

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 29 APRIL – 1 MAY 2020

### MINUTES AND ACTION POINTS

In view of COVID-19 related restrictions on movement, the End Violence Executive Committee met virtually over three days (29 April – 1 May). Those Fund Steering Committee members who were able joined the meeting. A list of participants is annexed to this note.

#### PARTNERSHIP AND FUND PRIORITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

The Executive Committee:

1. Welcomed the **Secretariat's role during COVID-19** in positioning the Partnership as a global platform to convene, coordinate and support a unified effort to promote and take action to keep children safe.
2. Agreed that the **Leaders' Statement** on ending violence against children (EVAC) during COVID-19 should be followed-up with country-specific, contextualized calls for specific actions and offers of technical and financial support, starting with Pathfinding country governments.

**ACTION:** Secretariat to coordinate with and through the Country Engagement Working Group.

3. Recognized the need to better **align with other partnerships and initiatives** with related/overlapping mandates, e.g. Alliance 8.7, SDG 16+, etc.

**ACTION:** Secretariat to follow-up with the UN SRSG-VAC and with other partnerships and initiatives.

4. Emphasized the importance of taking a **geographical approach** across all priority initiatives, integrating work on Pathfinding, Safe to Learn and Safe Online and agreed that UNICEF and WHO should co-chair the **Country Engagement Working Group**.

**ACTION:** Secretariat to schedule Country Engagement Working Group meeting in May.

5. Suggested that the Partnership explore a frontline, multi-service and multisectoral platform to deliver **cross-cutting interventions** in country.

**ACTION:** As a next step the Secretariat has organized a webinar for EC and FSC members on "Accelerating INSPIRE across the SDGs" with Prof. Lucie Cluver on 12 May 2020.

6. Welcomed the proposed **Parenting initiative** and potential funding from a new donor, noting that it would support delivery of the P of INSPIRE, and that any such new opportunity should align with the Partnership's overall mission, focus and priority countries.

**ACTION:** Secretariat to develop the Parenting initiative proposal with the Country Engagement Working Group.

7. Noted that **data** was a vital component of an effective response to end violence during COVID-19 and beyond.

**ACTION:** Secretariat to ensure that data and evidence are collected from partners, compiled and shared as part of the EVAC Knowledge Platform.

8. Noted that the forthcoming **WHO Global Status Report** on Violence Prevention will showcase the prevalence of violence against children and INSPIRE solutions from more than 150 countries.

9. Emphasized the need to **contextualize and translate approaches, tools and messaging** on ending violence during COVID-19 so that they can be adapted to different countries' contexts, including situations of crisis, refugees and displaced people, and countries with lower IT access.

10. Noted the **digital literacy gap between generations** and that Safe to Learn was indirectly addressing the issue through its grantees and advocacy efforts targeting parents, caregivers, teachers and vulnerable populations.

11. Recognized the centrality of **child online safety** during COVID-19 and the progress achieved in this context through supporting Fund grantees and convening and coordinating partners in advocacy and technical work to prevent and respond to online harms to children.

12. Requested that **learning from the child online safety work** be more widely shared.

**ACTION:** Secretariat to produce evidence-based briefs/case studies across the priority initiatives to document and share lessons learned.

13. Noted that the End Violence **Solutions Summit** will not proceed as planned in 2020 due to COVID-19.

**ACTION:** Secretariat to prepare detailed contingency options and plans for delivering the Summit objectives over the coming 18 months, ranging from postponing the Summit to a later date but keeping the format and plans similar, through to revisiting the objectives and seeing if they could be delivered differently, e.g. through a series of virtual and in-person gatherings in 2020 and 2021.

## **BUSINESS MODEL REVIEW (BMR)**

14. The Chair opened the BMR discussion with a summary of feedback received for consideration and incorporation in a further iteration of the proposed governance model (combining the current EC and FSC into a refreshed EC with Working Groups), including:

- a. getting the right size and composition of each body, including the Working Groups
- b. flexibility in donor representation on the EC
- c. donor oversight and involvement in decisions concerning their funds
- d. advocates on the EC for all priority initiatives of the Partnership
- e. the significant role of the Executive Director and Secretariat in resource mobilization
- f. the Secretariat's role in coordination and support to the Working Groups
- g. the formal status of CSOs in all levels of governance, including the Board
- h. EVAC funding and support for both Pathfinding and non-Pathfinding countries
- i. governments' prime role and responsibility for in-country planning and coordination

The Executive Committee:

15. Approved in principle the proposed business model and governance structure, provided that roles and responsibilities, operating and decision-making procedures, membership details, and delegation of authority to and autonomy of Working Groups were fully detailed in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and transition plan.

