

# INSPIRE Implementation Working Group Meeting

5 December 2024

Virtual meeting







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## Acronyms

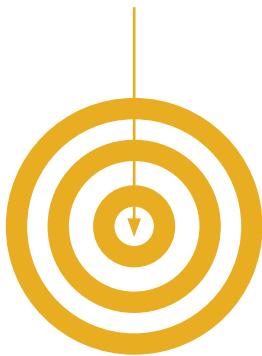
<b>CDC</b>	The Center for Disease Control and Prevention
<b>CPC</b>	Care and Protection of Children Learning Network
<b>ISS</b>	Institute for Security Studies
<b>ISPCAN</b>	International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
<b>IWG</b>	Implementation Working Group
<b>SRSO-VAC</b>	UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>VAC</b>	Violence Against Children
<b>VACS</b>	Violence Against Children Surveys
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

The Implementation Working Group (IWG), established to support the roll-out of *INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children*, held its fourth meeting of 2024 on December 5 (see Appendix 1 for a list of participants). The Institute for Security Studies (ISS) convened and facilitated the meeting. The [previous](#) IWG meeting was held on September 19, 2024.

## Purpose and objectives

The meeting had the following objectives:

To conclude the year feeling clear about what INSPIRE and the IWG have achieved in 2024



To leave feeling connected and clear about how to ensure inclusivity at the in-person meeting in 2025



Reflecting on the Ministerial Conference and clarifying how it will impact the IWG's work going forward



USAID introduced two interns to the IWG. They will be available to support the work of the IWG and the secretariat until June 2025. The coordinator welcomed them to the IWG.





# Members' reflections on the IWG

To encourage reflection on the work of the IWG and INSPIRE throughout the year, members were asked to consider the following two questions:



The following rich insights emerged from the reflection session:



**JOINING FORCES**  
*For All Children*

**Joining Forces** said that the IWG had challenged them to think more holistically. For example, when developing the framework for child protection systems, it was challenging yet valuable to learn how organisations that do not strictly work on child protection perceive it. Learning that many organisations and governments do not consider violence prevention as part of child protection helped change how Joining Forces communicated with governments on this issue. They also appreciated the multisectoral nature of the IWG, which enabled different views to be heard.



**Together for girls**

Much of **Together for Girls'** work has been organised around the INSPIRE package. This includes using it to understand changes in Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS) data in Kenya. INSPIRE

was central to the [Safe Futures Hub](#) and the publication of the evidence review on what works to prevent childhood sexual violence. Additionally, the INSPIRE side events at the Ministerial Conference were rich and demonstrative of the IWG's efforts.



**The University of Oxford** stated that the IWG has been essential to the work of the INSPIRE evidence update and shaping its direction. Personally, meeting the IWG at the Ministerial Conference and witnessing the passion and dedication of the IWG was inspiring.

**Care and Protection of Children Learning Network (CPC)**, said the IWG has been a source



of psychosocial support and has deepened their understanding of how the VAC ecosystem works.

**Universidad de los Andes**

For the **Universidad de los Andes**, hosting the IWG in Bogota for the



Ministerial Conference was exciting and energising. It included demonstrating VAC- and INSPIRE-related work to the Colombian government.



For **USAID**, the IWG has been a source of mental health support, especially since working and talking about VAC is often complicated and exhausting. The IWG is a source of energy and validates the work being done.

Presenting the IWG's work to the US government was a highlight, especially in demonstrating the alignment between government agencies, i.e., USAID and CDC, and how this impacts children.

The IWG has been a great source of learning and inspiration for **World**



**Vision International**. It provides an opportunity to learn from a multisectoral group with diverse views and opinions, which gives a comprehensive understanding of VAC.



For **ISPCAN**, the collaboration within the IWG was a highlight, especially regarding how members bring their strengths to the discussion of how to prevent VAC.

The IWG's knowledge and expertise have been a resource for the **Impact and Innovations Development Centre (IIDC)**.



Overall, the IWG is an excellent opportunity to learn and grow professionally. The IWG's focus on evidence generation and discussions on scale-up was partially relevant to IIDC's work this year.



**VIOLENCE PREVENTION ALLIANCE**

2024 was an inspiring year for the **Violence Prevention Alliance Jamaica**. Two weeks after the Ministerial Conference, Jamaica published its first VACS, with support from the IWG.

For **Raising Voices**, the IWG's energy, kindness, and openness are a source of inspiration. Inviting



Raising Voices to present the [Good Schools Toolkit](#) at the INSPIRE side event at the Ministerial Conference was an opportunity to position the Toolkit globally. Finding this kind of platform for the toolkit had previously been a challenge. Raising Voices had been engaging with the Ugandan government for 15 years to gain their support for scaling up the toolkit. However, engaging with the Ugandan government at the Ministerial Conference, sharing the panel with them at the side event, and hearing them pledge support in scaling up the toolkit was pivotal. The support of the IWG was essential to them and demonstrates how working together can make a difference.



