

INSPIRE Implementation Working Group Meeting

23 February 2023

Virtual meeting



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 its first quarterly meeting of 2023 on 23 February. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom and facilitated by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS).

Purpose and objectives

This meeting follows the in-person two-day Geneva meeting held in December 2022. At the Geneva meeting, it was decided that the IWG would hold quarterly meetings in 2023 (see Appendix 1 for a list of participants). The decision was underscored as vital to maintaining the collective momentum and relationships of the IWG and staying abreast of developments in the INSPIRE ecosystem. The Geneva meeting set the following five objectives for 2023:

				Strengthen
			Broker	global,
			technical	regional
			support	and
Keep	Develop	Create	and	national
INSPIRE	a	a	country-level	INSPIRE
updated	communications	capacity-building	engagement	engagements
	strategy	plan		

The February meeting, framed as the “**beginning of a new rhythm**”, focused on the following:

- Updates on IWG organisations
- Developing selection criteria for IWG membership
- Next steps on the first three objectives stated above

Jody van der Heyde of the ISS was announced as the new INSPIRE working group coordinator.

Updates from IWG member organisations

Eight members of the IWG provided brief presentations about developments in their organisations since the Geneva meeting.

World Health Organization (WHO)



The WHO has published [two new products](#) to strengthen evidence-based VAC approaches.

The first is the '[Guidelines on parenting interventions to prevent maltreatment and enhance parent-child](#)

[relationships with children aged 0-17 years](#)'. The document details the essential components of effective parenting interventions and is relevant to low-, middle- and high-income countries.

The recommendations are intended for a broad audience including policymakers, development agencies, implementing partners, governments and non-governmental organisations.

The second handbook, '[Responding to child maltreatment: a clinical handbook for health professionals](#)', offers practical guidance on how frontline healthcare workers can recognise and respond to children who may have been abused in healthcare settings. The WHO is also designing a self-administered course on the handbook and offering implementation training.

Joining Forces



Since the Geneva meeting, Sierra Leone has joined the Joining Forces Country Platforms to collaborate on advocacy,

learning and knowledge-sharing while seeking opportunities for joint programming. The [presentation](#) highlighted the '[Quick-start guide to adaptation and](#)

[scale-up of Programmes](#)', adapted from existing VAC tools and guidance. In 2023, Joining Forces will launch an 'Action Learning Process' on the guide with three country platforms – countries yet to be determined. The process will build the capacity of Joining Forces staff members to the end goal of creating country scale-up plans on selected interventions. IWG members interested in the process are welcome to be involved and should contact the Joining Forces representative on the INSPIRE secretariat. The three selected countries will be communicated to the IWG in the coming month.

University of Oxford



New evidence from several studies, including a randomised control trial of the 'Parenting for Respectability' programme designed to reduce VAC and gender-based violence (GBV) in

Uganda were showcased. The intervention resulted in a 50% reduction in VAC and GBV. The study will be published later this year.

Another study, conducted in partnership with CDC and Together for Girls, examined the Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS) in four countries, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia and Zimbabwe. The study looked at the impact of new indicators in the VACS, i.e., social protection/food security, gender-equitable attitudes, and positive parenting. For example, participants in the VACS are asked whether they access social protection and experience positive parenting. The preliminary findings suggest that accessing social protection, having gender-equitable attitudes, and

good parenting [are associated with violence and HIV prevention](#). Furthermore, the Global Initiative to Support Parents has been offering assistance to the Turkey and Syria crisis.

Violence Prevention Alliance, Jamaica



A Violence against Children Survey is currently being conducted in Jamaica. Many challenges

have been encountered, such as the high level of community violence that has hampered the survey's roll-out.

The Jamaican government is working inter-ministerially to address challenges experienced in low-performing schools. There are two main priorities: First, is getting children back to school post the COVID-19 pandemic. Second, upon returning to school, teachers find that children's literacy rates have decreased below the appropriate age level. Both these factors are associated with behavioural challenges in the classroom and at home.

