children has been actively engaged in advocating for a strengthened child protection system in PNG since 2000, while simultaneously working very closely with children, caregivers, informal and formal child protection stakeholders and professionals, and community leaders, to implement initiatives that work to directly address immediate needs and realise the rights of the most deprived and marginalized children.

From 2017 through 2021, Save the Children in Papua New Guinea implemented the Safe Communities, Safe Children (SCSC) program with support from the Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

The SCSC project aimed to protect children in Morobe Province and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARoB) by strengthening existing protective structures, improving links between formal and informal child protection systems and conducting research to inform best practice child protection interventions in PNG. Save the Children's Parenting without Violence (PwV) Common Approach was adopted as the main intervention strategy to prevent physical and humiliating punishment of children in the home and community, and improve positive parenting capacities of fathers, mothers, and caregivers.

¹ UNICEF, 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/png/what-we-do/child-protection>

² <https://www.end-violence.org/pathfinding-countries>

³ UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, UNFPA Asia and Pacific Regional Office, and UN Women Asia and Pacific Regional Office, Ending Violence against Women and Children in Papua New Guinea: Opportunities and Challenges for Collaborative and Integrative Approaches, Bangkok: UNICEF, 2020. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/eap/reports/ending-violence-against-women-and-children-papua-new-guinea>

Evaluation methodology and purpose

This report presents the findings and recommendations of the SCSC endline evaluation. This evaluation took the form of a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) study implemented as a part of the project's monitoring and evaluation plan, using a mixed method design which solicited responses from children, parents and caregivers, professional stakeholders and community leaders, using tools designed for the baseline evaluation in 2018. The evaluation presents findings in answer to five evaluation questions, in order to 1) improve program quality and learning in Save the Children programmes and prepare for further child protection programming; 2) inform policy dialogues for the Office for Child and Family Services, Department of Community Development and other child protection stakeholders; and 3) contribute shared learning and inform ANCP and DFAT donor accountability.

FINDINGS

Evaluation question 1: *What impact did the project have on children in targeted communities being better protected from violence?*

- Parents and caregivers in Morobe and ARoB demonstrate significantly improved positive discipline in everyday parenting, compared to the baseline data collected for relevant indicators. This includes:
 - A significant increase in parents or caregivers indicating that they sometimes, mostly or almost always explain wrong behaviour in ways that children can understand;
 - Reported use of physical punishment has significantly decreased from the very high levels observed during the SCSC baseline assessment, although children do still experience some physical violence as punishment. Substance abuse was cited by children as a risk factor in higher likelihood of physical violence;
 - Fewer parents and caregivers indicated using verbal or emotional violent punishment such as shouting, threatening, cursing at children;
 - In Morobe, children feel significantly safer to communicate experiences of violence to family members after participating in the SCSC Parenting without Violence sessions, but in ARoB, children – and especially boys – feel slightly less safe to do so.
- Parents from both genders across participating communities in both provinces gained in their understanding of positive discipline over the course of the SCSC project.

Evaluation question 2: What impact did the project have on community-based child protection systems working more effectively to provide improved access to services for girls and boys?

- Parental/caregiver knowledge of abuse has increased since the baseline assessment, although verbal abuse tends to be slightly less likely to be seen as abuse. The percentage of targeted professionals who correctly identified abuse increased less significantly than for parents/caregivers.
- In ARoB, violence against children with disabilities consistently tended to be least likely to be correctly identified as abuse. This was not the case in Morobe, where parents seemed to be more aware of children with disabilities' equal right to protection.
- Parents tended to have low awareness of legal and policy provisions and frameworks guiding child protection.
- Evidence from this report suggests that many child abuse cases seem to still go unreported:

Although parents and caregivers mostly know where to report abuse, only 27% indicated that they would go there to report a case of abuse, and this implies that some child abuse cases are going unreported. In Morobe, targeted professionals seemed less certain about the existence of community-based/local reporting mechanisms (73%) than in ARoB (83%). Here too, in both communities, professionals who know where to report abuse (85%) are not necessarily likely to go there to report abuse (only 51% would).

Community leaders, although very positive about the project's results, were only slightly more likely than during the baseline stage, to report abuse cases to district or provincial welfare officials.

Evaluation question 3: What impact did the project have on government systems and authorities being better informed about child protection interventions?

- Save the Children engaged strategically over the project period to influence relevant narratives and disseminate relevant messaging.

Evaluation question 4: How relevant were the SCSC project interventions for all project beneficiaries?

- Parents and community leaders were especially likely to feel that the project targeted priority needs related to day-to-day parenting and protection of children;
- Some parents and caregivers requested training to be of shorter duration, as they struggle to attend 12 consecutive weekly sessions;
- Community leaders felt that the project should have been better aligned with ongoing government initiatives, and that similar or parallel initiatives should be implemented by government to continue the progress;
- Male and female participants considered the project to have been relevant to their parenting needs.

Evaluation question 5: How sustainable were the activities of the SCSC project?

- 80% of parents say that they will continue using newly gained skills, however, parents are less inclined to recommend approaches to friends or family, due to contextual/cultural norms;

- At community level, the project strengthened existing structures and actors, increasing likelihood of sustained application of skills gained and benefit to a larger reach of children than those reached during the project period. The project also sparked some coordination between actors which should increase sustainability;
- At national level, sustainability of the policy discourse is to some degree guaranteed by PNG's new status as global End Violence Against Children pathfinder country, as well as by the existence of platforms such as the CP Alliance founded by Save the Children. The existing gap in social welfare workforce numbers, if taken in conjunction with underreporting of child abuse evidenced by this report's findings, however presents a threat to sustainability unless addressed through investment in building the social welfare workforce, both in number and capacity to implement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Protecting children from violence:

- Differentiate interventions in order to seek out and address the needs of especially adopted children, and children with disabilities;
- Research rights violations for adopted children in PNG, especially in the context of the right to protection, and recommend strategies for mitigating related challenges in order to promote realisation of their rights;
- Implement strategies which work in contextually-sensitive ways to counter attitudes and practices which may make it harder for boys (and men) to communicate experiences of violence or vulnerability.
- Integrate linkages/referrals to partners who focus on interventions that reduce or prevent substance abuse.

Strengthening community-based child protection systems to provide improved access to services for boys and girls:

- Promote awareness about the negative effects of what may be regarded by parents as “milder” forms of physical and emotional punishment, including smacks on the bottom, and shouting at children, especially in ARoB.
- Address gender-based root causes of violence against children that fuels violence in the home, and measure changes in attitudes and behaviour on gender equality.
- Strengthen violence-free-homes messaging to protect children from not only experiencing violence, but from witnessing violence too.
- Assess the degree to which abuse cases are reported, and explore barriers/obstacles that cause cases to go unreported. Ensure that this learning informs future case management or alternative care projects.
- Advocate for an increase in funded social welfare officers (social workers, district/provincial welfare officers), and consider rolling out case management capacity building that targets improvement of the child protection system at various levels (eg. Save the Children's Steps to Protect Common Approach).

- Advocate for PwV to be streamlined into cross-thematic and integrated programming with a larger reach, that can operate at scale and influence more families and stakeholders while simultaneously addressing some of the causal factors of vulnerability to abuse.

Promoting awareness among government systems and authorities about child protection interventions

- Leverage the augmented awareness achieved within government through the SCSC project in order to increase alignment with existing and new government initiatives.
- Conduct a project close-out meeting or advocacy roundtable with government and key inter-agency partners, to share findings from the endline evaluation.

Relevance of Parenting without Violence interventions

- Strengthen inputs and strategies with which PwV training participants are equipped so that they have greater capacity to reduce reliance on non-physical abuse (emotional, verbal, psychological).
- Decrease the length of training sessions.

Increasing sustainability of Parenting without Violence interventions

- Mobilise the broader community more actively to create an enabling environment before involving families in PwV. This should take into account cultural, gender and societal norms which may make it harder for training participants to apply, talk about or recommend positive discipline approaches to families or acquaintances, in order to act on the finding from this report which shows that parents and caregivers feel hesitant to recommend parenting practices to others.

Improving Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)

- Carry out a comprehensive Gender, Disability and Social Inclusion Analysis prior to future child protection initiatives
- Engage civil society organisations to support the project to deliver better outcomes related to Gender, Disability and Social Inclusion.
- Strengthen MEAL systems to ensure that GEDSI sensitive data is collected, monitored and used to be able to make changes to project implementation in 'real time'.
- Ensure that all future Save the Children CP programming includes access to, and input from a Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Advisor to ensure that projects align with government and non-government priorities and learning from this project can be embedded across sectors at all levels.





1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Save the Children in Papua New Guinea (SCiPNG), and Save the Children Australia, conducted an endline evaluation as a part of the Safe Communities, Safe Children (SCSC) project's monitoring and evaluation framework. This endline evaluation is intended to inform learning for future program implementation, and accountability to project donors, implementors and beneficiaries.

1.2 Project description: Safe Communities, Safe Children in Papua New Guinea

Children in Papua New Guinea are subject to exceptionally high levels of physical, emotional and sexual violence. While there are no nationally representative data on violence against children, data from small-scale studies and community consultations reflect the sheer pervasiveness of child violence in the community and within families. In PNG 70% of children suffer physical abuse and 50% face family violence, estimated as amongst the highest rates in the world outside a conflict zone⁴.

With support from the Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), Save the Children implemented the Safe Communities, Safe Children (SCSC) program from 2017 through 2021. The goal of the SCSC project was to protect children in Morobe Province and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARoB) by strengthening existing protective structures, improving links between formal and informal child protection systems and conducting research to inform best practice child protection interventions in PNG.

SCSC aimed to achieve three key programme outcomes:

- 1. Targeted children in 30 communities are better protected from violence and discrimination by family and community members.**
- 2. Community-based child protection systems in 30 target communities are working more effectively with local and national systems to provide improved access to services for girls and boys.**
- 3. National and local government systems, authorities and other key stakeholders are better informed about child protection interventions in PNG with a robust evidence base.**

⁴ Save the Children, 2018. Papua New Guinea Child Protection Advocacy Strategy and Work Plan.

