



END VIOLENCE PARTNERSHIP

PROGRESS UPDATE FOR THE BOARD

October 2020



End Violence
Against Children





PROGRESS UPDATE FOR THE BOARD (October 2020)

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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear End Violence Board Members,

I hope that you and your families, friends and colleagues are safe and healthy.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to increase the risk of child violence, exploitation and abuse. Essential services, including child protection, have been significantly disrupted. COVID-19 will have implications on children's well-being and safety well after the pandemic abates, including on their mental health, disruption to education, the impact of isolation and distancing measures, and significant economic implications for families.

The End Violence Partnership and Fund are providing a global platform for collective, evidence-based advocacy, action and investments to keep children safe during COVID-19 and beyond. Throughout this Progress Update you will see examples of innovation, collaboration and progress to keep children safe **at home, online, at school and in the community** through the Partnership's Pathfinding, Safe Online and Safe to Learn initiatives.

But we can and must do more for children. **The upcoming Solutions Summit Series presents an opportunity to elevate ending violence against children as a global priority** for COVID-19 and post-COVID-19 policy, planning and financing. It will also allow partners to showcase cost-effective, evidence-based solutions that can be scaled as governments and societies build back safer for children. And it will be a vehicle for the end violence community to secure new political and funding commitments to close the political and financing gap to end all forms of violence against children by 2030.

Following approval of the Business Model Review recommendations by all End Violence governing bodies earlier this year, **the governance transition is underway.** Newly configured working groups on the priority initiatives have already met and the refreshed Executive Committee will meet for the first time this month.

We recently completed an exercise to **streamline the Secretariat team** by around half from early 2021, making sure that it has the right capabilities to support the Partnership and Fund to deliver agreed priorities, but within a more modest annual budget. While we have received US\$ 3 million in generous new commitments to the Fund and Secretariat since May, the financial outlook remains uncertain: **we currently project a funding gap of around US\$ 1.8 million for the streamlined Secretariat in 2021.** Any financial commitment or connection to a potential donor that you are able to make would be very welcome.

Ultimately, **financial sustainability will only come from revenue generation** from a larger and more diverse group of donors. We currently have over US\$ 32 million of grant applications under consideration by donors and are continuing to cultivate a steadily-growing pipeline of potential new donors. As discussed as part of the Business Model Review, more active





involvement in resource mobilisation by all governing body members will be an important part of the pathway to financial sustainability in the medium-term.

Despite the personal impact for many of COVID-19, the challenges of remote working and the inevitable difficulties of the team transition, **the Secretariat team has shown unwavering professionalism and commitment to children** in continuing to deliver high quality support to the Partnership, as you will see throughout this update.

Please let me know if there is anything on which you would like additional information and/or if you have any suggestions for the content of future updates and other communications with the Board.

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate these uncertain times to ensure sustainability for the Partnership, Fund and Secretariat – so that together we can continue to raise awareness, inspire new leadership commitments and support evidence-based action to make sure that every child grows up free from violence, abuse and neglect.

Warm regards,

DR. HOWARD TAYLOR
Executive Director, End Violence Partnership

October 2020





Together to #ENDviolence campaign & Solutions Summit Series

Together to #ENDviolence is an urgent call to action as we enter the Decade of Action on the SDGs and consider how best to build back a safer world for children during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. The campaign and virtual Solutions Summit Series will strengthen existing partnerships and forge new alliances in the growing end violence community. Together, the collective capabilities, capacities and networks of the End Violence Partnership will achieve the following objectives:

1. Elevate ending violence against children (EVAC) as a global priority for COVID-19 and post-COVID-19 policy, planning and financing
2. Showcase cost-effective, evidence-based solutions that can be scaled as governments and societies build back better and safer for children
3. Secure new political and funding commitments to close the political and financing gap to end all forms of violence against children (SDG 16.2) by 2030

Together to #ENDviolence will galvanise collective action to help create the conditions to secure political and financial commitments for a Leaders' Event in the second half of 2021. This will be achieved through the development and dissemination of policy and communications assets to make the case and inspire action, along with coordinated high-level diplomacy and advocacy. The virtual Solutions Summit Series will be implemented in three phases, providing key moments to support the broader campaign objectives.

Together to #ENDviolence global campaign and virtual Solutions Summit Series			
Q4 2020	Q1-Q3 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 or Q4 2021
Phase I: Public Launch to raise awareness and galvanize partners	Phase II: Solutions Summit Series affiliate events to build momentum and showcase solutions; Policy dialogues on implementation of Global Status Report recommendations		Phase III: Leaders' Event to secure political and financial commitments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy & Communications Assets to make the case and inspire action • Advocacy to secure political and financial commitments • Whole of Partnership ownership and participation 			





The planned approach assumes shared ownership and active participation by all of the Partnership’s governing bodies and partners, including leadership support from Board members to help cultivate political and financial commitments in the run-up to the Leaders’ Event planned for Q3 or Q4 2021.