The **ISS** finds the sense of community within the IWG particularly

powerful. The IWG offers a space to think collectively and see the breadth of work globally. This year, the ISS has an opportunity to work with the Department of Basic Education and the National Treasury to develop a budget bid to scale up parenting support through schools in South Africa. Knowing that the IWG is available as a resource and thinking partner is helpful.

For **UNODC**, the multi-sectoral nature of the IWG is valuable in hearing multiple perspectives on VAC-related issues. This has helped showcase a holistic picture of issues to policymakers.



**Plan International** also highlights the IWG's connection and community.

INSPIRE was embedded in much of Plan International's work this year, and it will look into how this can be shared in 2025.



# Reflecting on the



Global Ministerial Conference  
on ending violence against  
children

This session aimed to collectively debrief and reflect on the Ministerial Conference and strategise its implications for the IWG's work in 2025. The following three questions guided the reflections:



What was the biggest achievement for the INSPIRE and IWG, and for your organisation/country?



What was challenging?



How do we build on the gains as the IWG?

This activity was done in breakout groups.

What follows are key points from all the groups for the three questions

- Increased visibility and engagement with INSPIRE
- The opportunity to learn from countries on how they are working to prevent VAC
- Witnessing the country's pledges and being able to support countries in the development of the pledges



- Grappling with how to have an impact in an increasingly hostile environment, including the polarity between member states and donors and the small amounts of funding available to the field more generally
- Working with the UN Office of the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Violence Against Children (SRSG – VAC)
- Thinking about encouraging high-level government participation in data-to-action workshops to inform change
- Grappling with how to ensure governments enact their pledges, and how we can support them in doing so

This question was particularly important because it encouraged collective thinking about maintaining the momentum of the Ministerial Conference. The answers to this question will shape the IWG's work in 2025 and beyond.

- USAID stated that using online tools such as Mentimeter and the INSPIRE satellite and side events worked well. USAID proposed the IWG develop a 'post-Ministerial Conference' survey. The WHO has confirmed they will disseminate it to all conference participants.



The survey would collect data on how participants use INSPIRE and what they want to see from the package and/or IWG. The results would inform the IWG's plans for 2025 onward.

The following organisations offered to support the development of the survey:

- CPC
- ISS
- Together for Girls
- Universidad de los Andes
- World Vision
- CDC

The USAID, CPC and ISS have since met to action this.

- The IWG needs to engage the SRSG's office more, especially since Pathfinding 2.0 falls within their remit.
- The IWG should consider increasing its interaction with survivor-led organisations/groups. That is one VAC stakeholder that is missing from the IWG.
- The cost and financing of VAC work are becoming an increasing area of attention – specifically, the cost of interventions at the project level and the

cost of scaling up. A selection of research on the economic burden of VAC and its financial implications is available [here](#).

- In addition to cost and financing, the return on investment in violence prevention must be understood. Governments must have access to information on human resources and capacity to increase uptake.
- Relatedly, building the evidence showing how INSPIRE interventions can impact multiple types of violence. Doing this will strengthen the investment case for prevention.
- The cost of combining multiple INSPIRE strategies into one intervention is also required. This is based on the growing body of evidence that demonstrates combining interventions can have multiple positive outcomes.
- UNODC informed the IWG that they have recently launched a new [CHildren AMplified Prevention Service \(CHAMPS\)](#) initiative. It aims to establish prevention systems and align them with drug prevention systems. The initiative will be multisectoral and implemented in five UN member states. States will be required to monitor

and evaluate it, including reporting on effectiveness and returns on investment. This is also an opportunity to learn how CHAMPS will enable multisectoral collaboration, given that it is a cross-cutting theme in INSPIRE, and the IWG has discussed strengthening it.





# ISPCAN's 'Rise Up Policy Forum'

Pragathi Tummala, CEO of ISPCAN, provided a short presentation on the proposed 'Rise Up Policy Forum' for IWG comment and input.

The proposal is to add a one-day 'Rise Up' Forum following ISPCAN's 2025 global congress. The congress aims to harness global networks, provide an opportunity for collaboration and disseminate the latest evidence and best practices. While the congress and similar conferences are useful in bringing together people working in the field, gaps remain in sustainable policy development and creating long-term VAC solutions. The Rise Up Policy Forum is intended to begin addressing this gap.

The hope is that there will be space to marry research with practice to drive policy solutions for policymakers and governments. The forum could also serve as a way to understand the challenges the governments face, especially concerning implementing the pledges made at the Ministerial Conference. Doing this would help identify what support and technical assistance governments need.



## Following are the IWG's responses to the presentation

- The ISS stated it would be eager to be involved in the forum, especially since it has expertise in convening multisectoral groups around violence prevention issues in South Africa. The ISS suggested a dialogical forum approach focusing on building relationships between sectors and countries. Questions were raised about how to ensure policymakers attend the forum and whether funding would be available, especially for governments from lower-middle-income countries.

ISPCAN responded that there are plans to secure funding, but it cannot be guaranteed. More than seventy countries typically attend the ISPCAN Congress, so there would be good representation from different countries.

