

Safe Families (previously known as Parenting without Violence) is Save the Children's common approach to reducing physical and humiliating punishment in the home – the most common form of violence against children around the world. Safe Families has been implemented in over 40 countries.



## Overview: Specific Objectives of the Common Approach

Reduce the physical and humiliating punishment of children in the home

Improve caregivers' capacities to practice positive parenting



Increasing children's resilience and confidence to express their views and feelings in their home and to seek support when they feel unsafe

Strengthen social norms and gender and power dynamics that support equal responsibility for positive, non-discriminatory parenting

Strengthen equitable and gender sensitive protection systems that prevent and respond to violence against children.

Improve the quality of the caregiver-child relationships

In 2023, Save the Children conducted the Safe Families Evidence Review aiming to assess the effectiveness and impact of the Safe Families (SF) Common Approach (CA). The review encompassed multiple countries and consisted of four key phases:

- 1) Review of documentation for 127 awards/SOFs (Statements of Financial Information) to assess the level of Safe Families implementation and gender transformation against predetermined criteria.
- 2) A quantitative analysis of outcome indicators such as the prevalence of physical punishment and psychological aggression, attitudes toward using violence punishment, and positive caregiver-child relationships.
- 3) Review of qualitative evidence and evaluation reports, analyzing the effectiveness, sustainability, enabling approaches, and challenges of the Safe Families program.
- 4) A validation workshop was conducted, where key Save the Children staff working on the Parenting without Violence programs discussed the findings of the previous phases, identified gaps, areas requiring supplementary knowledge, and proposed recommendations.

## Highlights

Evaluation reports on the Safe Families indicated positive changes in family decision-making, shared responsibility for childcare and domestic chores, and children's attitudes towards gender equality when relevant measurements were included.

Across all data sets following participation in Safe Families there was a statistically significant difference in the proportion of boys and girls who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers.

Across all data sets there was a statistically significant increase in the % of caregivers who reported positive caregiver-child relationships.

The matching and non-matching caregiver data sets found a statistically significant increase in the % of caregivers who reported positive caregiver-child relationships following participation in Safe Families.

Having concurrent sessions for caregivers and children and the adult- child interaction sessions, were seen to be the key factors in improving caregiver-child understanding, relationships, and communication. Other factors referenced in evaluation report(s) included home visits, involvement in the process.

The majority of evaluation reports found that participation yielded positive changes for children and caregivers, including improved caregiver-child relationships, enhanced communication, increased knowledge on positive parenting and negative impacts of PHP, improved knowledge on rights and violence, identification of self-protective behaviors, knowledge of where to seek help, greater confidence in reporting protection violations, increased self-esteem, and improved relationships or communication with caregivers.

Model Proposal/Award

SOF	Country	Title of Project	Context	Length	Level of PwV implementation
03602975	Cambodia	ANCP RECOVER	Development		<b>Full</b> (Child, Interpersonal, Community & System level)

"There are only a few of us men, but we should all be sitting here... [These] are topics that you should not miss if you are a father, if you are an uncle, if indeed you are a man... what I learned the most was the importance of speaking to my children affectionately, my father never told me that he loved me, and I did the same with my children, now there is no day that I don't tell them that I love them and that they are important to me."

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- Father, Bolivia, during the adult-child interaction