A more detailed Solutions Summit brochure is being shared along with this update; we will follow-up with your offices on specific needs to deliver a successful Summit.

Together to
#ENDviolence
Solutions Summit Series
2020-2021





Responding to heightened risks to children during COVID-19

COVID-19 has heightened children's risk of violence, abuse and exploitation. At the same time, it has sparked a greater awareness of children's challenges and increased opportunities for collaboration. We continue to use this moment to advocate for resources and evidence-based action to keep children safe at home, online and at school and in new learning environments – during COVID-19 and beyond.

Spreading the reach of our [positive parenting resource pack](#). We worked with partners¹ to create and promote a set of evidence-based resources to help caregivers support their children during COVID-19 isolation. Over the last quarter, we continued to share these resources with our networks in Pathfinding countries, working with governments, United Nations agencies, and civil society organisations to adapt the materials to their local contexts. By September 2020, these tips had reached 84 million people and had been translated into over 100 languages. We also funded a social media campaign to continue this dissemination, working with the World Health Organization and UNICEF to engage over 50 influencers and celebrities. This campaign will run until the end of 2020.

Creating [practical resources](#) through the Safe to Learn coalition. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we worked with Safe to Learn partners to issue resources to support governments as they develop policies and programmes to keep children safe during the pandemic and as they return to school/new learning environments. We are also curating and featuring partner resources relating to school violence on the Safe to Learn page of our website.

Producing a [resource pack to keep children safe online](#). In July and August, We coordinated with key partners and organisations² to develop a global COVID-19 resource pack for governments, the ICT industry, civil society, the education sector, and parents. This resource pack provides high-quality tools and guidance to support the implementation of the earlier issued technical note [COVID-19 & Implications for Protecting Children Online](#).

Engaging high-level audiences in conversations on preventing violence. In July, we convened a [virtual gathering for Member States](#) on COVID-19's impact on violence against children, which drew more than 400 participants from 62 countries. The event, which was organised with the European Union Delegation to the United Nations, the Permanent Missions of France, Uruguay, Colombia, Japan, and Jordan, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and UNICEF, introduced the End Violence Partnership to governments and showed its relevance for resource mobilisation outreach.

¹ These partners include Parenting for Lifelong Health, WHO, UNICEF, Oxford University, and more.

² Partners on this work include UNICEF, UNODC, ITU, UNESCO, WePROTECT Global Alliance, WHO, and World Childhood Foundation USA.





Supporting grantees in difficult circumstances: With thanks to our donors, we were able to provide additional programming flexibility and funds to Safe Online grantees through no-cost and cost extensions of approximately US\$ 1 million. This support allowed grantees to re-adjust their critical work on the ground and provide continuity of service for children who may be facing increased levels of violence online.

Partnering with technology companies to keep children safe online. We teamed-up with partners from the technology industry to educate children and caregivers about online threats and safety measures. By hosting the video content for a public service campaign, this is also redirecting more users to the End Violence website, tools and resources to protect children online. This project is being delivered in collaboration with Microsoft, Facebook, Google, Twitter, Roblox, Snapchat and the governments of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Child safeguarding in the context of COVID-19. As the world continues to deal with COVID-19 and the necessary social distancing measures, many meetings have moved online. Together with partners, we helped developed guidance to support organisations to safeguard child speakers during online meetings with adults. This guidance can be found [here](#). We remain fully committed to safeguarding oversight on programmes run by grantees and ensuring that additional risk assessments and due diligence, including reporting requirements, are fulfilled by grantees.





Investing in solutions that work

Last quarter, the End Violence Fund grew in both size and number. We launched a Safe to Learn funding window and finalised a new cohort of Safe Online grantees, both of which allowed more resources to flow to the End Violence community. Highlights in this area include:

Launching the new Safe to Learn funding window. In June, DFID - now the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) - generosity enabled us to award the first round of funding for Safe to Learn. Investments were made in five new grantees implementing projects to keep children safe in and through schools in Nepal and Uganda, two countries that have endorsed the Safe to Learn Call to Action. With thanks to the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, we are now in the process of finalizing further funding to three organizations in Cambodia, Lebanon and South Sudan – three more Safe to Learn endorser countries – to support additional violence prevention and response programming as well as generation of new evidence.

