

INSPIRE Implementation Working Group Meeting

7-9 December 2022

World Health Organization Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

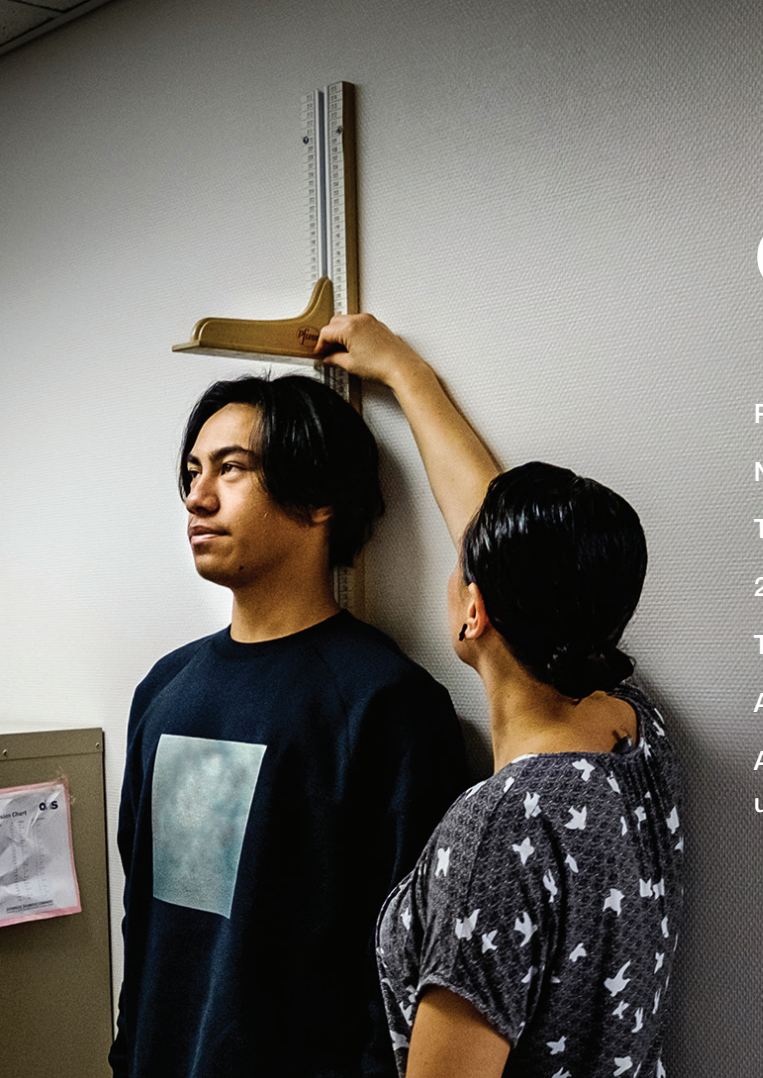


INSPIRE

Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children

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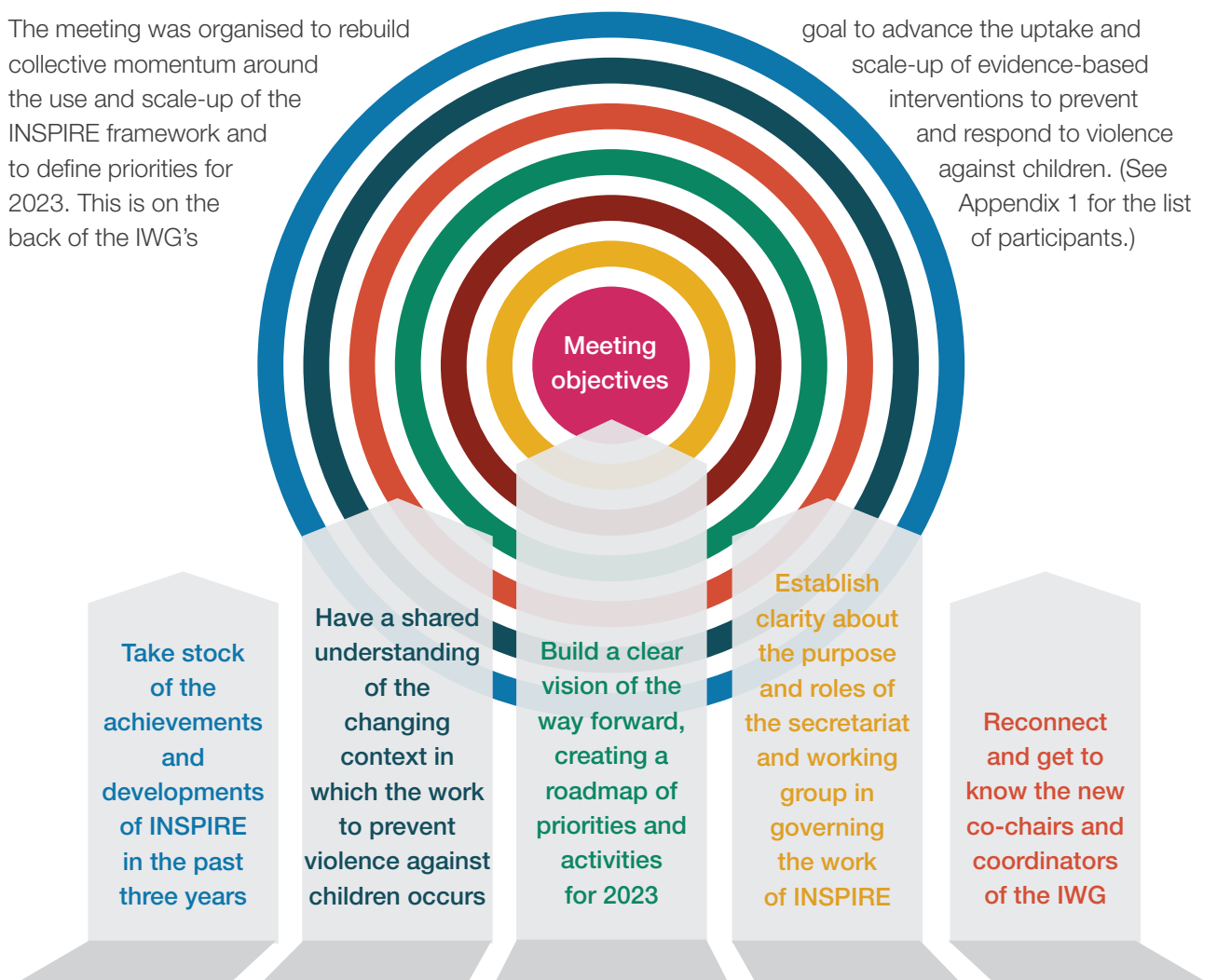


The Implementation Working Group (IWG), established to support the roll-out of *INSPIRE: Seven strategies for ending violence against children*, held a three-day strategic planning meeting between 7–9 December, 2022 at the headquarters of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland. The INSPIRE Secretariat met on 7 December and the IWG on 8 and 9 December, 2022. The Institute for Security Studies (ISS) facilitated the meeting. This was the first in-person meeting after the COVID-19 pandemic and since the Vienna meeting in 2020.

Purpose and objectives

The meeting was organised to rebuild collective momentum around the use and scale-up of the INSPIRE framework and to define priorities for 2023. This is on the back of the IWG's

goal to advance the uptake and scale-up of evidence-based interventions to prevent and respond to violence against children. (See Appendix 1 for the list of participants.)



Notable developments of INSPIRE

Since its publication in 2016, the *INSPIRE: seven strategies for ending violence against children* has been the key global framework for identifying and implementing interventions to prevent and respond to violence against children. The success of INSPIRE is primarily attributed to ongoing efforts by the institutions that make up the INSPIRE Working Group to raise global and country-level awareness about the technical package and to develop and implement training materials on how to use it.

Recent years have witnessed significant developments in the field of preventing violence against children. There has been momentum behind more evidence-based action in the prevention of and response to violence against children, especially from global south countries. The IWG has also received requests for policy dialogues and training on how to use the package, including how to select strategies and approaches most relevant to a setting; on how to ensure that interventions are implemented with fidelity to the original, proven programmes; on how to move to scale, and on how

to monitor the reach and impact of INSPIRE-oriented policies and programmes. As a result, INSPIRE has transitioned into a new phase of work that focuses on up-take, implementation, adaptation and scale-up of the strategies in global south countries. The new phase included shifting the coordination role of the IWG from the CPC to the ISS, a pan-African research and policy institution, in June 2022.