- World Vision suggested creating a smaller working group to focus on conceptualising the forum. Moreover, it was suggested that ISPCAN reach out

to its member organisations to learn if they may have experience convening a similar event.

- Together for Girls suggested the forum hold a session on building on the Ministerial Conference and showcase stories from various countries. Showcasing success stories should be a means of engaging in a dialogue about what is required to achieve success. Together for Girls also suggested the forum actively seek to involve survivors and youth to continue the precedent of inclusivity demonstrated at the Ministerial Conference.
- USAID suggested the forum could be a unique opportunity to collaborate with the care reform sector. Great examples of regional collaboration and cross-pollination sharing have been found in East Africa and Eastern Europe, mainly due to work by UNICEF and the Better Care Network. USAID would be willing to connect ISPCAN to organisations in the care reform sector.

# Progress of the INSPIRE priority activities

A brief status update of the INSPIRE priority activities was presented. Since the previous IWG meeting, there have been no major developments in the priority activities because most of the work has focused on the Ministerial Conference.

## The INSPIRE Evidence Update

Madison Little, from the University of Oxford, who is leading the update, reported on the progress of the INSPIRE Evidence Update. The team is currently drafting the academic journal article for the evidence update. The progress of the paper will be provided at the quarterly IWG meetings in 2025.

Several knowledge products will also be published alongside the academic journal. The team leading the update invited the IWG to be involved in this process and suggested the IWG consider the products they'd be interested in leading. These could include factsheets, webinars, infographics, etc.



The ISS provided a short [presentation](#) on the highlights of the remaining INSPIRE activities.

## The capacity-building plan

The ISS reported on the INSPIRE webinar series. An additional two webinars were held since the previous IWG meeting:

- [Education and life skills](#)
- [Response and support services](#)

The seventh and final webinar of the series on implementing and enforcing laws will be rescheduled for early 2025.

## The INSPIRE communication strategy

The following three highlights of the communications strategy were mentioned:

- Red por la Infancia and the ISS collaborate to translate the INSPIRE website into Spanish. At the time of writing, most of the website had been translated. The translation function can be accessed on the [homepage](#).
- The analytics of the INSPIRE website show an increase in traffic in the days preceding and during the Ministerial Conference. This is suspected to be due to INSPIRE's visibility at the conference, particularly the side and satellite events. The data also shows the users' country of residence when accessing the webinar. There is a relatively equal distribution of high-income and LMICs.
- An INSPIRE logo has been developed and can be accessed [here](#).



# Planning for 2025

The ISS framed the conversation, stating that questions regarding the sustainability, funding and inclusivity of the 2025 annual in-person INSPIRE meeting needed to be discussed.

Additionally, the ISS requested that IWG members indicate their interest in hosting the meeting and willingness to do so.

The annual strategic meeting is an important part of the IWG's work. It provides an opportunity to deepen relationships among members, experience how INSPIRE is implemented in the host country, and sustain the IWG. The initial approach to the annual meetings was that attendance was self-funded, which has unfortunately resulted in many members being unable to attend.

What follows are recommendations and suggestions from the IWG on inclusivity and possible locations of the 2025 meeting.

- A possible solution is to hold the annual meeting after a conference or event to leverage funds. Some options include:
  - ISPCAN offered to provide the venue of the 2025 meeting, which would follow their annual congress scheduled for October in Vilnius, Lithuania.
  - IIDC mentioned that it is an annual convening in East Africa on issues relating to VAC. The meeting is typically in June and is expected to occur in Uganda.
  - The Society for Research on Child Development is holding its biannual conference in May 2025 in the USA.

- A couple of members suggested adopting a virtual or hybrid option, as it worked well for some of the sessions at the Buenos Aries meeting.
- The 2024 meeting with Buenos Aries had the added value of supporting the host at evening events with policymakers and practitioners. This kind of engagement allowed for relationship building outside of the IWG itself and was an opportunity to see how INSPIRE was used nationally. Future annual IWG meetings should aim to maintain this precedent.
- Given that many members could not attend the present meeting, the coordinator will contact the IWG in early 2025 for further suggestions.

The meeting closed with the following two announcements:

- The ISS announced it will continue coordinating the IWG in 2025, thanks to ongoing funding from USAID.
- The proposed dates for the 2025 quarterly IWG meetings are:

**Q1: 27 February**

**Q2: 25–27 June**

**Q3: 25 September**

**Q4: 4 December**





## Appendix 1

# IWG members

represented at the  
meeting held online on  
5 December 2024

### INSPIRE Secretariat members

- Institute for Security Studies
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- Care and Protection of Children Learning Network
- Joining Forces Alliance

### INSPIRE Implementation Working Group members

- Child Protection Network Foundation, Inc
- Impact and Innovations Development Centre
- International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
- Oxford University
- Plan International
- Raising Voices
- Sexual Violence Research Initiative
- The US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
- Together for Girls
- Universidad de los Andes
- University of Edinburgh
- USAID
- Violence Prevention Alliance Jamaica
- World Vision International





