

Country Engagement Guidance

(December 2016)

1. Introduction

Agenda 2030 calls for all countries and all stakeholders to come together in a collaborative partnership to deliver sustainable development to all, especially the most vulnerable. The **Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children** ('End Violence') will convene governments, UN agencies, international organizations, civil society, faith groups, the private sector, philanthropic foundations, researchers, academics, and children in order to:

1. Build and sustain **political will** to achieve the SDGs, promoting evidence-based strategies that will lead to significant, sustained and measurable reductions in violence against children
2. Work together with partners to **accelerate action** to tackle the violence that children face, with an initial focus on countries that wish to lead the movement to end violence
3. **Strengthen collaboration** among and between countries, and with civil society and other stakeholders. End Violence will work with and supplement the efforts of existing partnerships.

End Violence is a platform that aims to build and strengthen a 'movement' to end violence against children everywhere in all its forms. End Violence relies on the effective engagement of its Partners at all levels (Partners refers to both Partners and Members as outlined in the *Stakeholder Engagement Policy*). Throughout this document, reference to End Violence implies the work of the Partnership – the partner organizations and governments, and the Secretariat. In specific cases, the role of the Secretariat is highlighted.

INSPIRE, a technical package of seven strategies to prevent violence against children, is central to the End Violence strategy. All efforts to accelerate action at the national level should reinforce existing initiatives, including implementation of INSPIRE, and other coalitions and partnerships such as WePROTECT, Together for Girls, Girls Not Brides, and the work being carried out in humanitarian settings by the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility.

This guidance note explains how governments can engage with End Violence as a 'Partner' or a 'Member'. It sets out the steps required for governments who choose to become Partners through pathfinding and what is expected of them. It also explains the role of the Secretariat in country engagement. The guidance note builds on earlier drafts of Guidance for Pathfinder Countries (November 2015) and the End Violence Strategy (July 2016). It is informed by experiences in countries over the past several months and was developed in consultation with, and approved by, the End Violence Executive Committee. It will be updated periodically based on experience and new evidence.

2. All countries

Governments have committed to the SDG targets and thereby to the implementation of SDG16.2 and related targets. In line with the End Violence Stakeholder Engagement Policy, governments can engage with End Violence as Partners and Members. As Partners they can engage in two ways:

1. By making a public commitment to externally support End Violence as a donor or convener *and/or*
2. By making a public commitment to become a pathfinding country, which implies a broad multisectoral effort to end violence against children domestically.

To be considered an End Violence Partner, a formal expression of interest should be submitted to the Secretariat specifying commitments to end violence against children. Criteria for being a pathfinding country are outlined below. It is understood that decisions on international and domestic commitments on this and other issues involve different parts of government in most countries. Nonetheless, it is hoped that all countries will embrace the goal of ending violence against children at both the national and international levels.

Governments can also engage as Members of End Violence, by publically endorsing the mission and principles of End Violence both within their borders and internationally. Based on a template letter provided by the Secretariat, Member governments can clarify their engagement.

Partners will be regularly monitored against their commitments, including public disclosure at Solution Summits. Other governments, including Members, are encouraged to use national, regional and international reporting mechanisms linked to the SDGs and the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other reporting mechanisms to report on the implementation of SDG target 16.2 and VAC related targets.

This section provides general guidance for all countries that wish to accelerate action at national or sub-national level to end violence against children. Countries may prioritize certain activities over others and tailor their commitments to their specific context. The additional expectations of pathfinding countries are outlined in section 3.

Strengthen ownership, coordination and planning

End Violence recognizes that national leadership and investment to end violence against children already exists in many countries. Therefore, all countries are encouraged to tailor the implementation of SDG16.2 and related targets to specific political, cultural, and social contexts, while taking into account evidence-based prevention and response strategies. This will result in multi-constituency and multisectoral planning. It will build on existing efforts with a renewed commitment to scale up efforts to end violence against children.

A. Appoint a senior level government focal point

Current practice suggests that the appointment of a senior government focal point to coordinate a 'whole of government' approach to ending violence against children can drive action. Focal points should have the mandate and resources to coordinate efforts within the ministry where they are situated and among the other relevant ministries. These focal points will lead a group of partners across government, UN, civil society, private sector, and academics so that ending violence against children becomes a national priority and translates into interventions that are adequately funded, implemented and evaluated. Ideally, focal points will be assisted by staff, or supported by core partners.

