



Leaving



Violence



Against



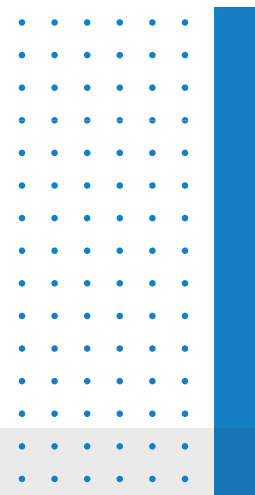
Children



Behind



Key achievements 2022 and the way forward



Ending violence against children cannot wait!

120 million

girls (or 1 in 10) under the age of 20 have suffered some form of forced sexual contact.

1 billion

children are exposed to risks of climate change which is a 'threat multiplier' for violence against children.

42 million

displaced children by mid-2022. Displaced children are at heightened risk of experiencing violence at every stage of their journey.

15%

of children reported cyberbullying victimization, according to a meta-analysis of international studies. One in three Internet users worldwide is under 18 years of age. That number is growing, and with it increased exposure to risks of violence and harm online.

US \$387.2 billion

estimated annual loss linked to mental health conditions in children. The pandemic and ongoing humanitarian crises have magnified the risks to mental well-being worldwide.

1 billion

children already lived in multidimensional poverty before the pandemic. That figure that is now 10% higher. Poverty drives various forms of violence against children.

Strategic direction

Vision

All children live free from violence.

Mission

Collaborative, evidence-based advocacy and mobilization at the global, regional and national levels to end violence against children, achieving the implementation of Agenda 2030 and Our Common Agenda.

Approach

Integrated and systemic, child- and gender-sensitive, inclusive and participative.

Goals



Too many children are still left behind!

1

Accelerated implementation of Agenda 2030 while building back better and beyond.



2

Children involved in decision-making processes and empowered as agents of change.



3

Sustained investment in cross-sectoral services for children and their caregivers.



4

Greater attention given to the issue of violence against children and gender-based violence.



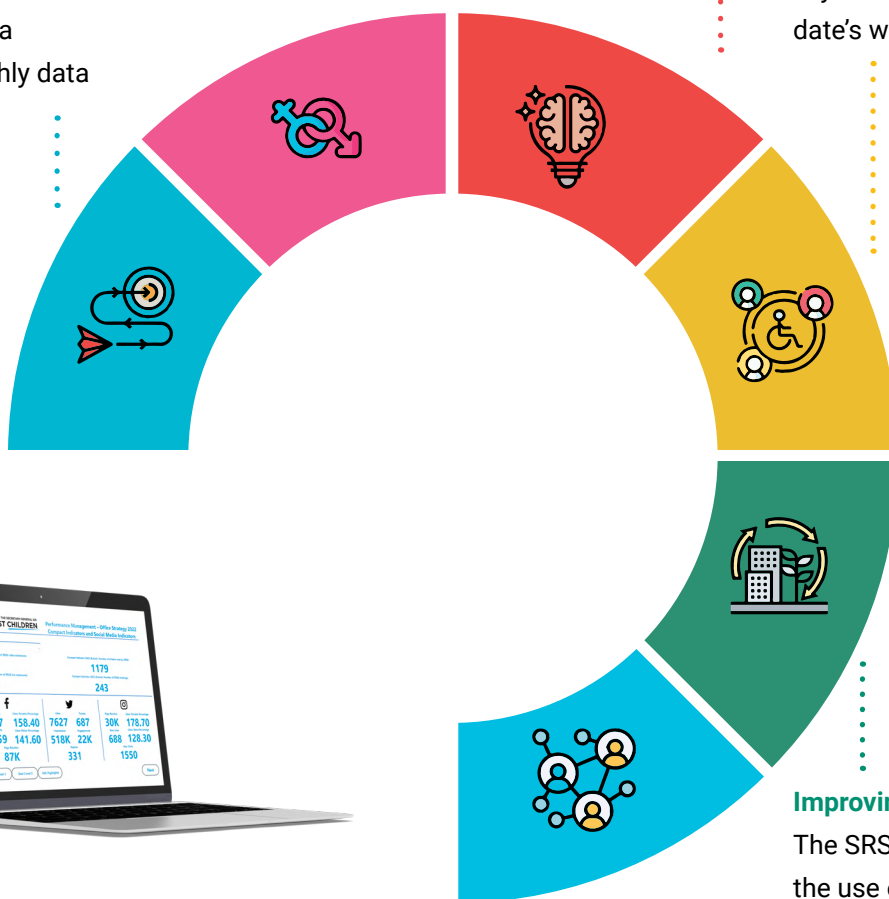
OSRSG VAC ensuring effectiveness

Strategic direction: SRSR adopted a three-year strategy for the mandate's work (2022-2024). To monitor OSRSG VAC's reach and impact, the SRSR has put in place a performance management dashboard tracking the achievement of key indicators underpinned by a system of monthly data collection.

