

End Violence Against Children

The Global Partnership



**End Violence
Against Children**
THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

2016-2020

STRATEGY

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Foreword

How well are we, as a global community, meeting the basic right of every child to be protected from violence? The uncomfortable answer is: Not well.

Every five minutes, a child dies as a result of violence.

Every year, at least one billion children are exposed to violence.

Four out of five children are subjected to some form of violent discipline in their homes.

One in five girls between the ages of 15 and 19 have been victims of physical violence.

More than 1 in 10 girls have been victims of sexual violence.

And more than 240 million children live in countries affected by violent conflict – far too many of whom are victims of, witnesses to, and refugees from the ravages of war.

Each of these sad and infuriating statistics represents the life of a child whose right to a safe, protected childhood has been violated – and whose chance for a better future has been diminished. Because violence against children does more than inflicting physical and emotional wounds. The toxic stress it produces can undermine the healthy development of children's bodies and brains – leaving them more vulnerable to ill health and limiting their ability to reach their full potential as adults.

And children whose life experiences teach them to believe that violence is normal... justified... or permissible may grow up to hold those beliefs as adults, helping perpetuate the same violence in their own families... their own communities... and their own societies.

So when we protect children from violence we support not only their development and growth, we also support the development of their societies, the growth of their economies, and ultimately, the strength and even the security of their countries. And when we fail to protect children from violence, we may reap what we sow.

The Sustainable Development Goals recognize this fundamental link between protecting children from violence and building more peaceful and prosperous societies. The inclusion of specific targets for ending violence against children in its many forms could represent a turning point for millions of vulnerable children – but only if we match our commitment to reaching these targets with concerted action. Action not only by countries, but by everyone.

For as violence against children is a problem shared by whole societies, the solution must also be shared. It must be shared by families – which can be children's greatest protection against violence, but also potentially the greatest source of danger.

It must be shared by the community – which must take responsibility for addressing harmful practices that endanger children.

And it must be shared by the broader society – governments, civil society organizations, religious leaders, media and businesses, whose actions influence everyone in that society and whose support can make a difference for millions of children.

The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children was formed by countries, civil society, the United Nations, the academic community and the private sector to transform these shared responsibilities into concrete action.

As this strategy makes clear, the Partnership provides a global platform for countries – and all those working toward the goal of ending violence against children – to share lessons learned and best practices, and to facilitate greater cooperation and coordination of our common efforts.

At the national level, and working through its members, the Global Partnership will support national action to make ending violence against children a policy and programme priority – by strengthening laws to prevent and punish violence against children... improving the way we respond to violence against children and reduce its impact... targeting those most vulnerable to violence with access to information and support... and above all, changing the mindset that violence is permissible in our institutions, our communities or our homes.

Every child has the right to the quiet blessing of a normal childhood, free from violence – and every society has a stake in protecting its youngest members. For a generation of children who grow up protected and cherished are not only more likely to lead healthy, fulfilling lives. They are more likely, more able and more willing to assume the responsibility of guiding their societies – and thus, our shared world – in the paths of progress.

Please join us in this vital effort by supporting the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.

Anthony Lake

Executive Director, UNICEF
and Founding Co-Chair of the
Board of the Global Partnership
To End Violence Against Children

STRATEGY

VISION

A world in which every child grows up free from violence.

MISSION

To make societies safer for children and end violence against children everywhere.

PRINCIPLES

RIGHTS
FOCUSED

CHILD
CENTERED

UNIVERSAL

GENDER
SENSITIVE

INCLUSIVE

TRANSPARENT

EVIDENCE
BASED

RESULT
ORIENTED

GOALS

1

**BUILD
POLITICAL WILL**

- 1.1 All countries commit to action to end violence against all children
- 1.2 Violence against children and the actions needed to prevent it is part of the national, regional and global discourse
- 1.3 All countries see an increase in finances put towards ending violence and exploitation in all settings

2

**ACCELERATE
ACTION**

- 2.1 All countries adopt national legislation, policies and programmes to protect children from violence and exploitation including online violence
- 2.2 Pathfinder countries provide increased access for children to comprehensive, coordinated and multi-sectoral services
- 2.3 Children affected by violence including those in conflict settings and on the move, can access child-centered services and programmes

3

**STRENGTHEN
COLLABORATION**

- 3.1 Support platforms for sustained transnational action and learning
- 3.2 Serve as the global forum to facilitate and accelerate learning and mutual accountability, make recommendations for standard setting and report on progress
- 3.3 Generate and disseminate knowledge, evidence and data

DRIVERS

**Movement
Building**

**Finance
& Resources**

**Data
& Evidence**

**Monitoring
& Evaluation**

Case for Action

Credit: UNICEF

In 2015, world leaders made a commitment to end all forms of violence against children by 2030, as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This moment presents an historic opportunity to unite the world behind a global, national and local movement to protect the world's most precious asset – its children. The Global Partnership and its associated fund (the “Partnership”) to End Violence Against Children was created to help achieve this ambitious undertaking – in every country, every community and every family.