1.3 The Parenting without Violence (PwV) Common Approach

Each of Save the Children's Common Approaches is developed to address a specific problem that children face in many contexts around the world. Common Approaches help to ensure that the organisation is using approaches that represent its best understanding of what works, in order to achieve lasting change for children. Parenting without Violence is a gender-sensitive, inclusive approach implemented by Save the Children (SC) teams around the world to promote home environments that are safe, respectful, loving and nurturing places for children to grow. SC teams work with parents, communities and children to transform power dynamics, gender norms and parenting/caregiving practices in the home. They also work with governments to strengthen systems and mechanisms that protect children. Implementing Common Approaches, such as Parenting without Violence, enables Save the Children to more easily measure successes and learn from failures⁵.

The Safe Communities, Safe Children (SCSC) project adopted Save the Children's PwV Common Approach to prevent physical and humiliating punishment of children in the home and community, and improve positive parenting capacities of fathers, mothers, and caregivers. The approach was implemented alongside a project strategy that targeted multiple levels to maximise impact; children, parents/caregivers, community leaders and professionals who work with children, and at societal level working with national level partners including government departments. This strategy drew on the socio-ecological framework in which the Parenting without Violence approach is embedded:

Figure 1. Socio-ecological framework for PwV Common Approach (opposite page)

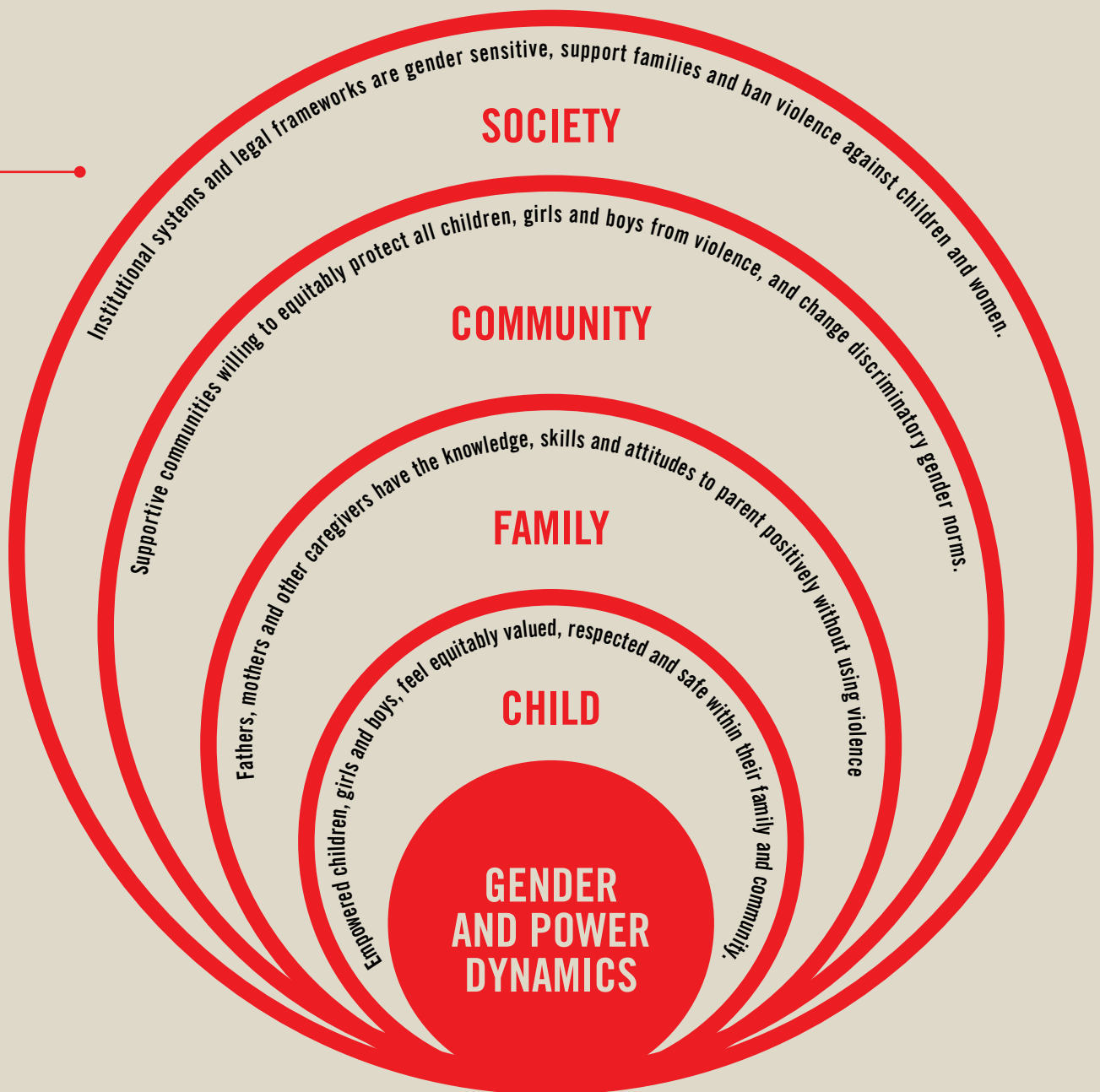
The framework is child-centered, emphasizing the role of the child as an active citizen within the context of their family, community and society. This enables the identification of protection risks and needs at every level, and recognizes that it is necessary to work across levels to holistically address issues that arise as a result of ways in which different environments interface⁶.

Implementation of the PwV approach is always accompanied by a robust learning, monitoring and evaluation agenda. Findings and data from this endline evaluation report in PNG are likely to contribute learning not only to the national programme, policy and donor contexts, but also to the broader global PwV and child protection systems strengthening learning agendas actively managed by Save the Children at regional and international levels.

⁵ Save the Children, 2020. A Catalogue of Common Approaches (internal document).

⁶ Save the Children, 2018. Parenting without Violence Common Approach Comprehensive Package (internal document).

The framework is child-centered, emphasizing the role of the child as an active citizen within the context of their family, community and society.



2. EVALUATION PURPOSE, AUDIENCE, OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

Audience for the endline evaluation report and recommendations

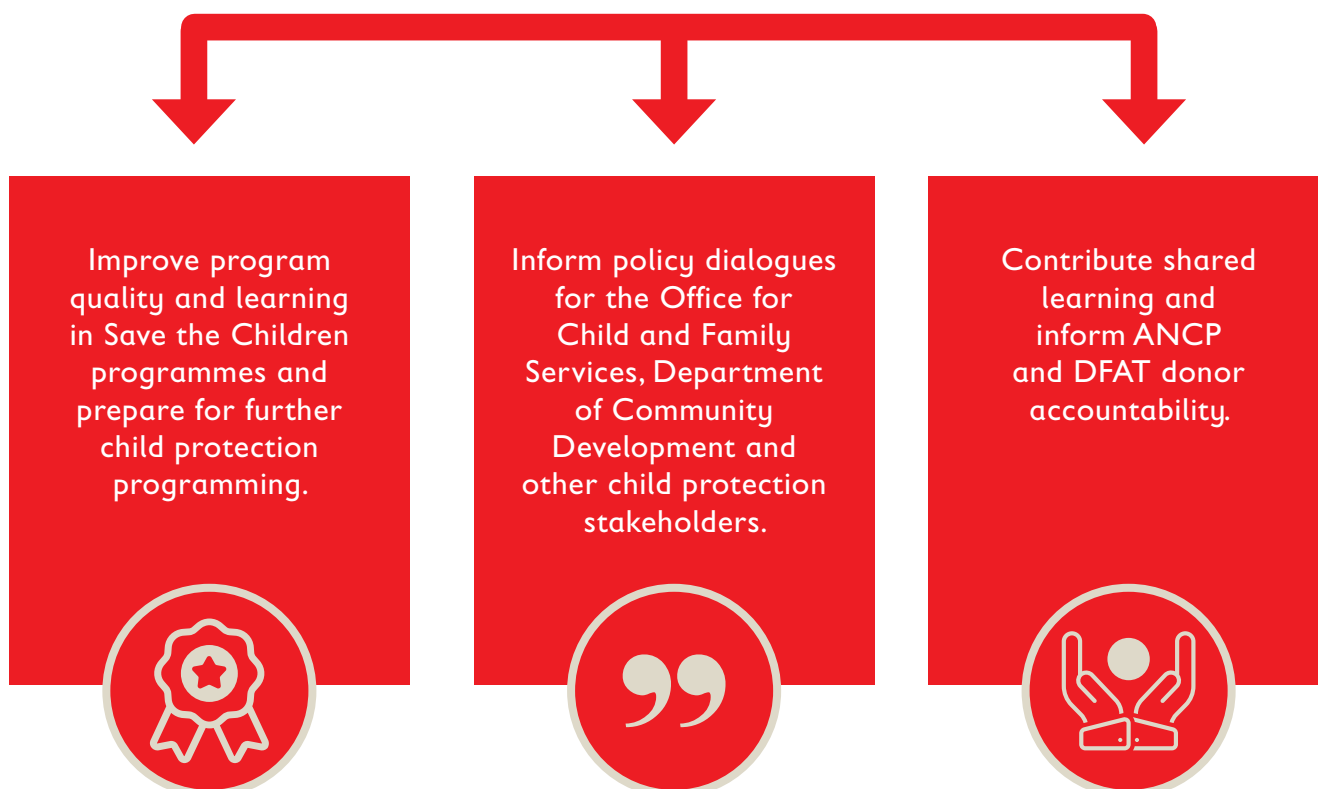
The primary audience for this report is Save the Children and the donor, as well as the PNG Office for Child and Family Services, and child protection stakeholders in Papua New Guinea and the region.

Evaluation objectives

Purpose:

The SCSC end of project evaluation is an evidence generation exercise with multiple purposes for different audiences.

