

# INSPIRE Implementation Working Group Meeting

12–14 June 2023

Vineyard Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa



**INSPIRE**

Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children



# Contents

Purpose and objectives .....	1
The changing context of INSPIRE ....	2
Developments from IWG member organisations .....	3
Tracking progress on the five INSPIRE activities.....	6
INSPIRE governance structures: the IWG .....	9
Reflections on the IWG .....	11
Open space .....	12
Appendix 1: List of participants.....	17

# Acronyms

CDC	The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CPC Learning Network	Child Protection in Crisis 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
UNODC	United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAC	Violence Against Children
VACS	Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys
VAW	Violence Against Women
WHO	World Health Organization





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 12–14 June 2023 in Cape Town, South Africa. The INSPIRE Secretariat met on 12 June, and the IWG on 13 and 14 June. The Institute for Security Studies (ISS) facilitated the meeting. Minister Fernandez, MEC for Social Development in the Western Cape, delivered the opening address and welcomed the IWG to Cape Town. The previous IWG meeting was held virtually in February 2023. The most recent in-person meeting was held in December 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland.

## Purpose and objectives

The primary objectives of the June meeting were to build collective momentum around the use and scale-up of the INSPIRE framework and to track progress on the priorities that the Working Group set for 2023.

The 2023 priorities support the IWG’s goal to advance the uptake and scale-up of evidence-based interventions to prevent and respond to violence against children (VAC). See Appendix 1 for the list of participants.

Additional objectives for this meeting included, to:

- Resolve any outstanding issues concerning the INSPIRE governance structures
- Share developments and highlights from IWG member organisations
- Consider the opportunities and risks facing the work of INSPIRE and the IWG
- Take stock of the IWG’s progress on the five priority areas and determine what needs to be done for the remainder of 2023.

### The 2023 priority activities are:

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).



# The changing context of INSPIRE

The secretariat discussed global developments in the prevention of violence against children. Maintaining an understanding of macro- and micro-level developments and their implications is essential to ensuring the continuity and relevance of INSPIRE.

The following were identified as current and future risks and opportunities for the work of INSPIRE.

## Risks facing the work of INSPIRE

- The global balance of power is undergoing a significant shift. This is playing out in a number of ways, including through BRICS. At national levels, there appears to be a shift towards nationalism and conservatism. This will have implications for where countries seek to invest and how programmes and research associated with INSPIRE are funded. Organisations will need to tailor their VAC messaging to persuade conservative-leaning governments. To ensure that these messages resonate with these governments, it is important to carefully consider their values and priorities and the broader political and social contexts in which they operate.
- Artificial Intelligence and digital interventions are becoming the preferred mode of delivery. Digital interventions might replace in-person delivery. Donors are interested in funding digital modes of delivery, but there are concerns about the implications this has for in-person interventions, which remain necessary.
- Related to the above is the increased attention towards online and technology-facilitated VAC and cyberviolence. While the need to protect children against online and technology-facilitated violence is widely recognised, there are concerns that violence against children will not be adequately prevented if online violence is prioritised over offline violence.

## Opportunities for strengthening the uptake and use of INSPIRE

- A growing body of research shows that a combination of several INSPIRE strategies can produce multiple positive outcomes. Current debates on this include how to enhance uptake and scale-up of combined interventions. Research and practice about the intersections between VAC and VAW are increasing. Furthermore, programming and research are paying greater attention to boys who are victims of violence and the need for tailored responses.
- The INSPIRE evidence update presents an opportunity for further dissemination, advocacy and uptake of the package. It is also an opportunity to dispel misconceptions about INSPIRE.
- Despite the risks concerned with the growth of online and digital means of programme delivery, it also provides a way to reach communities in humanitarian contexts and those who have been displaced by climate change.
- There is global interest in scaling-up interventions to prevent VAC, accompanied by a greater emphasis on achieving outcomes than just producing outputs.
- The Global Ministerial Conference on VAC, scheduled for late 2024, was identified as a key event to raise awareness and increased visibility on INSPIRE.





# Developments from IWG member organisations

Twelve members of the IWG have provided brief presentations about developments since February. The following is a selection of updates from each organisation.

## World Health Organization (WHO)



- The Global Ministerial Conference on VAC will occur in Bogotá, Colombia late 2024. This is the first time VAC has been prioritised at the Ministerial Conference. UNODC and UNICEF will partner with the WHO at the event.
- The WHO is drafting a handbook to accompany the '[Guidelines on parenting interventions to prevent maltreatment and enhance parent-child relationships with children aged 0 – 17 years](#)'. The handbook will focus on guidelines for implementing, monitoring and evaluating parenting interventions.
- The WHO has initiated work on the Social Determinants Framework to enhance the implementation of INSPIRE. This work intends to project social determinants to societal levels to secure more sustainable interventions.
- The WHO has and will conduct INSPIRE training in Zimbabwe, Namibia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and Southeast Asia.