Why?

Every year, at least **a billion children are exposed to violence**. Every five minutes, a child dies a violent death (Hillis et al. 2016) somewhere in the world. This epidemic of violence can no longer be tolerated or ignored. As the 2006 study of the United Nations Secretary-General stated:

“ *No violence against children is justifiable; all violence against children is preventable. There should be no more excuses... None of us can look children in the eye, if we continue to approve or condone any form of violence against them.* ”

Across the world, children face shocking levels of physical, sexual and psychological violence. They are exploited sexually and economically, forced to marry before they have grown up. Many are victims of female genital mutilation/cutting and a range of other harmful practices. Violence is also perpetrated by children against other children.

This is a problem for all countries, from the richest to the poorest. Every society treasures and seeks to protect its children, and yet children are at risk in institutions, schools, communities and even their homes. Civilization's fundamental building block – families – are often not a safe space for children. Violence affects children of all ages. It has an impact on both girls and boys. Many children grow up trapped in a cycle of repeated victimization.

In conflict and in crisis, children are the first to suffer. Nearly 246 million – 1 in 10 – children live in countries and areas affected by armed conflict. Many spend their entire childhood far from home or separated from their families. Almost half the world's forcibly displaced people are children. Children who are refugees, internally displaced, asylum seekers or stateless are at greater risk of abuse, neglect, violence, exploitation (including sexual exploitation), trafficking or forced military recruitment (UNICEF 2014). Leila Zerrougui, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, has argued:

“ *Child victims of war are boys and girls we collectively failed to protect. It is our responsibility to ask for urgent action to end grave violations against children and to dedicate the necessary attention and resources to protect them.* ”

The burden of violence is grave and long-lasting:

- Child survivors of violence are at risk of long-term **physical and cognitive damage**. Their brains fail to grow normally and their immune systems are affected. They are more likely to suffer poor health throughout their lives and to die early.
- Violence prevents children from receiving a **quality education** and **reduces their capacity to learn**.
- The impact on their **economic prospects and productivity** is lifelong, with victims of violence twice as likely to be unemployed later in life and much more likely to be living in poverty. (UNICEF UK, 2014)

The result – children suffer needlessly.

And **everyone pays the price**. Violence against children costs up to 8 per cent of global GDP, while reducing the return from investment in health, education and nutrition (Perezniето et al. 2014). Violence also corrodes societies, undermines social cohesion, prevents meaningful participation and destroys trust in institutions. A 17-year-old boy from Indonesia put it simply but eloquently:

“ *Let’s end violence against children for a prosperous future.* ”

BODY AND BRAIN

Brains of abused children can be **smaller**

They can have **damaged immune systems** and higher **risk of cancer**

As adults, they lose **more days** due to ill health each year

DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIP

Victims score lower grades and are **more likely** to drop out of school

Child witnesses of domestic violence are **more likely** to be aggressive themselves

Repeat victims of violence are **more likely** to be depressed

RISKY BEHAVIOUR

Physical violence victims are **more likely** to smoke and abuse drugs later in life

They are **more likely** to be obese

They are **more likely** to attempt suicide

LOST POTENTIAL

Violence costs US\$ **7 trillion** or 8% of global GDP

Victims are **more likely** to have problems at work

As adults, they are **more likely** to experience financial problems ¹

In 1996 and 2006, the United Nations Secretary-General submitted landmark reports on children and conflict, and on ending violence against children, to the General Assembly, and appointed the Special Representatives to the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict and on Violence against Children (General Assembly Resolutions 51/77 and 62/141). These reports set an agenda that has been taken forward by campaigners around the world.

¹ Please see references at the end of the document

Why now?

The persistence, scale and gravity of the problem of violence against the youngest members of our societies require us to unite and end this scourge. Lofty pronouncements and solemn promises have been made, repeated and echoed over the years. Signs of hope and modest progress can be seen. But until now, there has been no collective outrage commensurate with the ongoing, unnecessary suffering of children. National strategies are fragmented, weak or non-existent, while investment in violence prevention is far below what is required. We now have evidence, commitments, laws and policies. There are no further excuses – what is left to do is implement and scale up programmes that will end violence against children forever.

“ *Countries must be supported to accelerate their efforts to end violence against children.* ”

Elizabeth Dahlin, CEO of Save the Children Sweden

Morally and practically, humankind can no longer afford to avert its gaze from those toiling in harsh conditions... the millions bullied in their schools... children gunned down by gangs... those maimed in war, and children with children banned from their homes because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. All of them are children with hearts and hope and promise... and a right to live free from fear. They are OUR children.

