



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

PROGRESS UPDATE FOR THE BOARD

April 2021



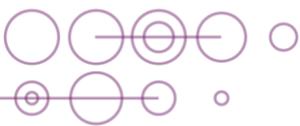


PROGRESS UPDATE FOR THE BOARD (April 2021)

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear End Violence Board Members,

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

The health and economic impact of COVID-19 continues to put children everywhere at even greater risk of violence and abuse. Now more than a year into the pandemic, the End Violence Partnership's role as a platform for collective, evidence-based advocacy, action and investment has never been more important. As children around the world face a devastating new normal, we are working with partners to innovate across all of the Partnership's priority initiatives to keep children safe at home, online and in their learning environment.

Despite the challenging environment, as we head towards the 5th anniversary of the Partnership's launch in July we are well-positioned to scale our collective impact in the coming years. Partnership highlights in this update include:

- the appointment of **new Board Chairs** Helle Thorning-Schmidt and Joy Phumaphi (p5)
- preparation of a **new Strategic Plan** for 2022-24 (p6)
- affiliate events and policy proposals building momentum towards new commitments in the **Together to #ENDviolence Solutions Summit Series** (p7)
- a **Country Dashboard** being developed to track country-level progress and inform strategic decisions to maximise the Partnership's geographical impact (p8)
- new efforts to **ban corporal punishment** and provide **support to parents** (p8);
- the **Safe to Learn** coalition preparing to grow its impact in-country through collective action behind a small number of priorities (p9)
- new investment in **technology solutions to keep children safe online** (p10)
- launch of a **podcast series** as part of the Partnership's Knowledge workstream (p11)

In support of this work, I am pleased to share news of generous new funding of over \$19 million received in recent months from the Carlson Family Foundation, Technology Coalition, Wellspring Philanthropic Fund (via Ignite Philanthropy), and the governments of Japan, Sweden and the UK. These funds are enabling work to tackle online child sexual abuse and exploitation, keep children safe to learn, end corporal punishment, support good parenting, raise awareness and mobilise new commitments to action, and Partnership coordination activities and operating costs.





Despite the personal impact of COVID-19, the ongoing challenges of remote working and the difficulties of last year's team transition, the Secretariat team continues to show unwavering professionalism, commitment and creativity, as you will see throughout this update.

Please let us 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.

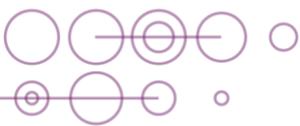
Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we navigate these uncertain times so that together we can continue to raise awareness, inspire new leadership commitments and support evidence-based action to make sure that every child grows up safe, secure and in a nurturing environment.

Warm regards,

DR. HOWARD TAYLOR
Executive Director

April 2021





NEW BOARD CHAIRS

We are delighted that Helle Thorning-Schmidt and Joy Phumaphi have agreed to co-Chair the End Violence Board. Thank you to all Board and Executive Committee members for your contribution to the Board Chair succession process.



Helle Thorning-Schmidt



Joy Phumaphi

Helle is well known as the former Prime Minister of Denmark and subsequently CEO of Save the Children International. She now serves on multiple global non-profit and private sector boards.

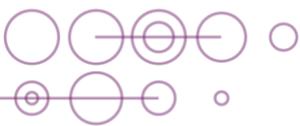
Joy is Executive Secretary of the African Leaders Malaria Initiative and co-chair of the UN Secretary-General's Expert Review Panel for Every Women Every Child. Formerly Minister of Health in Botswana, Joy has also held senior leadership roles at the WHO and World Bank, and now serves on the board of several global health initiatives.

Helle and Joy are excited at the opportunity to bring ambition, urgency and energy to the End Violence Partnership, and to use their connections and voice to: champion the cause of EVAC globally; forge consensus and drive progress on specific EVAC issues and opportunities; advocate for political commitments and financial investment; and ensure effective working of the Board and oversight of the Partnership and Fund.

We are planning to publicly announce Helle and Joy's appointment in mid-May; we will share details in advance of that important awareness-raising opportunity for the Partnership.