## Joining Forces



- After an extensive review and consultation, three common technical approaches were chosen for scale-up among Joining Forces partners through the [Joining Forces](#) in Africa project. Between 2022 and 2023, Joining Forces held a learning series on each of the technical approaches and produced learning briefs:

- [Safe Families \(previously Parenting Without Violence\)](#)
- [Child Friendly Accountability](#)
- [Team Up](#)
- There are common themes across the learning briefs that are key considerations for scale-up and include the importance of buy-in from leadership, investing in training and supervision of facilitators, and challenges around fidelity.

## Raising Voices



- Raising Voices has adapted the '[Good Schools Toolkit](#)' for secondary schools. Adapting the intervention involved modifying programme sessions to suit adolescents. The sessions introduce issues of power, peer-to-peer violence, sexual harassment, and mental health, among others. The intervention was piloted in 100 schools and will be scaled to 400 schools by the end of the year.
- Raising Voices has also co-founded the [Coalition for Good Schools](#), which works to end violence against children in schools across the global south.

## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



- In conjunction with Together for Girls, CDC conducted 26 Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys (VACS) in low- and-middle-income countries. Ethiopia, Eswatini and Jamaica are in the data collection process for the VACS.



Tanzania will conduct a repeat VACS in 2024. The [presentation](#) highlighted the VACS's current scientific priorities, including providing actionable guidance to countries for INSPIRE planning and underscoring the vulnerability to violence among children with disabilities.

- The CDC has developed and piloted a module to measure norms about gender and violence from community-level data from Uganda, Eswatini and the United States.
- The CDC is engaged in ongoing collaborations with the Prevention Collaborative to conduct a qualitative review of policies to understand the reduction in VAC in Kenya.
- The CDC and the Population Council are in the process of conducting VACs in humanitarian settings in Ethiopia and Uganda.

### Child Protection Network



- The Philippines has recently passed four new laws to enhance child protection:

1) an increase in the age of statutory rape from twelve to sixteen; 2) an anti-child marriage law; 3) a universal parenting law that provides for evidence-based parenting services; and 4) an anti-online child sexual abuse and exploitation law that mandates internet service providers and financial institutions to report instances of online abuse.

- The Pathfinding city of Valenzuela conducted a VACS. The results will be presented at the International Society for the Prevention of Children Abuse and Neglect's Congress in September 2023.
- The city of Valenzuela is trialling the Safe Schools programme, which effectively reduces bullying and improves mental health outcomes. The objective is to scale up to all public schools in the city.

### UNICEF



- The [presentation](#) showcased UNICEF's new paradigm and priorities for its Child Protection strategic framework until 2030. The strategy focuses on preventing violence against girls, boys and women by prioritising primary prevention and operating at intersections

of VAC and VAW. Together these two are intended to address social and behavioural drivers of violence.

- UNICEF-Innocenti has published several [evidence](#) reviews and evidence briefs on the intersections of VAC and VAW to inform programming. The framework intends to aid the scale-up of evidence-based violence prevention programmes at the country level.

### USAID



- [USAID](#) is strengthening work on the intersections between VAC and VAW, especially integrating it across USAID programmes, including PEPFAR and the Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity (APCCA) strategy.

- There is increased work to protect children and youth from digital harm, with a special focus on technology-facilitated GBV and its impact on mental health.
- The APCCA strategy will be renewed in 2024, and consultation on the process will begin in the near future. USAID will also roll out new safeguarding policies and guidelines in the short- to mid-term. The Youth Summit is planned for September 2023.

### World Vision



- World Vision is conducting a bottom-up approach to accelerators research in Ethiopia and assessing child marriage interventions in the Oromia and Amhara provinces.

- An evidence-based theory of change on child marriage has been developed with UNFPA, UNICEF and What Works. The theory of change incorporates the norms and values strategies of INSPIRE. World Vision is witnessing interest in implementation research or strategies to improve implementation quality.

### Impact and Innovations Development Centre



- The Impact and Innovation Development Centre is in the process of scaling-up parenting programmes in seven African



countries through UNICEF country offices. The project provides insights into the opportunities, challenges and questions around the scale-up process. The IIDC has noticed that government-developed parenting programmes are common in the region.

- The IIDC has assisted the Tanzania government in developing a new national VAC programme.

### United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

- The Commission on Crime

Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in May 2023. There was a side event on the INSPIRE package at the Commission. VAC is now high on the agenda. The UNODC is developing a resolution on early prevention of drug use and misuse.