“ *We must work hand in hand and with a sense of urgency.* ”

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kailash Satyarthi 2016.
World Humanitarian Summit.

To this end, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a landmark achievement for children, especially those who are most vulnerable to violence. In it, the world's leaders:

- Recognize that peace and sustainable development are inextricably linked, and underline the obligation for all nations to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.
- Set out a vision of “a world which invests in its children and in which every child grows up free from violence and exploitation.” This explicitly links the safety and security of children to global goals for child survival and development.
- Agree to meet a series of ambitious targets for ending all forms of violence against children and for ensuring that all children benefit from living in peaceful, just and inclusive societies, as part of an integrated and indivisible development agenda.

“ *For the very first time, the dignity of children and their right to live free from violence and from fear is recognized as a distinct priority on the international development agenda. This is an historic achievement. Together, we can transform this unique momentum into an unstoppable movement towards a world free from fear and from violence.* ”

Marta Santos Pais, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children.

Agenda 2030 Targets to End Violence Against Children

End violence against children...

16.2	End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children
5.2	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking, and sexual and other types of exploitation
5.3	Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation
8.7	Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms
4.7	...ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge... [for] promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence...
4.a	...provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

...reduce the impact of violence in families, communities and all settings...

16.1	Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
11.2	...provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all...
11.7	...provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children...

...and ensure access to fair and effective institutions and to justice for all...

16.3	Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
16.9	By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
16.a	Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

...by mobilizing an effective multi-stakeholder partnership.

17.16	Enhance the Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries...
17.17	Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnership, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

Solution time

Targets to end violence against children are meaningless unless they are matched by a strong commitment to action. We have a legal and moral obligation to act, and a **growing body of evidence** from around the world that shows us how we can make societies safer for children. With implementation of the right laws, systems, policies and investments, as well as adequate monitoring and evaluation, along with robust public education and campaigning, we can achieve significant, sustained and measurable reductions in violence, while doing more to respond to the needs of child victims.

According to Margaret Chan, the Director-General of the World Health Organization:

“*We know what works to prevent violence in our homes, schools and workplaces and on our streets and playgrounds. We should take inspiration from governments which have demonstrated success in reducing violence by taking the steps needed. They have shown us that indeed violence is preventable.*”

This is why the new Partnership is urgently needed. Agenda 2030 calls for all countries and all stakeholders to **come together in a collaborative partnership** to deliver sustainable development to all, and especially to the poorest and most vulnerable. The Partnership is all about doing things that will have a meaningful impact.

By bringing together governments, United Nations agencies, international organizations, civil society, including faith groups, the private sector, philanthropic foundations, researchers and academics, and children themselves, the Partnership aims to build on successes achieved to date, lessons learned and the work of other partnerships, to:

- **Raise awareness** of the importance of delivering SDG16.2 and other targets for ending violence against children, both to guarantee children’s right to live free from fear and to allow them to benefit from all aspects of the new sustainable development agenda.
- **Build upon existing efforts to mobilize a powerful movement** behind a common strategy for ending violence, strengthening the political will that is needed for **delivery of ambitious, evidence-based policies and programmes** that will lead to significant, sustained and measurable reductions in violence.
- **Work to end violence in countries** in all regions and among all income groups, while focusing resources and energy on children whose vulnerability to violence makes them most likely to be left behind by the new sustainable development agenda.
- Draw on the skills and energies of all parts of society, **ensuring all sectors play their roles** in defeating violence.
- Use our success in **delivering measurable reductions** in violence to further strengthen the case for increased investment in prevention and response to violence, and to continually increase our understanding of what works to keep children safe

The solutions to violence can be delivered at scale only if the energies, skills and resources of all parts of society are harnessed. This means reaching out to all those who work for children, either professionally or on a voluntary basis, whether from government, civil society, the UN or the private sector. Connections must be strengthened with those working to end violence against women and girls, boys, and young adults, along with those who aim to reduce conflict and build inclusive, just societies. Victims of violence – boys, girls, women and men – share common risk factors, and emerging evidence shows that prevention and response efforts, promoted together, can be more effective than if developed separately.

Strategy

Credit: IOM 2013

The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children offers an opportunity for governments, United Nations agencies, international organizations, civil society, including faith groups, the private sector, philanthropic foundations, researchers and academics, and children themselves, to work together – with a greater sense of urgency, passion and commitment – to prevent and respond to violence against children.

Vision

The Partnership's vision is **a world in which every child grows up free from violence**. It will work for all children (any person below the age of 18 years) and confront all forms of physical or emotional violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse (a full definition of violence and additional information on types of violence can be found in Annex 1).