Published in 2022, the [INSPIRE Uptake Report](#) documents the technical package uptake, adaptations and implementation between 2016 and 2021. It illustrates the extent to which the violence prevention community has adopted the INSPIRE framework, how the strategies have been used, and how the tools have found ownership at regional, national and local levels. For example, since the release of INSPIRE in 2016, it has been translated into 14 languages, and some 65 countries have shown engagement with the framework at the national or local level.

The [INSPIRE Massive Open Online Course](#) (MOOC) was launched in 2022. It is designed for anyone working to prevent violence against children, regardless of skill or experience. It is intended to strengthen knowledge about violence against children and the associated risk factors. Each module is based on an INSPIRE strategy; discusses the best available evidence to support it; and offers an overview of approaches to implementation.





The changing context of violence against children work

Eight members of the IWG provided brief presentations about developments from their research or activities in the field of preventing violence against children. The presentations are available [here](#). In summary, since 2019, there have been significant changes to the context in which the work to prevent violence against children occurs. The changes are twofold: increased risks for violence against children and new developments in relation to the prevention of violence against children.

The risks and threats include the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; new conflicts such as the war in Ethiopia and Ukraine; humanitarian crises; and the impact of climate change.

As far as new developments in relation to the prevention of violence against children are concerned, the evidence base for what works to prevent violence against children has expanded. Responses to COVID-19 have spurred the growth of efforts to deliver interventions through a combination of in-person and digital modes, and there are movements to

strengthen school-based violence prevention. There are also emerging issues that require more research namely, the impact of climate change on children; how to prevent violence against children online; how technology is a tool to enact violence; and how it can be used to respond and prevent violence against children. There is also new research that considers the impact of delivering various combinations of evidence-based interventions. Lastly, there is increasing recognition of the intersections between violence against children and violence against women.

2023 priorities

The IWG identified five priority activities for 2023

1

Keeping INSPIRE updated

2

Developing the INSPIRE communications strategy

3

Developing a capacity-building plan

4

Brokering national requests for technical support

5

Strengthening global and regional INSPIRE engagements

The following criteria were used to decide on the priorities:

- Achievable within 12 months
- Something that the IWG can work on collectively
- Can be tracked or/and evaluated
- Aligns with the IWG's collective goal (to advance the uptake and scale-up of evidence-based interventions to prevent and respond to violence against children).





1 Keeping INSPIRE updated

The CDC delivered a brief [presentation](#) outlining the purpose and justifications for the proposed update (See Appendix 2), which was extensively discussed. It was agreed that future updates to INSPIRE would not be marked with specific numbers, e.g. 2.0. There was a shared understanding that INSPIRE would integrate readily available evidence and be a living framework with regular updates and that there would not be a change to the existing handbook. Lastly, it was agreed that it would be an online update intended to complement the existing technical documents. This is to ensure that the technical documents continue to be used as the overarching framework of INSPIRE.

The proposed ongoing update may include but is not limited to the following:

- An overall update of the strategies to include new evidence generated since the publication of INSPIRE. This involves compiling existing systematic reviews and meta-analyses published since the launch of INSPIRE in 2016.
- Evidence about what is necessary to prevent online violence.
- The intersections between climate change and violence against children.
- Information about evidence for the effectiveness of interventions from two or more INSPIRE strategies or combination of interventions (where available).
- Strengthening guidance on how to ensure effective child participation in the implementation of INSPIRE.
- Evidence for what kinds of interventions have been shown to cause harm. This could include a document of 'do's and don'ts' for best practice.

- A survey of end users of INSPIRE on priorities for the update.
- A crosswalk or another tool that begins to integrate the intersection between violence against women and violence against children.
- How the strategies can be used in humanitarian contexts.
- Showcasing lessons for scale-up.

