

# Strategy for Humanitarian Engagement

2018 and 2019

## 1. Key partners and introduction

In pursuit of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children (End Violence) works to implement evidence-based solutions to end violence for every child in the world, regardless of their status. 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. 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.

Established in 2007 by the Interagency Standing Committee (IASC) as part of the cluster approach, the Child Protection is an Area of Responsibility, within the Global Protection Cluster. It is mandated to ensure the timeliness, quality and coverage of coordinated child

protection responses in non-refugee humanitarian settings.

The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (the Alliance), led by UNICEF and Save the Children, is an inter-agency group comprised of UN agencies, national and international NGOs as well as academic institutions. Through its technical working groups and task forces, the Alliance develops inter-agency operational standards and provides technical guidance to support the work of child protection actors in humanitarian settings.

UNHCR is a global organisation dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people. In refugee contexts, UNHCR maintains the leadership and coordination of protection, including child protection. UNHCR provides child protection technical guidance and operational support in refugee settings.

This strategy was developed in collaboration with the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and UNHCR. It explains how End Violence intends to engage on humanitarian issues throughout 2018 and 2019. It will be updated periodically based on experience and new evidence.

# Children in humanitarian settings

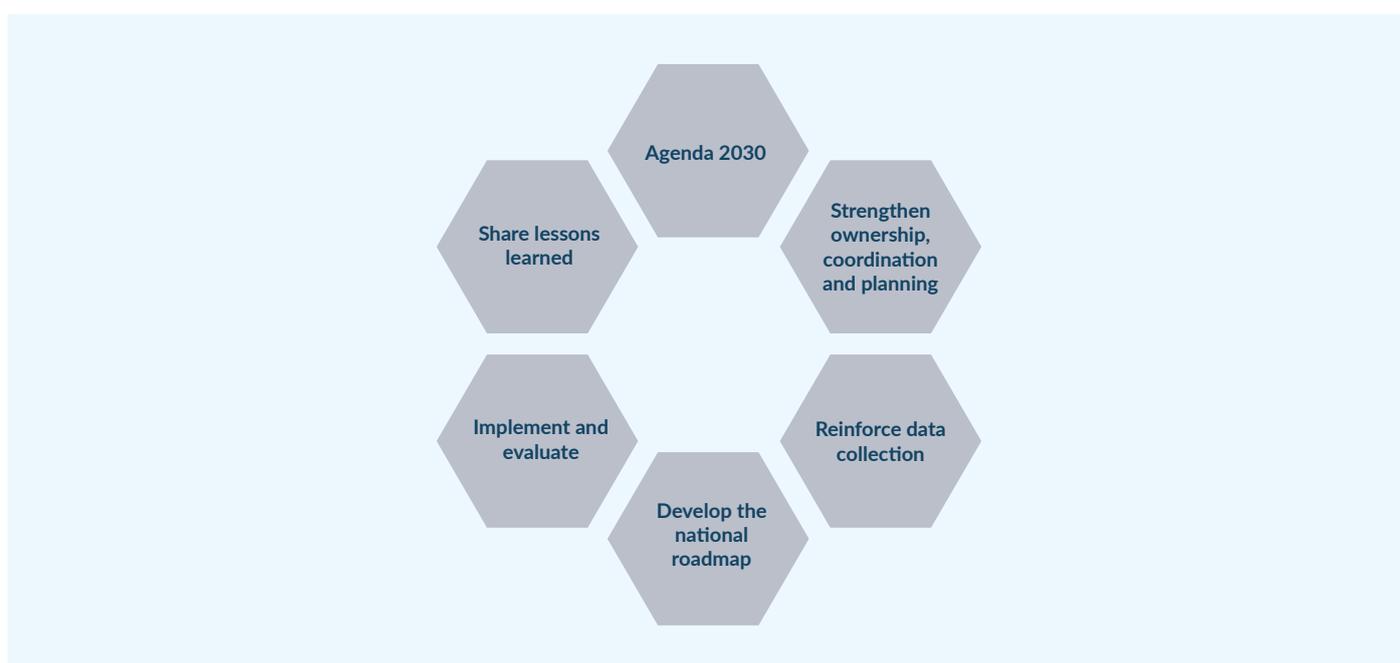
Emergencies can be man-made, such as conflict or civil unrest; they can result from natural hazards, such as floods and earthquakes; or they can be a combination of both. They often have devastating effects on children's lives. They result in girls and boys being killed or injured, becoming orphaned, losing access to essential services, becoming separated from their families, being recruited into armed forces or groups, being sexually abused, being trafficked or, worse, experiencing several of these at the same time. The number of forcibly displaced persons in the world has reached in 2016 the record number of 67.5 million and children represent a disproportionate fraction of the world's refugees. They accounted for 51 per cent of the world's refugees in 2015, while children represent 31 per cent of the population globally. In addition to forced displacement, children are also moving within countries or across countries for a variety of reasons, with one in every 45 children in the world today on the move. In this document, "humanitarian settings" is used to refer to situations of forced displacement resulting from conflict, as well as contexts where children are moving within a country or across countries for a variety of reasons. It also includes countries at risk of natural disaster.

