



Leadership for Safer Environments and sexual violence
Responsive and Reporting Networks in Kenya

The LEARN Project Brief

Addressing School-Related Violence Against (SRVAC) Children in Kenya

July 2024

Overview of the LEARN Project

LEARN: Leadership for safer Environments And sexual Violence Responsive and Reporting Networks in Schools, Kenya.

The LEARN project addresses School-Related Violence Against Children (SRVAC) across Kenyan primary schools, enhancing child safety and well-being through tailored interventions.

Based on rigorous research, LEARN's strategies are specifically designed to improve learner safety and educational outcomes.

The project integrates prevention, response, and advocacy to shape national policies on school violence. We will collaborate with local community, educational stakeholders and child protection agencies, fostering sustainable community changes.

Implementation will be in select primary schools in **Kiambu and Homabay Counties.**



Objectives

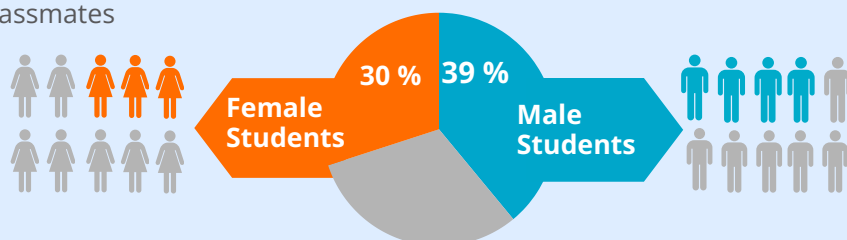
- To understand the nature and drivers of SRVAC
- To identify the most common forms of SRVAC in Kenya and design an intervention that addresses specific forms of SRVAC
- To pilot and evaluate the designed intervention for feasibility, acceptability and effectiveness in select primary schools
- To continuously advocate with the government to adopt lessons from LEARN as part of broader SRVAC prevention in Kenya



School Related Violence Against Children in Kenya

Children in Kenya face significant risks of experiencing violence in school settings. The 2019 Kenya Violence Against Children Survey reported high prevalence rates of school-related gender based violence, including physical violence and sexual violence perpetrated by teachers and classmates

Percentage of **females students** and **males students** who experience of physical violence & sexual violence perpetrated by teachers & classmates



Source: Kenya VACS 2019

Kenya has made commitments to protect children from violence through legislative and policy frameworks. Despite existing legislative and policy frameworks, the normalization of School-Related Violence Against Children (SRVAC) within the educational system presents ongoing challenges.

This normalization complicates comprehensive data collection and underscores the need for culturally sensitive interventions tailored to the Kenyan context. Effective enforcement of these measures remains difficult, and evidence on effective interventions in low- and middle-income countries like Kenya is limited.

Additionally, there is a scarcity of information on the specific forms of violence occurring across various schools and limited documentation on the effectiveness of existing interventions to reduce SRVAC. Schools thus play a crucial role in promoting non-violent interactions and implementing primary prevention strategies to ensure the holistic development of students.

What is SR-VAC?