**ACTION:** Secretariat to prepare developing detailed TORs, SOPs and transition plan for the EC and FSC to consider

16. Agreed that the recommended business model should be put to the Board for approval on 27 May 2020, noting that Board meeting should not artificially accelerate the work summarized in no. 14 above.

## PEOPLE AND FINANCE

The Executive Committee:

17. Noted that funds committed for Secretariat costs in 2021 were around half of the Secretariat's planned expenditure in 2020, and that a minimum viable Secretariat team in 2021 would likely require an additional \$1.5 million to be committed as soon as possible during 2020.

18. Noted that the Secretariat team would reduce in size by 2021 and endorsed the planned approach of giving departing staff a 6-month notice period.

19. Welcomed the cost-saving measures implemented from the start of 2020 to conserve resources and ensure greater sustainability of the Secretariat into 2021, including freezing new hires, consolidating existing functions where possible and reducing travel (in place pre-COVID-19).

20. Requested that Secretariat planning for 2021 be based on having the right capabilities and capacity to deliver agreed Partnership and Fund priorities, within available resources.

**ACTION:** Secretariat planning for 2021 will identify the capabilities and capacity needed to deliver Partnership and Fund priorities and donor commitments within the resources available. Decisions will be conveyed to staff by the end of June 2020, thereby giving 6 months' notice to those staff who will leave the Secretariat by the end of December 2020.

## RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The Executive Committee:

21. Noted that COVID-19 and the resulting global economic recession have significantly altered the resource mobilization landscape for End Violence in 2020, while also opening-up potential new opportunities for funding aligned with COVID-19 response plans.

22. Welcomed and committed to support the Secretariat to deliver an updated Resource Mobilization approach built around:

- a. being selectively opportunistic in pursuing new funding opportunities to protect children during COVID-19
- b. refreshing the offer of the Partnership as a platform, the Fund as a flexible funding vehicle, and the Secretariat as a connector, convener and facilitator of collective action
- c. positioning for the future by building a pipeline of relationships and raising awareness of the Partnership and Fund through communications and media outreach to underscore relevance and value-add
- d. a fund replenishment moment in 2021
- e. immediately seeking core funding from close partners to sustain the Secretariat in 2021

23. Emphasized the importance of:

- a. bringing donors together around a COVID-19 EVAC call to action
- b. storytelling and coordination of communications among partners to show success and impact in-country
- c. leveraging programmatic intersections and collaboration, e.g. humanitarian response and child protection, VAC exposure and long-term health risks, gender and VAC, etc.
- d. clarifying the offer of the Partnership by aligning action plans with country-specific COVID-19 response plans and grounding funding proposals at the country level
- e. adjusting the language and pitch to cater to different donors

24. Recommended that a Resource Mobilization Working Group be established.

25. Welcomed UNICEF's generous announcement of its intention to continue providing \$500,000/year support to the Secretariat.

**ACTION:** The Secretariat will follow up with EC and FSC members as appropriate to deliver the updated Resource Mobilization approach summarized above.

## GOVERNANCE CALENDAR

26. The Executive Committee noted the upcoming Board meeting (27 May) and Fund Steering Committee meeting (2-3 June) and that the Board meeting previously scheduled for 17 July would likely not be needed.

**End Violence Secretariat, 13 May 2020**

## **ANNEX**

### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

#### **Executive Committee**

1. Daniela Ligiero, Together for Girls (Chair)
2. Maureen Greenwood-Basken, Wellspring Philanthropic Fund (Vice-Chair)
3. Etienne Krug, WHO (Vice-Chair)
4. Jim Mercy, CDC
5. Najat Maalla M'jid, UN SRSG/VAC
6. Amanda Melville, UNHCR
7. Joan Nyanyuki, ACPF
8. Christian Papaleontiou, UK Home Office (and FSC Chair)
9. Bidisha Pillai, Save the Children
10. Sanjay Wijesekera / Cornelius Williams, UNICEF
11. Karin Strandås / Anna Nordlander, Government of Sweden
12. Joanna Shepherd on behalf of Debora Cobar, Plan International
13. Emily Travis / Martin Niblett, UK DFID
14. Howard Taylor, End Violence Secretariat

#### **Fund Steering Committee**

15. Sean Coughlan, Human Dignity Foundation
16. Iain Drennan, WeProtect Global Alliance
17. Kul Gautam, Independent Expert
18. Vicky Rateau, Oak Foundation

#### **Observers**

19. Rekiya Adamu-Atta, UNICEF
20. Bill Bell, Save the Children
21. Stephen Blight, UNICEF
22. Don Cipriani, Ignite Philanthropy
23. Andrew Claypole, UN SRSG/VAC
24. Laila Khondkar, Save the Children
25. Greta Masseti, CDC
26. Jeff Rowland, Ignite Philanthropy