El Salvador accepted a recommendation during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, expressing a political commitment to do so.

Recent developments:

- **2009**: The Law of Integral Protection of Children and Adolescents was approved, creating the National System for the Integral Protection of Children and Adolescents.
- **2010**: El Salvador accepted a recommendation during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, expressing a political commitment to do so.
- **2017**: In August, the Family Law was modified to ban child marriage without exceptions. El Salvador drafted the National Intersectoral Strategy for the Prevention of Pregnancy in Adolescents (2017-2027), launched a year later in 2018.
- **2018**: The High Government Representative for the Global Partnership (appointed by the Foreign Affairs Ministry) established a multi-stakeholder platform known as the Partnership Steering Committee.

The National System for the Integral Protection of Children and Adolescents comprises, among other bodies, a specialized judiciary, 16 department protection boards that investigate threats and violations of the rights of children, and the Shared Care Network, formed by civil society organizations (CSOs) that work for children and child-centric public institutions.

El Salvador, as a Pathfinding Country, established a Steering Committee to make strategic decisions, approve documents and processes, and promote El Salvador’s commitment to ending violence against children. Several NGOs in El Salvador have started a Joining Forces Process to work together under an initiative called Plan Z to establish child-led innovation labs that will empower children to brainstorm social innovations to reduce violence against children.

A Technical Working Group on Prevention (TWP) was created to oversee the implementation of violence prevention activities and was strengthened in preparation for the Violence Against Children Survey (VACS) to ensure that the appropriate policies and programs followed up on the results. TWP members are the most senior officials at the key participating ministries. Several agencies collaborated to implement VACS, including USAID, PAHO, CDC, UNDP, Promundo and the Instituto Universitario de Opinión Pública (IUDOP) of the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas.
El Salvador has a child protection coordinating mechanism at both the executive and operational levels, as established in the PNPNNA. The general objective of the child protection national action plan, based on the PNPNNA, is to ensure the rights of children and their families at all levels of society, with strategic objectives concerning the right to health, protection, development and participation. CONNA is the agency responsible for its implementation. The plan uses the following INSPIRE strategies: (i) strengthening administrative and judicial response measures for children and ensuring access to justice; (ii) ensuring safe family environments, including reduced access to firearms; (iii) guaranteeing the protection of socioeconomically-vulnerable children; and (iv) creating and strengthening mechanisms for responding to violence. The INSPIRE toolkit has been presented to the Committees, and an INSPIRE capacity development process is currently in planning stages. A roadmap and a national plan of action to end violence against children are also currently in planning stages. Both will include the participation of multiple stakeholders, including children and CSOs. The operational structure and bodies responsible for the design and preparation of the roadmap and plan have been developed at the managerial and technical-operative levels. The methodology for the development of the national roadmap is currently being implemented. In 2018, several CSOs met with CONNA, state institutions, UNICEF and other stakeholders to sign a letter of understanding with the state, committing to joining efforts and working on concrete actions to eliminate all forms of violence against children. In addition, a coalition was formed to work together to support the government in adopting a process to remove child sexual abuse material from the internet. A coalition of government institutions, CSOs and other actors are working to draft legislation to prohibit corporal punishment of children.

Opportunities for 2019 where End Violence will engage

1. Ensure that EVAC remains a priority following a transition of government by publishing a national roadmap, followed by a national action plan, to prevent and respond to violence against children.
2. Assist with, track progress, and follow documentation as El Salvador presents its progress in monitoring the SDG goal 16.2 at the High-Level Political Forum in July 2019.
3. Harness the opportunity of the launch of VACS report to actively engage the Steering Committee and other relevant stakeholders at local, regional and national levels.

4. Undertake a study on the cost of inaction and the cost of action in El Salvador.

5. Collaborate on school-based violence research opportunities, particularly involving migrant and displaced children within the broader advocacy framework of Safe to Learn.
6. Build capacity around INSPIRE and reporting to HLPF with support of UNICEF.

The Country Progress Fact Sheets are an overview of where countries stand in terms of the Pathfinding Framework created by End Violence. They were developed in collaboration with the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, Girls Not Brides, Civil Society Forum to End Violence against Children, Together for Girls, UNICEF, ILD and WHO.