

Tool #4: Core and Peripheral Elements of a Violence Against Children Intervention/Activity

A worksheet to facilitate discussion and to visualize what is core to an intervention/activity and what is peripheral when scaling up in order to preserve fidelity.

There are some elements and principles in every evidence-based intervention/activity that must be present for the intervention/activity to perform as intended. Change any of those elements or principles, and you may not be faithful to the proven model. Some adaptations are necessary, while others may create a new intervention/activity altogether. Help implementing partners both inside and outside the Joining Forces consortium succeed by communicating what is core and what is peripheral.

How to use this tool

1. Choose an intervention/activity of focus, and consult any available research suggesting what proved critical to the intervention/activity. **If possible, consult individuals who have worked on the model intervention/activity and can be considered experts.**
2. As a group or individually, identify what aspects of the intervention/activity are considered core. Write these in the inner "core elements" circle. These aspects (or elements) may be specific tools, implementing cadres, programmatic principles and goals, resources or any other piece of the intervention/activity that is considered essential.
3. Now consider other aspects of the intervention/activity that can be changed without affecting the nature of the outcomes. Write these in the outer "peripheral elements" circle.
4. Provide justification for why each of the core and peripheral elements are included as such. Discuss as a group, and build consensus using the research.
5. Finally, draft a document communicating these elements and the justification to Implementing Partners.



Children's Engagement

When using this tool Joining Forces seeks children's engagement in two distinct ways: 1) integrating information about children's views and perspectives as it relates to the tool's topic and 2) as a source of data for each tool. Locating opportunities for child participation and child safeguarding (as separate and complementary) is a shared responsibility of all Joining Forces partners. Ask Joining Forces for their suggestions for how children or families could be helpful in determining what is core vs. peripheral. It could take the form of a "member check" (i.e., run the analysis past a focus group of children and family members and see if they have strong agreements or disagreements.)