A key finding emerging from the work in Jamaica is the importance of having an integrated approach to addressing VAC. This means social services must partner with law enforcement, education and training institutes for the greatest possible impact.

The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children



In 2022, the government of Japan funded the Partnership to implement positive parenting programmes in Kenya and Uganda, which concluded in December

2022. The government of Japan will convene a global advocacy platform in New York that will bring ambassadors from thirty permanent missions under the theme of 'domestic action and global leadership to end violence against children'. The intention is to showcase the success and progress of Uganda and Kenya as a result of international cooperation. The event is scheduled for the first week of March.

Child Protection Network Foundation, Inc



The city of Valenzuela in the Philippines has recently completed the Violence against Children Survey. The city will

implement the adapting [Safe Schools Programme](#) and the [Parenting for Lifelong Health programmes](#). The Parenting for Lifelong Health programme was piloted in Valenzuela, and now it will be scaled up across the city. There is also a consideration about the next best time to conduct the Violence against Children Survey after the scale-up of these programs. The hope is that other cities in the Philippines will also adopt and scale up these programmes.

The use of telemedicine in the Philippines is growing. Though research is still underway, preliminary findings indicate telemedicine has the potential for increased reach across the country. In two cities, telemedicine connects local political actors to women and children protection units.

The Child Protection Network Foundation is beginning to pay more attention to how child protection data is used. Different government agencies have committed to meeting to decide how to strengthen data administration for child protection.

World Vision International



Recent research assessed the [Nurturing Care Group Model](#), World Vision's version of the Care Group

approach to improve parenting outcomes. The model was evaluated in Ghana and showed positive results. The model is currently being evaluated in Lebanon. The country was selected due to its fragile environment. The preliminary findings suggest that the model is an effective parenting program for fragile contexts. World Vision plans to test the model in other fragile contexts.

PEPFAR



[PEPFAR's Country Operational Plans \(COP\)](#) are well underway. A global

COP meeting will take place in Johannesburg in the next two weeks after this meeting. Preventing and responding to VAC and VAW is a key priority in the COP and the new PEPFAR strategic plan.

INSPIRE

Working Group governance: IWG selection criteria

At the Geneva meeting, a significant amount of time was spent clarifying the role and suitability of the INSPIRE secretariat. It was agreed that the secretariat remains relevant, fit for purpose, and vital to maintaining the INSPIRE work.

The IWG determined that the role of the secretariat includes the following:

- Convening meetings of the working group
- Maintaining momentum, shaping the direction and ensuring decisions are acted upon
- Communicating regularly with members of the working group
- Receiving and passing on requests for technical assistance to working group members who may be able to assist

The above is in addition to the INSPIRE Terms of Reference, which include the following:

- Contributing to IWG member management
- Nurturing relationships among IWG members
- Cultivating a focus on equity, including seeking diverse membership, and fostering conditions for everyone to be included

During the Geneva meeting, there was a brief discussion of the IWG roles. It was agreed that the IWG remained fit for purpose and quarterly IWG meetings, like this meeting, were essential to maintaining the momentum and successful functioning of INSPIRE. It was also noted that the chairs of the IWG should represent an international institution and a CSO.

The IWG co-created the criteria for inclusion. The draft criteria for inclusion have been circulated to the INSPIRE secretariat for final input.



Draft criteria for inclusion of new members of the INSPIRE Implementation Working Group

These draft criteria will be considered and amended by the secretariat and shared with the IWG for consideration prior to the June meeting of the IWG. The final version will be placed on the IWG website.

Membership in the IWG includes representatives of organisations that are members of the INSPIRE Secretariat or INSPIRE signatory agencies. In addition, a rotating group of members are invited to join the IWG, based on the criteria referenced herein.

These criteria are intended to support decision-making by the IWG and its secretariat regarding the inclusion or exclusion of new members.