- The African Union and UNODC will host a meeting with traditional leaders to address substance abuse. This is in preparation for a high-level meeting planned for November in Zambia.
- UNODC is collaborating with Professor Lucie Cluver from Oxford University to develop light-touch parenting support tools for families on the move and is conducting a clinical trial in three settings in Ukraine.
- Lastly, UNODC has been engaged in the western Balkan region concerning a school shooting in Serbia and is advocating for the value of evidence-based responses.

### Red por la Infancia



**Red por la Infancia**

- The [presentation](#) focused on developments in

Buenos Aires as a pathfinding city. The judiciary is the pathfinding focal point of the city and focuses on family violence and sexual abuse. A baseline study was conducted to map stakeholders within the judicial systems. Stakeholders identified a major need for VAC training, and several INSPIRE workshop training were conducted with high-level authorities and technical teams. Since then, a new national law has been approved, which provides mandatory training for judges, prosecutors and administrative authorities.

- Guidelines on detecting and intervening in VAC were developed for health care providers and first responder teams from all ministries. An INSPIRE Teen Council was established to strengthen child participation to understand children's perspectives on violence. Children have expressed the need for support regarding online violence and the provision of guidelines for victims that are written in simple language.

### PEPFAR



- The presentation focused on PEPFAR's strategic framework. The foundation of the strategy is the recognition of the relationship between violence and HIV. Evidence shows that investment in violence prevention can reduce and prevent HIV transmission. PEPFAR's strategic direction focuses, among other things, on GBV, prioritising vulnerable populations, multisectoral partnerships and the scale-up of evidence-based HIV prevention interventions.
- The framework also recognises the issue of violence against boys while simultaneously identifying adolescent girls and young women are a priority population. Achieving health equity for adolescent girls and young women will include addressing structural barriers by focusing on age-consent laws and addressing stigma and discrimination around sexuality and HIV.
- A package of services for post-violence care has been developed for PEPFAR-supporting countries.

### Western Cape Government



- The Department of the Premier in the Western Cape Government was

invited to the meeting to [present](#) their work to strengthen and scale-up evidence-informed parenting programs in the province. The INSPIRE and RESPECT frameworks underpin the work to prevent VAC and VAW. Presentation outlined the policy development process, including consultations with NGOs, researchers and implementors in the province. It showed the findings of a mapping study and the recently published norms and standards to upscale evidence-informed parenting programmes and strengthen referral pathways.



# Tracking progress of the five INSPIRE activities

## 1 Keeping INSPIRE updated

### The methodology

The CDC provided a progress report on the INSPIRE evidence update. The WHO and CDC are leading this work. A PhD student at the University of Oxford supporting this work delivered a [video presentation](#) on the progress and methodology. This includes a systemic review of reviews published from 2016 when the package was launched. In addition, the update has two objectives:

- 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 update will employ the methodology used by Pundir and colleagues (2020), who produced an [Evidence Gap Map](#) on INSPIRE in low-middle-income countries that UNICEF Innocenti supported. The update will also include evidence from high-income countries. It is estimated that the update will include 150 systematic reviews. The update will also critically appraise the evidence quality, and the effectiveness will be categorised as effective, promising, mixed or ineffective/harmful. The analysis will enable interventions to be labelled according to three categories:

- Intervention is recommended for scale-up
- Intervention is not recommended for scale-up
- More research is needed before a recommendation on scale-up can be made.

The CDC addressed the following considerations raised by the IWG:

- The systemic review of reviews will include grey literature.
- As agreed in the previous meeting, the update will include a crosswalk between violence against women and violence against children. The included systematic reviews encompass those focusing on

intimate partner violence (IPV) and the exposure of IPV in the home.

- There is growing recognition that combining INSPIRE strategies can have multiple positive outcomes. It is still being determined at this stage if this has been captured in published systematic reviews. If not, it will be included in future updates.
- Emerging issues in the VAC sector, such as online and technology-facilitated VAC, and the intersections between climate change and VAC will be included if captured in a published systemic review. If not, emerging topics will be dealt with in future updates.
- The WHO will be the publisher of the INSPIRE evidence update.
- Revisions to other elements of the INSPIRE handbook, such as child participation, VAC in humanitarian contexts and safeguarding, are likely to take place at a later stage.

A final list of included reviews and a distribution map of reviews across INSPIRE strategies will be complete by the next quarterly IWG meeting in September 2023. By December 2023, the preliminary results of at least one INSPIRE strategy will be complete and circulated to the IWG for feedback.

IWG members interested in partnering to provide additional support to the update will have an opportunity to do so after the initial scoping exercise has been completed.

