

CSO Collective Actions in Six Pathfinding Countries, 2019

Background

The Civil Society Forum to End Violence against Children (CSO Forum), a coalition of 15 member organisations, advocates for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.2 and other SDG targets to end violence against children.¹ The CSO Forum seeks to facilitate inclusive, effective and accountable engagement from civil society organisations in End Violence - The Global Partnership to End Violence against Children (End Violence).

This brief preview offers an update on the collective actions of civil society to end all forms of violence against children in six Pathfinding countries: El Salvador, Indonesia, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines and South Africa. Inputs to this report were submitted voluntarily by national, regional and global civil society organisations. These updates build upon the collective actions shared in the 2018 full report from the CSO Forum, *Taking Action Together for Children: Civil Society Coalitions in Pathfinding and Pathfinding in Discussion Countries*.² The CSO Forum expresses sincere appreciation for the inputs collected through member organisations, including ChildFund Alliance, ECPAT, Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, Save the Children, and World Vision.

Civil Society Actions

El Salvador

In 2018, the national chapter of the regional Movimiento Mundial por la Infancia (MMI-LAC) was reactivated by the six child-focused agencies of Joining Forces, and the group strengthened their collaboration at the national level.³ They have met with the Consejo Nacional de la Niñez y Adolescencia (CONNA), the acting focal point for End Violence, State institutions, UNICEF and other stakeholders. In support of the global initiative, the six nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) began coordination in El Salvador, further reflected in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in 2019 in partnership with the Government-led by CONNA. As part of the commitments, the NGOs agreed to financially and technically support the State for the elaboration of the national plan of action or national roadmap to put an end to violence against children. Due to the political situation in the countries, the plan/roadmap has not yet been approved.

On 24 October, it is planned in the Ordinary Session of the Directing Council of CONNA agenda for UNICEF to present to the Ministers, on behalf of the alliance, on the importance of ending violence against

¹ The CSO Forum to End Violence against Children members include: African Child Policy Forum, Arigatou International, Child Helpline International, ChildFund Alliance, ECPAT, Girls Not Brides, Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, Internet Watch Foundation, ISPCAN, One Third Sweden, Plan International, Promundo, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages International, Terre des Hommes, World Vision.

² Read the 2018 full report, *Taking Action Together for Children: Civil Society Coalitions in Pathfinding and Pathfinding in Discussion Countries* (2018), which highlighted the collective actions of more than 398 national, regional and international civil society organisations to end violence against children in 17 Pathfinding countries and 8 countries in discussion to become Pathfinding, [here](#).

³ The six international NGOs of Joining Forces are Educo Foundation (ChildFund), Plan International, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages, Terre des Hommes, and World Vision.

children and to encourage the Executive to officially resume the efforts on this issue. Within the framework of Joining Forces, the participation of children has been put at the centre of all the actions that have been promoted to seek innovative solutions to the problem of violence against children in El Salvador. Children supported through the Plan Z initiative of the six Joining Forces agencies have created a musical focused on the prevention of sexual violence, which will be presented in November, within the framework of the 30 years of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the INSPIRE Regional Workshop in which different organisations will participate.

Indonesia

Indonesia Civil Society Organisations Alliance PKTA (Alliance/Aliansi PKTA) is a coalition of 26 civil society organisations (CSOs) dedicated to ending all forms of violence against children.⁴ Aliansi PKTA contributes to ensuring no one is left behind in national and sub-national efforts to end violence against children and in the implementation of INSPIRE.

Alliance PKTA contributed to accelerating action at the national and subnational level and demand accountability on policy commitment implementation, such as the signing by the Coordinating Ministry of Human Development and Culture (2018). ALIANSI PKTA used social media to distribute information including: addressing on online sexual violence; child marriage; child trafficking; as well as parents/ caregivers' guidance. Alliance PKTA also conducted CSO capacity trainings on adaptation and implementation of INSPIRE, and formed six cross-working groups around the pillars of INSPIRE, with a CSO member leading each group.