The Partnership aims to support achievement of SDG16.2 – **end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children** – and other relevant SDG targets. These include targets that seek an end to violence against women and girls (SDG5.2 and 5.3), an end to the economic exploitation of children (SDG8.7), as well as those that aim to keep children safe in schools and communities and to promote peace and non-violence (SDG4.a, 4.7, 11.2 and 11.7).

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

All forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.

Physical	Sexual	Emotional	Neglect
Fatal and non-fatal physical violence	Any forms of sexual abuse and exploitation	Psychological maltreatment, mental abuse, verbal abuse and emotional abuse	The deliberate failure to protect the child from danger

Mission

The Partnership mission is to make societies safer for children and end violence against children everywhere. As an added value – the Partnership is both convener and catalyst. It also provides a common platform at global, regional, national and local levels where actors from across society can come together to achieve common goals.

That violence against children does not take place in a vacuum is recognized by the Partnership. It can neither be viewed in isolation from violence against other sectors of the population and the broader social context, nor be divorced from understanding root and structural causes, social norms and values. The work of the Partnership also acknowledges the need to have a life-cycle approach to the violence and discrimination that children face while growing up. Violence, in all its forms, must be reduced in children's families and communities, while children need access to justice, and to fair and effective services and institutions. Therefore, the Partnership is determined to play a full and active role in broader efforts to "foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence" (Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015).

Principles

The Partnership will put children first, and will hold itself to high standards in the delivery of its strategy.

Four principles are **fundamental** to our common undertaking:

- Rights-focused** The Convention on the Rights of the Child underpins the Partnership's work. All children have an equal right to be protected from violence, regardless of their sex, age, ability/disability, race, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status or legal or care status.

Any action to prevent and respond to violence must take into account the needs, rights and best interests of all children, without discrimination of any kind.
- Child-centred** Children's agency, rights and needs are our primary focus. The Partnership will support children as leaders and activists against violence. It will listen to children and respect their views, providing them with meaningful ways to participate in the Partnership and to contribute to its decision-making.
- Universal** All countries, and all parts of society, must take responsibility and be accountable for ending violence against children. The Partnership supports countries from all regions and income groups and will work with regional and local partners to place top priority on reaching children in the most dire circumstances – including those affected by conflict and crisis or excluded because of income, class, race, sex, religion, citizenship, disability or legal status – while promoting the safety and well-being of all children.
- Gender-sensitive** Violence poses different risks for girls, boys and those with other gender identities. Gender-sensitive perspectives will be central to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes, in line with the goal of eliminating discrimination and achieving gender equity and empowerment of all women and girls.

Four principles describe **how partners will work together**:

- Inclusive** The Partnership will provide a platform for partners from across the world to work together based on trust and mutual respect, including organizations of all sizes and people of all ages.
- Transparent** The Partnership will build trust by sharing information and consulting widely, and being open about its failures as well as its successes. It is committed to communicating in appropriate ways with all audiences, including children.
- Evidence-based** The Partnership's work will be informed by the best available scientific evidence, while tailoring interventions to each context. It is committed to learning, to sharing lessons and to constantly improving.
- Results-oriented** The Partnership will demonstrate results and support country-led efforts to track progress in implementing SDG targets to end violence against children.

Goals and drivers

The Partnership's three goals will help accelerate action and implement work at scale, sharing and implementing evidence-based strategies by building political will, working with countries to accelerate action to tackle the violence faced by children, and strengthening collaboration between countries.

The three goals are supported by four cross-cutting drivers: movement building, finance and resources, data and evidence and monitoring and evaluation.

GOAL 1

Build political will

The Partnership will build and sustain political will to achieve the SDGs and end violence against children, promoting evidence-based strategies that will lead to significant, sustained and measurable reductions in violence.

1.1	All countries commit to action to end violence against all children.
1.2	Violence against children and the actions needed to prevent it are part of national, regional and global discourse.
1.3	All countries see an increase in finances put towards ending violence and exploitation in all settings.

Most governments accept that violence against children is a serious problem, but few countries have committed to and taken action on a scale needed to achieve measurable reductions in violence. The Partnership will advocate for more urgent action to end all forms of violence, catalyse debate at national, regional and global levels and make the case for increased investment in programmes that are shown to effectively prevent and respond to violence.

1.1 All countries commit to and take action to end violence against all children.

The Partnership will provide a platform for all countries to commit to meeting their binding obligation to prevent violence against children and protect children from violence where it does occur, under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant human rights treaties. It will underline the need for timely attention to the Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Partnership will support countries in delivering on the globally agreed targets for ending all forms of violence and exploitation.