## 2 Developing a capacity-building plan

Most of the progress regarding capacity-building pertains to the [INSPIRE Massive Open Online Course](#) (MOOC). CPC intends to evaluate the MOOC to assess stakeholder and user experience and uptake. The objective is twofold: To analyse demographic data on user location, age and occupation. Secondly, to understand how users apply the learning to their work, what they found useful and challenging. As part of its capacity-

building plan, UNICEF is developing online resources and offered to leverage the MOOC.

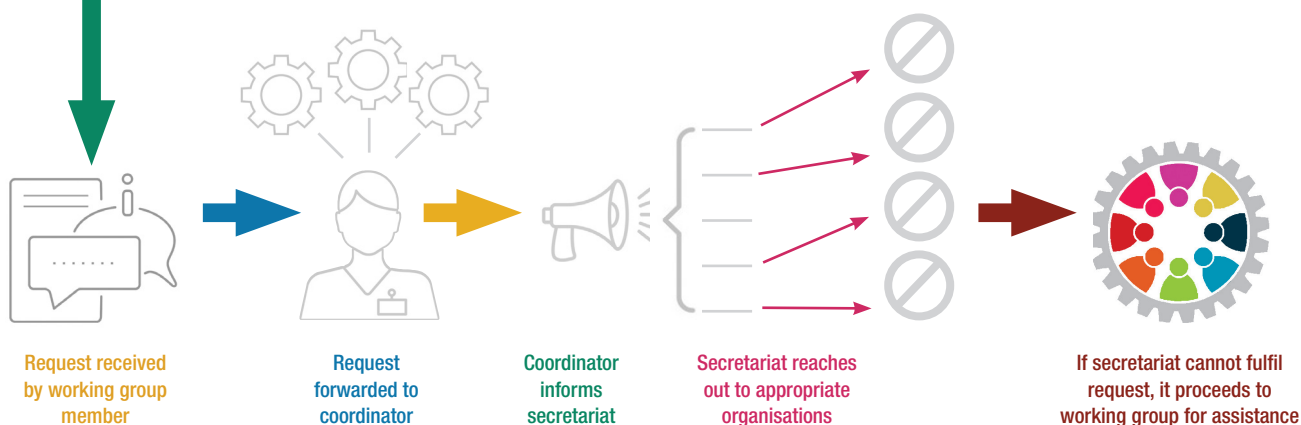
There remains an intention to interview the people trained as trainers to hear how they are using their training and what they have found valuable, and what not. USAID will support the IWG by providing interns to follow up with people who have been trained.



### 3 Brokering national requests for technical support

Organisations within the IWG regularly receive requests for technical assistance from various countries and agencies seeking to implement, scale up and provide training on INSPIRE. Technical support is a key role of the IWG, and there is a need to better broker requests. The IWG was reminded of the procedure to broker technical requests. If a Working Group member receives a request and they would like to draw on the support of others in the working group, they should alert the coordinator to the request. The coordinator will inform the secretariat of the request and reach out to institutions and individuals in the IWG who may meet the need. The coordinator will record all requests and the outcome thereof.

Since many IWG organisations provide technical support as part of their mandate, a question was raised about when a request should be brought to the IWG's attention. It was agreed that the protocol should only be followed if support to meet the requested need involves more than one IWG member. This is an opportunity to harness the collective nature of the IWG.



### 4 Strengthening national, regional and global INSPIRE engagements

There needs to be an increased effort to showcase INSPIRE at engagements to maintain its visibility and contribute to the uptake of the INSPIRE package. IWG members indicated that INSPIRE was showcased at the following events:

- The WHO Health Assembly in May 2023 also included resolutions and commitments related to violence against children
- A side event at the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in May 2023.

Future opportunities to showcase the work include the following:

- The SDG Summit in September 2023
- The International Society for the Prevention of Children Abuse and Neglect's Congress in September 2023 includes a masterclass on INSPIRE and an INSPIRE-focused session
- An African Union meeting in November that UNODC will attend
- The Global Parenting Summit in 2024.



## 5 Developing an INSPIRE communication strategy

The communication strategy discussion was informed by the goal of IWG, which is to advance the uptake and scale-up of evidence-based intervention to prevent and respond to violence against children, as well as by priority activities. The need for communication was identified as both internal and external.

Through regular sharing of information and knowledge on resources, tools, and opportunities, communication strengthens relationships among IWG members. Internal communication aims to achieve the following:

- Enhance the coordination of the IWG to increase effectiveness and promote a shared understanding of the direction of the work as it progresses.
- Enable IWG to collectively identify and act on opportunities that can increase external influence and technical capabilities.