In the 2019 Indonesia Voluntary National Review [report](#), preventing violence against children was identified as a key challenge in the main messages.⁵ However, CSOs noted the need for disaggregated data to inform policy and their implementation. Indonesia co-sponsored two major events on ending violence against children at the High Level Political Forum, including the launch of the [global thematic report](#) of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children. The global thematic report featured input from the Alliance PKTA, submitted through the chapter contribution of the CSO Forum.⁶

Paraguay

A coalition of child-focused agencies signed a cooperation agreement with the National Network of Childhood and Adolescence to provide technical support and develop actions to implement SDG 16.2 and related targets.⁷ These agencies have worked closely with the government and civil society, including children, to develop the Paraguay Action Plan to End Violence Against Children.⁸

Key CSO partners and the Ministry of Childhood and Adolescence, and supported by Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, are implementing specific actions related to the Paraguay Pathfinding status.⁹ The Pathfinding Action Plan was improved, printed and disseminated in 2019, boosting the National Commission for Prevention and Comprehensive Attention to Children and Adolescents. Several meetings

⁴ More information on Aliansi PKTA, including their recent book of good practices from civil society to end violence against children, is available on their website: <http://aliansipkta.or.id/>

⁵ The CSO Forum produced CSO Call to Action for the 2019 Voluntary National Reviews, available in Dropbox [here](#).

⁶ CSO Forum EVAC report out from the 2019 HLPF, available in Dropbox [here](#).

⁷ The coalition includes Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC), Plan International, the National Network of Childhood and Adolescence, SOS Children's Villages, World Vision and other civil society organisations, and works in partnership with UNICEF.

⁸ The Action Plan was submitted to End Violence and launched in Paraguay at a public event at the Foreign Affairs auditorium in August 2017.

⁹ This work is led by ChildFund and SOS Children's Villages.

and workshop were developed at the central government with all involved organisations and across the country with local governments, civil society and child organisations, to promote and discuss the roles of the different stakeholders in the implementation of the Pathfinding Action Plan.

Two national campaigns are underway, organized with the National Government of Paraguay and the Ministry of Childhood and Adolescence Paraguay, and include CONAPRE (National Commission of Prevention and Integral Attention of Violence Against Children Paraguay), Christian Children's Fund of Canada (Paraguay), the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, Paraguay de la Gente, Plan International, SOS Children's Villages, UNICEF, and YACYRETA, and feature strong media visibility. The first is a national campaign to increase awareness of the issue of sexual abuse against children.¹⁰ Another national campaign is to promote positive parenting and child protection explicitly in the framework of the pathfinding status.¹¹

CSOs, together with the National Network of Childhood and Adolescence, are also organizing the Second International Seminar on Child Participation and the SGDs 16.2+ compliance (November 12th 2019), to which the other eight pathfinding countries in the region are also invited. In addition to these actions, the Front for Childhood and Adolescence, a coalition of 25 child related CSOs, advocates for a set of 20 commitments in favor of childhood and adolescence, where commitment 14 specifically aims to end all forms of violence against children.

Peru

A collective of 20 CSOs known as Grupo Impulsor, and including the Ombudsman's Office, have been working together to advocate with Congress for ending violence against children since 2017.¹² The group has a range in 180 districts, having a direct impact on 183,000 children and adolescents from 21 regions in Peru. The objective of the group is to influence the State to design and implement a National Plan to prevent and address violence against children and adolescents, with an adequate budget allocation.

To date the group reports the following achievements:

- In March 2018, CSOs brought back the results from the "Solutions to End Violence Summit: the 2030 Agenda for Boys and Girls" held in Sweden, and on 12 April, CSOs organised a workshop to share the outcomes of the Solutions Summit and discuss the application of INSPIRE into the Peruvian context.¹³
- The creation of a thematic group resulted: "Joining efforts to prevent and address violence against women, girls, boys and adolescents," between the National Program of Family and Sexual Violence (MIMP) and Grupo Impulsor – which is currently developing an awareness booklet aimed at parents and caregivers to prevent violence.

¹⁰ To learn more about the Campaign Against Child Abuse in Paraguay, please visit the group on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/paraguayminna/videos/2193512524051862/>

¹¹ To learn more about the Campaign Promoting Child Protection Against Violence (with the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children), please visit the group on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/paraguayminna/videos/542136976532948/>

¹² Updates from this report are shared as part of the report of the *Grupo Impulsor Peru Pais Pionero para poner fin a la violencia contra la niñez*. Member organisations include: Arigatou, Fundacion Anar, Paz y Esperanza, Plan International, Save the Children, Aldeas Infantiles SOS Peru (SOS Children's Villages Peru), Terre des Hommes, Warma Pura, World Vision, and others. The group is led by a democratically elected Coordinating Committee: Peace and Hope, SOS Children's Villages and World Vision Peru.