Findings and recommendations in final report



Objectives of the evaluation:

1. Allow the project management team, project partners and stakeholders to make improvements in child protection programming.
2. Demonstrate accountability for the funding received from DFAT, and to partners and communities involved in the program.
3. Gather lessons learned from the project for the purpose of replicating what works elsewhere, for use by Save the Children, partners, stakeholders and the PNG Government.
4. Leverage funding and resources to upscale child protection programming, and to sustain the benefits delivered by the project.
5. To inform the wider policy debate concerning the protection of children, especially for use by national and international child protection stakeholders, donors, academic institutions and child protection networks

Evaluation questions:

1. **What impact did the project have on children in targeted communities being better protected from violence?**

2. **What impact did the project have on community-based child protection systems working more effectively to provide improved access to services for girls and boys?**

3. **What impact did the project have on government systems and authorities being better informed about child protection interventions?**

4. **How relevant were the SCSC project interventions for all project beneficiaries?**

5. **How sustainable were the activities of the SCSC project?**

**THE EVALUATION
COVERS 3 DISTRICTS
IN EACH OF THE
2 PROVINCES.**



MOROBE COMMUNITIES



AROB COMMUNITIES

3. METHODOLOGY

The SCSC endline evaluation was conducted using a mixed method design. The purpose of mixed methods research is to draw from the positive aspects of both research paradigms to better answer the research question⁷. The SCSC endline evaluation employed mixed methodology to triangulate insights from the analysis of quantitative endline data, baseline-endline comparison, and qualitative data obtained from a representative sample of children, caregivers and child protection actors in order to answer evaluation questions.

Actual sample of participants

Sampling was conducted by Save the Children, utilising similar sampling methodology as during the baseline study conducted in 2018. Sampling was a mix of stratified random sampling and purposeful sampling.

The tables below depict actual sampling, that is, actual participants by community and province.

Table 1. Parents and caregivers in ARoB: Actual sample size

PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS ACTUAL SAMPLE: AROB					
Community	Male	Female	Gender not specified	(Number of survey participants who attended PwV training)	Total
Ameu	3	16	0	2	19
Binau	12	9	0	3	21
Buin	2	5	0	0	7
Dapera	4	9	0	2	13
Detotoro	6	4	0	2	10
Evoku	5	5	0	2	10
Kodora	1	8	0	2	9
Kuhikau	0	11	0	0	11
Loloho	4	6	0	0	10
Manop	4	4	0	1	8
Numa (Wakunai)	6	12	0	5	18
Rorovana	0	1	0	0	1
Sivatava	7	9	0	4	16
Sovele	1	19	1	1	21
Topo	1	7	0	3	8
Wanin	8	4	1	1	13
Community not specified	3	3	0	0	6
TOTAL	67	132	2	28	201

⁷ Baran, M.L. & Jones, J.E., 2020. Applied Social Science Approaches to Mixed Methods Research

Table 2. Parents and caregivers in Morobe: Actual sample size

PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS ACTUAL SAMPLE: MOROBE					
<i>Community</i>	Male	Female	Gender not specified	(Number of survey participants who attended PwV training)	Total
Baiyune	2	30	2	7	34
Bundi Camp	0	2	0	0	2
Care Centre Kamkumung	1	0	0	0	1
Care Center Bulolo	10	19	2	13	31
Intsi	4	6	1	3	11
Kamkumung settlement	7	7	1	7	15
Kamkumungse Village	7	21	1	6	29
New Camp	0	1	0	1	1
Ngariawang	4	14	1	4	19
Pikus 1	4	12	1	5	17
Pikus 2	0	2	1	1	3
Sampunbangin	3	18	3	3	24
Tanam	5	29	1	7	35
Tent City	6	14	0	4	20
Waritsian	9	4	1	3	14
Watut	0	4	0	0	4
Community not specified	5	4	1	3	10
TOTAL	67	187	16	67	270

Table 3. Children's stories participants: Actual sample size

CHILDREN'S STORIES PARTICIPANTS ACTUAL SAMPLE: COMBINED, AGES 6-8			
ARoB		Morobe	
Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
178	213	163	267

Table 4. Key informants (professionals) in ARoB: actual sample size

KEY INFORMANTS (PROFESSIONALS) ACTUAL SAMPLE: AROB							
Community	CHW	HEO	Nurse	Other local professional	Police	Teacher	Total
Ameu	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
Binau	0	0	1	0	1	1	3
Buin	0	1	0	0	1	1	3
Dapera	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
Detotoro	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Evoku	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
Kodora	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Kuhikau	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
Loloho	0	0	1	0	1	1	3
Manop	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
Numa (Wakunai)	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Rorovana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sivatava	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Sovele	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Topo	0	0	1	0	1	1	3
Wanin	0	0	1	0	1	1	3
TOTAL	5	2	6	1	10	15	39

Table 5. Key informants (professionals) in Morobe: actual sample size

KEY INFORMANTS (PROFESSIONALS) ACTUAL SAMPLE: MOROBE								
Community	CHW	HEO	Nurse	Other local	Police	Teacher	Total	
Baiyune	0	0	0	1	0	3	4	
Bundi Camp	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Care Centre Kamkumung	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Care Center Bulolo	0	0	0	3	1	4	8	
Intsi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Kamkumung settlement	0	0	0	1	2	4	7	
Kamkumungse Village	0	0	0	3	1	1	5	
New Camp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ngariawang	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Pikus 1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Pikus 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Sampunbangin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tanam	0	0	0	1	0	4	5	
Tent City	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	
Waritsian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Watut	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	
Not specified (all in Lae district)	0	0	0	1	4	14	19	
TOTAL	0	0	0	11	9	36	56	

Table 6. Community leaders: actual sample size

COMMUNITY LEADERS ACTUAL SAMPLE: COMBINED	
ARoB	Morobe
25	79

Data collection

The collection of data was conducted by Save the Children in PNG, with the involvement of various stakeholders including project management, national and provincial officials, community leaders, children and caregivers.

The Save the Children data collection team used the same tools as used in the baseline, with some minor amendments where required. The tools attempted to ensure disaggregation of data by sex, age, disability where possible.

Methods of data collection include:

- **Desk review of baseline and other relevant literature**
- **Key informant interviews (KIIs)**
- **Focus group discussions (FGD)**
- **Data validation workshop**

Tools/instruments:

- **TOOL 1: Parent survey**

Parents and caregivers of children aged between six and eight years old were interviewed using a semi-structured survey tool that was contextualized from Save the Children's Analytical Capacity Project (ACP2) tools for the 2018 baseline. This tool was used to collect both qualitative and quantitative data.

- **TOOL 2: Interactive Stories with Children**

Like in the baseline, girls and boys aged 6-8 were separated into small groups based on sex to listen to gender-sensitive and age-appropriate stories and provided with visual materials. Thereafter they were asked a series of yes/no questions rating their level of familiarity or association with the experiences of the characters presented. The entire process was completely anonymous, with no identifying information retained.

- **TOOL 3: Focus Group Discussions with Community Leaders**

Focus Group Discussions were conducted with community leaders using an interview guide consisting of a set of pre-determined questions and guidelines designed to collect quantitative and qualitative data. This guide was developed in the 2018 Baseline study and was updated to collect data on key evaluation questions for the endline.

- **TOOL 4: Interviews with key informants**

Interviews were conducted with key informants in the communities, including professionals from the health, education and legal sector. KIIs were conducted using an interview guide developed for the 2018 baseline.

Due to lack of authenticated data on KIIs per community and anecdotal data suggesting limited number of informants per community, it was proposed that one KII is selected at random in each community from the three sectors (legal, health and education). Key informants included:

- **Nurses**
- **Magistrates**
- **Health extension officers**
- **Community health workers**
- **Police**
- **Teachers**

Analytical framework

Three principles were adhered to for analysing collected data, and interpreting data to respond to evaluation questions:

- The SCSC logical framework (goal, outcomes and indicators) was used to anchor the analysis, enabling investigation of the extent to which outcomes have been achieved, in terms of progress or otherwise against baseline data.
- Analysis for each evaluation question aimed to draw on both quantitative and qualitative data, to more meaningfully describe and explain findings.
- In as far as available data allowed, findings for each evaluation question were informed by analysing triangulated data from all of the tools, contextualised to PNG, and analysis aims to be gender- and disability-sensitive.

Data was transferred to MS-Excel for cleaning. Descriptive statistical analysis was conducted using SPSS software, where relevant, and further manual analysis of quantitative data in MS-Excel, and of qualitative data provided, was conducted by the consultant. Qualitative data was reviewed manually to record and explore themes, for the purpose of triangulation, and to provide observations for further interpretation of quantitative findings.

The following techniques were applied to analyse data from respective tools:

Parent survey	MS-Excel for data cleaning and analysis; SPSS
Children’s age- and gender-sensitive stories	MS-Excel; manual qualitative analysis
Focus group discussions (community leaders)	MS-Excel; manual qualitative analysis
Professional survey	MS-Excel for data cleaning and analysis; SPSS

4. KEY FINDINGS

Findings are presented below, according to corresponding outcome indicators in the SCSC project logical framework. Where relevant baseline data is available, baseline-endline comparison is presented in addition to more detailed disaggregated findings.

4.1 What impact did the project have on children in targeted communities being better protected from violence?

From the SCSC project logical framework:

Outcome 1: Children in 30 target communities are better protected from violence and discrimination by family and community members

Outcome indicator 1.1 Percentage of parents in targeted communities demonstrating improved positive discipline in everyday parenting

Outcome indicator 1.2 Percentage of targeted girls and boys confirming that they are not fearful to communicate violence related issues with parents/caregivers

Outcome indicator 1.3 Percentage of targeted girls and boys have better knowledge on child rights, safety and protection

Outcome indicator 1.4 Percentage of parents and caregivers participating in positive discipline and parenting programs who understand what positive discipline is (SCI trace indicator)

Outcome indicator 1.1: Percentage of parents in targeted communities demonstrating improved positive discipline in everyday parenting

Save the Children defines positive discipline as an approach to parenting that teaches children and guides their behaviour, while respecting their right to healthy development, protection from violence and participation in their learning.