Finalising new investments in tech solutions. After a year-long open, competitive process, a new cohort of Safe Online grantees will be announced in October of 2020. An additional [US \\$10-13 million](#) will be invested in 14 organisations, all of whom are using technological solutions to combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse. With this new cohort of grantees, the Safe Online investment portfolio now totals US \$50 million in investments, supporting organisations working to keep children safe online in nearly 70 countries.

Partnering with the Technology Coalition to fund cutting-edge research. In June, the [End Violence Secretariat teamed up with the Technology Coalition](#) – a group of the world’s 18 biggest technology companies, including Google, Facebook, Microsoft, Apple and Twitter – to advance understanding of online child sexual exploitation patterns through [Project Protect](#). The priority will be given to actionable research that can inform product and policy design within industry and across sectors.





Accelerating impact in-country

Growing the number of Pathfinding Countries and Cities. COVID-19 has placed enormous pressure on governments across the world. Even so, we have seen sustained interest and commitment in the Pathfinding process, even in the most difficult of times. Finland recently became End Violence's 30th Pathfinding country, followed by the Brazilian city of Pelotas becoming our 3rd Pathfinding City. We are actively responding to interest in Pathfinding from other governments, and expect to see Kenya, Rwanda, Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique, Portugal and Papua New Guinea become Pathfinding countries in the near future.

We have improved our ability to **track country-level progress** through a new [Pathfinding Dashboard](#). This living document which will be developed further includes information on demographics, coordination groups and national action plans. It shows that of the 30 Pathfinding countries, 70 per cent now have evidence-based multi-sectoral national action plans to address violence against children that include at least four INSPIRE strategies. We are now considering how best to use the Pathfinding Dashboard and additional information in the WHO's [Global Status Report on Preventing Violence Against Children](#) to further inform, enhance and track the collective in-country impact of the Partnership's priority initiatives and partners.

Measuring progress in Safe to Learn endorser countries. Safe to Learn partners have released the [Global Programmatic Framework and Benchmarking Tool](#), which provides guidance on how to translate the Call to Action into practical actions; highlights technical resources to assist in the design of interventions; and sets out a suggested framework for monitoring and tracking results. Partners are now disseminating this resource through country offices and larger networks. In addition, a diagnostic tool has been piloted in five countries (Nepal, South Sudan, Uganda, Jordan and Pakistan) to assess baselines, priority actions, good practices, etc. at national, district and school levels. A synthesis report is in the process of being finalised. Development of the framework and tools was led by UNICEF, with the support of FCDO and End Violence.

To facilitate **country-level collaboration**, Safe to Learn partners have agreed on a model for strengthening country-level collaboration and country ownership, building on existing mechanisms and learning from the Pathfinding experience. A small working group of Safe to Learn partners has been established to identify pilot countries for the model and next steps.





Advocating internationally for change

We continue to work with global leaders to push child safety to the top of the international agenda. Recent examples of advocacy include:

Supporting the launch of the World Health Organization's [Global status report on preventing violence against children 2020](#). Through this report, government officials from across the world acknowledged the need to scale-up their efforts. We supported the launch of the report and are working alongside the WHO and other partners on further promotion and dissemination of the report, including leveraging it to support affiliate events around the world as part of the upcoming Solutions Summit Series.

Contributing to the UN Secretary-General (UNSG)'s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation. As a result of the Safe Online team's advocacy efforts, UNSG's [Digital Cooperation Roadmap](#) now contains a specific call-out on the need to end online child sexual exploitation and abuse, strengthen collaboration, and increase investments toward this issue. At the launch of the Roadmap in June, we emphasised the need for increased investment and collaboration across sectors, particularly with industry.

Advancing the European Union's Strategy to fight online child sexual exploitation and abuse. Over the last several months, we have actively engaged the EU to contribute to its strategy and efforts to combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse. The European Commission's [EU Strategy for a More Effective Fight against Child Sexual Abuse](#) was adopted in July, which articulates a framework for EU action in 2020-2025. In the lead-up to the development of the strategy, End Violence participated in a [related webinar](#) co-hosted by hosted by Yiva Johansson, the EU Commissioner for Home Affairs and MEP Caterina Chinnici.

Speaking at the launch of the 2020 ITU Guidelines on Child Online Protection. We presented our work at the [Online Dialogue on the Launch of the COP Guidelines & Beyond](#) in June. Opened by Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden, the high-level panel included experts in the field, co-authors of the new guidelines, country representatives, and private sector stakeholders. The discussion focused on the content of the new 2020 Child Online Protection Guidelines, which End Violence fed into extensively.