The WHO, CDC, and The Global Partnership to End Violence offered to lead this project. CDC and the WHO agreed to draft the concept note and will lead the process. The coordinator will circulate it to the working group for feedback. Additional support will come from UNICEF Innocenti (specifically on the integration between violence against women and violence against children), CPC, USAID, Joining Forces, the ISS, the University of Edinburgh, and the World Council of Churches (specifically on listening to the needs of the end-users). The UNODC will review the work.

2

Developing the INSPIRE communications strategy

The working group agreed there was a need to develop an INSPIRE communications strategy to dispel myths and clarify misperceptions about the technical package. A participant highlighted that no working group member is a communications expert; therefore, a suitable person/s would need to be brought in.

The following institutions offered to contribute to developing the communications strategy:

- Together For Girls and their communications team
- The Global Partnership to End Violence and their communications team
- The ISS and their communications person
- The UNODC can offer assistance in ensuring the communication strategy can be integrated in its ongoing trainings that target policy makers.

3

Developing a capacity-building plan

The growing need for INSPIRE-related capacity building will be based on the following:



- The dissemination of the MOOC
- The competency framework
- The INSPIRE trainers
- The training materials

The dissemination of materials, training and the MOOC can contribute to further awareness and uptake of the INSPIRE package. These activities form part of ensuring INSPIRE is a living document. WHO, CDC, CPC, USAID, Joining Forces, University of Edinburgh, and Universidad de los Andes offered to contribute to the dissemination of the MOOC.



4

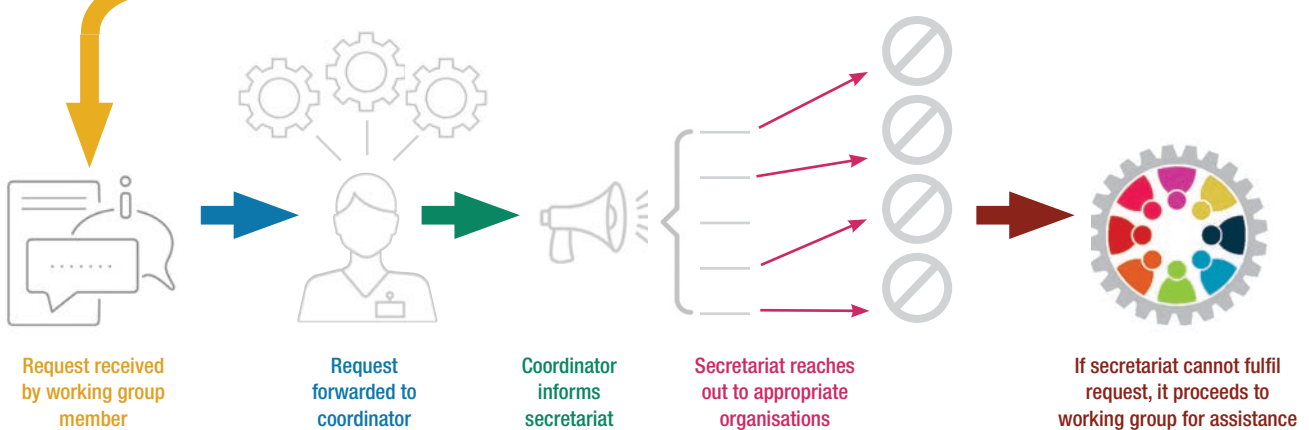
Brokering national requests for technical support

The working group receives requests for technical assistance from countries and agencies for the implementation, scale-up and training of INSPIRE on an ad-hoc basis. This is critical and there is a need to better broker requests.

Additionally, there should be an effort to push for requests. Brokering requests for technical assistance is also an opportunity to:

- Disseminate the MOOC.
- Document adaptations and scale-up efforts in countries.
- To act as a thinking partner for countries.
- Proactively activate the people who have been trained as trainers. The individuals may be contacted for assistance depending on the nature of the request.

In order to better facilitate technical assistance requests, the following procedure was agreed upon: If a Working Group member receives a request, they should forward it to the coordinator. The coordinator will inform the secretariat of the request, who will reach out to appropriate organisations that may be able to meet the need. If secretariat members cannot fulfil the request, it will be communicated to the working group for assistance. The coordinator will record all requests and the outcome thereof.



