

One Year On from the First Ministerial Conference to End Violence Against Children: A Call to Strengthen Commitment to Children Affected by Conflict and Crisis

The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action attended and celebrated the commitments made at the first-ever [Global Ministerial Conference on Violence against Children](#) (VAC). It was a pivotal moment for children and their protection, one that spurred attention to an issue that is too often experienced by children and too little addressed by those responsible for their protection. According to the reports from pledge makers and the hosts of the original event - WHO and UNICEF, with the Governments of Colombia and Sweden - much progress has been made to end violence against children in terms of policy and practice over the past year. We celebrate that progress.

As those whose mission is to prevent and respond to violence against children in humanitarian contexts, it is also incumbent upon us to recognise that this progress remains uneven, with many children left behind. 2025 has not been a peaceful year for children. A record number - around [1 in 5 children](#) globally, totalling more than half a billion children - are living in or close to armed conflict or violence. In [Gaza](#), thousands of children lost their lives this year. In [Sudan](#), hundreds of children have been separated from their parents in just the last few weeks. In [Haiti](#), children now make up roughly 50% of active gangs, compelled to commit as well as to be victims of violence. All of this takes place against a backdrop of drastic [humanitarian funding cuts](#) and an [increasing disregard for international humanitarian and human rights law](#).

While we celebrate the progress since Bogotá, we must recognise the millions of children unreached by our commitments to ending VAC. The Alliance reiterates [our calls](#) from 2024 that all governments prioritise children in crises, ensuring they are not left behind in global efforts to end VAC; that children's perspectives and humanitarian realities be at the forefront of our efforts to find solutions; and that we address not only the impacts of crises but also their root causes.

Violence Against Children can be prevented and responded to, even in conflict and crisis. However, without a systematic and political commitment to place children and their protection at the centre of all humanitarian and development agendas, we will fail to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the Bogotá Commitments, and our moral obligations to children and our collective future. **Children's voices and lived experience must remain a critical element of these efforts.**