These objectives will be driven by implementing the following activities:

- Regular email updates
- Compile and share reports of meetings such as the present meeting
- Convene in-person and online meetings
- Produce a regular newsletter that can be shared internally and externally.

The IWG will know its internal communication is effective when the sharing and reflections within the group inspire/spark a change of practice, new

approaches, and new collaborations among members and beyond.

The IWG agreed that while internal communication was the main priority in 2023, a clearer perspective on external communication was becoming urgent. Externally, communication will be used to advance the IWG's broader goal while increasing the visibility of INSPIRE, with the primary objective of:

- Reaching and engaging new stakeholders with the potential of influencing and driving impact in line with the goals of INSPIRE.
- Attracting new donors and funding for the sustainability of the IWG.

To achieve the above, the following activities were suggested:

- Improve the website and update it regularly
- IWG members to share newsletters widely with their networks
- Create documentation that can support fundraising
- Identify and take advantage of high-level political and policy spaces/convenings and key moments that stand to advance the IWG goal.

A community of practice (COP) was proposed as one of the ways to reach and engage new audiences long-term. One of the methods suggested was starting a list-serve. A concern around managing and growing a COP over the long term with the current capacity was raised. No firm resolution was reached on this proposal.

Audiences identified as key for communications include:

- Institutional donors
- High net-worth individuals (HNWIs)
- Countries that have not yet taken up INSPIRE
- NGOs and civil society actors at both global and national levels
- UN country offices and teams
- Academics who can help build up the evidence.

There was a recognition that more work would be required to unpack and determine who to target in the above groups. The conversation on external communications will resume at the next quarterly IWG meeting in September.



# INSPIRE governance structures: the IWG

The INSPIRE governance consists of the secretariat and the IWG. The role and function of the secretariat were agreed upon at the previous two meetings. 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.

At the previous meeting, the IWG co-created draft criteria for including new members in the Working Group. These criteria have since been finalised by the secretariat and were presented to the IWG for endorsement.

## Criteria for inclusion of new members of the INSPIRE IWG

The co-chairs of the IWG should represent an international institution and a CSO. IWG membership includes 1) INSPIRE Secretariat, 2) representatives of INSPIRE agencies, and 3) a diverse membership of stakeholders. 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 smaller and large institutions represented).

Decisions about new members should take this into account.

1. 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.
2. Member organisations should be committed to evidence-based interventions and have a track record in this regard.
3. 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.

4. Members should ideally 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 propose inclusion or exclusion to the WG for discussion.

The 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 and UNODC).

The IWG endorsed these criteria at the meeting.

In previous meetings, there had been brief discussions on the purpose of the IWG. It was necessary to clarify the role and function of the

IWG. There was agreement that the role of the IWG must be informed by the goal statement and the five priority activities. It was determined that the role of the IWG is to:

- Synergize, amplify and bring attention to the INSPIRE-related activities of members
- Set priority activities for the INSPIRE IWG
- Promote and enable collaboration related to capacity-building for INSPIRE
- Share resources, knowledge and updates on new developments related to INSPIRE implementation
- Maintain momentum around the implementation and scale-up of INSPIRE
- Identify issues in the INSPIRE ecosystem that impact the implementation and uptake of INSPIRE and enable discussion and action as appropriate
- Ensure the supply of new or updated resources supports INSPIRE implementation and scale-up
- Enable IWG members to support and promote multi-sectoral collaboration and advocacy for INSPIRE
- Convene as a WG to share updates and reflect investment in INSPIRE from member organisations
- Catalyse new investments in evidence-based prevention of violence against children.



# Reflections on the IWG

In concluding the meeting, the participants were requested to reflect on the efforts of the IWG and what had been covered during the sessions. The questions below guided the reflective exercise.