¹³ A best practices/solutions workshop was organised on 2 February 2018 by CSOs ahead of the Solutions Summit, to discuss the INSPIRE framework and local solutions to end violence (a report from this event is available [here](#)).

- Progress to design the National Plan to end violence against children by the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations: CSOs are participating in feedback meetings, and a new proposal is being developed in support of the consultations in the regions.
- Coordination of high level meetings with the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy and Finance, and the National Center for Strategic Planning.
- Progress in the Peruvian State to assume commitments and accelerate the implementation of the SDGs in favor of children.
- Capacity development for the members working to address public investment towards children.
- Advocate for adequate budget allocation to prevent and address violence against children and adolescents.
- Hosted a state conversation about physical and humiliating punishment in partnership with the Global Initiative on Corporal Punishment.
- Coordination with End Violence to take advantage of the “We Are Free” workshop, organized by the National Program of Family and Sexual Violence, UNICEF and the Canadian Embassy, which allowed the group to share an update on the progress and needs to end violence against children.
- Peru will prepare a Voluntary National Review in 2020 – plan processes for engagement of civil society and children to contribute to the national report.

Philippines

The Civil Society Coalition on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC Coalition), an alliance of 19 local and international child rights organisations, in collaboration with Social Watch Philippines, conducted research focused on public investment for child protection systems at the local level to determine the impact of public investment on children’s well-being and violence against children in select cities and municipalities: Roxas, Zamboanga del Norte and Malabon City (2018-2019).¹⁴ The research measured the percentage of funds dedicated in the budget to child protection system, as well as if and how it is spent on services and programmes most needed for responding to and preventing violence against children, as identified in the local child rights situation analyses.

The findings, learning and recommendations of the study have been presented and validated with the local government units in two of the project sites. The results have also been presented to the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), UNICEF and CSOs working on child protection, as well as with other LGUs, including Valenzuela City, the Pathfinding City. The intention is for the key stakeholders to adopt the study’s recommendations, including the key budget indicators used in the study, in localizing and implementing the Philippine Plan of Action on Violence against Children (PPAEVAC) in their localities. The final report will be launched at the end of the year; preliminary recommendations include harmonizing existing child-focused plans and those related to child protection; involving children and CSOs in the planning and budgeting process; regular monitoring, evaluation and reporting on violence against children issues; and developing a guide, flowchart or manual for reporting and referrals.

The CRC Coalition’s research was included in the CSO Forum chapter contribution and featured in the [global thematic report](#) of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children.¹⁵ The CRC Coalition will also be incorporating relevant findings and recommendations in the Philippine Alternative Report for the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Committee (currently drafting for submission to the UN next year) as well as in its contribution to the Beijing Platform for Action report of the country.

¹⁴ CSC-CRC has 19 member civil society organisations, including ChildFund, World Vision, Save the Children, Terre des Hommes Netherlands, and other national and local civil society organisations.

¹⁵ CSO Forum EVAC report out from the 2019 HLPF, available in Dropbox [here](#).

For the Philippines 2019 Voluntary National Review, UNICEF and Plan International led the consultations with children (Quezon). The Philippines 2019 Voluntary National Review [report](#) calls for “greater data granularity to report on the status of vulnerable sectors and the extent of operationalization of ‘leaving no one behind’ (Tacloban).”¹⁶

As part of the 30th Anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Philippines Pledge begins its commitment to the Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children (PPAeVAC) and the National Response Plan Against Child Pornography, among others.¹⁷ The CRC Coalition study results will also be presented in a national forum being organized by the CRC Coalition for the Children’s Month celebration.

