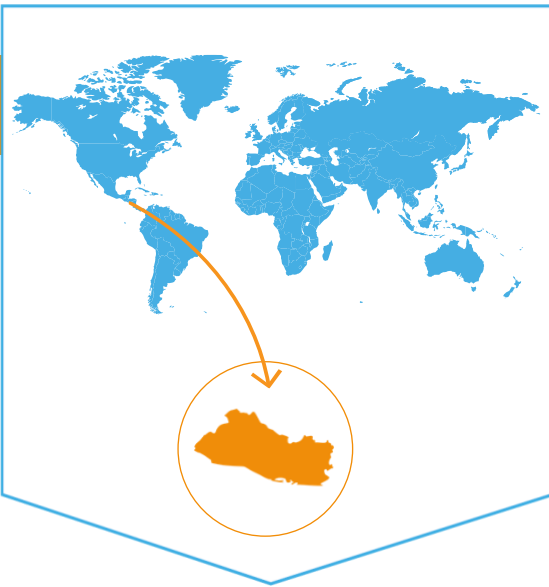




El Salvador



Government focal points

Zaira Navas

Executive Director of the
National Council for Children
and Adolescents (CONNA)

Pathfinding since December



**Government
Contacts and
References**

Recent developments: National Action Plans, Laws, and Budget

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.

2013

El Salvador launched its national policy on child protection, the *Política Nacional de Protección Integral de la Niñez y la Adolescencia (PNPNA)* (2013-2023).

2015

El Salvador approved the National Action Plan of the National Policy for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents (2014-2017). It contained programmes and indicators to prevent violence against children and adolescents, and included the commitments of multiple state institutions.

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.



**Multi-stakeholder
Collaboration and
Consultation
with Children**

- 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.

- In 2014, a National Health Survey was carried out by the Ministry of Health–National Health Institute, in collaboration with the General Directorate of Statistics and Censuses (DIGESTYC), as part of the UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) programme. A new MICS with VACS indicators is being developed by UNICEF and the Ministry of Health and is scheduled to launch in 2020.
- In 2015, CONNA created the National Child Information System (SINAES). CONNA, the General Directorate of Statistics and Censuses and UNICEF are currently working together to define national indicators for childhood and adolescence and to implement data interchange technologies.
- In November and December 2017, data was collected for the El Salvador VACS, which was led by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security (MJSP) with assistance and participation from the DIGESTYC, the TWP, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as part of the Together for Girls (TFG) partnership, USAID, and IOM. A special module on migration was included in El Salvador’s VACS. In November 2018, MJSP and IOM co-organized the VACS Data to Action workshop, with support from CDC, USAID and TFG. The purpose of the workshop was to review key findings from the El Salvador VACS ahead of the official report launch, and develop an initial draft of multi-sectoral priorities and recommendations based on VACS data and the INSPIRE framework. Representatives from various government sectors, civil society organizations and development partners participated. The country’s VACS report is expected to launch in 2019. The MJSP is currently reviewing a draft of the VACS report and will then share it with the TWP for their feedback.



Data Collection and Situation Analysis

El Salvador has a child protection coordinating mechanism at both the executive and operational levels, as established in the PNPNA. The general objective of the child protection national action plan, based on the PNPNA, 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; (S) ensuring safe family environments, including reduced access to firearms; (I) guaranteeing the protection of socioeconomically-vulnerable children; and (R) 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.



Collective Action and INSPIRE

Reporting into CRCs and SDGs



Underwent UPR in 2014.
Reported to the CRC in 2018.



Reported to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2017.



Will report to HLPF and undergo UPR in 2019.



Opportunities for 2019 where End Violence will engage

Build political will/global movement

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.

Resource mobilization

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

Equip practitioners

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.