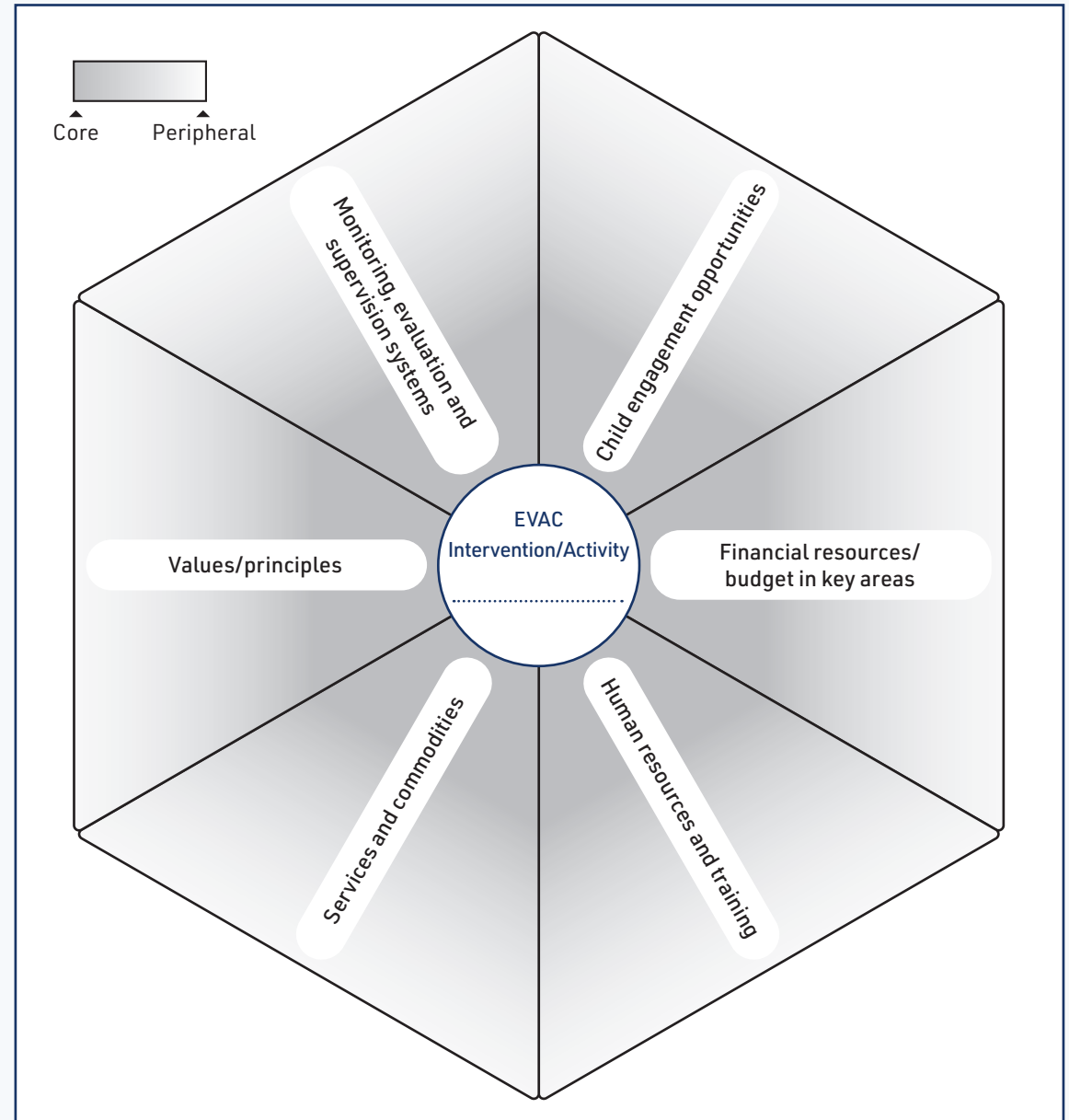
Reminder

Feel free to adapt this tool in any way that works for your team and your context!

Core and Peripheral Elements of a Violence Against Children Prevention Activity

STEP 1: IDENTIFY CORE AND PERIPHERAL ELEMENTS

1. Choose an intervention/activity to prevent violence against children to focus on. Write it in the blank at the center of the diagram.
2. What are all the specific elements of this intervention/activity? A few areas to consider are provided in the graphic to the right:
 - Monitoring, evaluation and supervision systems
 - Values/principles
 - Services and commodities
 - Human resources and training
 - Financial resources/budget in key areas
 - Child engagement opportunities
3. Discuss with team members and relevant stakeholders, and especially any implementers of the original intervention/activity you wish to adapt and scale, which elements you consider to be essential (or "core"). If a specific element were changed or eliminated, would it fundamentally change the outcomes of the intervention/activity? If yes, these may be core elements.
4. If using the tool in print, write core elements on post-it notes and place them in the core area of the diagram. If using the tool electronically you can add a comment.
5. If using the tool in print, write peripheral elements on post-it notes and place them in the "peripheral" area of the diagram. If using the tool electronically you can add a comment.
6. If you did this exercise individually, come together with other stakeholders, including children who have experienced the intervention/activity, and as a group, find agreement. Document the core elements.



STEP 2: EXPLAIN

1. Build a case for your decisions. Look at the evidence base for this intervention/activity (tool #3), and input from a model site to support your placement of elements as core or peripheral.
2. *If there is debate among your group about a specific element, talk to the original designer to double-check your assumptions.*
3. You might need more boxes for core and peripheral elements. **Duplicate this page as necessary to list all the core and peripheral elements you have thought of.**

CORE: An element is core when removing it or changing it significantly reduces the effectiveness of the intervention/activity. Core elements should be included with as much fidelity as possible.

PERIPHERAL: An element is peripheral when adapting it to the context, or removing it, improves or does not seriously impair an intervention/activity from achieving the expected outcomes. Peripheral elements may be extensively modified to fit new contexts.

CORE Using the results from Part 1 of this tool, what are the core elements that must be maintained in scale up? Add more elements as needed.

PERIPHERAL Using the results from Part 1 of this tool, choose elements that might need to be adapted, or could be left out entirely without significantly changing the activity. Add more elements as needed.

ELEMENT:

Why MUST this element *be maintained*?

ELEMENT:

Why is this element *adaptable*?

ELEMENT:

Why MUST this element *be maintained*?

ELEMENT:

Why is this element *adaptable*?

ELEMENT:

Why MUST this element *be maintained*?

ELEMENT:

Why is this element *adaptable*?

STEP 3: COMMUNICATE TO ALL JOINING FORCES PARTNERS INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTATION

In communicating to other Joining Forces Partners, be sure to:

1. Explain the difference between “core” and “peripheral” elements.
2. Share your list of core and peripheral elements for their intervention/activity.
3. Explain that it is important to monitor the intervention/activity in an ongoing, adaptive manner to ensure that interventions/activities include core elements.