Parents and caregivers in Morobe and ARoB demonstrate significantly improved positive discipline in everyday parenting, compared to the baseline data collected for relevant indicators.

Explaining to children

The endline data collected in both provinces demonstrate a significant increase in parents or caregivers indicating that they sometimes, mostly or almost always explain wrong

behaviour in ways that children can understand. In ARoB, 93% of caregivers indicated that they always or most of the time, explain to children why behaviour is wrong; whereas in Morobe, this amounted to 95% of all caregivers.

Table 7. Percentage of parents in targeted communities demonstrating improved positive discipline in everyday parenting

INDICATOR: OUTCOME 1.1	BASELINE		ENDLINE	
	ARoB	Morobe	ARoB	Morobe
Percentage of parents in targeted communities demonstrating improved positive discipline in everyday parenting				
% of parents explain most of the time or all the time to their child why her/his behaviour was wrong	49%	50%	93%	95%
% of parents confirmed they never use any physical punishment in parenting	8%	16%	58%	47%
% of parents confirmed they never use verbal violence and humiliating punishment in parenting	26%	12%	50%	53%
% of parents confirmed they never neglect their child	90%	90%	89%	93%

Physical punishment

Children in ARoB and Morobe continue to experience some physical punishment, although reported use of physical punishment has significantly decreased from the very high levels observed during the SCSC baseline assessment. In ARoB, a significant proportion of parents and caregivers (58%) indicate that they never resort to physically punishing children as a form of discipline. This is noteworthy, considering the higher prevalence of all forms of physical violence as a form of punishment observed during the baseline assessment in ARoB. In Morobe, 47% of parents and caregivers reported never resorting to physical punishment.

Beating/slapping children on the bottom with the hand seems to remain a prevalent form of punishment in both provinces, despite the decrease in use of other forms of physical violence. In Morobe, only 24% of parents, and in ARoB, only 20%, indicated that they never resort to this form of punishment. No significant difference could be observed in this tendency between genders, although in ARoB, fathers and male caregivers were slightly less likely to resort to beatings on the bottom, than were mothers or female caregivers. In Morobe, fathers and male caregivers were slightly more likely to use this form of corporal punishment. It is worth noting that a similar trend was observed for shaking in Morobe (only 22% of parents indicated that they never resort to this).

A couple of children commented on the role of substance abuse in increasing the likelihood of physical punishment and generally impeding their sense of safety: "...don't feel safe 'cause father is a drunkard..."; "Some children's families have uncles who are drunkards who are living with them" (given as a reason for not feeling safe at home); "Most I get scared when there are drunkards..."; "Feel safe but when drunkards are around...feel it's not safe"; "...feel scared due to drunkards and drugbodies".

Verbal violence and humiliating punishment

The baseline assessment painted a picture of verbal abuse and emotional/psychological violence almost being normalised as a form of discipline for children in Morobe and ARoB. This has changed to a large degree, and during the survey conducted for the endline

evaluation, far fewer parents and caregivers indicated ever shouting, threatening, cursing at children. In ARoB, on average 50% of parents and caregivers report never using verbal violence and humiliating punishment, compared to 53% in Morobe. However, shouting, yelling or screaming at a child stands out as an exception, with 22% and 26% of parents respectively in Morobe and ARoB indicating that they still use this form of verbal violence in disciplining children. In both provinces, cursing at children, or threatening to kick them out of the house is least likely to occur, out of the different forms of verbal violence assessed. Male and female caregivers seemed equally likely to indicate that they never used any form of verbal or humiliating punishment.

Neglect

Neglect can constitute failure to meet a child’s basic human rights; access to healthcare when needed (including immunisations), access to education, suitable clothing, adequate housing, or adequate nutrition. Acceptance of the practice of neglect was generally low for both baseline and endline, although there is some indication that the SCSC intervention has further reduced tolerance for neglect (punishing a child by making them sleep outside/ withholding food or water) in Morobe (93% of parents indicated they never use neglect as a form of discipline, compared to 90% during the baseline). No significant difference is observed in ARoB, but in both instances tolerance for this practice was very low.

Outcome indicator 1.2: Percentage of targeted girls and boys confirming that they are not fearful to communicate violence related issues with parents/caregivers

Table 8. Percentage of targeted girls and boys confirming that they are not fearful to communicate violence related issues with parents/caregivers

INDICATOR: OUTCOME 1.2	BASELINE				ENDLINE			
	ARoB		Morobe		ARoB		Morobe	
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
Percentage of targeted girls and boys confirming that they are not fearful to communicate violence related issues with parents/caregivers								
% girls and boys confirmed they can talk to their family about violence without getting into trouble	78%	81%	85%	81%	74%	65%	88%	82%

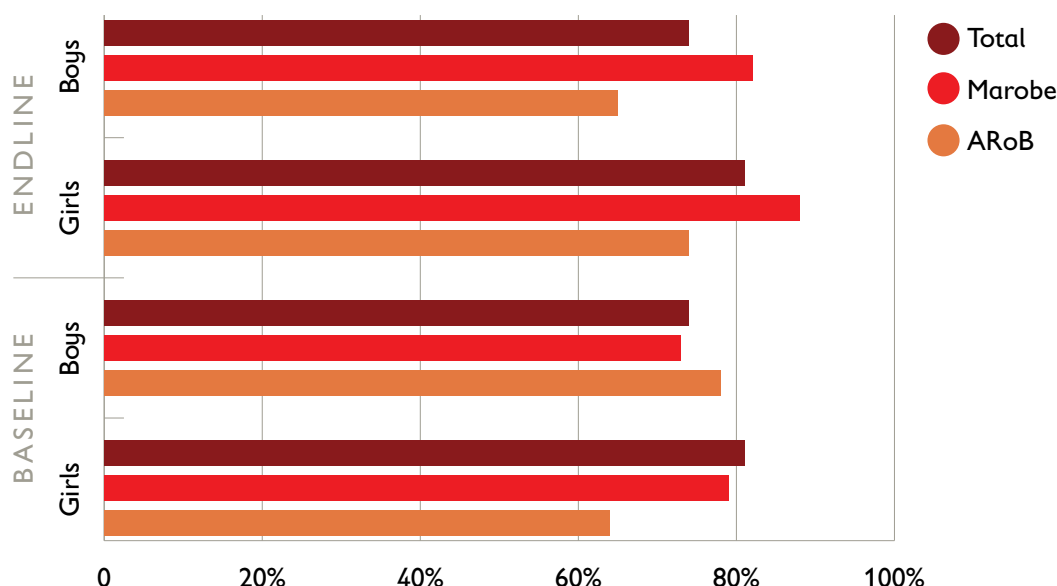
Children’s ability to talk about violence

Children were presented with a story in which the lead character is able to talk to their family about violence. 75% of children targeted by the SCSC programme feel that they can discuss violent experiences safely within their family. This does not represent a significant change if compared to the baseline.

“I feel happy at home.”

– Girl, Sampubangin, Morobe

Figure 2. The extent to which children feel they can safely discuss experiences of violence with others in their family

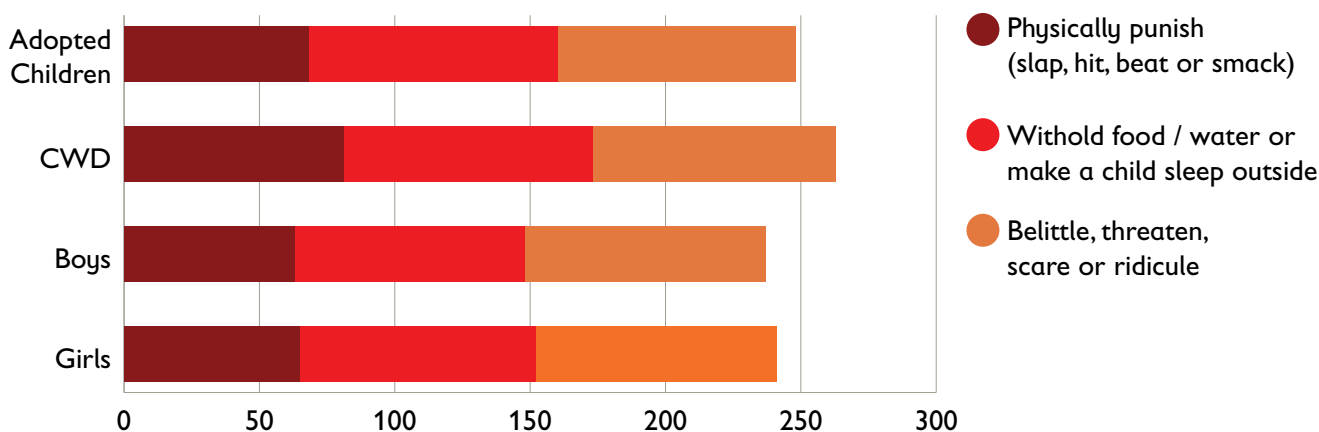


However, closer inspection reveals that in **Morobe, children feel significantly safer to communicate experiences of violence to family members after participating in the SCSC Parenting without Violence sessions.** At baseline, in Morobe, 73% of boys felt safe compared to 82% per cent at endline. 88% of girls in Morobe feel they can safely communicate issues related to violence to families after participating in PwV sessions, as opposed to 79% at baseline. **This suggests that family environments in participating communities in Morobe have become safer emotional spaces for children whose families participated in the SCSC programme.** One facilitator collecting data through age- and gender-sensitive stories for boys in Morobe, captured qualitative comments from a few boys who did not feel safe to talk to parents. Albeit in the minority, these boys explained that this was because they were afraid of “being belted” by parents.

