

INSPIRE Implementation Working Group Meeting

7 December 2023

Virtual Meeting



INSPIRE

Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children



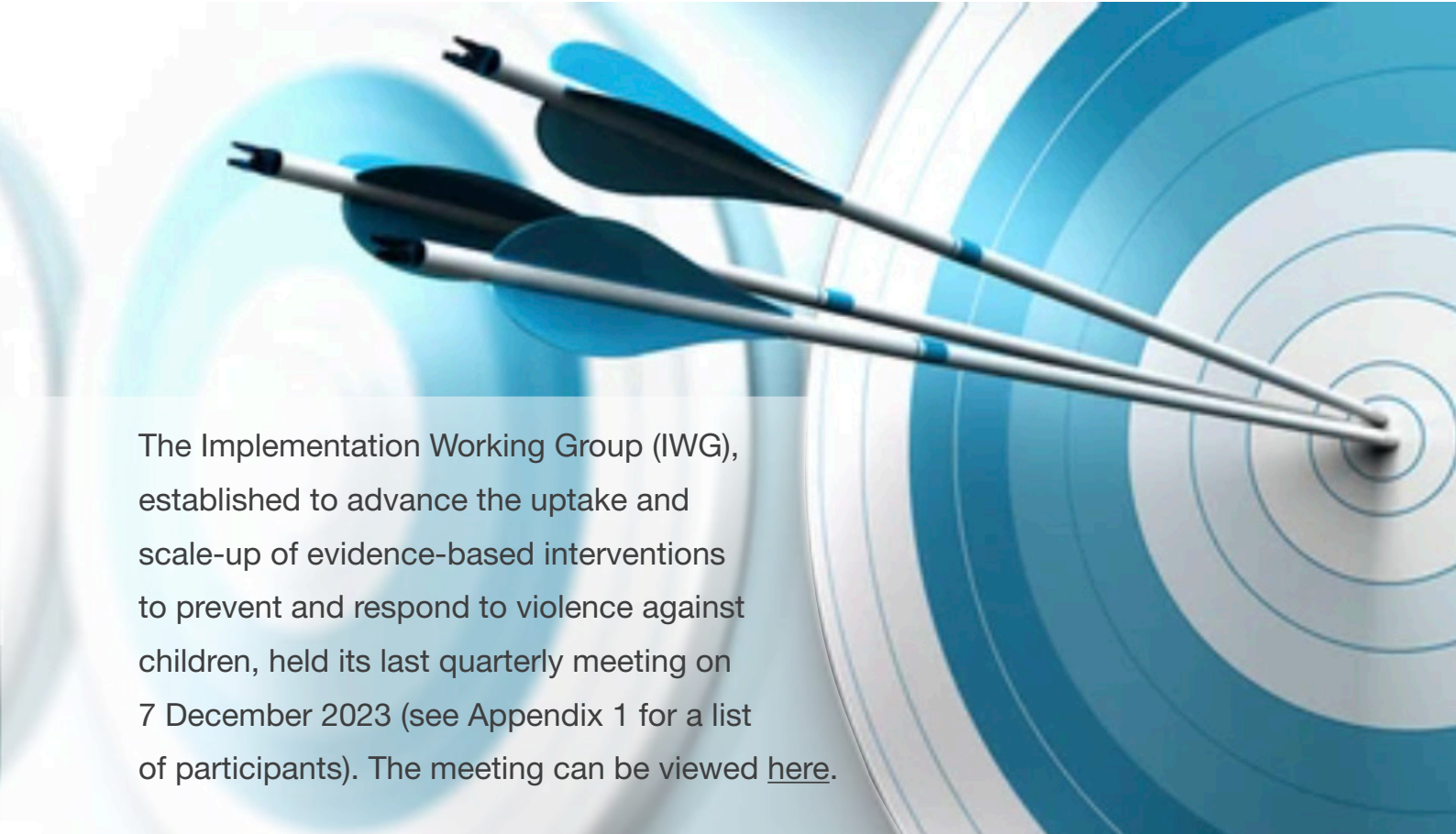
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Acronyms