Promoting Safe to Learn at the United Nations High-level Event to Protect Education from Attack. On 9 September, we participated in the UN high-level virtual event to mark the first International Day to Protect Education From Attack. The High-level meeting featured several eminent speakers in addition to Dr Taylor, including: Her Highness Sheika Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Education Above All Foundation; the UN Secretary General; the Foreign Ministers of Qatar and Belgium; and footballer David Beckham. The meeting was live streamed on Youtube, Al Jazeera, and UN WebTV. [\[LINK\]](#)





Fostering digital cooperation for future generations: On 23 September, End Violence Board Chair Henrietta Fore participated in the high-level virtual event Digital Cooperation: Action Today for Future Generations –as part of the 75th United Nations General Assembly – focusing on concrete actions to safeguard the technological era for future generations. Also in attendance was Costa Rican Vice President Epsy Campbell Barr who highlighted the role of the Global Partnership Against Children in keeping children safe online. [\[LINK\]](#)

Calling for increased investments toward ending violence against children. On 24 September, Executive Director Howard Taylor spoke with BBC Africa's Mercy Juma about the impact of violence and abuse against children – and the need to increase investment toward evidence-based programmes to keep children safe. [\[LINK\]](#)





Promoting data, evidence and learning to end violence

One of the Partnership's priorities is to expand data, evidence and learning to support action to end all violence and abuse of children. By bridging knowledge gaps, the Partnership helps spread evidence-based information to organisations around the globe. Highlights in this area include:

Launching the End Violence Knowledge Platform. The [End Violence Knowledge Platform](#) was launched in August 2020 as an interactive, dynamic hub of knowledge, learning, and information. By curating content from our community of 450+ partners, our team selects pieces based on their relevance, rigor and alignment with the INSPIRE strategies. In less than 24 hours, the Knowledge Platform became the most-visited page on the End Violence website. Every four to six weeks, the knowledge on this platform is refreshed and updated, promoting continuous engagement among our audiences.

Releasing new products to facilitate research and data-collection. The Knowledge Network – a forum for users and producers of evidence on ending violence against children – has planned a series of learning events around global products produced this year, including (a) a [Methods Menu](#); (b) an evidence gap map in low- and middle-income countries; and (c) a resource pack on children's participation in research on violence against children. Currently, the Knowledge Network is recruiting Steering Committee members from Cambodia, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, the Philippines and Uganda.

Promoting the INSPIRE strategies in country-specific contexts. With co-funding from USAID, we began organising an INSPIRE Coordination Course, which is planned for delivery in Spanish and English in October 2020. This course, which has pivoted to an entirely online platform, will engage organisations, governments and partners throughout the Americas. The content of this course will be adapted for other Pathfinding Countries as a living, learning resource. Previous courses in 2018 and 2019 trained up to 150 practitioners (globally in Edinburgh, regionally in Malaysia and nationally in Mexico) on basic national action plan design and implementation skills. In addition, we are supporting regional centres for children's well-being through engagement with national universities in five countries (Brazil, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Uganda, and the Philippines) on a ground-breaking series of systematic reviews on INSPIRE interventions in the Americas, Africa and Asia. This work is co-funded by the University of Edinburgh and the Data Collaborative for Children with UNICEF.

Launching the Leadership Development Programme. Another online, interactive learning event – the Leadership Development Programme – is underway, which aims to build participants' leadership and communications to create national action plans during COVID-19. Representatives from Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, Uganda, and the Philippines are working together virtually through this course, using problem-solving and collaborative thinking to move their high-level national planning into ground-level action. This programme is supported by the University of Edinburgh and is coordinated by the End Violence Lab.





Supporting the sharing of best practices and lessons learned. In June, we hosted the 10th Safe Online global webinar to share child-centred, integrated frameworks for investigation, rehabilitation and recovery of victims of online child sexual exploitation and abuse. Over 100 individuals working on this issue attended the event.

Finalising the investment case for reducing violence against children. The World Bank has completed its investment case quantifying the economic costs and benefits of investing in reducing violence against children. The initial focus is on violence in schools. The report will be released later this year.





Governance

Following the approval of the new End Violence business model and governance structure in May 2020, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Executive Committee, has drafted a [Governance Document](#) outlining detailed terms of reference and standard operating procedures for members of the governing bodies, working groups and the Secretariat.

The draft minutes of the May 2020 Board meeting may be downloaded [here](#). A dedicated governance webpage is under construction, and the Secretariat will notify partners of the new website changes via our [newsletter](#).

A governance calendar for 2021 will be shared separately in the near future.



End Violence Secretariat
October 2020