Gender: Addressing gender discrimination and harmful social norms, as well as the connections between violence against women and violence against children, has been a crucial element of the SRSR's advocacy.

Innovation and partnerships: SRSR has continued to raise awareness of frontier issues in ending violence against children through partnerships with States, UN entities, civil society, academia, and the private sector.

Disability: In line with the principle of leaving no child behind, the promotion of measures to ensure the rights, dignity and protection of children with disabilities - especially in the context of deinstitutionalization - has continued to be a key strand of the mandate's work.



Enhancing capacity, cooperation and coordination: In a 2022 OIOS evaluation, the Office was found to have implemented all recommendations received. Cooperation and coordination with key partners such as the SRSR for Children and Armed Conflict and the SRSR on Sexual Violence in Conflict continue to deepen and expand.

Improving sustainability: The SRSR has increased the use of online means to support remote participation in advocacy opportunities and consolidated travel within regions to reduce the need for travel.

Key achievements 2022

The SRSG continued her strong mobilization, bridge-building and advocacy to end violence against children through **more than 240 in-person and online meetings** with Member States, UN entities, regional intergovernmental organizations, parliamentarians, national human rights institutions, civil society, faith-based organizations, private sector, academia, the donor community and children themselves, from all regions and backgrounds.

Through **74 high-level conferences and other advocacy opportunities**, the SRSG promoted stronger action to tackle violence against children and gender-based violence. She highlighted the need to ensure the full integration of actions to address all forms of violence and its drivers in national and local development plans, informed by the views and experiences of children.

Throughout the year, the SRSG provided guidance and tools to stakeholders on a range of topics. These included seeing SDG implementation and **the VNR process through a child protection lens; the climate crisis and violence against children; the protection of children on the move in times of crisis; and producing child-friendly resources.**

The SRSG worked with UN country teams to incorporate child protection and child rights in the design and implementation of **UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks**, aligning with **Our Common Agenda** and the **Call to Action for Human Rights**.



The SRSG engaged directly with over 1,000 children during country missions and interactive dialogues.

Accelerated implementation of Agenda 2030 through SDG framework and VNR process

In 2022, the Special Representative **engaged with all 44 Member States presenting VNRs** at the 2022 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development to offer support to their reporting processes. Every year, the SRSG prepares a report on seeing SDG implementation and the VNR process through a child protection lens, incorporating lessons learned and examples of good practice from VNRs.



At the invitation of these Member States, the **SRSG participated in regional and national policy dialogues**, jointly hosted high-level advocacy activities at the HLPF and General Assembly, and joined national VNR preparation processes.

The SRSG consistently promotes the involvement of children in national VNR processes and has provided guidance to support Member States in doing so. In 2022, **19 Member States highlighted the involvement of children and young people in their VNR processes**.



Investing in children and violence prevention

The SRSG promotes the need to see spending on integrated services to tackle violence and its drivers as an investment with a high return. To mobilize action and support Member States, the SRSG co-wrote an advocacy brief and co-hosted a Ministerial level meeting on this theme, in addition to facilitating peer-learning exchanges between States.



More commitments to alternatives to deprivation of liberty of children



Under the leadership of the SRSG, the **United Nations Task Force on Children Deprived of Liberty** worked closely with Member States and other relevant stakeholders to end all forms of deprivation of liberty of children, making a joint pledge to support the implementation of the **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**, including steps to end immigration detention.

A zoom on the climate crisis: a threat multiplier to VAC

The SRSG's 2022 report to the General Assembly focused on the impact of climate change on children. She launched an accompanying advocacy brief outlining key steps towards incorporating **children's rights and their protection from violence in action to tackle the climate crisis**. In addition, the SRSG published a full information package on this topic - including child-friendly materials and videos - and shared them with all Member States, encouraging their use by education ministries, schools and academic institutions.