CDC	The Center for Disease Control and Prevention
CPC Learning Network	Care and Protection of Child Learning Network
GBV	Gender-based Violence
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
ISS	Institute for Security Studies
IWG	Implementation Working Group
MOOC	Massive Open Online Course
PEPFAR	President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief
SRSR	UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children
SVRI	Sexual Violence Research Initiative
UNODC	United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAC	Violence Against Children
VACS	Violence Against Children Surveys
VAW	Violence Against Women
WHO	World Health Organization





The Implementation Working Group (IWG), established to advance the uptake and scale-up of evidence-based interventions to prevent and respond to violence against children, held its last quarterly meeting on 7 December 2023 (see Appendix 1 for a list of participants). The meeting can be viewed [here](#).

Purpose and objectives

The meeting had the following objectives:

- For members to reconnect and share developments and highlights
- Take stock of the IWG's progress on the five priority areas in 2023
- Explore how the IWG can best support the UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) on Violence Against Children as it absorbs the Pathfinder function of the Global Partnership to End Violence

The five priority areas for 2023 and 2024 are to:



The meeting welcomed new IWG partners: the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) and two representatives from the CDC

INSPIRE evidence update

The CDC reported on progress on the INSPIRE evidence update, a project co-led with WHO and Oxford University.

The INSPIRE evidence update has three objectives:

- To systematically identify evidence reviews on the impact of INSPIRE interventions published from 2010.
- To provide clear recommendations on which interventions should be prioritised for scale-up.
- To identify evidence gaps and areas where higher quality evidence is necessary.

The research has identified 22 105 review articles and includes grey literature. Of these, more than 22 000 titles and abstracts have already been screened. Full-text assessments are in the early

stages and will continue into 2024. The full-text assessments have been an opportunity to grapple with key questions such as, 'What is the best way to categorise evidence?'

The project began with ambitious plans and is led by a group of volunteers from the three organisations who already have busy schedules. The teams have had to align their output to available resources, time and review expectations.

It remains their intention to highlight intersections between VAC and VAW. UNICEF Innocenti has met with WHO and CDC to discuss how best to pursue this aim.



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The INSPIRE communications strategy

The ISS' communications expert [presented](#) the first draft of a comprehensive INSPIRE communications strategy that includes key activities and outcomes.

The draft communications strategy is the outcome of progress made since its inception at the Geneva meeting in December 2022. It is informed by the five key priority activities of INSPIRE and the goal of the IWG, i.e. to advance the uptake and scale-up of evidence-based interventions to prevent and respond to VAC.

The approach adopted in the strategy is one that:

- Contributes to the goals and priorities of INSPIRE
- Is aligned with the capacity and resources available for public communication without limiting what is feasible in the future.
- Focuses on sustainability, strengthening regional and global engagements

The objectives of the strategy are to:

1. Increase reach and influence by engaging new stakeholders at the regional and global levels to use and adopt INSPIRE
2. Support fundraising activities by providing relevant promotional materials.

The draft strategy has been circulated for comment.



One of the objectives is to increase reach and influence by engaging new stakeholders

Strengthening INSPIRE engagements

It remains important to continue to strengthen INSPIRE engagements at national, regional and global levels to maintain visibility and promote the adoption of the INSPIRE package.

The ISS provided an update on progress made on strengthening INSPIRE engagements. This has seen considerable activity in 2023. Examples include:



A masterclass on INSPIRE and an INSPIRE-focused session at the International Society for the Prevention of Children Abuse and Neglect's Congress in September;



A side event at the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in May;

Showcasing INSPIRE at the WHO's Health Assembly in May 2023 (pictured below)

where resolutions and commitments related to violence against children were made.



An important consideration for 2024 will be building on this progress and leveraging the new era of Pathfinder and events such as the upcoming WHO Ministerial Conference in November.