## End Violence country support

End Violence is a platform that is helping governments and all stakeholders to achieve SDG target 16.2, to "end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children", and related targets such as 5.3 and 8.7. Central to the End Violence's strategy is INSPIRE, a package of evidence-based interventions co-sponsored by WHO and nine other international agencies<sup>1</sup>. The seven strategies are:

1. Implementation and enforcement of laws
2. Norms and values
3. Safe environments
4. Parent and caregiver support
5. Income and economic strengthening
6. Response and support services, and;
7. Education and life skills.

End Violence works at international and national level to build political will; accelerate action and; strengthen collaboration. As outlined in the End Violence Country Guidance, the diagram below provides the steps for all countries that wish to accelerate action. Pathfinding countries are those that commit to three to five years of accelerated action. Pathfinding countries receive tailored and intensified support from the End Violence Secretariat throughout this process and are regularly monitored against their commitments, including public disclosure at Solution Summits<sup>2</sup>.



## 2. Strategy for humanitarian engagement

This strategy builds on the End Violence Business Plan which states the following short-term outcome: Increased coverage of comprehensive programs and services (prevention and response) that are child centred and gender responsive in particular for children in humanitarian settings and on the move<sup>3</sup>.

Key determinants in the success of efforts to prevent violence against children on the move and children in humanitarian settings include the following:

- a.** Monitoring systems. Monitoring systems need to be in place as they can be used to provide data on the magnitude and circumstances of violence against children and track the reach and quality of planned activities. For these purposes, data on violence against children from national population-based surveys and facility-based administrative systems (such as hospitals, courts and educational institutions) remain preferable, but may not always be feasible and may need to make creative use of qualitative or mixed methodologies and administrative data from less static systems and service providers. Assessments conducted in contexts where there are children on the move or children affected by conflict or natural disasters must include these children and take into account the root causes of violence and consider additional issues such as family separation, association with armed groups, early marriage and child labour.
- b.** Multi sector and multi stakeholder response. Ending violence against children requires input from national and local government departments responsible for education, health, justice, and social welfare; the private sector; civil society and the international community. In combination, these stakeholders can reduce violence against children at individual, family, community and society levels.
- c.** Coordination. Effective coordination, including joint needs assessment, planning, monitoring and advocacy needs to be consistently in place in order to ensure complementarity and efficiency of the efforts of different responders. Coordination - by the AoR, UNHCR and/or IOM - is required to bring all aforementioned sectors together and humanitarian coordination has to acknowledge and build on existing coordination mechanisms as much as possible. This allows putting emphasis on meeting people's immediate humanitarian needs while at the same time reducing risk and vulnerability over multiple years through achievement of collective outcomes<sup>4</sup>.
- d.** Interventions. All seven INSPIRE strategies could be applied in settings affected by conflict or natural disaster. However, as with strategies that address other societal problems such as smoking, mental health, crime, and road traffic injuries, the feasibility of successfully implementing them will vary according to the strategy and the context. In principle, because they do not depend upon intact social systems and functioning governance structures, interventions delivered through self-contained programmes can be delivered in any setting. These include, for example, parenting programmes, life skills training programmes, and services for survivors of violence. By contrast, interventions involving the enforcement of laws by functioning police and justice systems will be difficult to implement where conflict or natural disaster has severely eroded these structures.
- e.** Community-based child protection. A recent interagency review<sup>5</sup> notes that the mobilization of communities has become a common programming response, particularly in areas affected by armed conflict or displacement. Community-based child protection mechanisms are favoured by international agencies in places where local and national government is unable or unwilling to fulfil children's rights to care and protection. However, there is currently a lack of robust evidence about the effectiveness, cost, scalability and sustainability of these mechanisms. Several interventions in INSPIRE were conducted in settings where community based child protection systems are likely to be operating, and the package lends itself to adaptation by such systems.
- f.** Increased funding and local capacity. The funding for child protection and violence against children activities is low relative to demand. In humanitarian contexts through the existing mechanisms dealing with refugee situations or internal displacement (mainly RRP and HRP<sup>6</sup>) child protection activities are often not precisely identified during the needs assessment process (HNO in Cluster contexts<sup>7</sup>) and are then deprioritised by decision-makers in funding allocation processes. End Violence can raise attention to specific areas not covered by the existing funding mechanisms and advocate for their inclusion in specific countries. In addition, local actors are often expected to deliver a bulk of services, but are rarely adequately resourced and institutional capacity building is often compromised by short term, irregular and unpredictable funding streams and the limited application of the Principles of End Violence between local and international partners.

In light of these considerations, the End Violence engagement in humanitarian situations is fourfold:

1. To support existing pathfinding countries to end violence against all children on their territory, regardless of their nationality or displacement status;
2. To actively reach out to additional countries affected by migration or humanitarian crisis affecting children;
3. To work with humanitarian actors to explore opportunities to modify, adapt and implement INSPIRE strategies as part of the broader child protection response;
4. To raise attention to the specific needs of children in the context of migration and humanitarian settings and to fundraise, in support of existing mechanisms, to prevent violence against children.

## Support to existing pathfinding countries

Pathfinding countries<sup>8</sup> to date can be organized into the following categories which often overlap:

a) countries facing complex emergencies, b) transit and destination countries for children and families on the move, c) those affected by natural disasters, and d) those affected by none of the above. The first three categories will require distinct attentions which are further detailed below.

### a. How we work together in countries facing complex humanitarian crises

Currently the only pathfinding country falling into this category is Nigeria. Key interventions in these countries include the following:

- Support the coordinated collection of situation and response data at national and local level and /or use the child protection rapid assessment tool. Include refugees, returnees, IDPs, migrants, and stateless people in all data collection efforts. The analysis of emergency-affected populations will need to be done separately to get a more accurate picture, rather than aggregate them with national data. In addition to monitoring the situation through different sectors it is critical to measure the impact of the response;
- Build the capacity of governments to take on an increase role in coordination mechanisms, strategic planning and budgeting for improved protection services. This builds on previous capacity building of governments in West Africa and an opportunity exists to both draw on the lessons learned, and to continue the collaboration to extend this initiative to other regions;
- Strengthen coordination at all levels, national and local, between all actors involved in ending violence against children and those involved in the humanitarian response ensuring that programmes are mutually reinforcing. This is typically led by a child protection coordination group (within the Protection Cluster/Sector) and will also include the following sectors: Health, Education, Social Services and Justice as well as the following agencies: UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, IOM, ICRC and international and local non-governmental organizations;
- Ensure that national action plans to end violence against children and/or the national humanitarian response strategy include child protection services for all children living on the territory, including tailored services for children affected by conflict and/or natural disaster and children on the move;
- Promote the implementation of standards related to child protection in humanitarian contexts. The CP AoR (in Cluster contexts) and UNHCR (in refugee contexts) will be the link to field based child protection coordination groups, to both promote existing resources such as the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and INSPIRE Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children and its upcoming implementation Handbook, as well as to feedback to global level on its results and impact;
- Localize, which includes undertaking both in-country and remote analyses of the status of localisation and the development of institutional capacity for individual local organisations. The CP AoR currently operates a global help desk to support child protection practitioners seeking guidance, examples, and peer learning over 30 countries and intends to decentralize the help desk to a regional, language specific modality to facilitate national actors' engagement.