5

Strengthening global and regional INSPIRE engagements

There was consensus amongst the working group for more engagements on INSPIRE, like the Geneva meeting. The working group made the following decisions:

- The working group will meet once a quarter. Three of these will be virtual meetings, and one will be in-person.
- The coordinator and secretariat will set the dates for the four meetings, which will be shared in January 2023. The dates for the 2023 IWG meetings are:
 - 23 February 2023, 15:30 – 18:30 SAST online via Zoom
 - 12–14 June 2023 in Cape Town, South Africa. This is the annual in-person meeting
 - 7 September 2023, online via Zoom, time TBA
 - 7 December 2023, online via Zoom, time TBA
- There should be an effort to showcase INSPIRE at regional and global conferences to maintain visibility.

The INSPIRE governance structures

There was a great need to clarify the roles of the INSPIRE governance structures, i.e. the secretariat and the IWG, to determine if it was fit for purpose.

The INSPIRE secretariat

The consensus was that the secretariat continues to be fit for purpose, and it is central to keeping INSPIRE alive. It was determined that the role of the secretariat includes:

- Convening meetings of the working group
- Maintaining momentum, shaping direction and ensuring that what is decided upon in the working group is actioned.
- Providing regular communication to members of the working group.
- Receiving and passing on requests for technical assistance to working group members who may be able to assist.

The secretariat extended an informal invitation to UNODC and Joining Forces to join the secretariat. At the time of writing, the UNODC and Joining Forces have been formally invited. The UNODC has

since accepted and is a member of the INSPIRE secretariat. Joining Forces has assigned a temporary representative while deciding whether to accept the offer permanently or not.

INSPIRE Implementation Working Group

The discussion on the roles of the IWG was brief. Nevertheless, there was agreement that the IWG continues to be fit for purpose. The decision to hold quarterly IWG meetings was emphasised as key to ensuring its successful functioning. Members agreed that it was necessary to clarify, update and communicate the criteria for selection for IWG membership, but the details were not discussed. Once the criteria have been clarified and refined, several organisations will be considered for membership, including The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, WeProtect Global Alliance, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, and the University of Edinburgh should be invited to join the IWG.



Appendix 1: List of participants

Institutions represented at the meeting held 7–9 December 2022.

INSPIRE Secretariat members:

- 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)



INSPIRE Implementation Working Group members:

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- Impact and Innovations Development Centre (IIDC)
- Joining Forces Alliance
- Oxford University
- Together for Girls
- Universidad de los Andes
- University of Edinburgh
- United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- UNICEF
- USAID
- World Council of Churches

* *The IWG is made of the secretariat and the INSPIRE working group*



Appendix 2: Proposed concept note for updating INSPIRE

Please be aware that the concept note below is still in the drafting phase. At this stage, it has been circulated for input to the IWG.

INSPIRE: Seven Strategies to End Violence Against Children Concept Note for Updating INSPIRE

9 February 2023

Since its publication in 2016, *INSPIRE: seven strategies for ending violence against children* has acted as a key resource for guiding interventions to prevent and respond to violence against children. The [INSPIRE Uptake Report](#) describes the degree to which the violence prevention community has adopted the INSPIRE framework, how the strategies have been used, and the extent to which these global tools and resources have found ownership at local, national, and regional levels. For example, since the release of INSPIRE in 2016, it has been translated into 14 languages and some 65 countries have shown engagement with the framework at the national or local level.

These achievements have in part resulted from ongoing efforts by the INSPIRE Working Group to raise awareness about the technical package, to develop and implement training materials on how to use it, and to insert it into the interface between data and action in countries as they complete Violence against Children Surveys and start planning for prevention. The original INSPIRE Working Group included WHO, CDC, End Violence, PAHO, PEPFAR, TfG, UNICEF, UNODC, USAID and the World Bank. Over the years, the core partnership has evolved into a Working Group of 20 agencies and a Community of Practice that includes over 400 representatives

from UN agencies, bilateral agencies, NGOs, grassroots groups, government bodies, philanthropic organizations, and academia. The Working Group is currently co-chaired by WHO and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), that along with the CDC, End Violence, and the Care and Protection of Children (CPC) Learning Network at Columbia University form the INSPIRE Secretariat that provides leadership and strategic guidance for the Working Group.