In ARoB, 69% of girls and boys feel safe to discuss violent experiences with their families. Although this does not constitute a significant decrease, it is slightly lower than the baseline figures, and merits further investigation. 8 year-old girls felt most confident about communicating violence related issues to parents/caregivers (77%), followed by 6 to 7 year old girls (71%). **Boys in ARoB were less likely to feel safe discussing violence**

related issues at home (66% and 63% respectively for 6 to 7 year-old and 7 to 8 year-old boys). This may in part be explained by the fact that the PwV programme was not implemented in full in ARoB, in the way it was in Morobe. Further investigation of parental attitudes related to zero tolerance for abuse against specific categories of children in ARoB corroborate the likelihood that violent punishment may not be considered as harmful to boys, as when perpetrated against girls, children with disabilities, or adopted children (see Figure 3 below).

Figure 3. Percentage of parents in ARoB who believe that it is never okay to use violence against children



Indicator indicator 1.3: Number and percentage of targeted girls and boys have better knowledge and awareness on child rights, safety and protection was not assessed through this survey.

Outcome indicator 1.4: Percentage of parents and caregivers participating in positive discipline and parenting programs who understand what positive discipline is (SCI trace indicator)

Table 9. Percentage of parents and caregivers participating in positive discipline and parenting programs who understand what positive discipline is (SCI trace indicator)

INDICATOR: OUTCOME 1.2	BASELINE		ENDLINE	
	ARoB	Morobe	ARoB	Morobe
Percentage of parents and caregivers participating in positive discipline and parenting programs who understand what positive discipline is (SCI trace indicator)	65%	46%	81%	91%

This indicator measures parents/caregivers' understanding of positive discipline by posing four yes/no questions which respectively investigate 1) whether they have heard of positive discipline and can briefly define it; 2) if they know how to talk to children when they misbehave; 3) whether they know how to apply positive discipline techniques; and 4) whether they know how to raise children without resorting to physical punishment. Where qualitative content was available, answers were controlled for explanations/definitions, and only those with accurate/correct explanations were counted.

88% of mothers from across both provinces who had participated in the Parenting without Violence sessions, understand what positive discipline is, compared to 84% of fathers. In ARoB, this overall indicator increased from 65% to 81% from baseline to endline, and in Morobe, from 46% to 91%.

It is clear that **parents from both genders across participating communities in both provinces gained in their understanding of positive discipline over the course of the SCSC project.**

Parental knowledge of Positive Discipline

In both provinces, mothers/female caregivers (82%) were somewhat more confident in defining positive discipline than fathers/male caregivers (61%). Nonetheless, it was clear that parents who had participated in PwV sessions had gained this in capacity compared to baseline figures, when only 9% of males and 22% of females reported having heard of 'positive discipline'. It is worth noting that fathers/male caregivers in ARoB were markedly less positive on this score; only 50% of male PwV participants who participated in the endline KAP survey in ARoB, indicated that they knew what positive discipline was. This corresponds with a lower percentage for male caregivers in ARoB on the last item in this series, related to knowing how to discipline children without using physical punishment (58%).

Figure 4. Understanding positive discipline (mothers/female caregivers)

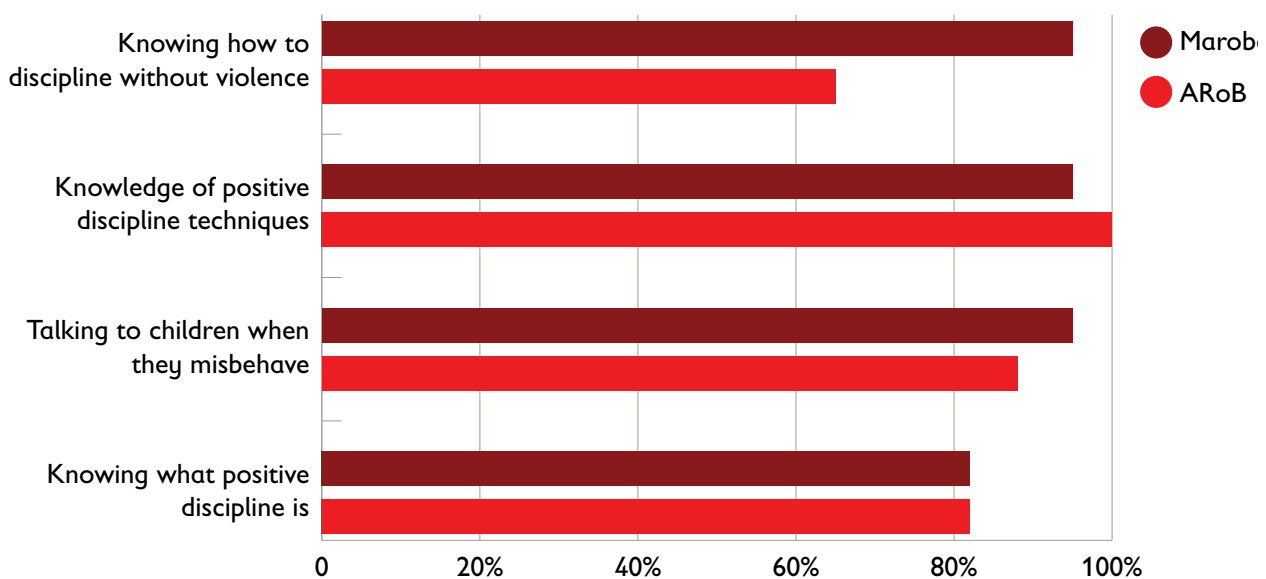
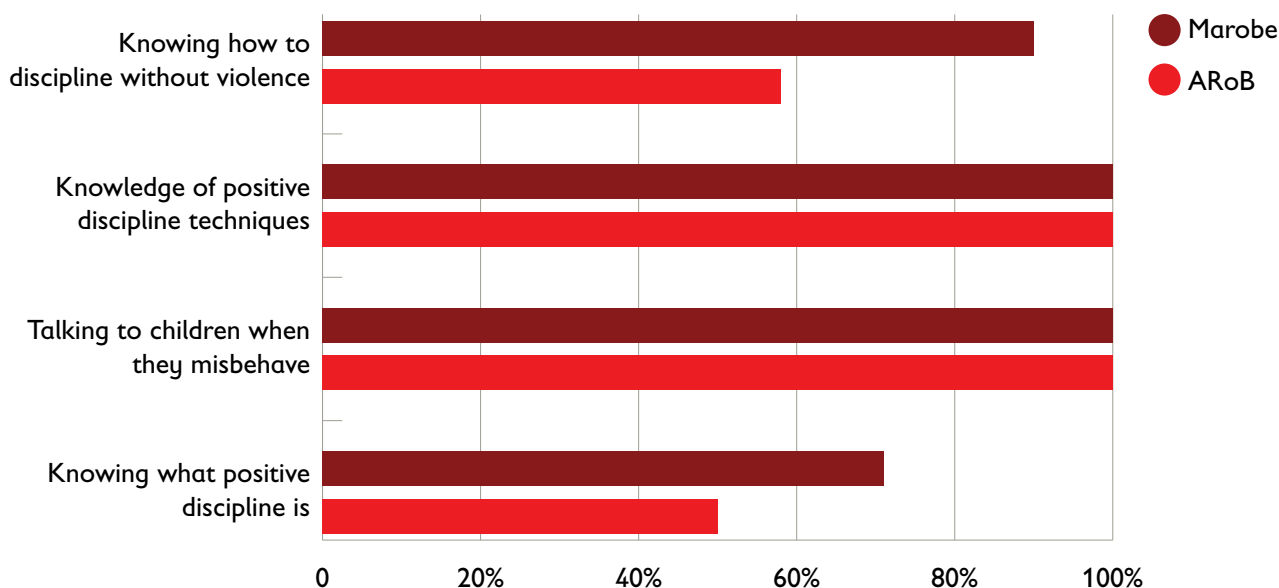


Figure 5. Understanding positive discipline (fathers/male caregivers)



Talking to children when they misbehave

Before the SCSC intervention, in Morobe, only 39% of all parents/caregivers indicated that they knew of ways to talk to children when they misbehave, compared to 55% in AROB. Endline data confirms that the programme has equipped parents with new strategies in this area of interacting with their children. In Morobe, 97% of parents now feel confident that they know how to verbally respond to challenging behaviour, compared to 94% in Morobe. Interestingly, fathers and male caregivers in both provinces were more adamant about this than mothers, although scores are high for both genders.

“After the training, I now talk calmly to my child.”

– Mother, 31, Kodora community, Central Bougainville

Knowledge of positive discipline techniques

In both provinces, mothers and fathers were confident that they knew positive discipline techniques which they could apply when needed.

Knowledge of raising children without physical punishment

In AROB, mothers (65%) and fathers (58%) were less inclined to know how to discipline children without using physical punishment, than were mothers (95%) and fathers (90%) in Morobe, after the SCSC intervention. This is interesting because in AROB, these percentages represent a significant decrease in confidence on this item if compared to the baseline. It is worth noting that the sample of respondents to the survey was quite small, for AROB, when it came to respondents who had actually participated in the PwV training (and who

responded to these items in the survey – only 12 male caregivers of those surveyed, had attended PwV training). It is also possible that participants felt more open to truthfully share their parenting practices than at the time of baseline, having built rapport with the project’s implementing team. Either way, it is worth noting and revisiting to explore possible reasons for this deviation, as well as mitigation strategies that may apply in future interventions.

“Talking to the kid when the baby is still inside her mother teaching the baby to pray, sing and laugh.”

– Father, 37, Evoku community, ARoB

4.2 What impact did the project have on community-based child protection systems working more effectively to provide improved access to services for girls and boys?