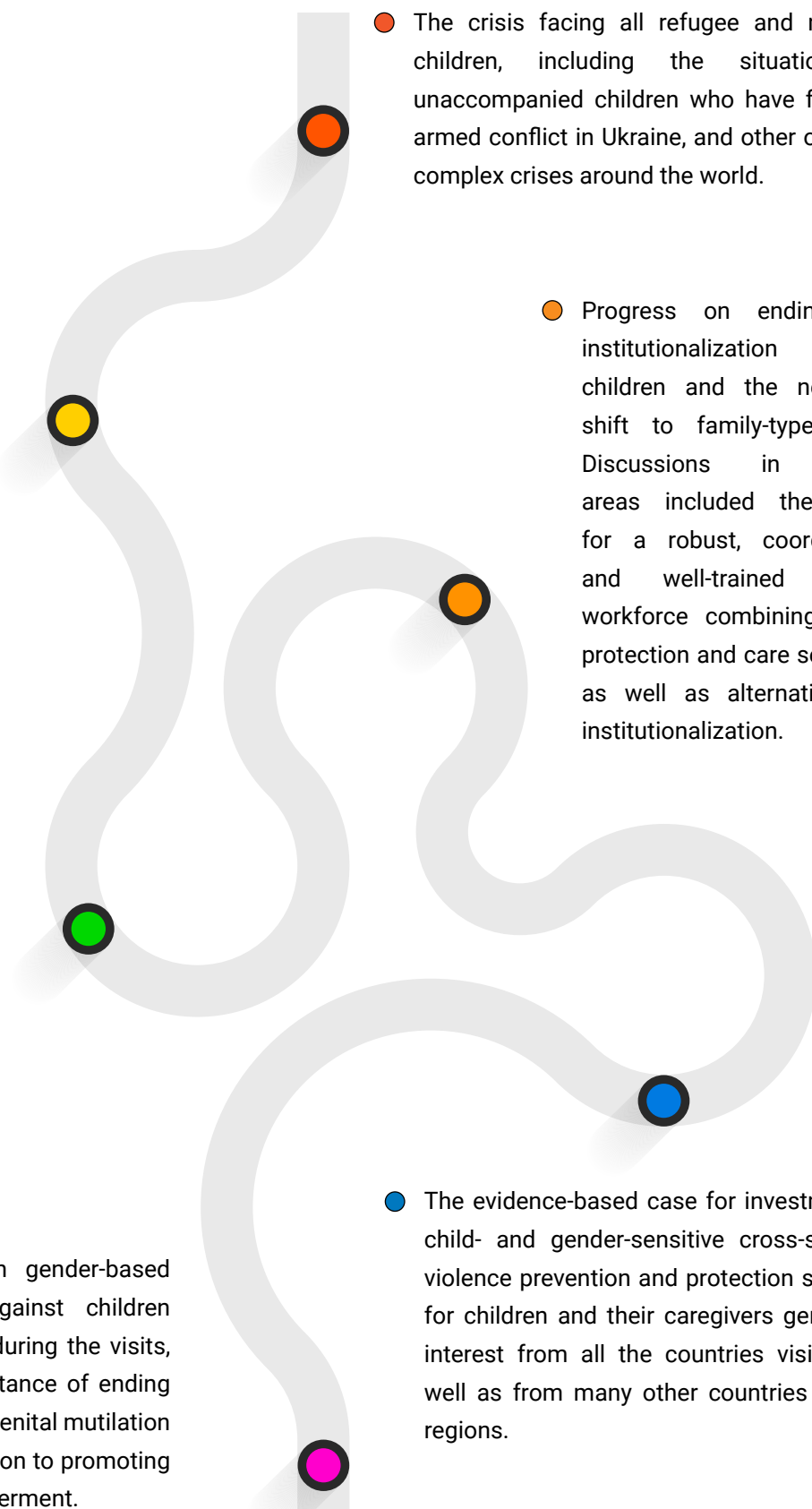
Mobilizing action and supporting change at country and regional levels

The SRSG visited Austria, Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Iceland, Jamaica, Lebanon (as a follow-up visit), Morocco, the Philippines (online engagement), Romania, Spain and Viet Nam.

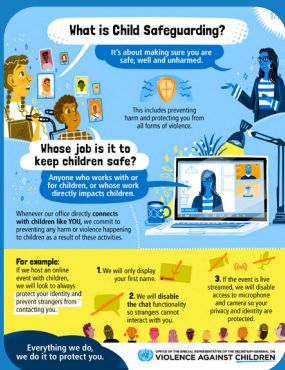
The SRSG met with Heads of State and Government; relevant ministers; parliamentarians; representatives of national human rights institutions; civil society actors; community and religious leaders; local authorities; public service providers; representatives of multilateral financial institutions, the corporate sector and the donor community; members of the media; and children, particularly those at increased risk of violence. Her visits always conclude with the preparation of a road map or outline for follow-up engagement, closely coordinated with national authorities and United Nations partners on the ground.