A very big thank you to Henrietta H. Fore for her leadership as Board Chair since 2018. Among many achievements since 2018, with Henrietta's leadership we have successfully: built a coalition with the Education sector to drive the Safe to Learn initiative; more than doubled the number of high-level political commitments to nationwide action (now 33 Pathfinder countries); adapted to support partners protecting children during the COVID-19 pandemic; and launched Together to #ENDviolence to raise awareness and secure vital new commitments - our most ambitious campaign yet. Henrietta will continue to represent UNICEF on the End Violence Board.





NEW PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY

Every year, more than 1 billion children experience violence, exploitation and abuse. This epidemic of physical, sexual and psychological violence against children (VAC) takes place at home, online, at school and in communities. It happens in every country, city and community, and in all socio-economic and cultural contexts.

The Global Partnership and Fund to End Violence Against Children was launched in July 2016 by the UN Secretary-General to support accelerated progress to EVAC. It is the only global entity focused solely on Sustainable Development Goal 16.2, providing a platform for collective, evidence-based advocacy, action and investment to EVAC.

The current Partnership Strategy runs from 2019-21. Preparation of the new Strategic Plan for 2022-24 comes at a critical moment for children. The health and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has put children everywhere at even greater risk of violence, exploitation and abuse, and will undermine child safety, well-being and development for a generation unless there is a step-change in evidence-based action and investment.

The new Strategic Plan will set out the Partnership's collective vision to deliver results for children in 2022-24, articulating how the Partnership will support governments and non-governmental partners to make sustainable progress towards SDG 16.2. A costed Business Plan for 2022-24 will also be prepared as part of the strategy process, setting out the financial and other resources required for the Secretariat to support delivery of the Strategic Plan.

While the context has changed significantly because of COVID-19, we are not starting from scratch in preparing the new Strategic Plan, which will build on evidence-based strategies (e.g. INSPIRE), the Partnership's existing priority initiatives, and lessons learned during the first five years as the Partnership has emerged as global platform for collective advocacy, action and investments.

A full situational analysis and lessons-learned will be developed alongside the planning process, and the new Strategic Plan will also be informed by six policy proposals developed as part of the Together to #ENDviolence campaign and Solutions Summit Series (see page 8).

We have embarked upon a consultative but comparatively light touch strategy process, working primarily (but not exclusively) with and through the Partnership's governing bodies. The Executive Committee and its Working Groups will consider key issues and parameters for the new Strategic Plan when they meet during April and early May. A draft summary of the new Strategic Plan and any key issues to be decided will then be shared with the Board for your consideration and direction at the Board meeting on 25 May. As the new Strategic Plan takes shape, we will also seek commitments from Board members and your organizations/networks to support implementation of the new plan.





PRIORITY INITIATIVES

Together to #ENDviolence Campaign & Solutions Summit Series

The Together to #ENDviolence campaign and Solutions Summit Series aims to raise awareness, share solutions and secure new political and financial commitments to EVAC. **The high-level launch on 15 December 2020 attracted 1,900 participants from 130 countries** and provided a launch platform for partners around the globe, marking the beginning of a multi-year effort in the Decade of Action.



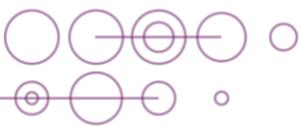
Propelled by the successful launch, the focus has now shifted to:

- **affiliate initiatives and events** around the world to raise awareness, share solutions and advocate for action and investment in the context of COVID-19 and beyond;
- **Government-led policy dialogues** in partner countries, to achieve consensus amongst national stakeholders on key areas of progress and the main gaps and priorities;
- **collective advocacy around a small number of global policy proposals** (see below), to be formally launched in the coming weeks with a Leaders’ Statement; and
- **securing political and financial commitments** for the Leaders’ Event at the end of the Summit Series (date tbc, likely to be in Q4 2021).

Partners and End Violence champions will work together throughout 2021 to secure momentum-building pledges and actions aligned with six policy proposals developed by experts from a range of constituency groups:

1. Ban all forms of violence against children
2. Enable parents & caregivers to keep children safe
3. Make the internet safe for children
4. Make schools safe, non-violent & inclusive
5. Protect children in humanitarian settings
6. More money, better spent





Safe at Home and in the Community

Pathfinding and the INSPIRE strategies to end violence against children serve as an enabler for End Violence to build alliances and mobilize in-country partners to keep children safe at home and in their communities. To boost partner involvement and donor engagement, the Partnership works with government-led coordination bodies, the UN system and CSOs to develop national roadmaps for the adaptation and scale-up of INSPIRE.