From the SCSC project logical framework:

Outcome 2: Community-based child protection systems in 30 target communities are working more effectively with local and national systems to provide improved access to services for girls and boys

Outcome indicator 2.1 Percentage of targeted parents and professionals who work with children have better knowledge on child abuse risks, local CP response mechanisms and legislative frameworks for child protection

Outcome indicator 2.2 Percentage of community leaders and professionals who work with children reporting child abuse cases to provincial or district welfare officers

Outcome indicator 2.1: Percentage of targeted parents have better knowledge on child abuse risks, local CP response mechanisms and legislative frameworks for child protection

Table 10. Percentage of targeted parents have better knowledge on child abuse risks, local CP response mechanisms and legislative frameworks for child protection

INDICATOR: OUTCOME 2.1	BASELINE		ENDLINE	
	ARoB	Morobe	ARoB	Morobe
Percentage of targeted parents have better knowledge on child abuse risks, local CP response mechanisms and legislative frameworks for child protection				
Better knowledge: % of parents correctly identified all the provided abusive practices towards girls, boys, cwds and adopted children	29%	42%	83%	94%
Awareness of local CP response mechanism and legislative framework	*			

* A composite quantitative measure does not exist for this indicator; various indicators were used to assess the degree of awareness and these are described in the section below.

Better knowledge: Percentage of parents correctly identified all the provided abuse practices towards girls, boys, children with disabilities and adopted children

In order to establish parental knowledge of what constitutes child abuse, parents were presented with a list of actions and asked to indicate whether each action would be considered child abuse. Actions included sexual abuse and exploitation (incest, sex with a minor, buying gifts in exchange for sex, showing pornography); physical abuse (punching, slapping, hitting, burning); verbal abuse (swearing, name calling); emotional abuse (witnessing family violence) and neglect (for instance, withholding food or not allowing school attendance).

Parental/caregiver knowledge of abuse has clearly increased since the baseline assessment, with 83% of parents/caregivers in ARoB now correctly identifying whether an action constitutes abuse, compared to 29% before inception of SCSC activities. In Morobe, 94% of parents/caregivers correctly identified actions as abuse, compared to 42% during the baseline.

“The community is not really safe, especially for young girls like us.”

– Mother, 31, Kodora community, Central Bougainville

⁸ This could be a composite indicator which includes endline percentages related to awareness of reporting mechanisms, knowing where specifically to report locally, and reporting abuse if it occurs. However, because quantitative coding was impossible for the variety of answers given to the question related to knowledge of legal frameworks, and to avoid distorting a composite percentage due to lack of weighting, it is discussed in the narrative but not scored quantitatively here.

Verbal abuse seemed slightly less likely to be considered abuse by caregivers across both provinces, although 88% of parents and caregivers still correctly identified name calling or swearing at children as abuse.

The SCSC project intervention in Morobe which targeted parental knowledge on abuse seems to have been particularly effective. Each action listed was correctly identified in all instances by more than 90% of parents and caregivers participating in the endline assessment.

For ARoB, parental capacity to recognise abuse has also significantly increased. It is worth noting that swearing at children, and witnessing family abuse, (regardless of ability or gender in either case), were least likely to be considered abuse, although these actions were still correctly identified as abuse by respectively 77% and 75% of parents/caregivers.

Here too, respondents were more likely to comment on prevalence of sexual abuse, mostly in the form of buying gifts in exchange for sex. Respondents expressed the opinion that this was quite common, and mostly in families where poverty made access to “material” possessions such as a phone more difficult, especially for girls. Comments however were only made by a small proportion of the overall sample (fewer than 10 out of 201 respondents in ARoB). Incest against children with disabilities (78% of ARoB mothers and fathers considered this abuse) was less often regarded as abuse than if perpetrated against girls without disability (94%) and boys without disability (85%).

With the exception of neglect (not being allowed to attend school as punishment), witnessing family violence, and being sworn at, violence against children with disabilities consistently tended to be least likely to be correctly identified as abuse, in ARoB. In Morobe, this discrepancy did not exist and it would seem as if children with disabilities were more likely to benefit from knowledge and awareness of their equal rights to protection, than they might be in ARoB. Nonetheless, abuse against children with disabilities was correctly identified across the board at above 70% in ARoB, which constitutes an improvement if compared to the situation at baseline. (At baseline, 49% of fathers (35% in ARoB, and 63% in Morobe) and 59% of mothers (38% in ARoB, and 80% in Morobe), considered violence abuse if perpetrated against children with disabilities.

Table 11. Violence against children with disabilities less likely to be correctly identified as abuse

AROB: % OF PARENTS/CAREGIVERS IDENTIFYING VIOLENCE AS ABUSE			
	If perpetrated against girls	If perpetrated against boys	If perpetrated against children with disabilities
Punching	90%	94%	79%
Burning	87%	88%	79%
Gifts in exchange for sex	94%	85%	78%
Underage sex	94%	82%	77%
Showing pornography	91%	90%	84%
Incest	94%	85%	78%

Awareness of local child protection response mechanism and legislative framework

When asked about awareness of the existence of a community-based mechanism for reporting abuse, 58% parents in ARoB, and 73% parents in Morobe, indicated that they knew of reporting mechanisms. 72% (ARoB) and 75% (Morobe) of parents respectively indicated that they knew where to go to report child abuse. However, **only 27% of the total number of parents (97 out of 354) who know where to report abuse, answered yes to the question, “Do you actually go there in case of (a case of) child abuse?”**. This seems to be equally true for respondents who participated in PwV training as for those who did not, suggesting that the reason for refraining to report is more likely contextual, related to actual infrastructure, faith in authorities, or misinterpreting the question (quite a few respondents explained their answer by saying that they had not had such a case in the family). 27% nonetheless is significantly low to suggest that there may well be cases that are going unreported, and this merits further investigation and intervention in future child protection programming in both provinces.

Awareness about legislative frameworks still seems very low among parents and caregivers, although the vast majority cited different child rights when asked to elaborate on their knowledge of laws. Only a handful across both provinces could name an act (mostly Lukautum Pikinini Act of 2015).

Outcome indicator 2.1 Percentage of targeted professionals who work with children have better knowledge on child abuse risks, local CP response mechanisms and legislative frameworks for child protection

Better knowledge: Percentage of targeted professionals who work with children correctly identified all the provided abuse practices towards girls, boys, children with disabilities and adopted children

The percentage of targeted professionals who correctly identified abuse increased less significantly than for parents/caregivers, although this is to be expected considering pre-existing knowledge on what constitutes child abuse.

In Morobe, targeted professionals seemed less certain about the existence of community-based/local reporting mechanisms (73%) than in ARoB (83%). Although 85% of targeted professionals in Morobe indicated that they knew where to report a case of abuse should it occur, only 51% said that they actually reported cases there in the event of abuse. However, explanations given for not reporting include referring someone else to report to the service in question, as well as not having encountered an abuse case. For this reason, this percentage should probably not be read as a reflection on the extent of cases that go unreported – the many references to referrals counter this assumption, and in themselves are a positive indication of attempts to make use of existing community mechanisms for reporting abuse.

Interestingly, when asked which categories of children they thought were most at risk of abuse in their communities, targeted professionals volunteered a range of categories of children. The majority of those who commented (13 out of 36 professionals) identified adopted children as most at risk. This was followed by children with disabilities (6), orphans (5) and girls (4). If orphans are grouped with adopted children, this would constitute a very

large category indeed and stands out as a formative finding that adopted children may be a category of most deprived or marginalized children whose child protection risks need to be better understood and addressed. Triangulation with quantitative data collected for this category of children does not provide concrete confirmation of augmented vulnerability for adopted children. Parental attitudes with regard to zero tolerance for using violence against children (measured respectively for girls, boys, children with disabilities and adopted children) don't reveal any significant bias against adopted children. This is however also true for attitudes with regard to violence against children with disabilities (no bias existed that suggested parents believed that using violence against children with disabilities is acceptable), yet a significant proportion of parents repeatedly failed to correctly identify violent actions against children with disabilities as abuse (see table 11).

Further triangulation however with other qualitative results suggest that there seems to be evidence of awareness at community level that this is a particularly vulnerable group. In answer to the same question ("Which children are most likely to be abused in your community? For example is there a particular group who are more vulnerable/at risk, such as someone with a disability or an adopted child?"), a staggering 50 out of 79 community leaders raised the issue of adopted children being most at risk.