It is against this backdrop of strong recognition at the country level of INSPIRE as a valuable prevention resource, and the ongoing need to continue strengthening ownership, coordination, evidence generation, and capacity building in countries, that the process of updating INSPIRE is being initiated. Since 2016, the evidence for many INSPIRE interventions has expanded considerably; responses to COVID-19 have spurred the growth of efforts to deliver interventions through a combination of in-person and digital modes; movements to strengthen schools-based violence prevention and to prevent violence against children online are gaining momentum, and there is increasing recognition of the overlap between violence against children and violence against women. To ensure its continuing relevance, an update to INSPIRE needs to be sensitive to the new opportunities and challenges brought by these changes.

Proposed approach

- **Develop an online update to complement the existing INSPIRE technical package document. The online update would serve as a “living document” that would incorporate new evidence but also reflect the existing structure and format for INSPIRE, and maintain its brand.**

As the INSPIRE technical document indicates, the examples of approaches in INSPIRE do not form a comprehensive list of evidence-based policies, programmes and practices for each strategy, but rather illustrate models that are shown to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence against children; modify risk factors for such violence; or reduce its immediate and long-term consequences. To this end, an online update could reflect the updated evidence base and incorporate emerging topics, themes, and evidence.

The online update would include the following sections or information:

- An overview of what we know about INSPIRE uptake to date, emphasizing the large number of countries and partner organizations that are using the technical package to organize their work
- Information about evidence for the effectiveness of interventions from two or more INSPIRE strategies or combination of interventions (where available)
- A clear mapping of where evidence exists by strategy (e.g., distribution across low-, medium-, and high-income countries)
- Information bridging prevention of VAW and VAC, with a concrete crosswalk of RESPECT and INSPIRE.
- **The online update would also include methodology and summary of the literature review and evidence, with links to technical appendices for more technical readers and audiences.**

The technical appendices would also clearly reflect the criteria for inclusion (including the evidence of successful implementation in LMICs) and how each program or intervention meets criteria.

Roles and responsibilities

The INSPIRE Secretariat (WHO; ISS; CDC; End Violence; CPC Learning Network) has established a committee that will lead the process of updating INSPIRE. The committee will be co-led by CDC (Greta Massetti) and WHO (Alex Butchart). INSPIRE Working Group members will provide input and consult at key stages of the process, including on the concept proposal, as well as when systematic reviews and literature searches have been conducted, when preliminary results are available, and when the draft update is completed. Academic partners who are members of the INSPIRE Working Group have offered to support the process of compiling existing systematic reviews and conducting new literature searches.

Methodology

1. Compile existing systematic reviews and meta-analyses of programs and strategies included in INSPIRE (building on UNICEF’s [INSPIRE Evidence Gap Map](#) and other existing resources). Develop a map of existing systematic reviews, identifying:
 - a. Topics (strategies and programs) for which recent systematic reviews have been conducted and can be leveraged to inform INSPIRE updates;
 - b. Topics for which systematic reviews exist, but are not recent and would need to be updated in order to inform INSPIRE updates;
 - c. Topics for which gaps exist, and systematic reviews have not been conducted for INSPIRE strategies or programs
2. For topics under 1a (recent existing systematic reviews): develop an updated list of programs reflecting the best-available evidence, using the INSPIRE evidence framework of effective, promising, and prudent practices and programs (INSPIRE, page 24). The evidence for each program and strategy will be summarized in a technical appendix that indicates the summary of evidence, links to evaluations, and specifies the outcomes that have been assessed in evaluations.
3. For topics under 1b (existing but not recent systematic reviews): conduct an updated search and update the systematic reviews to draw from

more recent evidence, then use the updated systematic review results to develop an updated list of programs, as described in number 2 above. This activity could be done in collaboration with academic partners.