Diversity in terms of geography, skill, interest and ability should be reflected in the composition of the IWG. The IWG should reflect a balance in the types of institutions that are members (e.g. UN agencies, academia, NGOs, and donors); and in the size of institutions (e.g. having small and large institutions represented). Decisions about new members should take this into account.

- Member organisations must have a commitment to implementing and supporting INSPIRE and incorporating it into their organisation's work. They should be personally committed and able to make a contribution to the IWG and its meetings.
- Member organisations should be committed to evidence-based interventions and have a track record in this regard.
- Individuals or institutions that have country-specific expertise make an essential contribution to the IWG. They should be able to bring the national perspective and should be able to reflect the views and experiences of multiple stakeholders (sectors) in the country.
- Members should be able to provide, or already be providing, some level of technical support or training in INSPIRE to stakeholders, inter alia policy makers, implementers or researchers.



Member organisations are expected to be able to fund their participation in IWG meetings, and should, if possible, make provision for this in their budgets and fundraising. However, exceptions can be made if funding is available to cover their costs from other sources.

Members of the working group are expected to attend at least one meeting of the IWG each year, but should endeavour to attend all four meetings.

Membership in the IWG will be reviewed every two years. The next review will take place in the first quarter of 2026.

Proposed process for including new members:

If an institution wishes to join the IWG, or a member of the IWG identified an organisation that could contribute substantially to the IWG, this should be raised with the secretariat for consideration. The secretariat would assess the application or recommendation and make a proposal about inclusion or exclusion to the IWG for discussion.

Proposed upper limit for IWG membership: 30 participants including the members of the Secretariat and INSPIRE signatory agencies. These include:

- INSPIRE Secretariat: WHO, End Violence, Institute for Security Studies, CDC, UNODC, Joining Forces Alliance, and CPC Learning Network
- INSPIRE Signatory agencies: PAHO, PEPFAR, Together for Girls, UNICEF, USAID, The World Bank (in addition to WHO, CDC, End Violence, UNODC)



Keeping INSPIRE updated

Following the December 2022 IWG meeting, the coordinator circulated the proposed concept note for the INSPIRE update to the IWG for input. The CDC led the session on the update after reviewing the IWG’s inputs. The main objectives for the session were to address key themes raised in the comments and to outline the way forward.

The CDC addressed the following key themes that emerged from the comments:

Bridging violence against women and violence against children.

There was overall support for bridging violence against women (VAW) and VAC but little consensus on what it would look like. The CDC confirmed that no decision had been made on the bridging aspect of the update. The CDC highlighted the WHO’s

[RESPECT framework](#), an evidence-based technical package to address VAW. The RESPECT framework contains a strategy titled ‘[child and adolescent abuse prevented](#)’, highlighting the intersections between VAC and VAW. This strategy also showcases the links between the INSPIRE and RESPECT frameworks (Figure 1).

The CDC proposed that the bridging aspect of the INSPIRE update would involve a crosswalk similar to what is provided in the RESPECT framework.

Figure 1: [Links between the INSPIRE and RESPECT framework](#)

How do INSPIRE and RESPECT frameworks compare?	
INSPIRE: End violence against children	RESPECT: Prevent violence against women
Implementation and enforcement of laws	<i>Put in place and facilitate enforcement of laws and policies*</i>
Norms and values	Transformed attitudes, beliefs and norms
Safe environments	Environments made safe
Parent and caregiver support	Child and adolescent abuse prevented
Income and economic strengthening	Poverty reduced
	Empowerment of women
Response and support services	Services ensured
Education and life skills	Relationships skills strengthened
<i>Multi-sectoral collaboration***</i>	<i>Coordination and partnership across sectors**</i>
<i>Monitoring and evaluation***</i>	<i>Strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems**</i>

** Component of ‘enabling environment’ ** ‘Guiding principle for effective programming’ *** ‘Cross-cutting strategy’*

Moreover, the language used in the INSPIRE update will be consistent with the RESPECT framework to ensure alignment.