Figure 6. Children most at risk of abuse, according to professionals targeted

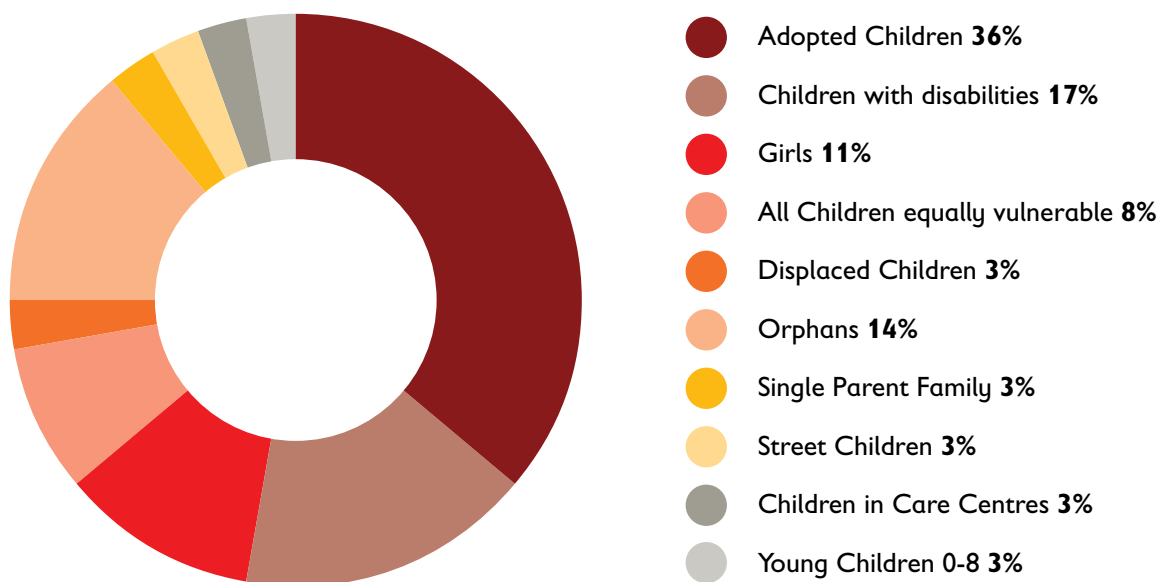
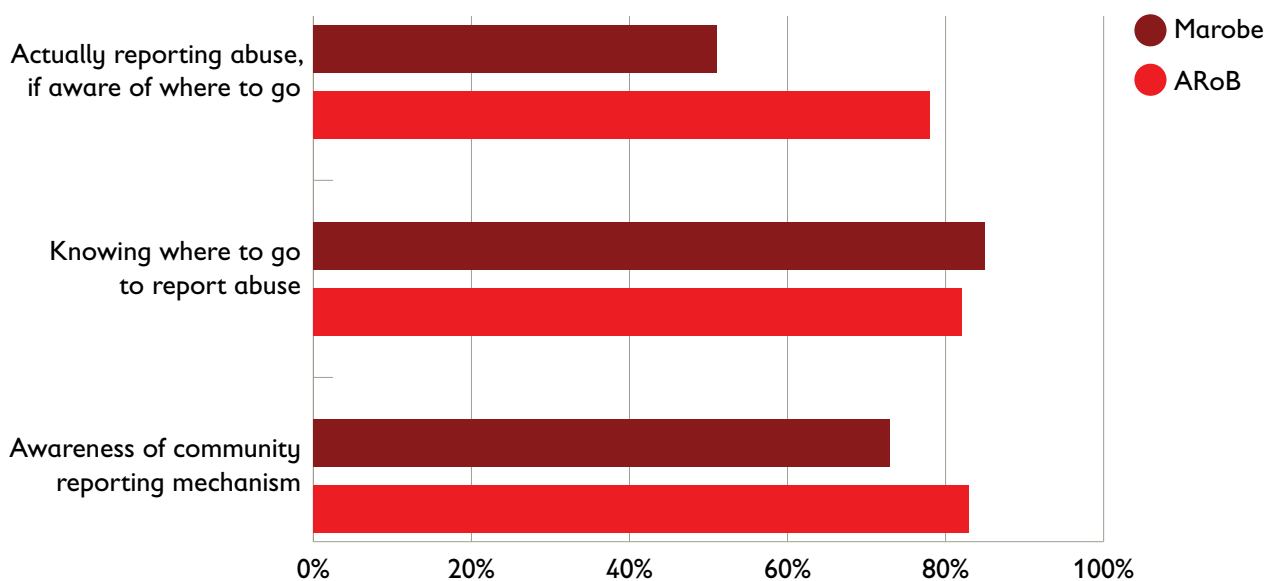


Table 12. Knowledge of abuse (targeted professionals)

INDICATOR: OUTCOME 2.1	BASELINE		ENDLINE	
	ARoB	Morobe	ARoB	Morobe
Better knowledge: % of professionals correctly identified all the provided abusive practices towards girls, boys, children with disabilities and adopted children				
Better knowledge: % of professionals correctly identified all the provided abusive practices towards girls, boys, children with disability and adopted children	53%	57%	69%	62%
Awareness of local CP response mechanism: % of professionals aware of district/provincial welfare officer', health workers' and police officer's function in responding to a child abuse case.	94%	57%	Variation in baseline/endline method precludes direct comparison, but conclusion presented below.	

Figure 7. Targeted professionals: awareness of community-based response mechanism



Outcome 2.2: Percentage of community leaders and professionals who work with children reporting child abuse cases to provincial or district welfare officers

Table 13. Percentage of community leaders and professionals who work with children reporting child abuse cases to provincial or district welfare officers

INDICATOR: OUTCOME 2.2	BASELINE		ENDLINE	
	ARoB	Morobe	ARoB	Morobe
Percentage of community leaders and professionals who work with children reporting child abuse cases to provincial or district welfare officers				
% of professionals who work with children reporting child abuse cases to provincial or district welfare officers	A very small proportion of cases are reported to provincial or district welfare officers. Instead, cases are reported to a range of other actors, depending on the community and province.			
% of community leaders who have contacted provincial or district welfare officers to report on child abuse	2%	7%	4%	26%

Although endline data shows more community leaders contacting provincial or district welfare officers to report child abuse, the increase is small, especially in ARoB. In Morobe there has been a somewhat more promising increase. Community leaders in ARoB were very vocal during focus group discussions about the inaccessibility of provincial or district welfare officers (only 16% described these officers as accessible or easy to access, as opposed to 67% in Morobe). Further explanations, in both provinces, for reporting abuse cases to other actors instead, concentrate on lack of service delivery, and lack of follow-through when cases are reported. This is not unusual in situations where the social welfare workforce is as small as in Papua New Guinea. Social welfare workforce capacity, in human resource terms, is unlikely to be affected by interventions such as PwV which focus on improving knowledge, attitudes and practice, but which do not increase the infrastructure of the national social welfare workforce, or in other words, resource the deployment of more official hands and feet on the ground for case management. For this reason, the increase seen here is probably as high as can be expected without further investment in increasing the number of officers, and simultaneously increasing their capacity to respond with efficiency.



4.3 What impact did the project have on government systems and authorities being better informed about child protection interventions?

Interventions carried out during the project period which contributed toward improved awareness/information for government systems and authorities, include:

- Ongoing dissemination of findings from research reports detailing the child protection situation for children in Papua New Guinea, including Save the Children, 2016. The Child Protection System in Papua New Guinea: An Assessment of Prevention and Response Services for Children and Families, as well as the Unseen, Unsafe report, published in 2019 .
- Establishing and chairing the PNG Child Protection (CP) Alliance, and using this as a platform to gain access to and influence the Child Protection narrative at national level, as managed by the Office of Child and Family Services;
- In 2019, the CP Alliance championed the Pikinini Defenders' campaign, successfully advocating for an increase in the human resource capacity of the social welfare workforce;
- Achieving visibility in the media for child protection work in Papua New Guinea, including both the local media as well as the Australian press, and Save the Children's 2019 Christmas appeal to the Australian public, with very positive response;
- Influencing the conversation and activities of the CP Cluster group during COVID-19 response, and acting as the thematic working group's (TWG) lead NGO;
- Continued implementation of the PNG advocacy strategy.

4.4 How relevant were the SCSC project interventions for all project beneficiaries?

“From my point of view we were able to grab some skills on child protection but as a leader in the community for the sake of other mothers especially young mothers I appeal to Save the Children team to come with more relevant programs and lessons on child protection especially in our community”

– Community leader, Central Bougainville district, ARoB

“It's (the extent to which the most important safety issues for children have been addressed) to the extreme as my community is rated high in child abuse related cases and all forms of violence and abuses, but as of now, after the child protection policies training and positive parenting training, have (sic) been a turning point for most parents and community members”

– Community leader, Bulolo district, Morobe

“PwV has highlighted the abuse I was doing to my children like hitting them and sending my children to buy betelnut and smoke. So I had to change now that I know children have rights”

– Community leader, Markham district, Morobe

⁹ <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/search/site/unseen%2C%20unsafe>

Prioritising the most relevant needs

When asked to what extent Save the Children's SCSC programme focused on the most important safety issues for children in their respective communities, community leaders were overwhelmingly positive.

It is important to consider relevance from the perspective of children. Although the question wasn't specifically posed to them, the significant improvements in parents' knowledge, attitude and practice when it comes to physical and humiliating punishment, and their increased capacity to apply positive discipline techniques, serve to suggest that the intervention is likely to have been relevant for the majority of children from participating families. More should be done in future PwV assessments to align children's input with the questions asked in adult surveys. Children aged 6 to 8 are able to elaborate on experiences beyond yes/no questions, and while the instruments utilised here were excellent from a safeguarding point of view, they perhaps missed an opportunity of exploring children's experiences in depth.

At the same time, the data from this report presents plenty of evidence which suggests that **there is merit in investigating whether children who are adopted, and children with disabilities, are benefiting as much as is the intention when PwV is rolled out.** Parents, professionals and community leaders commented on the increased vulnerability of children with disabilities, in the community in general. Although there were some positive comments from community leaders and caregivers in qualitative data that suggested that the course content was useful for parents and children with disabilities ("...the program take(s) into account every one and especially disability, so it gives the knowledge on how we should respond and treat different groups of children...", this was balanced by similar comments from some community leaders that more should be done to ensure that the needs of parents with children with disabilities are taken into account.

Many of the qualitative comments from parents, professionals and community leaders specifically referred to the vulnerability of adopted children when it comes to abuse and harsh punishment. This category was not quantitatively assessed in any way during the endline, but quantitative evidence related to the ways in which abusive actions are viewed if perpetrated against children with disabilities, suggest that there is still some work to be done before their needs can truly be said to have been met by this intervention, and others that are conducted under the banner of the PwV common approach, or indeed, in other projects in the same communities in Morobe and ARoB.

Areas for improvement

One suggested area for improving future relevance in the eyes of beneficiaries, related to length of trainings. Both parents and community leaders commented they wanted more trainings such as those offered for PwV, but that the actual PwV program should be shorter, as it is a challenge for parents to attend weekly for 12 weeks. Community leaders would like Save the Children to offer more programs like this where parents and community members can learn positive parenting strategies and child protection/abuse prevention approaches.

The biggest criticism from community leaders was that the programme did not adequately align with government objectives/frameworks ("...with the aims of the LLG and provincial development plans") and that they were not aware of government planning to pick up on, or follow up any similar interventions.

Addressing parenting needs for both male and female caregivers

In general, participants felt satisfied that PwV training managed to address both the needs of male and female participants. The vast majority of parents across both genders and provinces found the content of the programme useful in helping them address their daily parenting challenges. Some parents commented on the need to better enable the broader community to be aware, and supportive, before embarking on implementation of the training.