4. For topics under 1c (no systematic review exists): develop search terms and a coding strategy and conduct systematic reviews, and map the resulting evidence against the INSPIRE evidence framework, as described in number 2 above. This activity could be done in collaboration with academic partners.

The methodology described would reflect the objectives for the INSPIRE update (see later section). The results of the systematic reviews and meta-analyses would be summarized in several products.

Products

1. An online updated list of INSPIRE programs, using the systematic review results
 - a. The online update would be posted on the [INSPIRE website https://inspire-strategies.org/inspire-seven-strategies-ending-violence-against-children](https://inspire-strategies.org/inspire-seven-strategies-ending-violence-against-children)
 - b. The update would denote where the evidence suggests programs are proven, promising, or prudent, based on the criteria in INSPIRE, with clear information on which specific outcomes and types of violence have been reflected in evaluations
2. A technical appendix that includes the methodology for the systematic review, the criteria for selection of programs included in INSPIRE, and other technical components
3. Updated introductory text or a document that addresses the following topics identified as priority areas by the INSPIRE Working Group:
 - a. The intersection of VAC and VAW, and opportunities for cross-cutting prevention efforts (crosswalk/bridging document – see below section)
 - b. Considerations when implementing INSPIRE strategies in humanitarian settings
 - c. Information about evidence of scale, or successful expansion or scale-up of evidence-

based interventions, including what is known and best practices

- d. The interrelationships among the various INSPIRE tools, including the evidence framework and list of programs, the INSPIRE indicator and results framework, the INSPIRE Handbook, the Guide to Adaptation and Scale-up, and the INSPIRE Competency Framework
4. When the INSPIRE update is nearly completed, additional products will be planned to disseminate information about the update and communicate with the INSPIRE WG, partners and stakeholders (podcasts; webinars; etc.)

Objectives for updating INSPIRE

1. Providing an explicit representation of the scientific evidence supporting INSPIRE, including new evidence.

Considering the uptake of INSPIRE since 2016, the growing body of evidence over the past six years, and changes in the prevention landscape due to COVID-19, an updated resource would reflect the current state of the best-available evidence on what works to prevent violence against children. The strategies and programs included in INSPIRE were identified through reviews of the scientific literature on what works to prevent and respond to violence against children. They include interventions shown to be effective in reducing the prevalence of violence against children and risk factors for such violence, and in strengthening factors that protect against it, and preference was given to those that have been tested in low- and middle-income countries. An updated INSPIRE will clearly and explicitly represent the updated literature, including the inclusion criteria and a summary of the evidence and outcomes that have been documented in evaluations.

2. Developing a “crosswalk” or bridging document that discusses the intersection of violence against women and violence against children, and discusses how violence prevention can connect these outcomes.

This tool or resource would discuss connections between violence prevention in the VAW and VAC fields, and in particular feature the

interconnectedness of evidence in prevention and response efforts. The resource would draw from the RESPECT and INSPIRE frameworks and would serve as a useful resource for leveraging cross-cutting efforts. The ongoing work of UNICEF will also serve as a resource, as

well as other systematic reviews and meta-analyses conducted by INSPIRE Working Group member organizations. In addition, the resource would address the role of gender in violence and ensure that INSPIRE is a gender-responsive framework.

R elationship skills strengthened	I mplementation and enforcement of laws
E mpowerment of women	N orms and values
S ervices ensured	S afe environments
P overty reduced	P arent and caregiver support
E nvironments made safe	I ncome and economic strengthening
C hild and adolescent abuse prevented	R esponse and support services
T ransformed attitudes, beliefs, and norms	E ducation and life skills

3. Clarify messaging that the programs represented in INSPIRE reflect evidence and experiences drawn from low-resource settings.

From its inception, INSPIRE has reflected the evidence from the growing body of evidence from low- and middle-income countries. The INSPIRE strategies were as far as possible chosen to represent interventions that have been implemented and evaluated in low-resource

settings. Interventions that were evaluated in high-income settings were included in INSPIRE if there was documented evidence that there had been an implementation or evaluation in a low-resource setting. An updated INSPIRE will fully reflect the state of the evidence and experiences in low- and middle-income countries and low-resource settings, and high-income countries.





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This report is funded by the ISS



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