1.2 Violence against children and the actions needed to prevent it are part of national, regional and global discourse.

To strengthen the case for action and investment, the Partnership will act as a platform for debate about the scale, nature and distribution of violence against children, and about the interventions needed to prevent and respond. Full cooperation with international, regional and national human rights and child rights mechanisms will be promoted.

1.3 All countries see an increase in finances put towards ending violence and exploitation in all settings.

Agenda 2030 is based on the commitment of a world that invests in its children and in which every child grows up free from violence and exploitation. The Partnership will advocate for all countries to set out a realistic plan for increasing finance and for mainstreaming the prevention of violence against children into budgeting and programmes.

GOAL 2

Accelerate action

Partners will work together to accelerate action to tackle the violence that children face, with an initial focus on countries that wish to lead the movement to end violence.

2.1	All countries adopt national legislation, policies and programmes to protect children from violence and exploitation, including online violence.
2.2	Pathfinder countries provide increased access for children to comprehensive, coordinated and multi-sectoral services.
2.3	Children affected by violence, including those in conflict settings and those on the move, can access child-centred services and programmes.

Through the SDGs, all countries have made a commitment to ending violence against children. In line with the principle of inclusivity, the Partnership will provide a platform for any country that is prepared to take action to meet this commitment. Our focus will be on comprehensive, coordinated and multi-sectoral services for preventing and responding to violence, and on legislation. Children in conflict settings require special attention.

2.1 All countries adopt national legislation, policies and programmes to protect children from violence and exploitation, including online violence.

The Partnership will advocate for all countries to review, and amend as necessary, existing legislation, policies and programmes and to adopt and implement a gender-sensitive, rights-based legal framework that will effectively keep all children safe, secure and out of danger, including protecting them from physical and humiliating punishment and sexual violence.

2.2 Pathfinder countries provide increased access for children to comprehensive, coordinated and multi-sectoral services.

Pathfinder countries are those whose leaders have made a formal pledge to support actions to end all forms of violence against children and put that pledge to action through implementing the INSPIRE technical package at scale and monitor its effects (**see box on INSPIRE**). These strategies are most effective when implemented as part of a comprehensive, multi-sectoral plan that harnesses synergies, as the strategies are intended to work in combination and reinforce one another.

2.3 Children affected by violence, including those in conflict settings and on the move, can access child-centred services and programmes.

All children who are affected by violence must have access to comprehensive, coordinated, multi-sectoral services of acceptable quality. The Partnership will advocate for a significant increase in investment to strengthen the broader systems needed to meet minimum standards of access for children in all countries, including health and education. Social services must be integrated with and supported by other sectors. Children who are affected by conflict will need special attention in line with the Agenda 2030 commitment to *reach the furthest behind first*.

GOAL 3

Strengthen collaboration

The Partnership will strengthen collaboration among and between countries, and with civil society and other stakeholders. They will be encouraged to confront shared threats and develop shared solutions, acknowledging that violence against children cannot be considered in isolation from the broader context of violence. The Partnership will work with and supplement the efforts – but neither displace nor distort – the work of existing partnerships.

3.1	Support platforms for sustained transnational action and learning.
3.2	Serve as the global forum to facilitate and accelerate learning and mutual accountability, make recommendations for standard setting and report on progress.
3.3	Generate and disseminate knowledge, evidence and data.

The universal nature of Agenda 2030 encourages countries to find new ways of cooperating and learning from each other. Although significant progress has been made in recent years, for example on standard setting, fragmentation remains an issue. An important role for the Partnership will be as a platform for transnational action and learning, and a forum for learning and for the dissemination of knowledge. Under this goal and related objectives, the Partnership will also aim to communicate the issues to a wide range of actors and stakeholders, facilitate coordination, including across sectors (health, education) and break down silos.

3.1 Support platforms for sustained transnational action and learning.

Children face growing threats that transcend national borders and that cannot be tackled by any government acting on its own. Countries can also learn from each other's experience in protecting children from violence. The Partnership will support multiple platforms that facilitate transnational action and allow countries and other actors to learn from one another.

3.2 Serve as the global forum to facilitate and accelerate learning and mutual accountability, make recommendations for standard setting and report on progress.

At present, there is no international forum in which countries can work together to end violence against children. This has made it difficult to establish, strengthen and promote standards and norms; slows the dissemination of models and best practice from country to country; and has left the violence prevention and child protection fields fragmented and under-resourced. The Partnership will help address this vacuum and serve as the global forum for learning, standard setting and mutual accountability. It will also report on progress, in particular by governments.