B. Strengthen/build multi-stakeholder platforms

In many countries, national/sub-national coordination platforms on child protection, or on ending violence against children, already exist. These are often attached to an inter-institutional commission/body on children's rights or SDG implementation. In other cases, such bodies work independently. If there is no existing platform, or if the existing ones are not inclusive of key sectors/stakeholders and need strengthening, the Secretariat can share information on how other pathfinding countries have established effective platforms. Additionally, the Secretariat can garner support from other End Violence partners working in-country. It will be important that these platforms are: a) multisectoral and include social

services, health, education, and law enforcement; b) multi-stakeholder and comprise of government, UN, civil society, children, academic, donors, and private sector entities; c) inclusive (i.e. ensure the participation of excluded groups); and d) clearly linked to the structures attached to the overall implementation of the SDGs at national level. In this way they will bring together and work with all involved in preventing and responding to violence against children. In order to set up a coordination platform, a 'mapping' of partners should be done and made widely available.

Coordination across sectors and stakeholder groups allows everyone involved in addressing violence against children to contribute their unique expertise, united by common objectives and guided by a division of labor. This approach also strengthens national and sub-national systems in the long run. Maintaining the coordination platform at national and or sub-national level, by enhancing partnership engagement and expanding resources, is central to its success.

● **Example of partners that were involved in developing the Tanzanian National Action Plan to End Violence against Women and Children.**

1. Governments: Ministry of Health, Community Development, Elderly, Gender, and Children; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs; Ministry of Home Affairs; Ministry of Information, Youth, Culture and Sport; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Social Welfare; Ministry of Finance; US CDC; USAID; European Commission; Canada; DFID
2. UN agencies: IOM; UNICEF; UNFPA; UNHCR; UN Women; World Bank; WHO
3. Civil society: Tanzania Child Rights Forum; Tanzania Social Action Fund; Railway Children; Catholic Relief Services; Equip PACT; Plan International; Restless Development; Save the Children; SOS Children's Villages; Terre des Hommes; World Vision (20+)
4. Private sector: Aga Khan Foundation; Oak Foundation; FHI 360
5. Academia: Institute of Social Work
6. Children: Consultations with children facilitated by CSOs.

Reinforce data collection

In many countries, high-quality data on violence against children is lacking. This data is neither systematically collected nor comparable; moreover, it generally does not cover all forms of violence against children. An important first step for countries is to improve data collection, analysis, and monitoring. In recent years, the number of surveys addressing the prevalence of violence against children has increased. Two of these – the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV) and Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS) – measure the full range of types, locations, and perpetrators. Several other tools exist that measure exposures to several types of violence. Examples include the following: Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS); Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Studies; Living Standard Measurement Studies (LSMS); Global School-Based Student Health Surveys (GSHS); Health Behavior in School-aged Children (HBSC) Surveys; and ISPCAN Child Abuse Screening Tools (ICAST) Surveys. National Statistical Offices usually

have primary responsibility to strengthen and develop data collection systems on violence against children. The government focal point and the coordination platform will be working in close cooperation with the National Statistical Office.

End Violence will work closely with UNICEF as the UN agency 'custodian' of SDG16.2 and with groups and coalitions such as Together for Girls, US CDC, UNODC, ILO, and WHO to support countries to strengthen data collection. Turning the data into action is as important as collecting the data. The Violence Against Children Survey (VACS) Data to Action Tool is designed for this purpose. It aims to make findings accessible to a broad range of stakeholders who can take action to prevent and respond to violence against children. End Violence will encourage the development and use of innovative forms of data collection, including the use of 'big data' and qualitative measures.

Develop the national roadmap

A roadmap is a high-level document that sets out priorities and commitments, and includes action points within a timeframe. It details responsible parties and resource implications. A roadmap summarizes the results a country expects to achieve and how these results will be evaluated. The development of a roadmap helps to align the strategies of those working across different sectors, and clarifies the role that all levels of government and other stakeholders will play in delivery.

Roadmaps and information from data systems should be mutually reinforcing. Together they should indicate where violence is occurring, the groups at greatest risk, and how progress is being monitored. Ideally, the collection and analysis of data should precede the formulation of the roadmap. However, where no such data collection systems are available, national roadmaps might be developed first, calling for strengthened capacity in data collection. Many countries already have relevant plans and strategies (e.g. on ending violence against children, on child protection, on ending child marriage, child labor, child trafficking, FGM/C, etc.). Rather than duplicate these, the roadmap can be used to clarify and summarize commitments, as well as to articulate the role that different partners will play in implementation. The roadmap can also support an analysis of challenges and make recommendations for accelerated delivery.