<p><b>What are we learning from the IWG partner updates?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A great deal of work is happening across the globe to prevent and reduce VAC. The IWG is building a home for evidence-based prevention of VAC.</li> <li>• There are many commonalities of experience and common themes across IWG member organisations, such as implementation quality and adaptation, lessons learned from successful implementation and working to understand the scale up process.</li> <li>• Stakeholders/policymakers don't always know what violence prevention looks like, especially concerning education, life skills and norms change strategies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What is important?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experiential learning and the sharing of lessons learnt from design to evaluation of programmes.</li> <li>• Connecting common experiences to organisational priorities and creating linkages to other thematic objectives (e.g. mental health, crime and violence, public health issues).</li> <li>• Different sectors have different objectives. It is important to identify messages that resonate across sectors.</li> <li>• Government is not the only target of INSPIRE. The IWG must recognise and bolster the role of civil society and other non-governmental partners.</li> <li>• Opportunities for future joint work need to be amplified.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What does the IWG need to do more of?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness-raising about what violence prevention looks like in policy and practice.</li> <li>• Monitoring and evaluation of INSPIRE strategies is a gap in the IWG.</li> <li>• Multisectoral engagement, including opportunities to collaborate across INSPIRE IWG member organisations to support countries.</li> <li>• The session on IWG partner updates needs to be more structured. The coordinator should provide guidelines regarding presentation content. It may be useful to cluster updates according to INSPIRE strategies.</li> <li>• Future annual IWG meetings should be extended to two-and-a-half to three days long to maximise engagement.</li> <li>• There is a need to maintain a connection on themes related to the implementation.</li> <li>• Greater consideration on how the IWG can support national coordination to deliver INSPIRE strategies at scale.</li> <li>• Improved linking between community, provincial, national and global level VAC efforts.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What is missing? What questions are not answered by the partner updates?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constituencies such as SVRI, Prevention Collaborative and ISPCAN should be included in the IWG.</li> <li>• The education and life skills INSPIRE strategy is underrepresented in the IWG.</li> <li>• Connect and collaborate with <a href="#">Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development</a> for cross-learning             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An increased focus on process and methodology</li> <li>• The inclusion of children with disabilities, LBGTQI, at-risk groups, migrating and displaced populations and the experiences of young men are missing from the partner updates.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



# Open Space Technology sessions

The final session of the meeting took the form of an ‘Open Space Technology’ session. Open Space is a facilitation technique allowing participants to create the agenda, bringing relevant topics into the meeting. The Open Space process is intended to be emergent, participatory and self-organised.

An Open Space process proceeds as follows:

1. The meeting facilitator provides an overview of the process and explains how it works.
2. The facilitator invites participants to bring any topics or issues relevant to the meeting. Participants write the issue on paper and stick it on a wall or flipchart. These participants are “conveners” who choose a place to hold their session.
3. Participants view the options and decide which sessions they want to attend.
4. The sessions are convened in smaller groups. The convener takes responsibility for writing up a short report of their session that captures the key points and recommendations generated.
5. The group then finishes the meeting with a closing circle where people are invited to share comments, insights and commitments arising from the process.

Open Space is guided by four principles:

- **Whoever comes are the right people:** Since participants can choose which sessions to attend, there is an understanding that whoever attends are the right people. Even if a session only has two participants, that is precisely how it should be.
- **Whatever happens, is the only thing that could have:** Open Space sessions are not predetermined and predictable. The convener of the session cannot predict how the conversation will unfold, thus the session is fully emergent. Even if the conversation steers off-topic, that is precisely how it was meant to unfold.

- **Whenever it starts is the right time:** Ideas emerge at unpredictable times. If discussions on the topic occur late into the session, that should not be viewed as an issue. The conversation will flow and emerge as it should.
- **When it is over, it is over:** If a group is in a good flow, participants can keep discussing or end the session early and do something else.

The ‘law of two feet’ underscores the voluntary nature of participating in Open Space sessions. If participants join a session and they no longer wish to contribute or prefer to move to another session, they move their two feet and walk to a space that is more productive for them. In Open Space, this is not considered unprofessional or offensive. It is encouraged so that each participant gets the maximum benefits from the session. The following elements guide the law:

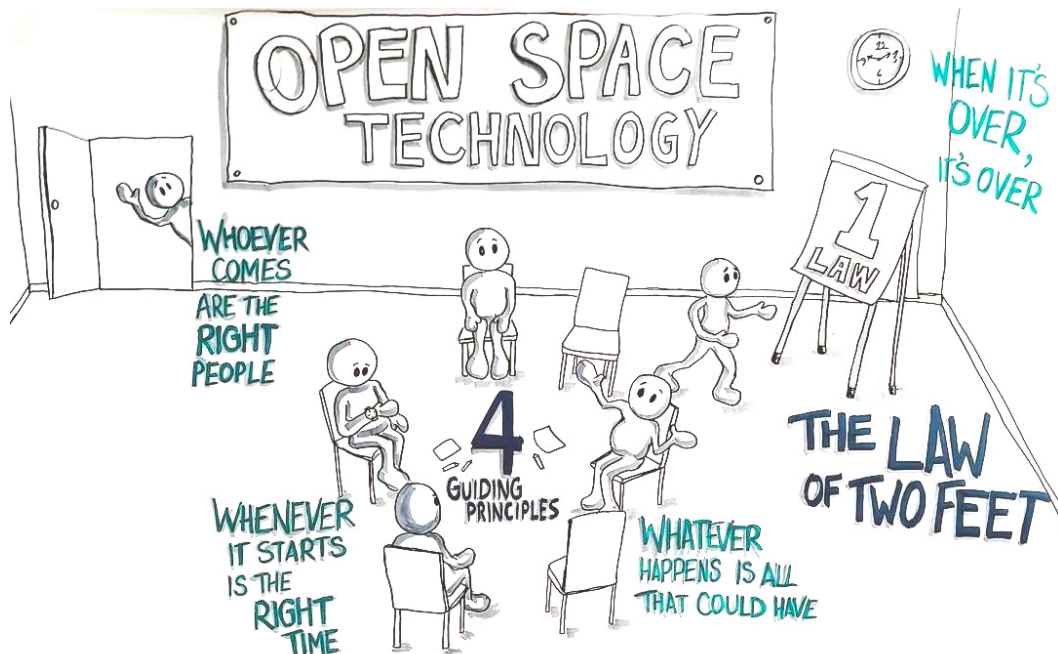


*The bumblebee:* Bumblebees fully embody the law of two feet. These are participants who choose to hop from session to session. Like bees, they help to cross-pollinate insights and ideas between groups.



*Butterflies:* These participants decide not to join any session because it does not resonate with them. This is not considered impolite or unprofessional in an Open Space context. Typically, unexpected and insightful conversations emerge between butterflies.

The Open Space session consisted of four sessions. The short reports of each follow.



### Open Space Session A

### Topic

How to make information more accessible to the stakeholders on different societal levels, from global to local

### Convener

Badisa

### Participants

CDC

#### Key issues:

- The working group is currently represented mainly by global partners, which limits its reach.
- The key question this group considered is: “How can the working group include equal representation and/or inclusion of role-players on global, national, provincial, and local societal levels?”
- There is a concern that information on INSPIRE must trick down to local service provision levels.
- To increase the network’s reach, goal, and strategies, consider how INSPIRE can expand its reach.
- A limited reach will result in the network losing unique and valuable contributions.
- There is a concern that membership to the network is organic and not based on alignment with the INSPIRE package.
- There should be clear and transparent criteria to involve equal representation of all possible countries that can and want to benefit from INSPIRE.
- The following challenges in engaging representatives are acknowledged:
  - Community practitioners implementing the INSPIRE package are representing themselves

and not the country. However, such representation still provides insight into a unique experience available in a country and should therefore be considered.

- Civil society is not necessarily coordinated, so knowing who to engage and target becomes difficult.

#### Recommendations:

- Get the INSPIRE website up and running and avail information on INSPIRE’s:
  - Structure
  - Services
  - How to benefit from the INSPIRE package
  - Membership
- Create space on the website to publish information on studies/INSPIRE results.
- Invitation to anybody to make a presentation on their work that aligns with the INSPIRE criteria or package to gain further support and advice.
- Global working group function as an advisory platform to anybody with matching agendas wanting to implement INSPIRE package and to advance the goal and strategies.
- Consider how the broader community of practice of about 400/500 partners can be incorporated to increase the network’s reach.

**Brief background of the discussion:**

There were two main points in our discussion:

1. How do we better document the learning process for countries getting involved, investing, and scaling up INSPIRE?
2. How do we better document what is missing or gaps in the evidence review?

**Recommendations:**

- How do we better document the learning process for countries getting involved, investing and scaling up INSPIRE?
  - Use implementation science to document what countries have done to roll out and scale up INSPIRE approaches (as well as consider what impact being a pathfinding country had on this process), including reflecting on what they would have done differently and their recommendations on how to do this in the future.
  - Create case studies from various contexts capturing key learning that could inspire future governments.
  - Contact WHO and The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children to determine

what has already been documented through GPEVAC and any learning that has already been conducted.

- CPC Learning Network and Red por la Infancia have offered to look into the possibilities of leading this work.
- How do we better document what is missing or gaps in the evidence review?
  - Use the results of the INSPIRE evidence review to assess the state of the evidence on implementation science and implementation quality once the evidence review has been completed – similar to [UNICEF's Evidence Gap Maps](#).
  - For gaps in evidence or newly emerging areas, use an approach similar to how the WHO conducted an analysis of [What Works to Prevent Online Violence](#), where they took the evidence of what is known about preventing offline violence offline and applied it to online and technology-facilitated violence (bullying etc.) to determine potentially promising practices that could be further researched.







**Open Space**  
Session C

**Topic**

Getting serious about tackling social and gender norms at scale to prevent violence

**Convener**

UNICEF

**Participants**

World Vision International, UNODC, Raising Voices

**Key issues:**

In the context of limited funds, how do we address harmful social and gender norms at scale?