The New York Declaration of September 2016 lays out a vision for a more predictable and more comprehensive response to large scale movements of refugees, known as the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, or CRRF. It calls for greater support to refugees and the countries that host them, and for inclusion of refugees in national systems and services. Allowing refugees to benefit from national services and integrating them into national development plans is essential for both refugees and the communities hosting them, and is consistent with the pledge to “leave no one behind” in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Agencies should work with Governments and UNHCR where the CRRF is being implemented in order to integrate the issue of violence against children into the operationalization of the CRRF at country level<sup>9</sup>.

## **b. How we work together in transit or destination countries**

Countries currently falling into this category include Tanzania, Uganda, Indonesia, Sweden, Mexico, El Salvador and Montenegro. Key considerations for these countries include the following:

- Support countries to increase their preparedness measures in the realm of child protection in emergencies. This will include technical advice, guidance as necessary, and capacity building, particularly for government coordination mechanisms;
- Ensure that the coordination groups include the following sectors: Health, Education, Social Services and Justice as well as the following agencies: UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, IOM, ICRC and international and local non-governmental organizations;
- Collect data at national and local level where possible and/or using the child protection rapid assessment tool or other tools contextualized to collect information on refugees and/or migrants. Include refugees, returnees, IDPs and stateless people in all data collection efforts in countries with these populations;
- Ensure that national action plans to end violence against children systematically include refugee and migrant children. Select and prioritize INSPIRE strategies based on needs and existing resources.

## **c. How we work together in countries at risk of natural disasters**

Countries currently falling into this category include Philippines, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Jamaica. Key considerations for these countries include the following:

- Support countries to increase their preparedness measures in the realm of child protection in emergencies. This will include technical advice, guidance as necessary, and capacity building, particularly for government coordination mechanisms. Preparedness and prevention activities should be coordinated with governmental entities and CSO actors in advance of the disaster.
- Ensure that the coordination groups include the following sectors: Health, Education, Social Services and Justice as well as the following agencies: UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, IOM, ICRC and international and local non-governmental organizations;
- Collect data at national and local level where possible and/or using the child protection rapid assessment tool or other tools contextualized to collect information on refugees and/or migrants. Include refugees, returnees, IDPs and stateless people in all data collection efforts in countries with these populations;
- Ensure that national action plans to end violence against children systematically include refugee and migrant children. Select and prioritize INSPIRE strategies based on needs and existing resources.

## Reaching out to additional countries

Working in close collaboration with key stakeholders, including UNHCR, the CP AoR, the Alliance and the Special Representatives for Children in Armed Conflict and Violence Against Children, End Violence will reach out to five of the following additional countries with the aim of making them pathfinding countries.

Cote d'Ivoire	Significant Government commitment to ending VAC, discussions already underway
Ethiopia	Limited INGO presence, high interest of government and int. actors, hosting refugees and piloting of CRRF
Rwanda	VAC survey, country expanding economically, hosting refugees
Burundi	Early warning for possible humanitarian crisis, hosting refugees and IDPs
Angola	Possible large influx from DRC,
Kenya	Drought and subnational fragility, hosting refugees, part of regional CRRF approach to Somali situation
Jordan	Willingness to work towards SDGs, high interest of government and int. actors, hosting refugees
Turkey	Hosting the largest refugee population in the world
Iraq	Large displacement (refugees and IDPs), strong coordination, upcoming elections
Ukraine	Problems in including IDPs in the national social system, strong coordination
Haiti	VAC Survey, donor investment in vac
Colombia	Opportune time, largest IDP population in the world,