The INSPIRE strategies can be drawn upon to assist in the development of the roadmap. INSPIRE is not designed to be implemented as a standalone program. It aims to revitalize and refocus existing multisectoral efforts to end violence against children, while increasing the ambition. A series of handbooks are being developed to support the implementation of the INSPIRE interventions and will be made available during the course of 2017. Roadmaps articulate how national plans should be implemented and, where appropriate, build on, align and integrate implementation with existing initiatives including: the UN Study on Violence Against Children; recommendations of the Special Representative of the

Secretary General (SRSG) on Violence Against Children and SRSG on Children in Armed Conflict (CAC); the Violence Against Children (VAC) Surveys; and the 'WHO Plan of action to strengthen the role of the health system to address interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children.' The concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child should also be reflected.

An effective roadmap will be: a) a high-level document that is clear, with actions that are feasible, scalable and sustainable; b) ambitious; c) for a period of three to five years, depending on national planning cycles; d) clearly linked to existing national strategies, including national SDG implementation strategies; e) developed through an inclusive process; and f) the basis for a costed national action plan in which resources match the commitments. Roadmaps are context-specific and will therefore vary in content and structure. Proposed headings include the following:

- Definitions/baseline/prevalence data (if available)
- National SDG targets, indicators for ending violence against children
- Priorities and milestones for 2019 (or end date of roadmap)
- Critical national actions (using INSPIRE strategies)
- International, national, or foreign aid commitments
- Leadership and coordination across sectors, composition of the coordination platform
- Contribution of each sector, stakeholder, and partner
- Role of children
- Budget and timelines
- Investment in capacity building and knowledge of those frontline professionals protecting children e.g., teachers, social service workers, etc.
- Measuring progress.

Implement and evaluate

End Violence relies on its members to support the implementation of roadmaps. Key steps include:

1. Developing a national action plan at least for the first year of implementation of the roadmap
2. Communicating the roadmap and national action plan to internal and external audiences
3. Selecting interventions that are aligned with local context, capacities and existing systems, building on capacity across sectors and communicating clear and strong messages about these interventions
4. Estimating costs and identifying financial support, noting that every member of the coordination platform is expected to contribute human or financial resources
5. Strengthening and building human and institutional capacity
6. Developing an effective monitoring system to follow progress of planned activities, identify problems, provide feedback and solve problems before they cause delays. Rapid processing and analysis of data and strong channels to decision makers will help accelerate action.

Share lessons learned and ensure corrective action

National level exchanges on advances and challenges are essential to foster learning and correct a particular course of action where necessary. In addition, End Violence will use its convening power to strengthen and expand these exchanges beyond national borders. Countries can also share lessons learned at 'Solutions Summits' that will bring together governments, international and national experts, civil society organizations and leaders, as well as children themselves.



3. Pathfinding countries

What they are and how to become one

Pathfinding countries are those that commit to accelerate achievement of the End Violence goals. While every country is eligible to be pathfinding, it is expected that numbers will grow slowly, given the heightened levels of action this designation requires. Pathfinding countries will commit to three to five years of accelerated action, at the end of which they will have achieved ambitious goals for children and their pathfinding status

will come to an end. For the purpose of this document we refer to countries, however, provincial and/or regional governments may also serve as pathfinding entities.

Pathfinding countries adhere to the End Violence principles. This means that their actions will be: rights-focused, child-centered, universal, gender-sensitive, inclusive, transparent, evidence-based, and

results-focused. Using the framework below, the first stage for pathfinding countries will be to assess themselves against these principles. Adherence to these principles is a fundamental criteria for pathfinding entities. The process for self-assessment includes the following steps: identification of a sound process; dissemination of assessment results and actions planned in response; and regular reviews of the assessment.

Principle

Rights-focused: The Convention on the Rights of the Child underpins the work of the pathfinding countries. All children have an equal right to be protected from violence, regardless of their gender, age, disability, race, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, or legal status. Any action to prevent and respond to violence takes into account the needs, rights and best interests of all children, without discrimination of any kind.

Child-centred: Children's rights and needs are the primary focus. The pathfinding country supports children as leaders against violence. It listens to children and respects their views, providing them with meaningful ways to participate and to contribute to its decision-making.

Universal: All parts of society take responsibility and are accountable for ending violence against children. Partners work to reach children that are the furthest behind first, including those affected by conflict and crisis, or those that are excluded because of income, class, race, religion, citizenship, disability, or legal status.

Gender-sensitive: Violence poses different risks for girls, boys, and those with other gender identities. Gender perspectives are central to the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the pathfinding country's policies and programmes, in line with the goal of achieving gender equity and empowerment of all women and girls.

Inclusive: The pathfinding country provides a platform for partners from across society to work together to prevent and respond to the many forms of violence, based on trust and mutual respect, between organizations of all sizes and people of all ages.

Transparent: The pathfinding country builds trust by sharing information and consulting widely, and being open about its failures as well as its successes. It is committed to communicating in an appropriate way with all audiences, including children.

