Raise the awareness of the government, the community, lawmakers, religious leaders, tribal leaders, police, judges, lawyers, military, corporations, parents, teachers, children, and other stakeholders on VAC prevention and positive discipline to end physical and humiliating punishment. There should also be human rights education to end discrimination, to stop the cultural/ traditional teachings or beliefs that violate human rights, and to break the cycle of violence. In addition, efforts should be done to raise awareness on the impacts of substance abuse, such as drugs and alcohol, and to remove the stigma on mental health issues.

Children’s recommendations on addressing violence against children:

- Raise the awareness of the government, the community, lawmakers, religious leaders, tribal leaders, police, judges, lawyers, military, corporations, parents, teachers, children, and other stakeholders on VAC prevention and positive discipline to end physical and humiliating punishment. There should also be human rights education to end discrimination, to stop the cultural/ traditional teachings or beliefs that violate human rights, and to break the cycle of violence. In addition, efforts should be done to raise awareness on the impacts of substance abuse, such as drugs and alcohol, and to remove the stigma on mental health issues.
- Create new laws that address the emerging forms of VAC and discrimination, and strengthen the implementation and monitoring of existing laws. The laws on price regulation, taxation, responsible consumption, or banning of substances should be strongly implemented also. The children also emphasized that despite the many laws on violence such as corporal punishment, sexual abuse, substance abuse, among others, the implementation of these laws is weak.
- Provide support to victims through helplines, community child protection committees, trained counselors in schools and shelters, social workers, and support groups for children and adults. There should also be training on parenting skills, guidance for parents on providing care and support to children experiencing mental health concerns, and support for children and youth campaigns and other efforts on empowerment of children.
Ensure that rehabilitation programs and services are available for those who are facing mental health problems, those who have become addicted to alcohol or drugs, and those who are becoming abusers after being a victim themselves. This helps break the cycle of violence.

Address the economic problems that cause VAC by reviewing workplace policies of children’s parents and caregivers, and increasing their salaries and their reducing work hours; providing sustainable job opportunities especially in rural areas and providing vocational training to parents and young people; supporting sustainable livelihood by providing poor households with technical support and long-term loans with zero interest as capital for small enterprise; implementing poverty reduction programs and creating policies that address the economic needs, and providing government subsidy for alternative care to enhance services for child protection.

Support the “socialization of human rights” or the implementation of international norms among peers, across cultures, and across generations at the regional, national, and local levels.

Stop discrimination by promoting unity in diversity through working together and by promoting equality despite differences in gender, sexual orientation, race, culture, and disability.

The children capped their presentation off by emphasizing that the causes of violence that they presented at the beginning – lack of knowledge, economic problems, mental health problems, substance abuse, discrimination, negative cultural practices, and the cycle of violence – can be addressed by promoting self-improvement: Start ending violence with oneself; gain knowledge and put them into action; learn skills and be able to earn in the future; advocate for a more solid support system; get involved in anti-corruption campaigns and urge governments to raise taxes in alcoholic beverages; respect ourselves and each other; live without discrimination and comparisons based on race, gender, age, and ethnic groups; become more open minded and stop replicating negative cultural practices and behaviors; be a good role model to your child and teaching them in a positive manner (for parents and caregivers).

**Children’s Questions:**

- How can governments make sure that children’s opinions are heard and considered in ending VAC?
- Which violence issues are the top priorities? How will the government, international organizations, and the UN work together with children and youth to solve priorities on VAC?
- There are already laws to prevent and address VAC. How can governments, the UN, INGOs, and other stakeholders work together to implement the law?
- Instead of acting on abuse or violence after it happens, how can all governments work together to prevent VAC?
- How can other countries help Timor Leste’s government to accelerate the ratification of laws that protect all children from violence?
- What can all governments and UN/INGOs/NGOs do to help parents behave properly with their children, especially with children with disabilities and children with different sexual orientations?