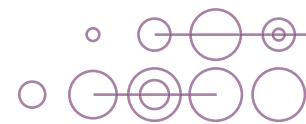


# Pathfinding

## Highlights from 2020





Catalysing national action to protect children has been part of the End Violence Partnership's strategy since its earliest days. In 2020, Finland, Namibia and Zambia became *Pathfinding* countries, bringing to 32 the number of governments making significant political and policy commitments to keep children safe. Several additional countries are on track to become Pathfinding countries in 2021.

The End Violence Partnership and partners such as UNICEF play a central role in encouraging new countries to become Pathfinders and then working with governments and civil society to create national action plans and build local networks to ensure success. In 2020, particular attention was focused on supporting five countries (Uganda, Côte D'Ivoire, the Philippines, Indonesia and Colombia) to scale up use of *INSPIRE*, a set of seven evidence-based strategies proven to reduce violence against children. The End Violence Partnership also invested new effort in ending corporal punishment and supporting parents and caregivers coping with the stress and hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 2020 major achievements

- **New Pathfinding Countries:** In 2020, the End Violence Partnership welcomed three new Pathfinding countries (see above). With Namibia and Zambia joining, Africa now has nine Pathfinding countries — the most of any continent.
- **Country Dashboard:** The End Violence Partnership launched a powerful new tool in 2020 to track country-level progress in protecting children from violence and inform future planning. Drawing on WHO's *Global Status Report on Preventing Violence Against Children 2020* and data from UNICEF and other partners, in the year to come, the Country Dashboard will be converted into a living document with information on demographics, national action plans, key stakeholders, and indicators on school-based and online violence. Though the dashboard was initially designed to capture key milestones in the Pathfinding process, the Partnership saw the opportunity to build a more comprehensive tool to ensure coherence across all priority initiatives — and ultimately inform strategic decisions on joint advocacy, action and investments to maximise collective impact at the national level.
- **New partners, new alliances:** The End Violence Partnership forged critical new alliances in 2020 that opened new pathways to combat violence against children — especially as the COVID-19 pandemic increased the vulnerability of children. The Partnership worked closely with Parenting for Lifelong Health to disseminate *evidence-based parenting tips* to more than 150 million people in 198 countries. The Partnership also broke new ground in working with faith communities through a collaboration with Arigatou International and its global network, as well as with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime to engage more with the justice sector.
- **INSPIRE Working Group:** The End Violence Partnership worked hand-in-hand with the INSPIRE Working Group in 2020 to adapt and scale up evidence-based strategies in targeted countries. Working Group members representing more than 200 organizations regularly come together to discuss their collective efforts to build capacity and chart new ways to scale up use of the seven strategies identified in the INSPIRE framework.
- **INSPIRE in South America:** In November 2020, the Government of Colombia with key partners held a regional conference to share lessons learned on scaling up INSPIRE in South America. More than 200 representatives from government, UN agencies and civil society attended.
- **Engaging with civil society:** In 2020, the End Violence Partnership deepened its engagement with national civil society focal points in Pathfinding countries, who play an essential role in shaping and delivering national action plans. To make this happen, the Partnership relied on guidance from the CSO Forum, which ensures that civil society groups are included in policy making.





## A Groundbreaking New Report

The *Global Status Report on Preventing Violence Against Children 2020* was launched in June 2020 by **WHO**, UNICEF, UNESCO, End Violence Partnership, and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children. The landmark report assesses what governments are doing to end violence against children by measuring their efforts against the evidence-based INSPIRE strategies. More than 1,000 government officials from 155 countries rated the extent to which they considered government support for the INSPIRE approaches was sufficient to reach all who need them.

The report's findings show that drastic action is needed to scale up evidence-based prevention efforts if we are to achieve the goal of ending childhood violence. For example, while most countries have laws in place to prevent violence against children, just 47 per cent of government respondents said that these laws were being enforced strongly enough to ensure that violators would be penalized. Similarly, while 56 per cent of countries provide some national support for the INSPIRE approaches, only 25 per cent of those surveyed consider this support sufficient to reach all who need it.