3.3 Generate and disseminate knowledge, evidence and data.

Greater investment in knowledge, evidence and data is crucial to effective implementation and measuring progress; likewise, we urgently need to expand the evidence base on what works. The Partnership will advocate for significant increases in the generation and dissemination of relevant and timely knowledge and evidence. This will help strengthen strategies for ending violence against children and contribute to future iterations of the INSPIRE toolkit.

Drivers

Drivers are the people, knowledge and conditions that initiate and support achievement of the mission, goals and objectives.

a	<p>Movement building – The Partnership will build upon existing efforts and mobilize a powerful movement behind a common strategy for building and sustaining political will to end violence against children. This will accelerate action to end violence at global, regional, national and local levels, and for strengthening collaboration between and among countries, and with civil society, including child-led organizations and other key stakeholders. Strong communication at all levels will be a critical part of this effort. The Partnership will host solutions summits, publicize achievements of countries and partners that are showing effectiveness, and will consistently highlight the work of partners that is really making a difference in the lives of children.</p>
b	<p>Finances and resources - Violence prevention is underfunded in most countries, virtually absent in many. To date, governments have failed to invest sufficiently in the systems, programmes and people needed to keep children safe. For this reason, a critical driver of the Partnership is a new Fund aimed to catalyze action at country level to deliver tangible results for children.</p> <p>The Partnership will aim to make the case to governments, foundations, philanthropists and the private sector that increased investment in prevention offers substantial returns, while increasing the impact of expenditure on health, education and other services for children.</p>
c	<p>Data and evidence - The Partnership is based on a commitment to gathering and utilizing robust evidence. It will use research and data to build political will, underpin effective implementation, and to improve sharing and learning between countries and across sectors, building on work done to date.</p> <p>The Partnership will make the case to governments and other partners to invest in and strengthen data collection, including incidence and prevalence data, and other evidence needed to establish the impact of interventions, including on costs and effectiveness.</p>
d	<p>Monitoring and evaluation – The Partnership is committed to transparent monitoring and evaluation of its own work and investments. Further, the Partnership, as a learning organization, will develop and disseminate models and best practice for evaluating the impact of violence prevention initiatives</p>

How the Partnership Works

Credit: UN Photo Library

The Partnership offers the opportunity for organizations dedicated to ending violence against children to come together, combine their efforts and maximize their impact. Governments, United Nations agencies, international organizations, civil society, including faith groups, the private sector, philanthropic foundations, researchers and academics, and children themselves, form the fabric of this collective endeavor.

Partnership

At global level

At global level, the Partnership will drive the implementation of the strategy to achieve results for children – by building political will, accelerating action and strengthening collaboration. Although not an implementing agency, the Partnership will provide a platform for the achievement of measureable results to make children safer, with the aim of meeting the targets to end all forms of violence against children by 2030. Driven by evidence and results, and working through its members at country level, the Global Partnership will also support countries to review, and amend as necessary, existing laws, policies, programmes and services for preventing and responding to violence against children. Gathering the experience of countries in adapting INSPIRE, a key activity will be sharing lessons at a bi-annual 'Solutions Summit' that brings together countries, international and national experts and leaders from the movement as well as children themselves.

At country level

National ownership means that each country has primary responsibility for deciding how Agenda 2030 should be incorporated into their planning processes, policies and strategies. All countries are encouraged to develop, as soon as practical, ambitious national responses to implementation of the SDG targets to end violence against children. This translates into nationally owned plans that build on, rather than duplicate, existing efforts. If a coordinating mechanism does not already exist, countries will also be encouraged to establish one, or a country-level partnership, made up of representatives from multiple sectors and constituencies involved in responding to violence against children. Drawing from INSPIRE's strategies, the countries will prepare these national action plans and associated road maps that set out priority commitments for ending violence, including timing, who is responsible and resource implications. Countries are also asked to build on the "global plan of action to strengthen the role of the health system to address interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children" adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2016.

Membership

The Partnership will have a broad membership, drawn from relevant constituencies that include:

governments, United Nations, civil society, including faith groups and those directly engaging children, the private sector, philanthropic foundations and academia. Organizations interested in applying for membership of the Partnership must be committed to ending violence against children, in accordance with the Partnership's vision, mission and principles. An application is available online or from the Partnership Secretariat. Only institutions, not individuals, may apply for membership.

Criteria for membership

An organization seeking membership should:

- be active in the prevention of violence against children;
- be committed to collective action to ending violence against children;
- endorse the vision, mission and principles of the Partnership, as reflected in its strategy;
- be engaged in activities in support of the goals of the Partnership;
- be committed to implementing multi-sectoral, multi-constituent action plans to end violence against children; and
- invest their own resources and capacities to pursue plans/initiatives to end violence against children.