At the previous IWG meeting, USAID proposed developing an INSPIRE/IWG kit consisting of a slide deck on the IWG objectives and five priority activities, a factsheet and FAQs to disseminate at engagements.

After a meeting involving USAID, the University of Oxford and the ISS, an intern was hired by USAID. Subsequently, an IWG information sheet and slide deck were created and presented for input at the meeting. The aim is to finalise the materials before the next quarterly IWG meeting in February 2024.



Brokering requests for technical assistance

At the September IWG meeting, it was agreed that the coordinator should keep track of requests for technical assistance.

This comes on the back of the IWG's difficulty tracking requests within the group since many of the groups provide technical assistance as part of their mandate. So far, very few requests have been received from countries.

It is hoped that implementing the communications strategy and the Ministerial meeting in Colombia in 2024 will increase interest in INSPIRE at the country level, leading to increased requests for training and technical assistance.



The capacity-building plan

Following the September meeting, the ISS met with USAID to begin interviewing participants who completed the INSPIRE Training of Trainers in 2021. USAID has hired an intern to conduct the research.

A total of 15 participants have already been interviewed. The research will inform the INSPIRE capacity-building plan and enlighten the IWG on the impact of the training on participants' work. Preliminary feedback from participants reveals:

- The adaptable nature of INSPIRE in the participants' day-to-day work.
- Insights into how participants have implemented some INSPIRE strategies in their organisations.
- Interest in future INSPIRE training.
- The need for more training on implementation knowledge.
- The catalytic effect of the training has allowed participants to build global networks with individuals in the VAC sector.

Data collection has been completed at the time of writing, and a draft report will be produced before the first quarterly IWG meeting in February 2024.

On INSPIRE MOOC, CPC provided an update, sharing that the CPC Learning Network has received analytics on MOOC users. As of December 2023, most users identify as female and have advanced degrees. MOOC users are globally represented and in 135 countries.

The MOOC will be reviewed in mid-late 2024 for additional changes and updates per the INSPIRE evidence update. Plans are underway to translate the MOOC into Arabic, French and Spanish.

Lastly, plans are to assess course experience and learning through a current and former user survey in 2024.

Developments on Pathfinding

Pathfinding has shifted to the UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) on Violence Against Children as part of the Global Partnership to End Violence's transition.

The SRSG, Dr Najat Maalla M'jid and her Chief of Staff, Mr Pablo Espiniella, attended the meeting and briefed the IWG on the office's plans for Pathfinding, which are to:

- Revamp, redefine and re-energise what it means to be a pathfinding country.
- Embark on a preliminary assessment of pathfinding countries and identify achievements, country-specific challenges and gaps, and what could be done differently. This process will be in collaboration with key country stakeholders, including UN offices, NGOs and programme implementors. The findings from the assessment will be used to inform the SRSG's strategy on how to support Pathfinding countries best.
- Develop an accountability framework on the roles and reusability of the pathfinding countries.

- Bring countries on board as champions of pathfinding and cultivate ownership of the process.
- Strengthen and leverage VAC and Pathfinding networks to develop improved coordination of VAC efforts and to link it to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

The SRSG acknowledged that VAC cannot be addressed without responding to the drivers of violence and by addressing related crises such as climate change and conflict. Due to the intersecting nature of VAC, the SRSG emphasised that multiple forms of VAC must be addressed simultaneously. Achieving this requires collaboration, partnerships and shifting to a proactive, people-centred approach to violence prevention.

Considerable time was dedicated to exploring how the WG can best support the SRSG's office as it absorbs the Pathfinding function. The consensus





Addressing
VAC requires a
people-centred
approach
to violence
prevention

was that the IWG is well-positioned to provide the SRSG with strategic support to ensure that pathfinding remains an essential mechanism for momentum and accountability.