The report includes aggregate findings and individual country profiles for the 155 participating countries. Also included is a first-ever set of homicide numbers and rates for children under 18 at national, regional and global levels. WHO and its partners shared the report and its findings via regional launch events and national policy dialogues aimed at strengthening government support for prevention programmes, with most Pathfinder countries participating. The full report in English, executive summaries and infographics in all official UN languages, and a four-minute video summarizing the key findings and recommendations are available at <https://bit.ly/2Pxz5Pz>

## What is Pathfinding?

Since its launch in July of 2016, the End Violence Partnership has promoted the concept of Pathfinding, which aims to raise awareness, stimulate leadership commitment, galvanize action, and establish a standard of national violence prevention throughout the world. Pathfinding governments make a public commitment to do more to end violence against children and embark on a nationally-driven process to develop comprehensive, multisectoral action plans informed by evidence-based solutions such as the INSPIRE strategies. Today, 32 countries have committed to being Pathfinders, spreading the initiative's reach to every continent.

Partners across the End Violence Partnership play critical roles in the Pathfinding process. Civil society organizations bring evidence and experience from the field to inform national action plans and then mobilize civil society support for the development, implementation and monitoring of the plans. UNICEF country offices and other UN agencies support the government in convening multi-stakeholder platforms and achieving pathfinding milestones such as data collection and development of national action plans. They also provide important technical support throughout the process. Each government commits to the following action steps in the first 18 months of becoming a Pathfinding country:

- Appoint a senior government focal point to lead the process.
- Convene and support a multi-stakeholder group.
- Collect, structure and analyse data on violence against children.
- Develop an evidence-based and costed national action plan that sets commitments for three to five years, and a related resource mobilization plan.
- Consult with children and adhere to partnership standards on child participation.

Country-specific data on national action plans for Pathfinding countries can be accessed on the new [Country Dashboard](#).





## What are the INSPIRE strategies?

INSPIRE is a set of seven evidence-based strategies for countries and communities working to eliminate violence against children. Created by 10 agencies with a long history of child protection work — including WHO, UNICEF and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control — INSPIRE serves as a technical package and guidebook for comprehensive programming to combat violence against children.



### 1. IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS

INSPIRE encourages laws that ban violent punishment of children by parents, caregivers, teachers and other adults, along with laws criminalising perpetrators of sexual abuse and exploitation of children. INSPIRE also shows that laws preventing alcohol misuse and youth access to firearms and other weapons are proven to decrease violence.



### 2. NORMS AND VALUES

INSPIRE emphasises the importance of changing harmful societal norms, which can target gender, ability level, age and other indicators. INSPIRE provides examples of effective community mobilisation and bystander intervention programmes.



### 3. SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

INSPIRE demonstrates that addressing “hotspots” in communities leads to reductions in violence against children. Making environments safer can halt the spread of violence throughout a community.



### 4. PARENT AND CAREGIVER SUPPORT

To truly stop violence against children, parents and caregivers must be engaged. INSPIRE provides ways of doing so, including home visits, group activities in community settings, and other evidence-based programmes.



### 5. INCOME AND ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING

Violence can often be prevented if a family’s financial status improves. INSPIRE outlines interventions that strengthen families’ economic standing, including cash transfers, group savings and loans, and microfinance. Combining economic programmes with gender equity training leads to stronger results.



### 6. RESPONSE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

INSPIRE provides examples of effective counselling and therapeutic approaches, treatment programmes for juvenile offenders, and screening combined with interventions. It also includes foster care interventions for existing social welfare services.



### 7. EDUCATION AND LIFE SKILLS

INSPIRE provides recommendations to increase enrolment in preschools, primary schools and secondary schools, and relays the importance of safe, enabling school environments. By increasing children’s knowledge about violence and sexual exploitation, children are less likely to become victims of abuse.





**End Violence  
Against Children**

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