## Implementing INSPIRE

Resources like the Child Protection Minimum Standards for Humanitarian Action provide strong guidance to address violence against children issues such as child labour, physical violence and harmful practices, sexual violence, children's association with armed forces or armed groups, and dangers and injuries. It also provides valuable guidance on multi-sectoral interventions to address forms of violence against children. Although the INSPIRE package was not developed with a specific focus on humanitarian settings, there is potential for the strategies to be used in areas affected by conflict or natural disaster, and the package includes several interventions shown to be effective in such situations. Scaling up INSPIRE in humanitarian contexts will require innovation and adaptation to the context. Initial steps have already been taken, however what is generally lacking in humanitarian contexts is robust evidence of impact of humanitarian interventions to reduce violence against children, and limited evidence of how to best support locally led programmes to go to scale.

In order to bridge these gaps, End Violence will ensure that: a) INSPIRE guidance and indicators align with the Child Protection Minimum Standards for Humanitarian Action and vice versa b) partners advocate for multi sectoral programming and c) agencies promote the need for evaluation in humanitarian contexts in order to measure reduction in violence and d) advocate for more effective investment in, and approaches to, developing local institutional capacity. The CP AoR is scaling up capacity building for governments to coordinate child protection in emergencies and is also leading a localisation initiative on behalf of the broader Global Protection Cluster. These present an opportunity to facilitate the use of INSPIRE strategies by local actors and for learning and documenting how to apply INSPIRE in humanitarian strategies.

# Fundraising

The 2017 World Vision-managed Counting Pennies, A Review of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to End Violence Against Children, identified Canada, US, Sweden, UK, Germany, EU institutions, Australia, Norway, Netherlands and Germany as the largest ODA funders to ending VAC. Together they provided the bulk of the US\$1.1 billion in ODA allocated to initiatives addressing VAC in 2015. In terms of official development assistance (ODA), most donors make no systematic effort to track how much is spent on this issue. Partners have different funding models. Each entity / organization will continue to seek funding independently, but efforts should be mutually supportive and coordinated in order to avoid duplication.

Moving forward, End Violence will fundraise for the 3rd Pillar of the Fund and continue to work together with the CP AoR (and its country level coordination groups) to further assess the level of domestic investments by individual countries and other financing partners in humanitarian contexts. This will help donors to better allocate resources to the areas of greatest need.

## Endnotes

1. United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention , the Pan American Health Organization, the President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief, Together for Girls, UNICEF, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, United States Agency for International Development, End Violence and the World Bank.
2. Solutions Summits are an annual forum for representatives from Governments, UN agencies, civil society, private sector and the media to debate ways to achieve solutions for ending violence against children.
3. The term "children on the move" refers to children moving for a variety of reasons, voluntarily or involuntarily, within or between countries, with or without their parents or other primary caregivers. This includes: children displaced by conflict and natural disasters; children who move with their parents or migrate alone (e.g., to pursue better life opportunities, look for work or education or to escape exploitative or abusive situations at home); and children who are trafficked .
4. [http://interactive.unocha.org/publication/2017\\_breaking\\_the\\_impasse/#p=1](http://interactive.unocha.org/publication/2017_breaking_the_impasse/#p=1)
5. Save the Children UK. What are we learning about protecting children in the community? An inter-agency review of evidence on community-based child protection mechanisms. Executive summary. London: Save the Children UK; 2009.
6. Refugee Response Plan and Humanitarian Response Plan
7. Humanitarian Needs Overview
8. El Salvador, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mexico, Montenegro, Nigeria, Paraguay, Philippines, Romania, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tanzania, Uganda.
9. So far Mexico, Uganda and Tanzania are implementing the CRRF approach and are pathfinding countries.



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