Some initial recommendations on how the IWG can support the SRSG's office in the Pathfinding work are:

- To consistently remind the SRSG that INSPIRE is an existing framework for organising prevention and response actions. Therefore, resources should be allocated to something other than developing new frameworks.
- To feed the latest evidence on what works and does not work to prevent VAC.
- Assist in bringing necessary stakeholders to the table in Pathfinding countries, including civil society and the faith sector.
- To inform the office of activities happening in Pathfinding countries since they may need to be made aware of all the work taking place. A mapping exercise would be helpful in this regard.

- To share results from the Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS), particularly countries that show a decrease in VAC (Eswatini, Kenya) and that the decline is attributed to prevention work through multisectoral action.
- To offer technical assistance where necessary, for example, providing guidance on key foundational pillars for Pathfinding countries wanting to develop and implement national action plans.
- To explore the possibility of administering a VACS following the SRSG's preliminary in-country assessments. This would help to catalyse VAC action in countries.

It was agreed that additional engagements with the Working Group and the SRSG's office would be necessary to refine how best this could be achieved. The IWG's coordination role would be essential in this regard, with the primary objective of ensuring that the SRSG's office is fully aware of what the IWG can offer.

The next steps

In concluding the meeting, the INSPIRE coordinator announced the dates of the 2024 quarterly IWG meetings as follows:



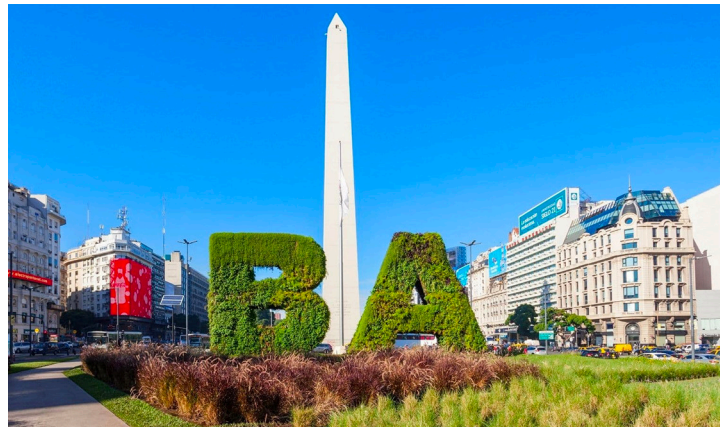
Q1: 28 February

Q2: 26–28 June

Q3: 19 September

Q4: 5 December

It was announced that the 2024 in-person meeting would be held in Buenos Aires, a Pathfinding city. The meeting will be hosted by Red por la Infancia on 26–28 June 2024.



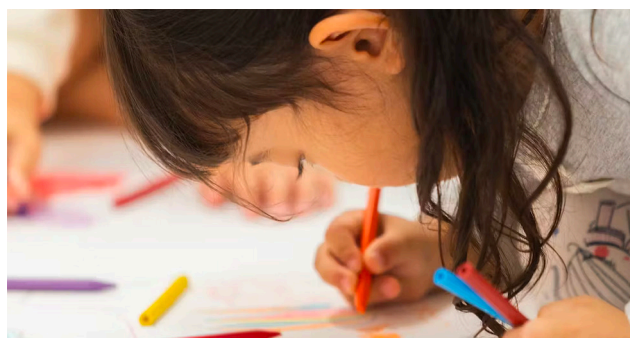


Appendix 1: List of participants

IWG members represented at the meeting held online on 7 December 2023:

INSPIRE Secretariat

- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Institute for Security Studies (ISS)
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children
- Care and Protection of Children Learning Network (CPC)
- Joining Forces Alliance
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



INSPIRE Implementation Working Group members:

- Oxford University
- Violence Prevention Alliance Jamaica
- Together for Girls
- Universidad de los Andes
- USAID
- Red por la Infancia
- University of Edinburgh
- World Bank
- Plan International
- World Council of Churches
- Sexual Violence Research Initiative
- Impact and Innovations Development Centre
- Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action
- UNICEF Innocenti
- World Vision International
- Child Protection Network Foundation, Inc
- The US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)



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