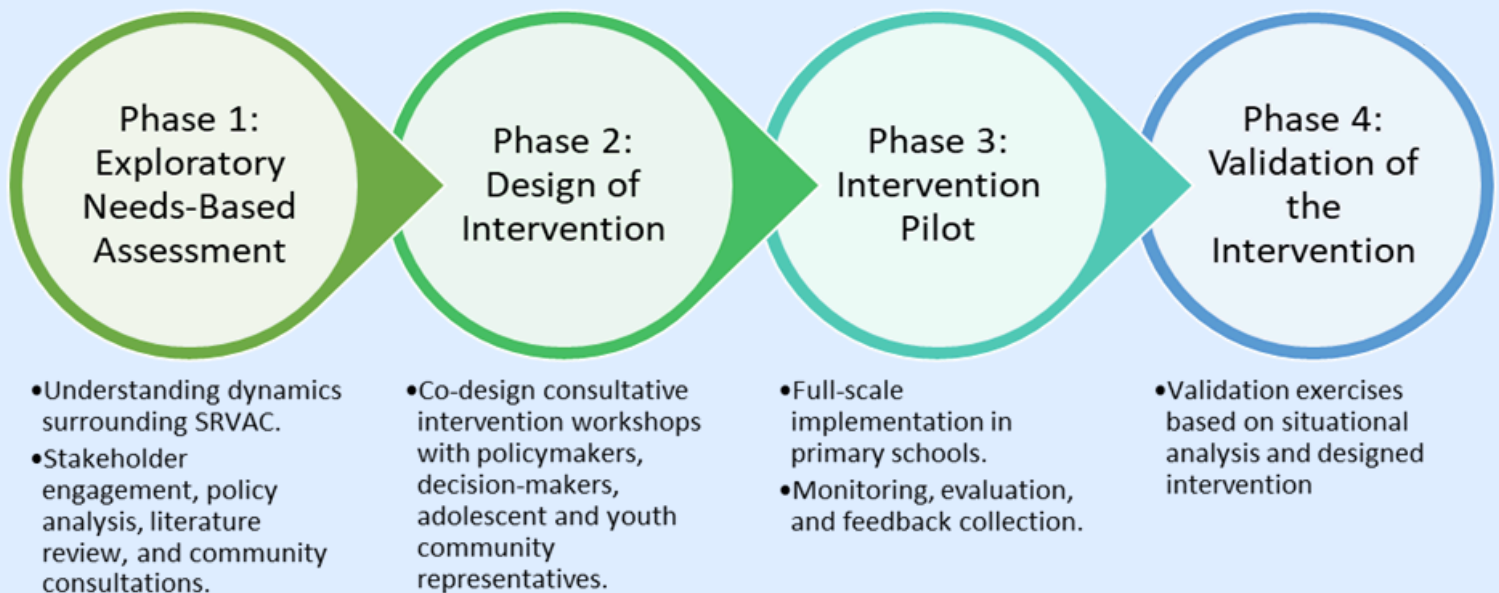
School-related violence against children (SRVAC) refers to any violent acts occurring within or around school premises that negatively affect students' safety, well-being, and educational advancement. This includes general violence and specific gender-based violence, targeting learners based on gender.

Acts of SRVAC encompass a broad range of behaviors such as physical assaults, sexual harassment, verbal abuse, bullying, cyberbullying, psychological aggression, coercion, and exclusion. These are often carried out by peers, teachers, or other school personnel.



Implementation Phases of the LEARN Project

It is a 2 Year Project being implemented by LVCT Health in collaboration with local educational and child protection agencies and seeks to foster safer and more conducive learning environments. The LEARN Project is structured into four key sections, including a nested implementation research study that is integral to evaluating the project's impact and efficacy



Strategies for Addressing SRVAC in the LEARN project

- **Capacity Building:** Enhance the skills of school staff through training in positive discipline techniques and establish clear protocols for addressing violence
- **Policy Advocacy:** Partner with government agencies to improve the enforcement of laws that protect children from violence
- **Community Mobilization:** Collaborate with parents, caregivers, and community members to change the norms and behaviours that contribute to violence



Expected Outcomes

- **Enhanced awareness and comprehension of the nature and drivers of school-related violence among** school administrators teachers, parents, and students within the targeted primary schools
- **Improved ability of teachers and students to recognize, prevent, and effectively respond to incidents of SRVAC,** fostering a proactive and supportive school environment
- **Decrease in the frequency and severity of specific forms of SRVAC** in the targeted schools, as a direct result of the tailored interventions and ongoing educational efforts
- **Increased adoption of LEARN project** insights and strategies into national SRVAC prevention policies, ensuring effective and sustainable changes across Kenya's educational system

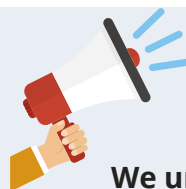
Implication of findings

Knowledge enhancement and model development: Contributes essential insights into preventing school-related violence, serving as a model for similar initiatives both in Kenya and globally.

Improving Student Well-being: Directly enhances the safety and future prospects of vulnerable students, promoting a nurturing environment where all students can thrive.

Evidence-driven policy-making: The LEARN project provides detailed evidence on intervention effectiveness, guiding policymakers, educators, and child protection agencies in creating safer educational environments and enhancing educational equity.

Scaling Effective Strategies: Facilitates the expansion of evidence-based strategies to prevent school-related violence against children, fostering broader implementation and impact



Our Call to Action

We urge educational policymakers, school administrators, teachers, and community organizations to come together and implement robust policies and programs that tackle violence in schools head-on. It is our collective responsibility to foster a nurturing environment where every child can learn without fear.

Acknowledgements

Through collaborative efforts and engagement with the community, the project is dedicated to developing a comprehensive framework that enhances child protection within educational settings throughout Kenya.

We are committed to working alongside critical stakeholders such as the Directorate of Children Services, the Ministry of Education, the Teachers Service Commission, and other entities involved in child protection and education.

Support and Funding: The project is primarily funded by Global Affairs Canada through the Together for Girls, and Anonymous Donor.



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REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SENIOR CITIZEN AFFAIRS
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Teachers Service Commission Kenya



Together for girls
STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