The lack of evidence on emerging issues in the VAC field

The concept note proposed that the INSPIRE update should address three emerging issues in the VAC field. These are:

- Child protection in humanitarian settings
- Online and technology-facilitated VAC
- Online and technology-facilitated delivery methods of interventions

Given the lack of robust evidence on these three issues, it was proposed that this component be deferred to a future update when more evidence is available.

Commitment and recourse considerations

The CDC acknowledged the robust engagement from the IWG regarding the update; however, it cautioned against over-committing in the context of limited resources. In an attempt to ensure the update is manageable and realistic, the CDC recommended separating the update into two phases/discussions:

- Updates relating to the INSPIRE evidence and technical documents
- Updates relating to implementation and best practices around implementation

Early discussion on the INSPIRE update focused on updating the programmatic evidence and it was recommended that it remains this way for now. Many concerns about implementation and best practices around implementation are addressed in the INSPIRE [Guide to Adaption and Scale-up](#), published in 2021. Therefore, it was proposed that implementation-related updates be deferred to a later stage.

IWG was reminded of the robust conversations at the Geneva meeting around the update which was about whether it is necessary to address or reflect practice-based knowledge in an evidence-based package while ensuring that it remains faithful to the evidence. The CDC acknowledged the tension between practice and evidence-based knowledge and that the debate was relevant to the field, but it was challenging to reconcile both concerns in one update.

Responding to the second concern, WHO proposed that the update find an institutional home outside of WHO. The chosen institution should have rigorous quality assurance procedures in place to ensure evidence-based updates are made. Following Joining Forces's recommendation, it was agreed that the two phases of the update be recorded as a separate document or within the current concept note.





Debates around gender-related language

The CDC acknowledged the robust debate regarding the appropriateness of the terms ‘gender-transformative’, ‘gender-sensitivity’ and ‘gender-responsive’ and questioned which term should be the language of INSPIRE. The IWG was reminded that not all INSPIRE strategies are truly gender-transformative and that some interventions are not designed to be. These strategies address other equally important equity issues, such as economic or educational outcomes. The CDC suggested using ‘gender-responsive’ in the language of the update. The IWG accepted this recommendation.

PEPFAR, while agreeing with the recommendation, stated that INSPIRE should aim to be gender-transformative. It also mentioned that various other WHO documents adopt a gender-transformative approach and that the same language should be used in INSPIRE for alignment purposes.

INSPIRE as a ‘living’ update

At the December 2022 meeting, it was agreed that future updates to INSPIRE would no longer 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 the existing handbook

would remain the same. CDC acknowledged this but stated that a ‘living’ update requires a commitment to resources to maintain ongoing work. None of the core INSPIRE signatories has the resources or capacity to continuously work on the update in real-time, making it a living document. CDC recommended that the update be reframed to be more transparent about the evidence and methodology, making it easier to do future updates.

The CPC suggested it may be worthwhile to include the intention to make future updates a ‘living’ document in this update. Joining Forces indicated that if there is no capacity within the core organisation, finding support in other organisations may be worthwhile.

The CDC concluded the session by thanking the IWG for their input and will circulate an updated concept note. The next steps regarding the update are to start conducting literature reviews. The CDC will communicate with the organisations who had offered support in this task at the Geneva meeting; these include the WHO, The Global Partnership to End Violence, UNICEF Innocenti (specifically on the integration between violence against women and violence against children), CPC, USAID, the ISS, the University of Edinburgh, and the World Council of Churches. The UNODC will review the work.

The INSPIRE communications strategy

This session aimed to conceptualise the communications strategy for the IWG. The Global Partnership to End Violence offered to lead the communications at the Geneva meeting. The Global Partnership's communication teams joined the meeting and facilitated the session. They emphasised that they would guide the process to develop a communication strategy but would rely on the IWG for insights on what is needed.