With Finland, Namibia, Zambia and Papua New Guinea joining in recent months there are now **33 Pathfinding countries**.

Drawing on the WHO's 2020 *Global Status Report on Prevention of VAC* and data from UNICEF and other partners, a **Country Dashboard** is being developed to track country-level progress and ultimately to inform strategic decisions by the Partnership on joint advocacy, action and investments to maximise our collective geographical impact.

Corporal punishment remains the most prevalent form of violence against children. With generous financial support from Wellspring Philanthropic Fund via Ignite Philanthropy, in late 2020 the work of the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (GI) was taken on by the End Violence Secretariat. This has allowed continuation of some aspects of GI's work to advocate for and provide legal support to national actors working to end corporal punishment, and closer synergies with the Partnership's work to promote the INSPIRE strategies.

Building on alliances created earlier during COVID-19, with ECDAN, UNICEF, WHO, Oak Foundation and LEGO Foundation, End Violence has rco-convended a series of meetings with around 40 donors and philanthropic foundations to discuss the critical need to invest in evidence-based solutions to support **parents and caregivers**. An inter-agency plan is now being finalised.

Working with existing Pathfinding governments and partners to help elevate VAC as a priority for COVID-19 planning and financing, in recent months we have organised and co-hosted:

- **INSPIRE Regional Conference for South America** with the Colombian Government, UNICEF, PAHO, UNODC, the World Bank, Save the Children and Plan International, bringing together participants from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela;
- **Shadow Pandemic: Violence Against Children in Europe in times of COVID-19** with the Government of France;
- **It takes Health to End Violence Against Children** with the governments of Sweden and Colombia; and
- multiple events harnessing global data for young children, the INSPIRE strategies and the protection of children during COVID-19, with the **Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action**.



Safe to Learn is dedicated to ending violence in and through schools so that children are free to learn, thrive and pursue their dreams. Safe to Learn is an opportunity to unlock the multiple wins of ending violence in schools, improving learning outcomes, better leveraging investments in education, and raising awareness and change attitudes towards violence against children.

**A coalition of Global Partners
working in Education and in Violence Prevention**



Senior Officials from the 14 Safe to Learn coalition partners met towards the end of 2020 to share progress, hear first-hand from governments implementing the Safe to Learn Call to Action (Jamaica and South Sudan) and to agree priorities for 2021. There was unanimity around the level of **ambition and urgency for Safe to Learn** as the education sector reimagines education for a post-COVID world, commitment to do more collectively by aligning behind a small number of priority actions to increase impact in-country, and agreement to bring forward a strategy refresh to early 2021.

The strategy refresh is being led by **Chloë Fevre, new Safe to Learn Director** who joined us in February from the World Bank, where she led work to mainstream ending violence against children in the Bank's education portfolio. Chloë has hit the ground running in an important year of opportunity for Safe to Learn, and is already making significant progress on the strategy refresh while also preparing advocacy priorities for the **UK-Kenya-hosted Education Summit** and Global Partnership for Education replenishment in July.

As an important component of the new Partnership Strategic Plan 2022-24, a summary of the **new Safe to Learn strategy** will be shared with the Board for your consideration at the Board meeting on 25 May.

The Safe to Learn window of the End Violence Fund has now invested nearly \$9 million in **eight projects** across five countries – Cambodia, Lebanon, Nepal, South Sudan and Uganda - to prevent and respond to violence in and through schools and other learning environments. Organisations have incorporated innovative adaptation and mitigation measures to ensure that safer learning environments remain a priority, despite challenges associated with COVID-19.



The Partnership's Safe Online priorities include: strengthening and expanding capacity, networks and systems to prevent and respond to online CSEA; investing in technology solutions that give law enforcement, advocates, children and parents new open-source tools to detect, prevent and respond to online CSEA; continuing to build a robust evidence base to inform action; and advocacy to influence key actors to prioritize child online safety in their policies, regulations, budgets and business practices.