**Recommendations:**

*Effectiveness*

- Manage risks:
  - Ensure interventions are designed to prevent backlash by positively framing interventions that celebrate new norms or promote existing and positive parts of cultural identity – rather than framing around negative aspects (e.g. Healthy Families/Safe Spaces/Equal Partners).
- Root cause analysis:
  - Ensure discourse about power remains at the heart of any discussion with any beneficiary about violence.
  - Similarly, focus on violence in all settings – work across the SEM to change norms.
- Theory-based:
  - Ensure the design of programmes is theoretically robust – need to really know and understand drivers of behaviour (e.g. In Bangladesh, WV worked to understand exactly why men prefer to marry younger girls?) and what it means for the survivors if we want to encourage behaviour change on this.
  - World Vision used a Social Norms Exploration Tool to understand this in Bangladesh.

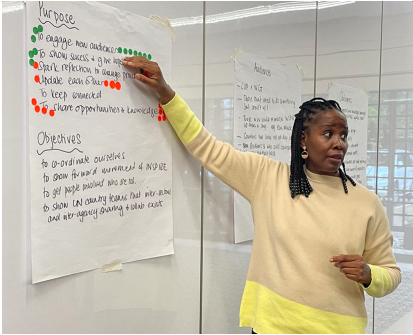
- Analysis of VACS also plays an important role in guiding an understanding of key issues.
- Community empowerment and leadership:
  - The community must be empowered to decide what’s important, and an effort must be taken to understand this.
- Technical skills and financing are important to know how to apply learning from research and community dialogue.

**Scale**

- Consider the role of social movements and organised diffusion approaches to scale and where existing diffusion systems exist.
- Working with religious groups provides opportunities for integrating child protection within theological messaging as they often have existing diffusion of centralised messages within their approach (e.g. there is a system for forwarding papal advice on interpreting the Bible which is cascaded to priests to inform homilies/ congregational messaging).

**Measurement**

Ensure to measure and celebrate intermediate outcomes in the process of norms change – even the non-traditional ones (e.g. if there is Social Desirability response bias in results, while it might mean efforts are being made to disclose the prevalence of violence, this is an example that respondents know that the behaviour they’re practising is no longer socially acceptable!).



Left: ISS facilitator during a session.



Below: Pupils from Jonga High School with the MEC for Social Development in the Western Cape.



Open Space Session D	Topic	Convener	Participants
	How will the coordination function of the Working Group be funded after the end of 2023?	ISS	WHO, ISS, CPC, UNODC, CDC

**Summary:**

It was noted that the current grant from Wellspring, which supports the coordination function of the INSPIRE working group, has contributed to the costs of the in-person meeting and the hosting and updating of the website, which ends at the end of 2023. There is no provision for further funding. The annual operating cost is just over \$100 000.

This was a concern for the people who recognised the importance of the coordination function. Several options were considered and tabled:

- The CDC, UNODC and WHO make contributions towards the coordination function. This is not ideal because these institutions do not have an easy mechanism to fund an organisation like the ISS.
- UNODC said they would know by the end of the third quarter if funds will be available to contribute. Chandre undertook to determine whether the ISS has an existing MOU with UNODC [subsequently determined that the ISS does].

- The best way forward would be to identify a donor to fund this with a single grant. A few options were mentioned:

- Aga Khan Foundation (UNDOC to provide a contact person)
- Ikea Foundation (UNODC to provide a contact person)
- Lego Foundation
- Childhood Investment Fund Foundation (WHO to provide a contact)
- Wellspring and World Childhood Foundation (ISS to follow up).
- USAID

**Recommendations:**

All options should be considered and pursued. The important thing is to make sure that we can continue in 2024 with the same quantity and quality of coordination.



# Appendix 1: List of participants

Institutions represented at the meeting held 12–14 June 2023.

## **INSPIRE Secretariat members:**

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

## **INSPIRE Implementation Working Group members:**

- PEPFAR
- World Vision International
- Raising Voices
- Impact and Innovations Development Centre (IIDC)
- Red por la Infancia
- UNICEF
- USAID
- Child Protection Network Foundation, Inc.
- World Council of Churches

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







Image credits	Page
WHO/Francisco Guerrero .....	Cover
Flickr (top) .....	Inside cover
Raw Pixel (bottom) .....	Inside cover
Raw Pixel .....	2
<a href="http://www.end-violence.org/inspire">www.end-violence.org/inspire</a> .....	7
WHO/Tomislav Georgiev .....	8
Raw Pixel .....	10
Creativity and Change, Facebook .....	13
Raw Pixel .....	14
Raw Pixel .....	15
Jody van der Heyde/ISS .....	16
Jody van der Heyde/ISS .....	17
Rax Pixel .....	Back cover



This report is funded by the ISS