South Africa

Following the Dialogue Forum in 2018 for evidence-based programmes to prevent violence against women and children, where thirty (30) representatives from non-governmental organisations (NGOs), government departments, international organisations and the research community gathered to address fragmentation in the sector, working groups were formed on topics such as policy, research, and advocacy. South Africa has launched a two-year campaign with the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, UNICEF, Save the Children, International Social Services, Media Monitoring Africa, the Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), and other partners, to:

- Raise awareness about the problem of VAC amongst senior policy makers and stimulate commitment to ensuring the scale-up of primary and secondary violence prevention interventions
- Bring together a broad consortium of NGOs, INGOs, policy makers and academics to undertake activities to raise awareness about VAC.

The 2019 South Africa Voluntary National Review [report](#) highlights progress on the development of legislative frameworks to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls, despite the continued violence against women and femicide. It is noted that disaggregated data and policies are needed to address gender-based violence and eliminate inequalities.

Further, as part of the upcoming 30th Anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, South Africa has renewed its commitment by pledging to increase children’s participation in “holding authorities accountable to children” with a focus on the alignment of the South African Children’s Manifesto, 2019 – 2023 National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC) and the South African Child Participation Framework to the CRC.¹⁸ While South Africa’s Pledge emphasises education, including early child education, and ensuring the rights of children with disabilities, it must also be noted how achieving SDG 16.2 is essential to achieving the rights of all children.

Civil society organisations are currently working together with the government of South Africa to accelerate SDG 16.2, and have achieved the following results:¹⁹

¹⁶ 2019 Philippines Voluntary National Review report available here:

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23366Voluntary_National_Review_2019_Philippines.pdf

¹⁷ Pledge by the Philippines, OHCHR; available online at

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/CRC30Pledges/Pages/Philippines.aspx>

¹⁸ CRC Pledge by South Africa, OHCHR, is available online at:

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/CRC30Pledges/Pages/SouthAfrica.aspx>

¹⁹ Civil society organisations contributing to ending violence against children in South Africa include ECPAT, the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, Save the Children, Sonke Gender Justice and others.

- On 18 September 2019, the South African Constitutional Court ruled that the common law defence of “reasonable and moderate chastisement” was unconstitutional effectively banning all corporal punishment of children.
- A draft Children’s Third Amendment Bill is currently under discussion and includes provision on child discipline. CSOs are also campaigning for the inclusion of explicit prohibition of corporal punishment in the Bill.
- In partnership with the Government (Department of Social Development), South African campaigners are planning to launch a countrywide Positive Parenting Campaign, and submitted a funding proposal to the Government in early October 2019.

Finally, on 29 October, a Briefing Paper on sexual exploitation of children in South Africa will be launched, and will feature the findings from a two-year process of civil society working in partnership with the Government of South Africa. This process concluded in 2019 to develop a ‘Landscape of Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Africa: A National Overview on Child Sexual Exploitation in South Africa’. The collective effort was facilitated by ECPAT International, and guided by an advisory group consisting of the Government of South Africa (Department of Social Development, DSD), the South African Police Service (SAPS), UNICEF South Africa, Save the Children South Africa, Childline South Africa, the Law Reform Commission, the Bureau for Market Research (Youth Research Unit) at UNISA, The Centre for Child Law at the University of Pretoria, The University of the Western Cape and Jelly Beanz – an organisation supporting victims of child sexual abuse.²⁰

Conclusion

The CSO Forum to End Violence against Children collectively advocates for six key asks to accelerate actions to achieve SDG 16.2 and related goals and targets to end all forms of violence against children, including to promote accountability at the national level through the use of multi-stakeholder mechanisms.²¹ CSOs contribute to knowledge development and sharing, engage children and communities to demand action to end violence against children through social accountability models, raise public awareness, and inform national policy to protect the rights of all girls and boys in all circumstances. This report reflects a slice of the wide range of collective actions from civil society in six countries. Full recognition of the investments and efforts of CSOs at national level as equal partners in the global collective efforts to end violence against children is needed. Together, we can learn from and scale up collective actions to end violence against children.

²⁰ The report is produced by ECPAT, and also uses the scores provided by the Economist Intelligence Unit report, “Out of the Shadows: Shining Light on the Response to Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation” (2018); available online at <https://outoftheshadows.eiu.com>.

²¹ CSO Forum six advocacy asks are included in the CSO Forum EVAC report out from the 2019 HLPF, available in Dropbox [here](#).