The Partnership Secretariat is hosted by UNICEF, and therefore UNICEF rules and regulations apply to its functioning. UNICEF may reject membership by a potential partner it deems incompatible with UNICEF guiding principles. The Partnership's Board also may reserve the right to refuse membership of a potential partner considered incompatible with its goals and principles.

In completing the application form, applicants will be asked to confirm adherence to the following mandatory disclaimer:

"My entity/organization/institution does not have or has not had during the past four years any formal association, affiliation or link, with the breast milk substitutes, tobacco or arms industries, or any subsidiary of a breast milk substitutes/tobacco/arms company or commercial entity involved with the manufacture, sale or distribution of breast milk substitutes/tobacco/arms or tobacco-related products."

Benefits of membership

Benefits of membership include:

- opportunities to exchange lessons learned and showcase best practice through events and networking, access to a directory of partners, joint advocacy initiatives and periodic updates;
- visibility, including listing of organizations on the Partnership's website, as well as placement of a link to the Partnership's site on the organization's website; and
- access to news, technical information, and other knowledge resources on the website, online access to archived electronic updates, periodicals, advocacy materials, policy and technical reports.

The use of the End Violence Against Children logo will require prior agreement or authorization by the Secretariat.

Expectations of members

A member of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children is expected to:

- promote and advocate for the Partnership;
- contribute directly or indirectly to one or more goals in the Partnership's Strategic Plan (to lead on implementation, where applicable);
- participate in communication networks and build relationships with constituency partners, consulting globally, regionally and nationally, as appropriate; and
- contribute time, effort and/or resources to the Partnership's activities, e.g., direct funding and/or in-kind contributions including technical expertise, staff time, assistance with media and networking, support for other partners' attendance at forums and other Partnership activities and events.

Financial contributions are subject to due diligence and conflict-of-interest reviews, and must be aligned with relevant principles as outlined in the Partnership's core documents.

INSPIRE: seven strategies for ending violence against children

The World Health Organization (WHO) initiated preparation of the INSPIRE package, in collaboration with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), End Violence Against Children: The Global Partnership, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Together for Girls, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the World Bank (agencies with a long history of galvanizing a consistent, evidence-based approach to preventing violence against children). The strategies are:



Implementation and enforcement of laws



Norms and values



Safe environments



Parent and caregiver support



Income and economic strengthening



Response and support services



Education and life skills

Governance

The Partnership offers the opportunity for organizations committed to ending violence against children to come together, combine efforts and maximize their impact. Governments, United Nations agencies, international organizations, civil society, including faith groups, the private sector, philanthropic foundations, researchers, academics, and children themselves, form the fabric of this collective endeavor. Organizations interested in being members are asked to signal support for the Partnership vision, mission, principles and goals. Partnership implies adherence to principles agreed by the Governing Board.

The Partnership will be guided by a high-level Board and a senior-level Executive Committee that will oversee the work of the Secretariat. Governance for the Partnership will evolve as the Partnership evolves, with an initial structure designed to serve the needs of a start-up organization; the Partnership will also take time to get structures right at national level.

Board

The founding Board formally endorses the vision, mission, principles and strategy. As the highest body of the Partnership, the Board mobilizes and shares knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources to support the Partnership in delivering against its strategy.

Representing the wide-ranging and diverse nature of the Partnership, Board members are eminent individuals who lend the Partnership the influence, access and range of perspectives it needs to secure political and financial support to end violence against children in all countries. It is anticipated that the founding Board will have up to 25 seats with a mix of constituency-based and independent members, with approximately 50 per cent of the board representing governments.

Executive Committee

The founding Executive Committee provides the critical link between the Board activities and the technical operations of the Partnership. Under the ultimate

authority of the Board, the Executive Committee acts as a forum for debate and development of the strategic agenda for the Partnership, as well as for engagement and involvement of key working-level representatives of the partners – increasing ownership of strategy, policies and operations among partners.

The Executive Committee composition reflects, but does not represent, the diverse organizations, networks and countries in the Partnership; it is not a representative or constituency-based body. Members are senior experts, professionals and/or influencers who possess the authority to make commitments and effect change within their own institutions to support the Partnership goals. In addition, they have the capacity to provide significant time and resources to the critical start-up phase of the Partnership.

It is anticipated that the founding Executive Committee will have 12–15 members – large enough to encompass the range of knowledge and skills required but small enough to be efficient and effective.

Secretariat

The Secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Partnership, supporting the operations of the Board and Executive Committee, and the associated Fund.

Hosted by UNICEF in New York, with some team members also posted in Geneva, the Secretariat takes the lead on strategy development, monitoring, advocacy, including for resource mobilization, and communications. The Secretariat will also drive exchanges on lessons learned and best practice, including through the bi-annual organization of the global 'Solutions Summit'.