The starting point would be to determine what the IWG and INSPIRE-related work is trying to achieve to understand how the communication strategy can help support that goal. The communication strategy should be considered an important component of the overall INSPIRE strategy.

The following questions guided the session:

- What is the key purpose of the communication strategy, and what value would it add to the work of the IWG?

- How does it help realise the working group's goal?
- What do we need to communicate?
- To whom do we want to communicate (who is the intended audience for our communication)?
- Who needs to communicate?
- What are the freedoms and limits of our communication?

These questions were not explicitly answered during the session. Instead, the conversation focused on attempting to establish the objective of the communication strategy more generally.

Joining Forces suggested it would be helpful to have communication products and key messages on the importance of using INSPIRE, targeted at end users. The IWG could play a role in developing the key messages. The ISS highlighted two distinct communication issues to discuss: the first is concerned with what the IWG communicates, and the second is how organisations are represented in the IWG communication. The critical consideration is whether there is, in fact, a need for the IWG to communicate. This is based on the decision made at the Geneva meeting that the communication strategy should not create a new 'entity' on the international VAC scene.

The WHO recommended that the relationship between the IWG and the Global Partnership's communication team should remain at a high strategic level. This is to ensure that the IWG does not become dependent





on the Global Partnership's communication team each time communication needs to take place. For example, the Global Partnership's communication team could guide how to reach target audiences.

The ISS agreed the communication support should remain high level and proposed the strategy focus on the following four areas:

1. New information, such as research findings, that are relevant to the Communication of Practice and the IWG
2. Events that promote INSPIRE or are related to INSPIRE and VAC
3. How to ask for technical assistance from the IWG
4. Funding and training opportunities

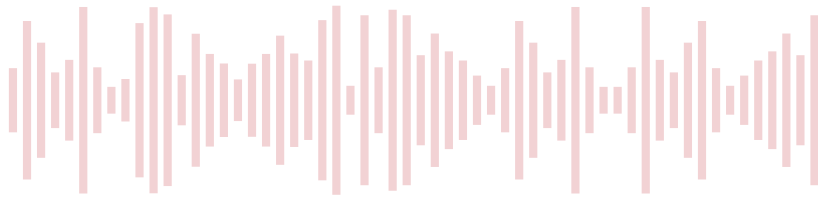
The intention is that members of the IWG would use their existing networks to communicate in the

four areas outlined above. The IWG agreed with this proposal. Joining Forces added another area to the ISS' recommendation: sharing information about INSPIRE more generally to specific audiences that are not already aware of INSPIRE.

Given that the session was more exploratory in nature, it did not conclude with concrete next steps. The ISS will follow up with the Global Partnership's communication team about the strategy. The only decision was that considerable time would be allocated to the communication strategy at the annual in-person INSPIRE meeting.



The next steps



In concluding the meeting, the INSPIRE coordinator outlined the next steps following the meeting. The ISS will produce a report for the meeting and circulate it to the IWG for input. The IWG will also receive an email containing key action points as decided in the meeting.

The IWG will be asked to answer the following two questions:

1. What are your top two priorities for the IWG between this and the next meeting?
2. What are you willing to contribute to achieving this?

The coordinator announced that the next INSPIRE IWG strategic meeting would be the annual in-person

meeting. This meeting will be hosted by the ISS and held on 12–14 June 2023, in Cape Town, South Africa. The INSPIRE Secretariat will meet on 12 June and the IWG on 13 and 14 June. IWG members should expect to receive a formal invitation to the Cape Town engagement in the next two weeks following the meeting. At the time of writing, formal invitations have been sent to the IWG.



Appendix 1: List of participants

Institutions represented at the meeting held online on 23 February 2023.

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)
- Joining Forces Alliance

INSPIRE Implementation Working Group members:

- Oxford University
- Together for Girls
- Universidad de los Andes
- USAID
- Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action
- World Vision International
- International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
- Child Protection Network Foundation, Inc
- The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)
- Violence Prevention Alliance Jamaica





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