Main areas of engagement included:

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- Meetings with diverse groups of children across all regions confirm the serious challenges related to mental well-being. The SRSG welcomes and is deeply grateful for the engagement and support on the issue of mental health at the highest levels in many countries. While this increased attention is encouraging, deep concerns persist regarding the fact that required services are still not being scaled up to cover the increasing demand and to ensure that no child is left behind.
 - Support for law reform and the development and launch of national strategies to end violence against children constituted one area of her active engagement during these visits.
 - The interlinkages between gender-based violence and violence against children were cross-cutting issues during the visits, including the critical importance of ending domestic violence, female genital mutilation and child marriage, in addition to promoting gender equality and empowerment.
 - The crisis facing all refugee and migrant children, including the situation of unaccompanied children who have fled the armed conflict in Ukraine, and other ongoing complex crises around the world.
 - Progress on ending the institutionalization of children and the need to shift to family-type care. Discussions in these areas included the need for a robust, coordinated and well-trained social workforce combining cash, protection and care services, as well as alternatives to institutionalization.
 - The evidence-based case for investment in child- and gender-sensitive cross-sectoral violence prevention and protection services for children and their caregivers generated interest from all the countries visited, as well as from many other countries across regions.

Promoting a culture of meaningful child participation



What is child safeguarding?

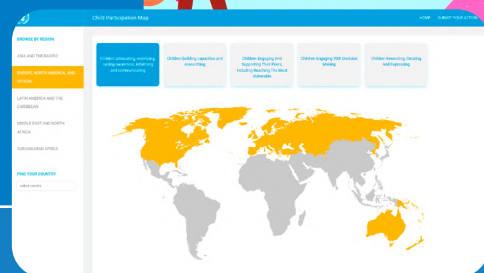


Child-friendly version of the 2022 report to the Human Rights Council



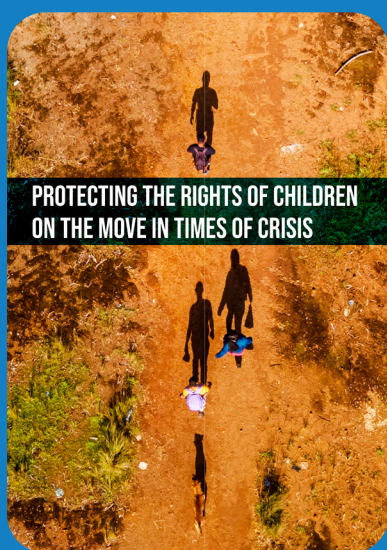
10 steps for reporting to children

The SRSG launched a digital campaign called 'Let's Tell The World' that encouraged children to share their actions to make the world safer and more inclusive. Over 360 child-led initiatives from 90 countries are now included on the office's global digital participation map.



The Office of the Special Representative and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) launched 'POP' (Protection through Online Participation), an initiative aiming to understand better how children and young people use digital platforms to be safer. It received close to **4000 examples from 118 countries.**

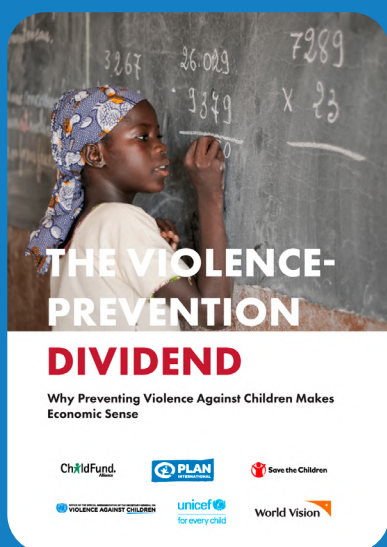
Providing guidance on thematic issues related to violence against children



Protecting the rights of children on the move in the times of crisis



The climate crisis and violence against children



The violence-prevention dividend



Seeing the SDG and VNR through a child protection lens - 2022



OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON
VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Annual Report

2022

United Nations General Assembly:
Promotion and protection of the
rights of children



Learn more about the achievements and key initiatives from
2022 in the annual report.



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