“Really helps a lot. Now I can manage my family.”

- Father, 33, North Bougainville, ARoB

“It help(s) and protect(s) children in the community and help(s) children who’s in trouble or not treated well.”

- Mother, 40, Bulolo district, Morobe

4.5 How sustainable were the activities of the SCSC project?

Sustainability from the perspective of families and children

The project’s biggest achievement would seem to be the extent to which it achieved family-strengthening in all of the areas in which PwV activities were implemented. Parental/caregiver knowledge and attitudes, as well as self-reported practice, have significantly increased, and parents who participated expressed the view that they would continue to use skills gained, so it seems likely that these new capacities will stay intact. Approximately 80% of caregivers survey participants who also participated in PwV sessions say that they will continue using newly gained skills. Curiously, many parents who state that they appreciate benefiting from new, positive ways of interacting with their children, and will continue to apply these skills, also indicated during the survey that they are not planning to share this knowledge with anyone or to influence any other parents to change their (harsh) ways. This is likely explained by contextual/cultural norms/practices, and is worth taking into account here, because PwV relies on word-of-mouth dissemination to achieve any type of noteworthy reach at scale. However, anecdotal evidence from community members’ interaction with Save the Children staff suggests that parents are sharing experiences among each other, even if they say that they don’t, perhaps because openly providing unsolicited advice is somewhat frowned upon.

Community-based child protection systems

The SCSC project seems to have succeeded to a reasonable degree in its ambition (stated in the concept note) to not establish community level service delivery where it does not already exist, but instead to strengthen the capacity of services or traditional practices that are present already. Knowledge of the formal components of the child protection system has increased at community level, and evidence of referral to various actors seems to indicate that some coordination has been established between the formal and informal components of the child protection system which is likely to remain. Community

leaders were quite vocal about the ways in which Save the Children's approach at local level enhanced relationships between faith-based and community partners, as well as built common knowledge on how to prevent and respond to child abuse ("...Very much it did help them to understand what the child abuse is all about and put them in a better position by equipping them through building their understanding and capacity to address cases of child abuse in the community...")

Systemic change at national level

At national level, relevant learnings from the delivery of the project, including the effectiveness of the approach, have certainly influenced and featured on the agendas of both inter-agency allies as well as government partners. This includes the Office of Child and Family Services, which has the authority to influence development of national policy and implementation guidelines. During the course of the project, the Save the Children team in PNG has undertaken strategic initiatives to position and influence relevant agendas and dialogues. These include for instance the establishment of the CP Alliance, and consistent strategic engagement and visibility in fora such as the CP Cluster group, as well as in activities such as the Pikinini Defenders' campaign. These inputs no doubt have contributed to the evolving willingness at national level to undertake dialogue related to sensitive issues around gender-based violence and child protection. Papua New Guinea's recently acquired status as a Pathfinder Country participating in the End Violence initiative, is one example of how actions such as those implemented by the SCSC team, in parallel with the work conducted by other key allies and partner agencies, culminate in significant change which can not be attributed to any one initiative, but which has the power to sustainably change the situation for children in PNG over time.

Sustainability of the results achieved during this initiative are to some degree threatened by the absence of an adequately staffed social welfare workforce, suggesting that the latter should stand out as an important priority for donors.



5. LIMITATIONS

Data gaps unaddressed at the time of establishing a baseline may necessarily impede baseline-endline comparison on sub-categories of information or output-level indicators and did limit to some degree the extent to which outcome-level conclusions can be gender-, age- or disability-sensitive. Different sites in different provinces by default often result in different levels of quality delivery in data collection or data cleaning efforts, as teams differ in capacity and experience, with the result being some inconsistency in survey delivery or facilitation of group discussions.

While the sample size is representative, it still represents a small section of the overall population, limiting the value of relevance and sustainability conclusions based on the feedback and experience of the survey participants.

The study used a mixed method design, but qualitative feedback was limited to comments on select survey questions, for adult participants, and yes/no format responses for children's story sessions. This provided some substance for triangulation, but sample size, time pressures and the limitations of operating during COVID-19 precluded more elaborate qualitative exploration of experiences and especially probing of issues surfacing from quantitative findings. This is especially relevant with regard to understanding whether parental/caregiver accounts of changed realities are borne out by children's lived experience.

This further limited the ability to report on gender-specific issues, gender dynamics, and cultural beliefs which impact on the relevance, effectiveness and sustainability of results.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Protecting children from violence

- To increase the impact of similar projects and programmes for protection of all children, consider how best to differentiate interventions in order to seek out and address the needs of especially adopted children, and children with disabilities. Continue to champion the discourse and messaging related to the rights of children with disabilities at all levels, in all thematic areas of Save the Children's work. Without a deliberate focus on their protection needs, children with disabilities and adopted children will remain the most vulnerable to abuse that goes unrecognised as wrong, unreported, and unresolved.
- The PwV approach is designed through the lens of a socio-ecological model which places the child at the centre, as an active participant and citizen within the context of their family, community and society. This principle should more clearly inform monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) methodologies, by including children, and consulting them, in all stages of project evaluation. Child participatory research methods should be streamlined through the project cycle, to generate information from children with which to triangulate self-report by parents and caregivers.
- In addition to the age- and gender-appropriate stories used to collect data from children, there would be merit in adding a children's survey instrument or focus group discussion, even if only a few questions, that more directly mirrors the questions asked of parents, caregivers and community stakeholders. This is necessary to enable better triangulation of children's responses with key questions asked of parents and professionals to address progress against the PwV theory of change. The yes/no format of the children's stories instrument provided a very safe but form of participation, but did not as effectively produce meaningful content with which to interpret or triangulate caregivers responses against children's experiences.
- Consider conducting research to further explore and unpack rights violations for adopted children in PNG, especially in the context of the right to protection, and to recommend strategies for mitigating related challenges in order to promote realisation of their rights.
- In ARoB, consciously implement strategies in ongoing programmes which work in contextually-sensitive ways to counter attitudes and practices which may make it harder for boys (and men) to communicate experiences of violence or vulnerability. This is essential for boys to feel that it is safe to communicate about violence and share experiences of violence with caregivers or others in the family.
- Integrate linkages/referrals to NGO or community- or faith-based partners who focus on interventions that reduce or prevent substance abuse, where possible, to mitigate the risk posed by substance abuse to results obtained through parental capacity building.

6.2 Strengthening community-based child protection systems to provide improved access to services for boys and girls

- Continue to disseminate messaging and advocacy that will promote awareness about the negative effects of what may be regarded by parents as “milder” forms of physical and emotional punishment, including smacks on the bottom, and shouting at children. This is especially relevant for ARoB, both for male and female caregivers.
- Address gender-based root causes of violence against children that fuels violence in the home, and measure changes in attitudes and behaviour on gender equality (also see recommendations below in section 6.6 on GEDSI).
- Strengthen violence-free-homes messaging to protect children from not only experiencing violence, but from witnessing violence too.
- Conduct an informal, internal or collaborative assessment to better understand the degree to which abuse cases are reported, and explore barriers/obstacles that cause cases to go unreported. Ensure that this learning informs future case management or alternative care projects.
- Advocate for an increase in funded social welfare officers (social workers, district/provincial welfare officers), and consider rolling out case management capacity building that targets improvement of the child protection system at various levels (eg. Save the Children’s Steps to Protect Common Approach).
- Advocate for PwV to be streamlined into cross-thematic and integrated programming with a larger reach, that can operate at scale and influence more families and stakeholders while simultaneously addressing some of the causal factors of vulnerability to abuse. One example is economic household strengthening combined with case management and PwV programmes, to reduce prevalence of transactional underage sex through household strengthening, while drawing on PwV to increase knowledge and awareness about abuse and positive discipline.

6.3 Promoting awareness among government systems and authorities about child protection interventions

Explore ways to leverage the augmented awareness achieved within government through the SCSC project in order to increase alignment with existing and new government initiatives.

- Conduct a project close-out meeting or roundtable with government and key inter-agency partners, to share findings from the endline evaluation, and to advocate for government initiatives that replicate or integrate PwV approach or messaging in new or existing services.

6.4 Relevance of Parenting without Violence interventions

- At a more macro/global level, strengthen inputs and strategies with which PwV training participants are equipped so that they have greater capacity to reduce reliance on non-physical abuse (emotional, verbal, psychological).
- Decrease the length of training sessions.

6.5 Increasing sustainability of Parenting without Violence interventions

The PwV approach relies on word-of-mouth and caregiver interaction to increase reach and sustain results within communities. Consider mobilising the broader community more actively to create an enabling environment before involving families in PwV. This should take into account cultural, gender and societal norms which may make it harder for training participants to apply, talk about or recommend positive discipline approaches to families or acquaintances, in order to act on the finding from this report which shows that parents and caregivers feel hesitant to recommend parenting practices to others.

6.6 Improving Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)

- Carry out a comprehensive Gender, Disability and Social Inclusion Analysis prior to future child protection initiatives. This will promote a better understanding of how aspects of a child's identity such as gender, age, disability and adoption status can affect the likely success of a proposed project. It will prove an opportunity for the design to specifically target the underlying issues that perpetuate discrimination using evidence-based approaches to GEDSI sensitive child protection programming.
- Engage civil society organisations to support the project to deliver better outcomes related to Gender, Disability and Social Inclusion. Agencies that represent People with Disability, Gender Equality and Adopted Children are well placed to be able to engage with communities on these issues. If such agencies are not available, future designs may like to consider how they can support these agencies to grow and develop so there is stronger accountability to the children who are most at risk of violence.
- Strengthen MEAL systems to ensure that GEDSI sensitive data is collected, monitored and used to be able to make changes to project implementation in 'real time'.
- Ensure that all future Save the Children CP programming includes access to, and input from a Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Advisor to ensure that projects align with government and non-government priorities and learning from this project can be embedded across sectors at all levels.

Data collection tools available upon request from
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