In October, we invested over \$10 million in **15 new projects** to develop or scale up **technology solutions to tackle online child sexual exploitation and abuse** by supporting victims, preventing grooming, detecting and disrupting livestreaming, and identifying and referring to support services sex offenders and those likely to offend. These latest investments bring the overall Safe Online portfolio of investments to \$44 million and 53 projects - with impact in over 70 countries.

With the Technology Coalition, we recently launched a **Tech Coalition Safe Online Research Fund** to support **actionable research to prevent online child sexual exploitation and abuse**, with a focus on the role of industry.

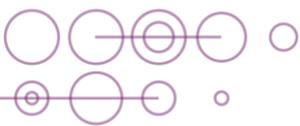
With **UNICEF Innovation Fund and Giga** we are supporting \$100,000 in **equity-free investments for for-profit start-ups working to make the internet safer for children**. Selected projects will be announced in July 2021.

Last month, with the ITU, UNESCO, World Childhood Foundation USA, ECPAT International, WePROTECT Global Alliance and WHO we issued a joint statement to celebrate the adoption of **General Comment No. 25**, which sets out how **the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child now applies in the digital environment**.

We continue to ensure that the **rights of children in digital spaces** are well represented and protected across all sectors, including the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development's **School Connectivity** – The Digital Transformation of Education.

Over recent months we have convened a new group of key experts and organizations to coordinate **advocacy efforts around pressing issues of child safety online**. The initial focus of the group has been on the new **EU privacy regulations** that affect the ability of technology companies to detect and report images and videos of children being sexually abused.





Knowledge

The Partnership's priority initiatives are supported by the latest research, evidence and data on the End Violence [Knowledge Platform](#).

During the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the End Violence website served over 70,000 users with access to free COVID-19 resources on ending VAC. These resources include practical tips and technical guidance on a wide range of topics including [parenting](#), [safe to learn](#) and [safe online](#).

The End Violence [Knowledge Platform](#) has readily accessible knowledge pieces on ending VAC and has attracted more than 3,000 users since its launch in August 2020. The End Violence [Knowledge Network](#) recently produced three global products: a [Methods Menu](#) on measuring baseline VAC data across the world; an [Evidence Gap Map](#) on adolescent wellbeing in low and middle-income countries; (3) a resource pack for practitioners on including children in VAC research.

The [End Violence Lab](#) continues to support capacity building activities in Pathfinding countries. This includes providing technical assistance for evaluating national action plans, engaging policymakers on a [leadership development course](#); and training young scholars for the [INSPIRE Accelerator Systematic Review](#).

An End Violence podcast series, [INSPIRING Ways to End Violence Against Children](#) was launched to reach new audiences during COVID-19, with topics including positive parenting, gang violence, gender-based violence, and keeping children safe in schools and online. The podcast series is available on various platforms including Spotify, Apple and via End Violence Knowledge Platform.

INSPIRING WAYS TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN: THE PODCAST





GOVERNANCE

Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held virtually 8am - 10am (ET) Tuesday 25 May 2021. Discussions will include the new Strategic Plan and securing commitments as part of the Together to #ENDviolence campaign and Solutions Summit Series. We will share Zoom and dial-in details nearer to the meeting.

New Executive Committee Chairs

When it met in November 2020, the End Violence Executive Committee confirmed two new co-Chairs:

- Etienne Krug, Director, Department for Social Determinants of Health, WHO
- Joan Nyanyuki, Executive Director, African Child Policy Forum

Etienne and Joan recently joined Board Chair Henrietta H. Fore, Executive Director Howard Taylor and Deputy Director Sally Burnheim in an introductory briefing conversation with incoming Board Chairs Helle Thorning-Schmidt and Joy Phumaphi.

Board members' profile information

From time to time we reconfirm all Board members' profiles and contact information. This information is used to update Board members' profiles on the End Violence website and our contact directory for governance-related correspondence and activities.

Please use this [online form](#) to enter and submit your information. Should you have questions or need assistance accessing the form, please contact Hazel Mills at hazel.mills@end-violence.org.

Thank you.

End Violence Secretariat,
April 2021