At country level, the Partnership relies on its members to support development and implementation of action plans. Where gaps have been identified, the Secretariat may be called upon to catalyse action, provide support or advice, and identify technical assistance.



Full Definition of Violence Against Children

Violence is defined by the World Health Organization as the *“intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, which either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation”* (Krug et al. 2002)

All forms of harm (whether described as violence, injury, abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment and exploitation), perpetrated by an individual or group of people, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity.

Sexual violence

Definition: Any form of sexual abuse and exploitation including: (i) the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful or psychologically harmful sexual activity including unwanted comments and advances; (ii) the use of children in commercial sexual exploitation; (iii) the use of children in audio or visual images of child sexual abuse; (iv) child prostitution, sexual slavery, sexual exploitation in travel and tourism, trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation (within and between countries), sale of children for sexual purposes and forced marriage; and (v) the inducement, coercion or arrangement of a child into a forced or early marriage.

Physical violence

Definition: Fatal and non-fatal physical violence including: (i) all corporal punishment and all other forms of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; (ii) physical bullying and hazing by adults or by other children; (iii) harmful practices such as female genital mutilation or cutting; amputations, binding, scarring, burning and branding; violent and degrading initiation rites, exorcism; sex selection and 'honor' crimes; and (iv) engaging children in physical child labor, including non-sexual slavery, trafficking, and use of child soldiers.

Emotional Violence

Definition: Psychological maltreatment, mental abuse, verbal abuse and emotional abuse or neglect including: (i) all forms of persistent harmful interactions with a child; (ii) scaring, terrorizing and threatening; exploiting and corrupting; spurning and rejecting; isolating, ignoring and favoritism; (iii) denying emotional responsiveness; neglecting mental health, medical and educational needs; (iv) insults, name-calling, humiliation, belittling, ridiculing and hurting a child's feelings; (v) exposure to domestic violence; (vi) placement in solitary confinement, isolation or humiliating or degrading conditions of detention; and (vii) psychological bullying and hazing by adults or other children, including via information and communication technologies (ICTs) such as mobile phones and the Internet (known as 'cyber-bullying').

Neglect or Negligent Treatment

Definition: The deliberate failure to meet children's physical and psychological needs, protect them from danger or obtain medical, birth registration or other services when those responsible for their care have the means, knowledge and access to services to do so. This includes intentional (i) physical neglect: failure to protect a child from harm, including through lack of supervision, or to provide a child with basic necessities including adequate food, shelter, clothing and basic medical care; (ii) psychological or emotional neglect, including lack of any emotional support and love, chronic inattention, caregivers being 'psychologically unavailable' by overlooking young children's cues and signals, and exposure to intimate partner violence or drug or alcohol abuse; (iii) neglect of a child's physical or mental health: withholding essential medical care; (iv) educational neglect: failure to comply with laws requiring caregivers to secure their children's education through attendance at school or otherwise; and (v) abandonment.

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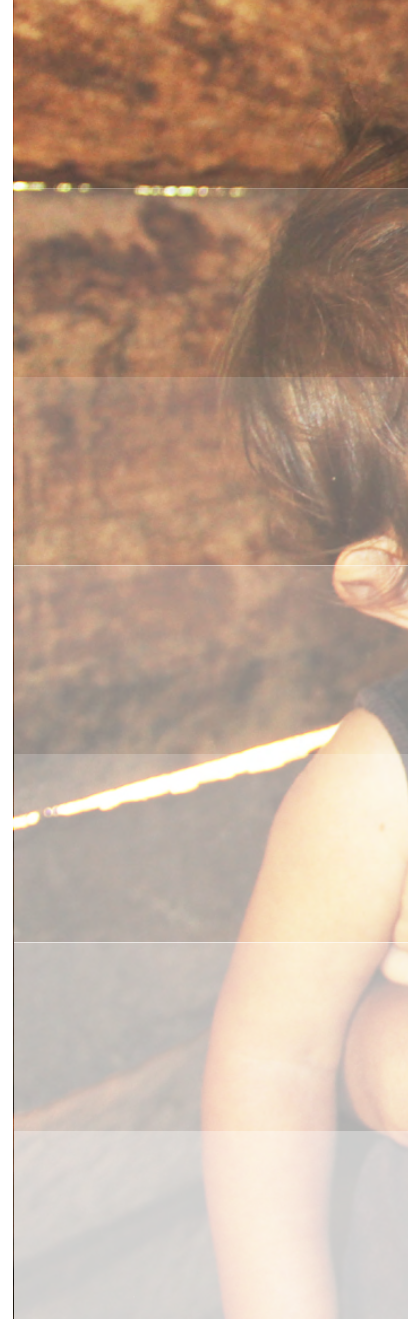
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