Evidence-based: The pathfinding country's work is informed by the best available scientific evidence, while tailoring interventions to each context. It is committed to learning, to sharing lessons and to constantly improving.

Results-focused: Partners are individually and collectively accountable for the safety of children. The pathfinding country will demonstrate results and support country-led efforts to track progress in implementing SDG targets to end violence against children.

Means of verification

- a. Status of CRC and its optional protocol
- b. Legislation to prohibit all forms of violence against children
- c. Adherence to relevant international guidelines
- d. Co-operation with human rights bodies
- e. Child participation in planning
- f. Child participation in delivery
- g. Child participation in monitoring
- h. Legislation for children most likely to be excluded
- i. Policies for children most likely to be excluded
- j. Responds to needs of girls
- k. Responds to needs of boys
- l. Respond to needs of LGBTI
- m. Strong links with actions to address inequality
- n. Strong links with actions to end violence against women
- o. Multisectoral platform
- p. Meaningful grassroots and national NGO leadership
- q. Effective reporting mechanisms
- r. Open and inclusive planning process
- s. Accountability towards children
- t. Use of INSPIRE or other evidence-based resources
- u. Commit to rigorous research
- v. Commitment to sharing and learning from others
- w. Robust data on all forms of violence
- x. Data on trends for SDG16.2 and related targets

In addition to the self-assessment, in order to qualify as pathfinding, a country must:

- ✓ Send an expression of interest from a responsible minister or ministerial team to the Secretariat
- ✓ Appoint a senior level governmental focal point to lead the process
- ✓ Convene and support a multi-stakeholder platform to plan, deliver and evaluate actions
- ✓ Reinforce data collection by publishing an updated national study or survey
- ✓ Develop a roadmap that sets out commitments for two year as well as five year goals
- ✓ Identify the resources needed to implement the roadmap as well as how these resources will be mobilised
- ✓ Commit to higher levels of analysis throughout the process and in particular:
 1. Monitoring delivery of the commitments in the roadmap
 2. Reporting annually and setting targets for the coming year
 3. Sharing learning and celebrating success during Solution Summits.

Pathfinding countries will be regularly monitored against their commitments, including public disclosure at Solution Summits. End Violence will rely on its members and partners at country level to fully engage and support the leadership of the government. Pathfinding countries will receive tailored and intensified support from the End Violence Secretariat throughout this process.

Pathfinding in humanitarian and fragile settings

As wars, mass refugee movements, economic migration, and climate disasters increase, more children than ever before are vulnerable to all forms of violence. In these situations, children suffer in greater numbers from recruitment into armed forces or armed groups, early marriage, child labor and sexual exploitation. Ensuring their right to be protected is fundamental.

In humanitarian and fragile settings, the fora and mechanisms available to end violence against children will be more complex and varied. In some cases, pre-existing mechanisms can be strengthened and restored; in others they will need to be re-built entirely. In some situations, governments will be in a position to coordinate while in others, non-state actors and/or civil society organizations will take the lead. For most countries, community-based mechanisms will continue to function and may provide the basis on which prevention and response efforts can be built.

For humanitarian and fragile settings, a constituency of non-governmental and state actors can be supported to declare themselves pathfinding in the fight to end violence against children. To do so they require:

- ✓ A functioning coordination system that is led by government, UN or civil society
- ✓ An expression of interest from the coordination system in-country
- ✓ A will to strengthen data collection
- ✓ A will to support community-based initiatives
- ✓ A will to prioritise self-contained, not government reliant, interventions such as parenting programmes, access to education and services for victims
- ✓ Commitment to a higher level of analysis throughout the process and in particular:
 1. Monitoring on delivery of the commitments in the roadmap
 2. Reporting annually and setting targets for the coming year
 3. Sharing learning and celebrating success during the Solutions Summits

4. The role of the Secretariat and members

Nationally driven action is essential for the sustainability of End Violence. National governments must drive the process, with support from in-country partners. The Secretariat will facilitate the provision of support to governments to end violence against children. As the Partnership develops, the Secretariat will increasingly call upon the strengths and skills of its partners to provide technical support at national and local level. Pathfinding countries will have first call on technical and financial support.

The support available to countries includes:

- Help to design and organize stakeholder consultations
- Presentation of the INSPIRE package and training as needed
- Support in integrating INSPIRE into national plans of action
- Advice and mentoring to develop a roadmap and national action plan
- Support to cost national action plans and mobilize different resources
- Short-term financial support for in-country coordination or other roadmap related activities
- A roster of technical experts
- Opportunities to share experience and insights with other pathfinding countries.

While pathfinding countries will receive primary attention, all countries will receive guidance and information, access to webinars, and other forms of support from the Secretariat.



Contact ●

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